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A Short Session of Congress Convened

Huge Task Faced as Calendar of Both Houses Are Congested

Washington, D. C.—Once again the constitution called congress into session Monday. At noon the gavel fell in senate and house, setting in motion the nation's legislative machinery which has been idle since adjournment last July. The new session, the second of the 69th congress, will face a huge task. It will have but three months in which to work, for its tenure under the constitution expires March 4.

More than 12,000 bills remain on the calendar untouched from last session. To these will be added several hundred more as soon as the formalities of the opening day are over.

Out of this brief three months of work must be taken 10 days for a Christmas vacation, while many hours will be consumed by the political orators.

The burden of selection of those bills to receive preferential consideration will fall on the shoulders of the republican steering committees of the two houses. They will be required to choose only a few bills to push forward for enactment.

First in their minds are the annual appropriation bills to provide funds for the operating expenses of the government. Besides these, agreement already had been reached to take up two measures on definite dates—the rivers and harbors bill in the senate December 14 and a bill proposing salary increases for the federal judiciary in the house next Thursday.

The tentative legislative list also includes alien property, radio, the McCadden branch banking bill, the Louisiana treaty with Turkey, and the treaty to outlaw the use of poisonous gas in warfare.

Farm relief proposals in numerous forms also are knocking at the doors of both houses, while the democratic membership is sold in its demand for a tax reduction bill.

TAX CLAIMS ALLOWED

Grant Land Refunds Recommended for Five More Oregon Counties.

Washington, D. C.—Claims made by five Oregon counties under the Oregon and California grant land tax refund act have been recommended to the secretary of the treasury for payment by Secretary of Interior Work. Bringing the total number of claims so approved to eight, with those of ten other Oregon counties still to be passed upon.

Under the recommendations by Secretary Work, the following counties would be reimbursed to the extent given: Multnomah, \$45,353.73; Linn, \$198,345.47; Curry, \$25,792.79; Tillamook, \$40,500.02; Yamhill, \$52,734.30. Payment of claims made by Lincoln, Coos and Columbia counties has previously been recommended.

Charles Ringling, Circus Man, Dies.

Sarasota, Fla.—Charles Ringling, circus man, financier and railroad builder, died at his home here after an illness of several weeks. Mr. Ringling was one of the original seven Ringling brothers, who in 1882 formed a musical organization at Baraboo, Wis., and started a tour which later resulted in the present Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey circus.

Eastern Railroad Men Given Raise.

New York, N. Y.—Trainmen, conductors, baggagemen and flagmen of eastern railroads were granted a 7 1/2 per cent wage increase by the arbitration board which has been hearing both sides of the wage dispute. The award affects employes on both passenger and freight trains.

Would Oust Burley, Idaho, Officials.

Burley, Ida.—Ouster proceedings were filed here before Judge Baker by Attorney Larson of Twin Falls against Charles A. Johnson, mayor; Carl M. Johnson, chief of police, and Presley D. Pace, sheriff, charging them with failure to perform the duties of their office in the enforcement of law in the city of Burley.

Wife of Auditor of Washington Dies.

Olympia, Wash.—After an illness of more than a year past, Mrs. Billa Benson Claxson, wife of State Auditor C. W. Claxson, died at the family home here.

School Play a Success Well Rendered and It Pleased Audience

One of the finest comedy presentations ever attempted by pupils of Athena high school was witnessed by a large audience at the Auditorium Friday evening, and under the direction of Miss Mildred Bateman, "A Family Mix" will long be remembered in Athena.

Every member of the cast gave evidence of thorough conception of his part, and never once was prompting necessary. Perfect line memorization served to lend freedom of action on the part of the characters, the result being a clever production of a play that was crammed from cellar to garret with mirth and laugh-provoking situations.

Yes, "A Family Mix" easily bowled along to success from every angle. Financially, too, for the show grossed \$121.00. The proceeds will go toward paying for scenery painting at the auditorium, which was recently completed by Mrs. Hansen, of Holdman.

