

OREGON NEWS IN BRIEF

The adjourned annual meeting of the Grand Commandery of Oregon of the Masonic order will be held in Salem December 2.

With a loss estimated at more than \$30,000, the flour mills at Pilot Rock were burned early Friday by a fire that started from unknown causes.

Benton county held its first annual corn show last week at Corvallis under the direction of the county farm bureau, with County Agent Kabel in charge.

The assessed valuation of Clackamas county's property is \$23,572,515, exclusive of the property of public service corporations. The increase amounts to \$343,070.

Oregon was the only state in the western division to attain its quota of 150 per cent in the united war work drive, according to State Director Orlando W. Davidson.

Victor J. McCone, formerly secretary for the state socialist party, was drowned at Portland when he drove his automobile off the approach to the Sellwood ferry into the Willamette river.

The residents of Evans Creek valley in the north end of Jackson county, have voted to incorporate the entire valley into an irrigation district, and an early survey will be made of the project.

A statement issued by the Treasury department shows that in total sales of war savings and thrift stamps to November 1, Oregon stands sixth in rank in sales per capita and also sixth for the month of October.

Domestic use of powdered sugar, for some time past restricted solely to commercial manufacturing and baking, is now permitted, according to official advices received by W. B. Ayer, food administrator for Oregon.

The state text book commission will make its selection for books for schools of the state next June, the selections to continue for another six years. Under the law the commission selects these books each six years.

Extension schools in dairying, which will cover the subjects of breeding and feeding dairy cattle, will be held in Ontario, Malheur county, and at Halfway and North Powder, Union county, the first week in December.

In a complete check made on wood ships building in the United States a statement from Washington shows that of 243 hulls launched up to October 31, the Oregon district was first, with 67, and of 92 ships completed Oregon led with 26.

Present and prospective removal of soldiers from the mills and logging camps is already creating a labor shortage on Coos bay and W. J. Rust, government agent, declared there was a call for between 300 and 400 men for mills and camps.

Only two fatal accidents are included in the 538 reported to the industrial accident commission for the week ending November 21, inclusive. These were F. Auterson, shipbuilder, Portland; Henry Fromong, terminal facility worker, Portland.

Dr. Marie Equi, a woman physician and member of the Industrial Workers of the World, was found guilty at Portland of violating the espionage act by referring contemptuously to American soldiers and by other alleged objectionable remarks in the I. W. W. hall.

Three entrances for fish coming up the Willamette river are now in existence at the Oregon City fishways, according to R. E. Clanton, general superintendent of state hatcheries. This improvement will trouble propagation of spawn in the Willamette river, it is thought.

Warden Murphy's resignation as warden of the state penitentiary was received by Governor Withycombe Saturday, effective as of December 16, in line with the request of the governor. It is understood that ex-Sheriff Robert L. Stevens, of Multnomah county, will be on hand to take over the office by that date.

Saturday, December 7, was set as Fire Prevention day and the week of December 2-7 as Fire Prevention week for Portland by the committee in charge. The original day, October 9, was delayed until November 2 and then again delayed by the influenza epidemic.

So excellent is the fuel situation in Oregon that dealers are complaining because there is so little demand for their stock on hand and mines are complaining because the dealers are putting in so few orders, according to Fred J. Holmes, federal fuel administrator for Oregon.

Plans for re-establishing a steamboat line on the Willamette river between Salem and Portland were discussed at a meeting held in Salem, when C. K. Spaulding of the Spaulding Logging company and Captain Exson of Woodburn made proposals for financing the enterprise.

Early risers at Baker recently were treated to the sight of one of the well known capitalists of the city out with a bucket of hot water and a scrubbing brush trying to efface the bright yellow paint with which his house had been bespattered, owing to his refusal to help support the united war work drive.

Deputy United States Marshal Frank Tichenor arrested Charles Zimmerman, C. E. Morris and O. W. Morris, of Powers, on bench warrants issued in the federal court at Portland. The men were apprehended in connection with ownership of an illicit still located several months ago in a cave near Powers by secret service men.

The public service commission has made an order increasing fares on the interurban electric lines running out of Portland, and recommended a reduction in service, so as to give the relief sought to meet the increased cost of labor and material. The order applies to the lines running to Bull Run, Cazadero, Montavilla and Troutdale.

