

# THE COQUILLE HERALD

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## HALL OF RECORDS ABOUT FINISHED

### New Courthouse Building Is Splendid Structure and Is Fireproof Throughout

### FURNITURE HAS NOT ARRIVED

### Officers May Move in Next Month

By the end of the week the new court house building, which has been christened the Hall of Records, will be practically completed. Last week the scaffolding work around the exterior of the building was torn down, and workmen are now putting on the finishing touches on the jail portion of the new structure.

The Hall of Records is a building of which Coos county may be justly proud. Constructed throughout of concrete, steel and fire-proof glass it is the final word in fire-proof construction.

The building faces west and upon entering it one comes into a small ante room with doors leading into the main office of the county clerk and into the abstract room. Besides these rooms there are on this floor several smaller rooms that will be utilized as private offices. Part of the fixtures of the clerk's office is a built-in vault and telephone booth. The walls of the vaults in the new building are eight inches of concrete and steel while the other inner walls of the building are only two inches.

On the second floor the arrangement is much the same as the first, the main office of the sheriff occupying the main part. Here is located another vault, identical with the one in the clerk's office. It is from this floor that the stairway leads into the main building.

The entire third floor is occupied by the jail and living rooms of the jailer. On the east side are located the cells for juvenile and women prisoners. Each of these are fitted with bathroom and toilet. In the northwest corner of this floor is a kitchen and pantry where the food for the prisoners is prepared. There are pass doors from the kitchen to the main cell rooms which occupy most of the western side, and to the women's cells, making it possible for the food to be passed to the prisoners without entering the cellroom. In the main jail there are three cells each with a capacity of four prisoners. In the cage surrounding these cells there is a shower bath for the use of the prisoners. Adjoining the main room on the south is the padded cell for the confinement of insane cases.

The basement contains a fuel room, heating plant, a vault and two reasonably large rooms the use of which has not been designated. One of the attractive features of the basement is the driveway leading out on the north side that allows a truck or wagon to be backed into the fuel room.

Everything about the building has the appearance of stability and strength. Every part possible has been constructed of reinforced concrete and the doors are made by a special process that makes them fire-proof although they have a wood finish. The center of the door is iron and on each side of this is a sheet of asbestos which is covered with a veneer of wood. The windows are a fire-proof glass and are equipped with an automatic closing device in case of fire. Should a fire start in one of the rooms of the new building with all the windows open, it would only be a matter of a few minutes until every one would have closed itself.

One of the things about the new building that strikes the visitor the most favorably is the abundance of light, both day and night. There are an abundance of windows for the daytime and in providing artificial light the latest methods have been used with the result that a plentiful supply of well diffused light is available in every part of the building. This part of the construction was handled by the local Oregon l'over company.

### Cannot Withdraw Tax Funds

Judge Skipworth of Eugene in an opinion filed with the county clerk at Coquille Friday decided the case of the Southern Oregon company vs. Coos county involving the withdrawal of \$167,000 taxes on the company's land grant holdings in favor of the county says the Times. This makes the sixth favorable decision that L. A. Liljeqvist who has represented the county in the litigation, has won in this same suit.

Judge Skipworth's decision is very brief. He held that the Southern Oregon company had not pursued the proper procedure to regain control of the funds which were placed in escrow to guarantee the payment of taxes on the

land grants, the title to which is cloudy owing to steps being taken by the government to regain title to the holdings.

A. S. Hammond appeared for the Southern Oregon company in the last suit. John Guerin of Portland appeared for them in one of the previous ones. Mr. Liljeqvist filed objections to the suit on technical grounds, one being that the Menasha Woodware Co. and not the Southern Oregon company was the company to lay claim to the funds and another that the banks, county treasurer and others should be made joint defendants. Judge Skipworth ruled all his contentions.

