

The Athena Press

Entered at the Post Office at Athena, Oregon, as Second-Class Mail Matter

VOLUME 47.

ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 23, 1926

NUMBER 30

COMMISSION DENIES RAIL RATES BOOST

**Western Carriers Held by I. C.
C. to Be in Sound Financial
Condition.**

Washington, D. C.—Declaring that no financial emergency existed in the western district as a whole, the interstate commerce commission denied the application of the railroads in that territory for a blanket increase of 5 per cent in freight rates.

It also denied the petition of security holders of northwestern carriers for an additional 15 per cent horizontal increase in rates in western trunk line territory, and held the earnings of the roads in the west as a whole had not been such as to warrant at this time a general downward revision of rates on farm products, including livestock.

The commission admitted, however, there were many inequalities in the rates structures in certain sections of the west which should be corrected.

Carriers in the west, the commission said, appear to be both "financially and physically sound," although it was added that certain of the important carriers in the northwestern region and in western trunk-line territory were not yielding 5.75 per cent, the figure held by it to be a fair return. It was added, however, that in the entire western district conditions had recently shown an "improving tendency."

ASSASSINS MURDER YOUNG PUBLISHER

Canton, Ohio.—Threats on the life of Don R. Mellett, 36, publisher of the Canton Daily News, because of his activities against alleged gamblers, were carried out here.

Five bullets brought to an end the career of the young publisher, who came here a year ago to publish the News, owned by James M. Cox, publisher of a number of Ohio papers.

Mellett was putting his automobile in the garage in the rear of his home when the assassin's gun spoke. Neighbors who heard the shots immediately dashed for the garage, but Mellett was dead—a bullet through his left temple having ended his life almost instantly. The slayers had disappeared in an automobile which they parked about a block from the Mellett home. No trace has been found of the gunmen, but they are believed by police to have been hired to put an effective period to Mellett's crusade against the underworld of the city.

RAILROAD TO USE RADIO

Chicago, Milwaukee Will Link 2200-Mile System.

Chicago.—A system of short-wave radio communication designed to insure the safe operation of trains even when blizzards or other catastrophes paralyze ordinary means of communication is to be installed by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad throughout its entire system, it was announced here.

The company plans to connect its entire system by air, from Chicago to Seattle, a distance of 2200 miles. Transmitters and receivers for the radio operating system will be established at pivotal stations and communication will be in code.

Hulling Attacks Ship Marriages.
Washington.—Many couples who have been married on the high seas by the skippers of government vessels may have to have the knot tied all over again just to be safe. In instructing the masters of all government ships to discontinue the practice of performing marriage ceremonies, the general counsel of the shipping board said: "The master of a merchant vessel of the United States has no authority to perform the marriage ceremony."

Ice Truck Lures Red From Films.
Hollywood, Cal.—Admitting he was a "big flop" before the cameras, "Red" Grange quite the movies on short notice and announced he was going back to the home town to resume his log business.

Ex-Honduran President Dies
New York.—Dr. Francisco Bertrand, ex-president of Honduras, died of heart disease at La Ceiba, Honduras. He was 56 years old and was president of Honduras from 1910 until 1919.

LAND SETTLEMENT IS ON THE INCREASE IN OREGON

During the first six months of the present year 214 families settled on farms in Oregon and invested \$650,374. That is the official record of the Land Settlement Department of the Portland Chamber of Commerce whose work is co-ordinated with that of the State Chamber in serving those who wish to come to the state to engage in agricultural pursuits.

If a complete survey of all counties were taken, it would doubtless be found that the number of actual settlers is nearer the 1000 mark than the records show.

In its work of encouraging real farmers to come to Oregon to develop the farming area of the state and increase the upstate population, response comes to the department from widely separated geographical points, according to W. G. Ide, who supervises the activities of this department of the development work.

From Java, in Dutch East India is coming a young Hollander to devote his sturdy efforts to irrigated lands in Oregon. At present manager of sugar factory, Mr. Von Stietz will bring to his new farm home technical training in agriculture acquired in Holland, as well as practical experience which he will direct toward general farming with poultry as a specialty.

