EASTERN OREGON'S LEADING NEWSPAPER— TEN PAGES TODAY —FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS LEASED WIRE SERVICE

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER
OREGON: Cloudy and somewhat unsettled tonight and Friday, temperatures below normal.

VOLUME XXVIII | MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS | LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1930 | MEMBER A. B. C. | NUMBER 164

CITY RETIRES BOND ISSUES OF YEAR 1910

Final Block of Original Sewer Bonds Will be Paid up This Year.

INDEBTEDNESS OF CITY DECREASING

Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report Filed With City Commission Last Night.

La Grande's bonded indebtedness is growing less each year and the big issues of 1910 are all retired with the exception of $15,000 of the original sewer bonds.

This was revealed by City Treasurer Emma Fowler today, in commenting upon the annual report which was filed with the city commission at last night's executive session.

The report showed an indebtedness in general bonds of $335,000 as of Jan. 1, 1930, but the remainder of the refund water bonds issued in 1910 were retired. Fifty of the $1000 bonds were issued 20 years ago, the last payment this year sweeping away the last five of the bonds, and reducing the general indebtedness of the city to $385,000. Also, Mrs. Fowler stated that during this year the remaining 15 sewer bonds, in $1000 denominations, will be retired, which will cut down the indebtedness to $370,000. The old Beaver creek pipe line bonds, also issued in 1910, were retired during 1929.

Besides the general indebtedness the financial statement compiled by J. E. Stearns, city recorder, showed improvement bonds outstanding as of Jan. 1, 1930 to total $460,330.15. However, money for the payment of these bonds is received from property owners in the improvement districts, while the general bonds are paid by general taxation.

Total taxes received by the city during 1929 were $114,517.87 and of this amount $14,100.79 represented payment of back taxes. Taxes for 1928 received totaled $100,417.08 and, as the budget should have had $119,832.53 in taxes, it left a shortage of about $19,000.

The financial statement and the city treasurer's report follow:

Financial Statement
ASSETS

Real Estate—	
City building	$ 40,000.00
City park	16,000.00
Library	16,000.00
Furniture, Fixtures—	
City building	1,800.00
Library	8,000.00
Books, magazines	5,000.00
Water department	
system	524,363.00
Supplies	1,332.68
Equipment	7,628.35
Beaver Cr. Equip.	500.00
Sewer supplies	1,200.00
Treasurer's cash	97,116.52
Engineer's Dept.—	
Supplies, maps, etc.	11,316.35
Improvement district interest advanced	57,927.94
Improvement district accounts	394,877.59
Storm sewer "V" Ave.	24,869.43
Fire Department—	
Alarm system	4,000.00
La France truck	3,000.00
Stutz	12,000.00
Supplies	7,373.05
Police Department—	
Supplies	1,175.25
Hospital, furniture	7,000.00
Equipment	810.00
Street Department—	
Sewer system	140,000.00
Tools, equipment	10,775.00
Supplies	361.50
Tool house	500.00

(Continued on Page Two)

CARNIVAL TO BE GIVEN BY SCHOOL GIRLS

Something unusual in the form of entertainment will take place in the high school gymnasium Friday afternoon, Feb. 28 from 3 to 5 o'clock when the A. G. S. carnival will be held.

This carnival will consist of many features such as fortune telling and treasure ships. At one end of the gym there will be a ring continually presenting some form of entertainment such as acrobats, features singing, dancing and stunts. There will be clowns, balloons and foods. Everyone is welcomed.

The proceeds of this will go to the A. G. S. to be used for its various expenses of service, social functions and equipment.

WEATHER TODAY
7:30 a. m.—27 above.
Minimum: 24 above.
Condition: mostly clear.

WEATHER YESTERDAY
Condition 40, minimum 21 above.
Condition: traces of snow, moisture .02 of inch.

WEATHER FEB. 27, 1929
Maximum 40, minimum 21 above.
Condition: traces of snow moisture .02 of inch.

Thomas Gentle Is Speaker At Normal School

University of Oregon Professor Comments on Changes in System of Educating Youth.

The Educational club of the Normal school sponsored a very interesting lecture yesterday at 4 o'clock with Thomas Gentle, a professor of education at the University of Oregon as the speaker. He is an unusual speaker in the respect that his themes are developed through a series of incidents. By means of his subtle humor, and characteristic facial expressions and his amusing style of delivery, he makes his audience laugh at apparently trivial incidents; and his words are accentuated by a merry twinkle in his eyes or a flash of conviction to strengthen his points.

