

# The Oregon Statesman

THE WEATHER.

Fair in north; showers in south; moderate northeasterly winds.

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1920.

The Statesman receives the leased wire report of the Associated Press, the greatest and most reliable news association in the world.

PRICE: FIVE CENTS.

## CONNOR HELD BY OFFICERS AT SEATTLE

### Ex-Convict Who Defrauded Aged Couple in Yamhill Will Be Returned to Prison to Serve Term of 18 Years

## VARNEY STARTS NORTH TO RETURN PRISONER

### Man Paroled From Penitentiary in March, 1919, Has Long Criminal Record

James Charles Connors, who was paroled from the state penitentiary here on March 15, 1919, after serving two of a maximum term of 20 years for defrauding Mary Obermeier, of Portland, out of approximately \$2200, was arrested by the Seattle police yesterday for violating his parole, according to a telegram received at the state prison here yesterday. Percy Varney, state parole officer, left for Seattle last night to return the prisoner to this city. Connors was arrested in Portland for defrauding Mrs. Obermeier and upon being tried in the circuit court there was found guilty and sentenced to an indeterminate term of from two to twenty years. He was received at the institution on June 1, 1917. Because of his faithful service in behalf of his fellow convicts during the influenza epidemic at the prison early in the year 1919 he was paroled a few months later.

### Fraud Game Found Out

Connors had returned to Portland where he was employed in the ship yards for a short time. Later he made a trip to Willamina, Yamhill county, where he visited Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Branson, aged parents of William Branson, who is serving a life term in the penitentiary for murder and offered to obtain a parole for their son in the event they would pay him the sum of \$500.

### Parents Visit Prison

Mr. and Mrs. Branson were unable to raise this sum, and it was finally agreed that Connors should accept \$300 for his services. This amount Mr. Branson is said to have later paid the convict.

### Grand Jury Urges Sale of Old-Time Courthouse

THE DALLES, Or., Feb. 20.—The old Wasco county courthouse, a landmark in this city, was recommended for sale by the district grand jury in its report today. The grand jury recommended that the court house be put on the tax list of Wasco county and that the county sell it and thus be relieved of its upkeep. A board of appraisers will be appointed. Repairs will be made to it to place it in condition for sale.

## DOGS, LIKE PEOPLE, DECLARED ENTITLED TO BENEFIT OF DOUBT

Did you ever own a dog? An honest-to-goodness dog that has life and pep and loyalty in large quantities? Did your dog ever run by your side all day long and clear into the night flushing game and chasing it down and then lie by your side all night in wakeful watchfulness lest some harm come to you while you slept? Did your dog ever follow around after the little tot to watch him in his toothless happy play and are you one of the thousands of mothers and fathers whose little ones have been saved from accident or death by courageous dogs? Are you anxious that your children should be deprived of the comradeship of one of these most true and tried and faithful of all friends? What of the dogs that were decorated for heroic service in France and on the battle fronts everywhere in the war? What of the thousands of other dogs that were decorated only by the hand of death as they sped fearlessly on errands of mercy across the blood-soaked death-despattered waste of no man's land? Were the agents of mercy guided to the shattered body of some loved one of yours by the tireless energy of some mongrel martyr? How about it, Oregonians? Is not some vital part of life lost out when we banish the beautiful collie, the loyal Airedale, the majestic Dane, the lithe hound, the knowing pointer, as companions for our children, friends for our lonely moments, indispensable helpers in the field, the forest and the pasture. Practically every dog in Salem is living in violation of, or liable to violation of laws which provide the death penalty for their infringement.

## Salem Houses Meant Thief in Whole World

Salem has the meanest thief in the world, according to a notation on the police blotter here yesterday. Thursday night some unidentified person jacked up the automobile belonging to Henry W. Thielsen as it stood parked in front of his home in the Salem Heights district, and removed the two front tires and a wicker case containing tools valued at \$50. Only recently the automobile owned by U. G. Boyer, county clerk, was treated in similar fashion.

