

RAIN, WINDS LASH COAST EARLY TODAY

Sheeting of Ice Covers
Columbia River High-
way During Night.

GALE 70 MILES AN HOUR FOR AWHILE

Sleet Storm Visits Eastern
Oregon, Leaving Roads
Slippery — High Winds
Whip County.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 17 (AP)—Rain drenched most of Western Oregon today, following on the heels of a southerly gale which last night raked the coastline at a 70-mile clip.

The gale moderated rapidly this morning, lessening to 60 miles an hour at 6 a. m. and falling to a mild 15 mile an hour blow three hours later.

A sheeting of ice covered the Columbia River highway during the night and morning but rising temperatures were expected to bring about normal conditions during the day.

Trains coming down the gorge were more than an hour late this morning while motor stages were running from four to five hours behind schedule.

At several places along the high-way telephone and telegraph lines were snapped by an accumulation of ice.

Higher temperatures are due over Eastern Oregon and Washington, the weather bureau reported.

WEATHER SLEET HERE
A sleet storm last night, an unusual condition in La Grande, left pavements and sidewalks extremely slippery this morning and there was a minimum of traffic.

Automobile traffic between La Grande and Pendleton was practically at a standstill last night and early today, with reports reaching here that the Blue Mountain section of the Old Oregon Trail highway was dangerously slippery. To the east, automobile traffic was coming through, but there were many cases of skidding into the ditch, some of which were caused by the high winds. There was little drifting of snow east of here, except for some in the vicinity of Haines, but high-way snowplows were on the job.

Roads across the valley were reported to be uncertain of travel, with drifts

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SPANISH WAR VETERAN OF UNION PASSES

By Mrs. L. Z. Terrill
(Observer Correspondent)

UNION, Ore., Dec. 17 (Special)—Jack Reeds, 53-year-old veteran of the Spanish-American war, died at the veterans' hospital in Walla Walla late yesterday. He underwent a cancer operation Friday.

The body was to arrive at Union today and funeral services will be held here, although the time has not been announced.

Mr. Reeds was born in Marlin, Mo. and came to Union with his parents when he was only three years of age. His wife preceded him in death a year ago. He leaves a sister, Mrs. Katherine Cameron, of Union, and a brother, whose whereabouts are unknown.

Sweek Will Hold Court For Knowles

SALEM, Dec. 17 (AP)—Assignment of several judges in Oregon were announced here by Chief Justice Henry J. Beam of the Oregon supreme court. They include:

The assignment of Judge Calvin L. Sweek, of Pendleton, to La Grande to hear the Fletcher vs. McLaughlin and Leonard vs. Rode cases, both in which Judge J. W. Knowles has been disqualified.

Judge Arlie G. Walker of Yamhill county has been assigned to Portland to substitute for Judge W. A. Ekwall during the latter's absence from the district.

WEATHER FORECAST

Oregon: Rain in the west and snow and rain in the east portion tonight and Friday; warmer in the east and cooler in the southwest portion tonight; heavy snow in the mountains.

WEATHER TODAY

7 a. m.—23 above.
Minimum: 23 above.
Condition: Cloudy, windy.

WEATHER YESTERDAY

Maximum 33, minimum 4 above.
Condition: Cloudy, precipitation .05 of inch. Sleet.
Range—29 degrees.

WEATHER DEC. 17, 1931

Maximum 38, minimum 27 above.
Condition: Cloudy, snow one inch, precipitation .10 of an inch. Range—11 degrees.

Seek Permit To Store Water In Powder River

Government Applies For
Rights to 36,000 Acre
Feet at Thief Valley
Reservoir.

SALEM, Dec. 17 (AP)—The United States government has made applications for permits to appropriate water in Oregon for two important projects, C. F. Stricklin, state engineer, announced today.

One is for a permit to store 36,000 acre feet of water for irrigation from Powder river in Baker and Union counties. The federal government is constructing the Thief Valley Reservoir on the river near North Powder, and expects to have the project completed by next spring.

