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WATER CASES TO BE HEARD ON MAY 14TH

Water Board Sets Date for Taking Testimony on Contests for Malheur Water.

30 CONTESTS INVOLVE OVER 500 CONTESTANTS

Testimony will be Voluminous and will take Many Months, Perhaps before Decision is Reached—Board's Engineer Starts Investigation.

After waiting for years for an adjudication of the water rights on the Malheur river the ranchers in the valley will see the opening of the question soon. The water board has designated May 14th as the date of the beginning of the taking of testimony.

The testimony will be taken in all of the 30 contests for water. These contests involve the rights of over 500 contestants. It will probably take months before all the testimony is completed, then perhaps, other months will elapse before the water board files its decision and from that finding the contestants have access to the courts in the usual order.

This hearing was once scheduled to start last fall but the adjudication of the rights of the Silvies river in Harney county was undertaken and took a great deal of time. An idea of the magnitude of the work in such cases may be judged by the fact that in the Silvies case the testimony reached several thousand pages, besides the exhibits.

Rhea Lupper, an engineer in the employ of the water board reached Ontario last Thursday and left for Vale Friday to start work on an investigation of the water shed to have needed data available for the board when the hearings commence. If possible the members of the board hope to have the hearings concluded before the ranchers have to start cutting their first crop of hay.

PLAYERS READY FOR FIRST CURTAIN CALL

This has been a busy week for the members of the cast of the first High School Senior class play which will occupy the boards at Dreamland Friday evening. Every day the youthful actors and actresses have been rehearsing their parts while during the past two days the boys have been busily engaged in gathering properties. Since the play, "When a Man's Single," is a combination of rural and social drama an dthus gives opportunity for elaborate costuming which makes it indeed a pretty play. The sale of seats indicates that a large crowd will see the production.

HOLDS HAY FOR SIX YEARS AND CLEANS UP JUST \$30,000

Stock market gamblers are not the only persons who can play a corner on the necessities of life and make a clean-up thereby. This was demonstrated by the action of Elias Thompson of Drewsey who is reliably reported to have received \$30,000 last week for the hay he has gathered during the past six years.

Thompson, so the story goes, has one principle to guide him in his business. He will not sell a ton of hay for less than \$20. Six years ago the Pacific Live Stock company ran short of hay and Thompson was the only



ADMIRAL HENRY T. MAYO
As commander of the Atlantic fleet this is the man who will figure prominently in the news if war is declared between United States and Germany.

MANY ENJOY DINNER GIVEN BY STUDENTS

Excellent Menu Artistically Served Demonstrates Abilities of Students and Efficiency of Department.

Nearly \$100 was added to the treasury of the High School Athletic fund as the result of the dinner given by the High School students last Saturday evening. Had the young women not been so generous in the portions served early in the evening the sum would have been greater for a number of late-comers had to be turned away.

The dinner was excellent in every respect. The food set before the guests was faultlessly prepared and served with a degree of dispatch which displayed the ability of those in charge to manage such an event without confusion or delay, as did the handling of the crowd which poured into the hall during the early evening.

Beside furnishing an evening's vacation for many Ontario housewives the dinner gave an excellent opportunity for the demonstration of the efficiency of the domestic science department of the school and the young women and their teacher, Miss Leona Rader were the recipients of many sincere compliments.

SHOE STOCK MOVES IN BUT FEW HOURS

When M. E. Newton started to move his shoe stock Monday morning with his crew he was but a few hours in completing the job. The shoes still on the shelves they occupied in the old store went down the street and took their places in sections arranged for them. The movers started at 8 o'clock and by ten practically all the stock was in place at the new store. Since that time several auto loads of shoes from the Payette store have been added to the new institution.

man in that region who could supply the demand. He sold then for his minimum price and the next year started to accumulate another corner. This fall he was said to have had 66 stacks, some of them so black that they looked like dirt mounds from the roadway, but he waited until the stockmen were up against it and were forced to buy those stacks.

While a few ranchers have received higher prices for a few tons, Thompson is credited with the biggest clean-up especially in view of the fact that it was wild hay.

SHADE TREES WILL IMPROVE GROUNDS

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES PLANS FOR PARKING OF HIGH SCHOOL LAWNS AND PLANTING TREES.

MAY BUILD WATER SYSTEM

Long Delayed Improvement will Soon Be under way—Board Wants Soft Water for Schools as well as for Irrigation.

The bare alkali ground about the high school and grammar school will soon be a thing of the past. At a special meeting of the school board Tuesday arrangements were made for the immediate survey of the grounds and the preparation of plans for the parking of the grounds and the planting of trees.

