

Salem Has Now Over 61000 Phones, and This City Will Before Very Long Have a New Telephone Building
Salem Has a New Factory, a Plant Manufacturing Paints, and It Is Managed By a Man of Long Experience

The Oregon Statesman

Weather forecast: Unsettled with local rains; moderate temperature, moderate west and southwest winds on the coast. Maximum temperature yesterday 59, minimum 47, river 3, rainfall .61, atmosphere cloudy, wind west.

The fact that a number of Democratic leaders are insisting on cutting taxes below what the treasury experts call the danger point, may mean that the Democrats don't expect to have to pay the running expenses of the government even after next year.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 15, 1927

PRICE FIVE CENTS

UTILITIES' RISE IN VALUES SET AT \$13,000,000

Natron Cutoff Biggest Item; New Power Projects and Mills Raise Total

COUNTY RATIOS FIXED

Marion One Per Cent Higher With No General Trend Noted Throughout State; Western Union Sues Commission

Public utilities in Oregon increased \$13,000,000 in value in the past year, according to the valuations estimated by the state tax commission which reach a total of approximately \$283,000,000. The valuations of the steam railroads have been estimated at \$161,250,000, which is a material increase over the valuations for 1926. Electric railroad valuations have been estimated at \$33,325,000, while the valuations of electric utilities have been fixed tentatively at \$10,990,000. The valuations of water and gas utilities is approximately \$16,100,000.

Telephone properties in the state have been valued at \$2,975,000, with the valuations of so-called "other" utilities fixed at \$63,640,000. Other utility valuations include telephone companies \$22,540,000, power companies \$2,700,000 and express companies \$527,000.

The bulk of new utility properties in Oregon for the year 1927 is the larger part of the Southern Pacific Natron-cutoff, one or two power projects and a number of mills. The cost of the Natron cutoff, according to figures on file in the office of the state tax commission, was approximately \$20,000,000.

Follow Fisher's Figures In passing on the property valuations of public utilities the state

INTOXICANT? NOT UNLESS SO USED

OPINION PREPARED BY VAN WINKLE ON MOOT POINT

Fig Preparation in Limelight; Prunes May Be Treated in Same Way

When is a beverage not a beverage? When nobody drinks it, according to an opinion prepared Monday by I. H. Van Winkle, attorney general of Oregon.

If "Kadota" figs, prepared in pure California wine, is used as a beverage, it would be classified as an intoxicant, and its sale in Oregon would be in violation of the state prohibition law, says the opinion.

If it is used for legitimate purposes and is not used as a beverage it would not come under the classification of an intoxicant, and the seller would not be liable for prosecution under the state prohibition statutes.

The opinion was sought by George Alexander, state prohibition director, after he had received letters from Parrott and company of Portland, who indicated that at least one of their clients proposed to market Oregon prunes under a formula similar to that used by the manufacturer of the fig preparation.

"Whether Kadota figs, prepared in pure California wine syrup, is intoxicating, is a question of fact," read the attorney general's opinion. The question involved, the attorney general indicated, was whether the preparation was reasonably likely to be used as a beverage.

Kadota figs, according to advertisements sent out by the manufacturer, is marketed at Stockton, Calif., and contains not to exceed 12 per cent alcohol. The advertisements stress the purity and health producing qualities of the wines in which the figs are prepared.

The state prohibition director said he had not yet determined what action he would take under the attorney general's opinion. At the time the marketing of "Kadota figs, prepared in pure California wine syrup," was first called to the attention of Oregon officials, large stocks of the preparation were said to be available in Portland. Publicity given the preparation was said to have started a run on the dealers with the result that the stocks were quickly depleted.

CAROL AIDE SET FREE BY COURT

MIHIL MANOLESCU ACQUITTED BY 3 OF 5 JUDGES

Large Crowd Responds With Tremendous Cheers as Verdict Made Public

BUCHAREST, Nov. 15.—(AP)—Mihil Manolescu was acquitted early this morning by a court-martial of five judges who voted 3 to 2 to set him free.

