

Tax Levy Reduced In This County

CUT IN CITY OF LA GRANDE IS 4.5 MILLS

County Court Determines Tax Levy at Special Meeting Today.

MEANS \$150 LESS ON \$1000 VALUATION

Over the County, Except Where Local Taxes are Increased, Ratio is Nearly the Same.

Lower taxes for all of Union county next year.

About a week ago the Observer carried an unofficial story indicating that a tax reduction was almost certain, and today when the county court held a special session at the court house to set the tax levy, this was confirmed.

The governing body, headed by Judge V. G. Couch, adopted a figure of 14.2 mills for the state and county tax levy for 1932, which is a reduction of slightly more than 25 per cent from last year's figure of 19 mills.

And on top of this, La Grande taxes due in 1932 will amount to only \$79.95 as compared with \$84.45 this year, a reduction of 4.5 mills, or \$4.50 taxes on \$1000 assessed valuation.

County Figures

The assessed value of the county in 1932 will amount to only \$22,083,041, and the amount to be raised for state and county purposes is \$321,405 as compared with \$331,310 for last year, thus allowing considerable reduction. Another important factor in the reduction is the removal of the state property tax for 1932, announced a short time ago by Gov. Julius L. Meier.

The assessor's office announced this

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MASONS ELECT OFFICERS FOR COMING YEAR

The La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. elected officers for the coming year at a meeting last evening in the Masonic hall.

Colin P. Hutchins was elected worshipful master. Other officers for 1932 follow: Walter J. Knowland, junior warden; Oscar Warnock, junior warden; Lot L. Snodgrass, treasurer; Vernon J. Hale, secretary; Benwick A. Clark, senior deacon; Emmett D. Towler, junior deacon; Lester Masterton, senior steward; and Walter J. Blokland, junior steward.

Friday Warmest Day Since Nov. 7

Friday, with the mercury zooming up to 40 above zero in La Grande, goes on record as the warmest day this month — in fact, the warmest day here since Nov. 7 when the maximum was 62 above.

As a result, a great deal of snow and ice was melted yesterday and the continued warmth today was having a like effect. The minimum last night was 25 above, but at 7 o'clock this morning the mercury was up to 40 and the bright sun of the morning sent it higher in the tube.

Several local weather observers would not be surprised if the snow, existing here since the middle of November, would be sufficiently erased that La Grande would experience a "black" Christmas.

The official weather forecast for next week is for unsettled in Western Oregon, but generally fair with normal temperatures over the Western states.

WEATHER FORECAST

Oregon: Cloudy in the east and unsettled with occasional rains in the west portion today and Sunday; little change in temperature; fresh south winds offshore.

For the week: Unsettled weather and occasional rains west of the Cascade mountains; generally fair weather during the coming week; temperatures will be normal.

WEATHER TODAY

7 a. m.—40 above.
Minimum: 25 above.
Condition: Clear.

WEATHER YESTERDAY

Maximum 49, minimum 23 above.
Condition: Partly cloudy.
Range—24 degrees.

WEATHER DEC. 19, 1930

Maximum 37, minimum 23 above.
Condition: Cloudy. Range—12 degrees.

Oklahoma Fails To Pass Alfalfa Bill's Measures

Voters Apparently Have Rejected Governor Murray's Reform Program, Count Reveals.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Dec. 19 (AP)—The voters of Oklahoma apparently have rejected the reform program of William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, whom they elected governor by an unprecedented plurality November 4, 1930.

Early returns on four bills the mustached executive presented for approval of the people at a special election yesterday were in opposition by margins ranging from 53,000 to 73,000 votes.

Murray, who said the bills were intended to equalize things between the big man and the little fellow, retired early. He had not voted, confident that his "friends from the forks of the creek" would uphold the program.

Foes Claim Victory

Foes of the bills claimed victory after the balloting from two-thirds of the precincts had been tabulated and Ira Finley, Murray's campaign manager, said that "it seems all the measures are lost, although the tax bill may have a chance."

Finley referred to a measure to increase the taxes on large incomes and reduce the levies against small wage earners. Opponents had charged the measures would establish a "Murray dictatorship."

