

COUNTY UNIT PLAN FOR RURAL SCHOOLS IS BEING CONSIDERED

Proposition in All Probability
Will Be Presented to Legis-
lature for State's Adoption.

DISTRICT IDEA PREVAILS

Authority Would Be Centralized in
County Superintendent and Thus
Increase Educational Efficiency.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—The county unit plan for all schools in a county, excepting those in districts of the first class. Each county adopting the plan would be divided into five districts. Each district would elect a member of the county school board. This board of five members would appoint a county school superintendent, who would be the practical educational and business head of the schools in the county.

The plan is to centralize the authority over the schools in a county, excepting those in districts of the first class. Each county adopting the plan would be divided into five districts. Each district would elect a member of the county school board. This board of five members would appoint a county school superintendent, who would be the practical educational and business head of the schools in the county.

State Superintendent of Schools Churchill, who strongly favors the plan, discussed it today with the county school superintendents who are in session at the capitol in the capacity of an examining board.

The plan is to centralize the authority over the schools in a county, excepting those in districts of the first class. Each county adopting the plan would be divided into five districts. Each district would elect a member of the county school board. This board of five members would appoint a county school superintendent, who would be the practical educational and business head of the schools in the county.

The county school superintendent would nominate the teachers for all the schools. He would place the teachers where they could do the best work. The taxes for the schools would be levied on a county unit basis.

Where the county unit has been adopted, Mr. Churchill said, great benefit has resulted, particularly to the rural schools as a trained county superintendent, with proper authority, is able to select the best teachers and efficient school staffs are the average rural school directors.

New Public Service Chairman.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—The public service commission, with Frank J. Buehler, newly elected commissioner, sitting for the first time, Tuesday afternoon elected Frank J. Miller chairman for the next two years. No secretary was elected, but Edward Ostrander, formerly an examiner for the commission, will continue to serve in that position. Edward Wright of La Grande is slated for the position of secretary. The commission does not trim the commission's budget so closely that it must further economize on employees.

Gopher-Scalp Market Active.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—County Clerk Boyer did a thriving business in gopher scalps Tuesday. Scalps to the number of 10,294 were taken to the clerk's office for the purpose of being sold. The first day that the 1917 appropriation for bounties was available. The appropriation usually runs out before the end of the year and the scalps are stored until the opening day.

Medical School Extension Assured.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—State Treasurer Kay has received a check for \$25,000 from Dr. Kenneth A. J. Mackenzie of Portland, dean of the University of Oregon medical school. This sum meets the condition which was imposed by the 1915 legislature when it appropriated \$50,000 for a new building for the medical school to be erected at Portland. The entire \$75,000 is now available for the school.

