

THE WEATHER
Sunday fair east, rain west portion; moderate winds mostly westerly.

The Oregon Statesman

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SEVENTEENTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 1920

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

REPORT OF ROAD BOARD IS ISSUED

Royalty Suit Pending in Federal Court Seeks to Recover on More Than Million Square Yards

HOME BIDDERS ARE GIVEN PREFERENCE

Total Mileage of Improvement and Aggregate Expenditures Shown

Of the total of 419.35 miles of pavement laid and under contract by the state highway commission for the biennium of 1919 and 1920 \$36,750,000 worth of the bituminous material on which the Warren Brothers company claimed a patent. The patent expired May 5 last, and up to that date the highway department had laid a total of 1,221,702.7 square yards of bitulithic, or 88.65 per cent of the whole amount of bitulithic under contract during the biennium. On this total yardage the highway commission, under the act of the legislature of 1919, has paid no royalty, and there is now pending in the federal court in Portland a suit in which the Warren company seeks to collect the royalty. Some months ago former Attorney General Brown filed a motion that the case be transferred from the equity to the law side of the court. The motion has not yet been passed on. That is the status of the case at the present time.

Offer to Settle Made.
The Warrens, upon refusal of the highway commission to pay a royalty, offered to settle at 10 cents a yard, but declared that if they brought suit they would seek to collect 25 cents a yard, which was the amount of royalty charged the days when the state paid a royalty.

These figures pertaining to mileage and yardage are set out in the biennial report of the commission, but no mention is made of the suit. Aside from the mileage of bitulithic the report shows that of the total mileage of pavement laid or under contract 58.5 miles are of concrete and 24.1 miles non-patented bituminous pavement.

The report observes that the greater number of the contracts of the biennium were let in the spring and early summer of 1919 before the increased prices which afterward became effective were reflected in the bids, "and it is thought that a material saving to the state has resulted from this policy."

Local Contractors Favored.
"The commission has consistently encouraged local bidders by dividing the work into small units," says the report, "thus enabling them to compete with the larger construction companies, which has resulted in securing close competition. All projects have been extensively advertised with the result that a large number of bids have been secured on most of the projects. In the event that an insufficient number of proposals were received, or when the bid prices seemed to be excessive, the projects were re-advertised, which generally resulted in reduced bids."

The report calls attention to a policy that has been adopted by the department whereby all new grades are allowed to settle and be open for travel at least a year, and preferably longer, before paving is laid. This, it is claimed, prevents early deterioration of the pavement and explains why some dips in the main highways have been left unpaved.

Artistic Bridges Built.
Relative to bridges the report says: "The bridges which have been built are substantial structures of pleasing design. Concrete, steel and timber structures have been constructed as seemed best adapted to the location. All bridges on the main highways have been designed for 20-ton truck loading. A total expenditure of \$1,311,390 has been made for bridges. The total number of bridges of 18-foot span or over, completed or under contract, is 162, and the total estimated cost is \$2,047,460. The largest bridge under construction is the Young's bay bridge near Astoria, which is a double-leaf trussion bascule structure, the estimated cost of which is \$348,500. Plans have been prepared for an arch bridge across the Willamette river at Oregon City, but arrangements for financing this project have not yet been completed."

Government Generous.
The government has been generous with Oregon in the contribution of road building material, equipment aggregating a value of \$1,400,000 having been given the state from surplus war material under charge. The equipment given the state includes 304 trucks, some of which were new.

HARDING HOME BRIGHT WITH HOLIDAY CHEER

HUNDREDS OF PACKAGES ARE CAREFULLY UNTIED

Betty and Dorothy Sparkes Occupy Places of Honor at Senator's Side at Dinner
MARION, O., Dec. 25.—It was a real Christmas today at the home of President-elect Harding. Immediately after dinner the senator and Mrs. Harding began to peep at what Santa Claus had been sending for the last two weeks. There were literally hundreds of them, ranging from cigarettes to Georgia "postums." Not a single present was opened until this morning.
Little Betty Sparkes, aged 6, and her sister Dorothy, aged 3, daughters of one of the newspaper correspondents, were special guests of the president-elect and about them Senator Harding's Christmas celebration centered.
The two little girls occupied a place of honor at the senator's side at dinner and later posed for moving pictures with the president-elect. With the newspaper correspondents, the youngsters spent most of the day at the Harding home.
Late in the afternoon Senator Harding made several calls on family friends.