The cities and oil towns of the state polled large majorities against the bills. Interest centered today on the returns from isolated rural communities, where the vote was favorable.

Gordon Bierer, manager of the Citizens League formed to fight the

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Christmas Play To Be Presented Sunday at 4:30

"Seekers After Christmas" is the title of the play which will be presented in the auditorium of the Baptist church at 4:30 Sunday afternoon by a group of the young people.

The play is composed of seven scenes combined with several musical numbers which will be sung by a chorus. The theme and setting are modern in character, with the exception of the last scene which represents the manger where Christ was born.

The plot is built around an unhappy home and the interesting events by which happiness and the

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Tiger Quintet Defeats Powder Squad, 18 to 4

The Tigers made it two straight over North Powder High school's basketball team last night when the La Grander took a contest in the Powder gym 18 to 4.

A person with a flare for statistics, in fact, might even arrive at the conclusion that La Grande's defense has increased in strength nearly 50 per cent in the last week, basing it on North Powder's scoring ability, but Coach Ira Woodie has a sure answer for this. The Powder team was checking or whether North Powder is weak on the offense.

Tonight, facing a veteran Cove quintet at Cove, the answer may be forthcoming.

Scoreless Half

The Tigers scored nine points in each half, holding the home team

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McClay Store Is Robbed of \$10.70

Two minor robberies were reported to the police yesterday. Donald Ostland, in charge of the McClay store No. 2, reported that the store was entered early last night and that \$10.70 in change and about \$5 worth of candy and nuts were taken. Entrance was gained by breaking out the glass in the front window.

Mrs. H. Herrin, of May Park, reported the theft of 20 White Leghorn pullets and two roosters some time Thursday night.

Qualify Officers At I. O. O. F. Meet

Martin Borene qualified as noble grand of the Odd Fellows lodge at a regular meeting held last night at 7:30 at the hall. Mr. Borene was elected recently. W. M. Bow qualified as vice grand, and the remaining officers are expected to qualify later.

LaFawn Boylen passed the third degree, and plans were made for the Christmas tree which will be held jointly with the Hebeke lodge next Wednesday at 7:30 at the hall. P. J. Barron is in charge.

Trustees will be elected next Friday.

ULTIMATUM TO BE SENT TO CHINESE

General Honjo Expected to Allow One Week to Evacuate Chinchow.

CHANG TSO-PIN CALLS ON INUKAI

First Visit Between Chinese Minister and Japanese Premier in Two-Month Period.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—The United States has informed Japan an occupation of Chinchow would be viewed in Washington as very unfortunate.

TOKYO, Dec. 19 (AP)—A dispatch to the Rengo news agency from Mukden, Manchuria, today said an ultimatum is to be sent to Chinese authorities soon demanding withdrawal of Chinese troops at Chinchow to a point within the great wall within a stipulated time.

This Mukden report was virtually

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M'NARY FADS FOR CONFIDENCE

Predicts Congress Will Legislate Control of Radio, Buses and Trucks

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19 (AP)—In the opinion of Senator Charles L. McNary, of Oregon, the government will get out of business, congress will legislate control of the radio and unlicensed buses and trucks, and conditions generally will improve "in a short time."

He spoke at the 25th annual banquet of the New Jersey society of Pennsylvania last night. He defended

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FINAL STAGING OF MYSTERY AT L. H. S. FRIDAY

Philip Mason confessed to the murder of Trent last night at the second production of "The Thirteenth Chair" by the junior class at the High school at 8:15, and cleared the heroine, Helen Nell, played by Barbara Coolidge, of all blame in the affair. The role of Philip Mason was played by Robert Cusliffe.

The action in the play took place at the home of the parents of the hero, and it was during the party, when Trent was trying to reveal the murderer of his friend, that he met his death. Mason, crying that "my eyes have been pushed him," confessed to the murder of both.

This was the second and final presentation of the play.

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Indictments Are Returned Against Coshow, 4 Others

Marion County Grand Jury Makes No Public Statement, But Sheriff is Expecting Warrants.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19 (AP)—The Associated Press was informed today by unofficial but responsible sources that the Marion county grand jury has returned serious indictments against five former officers of the Empire Holding corporation.

