

SMITH-FLETCHER BILL BELIEVED TO BE SAFE

COMPREHENSIVE RECLAMATION ACT TO BE ENACTED BY SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS TO BE CALLED ON MARCH 4, 1924.

WESTERN PROGRAM TO FRONT

Eastern Representatives Impressed With Results So Far Attained in West—Says P. J. Gallagher Just Back From Washington D. C.

That the Smith-Fletcher bill, which will in effect be a new declaration of the policy of the United States Government toward reclamation work has a very favorable chance of passing the special session of Congress which will convene on March 4, 1924, is the belief of P. J. Gallagher of this city who returned Monday evening from Washington, D. C. where he went in the interest of the reclamation projects of this section.

"It is not to be denied," said Mr. Gallagher "that there is a very decided attitude in favor of reclamation of arid western lands on the part of leaders, especially in the House of Representatives.

"With Senator C. M. McNary, Representative N. J. Sinnott, and other Oregon men I attended conferences with Thomas Barton Payne, secretary of the Interior, Representative James Good, of the House appropriations committee, and others and found that Congress is ready to act on the Smith-Fletcher bill and other measures contemplated in the Western States program.

"The diversion of \$15,000,000 from the oil leasing bill to the reclamation fund makes it possible for work not otherwise contemplated by the department.

"Aside from this, however, the general plan of the Western States Reclamation Congress which was called at the instance of Gov. Davis of Idaho is in very good shape. A great deal of necessary preliminary work has been done so that the leaders in Congress are fully advised as to the scope of the plans for the irrigation of western lands, and means whereby the plans are to be financed. This is the important thing so far as the interests of reclamation projects in the west are concerned."

Oregon Prominent

Mr. Gallagher also had the opportunity of seeing the conference of State Highway Commissioners and Highway Engineers in action in Washington and bringing back the good word that Commissioner E. E. Kiddle, Chief Engineer Herbert Nunn, and Louis J. Bean, the next speaker of the Oregon House of representatives were to the fore in this conference.

"The Oregon men played a most prominent part," said Mr. Gallagher. "They practically organized the conference and through their activity secured action which insures the defeat of the Townsend bill, which would have done away with the present program of federal aid.

"In lieu of the Townsend bill the conference secured the backing of Congressional leaders for the Chamberlain bill, which was buried in the Senate committee of which Senator Townsend is the chairman. A duplicate of the Chamberlain bill was secured and introduced in the House by Representative McArthur of Oregon, referred to the House Committee of Post Office and Post Roads and favorably reported out of that committee last Wednesday. It is practically assured of passage in the House at this session and in the Senate as well.

"This bill provides for the appropriation of one hundred million per year for four years and means the completion of the present road program, as outlined by the Highway Commissioners."

EARLY MORNING FIRE CAUSES BIG DAMAGE

Bluebird Grill; Ontario Pressery and McDowell's Furniture Store Injured By Blaze Started in Grill Kitchen

Fire destroyed the Bluebird Grill, practically ruined the Ontario Modern Pressery, and seriously damaged the stock of the McDowell Furniture store at 1:30 this morning. The total loss to the three concerns will run into several thousand dollars.

The fire started in the Bluebird Grill and spread to the adjoining stores running in the rafters of the roof. The firemen fortunately controlled the blaze and saved the entire block which was threatened with destruction. The loss to each of the owners was partially covered by insurance.

Mrs. W. S. Allen is seriously ill at the home of her son, Hugh Allen. C. R. Sequine is quite ill with an attack of neuralgia.

GIRLS FRIENDLY CLUB FORMED FOR ONTARIO BUSINESS GIRLS

Last Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. W. L. Turner a number of Ontario business girls met and an organization was formed called The Girls Friendly Society. This will take the place of business girls' clubs which they have in other towns for the purpose of getting acquainted and to provide something of study and pleasure and some social enjoyment every week.

Some study of work interesting and instructive will be taken up. The first class was organized for the study of photography.

A number of the women of Ontario have opened their homes for these meetings and will help them in the classes, and the work that they take up.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. H. H. Whitney, January 4th.