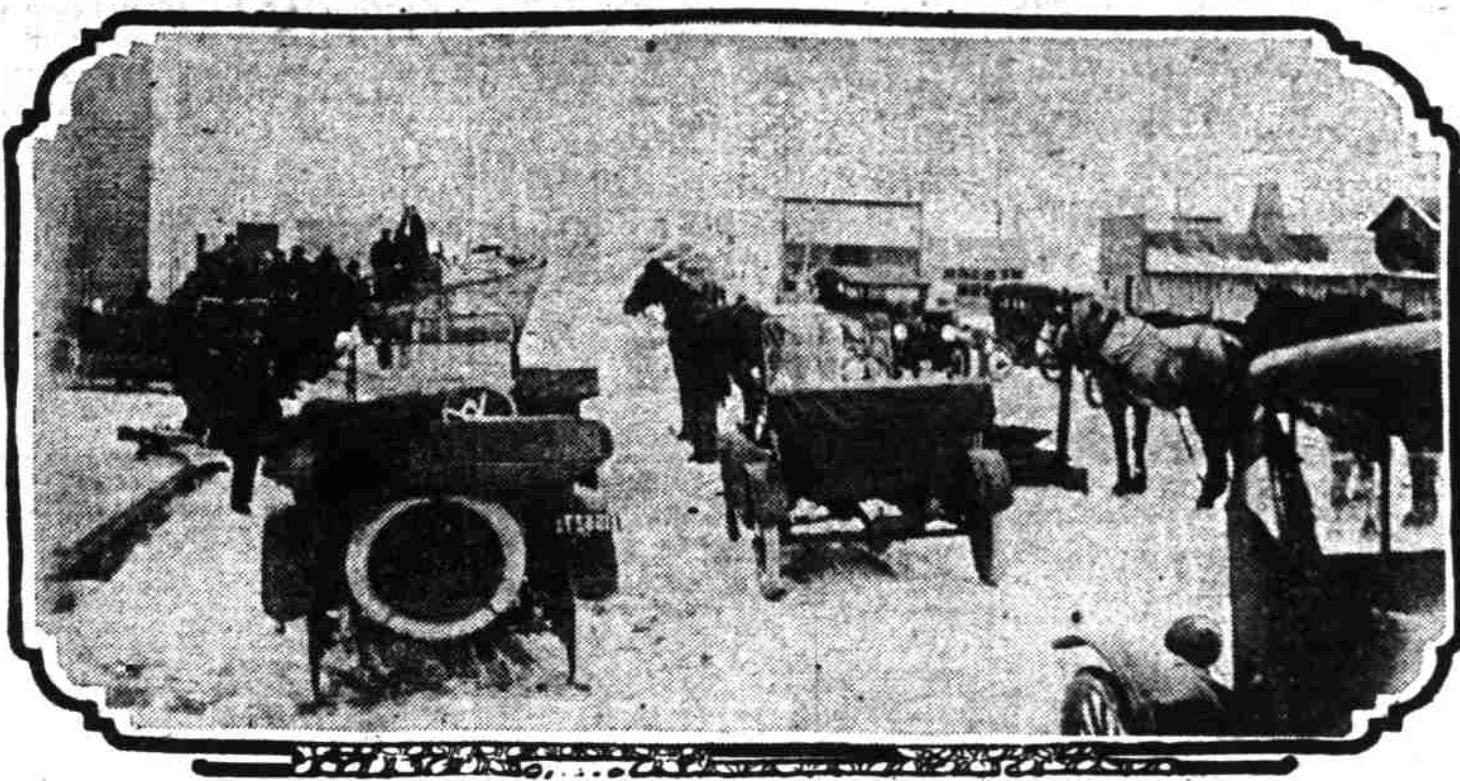
Plaster Rate Hearing Set.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—A hearing on the application of the O-W-R & N. company for permission to establish a rate of 10 cents per 100 pounds on plaster shipped in carload lots from Gypsum, Or., to Portland, will be held by the public service commission in Portland at 1:30 p. m. January 15. Gypsum is in Baker county, not far from Huntington. The proposed freight, which would be a reduction, is being opposed by plaster dealers in other localities, and particularly by the Hood River Commercial club and W. L. Clark of Hood River.

Slayer Given Life Sentence.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 3.—(I. N. S.)—Dr. Fletcher Atwood, the young Worcester osteopath, who shot and killed Dr. Wilfred E. Harris, president of the Massachusetts College of Osteopathy, July 18 last, pleaded guilty to second degree murder today and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

MADRAS CROWD RAIDS CULVER AND CARTS AWAY COUNTY RECORDS



A party of more than 80 persons from Madras, Or., went in sleighs, automobiles and wagons to the town of Culver, temporary county seat of the newly-created Jefferson county, Monday, and carted away a large part of the county records to Madras, which claims to be the new county seat by virtue of a recount of the votes cast on the subject at a recent election. Newly-elected county officers residing in Madras accompanied the party. The picture shows the vehicles of the "raiders."

Farmers Organize Loan Association

Eighteen Persons Are Present at Week-
End Meeting and Directors Chosen
Will Form Society Next Saturday.

Florence, Or., Jan. 3.—The farmers of this section met here Saturday for the purpose of organizing a Federal Farmers' Loan association. There were 18 members present at this first meeting and it is expected that at least 50 will join the permanent organization. C. C. Buchanan was elected temporary chairman and H. L. McKee temporary secretary. The following permanent directors were elected: W. J. Butler, D. W. Vandenberg, Hazen Johnson, C. C. Buchanan, and W. M. Borling.

A meeting of the directors has been called for next Saturday when the permanent organization will be perfected. The farmers are taking this step so that they may benefit by the federal rural credits and loan law.

Figures Show Value Of a Fire Marshal

Appeal for Support of Bill Providing
Such an Official for State Features
Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

Portland, with a fire marshal, reduced fire losses from \$1,500,000 in 1915 to a little over half a million in 1916.