BLOCKADE OF FIUME RESENTED

Italian Siege Already Draws Meshes of Food Scarcity About People of Arbe Veglia and San Marcos

POET DIRECTS STATE AND MILITARY ACTS

Citizens Are Reluctant To Endure Privations for Independence

TRIEST, Dec. 25.—Fiume, Arbe, Veglia and San Marcos, under blockade by the Italian fleet, are already beginning to feel the scarcity of food.

Poet Directs Fated City. The greater part of Gabriele D'Annunzio's troops are remaining in their barracks at Fiume and their officers are in direct communication with the poet who looks after military as well as the political affairs of the beleaguered city.

Immediately after official notice of the blockade was given to the "regency of Quarnero," the Italian General Ferrario, who already had a group of soldiers posted around the Fiume frontier, closed in upon the city, barring all exit on three sides. For about 100 yards out of the city the railway tracks were removed, stopping traffic into the city. The roads immediately outside were torn up and those crossing the frontiers were barred with tree trunks and wire entanglements. Here and there trenches have been dug from which patrols are keeping a lookout.

Regular troops surround the blockade line at short intervals. Royal guards and carabinieri hold the sea line while Alpine troops dominate the city from the north-eastern heights. What is considered the most dangerous spot, however, is the mouth of the river Regino. D'Annunzio, according to information leaking out of Fiume, is virtually taking no rest and is displaying great nervous activity in the work of defence. He is issuing orders, giving advice, writing proclamations and reciting aloud.

The poet-commander is highly indignant about some of the conditions in General Cavaglio's ultimatum, especially that pertaining to the disarmament of his troops. He considers it outrageous to the independence of the regency which he declares had a right to form an army for its own defence, even with foreign subjects, as France and Holland have done in the case of their foreign legions.

Meanwhile, the blockade has caused a great increase in the price of all necessities, some of which have reached fantastic sums, as owing to the danger of starvation, many of the people have purchased large stocks of food.

Citizens Reluctant in Starving.
Tins of condensed milk, for instance, have entirely disappeared from the market, while fresh milk is not coming in from the neighboring country which is occupied by Italian forces.

Meat is a food of extraordinary luxury. Measures, however, have been adopted to punish shopkeepers and food hoarders.

Since the blockade was instituted nobody has been able to enter Fiume. Many have been obliged to turn back, some of them being parents desirous of entering the city so that they might persuade their sons to return to the regular army and to cease assisting in plans contrary to law.

The number of persons requiring to be fed in Fiume is 52,000, approximately, while the regency is believed to have accumulated rations only sufficient for 36,000 for two weeks. This has contributed greatly to the depression of the citizens who are reluctant to endure privations and suffering even to insure independence.

Thoroughbred Shetland Is Christmas Surprise

One of the surprises of Christmas morning was at the A. J. Edwards home, 1134 Waller street. Mr. Edwards announces the birth of "Midnight Boy," Shetland thoroughbred, to "Lady Maude Wolfe," registered Shetland pony who has won two blue ribbons at the state fair. The baby Shetland is sired by a stallion on the Wolfe farm near Woodburn.

Mr. Edwards and family are Shetland fanciers and have specialized in the little horses, but at the present time own only Lady Maude and her colt. The Edwards children were thoroughly surprised at the arrival of the colt and receive it as one of the delights of the Christmas season.

Mr. Edwards probably will register the little animal.

CRIMINALS-AT-LARGE SPEND DAY AT HOME

BURGLAR WORKS AS SANTA, COMES DOWN CHIMNEY

Unidentified Man Is Found Nearly Dead From Bullet Wound in Deserted Highway
NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—New York's coterie of criminals-at-large with one exception, spent Christmas at home, police reports indicated tonight.

Police officials claimed the apparent cessation of outlaws broke out the prediction of Commissioner Enright that recent bustling activity of the lawless was nothing more than a Christmas drive for "their wives and kiddies."

One burglary, believed to have been committed this morning at about the same time Santa Claus was negotiating the last chimney, was reported. Diamonds, liberty bonds and money were taken from the safe of a wholesale clothing merchant in East Fourteenth street.