Inspired also with a desire to come to Oregon in the near future is German Bannert who now dwells in Chile. Accompanied by his family which includes 11 persons Mr. Bannert hopes to select lands in which he can make a substantial investment for farming purposes.

The success of the land settlement organization continues to justify its establishment. The committee has been in existence about two and one-half years, during which time between 1800 and 1900 families have been brought into the state and placed on farms, the capital investment being in excess of \$8,000,000. During this time no complaints have been made by any of the settlers about being disappointed in what was offered through the land listing and appraisal system.

SENATOR ON WAY HOME

Charles L. McNary, senior United States senator, will arrive in Portland next Sunday. After a brief rest in Portland the senator will go to Salem and will spend most of the summer on his farm near by. During this period Senator McNary will inform himself on state conditions requiring congressional or departmental attention. He is chairman of the sub-committee in charge of the senatorial campaign on the Pacific coast.

CAUGHT IN CLOUDBURST

Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Liesegang and their party from Echo, had the thrilling experience of being caught by a cloudburst in the mountains above Wallowa Lake last week. They were returning from a hike to Ice Lake when a thunderstorm started and there was a cloudburst just above them. They took refuge in a small cabin. A regular torrent of water, mud and rocks rushed down the gulch about the cabin but fortunately missed the building.

OX TEAM DERBY

Plans for an ox team derby over the Old Oregon Trail from Platte River, Nebraska, to Seaside, Oregon will be discussed at a convention of northwest realtors July 22-24 at La Grande, Oregon. Delegates have been asked to express themselves at the meeting and it is expected that communities along the famous road will make reports. The proposed derby would be held in 1928, the promoters said.

BIG SPUD YIELD

One of the highest rates of increase reported by farmers on the Umatilla project this season with early potatoes was secured by Roy Sullivan. He planted 660 pounds of seed early in the spring and marked 117 sacks that graded U. S. No. 1. In addition he had some culls that made the increase more than twenty-fold.

3000 ACRES BURNED

Grass and grain fires which swept farms between Celilo and Biggs Monday caused heavy losses to several wheat growers and to the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company. About 3000 acres were burned.

THE FARM GROUP DECIDES TO CONTINUE WITH FIGHT

The corn belt committee, representing leading farm organizations of the middle west met at Des Moines, Iowa, to plan a continuation of its fight for congressional aid for agriculture.

The thirty men present were of the virtually unanimous opinion that the Bingham Springs hatchery, may cause the state game and fish commission to change the location of the hatchery to a point on the north fork of the Umatilla river, where there is a flow of water from springs.

Three experts have been sent to the Bingham Springs hatchery in an effort to save the fingerling trout. Matt Rychman, superintendent of state fish hatcheries is giving the situation his personal attention.

Not only are the hatchery baby trout dying off, but an infection seems to have developed in the Umatilla river trout above Bingham Springs. Dead trout ranging from fingerlings to some a foot long have been found along the shores. Trout, according to experts cannot survive in water for any great length of time that is 70 degrees or warmer.

Fate of approximately 150,000 rainbow fingerlings turned into the Umatilla river in an effort to save them is also in doubt. Approximately 350,000 eastern brook trout are being cared for at present in a pool from a cold spring near the resort where the temperature is around 58 degrees.

A FORMER WESTON RESIDENT DIES AT REEDSPORT, OREGON

W. A. Graham, for many years a resident of Weston, and who was well known in Athena, died Friday last at his home in Reedport, Oregon, as the result of heart disease from which he had been a sufferer for the past year.

Mr. Graham was a brother-in-law of Mrs. F. B. Boyd of Athena, and with his wife, visited here and at Weston last summer. He was a carpenter and while a resident of Reedport was employed in a door factory. He died at the age of 66 years and is survived by his widow and three sons, Neil and Herman Graham of Reedport and F. H. Graham of Pendleton.

