

### Big Time Planned For State Merchants

February 19 to 24 will be merchants' week in Portland. During the first three days will be held the eleventh annual convention of the Oregon Retail Merchants' Association which, aside from snappy business meetings and competitive talks on business conditions by merchants and lady visitors, will include original entertainments, sight-seeing tours, theatre parties, etc., to be provided by the convention entertainment committee.

Reduced rates of a fare and one-third have been named on all railroad lines in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and elaborate plans have been made for a meeting of the merchants of Washington and Idaho on February 22, 23 and 24. During these three days style shows, stock-keeping and window-decorating exhibits, pure food shows, etc., will be staged for the benefit of visitors.

All merchants of the Pacific northwest are cordially invited to participate in business and celebrations of the week. It isn't necessary that a merchant be a member of any particular association, the fact of his being a merchant giving full evidence of his eligibility.

### Prominent Men Head Committees.

Nathan Strauss of the firm of Fleichner, Mayer & Co., who distinguished himself as a director of the Buyers' Week excursion to Portland, is chairman of the committee of manufacturers and sales managers who will have in charge the entertainments of the week. The experience of Mr. Strauss in affairs of this kind is assurance that the entertainment will excel any that has been ever given before in Portland.

G. Clifford Barlow, president of the Oregon Retail Merchants' Association, has appointed a committee of retailers to assist in the program. Everything of a dry nature will be eliminated from the convention sessions. Snappy business talks and progressive debates on business topics, together with demonstrations of the latest business methods, is bound to keep all in attendance on their toes.

Every individual firm in Portland will constitute a member of the entertainment committee, and the courtesies to be arranged will be innumerable.

The last day for the use of return tickets is February 27. In addition to providing a week of recreation and pleasure, the convention and congress will give dealers of every community a chance to become acquainted with better methods of doing business and with the up-to-date expedients which are being carried on successfully by the city retailers.

### Heavy Snows Put Down Power Lines

The heavy snows put down both the Prospect and Fall Creek power lines of the California-Oregon company yesterday morning at about the same hour and threw the lighting and heating of the entire valley upon the Gold Ray plant. Ashland had no street lights last night and heating current was reduced, but this city suffered little owing to the municipal plant, which for a while yesterday handled the whole city. At 10:30 o'clock last night the Fall creek line over the Siskiyou was put in shape again, but owing to the fact that the plant over there is loaded down to the limit, it aided the valley situation but little. The trouble crews on the Prospect lines had failed to locate the trouble this morning, but expect to have it found and fixed by night. There is three feet of snow at Prospect.

### Elks Make Children Of Ashland Happy

Nearly six hundred children of Ashland were made happy at the Vining theatre Christmas afternoon and evening by the Elks of Ashland. A gift and bag of candy were distributed from a wonderful tree by a big fat, jolly Santa Claus. A short program and the motion pictures rounded out the event.

The Bergmann Shoe Company of Portland is enlarging its output and has added a waterproofing shoe oil to its line of products.

### Milkmen Feel High Cost of Living

As may be gleaned from an announcement elsewhere in this issue, the milkmen of Ashland have been hit by the high cost of living. It seems that the high cost of living applies to cows as well as humans and it is costing more to produce milk today than ever before. The milkmen, or those represented on the price announcement, do not make extensive raises in prices, but have brought all prices to an equal plane. The only rise of consequence is that in the price for tickets in quantities. One pint less for a dollar is the new ruling.

### Switchmen in East Get Eight Hours

Local railroaders are greatly interested in dispatches from the east stating that the switchmen on thirteen eastern roads have been granted an eight-hour day with straight pro-rata time for overtime. The railroad arbitration board handled the matter.

### Murphy Takes Over Ashland Garage

The Murphy Motorcar Company has been changed to the Ashland Garage Company and has moved from the Plaza to the Ashland garage on Second street. Mr. Murphy will handle all kinds of automobile supplies and accessories and endeavor to give the best of service. The Ashland garage has a large, light and well-equipped workshop. Merle Robison will be associated in the mechanical department.

### Medford District Plan Loses Out

The election seeking to establish an irrigation district in the Medford-Jacksonville-Central Point triangle yesterday resulted in the landowners of the proposed district voting down the plan by a narrow margin. Sixty per cent of the votes of the district were needed and the total vote for the plan lacked but ten votes of being enough.

The election followed a long educational campaign which in the past few weeks has been muddled and muddled by a strife between landowners in the Medford papers. Some of the big landowners did not take kindly to the district plan, which forces them to take water whether they are bona fide developers of the land or merely speculators.