These officers were said to be Oliver P. Coshow, former chief justice of the Oregon supreme court, and former president of the corporation; J. E. Stockman, former deputy district attorney of Multnomah county; and former general counsel for the corporation; J. H. Felty, former general manager of the company; Wilson R. Adams, former treasurer; and Frank Keller Jr., former general stock salesman.

The indictments, it was said, accused the five of making false representations as to the amount of money paid for their stock and of representing themselves as not receiving any salary in the company.

All defendants were aware of the grand jury's action today. Stockman declared the charges were groundless and were brought by "certain disgruntled persons." The grand jury, he said, was not furnished with all the proper facts or the indictment.

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Oregon Wheat Acreage Listed; Condition At 81

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Winter wheat sowings this fall, extended by the department of agriculture at 38,982,000 acres, or 10 per cent less than last fall's sowings, were announced today by statistics together with the condition of the crop Dec. 1, which for the country as a whole was 79.4 per cent of a normal, or 6.9 points below a year ago.

The acreage and condition on Dec. 1 by principal producing states follow:

Pennsylvania 889,000 acres, and condition 80 per cent.
Ohio 1,574,000 and 95.
Indiana 1,428,000 and 92.
Illinois 1,439,000 and 91.
Michigan 698,000 and 91.
Minnesota 157,000 and 90.
Missouri 1,535,000 and 92.
Nebraska 3,042,000 and 76.
Kansas 1,073,000 and 70.
Oklahoma 4,014,000 and 80.
Texas 3,768,000 and 83.
Idaho 750,000 and 86.
Colorado 1,103,000 and 54.
Washington 1,243,000 and 81.
Oregon 825,000 and 81.
California 602,000 and 71.

Attorneys Arguing Sale Confirmation

Objections to the confirmation of the sale of the Blue Mountain Lumber company to Howard Stoddard, of Baker, have been raised and a hearing is being held before Judge J. W. Knowles today in the circuit court. Howard Stoddard was the only bidder for the lumber company which was sold to him by the receivers.

Arguments are being submitted today by attorneys of Baker, La Grande and Union, and Judge Knowles expects to have the case completed before the hearing closes this afternoon, he stated at noon today.

Attorneys who are presenting arguments are A. A. Smith, Mr. Grant, Joseph Helmer and Frank McCulloch, of Baker, and L. Z. Terrall, of Union.

NEW ATTACK IS LAUNCHED BY M'FADDEN

Charges Delinquency of Treasury in Collecting Billion Unpaid Taxes.

SENATE APPROVES \$200,000,000 BILL

Agriculture Committee Would Give 40,000,000 Bushels of Farm Board Wheat to Unemployed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—A new attack against the administration—this time charging delinquency of the treasury in collecting "practically a billion dollars worth of unpaid taxes"—was made today by Representative McFadden, Republican.

In a radio speech McFadden, who recently charged President Hoover had "sold out" to Germany in proposing the moratorium, assailed the administration's proposal to levy a sales tax to meet the treasury deficit.

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HEBER GRANT GIVES MESSAGE TO THE NATION

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 19 (AP)—A prediction that "chaos must be our inevitable heritage" unless the nation turns from extravagance and lawlessness was made by the first presidency of the Latter-Day Saints church in a Christmas message published today by the Desert News, official church daily.

Declaring prosperity will return "if the people of the world will turn to God" and obey human laws, the statement was signed by Heber J. Grant, president of the "Mormon" church, and Anthony W. Ivins, his first counselor.

\$500,000,000 Bill Will Be Pushed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Determination is growing in congress to push for quick decision on setting up the \$500,000,000 "reconstruction corporation."

Representative Rainey, of Illinois, the Democratic leader, and Representative Snell, of New York, the Republican leader, agreed today the legislation would be the first major matter before the house in January.

SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS



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SETTLEMENT ON RAILWAY WAGE LIKELY

President of B. & O. Speaks "With Every Confidence" to Hoover.

SITUATION MUCH BRIGHTER, CLAIM

Willard Explains Press Dispatches as to Ultimatum, Classing Them as "Misconstrued."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Daniel Willard—president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad—told President Hoover today he had "every confidence" that negotiations for railroad wage reductions would be settled peaceably.