Plans are being completed for the collection of lady bugs to be scattered in grain and dairy lands of Oregon and Washington infected by plant lice. Great caches have been located from the Crater National forest to the Olympic mountains. One lady bug will eat about 200 plant lice a day. County agricultural agents will make the distribution.

Within the next 60 days the entire equipment of the spruce production division—timber, mills, logging railroads and a wealth of other material—will be advertised for bids and sold to the highest bidder. Estimates on the value of the property place it at approximately \$10,000,000. Demobilization of the spruce division will begin within a fortnight.

The sale of \$200,000 of the \$590,000 issue of bonds, recently approved by the capital issues committee at Washington, D. C., was authorized at a meeting of the state highway commission in Portland. The commission also adopted resolutions requesting county courts to make known what improvements they are desirous of making within their respective counties.

With reports on hand from substantially all of the farmers in the county, County Agent Shrock's figures show that the Umatilla county grain crop for the past year was 3,452,819 bushels and that there were slightly more than 294,000 acres of grain in bearing. The season was a hard one on the light land farmers, but the yield from other sections of the county made a fair balance.

Under the direction of County Agent Gregory a systematic warfare has started at Dallas for the extermination of gophers and moles. The campaign is being carried on by the school children and already encouraging reports reach the county agent's office. The contest ends Christmas week and at that time prize money amounting to \$35 will be distributed to the winners of the contest.

The Astoria chamber of commerce appealed to the public service commission to take action to prevent the North Bank railroad from carrying into effect its order reducing train service between Astoria and Fort Stevens, and between Astoria and Portland. As that railroad is under government control, the commission advised the Astoria chamber that it has no jurisdiction.

Umatilla county's annual irrigation and drainage congress this year will be held in the west end of the county. Two towns will share the honor of hosts. At Hermiston two days will be devoted to the consideration of subjects relating to irrigation problems. The sessions there will be held December 16 and 17. On December 18 and 19 the farmers will meet at Stanfield to discuss drainage subjects.

The policy of State Engineer Percy A. Cupper, who has been appointed to succeed John H. Lewis, will be to cultivate the present tendency toward closer relation with the waterusers of the state so that the interests of the public as well as of the individual wateruser may be served. Mr. Cupper so declared upon receiving from Governor Withycombe certificate of appointment formally making him state engineer.

Eight counties of the state have met their quotas in the purchase of war savings stamps, Henry E. Reed, associate state director, has announced. The last compilations, as of October 31, show Clatsop in the lead, with a record of 139 per cent. Jackson ranks second, with purchases aggregating 138.8 per cent. The six other banner counties, with their percentages, are: Sherman, 114; Wheeler, 111; Coos, 106; Tillamook, 103; Baker, 102; Lincoln, 100.

Five separate irrigation projects are now being organized in Baker county by Henry E. Tweed, county agricultural agent, of Baker. The county agent is cooperating with the state engineer in having the following projects organized under the Oregon irrigation district law: Sparta irrigation district, 14,000 acres; Bridgeport-Durkee irrigation district, 6000 acres; North Fork irrigation district, 4000 acres; Unity irrigation district, 8000 acres; Medical Springs irrigation district, 4500 acres.

If you like skunk skins, you're in hard luck, because they have gone up to nine dollars apiece.

Thanksgiving 1918

By S. J. Duncan-Clark

O God, we thank Thee for the broken sleep,
The passing of the self-complacent dream,
For opened eyes, for hearts aroused that leap
To follow Freedom's gleam!

We thank Thee we no longer stand aside
In neutral safety, while earth's highways run
Red with the blood of those who fought and died
To save us from the Hun.

We thank Thee for our women, who refrain
From sob and tear, and smile a brave farewell!
We thank Thee for our lads, who, not in vain,
Shall march, eyes front, through hell!

We thank Thee for the hope—O Lord, how long?—
The faith that we shall yet rebuild our peace
In larger comradeship, and greet with song
The day when wars shall cease!

But, 'til that day, O God, make stout our heart,
Quicken its flame, grant wisdom and control,
And take our thanks that we may play our part,
That we have saved our soul!

The Sound Absorber

by Florence Gray Webster

THE Harvard-Yale football game was on at the stadium, and a demonstration of the Sound Absorber was shortly to be on.