"The Making of Democrats Without Democracy" was his theme not a political appeal, or a formal treatment of democracy, but rather a charming, informal talk on the changes in education. Mr. Gentle quoted Washington, "Free institutions can not long endure unless they are founded on education." Horace Mann, the father of the public school in United States, was counselled by Washington to survey the German school system. As a result of his studies in Germany, he chose the "School of the People" to be the model type. In this country it was called the public school, rather than the people's school.

Mr. Gentle gave a brief history of the evolution of education in the United States. This account was entertainingly given by means of stories which embodied the characteristics of the type of school he wished to describe. A reminiscence of the school that he attended in his boyhood days

(Continued on Page Three)

Roesch Issued $100,000 Permit For New Building

Julius Roesch, who started construction on his new five-story business and hotel building on the corner of Washington avenue and Fir street during January, yesterday was issued a building permit by City Recorder J. E. Stearns in the amount of $100,000.

This permit named Al Heisner as the contractor.

The total permits to build issued in La Grande during 1930 was brought to $117,780 with the addition of the Roesch permit, a total much larger than at this time last year, and nearly one-third the final total for 1929.

A. Shumway To Speak Saturday On Grain Plans

A. R. Shumway, of Weston, who is experienced in grain problems and who has been in close contact with members of the federal farm board, will speak at a meeting to be held in the Sacjawea Inn at 1:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Mr. Shumway will explain the farm board plan of organizing wheat growers.

The meeting is sponsored by the economic conference committee headed by Walter M. Pierce, former governor, according to A. R. Hunter, chamber of commerce secretary. Both business men and farmers are invited to attend.

E. O. N. Tossers Still Practicing

Unless the College of Idaho asks for a return game with the Eastern Oregon Normal school, the basketball season is at an end, Coach Bob Quinn said today. So far, no word has been received from the Idaho school. In the meantime, the basketball squad is practicing twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so as to keep in condition in case an additional game or two is scheduled.

Willamette Wins Debate With Utah

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP) — Willamette university debating teams won a double-header last night from the University of Utah. Debating the question of woman's place in the business and political world, Lillian Beecher and Florence Decker of Willamette defeated Grace Anderson and Irene Sheranian of Utah. On the international disarmament issue Ray Lefky and Charles Campbell of Willamette defeated Royal Carff and James Knudson, of Utah.

SUSPEND CAPTAINS LICENSE

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP) —The license of Captain Charles Graham, commander of the Admiral line's intercoastal steamer Admiral Benson, which grounded on Peacock spit the night of February 15, was suspended for six months by order of federal steamboat inspectors here late yesterday who accepted the captain's plea of guilty.

ADOPT PLANS FOR COUNTRY CLUB HOUSE

One-Story Colonial Type Building to be Erected at Golf Course.

COST ESTIMATED AT ABOUT $5,000

Building Committee to Decide on Time for Beginning of Work on Attractive Structure.

Plans for the building of a new country clubhouse, on the course near Island City, were approved as submitted at a meeting of the club directors and members of the building committee held last night.

The new clubhouse will be erected near the present building on the course, the time of construction to be decided by the building committee — whenever conditions are favorable.

The cost of the structure is estimated at $5000. Recently Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Stange, of Merrill, Wis., gave the club $5000 to be used in building a club house and it is this money that will finance the building.

One-Story Building

Plans for the clubhouse were prepared by Charles B. Miller, local architect, and provide for an attractive one-story colonial type building with ground dimensions

(Continued on Page Five)

JONES DEMANDS LUMBER TARIFF

Senate Opens Debate on Amendment Proposed by Washington Republican

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP) — Faced by a long grind of night sessions, the senate today opened debate on an amendment to the tariff bill by Senator Jones, republican, Washington, to place a duty of three dollars a thousand board feet on lumber, now on the free list.

Chairman Smoot of the finance committee expects to hold the senate in session until 10 o'clock each night until the bill is passed.

Senator Jones said there had been a 29 per cent reduction in employment in the lumber industry. Production of domestic lumber in 1929 was the lowest in seven years, he said, and the average value had declined from around $31 a thousand feet in 1923 to $25 last year.

Prosperity of State at Stake

Senator Barkley, democrat, Kentucky, asked if a tariff would not increase prices and hinder construction. Senator Jones answered in the negative.

