

## FOWLER CASE HEARS JURY'S HANDS TODAY

Defense Completes its Arguments at Baker During Morning.

## ATTORNEY ADMITS "BOOK SHORTAGE"

Asserts Prisoner Had "Never Stolen a Dime," Carl Helm Reads From Court Records.

BAKER, Ore., March 21 (Special to the Observer)—The fate of Mrs. Emma Fowler, 50, ex-treasurer of La Grande who is charged with larceny of public money, is expected to rest in the hands of the jury here sometime between 4 and 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Arguments were expected to finish between 3 and 4 o'clock and Judge Hall S. Lusk's instructions were not expected to require more than an hour.

BAKER, Ore., Mar. 21 (AP)—Admitting the woman's records show a shortage of more than \$112,000, attorneys for Mrs. Emma Fowler, former city treasurer of La Grande, attributed the discrepancy to a "book-keeping error," as in their arguments to the jury today they declared Mrs. Fowler had "never stolen a dime and the state has failed to prove she did."

Mrs. Fowler is on trial charged with larceny of public funds. The case will go to the jury late today.

Mrs. Fowler's books show a balance unaccounted for of \$112,000—we admit that right off the bat," R. J. Green, of the defense, declared in his concluding argument. He declared the state had failed to show improper expenditure of city funds in a single instance.

Helm Speaks For State. Carl Helm, county prosecutor, read from the records to show that J. L. Soule, defense accountant, had admitted a book shortage of more than \$112,000, and contended the records failed to account for \$45,000 since the beginning of 1929. He said the money Mrs. Fowler failed to account for must be made up by her fellow citizens who trusted her.

Helm's arguments were along the lines of the gravity of the alleged offense, the prosecutor pointing out that it was money rather than money being lent to a private concern was involved.

Helm stated, and based his statements upon the record, that even if she had no money on hand the first of January, 1929, she still had failed to account for \$45,000 since Jan. 1, 1929.

Asks Questions. Referring to Mrs. Fowler's denial of statements Judge J. W. Knowles (Continued on Page Five)

## ALBANY TEAM WILL DEBATE HERE MONDAY

Women debaters from Albany college will be in La Grande Monday to hold a contest with the girls from the Eastern Oregon Normal school at the Normal school auditorium. The girls' team, which is being coached by Miss Amanda Zabel, is starting out on the first big debate of the year, after a successful debate season last year.

Following the debate here Monday evening they plan to leave for a tour of neighboring colleges in Idaho to be gone for a week.

While the women are debating in colleges to the east of the Normal school, the men's team is leaving tonight for Western Oregon where they will hold contests during the coming week.

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## Stock Show Group To Elect Officers

Tony D. Smith, secretary of the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show association, is anxious to get his forces into action and has called a meeting of the association for Monday evening, Mar. 23. This is an important session and it is hoped that a large group will attend. Officers will be elected for the coming year. The meeting will be held in the Union city hall.

WEATHER FOR WEEK. A generally fair weather in California and plateau regions and occasionally unsettled elsewhere with rainy periods in Washington, Western Oregon and Northern Idaho.

WEATHER FORECAST. Oregon: Fair tonight and Sunday. Moderate temperatures. Moderate west and northwest winds offshore.

WEATHER TODAY. 7:30 a. m.—47 above. Minimum: 42 above. Condition: cloudy.

WEATHER YESTERDAY. Maximum 62, minimum 37 above. Condition: partly cloudy, rain 07 of an inch.

WEATHER MAR. 21, 1930. Maximum 56, minimum 30 above. Condition: cloudy, rain .06 of an inch.

## Banquet Honors Bishop, Other Church Leaders

Dr. C. L. Clifford Main Speaker at Meeting at M. E. Church—Bishop Brown Also Speaks.

Dr. C. L. Clifford, area director of religious education, addressed an enthusiastic audience at the Methodist church last night following a banquet held in honor of Bishop Wallace E. Brown, of Helena, Mont. Rev. Ezra Cox, of the board of home missions, of Philadelphia, and H. G. McCallister, of Boise, Idaho, at 6:15 o'clock. Dr. Clifford has been heard in La Grande before on a number of occasions.

Dr. Clifford's address was the subject of "The Emergency of Religion in a Dangerous World." Dr. Clifford stated, accompanying his statement with a resume of the death due to automobiles and other scientific appliances during the past year. Science has done a great deal during the past few decades to release energy and hasten communication and transportation, he said.

Since the world is moving so fast, and death can come so quickly, there is an emergency for religion, he believes.

Bishop Speaks. Bishop Brown addressed the banquet, which was served by the ladies Aid of the church. He said, "This is a Good World." H. E. Dixon followed with a splendid address from a layman's point of view, of the "Task of the Church Today."