Advocates of the district plan will probably launch another campaign in the near future, as the need of irrigation is now evident to almost everyone, and the only room for discussion is over the feasibility of the district plan.

The Ashland-Talent district which was formed last spring is steadily going ahead toward the realization of their plans to put water on the land in the upper valley. A careful study is being made of every phase of the proposition and an accurate knowledge of the best project secured before construction work on a large scale is entered into.

Wasco county will expend \$260,000 bond issue the coming year on good roads.

Tidings "For Sale" ads are active little real estate salesmen.

EVERYBODY.  
It is to the interest of every Ashlander to attend the mass meeting at the city hall Friday night and give support in the organization of a rod and gun club with the primary purpose of securing the closing of Rogue river to commercial fishing and the preservation of the steelhead fishing of the Rogue and its tributaries. The meeting will be held beginning promptly at 8 o'clock tomorrow night. Several prominent Medford men will address the meeting and by-laws adopted and officers elected for an Ashland club.

### Ashland Homes See Many Happy Xmas Gatherings of Friends and Kin

Ashland had one of the happiest and most perfect Christmases of all time. There is little want in Ashland, and this is all banished by the all-pervading Christmas spirit which turns this one day at least into a happy one for rich and poor alike.

What is more beautiful for a Christmas setting than pure white fleecy snow, enveloping the trees and shrubs and carpeting the rounded hills and mountains which encircle Ashland? Truly one feels the spell of the fairy's wand and it is a joy with such environment to believe in Santa Claus.

A few of the scores of happy Christmas home gatherings follow:

Among the long list of hosts and hostesses on Christmas day were Mr. and Mrs. Otto Winte of the Boulevard. The artistic skill of the gifted hostess and her sisters transformed the happy Winter home into veritable bowers of green and red; the doors and windows were garlanded in fir; a huge Christmas tree pleased the eye as each guest entered the drawing room. The dining table was perfect in appointment with its mammoth centerpiece of choice fruits outlined in Oregon grape on the snow-white linen. Dreamy mistletoe with its waxen berries, cunning little favors of paper caps and Charlie Chaplin hats in bright ribbons and papers concealing gifts adorned each plate, and happy were the hearts of the three generations of relatives and friends gathered about this board to regale on the choicest viands the holiday season affords.

Those present were Mrs. Anne Russell, Miss Russell, Miss Mabel Russell, Wilfred Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Potter, son and daughter of Ashland, Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Miss Ruth Walter of Portland and their intimate friend, Mr. A. S. Rosenbaum of Medford; and the Winter family.

At the corner of Rock and Nursery streets the W. W. Caldwell family made merry with their guests, also family parties. Covers were laid for fifteen around a tiny Christmas tree. At this banquet "Youth" was king and queen. The pair of dark brown turkeys fed the eye ere the palate partook. The popular cateress, Mrs. R. M. Johnson, served the Christmas guests with perfect satisfaction. Presents were exchanged and viewed and everyone was happy. Music was furnished by the youngsters.

Mr. and Mrs. V. O. N. Smith and son were "at home" to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Stevenson and daughter for Christmas dinner. The cozy home was attractively decorated and a delicious six-course dinner served, turkey holding the place of honor.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCoy and daughter Margaret of upper Almond also entertained only intimate family friends. Their fortunate guests were the Fred Wagner family, including Mrs. Case, the mother of Mrs. Wagner, and the Davenhills. In an atmosphere of such true friendship, character buds and blossoms and pure happiness is found; but our readers must not imagine there was any lack of creature comfort or Christmas cheer in the McCoy household.

Mr. Charles B. Wolf and Mrs. Wolf gathered the Whited family about their festal board. Good wit, good will and good things to eat in almost unnumberable quantities were there.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Andrews of the Boulevard spent the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas day happily with Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler and their flock of youngsters, who have an ideal country home near Phoenix. Mrs. Wheeler is a sister of Mrs. Andrews.

Mrs. Jessie L. Turner and the Misses Helen and Stella Turner of Medford were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Millican over the Christmas week-end.

On Sunday, December 24, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Briggs entertained Mr. and Mrs. Monte Briggs and Mr. and Mrs. James McNair. A fine roast goose was the rival attraction of the many useful and beautiful Christmas presents exchanged among the members of this happy family one day ahead of time.

Still the circle of pleasure is not complete. As a near echo of Christmas hospitality one of Ashland's most charming young matrons, Mrs. Shester Stevenson, was hostess at an informal breakfast Tuesday morning with the Misses Hansen of Medford as honor guests. The breakfast table was a dream.

