

Oregon Historical Society  
Auditorium

# THE POLK COUNTY POST

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT INDEPENDENCE

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## INDEPENDENCE FACES A HOUSE FAMINE

Independence at the present time is having a marked increase in industries and population. It is not a boom, for booms are not permanent and only of benefit while they last and do much damage after they are over, but a steady and reliable growth.

Today there are no modern homes in the city to rent and as a result many families to avoid living in a moving van part of the time are buying homes of their own. Owners of "unimproved" residences will find it to their financial advantage to "modernize" at once as they are sure to secure a permanent renter.

Homes are being purchased in Independence for a sum a great deal less than it would cost to build the houses. When all residences that can be purchased at a reasonable figure are sold, then the city has a problem on its hands to solve.

Independence wants more people and is getting them, but the time is near at hand when new comers will be unable to get houses to live in and will not, as a consequence, become residents of Independence. Another thing they will not do and that is to pay exorbitant prices for rent. They will not stand for a "hold-up."

The high price of lumber and building materials prevents many from erecting homes. They would rather build their own homes than buy one for in most cases one cannot buy a house that exactly suits. But because of high prices there are not going to be many residences built by private individuals unless some inducements are given them in the way of financial support—the inauguration of some plan by which homes can be built and paid for on easy payments.

Many cities and towns of the country are threatened or have a house famine. Citizens aroused by the menace of such a situation are resorting to various methods to relieve it. The people of Independence are face to face with it and if they realize the seriousness of such a condition will take every means possible to eliminate it. The loss in dollars and cents in not being able to have a population in excess of a certain figure is great. Every man in this city engaged in any business or occupation in which he depends upon the public for support loses financially when one family is deprived of a chance to live here. When the number gets into the dozens or scores one can then commence to realize what it means. Such a situation is near at hand in Independence and what are we going to do about it?

It should be the leading question of the hour and every individual, club or organization that has the welfare of the city at heart should get busy.

### FARMERS AT MONMOUTH MAP OUT YEAR'S WORK

Farmers held a meeting in Monmouth Saturday afternoon in the interest of farm bureau work. The following program was worked out for 1920:

Support of the county-wide gray digger campaign, and to see that the rodent law is enforced. Canvas the acreage of land in the community in need of drainage to the end that the owner of a ditching machine may be interested in coming in. Put on a series of poison trials with pocket gophers. Secure fifty acres fruit to market through the Oregon Growers Co-operative Association. Secure twelve members for a county livestock breeders' association, if such is formed. Put on a community exhibit at the County Fair. Secure thirty individual exhibits for County Fair; twenty individual exhibits for Independence Corn Show; one corn club; one pig club; forty members for farm bureau work.

### CO. K TO VAUDEVILLE; BIG NIGHT, MARCH 31

Co. K is preparing for a big vaudeville night at the Isis on Wednesday, March 31, in connection with the pictures. A program in which many local celebrities will take part is being arranged. Receipts for the benefit of Co. K. There is no doubt the boys will be well patronized and a crowded house greet them.

### HENRY AND HARRY

A few weeks back The Post called him Henry Hiff. It was a sort of a mental lapse, and as Harry never kicked about it no harm was done. But it sounded awful funny to some of his friends when we called him Henry and they have been tickled about it ever since.

The proper names of Henry and Harry are closely related—in fact Harry is an offspring of Henry. Henry means the "head or chief of the house." Harry means nothing in particular so Henry has it on Harry in that way. A Henry doesn't care much if you call him Harry but if you want to get a Harry fighting mad just call him Hank.

### WHY NEWSPAPERS CANNOT ALWAYS "KINDLY PRINT"

The Post within a week has received exactly forty letters from members of college faculties, graduates and students urging us to support what is known as the millage bill. The proposition is probably a very meritorious one and worthy of the approval of the people.

The greater number of these correspondents enclosed articles, arguments and statements relative to the millage bill which they asked us to "kindly print." If we had complied with their request, the matter submitted would have filled six pages of The Post and two columns besides and cost us over \$50. This explains why the leading papers of the state cannot be as "kind" as they would like to be.

Besides each paper receives from five to twenty pages of other "requests to print" each week.

### C. F. SMITH HOME ROBBED GET JEWELRY AND MONEY

The home of C. F. Smith, living south of Monmouth, was robbed Sunday afternoon while the family was absent. The thief or thieves carried away seven or eight dollars in cash and some jewelry belonging to Mrs. Smith. A watch valued very highly by Mrs. Smith, fortunately was overlooked by the thief. No clues were left, but Mr. Smith would like to learn more about a stranger who he saw walking on the V. & S. railroad track when he and Mrs. Smith left home.

