

The Oregon Statesman

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1928

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MARION HOTEL ON FIRE

BRIDGE AWARD WILL BE MADE MONDAY NIGHT

Reconsideration of Incinerator Site Likely At Council Session

OWNER BALKS AT PRICE

Opening of Bids on Building Materials Also Due; Matter of Gasoline Storage Tank Permit May Come Up

The city council will be in for a busy session Monday night from present indications as there are a number of important and routine matters scheduled to come before the body.

Awarding of contracts for construction of the North Seventeenth and South Winter street bridges; opening of bids on building materials; and renewed consideration of the incinerator location and the 12,000 gallon Southern Pacific company gasoline storage tank are some of the things to hold attention of the councilmen.

Will Announce Winner

Alderman Townsend, chairman of the bridge committee, will announce the successful bridge bidders. He delayed his recommendation at the last meeting so that the low bidders might be investigated before the contract was awarded.

The three bidders on the North Haglan and Allison, Albany; Samuel and Neef, Portland; and Fred Erickson, Salem. On the South Winter street the low bidders were A. L. Lamb, Salem; Frazier and Pugh, Salem; and Haglan and Allison, Albany.

Incinerator Up Again

The incinerator site appears not to be definite even yet. Alice M. Howard, owner of the 10 acres in South Salem contemplated, now declines to sell the plot for \$15,000 if she is required to pay for the abstract, which cost amounts to \$95.

Alderman Dancy probably will ask the council for authority to pay for the abstract, so that the contract for purchase of the site can be consummated.

Bids will be opened on cement, gravel, sand, concrete gravel, sewer pipe, catch basins, man hole covers, lamp hole covers, a paving breaker, and a truck. Awarding of contracts on some of this material will probably arouse controversy among the councilmen as several local firms are bidding.

The contract for hand music this coming summer will be filed.

LENGTHY CRIME RECORD TRACED

PAIR HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR \$100,000 LOSS

Mexicans in Prison Here Declared to Have Stolen \$5000 Merchandise

Malignant burning of more than \$100,000 worth of property in Oregon and pilfering mercantile establishments of more than \$5,000 worth of goods, constitute the record of Luis Silva and Antonio Torres, Mexicans who are serving a term in the state penitentiary here for robbing and setting fire to a tailor shop at Albany last November.

This was announced here Saturday by Clarence A. Lee, state fire marshal, whose operatives recently completed an investigation of the activities of the two prisoners. Insurance companies paid out \$52,000 as a result of the six incendiary fires credited to Silva and Torres.

Torres and Silva were arrested at Albany November 7, 1927, on suspicion of robbing and setting fire to the tailor shop of Frank Masek. The men later were questioned by state and county officers with the result that they confessed and were on their way to the state penitentiary within 24 hours. Silva was sentenced to serve two terms of seven and five years, while Torres was sent up for five years.

The Mexicans confessed to the Albany fire after more than \$1,000 worth of goods taken from the

STATE TO FIGHT COUNTIES' BILL

TAX COMMISSION SEEKS DELAY ON HAWLEY MEASURE

Claims Oregon Would Be Deprived of Just Taxes If Refund Not Shared

The scene of controversy between the state of Oregon and Marion county and incidentally a number of other counties, over the Oregon and California land grant refund, shifted from the courts here to the national capital this week when Representative W. C. Hawley introduced a bill providing that the counties alone shall participate in the refund.

Members of the state tax commission held a meeting here Saturday and instructed the attorney general to send a telegram to Oregon's delegation in congress urging that action be deferred on this bill.

The Hawley bill would amend the original refund act so as to preclude the state from sharing in the land grant refund even though litigation now pending in the Oregon courts should result favorably to the state.

The attorney general's telegram to Oregon's delegation in congress reads: "I request that further action on the proposed amendment to the Oregon-California refunding act be deferred until the state has an opportunity to submit a brief. Will be able to show that the counties have not been required to pay state taxes based upon the valuation of re-vested lands and that state taxes charged to counties were reduced in proportion to the value of re-vested lands."

"The amendment would deprive the state of tax money it would have received from the counties affected had the lands remained subject to taxation. Briefs formerly submitted did not cover this point."

It was said that the tax commission is depending mainly upon Representative Sinnott of the second district and Representative Korell of the third district to defer action on the Hawley bill. Reports received here indicated that Representative Hawley is opposed to the state sharing in the refund.

In event the briefs are not sufficient Willis Moore, assistant attorney general, may be sent to Washington to confer with federal officials.