Miss Amy Leavitt, a young hostess (with Mesdames Harold H. Millican and E. L. Jack as chaperones), entertained her Sunday school class of bright young girls most gleefully Thursday afternoon, the 28th, and all, both young and mature, took a peep into the future through the instrumentality of the wonderful mental science game, "A Mirror of Life." Miss Amy served bountiful and deliciously prepared refreshments.

Rev. Carnahan and Mrs. Carnahan had gathered around their Christmas feast, besides their family, Dr. and Mrs. Parson, Mrs. Edith Bates and granddaughter, Edith Emmons.

The C. W. Nims family gathered a few friends Christmas evening for an informal jollification, those present being: Mrs. Nims's sister, Mrs. R. W. Hall of Harvard, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Saunders, Miss Josephine Saunders and John Saunders; Mr. and Mrs. Bagley, Miss Doris and Elmer, Mrs. Dean and baby, and Mr. and Mrs. Nims.

The B. R. Greer family and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ling journeyed to the J. W. Ling home at Medford Christmas day and surrounded a huge turkey. There were seventeen at the table and a bounteous feast and most pleasant day made a perfect Christmas. Those who partook of the Ling hospitality were: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ling, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ling, Mrs. Butler, Earl and Houston Ling, Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Greer, Misses Lillian and Elbert Greer and Miss Eleanor Greer.

The Beaver and Yockey clans to the number of about a dozen were the guests on Monday of Mrs. Elizabeth J. Calhoun at a Christmas dinner and family reunion at Easterling's restaurant. The hostess is the mother of Mrs. A. M. Beaver.

Mr. and Mrs. William Yeo, on Mountain avenue, entertained the following guests at Christmas dinner on Monday: Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Yeo, Mrs. Ivan Culberson and son Donald, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Cordell, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Yeo of Talent, and Misses Bernice, Mildred and Jaunita Yeo and Evert Yeo.

At the Benedict home on Mountain avenue the following guests were present on Christmas day: William Benedict of Jacksonville, Miss Pina Benedict from the Pilot Rock school, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cooper, Oscar, Ernest and Arthur Cooper, and Miss Frances Cooper.

### A Community Celebration.

Although attenuated in the matter of numbers but whole-souled in the sense of a joyous celebration of the claims of old Father Xmas, the gathering in evidence at the residence of Mr. H. G. Gilmore, 283 Seaside Drive, on Monday last when the united families of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dill, Miss Amy Ramsey and Mr. Thomas Hudson—with the Gilmore clan thrown in as a sort of balance wheel—was an occasion of family rejoicing and right good fellowship not soon to be forgotten by half a dozen of Ashland's convivial souls. The Gilmore home was made doubly attractive by skillful decorations with a view to the beautiful and symbolic in art, at Christmastide, while the festive board literally proaned (as Dickens would say) were he in the flesh) with the creature comforts and delicacies suited to the gastronomic capabilities of half a dozen well-nourished and well-proportioned devotees of the culinary department. To Mr. Hudson was committed the task of dissecting into sundry highways and byways a turkey as tender and succulent as any of the many that have been brought to town this season. It may be stated that, in an atmosphere of so much geniality, it was, emphatically, an occasion of that happy blending of the feast of reason and the flow of soul that has brought so much inspiration and loving kindness to the family home circle.

Mrs. J. H. Dill—known the world

### Commercial Club Has Money Ahead

For the first time in many years the Commercial Club has every debt paid up and over \$100 in the bank. The trustees of the club met Tuesday night and passed the month's bills and found when the month's account was balanced up that a neat little balance was on hand to put by for future needs. The trustees are working on several important projects and hope to have something definite lined up before long. There will be no meeting of the club in January owing to the fact that the regular meeting night falls on New Year's.

### Breaks Wrist in Fall on Sidewalk

Mrs. Jenine Rogers, while coming down the hill near the Baptist church toward the Vining theatre Christmas night, slipped on the ice-coated walk and fell, breaking her wrist. This is the only accident reported as yet from the slippery condition of the walks and roads.

### Rilea Found After Days in Snow

Thomas Rilea of Oregon City, a brother of Mrs. Frank Allen, formerly of Ashland, who was lost for several days in the hills between West Fork and Mariel while on his way on foot to Agness to spend Christmas, was found Tuesday and is alive and doing well. The report of his safety came around by Marshfield and Roseburg, communication down the Rogue river being down, and no details were included. He was out in the deep snow from Friday to Tuesday.

### Three Days' Offering At Vining Theatre

Tonight. This Thursday evening the Vining attraction is William S. Hart, the most noted portrayer of western roles, but this time in a new and even more likeable role. Hart takes the character of a patriot who has fought for his country and loves it unswervingly. He suffers the loss of his gold claim through a flaw in the law and can get no help at Washington from the country he fought for. His boy dies and the shock partly unbalances his mind and he turns renegade. A contact with a motherless lad brings him back to his old self and he saves his fellow countrymen.

