

SEVENTY-THIRD YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 13, 1924

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MARION ROADS EYE-OPENER TO COUNTY JUDGES

Downing Says Dozen Miles
Annually Will Be Possible
As Soon As Marion Program
Is Completed

DURABILITY, ECONOMY ASTONISH VISITORS

Cost of Only \$15,000 a Mile
Much Cheaper Than State
Is Able To Work

Following the completion of its five-year highway program Marion county will be in a position to pave from 12 to 15 miles of road each year without a bond issue, according to Judge W. H. Downing, who spoke of Marion county's highways before the State Association of County Judges and Commissioners yesterday.

The 99 miles of paving put down in the county during the first four of the five years was laid at a cost of \$15,000 a mile which was considered a record by the members of the various county court members in attendance.

Roy Klein Speaks
Roy A. Klein, state highway department engineer, was called upon later to explain how the specifications for state roads compare with Marion county specifications, and why Marion county's pavement cost less in proportion. Mr. Klein gave the credit for the minimum cost to the organization maintained in the county, the fact that W. J. Calver, county road manager, is not only capable but is an engineer as well, and further to the fact that materials are convenient to the work, and that paving plants have been arranged so that little moving is necessary over long periods of time.

Program Exceeded
Judge Downing explained the beginning of the five-year paving program which provided for 100 miles of pavement and 50 miles of macadam. All of the 50 miles of macadam are laid and 39 of the proposed 100 miles of pavement with plans for about 30 miles of pavement this year.

He explained that he had long been close to the good roads movement in the county without having been a member of the court until recently.

Road History Told
He told of the first mile of road rocked in the Waldgo hills district, when the voters refused to vote \$2,000 toward the rock road because it would hurt the horse's feet and they would have to keep them shod. He told of those who did want it had enough to raise \$2200 worth of work, and how they picked out the worst mile of road in the district to rock.

"It was amusing to see how those who had opposed rocking the road to begin with were careful to get on it during the bad weather. The next year we carried a bond issue by a few votes and the next year the vote was unanimous.

Autos Come First
"The automobile is with us to stay, and we must have roads. Folks will buy a car if they have no place to sleep, and the good roads is a necessity.

"The two most important things in Marion county today are, good roads and high taxes. One hundred per cent of the people want good roads, and all who own property are interested in the tax problem."

Marion county has now 140 miles of pavement, of which 42 is state highway pavement, according to Judge Downing.

DIVIDED SESSION OF LEGISLATURE IS URGED BY JUDGES

Pierce Severance Tax Plan Receives Unanimous Endorsement—Rudeen of Multnomah Elected President and Smith of Marion Secretary—Banquet Closes Convention.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNTY JUDGES

The County Judges and Commissioners recommended: A divided session of the legislature, with a 10 day session for introduction of bills, adjournment of 30 days to consider bills with a final session for consideration and passage of bills.

That a severance tax bill be put before the people by means of the initiative at the next general election.

Retention and clarification of the market road bill.

The appointment of a permanent legislation committee from the organization for consideration of legislation vital to the county governments.

Unified system of accounting for all county officers throughout the state.

That congress be asked to continue federal appropriations for national forest roads.

Passage by congress of the national parks highway funds which would give \$280,000 to Crater Lake park for the construction of highways.

JUDGES STRONG FOR DR. STEINER

They Want Him Kept On The Job—Pierce and Kozer Are Popular

Two remarks made by the irrepressible Jim Stewart at the dinner for county judges and commissioners at the state hospital for the insane yesterday received practically unanimous applause from the visiting officials. One was Stewart's remark that he had been all over the state and had found sentiment virtually unanimous in favor of keeping Dr. R. E. Loe Steiner at the head of the hospital and Dr. L. F. Griffith on the job as his assistant.

Both Dr. Steiner and Dr. Griffith addressed the visitors, an interesting part of Dr. Steiner's address being his touch on the history of the treatment of the insane in the northwest. He gave various statistics relative to the institution.