The other is permit for storage of 120,000 acre feet of water from the north fork of the Malheur river for the proposed construction of the Agency Valley Reservoir near Beulah, for irrigation purposes.

Project Cost \$136,000.
The estimated cost of the Thief Valley project is \$136,000. The dam is to be reinforced concrete structure 65 feet in height and 380 feet in length. The dam will create an artificial lake having an area of 700 acres when full.

The estimated cost of the Agency Valley project, which has been approved but is yet to be authorized by congress by appropriation of funds, will be \$1,100,000. The dam will be an earth fill 94 feet in height.

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No Parking On Narrow Section Of Spring Ave.

"No parking" signs will be installed on Spring avenue along the narrow portion near the First M. E. church, it was decided at last night's meeting of the city commission. The action was taken upon recommendation of City Manager Angus McAllister, who was authorized to notify the chief of police to sign the street.

This action was taken following petitions received a few weeks ago from property owners, who also asked that sidewalks be installed along the

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Tigers Invade Three Towns In Next Six Days

The La Grande Tiger basketball squad, with one victory in its scalp bag and another week of practice behind it, will go on the road this weekend, playing two games away from home. And on Wednesday, the last day of school this year, a third out-of-town team will be tackled.

Friday the Tigers are scheduled to go to North Powder for a return game. On a different floor, there are prospects of a different score than here last Saturday, when the

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Flour Shipments Increase Traffic

A bright spot in the traffic department of the Union Pacific railway system is the activity carried on by the flour mills as a result of the orders received from China. H. E. Lounsbury, of Portland, general freight agent, stated this morning.

Mr. Lounsbury, accompanied by J. H. Cunningham, of Walla Walla, district freight and passenger agent, spent today in La Grande and yesterday in Pendleton.

Mr. Lounsbury found the Pendleton mills working to capacity, he stated, with three shifts employed.

A recent editorial in a Washington paper was quoted by Mr. Lounsbury, in which the editor stated that the plight of the railroads has a greater significance to the country than is realized. It is estimated that there are nearly 1,000,000 stockholders in the railroads of the United States, and nearly 1,300,000 railroad employees, most of whom have families. So it may be figured that between five and six million people have a direct interest in the railroads.

County Towney Postponed Month

The number of entrants in the duplicate auction bridge tournament, sponsored by the American Legion auxiliary, which opened last night at the Fletcher vs. McLaughlin, was small due to conflicting engagements and the weather and the auxiliary, believing that the size of the field does not warrant continuing the tournament until January, Mrs. Charles Graham, president, announced today. At that time an intensive ticket selling campaign will be conducted, and the tournament will be conducted by C. H. Devine along the lines of last night's play.

Christmas Turkey Shoot Due Sunday

The La Grande Gun club announces its annual pre-Christmas turkey shoot to be held Sunday at the Lone Tree trapgrounds. All trapshooters are invited to participate. Officers state that there will be plenty of birds.

CLARA, REX BELL WED



Clara Bow, famous IT girl of the movies, and Rex Bell, cowboy actor, have taken out a license to marry at Las Vegas, Nev. Clara and Rex are at Bell's 10,000-acre ranch at Searchlight, Nev., more than 10 miles from a telephone, far away from curious movie fans. Recent pictures of both are shown here.

JUNIOR PLAY TO BE STAGED TWICE

Opening Performance of
"The Thirteenth Chair"
Begins Tonight.

The mystery of "The Thirteenth Chair" has intrigued countless audiences in many cities who have witnessed performances with bated breath, awaiting the denouement. An audience of grade school children was enthralled by the baffling mystery Tuesday afternoon when the junior class of the High school presented the play under the direction of Miss Catherine Sartain. Again tonight and Friday, with the curtain rising at 8:15, audiences will be plunged into an abyss of bewilderment until the curtain falls on the closing scene.