He estimated \$200,000,000 would be added to the carriers' coffers by a wage cut agreement and that with the \$100,000,000 to be realized through the Railway Credit corporation, the situation would be made encouraging.

He felt the statement put out by railroad executives last night after their meeting in New York had been "misconstrued."

Press dispatches seem to Willard to have stressed the point the railroads had issued a 90-day ultimatum for a 15 per cent wage decrease. He contended it was made to appear that this point was the most important phase of the statement.

As he explained it, some labor leaders suggested the formal serving of such notice. Willard said it would not have been issued that way otherwise.

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DEAD GANGSTER'S FRIEND SPEAKS

"Kiki" Roberts Tells of Her Friendship With Jack "Legs" Diamond.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 19 (AP)—Albany police have notified Boston authorities to hold Marion "Kiki" Roberts for questioning in connection with the investigation of the murder of her gangster sweetheart, Jack Diamond.

Boston American in a copyrighted story today carries an exclusive interview in which Marion "Kiki" Roberts told of her friendship with Jack "Legs" Diamond, who was slain in Albany, N. Y., yesterday.

Miss Roberts came to her home in this city yesterday and has kept in seclusion with her mother, Mrs. Grace Stranick. The American quotes her as saying:

"I was in love with Jack Diamond. I was in Albany, N. Y., a short time before he was killed. But I don't know who killed him or anything about his murder."

"The last time I saw him was Thursday night at 11 p. m. He came to my room at Albany to tell me of

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Economist Sees Prosperity If World Will Act

Sir George Faish, Famous Britisher, Recommends Three Steps to Bring About Good Times.

By Edward Stanley (Associated Press Staff Writer) (Copyright, 1931, by the Associated Press)

LONDON, Dec. 18 (AP)—The world is standing on the threshold of the greatest prosperity it ever has experienced — if only the necessary steps are taken — Sir George Faish, noted British economist and member of the British official mission to the United States in 1914, said today in an exclusive interview with the Associated Press.

Three of the chief recommendations made by the noted economist are:

1. Federal and state temporary bank guarantees.

2. An international conference at which every nation would be ready to make contributions to world recovery.

3. Revision of reparations payments to insure eventual repayment of Germany's commercial debt which he estimates is \$2,250,000,000.

Immediate Gain Possible

It is possible, he said, to revive trade immediately to a marked degree and to banish the fear complex now besetting the nations.

Sir George recently affirmed his belief that a world breakdown is approaching, not more than two months away, and he made today's statements while reiterating this warning. If the necessary revival measures are not taken, he said, the breakdown will force them upon the world.

"I haven't any doubt," he said, "but that we are going into the greatest

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Ely Culbertson And Partner Add To Bridge Lead

By Tom O'Neill

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)—Ely Culbertson's contract bridge team will begin Christmas week 7015 points ahead of Sidney S. Lenz and Oswald Jacoby, having gained 12,765 points in a week.

A deficit of 4840 points when play ended last Saturday night has been converted into an advantage which exceeds by 2405 any lead that Lenz and Jacoby have had at the conclusion of any of the nine sessions so far played in a 150-rubber test of rival systems.

A week ago today in the early morning hours Lenz and Jacoby ended the fourth session 5850 points ahead. At one time during that session their lead rose to 7030, their high water mark.

Lighter Brings Luck

Theodore A. Lightner replaced Mrs. Culbertson as her husband's partner Thursday night. The two sessions Lightner has played have been marked by a turn of the cards much in favor of Culbertson's side. Lenz and Jacoby won only three of nine rubbers played in the ninth session, which started last night and ended early today. Culbertson's side gained 2550 points. In the last three rubbers of the session Lenz and Jacoby scored a total of only 180. The rubber standings of the series became 34 for Culbertson and 29 for Lenz.

An "uncanny" streak of cards was given by Lenz as the reason for the great weekend deficit. He predicted a break in his favor sooner or later. Culbertson admitted a superiority in cards but regarded greater precision of bidding on part scores as a great factor in his lead.