Governor Pierce, in a brief address, uncovered some of the policy he expects to follow in the future relative to the hospital and other institutions as a member of the board of control, and in the recommendation of appropriations to the legislature. He said that he will ask the next legislature to appropriate money for an industrial building at the hospital. It is estimated that this will cost about \$40,000, and that it will cut the per capita expense about \$2 per patient per month. He said that Superintendent Steiner had asked for such an appropriation at several sessions of the legislature and was particularly urgent about it at the 1923 session. The governor also said he would recommend an appropriation for the purchase of 200 or 300 acres of garden land on the Willamette river to serve all the state institutions.

Judge H. E. Cross of Clackamas county, president of the association of county judges and commissioners, paid a glowing tribute to Dr. Steiner for the efficiency he shows in the management of the hospital. Governor Pierce also mentioned that the hospital is about \$25,000 ahead of its appropriation at the close of the first year of the biennium, notwithstanding that the appropriation was slashed heavily at the legislative session.

Secretary of State Kozer spoke briefly, his talk dealing largely with the expense of state government as compared with the expenses of former years.

Seattle Seeks National Kiwanis Meeting in 1925

SEATTLE, Jan. 12.—Means to be adopted to bring the 1925 national convention of Kiwanis clubs to this city were discussed today at a meeting here of the district trustees. Judge C. C. Lanty of Spokane presided and George E. Snell of Billings, Mont., international vice president and James Neal of Walla Walla, district lieutenant governor were on the program.

Among the important developments brought out were that all of the counties are not taking advantage of the workmen's compensation act. Others assume a

program.

MAN WHO DRINKS IS BOOTLEGGER SAYS ADMIRAL

Naval Officer Says Officers Who Fail to Enforce Law Worst Criminal

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Government officials who violate the laws they are charged to enforce were described as the "most dangerous criminals of all" by Rear Admiral William S. Sims, retired, speaking here tonight before the convention of the anti-saloon league of America. The convention which will continue until next Wednesday was preceded by a meeting of the executive council at which all officers were reelected, including Dr. P. A. Baker of Westerville, Ohio, General superintendent of the league.

Admiral Sims declared that every man who takes a drink is in effect, a bootlegger.

There is "fun in alcohol" he added, "but there is, alas, great danger. Look at the gradual physical effect of the man of 50. They are a disgrace to the human race, and it is up to you to stop, look and listen."

In a report to the trustees of the league, Ernest H. Cherrington, general secretary of the world league against alcoholism, said practically every country had passed some temperance legislation since the United States went dry. One of the world league plans for 1924, he announced, was establishment of a world temperance publication.

LEGION DEFIED BY IWW CROWD

Wobblies Boast That They Killed Train Crew—Engineer Warns

"The war hasn't ended; it is just beginning!"

This is the "defi" that has been given the American Legion by the Oregon IWW, according to G. J. Johnson of Silverton, executive committee for the second district on the state legion's executive board, which met today.

Johnson declares that the Silverton post was recently warned by John Slovey, a railroad engineer, that IWW members are organizing to begin a direct action campaign in this state, as was done at Centralia, Wash., Armistice day, 1919.

"I have spent several months wandering about in the camps and in city lodging houses with the wobblies," Slovey is reported to have said, "and they are boasting about the Southern Pacific train holdup last fall as their latest fight against capitalism."

The men who blew up the train are said to have made a mistake in the one they demolished. They were waiting for one carrying several hundred legionnaires on their way to the San Francisco convention. It was the intention to blow up the entire train in order to make a direct attack on the American spirit as represented by the legion, the stories go.

"The plans were all made in the forest camp less than sixty miles from Eugene," Slovey told the Silverton legionnaires, "and all during that time supplies were taken to these members of the IWW. Fourteen automobiles were collected for the men to use in making their escape, after the train was blown up. These men are now hiding in the Oregon woods, according to wobblies, and all trails to their camp are carefully guarded. The men are well supplied with food and arms."