Sam A. Koser, as secretary of state, sometime ago filed a suit in the circuit court here demanding that Marion county pay to the state out of the refund an amount of money equal to the amount the state would have received in taxes

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SACKETT MAY GET POST

McMinnville Editor Said Likely Governor's Secretary

Reports current here Saturday indicated that Sheldon Sackett, editor of the Telephone Register at McMinnville, would be appointed private secretary to Governor Patterson to succeed Hal Hoss, who has resigned. Governor Patterson refused to comment on the report. Mr. Sackett was closeted with Governor Patterson for more than an hour last night.

Mr. Hoss has agreed to remain in the executive department until the return of Governor Patterson, who will leave here tomorrow for Sacramento.

VETS MEET WEDNESDAY

Organized Council of State to Meet At Armory Here

Veterans of all war and members of their auxiliary organizations are requested to meet on Wednesday evening, 7:30 at the Veterans State Council.

A program is being arranged, which will be announced later, and some interesting speakers will be present. This will be a non-partisan meeting and a large attendance is desired. Efforts will be made to have the program along the lines which will be of real benefit to veterans and good citizenship.

Tailor shop were found in Torres' room.

Torres and Silva were said to have started their crime career in Oregon at Roseburg on June 1, 1925, when they set fire to the store of C. J. Brier and company. The value of merchandise stolen and burned was \$12,712.21. This fire also damaged the stock and fixtures of Wilder & Agos, mar-

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WATER POWER DEVELOPMENT EYED CLOSELY

Fish, Game Commissions To Seek Hearings Before Permits Granted

6 PROJECTS MENTIONED

Move Launched at Portland to Guard Against All Possibility of Interference With Life in Streams

PORTLAND, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Resolutions protesting the granting of permits for waterpower developments before the probable effect of the developments on fish life becomes the subject of public hearings, will be filed with the state engineer Tuesday by the fish commission of Oregon and the Oregon state game commission. That the resolution would be filed was learned today.

Construction of dams and power projects in the Sandy and Clackamas rivers seriously depleted the numbers of fish in those streams, the resolutions assert. The fishing industry is described as the third largest in the state; its preservation and protection is of vital importance to the prosperity of the commonwealth. The value of the same fish for recreational purposes is asserted.

Specific List Given Six proposed power developments are mentioned specifically. Applications for permits for these developments have been filed with the federal power commission, the resolutions point out, that the rights for granting permits for the actual construction and maintenance of dams and other power projects are vested in the state.

The six projects mentioned are: The city of Eugene's plan to construct three power developments.

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TRAIN WINS RACE EVENT

Death and Serious Injury Result As Contest Ends on Tre

KALISPELL, Mont., Feb. 18.—(AP)—Robert Lavelle was killed and Lee Good seriously hurt here today when a locomotive struck their automobile at a street railway crossing.

LIBRARY BOARD ELECTS BARNES

ANNUAL MEETING HELD; REPORT SHOWS INCREASE

2,855 Patrons and 7,117 Circulation Added in 1927, Rating Declared High

E. T. Barnes was elected president of the Salem library board, at its meeting last night. Mrs. F. H. Spears was chosen as vice-president and W. H. Burghardt secretary.

Following is a summary of the report for the past year which was submitted at this meeting by Maud E. Covington, librarian:

"The library has been open 304 days to borrowers. It is open each day 12 hours. On Sundays it is open from 2 to 5 p. m.

"Registered borrowers number 12,195 people, 2,855 patrons being added in 1927.

"The library lends freely books, periodicals, pamphlets, and pictures. The total circulation for 1927 was 110,741. This was an increase of 7,117 over the preceding year. Fiction makes up 68 per cent of the total.

"The circulation per capita is 4.1 volumes. The standard set by the American Library association is five books when the per capita support is \$1. Salem's per capita support in 1927 was 33 cents. The circulation per volume in the collection is 5.2 and per patron 9.8

"Books in the collection now number 21,219, of which number 17,059 are books for adults and 4,160 are children's books. The number of books added in 1927 was 1,123. Lost, worn and old books withdrawn numbered 655.

"The city council appropriated \$8,983.51 for the support of the library. Expenses for the year amounted to \$9896.16.

"Purchase of books and periodicals and binding cost account for 24 per cent of the total expenditures.

"Summary of school department: Total books, 13,292; additions, 941; withdrawals, 194; number of volumes purchased with county funds, 597; volumes purchased by the school board, 209; gifts, 184.

"Number of libraries sent to grades, 157; number of books sent to grades, 5,629.

"Circulation of books in schools, 34,936; high school, 13,403; grades and junior high schools, 21,533.