### McAdoo Writes Governor Regarding Farm Loan Act

My Dear Governor:

The Act of Congress known as the Federal Farm Loan Act of July 17, 1916, was passed "to provide capital for agricultural development; to create a standard form of investment based upon farm mortgages; to equalize rates of interest upon farm loans," etc. It provides for long-time amortized loans to farmers at a lower rate of interest than has hitherto prevailed in most sections of the country, and will meet the credit necessities of a vast number of farmers, particularly the owners of small farms whose lack of touch with financial centers, or the modesty of whose demands, have hitherto prevented their securing loans at all, irrespective of the rate of interest.

In order to secure an adequate supply of money for farm mortgage purposes, the Federal Land Banks will issue bonds secured by the deposit as collateral of first mortgages on farm lands. I enclose several copies of Circular No. 6, issued by the Federal Farm Loan Board, entitled "Farm loan bonds," describing fully the manner of issue and the character of these bonds.

The Federal Farm Loan Act provides that these bonds "shall be a lawful investment for all fiduciary and trust funds and may be accepted as security for all public deposits." This, of course, relates only to fiduciary and trust funds under the jurisdiction and control of the Federal government. In order to make these bonds lawful investments for trust funds and savings banks in the several states it is necessary that each state enact laws to that effect unless such laws are already in existence. I shall be greatly obliged if you will advise me promptly whether or not, under the existing laws of your State, these bonds will be legal investments for trustees and guardians and for savings banks and insurance companies. If they are not, may I beg that you will recommend to the Legislature of your State at its present session the enactment of the necessary laws to make them legal investments.

Such legislation would accomplish the double benefit of putting within the reach of trustees and guardians an absolutely safe investment, yielding a satisfactory income for the beneficiaries under their trusts and thus widen the opportunity for a safe investment of the savings of the masses, while, at the same time, it would provide of immense benefit to the farmers of your State in enlarging the market for farm loan bonds and farm mortgages, thereby assuring a larger amount of available credit for the needs of the farmers of your State and at lower rates of interest than those now prevailing. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter, together with Circular No. 6 of the Federal Farm Loan Board relating to "Farm loan bonds," to the various farm organizations in your State, with the request that they cooperate with you in any measure you may adopt looking toward the enactment of the desired legislation.

Respectfully an early reply, and hoping that I may count upon your cooperation in this matter, I am, Cordially yours,  
W. G. McADOO, Secretary.

### Rainfall Less Than Last Year

"I've been asked that question only about thirty-five times within the last few weeks," said Captain Wren of the local Lighthouse station, in response to the query of how much rain had fallen this winter. "And I wish you would print my answer in big type so that everybody can surely see it. Not that I don't like to answer questions, but because thirty or forty times for the same query is monotonous."

Mr. Wren's regular monthly report together with the information concerning the present and past winter's rainfall, follows: The rainfall for the month of January was 4.49 inches; days rainy and cloudy, 29; days clear, 11. The rainfall for the corresponding month of 1916 was 10.83 inches, a difference of 6.22 inches less this year.

The rainfall from August 1, 1916, to February 1, 1917, was 22.10 inches. For the same period of 1915-1916 it was 35.19 inches; a difference of 13.09 inches less rain-fall this winter than last.

## United States and Germany Are on Verge of Actual War

### Diplomatic Relations Broken by President Wilson when Germany Re-issues Orders for Indiscriminate Warfare Against Neutral Shipping. President Councils Calm Action and Deliberation Upon Part of Federal Authorities

The strained relations between this country and Germany, caused by the announcement by Germany of her intention to resume the methods of submarine warfare to which this country has so strenuously objected, culminated last Saturday in the breaking of diplomatic relations.

Ambassador von Bernstorff was handed passports for himself, wife, staff and suite, one hundred in all, at two o'clock and President Wilson announced the break in relations with Germany to the country and the world at a joint session of Congress in the afternoon.

It is officially pointed out that the breaking of relations with Germany does not mean war, but easily may lead to war. It is an act of protest, characterized in the usage of nations as a "measure short of war."

