

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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

Eugene's estimated fire loss during the year 1920 was \$42,860. The tax levy at Coquille for the coming year will be 72.2 mills and at Marshfield 69.2 mills.

A. J. Crigger, a resident of Umatilla county since 1869, is dead at his home near Freewater, aged 90 years.

Building operations in Eugene in 1920 were more than three times greater than during the previous year.

The Eugene Woodmen of the World are planning the erection of a new hall on the site of the present home.

Smallpox is increasing in number of cases in Pendleton, eight new cases being reported in one day last week.

Harry Laird, son of James Laird of Brewster valley, was killed by a fall over a cliff while hunting near Marshfield.

The iron foundry recently established at Forest Grove is now in operation, the first heat having been put off Monday night.

More than 200 of the 775 women who are registered in the University of Oregon held commercial positions during the summer.

L. D. Wilsey, a young Weston farmer, killed a hog the other day that dressed 420 pounds and yielded 16 gallons of lard.

The annual interstate convention of the Y. M. C. A. will be held in Salem January 28, 29 and 30. About 200 delegates are expected.

Condon wants a landlord. The city has a fine hotel of 50 rooms, with all modern conveniences, but it has been closed for some time.

County superintendents of schools from all sections of Oregon gathered in Salem Saturday on the occasion of their annual conference.

The state military department has finished the biennium with a surplus of \$5000, instead of a deficit, which was threatened last spring.

The Deschutes national forest expended \$78,151 in road construction and maintenance in the course of the calendar year just ended.

In the entire state there are 128,001 acres planted in fruits, berries and nuts, as shown by the 1920 annual report of the tax commission.

Gross returns of Hood River county during 1920 on fruits and farm products and from the Hood River creamery will approach \$2,500,000.

Bond claims an increase in population of 1000 over the 1920 census, the school census showing 1550 children between the ages of 4 and 19.

Morris Goggins, who has charge of the elk herd at Billy Meadows, reports three feet of snow in the pasture and the elk badly in need of feed.

The Oregon public service commission has authorized the Malheur Home Telephone company to increase its rates an average of 30 per cent.

The Willamette Valley Lumber company mill, erected at Dallas at a cost of \$150,000, began operation last week. Employment is given to 130 men.

The idea that fuel oil exists in Coos county has been abandoned. Three wells, sunk from 2100 to 2600 feet, have encountered no oil indications.

Anton Wintermeier, father of Judge Charles A. Wintermeier of Eugene, is dead at The Dalles, aged 83 years. Mr. Wintermeier settled at The Dalles in 1859.

Fruit shipments out of the Rogue river valley in 1920 were 787 cars of pears and 233 of apples, a total of 1020 cars, of the estimated value of \$2,000,000.

All the large mills in the Cottage Grove section are closed. Small mills are said to be offering their finished product at a half to a third of what it has cost them.

Preparatory to active road work next spring and summer all the road-building machinery of Lane county will be overhauled during the next two or three months.

Plans are under way for making the state convention of retail merchants at Marshfield on February 17 and 19 one of the biggest gatherings of the kind ever held in Oregon.

The public service commission has set January 8 as the date for a hearing to be conducted at Aurora on the question of an increase in rates for the Aurora Mutual Telephone company.

The rainfall at Reedsport for the current year, according to the weather observer, shows that up to date 42 inches has fallen. Eleven and one-half inches fell during 12 days of this month.

The new temple of Heppner lodge, No. 258, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, was dedicated at 2:30 P. M. Saturday, following a celebration of which almost the whole city took part.

Callapoos grange of Brownville has adopted resolutions opposing any increase in the salary of any state or county official and opposing increase of salaries of teachers by legislative enactment.

A valuation of \$43,840 has been placed on the plant and equipment of the Bandon Light & Power company by a board of appraisers. The amount is about \$500 less than that asked by the company.

Effective war is being waged on the rabbit pest in Klamath county, according to the county agricultural agent, in Langell valley during the last two weeks of snow more than 2000 rabbits have been poisoned.

Stockmen of Malheur, Grant and Harney counties are already making preparations for the annual meeting of the Oregon Cattle & Horse Raisers' association, which will be held in Canyon City May 24 and 25.