Tickets for "The Thirteenth Chair" are on reserve at Glass Drugs, and the sales indicate that a full house will be present each night. Miss Sartain declares that it is not idle talk when the cast of characters, the only ones who know the solution to the play, say that the play is thrilling and gripping, without a touch of the gruesome.

The tenseness of the mystery is heightened by romance lent by the heroine, played by Miss Barbara Coolidge, and the hero, portrayed by Harry Johansen. Burke Inlow and Miss Evelyn Masten are convincing in the role of the parents of the hero. The outstanding character role, Madame Rosalie LaGrange, is portrayed by Mrs. E. L. Ashford.

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SEVERE QUAKE IN MID-SOUTH DURING NIGHT

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 17 (AP)—The mid-south was shaken by a mild earthquake that frightened householders but did little actual damage last night.

Four states felt the shock which extended from Helena, Ark., on the west, to Birmingham, Ala., on the east and from Jackson, Miss., on the south, to Jackson, Tenn., on the north. It occurred at 9:40 (C. S. T.). Corinth and Charleston, Miss., reported the heaviest tremors. Windows were broken and walls cracked in the two communities. In many cities, residents left homes and buildings as they were shaken.

Professor W. L. Kennon of the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Mississippi said the earthquake was "the third and most severe felt in northern" Mississippi in the past 20 years.

Storm Interrupts Wire Service To Observer Today

Interruptions in the Associated Press leased wire service to the Observer today, caused by stormy weather to the west of La Grande, seriously curtailed the volume of news, with the result that several departments depending upon wire news are somewhat incomplete in this issue.

The wires were down for more than an hour early this morning and service again was interrupted for a considerable length of time during the noon hour, when much of the market news is customarily received.

Swanson Selected Geneva Delegate

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—Senator Swanson of Virginia, has been chosen a delegate to the Geneva arms conference which meets early next year.

He will serve with Henry P. Fletcher, of Pennsylvania, veteran diplomat, and probably Secretary Stimson. A Republican senator doubtless will be selected to round out the group.

Selection of the Virginian by President Hoover was learned yesterday, but the Democratic senator declined to discuss the matter at all. Swanson, one of the sturdiest advocates of a strong navy, is pushing now for legislation to make possible building the fleet up to the limits set by the London treaty.

Murder Suspects All Prisoners; One Confesses

SALEM, Dec. 17 (AP)—With five youthful suspects in the murder of Officer James Iverson, of Silverton, last May, in various jails and institutions, F. E. Dodele, sergeant of the state police, announced he believed the arrests included all suspects of which they know anything about, but he did not specify which of the suspects would be charged with the murder, if any.

The five suspects include Joseph R. Ripley, serving a term in the Monroe reformatory in Washington, who has confessed to playing a part in the murder. Paul Drier and Richard Hyland, whom Ripley implicated in one of his statements, are being held in Salem on burglary charges; and David and Jack Drier, brothers of Paul, who are reported under arrest in Portland charged with theft of an automobile.

In his confession Ripley did not implicate the two other Drier boys but did implicate a "Frank Manning and Myron." Iverson was shot down while on duty about 2:30 in the morning, when, according to the confession of Ripley, three youths attempted to rob the Club pool hall at Silverton.

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Cantata To Be Sunday Evening At M. E. Church

"The Prince of Peace," by Mrs. E. L. Ashford, a Christmas cantata, will be presented by the choir of the Methodist church Sunday evening, Dec. 20, at 8 o'clock in the main auditorium. Paul Knautz is director and

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Judge Ekwall Is Speaker at Elks

Judge William A. Ekwall, of Portland, district deputy grand exalted ruler of the Elks for Oregon North, was the honor guest at a special meeting of the Elks lodge last night at the temple. Judge Ekwall addressed the lodge on affairs of the order.