The danger that war may follow is accentuated by the diplomatic history of the world. Modern times show no instance of a diplomatic break between two first class nations that has not been followed by hostilities.

After the break comes the possibility of the measures termed "non-amiable modes of redress," may include reprisals, retaliations, non-intercourse, display of force, without there being war.

The rights of Germans residing in America and Americans in Germany are practically unaffected by the severance of diplomatic relations. No treaties are terminated or suspended but remain in full force and effect, unless either government decides to denounce them, which under international practice generally calls for a year's notice. There is no change in commercial relations which are already badly crippled.

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Wilson addressed a joint session of Congress, first reviewing the whole situation, reading portions of German and American diplomatic correspondence which followed the torpedoing of the Sussex. He announced all diplomatic

relations were severed on account of the new submarine order. He charged Germany with deliberately withdrawing her solemn assurance given in the Imperial government note of May, 1916.

The president said: "This government has no alternative consistent with the United States' dignity and honor but to follow the course which it declared in April, 1916, would be followed unless Germany effected an abandonment of her submarine methods."

The president stated he could not make himself believe Germany intended abandonment of the ancient friendship, break her solemn obligations and kill American citizens on the seas. He asked all neutrals to follow America's course.

The president continued: "American ships and lives will be sacrificed. I shall take the liberty of coming before Congress again to ask for authority to use any means necessary for the protection of our seamen. I can do nothing less."

This was taken to mean the president meant he would ask Congress to sanction a declaration of war. There was tremendous cheering on both sides of the chamber and the galleries followed the bent. Secret service men surrounded the president. The justices of the supreme court heard the president speak. The diplomatic and executive galleries were jammed.

This is what President Wilson said to Germany in his "ultimatum" after the steamer Sussex had been sunk without warning in the English channel on March 25, 1916:

"If it is still the purpose of the imperial government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the

United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue.

"Unless the imperial government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight-carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German Empire altogether.

"This action the government of the United States contemplates with the greatest reluctance, but feels constrained to take in behalf of humanity and the rights of neutral nations."

While the nation awaits the issue of war or peace, President Wilson has taken steps that the conduct of the government during the tense period of waiting shall be one of calm deliberation and beyond criticism.

Federal authorities have been instructed to avoid hasty action and to do nothing illegal.

President Wilson still hopes to avoid hostilities, but if war comes, he wants no possible blame attached to America.

President Wilson himself is moving without panic or haste and expects all subordinate officers of the government to do likewise. No matter what other nations may do in the emergency it was stated that America will adhere strictly to law.

Senator Wadsworth presented a telegram from representatives of 500 German and Austrian societies, pledging 100,000 members' loyalty to the United States. The state department learned that between 2,000 and 6,000 Americans are now in Germany.

A Washington dispatch of yesterday says: The submarine which sank the American vessel, Houatonic, warned the craft and after torpedoing her, helped to save the crew. There is in this event no cause for war.

ple of the surface soil that is free from debris of any kind and also one of the soil at a depth equivalent to that at which the field is to be plowed.

### Ward Took Cold Bath

Sunday afternoon on the steamer Norma's return trip from Bandon, Paris Ward, mail clerk, lost his balance and plunged backward from the boat into the ice-cold river. J. W. Leneve who was returning from a trip down the river was the sole witness of the accident. He at once ran to the pilot house and told the captain there was a man overboard. The boat backed down the river in pursuit of Mr. Ward who was swimming strongly about two hundred yards distant. He reached a large willow tree that jutted out from the river bank and clung to a limb until the boat reached him and he was then hauled on board. Upon being landed safely on the deck he asked the captain if he would be kind enough to back on down the river and rescue his steambot cap, which was done. Mr. Ward showed unusual coolness. Despite the fact that he was weighed down with a heavy mackinaw, he took his swim as if it were an everyday occurrence. He was the least excited man on the boat. The river at the present time is as cold as ice and is running like a mill stream. If Ward wasn't an excellent swimmer we probably would have a different tale to tell.