Approximately \$27,000,000 was disbursed through the Oregon state department during the year 1920, as compared with \$6,000,000 in the year 1918, according to a report prepared by Sam A. Koser, secretary of state.

There will be an unusually large gathering of Oregon newspaper editors, publishers and writers at the annual professional conference, January 14 and 15, at the university of Oregon school of journalism.

Plans and specifications for the proposed Swamp Irrigation district have been received at the offices of the state engineer. The district is located near Enterprise and if created will comprise approximately 3000 acres.

There are 250 empty box cars stored in the Vale yards, about 300 at other points on the eastern Oregon and Oregon branches, and several thousand at sidings along the main line. There is no movement of grain, lumber or wool.

Twenty-four hours' continual rain on an already water-logged soil caused large slides which blocked both railroad and wagon roads in Lincoln county. Three slides are reported on the railroad between Toledo and Elk city.

Metals valued at approximately \$1,250,000, or about 80 per cent of that of 1919, were produced and sold in Oregon during the year 1920, according to the biennial report of the Oregon bureau of mines and geology commission.

Senator Chamberlain underwent the second operation at Emergency hospital in Washington, D. C. Friday. His attendants were optimistic as to the outcome, expressing the belief that the senator's recovery would be early and complete.

Negotiations have been closed in Portland whereby the Pacific Spruce company takes over a lumber mill site and buildings at Toledo, 24 miles of railroad and 12,500 acres of timber land formerly the property of the United States Spruce Production corporation. The price was given out as \$2,000,000.

O. P. Hoff, state treasurer, and Governor Olcott Friday signed state highway bonds aggregating \$1,599,000. In issuance of these bonds was authorized at a meeting of the state highway commission held last month. The bonds will bear date of January 6 and will draw 4-1/2 per cent interest. Sale of the securities has not yet been negotiated.

Creation of a state irrigation commission, with three members having a salary of \$10,000 a year each, is part of a plan to change existing irrigation laws in the coming session of the legislature. The legislators coming from those sections of Oregon which are directly interested in getting water on lands now arid, are the movers back of the proposed measure.

Fourteen first-of-the-year lucrative and non-lucrative appointments were announced by Governor Olcott. J. W. Ferguson was reappointed a member of the state industrial accident commission and T. B. Handley was reappointed state corporation commissioner. O. S. Blanchard of Grants Pass, W. C. Fellows of Sumpter, R. M. Betts of Cornucopia, W. B. Dennis of Capton and F. A. Oimsted of Portland, members of the Oregon bureau of mines and geology; W. D. Wheelright, Mrs. Edmond C. Gilliner and Mrs. Henry L. Corbett, all of Portland, members of the child welfare commission; Amedeo M. Smith of Portland, member of the industrial welfare commission; G. M. Baker of Bond, member of the Oregon land settlement commission; David M. Dunne of Portland, member of the state board of vocational education.

A Hot Time. Another time when a man's hot temper sometimes costs him money is when he gets so mad at his landlord he forgets how much the moving man will have to be paid.—Kansas City Star.

Eternal Subject. As we watch her charming daughters and listen to their conversation we feel that if there's anything at all in the theory of heredity, Eve must have had a lot of some kind.—Ohio State Journal.

RESERVE BANKS CUT DOWN WAR PAPER

1500 MILLIONS Decline to 1141 Millions, Says Federal Report.

Washington.—Holdings by federal reserve banks of paper secured by government war obligations declined from nearly 1500 millions at the opening of the year to 1141 millions on December 31, said the annual review issued by the federal reserve board.

At the end of the year, out of a total of 2718.1 millions of discounted bills, about 42 per cent was composed of paper secured by United States war obligations, against 67 per cent of a total of 2231.2 millions held on the first Friday of the year.

The gold reserve, according to the review, shows little change at the end of the year, as compared with the condition 12 months earlier. Although considerable gold was exported to South America and to the orient early in the year, it is explained, gold shipments from England in anticipation of the maturity of the Anglo-French bonds on October 15 were responsible in a measure for a subsequent recovery.