"The prosperity of the state of Washington," said Jones, "depends largely upon the prosperity of the lumber industry. The lumber industry in Washington is greatly depressed, as it has been largely throughout the country."

Jones said the United States should prepare for what he termed the "Russian menace."

"The Russian government," he said, "is making plans for a tremendous expansion of the lumber industry in the next five years. They are taking away our world markets now."

Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, said he would "like to get a picture of this 'Russian menace' in facts and figures."

Claims Imports Increasing

"While the amount of importation from Russia is small, the figures show a rapid increase," Jones replied.

Declaring he had seen no evidence of increased conservation as a result of lumber being on the free list, Senator Jones said that a "tariff will encourage reforestation, and without a tariff there will be no reforestation."

Du Pont Favors "Best Citizens" Liquor Control

State Commissions Would Handle Problem According to Plan—Wets Conclude Testimony.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP)—Repeal of the eighteenth amendment and establishment of state control commissions composed of Anti-Saloon League members, ministers, and "our best citizens" was suggested today at the house judiciary committee's prohibition hearing by Piere S. Du Pont, the Delaware capitalist as a means of putting liquor control "in good hands" rather than in the hands of criminals.

Du Pont, a power in the financial world and chairman of the board of E. I. Du Pont De Nemours and company, expressed doubt if the dry stature had added to prosperity and said the only solution of the liquor problem lay in the best people of the nation directing their attention to it.

He said it was questionable whether the Volstead act could be "honestly amended to satisfy the American people" and asserted "by all means we should do nothing that requires a dishonest purpose."

He urged that state commissions, somewhat on the order of state railroad commissions, might prove a means of placing liquor under satisfactory control.

In this way, he continued, states could control liquor to meet their respective needs.

Du Pont was the first witness at the concluding session of the six days hearings allotted to opponents of prohibition. The friends of the dry law still have to be heard.

MITCHELL VOICES DISAPPROVAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP)—Attorney General Mitchell today voiced disapproval of an effort to make more drastic the law allowing search of private dwellings in liquor cases.

In a letter to Chairman Capper, of the senate committee on District of Columbia affairs, the attorney general opposed a provision in the bill by Senator Howell, republican which would allow issuance of search warrants to enter homes in the District of Columbia upon information that liquor was delivered to them, or of the unlawful presence of a still.

"In my judgment," he wrote, "Effort to improve the enforcement of the national prohibition act may be better expended, at least for the present, in other directions than in an attempt to make more drastic the provisions for searching private dwellings—an attempt which would arouse controversy with doubtful results.

"The national prohibition act now allows searching of dwellings only on proof that liquor is being sold in them."

The effect of the Howell Bill would be to subject the dwellings of persons residing in the District of Columbia to more drastic searches than congres has authorized in the United States, Alaska, and some insular possessions.

La Grande High Plays At Union Friday Evening

With two more pre-tournament games to be played, the La Grande High school basketball team is completing a week of intensive practice. Tomorrow night they will go to Union to play a third game of this season with the Bobcats and on Monday evening will go to Baker for a second game with the Bulldogs. Much interest is shown in both games, particularly the latter one as Baker is generally conceded to have an excellent chance for championship honors.

Following these two games, tournament play will come in short order. On Friday and Saturday, Mar. 7 and 8, the Union-Wallowa sub-district tournament will be played in La Grande, with the four winning teams to be permitted to participate in the championship tournament at Union, scheduled for Mar. 12, 13 and 14, and if an extra game is necessary, Mar. 15.

L. F. Allen, Mayor of Wallowa, Will Seek Seat In State Legislature

The opening gun in the Union and Wallowa political campaign was sounded in Wallowa today, when L. F. Allen announced his candidacy for joint representative from the 24th district, which includes the two counties. In recent years, by common consent, this representative has been elected from Wallowa county, while the senator has been chosen from Union county.

Mr. Allen is at present secretary of the Wallowa county republican central committee, and has taken an active part in civil and fraternal affairs. He is married and has an 11-year-old son, now attending the Wallowa schools.

Mr. Allen was born and reared on a farm, coming from a family of farmers, and he is well acquainted with farm problems, believing that the future of Union and Wallowa counties and the prosperity of all businesses in the district depend upon the success of agriculture. He was born near Wallowa Dec. 30, 1889, was educated in the public schools at Lostine and in Oregon Agricultural college, receiving the degree of Ph. G. in 1910. Soon afterwards he and K. W. Mckenzie purchased the City Pharmacy at Wallowa, conducting this business for the last 19 years. During 19 years of that time he has been a member of the city council and is at present serving his second year as mayor.