Manolescu was charged with conspiracy to bring former Crown Prince Carol back to Rumania and to restore to him his rights of succession to the throne.

The acquittal of the former under secretary of state was greeted with tremendous cheers.

"This is the beginning of a new era of liberty in Rumania," said Manolescu, who a few minutes previously had told the correspondent of the Associated Press that he expected to be convicted.

The court martial of Carol's friend and bearer of letters and other documents from the former crown prince to leaders of the various parties in Bucharest was the sensation of the past week. Manolescu by his brilliant oratory won the sympathy and support of the thousands who swarmed about the precincts of the little courtroom where the proceedings were carried on. More than 100 prominent lawyers hastened to the aid of the accused man and many of them gave their services at the trial.

The prosecutor demanded the full penalty for what he termed a conspiracy against the state, which would have been five years imprisonment. Long after midnight Manolescu's lawyers still were pleading for his liberation. One of them, M. Mihalache, drew the wrath of the court by declaring: "Our present system is balanced on the sharp edge of a sword. If it be the wish of the people, Prince Carol may return not only as regent, but as king. One can stem a rivulet, but not a river. One can repress the wishes of the government, but not the will of the people."

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ARRESTED IN FIRE CASE

Large Hotel Building Consumed By Flames At Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 14.—(AP)—Working on the theory that the Graystone apartment hotel fire here early Sunday morning was of incendiary origin, police tonight arrested Sonnie Cordon, former negro janitor at the hotel, on a vagrancy charge and held him under high bond. The fire resulted in eight persons being burned to death and 13 injured.

Cordon was discharged several weeks ago because of complaints of occupants of apartments that he refused to keep sufficient fire in the furnaces for heating purposes, the police said. He is alleged to have told several residents of the building that he would get even with them by "burning you out one of these days."

Cordon was severely questioned. Detectives said he denied being near the building at the time of the fire.

BRICKERS MAY BE FOUND

Bondsman May Be Granted Further Time to Produce Them

Definite indication has been received that R. W. Bricker and Ellen Bricker, wanted in Salem in connection with alleged moonshining activities, will be produced by their bondsman within the next week, it was stated late yesterday by Justice of the Peace Brazier Small.

"We have been advised here that they have a line on them," and will produce them in a few days," said Judge Small.

Bondsman for the two alleged moonshiners are Frank Berry and Estelle Berry of Portland. Bricker's bond was set at \$1000 and that of Ellen Bricker at \$250.

Pending further developments, time during which the bonds will become forfeited has been extended another week. It had already been extended one week, due to expire today.

3 MORE REBELS KILLED

General, Colonel and Major Captured in Vera Cruz State

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 14.—(AP)—Press dispatches from Perote, state of Vera Cruz, report that three more leaders of the Arnulfo Gomez rebel groups have been captured by federal troops, court-martialed and executed. These men were Valerio Ruiz, Octavio Riveros and Romulo Hernandez, who styled themselves respectively "general," "colonel," and "major."

STATE COLLEGE CHANGED NAME ELUSIVE ISSUE

Said Result of Student and Alumni Usage, Without Faculty Action

INVESTIGATION DELAYED

Governor to Await Next Meeting of Regents; General Movement on Foot Among Corvallis Undergraduates

When Governor Patterson announced that he would investigate the practice among students and faculty of Oregon's school of Corvallis of referring to it as "Oregon State College," he started something that will be hard to finish, it is believed by persons conversant with the facts and motives behind the controversy.

Since making that announcement Saturday, the governor has decided to delay the investigation until the next meeting of the regents; but he started the ball rolling, and discussion probably will not subside until the matter is all threshed out.

Students Take Blame

A statement now comes from Dressel C. Narver, president of the associated students of the college, that use of the new name has grown out of its general acceptance by students and alumni, and without any official action by either faculty or regents. He adds: "I see no disparagement to agriculture in this move, as that school is but one of the ten degree-conferring schools in the college."