Increases in capitalization of existing member banks and accessions of new members were responsible in part for an increase in the paid-up capital of the federal reserve banks during the year from 87.4 to 99.8 millions.

This corresponded to an increase of over 41.0 millions in capital and surplus of member banks.

CONGRESS REVIVES WAR FINANCE BOARD

Washington.—The resolution revising the War Finance corporation became a law Tuesday with its reauthorization by the house over President Wilson's veto.

The vote in the house was 250 to 66, with three voting present, or thirty-seven more than the required two-thirds majority.

The senate, by a vote of 53 to 2, acted to make the bill a law despite executive disapproval.

President Wilson in his veto message declared he withheld his approval because the war finance corporation was a war credit agency, not desirable or needed in peace times.

He said it "would exert no beneficial influence on the situation—would raise false hopes among the people who would expect more, and would be hurtful to the natural and orderly processes of business and finance."

SOLDIERS' BONUS BILL VALID

The Washington State Supreme Court Upholds Measure.

Olympia, Wash.—By unanimous decision the supreme court sustained the validity of the soldiers' bonus bill, passed as a referendum measure at the special session of the legislature in March, 1920, and adopted by vote of the people at the November election.

As a result of the favorable decision in the test case brought by the state board of finance to compel the state auditor to issue warrants drawn on the permanent school fund to purchase the \$11,000,000 bond issue authorized by the measure, the board will be galloped together at once to complete details preliminary to actual payments of amounts due to former service men from this state as provided by the law.

Movies of "Crooks" Banned

Chicago, Ill.—Motion pictures portraying criminals at work have been barred in Chicago. Chief of Police Fitzmorris announced that he had issued orders to the city movie censors not to issue permits for any photoplay that showed commission of a crime.

Fire Destroys West Virginia Capitol

Charleston, W. Va.—The capitol building of West Virginia was destroyed by fire, one laborer was killed, a fireman injured seriously and several other firefighters hurt when a section of roof under which they were standing caved in.

Dobbin Appointed to Highway Body

Salem, Or.—Governor Olcott appointed Jay H. Dobbin of Joseph, Wal-lawa county, as a member of the state highway commission to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late E. E. Kiddie. Mr. Dobbin is a prominent livestock man of his section.

Gooding Named Idaho Senator

Boise, Idaho.—Frank R. Gooding, United States senator-elect was appointed to succeed Senator Nugent, the appointment to become effective January 15. It came in the form of a New Year's present from Governor Davis.

First Negroes in America

The first appearance of the negro in the English colonies in America was in 1610, when a cargo of negro slaves were landed at Jamestown. In 1700, when the first census was taken, there were 757,208 negroes in the United States.

Defense of Righteous Anger

Anger is a noble infirmity; the generous falling of the just; the one degree that riseth above zeal, asserting the prerogative of virtue.—Tupper.

With the Help of His Friends

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

Jack Heaton emerged from the tent and threw himself down on the pine needles beside Tom. "Where's Court?" he asked.

"Chasing a skirt!" Tom's voice held after disgust. "It's the limit. Here we fellows come up here on a camping trip and the first thing Court does is to fall for a pretty face staying over at the hotel. It's playing the deuce with our plans."

"Right," returned Jack, chucking a pine cone into the lake. "Per schedule, we should now be catching black bass on Lost Loon pond."

"The funny part of it is," mused Tom, "the lady in question turns an ice-berg shoulder on Court. I happened over on the steamer dock and, take it from me, she has no use for him."

Jack sat up quickly. "All the more reason that we should mix it in the bud before he's smitten beyond hope."

"Listen here, boy. What's the first thing a man objects to in a pretty woman?"

"Her belonging to somebody else!" replied Tom promptly.

"Precisely, old top. Same with a woman. She wants to think she's the first and only. Now hark to my little scheme. You put Court wise—don't tell him how you set the information, that isn't necessary—to the fact that the beautiful girl is engaged. Get it? Engaged. Only it would spoil her good times up here if the men got wise."

For my end of it, I'll hint to Miss Willis that Court is not what he seems, that he has never got over a youthful love affair. Still, loves the fair hand that gave him the mitten. Get me?"