An unidentified man found tonight in a deserted highway in Brooklyn when his groans attracted a small boy, died before medical aid arrived.

An examination of the body revealed a bullet wound in the abdomen. Police said no firearms were found in the highway. The man was well dressed and about 22 years old.

MYSTERY VEILS OFFICERS DEATH

Investigation of Death of James McGuinness is Demanded

BAYONNE, N. J., Dec. 25.—J. P. McGuinness, whose body was found in Newark Bay yesterday with a hole through his head, committed suicide, police here stated tonight. The family of the dead man, who was a prohibition enforcement officer, believe that he was murdered.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The bureau of investigation of the department of justice, under instructions of Attorney-General Palmer, tonight began investigation of the death of James P. McGuinness, a prohibition enforcement agent at Bayonne, N. J., yesterday. Special agents will be sent to New Jersey to co-operate with the local authorities. The action was taken upon request of Joseph P. Tunulty, secretary to President Wilson, who is a cousin of Mrs. McGuinness.

Mr. Tunulty, according to an announcement tonight, also urged an investigation in messages today to chiefs of police, county prosecutors and department of justice agents.

"I am certain from the information now at hand," the telegram said, "that McGuinness met with foul play. Every fact of his home life negatives any other idea."

Railroads Resume Pre-war Service

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Railroads in this territory are returning to pre-war service so far as the comfort of passengers is concerned. The Pennsylvania has issued careful instructions for the heating of cars. Coaches in through service, says an order, must be heated to a temperature between 65 and 70 degrees; in suburban service, 60 to 65. Sleeping cars between 10 p. m. and 6 a. m. must have temperature of about 60; in the daytime the temperature in sleepers and parlor cars should range between 65 and 70.

Other orders issued to trainmen include: Principal stations at which trains will stop must be announced in all coaches and diners before they leave terminals. Approaching stations, the name of the station must be announced at least twice.

Conductors must make frequent trips through sleeping cars at night to see that Pullman employees are on guard in each car in service.

INCENDIARIES FIRE SEVEN BUILDINGS

ARMED PATROLS ARE ALERT FOR SUSPECTS

Three Residences, Two School Houses, Church and Barn Are Found On Fire

BROWNSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 25.—Seven fires, believed to have been the work of incendiaries, who have terrorized this section for three months, were reported to the authorities here tonight. The fires which started late last night or early today in three residences, two school houses, a church and a barn located here, at Albany Hill and at Brazzelle, Jefferson township.

In the seven fires reported today, one residence that of Harvey Elliott, at Albany Hill, was destroyed. The other fires damaged the South Brownsville schoolhouse and the Brownsville Episcopal church in Brownsville, the Helman farmhouse, the James Shearer farmhouse and a barn owned by James Clark at Albany Hill and the Brazzelle public school at Brazzelle, Jefferson township.

Soon after reports of the fires were received the Fayette detail of police assisted by county officers, started an investigation. Armed patrols were throughout this region tonight and the entire district was on the alert looking for suspects in connection with the fires.

NOT GUILTY IS HAMON PLEA

Woman Charged With Murder Enjoys Freedom Under \$12,000 Bond

ARDMORE, Okla., Dec. 25.—Clara Smith Hamon, who has figured prominently in the newspapers of the nation for a month, following the shooting of Jake L. Hamon, Republican national committeeman of Oklahoma, is tonight enjoying the freedom provided in a \$12,000 bond.

In the office of the sheriff of Carter county, Mrs. Hamon, who returned here at noon today to answer a charge of murder, was released on bond shortly after 1 o'clock.

Mrs. Hamon pleaded "not guilty."

She intends to spend a number of days with her relatives at Wilson, but soon thereafter may return to El Paso, where her parents live, and remain there until her trial comes up in district court.

U. of C. and Ohio Squads Hold Secret Practices

PASADENA, Cal., Dec. 25.—The University of California football squad, which arrived here today for its game New Year's day with Ohio State, put in two hours this afternoon in secret practice on Tournament field, where the east versus west contest will be staged.

The Bear party, consisting of twenty-nine players, five coaches and trainers, headed by Andy Smith, and an Oakland sports writer, left the train at Los Angeles and motored from there to Pasadena. A small group of California alumni and representatives of the Tournament of Roses association greeted the California players.

"Crip" Toomey, halfback, left the train at Fresno to pass Christmas with his father, the mayor of that city. He will arrive here tomorrow.

