

BILL BOOSTER SAYS

THE FELLOW WHO KNOCKS HIS HOME TOWN IS AS BAD AS THE DOG BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS IT. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO DON'T LIKE IT HERE, PERMIT ME TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT TRAINS LEAVE DAILY!



OREGON NEWS ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers.

The 20th annual meeting of the Oregon state board of health was held in Portland.

A joint meeting of the bankers of Washington and Yamhill counties was held at Carlton.

The state and county tax levy in Douglas county will amount to 19.8 mills, Assessor Calkins announced.

The annual meeting of the Oregon Wool Growers' association will be held in Pendleton, January 28, 29 and 30.

A total of 646 cases of measles was reported to the state board of health during the week ending December 8.

Prohibition enforcement expenses for Jackson county for November and the first ten days in December aggregate \$1441.80.

The basketball schedule in the Coos County high school association for this winter includes 42 games and eight participating teams.

Guy Cordon of Roseburg has been appointed district attorney of Douglas county to succeed Carl Wimberly, who has resigned.

The spread of diphtheria in the city of Portland has not been curtailed as yet, for records in the health bureau shows that there are 111 cases under quarantine.

Dr. Jay Tuttle, for more than 40 years one of Astoria's most prominent physicians and surgeons, died at the hospital following a few days' illness, at the age of 81.

The Southern Pacific Friday ran trains over the branch line between Marshfield and Eugene for the first time in eight days. The line had been tied up by recent storms.

Representative Elton Watkins, the new democratic member of congress from Oregon, was assigned to the committee on immigration and expenditures of the war department.

Judge John Wesley Bell of department No. 1 of Multnomah county has submitted his resignation to Governor Pierce to become effective January 1. Judge Bell is 74 years of age.

The state and county tax levy for Lane county this year is 23.1 mills, according to announcement by Ben F. Keeney, assessor. This is two mills less than the levy of last year.

Representative Sinnott of Oregon has been named a member of the house steering committee, which puts its stamp of approval on all legislation to be considered by the house.

Governor Pierce issued a full pardon to Charles W. Purdin, who on December 30, 1921, killed his divorced wife and a stranger whom he found with her in their former home in Portland.

Portland is one of the 26 of the larger cities in the United States which showed increased employment in November, according to the survey of the United States department of labor just issued.

A contract for the care and custody of the legally adjudged insane of the territory of Alaska was awarded to the Sanitarium company, operating the Morningside hospital at Portland, by the interior department.

Band users of electricity are congratulating themselves because the municipal plant which cost the city something over \$50,000 has found it possible to reduce the cost of service from 17 cents per kilowatt hour to 15 cents.

The cost of supplies for the state institutions for the six months starting January 1, 1924, will be practically the same as for the first six months

of 1923, according to bids received by the state board of control for furnishing supplies.

A report of Traffic Officer Murray of Hood River county shows that 349 arrests were made from April 1 to December 1. Accidents on the Columbia river highway and valley roads reached 175. Twelve persons were injured, one fatally.

The action of the Coos county tax commission in lopping off the appropriation for the four free ferries in the county is causing a flurry among ranchers who are dependent upon these for communication with the centers of population.

There will be no material sales of 1923 prunes until the 1922 crop is cleaned up, according to Fred Drager, Salem packer. Mr. Drager estimates that there are between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 pounds of old prunes unsold at the present time.

The question of whether the legislative act creating the county supervising and conservation commissions is constitutional probably will enter prominently into a mandamus action filed in the supreme court at Salem by Umatilla county, to compel R. O. Hawks, county assessor, to levy a one-mill tax for co-operative market road construction.

Mrs. Robert Byers of Los Angeles, bride of a week, was drowned in the Willamette river at Harrisburg, when an automobile driven by William J. Parks of San Francisco plunged down the steep ferry approach on the Pacific highway into 16 feet of water while the ferry boat was on the opposite side of the river.

There were two fatalities in Oregon industries during the week ending December 6, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission. The victims were Walter Stuart, Seaside, brakeman, and Amos Breeden, Black Rock, pile driver. A total of 637 accidents were reported during the week.

All train service on the Eugene-Coos bay branch of the Southern Pacific railway was tied up on account of damage to a steel bridge across the Suislaw river near Linslaw, 36 miles west of Eugene. A fir tree four feet in diameter fell across the bridge and caved in the top part of it so that trains were unable to operate over it.

The total value of taxable property in Oregon, including that equalized by the state board of equalization and that equalized and apportioned by the state tax commission, is \$1,042,410,518.66, according to a report prepared by Earl Fisher, state tax commissioner. Last year the total value of the taxable property was \$1,009,499,160.38.