Special musical numbers were furnished during the banquet by a trio composed of W. W. Nubbaum, E. E. Hurley and Paul Mautz.

Dr. Cox is spending Saturday in Portland but will return tomorrow for the last day of the two-day conference being conducted by the visitors.

Winter Is Past  
History; Spring  
Makes Its Debut

Winter wound up its three month stay in the western hemisphere yesterday and today spring took its place on the calendar. Locally, the advent of spring was marked with clouds and a rain that brought the mercury up an inch, bringing the March total to a fraction over an inch and a quarter.

Incidentally, yesterday went on record as the warmest day of the winter when the local thermometer saw the mercury at 62 above, two degrees above the previous record day of the season.

Merchants Have Spring Opening. La Grande merchants honored the coming of a new season with a Spring Opening last night, the clouds holding off until after midnight. Earlier in the day the sun shone to some extent, but the mercury was higher in the official tube.

Today was still cloudy but a kind weather man predicted fair weather for the remainder of the week, with moderate temperatures.

Spring plowing and planting and other spring work is expected to begin in earnest in the next two weeks, providing the weather clears. Considerable moisture exists in the ground at present, although many farmers believe it is sufficient for the best results.

A Warm Winter. The passing winter was unusually warm in La Grande, with the mercury staying at zero, and with part of January and most of February clear and warmer than usual. Several ardent golfers played nearly every day during the winter, excepting during an occasional snowstorm, and there was much less snow than usual in many parts of the valley.

Highway work, designed to relieve the congestion of the main highway, is being completed.

Triad Choir To Give Concert At Church Sunday

The Triad choir of the Presbyterian church, under the direction of Mrs. A. L. Richardson, is presenting one of their most difficult and versatile concerts of the winter season Sunday evening at 7:30 at the Presbyterian church. Rev. J. George Wals, pastor, announces. Mrs. Paul Polman, one of the leading vocalists in the choir, will sing the first solo selection. Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp Jr., vocal, and Mrs. Harley Richardson, organist, will appear in solo numbers.

The program has been divided into three parts, the first, religious; the second, cantatas; and the third, sacred numbers. Perhaps the most interesting part of the program is the cantata, "The Herald of Spring," by John Hyatt Brewer, in which the composer visualizes springtime. Although dealing with a season of gaiety and levity, Brewer has filled the beautiful strains with religious ecstasy, which offers contrast to the somber zeal expressed in the final number in the third part, "Cujus Animam," from Stabat Mater, by Rossini, which is being sung by the choir.

Those who will go are Albert McCoy, Floyd Baxter, and Austin Durst, alternate, and Edward Daniels, coach. They will debate the question, "Resolved: That a policy of free trade should be adopted."

## Frank Webb Again Heads Poultrymen

Frank Webb, of Hot Lake, was re-elected president of the Union county Poultry Producers association Thursday afternoon in the civil service room of the post office. L. G. Latta was re-elected vice president; Mrs. Irwin Moss, Alciel, secretary; Mrs. Will continue in their offices until June 30, 1931. After June 30 a meeting is to be called to elect a board of six directors to handle the association's affairs.

A fee of \$2.00 in stead of the \$5.00 formerly charged, will be charged per member, according to a ruling made at the meeting. Three new members, J. A. Kofford, Union; George Baxter, Union; and Don B. Buckman, Imbler, were added to the association list.

## Work of Legislators Praised By The Editor of the Wallowa Sun

WALLOWA, Ore., Mar. 21—Now that there is opportunity to look back over the work of the legislature which has come to an end and to talk to the men who were in that body and have explained what was back of some of the important bills, it is interesting to see what was approved, it appears that several measures, important to this county, were produced at the recent session, according to the editor of the Wallowa Sun.

Wallowa county has cause to feel proud of the record made in the legislative session, just brought to a close. It is to be called to elect a board of six directors to handle the association's affairs.

Wallowa Gets Representation. Perhaps of most importance to this county was the representation bill which gives this county its own representative in the lower house. Representative Allen, because of his important committee appointments, was instrumental in putting it through the house, but it was the friendship of Senator Eberhard for this county and his position as chairman of the senate committee on reorganization and chairman of the conference committee that put it through the senate. He could easily have blocked the bill at a dozen parliamentary stages. He could have defeated it in committee or on the floor. But he stood by it and fought for it until it became law. The strong Union county delegation conformed to Wallowa county's wishes in the matter despite the belief in their own minds that it was unwise.

One of the gratifying features of the session was the cooperation of the Eastern Oregon delegation. Never before has Wallowa county's senator and representative cooperated as they have this year.