## BIG DANCE WILL END AUTO SHOW HERE TONIGHT

### Thousands View Greatest Exhibit of Cars Ever Assembled in Salem

## OTTO WILSON TO STUNT

### Dealers Plan All Kinds of Entertainment Features as Grand Climax

The second annual Salem auto show will continue through today in all its splendor and die tonight in a blaze of glory with appropriate accompaniments of jazz music and beautiful women. It will go down in history as a distinct achievement in the progress of prosperity in Salem and one in pride of which we may all join.

At 10 a. m. a vast and gorgeous parade will leave the armory to pass along Salem's main streets. When the parade returns the show will be renewed with music and laughter. The really big event will be the dance, to begin promptly at 8 o'clock tonight. A number of special dances of such a startling nature as to make accurate description impossible, will be executed. All the dealers will appear in full dress, that they may be more easily distinguished from the human beings. During the dance they will be responsible for several special numbers in the nature of an athletic exhibit and musical review.

## INDIAN SUBJECT OF CONVENTION

### Methodist Church Workers Gather in Annual Convention at Local Church

YAKIMA, Wash., Feb. 20.—Chief Meniñek of the Yakima Indians will call a council of the Indian tribes of this state to meet in Yakima soon for the purpose of protesting to Governor Hart against the injustices which it is claimed by the Indians the present fish and game laws inflict upon the Indians. Notice of the council will be sent by Indian runners, some of whom will travel by the white man's railroad trains, while others will go by automobile. The intention is to choose a delegation to present the protest to the governor in person.

## Electrical Expert Steals Juice From Power Lines

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—I. T. Davison, an electrical expert here, was arrested today by deputy sheriffs on a charge of stealing electricity. Complaints by neighbors to the effect that they could get only a small amount of electrical current led to an investigation and Davison's arrest. It was charged that he has been "jumping" the current around the meter.

## Finnish Editor From Astoria Is Interned

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—Waino Rippa, one of the founders and editors of the Finnish newspaper *Toveri*, published at Astoria, Or., arrived in custody at Ellis Island, New York, last night from Oregon, and will be deported, according to announcement made here today by R. P. Bonham, chief of the federal immigration service for this district.

## MANY LIFERS ARE PAROLED FROM PRISON

### About 265 Persons Received at Penitentiary for Maximum Term Since Institution Had Its Inception

## HANGING IS STAYED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER

### Lifers in Oregon Penal Institution Serve Average of About Five Years

Life imprisonment for murder in the Oregon state penitentiary does not mean life imprisonment. The records of 264 persons who have been sentenced to life imprisonment in Oregon since the state penitentiary was established at Salem in 1854 show that "lifers" have served an average of five and one-half years, or a little less. In by far the greater number of cases their sentences have been terminated with pardon by the governor. With very few exceptions life sentences were imposed by the courts for murder. In a few cases the offenses were rape or robbery. Of the 264 persons who have been sentenced to do time in the state prison for life in the history of the Oregon prison the records in the warden's office show that the cases have been disposed of as follows:

### Many Convicts Pardoned.

Pardoned, 134; escaped, 10; died, 26; transferred to state hospital for the insane, 14; no record, 1; still in prison, 55; released to sheriff of Multnomah county for new trial, 3 (Chinese). The records show that 12 "lifers" originally were sentenced to hang, but received commutation of their penalties to life imprisonment. Eight of these have been pardoned, two are still in prison, one was transferred to the hospital for the insane, and one escaped. The eight who were pardoned served an average of approximately five years and four months. The 26 life terms which have died at the prison, in approximate figures, served not quite four years before they died.

### Records Are Recalled.

Capital punishment was abolished in Oregon at the election in November, 1914. The records show that in the five years since that time, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919, there have been 37 persons sentenced to life imprisonment. In the five years prior to the abolition of capital punishment, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914, nine persons were sentenced for first degree murder and 38 for second degree murder. Comparison is made difficult for the reason that under the present law there is no first degree murder, the term "second degree" embracing not only what was formerly second degree but also what was formerly first degree.