Friday. Friday evening brings Sessue Hayakawa, noted Japanese actor, who has created such a sensation in "The Cheat" and "Allen Souls," who is starred in a new play, "The Honorable Friend."

Saturday. Saturday brings Lillian Gish in "Michael the Greenhorn." It is one of the most lovable of her characterizations and is bound to win a world of good comment.

Oregon's assessed valuation for 1916 is \$878,753,944, which is \$55,731,087 less than the year previous. The tax levy for 1917 is to be \$2,699,250, compared to \$2,550,000 for 1916.

over as "Angelina the Poetess"—recited several attractive literary numbers, while Mr. Gilmore's contributions on a fine orchestral Clough & Warren organ enhanced, in no small degree, the pleasures of the evening.

The guests separated at the sounding of the midnight chimes—sorry to part and ready to meet again—as becometh good citizens, enjoying all the privileges that come of living in a community with the now almost superlative significance of being dry!! always dry!!!

The first act of the trilogy (of which the Gilmore Christmas feast was the second act) was staged at the cottage of Mr. and Mrs. John Dill on Thanksgiving day. The concluding act will be given on New Year's day by the hospitable southerners, Miss Amy Ramsey and Mr. Thomas Hudson.

Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Butler entertained at dinner Christmas day for the following: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Barron, Mrs. M. A. Braron, Mr. and Mrs. A. Radure Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Barron and family and Mrs. George Barron.

### Millions Found In Dead Letters

More than two and a quarter million dollars worth of checks, drafts, money orders and other valuable papers were found in undeliverable letters by the dead letter office at Washington during the last year, and practically all were restored to their owners. First Assistant Postmaster General Daniel C. Roper in his annual report announces that the dead letter division handled 10,839,890 letters and parcels during the year, a slight increase over the previous year. One-third of these letters and parcels, or 3,677,194, was delivered; 101,485 contained things of value without clew to their senders and were held for claimants; 7,019,436 had to be destroyed and 41,775 were still being investigated.

In addition to the valuable papers, with a face value of \$2,303,119, found in undeliverable letters, many contained stamps and some currency was found loose in the mails. The stamps and currency unclaimed, together with proceeds from the sale of articles of merchandise removed from undeliverable letters, aggregated \$53,665, and \$11,000 was realized from six months' operation of a new postal regulation requiring collection of 1 cent on advertised letters, making the total net revenue \$64,665. Mr. Roper says that the revenue estimated under the present conditions for a year would be approximately \$75,000, which would make the dead letter division self-sustaining.

To prevent the unnecessary accumulation of letters containing valuable enclosures, a provision was contained in the last postal appropriation law reducing the limit of time that such letters shall be held awaiting reclamation from four years to two years.

On account of the large growth in the parcel post business, experience has demonstrated that the accumulation of this matter at the points designated for handling dead parcels has become so large as to make it difficult to find space for its accommodation. Regulations provide, in the case of insured parcels, that claims for indemnity must be filed within six months, and it has been found there is very little call for lost parcels after the lapse of that time. Accordingly, an order will be issued amending the regulations so as to reduce the time for holding such parcels prior to sale from twelve months to six months. Last year 395,161 parcels were found undeliverable.

Dead mail received by the division of dead letters during the year contained 677,700 misdirected letters, 115,766 unaddressed letters, 228,700 letters held for postage, 440,200 letters written on hotel paper by persons unknown to the hotels, and 104,700 letters bearing fictitious signatures.

### Horse at Play Killed by Electricity

A valuable draft horse belonging to Fred Putnam lost its life by electrocution in a most extraordinary manner on Christmas day. The animal, which was one of a team which Mr. Putnam recently refused \$400 for, was romping in the barn lot in the snow with its mate, and from all indications must have reared up and caught his mouth on a low hanging wire which formerly furnished current to the barn. The wire hooked in the horse's upper teeth and in his struggles he wore through the insulation and was killed by the 120-volt current. He was found with the wire still hooked in his teeth. Electricians state that a horse is killed by a light current and that the fact that he got it through his mouth was almost sure to cause death. The wire was nine feet from the ground. The barn was formerly used by the Hotel Oregon and was electrically lighted when they used it. One wire had been connected. The barn is located on the Allan Davis property on First street and Mr. Putnam had leased it. The horse was one of a beautifully matched team and was valued at over \$250.

NO COMMERCIAL CLUB MEET.  
The regular monthly meeting of the Commercial Club will not be held during the month of January.