

TAXPAYERS MUST SHARE IN COST OF FIRE PROTECTION

Salem, July 15.—That the general taxpayer as well as the consumer should bear a portion of the cost of fire protection is the opinion of the Oregon public service commission in an order issued Thursday.

The order shifts a portion of the burden to the city of Roseburg, on application of the Douglas County Light and Water company, and also slightly increases rates for electricity and water. Drain, Yoncalla, Oakland and Winchester are affected by the order.

"On the theory that the general taxpayer as well as the small property owner should bear his proper proportion of the support of necessary public utilities," said the order, "the principal increase in rates has been placed on fire hydrants, which most of all contribute directly to the protection of the public generally. The commission finds that in the past the general user of water in Roseburg has been contributing to a large extent to the cost of fire protection. The commission's order relieves the user of water from this burden and places it upon the general taxpayer."

"The fire protection feature was considered of such vital importance in the safeguarding of life and property that the commission has provided in its order that the reservoirs of the company shall never be lower than 45 per cent of their capacity, thus assuring the citizens of Roseburg that there will not be recurrence of the water shortage."

The rates, practices and service of the Bentley Telephone company are to be investigated by the Oregon public service commission on August 2, according to an order issued by the commission. The corporation serves a number of towns in Polk, Lincoln and Yamhill counties.

The Rainier drainage district in Columbia county has filed with the state engineer plans for development of the project. It is proposed by the district to reclaim approximately 1300 acres of land, and to construct dikes and a pumping plant at a cost of \$12,000. Bonds already have been voted by the district in the sum of \$25,700.

Charles Painter of Brighton must pay a license of \$50 to operate a pool and billiard hall, notwithstanding that his home town is unincorporated, according to a legal opinion given by Attorney General Brown.

The statement of the associated oil company of California to the secretary of state's office shows the sale within the state during June of 538,336 gallons of gasoline and 24,434 gallons of distillate, on which a total tax of \$5787.43 was paid.

Plans Coming for Reconstruction of Morrison Bridge

Roadmaster William Eastchel received word Thursday from the bridge department of the state highway commission that specifications for complete repairs and reconstruction of the Morrison bridge would be sent to him Monday. They will be laid before the county commissioners so that advertisement for bids may be ordered. This advertisement must run 14 days.

Eastchel says three forms of bidding will be asked for: The driving, capping and bracing of the piles; the driving of the piles and the mill work; and the labor required to carry on the work. If it is found more desirable, after the bids are received, the work, all except the pile driving, will be done by the county on force account. Eastchel says the work

should be well in progress within a month. Work will also begin Monday on repairs on the Hawthorne bridge, this being done by force account.

Ex-Soldier Released As Facts of His Case Are Told in Court

Thomas C. Hayden, just out of his eighteenth year, and who has seen service in the army since he was 16, stood before Circuit Judge Gates Thursday and admitted his guilt of the charge of assault with intent to rob A. J. Woodcock, July 1. After the facts were presented the case was continued one year and the young man was permitted to go on his own recognition.

Hayden, who is the son of a pioneer family of Alaska, got out of the army when he was 15 and immediately married. He came to Portland to work for the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, his wife bore him a child and was taken with scarlet fever, and while she was in the hospital his funds gave out and he was about to be put out of his apartment.

In his perplexity for money he conceived the plan of undertaking a hold-up. The grand jury recommended parole, but Judge Gates went further and stated that if the young man made a good record during the year the case would be dismissed without even a record of parole.

Permanent Fund for Conventions Coming To Portland, Urged

"Portland should take advantage of her wonderful opportunity now and realize on her advantage as a convention city," was the parting word from Mark Woodruff, secretary of the 1920 Shrine committee, as he boarded a train Thursday at the Union station for St. Paul, where he will assume the business management of the Crescent, the official Shrine publication.

"A fund should be created through a bill in the legislature that would take care every year of conventions which are bound to come to this city and Portland should go after these conventions with determination. Portland was not found wanting when it came to playing host to 100,000 people, at least 60,000 or 70,000 of whom were Shriners. A levy of a mill or less would take care of all conventions and now is the time to start the ball rolling. The subscription plan, too long in vogue to care for these meetings, ought to be eliminated."

Lost Diamond Found in Home Basement

Seaside, July 15.—While installing a furnace in the Gearhart home of Isaac Wolf of Portland, Walter Thorn-

ton found a diamond valued by Wolf at \$4000, which had been lost for a week. The stone dropped from Wolf's ring in the basement, rolling beneath castings. Thornton received a reward of \$150.

Marshfield Seeks Meeting
Salem, Or., July 15.—The Marshfield delegation of Elks, coming in a train of six special coaches, will be a strong contender for the 1921 session of the lodge at the third annual state convention to be held in this city July 22-24.

