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OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Informa- tion of Our Readers.

Thirty-eight deaths, due to influenza, occurred in Pendleton up to January 1.

Pacific college at Newberg resumed work Monday, after being closed because of the influenza epidemic.

Hardy Holman, a pioneer of Oregon and one of the early sheriffs of Polk county, died at his home in Dallas.

The Marshfield schools, after being closed on account of influenza for nearly four months, reopened Monday.

John B. Griffin, a pioneer mining man of Baker county, died in St. Elizabeth's hospital in Baker, aged 80 years.

A large number of delegates from Lane, Douglas and Coos counties attended the annual Baptist convention in Eugene.

Fire at Pendleton did damage estimated at \$100,000 to the Peoples' warehouse and the offices of H. W. Collins and C. E. Nelson.

During the year 1918 a total of 25,288 accidents were reported to the industrial accident commission. Of this total, 182 were fatal.

Of the 35 high schools of Oregon that entered the High School Debate league last fall, 11 have withdrawn, bringing the number to 24.

Influenza and its complications, principally pneumonia, caused Portland's death rate in 1918 to increase to 12.3 per 1000 in comparison with the 1917 record of 8.4 per 1000.

R. W. DeWitt, who pleaded guilty to robbing the Boswell gold mine of \$6000 in gold in May, 1918, was sentenced at Roseburg by Judge Calkins to 12 years in the penitentiary.

One thousand delegates and relatives are expected in Portland on February 20 and 21 to attend the annual northwest conference of Rotary clubs of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

The Oregon-West Colonization company will open up 10,000 acres in the Malheur valley, from Ontario to Vale, April 1, and is waging a campaign to secure settlers, including stock and dairymen.

The high stage of water in the Willamette river forced the Crown-Willamette Paper company to close its pulp and wood mill at Oregon City, thus throwing 300 men out of employment temporarily.

Freshets in the Hood river the past week have eaten away a bank near the steel bridge of the O. V. R. & N. Co. until the county road connecting the city with the Columbia river boat landing is menaced.

The Dallas public school was closed Thursday because the high water which followed the heavy rains filled the basement of the school building so that it was impossible to build fires to heat the structure.

The national convention of the Greater of America, the largest association of hotel men in this country, will be held in Portland on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 24, 25, 26 and 27.

In the death of Max A. Vogt, which occurred in The Dalles, Wasco county lost one of its leading citizens. He was president of the First National bank of The Dalles and held control of large business and property interests there.

Coming unexpectedly and wholly without warning, the heaviest rain storm which Astoria ever experienced struck that city Wednesday. The records show that the precipitation for 24 hours was 5.5 inches, the greatest ever known.

Cove probably has the only aviator in eastern Oregon who got a German airplane. A letter from Will Motley to his brother, Lee Motley, dated from France, January 17, says he brought down a German airplane just before the armistice was signed.

Nearly 200 persons have joined the new Klamath Good Roads association, which was formed at Klamath Falls, and which has urged upon the legislature an amendment which would permit the bonding of the county up to 10 per cent of its valuation.

Extermination of digger squirrels and other rodent pests in Douglas county is the object of a bill drafted by District Attorney George Neuner at the request of farmers. The bill will be sent to Salem and presented for legislative consideration.

A provision for the survey of the

channel of Yaquina bay from Toledo to Yaquina was inserted in the rivers and harbors bill at the instance of Senator McNary, who also urged an appropriation of \$100,000 in the same bill for the Umpqua river jetty.

The public service commission does not assent to an order of W. F. Turner, receiver of the Pacific & Eastern railway, operating between Medford and Butte Falls, to cease operations of that road January 30. Patrons of the road protested strongly against the proposed closing order.

Enrollment of new students in the University of Oregon at Eugene last term reached the highest mark in the history of the institution. Students enrolled for the first time numbered 586, as compared with 389 for the 1917-1918 term, a gain of 46 per cent.

