

COMING EVENTS

Feb 21-22—Apollo club in concert with Gideon Hicks, Canadian basso, and Gertrude Huntley Green, pianist. Feb. 23—Rotarian luncheon, Marion hotel. Feb. 22—Willamette-Nevada university basketball game, armory. Feb. 23—Marion County Realtors' luncheon, Y. W. C. A. George King, halfback on last year's University of Oregon football team, spent the week end visiting in Salem. He returned to Eugene Sunday night. Knights of Pythias dance tonight at Elks hall. Good music. Admission 75c. Ladies 10c. Public invited. 44*

Court House

Circuit Court Complaint to recover \$203.36 for services rendered filed by A. C. Nelson vs Oregon Realty Exchange company. Decree filed in the matter of the suit of Hubert L. Dune and Juanita Dune vs Elijah Gabry. Complaint for the collection of \$465 filed by C. T. Pomeroy and A. A. Keene vs A. B. Gardner. Probate Court Final decree and final account filed in the matter of the estate of William Butte. Order approving final account of Thomas Jory filed. Order filed granting permission to sell certain real property of the estate of Kate R. Martin. Orders closing estate and approving of final account filed in the matter of the estate of E. C. Cross. Order placing March 27 as date for hearing of final accounts of the estates of Fred A. Menke and Helen M. Burdall. Order appointing Harry V. Doe administrator of the estate of Harrison Doe. L. H. Booth of Toledo was a guest of the Marion hotel. R. C. Ransom of Shelburna was here for a short time on business yesterday. Spending the day here on business R. E. Phelps arrived here from Klamath Falls and left late today for his home. He was a guest of the Bligh hotel last night. Ed Schunk, one of the officers of the Roth grocery, is in Roseburg attending the annual convention of the Oregon Retail association. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lee Unruh are ill with influenza at their home, 1161 north Fifth street. They have been sick for several days. Mr. Unruh is a local printer. Levi Christman of Dallas was in town yesterday and today. He was met by his brother, Frank Christman, of Portland. Both men spent the time here visiting and on business. Knights of Pythias dance tonight at Elks hall. Good music. Admission 75c. Ladies 10c. Public invited. 44*

Victims Besiege Boy Ponzi's Office



Bischoff's office besieged

Ponzi's Boston operations for "get rich quick" pale beside those of Raymond J. Bischoff of Chicago, who is charged with victimizing 3500 persons out of \$7,000,000. He was not perturbed by the situation. Shortly after his arrest his office was besieged by investors. The photo shows police keeping back the mob at the door. In the insert is Bischoff, aged twenty five. No rainfall was recorded in Salem yesterday and the Willamette river, at 7.2 feet this morning, continued to drop. The maximum temperature yesterday was 53 and the minimum was 30.

Willamette Girls To Debate British Columbia Women

An international intercollegiate debate between women will be held at Willamette University upon Friday evening at 8 o'clock. The debate will be between the girls of Willamette university and the girls of the University of British Columbia, located in Vancouver, B. C. Two girls will represent each institution, Salee Murphy and Dorothy Walsh, representing the University of British Columbia, and Loriel Blatchford and Louise Joughin representing Willamette. Willamette has the affirmative of the question. An international question bearing upon the problems of the recent peace conference has been chosen, namely, "Resolved that the western nations and Japan are justified in refusing to relinquish their territorial rights which they hold in China by treaty." The judges have not yet been selected. The debate will be held in Willamette chapel.

De Valera

W. H. Egan, owner of a large fruit ranch near Gervais, spent yesterday transacting business in Salem. He returned home last night. Among the visitors in Salem today was Will Menherder, a farmer whose ranch is located near Fairfield. To transact business in Portland, Frank Smith, well known stockman of Salem, left for the Oregon metropolis this morning. Herbert Howe the proprietor of a local cafe, left Salem this morning for Portland where he will spend a short time transacting business. After an illness covering 10 days, C. B. Clancey, Salem florist, was again able to be at work yesterday. Influenza was the cause of his confinement. Judge G. E. Unruh was yesterday unable to preside over the Salem justice court as a result of a severe attack of grippe. Today he was back in his office for a few hours. Because the Y. W. C. A. cannot accommodate them, the Marion county realtors will meet in the new banquet room of the Marion hotel on Thursday noon for their weekly luncheon.

PETITIONERS

Therefore almost wholly irrelevant and beside the issues. Petitioners presented through a public account, whose standing is known to carry weight with the commission, certain calculations purporting to be income statements the witness replied that he had prepared them on certain hypotheses dictated to him by counsel and that he disclaimed any responsibility for their correctness. Yet, we find counsel, in their brief, presenting these statements as the testimony and conclusions of this witness. "A score of witnesses were put forward to say that they opposed any increase in rates. This was not necessary. Every man of reason knows that no one wants to pay more for service. The witnesses are not more averse to paying higher rates than this commission is to ordering them paid. "Much was said by counsel about poor service, but petitioners' own witness showed by test that calls were answered with a promptness possible only under efficient management. "Hours of argument and pages of brief were devoted to assertions of gross inefficiency of management, but petitioners' only witness on this point testified that he had visited four exchanges in a single afternoon, and based his opinion on the fact that he found in use certain devices which he thought not the best for the purpose. Furthermore, it was admitted by counsel that the stockholders of the company would be the first to profit by economy.