Discussion of the issue locally has brought out the fact that not all alumni favor the change. This, it is believed, is confined principally to the graduates of the school of agriculture. Graduates of the engineering pharmacy and other departments have been advocating the change for several years.

The difficulty of deciding the

TROTSKY ASSASSINATED

Persistent Reports From Several Sources Carry News

LONDON, Nov. 14.—(AP)—The Daily Mail's Berlin correspondent says a report is current that Leon Trotsky, former Soviet war commissar and now a leader of the opposition party in Moscow, has been assassinated.

Messages from Moscow and Leningrad give the same report. There has been no confirmation, however, from any official sources.

DRY OFFICIALS DEFEND SELVES

FEW KILLED IN PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT

Senator Edwards Contradicted by Deputy Commissioner at Washington

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—(AP)—Prohibition officials here tonight disputed the statement made by Senator Edwards of New Jersey, in a magazine article, that the number of persons killed by dry enforcement officers "must run into four figures."

In the absence of Assistant Secretary Lowman of the treasury and Prohibition Commissioner Doran, James E. Jones, deputy commissioner, said no accurate figures were available as to those killed by all kinds of enforcement agents, but he was certain that the number of killed by federal officers "is nothing like a fifth of a thousand and is more likely around a hundred."

"No records are available here," he said, "which would bear out the senator's statement that the number killed runs into four figures."

Replying to the senator's charge that many of those killed had been shot in the back, Mr. Jones recalled the policy of the enforcement machine which he drew up personally several years ago and which he said, is still in force. That policy in effect, he said, is that no prohibition agent should use his gun except to protect his own life. This, he added, was on the theory that it was "better to let a bootlegger go rather than kill him, and get him some other time."

MYSTERY PLANE ON HOPE

French Liner Report Seeing Machine Far Out at Sea

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—(AP)—Mystery today shrouded the identity of a "white plane" headed north and flying high," reported by the liner Ile de France to have been sighted 250 miles south of Halifax. Officials of the French liner tonight had received no word from the ship's crew to a request for further details.

At flying fields near here no plausible explanation of the plane's presence over the Atlantic could be offered. It was not believed the plane could have been on a transatlantic flight since no transatlantic take-off had been reported.

The Ile de France, due here tomorrow, wirelessly the Radio Corporation of America this morning that she had sighted the plane.

NOTED SINGER DIVORCED

Legal Separation Granted Wife of Reinald Werrenrath

RENO, Nev., Nov. 14.—(AP)—Mrs. Ada Werrenrath was today granted a divorce from Reinald Werrenrath, New York baritone, and \$15,000 a year. The custody of three minor children was divided between the parents.

PROHIS GRILLED BY WET SENATOR

EDWARD L. EDWARDS OF NEW JERSEY MAKES CLAIMS

Number of Persons Killed by Dry Agents Runs Into Thousands, He Says

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—(AP)—Senator Edward L. Edwards of New Jersey, in an article published today in the December issue of the magazine "Plain Talk" estimated that the toll of lives taken by prohibition agents "must run into four figures."

Senator Edwards said that no nationwide research has been made to establish the accuracy of his estimate, adding "as long as prohibition laws statistics will never catch up with the number of persons killed by prohibition officers, federal, state and municipal."

"The federal men to date," he said, "have slain about 200, and I have read the 'depositions' from the treasury department showing 152 killings by federal agents, with some 84 other cases where deaths have occurred at the hands of local officers."

Answering the question "how do men die when prohibition agents shoot," he wrote, "they die, many of them, in cold blood, shot in the back. The reports of the treasury department do not, it is true, ever say that a victim was shot in the back, for it would not look good. But investigate the court records and see what you find, and I ask you not to accept my word but the words of physicians, men of the community, who know that perjury on such a score would be instantly detected."

Magazine Makes Claims

The magazine, in an explanatory note, said that "six months of exhaustive research work by Harry Love of Washington went into the gathering of data," for the article.

