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OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

The total county indebtedness of Klamath county is now \$132,349.76.

A large attendance of growers and others is expected at the fourth annual meeting of the Western Walnut association to be held in Portland February 6 and 7.

After a long vacation, occasioned by the influenza epidemic, the Monmouth public schools opened again Monday, having been closed since a week before the Christmas holidays.

With practically no new "flu" cases for several days, the Albany health authorities have removed the ban on that city and allowed public meetings in churches and theatres, and schools to reopen.

Because several small school children have been run over and seriously hurt by automobiles of late, the La Grande Parent-Teacher association has launched a campaign against careless driving.

Representatives of a party of French Canadians, who desire to secure farming land and locate in the Willamette valley, have been in the Albany section the past few days looking for desirable tracts.

The Oregon Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher associations will hold a child welfare drive in Portland February 12 for the purpose of financing the work of the parents' educational bureau.

An offer of \$276,000 has been made by A. L. Hill and other business men of Medford for the purchase of the Pacific & Eastern railroad property. The offer is now under consideration by the bondholders.

One section of the McKenzie river wagon road, construction of which was halted by the declaration of war, will be built this summer, according to word received by Clyde R. Seitz, district forest supervisor.

Captain J. L. Wood, of Albany, is one of 20 officers selected from the Engineer corps of the American Expeditionary force to appraise the property damage caused by the German army in its operations in Belgium and France.

The senate and house conferees on the revenue bill have been asked by Senator McNary to place a per gallon tax of 10 cents on loganberry and other fruit juices instead of the 20 per cent gross sales tax as approved by the house.

The taxpayers of Umatilla county are getting behind the movement to induce the county court to call for a special election for submitting to the voters the plan of issuing serial bonds providing for permanent road construction in the county.

Construction on the depots for the Prineville railroad, one at the junction and the other at the terminus in the city of Prineville, has been started, and on the completion of these structures, regular passenger traffic over the road will begin.

Motor vehicle registrations for January, 1919, exceeded those of January, 1918, by nearly 12,000, according to tabulations for the month made public at the office of Secretary of State Olcott. There were 49,062 motor vehicle registrations for the past month.

Portland had the lowest monthly fire loss during January since May, 1910, with the single exception of one month, December, 1917. The exact fire loss has not yet been tabulated, but Fire Marshal Grenfell estimates the January loss at approximately \$5000.

The fruit crop in Douglas county returned over \$1,000,000 to growers in 1918, and as labor and weather conditions were unfavorable fruit men are highly pleased.

Through deals closed last week at Hood River, J. R. Nunamaker and sons, Don, Floyd and Neal Nunamaker, already owners of 75 acres of full-bearing orchards, have increased their holdings by 75 acres. The aggregate of the sums paid will reach \$50,000, it is said.

A total of \$14,270.56 was collected for the Oregon soldiers' and sailors' fund, raised in Portland by various entertainments for the benefit of Oregon men overseas and of this amount a total of \$5425.09 has been disbursed, leaving a balance of \$8845.47 intact in the fund.

The attendance at the public school at Noti, 33 miles west of Eugene on

the Coos bay branch of the Southern Pacific, is so great that one room cannot accommodate all the pupils and another will be added. The teacher and the larger boy pupils of the school will do all the work.

The big sawmill of the Booth-Kelly Lumber company at Springfield resumed operations Monday after having been closed for a month. During his time repairs have been made to various units of the plant. The company's mill at Wendling has been operated throughout the winter.

To furnish employment to returning soldiers and stimulate activity along constructive plans extensive improvement of the docks and streets of the city of North Bend is being advocated, and indications are that there will probably be a large amount of work done there during the summer if material can be secured at satisfactory prices.

It will not be long before the prune crop of the northwest will be 100,000-900 pounds, according to estimates made by Robert C. Paulus, manager of the Salem Fruit union. The total acreage in prunes in this state is estimated at 30,182, of which 16,016 are bearing and 14,166 acres not yet in bearing but due to bear within the next five years.

Ranchers living on the branches of Coos river, the east side of Coos bay, on Catching inlet and Daniels creek, and in small community villages, including Cooston, Sumner and Allegany, have started a movement for highways giving them access to the cities on Coos bay. The construction of these highways would necessitate about 25 miles of new road.

Lumber shipments by water from the Columbia river during the month of January were exceptionally light. Records compiled show that 18 vessels loaded at lower river mills in that month, their cargoes totaling 13,315,626 feet. During the same period seven vessels loaded 4,390,735 feet of lumber at upriver mills, making a grand total of 17,709,361 feet shipped.

A bonding election for the new Sparta irrigation project near Baker took place Monday and carried by a large majority. This election marks the transition of a one time famous mining camp from a region of desert hills to a promising agricultural community. The plan is to reclaim 12,000 acres by bringing water from Eagle creek through the Sparta mining ditch.