Before grass can be planted the board will have a portion of the grounds filled in with rich dirt and arrangements will have to be made for watering the grass and trees when they are planted.

"The board plans to plant Carolina poplars and Elms," said Dr. W. J. Weese, of the board, on Tuesday. "Of course there is a great deal to do before this can be done. The board will either have to dig a deep well for soft water to furnish a supply for the buildings and the grounds, unless a more adequate source of supply can be found. There must be plenty of water for the schools as well as for irrigation and the present plan is to secure a well and erect a pressure tank and thus care for the entire system."

TESTIMONY TAKES IN JORDAN WILL CASE

Malheur and Harney County Lands Worth \$20,000 Involved in Suit Heard Here this Week—Many Witnesses Called.

Before Referee William Walker of the District court Wednesday and Thursday of this week testimony was taken in the cases of D. W. and Ed. Jordan of Lawen, in Harney county. B. F. Jordan and Bessie Jordan of Westfall and Richard Brookhouse of The Dalles, Oregon. The suit involves land in Malheur and Harney counties valued at approximately \$20,000 which were deeded to the defendants by J. H. Jordan, a pioneer of the interior.

The complainants who were represented at the hearings by Attorneys John W. Biggs of Burns and R. W. Swagler of this city assert that J. H. Jordan was ill at the time the will was made and suffering from senile

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WAR SCARE MAKES RETURN ENJOYABLE

"The U. S. A. looked mighty good to us after the war scare we witnessed in Honolulu, after the breaking of diplomatic relations with Germany," said J. R. Blackaby, who with his bride returned Sunday after a sojourn in Uncle Sam's tropical possession.

"When the German sailors tried to burn up the ships interned there you can imagine the excitement. When the smoke was seen pouring out of them it was that they were to attempt a run to sea and the patrols hovered about them. One day 400 German sailors were marched up the streets and the excitement was intense. The people looked for war to start then and even after enjoying the water carnival and having a good time, it felt mighty good to be back in the U. S. A."

Honolulu is certainly a foreign city says Mr. Blackaby and in the near future the voting strength will be entirely in the hands of the Japanese who outnumber all the inhabitants of the islands.

CITY TO START WORK REPAIRING HIGHWAYS

CREW SENT TO REMOVE MUD BOULDERS IN CUT EAST OF CITY—SOFT SPOTS TO BE FILLED ALSO.

REPAIR OREGON STREET TOO

Contract to be let for Re-surfacing Highways from Bridge to City and Thru City to Hospital Hill in Near Future.

Mud has deep in the cut on the hill just east of the Snake river bridge brought action with the City Council's street committee this week. As the result of this condition a crew of men went to work today removing a huge mud boulder that has almost blocked the road and filling the soft spots until more permanent work can be done.

In the meantime steps have been taken to let a contract jointly by the county court, the city council and the business men's committee which raised funds for road work outside of the city limits, whereby the work of re-surfacing the highway from the bridge to the city limits, and thru the city limits on Oregon street to California avenue and on that avenue to the hospital. The present surface will be scarified and gravel will be placed on the surface after it has been rolled level.

An effort is also being made by business men who contributed to the fund to have the jog in the road at the city limits straightened out so that the highway would maintain the angle of the road where it reaches the city limits.

HAY ALL GONE STOCK SITUATION SERIOUS

Fabulous Prices Offered for Fast Vanishing Supply of Feed—Grain too is not Plentiful.

Altho they are offering from \$20 to \$25 per ton, or any other price stockmen can get no hay in this section. The situation is precarious for many men and while actual starvation of stock has not taken place around Ontario, unless the weather warms somewhat heavy losses are the prospect for stockmen.

Every day on the streets stories are being told of the growing shortage. Some ranchers have sold so closely that they are eating the pinch for farm animals, while there are mighty few sheepmen who are not on the anxious seat.

A report was received here today of the suicide of a stockman near Midvale who desperate at seeing his stock die for want of feed took a rifle and ended their misery and then turned the gun on himself. This is of course an extreme case but shows how bad the shortage has become in some sections.

MUSICAL COMEDIANS BILLED FOR ONTARIO

The De'Art Musical Comedy company which the press accounts declare to be an aggregation of merit, as well as of pretty girls is scheduled for a performance at Dreamland next Tuesday, March 27. The Baker papers speaking of the performances given at that city last week were extremely complimentary saying that the singing was tuneful and the costuming elaborate and the fun plentiful. The company will be here for one night only.

ENJOYABLE SESSION HELD.

Acacia Lodge No. 118 A. F. & A. M. had an enjoyable session last Thursday evening followed by a lunch H. C. Whitworth was the candidate who became acquainted with the rites of the third degree and many of his friends were out to assist in his welcome.



