

WEST SALEM ALLOWS GOVERNMENT TO LAPSE; NOW SEEKS SHORTAGE

Accountant Cannot Tell if
Laxity in Record Keeping
or Actual Theft Is Cause.

OFFICIALS IN QUANDARY

Several Former City Officers Have
Left Town; Straightening of
Matter Seems Vain.

Dallas, Or., Jan. 24.—About three years ago, the residents of West Salem, wanting to have a city of their own, incorporated. A full set of city officers was elected and for a year or so much interest was maintained in municipal affairs. Then, one after another, councilmen and others of the town's officers moved away and, there being little business to transact, little attention was paid to official duties.

This condition of apathy continued for some time and the city election of 1915 was overlooked or neglected. Last fall, however, some of the citizens of West Salem decided that they should again have a city in fact as well as in name. An election was called and a new mayor and council were elected. When these new officials attempted to assume their duties, it is said, they found the records of the previous city government in bad shape. Public funds seemed to be missing, but as records were also missing, and several of the former officials, including the recorder and the treasurer, were no longer residents of the place, the exact amount of the shortage, if any, could not be ascertained.

An expert was employed to check up the city's affairs and has been engaged on that job for some time, but has been seriously handicapped in his work because of the missing records and the laxity with which the accounts of the municipality have been kept. Several trips for investigation have been made to the court house in this city by the accountant and members of the new council, but as yet they have not been able to ascertain whether the city has been actually bilked out of any of its funds, or if the apparent shortage of several hundred dollars is merely due to laxity in keeping the books.

Lawyer for Slayer Hired by W. C. T. U.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 24.—(I. N. S.)—Weldon H. Wells, confessed slayer of Mona Simon, in a room in Hotel Desher, two weeks ago, will be defended by an attorney hired by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. It was announced today. It was explained that the W. C. T. U. members did all they could for Miss Simon during her life and now feel they ought to do something for Wells, who was a victim of drink. Former Attorney General Timothy S. Hogan is the counsel selected.

WOMAN WHO CROSSED PLAINS PASSES AWAY



Mrs. Elmira Benjamin.

Mrs. Elmira Benjamin, Oregon pioneer, who crossed the plains from Missouri in 1852, died Friday morning in Grass Valley, Sherman county, Oregon. Funeral services were held in Grass Valley.

Mrs. Benjamin was nearly 95 years of age.

Surviving children are: Mrs. Mary Preston, Gresham; Mrs. Annie Baker, Grass Valley; Mrs. Carrie Costello, residing in eastern Washington; Harry Benjamin, Seattle; Richard Benjamin, residing in northern Idaho, and William V. Benjamin, Mrs. R. L. Campbell of Portland is a granddaughter. Mrs. Benjamin was the widow of Richard Benjamin, one of the first blacksmiths of Oregon, who died many years ago. They had lived in various places in Oregon, including Portland, Oregon City, Lebanon and Eugene, being residents of Portland when it was a mere village.

State Hospital Gets Prize Won by Corn

Silver Medal Awarded at San Francisco Exposition for Second Best Exhibit Received at Salem.

Salem, Or., Jan. 24.—The Oregon state hospital is in receipt of a silver medal from the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco for producing the second best corn on the stalk on exhibit there. The corn was the Yellow Dent variety and was grown at the cottage farm by the patients. The exhibit was placed in the Oregon building at the beginning of the fair and attracted a great deal of attention.

Insane Patient Escapes.

Salem, Or., Jan. 24.—Otto Staub, committed to the Oregon state hospital from Clackamas county about two years ago, escaped from the cottage farm Monday morning. He is a Swiss dairyman and was out on parole. He is considered harmless and it is believed he left for his home in Clackamas county.

SYSTEMATIZING TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY U. S. IN IMPROVEMENTS

River and Harbor Bill Provides Commission to Investigate Waterways Subject.