Enthusiastic and unanimous indorsement for the proposed \$10,000,000 state road bonding measure and for the proposed \$1,000,000 bonding measure in Umatilla county was given by the Umatilla County Good Roads association, composed principally of farmers.

Orders from Washington reached Portland steel shipbuilders to suspend work on all steel ships that cannot be turned out during the first half of 1919. About 25 steamers are expected to be affected that represent a total contract valuation of approximately \$38,000,000.

Formal protest to the interstate commerce commission and director-general of railroads against rates on grain and grain products not based on water grade and low-cost haul to tide-water, was authorized at a meeting in Pendleton for permanent organization of the Inland Empire Shippers' League.

Relief from the prospect of a complete shutdown of the Eugene and Springfield flour mills in the near future because of an accumulated stock of their finished products in the warehouses at Eugene, has been relieved by the return of the government into the flour market, which took the greater part of the surplus stock.

Contending that restrictions on the free sale of fruit juices will kill the fruit juice industry, now becoming fairly well established in the northwest states, the Eugene chamber of commerce has protested to the congressional committee framing the 1918 tax bill against the proposed 10 per cent tax on the sale price of all fruit juices.

Work for several hundred returned soldiers will be available at Bend if construction of an additional two-band mill in started by the Brooks-Seaton Lumber company. J. P. Keyes, manager of the company at Bend, announced that the second plant is now under consideration, and that plans and specifications have been ordered drawn.

Rains, approaching the torrential, accompanied by strong winds, over western Oregon last week caused streams to rise and lowlands in many sections were flooded. Railway communication to points on Puget sound was completely suspended, owing to slides near Centralla, Wash. Telegraph and telephone communication in all directions was badly interrupted.

Prospects that the stunted juniper tree, growing in immense numbers on the unwatered lands of central Oregon, may assume real importance as a substitute for cedar in the manufacture of pencils, were extended in a letter received by the Bend commercial club from the Dolkena Lumber company. Practically unlimited quantities of the wood can be used for this purpose, it was stated.

The strike of the employees of the Sumpter Valley Railroad company was settled when the management and the employees signed a contract whereby the employees are to continue to draw the old wage scale of 41 cents per hour for brakemen, 49 cents for conductors, 52 cents for engineers and 60 cents for shopmen, and in addition thereto an increase of 10 cents per hour for a day of 10 hours.

Permit from the war department for the construction of the necessary dams for the reclamation of Multnomah Drainage District No. 1 has been received. The project, it is expected, will be completed during the present year. It will afford employment to a large number of men, involving an estimated expenditure of \$300,000. The project will add to the intensive producing area of Multnomah county 8100 acres. The district extends from Union avenue to Fairview, a distance of about 14 miles, and adjoins the city limits of Portland on the north.

Portland—Henry L. Pittock, publisher of the Oregonian, is dead.

WHAT THE OREGON SOLONS ARE DOING

Road Legislation is Uppermost at Salem

Salem.—While considerable legislation of minor importance received attention in each house during the second week of the session, the big constructive measures, in which the people of the state at large are interested, such as those relating to highways, finance and consolidation of management of state institutions, were still incubating when the legislature adjourned for the week end. Several bills on these vital subjects are scheduled for introduction this week, but it will doubtless be some time before they are passed.

The joint consolidation committee has agreed upon several bills designed to merge various state bureaus. They seek to create several departments, viz., a department of labor, a department of agriculture, a department of health, a department of state institutions and buildings and possibly one or two other departments. Passage of these bills would result in the merger of a dozen or more boards and commissions.

Some members of the joint consolidation committee seem to think that their program will not meet with very strong opposition, but others believe opposition will develop when the bills are reached on the calendar, and it would not be surprising if they are held up and swamped in the congestion usual during the closing days of the session.

Road legislation is uppermost in the minds of members in both houses, and all concede that a comprehensive highway program should be passed at the present session, but the trouble is that petty jealousy, politics and personal ambition are hampering any prompt action. The senate and house committees are jealous of each other and there are members in each house who would like to go down in history as the father of the state's highways.