The outlet of Siletcoos lake, which is only two miles from the Pacific ocean in western Lane county, is again clogged by sand, due to wind and high sea. The state fish and game commission this fall cleared the channel of obstructions in order that salmon might enter the lake to spawn but it is now worse than ever, reports state.

At a meeting of the old and new Y. M. C. A. directorates of La Grande, attended by W. W. Dillon, state secretary, August J. Stange of La Grande offered to pay the indebtedness of the institution and give the "Y" officials until March 1, 1924, to redeem the building, thus saving the Y. M. C. A. from being sold by the sheriff.

Representatives of the upper Willamette valley high schools met in the Albany high school building Saturday morning to divide the state into districts for athletic competition. Representatives from Corvallis, Eugene, Roseburg, Cottage Grove, Lebanon, Silverton, McMinnville, Forest Grove, Salem and Albany were in attendance.

Oregon pensions have been granted as follows: James S. Vanderpool, Agate Beach, \$12; Herman J. Gleeman, Baker, \$12; Robert A. Blevins, Salem, \$15; Francis J. Welsh, Beaver, \$15; Sarah E. Radabaugh, Roseburg, \$30; Annie McReynolds, Cottage Grove, \$30; Mary M. Wartz, Portland, \$30; Sarah B. Brown, Boro, \$30.

Ex-service men and women and relatives of dead veterans who were residents of Oregon at the time they entered the service for the world war and who consider themselves eligible to receive either the cash bonus or the loan benefits under the Oregon soldiers' bonus law must file their initial or first application in the offices of the bonus commission at Salem on or before December 31, 1923. Application blanks received in that office on and after January 1, 1924, will not be considered, the secretary of the commission said.

The greatest slaughter of beavers ever known in Oregon has been and is taking place since the law passed by the last legislature, opening the season on the little fur-bearers, went into effect. Stanley Jewett of the United States biological survey, after a trip around the southern and central part of the state, brings back word that ten traps for every beaver in a wide area covering more than 200 square miles are set and that within two years there will not be one of the industrious animals left if the present rate of decimation continues.

With Christmas Love Came Understanding

"That's a fact, I have made it up with Beatrice," Ann, "the hard-boiled" of the office, yanked off her coat and hat and placed them in the locker that ranged across the end of the room.

No one paid much attention to Ann usually. She was of such an explosive nature, and said such irresponsible things, that she was not taken seriously. But the break between Ann and Beatrice had been of long standing and had been commented upon so much by Ann that her announcement caused the other girls to look up questioningly.

"That's a fact," continued Ann, "and I am so ashamed of my treatment of her this long time."

"How did it come about?" asked Sadie, assistant to the department manager. "Well," exclaimed Ann, "I will have to confess my beastly nature, before I can tell you how it happened. In a spirit of spite I sent Beatrice a Christmas present, which no one but good little Bea could ever have accepted as anything but an insult. It makes no difference what it was. Today noon I met her on the street and she stopped me to thank me for the present."

"It was not the present so much, Ann, that came by mail," said she. "What made me feel good was that you had been thinking of me." Then she took hold of my hand to caress it and said, "It was not any kind of a present that I wanted most from you, Ann, but your love and companionship and sympathy. I have been hungry for you, Ann, and you had no right to take yourself away from me. I give you my love for Christmas—will you give me yours?" And little Ann, the hard-boiled, cried right on the street. "What do you think of that, girls?"

"The day of miracles is not past, it seems," commented one. "And now do you know what?" This from Ann. The girls waited expectantly for further information from the erratic one.

"Well, I always thought Christmas was to get people to spend lots of money to send things to other people that they did not want," rattled off Ann. "Now I have a new understanding of Christmas since my most loyal friend has asked me only for my love—and she sure is going to get it."—C. F. Wadsworth. (© 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

Ireland Hunts Wrens Day After Christmas

IN IRELAND Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) is known as St. Stephen's day. On this day there is practiced an old custom that has come down through the ages and which is called "hunting the wren." A crowd of grown boys with blackened faces and dressed in the most grotesque costumes seek out a wren, which is the smallest of all birds in Ireland, and carrying it with them go from house to house all over their particular part of the country, asking, or rather singing a request for a little help with the celebration which takes place in the village that evening. There are several verses which they use, the following being a sample of their kind:

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds, St. Stephen's day, she was caught in the furze, Although she is little her family is great. So please try your pocket and give us a treat (treat) Sing holly, sing ivy, sing ivy, sing holly. Just a drop to drown melancholy, And if you draw it of the beak, I hope in Heaven your soul will rest And if you draw it of the small It will not agree with the wren boys at all.