TO CONSIDER ALL PHASES

River and Harbor Improvement, Drainage, Waterpower, Development and Flood Control to Be Taken Up.

Washington, Jan. 24.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—The systematizing of river and harbor improvement, with related plans for drainage of overflow lands, waterpower development and protection from floods, is to be undertaken.

This year a start is being made toward reform. The river and harbor bill in its final section provides for a commission consisting of high administrative officials and six members of congress to investigate the entire subject of waterways and report prior to the meeting of the first regular session of the next congress.

This commission will at least be a starter for serious study of all the features of the waterways problem.

There is much to be said in favor of just the kind of commission that has been named in the bill. It will be composed of men who start with a large knowledge of the subject, and men who know the faults, as well as the merits, of the omnibus way.

Chamberlain May Be Member. Most of those who year after year follow the old way do so because no comprehensive study has been made of other plans. They are believers in waterway improvement, and they will not vote to arrest the progress of such work when there is no constructive plan to take its place.

The members of the commission as it will be constituted if the bill passes in present form will be Secretary Baker, Secretary Lane, Secretary Houston, Secretary Redfield, Senator Fletcher of Florida, and five other members of congress, who probably will be Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, Senator Nelson of Minnesota, Representative Humphreys of Mississippi, Representative Small of North Carolina and Representative Kennedy of Iowa.

The duties of the commission are defined as follows:

Duties of Commission.

"To investigate the feasibility and advisability of a more comprehensive system of river and harbor improvements in the interest of navigation, and in connection therewith the development and regulation of interstate and foreign commerce, the promotion of terminal and transfer facilities and sites, the drainage and reclamation of lands, the irrigation of arid lands, the protection against floods, the development and utilization of water power, the clarification of streams and the regulation of the flow thereof, the prevention of soil erosion and waste, the storage and conservation of water for

Big Baked Potato Gets 'Knock' From U. S. Food Expert

Washington, Jan. 24.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—The big baked potato gets a knock from the department of agriculture in little talk on the way to choose potatoes for the table, embracing suggestions of home economist specialists.

"Very large smooth potatoes are not especially desirable," they say, "partly on account of the greater length of time required to cook them uniformly, partly because they are often very variable in texture."

Other suggestions for the housewife in potato choosing are that smooth potatoes are more desirable than rough ones, because more easily prepared and less waste is involved; that best results come from those not long exposed to the light; and the newly harvested are best, and that the tubers should be firm and crisp when cut, showing no signs of rotting or starch when a thin slice is held to the light.

agricultural, industrial, municipal and domestic uses, and also the subject of cooperation between the United States and the several states, municipalities or other political subdivisions of the United States, including districts, corporations and individuals, respectively.

Fruit Growers' Interest Asked.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Answering a plea for larger cooperation with northwestern fruit growers on the part of the office of markets and rural organization of the department of agriculture, Charles J. Brand, chief of that office, says the growers of that section have not shown the "degree of interest and support" that the department had been led to expect.

B. W. Johnson of Corvallis, Or., trustee for western Oregon of the Fruit Growers' agency, recently wrote to Congressman Hawley asking aid in securing increased assistance from the department. Mr. Brand says the department is anxious to assist, "but cannot carry the whole burden."

All the government representatives who were connected with the matter last year will be assembled for a conference here within a few days, Mr. Brand says, and the work will be given over, with a view to extending it on the single proviso that the growers show willingness to carry out plans in cooperation with the department.

Hurrying of Report Sought.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Representative Hawley is asking the army board of engineers to expedite report on government maintenance of the existing channel to the plant of the Smith Lumber company from the Coos bay channel. Local interests have dredged to the same depth as the government project, and desire that appropriations for maintenance be supplied by the federal government.

Because of the illness of Major Williams of the army engineer force at Portland, some delay has been caused in the preparation of reports on surveys in the western Oregon district. Major Fries has been detailed temporarily to assist in the work of assembling the data and hastening the reports.