His statement, in part, follows: "Requests have come to me from so many parts of Union and Wallowa counties, urging me to become a candidate, that I feel that I cannot ignore them. . . . I am in sympathy with the agricultural program and will favor any legislation of benefit to farmers. Although my business is such that I cannot devote a great deal of time to an extensive campaign, I am out to win and will make as many appearances in Union and Wallowa counties as possible between now and the May 16th primaries."

JOHNSON BID $98,370 ON SURFACING

State Highway Commission Opens Avalanche of Bids in February Meet

$26,710 IS OFFER FOR BRIDGE JOB

Rechecks of Bids Indicate That Low Bidder Probably Would be Awarded the Contract.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP) — Highway and bridge bids amounting to more than $1,084,383, the largest letting of the year and the most extensive because of its spread throughout the state, were opened here today by the Oregon state highway commission. A total of thirteen projects constituted the business which required the entire morning session.

Although contracts will be awarded at the close of the meeting tonight, commissioners said rechecks of the bids received on all projects indicated the low bidder probably would be awarded the job.

Avalanche of Bids

Delegations from Marion and Lane counties, who arrived during the morning session, to discuss various highway and bridge projects with the commission, were forced to wait the afternoon hours because of the avalanche of bids which were received.

Saxon and Looney of Jefferson, Ore., were the low bidders on the Denmark-Port Orford section proj-

(Continued on Page Five)

Dog Tag Price To Increase March 1

Tomorrow is the last day to buy dog licenses—both county and city—without paying a heavy penalty. On Saturday, Mar. 1, the county licenses jump from $2 for males and $3 for females to $4 for males and $5 for females. The city licenses increase from $1 for males and $5 for females to $3 for males and $7 for females.

The county clerk reports only 246 licenses sold at noon today, which he estimates as about one-fourth of those required.

E. W. Colburn Dies On His Birthday

Edgard William Colburn, nephew of Charles Redingfield, passed away yesterday at the Grande Ronde hospital following a short illness. His death occurred on his birthday anniversary. He was born in Bart City, Utah on Feb. 26, 1902 and was 28 years of age.

The body will be forwarded to Eureka, Utah tomorrow on No. 6 by the Snodgrass and Zimmerman mortuary.

Columbia Highway Slide Not Cleared

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP) —The land and rock slide covering the Columbia River highway at Mosier tunnel may not be cleared off the road for three or four days, highway officials said today. The slide is nine feet deep at the outer edge and 30 feet deep near the cliff, and is approximately 200 feet long. Automobile traffic is routed over a ferry and today there was a string of cars a mile long on each side of the river at Lyle waiting to ferry across. The ferry caries only five automobiles at a time.

Trucks and motor stage business has been the hardest hit and there were more than 30 trucks parked on the streets of Hood River today.

Intangibles Tax Payments Heavy

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP)—If the experience of men who have collected intangibles taxes in other states holds good in Oregon the state tax commission will in the next two days receive double the amount that has already been collected under the intangibles tax law, and the total by Saturday night will reach half a million dollars.

Saturday night ends the period within which payments can be made without penalty. Indications today were that collections would touch a quarter million dollars by tonight.

Edison Award To Be Offered Again

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP)—Governor Norblad and State School Superintendent C. A. Howard have been informed by Thomas A. Edison that he will again this year make a scholarship to the high school boy showing the greatest achievement in scientific study. Competitors, as last year, will be from every state in the union and the District of Columbia. The name of the competitor selected in each state must be in the hands of Mr. Edison's secretary at Orange, N. J., not later than July 1.

YOUNGEST

Edwin C. Hicks, 21, is not only America's youngest district attorney but he bucks some unique situations in Grant county, Oregon. His father is the county's leading lawyer. Most cases find he and the son on opposite sides with family relations forgotten for the time. He beat a republican incumbent for the office, running himself as a democrat.

DETROIT LAWYER VICTIM OF GANG

Forty Slugs Poured Into Alfonso Sirica's Car—Occupant Mortally Hurt

DETROIT, Feb. 27 (AP)—Underworld shotguns were turned into between the shooting and the year-old attorney, who defended James Ferando in the Jackie Thompson case and who appeared at police headquarters a few days ago as counsel for the estate of an Italian cafe owner who was shot to death on February 19.