Senator Edwards recounted in detail specific cases of several persons "shot in the back." Among them were the cases of Guy E. Meadows of Kinton, W. Va., who the senator wrote, was shot and killed when he attempted to throw a pint of whiskey into the river, and Lawrence Wagner, Upper Harford county, Md., farmer, shot in the back when he ran upon being startled by five armed men jumping suddenly at him. The five

CHEST PLAN CONSIDERED

Meeting Called at Chamber of Commerce Thursday Eve

A meeting of the chamber of commerce board of directors has been called for next Thursday evening at eight o'clock to discuss the Community Chest plan for Salem.

The meeting was called at the request of Charles Wiper and Dr. Henry Morris who made brief talks at the luncheon yesterday.

CHOICE AWARD TO LINDBERGH BY PRESIDENT

Famous American Flying Ace Presented Coveted Hubbard Gold Medal

MANY NOTABLES GATHER

Honor Places Yankee Airman Alongside Commander Robert Peary, Ernest Shackleton and Others

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—(AP)—The accomplishment of Charles A. Lindbergh in making the first non-stop flight from New York to Paris brought him to a new pinnacle of honor tonight when President Coolidge, in presenting him with the Hubbard medal of the National Geographic society, ennobled him as a "modest man, of high and unselfish purpose."

Lindbergh not only was honored with this high award, but had the distinction—believed to be an unprecedented one—of being introduced to his audience by the president of the United States.

Lindbergh Speaks

Taking the rostrum after the president had concluded his presentation address, the youthful hero once more extolled the possibilities of aviation on the same platform in the Washington auditorium where in May he was the guest of the National Press club after his memorable return from Europe and was presented with more than a score of medals, trophies and other gifts in tribute to his historic flight.

"I want to thank you all for the great honor bestowed upon me tonight," he said. "The National Geographic society has aided greatly in exploration of the world deserves utmost credit for their accomplishments."

As President Coolidge presented the Hubbard medal to Lindbergh, applause rang out from a most distinguished gathering of government officers and foreign notables. Mrs. Evangeline Lindbergh watched the homage paid her son with glistening eyes, and around her were sixteen other airmen and the one girl who, encouraged by Lindbergh's example, successfully accomplished a perilous air journey toward the shore of Europe.

The dignity which has been noted in Lindbergh's demeanor marked him as he listened to praise from the president for not

(Continued on page 9)

SET-BACK BILL OFFERED AGAIN

ZONING COMMISSION MODIFIES CORNER PROVISION

On Lots Narrower Than 50 Feet, Smaller Margin to Street Line Asked

The set-back ordinance which has been jockeyed back and forth between the city council and the city planning and zoning commission for several months will pop up again before the city dads next Monday night.

After considerable discussion last night the commission agreed to modify the side line requirement, which met with the opposition of Alderman W. H. Dancy and E. B. Grabenhorst when last considered.

The commission will now recommend that the 10 foot requirement still holds good on corner lots 50 feet or more in width, but that owners of corner lots narrower than 50 feet, as originally planned, be required to set back dwellings only 15 per cent of the lot's width.

The commission's original recommendation was for 10 feet on all lots. This aroused the opposition of real estate dealers and their representatives on the council who held that such a requirement would be decidedly unfair to owners on small corner lots, as it would leave too little a space on which to build, after the eight foot space between dwellings had been complied with.

The bill, even in its modified form, is expected to meet opposition of certain councilmen, but it will be pointed out that there are markedly few corner lots in the city which measure less than 50 feet. There are twenty such small lots on Rural avenue between High and Winter streets, and a few others scattered.

A suggestion by the city council that the bill be framed so that the commission might exercise discretion in certain cases was disapproved by the commission on the ground that it would take the teeth out of the bill.

EXPLOSION EFFECT FELT

Many Distant Suburbs of Pittsburgh Affected by Blast

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 14.—(AP)—The force of today's disastrous gas explosion on the north side was felt in all sections of Pittsburgh and many suburbs.

Windows were shattered in Homewood, nine miles from the scene. Millvale residents, their homes rocked by the blast, rushed to the streets, fearing an earthquake. Some far residents reported the force of the blast was felt as far north as the Butler county line, 30 miles away.