The Bears are making their headquarters at the hotel Maryland, while the Buckeyes are quartered at the hotel Raymond.

MONTESANO SHAKEN BY EXPLOSION

Entire Town is Aroused by Report of Bomb Which Police Believe Was Plot to Wreck County Jail

BOMB EXPLODES IN PREMATURE MANNER

Jail Harbors Convicts of Armistice Day Shooting at Centralia

MONTESANO, Wash., Dec. 25.—An explosion which shook the entire town of Montesano and brought out the populace early tonight is believed by the police to be a miscarriage of a plot to wreck the Gray Harbor county jail here, in which are incarcerated seven men convicted last March of complicity in the Centralia, Wash., Armistice Day murders of November 11, 1919.

The explosion occurred under a tree in a vacant lot near the Northern Pacific station and within 100 feet of the main street of the town. The tree was shattered by the blast.

The police theory of a possible plot on the county jail is based upon reports of the presence of a stranger loitering about the jail during the day. The man carried a leather traveling bag and pieces of such a bag with a short length of fuse were picked up near the scene of the explosion by Marshal W. C. McAlouin.

It is the marshal's belief that the bomb was cached near the tree and prematurely exploded. No damage resulted.

Moonshine in the Air Gives Police Long Wait

"There's moonshine in the air." So thought Police Officer Brown Christmas eve, as he made his nightly rounds of the city. A Chevrolet car parked on Commercial street near Court, attracted his attention.

With the rightful authority of a policeman, he made an investigation. And there sure enough was a gallon of Christmas cheer in the form of sour wine. Now the sour wine was not good and besides, that was not what the officer wanted, unless accompanied by the owner. So Brown hunted up Policeman Victor and they decided they would keep an eye on that car until it was claimed.

About 11 o'clock one of the men took up his station in a shadowy stairway, where he kept up the watch. Turn about the officers alternately patrolled the city and kept their silent vigil as the hour dragged slowly by. Possibly there was once a time along about morning when the owner might have succeeded in getting his automobile away unmolested. Mr. Victor was not sleeping at his post, for he was sitting on the stairway.

At 4 o'clock the officers decided the owner of the car was going to make a night of it, and took the automobile, cargo and all to the police station where it remained until morning.

Car Skids When Passing Auto Without Lights

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., Dec. 25. John H. Howard, age 32, electrical worker and returned soldier, was probably fatally injured early today when an automobile in which he was riding overturned on the state highway near Delano, thirty miles north of Bakersfield. The car, in turning out to avoid a lightless car, skidded in the mud beside the highway. W. Berna and W. Ruggles, who were riding in the front seat with Howard, escaped without injuries. Howard came to Bakersfield from Millvale, Penn., a few months ago.

FROM SALOON TO CHURCH

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—Froglier saloons in the west are being donated and bought by Methodist ministers to be rebuilt into churches and parsonages.

ACT OF MERCY ENDS IN MRS. JENNING'S DEATH

TWO CARS IN DITCH WHEN TAXI HITS WOMAN

Tragedy Occurs When Men Stop to Give Aid to Cars in Ditch, Blame To Be Fixed Monday

MEDFORD, Or., Dec. 25.—Mrs. Luke Jennings, Medford, 35, a sister of Milton A. Miller, internal revenue collector, Portland, was instantly killed in an automobile accident on the Pacific highway near here Christmas eve. She was standing beside a car with Mrs. W. H. Evans of Ashland, Or., when a taxicab driven by W. L. Dewitt of Ashland crashed into them. Two cars had gone into the ditch previously and the two women were waiting for their husbands, who were aiding in getting the ditched cars back on the road. Coroner John A. Perl, who was an eye witness of the tragedy will call an inquest Monday to fix the blame.