Interment was made Sunday in the Scottsburg cemetery, the Odd Fellows having charge of the funeral.

TRAIL SCENERY TREATED

Resolutions adopted at a meeting of the managers of the Pendleton Commercial association were mailed to the Oregon state highway commission urging that steps be taken to save the natural scenic beauty of the timbered areas along the Old Oregon trail. Unless such steps are taken, according to the managers, the land along the highway soon will have been logged off, leaving nothing but the stubs of pine trees for the tourist to view. Aid in purchasing timber lands along the trail was promised by the association if ways could be found to do this.

HER THIRD ATTEMPT

Mrs. Elberta Goodman, wife of the night cook at the Quelle restaurant at Pendleton, made her third unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide Friday morning when she swallowed carbolic acid after a quarrel with her husband at the restaurant. Reports from her physician were that she would recover.

BINGHAM SPRINGS HATCHERY MAY MOVE TO NORTH FORK

The fact that the high temperature of last week caused the death of approximately one million fingerling eastern brook and rainbow trout at the Bingham Springs hatchery, may cause the state game and fish commission to change the location of the hatchery to a point on the north fork of the Umatilla river, where there is a flow of water from springs.

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JURY OF ONE CANNOT AGREE IN LIQUOR CASE

A citizen of Malheur county was arrested near McDermott, Oregon, recently, charged with violation of the prohibition laws. His case was heard in a very sparsely settled community, and the small panel of venturers was soon exhausted. When all had been examined, it was found but one juror remained in the box. By stipulation, this lone juror heard the evidence and retired for deliberation. Some time later the "jury" came out, threw down a sealed envelope with the remark: "There's the verdict," and hastened to his horse outside.

Inside the envelope was the message: "Jury unable to agree."

GANG KILLS EDITOR

Threats on the life of Don R. Mellett, publisher of the Canton Ohio, Daily News because of his activities against alleged gamblers were carried out. Five bullets brought an end to the career of the young publisher.

COMBINE BURNS

As the result of a hot box a combine burned Saturday on the Lawrence Hagen place, eight miles north of Pendleton. A half acre of wheat was destroyed when the combine burned.

HERBERT HOOVER TURNS SPADEMAN



The Secretary of Commerce turns up first spadeful of dirt at ground breaking ceremonies for emergency hospital on the grounds of the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia. The exposition will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of American Independence. At the cabinet member's right is Mayor Kendrick of Philadelphia. The hospital will be conducted by physicians and nurses from the Philadelphia General Hospital.

PATTERSON AND PIERCE PIERCE AND PATTERSON

A Salem special to the Morning Oregonian says: Senator Ike Patterson, republican nominee for governor of Oregon, and Governor Walter M. Pierce, democratic nominee for re-election, discussed the forthcoming campaign and election in a pleasant tete a tete in the executive offices here today, with Mr. Patterson sitting in the governor's chair.

Both made their predictions of the outcome of the election. They discussed crop conditions in Oregon and chatted until Senator Patterson left for his Polk county farm to continue his harvest operations.

Attired in his farm togs and explaining that he had just dropped in to town on a little business, Mr. Patterson stopped at the executive offices to pay his respects to the governor.

"Come right in, Ike, and sit in the governor's chair," beamed Walter, "I believe you want that chair anyway."

"Thank you, Walter," smiled Ike, seating himself at the big desk while the governor took a seat on the sidelines. "It does feel comfortable."

"Who, in the opinion of each of you gentlemen will be elected governor of the state at the November election?" asked General George A. White, a third member of the party.

"Ask me something hard, smiled Governor Pierce, "that's an easy one, as I'll be elected easily."

"The question is an easy one—in fact, there isn't any question about it—I'll be elected without a doubt," averred Mr. Patterson.

WHEAT RUNS 25 BUSHELS

Wheat is running about 25 bushels to the acre on Eureka flat, according to Herman Lind of Walla Walla. Similar reports are being made by others. Some smut is being found in red wheat on the flat, but most of the wheat is of good quality. Some of the growers who have finished harvesting have already received checks for their wheat, the movement of grain being steady.