A claim feed, prepared by Guy Birkett, was served after the business meeting. Herbert Browning, chairman of the Christmas tree committee, reported that the baskets of provisions for distribution to the needy are in readiness for Christmas, and although there was not so much money available as in the past, he believes that the lower prices will counterbalance the difference.

Don Fowler was initiated into membership.

Alabama Governor Allows Convicts Temporary Freedom On Christmas

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 17 (NEA Service)—Christmas will be a day of rejoicing in all parts of the world, but to convicts in Alabama's penitentiaries, it will have a more special significance.

More than 300 convicts will be given special "Christmas paroles" of from 10 to 30 days in time to spend the holidays with their families and friends.

Governor B. M. Miller, who is continuing the Christmas parole plan started by his predecessor in office, Governor Bibb Graves, has checked records for weeks to choose the 300-odd who will be given temporary freedom.

"The risk of turning these men out is very small," Governor Miller said. "Last year only five of more than 300 paroles failed to return, and they were captured without much trouble. Of course, we carefully select the prisoners to be given the paroles and we feel little apprehension over whether they will return."

"Granting of paroles at Christmas also serves as a reward for prisoners whose conduct has been excellent during the year."

The Christmas parole is believed to be an institution peculiar to the state of Alabama, which at one time had a very unsavory reputation in regard to its handling of convicts.

JAPAN TAKES FIRMER GRIP IN MANCHURIA

Consolidating Their Economic Position and Forming Monopolies

NEW COMMANDER OF CHINESE ARMY

Chang Hsueh-Liang Yields to Pressure and Steps Down — Chang Tso-Hsiang is Successor

By The Associated Press
Chang Hsueh-Liang has yielded to pressure from several quarters and stepped out as commander of the Chinese forces in Manchuria, to be succeeded by Chang Tso-Hsiang.

A Japanese, charging that he failed to make good on a promise that he would evacuate the Chinchow area, have ordered a fresh brigade of relief troops to Manchuria, partly because the Chinese still occupy Chinchow, it was thought.

Meanwhile the Japanese are consolidating their economic position, forming monopolies which are taking control of railways, power plants, communications and other utilities. It is expected that much of the business which used to go to the western world will now be switched to Japan.

To Form Coalition
At Nanking leaders of the Canton group arrived to form a coalition with the Nanking clique, indicating that they were ready to compose past differences now that Chiang Kai-Shek is out as head of the Nanking government.

Troops fired on a mob of students who wrecked the plant of the Central Daily News, but the number of wounded could not be ascertained.

By Glenn Babb
(Copyright, 1931, By The Associated Press)

MUKDEN, Manchuria, Dec. 17 (AP)—Much government business in Manchuria that formerly went to the United States and European establishments, may be thrown to Japan instead as a result of the reorganization now going on in the territory.

Japanese economic brigades closely followed up the advances of General Honjo's armies and attempted, largely

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HOOVER GIVES SHOALS REPORT TO CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—President Hoover today transmitted to congress, without recommendations, a report upon Muscle Shoals suggesting a 50-year lease of the project to a corporation which would operate primarily as a fertilizer plant of benefit to the farmer.

In a brief message the president explained the report, which was the work of a joint federal-state Muscle Shoals commission, the findings of which he made public some weeks ago.

The president recalled in the message his veto last March of the Norris bill providing government operation of the huge Alabama project. The report of the commission suggested operation by a corporation which would be formed in the interest of the farmer.

Falling Tree Kills
Reedsport Worker

REEDSPORT, Dec. 17 (AP)—Bert Dehnoff, 21, was instantly killed near here late Wednesday when a falling tree struck him. He and his father were cutting wood and the younger man misjudged the direction the tree took. He ran directly into its path. His father, mother and two sisters survive.