Defective Is Sent To State Home by Coos County Court

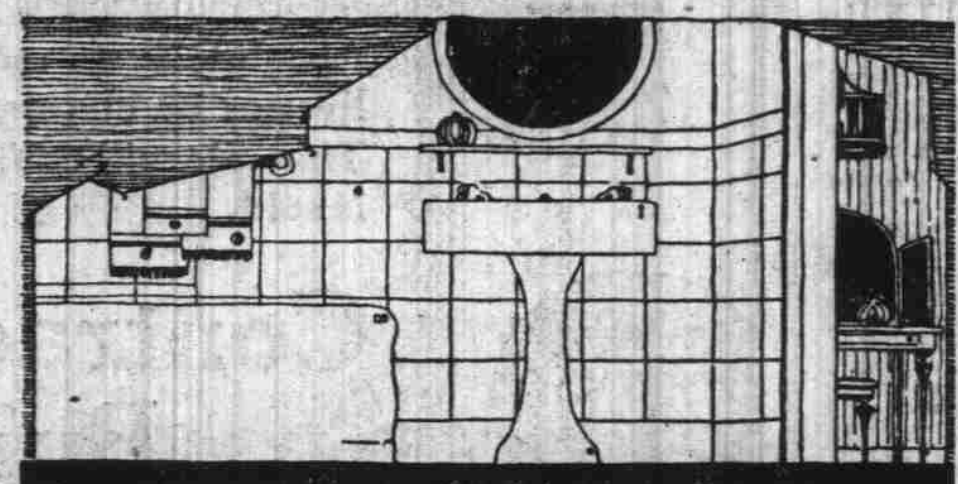
Salem, July 15.—In keeping with his threat contained in a letter received by the state board of control, C. R. Wade, county judge of Coos county, Thursday sent to the state home for the feeble minded R. A. Huffman, mentally defective, who had been in jail at Coquille for several weeks awaiting admission to the state institution.

Although the home for the feeble minded is at present crowded to capacity, which, under the law, would permit the superintendent to deny admittance of the patient, it is believed that arrangements will be made whereby Huffman will be legally received and given medical treatment. In the order committing Huffman to the institution Judge Wade refers to Coos county having spent approximately

\$400 for the care of feeble minded patients prior to their transfer to the state institution.

Captain Coberly Passes
Spokane, Wash., July 15.—Captain

Coberly, former chief of police, died here Wednesday. He was a veteran Spokane officer, a prominent Mason and a G. A. R. member. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Roy M. Heath of Portland, and was well known in Portland.



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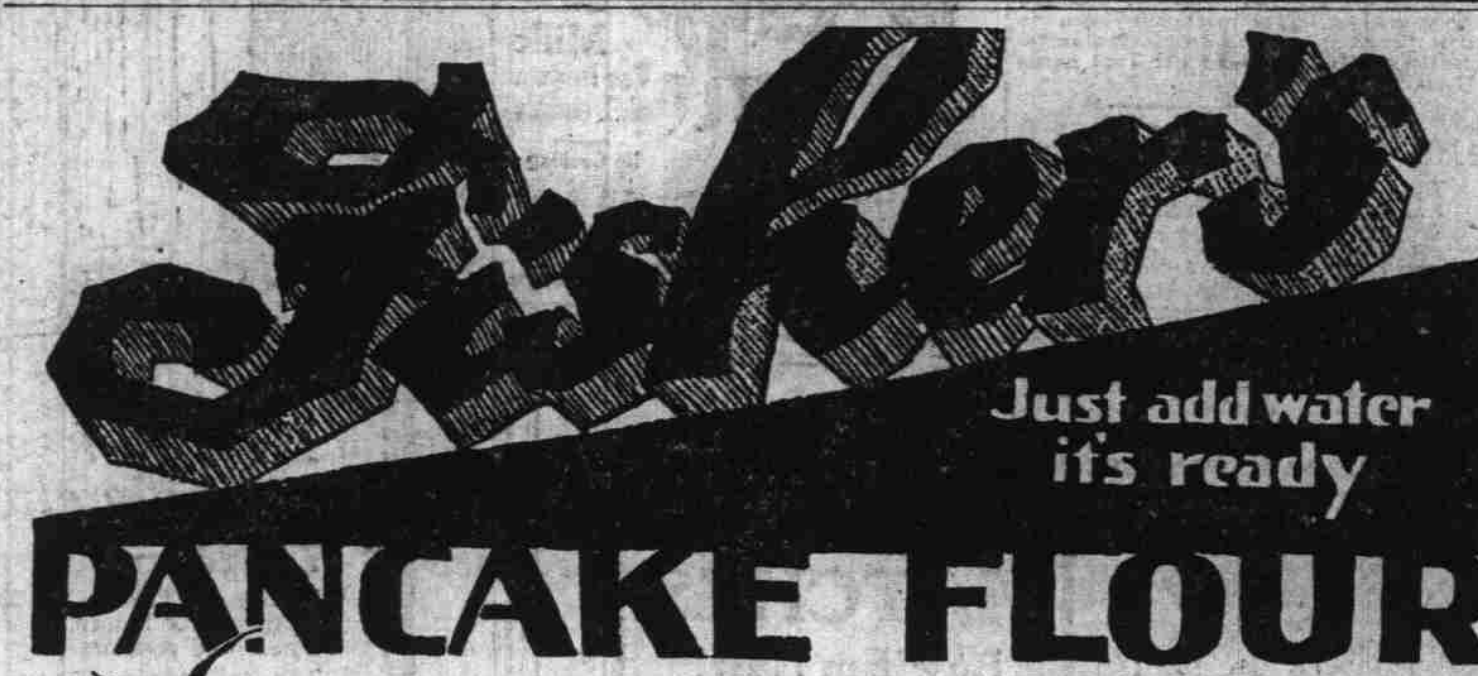
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