"The four and one-half per cent license revenue paid to The American Company was constantly referred to as exacted from the patrons of the company and paid to the parent company for no consideration whatever, notwithstanding that it was well known to counsel for petitioners that less than one-half of this percentage was allowed by the commission, and that this allowance was based on the actual cost of service rendered by The American Company, Washington, Idaho, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, New Jersey and the Dominion of Canada have allowed the four and one-half per cent or an equivalent. Oregon, California, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma and Vermont allow it in part. None reject it. "The Western Electric contract has been accepted by every state which has passed on it. In their brief, petitioners abandon the claim that Western Electric prices are higher than those of other supply houses, but maintain that they ought to be much lower, and that all relief should be denied the company until the operations of the Western Electric, which cover the entire nation, have been investigated in every detail and its rate of net earnings ascertained in order to determine how much lower it might be compelled to sell. It is of no consequence to counsel that such an investigation would cost a half million dollars and would require two years or more time. "Testimony concerning farmer lines consisted of complaints that the rates had been raised. It is interesting to know that the Everett Telephone Company, so highly lauded by counsel for petitioners, charges farmers thirty-three and one-third per cent more than the highest rate for such service in Oregon. "The commission's allowance for depreciation was attacked as unscientific on the ground that no such calculation could be reliable unless based on the historical records of the property involved. Order 499 shows that this principle was recognized and adopted by this commission two years before it was "discovered" in the Chicago case quoted by counsel. "Petitioners' principal expert admitted that five and one-half per cent for depreciation was a reasonable average rate for telephone properties in the United States and that six per cent was carried by the companies with which he was connected. This commission has allowed an average of four and one-half per cent. "Seven authorities are cited and quoted in the brief of the City of Portland in support of the claim that a depreciation reserve can not rightly exceed a certain percentage. Not one of these authorities supports that contention. "The depreciation reserve has been constantly represented as a burden on the ratepayers. On the contrary, it consists of funds withheld from the stockholders for the protection of the property. It has been contributed by the ratepayers, and is, and always will be the property of the ratepayers. The company is obliged to account for it as such. The claim that the reserve is too large is equivalent to a complaint that the company has withheld from its stockholders too large a proportion of its past earnings in order to put them into a fund for the benefit of its patrons. "At the same time that the reserve is said to be too large, it is asserted that the plant is obsolete. If obsolete, the reserve must be used to replace it, and can not be too large. "Petitioners allege that telephone employees were receiving higher wages than ever before. They introduced exhibits purporting to show that wages could be reduced without injustice. They presented calculations of the effect upon net earnings of a reduction in wages; yet, they claim that they have not advocated such a reduction. "Petitioners have presented nothing worthy of serious consideration or justifying the suspicion and agitation which they have aroused. Their failure to support their contentions was no obvious, even to themselves, that they repeatedly fell back on the excuse that the commission ought to investigate the subject and, by inference, ought to supply the evidence which they had promised to produce. The descent from the sublime to the ridiculous is not often better illustrated than by the transition from the grandiloquent announcements at the opening of the case to the feeble excuse that the commission 'ought to look into it.' Verily, 'Parluriant montes, naseatur ridiculus mus.' "Expense and waste of time are not the only losses suffered through this needless agitation. The immense resources of the state need money for their development. For the necessary capital, we must compete with a world in need. The reputation of a community for fair dealing is a factor taken into account by all prudent investors. If a great and indispensable, statewide public utility is denied even the earnings possible on a savings bank deposit, in it to be expected that new capital will seek this field? If bitter and prejudiced agitation is followed by the denial of bare justice, we shall inevitably be driven to state and municipal ownership of all public utilities. "There must be a definite acceptance of the principle that the true welfare of the public is best served by the maintenance of such rates as will enable the utility to pay reasonable wages to its employes and to expend as required by our growing communities. Temporary measures will no longer avail. The duty of this commission is plain. Nothing adduced at the rehearing would justify the commission in doing other than sustain the original order.

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outstanding feature of the morning session of the Ard Fehst, which had only begun the discussion of the party's future policy for or against the Anglo-Irish treaty when the luncheon adjournment was taken at 1:40 p. m. Speaking in his resolution urging the Sinn Fein party to continue the fight for a republic, Mr. DeValera won hearty applause at numerous points he made in his address. "I would rather see the country flooded with British troops than given them the irrevocable right to be here," was one of his assertions, made in a dramatic manner, which resulted in loud cheers. "Position Unchanged. "Ireland," he declared later on, "is entitled to the dignity of a mother country and I will never consent to make her the illegitimate daughter of England." Again he said: "My position is the same as when I was made president of this organization when I said 'our colors are nailed to the mast.' What I said I meant." Mr. DeValera appealed for harmony between the divisions if a break up should occur, saying he and Arthur Griffith always had been colleagues and would continue so.

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