Road Bills Appear

A number of road bills have been introduced, some of which have merit. Several seek to hit the so-called paving trust and permit open competition in road construction.

While it is impossible to tell just what the road construction program will be, it seems certain that a \$10,000,000 bond issue will be provided for, to be financed by funds derived from an increase in the motor vehicle tax and a tax on gasoline.

Reconstruction has received slight consideration, but thus far no definite plan has been formulated.

During the first two weeks of the session 80 bills were introduced in the senate and 191 in the house, and in addition a number of resolutions and memorials have been presented. Eight house bills were pending in the senate and 22 senate bills in the house.

A flood of bills to increase salaries have appeared. So far 14 counties are reported to have offered bills to increase salaries of county officers, and bills are in to increase the salary of the justices of the supreme court, superintendent of public instruction, insurance commissioner and dairy commissioner. According to lobby talk more salary bills are coming.

\$842,311 Is Cut From Budget Figures.

The joint ways and means committee, during its first two weeks of wrestling with the financial problems, has tentatively allowed \$2,002,863.44 of the \$2,845,176 of the budget requirements to be put up to the law makers, having lopped off \$842,311.56 so far. These slashes leave only a little more than \$400,000 more to be cut off to meet the provisions of the 6 per cent limitation amendment and there is every indication that the committee will make good on this task.

The main reduction made has been the lopping off of the \$680,000 which the industrial accident commission estimated would be its share for state aid during the next two years.

The next heaviest reduction is that of the state fair, \$30,000 being pruned from the estimates of that institution. The Normal is shaved off \$24,441.56 to bring it down to the \$74,288.44, or millage tax basis. The forestry board is hit by a reduction of \$16,000, while the institution for the feeble minded has so far lost only \$12,200 of the \$345,700 appropriation sought in the budget estimate.

Senate Favors Dairy Investigation.

Senator Pierce's proposal for the appointment of a legislative commission to make an immediate and thorough investigation of the dairy industry in Oregon, met with the unanimous approval of the senate and resulted in

the adoption of his resolution by unanimous vote. President Vinton named Senators Pierce, of Union county, and Patterson, of Polk county, as the two senate members of this commission. The measure provides for three members to be appointed from the lower branch. This commission is expected to recommend needed legislation on behalf of the dairy industry.

House Bill Protects Cattle Shippers.

The Gallagher bill, preventing a combination of bidders for livestock, received an unanimous vote in the house. This bill makes it a misdemeanor to enter into an agreement or arrangement preventing competitive bidding for livestock shipped to a wholesale or central stockyards market. Fines for violation of the act range from \$200 to \$5000.

The bill is designed to prevent collusive agreements between the stock-buyers, said to exist in the Portland markets, from bearing the price of livestock, or splitting the purchases among buyers for their benefit and against the best interest of the stockmen who have to enter the markets for the sale of their stock.

Would Simplify Court Proceedings.

Five bills, intended to simplify and expedite court procedure in Oregon, have been prepared for introduction by Representative Hare of Washington county.

The chief reform proposed is to confer upon the supreme court power to prescribe rules governing the modes of pleading and procedure in the circuit courts, and not bind the circuit courts with hard and fast laws as to procedure which are used by the technical lawyers to obstruct, delay and divert justice.

Another one of the bills amends the statute relating to change of venue, and provides that tort actions shall be tried in the county in which the defendant resides or where the cause of action arose.

Change in Tax Laws Proposed.

Under a joint resolution introduced in the house by Representative Hosford, of Multnomah, all property in the state, except municipal, state and federal property, would be taxed. The resolution proposes submission of a constitutional amendment to the people so to amend the constitution.

Provision also is made in the proposed amendment for a personal property exemption of \$300. This amendment, if enacted, would remove tax exemptions on all church, lodge and other property of a similar nature now enjoying immunity.