Hon. William Gazukes, the millionaire, who seemed to be renewing his youth, sat chatting excitedly with the inventor and a party of friends. It seems that the Hon. Gazukes had recently been forced, through a practical joke on himself, to become interested in this sound absorber and to realize that it had a variety of possibilities, for his friend, Faxon, the inventor, had lain in wait for him one day by the side of a building. He had seen the millionaire coming toward him, earnestly engaged in conversation, and wishing to demonstrate his invention, he had quickly sprung upon a barrel and, as quickly, he had set the absorber in rapid vibration, so as to disturb the atmosphere before the faces of the gentlemen. Neither was able to hear the other and after much consternation Faxon, with a twinkle in his eye, confronted them.

The millionaire then became anxious to try it on a crowd, and had secured seats for his friends in little groups about the stadium, all of them being located within the Yale cheering line. "Little do people about us know what we have on our minds," he was saying.

They were happily expectant and laughed as the old gentleman added: "Or should I say: 'on our coats?' for each one of the 30 men in the party was supplied with a sound absorber. This invention was simply a circular plate, with curving edges, looking something like a flattened bowl. The

plate was to catch vibrations, which are carried in waves to their ears through the atmosphere around them. In the center of the apparatus were small revolving plates, which, being fanlike, when set in motion would break up, by an area of disturbed air,

the sound waves assembled in the bowl. For, as the inventor argued, we cannot prevent the creation of noises, but we can in a great measure stop them from annoying us.

Not caring to attract attention, the men had hooked the plates across their inner coats at the chest, hanging them from the front edges of their overcoat sleeve holes, and allowing the flaps of their coats to hang out and hide them from the side view. The batteries which were to set the fans in motion were in an inner pocket of each coat.

Harvard rooters were busy, alternately with Yale's. The game stood 6-0 for Harvard at the first half. Bands were playing and college songs had been sung. Red and blue flags and banners were waved in the spirit of the game of the season. The women, whose costumes displayed predominantly the colors of their respective teams, lent a gayety to the scene.

The Crimson had emitted in one roar "Rah rah rah! Rah rah rah! Rah rah rah! Harvard! Harvard!" and Yale was getting ready.

Young men, swinging their arms to get the Elms to yell together, looked in surprise that there was no response. Again they tried, but could not hear themselves.

Everyone was wondering what was the matter. Plainly the leaders had been heard in the first place, but there was no response. No one had

close to the orchestra. During the second act one of the conspirators leaned toward the millionaire, when, as previously arranged, they all turned on the absorbers suspended over their vests, and endeavored to whisper. "They can't imagine what's the matter." But the joke was on him, for he could not hear his own voice, and Mr. Gazukes could only guess at what he meant.

A trio behind the footlights was waiting expectantly for an introduction to their song. The conductor, who at first was quietly waving his baton and indicating for the first violin to commence, then looked angrily at him and nodded his head wildly to go on.

People were surprised. Although those in the front seats could see the bows passing over the instruments, there was no sound. The leader of the orchestra then indicated for the drummer to drum. The veins on his temples stood out and his hair seemed to rise from his forehead, while his spectacles slid along his nose to the furthest distance from their proper position. Now there was consternation that, while he seemed to be giving orders, no results were forthcoming, and, not understanding, the audience was getting restless, looking around.

Harvard's night at the theaters—when she wins—are dreaded perhaps as much by conductors as by the actors, who know that interruptions may be expected at the most inopportune times, and, awakening to the fact that this was some joke, the conductor commenced to scan the audience.

All this had taken but a few moments, although the time seemed an eternity to the men who occupied the entire second row. Already one of the chorus girls was "on," and they began to fear the partial obstruction of the persons in the front row would not be enough to shield them from the scrutiny of the actors. Involuntarily they drew their coats together and shut off the batteries. The millionaire rather sheepishly nudged the man next to him, but he was enjoying to the utmost his diabolical plan.

When things went smoothly again, the star improvised: "This was no fancy of Nancy's, neither was it a fancy of ours."

Hon. William Gazukes then whispered to the inventor: "I am convinced of the satisfactory working of the marvelous sound absorber."
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a pandemonium would result. How funny it would be to see the quotation men running back and forth before the board as the prices came in, but with no noise in the pit.

"I rather think, though," said the millionaire, "that it would not be so roaringly funny, when we were put out."

That evening at the performance of "Nancy's Fancies," the party was



Waiting Expectantly.

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