## Moral Vaccination Held Necessity of Salem Woman

The Statesman yesterday received a letter from a well known Marion county woman, in which are deplored the attitude taken by some members of this vicinity with regard to the vaccination problem. She writes: "Kindly give me space in your paper for a suggestion or two in reference to the article in today's paper headed 'Moral Vaccination'." "There is a possibility that some well informed doctor who values the health of the community more than that of a single individual, could help this mother. Such a doctor may be able to find a spot on the human body for vaccination purpose that will not necessarily, even in the most fashionable ballroom, have to be exposed. However, I would suggest that any beautiful young girl who possesses a mother that will permit any man except her father, husband or brother to address her as 'Kid' ought to be vaccinated against moral small-pox."

## TWO OF FAMILY PASS SAME DAY

### Mr. and Mrs. Guy Geer Die in Portland as Result of Influenza

Word has been received in Salem of the deaths of Mrs. Nellie Morris Geer, wife of Guy Geer, and of Guy M. Geer, both of Portland, which occurred Monday following attacks of influenza. Mrs. Geer was 27 years old and her husband was 30. Mr. and Mrs. Geer were former residents of Marion county, having lived in the Waldo hills, later moving to the Looking Glass valley in southern Oregon. Mrs. Geer was a student in the Salem high school, having graduated there about nine years ago. They recently went to Portland where both fell victims to the influenza. Two small children survive. Morris, aged 5 years, and Louise, 18 months. Funeral arrangements are delayed pending arrival of relatives.

## PARTY OF SALEM MEN VISIT MINE

### Silver King Property Now Under Actual Development Says Engineers

Marion county's silver mine is becoming rapidly more popular. Yesterday a party of Salem men, including Mr. Edwards of the Cherry City Hotel, Mr. L. E. Davis and a reporter from a local daily, who were accompanied by C. M. Chappell, representative of a mine developing firm, visited the southeastern part of the county in search for gold, silver and other trinkets. It is becoming a matter of common knowledge that Oregon possesses great mineral resources and according to the report of the visiting party they are well on the way to a development which will soon place Oregon in the class of Arizona, California and Alaska, as a producer of silver, gold, lead, zinc, copper and other valuable minerals.

## WARNING GIVEN TOBACCO USERS

### Spitting on Sidewalks in Portland Forbidden by City Health Officer

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—Tobacco chewers who spit on sidewalks or streets here will be arrested where ever found doing it under order issued today by Dr. George Parrish, city health officer. At the request of the health officer all policemen were instructed to be on the lookout for violation of the order, which Dr. Parrish declared was resulting in the spread of disease.

## Jury Finds Miss Whitney Guilty of Syndicalism

OAKLAND, Cal., Feb. 20.—A verdict of guilty was returned by the jury in the syndicalism trial of Miss Anita Whitney shortly before 11 o'clock tonight. The jury had been out nearly six hours. Miss Whitney was the first woman in the state to be tried on the California syndicalism act, which makes it a felony to advocate violence as a means of accomplishing a political or industrial change. She was arrested December 31 after she had made an address before the Oakland civic center. It was charged that she was an organizer for the Communist Labor party.

## HIGH COST OF LIVING LAID TO FARMERS

### Salem Delegates to Merchants Convention Are Optimistic With Regard to Future of Oregon and Nation

## HATCHET IS BURIED; HARMONY TO PREVAIL

### Salem People Urged to Stand Behind Commercial Club for City Betterment

"All differences between the two rival organizations of the retail merchants in Oregon have been adjusted," said one of Salem's delegates to the Oregon State Retail Merchants' association which held a three-day session in Astoria this week. "In order to impress all of the delegates that peace had actually been established and the two bodies united, we draped a hatchet in black. Then the entire delegation went far out on the turbulent waters of the Pacific and, while two members of the rival organizations held the hatchet out over the railing of the boat, a prayer was offered. At the conclusion all, in one chorus, said 'amen.' The hatchet was released and, as it disappeared into the briny deep, we all felt that we were again one body united in one purpose to advance the fundamental business interests common to the entire state as well as to our several communities." What was the attitude of the retailers on the labor and wage question was asked.