Oregon, without a fire marshal, had fire losses outside Portland amounting to over \$2,000,000 in 1916, an increase over any previous year. An appeal for support of the fire marshal bill was a feature of the members' council meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday. Harvey Wells, state insurance commissioner; Fire Marshal Jay Stevens and E. L. Thompson, chairman of the members' council, spoke in behalf of the measure. A state fire marshal will be supported by the insurance companies, these in turn counting on reimbursement from decrease in fire losses. Mr. Wells pointed out that decrease in fire losses means savings to property owners and ultimate decrease in insurance rates.

Shereeff of Mecca Is King of Hejaz

London, Jan. 3.—(I. N. S.)—The grand shereeff of Mecca, who led a revolution against the Turks in western Arabia, has proclaimed himself king of Hejaz and has been formally recognized by England, France and Italy.

Boy Killed by Brother.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—(I. N. S.)—Willis Rand, 8, was shot and instantly killed yesterday, by his brother Albert, 13, while the boys were shooting at targets with a rifle given them for Christmas.



Brr-r!

Chilly, changeable
weather? A good
oil heater will keep
you warm and cosy.

Perfection Oil Heater

A gallon of Pearl
Oil gives 9 hours of
smokeless, odorless
cheerful heat.

Prices
\$3.75 to \$7.75

Dealers Everywhere
STANDARD OIL
COMPANY
(California)
Portland



Prr-r!

GOVERNOR DECLARES MADRAS NEW COUNTY SEAT OF JEFFERSON

Action Follows at Once Upon
Canvas of Vote at Recent
Election.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—Governor Withcombe Tuesday afternoon issued a proclamation declaring the initiative law under which the people of Jefferson county voted to have their county seat at Madras to be in effect.

The governor's proclamation was issued immediately after Secretary of State Ben W. Olcott canvassed the vote on the measure. This action, coming several weeks after the vote on all other measures has been canvassed, was delayed in connection with the bitterly contested county seat fight in Jefferson county.

In the recent election, Madras and Metolius and Culver were the contestants for the county seat. Two initiative measures were on the ballot, one providing that the county seat should be located at Madras and the other that it should be located at Metolius.

The Metolius measure was defeated and if the Madras measure had been defeated the county seat would have remained at Culver, which has been the county seat since the county was created two or three years ago. The official vote for the Madras measure was as follows: Yes, 839; no, 514. Supporters of Culver obtained an injunction order restraining the county clerk from certifying the vote to the secretary of state. This injunction was dissolved last week. As the result that the abstract of the vote was received by Secretary Olcott Tuesday, the day following the raid on the county offices at Culver by a delegation from Madras which forcibly took possession of the county's books and supplies and carted them to Madras.

Preventable Losses By Fire Are Large

Amount of Property So Destroyed in
California Last Year, \$1,369,922—
Partly Preventable, \$3,337,062.

San Francisco, Jan. 3.—(P. N. S.)—Fire losses amounting to \$1,369,922 from causes that were preventable were sustained in California during 1916, according to statistics compiled by the national board of fire underwriters in New York. Added to the above total is the tremendous larger one of \$3,337,062 in losses during the same year from partly preventable causes.

From unknown causes probably largely preventable, according to the fire underwriters, the loss was \$2,169,820 on a grand total of \$7,716,714 worth of property destroyed that might not have been if proper anti-fire precautions were taken.

Bulgarian Task Done, States Radoslavoff

Sofia, Jan. 3.—(I. N. S.)—"The essential part of Bulgaria's task in the war is done." This was the answer of Premier Radoslavoff in parliament to critics of the government's conduct of the war. He continued:

"To those who are complaining that we are seeking too much, I reply that we are not satisfied, but that we know the aspirations of the Bulgarian people. From the royal manifesto on the occasion of the declaration of war you know what these aspirations are."

Rich Woman Slayer Liberated on Bond

Aberdeen, Miss., Jan. 3.—(I. N. S.)—Mrs. Winston Tubb, 35 years old, wealthy matron, who shot and killed E. G. Mize, a rich farmer, alleging he had insulted her, was released under bond yesterday.

Mize, a member of the Monroe county board of supervisors, was at the Quincy depot when Mrs. Tubb drove up in her touring car and without a word shot him twice.