WILL SUPPORT NORMAL

A Pendleton delegation will probably attend the Kiwanis luncheon to be held at The Dalles July 29, at which time C. L. Starr, member of the board of regents of the Oregon Normal school, will discuss the needs of an eastern Oregon normal school which is to come up for a vote of the citizens of Oregon this fall.

ON THE TRAIL AGAIN

Ezra Meeker, aged 96, who crossed the plains behind an ox team in 1852, left New York city on July 15 in a motor camping outfit, to go over the Oregon trail again, to collect funds for marking the trail. Mr. Meeker will sell memorial half-dollars for \$1 each. He is the president of the Oregon Trail Memorial association.

NORTHWEST WOODS SWEEP BY FLAMES

**Stevens and Pend Oreille
Counties in Washington
Declared Furnace.**

Seattle, Wash.—Beginning the second week of forest fires caused by lightning and heat wave over the Pacific northwest the situation is much improved in western Washington, western Oregon, and British Columbia, while conditions in northeastern Washington, Idaho and Montana remained stationary.

The biggest forest conflagration in the northwest since the Idaho fire of 1910 was threatening Stevens and Pend Oreille counties in eastern Washington. Seventy-four separate fires in the two counties were threatening to merge into one gigantic blaze that would virtually sweep all the principal forests of the two counties. Fighters were powerless to stop the onrush of the flames.

Conditions in the Colville national forest of northeastern Washington were reported to the United States forest service as being critical. In all 500 fire fighters are engaged in fighting 11 large blazes and a number of smaller ones in the Colville region.

Only a few fires were burning in western Washington and western Oregon, and they were in logged-off lands and slashings and virtually under control.

Lakeview, where three large fires covered 1000 acres and all the available local men were engaged to fight, was the most serious situation in Oregon.

BRIAND MINISTRY DEFEATED AGAIN

Paris.—Premier Briand's tenth government resigned Saturday after suffering a defeat in the chamber of deputies on its full power financial bill. The government was 43 votes in the minority.

Defeat came when the demand of Finance Minister Caillaux for full powers was put to a vote of confidence. The chamber voted lack of confidence, 288 to 243.

Edouard Herriot, the radical leader and president of the chamber of deputies, accepted the task of forming a new ministry. The new ministry contains 11 radicals and radical-socialists—Herriot, Chautemps, Hesse, Dardier, Queuille, Bonnet, Milhaud, Jacquier, Dumesnil, Bazile and Lambert, all deputies.

The life of the new cabinet is expected to be extremely short. This is the opinion in all political groups, including Herriot's own party, because the premier will again have to base his policy on the socialist program, which the senate is not likely to accept and which, even in the chamber, will probably have a narrow majority, if any.

STORMS KILL NINE IN EAST

Lightning and Wind Play Havoc From Maine to Ohio.

New York, N. Y.—Nine deaths and property damage estimated at \$250,000 marked a path of Sunday electrical, rain and wind storms from Ohio to Maine.

In addition, three boys who set out in a canoe from Sandy Hook, N. J., were missing. Four deaths in New England were caused by lightning. Four others were killed by falling trees or drowned in New England during storms.

Marie Ange Dubois of Adams, Mass., was killed by a lightning bolt that also struck and injured her brother, Alfred. Leo McCaughey, of Hampton Beach, N. H.; Edward L. Snow, Hermon, Me.; and Fred Felch, Salisbury, Mass., were the others killed by lightning.

Lightning struck near the destroyed naval arsenal at Lake Denmark, N. J., frightening thousands of sightseers, but doing no damage.

Crops were damaged by wind and hail in Maine and New Hampshire.

Clark's Heirs Win \$47,000,000 Case.
Butte, Mont.—A jury in district court here unanimously rendered a special verdict in favor of the estate of the late Senator W. A. Clark, in a contest brought by three women who claimed daughters' shares in the \$47,000,000 left by the late copper magnate.