DAVID R. FRANCIS
The American Ambassador who witnessed the transformation of the Russian government into a Republic. He reports that the new government is supported by all the people.

WILL HOLD COUNTY CONTEST AT THEATRE

With Eight Schools Already Entered Crowd Expected Greater than High School Auditorium will Hold.

The county declamatory contest which is to take place on Saturday, March 31, will be held at Dreamland theatre instead of the High School auditorium as was originally planned. Beside Ontario's representative, Miss Ethel McWilliams, there will be contestants from seven or eight county schools. So far the local authorities have been notified of the entry of Vale, Nyssa, Brogan, Jamieson, Areadia, Lincoln and the Boulevard schools.

There will, no doubt, be delegations from all of these schools and therefore the crowd will be greater than the high school auditorium would hold and to make the evening more enjoyable for the audience the change of location was made.

WILL HOLD BIG SALE OF ONTARIO HORSES

A. McWilliams who has recently added to the number of horses purchased about Ontario until he has with his cattle some 175 head is preparing to hold a big sale in the near future. Included in the sale will be 20 head of big mules a number of cattle and a lot of fine farm horses as well as a miscellaneous assortment of implements. The date of the sale will be announced later.

Judge W. C. Cordell who for ten years presided over a county court in Missouri, with his son A. R. Cordell arrived in Ontario this week in search of a ranch where they can engage in the stock business. Five years of poor crops make them sell one of the finest ranches in that section and they came to Oregon, the land where crop failures are unknown. They have moved into a home here until they can find what they want.

COMMERCIAL CLUB SMOKER IS A HUMMER

Biggest Crowd in Years Attends Meeting which is Marked by Optimism and Frank Speeches.

SUBSTANTIAL BASIS WANTED FOR FUTURE

Speakers Urge Concentration of Effort on Few Ideas—Plan Increasing Social Activities—Twenty New Members Added at Meeting.

There was a vast difference between the session of the Commercial club last Monday evening from the ordinary meetings which have taken place during the past year. There were in the neighborhood of 100 men present in the club rooms, and the enthusiasm exhibited was marked.

Many matters of importance were brought up in the addresses of the various speakers. President P. J. Gallagher was the key-note orator, so to speak in his address on what the officers conceived the aims of the club for the year to be.

"What we want to mark for the record of the year is the accomplishment of something for the permanent benefit of the city," he said. "We want to concentrate our efforts on a few things and if we plan to do something we want to be able to say at the end of the year that we did accomplish it. We do not want to scatter our efforts on many things and accomplish nothing."

Similar sentiments were voiced by Attorney W. W. Wood who spoke on the new road law to go before the people and later talked on "What Ontario Needs." Mr. Wood emphasized the fact that Ontario has in the past accomplished a great deal, but that it had also endeavored to get people from the outside, preferably those with money, to the exclusion of giving attention to the bettering of conditions for those who already are here.

"He urged that the club use its efforts to promoting the interest of the ranchers here. To do this he laid stress on the need for a canning factory of some kind, the addition of industries that will create employment and thus create a market for the ranchers.

Among other things Mr. Wood called attention to the fact that some of the ranchers about the city object to the use of trade checks, or as they call them, "tin money" as payment for their produce. One farmer he said, had told him that this was causing Ontario to lose trade amounting to thousands of dollars yearly, and urged that it be given consideration and that if this were true that it should be corrected for the good of the community.

"Again he urged the making of Ontario a worthy town so that it will be able to keep the citizens it has. It

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ANOTHER RISE RECORDED IN PRICES FOR DRUNK FINES

Still going up are prices for the privilege of getting soused in Ontario. Police Judge C. M. Stearns is raising the ante until it is fast becoming unpopular, even if it is a "lemon extract" jag, as the victims of the recent rise allege to have been the case.

District Attorney R. W. Swagler, City Attorney P. J. Gallagher, Marshals Farmer and Allison and Police Judge C. M. Stearns all figured in the last rise. The Marshals gathered in Charles Blackwell, an itinerant sheepherder and Frank Lyells, Monday evening with the exact initiation of an old time drunk. Efforts to get infor-

mation as to the source of supply failed for both declared the joy came from "lemon extract."

At the trial Tuesday morning Judge Stearns gave Lyells 20 days in jail to think the matter over and get the favoring out of his system. Blackwell was figuratively speaking, stood on his head and assessed everything that fell from his pockets. The authorities made his levy \$22.25 leaving him two-bits with which to buy breakfast, a ten cent pocket piece and three cents worth of stamps. Lyells was committed to the county jail to keep Elmer Dory company for a few days.