DESPONDENCY CAUSES SUICIDE OF H. M. MOSS

Resident Here For Years Ends Life Following Domestic Troubles and Difficulties With Police—Had Just Returned

H. M. Moss, better known here as "Dick" Moss ended his life about 4:30 last Friday afternoon, in the hall at the Carter House. Brooding over difficulties with the police and the fact that his wife had left him because of excessive drinking was believed to be the cause of the rash deed.

Mr. Moss had returned but the week previous from a visit with his parents at Buffalo, Oklahoma, whence he had fled some time previous following an episode he had with Night Marshal J. H. Gordon. At that time, while under the influence of liquor, Moss attacked the Marshal on the street with a shot gun and threatened his life. The Marshal succeeded in talking him out of his intention, and got him to go home. The next day he was arrested and placed under bond for appearance at a later date. He then jumped his bail and fled to his parents' home in the meantime. The matter was presented to the grand jury and an indictment returned.

On his return to Ontario last week he was tried by Judge C. M. Stearns, who did not know of the indictment, and fined \$250, of which \$100 was remitted and Moss paid \$50 and was to have secured the balance.

The afternoon of his death he was talking to Marshal Gordon, his former partner W. S. Cooley and two other men in the alley back of the hotel, while he was taking his personal possessions from the hotel to move them elsewhere. While the group were talking Moss said:

"I'll be back in a minute," and went into the hotel, going to the second floor. A moment later the men in the alley and the people in the hotel heard a shot and rushed into the building.

They found Moss sitting in the doorway dead. The bullet from the 38 automatic which he used had entered his right ear and came out about the left ear. The bullet was found on the roof of the hotel kitchen. It had passed through the jamb of the hall door.

Had Moss not succeeded in his attempt at self destruction with the first bullet, he would have fared with that revolver for the gun jammed with the first shot.

Deed Premeditated

W. S. Cooley, formerly Mr. Moss' partner testified to the finding of a note in Mr. Moss' room on the day following the suicide. This note which left instructions to wire his sisters in Oklahoma and gave their addresses, which indicated to the jury that the act was premeditated.

Further evidence of this fact was adduced from the fact that he borrowed the gun he used on the day of the shooting. The gun, the property of Harry Ralston, a clerk at the Ontario Pharmacy was borrowed from Mr. Ralston by Everett Staples, at the request of Mr. Moss who had asked Staples for a gun on the pretext that he was going into the country for several days.

All of the testimony taken proved conclusively that Moss was alone in the hall at the time of the shooting and that he had assisted Marshal Gordon and Mr. Cooley to take the trunk and suit case belonging to his wife to the car stationed in the alley back of the hotel.

All this was brought out in the testimony at the coroner's inquest which was held Saturday afternoon.

Funeral services, attended by many friends of the deceased were held Sunday afternoon from the parlors of the Ontario Furniture company. Rev. W. J. Lacombe preached the sermon. Interment was made in the Ontario cemetery.

Beside his wife, the deceased is survived by his parents, and two sisters in Oklahoma. He lived for several years here in Ontario and was at various times associated in the management of the Palm cigar and pool hall and more recently in the management of the Carter House.

Mrs. Helen Clement is confined to her home with an attack of rheumatism.

Mrs. G. W. Wayt is on the sick list this week.

BUSINESS MEN ASKED TO ASSIST RANCHERS

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CITIES AND TOWNS URGED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MALHEUR FARM BUREAU AT FIRST MEETING

PROJECT CHAIRMAN NAMED

Busy Program of Work Outlined For Coming Year—Marketing Problems To Be Forged; Diversified Farming and New Bureaus Urged

The newly elected directors of the Malheur Farm Bureau met at the Farm Bureau office Tuesday afternoon to complete organization for the coming year. President V. V. Hickey who was re-elected presided. The directors present being: Marquis, A. A. Gutteridge, G. W. Dean and Ivan E. Oakes. S. D. Dorman was elected secretary of the board for the coming year.

The annual meeting of the Bureau having referred the matter of committee chairman for the various projects back to the board of directors the following were named to the positions: Pete Tensen, Nyssa, buying and marketing; C. M. Besmont, Adrian, community betterments; Rex Marquis, Ontario, pest and disease control; F. C. Fry, Nyssa, crop improvement; Ivan E. Oakes, Ontario crop records; A. A. Reed, Began horticulture; Mrs. Effie M. Crall, Vale, boys and girls clubs; Mrs. Dick Tensen, Nyssa, rural home improvement.