Property Transfer Provided.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The house Indian affairs committee has favorably reported Representative Hawley's bill to transfer the property of the old Indian school at Forest Grove, Or., to the agricultural department for use as an entomological station. The building, is now being used by the agricultural department, the purpose of the bill being to effect a formal transfer.

Appointment of Wardens Aim.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Wardens of the government penitentiaries at Atlanta, Ga., Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and McNeil Island, Wash., will be made presidential appointees under a bill passed by the senate at the instance of Senator Smith of Georgia. There is no change in compensation. These wardens are now under the department of justice.

Postmasters Are Appointed.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Fourth class postmasters have been appointed at Oregon offices as follows: William L. Robinson at Gearhart, Clatsop county, in place of E. M. Waterhouse, resigned; Emma L. Hufstater at Knappa, Clatsop county, vice E. E. Hufstater, removed; Arthur G. Mears at Reith, Umatilla county, a new office.

Suits for Damages Follow Auto Smash

Baker Man Wants \$1500 From Railroad Company for Injuries; Heirs of Dead Victim to Demand \$8750.

Baker, Or., Jan. 24.—A. U. Robinson has filed suit against the O-W. R. & N. company demanding \$1500 for injuries alleged to have been received July 3 when his auto was hit by train near Weatherby, alleging the crossing was dangerous and the defendant company at fault. In the same suit, Robinson's father-in-law, Frank Weygandt, was killed. The latter's estate will file an action for \$8750.

Pioneer Women Pass Away.

Baker, Or., Jan. 24.—Two pioneer women of Haines, Mrs. Ida May Kent, 61, and Mrs. Elizabeth Plummer, 78, died Tuesday. Mrs. Kent lived here all her life. Mrs. Plummer was a native of Missouri, coming here in 1878. Funeral services for both will be held in Baker tomorrow.

Great Liners May Return to Pacific

San Francisco, Jan. 24.—(U. P.)—A report that the liners Manchuria and Mongolia will be returned to the Pacific within the next months and operated on the oriental run was in circulation here today. It was said the deal whereby the old Pacific Mail company turned these liners over to the Atlantic transport two years ago was only temporary.

Wife Shoots Diamond Broker.

Chicago, Jan. 24.—(I. N. S.)—Robert Rueping, 54, diamond broker, was shot in the right arm and abdomen at his home last night, and his wife, Maude Rueping, 24, was arrested, charged with shooting to kill. The police say Mrs. Rueping admitted the shooting. She recently sued for separate maintenance.

GERMAN OFFICER WHO TOOK YARROWDALE TO PORT TELLS OF TRIP

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She loves her little home—the hours she has spent in making it beautiful, attractive, artistic. It is so much a part of her life. But one thing more remains to make her home really complete—a little Aldrich Baby Grand Piano—small enough for a little home—not too expensive for a moderate purse.

Ask us to mail you chart showing space it will occupy on your floor. Price \$485 on the easiest terms.

Sherman Clay & Co.

Sixth and Morrison Streets
PORTLAND
Stairway and other Plans,
Pianos, Victrolas and Records

Bryn Mawr Pupil Of President Now Suffrage Sentinel

Washington, Jan. 24.—(U. P.)—When President Wilson goes to the capitol henceforth he will be greeted from the line of silent suffrage sentinels at the White House gates by a pupil of his when he was a professor of political science at Bryn Mawr.

The erstwhile pupil, Miss Ella Riegel, has joined the picket line "to carry out the precept" she learned from Professor Wilson's lectures.

"President Wilson instructed us that legislation depended upon the party in power," she said, "so I know he will be glad to see me on picket duty to prod Democrats to favorable action on the suffrage amendment."

Defective Gas Jet Is Fatal to Couple

San Francisco, Jan. 24.—(U. P.)—David Hurley, retired machinist, and his wife, Carrie, were found dead in bed in their new home yesterday. A defective gas jet in their bedroom had caused the deadly fumes to leak, asphyxiating them. The couple moved into the house yesterday.