New Year Celebrant Is Killed by Truck

San Francisco, Jan. 3.—(P. N. S.)—John McGowan, a river boat dealer today, another victim of the New Year's eve celebration. With members of the Prosperity club, he spent Sunday night riding about the city on a motor truck. He fell from the truck and was crushed beneath the wheels.

RUMOR OF RAILROAD INTO EASTERN LINN IS REVIVED AT ALBANY

Valuable Tract of Timber
Back of Foster and Near
Cascadia Believed Object.

ROUTES SPECULATED ON

Marked Activity Reported in Purchasing
of Both Timber and Farm
Lands in Vicinity of Foster.

Albany, Or., Jan. 3.—Reports from Foster, in the eastern part of Linn county, indicate that there is prospect of a railroad being built into that district.

Timber cruisers who were engaged in scaling the timber on a large tract, near Foster and in the neighborhood of Cascadia, finished their work a short time ago. It is understood that if the timber cruised up to requirements that it would be purchased, the purchase to be made upon condition that the Hill interests constructed a rail line to the tract.

Rumor Is Current.

Reports have it that the timber exceeded expectations. This is the time ago in connection with the Monarch Mills of Portland. The visit of Louis Hill and party here last summer is thought to have brought about the conclusion of the deal.

Activity in buying land, both timber and farm, in the vicinity of Foster by various parties leads to the belief that something is going to happen before long.

Route Is Uncertain.

The route of the proposed road is uncertain. If it is built, it may branch from the Oregon Electric main line at Albany, going in through the rich country surrounding Lebanon, then to Sweet Home and on to Foster. Or it may be built via Halsey, Brownsville and Sweet Home. Two surveys are known to have been made for this route. Another possibility is a branch from near Salem to Stayton, across by Kingston and to Sweet Home and Foster by that circuitous route.

Keen interest is felt here over the prospects of an early beginning of operations. It would mean the construction of one or more sawmills and a number of logging camps.

J. J. Smith Dies.

Albany, Or., Jan. 3.—J. J. Smith, aged 54, died in St. Mary's hospital here Monday. He came to Albany a short time ago from Spokane. His nearest relative is a niece in Pittsburgh, who was notified. The body is being held here for instructions.

Shipbuilder Retires to Farm.

Albany, Or., Jan. 3.—J. A. McEachern, shipbuilder from Astoria, was in Albany Monday. He stated that he had closed his shop on account of a strike in the shipbuilding industry, and will live on his farm near Lyons until the trouble blows over.

Corvallis Firemen Stage Real Stunt

Corvallis, Or., Jan. 3.—Corvallis firemen staged a rather quiet New Year's day by a novel game played with two lines of hose. A dry goods box was placed in the center of the pavement and two lines of hose were strung, 10 men to a line and about 20 feet apart, with the box between them. The full force of the water was turned on and the contest was to see which team could drive the box over a line.

Very often the box would be driven to the curb, when the many spectators along the walks would be given a sprinkling. Toward the close of the contest the firemen forgot the box and turned the ice cold water on each other, standing not more than a dozen feet apart, and endeavoring to drive each other back.

It was a decidedly interesting contest—for the spectators in safe places.

Missouri to Have Contest.

Sedalia, Mo., Jan. 3.—(I. N. S.)—Judge Lamm yesterday at his office here signed the petition for a contest of the election of Frederick Gardner of St. Louis as governor of Missouri.

Colonel McLaughlin Lauds Third Oregon

In Letter to Governor Withcombe He
Praises "Character and Physique"
of Men of Regiment He Commanded.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—Colonel McLaughlin, who served three years as colonel of the Third Infantry, O. N. G., highly praises the organization in a letter received Tuesday by Governor Withcombe. Colonel McLaughlin has been returned to his regular army command and is now with the troops in Mexico. His letter says:

"As I am about to leave Oregon I wish to state to you my appreciation for the support you gave the Third Oregon Infantry during the period that I was its colonel.

"The officers and men were always glad to have you visit our camp and the army drills and we were all very sorry that you were unable to visit us in our camp at San Diego. I have been on duty in Oregon for three years and I leave Oregon an Oregonian."

Czar's Pro-German Confessor Murdered

London, Jan. 3.—(I. N. S.)—Raspoutine, the monk who succeeded Illiodor as the confessor of the czar and zarina, has been assassinated, according to a Petrograd dispatch to the Daily Chronicle.