And so much is the spirit of hospitality and good will in evidence at Christmas time that they very seldom meet with a refusal and by evening the pile of small silver pieces has grown into large enough proportions to warrant a big celebration at which all the young folks in the district make merry.—Katherine Edelman. (© 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

It is a pleasant custom, when the Christmas tree is lighted and its many candles fall to give all the needed cheer, to light a candle from its fires and give the taller candles on the shelf and on the table a share in the happy illumination.—C. G. Hazard. (© 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

THE OPTIMIST'S VIEW

The optimist reflects that the shopping rush would be much more uncomfortable if Christmas came on July 25.

IT TAKES COURAGE

The true diplomatist is one who can say "Just what I needed" while speculating on his chances at the exchange counter.

THE POSTMAN SETS THE PACE

There would be merriment enough for all if everybody worked as hard in distributing holiday cheer as the postman.

Ashby C. Dickson, Portland lawyer, was appointed by Governor Pierce to succeed John H. Bell, judge of department No. 1 of the district court of Multnomah county. Judge Bell has resigned, to leave office on January 1.

B. O. Roberts, who was sentenced at Roseburg to serve five years in the state penitentiary for the part he played in the operation of an alleged liquor ring at Reedsport, Douglas county, has received a conditional pardon from Governor Pierce.

The Oregon public service commission has granted the Columbia Stages, operated by A. Jaloff, and the Royal Blue Lines permission to continue reduced fares put into effect two weeks ago. The two stage lines operate between Portland and Astoria.

The bonded indebtedness of the state of Oregon on December 31, 1923, including state highway obligations in the amount of \$37,395,250, will aggregate \$59,953,226.76, according to the annual report of the state treasurer which is being prepared for presentation to the governor.

John S. Connelly and Fred C. Schulte, former deputy sheriffs at Reedsport, who were convicted of accepting bribes to protect a ring of bootleggers and moonshiners at Reedsport, were sentenced to penitentiary terms of ten and seven years respectively by Judge Hamilton.

A California butcher has negotiated with the Klamath Indian service for the purchase of several thousand horses which run wild on the Indian range to be rounded up and killed for chicken feed and fertilizer. Owing to their numbers, the horses have become a menace to the cattle range.

Oregon is gradually taking its place as one of the big butter producing states of the union and is now exporting more than 2,250,000 pounds of butter a year, according to the announcement of M. M. Boney, president of the Oregon Butter Makers' association which held its convention in Portland.

Automobile owners are urged by Sam Kozar, secretary of state, to apply at once for their 1924 automobile licenses, and thus facilitate the giving out of these licenses and prevent the great congestion and its resultant delay which has been experienced immediately after January 1 on other years.

About one-quarter of a mile of new macadam road is being built by the state on the Oregon-Washington highway. The road will be the cutoff to connect the north end of the new bridge, recently completed by the state over McKay creek, with the old highway. The bridge is about six miles southeast of Pendleton.

Completion of the Jordan Valley Irrigation district, under a plan outlined by the state irrigation securities commission probably will be undertaken within the next few months, according to representatives of the district. The district within the next few days will advertise for the sale of bonds in the amount of \$400,000.

According to word from Senator McNary, funds to complete the Scottsburg-Reedsport section of the road from Roseburg to the mouth of the Umpqua will be appropriated by the bureau of public roads and work will start immediately.

An appropriation of \$350,000 probably will be asked by the Oregon delegation for the completion of the Tongue Point submarine base at the mouth of the Columbia river. The \$250,000 initial appropriation will be exhausted by April.

Save \$1.53 on your Week-end Trip to Portland by buying a Round Trip Ticket

Week-End Tickets are on sale Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, return limit following Tuesday. 15-Day Tickets are on sale Daily to stations in Oregon.



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HOME SWEET HOME. Oscar loses the argument by a snore. Terry Gilkison. AND HE'S ALWAYS BRAVING ABOUT HIS BROTHER BEIN' IN THE MOVIES BECAUSE HE WAS A FISHERMAN'S GUIDE AND CARRIED A REEL ONCE! HO-HUM! AW, GO TO SLEEP! YES, SURE! HE'S A GREAT INVENTOR, WHY SOME OF HIS EXCUSES FOR STAYING OUT LATE AT NIGHT ARE USED ALL OVER THE WORLD. Futile tasks. COUNTING THE KICKS IN A FOOTBALL!