## Labor Held Necessary

"We all felt a common interest in the laborer and the wages he was receiving. There was no disposition on the part of the delegates to underestimate the worth of labor; nor did they ask that wages be reduced below what business men can reasonably afford to pay. But the delegates felt that laborers should limit their purchases to actual necessities. There was also a pronounced expression against radicalism, or any effort on the part of any industrial class to try to force a change in our laws or established institutions through threat or force. The ballot was recognized as supreme in all matters affecting a change of government." "Then, too, the merchants took a decided stand against the election of so many lawyers, politicians and farmers to our law-making bodies. We feel that the management of a state or nation is essentially a business matter and, therefore, experienced business men should be in the majority. As matters now stand, about two-thirds of our lawmakers are lawyers and politicians and a good share of the one-third are farmers, leaving the great and important business interests of our state and nation with little representation."

## Farmers Are Blamed

Asked to what cause the high cost of living, the Salem merchant said that a number of the retailers believed that the farmers were primarily responsible for the high prices now prevailing. The farmer, they said, does not pay the high taxes now ruling cities; nor does he pay the high rents, clerk hire and other expenses incidental to the management of the retail business. Yet the farmer can come to town and enter into open competition with the retail merchant by selling his products from house to house. When, in the opinion of retail merchants, would there be a drop in the present high prices asked for articles on sale in the stores, was the next question proposed. "The merchants were all of the belief that the cost of living would never go back to a pre-war basis. Yet it was their belief that some commodities would decline, while others would go above the present prices asked for them before they began to go down the scale." "Astoria is very optimistic as to her future development," said he. "They are backing up their faith with their money, too. Astoria will spend \$240,000 each year in carrying out a plan of extensively and costly civic improvements among which is the erection of a large municipal auditorium. They expect to spend \$2,000,000 in improving and beautifying that seaport town. The Astorians expect to make their city the ocean gateway for all the Columbia basin."

## Indications of Oil Discovered at Lebanon

LEBANON, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Deep interest is taken here in the report that strong indications of oil have been struck in a prospect well now being drilled at Lacombe nine miles from here. The well is now 400 feet deep. Operations have been suspended until machinery can be secured to drive down casing so as to prevent water from falling into the well. The stock of this venture is all in the hands of local people and none is for sale.

## STUDENTS TOLD TO STRIVE FOR PROPER HABITS

### Superintendent Hall of Indian School Delivers Strong Address in Chapel

## HIGHER IDEALS ARE AIM

### Institution Head Warns Students That Life Is Well Filled With Pitfalls

Debating has become a branch of the dramatic art, according to some. Daniel Webster, were he alive and in attendance at Willamette today would be unable to represent the institution in oratory or debate. Today the faculty of Willamette university refused to pass on a petition of the student body requesting that eligibility for try out in debate be on merit strictly according to Forensic manager McGrew.

This request was passed after a spirited meeting of the student body in order to secure eligibility for able freshmen and upper classmen who are at present ruled out because they have not had the elementary course in the dramatic arts department. The almost obvious injustice of the present arrangement, as pointed out by those interested in the change is that the debaters and orators are chosen as representatives of a department and not of the school. The student body pleaded in vain that men of experience and ability in debating in high schools and other colleges are ineligible for tryout because they have not elected to take the required three hour course which is preparatory to dramatic interpretation work. The faculty would not act against the departmental ruling and the expressed desire of the student body was laid on the table.

It is probable that the matter will be taken up again when President Deane is sufficiently recovered from his present illness to attend faculty meeting. A change may be made at that time as feeling in the student body is rather strong on the subject.