Slovey said that if the men who held up the train in the tunnel near Ashland had been more expert in the use of explosives they would have destroyed the locomotive and all the passenger cars as well as mail and baggage coaches.

The train crew was killed simply to put out of the way all not in the gang who saw the holdup.

"None of the wobblies you find in this state now are carrying the red card," Slovey said in his talk before the Silverton men, "but on May 1, they say, they are all coming out with the red card and will issue a 'defi' to officers to arrest them. The first arrest will be the signal for the attack."

When Johnson made his report at this morning's state legion executive meeting, the officers took notice. All posts in the state will be warned to keep a lookout and report any "red" activity in their sections.

1923 RECORD YEAR

CHICAGO, Jan. 12.—Building operations of the country in 1923 broke all records, exceeding 1922, the previous record year, by 25 per cent.

Yesterday in Congress

The senate farmer bill mapped out a program of farm relief legislation.

The house democrats and insurgents agreed on programs for fighting rules changes proposed by organization republicans.

A split developed definitely among republican leaders of the house as to the advisability of modifying the Mellon tax bill.

A prohibition debate was started in the house by Representative Kvale, independent, Minnesota, who attacked the Volstead act as ineffective.

Dinal arguments were concluded before the Interstate Commerce commission on its tentative proposal for railroad consolidations.

CHARGE OF FRAUD FAILS TO STAND

Dr. and Mrs. Mark S. Skiff and Son Exonerated by Decree of Court

Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Skiff and their son, Mark S. Skiff, Jr., are exonerated from any semblance of fraud in a decree of the circuit court signed by Judge George G. Bingham yesterday afternoon in the case of Willamette Grocery company against the Skiffs and the First State & Savings bank of Roseburg. This was a suit in which the grocery company attempted to have set aside a deed from Mr. and Mrs. Skiff to their son, conveying to him the old Skiff home property on Liberty street. Not only are the defendants exonerated but costs of the suit are assessed against the plaintiffs.

"The defendants, Skiffs, are entitled to a decree," says the court's decree, "that the plaintiff and defendant bank are not entitled to the relief prayed for in the complaint and cross-complaint, and to a judgment for their costs and disbursements."

The plaintiff claimed the property was conveyed for the purpose of defrauding plaintiff relative to payment of a judgment previously obtained against Dr. Skiff. Judge Bingham, however, in his findings of fact shows that the conveyance was made prior to the time the previous suit was begun. In his memorandum Judge Bingham says:

"It is important to bear in mind that the deed to Mark S. Skiff, Jr., was executed on the 20th day of June, 1922. Plaintiff's judgment was obtained on the 4th day of January, 1923; the judgment of the defendant bank was obtained on the 31st day of March, 1923."

The findings of fact, exonerating the younger Skiff contain this paragraph:

"On the 20th day of June, 1922 the defendant Mark S. Skiff was the owner of a leasehold interest in the lands mentioned and described in the complaint of plaintiff and answer and cross-complaint of the defendant bank, and on that day without any consideration therefor, except a prior promise to carry out a request of his father to convey such lands to his son, Mark S. Skiff, Jr., at the time of the making of such conveyance, and for a long time thereafter, the grantee had no notice or knowledge of any indebtedness due or owing from the grantor to the plaintiff or the defendant bank, and in fact had no knowledge or information concerning his father's financial affairs, and the said Mark S. Skiff, Jr., did not accept such deed with the purpose or intention of hindering, delaying or defrauding the creditors of his father. The conveyance from the father to the son was voluntary."

The deed to Mark S. Skiff, Jr., was made as a gift and without consideration.

Dr. Skiff said last night that he will begin suit to set aside the judgment obtained by the First State & Savings bank of Roseburg, and out of which the later suit grows. Dr. Skiff explains that the former suit grew out of a sale of groceries to the King's Valley Lumber company of Benton county and not to him.