### THE ANNUAL SHAMROCK TEA REPLENISHES LIBRARY FUNDS

The Annual Shamrock tea at the Library last Wednesday was a most pleasant event. The decorating of the Library was given over to a committee from the High School, including the Misses Kathleen Skinner and Thelma Williams assisted by George Bulloch and Gerald Hewitt. Many suggestions of Erin's Isle were used about the rooms. Flags of Old Ireland, shamrocks and emerald streamers were all combined with good effect. During the afternoon, Mrs. Chas. Fitchard, Mrs. Oliver Smith, Mrs. O. D. Butler and Mrs. H. A. Childs presided over the tea and coffee urns. Mrs. Cal breath, Mrs. Spurr and Mrs. Hays of the refreshment committee, were assisted by a number of girls from the Training School, including Kathrine Russell, Anna Peters, Mildred Bush, Verna Peterson, Catherine Chandler, Dorothy Wood, Marylou Myers, Ruth Bennett and Clara Fleming. These little Misses also rendered several most enjoyable songs. Another added pleasure of the afternoon was the quartette of charming High School girls consisting of the Misses Winona Wood, Ruth Dickinson, Thelma Williams and Marjorie Reynolds, who played their "ukes" and sang clever songs for the callers. The girls added much cheer and pleasure to the occasion. Besides the social pleasure afforded, the neat little sum of about \$25 was netted for the Library. This will be expended for new books which will soon be on the shelves.

### AIRLIE WILL PROBABLY LOSE ITS LOCAL SWITCH BOARD

The Sunrise Telephone Co. has petitioned the public service commission to discontinue its switch board at Airlie. Despite its name the telephone girls could not get up early enough in the morning to take in sufficient money to pay expenses.

## SPECIAL MATINEE

SATURDAY, MCH. 20. 2:30  
Dustin Farnum in "The Virginian."  
You who missed seeing this sensationally successful stage and screen masterpiece of a few years ago, may see it now. Only one performance. Evening: Virginia Pearson in "Impossible Catherine."

SUNDAY AND MONDAY, MCH. 21-22  
(Including Sunday Matinee.)

## BRYANT WASHBURN

in "A VERY GOOD YOUNG MAN"  
His family's reputation was in sad need of a vacuum cleaner after he got done repudiating his previous saintly reputation, but it got him the girl—and what do you care for his family reputation if you get fun and he gets the girl.

Burton Holmes Travel Picture and Comedy

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MCH. 23-24

## DUSTIN FARNUM

In "THE LIGHT OF WESTERN STARS"  
In a wild moment Gene Stewart boasted he'd marry the first girl who came to town—that is the start of Zane Grey's red-blooded, gripping story. One of the most picturesque and impressive Westerners unrolled on the screen. It is rich in human interest and engrossing adventure. The production is superb for the great West has probably never been more impressively filmed. See the wild auto race against time and death—one of the hundred thrills.

Comedy and International News

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MCH. 25-26

## VIOLA DANA

in "PLEASE GET MARRIED"  
Mated ideally they thought they were married and maybe they were but—  
There is a lonesome twin-bed, snow white and soft to touch. It's the one in the play, but they don't use it very much. Note the house detective, the slicker with a gun. He took a keen enjoyment in spoiling all the fun. And Muriel, of course, would have blushed if she had known. But she didn't, don't you see, so why should she live alone? Don't blame Ferdie Walton, he thought she was his bride. But was she? See the picture and then you can decide. It's all about a honeymoon—the strangest honeymoon on record—a kissless bride in a mirthful farce of embarrassed newlyweds. It's rich! It's great!

Rolin Comedy and Pathe News

SATURDAY, MCH. 27

## FANNIE WARD

in "PROFITEERS"  
"The Public Be Fleeced" was the motto of the profiteers who took advantage of America's pre-occupation with affairs of war. They cornered the food markets; stole and plundered; fought with underhanded, backdoor methods; "framed up" innocent women in order to "get back at" their husbands; greedily and criminally swelled their bank accounts at the expense of patriotic Americans. "The Profiteers" exposes the whole "bag o' tricks" in a vastly entertaining and thrilling manner.

Herold Lloyd Comedy and Ford Weekly

## ISIS THEATRE

INDEPENDENCE

### WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING TO KILL

(From the Portland Journal)  
Many say they have no scruples. And they think they have none. But when they sit in a jury box day after day and look into the eyes of the defendant; when in their own solemn thoughts there comes to them a vision of the dying struggles, the death throes and the jerking limbs of a man whom they have voted to kill; when brought face to face with the consciousness that the living, breathing defendant before them is to be, if they so will, a stark

and stiff corpse within a few days, many jurors, when the time to vote comes, find it convenient and preferable to vote for a lesser verdict in order to escape from the consciousness of having helped take a human life.  
Rev. Yarnes in For Curtain Lecture  
The Mystic Club of Lebanon recently met with Mrs. T. D. Yarnes and discussed ways and means of "Educating a Husband."