All restrictions, save those on profiteering, have been removed by the Oregon food administration and the suite of offices formerly occupied by the administration in Portland have been closed. W. K. Newell, federal food administrator for Oregon, will hold his office until the signing of peace, when the United States food administration automatically loses all power.

Charles L. Houston, of Astoria, well-known contracting builder of the lower Columbia river district, was almost instantly killed near Clatsop station. He was directing the construction of a new pile-driver and had climbed into the donkey engine to examine it. As he grasped a pipe to balance himself, it gave way and he fell to the ground, a distance of about 15 feet, striking his head on a railroad tie and fracturing his skull.

A perceptible impetus was given to Marion county's ever-growing fruit industry when the machinery of the new \$100,000 plant of the Northwest Fruit products company was set in motion for the manufacture of jellies, jams and preserves from the fruits and berries of the Willamette valley. The management of the new plant hopes to manufacture 115,000 cases of jellies, jams and preserves within the next 60 to 90 days.

That the proposed great loop highway around Mount Hood may become an accomplished fact as soon as possible, Rufus C. Holman, president of the Oregon Association of County Judges and Commissioners, has called a meeting to be held in Portland Saturday, February 8. To this meeting have been invited the county courts of Hood River, Wasco, Jefferson, Clackamas and Multnomah counties, United States forestry officials and interested citizens.

In a report made by the chief of engineers to the senate committee on commerce, the following available balances for Oregon river and harbor improvements on December 31, 1918, are shown: Columbia river at the mouth, \$94,642; Columbia river and lower Willamette below Vancouver, Wash., and Portland, \$218,071; Clatskanie river, \$880; Willamette river above Portland and the Yamhill river, \$7461; Willamette river at Willamette falls, \$11,821.

WHAT THE OREGON SOLONS ARE DOING

Ritner Introduces Bill for New Penitentiary Building

Salem.—When the legislature assembled Monday for the fourth week of the session there was very little to its credit in the way of bills passed and sent up to the governor. As a matter of fact, very few of the important measures have been introduced in either house.

While the house did considerable work last week, the senate mostly marked time, due largely to the fact that the senate committees reported out few bills for consideration. Both houses from now on must get down to a steady grind and work longer hours if the usual congestion during the last days of the session are to be avoided.

Perhaps the most important piece of legislation passed during the third week of the session was the Dimick-Kubli syndicalism bill, designed to suppress Bolsheviki, I. W. W., and kindred radical movements. The bill carried an emergency clause to make it effective immediately when signed by the governor.

The house by a very large vote passed the Gordon red flag bill, which forbids the display of the red flag, the emblem of anarchy and Bolshevism. This bill will undoubtedly meet with approval in the senate.

Senate Passes Anti-Trust Bill.

The anti-trust bill passed the senate without opposition, but it is likely to cause discussion in the house and will be amended or voted down.

At this time no one can tell just what may be expected in the way of road legislation. There is lack of harmony about many features, but the \$10,000,000 road bonding bill is being whipped into shape and is scheduled to appear this week. It will provide that 75 per cent of the funds given the highway commission shall be spent on the primary roads outlined in the road building program of 1917, while the remaining 25 per cent is to be used in the discretion of the commission on any roads which it may decide are necessary of improvement. It will provide that the rate of interest is not to be more than 4 1/2 per cent and that the bonds shall be retired at the end of 25 years.

Non-Partisan Judiciary Sought.

A bill introduced by Senator Norblad, of Clatsop county, provides for a non-political judicial system in Oregon. This measure is one which has for many years been advocated throughout the state, and the present assembly is expected to enact this bill into a law.

It is provided in the bill that all candidates for these offices shall be placed on a separate ballot at primary elections and this ballot shall be officially designated as the "official primary nominating non-political judicial ballot."

Anti-Lobby Bill Prepared.

Complying with President Vinton's request that legislation be introduced curbing the activities of the huge paving lobby that descended on the legislature last week to lobby against measures striking at the paving trust, Senator Dimick drafted a drastic measure prohibiting lobbying.

Under the terms of the bill all lobbyists must register with the secretary of state, giving their names and the nature of their business. Lobbying with members either in or out of the statehouse is absolutely forbidden, the measure providing that if the lobbyists have an argument to advance for or against a measure, it must be made before committees, in the press or in printed statements delivered to the members on their desks.

Phone Regulation Urged.

Alleged failure of the public service commission to take any action in curbing the telephone companies of the state in imposing rates and charges contrary to the statutes of Oregon and in violation of the rights of the people, Representative Graham, of Lane, introduced in the house a joint resolution calling upon the commission to take such steps as may be necessary to suspend the enforcement of said telephone toll charges or to secure the annulment thereof as may be necessary.