In the plans for the year's work with the attendant organization and election of officers in the various community bureaus, the directors urged that the business men of the towns, thru their commercial organizations be asked to co-operate with the bureau. To that end a resolution, was adopted and forwarded to the Ontario Commercial club, the Vale Chamber of Commerce, the Nyssa Commercial club and the Jordan Valley commercial club for action. The directors also thanked the Ontario Commercial club for its assistance in promoting the first livestock shipments.

An active campaign is to be conducted in the various communities for increasing the membership which is now about 500 but which should be twice that number. Meetings will be held in the various communities for that purpose. The board also urged the formation of a bureau about Ontario and one on the Owyhee where no bureaus now exist.

To carry on the large program of work adopted it was determined that the dues of members will have to be increased and a proposal to that effect was referred to the council of the bureau which consists of the chairmen of the local bureaus.

Miss Wilson Resigns

The board was informed that Miss Mazie Wilson, county club leader had resigned her position in order to accept a position in the Seattle schools and to attend the University of Washington. Pending the resignation of her successor, or until February she will continue the work which was endorsed by the board.

CLUB DINNER BREAKS ALL RECENT RECORDS

Mayor R. W. Jones Presents Musical Treat—Irrigation, Farm Bureau; Roads and Membership Discussed

All recent records for attendance at Commercial Club meetings were broken last night when 60 men sat down to the first dinner session with months. Mayor R. W. Jones with his violin, accompanied by Mrs. Herschel Browne on the piano gave the men a much enjoyed musical program during the dinner. The treat was decidedly appreciated.

The feature of the business discussion was the report of P. J. Gallagher on his recent trip to Washinton; the discussion of new freight rates by Secretary S. H. Clay, the endorsement of the Farm Bureau movement and the manifestation of willingness to join in an Ontario Bureau signified by practically every business man present, the report on road work by Roadmaster J. F. Joyce and the discussion of Farm Bureau work by County Agent L. R. Briethaupt.

S. D. Dorman chairman of a committee from the Farm Bureau presented the proposition to the business men of co-operating with the bureau and held of the executive committee's desire for that co-operation. Several members of the club, new members of the bureau as well spoke on the same subject endorsing the bureau work.

Paul Seligman and J. A. Lakness discussed the A. C. B. plan of organization but no action was taken concerning it. W. F. Homes spoke on general business prospects. E. C. Van Patten presided at the meeting and the dinner was served by Mrs. C. G. Pinney of the Bluebird.

So successful was the program and gathering that the men present want it to become a regular feature.

SPORTSMEN ORGANIZE FOR GAME PROTECTION

FEDERAL OREGON AND IDAHO GAME WARDENS ATTEND MEETING—DR. G.A. FOGUE DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH OF GATHERING

MANY CHANGES ARE PROPOSED

Members Take Pledge to Observe Laws Themselves and to Report Infractions That Come Under Observation—To Have Club Rooms

At the City Hall last Friday evening 75 Malheur county sportsmen gathered at what was undoubtedly one of the best meetings held here in many, many months. At the gathering officers were elected and the organization completed of a game protective association which will be potent factor in Malheur county. There were representatives present from all communities in the lower valley.

Beside the sportsmen themselves there were at the meeting I. B. Hazeltine, deputy state game warden of Oregon, at whose instance the meeting was called; George Tonkin, federal game warden with headquarters at Boise, and Deputy Game Warden Salisbury of Ada county, Idaho.

The following officers were elected: Jack Landis, president; Fred Rice, secretary-treasurer; C. F. Cox, W. L. Thompson, C. T. Lackey, B. H. Wood and V. W. Chambers, directors.

The meeting did not decide upon the name of the association, the dues, nor the constitution and by-laws. These will be determined following the consideration of a committee appointed to secure drafts of articles of similar bodies.

It is the purpose of the association to have permanent club quarters, provided with billiard tables, reading tables, magazines and other accoutrements of a regulation club. A committee is now busy in an effort to find suitable quarters.

The outstanding feature of the meeting Friday evening was the determination of the men present to co-operate with its officials in securing protection for the birds and other game of the county. They pledged themselves, as will all members of the association not only to obey the laws themselves, but to report to the officials all infractions that come under their observation.