Forty slugs were poured into Sirica's automobile and a dozen or more of them tore away the lower part of his face. He was taken to receiving hospital in a dying condition while detectives sought the connection which they believe exists between the shooting and th killing of two other members of the local Italian colony.

Associate of Gennaro

A few hours before the lawyer was attacked detectives had established that the slain cafe owner, Arthur Califano, was an associate of Roy Gennaro, who was fatally shot last Monday night and died clinging to the underworld code of silence.

Before the attack on Sirica it had been believed by police and federal authorities that the killing of Califano was connected with the narcotic racket. He was lader to a room over a confectionery which had been watched by narcotic agents and was shot through

(Continued on Page Six)

GRAZING LANDS REPORT GIVEN COMMITTEE O. K.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP) —The subcommittee report expressing strong preference that the federal government set up the necessary machinery to maintain, regulate and subject to utilization for grazing purposes the public lands of Oregon was adopted with scarcely an amendment late yesterday by the general committee appointed by Governor Norblad.

The body was charged with obtaining a concensus of Oregon on President Hoover's proposal concerning surface rights of unreserved and unappropriated public lands.

The committee, composed of R. G. Callvert, chairman, and other members of a subcommittee, adopted the report which will be forwarded to E. C. Van Petten, Ontario, Ore., Oregon's representative on Hoover's committee for study of public lands. The subcommittee formulated its report at a meeting in Portland, February 10 and 11 after consultations with members of the field division of the general land office and a representative of the state board of higher education.

If the federal government will not take charge of regulation of grazing lands, it would be better for the states to take them over thann for them to remain in their present state of neglect, the committee reported.

SUIT IS FILED

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP) —Suit was filed in United States district court yesterday by System Federation, No. 109 of the railroad employes department of the American Federation of Labor, through its secretary, Fred Ross, against the Spokane, Portland and Seattle railway, the Oregon Trunk and the Oregon Electric for a permanent injunction restraining the railways from "influencing, intimidating and coercing" members of the federation from organizing.

27 Communists Arrested After Vicious Battle

Police Use Billy-Clubs and Tear Bombs to Halt Big Demonstration in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 27 (AP)—With 27 alleged communists under arrest police today are massed to prevent a recurrence of last night's riot during which 3,000 sympathizers were prevented from storming the city hall. In a wild battle police brought billy-clubs and tear bombs into play, and pushed the rioters back in two determined assaults.

Pandemonium broke loose when 300 police, plain clothes men and reserves attempted in orderly fashion to dispel a huge crowd gathered to stage a demonstration which was to culminate with a march upon the city hall. Screaming, scratching women and cursing men trampled by-standers under foot and shouldered officers aside in a wild scramble from the city plaza into the streets.

Police Meet Violence

Carl Sklar, a district organizer for the communists, hoisted upon the shoulders of two men, started to address the crowd. Attempts of police to take him from his post met with violence. Officers were surrounded and struck down. Inflammatory placards appeared over the mob; communist papers were thrown broadcast. From out of the crowd came a shout:

"Comrades, charge the police and beat them down."

Armed with tear gas bombs the police finally succeeded in turning the first rush, only to be met by a fresh onslaught from a milling group in Spring street, beginning another movement toward the city hall. Tear bombs stopped them

(Continued on Page Three)

Legge Declares Farm Board Is "Still In Ring"

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP)—Referring to complaints by grain dealers on the farm board policies on grain buying, Chairman Legge of the board said today that the recently formed wheat stabilization corporation was "still in the ring and does not hesitate to face the fireworks."

The farm board chairman asserted that a number of the complaints were strikingly similar to propaganda to discredit stabilization operations.

WHEAT MEN MAY BORROW

PORTLAND, Feb. 27 (AP) — Wheat growers will be able to borrow $1.12 a bushel on wheat delivered at Portland and other Columbia river tidewater points, according to a telegram received by the chamber of commerce today from F. J. Wilmer, of Rosalia, Wash., chairman of the North Pacific Grain Growers, Inc.

Earlier in the week dispatches quoted W. G. Kellogg, manager of the National Grain corporation of Chicago, to the effect that the federal farm board would loan to members of wheat cooperatives at $.12 a bushel on a basis of Seattle delivery.

Butler Bridge Bill Approved

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP)—The Butler bill to extend by one and three years respectively, the time for starting and completing construction of a bridge across the Columbia river at Arlington, Ore., was approved today by the house interstate commerce committee.