The resolution recites that the rates charged should be reasonable rates and based on the elements usually considered in determining the reasonableness of a rate.

Memorials Planned for Soldiers.

Every county in Oregon will be authorized to expend at least \$5000 in constructing suitable memorials or arches in memory of the soldiers and sailors who took part in the recent

war, if a bill introduced by Senator Handley becomes a law. The measure asks that all county courts be given authority to spend \$5000 of the public money for this purpose.

Capital Punishment Bill Introduced.

Death penalty for all persons hereafter convicted in this state of murder or treason in the first degree is provided for in a proposed constitutional amendment introduced in the senate by Senator Dimick.

No alternative penalty is provided, so if the amendment should be passed by the legislature and approved by the voters it would mean that all persons convicted of murder in the first degree must be sentenced to death. The amendment, if adopted, would be self executing.

Governor Signs Eight Measures.

Eight bills have been signed by Governor Withycombe and filed with Secretary of State Olcott. They are: Soldiers' and sailors' commission bill, appropriating \$100,000 and carrying an emergency clause. Now effective.

Measure appropriating \$552,385 to meet deficiency appropriations of the emergency board. Emergency clause attached.

Measure appropriating \$25,000 to pay per diem and traveling expenses of members of the legislature and salaries of clerks and stenographers. Emergency clause attached.

Bill empowering cities and towns, without consent of property owners affected, to annex property that has been or will be surrounded by the city limits. Measure has particular application to Portland.

Two bills by Senator Baldwin placing state bank members of the federal reserve system on the same footing as national bank members.

Measure empowering the state highway commission to sell obsolete or worn-out machinery.

Measure extending the power of eminent domain for county courts and the highway commission so that use may be made of property before completion of condemnation proceedings.

Bill Provides For New State Prison.

Authority to construct a new penitentiary building at a cost of \$500,000 is sought in a bill introduced by Senator Ritner. The bill provides that the question be referred to a vote of the people at the next general, regular or special election.

If the bill becomes a law, the board of control will have authority to use \$125,000 annually for four consecutive years to pay for the cost of the new building. It is not required that this amount shall conform to the 6 per cent statutory limitation.

May Abolish Parole Officer.

Senator LaFollett, of Marion county, has introduced a bill for the abolition of the office of state parole officer. The bill, which would amend the present law, would make it the duty of circuit judges when paroling persons to make written conditions of the parole order, to be forwarded to the warden of the state penitentiary, instead of to the parole officer, and provides that the persons paroled report to the warden instead of the parole officer.

Liquor Laws Are Tightening.

Two bills aimed at bootlegging were introduced in the senate by Senator Bernhard. One provides that municipalities introduced in the senate by Senator court and the other gives a municipal judge the right to issue search warrants in seeking to suppress the liquor traffic. Under the present state law these powers are delegated only to state officials.

Legislative Brevities.

Representative Schuebel's bill providing for creation of a board of conciliation and arbitration in labor disputes met defeat in the house.

Representative Thrift offered a joint memorial asking congress to retain the United States employment service. The house passed the joint resolution of Representative Smith, of Multnomah, providing for a committee to investigate the wood shipbuilding industry and enlarged it to cover the steel shipyards as well.

Curfew shall ring each night for the canines if a bill introduced by Representative Dennis becomes a law. All dogs must be safely tucked into bed by 8 o'clock each night and remain there until 6 o'clock the next morning, under this bill.

Representative Bean has introduced a bill providing for a \$50,000 appropriation to create a revolving fund

under which the state printing plant would print all the text books used in the schools of the state, the same to be sold at actual cost.

More expeditious transaction of circuit court business is the purpose of a bill introduced by the senate judiciary committee, authorizing the chief justice of the supreme court to assign any circuit judge to duty in any circuit court of the state.

Congress is "earnestly requested to appropriate sufficient funds for finishing the steel and wooden ships now under contract," in a memorial passed by both houses.

Senator Dimick's bill making it a crime to teach the German language in the public schools and colleges of Oregon, was passed by the senate by a vote of 18 to 11.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

Nat C. Goodwin, the actor, died at a hotel in New York after a brief illness. Czech troops have occupied Austrian Silesia, having defeated the Poles, according to information from Vienna.

Austin Dowling, bishop of Des Moines, has been named archbishop of St. Paul, succeeding the late John Ireland.

It is estimated that nearly 200,000 men and women are idle in the United Kingdom and Ireland because of strikes in various trades.

Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Wilson, according to the Etoule Belge, is suffering from an attack of influenza in Brussels. She is confined to her room in the American legion.

Official tables of major battle casualties of the American forces in France, made public by General March, chief of staff, show that approximately 10,000 men remained wholly unaccounted for nearly three months after the ending of hostilities.

An army of 500,000 men was unanimously decided on by the house military committee as the basis for determining the appropriation for army pay for the year beginning next July. Committee members said the number was expected to be the average force during the year.