Anti-Trust Bill Offered.

A general anti-trust bill which, it is declared, is aimed mainly at the so-called paving trust, but is applicable to trade and other combinations generally, was introduced in the senate by Senators Thomas and Lachmund. The bill is designed to punish those who would seek to prevent fair competition and likewise applies to those who endeavor to fix prices or in any way limit the production of any commodity.

Producers of horticultural and agricultural commodities do not come within the provisions of the act.

Tax on Gasoline Proposed.

A bill providing for a tax of 1 cent a gallon on gasoline and distillate was introduced in the house by the house committee on roads and highways.

The bill defines what shall constitute the fuel upon which the tax shall be levied and includes gasoline, distillate, liberty fuel and such other volatile and inflammable liquids produced or compounded for the purpose of operating motor vehicles, except kerosene oil.

All persons dealing in these liquid fuels are to be known as dealers, whether engaged in the wholesale or retail business. All dealers are required to register their names with the secretary of state whether it be a person, firm or corporation name.

Legislative Briefs.

Organization of the joint house and senate consolidation committee was perfected with the election of Senator Dimick, of Clackamas, as chairman of the committee.

An annual appropriation of \$15,000 to be used by the Oregon Agricultural college in the investigation of crop pests was introduced in the house by the joint committee on horticulture.

The house passed Senator Thomas' joint memorial urging congress to eliminate the 10 per cent tax which the conference committee in congress proposes to impose on loganberry and apple juices.

The senate judiciary committee introduced a substitute bill for two others to withdraw state aid from the industrial accident commission.

The house by unanimous vote passed the Dodd bill prohibiting any school, public or private, within the state of Oregon, from being conducted in other language but English. The bill does not prohibit the teaching of foreign languages, but forbids the entire school being conducted in a foreign tongue.

Two resolutions introduced by Representatives Kubli and Smith, of Multnomah, ask congress to permit Oregon shipyards, to take contracts on foreign account, and a sweeping legislative investigation of why the government is blocking the shipbuilding program.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

Two soldiers out of every thousand who fought with the American army overseas lost an arm or a leg.

Less than 50 enemy alien women were interned during the war, it was disclosed by the department of justice.

The body of Rosa Luxemburg, the Spartacan leader who was killed by a mob recently, was found in the Landwehr canal, according to a report from Berlin. The body was terribly mutilated.

Wounded American men or soldiers remaining in hospitals overseas number approximately 104,000, Colonel W. H. Smith, of the surgeon-general's office, told the senate committee conducting an inquiry.

Secretary Baker ordered the release of 113 conscientious objectors held at Fort Leavenworth, the remission of the unexecuted portions of their sentences, their "honorable restoration to duty" and immediate discharge from the army.

Led by President Wilson, the supreme council of the great powers adopted a proposition brought forward by President Wilson asking all the Russian factions, including the Bolsheviks, to meet the allied and associated governments at Prince's islands, in the sea of Marmora, on February 15.

WHEAT PRICE IS PROBLEM

Reason Given for Not Urging Farmers to Plant Larger Acreage.

St. Louis.—David F. Houston, secretary of agriculture, in explaining why the government is not urging farmers to plant larger crops of wheat next spring, pointed out that crops planted in the spring will not be available for the market until next fall, when food conditions will be changed. "The question is," he said, "can the crop be disposed of at the guaranteed price of \$2.26 a bushel on No. 1 winter wheat?"

"The prospects are that the yield will be at least 1,000,000,000 bushels, of which amount about 650,000,000 will be needed at home. Will Europe take the surplus after a season of producing on her own account and with Australia and Argentina in the market? Australia has been guaranteed \$1.18 for its output, and, of course, the European nations will seek their supply where they can get it at the lowest price."

Work on Steel Ships Ordered Stopped

Portland, Ore.—Orders from Washington reached Portland steel shipbuilders Sunday night to suspend work on all steel ships that cannot be turned out during the first half of 1919. About 25 steamers are expected to be affected that represent a total contract valuation of approximately \$38,000,000.