Vice Ring Is Alleged.

Oakland, Cal., Jan. 24.—(P. N. S.)—An alleged vice ring, which, according to the police here, has been supplying girls and young women to the night life cafes and hotels of San Francisco, was revealed today with the arrest of Pearl Sanborn, alias Madame Pauline. Four men confederates in San Francisco and three in Oakland are being sought.

Director of Research Bureau.

Winifred B. Holton Jr., who was associated with W. H. Allen in the governmental survey of Portland made several years ago, has been appointed director of the San Francisco bureau of governmental research, according to an announcement just received here. Mr. Holton was formerly assistant director of the New York bureau of municipal research. He is well known in Portland. Mr. Allen is now director of the New York institute of public service.

Australian manufacturers at a plant in Bombay are making pressed steel water pipe 24 feet long by 60 inches internal diameter.

Chinatown Is Agog; Celebrate New Year

Feasting and Much Noise Mark Festivities; Hospitality Reigns and Mongols and Caucasians Fare Alike. That Chinatown may celebrate its New Year properly its shops have been closed for a few days and some of the restaurants are permitting employees to give themselves up to merry-making. That term is also synonymous with eating and everywhere Chinese sweetmeats are in evidence and the white man is offered preserved citron, lychee nuts and candy of strange and wonderful flavor. A large noise marks the festivities which center about Arion hall, where the Manchurian drama is being enacted.

The audience from 7 o'clock until 9 Monday evening was estimated at 1000 persons, practically all of Chinatown and his family being there, and as many of the Caucasian race as could gain admittance. Later in the evening as the Chinese with their wives and children returned to their homes, many more white people gained admittance, the performance being continuous and equally interesting at any hour.

Steamer Hugs Shore Closely, Bound North, Apparently Headed for New York.

Buenos Aires, Jan. 24.—(U. P.)—The German raider's "prison ship," the Japanese steamer Hudson Maru, left Pernambuco today. She steamed out of the harbor and hugged the shore line closely on her northern course, presumably headed for New York and with every anxiety to avoid another capture by the German sea rover.

All of the prisoners taken by the raider and sent to Pernambuco on the Japanese steamer have been landed, and most of them have been furnished with transportation to their homes by consuls of the nations of which they are citizens.

Unconfirmed reports of all sorts flew thick and fast in shipping circles today, with the location of the raider still a mystery.

A sensational rumor, utterly without confirmation, was that the Brazilian steamer Sirio had been torpedoed. This followed persistent reports of a submarine being sighted off the coast of Uruguay. The first form in which the story reached Buenos Aires was that the Spanish steamer Reina Victoria Eugenia had been stopped by such a craft, but the Reina Victoria passed out beyond wireless communication today and could not be reached to verify the report.

Peoples

Alder at West Park

This evening presents

Owen Moore

Irene Fenwick

in their latest, most delightful

Famous Players' photoplay of

smiles and thrills:

---"a girl like that"

is the name of this clever new

Paramount comedy-drama, and

it's crowded with heart appeals

for the particular — it's "different."

Besides the pleasing Paramount

picture, the program includes

pictorial news of the world and

music to fit the pictures. Enjoy

this sure-enough treat to-

night at the

Peoples

Topping the World for Quality

Coming Sunday:

Marie Doro,

the Exquisite

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Only 'til Saturday at The Star

A story of modern life intensely human—A problem with a heart-throb—Read what a great critic says—then see the play tonight!

"Here is a picture which should be carried to every city and town in the world and shown on the screen over and over until every daughter and son has had its significance impressed upon them. I will say that it is the first powerful moral lesson I have ever seen that left me in a pleasant mood at the finish. I doff my hat to Mr. Steger."

"Victor Watson, New York American."

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