Athena Etude Club Gives An Interesting Program

The Etude club enjoyed an interesting and unique evening Saturday at the home of Mrs. C. M. Eager on Jefferson street.

The arrangements were in charge of Mrs. B. B. Richards and Mrs. R. B. McEwen the subject being "Italian Music." One end of the spacious living room simulated a miniature stage which was decorated to represent a Venetian carnival scene, bright colored ribbon confetti and flowers of many hues being used to carry out the effect. The following program was presented:

Paper, "Italian Music" Mrs. Lewis Stewart; Vocal solo, Tosti's "Good-bye," Miss Edna Pinkerton; Reading, "Mia Carlotta," Miss Lorraine Terry; Vocal duet, "O Sole Mio" Miss Pearl Ramsey and Miss Edna Pinkerton; Sketch of opera "Cavaliere Rusticana," Mrs. O. C. Hadley; Vocal solo "Ave Maria," Mrs. David Stone, Vocal trio "Venetian Love Song," Mrs. David Stone, Mrs. R. B. McEwen, Miss Lorraine Terry; Piano solo "Goodnight," from "A Day in Venice;" Song with ukelele accompaniment, Miss Mary Jane Cornelison; Musical reading, Miss Mildred Bateman; Vocal solo "Neapolitan Nights," Mrs. Bryce Baker; Chorus, "I. my Gondola" Mrs. Lloyd Michener, Mrs. Bryce Baker, Mrs. Archie McIntyre, Mrs. Victor Hirsch, Mrs. Frank Ames and Mrs. Max Hopper.

Many Italian costumes were in evidence and following the program the hostesses served spaghetti a la Italiana. Guests of the club were Mrs. F. B. Boyd, Mrs. M. L. Watts, Miss Pauline Myrick of Walla Walla and Mrs. E. E. Goff of Newberg.

December 16, ?—Mystery Uncovers Fine Program

Music lovers are looking forward to Thursday evening December 16th, when the Etude club will appear in a concert at the High school auditorium.

Ensemble numbers, solos, trios, duets and readings will make up the first part of the program. After an intermission during which there will be orchestra numbers, a program of stunts, humorous readings, an 'opry,' a "ballet" and skits will be given.

The public is assured of an evening of good music and lots of fun, the proceeds to be used for a good cause, namely to assist in paying for new stage scenery for the high school.

The small admission fee of twenty-five and thirty-five cents will be charged.

MRS. WHITEMAN ENTERTAINS

Mrs. Otis Whiteman entertained a party of ladies at luncheon at the Elks club in Walla Walla Saturday. Those hidden from Athena were, Mrs. B. B. Richards, Mrs. H. I. Watts, Mrs. W. S. Ferguson, Mrs. M. L. Watts and Mrs. R. B. McEwen.

MRS. COFF HONORED

Mrs. E. E. Goff was honored at luncheon Thursday when Mrs. M. L. Watts entertained a party of ladies in Walla Walla. Other guests were Mrs. F. S. LeGrow, Mrs. H. I. Watts and Mrs. R. B. McEwen.

THE WEATHER

Fog and frost prevailed during the past week, with very little clear weather; rain in the mountains, and but slight snow fall.

The State May Adopt Hoover's Uniform Law

As Offered To Oregon Code Would Regulate Auto Traffic

Oregon's adoption of the Hoover code, the uniform system of traffic regulations worked out in the past three years by federal officials and representatives of leading business groups, will be urged at the coming session of the state legislature, according to Thomas P. Henry of Detroit, president of the American Automobile association, says the Oregonian.

The Hoover code, will undoubtedly be presented to the legislatures of 42 states next year.

"The new code is not revolutionary and differs but little from the laws in effect in the different states," said Mr. Henry. "With the great amount of inter-state auto traffic, uniformity in laws is necessary, and that is what the Hoover code will supply."