### FARMERS: READY! GO!

Come to look around and investigate the Minnesota weather we had last December did no damage to 1920 crops as far as seen and search revealed. Bully! Now Mr. and Mrs. Farmer you do the rest, but don't forget to pray for rain. Remember the motto: "If I raise plenty now, I can raise — later on."

### JOHN DICKINSON, AGE 82, CELEBRATES HIS NATAL DAY

Tuesday, March 16, was the birthday of our honored townsman, John Dickinson, he being 82 years of age. Such an occasion it would hardly do to let go by and so his children, grandchildren and a number of friends made the day interesting for him and a very enjoyable time was had in the afternoon and evening. The family all gathered for dinner and in the evening he was completely surprised when they all returned again.

The same day was the 50th birthday of his son, Percy R., and the latter came in for some honor too. P. R. declares fifty is as high as he is going. We hardly think he will do it. A woman can but a man—why he doesn't care if he has two hundred birthdays.

### THE DEATH ROLL,

Mrs. Margaret Ann Wells.  
Mrs. Margaret Ann Wells died at her home in Monmouth Wednesday and will be buried in the K. of P. cemetery today. She was 89 years of age.

Mrs. Simmons.  
Mrs. Simmons, a former resident of Independence, died in Portland Wednesday. She was over eighty years old. Burial will take place at the I. O. O. F. cemetery near Independence Saturday. Rev. H. L. Propp will conduct the last rites at the grave.

Arthur Kingsbury  
Arthur Kingsbury, son of Mrs. James Oberson, passed away at his home in Independence Sunday, March 15. Funeral services were held yesterday, interment in the I. O. O. F. He was born in Idaho and was nearly twelve years old.

### LIKELY TO NAME COMMISSIONER SOON

(From the Polk County Observer)  
It is whispered about that at the next meeting of the county court a county commissioner will be appointed.

Men who have been mentioned as candidates for the place at the forthcoming election have in some cases been asked to withhold notice of the fact until after the April meeting of the court. The reason given is that it is believed that a satisfactory man will be named, and that this fact may change the situation for some of those who are considering the making of the race.

Several rumors are in circulation as to the man who has been selected, but it seems that no one has been agreed upon; that it is merely believed that the county judge and the commissioner will be able to get together on the matter and name a man to the vacancy.

### APPROVE OF GYMNASIUM ASK FOR BOND ELECTION

Voters and taxpayers of the Independence school district had a meeting Monday night and voted unanimously to petition the school board to call a special election for the purpose of issuing bonds in the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of building a high school gymnasium.

### F. L. TUBANDT OF AIRLIE LOSES BARN BY FIRE

The large barn of F. L. Tubandt, living two miles southwest of Airlie, which was erected last summer at a cost of \$1000, was destroyed by fire Tuesday forenoon. Grain valued at \$500 and fifteen tons of hay, were also burned. There was some insurance.

### GIRL IS ELECTROCUTED WHILE PLAYING AT SCHOOL

Grace Lochner, age 14, was instantly killed Tuesday at the McFarland school house, four miles south of Albany. She ran into a "guy" wire, while playing, and was instantly killed. For some unknown reason the wire became "live." The power company will be sued for damages.

## BUSINESS INCREASE VERY NOTICEABLE

In another column on this page The Post has spoken of the growth of independence by population. An increase of population is a sequel to more business and industry. The growth of industry is apparent—the following coming to our mind:

The Independence Garage now occupies two buildings instead of one. Whereas, before two men spent part of their time in promoting real estate sales there are now five giving all their time to it.  
The Polk County Post which "got along" with two people part of last year now has three and expects to very soon add another.  
The patronage at the Isis has increased one hundred per cent over last year.  
Two machine shops are about to open.

The Ace Garage has remodeled its building, is employing four additional people, and because of its industry has been given the exclusive agency in South Polk county for Ford and Fordson tractors.

Willard E. Craven Hardware has greatly increased his stock in order to take care of an increased business.

O. A. Kreamer has sold his jewelry business in order to devote all his time to clothing and has increased his stock.

The Auto Utilities Co. recently opened an agency for the sale of Nash and Maxwell cars and has a very promising future before it. Mr. Berry, the local manager, is well liked by everyone.  
Sloper Bros. & Cottle, J. D. Hibbs & Co, the Independence National Bank, Max Goldman, Eddy & Carbray, William Quartier, the Farmers State Bank, the Independence Bakery, Calbreath & Jones, the Williams Drug Co., J. G. McIntosh, Conkey & Walker and Moore & Walker have gained in business and Miller & Smith of the City Market report that their patronage is climbing day by day.