All Seattle Industry Is Threatened.

Seattle.—A city-wide strike of the majority of 152 labor organizations, involving the greater part of 70,000 workers, was scheduled to begin on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, in support of 25,000 striking metal trades workmen, who left the shipyards and contract shops here January 21 after their demands for higher pay than that given in the Macy federal wage adjustment award had been refused.

Red Propaganda Target of Probe.

Washington.—Sweeping investigation of Bolsheviki, I. W. W. and other propaganda was ordered by the senate after a tempestuous discussion, in which several senators declared organizations were plotting to overthrow the American government by violence. The senate judiciary subcommittee, which for more than a year has been investigating pro-German and brewers' propaganda, was authorized by the senate resolution to conduct the new inquiry.

German Troops Attack Poles.

Zurich.—German troops have attacked the Poles at several points along the eastern frontier, capturing Grunthal, Wunshein and Grossamokli.

Butter Exports Now Allowed.

Washington.—Exportations of butter, prohibited during the war, will be permitted under an order issued by the war trade board.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Oats—No. 2 white feed, \$45 per ton.
Barley—Standard feed, \$40 per ton.
Corn—Whole, \$67@69; cracked, \$69 @71.
Hay—Timothy, \$30@32 per ton; alfalfa, \$26.50.
Butter—Creamery, 46c per pound.
Eggs—Ranch, 41c per dozen.
Poultry—Hens, 30@32c; roosters, 18c; turkeys, 42c.

Seattle
Hay—Eastern Washington timothy, \$38 per ton; alfalfa, \$34 per ton.
Butter—Creamery, 50c.
Eggs—Ranch, 54c.
Poultry—Hens, 29@29c; springs, 27c; roosters, dressed, 27@28c; ducks, 31c; geese, 25c; turkeys, 44@47c.

Portland—J. Henry Abers was found guilty on two counts.

ALLIED ASPIRATIONS ARE TAKING FORM

Claims of Different Nations Must Be Adjusted Over Peace Table.

Paris.—The delegates of the five great powers are now in a position to compare clearly their own aspirations and those of all their allied friends, and to see the differences that must be reconciled.

France wants, first of all, Alsace-Lorraine unconditionally, and the right to discuss and ultimately to fix the French frontiers in their relation to the Rhine.

The French bill for reparation is not yet complete, but it has been announced in the chamber of deputies that it will be about 65,000,000,000 francs.

Great Britain's delegation believes that a society of nations is desirable and obtainable, and that it must be established by the present peace conference. Britain will take mandatory power over the German islands south of the equator for Australia and over southwest Africa for the Union of South Africa. She will also have the mandate of German East Africa and some parts of Arabia and she has particular claims in this respect over Mesopotamia. Great Britain will enter a pool with the other allies in the matter of indemnities, especially reparation for air raid damages and shipping losses.

Italy asks for the Trentino as far as the Brenner Pass, including the whole of southern Tyrol; Trieste, Istria, Fiume, Zara, Sebenico, the larger part of the Dalmatian islands, Avlona and its hinterland, and a protectorate over Albania.

Territorial connection in the Balkans are complicated and present difficult problems.

Belgium asks that her reparation for damages wrought by Germany shall be the first lien upon German assets to the extent of at least 15,000,000,000 francs or up to a much larger sum if Germany does not return the machinery and the materials taken from Belgium.

SITUATION IN NORTH RUSSIA IS CRITICAL

Washington.—The situation in the Archangel district is regarded by military officers in northern Russia as extremely critical.

Reports that the Bolsheviki forces were using gas shells were taken here by some officers to mean that this equipment had been supplied through German sources, notwithstanding the terms of the armistice, and if this was established as a fact it was intimated that drastic action against the Germans would be taken by Marshal Foch.

Available figures obtained by war department officials show that the British force in the region of the north is approximately 6000, American 4500, French 1500, loyal Russians under British officers 1200 and 1000 other soldiers of one of the smaller allied countries.

PERSHING DENIES REPORTS

American Soldiers Not Responsible For Crime Wave in Paris.

Washington.—Reports that American soldiers are responsible for a crime wave in Paris are flatly denied by General Pershing in a cablegram to Secretary of War Baker. "Full refutation of the charges cannot be put too strongly before the American people," the American commander stated.

General Pershing's cablegram was sent in response to inquiries by the war department, following sensational charges, published in the Paris Mattin, that American soldiers were responsible for an appalling number of murders and robberies in the French capital. Press dispatches since that time have stated that these depredations were committed by Apaches wearing American uniforms.

Government Insurance Convertible

Washington.—Conditions under which soldiers or sailors now holding government life insurance may convert these policies within five years into other forms were announced by Colonel Henry D. Lindsay, of the war risk insurance bureau. Rates will be made public soon.