"We are of the opinion that there are too many traffic laws, that they are perplexing and confusing to the motorists, and for the person who travels from one state to the other there should be a general set of rules in effect in all states."

"The Hoover code is the result of three years of work on the part of sub-committees composed of representatives and government bureaus which took part in the conference. Before the code is presented to the Oregon legislature we are going to ask, through the Oregon State Motor association, that the governor call a conference to study the proposed law."

"The history of all forms of transportation has been to increase speed with safety," said Mr. Henry. "The old arbitrary rule of 30 miles an hour, or 35 miles an hour, is falling into disrepute."

"It is the degree of recklessness, the endangering of the life and the limb of others that is the criminal element in speeding. Gradually, I believe, the various states will drop the rule of a certain maximum number of miles an hour and arrest offenders for recklessness, rather than speed."

52-YARD FIELD GOAL

Maurice McFadden, playing on the Oakland foot ball team, against the San Francisco Tigers drop-kicked a 52-yard field goal, one of the longest on record. Maurice, a brother of C. L. McFadden, is well known in Athena, having visited here in the past. He is a former O. A. C. end, and is coach at Mateo, California, high school.

MAGPIE AND SPARROW

Methods for the control of the magpie and English sparrow pests are now available at the office of the county agent.

A. M. Meldrum Giving Illustrated Lectures At Christian Church

At the Christian church this week, Dr. A. MacKenzie Meldrum, former pastor of the church, is delivering a series of illustrated lectures on the resources, growth and prospects of Australia and New Zealand.

Always an interesting and instructive speaker, with aid of stereoscopic views on the screen, Mr. Meldrum is having no trouble whatever in transporting his audiences through the length and breadth of what may be aptly termed an enchanted land, where, metaphorically speaking, milk comes as nearly flowing in streams and honey growing on bushes, as can be found any where on earth.

Mr. Meldrum has made several trips to and from Australia. For a time he resided there. Since leaving Spokane, where he was connected with the college there, he returned to Australia, where he married his present wife. His series of lectures this week have interested many who were unaware of the colossal strides of progress of recent years made in the antipodes, and especially in Australia and New Zealand.

"There You Are," "Eve's Leaves" and "Mannequin"

For tomorrow night, the Standard offers Conrad Nagel, Edith Roberts and George Fawcett in Metro-Goldwyn's sterling photoplay, "There You Are!" A slashing comedy, with an all-star cast, "There You Are!" has been filling the large city theatres for the past month. The picture is new, up-to-date and is a fine production in every respect.

Sunday night, Cecil B. DeMille's Producer's Distributing Corporation offers "Eve's Leaves," with Leatrice Joy and William Boyd in the starring roles. This is the third photoplay in a block of six, the Standard purchased from the DeMille corporation, "The Volga Boatman" and "Three Faces East," having been played. "Stop Flirting," "Whispering Smith" and "Welcome Stranger" are to follow.

Next Wednesday night, Liberty Magazine's \$50,000 story, "Mannequin" will be presented by Paramount, with Allee Joyce, Warner Baxter and beautiful Dolores Costello in the lead.

Christmas night the Standard will present Rex Ingram's "The Magician," and has booked "LaBoheme," starring Lillian Gish and John Gilbert, for New Year's night.

THE BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge club was entertained Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. R. B. McEwen on College street. The rooms were attractively decorated with red and yellow chrysanthemums. Four tables were in play. Additional guests included Mrs. E. E. Goff and Newberg, Mrs. Otis Whiteman and Mrs. Simmons of Walla Walla and Mrs. F. S. LeGrow. The hostess served seasonable refreshments.

Tax and Problems of Farm Were Discussed

No Great Amount of Legislation at Present Short Session

Conceding that there could be no great amount of legislation during the present session, President Coolidge laid before congress Tuesday a long list of recommendations in which temporarily tax relief and attention to the farm marketing problem stood prominently.