One of the features of the meeting was the address of Dr. G. A. Fogue who brought the first pair of Chinese pheasants to the county. The doctor answered the questions which some of the sportsmen had made for shooting pheasants out of season, by remarking:

"I did not realize that the farmers had so many friends in town. I had so many that they came and shot all the pheasants on my ranch, before the season opened. But they never fired a shot at the 50,000 crows that stayed there all season."

The men present took the doctor's medicine in the spirit given, and added to their program of work assistance to the ranchers in fighting predatory birds and animals.

Game Warden Hazeltine outlined the policy of the game department in its effort and secured the pledge of the men to co-operate for the good of all concerned.

Between now and the first meeting of the charter roll of the organization will be open. It is the purpose to enroll members on both sides of Snake river, in the country and in the towns. It is anticipated that 200 or more members will be enrolled.

Among the changes advocated in the present game laws are the following: Advancing deer season 15 days, without lengthening open season. Making open season for pheasants Saturdays and Sundays of November, making limit two male birds only in one week; Advance sage hen season 15 days, or from July 1 to 15. Make duck season conform with federal statute.

At the meeting the sportsmen held a regular confessional admitting their failure to observe the laws but their determination to reform.

AMERICAN LEGION NAMES ITS OFFICERS FOR COMING YEAR

At the meeting of the American Legion Monday evening its officers for the coming year were elected as follows: Herschel Browne, commander; Ray Boyer, vice-commander; W. F. Escoe, adjutant; J. H. Gordon, F. Escoe, executive committee, S. M. Boucher, and Pierce, members executive committee.

Last Friday evening the Legion presented the Hallowell Concert to Ontario in a concert and dance. The financially the venture was not a success, from an entertainment viewpoint it was unqualifiedly so. The dance which followed was far more generously patronized than the concert.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Billingsley of this city and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Keayon of Weiser will leave soon for an extended visit in the south and in Cuba. They expect to leave here soon after the holidays.

ONTARIO MAN RECEIVES U. S. PATENT ON SHOCK ABSORBER

Pete Duford, proprietor of the Ontario Garage has had the good fortune to be granted a United States patent on a Vibration and Shock Absorber for motor cars which may be used on any car from the smallest pleasure cars to the largest truck. Mr. Duford has been working for two years to perfect this shock absorber and is using it at the present time on his own cars. He claims the superior and different from all others now on the market.

Mr. Duford at the present time is making these shock absorbers in a limited way for his own use, but plans on enlarging his business and manufacturing the absorbers here in Ontario by spring. He intends to manufacture and put this invention on the market at a price that will be within the reach of all car owners. He has already received numerous inquiries from prospective buyers who have so far only heard of the merits of his invention and are already interested.

COUNTY IS ANSWERING APPEAL FOR CHILDREN

Five Hundred of Ontario's Quota Raised—Gauge Arranges For Boulevard Quota—Vale Assures Its—Lodges and High School Help

Malheur county is giving this week to save the lives of 300 starving European children. Reports so far received at the office of the County Chairman for the relief indicate that the quota will be raised.

A telephone message from Vale this morning assured the raising of Vale's quota of \$450, while there is no doubt concerning Oregon, Jamieson, Nyssa, Jordan Valley and other outlying sections from which reports are yet to be received.

At the Grange Hall last night the Boulevard Grange raised \$49.35 thru receipts and individual donations and the Grange committee headed by John Keegan is out today to complete its quota.

Here in Ontario \$50 of the \$50 has been raised by business men's committees, by the women in charge of the booth in the Postoffice and by the contribution of the High School students which also totaled \$20. Aceas Lodge of Masons last Tuesday night contributed \$10 to each of the relief drives, Euracene and Near East. Other lodges will be asked to aid in the movement.

Not all of Ontario's business district has been solicited but will be before night.

LOGS FLECT HEADS FOR COMING YEAR

Masons and Eastern Stars To Have Joint Installation—Other Lodges Plan Installation Ceremonies In January

With the election of officers for the coming year and their installation at various ceremonies within two weeks, the lodge men and women have a busy schedule ahead of them. The Masons and Eastern Star officers elected in the past two weeks will be the first installed at the joint installation on Monday, December 27.

Masonic Officers

Ralph Dunbar, W. M.; Emory Hill, S. W.; J. R. Rasmussen, J. W.; E. A. Fraser, Treasurer; Irwin Troxell, Secretary.