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## NEW STYLES ON DISPLAY AT OPENING

Latest modes in Clothing and in Furnishings Featured Last Night

LARGE CROWD ON ADAMS FOR EVENT

Street Roped Off During the Evening; La Grande Band Presents Several Selections.

The filmy gowns or smart mannish sport tops for the women, the light or more somber men's furnishings, and the gay furniture which breathes the essence of spring into the household came in for their share of attention from the crowd that thronged the streets of La Grande last night at the annual Spring Opening and Home Furnishings show.

The municipal band, playing in the intersections—the streets being roped off from traffic from Chestnut to Greenwood on Adams avenue added to the gala occasion over which Jope Pluvius cast a wry smile but withheld the showers which threatened at first to last throughout the evening.

Throughs About Windows. The people were thronged about the windows which were made unusually attractive for the occasion, held dresses and suits of light colors, which are so "ultra-chic" for spring, grouped attractively in the windows drew the attention through the medium of clever lighting schemes. Practically all of the windows were decorated and some stores had arranged displays just inside the door.

Some stores had living models, displaying coats, hats, shoes, and styles of frocks with matching accessories completing the ensemble.

In practically all of the windows the decorative motif in the window was modernistic, interspersed with realistic displays. In furnishings some of the windows represented complete

SALEM, March 21 (AP)—The 1931 state basketball championship will go to either Pendleton or Salem. These teams will meet in the finals of the Oregon tournament here tonight after wrecking the hopes of the Portland schools for leading honors late yesterday. Both Jefferson and Benson went down to defeat in the semi-finals, eliminated by the Easterners and the capital city players, before crowded cheering fans and by scores which upset the dope bucket beyond recovery.

Pendleton started the slaughter by administering an overwhelming defeat to the leading contender, for championship honors, Jefferson High school of Portland. The team from the large Oregon school was not given a chance after the first few minutes of play, and the contest ended with 24 points difference between the two, nine more than the total scored by Jefferson during the contest. The final tally was 39 to 15 in favor of Pendleton.

Salem Ousts Benson. Following suit the Salem High school, which failed to make much of a showing in the first game, came through strong, and in a close fight took the game from Benson by a safe score of 25 to 18. The largest crowd of the series witnessed this contest. It didn't seem like a contest, but as a result these two fast squads will play tonight, and according to what dope remains the Pendleton captain is given the better chance to capture the title.

Portland schools are now placed in the semi-finals of the consolation series against Astoria and Baker. Astoria, after winning from The Dalles, will play Jefferson High school for the second time during the tournament. These two teams met in the first game, and Jefferson had difficulty in taking the contest, which was the hardest schedule of any entrant, will play Benson. Baker previously gave Jefferson a hard battle in the championship.

## Expect Heavier Registration at Normal School— Several Finish Work

The winter term at the Eastern Oregon Normal school came to a close yesterday afternoon and the spring term, which will end on the 12th of June, is to begin Monday with registration at 7:30 a. m. The president of the Normal school, stated today that he had had a considerable

## ANNUAL FALL SHOW SUBJECT OF LUNCHEON

Plans for the next Grange Fair and Home Products show, which will be held late in the fall will be outlined by the Grange Fair board at a forum luncheon meeting of the chamber of commerce Tuesday noon at the Commercial Inn. The Grange Fair and Home Products show is one of the big events of fall in this county and the chamber of commerce is one of its enthusiastic sponsors.

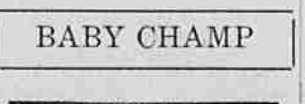
La Grande's history, development, industries, prospects for the future, and so forth, will be broadcast over KOIN radio station from Portland. The broadcast is being sponsored by the Guaranty Building and Loan association and will be heard all over the state.

The annual meeting of the Oregon state chamber of commerce is being held in Portland on Thursday, March 27, and all of La Grande's members are invited to attend the session.

Two active committees now completed, are announced by Harry McKinlay, president, and include the advertising committee, composed of A. W. Nelson, chairman, P. E. Finlay, Jack Wright and Frank Conner; and the membership committee, with E. B. Kendrick, chairman, Ralph Huron, D. W. Hall, Harold Finlay, George Birnie, E. S. Burnett and F. C. Hart.

## BABY CHAMP

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## BUCKS PLAY TONIGHT FOR STATE TITLE

Pendleton and Salem to Fight It Out For Basketball Championship

BENSON DEFEATS BAKER QUINTET

Teams From Eastern Oregon Make Best Showing of Years—Four Bid for All-Star Rating.