Players Ignore Courtesy

P. D. Courtney, president of Bridge Headquarters, Inc., which sponsors the "official" system said the match was no fair test of that system in comparison with Culbertson.

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Rain And Floods In Seattle Area

SEATTLE, Dec. 19 (AP)—Floods cut off settlements in Grays Harbor valleys, bridges were endangered, stretches of highway were under water and fatalities and injuries mounted as the result of traffic accidents blamed indirectly on the weather, as rain still fell intermittently today in Washington.

Relief was expected, however, from the torrential downpour and gales that stripped communication lines, felled trees and damaged structures from the northern tip of the Olympic peninsula through Oregon.

Two Hurt Badly When Plane Flames

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Dec. 19 (AP)—A transcontinental and Western airplane with George Price, pilot and N. C. Morse, co-pilot, aboard crashed and burst into flames 500 yards south of Municipal airport this afternoon. The flared were taken from the wreckage alive and rushed to a hospital in a dangerous condition.

MORATORIUM NOW UP TO THE SENATE

House Gives Overwhelming Majority to Plan in Vote Friday.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTS

Hoover Moratorium Approved Today—Way Cleared For Early Action By Upper House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—The moratorium was sent to the senate today with the approval of its finance committee.

The measure came from a committee whose records were bulging with details of foreign bond transactions.

The committee endorsed also the amendment attached in the house to record congress against revision or cancellation of the foreign debts.

Chairman Smoot failed in an attempt to have the senate take up the moratorium at once, and later decided to let it go over at least until Monday.

Freshly written into the record was the expression of Charles E. Mitchell that this country probably would conclude that some further extension or revision of European debts payment is necessary.

The chairman of the board of the National City bank said he believed it would cause rebellion if Germany were forced to pay the full amount of her reparations.

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GERMAN LOAN SITUATION TO BE DISCLOSED

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)—To check disturbing rumors and exaggerations, leading banks of Wall street have decided to disclose to their stockholders and the general public facts concerning their short term credits to Germany.

The banks will show that substantially less than eight per cent of the total business done by those having extensive international reparations is for German account, while over 90 per cent of their gross business is of domestic origin.

An inquiry conducted by the banks revealed that since the standstill agreement went into effect Germany had reduced its original "frozen loans" of \$1,200,000,000 to between \$600,000,000 and \$1,020,000,000. Approximately one half of this total is held by American banks.

The Sheriff Must Have Trusted Him!

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Dec. 19 (AP)—A stranger was complacently warming his hands at a stove in the office of the Georgia state prison farm yesterday when Superintendent B. H. Dunaway, glanced up from his work.

"What can I do for you, sir?" the superintendent inquired.

"Well," said the stranger, "I'm M. A. Gay, the man from Lanier county who is to be executed. I suppose you should put me in the death cell."

Sheriff O. A. Spence, he explained, had left him in front of the offices. "He told me to go inside, that I'd be shown where to go," Gay said.

Wheat Today

CHICAGO, Dec. 19 (AP)—General selling to realize profits on price bulges led to late setbacks in grain values today. Considerable spreading between Winnipeg and Chicago also was under way in wheat. Reactions in New York stock market quotations were likewise stressed by grain bears.

Wheat closed nervous 3/4¢ to 1¢ under yesterday's finish, corn 1/2¢ to 1¢ lower, oats unchanged to 1/2¢ off, and provisions varying from 2 cents decline to an equal advance.

PORTLAND, Dec. 19 (AP)—Reactionary tone was shown for wheat in final bids on the Portland futures market even though there were no transactions. Sellers were few and far between but buyers were bearish. December closed with a loss of 1¢ and May 1/2¢ while July was unchanged.

On the merchants exchange cash wheat lost 1¢ all around. The cash trade has been taken full advantage of every drop in the December to force down values but has not responded in full to the advances. The country however, refuses to accept these prices.

WEATHER FORECAST
Oregon: Cloudy in the east and unsettled with occasional rains in the west portion today and Sunday; little change in temperature; fresh south winds offshore.
For the week: Unsettled weather and occasional rains west of the Cascade mountains; generally fair weather during the coming week; temperatures will be normal.
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