Odd Fellows

Mr. Whitback, N. G.; Henry Miller, V. G.; C. W. Platt, F. S.; Snyder R. S.; A. N. Hickey, T.; J. F. Doty, T.

Knights of Pythias

The Knights of Pythias will install the following officers the first Wednesday in January: C. F. Cox,

FIND SWEENEY'S BODY BURIED IN GARDEN

LAST DETAIL OF MYSTERIOUS MURDER CLEARED WHEN POSSE RECOVERS BODY OF VALE TAILOR IN PALMER'S GARDEN ON OWYHEE.

GRAND JURY TO HEAR EVIDENCE

Ex-Naval Man Breaks Silence As To Plans—Tells Sheriff Desires Attorney Before Entering Plea—Body Badly Decomposed

After ten days of strenuous work on the part of Sheriff Lee Noe and posse working under his direction, the body of George R. Sweeney, the Vale tailor murdered by George W. Howard, ex-naval man, was recovered Sunday afternoon, and brot to Vale Sunday night.

The body was found buried in the garden patch at the Frank Palmer ranch, 60 miles southwest of Vale on the Owyhee, where it was buried after Howard took it from its first resting place, in the waters of the Owyhee above the water wheel near by.

The body was so badly decomposed as to be beyond recognition, jewelry, clothing and other personal effects found were positively identified as those of Sweeney, and no doubt now remains that the last mysterious feature of the gruesome tragedy has been solved.

At the coroner's inquest held at Vale Monday it was found that the skull of the murdered man was crushed above the right temple, just as Howard in his confession indicated it was.

Following finding of the body Howard in a talk with Sheriff Noe said that he desired an attorney for consultation before he entered a plea, if financial arrangements could be made for one.

The authorities who have been studying Howard for some time are at a loss to properly characterize him. He seems anything but a desperate criminal. He is apparently perfectly normal, realizes the terrible crime he has committed, yet broods but little over it.

The posse which found the Sweeney body was headed by Bert High of Vale. It was found about where Howard in a supplementary confession to Sheriff Noe, said it would be found. Howard admitted that he took the body from the waters of the Owyhee and buried it in the Palmer garden track. He gave the sheriff a diagram indicating the location of the grave, but the posse worked hard failed to locate it at the point indicated in the drawing.

Prisoner Taken To Scene

Sheriff Noe then took Howard to the scene under a heavy guard but the land had been plowed since he buried his victim and hogs had rooted the ground, which also was frozen, making the search difficult. Howard after viewing the ground either could not or would not locate the grave, and again the posse returned without results.

However the sheriff was not to be denied. He sent Bert High back for a fourth trip, and this time, aided by ranchers in that section High found the body.

The Grand Jury which convenes on January 3 will listen to the testimony presented by District Attorney Rolt D. Lytle and Howard will be tried during the January term of court.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY RETURNS WITHOUT MUCH WANTED MAN

District Attorney R. W. Swagler returned from Kansas City Tuesday without W. F. Driggers for whom he made the trip to the Missouri City Driggers fought extradition and secured a hearing pending which he was granted bail. When the hearing was over and Mr. Swagler was awarded the custody of Driggers, he was nowhere to be found.

Miss Nina Allen of Parma arrived this week for an extended visit with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Landis.

Judge Geo. Davis and daughter Lillian of Vale were in Ontario Wednesday. Miss Lillian has just returned from O. A. C. for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson, formerly of Ontario when the Andersons Bothers were the owners of the Malheur Livestock Company, arrived here Monday for a short visit. They have recently completed an auto trip thru the East and South going to the New England states, along the Atlantic coast to Georgia and across to Los Angeles.

C. C.; F. J. Milliken, V. C.; W. F. Escoe, K. of R. & S.; J. B. Atherton, P.; C. A. Powell, M. of W.; Floyd Powell, M. of F.; R. O. Payne, M. of E.; Earl Bull, M. at A.; Dr. C. W. Tyler, I. G.; Ben Thomas, O. G. Hebekals

Mrs. Edna Draper, N. G.; Mrs. Winnie Bevin, V. G.; Daisy Rutherford, R. S.; Ina DePoe, F. S.; Lizzie Purcell, T.