LIEUT. BRATTEN TAKES TROPHY

U. S. Army Aviator Wins 100 Mile Free-for-all Race at Daugherty Field

LONG BEACH, Cal., Dec. 25.—Flying at a speed of 146.8 miles an hour, Lieutenant E. E. Bratten, U. S. Army aviator, won the 100-mile free-for-all race for the 196 miles (Now over a triangular course, was 40 minutes, 52 seconds. The order in which the others finished and their time were:

Captain L. H. Smith, 41 minutes, 27 seconds; Lieutenant Harold Brand, 43 minutes flat; Lieutenant Y. A. Pitts, 42 minutes, 24 seconds; Lieutenant Milo N. Clark, 42 minutes, 49 seconds; Sergeant T. J. Robbins, 43 minutes, 1 second; Lieutenant W. D. Coney, 43 minutes, 29 seconds; Cadet L. H. Scott, 43 minutes, 47 seconds; Lieutenant R. N. Scott, 44 minutes, 27 seconds; Frank Clark, civilian Los Angeles, 47 minutes, 39 seconds; Lieutenant Frank Siefert, 47 minutes, 51 seconds.

Lieutenants A. Lee Foster and R. S. Worthington, the other starters, were forced to descend because of engine trouble, each making a safe landing.

The fliers were aided on the long side of the course by a strong tail wind. On the other legs they were protected from the wind by hills. The first six machines to finish were American built, equipped with 400-horsepower Liberty motors.

Officials Receive Crust of Dry Bread as Present

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—A large crust of dry bread spread one inch thick with butter to which was attached a card bearing the words "Here's something for needy government employees," was found in a package from a mysterious "Uncle Sam's" opening at the Federal building today. Postoffice officials said this was the thirtieth similar package received within the last three months.

Stars and Stripes Give Germany Ray of Light

FRANKFURT, Germany, Dec. 25.—Dr. Walter Simon, the German foreign minister, in an article in the Frankfort Zeitung, says that in the night which covers Germany, he sees only one ray of light and "that comes from the land of the Stars and Stripes."

He expresses the belief that Senator Harding will "not delay the establishment of a peace between Germany and America," and thinks that this, more than anything else, would tend to revive the spirit and economic life of the nation.

WISCONSIN GIRL ANXIOUS TO FIND MOTHER AND BROTHER WHO MAY BE LIVING IN SALEM

Miss Ruby E. Moore, of Okauchee, Wis., is anxious to find her mother, Mrs. Cora Moore, who, she says, was some time ago a patient at the Salem hospital, and also her brother, Robert L. Moore, who was a soldier at Fort McDowell, Calif. Miss Moore writes The Statesman the following letter:

"Is there any way through your daily papers you can aid me in finding my mother, Cora Moore, who was a patient at the Salem hospital and who was discharged as well some time ago, and from whom I have not heard for the last year? Also a brother, Robert L. Moore, who was a soldier at Fort McDowell, Calif., with the 17th company? I have written to Washington and have been informed he was discharged.

"I thought since my mother had been in Salem they may have settled somewhere there, so I am asking you to help me, and may God grant you a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. I remain a lonely and broken-hearted girl."

SPIRIT OF REVOLUTION TAKES FORM

Strong Increase is Noted in Revolutionary Temper of French People at Socialist Party Congress

SOCIALISM GAINS IN FARM DISTRICTS

Delegates Representing 80,000 Members Favor Moscow Internationale

TOURS, France, Dec. 25.—What was termed the strong increase in the revolutionary temper of the French people and preliminary indications that the French socialists favor affiliation with the Third (Moscow) Internationale three to one, were the outstanding features of reports read at the first session of the French socialist party congress today. A significant phase of the reports was the statement that the socialist and revolutionary spirit has gained great strength in the agricultural districts of France.

Revolutionary Spirit Grows. The congress opened this morning with 350 delegates representing 80,000 members. It was decided to take up immediately the question of joining the Moscow internationale, although this question was last on the program. The delegates will vote by mandate, having received their instructions from their constituents.

Opposition to the parliamentary group which is composed of sixty socialist members of the chamber of deputies, continues to grow, and it appears certain the party will be split when final action on the motion to accept unconditionally admission until the internationale comes up.

Premier American Ace Is Taken for Faker

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Eddie Rickenbacker, premier American ace, came "within an ace" of spending Christmas in a Chicago jail, instead of with his mother in this city, he told friends here today.

En route east from California, Rickenbacker registered at a Chicago hotel. The clerk believing him to be the fake "Eddie Rickenbacker," who was married in Jacksonville, Fla., early this week and who was alleged to have disappeared later after having embezzled several thousand dollars, called the house detective to arrest him.

After much explaining, Rickenbacker convinced the police that he was the real Eddie Rickenbacker and he was finally released.