Utah Governor Refuses to Interfere With Sentence

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 12.—Governor Charles R. Mabey, announced tonight to the press that investigation of information contained in a letter from Mrs. Corilla J. Robbins, of Boise, Ida., in his opinion failed to throw any new light on the case of Omer R. Woods, convicted wife murderer, sentenced to face a firing squad January 18.

REPARATIONS COMMITTEE TO START WORK

American Members of Group Surprise Other Delegates by Knowledge of Foreign Tangle

BELGIANS MAY HITCH WAGON TO US STARS

French Eagerly Watch For Action of Brussels Delegates—Attitude Known

(By The Associated Press)

PARIS, Jan. 12.—With the American, British and French experts on the spot, the Italians due to arrive here tomorrow morning and the Belgians in the evening, the first committee appointed by the reparations commission entrusted with the task of finding a means to balance the German budget and stabilize currency in Germany is ready to get down to business in earnest Monday morning.

Brig. Gen. Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young have been putting in 16 hours daily since reaching here and analyzing a maze of documents submitted to them by the reparations commission.

American Well Posted
Although the material sent by the reparations commission did not reach the American representatives before they sailed, they nevertheless had access on the other side to a mass of information bearing on the subject they will begin discussing Monday.

They studied aboard ship and have put the finishing touches on their reparations education since they arrived in Paris, and so, in the intercourse they have had thus far with the members of the reparations commission they have surprised them by their knowledge of the situation.

The Belgian delegates, M. Franquet, Houtard and Janssens, had a conference of several hours with Premier Theunis at Brussels today previous to their departure for Paris. The attitude of the Belgian delegation is being watched with great interest in French circles where it is freely said the Belgians will "hitch their wagon to the United States stars" should the committee reach a deadlock.

M. Franquet was prominent during the German occupation and refused the premiership after the armistice. As head of the Société Générale Belgique he financed Herbert Hoover's commission for relief of Belgium.

(By The Associated Press)

PARIS, Jan. 12.—Although greatly fatigued by the long and rough ocean crossing, Henry M. Robinson of Los Angeles, American member of the second expert commission which is to inquire into Germany's financial affairs, is so keenly interested in the work which brought him to Paris that he was unable to resist the call to action today.

He visited the headquarters of Col. James A. Logan after luncheon in spite of the fact that he had made up his mind to remain in his hotel all day and the added fact that the committee of which he is a member does not meet until January 21. Confronted with the stacks of documents on file in the office of the American observer with the reparations commission, Mr. Robinson immediately took off his coat and delved into the mass of papers. Every inducement was put forth by the Paris newspapermen and correspondents to get Mr. Robinson to talk of his work. He made it clear that his policy was one of reticence, however, and withstood all importunities until in absolute self defense he finally issued a formal statement explaining in 100 words why he was unable to utter a single one concerning German capital in foreign countries.

Venezelos' Cabinet Is Received in Various Ways

(By The Associated Press)

ATHENS, Jan. 12.—The cabinet selected by Premier Venezelos has been received by his partisans with confidence and by his opponents with resignation and a waiting attitude.

To give the premier more time to study the situation and prepare a program, the constituent assembly will not meet again until January 21.

At that time he will present his statement of policy and ask a vote of confidence.

SINCLAIR IS GUILTY NO RECOMMENDATION INCLUDED IN VERDICT

Ilwaco Banker Held Responsible for Failure of Bank of Southwestern Washington in Pacific County—Son Serving Sentence in State Prison Was Chief Defense Witness.

CHEHALIS, Wash., Jan. 12.—Percy L. Sinclair, president of the defunct Southwestern Washington bank of Ilwaco, was found guilty by a jury in the superior court here tonight. The verdict was returned at 11:45 o'clock after the jury had been out since 4:15 p. m. today. The verdict contained no recommendation.

Mr. Sinclair heard the verdict without emotion. He was tried on a charge of knowingly signing a false report concerning the condition of his bank to the state banking department. Attorneys for Sinclair announced that the case would be appealed.

He was given five days in which to file an appeal.