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SENATE ASKS MANCHURIAN EXCHANGES

Calls upon Stimson to Give it All Government Correspondence

ROBINSON AIMS ATTACK AT HURLEY

Democratic Leader Charges Cabinet Member Seeks to Capitalize Non-Partisan Support.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—The senate today called upon Secretary Stimson to give it all governmental notes exchanged on the Manchurian outbreak.

A resolution by Senator Johnson, Republican, California, requesting the Manchurian papers was adopted without a roll call after brief debate.

Senator King, Democrat, Utah, suggested that the senate modify its request to read "If not incompatible with the public interest."

Senator Johnson said Secretary Stimson had the power to withhold any papers he felt it not compatible

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BRIDGE PARTNER TAKES VACATION

Mrs. Culbertson Retires Temporarily to Attend to Christmas Shopping.

By Tom O'Neill
NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (AP)—The contract bridge game will be a gander fight beginning tonight.

Whether the withdrawal of Mrs. Ely Culbertson as her husband's partner until the holidays are over means a free-for-all battle of words, or more over tardiness in starting sessions and over adherence to systems remains to be seen.

Bridge means much to Mrs. Culbertson, but "Jump Bid" (Bruce) and Joyce Culbertson mean more. She proposes that their Christmas shall be just as merry as a loving mother can make it. She has much shopping and other things to do in preparation. Her place will be taken by Theodore A. Lightner.

It is she who has kept the peace when disputes between her husband and Sidney S. Lenz and Oswald Jacoby have been headed for out of bounds. "Ely! Ely!" She has exclaimed on occasions, and her husband has subsided on his vigorous objections to what he thought were unwarranted assertions that he was not following his own tenets.

Nerves of Trio Quieter
A rest period seemed today, however, to have quieted the nerves of Culbertson, Lenz and Jacoby. They were quite frayed at the last session, a turbulent affair ending early yesterday morning. While of the same opinions still, all averred that claims about opponents' play would be taken up with the referees hereafter in dignified, gentlemanly fashion.

Mrs. Culbertson really had more reason to be perturbed Tuesday night than any of the men. Shortly before the session "Jump Bid" received a gash over one eye in a coming about the apartment. A doctor found nothing serious the matter, but Mrs. Culbertson was worried.

Nevertheless she attended to business in a ladylike and efficient manner, and largely thanks to her, Culbertson and Lightner tonight will start the 49th rubber of the 150-rubber match 410 points ahead of Lenz and Jacoby. The eighth session will be the first in which Culbertson and

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Charge Laxity Among Guards At Leavenworth

Director of Federal Prisons Makes Report — Praises Warden White For His Courage.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Dec. 17 (AP)—Laxity among guards which he said had grown up prior to last week's convict break at Leavenworth, federal penitentiary was criticized today by Sanford Bates, director of federal prisons, but he reported his investigation showed Warden T. B. White "acted in a brave and resourceful manner."

The Washington official said there was "every hope" of bringing to justice the persons guilty of smuggling into the prison the firearms used by the seven convicts who kidnaped the warden and fled.

Praises Warden
Of Warden White, who was wounded in the arm in a struggle with his captors before three of them were killed and four recaptured several miles from the penitentiary, Bates said:

"I cannot come to any conclusion other than that the warden acted in a brave and resourceful manner, and

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Condition Of Pola Negri Is Critical Today

SANTA MONICA, Cal., Dec. 17 (AP)—Pola Negri, screen actress who late yesterday underwent an operation for an intestinal obstruction, showed signs of improvement today but her physicians said her recovery remained doubtful.

"She is resting fairly comfortably, her condition is as well as can be expected, and is still critical," read a statement issued by her physicians.

Prior to the operation, Miss Negri's temperature had been slightly in excess of 100 degrees, but following the operation her temperature was reported as having fallen to 99.3 degrees. Her reaction to the operation was declared "good" by the physician.

The actress underwent a blood transfusion following the operation yesterday, her physicians revealed today. They intimated it might be necessary for her to submit to another transfusion today. A professional donor was said to have supplied the blood.