To the house and senate was left the task of fitting the recommendations to the necessities of the limited time at the disposal of the law maker before the sixty-ninth congress goes out of existence on March 4, next. Inasmuch as Mr. Coolidge touched on almost every point of pressing national interest, there can be no question that in going about their task, the Republican leaders will have at hand the desires of the chief executive.

While leaving the form of tax relief to be decided by congress itself, President Coolidge opposed any permanent reduction at this time, suggesting that "it is possible to grant some real relief by the simple measure of making reductions in the payments which accrue on the 15th of March, and June, 1927."

As to farm relief, he urged a "sound solution," with the stipulation that it was necessary to "avoid putting the government into the business of production or marketing or attempting to enact legislation for the purpose of price fixing."

The message in addition to touching taxes and farm problems, listed as desirable, coal control legislation; a Great Lakes-to-the-seas canal; reclamation development; railroad consolidation adequate reparation; prohibition enforcement legislation; branch banking laws; radio control under the department of commerce; return of alien property; and anti-lynching laws; development of the Mississippi and Colorado rivers; disposal of the Muscle Shoals problem, and support of the Geneva preliminary conference and other movements for the reduction of armaments.

NEW PASSENGER STATION

The Union Pacific has just completed a new passenger station at Milton. It will be dedicated to public use Saturday December 11, and the public generally, is invited to be present. The ceremony will be informal consisting of flag raising, music by the Union Pacific band of Portland and serving of light refreshments from 11:30 a. m. to 1:30 p. m.

PENDLETON BURGLARS ACTIVE

Pendleton burglars were active in that city, Saturday night, between the hours of seven and nine o'clock, three dwellings were entered. Loss to owners, \$1.80 and a gold watch.

Athena Claims Only One Student Out of Total of 76, O. A. C.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Nov.—Of the 76 students from Umatilla county attending the Oregon Agricultural college, Athena is represented by one.

Full time students registered at O. A. C. number 3420. The total enrollment, including summer and short courses amounts to nearly 5000, in addition to those registered for extension courses.

Miss Elsa Ringel is a sophomore in the school of home economics. This course offers work for those who plan to specialize in it for further professional development, and also for those who study it for its practical value.

Miss Ringel was a member of the inter-class co-ed basketball team. This is one of the major sports conducted by the Women's Athletic association, and entitles each member of the team to 100 points toward the Orange "O" sweater, as well as to membership in the association.

Petty Thieves Active in the Athena Neighborhood

Petty thieves are again active in the Athena neighborhood. They have turned their attention principally to stealing chickens. At two places sometime ago the thieves made away with poultry. Mr. Hargett in the north part of town was a loser and the Wood place is minus chickens by the same raiders.

Last week the E. A. Dudley place was overhauled with the result that the fowl population was materially decreased. On the night following, Bert Logsdon's slaughterhouse was raided.

Here the thieves helped themselves to twenty-five hides, and also filched a can of gasoline. No clew was left by the thieves at either of the places where robberies occurred, but Logsdon says he can easily identify the hides stolen from him, in event they are located by officers.

Death of Mrs. Mosley At California Home

Mrs. T. P. Mosley, a former resident of Athena, died at her home in Whittier, California, on November 4, after a short illness. Death followed an operation for relief from gall stones.

Mrs. Mosley is survived by her husband, three sons and four daughters, all of whom were present at the funeral, which was held November 10. The three sons reside in Alberta, two daughters at Portland and two live at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Mosley, after residing in Athena for many years, left here for Alberta in 1906. They successfully engaged in farming. Of late years they resided in California, while their sons operated the Alberta ranch.

SETTLED FOR \$50

Rex Payne and a man named Brown from Montana, came together in an automobile crash on the highway, near Athena Monday. Slippery pavement had much to do with the collision. Both Brown's roadster and Payne's Ford were blighted considerably by the impact. Payne claimed \$110 damage to his machine, but eventually settled for \$50. After a few kinks were taken out of his roadster, Brown proceeded on to Portland.