### Club Endorses Chas. Hall For Commissioner

At the regular meeting of the Commercial Club Wednesday night that organization fell into line promptly with the Herald's suggestion and decided to wire their endorsement of Chas. Hall for Member of the State Highway Commission to Governor Withycombe. This was after hearing R. S. Knowlton's report on his trip to Salem. Just when this appointment will be made depends upon the bill authorizing it which is to be passed at this session of the legislature. A number of bills were also passed by the club.

Next Wednesday night the club will meet for the purpose of holding its regular election of officers. Everyone interested should go prepared to nominate someone for the various offices who will continue to carry on the work of the club in the same efficient manner as have the present officers.

### Farmers Have Plan on to Test Herd Law

According to reports farmers in the vicinity of Cooson have a plan on foot whereby through organized effort a test will be made of the recently enacted herd law. Harry Walker of Willanah is one of those who have agreed with his neighbors to make a test of the law and they have delegated him to confer with A. H. Derbyshire, a North Bend attorney who will be engaged to handle the legal end of the fight. They propose, so we are told, to permit their stock to range on the hills as usual and if arrested all will be assessed for the expense of trying the case. They argue that the range their cattle use is useless anyway and that some benefit can be derived if the stock are allowed to run at large. That section will be one of the very first to petition the county court to hold a special election when the measure now before the legislature becomes a law.—Harbor.

### Along Came Ruth

No one in front of the curtain realized what a strenuous time Ruth Stonehouse, who danced Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" before 7,000 persons at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, had had during the several hours before her appearance on the stage.

Miss Stonehouse, who is playing the leading role in "Love Affaire," a feature production directed by Raymond Wells, had been chased up a mountain near Universal City by several hundred cannibals at six o'clock; had been scared out of her bungalow in Hollywood by a hydrophobic canine at seven o'clock, and then, to cap the climax, had been pursued by a motorcycle policeman while racing to the auditorium at eight o'clock. The latter released her after securing a promise from Miss Stonehouse to appear in court for speeding on the following afternoon.

### Council Accepts Work

The special meeting of the city council called Tuesday night for the purpose of hearing the engineer's report on the completion of the Longston contract, did little else than discuss this topic. The report was satisfactory and the money due the Longston Construction Company was ordered paid.

The matter of further street improvement to be effected during the coming summer was discussed and Mr. Sanford urged that the preliminary work on any improvements they expected should be gotten out of the way as early as possible. It is probable that the two blocks of First street west of Hall street, and Taylor street from Second to Third street and Third from Taylor street to the T bridge will be among those improved during the summer.

### Has Soil Tester

County Agent J. L. Smith announces that he has secured one of the Truog Acidity testers which will enable him to make a complete acidity test of any soils that the farmers of this section may send or bring to him, without the necessity of sending the samples to Corvallis.

Heretofore acidity tests that have been given the farmer were not wholly a success in that they did not indicate the degree of acidity. The Truog apparatus does this and makes it possible to tell the amount of lime that is needed on the soil in question.

In taking samples of soil for testing the farmer should secure a small sam-

## SYNOPSIS OF MANY EVENTS

### News of County, State and National Interest Told in Brief Concise Form

### PATROL ASSOCIATION LECTS

### School Directors Recall Bill Passes House

Extensive operations are under way at Port Orford in black sand gold mining venture at Gold Run.

Oregon's entire bank deposits total \$164,596,989 of which Portland has 48.3 per cent.

A Drain woman markets biggest flock of turkeys in the state; 400 birds net her \$1100.

A special train of 32 cars of Klamath and Lake county lambs were shipped from Klamath Falls to San Francisco.

After the most spectacular fight of the session, and one in which charges of lobbying were freely made, the bill to close the Rogue river to commercial fishing lost by a vote of 29 to 27.

On a bid of \$8389 H. R. Kibler, of Portland, has been awarded the contract to build the new life-saving station at the mouth of the Siuslaw, same to be completed in 100 days.