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## Federal Council Of Churches For Birth Control

NEW YORK, March 21 (AP)—Birth control through "careful and restrained use of contraceptives by married people" is approved by the federal council of the Churches of Christ.

Representing approximately 22,000,000 members of 27 protestant denominations in America, a majority of the committee on marriage and the home published today a report saying such practice is "valid and ideal."

The report, approved by the administrative committee, was signed by the chairman, Rev. Dr. Ben Wickersham, chairman of the commission on law enforcement, and Mrs. John Ferguson, president of the National Council of Federated Churches Women.

Those taking some exceptions were Rev. Dr. Howard Chandler Robbins, chairman of the committee; Mrs. Robert E. Spear, president of the national board of the Y. W. C. A.; and Mrs. Orrin R. Judd, president of the Council of Women for Home Missions.

Those remaining neutral were Rev. Charles K. Gilbert, suffragan bishop of the protestant Episcopal church in New York; Rev. Dr. Ben L. Lacy, president of Union Theological Seminary, at Richmond, Va.; and Mrs. W. A. Newell, of Greensboro, N. C.

Unanimous Agreement. The committee unanimously agreed "as to the necessity," therefore, "for some form of effective control of the size of the family and spacing of children, and consequently of control of conception. It is recognized by all churches and all physicians that the causes of such necessity were listed as "too frequent and too numerous pregnancies," "economic considerations" in poor families, and "the problem of child care."

The committee was also in unanimous agreement that "sex union between husbands and wives as an expression of mutual affection, without relation to procreation, is right. This is recognized by the scriptures, by all branches of the church, by social

## LAWRENCE AND EARLY SLATED FOR POSITIONS

PORTLAND, March 21 (AP)—The Telegram said today the appointment of Charles E. Early, prominent Portland lumberman, now retired, and Arthur Lawrence, of Corvallis, member of the last legislature, to the industrial accident commission is expected.

The paper said Lawrence, former state printer, one time editor of the Labor Press, is expected to represent labor on the board while Early will represent the employer.

## Investigation Of Mayor Is Unlikely

ASTORIA, Ore., March 21 (AP)—An intensive search was under way today for Frank H. Peacock, 45, assistant postmaster, who disappeared Thursday after postoffice inspectors arrived here to audit accounts.

Following a preliminary audit of the books postal inspectors C. W. Linebaugh and George Freeman admitted a big shortage was indicated. They would not discuss the shortage, however.

Peacock was bonded for \$6,000 and it was reported unofficially this sum would not cover the shortage revealed in preliminary estimates.

## Postal Employee's Accounts Short

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## TAKING HOOVER TO CARIBBEANS

U. S. S. Arizona, powerful dreadnaught, is carrying President Hoover and members of his official family to the Caribbean for a vacation trip. Yesterday Hoover slept late due to rainfall that made the decks unpleasant, but today better weather was anticipated.



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## BRIGHT WEATHER GREET'S HOOVER

U. S. S. ARIZONA, March 21 (AP)—The impressive sight of two warships along the rail greeted President Hoover this morning on the third day of his vacation voyage to Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The destroyer Dupont came alongside with its band playing and its crew dressed in white to give the president a greeting before it relieved the destroyer Taylor, which turned back to Norfolk.

The Dupont, detached from the United States fleet for its new duty, came northward at high speed and circled the Arizona.

President Hoover and Secretaries Hurley and Wilbur accompanied Captain Freeman this morning on the rounds of his regular Saturday inspection of the upper decks. The president did not venture into the lower part of the ship, where the heat was intense.

The ship awnings had been spread overnight and the presidential party sought their shade. The sea was smooth, the weather fair and the light gentle.

Although the president is combining business with pleasure in his trip it is understood he plans no commitments on future policy there.

The president is looking forward to an opportunity to visualize conditions and after his study it is possible administration policies may be reshaped, looking forward over a period of years to complete self-government.

The impression holds aboard the Arizona, the trip can be taken as presaging more direct attention to the problems of the people. They make no speeches except for brief talks in reply to greeting ceremonies.

The president, after dinner last night, will be in the company of the Arizona.

## PETITIONERS ASK LENIENCY FOR MOTTLEY

PORTLAND, March 21 (AP)—A petition bearing the names of 52 citizens of Pendleton, asking leniency for Robert S. Mottley, Unmatilla county wheat rancher charged with violation of the prohibition law, was in the hands of George Neuner, United States attorney, here today.

The petition recommended that the prohibition law be waived in the case of Mottley, who is sentenced. It bore the names of attorneys, physicians, a bank president, merchants, farmers and grain buyers.