"I get you," said Tom, "but why do you draw the pleasant end of it? And how," he continued suspiciously, "do you know her name, and how can you manage a conversation with her?"

"Well," said Jack, slightly embarrassed. "I happen to have met the girl she's staying with—Sally Dalton. Our canoes bumped and—oh, I'll manage all right. Only, for the love of Pete, let's be speedy about it or we'll be too late with our assistance."

Few schemes finally in wait as did Tom and Jack when they paddled over to the hotel that evening, apparently lured by the seductive strains of the three-piece orchestra playing for the weekly hop. First they spied Court leaning against a veranda pillar, gazing morosely at a thin young moon.

Then on the lawn they deserted Little Willie in the midst of a little group of men.

"Beat it, Tom," cried Jack, "over to Court, and, so long as you're in it at all, go in strong. I'll wait my chance with Miss Willis."

Twenty minutes later, Tom had succeeded in reaching the point he desired in his conversation with Court. "She's some looker!" he was saying diplomatically. Then he set off his bomb. "Her fiancé is a lucky man!"

Even in the darkness Tom could feel Court's piercing glance. "Miss Willis—engaged?"

"Oh, years and years—three years!" Tom threw it off casually. Then, scolded by Court's silence, he elaborated. "She's keeping it dark up here for various reasons—but she's really absolutely infatuated with him."

"Look here, old chap—Court's voice sounded strangely broken—"did she—she didn't get you to tell me all this?"

"No—oh, no," Tom retreated in alarm. "Only—it seemed as if you ought to know."

Tom felt Court's hand gripping his shoulder. "Thanks, Tom," he said. "You've been a genuine friend." Then Tom found himself alone.

Tom gazed after him doubtfully. Interfering with love's young dream—by George, he didn't know about it. Then his spirits rose. Tomorrow at this time their tents would be pitched on Lost Loon pond.

Meanwhile Jack, after a series of successful maneuvers which afterward he recalled with pride, succeeded in rounding up Sally Dalton, having a chance with her, getting an introduction to Miriam Willis, suggesting to the latter that they sit out a dance on the veranda.

Then, after a few remarks on the beauty of the night and the numerousness of the stars, Jack adroitly introduced the subject of Court. "Poor Court!" he said, "he tries so hard to enjoy himself. That affair a few years ago. He's never got over it!"

"Indeed! How interesting!" and Miriam's cool eyes were more than merely polite. "Do tell me about it."

"Well, it—seems the girl flitted him. But he never stopped loving her. Says he never will. Darned, isn't it?"

"Very!" returned Miriam dryly, as one who wishes to imply that her experience with men has been far otherwise. "Does he know you are telling me this?"

"Oh, no!" and Jack's voice was shocked. "He's very sensitive about it—never has mentioned her name. He simply goes to pieces whenever he speaks of it."

Miss Willis seemed to have lost interest and was drawing her scarf about her shoulders. "These August nights," she murmured, "are so chilly I believe I will go in."

Some time later Jack and Tom were in high feather. The orchestra was through with "Good Night, Ladies," and the veranda and walks were slowly emptying.

"All over, boy," chuckled Tom. "And no more skirts in our! Heigho, a start at dawn for Lost Loon pond. Can't you feel that three-pounder on your line? Huh, Jack, what's that?"

What was it indeed? Silhouetted against the whiteness of the boat-house by the landing stood a familiar figure—and in his arms a girl.

Tom and Jack stopped short in their tracks and before they recovered from their astonishment matches of conver-

sation not intended for anyone's over-hearing came to their ears. "My darling girl, to think we let a silly quarrel spoil our happiness! And you have considered yourself engaged to me just the same ever since!"

"But how did you know, Court?"

"Tom told me. Very decent of him. I never let on that I chose this lake because I had heard you were to be here! And until tonight you wouldn't even speak to me!"

"But I couldn't believe you were in earnest. Why, we owe everything to those two dear boys. When I heard how faithful you had been—oh, Court, if it hadn't been for them I should have gone away in the morning and never have known! But now—"

At this point Tom and Jack succeeded in backstepping to the veranda step, where they sat down weakly.