DOYLE ADVANCES SPIRITISM CLAIM

TAKES ISSUE WITH EDISON ON AFTER LIFE VIEW

Fifty-Fifty Chance Not Enough to Satisfy Writer, Who Cites Alleged Instance

(In the following article written for the Associated Press, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle takes issue with Thomas Edison's recent remark that he believes the chances are "fifty-fifty" for life after death. Sir Arthur cites an experience of one of his own sons as corroboration of his contention that the chances are 100 per cent for immortality. Edison's opinion was expressed last Saturday during a birthday interview in Florida and caused widespread comment.

Sir Arthur has devoted his later years to the study of mediumship and spiritualism and often has engaged in discussion on the subject of the after life.)

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle CROWBOROUGH, England, Feb. 18.—(AP)—I opened my paper the other day and the first item which met my eyes was the pronouncement by Mr. Edison, the venerable inventor that the chances were equal whether mankind had a future or not.

What a bleak outlook for humanity if such an assertion were true, but it is not true, and we have the means of proving that it is not true.

If Mr. Edison was really in touch with the evidence he would never have said a thing which would cast a shadow on many a heart and weaken many a spirit. He has, like so many honest thinkers, been repelled by those superficial and obvious flaws for which our movement is not really responsible. But all the same he is much to blame in lending the weight of his name to such a statement concerning a subject which he has obviously not examined. I could give him off-hand a hundred cases within my

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MISS WIRLITSCH WINS

Better Homes Exposition Comes to Close With Award

Salem's "Better Homes" exposition came to a finale late last night with the announcement of the winner in the "Miss Salem" contest as Amanda Wirlichtsch, who received a beautiful Pontiac coach as prize.

ENGINEER HELD AS NEGLIGENCE SHOWN IN QUIZ

Tanks Not Properly Emptied, Authorities Say Upon Investigation

SEARCHING PROBE MADE

List of Seven Known Missing After Tragedy Made Public; Thorough Attempt Made to Check All Names

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Responsibility for the "nose dive" which swept approximately thirty persons off the forward deck of the electric ferry Peralta in San Francisco bay last night, gravitated to the engineering room crew of the craft today as federal investigators launched a searching inquiry.

As the investigation progressed police and officials of the Key System company, owners of the vessel, broadcast inquiries for seven persons who reported missing after the "dip." Of this number, two—J. W. Collins of Oakland and Hugh Findlay of Berkeley—were believed definitely to have been on the Peralta. Of the other five there was doubt as to whether they were passengers.

Joseph P. Dolan, United States steamboat inspector, while cross-examining Edward Disson, chief engineer of the Peralta, stated that the forward balancing tank was full of water at the time of the "dip" when it should have been empty. Control of the balancing tanks is in the engine room of the Peralta and the water should have been released to the rear tank, Dolan said.

Doubt Develops Both Harry Hill, first assistant engineer and Disson denied the tank was full, although Disson later admitted that he was not certain whether the forward tank was empty.

"The only possible way that ferry boat could have dipped the way she did," said Dolan, "would have been for that forward tank to have been filled with water."

In making the trip from San Francisco to Oakland the forward tank is supposed to be empty. The rear tank is filled before the vessel reaches the Oakland pier to counterbalance the weight of passengers who generally rush forward to be able to rush off the

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ORGANIZE SECOND BANK

New Institution Has Capital of \$25,000; Opens Doors

Reorganization of the defunct Sheridan State bank was effected here Saturday through the issuance of a charter to the State Bank of Sheridan. The bank has a capital stock of \$25,000. The incorporators are Rose B. G. Thies, E. C. Brown and George H. Pinney. Directors of the bank other than the incorporators, include W. W. Porter and H. T. Wilson.

Mrs. Thies has been elected president of the bank while Joseph Baumgartner is cashier. Mr. Baumgartner was until recently connected with the Ladd and Bush bank of Salem.

Officials of the state banking department said the new bank had taken over the building and assets of the defunct Sheridan state bank. Savings depositors in the defunct institution have been paid off on the basis of 100 cents on the dollar, or approximately \$25,800. Commercial depositors have received \$71,000, or approximately 79 cents on the dollar.

The reorganization was said to have been satisfactory to the state banking department. The new institution was to have opened its doors for business Saturday.

PROMISES MURDER TALE

Taxicab Driver Arrested at Eugene to Tell Whole Story

EUGENE, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Admitting his implication in the murder of John J. Terry, Burley, Idaho, taxicab driver on December 27, Walter Mathews, arrested here Friday night declared tonight that he would tell a full story of the crime when he was returned to the Idaho town.

BLAZE WITHIN WALLS ROUTS GUESTS EARLY, SOME BADLY SMOKED

Fire which broke out at 2:40 o'clock this morning in the Marion hotel did approximately \$25,000 damage and routed the guests, some of them in negligence. Some of the guests were all but overcome by the smoke, and women were badly frightened. It was feared at first that some guests might have been suffocated while they slept, but rescue parties which forced their way through the smoke entered every room and found that all had escaped.

