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SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR

The Oregon Statesman

SALEM, OREGON, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 25, 1919

THE WEATHER
Fair; gentle northerly winds.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

TEXT BOOKS INVOLVED IN ULTIMATUM

Willamette Valley Stationers Association Organized at Meeting in Salem on Sunday.

DRASTIC ACTION IS DECLARED IMPERATIVE

Distributors Will Demand of Publishers Higher Margin on Sales

Notification, which is in truth an ultimatum to the effect that henceforth school books will be handled only on a 20 per cent margin instead of one of 12½ per cent will be delivered to the various publishers of text books for public schools at result of a meeting of a number of Willamette valley stationers at the Marion hotel Sunday. The stationers at the meeting organized the Valley Stationers' association and immediately appointed a committee to convey notice of the action to the publishers, through the J. K. Gill company of Portland, state school book distributors.

The decision of the association was reached after a general conference and discussion in which the action was unanimously favored and was held to be imperative. The present rate allowed the stationers for selling the books has been in effect for eight years and during the latter part of that period is held to have been an injustice to the seller. The stationer is allowed 10 per cent on a cash basis on exchange of books and this, it is claimed, does not take into consideration the cost of handling and other overhead expenses. In their decision Sunday, the stationers favored a rate of 12½ per cent on exchanges.

The present laws of the state require that school books be delivered to the children of Oregon at a price equal to the lowest figure in effect in the United States and that if the price in some other state lowers after bids are made in Oregon that the books be delivered here at the lower price. The state text book commission is to meet June 5 and it is held very likely that the action of the Willamette Valley stationers will prove one of the most important problems to come before the commission.

W. D. Evans and E. Cooke Patton, both of Salem, were elected president and secretary, respectively, of the organization. Among those attending the conference were John Cox, Eugene; Homer Jamison, McMinnville; J. C. Hayter, Dallas; M. A. Huntley, Oregon City; Hal Patton, E. Cook Patton, and W. D. Evans of Salem.

These in attendance were guests of the Patton book store and the Commercial book store at a luncheon at the Marion hotel.

Steamer Melrose Sends Out Wireless Calls for Help; Tank Corps Aboard

DETAILS ARE LACKING

Vessel 900 Miles East of Bermuda—Sailed from St. Nazaire March 9

HALIFAX, N. S., March 24.—The steamer Melrose, which left St. Nazaire on March 9 for New York, sent out wireless calls for help today, saying that she was in distress. A message picked up here said that the ship had lost her rudder.

The message gave the position of the Melrose as latitude 23°35', longitude 50°50'. This would indicate that the steamer had drifted far to the southward of her course, as the position given is about 900 miles almost due east of Bermuda.

The Melrose registers 3,391 tons.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The steamer Melrose, reported in Halifax dispatches to be in distress about 900 miles east of Bermuda, sailed from St. Nazaire, France, March 9, for Newport News.

The appointment of Bela Kun as minister of foreign affairs was particularly disturbing to officials, as he was for some time an aide de camp of Leon Trotsky in Russia. The new minister of war was described as having been an orderly in the second army who was once punished for indiscretion in military affairs.

The state department advices were summarized in this statement: received a dispatch from Belgrade that the Hungarian government was overthrown by the communist revolutionary element under bolshevik leadership in Budapest on Friday. While telegraph and other communications were cut off and there was some shooting and other disorders, all the foreigners in Budapest are believed to be safe.

"Through Serbian sources information has come to the department that the Hungarian government has resigned and that the new Magyar government announced hostilities would begin at 6 o'clock last Friday. Budapest time. The resignation of the old Hungarian government came after the French authorities now in Hungary had directed the Hungarian government to withdraw its army forces to Szeged-Szegedecze boundary, the Romanians to hold the Aradzat-Marneant line and the

Armenians to the Araks.

Among those elected members of the organizations national council were: Secretary of War Baker, Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Secretary of the Treasury Glass, General Pershing, Major General John F. O'Riley, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Evans Hughes and Luther Burbank.

The following officers were selected:

President, Colin P. Livingston, Washington; vice president, Mortimer L. Schiff, New York and Arthur Letts, Los Angeles; National Scout Commissioner, Daniel Carter Beard, Plaistow, N. Y.; treasurer, George D. Pratt, New York.