Boards burned twenty-five million board feet of timber on the National Forests of Oregon, Washington and Alaska in 1916. The Forest Service fought 1176 fires in this region during the year at an expense of \$19,000.

The Coos County Bar Association held one of the most successful sessions of its history at the Millisome Club Saturday evening. A banquet was followed by the business meeting and this in turn by a session of mock court which was decidedly clever throughout.

Hugh Pearson, a Winchester fisherman, has purchased an aero engine for trolling. This device uses a small airplane fan propeller for motive power, causing less disturbance in the water than either oars or a screw propeller.

R. W. Long, a prominent dairyman near Yoncola, this week killed one Jersey bull and 17 Jersey cows, value \$1200 or \$1500, after discovering they were afflicted with tuberculosis. Other Yoncola residents have asked for tests of their cattle.

School directors were placed on a parity with public officials when the house of representatives passed senate bill 95, providing for the recall of school directors upon the filing of proper petitions. The vote was overwhelming—44 favoring the measure, 14 voting against it, with two being absent.

In the Pacific Coast states are thirty-five million horsepower in waterpower, and only 1,472,000 is developed power. Just think what this great power would do for these states if adequately developed. And yet congress refuses to pass satisfactory legislation under which development will take place.

Congressional action to authorize the setting of all clocks in the country one hour ahead of the present standard time was recommended to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at the opening of its fifth annual meeting, by a committee on "daylight saving." As an alternative the committee suggested the plan at least for the months between April 1 and December 1.

Roseburg merchants are using the metropolitan plan of visiting customers, in efforts to win farmers' trade from the mail order houses. The move is made under direction of grange leaders who desire to combine the interests of the merchants and the farmers, in building a fruit cannery at Roseburg. Melrose and Looking Glass have been visited during the last two days.

G. A. Brown, for about sixteen years cashier of the Smith-Powers Logging company and one of the most efficient men in the organization, died at his home in Powers Thursday morning after a lingering illness of tuberculosis. He had been rapidly sinking for the last few months but a few days before his death a marked change was noticeable and the end came as a shock to his many friends and acquaintances.

At a meeting of the Coos County Fire Patrol Association, composed of the larger timber owners, W. J. Conrad retired as secretary. He stated that his other interests would not permit him to devote the necessary time to it. A. E. Adelsperger also retired as president for similar reasons. The new officers chosen are: President, Geo. R. Saylor; vice-president, Geo. W. Marshall; secretary, Carl L. Davis; treasurer, Herbert Armstrong; directors, above-named officers and John D. Goss. Mr. Davis has long been with the C. A. Smith Timber Co. and will be a valuable man in the new place. A. E. Crouch was retained as head fire warden.

### Road Legislation "All in the Air" Says R. B. Murdock

"All in the air," is the way R. B. Murdock, who has just returned from Salem, describes the situation in regard to highway legislation. Mr. Murdock went to Salem with the intention of doing what he could to prevent the adoption of road legislation that would hinder the road program of Coos which includes the construction of the Myrtle-Point-Roseburg road with state aid.

Two bills before the legislature that have some especially objectionable features, according to Mr. Murdock, are House bills 191 and 213. 191 if passed as it now stands would banish all hopes of Coos county getting any state aid on any of her roads as it provides that the state road funds shall be expended only on three main roads, namely the two ends of the Columbia highway and the Pacific highway that follows the main line of the Southern Pacific from Portland to Ashland. When these roads are fully improved, state funds might be diverted to other roads; but not before.

An amendment was offered on bill 191 by Mr. Murdock, providing that roads for the improvement of which the present State Highway Commission had committed themselves, be included in the list of roads to receive state aid.