George Putnam Is Dead In New York

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (AP) —George Haven Putnam, president of G. P. Putnam's sons, publishers, died today by pernicious anemia at his residence, No. 1 Sutton Place. He was 85 years old and had been ill for two weeks.

Mr. Putnam was a civil war veteran, having risen from the rank of private to that of major in the 167th New York volunteers.

DIES OF INJURIES

ST. HELENS, Ore., Feb. 27 (AP)—Frank Snider, 74, cook on the steamship Barbara Cates, died here yesterday as the result of injuries suffered when he fell from the gangplank of the ship to the icy waters of the Columbia river.

Snider, after he had gone down the third time, was rescued by A. P. Williams, third engineer, who plunged into the river and rescued Snider from death by drowning. Snider is believed to have struck floating debris when he fell.

POSTPONES HONEYMOON

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 27 (AP) — Having been hurt at his specialty of wrestling alligators for the entertainment of tourists, Henry Billy, Indian, has had to postpone his honeymoon. With his bride, the former Annie John, daughter of a medicine man, he hopes to start a canoeing trip into the Everglades in a few days.

NO HOPE FOR RECOVERY OF TAFT, REPORT

Physicians Declare That Any Improvement Will Only be Temporary.

HOOVERS CANCEL SOCIAL EVENING

Former President and Chief Justice Suffers Sinking Spell During Morning Hours.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP)—After a visit to Former Chief Justice Taft, Dr. Francis Hagner said at 1:30 p. m. today that there had been no change in the critical condition of his patient.

Broken by weeks of illness, William Howard Taft had lost so much ground in his fight for life today that his physicians said there remained no hope for recovery.

Confirming for the first time the fears of the family and friends of the former president and chief justice, Dr Hagner said after a morning call at the Wyoming avenue home it was a question of days, and perhaps only of hours.

Condition Critical

"Mr. Taft is in a critical condition," said the physician. "There is no hope of his recovery. Any improvement will only be temporary."

A general breakdown had followed upon the combined inroads of the several ailments which early in February forced Mr. Taft to resign as chief justice, and since have kept him in bed under the anxious eyes of family and physicians.

All along the battle had been a losing one. He had almost held his own for short periods; sometimes there were signs which gave his attendants some slight hope, although their official bulletins never reflected a confidence in his recovery.

Little Reserve Strength

His active life, the exertions and bicissitudes of which kept him a national figure for a generation, had levied heavily on his reserve strength, and left him with less than the normal fighting power of a man of his age. He was 72 last September.

News of his condition spread sadness throughout Washington. Immediately after Dr. Hagner's bulletin was received at the white house the president and Mrs. Hoover cancelled the reception which was to have been held tonight for members of the house of representatives.

"In view of the physicians' statement as the critical condition of the former president of the United States, Mr. Taft," said the white house statement, "the President and Mrs. Hoover have regretfully cancelled the reception to be given to members of the house of representatives."

It was disclosed Mr. Taft had suffered a severe sinking spell about 9 o'clock today. Both Dr. Hagner and Dr. Thomas A. Claytor were summoned.

His condition showed signs of a final weakening in many ways. Heart trouble and hardening of the arteries had combined with the bladder trouble which first caused him serious difficulty a month ago. His pulse was very low, and respiration uncertain. He had some fever, but it was not excessive.

MORON KILLS KANSAS WOMAN; START SEARCH

ANTHONY, Kas., Feb. 27 (AP) —A moron was sought today for the murder, without apparent motive, of Mrs. Ben Turner, 55, at her home here late yesterday.

The body was found, lying in a front room, by her husband when he returned from work as foreman at a slate plant last night. The head had been crushed with a farm implement; one .22 calibre bullet had passed through her forearm and entered her heart and another had entered her stomach. The house was not robbed.

The Turners had been married thirty years and never had had any trouble, friends said. No one heard the shots.

Vigilantes and peace officers were scouring the nearby countryside today following the action of a coroner's jury in declaring Mrs. Turner slain "by persons unknown." Bloodhounds were used.

It was reported Mrs. Turner had given food to a tramp early yesterday. He was sought.

Neither County Attorney Guy Neal nor Sheriff J. P. Ryan could advance a theory as to the motive for the slaying.

MILLION DOLLAR BLAZE

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 27 (AP)—Fed by hundreds of gallons of paint and other inflammable materials, fire swept through the paint shop of the Big Four railroad at Beech Grove, a suburb, last night and destroyed the huge structure with a loss estimated by officials at $1,000,000.