Miss Negri came to America first in 1921 after starting in the German production of "Passion." During her residence here until 1927, her name was linked with those of Charles Chaplin, the late Rudolph Valentino, Rod La Roque and Prince George of Greece, whom she took as her second husband. Her first husband was Colonel Dombek, a Polish count.

In 1927 Miss Negri left Hollywood, later obtaining a divorce from her second husband. She returned here last June to resume her career in pictures.

PROHI ISSUE
TRUCE ASKED
BY SUMNERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—Representative Hutton W. Sumners, the Texan who now heads the house judiciary committee, wants prohibition legislation shelved until economic questions have been handled.

His committee must pass upon all judicial measures, among them amendments to the bankruptcy law, anti-trust laws, and the numerous proposals for modification or repeal of prohibition.

Sumners today declared himself in favor of a truce on the liquor question until we shall have done our best untidily and with concentrated purpose to relieve economic distress of the people."

Such a course from congress, he said, "the common sense of the country will approve."

Now instead of letters taking the state to task for its prison methods, Governor Miller receives almost countless inquiries from state and municipal authorities asking him to explain the workings of the Christmas parole plan and give figures on the number of men who have made escapes. Only 10 men have failed to return in three years.

Oregon Debaters Chalk Up Victory

HONOLULU, Dec. 17 (AP)—The debating team of the University of Oregon won last night from the University of Hawaii on the subject, "Resolved, that the machine has been developed at the expense of human values." The vote of the judges was two to one.

The Oregon team members, who took the negative, were Roger Pfaff, Robert V. Miller, and David G. Wilson. Those on the Hawaiian team were Ramon Pagula, Edward Kent and Thomas Fujiwara.

Rich Gold Strike In Bulawayo Area

BULAWAYO, Southern Rhodesia, Dec. 17 (AP)—What is described as an amazingly rich gold strike has been reported at Sauterdale in the Bulawayo district. Specimens of rock taken from a prospecting shaft were said to yield an average of 100 ounces of gold to the ton. Already prospectors have staked out many claims.

HOUSE VOTES \$200,000,000 FOR VETERANS

Sum Allowed to Meet Demands For Loans on Service Certificates.

STEAGALL BILL GIVEN APPROVAL

First Item of Hoover "Reconstruction" Program is Reported By Banking Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—The house today voted \$200,000,000 for the veterans administration to meet demands for loans to veterans on adjusted service certificates. The resolution now goes to the senate.

The committee also approved a resolution calling for \$120,000 for the United States employment service from the labor department. The committee reduced the estimate from \$108,000.

The additional funds for the veterans loans will bring the outlay to more than \$1,200,000,000.

STEAGALL BILL APPROVED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—The house banking committee today approved the Steagall bill to create a \$100,000,000 revolving fund for the federal farm loan banks. This is the first item of the Hoover "reconstruction" program to be acted on.

Congressional Republicans have been urged by President Hoover to press for early action on his proposed \$500,000,000 "reconstruction corporation" and senate committee hearings will start tomorrow.

On the house side, Representative Snell, the Republican leader, requested chairman Steagall of the banking committee, to expedite hearings so the legislation can be brought up for action in January.

President Hoover made his plea yesterday to a group headed by Snell. "While we Republicans are not in a position to formulate the house program, we plan to do everything possible to get action on this measure," Snell said today.

Mr. Hoover believes this measure will do most to bring about economic improvement that will relieve the banks of much strain.

Hearings will begin before both senate and house committees tomorrow on the administration-proposed \$500,000,000 "reconstruction corporation."

Hearings on the federal land bank capitalization bill soon will be started by a sub-committee of the senate banking committee.

Senator Carey, Republican, Wyoming, was named chairman of the sub-committee. The other members of the committee have not been designated.

Three major bills have been introduced on this subject: by Stelwer, Republican, Oregon; Howell, Republican, Nebraska;