In the Negley avenue district several big plate glass windows were shattered. Bellevue felt the rush of air sent forth by the terrific explosion. School house windows were broken in Hazelwood. At St. John's hospital, several miles away, a number of student nurses, seated in a class room, were knocked from their chairs. Fifteen minutes later these same nurses were on their way to the scene of the disaster.

WIDER STREETS SOUGHT

City Planners to Confer With County Court Tonight

Continuing their campaign to give Salem of the future wide, beautiful streets, members of the city planning and zoning commission last night passed a resolution asking the Marion county court not to accept for dedication any county road within a six mile radius of Salem which does not have a 60 foot right of way.

An informal discussion of the matter will be held with county commissioners tonight.

Zoning commissioners recently voiced a protest to Salem realtors for platting new subdivisions in which streets were made narrow to increase the amount of saleable property.

4L WILL HAVE BIG MEET

Tenth Birthday Anniversary To Be Observed Next Year

PORTLAND, Nov. 14.—(AP)—The tenth birthday anniversary of the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, universally known as the 4 L, will be celebrated early next year with a rally at Tacoma, it was decided today at a meeting of directors of the organization here.

One of the most important actions of the directors today was the decision to extend 4 L activities to Montana and California. Its sphere in the past has been confined to Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Field men will be sent to lumber regions of the two other states to interest employes and employers in the movement today, yesterday.

28 KILLED; 485 HURT IN BLAST AT PITTSBURGH

World's Largest Gas Tank Explodes; Whole Streets Heaved Into Air

EVERY HOSPITAL FILLED

People Run Screaming from Buildings Following Greatest Shock in City's History; Toll Mounting

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 14.—(AP)—An entire section of north side Pittsburgh lay in ruins tonight and the bodies of 21 persons resented in the Allegheny county morgue and seven other bodies were still in the wreckage—mute evidence of one of the most disastrous explosions in the city's history. Death and devastation swept the old Manchester district when a mammoth storage gas tank exploded.

Tonight as hundreds of victims of the disaster nursed their injuries in hospitals and in other havens of refuge supplied by relief agencies, firemen, policemen and volunteers continued the work of exploring the wrecked district in the belief that other bodies would be found in the mass of twisted debris.

Rescue Work Goes On

As nightfall descended upon the stricken region, rescue workers erected emergency lights at vantage points. Many of the buildings checked at and tumbled down. The firemen and they resorted to dynamite in an effort to move masses of wreckage. Police doubled their vigilance and kept constant watch to prevent looting.

The quiet of a November morning was shattered throughout the Pittsburgh district by the terrific blast. For a moment the city took its breath as buildings rocked and windows crashed. At first it seemed that an earthquake had gripped the city. Telephone lines were broken and the fire system was crippled. The city stood still, waiting and wondering what was to come next.

Then a fire alarm box in the downtown district on the Alle-

(Continued on page 4.)

SCHOOLS' RATIO \$1.45 PER CHILD

MARION COUNTY APPORTIONMENT ANNOUNCED

About Half of Two Mill Tax Also Yet to Be Sent Out Among Districts

Funds derived from the perpetual state school fund will this year be divided among school districts in Marion county on the basis of \$1.45 to each child in the district of school age, according to announcement made late yesterday from the office of the county superintendent of schools.

There are 15,173 children of school age in the county, according to statistics arrived at by school authorities. Children of school age are considered as those between the ages of four and 19, inclusive.

Division of the perpetual school fund is made among the districts according to ratios based on the number of these children, regardless of whether or not they are attending school. There is \$25,329.88 to be so divided in Marion county this year.

Approximately half of the two mill state tax levy also remains to be apportioned among the school districts. The sum of \$48,576.10 was sent out to the districts from this fund last spring, that amount being estimated at about half, leaving an equal sum for this fall.

There is also a county fund, amounting to \$10 per child of school age. Each district is granted a flat sum of \$100 from the fund, after which the remainder is given out in proportion to the number of children. Half the total fund, or about \$50,000, remains to be sent out to the districts this fall.