The petition said the signers never heard of Mottley having furnished liquor to Indians, children or intoxicated persons. He was arrested, they said, while undertaking to deliver 30 gallons of liquor "as an accommodation for others but not to be retailed by bootleggers."

## More Diphtheria At Point Barrow

POINT BARROW, Alaska, March 21 (AP)—Although outbreaks are fewer, the diphtheria epidemic that has held this village in its firm grip for more than two weeks still was raging here today, while efforts were being made to obtain food and hospital supplies from outlying trading posts.

A trapper, brought here from the inland and a resident were the latest cases reported and two more homes have been quarantined. Dr. Henry Grier, of the Presbyterian hospital said the trapper's sickness led him to believe persons as far inland as 40 to 70 miles had been exposed. The total number of cases here exceeds 30, about the number stricken in the Nome epidemic in 1924, when anti-toxin was rushed overland by relay dog teams from Fairbanks.

## ITALIAN COMPOSER FAVORED ABOVE GERMANS IN BERLIN

BERLIN (AP)—Giacomo Puccini, Italian maestro, was being elected by German opera-goers as their favorite composer of modern opera music drama.

A musical magazine, "Der Anbruch," accelerated the standing among the "moderns" by coining the performances of various works last season, eliminating from the competition all composers who died before 1900.

Puccini's score showed a total of 950 performances, with "Madama Butterfly" leading the list. Richard Strauss, German, was second with 497 performances to his credit, closely followed by Jorjoni Weinberger, young Czechoslovakian, whose opera "Schwanen" "The Swan" was heard 490 times.

## Prince of Wales Loses Overcoat In Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES, March 21 (AP)—The Prince of Wales left today noon for Montevideo in one of a fleet of three hydro-aeroplanes of the Argentine navy, and escorted by two other airplanes.

Before his departure the Prince of Wales had become a second member, with Admiral Byrd, of famous men who lost their overcoats. The prince's plane was about to take off when he discovered he did not have his top coat, which apparently had been left at the British embassy.

Wales and his brother, Prince George, who came here a fortnight ago to open the British trade expedition, reached the end of their visit today.

## Airplane Will Aid In Search For Survivors

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., March 21 (AP)—Search for the missing and completion of the rescue of survivors of the wreck of the sealer Viking depended today upon an improvement in weather conditions.

Berk Boston, skilled Arctic flier, with two companions left the airport at Millerville and flew to Saint John's harbor to refuel. They expected to take off at 10:10 a. m. to fly their Sikorsky amphibian plane over the ice-filled wastes of White Bay in search for Varick Prissell, New York motion picture producer, and 25 others missing since the Viking blew up last Sunday night. Balchen is accompanied by Kandy Enslow, rescue pilot, and Merion Cooper, organizer of the aerial expedition.

The finding of two bodies has accounted for two of the 28 missing out of 15 about the coast.

Rescue Ship In Ice. A few miles off Horse Island, in White Bay, the rescue ship Sagona, led by another member of the expedition, hit the ice. On the island were Captain Abram Kean Jr., master of the Viking, and seven of his men, who were taken to the ship and permitted them to be carried aboard ship on stretchers. The government has sent the steamer Prospero with additional supplies for the rescue.

Balchen said he did not intend to attempt any part in the rescue of survivors but would concentrate his efforts on locating the bodies of the missing members of the Viking's company.

The sealer Eagle, which has participated in the rescue work in White Bay, is expected to return to the harbor today, the crew of 28 of the sealer Sir William, which was abandoned when she became water-logged. Her crew set fire to the bulk before taking to their dorics.

Missing with Prissell is his cameraman, A. G. Penrod. Harry Sargent, policeman in Koenigsberg, can motion picture party was saved.

During a party at the home of Policeman Lawrence Laird some one stole the policeman's camera and a recent photograph of Laird.

## Policemen's Wives Robbed at Party

BERKELEY, Cal., March 21 (AP)—Six wives of Berkeley policemen demanded the police do something today as a result of a robbery at a party given by the wives yesterday.

During a party at the home of Policeman Lawrence Laird some one stole the policeman's camera and a recent photograph of Laird.

## Bend Irrigation Ditch Floods City

BEND, Ore., March 21 (AP)—Bend residents today set about repairing lawns and pumping water from basements, and the city undertook a survey of damage caused yesterday when an irrigation ditch broke five miles from the city and sent a flood of water into the low part of the town.

The Pilote Butte canal overflowed and started out to put it into circulation had 870 of it left today and it was in escrow as bail for himself and six friends at city prison.

Louwer, attracted attention when he got into Bend, but his money changed into quarters and started to give it away to jobless men in Chinatown. Later it is alleged he was joined by six percent under way riding. It is alleged they later dashed about town