Soldiers Need Not Quit Army Jobs.

Washington.—To solve the problem of unemployed discharged soldiers, the war department has ordered that no man be discharged from the army against his desire until such time as he can obtain employment in civil life.

Farm Loans Total \$157,020,000.

Washington.—Under the farm loan system \$157,020,000 has been lent to 67,888 farmers up to January 1, the federal farm loan board reported.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Oats—No. 2 white feed, \$42 per ton. Barley—Standard feed, \$46 per ton. Corn—Whole, \$87@89; cracked, \$69@71. Hay—Timothy, \$30@32 per ton; alfalfa, \$26.50. Butter—Creamery, 50c per pound. Eggs—Ranch, 56@57c per dozen. Potatoes—\$1.50@1.75 per hundred. Poultry—Hens, 28@30c; springs, 28c; roosters, 18c.

CONFERENCE ADOPTS LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Representatives of Nations at Peace Meeting Unanimously For Plan.

Paris.—The peace conference unanimously adopted the league of nations project. President Wilson and Colonel House are the American members of the commission thereon.

The preliminary draft for a league of nations says that the league should have a permanent organization to carry on the business between meetings of international conferences of all the members.

The draft calls for the appointment of a commission composed of two representatives of the five great powers and five representatives of the other powers to inquire and report on the responsibility of the authors of the war.

This commission shall also inquire into breaches of laws and customs of war committed by Germany and allies on the land and sea and in the air during the war, as well as the degree of responsibility for these offenses attaching to particular members of the enemy forces "including members of the general staffs and others, however highly placed."

President Wilson rose as the reading of the resolution by Premier Clemenceau closed, and in calm, rather low, earnest tones, spoke in support of the league, with which his name has been identified.

Premier Lloyd George followed President Wilson in a brief speech supporting the general principle of the league.

The Italian premier, Vittorio Orlando, also briefly supported the resolution for the league, speaking of the high ideals it represented.

The former French premier, Leon Bourgeois, made the most extended speech of the day in support of the resolution.

"Is there any objection to the resolution?" asked M. Clemenceau.

There was no response, and he declared the resolution unanimously adopted.

M. Clemenceau then announced the composite committee and the order of the names as announced makes President Wilson chairman.

COUNCIL ISSUES WARNING

Land-Grabbing by Armed Force Ordered to End.

Paris.—The supreme war council issued a solemn warning to the world that the possession of territory gained by force will seriously prejudice the claims of those who use such means and set up sovereignty by coercion. This declaration was framed by President Wilson.

While the solemn warning with regard to the gaining of territory by force specified no countries, it covered broadly the warring elements in the Ukraine and those around Vilna and Lemberg, where bombardments have occurred, and also in the Caucasus, where the new Georgian republic is fighting the new Armenian republic; also Serbian inroads on Montenegro, as well as territorial occupation along the eastern Adriatic, in Thrace and in Poland.

LOANS TO ALLIES DECREASE

January Credits Reported Smallest Since Nation Entered War.

Washington.—America's job as banker for the allies has been lighter this month than at any time since the nation entered the war. Only \$170,000,000 has been paid out as allied loans since January 1, the treasury reported, although payments on this account have been nearly \$400,000,000 a month. The reduction is caused principally by the curtailment of shipments of food, for payment of which American credits had been largely used. Total credits extended by the treasury now amount to \$8,588,772,000, but only \$7,384,316,000 has been actually paid out under these credits.

Great Falls, Mont.—The board of directors of the Montana Union, American Society of Equity, have signed a contract for a site upon which they intend to erect a 2,000,000-bushel terminal grain elevator, construction work on the first 500,000-bushel unit to commence within six months. The site was contracted for with the Young's Bay Land Improvement company and the Montana-Warrenton Development company and is situated at the port of Astoria, Or.