A prince allied to Emperor Nicholas by marriage is said to be involved in the affair. The monk's body was recovered by divers in the river Neva. Raspoutine was suspected of being pro-German and plotting for a separate peace.

OREGON TAKES FIRST PLACE IN REGULARITY AT RURAL SCHOOLS

Biennial Report of State Super-
intendent Churchill Re-
views Improvement.

PARENT-TEACHERS HELP

High School Law of 1915 Makes At-
tendance Possible for Many Who
Would Otherwise Be Barred.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—Oregon now ranks first in the United States in regularity of attendance in the rural schools, according to the biennial report of Superintendent of Public Instruction J. A. Churchill.

"There is a growing interest in the industrial club work," says Superintendent Churchill, "and the number of children who carry their projects through to a successful termination is increasing each year."

High Schools Strengthened.

"The work of the high schools has been greatly strengthened through meeting the requirements of the state board of education relative to libraries and other equipment," he says. "This is particularly true of the smaller high schools, many of which have heretofore had almost no equipment or apparatus with which to do their work."

"The high school tuition law, which was passed in 1915, is making it possible for thousands of pupils to attend high school who would otherwise be denied the opportunity. That the in-

crease in attendance due directly to this law has been phenomenal is shown by the fact that in some high schools the number of students has doubled.

Community Spirit Helps.

"Among the other features of progress should be mentioned the gradual increase in the requirements for certification, which means more thorough preparation on the part of teachers and better teaching; the stimulated interest in supervised recreational activities, which has led to the improvement of playgrounds and the installation of play apparatus; an improvement in the style of school architecture, embodying both utility and beauty; and, finally, a better community spirit, due to the work of the Parent-Teacher association and kindred organizations."

Eugene to Banquet Varsity Footballers

Chamber of Commerce Sends In-
vitations to Victory of New Year's Game
at Pasadena for Feast Soon.

Eugene, Or., Jan. 3.—The Eugene Chamber of Commerce will banquet the victorious football team of the University of Oregon next week, according to announcement of J. H. Koke, president. Mr. Koke has sent this telegram to Johnny Beckett, captain of the team, at Pasadena:

"Eugene is proud of Oregon's football team. The Chamber of Commerce sends congratulations to the world's champions and extends an invitation to them to be the honor guests at a victory banquet next week."

Mr. Koke says it is probable that the banquet will be held on Wednesday.

Members of the team remained in Pasadena, where they are being entertained by the Tournament of Roses committee, for a few days.

Case of Maguire Continued.

San Francisco, Jan. 3.—(P. N. S.)—Harry Maguire, charged with murder in connection with the death of J. A. Buckley, salesman of Spokane, who was struck down Monday morning during the New Year's festivities, appeared in Police court yesterday. The case was continued.

Double Economy January

Playing the Game Straight We Are Merchants, Not Speculators

—With prices of many commodities jumping skyward and with many lines of goods very scarce, many merchants have decided that more money can be made this January by **HOLDING GOODS THAN BY SELLING THEM**

—This Store is going right ahead with its January plans as usual, fighting for the best possible bargains, regardless of increased profits, and never for a moment allowing the present merchandise conditions to influence its policy.

—We are merchants, not speculators, and hold that a public business is a public trust. To this end we refuse to allow our buyers to **HOARD** goods or **SPECULATE** with them. We know the value of good will—we have earned it—and shall exert every effort to retain it.

—To the man of family—to the woman or man who is self-dependent—this store means **MUCH** this January. It will be tremendously to your advantage to **BUY NOW**—to be prepared for the inevitable advances to come.

—Never has there been a time, since we were in business, that it was so definitely to our customers' advantage to **LAY IN FULL SUPPLIES** of all goods likely to be needed, as now.

—We have taught the people of Portland to look forward to our January offerings, and this year shall be no exception. Staple, dependable merchandise on the old-time basis—double savings—because it cuts down the old price and saves you from the coming rise—that is why we call this our

DOUBLE ECONOMY JANUARY

Sipman Wolfe & Co.
Merchandise of Merit Only



Baker's Cocoa

stands all tests
of laboratory
and home.
It is pure, it is
delicious, it is
healthful.



Walter Baker & Co. Ltd.
ESTABLISHED 1780 DORCHESTER, MASS.