"She was here on purpose!"

"If it hadn't been for us!"

"Next time Court starts on a camping trip and suggests the place—"

"Next time Court starts on a trip, old boy," interrupted Jack, "we won't be going along. You'll be throwing old shoes and rice, while I—I—" Jack paused and gazed thoughtfully at the stars.

"Yes, you, go on. What will you be doing?" egged on Tom, gloomily.

"I'll be consoling the maid of honor," finished Jack cheerfully.

HAVE BRAINS AND USE THEM

Rats Exhibit Intelligence in Many Ways—How They Sometimes Obtain Food Supplies.

Rats are well known to be highly intelligent animals, although to the one unfamiliar with their customs this may seem due to their wariness in regard to traps and their boldness and courage in combat. Besides these traits, many others have been noted. Stories are told of ship rats that, while gnawing through the woodwork of a ship, always stop before they completely perforate the side.

The manner in which they transport eggs to their burrows is most surprising, says the New York Times. Rodwell, in his book, "The Rat," gives a case in which a number of eggs were carried from the top of a house to the bottom by two rats devoting themselves to each egg, and alternately passing it down to each other at every step of the staircase. Rats will not only convey eggs from the top of the house to the bottom, but also from bottom to top. The male rat places himself on his forepaws, with his head downward, and raising up his hind legs and catching the egg between them pushes it up to the female, who stands on the step above, and secures it with her forepaws (it is jumps up to her, and this process is repeated from step to step till the top is reached).

A writer in the Quarterly Review describes an instance aboard ship stolen in eggs were continually being stolen from the storeroom. Having laid in a fresh stock of eggs, the captain sat down in a position that commanded a view of the eggs and waited. Before long, to his great astonishment, he saw a number of rats approach, form a line from his egg baskets to their hole and hand the eggs from one to another in their fore paws.

Their long, narrow tails may seem of no use to many people, but they have proved very valuable in procuring food. Rats have been known to help themselves to oil by holding on to some convenient support by the side of the bottle and then dipping their tails into the oil and pass it to others.

Treasure for Aquarium

There was added not long ago to the aquarium at Calcutta a gigantic crab, about two feet in diameter across its shell and having legs three feet long, which had been captured in a drag net in the Indian ocean about a mile from the shore and at a depth of 45 fathoms. After being placed in a large tank it devoured the fish and smaller crustaceans that were its fellow prisoners, and later in the evening emitting a white phosphorescent light, strangely illuminating the gloomy corner where it had concealed itself between two rocks.

Pacific Gulf Stream

The Pacific has its own "gulf stream," which is called the Japan current, and it is formed in the same way. The trade winds, blowing from the tropics, bank up the warmed ocean waters in the Yellow sea (corresponding to our Gulf of Mexico), and thence they pour out between Japan and Formosa, the stream thus formed passing south of the Aleutian chain, along the southern coast of Alaska, and down the west coast of North America. Hence it comes about that the whole southern coast of Alaska has a temperate climate. It is warmed by the Japan current.

After Something New

When his mother told Jimmie that it was time to get ready for Sunday school, the four-year-old reasoner said: "I am not going to Sunday school any more. I know all about it and an' gosh out to the garage with it, gether and learn to be a garage man."

"C. Q. D."

The steamship Republic, an American liner, was rammed and sunk by the steamship Florida, near Nantucket lightship on January 28, 1900. The Marconi operator, Jack Blinn, sent out the "C. Q. D." code signal then used in calling for aid, and several steamships quickly answered and steamed to the spot. They saved 701 persons. This was the first use of wireless to save lives of passengers on an ocean liner. By a strange coincidence this event happened on the eve of the seventy-first anniversary of the day on which Samuel Morse first publicly exhibited and demonstrated his code of "dots and dashes" now known as the Morse alphabet. The exhibition took place at the New York university on January 24, 1838.

Valuable Gift

Probably the most valuable gift of all is ability to dismiss things from one's mind.—Ohio State Journal.



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A "WANT" ad in THE MORO OBSERVER will reach more people in Sherman County than by any other medium available.