LOOT IS FOUND, TWO IN PRISON

Eleven Automobile Loads of People Identify Stuff Taken Recently

N. E. Barkey is in the county jail here and Edward Mickel in the Clackamas county jail as a result of cooperation between Sheriff Oscar Bower and Sheriff Wilson of Oregon City. In addition hundreds of dollars worth of loot has been recovered.

Mickel and Barkey live near Aurora, in Clackamas county. When a warrant was served upon them for cutting down a walnut tree belonging to another man, six new and stolen automobile tires were found. Further investigations revealed the remainder of the loot.

On the premises, among other things were woven wire fencing, automobile radiators, tires, 12 gallons of paint, two steel drums, a gasoline drag saw, several white pigs, a general assortment of hardware, 60 cedar posts, several hundred feet of timber, a beaded bag, 30 sacks of cement and a post hole digger. These were either buried or stored in a medium-sized farmhouse, which was fairly stacked with property belonging to other people. The J. W. Copeland Lumber company, of Hubbard, and the contractor in charge of the bridge at Aurora, were the heaviest losers, a quantity of the stuff found belonging to them. Most of the property was stolen on December 24 and January 8.

Barkey told Deputy Sheriffs Walter Barber and Bert Smith that he "suspected" the other man was crooked. He is said to be a partner of Mickel's. Eleven automobile loads of people were on the Mickel place at one time identifying the loot. The whole affair assumed the appearance of a public sale, the officers said.

In addition the two men are said to have shot and killed a couple of goats belonging to an old man.

He charged that all the state's evidence has been purely circumstantial and that the prosecution had subpoenaed witnesses of whom only 32 had been called to the stand, the "balance being used to make an impression."

He styled this as "a trick of the scaly legal profession."

In his remarks, Attorney Houser charged that C. H. Forney, prosecution attorney, had been unfair, dishonest and un-American in his conduct of the prosecution.

Attorney Fiske, arguing for the defense, made the statement that he was not "receiving one five-cent piece" for his work for Senator Sinclair and that his "presence in the court was the result of his friendship for the defendant." Fiske called attention to Senator Sinclair's efforts for road building in Pacific county and to the trust he manifested in his son while he himself was absent from the bank, "in the interest of public enterprises."

"If Myron could deceive skilled bank examiners," said Fiske, "it is certain that he could deceive his poor old father, who depended on the honesty and integrity of his only son."

Trusted Son
Senator Sinclair, Fiske said, left Ilwaco "with only his clothing on his back" leaving all his personal property to satisfy the creditors. "He has already paid the price," said the attorney, "Will you send this old man to the penitentiary for putting his trust in his only son? No, you haven't the heart to do it."

The prosecuting attorney announced tonight that the remaining charge against Senator Sinclair would be held over until the next term of court. His wife, Mrs. Sinclair, is facing the same charge, and both of them will be tried together, the attorney said.

MOORE TO RUN AGAINST KOZER

Polk County Clerk Wants Republican Nomination for Secretary of State

Intimation that he would probably seek the Republican nomination for secretary of state at the primaries was made by Floyd D. Moore, Polk county clerk, who was in Salem yesterday to address the county judges and commissioners' convention.

Mr. Moore has lived in Oregon for more than 20 years and prior to being elected to his present office was assistant superintendent of schools in Polk county where, as in his present connections, he has demonstrated his capacity. Should he decide to make the race it is expected he will make a strong campaign. Mr. Moore is now serving his second term as county clerk and is president of the state organization.

FORD REPORT GIVEN
DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 12.—Annual production figures for the Ford Motor company for 1923 showed a total of 2,090,959 Ford automobiles and truck made during the 12 months.

THE WEATHER

OREGON: Sunday fair; gentle easterly winds.

LOCAL WEATHER
(Saturday)

Maximum temperature, 33. Minimum temperature, 34. River, 6.3 feet. Rainfall, none. Atmosphere, part cloudy. Wind, northwest.

(Continued on page 2)