Bill 213 provides for a new state highway commission but practically leaves the selection to an organization called the Oregon Good Roads Association, which claims to represent a number of organizations about the state, including the Portland Automobile club, which is reported, has not been in existence for over a year. They also claim connection with the Portland Chamber of Commerce, yet two directors of the latter organization have been reported to have said that they never heard of the Association until their names came up in connection with the bill. According to the terms of the bill the new Highway Commission shall consist of the State Engineer and two other members to be appointed by the governor from a list provided him by the Oregon Good Roads Association. There is no provision as to the number of names that the list shall contain and should there be two names on the list the governor has no choice in the matter whatever.

Neither of these bills, as they now stand, will pass, is the opinion of Mr. Murdock, who thinks that the only hope of getting any progressive highway legislation from the present session is that the two factions will get together in time and that there will be a compromise.

A Mourner.  
Are you one of the mourners? Gentleman—Yes: he owed me \$500.

### A Revolutionary Decision

To the layman the decision of the United States Supreme court, upholding the Webb-Kenyon law, seems revolutionary. The "original package" and other principles enunciated in decisions through many years, apparently are thrown into the discard and hereafter states will be permitted to erect walls against interstate commerce, so far as the liquor traffic is concerned. State sovereignty in the matter of prohibition has been recognized by our highest legal tribunal. Congress has in effect been permitted to give back to the states a power supposed to have been delegated by the constitution to the central government and therefore subject to modification only through constitutional amendment.

There was something to be said for the Webb-Kenyon law, if the legal objections were waived. States would vote for prohibition only to find that consumers of alcohol could receive as much as they wished if it came through channels of interstate commerce. Prohibition thus led to excesses greater than in a period of regulation, because the traffic was in the stronger, and therefore the more portable, liquors. The armor of Federal sanction was too much for the police power of the state. The laws against the liquor traffic became a broken lance.

The effect of the Webb-Kenyon law is problematic. States may not go "dry" so readily if the voter appreciates that prohibition means the abolition not only of the saloon, but of the dealer in the sideboard as well. Also, one of the arguments for national prohibition has been removed. It was contended that because of the protection that the interstate commerce clause of the constitution gave to the liquor traffic, it was impossible for a state actually to go "dry" unless there were national prohibition and "stoppage at source," to use an income tax phrase. Perhaps now that a "dry" state is permitted to wall itself against an invasion of liquor, it will permit the world without its walls to live as that world sees fit.

### Britain's Hypocritical Tears

In the eyes of neutral nations, at least, the weakest feature of the British attack upon Germany's methods and defense of her own course is the treatment of the Belgian question. Balfour says:

Germany and Austria made the present war inevitable by attacking the rights of one small state, and they gained their initial triumphs by violating the treaty guarantees of the territories of another. Are small states going to find in them their future protectors or in treaties made by them a

### bulwark against aggression?

Great Britain may have forgotten her crimes against the "small state" of Ireland, which she has so cruelly subjugated and exploited. She may have forgotten her treatment of the Boers of South Africa—earnest, plodding Dutchmen working out their salvation in a far distant country considered almost valueless until their labors had developed evidences of great natural resources that awakened English cupidity. Time may have dulled her memory of these crimes. But she cannot have forgotten her present inexcusable subjugation and terrorization of Greece—a "small nation" whose only crime against civilization was a desire to maintain neutrality and thus preserve the lives and liberty of her subjects; a peaceful isle in a sea of blood. In appealing to the court of equity of the world, it would be well for Britain to dry her hypocritical tears, shed for the woes of the "small nations," and to stand on firmer ground, if she can, before finally rejecting the President's plea for peace.—The Star.

### Coquille Loses

The Coquille high school basketball team was defeated for the first time in the season at Myrtle Point Friday night. The game was close and hard fought, the local team losing by a score of 21 to 19. The loss of this game places the Coquille team on the level with the Marshfield quintet for the county championship and the fight for first place promises to be a hard one. It is probable that the matter will virtually be decided when the two teams play on the Marshfield floor next Friday.

Other games in the county school championship series during the week-end were between Marshfield and Bandon at Marshfield, in which Bandon was badly defeated and one between North Bend and Bandon, the latter winning by one point.

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