## ROBERT E. PEARY DIES AT CAPITAL

### North Pole Explorer Passes After Illness Lasting More Than Two Years

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, retired, discoverer of the North Pole, died here today after a two-year illness of pernicious anemia, during which 35 blood transfusions had been of no avail. Sailors and attaches of the naval hospital, and many ex-service men gave of their life's blood in the vain effort to prolong the life of the country's foremost explorer. He probably will be buried in Arlington national cemetery, with full naval honors of his rank.

## CONVICTS SAVE OREGON MORE THAN \$8000 IN THREE MONTHS

Cutting and piling more than 1500 cords of wood in three months despite the fact that it was necessary to halt operations for two weeks of this time because of the heavy snows, is the record of 25 convicts who are stationed at what is known as the "prison wood camp," located about 19 miles south and east of this city.

Although the exact expense of operations has not yet been compiled by the penitentiary officials, they believe that the "wood" will be laid down at the prison for about \$3.50 a cord, saving the state about \$5 a cord in the cost of its fuel for the penal institution. It is said that the prison consumes about 3000 cords of wood annually, and any amount cut over this amount will be distributed among the other institutions.

As an incentive, the convicts are paid 50 cents a cord for their labor, nine cents a day being deducted from the pay of the workers as compensation for the fallers and sawyers. As a result of being paid for their efforts the men have thus far worked steadily and diligently, and in the best interests of the state.

## SICK JUROR HALTS TRIAL OF WOBBLES

### Alienists Improve Opportunity to Examine Sanity of Roberts; Alleged to Have Made Damaging Confession

## ALTERNATE JUROR MAY BE CHOSEN LATER

### Court May Remain Out Pending Recovery of Fevered Juror

MONTESSANO, Wash., Feb. 20.—Department two of the superior court of Grays county, in which 10 I. W. are being tried for first degree murder in connection with the killing of Warren O. Grimm, Centralia armistice day parade victim, took an involuntary adjournment today because of the illness of one of the 12 jurors sworn to try the case. Whether the court would convene at the usual hour tomorrow morning was indefinite tonight.

May Choose Alternate Pending advices from Dr. J. H. Fitz, county health officer, Judge John M. Wilson would make no announcement as to the possibility of relieving Parr from jury duty and placing one of the two alternate jurors in the box permanently. Dr. Fitz said it would not be safe to have Parr attend court today. It is probable, Judge Wilson said today, that court would be adjourned tomorrow if Parr is not improved, but that no steps toward replacing him in the box would be taken before Tuesday. Monday is a legal holiday and it was thought possible the juror would show improvement before court convened Tuesday morning. Selection of one of the alternates to fill a vacancy due to illness would be by ballot, according to the statutes of Washington, the law providing for the drawing of names of alternates. Alternate jurors in the case are James A. Ball, blacksmith, Montesano, and A. R. Johnson, cigar dealer, Hoquiam.

### Roberts Examined

Today's adjournment gave three alienists an opportunity to examine Loren Roberts, one of the ten defendants, with a view to determining his sanity. The alienists were busy with Roberts all this afternoon, preventing a delay in the trial which would have happened had the involuntary adjournment not occurred. These alienists are: Dr. A. C. Calhoun, Seattle; Dr. William House, Portland, and Dr. E. R. Ahlman, Hoquiam. Roberts is alleged to have made a confession shortly after his arrest in Centralia, in which it is alleged he admitted his part in the shootings and implicated several of the other defendants now on trial. The defense has insisted that Roberts was not sane at the time he made the purported confession and he is now suffering from a form of dementia praecox. Until they are placed upon the witness stand none of the alienists will offer an opinion as to the defendant's condition. Today's session was to have been devoted by the defense to the specific defense of Roberts on grounds of alleged insanity. The jury was not permitted its usual exercise today, the state laws (Continued on page 2)