JOLLY TWENTY-FIVE

The Jolly Twenty-five club met at the attractive new home of Mrs. Max Hopper Friday afternoon. Pom pom chrysanthemums in shades of bronze brightened the rooms. Plans were made for the annual Christmas tree at the next meeting which will be held at the home of Mrs. C. L. McFadden December 15th. The hostess, Mrs. Alex McIntyre and Mrs. Ralph Cannon served a delicious concoction known as a Thrift pie at the tea hour.

THEY DON'T FAVOR BEAR

The proposal of Oregon sportsmen and the Game Commission to put Bre'er Bear on the protected list as a game animal is opposed by the Woolgrowers. K. G. Warner president of the Oregon Woolgrowers' association, will attend a meeting of the game commission at Portland next week, to voice the sheepmen's protest against any measure that will tend to propagate the number of bears on the Oregon sheep ranges.

The Annual Message of President Is Read

Advocates Continuance of Policies Rather than Legislation

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge's message advocated continuance of present republican policies for a guarantee of prosperity—rather than any untried legislation.

Republicans generally acclaimed it as "a typical Coolidge document," and a "very strong message," while democrats and some independent republicans criticized it.

Mr. Coolidge advocated a temporary tax reduction on payments to be made in March; lauded the republican tariff; endorsed the Foss farm relief plan and criticized the McNary-Haugen plan (without mentioning it by name); restated his position upon reclamation, radio and development of water resources, and asked adoption of anti-lynching legislation.

The president counseled that body against any farm relief that would put the government "into the business" of production, marketing or price fixing on farm products. He also made it clear he opposes any permanent tax reduction now, but favors a tax refund next year.

For agriculture, he favored greater development of cooperatives; development of inland waterways and Muscia Shoals, and other measures already advocated, and urged the government's "constant solicitude and sympathy for the farmer."

Stressing again the idea of "Coolidge economy," he warned congress against extravagant new ventures now. His message, unrolling a panorama of the federal government's vast business, emphasized the "genuine peace and prosperity of the country," the absence of major diplomatic troubles and the desire of America to continue its policy of non-aggressive armament.

Baptist Program Savored of the Christmas Season

A program savoring of the Christmas season was presented at the Baptist church Sunday morning, when a tree was laden with gifts to be sent to an Indian mission in Southern California. The program follows:

"Joy to the World," Congregation; Recitation, Rachel Smith; Vocal duet "Lullabye," Barbara and Robert Lee; Recitation, Jack Miller; Christmas carol, Mrs. R. B. McEwen; Reading "Parody of The Night Before Christmas," Miss Ruth Williams; Solo, Roberta Cannon; Christmas story, Miss Margaret Lee; Instrumental solo "Spinning Song," Annabel Payne; Duet Valerie Cannon and Rachel Smith.

MAKING IMPROVEMENTS

Anticipating the series of dances to be given by the Legion beginning Saturday night, the organization has been making marked improvements in the hall. A recessed alcove has been made for the orchestra at one end of the hall and a ladies' dressing room has been made near the entrance. Decorative effects of a permanent order are being planned and if not in place for the initial dance they will be completed shortly. Donald McFadyen and Joe Clemons have been doing the carpenter work.

COYOTES KILLING SHEEP

Cliff Banister of Holdman recently lost a \$50 pure bred Rambouillet ewe, killed by coyotes, he reports to the county agent's office. He was supplied with coyote poison of a new type, strychnine that is tasteless, and which is now being used successfully in destroying coyotes.

CHURCH CENSUS

A movement going forward during this week is that of a church census being taken by the several churches of Athena. The object is to get a survey of church membership and affiliation in this community. Every house is visited and a record kept of information obtained.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE EXHIBITION

The girls in the Domestic Science department of the high school will give an exhibit of their work Saturday, beginning at 10 a. m., in the Bragers & Goodman Hardware store. Tea will be served during the afternoon and a sale of cakes, pastry and candies will be held.