SEARCHING PROBE MADE

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The blaze started in the boiler room, possibly from spontaneous combustion in the sawdust stored there for fuel. It was discovered breaking out through the walls of the dining room, and an alarm was quickly turned in by the clerk on duty.

Fighting the fire was difficult due to the fact that it spread throughout the space between the walls and between the dining room and lobby ceiling and the second floor. Prompt response to the alarm and efficient work on the part of the firemen prevented a much greater loss.

The dining room, redecoration of which had just been completed, was totally wrecked by the fire and the water which was required to quench it, and the firemen were also forced to hew great holes in the walls at a number of places, adding to the damage. The back part of the lobby was badly smoked up.

On the second floor, the fire broke through some of the walls and elsewhere the firemen hacked holes, so that considerable damage was done there also.

The fire was still burning in places at 4 o'clock this morning and there was still some danger that it might break out seriously, but it was believed to be under control.

The homeless guests found refuge at first in the Marion Garage, across the street; some of them later went to other hotels while others waited in the hope that the smoke would clear out and they could return to their rooms.

The hotel is the property of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Linn. Mr. Linn stated this morning that it was well covered by insurance, and that he would take steps to have the damage repaired at once.

TRUCK REPAIR DELAYED

Parts From East Awaited; Added Protection Due Fire Long

The necessity for sending to the east for bearings needed in the repair work of the old fire truck will delay location of fire stations in the outlying districts until about three weeks yet, Alderman W. H. Dancy, chairman of the fire and water committee, said yesterday. The new truck, purchased six weeks ago, will arrive week after next.

Dancy has four sites in mind on which to locate the fire truck in East Salem. He will decide on one of them after a committee meeting next week. The first truck will go into East Salem on account of the Southern Pacific railroad track, which fire insurance companies see as a serious hazard.

CARAVAN TO BE GREETED

Governors' Party to be Here at 3:40 This Afternoon

Plans were completed here Saturday for the reception to members of the governors' caravan, which will arrive in Salem at 3:45 this afternoon en route to Sacramento, Calif. The caravan will leave Portland shortly after noon.

The capitol buildings will be open for the inspection of the visitors and a brief ceremony will be held in the senate chamber. Governor and Mrs. Patterson will join the caravan here.

The caravan will reach Sacramento Wednesday afternoon. Governor Patterson said he would return to Salem next Saturday.

GREEN MATINEE SUCCESS

Large Crowd Attends; "Sorrel and Son" Will be Next

The Market and Merchandise Section matinee of the Oregon Statesman, which was held at the Elsinore theater Saturday afternoon, was a great success judging from the number of people who attended.

The next matinee will be "Sorrel and Son" at the Elsinore Saturday, February 25. The presentation of a coupon from the Green Market and Merchandise section of The Oregon Statesman of Friday, February 24, a sales slip for one dollar from some advertiser in the section and ten cents will admit anyone.

Watch for the Green Section Friday morning.

PORTLAND PLANS HUGE VICE DRIVE

BOOK CONFISCATED CONTAINING NAMES OF 200 MEN

Prominent Druggist Among First to Be Taken By Police; Others Outside City

PORTLAND, Feb. 18.—(AP)—Deputy sheriffs, police detectives, investigators from the district attorney's office, private citizens and representatives of civic organizations, have started a united drive against vice conditions in Portland.

This became apparent today with the arrest of Herbert S. Coffin, 45, well known druggist, who is held in the county jail under \$5,000 bail on a morals charge of the same nature as that on which William Armstrong, 31, confectionary store proprietor, was convicted Wednesday and for which he will be sentenced Monday.

Coffin was arrested shortly after midnight in a downtown hotel room where he was found in

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NEW FEATURE

The Statesman is offering a new feature, a new service to its subscribers and advertisers, "Counter Strokes," on the society page.

The young lady who writes this column is what is known in advertising jargon as a "key customer," that is, when she finds something especially new and attractive she does not hesitate to tell her friends where she got it. These same friends enjoy the distinction of being extremely well dressed, living among beautiful surroundings, and buying only the best and most appropriate things, because they follow her leadership and shop where she advises where the service and quality offered are of the best.

This young lady has consented to write for us every Sunday the story of a shopping tour taken during the previous week just as she would tell it to her friends. The Statesman invites you to join the charmed circle of her friends. Read the column on the society page today and follow her example when you buy your spring wardrobe. You will be surprised at the ease with which you can find just what you want just when you want it.