No Arguments Against Special Ballot Bills

No arguments have been filed with Deputy Secretary of State Sam Kozer against any of the measures that are to go on the ballot for the special election of June 3. All affirmative arguments have been filed by late yesterday which was the last day under the legislative enactment for filing arguments. The argument in behalf of the Roosevelt Military highway was filed by a voluntary association and signed by a publicity committee composed of A. W. Norblad of Astoria, John D. Goss of Marshfield, T. B. Handley of Tillamook, E. J. Adams of Eugene and B. F. Jones of Newport.

3 IN FAMILY ARE POISONED

Daughter-in-Law and Grandson of Senator La Follett Seriously Ill

CORNELIUS, Or., March 24.—The wife and young son of P. C. LaFollett, a fruit grower living near here, who were taken violently ill, with symptoms of poisoning, Sunday night after their evening meal, were still in a precarious condition tonight. LaFollett, who was stricken with them, was said by his physician to be out of danger, although still suffering.

An elder son, who ate supper with the family was not taken ill. He had not partaken of a soup which the others ate, and the theory of the physician was that ptomaine poisoning had been contracted from the soup by the members of the family who ate it.

State Senator Alex LaFollett of Salem, father of P. C. LaFollett, arrived here tonight to be with his stricken relatives.

Senator LaFollett received word of the predication of his son's family early yesterday and left for Cornelius on a train at 9:45 o'clock. His son, Clyde LaFollett, left by automobile early in the forenoon. The information came from Charles LaFollett, another son, who lives at Cornelius and at whose home the dinner was eaten. Senator LaFollett was severely affected by the bad news.

TROOP CARRIER LOSES RUDDER WHILE AT SEA

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BOLSHEVIK ELEMENT APPARENTLY IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF CAPITAL OF HUNGARY; WASHINGTON IS ALARMED

Absence of Details Concerning Uprising Cause of Retention of United States Congressmen

AMERICANS THOUGHT TO HAVE REACHED SAFETY

State Department Officials Surprised at Speedy Action in Budapest

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Advices to the state department today from three widely separated European sources tended to increase the anxiety of officials over the situation in Hungary. Bolshevik elements apparently had assumed complete control of the government with a threat of renewal of hostilities.

There was no indication as to the extent of the control of the new regime beyond the capital and in the absence of this and other details officials were reluctant to discuss the situation at length. It appeared from today's advices, however, that the crisis resulted from the line of demarcation established by the peace conference in circumscribing the territory of Hungary and the general economic situation in Budapest.

The recognition of the extreme claims of the Rumanians and Czechoslovaks and the establishment of neutral zones between the lines and the limits allowed to Hungary which zone was to be held by the French until the final peace treaty was able to accept and remain in power. It was suggested that the fact that these lines were not to be the final limitations of the new Hungarian state was not appreciated by the Hungarians who apparently proceeded upon the theory that they were to lose even the neutral zone occupied by the French.

Americans in Vienna.

The safety of foreigners, was a feature of the news that appeared cheering to state department officials. A number of Americans are in what was formerly known as Austria-Hungary on various missions for the peace conference and the inter-allied food commission, but most of them are in Vienna.

Senator Hitchcock, chairman of the foreign relations committee, in a statement referred to the situation in Hungary and said he believed it would do much to wipe out differences between the nations represented at the peace conference and would aid in bringing about final adoption of the league of nations plan.

State department officials who are familiar with conditions heretofore existing in Hungary were surprised by the rapidity with which bolshevism swept into control in Budapest and were inclined to doubt that it had succeeded in reaching out of the cities to include the peasant agricultural class. The peasants were said to have been well satisfied with their treatment under land owning classes and consequently would not be fertile field for the propagation of bolshevist theories.

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HARRISBURG Flour Mill Is Burned to Ground

HARRISBURG, Ore., March 22.—The Harrisburg flour mill was burned to the ground Saturday morning.

This large, massive structure was built in 1901 and was a consolidation of the Liverpool and smaller Harrisburg mill plants. A complete roller process, modern at that time, was installed, and it was owned by A. Wilhelms & Sons, of Monroe. It was kept in operation for about ten years after it was built, but has since been idle. The fine engine was moved to Monroe a few years ago. The big boiler and all of the other machinery was in the mill when it burned. It was valued at \$20,000 and there was no insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

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Bootlegger Returns to Jail When His Friends Fail to Come Through

PORTLAND, Or., March 24.—James C. Payton, a Montana homesteader who was arrested here last week and pleaded guilty to bringing seven quarts of liquor into Oregon from Oakland, Cal., returned voluntarily today to serve a county jail sentence, after having been released on his own recognizance to secure \$250 to pay his fine.

After his conviction, he convinced Federal Judge Wolverton that he had no money but might be able to raise some if allowed to go. He was given 30 days in which to secure the money or return to serve a sentence, but found it impossible to get the money. He will serve 30 days and will then be released on a pauper's oath, the judge announced.

BIGGER BUDGET WILL BE ASKED

Board of Directors to Put Commercial Club on More Substantial Basis

An increase in the annual budget of the Commercial club to an amount which will put the club on a more effective footing will probably be asked when the report is made on the tentative budget, according to Manager J. D. Croskey. A meeting of the board of directors of the club held last night at which the proposed expenditures for the coming year were discussed and estimated. The report will probably be submitted by the judge.

Present last night at the meeting were: President Robert C. Paulus, Theodore Roth, W. M. Hamilton, Luther J. Chapin, I. Grenbaum, R. A. Snelling, P. E. Fullerton, and E. H. Choate. D. W. Eyre was unable to attend.

BOY IS KILLED BY MOTORCYCLE

Louis Richter, Seven Years Old, Is Victim of Regrettable Accident

Louis Richter, 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Richter, who lives at 225 Washington street, died at 2 o'clock yesterday morning at the Salem hospital from injuries received when he was run over by a motorcycle on South Commercial street Sunday morning.

Funeral services will be conducted from the Webb & Clough chapel this afternoon at 2 o'clock and interment will be in Odd Fellows cemetery. Rev. Leland W. Porter will conduct the services.

The boy was playing on the lawn at the northeast corner of Washington and Commercial street and started to cross the street and it was then that the motorcycle driven by Carol Carson, of rural route 3, and going at a rate of speed of from 15 to 20 miles an hour, struck him.

According to those who saw the accident, including Will Mohoney, Vern Drager, and Charles Curtis, it was impossible for Carson to avoid the accident though he tried to do so.

Besides his parents the boy leaves a 2-year-old sister. Mr. Richter operates a second hand store on Court street.

CAMPAIN FOR RELIEF IS ON

Mrs. Pitchford Is in Charge of Drive for Benefit of Sufferers

The campaign for clothing for the French and Belgians which is to be conducted by Willamette chapter, American Red Cross, will be launched this morning with Mrs. Gladys Pitchford, secretary of the chapter, in charge. Quarters for the receipt of contributions and for the administration of the campaign have been established in the store room formerly occupied by Pomeroy & Wallace on North Commercial street. The rooms will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The city has been divided into districts and motor trucks have been secured to haul the clothing and these will be sent for the donations upon call by telephone.

Validity of Political Debts Will Be Tested

To test whether pledges for subscriptions to political campaigns can be collected a suit was filed in justice court yesterday by the Business Men's Adjustment company against E. T. Croshaw. The amount alleged due is \$6 and complainant states that the amount was to have been paid in installments of 25 cents each month, for two years, and was pledged to the Oregon Prohibition state committee in its "out to win" campaign in May, 1913. The account was later assigned to the plaintiff.

SCOUT COUNCIL IS GIVEN START

Over Three Hundred Dollars Subscribed in Less Than Ten Minutes

In less than 10 minutes \$340 was subscribed to the maintenance of a Boy Scout council in Salem at a meeting of the council in the Commercial club auditorium last night. Beginning this morning a committee will start a campaign to raise \$3000 which is the budget of the council for the coming year.

James E. Brockway of Portland, scout executive, was the speaker of the meeting and explained in detail the idea is and methods of the Boy Scout movement and its development in Oregon.

"The boy scout movement is a movement to develop the American boy into an intelligent and solid citizen," said Mr. Brockway. "Boy Scouts are taught a great variety of things to make them self-reliant and physically. I am willing to wager that few of the men in this room can answer 25 per cent of the questions which are given the Boy Scouts in their examinations."

Various members of the council spoke and all of them favored more extensive education of the general public as to the aims and achievements of the Boy Scouts and steps will be taken by the council to bring greater publicity for the movement. It was recalled in one of the discussions that Salem had the first Boy Scout troop organized in Oregon, but that so far the organization in this city had received comparatively little assistance in their development.