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FINNEY OF THE FORCE



THOUSANDS DRIVEN OUT BY HIGH WATER

Seven States Bordering on the
Lower Mississippi River
Suffer.

St. Louis. — Twenty-five thousand flood refugees in seven states, driven from their homes by the raging waters of the Mississippi and other streams below here, are receiving shelter under tents, according to figures compiled by the American Red Cross of this city.

Of this number approximately 15,000 are in Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas and about 10,000 in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Increasing the burden on the weakened levees, the Missouri river began to swell and will keep the Father of Waters on the rise for another day or two.

At points where breaks have occurred in levees in Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas the streams will spread and add new acreage to the wide areas already inundated.

The situation still is alarming below here in Missouri and Arkansas, particularly where levees have given away. Red Cross headquarters for the southwestern district here has received many appeals for help and hundreds of tents for the homeless have been sent stricken areas.

The United States army is supplying the tents and the Red Cross in handling their distribution, the railroads carrying them free of charge.

The walls, which hold back the Mississippi, have crumbled under the flood pressure in several places, inundating thousands of acres of land and many towns. On the amount of water flowing through these breaks will depend the seriousness of the situation at other points.

Collapse of the river wall at East Prairie, Mississippi county, Missouri, flooded the town with four feet of water. Three hundred families were driven from their homes.

Louis Weber, who has a ranch at Long Prairie in Tillamook county, has a cow that gave birth last week to a calf with two bodies and eight legs but only one head. It lived only a short time.

At a recent meeting of the Lincoln county court contracts were awarded to Curry & Hamar of Toledo for the construction of bridges across Crab, Buck and Cascade creeks in the south end of the county.

Schools at Richland and Newbridge, in Baker county, which were closed for some time because of an epidemic of scarlet fever, have been reopened. All public meetings were called off during the epidemic.

Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Underwood celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary last Wednesday at their home in Dufur. They came to Wasco county in 1877 and settled at Dufur, where they took up a homestead.

Clatsop county will celebrate the annual Scotch Broom festival near Astoria on May 24 this year, at that time paying tribute to the shrub which banks the Clatsop plains region with gold each spring.

While oiling a chain on a caterpillar at Arlington, Bert Kane, the driver, caught his clothes in the machinery. His clothing was completely torn from his body, one arm broken in three places and his chest crushed in.

Governor Patterson announced the selection of J. K. Weatherford of Albany, H. J. Elliott of Perrydale, Polk county, and Judge J. Fred Yates of Corvallis, as members of the board of regents of Oregon Agricultural college.

Veda Miller, 4-year-old daughter of Leslie Miller of Siletz, was seriously burned last Sunday when sparks from a burned-off fern area flew some 15 feet through the air, catching in the child's clothing and enveloping her in flames.

A check for \$1,069,840.50, Lane county's share in the Oregon & California land grant tax refund, was received recently by Grace Schiska, county treasurer. The check was the largest ever to be presented at a Lane county bank.

Patrons of the Southern Pacific company at Scio and Crabtree have filed with the public service commission a protest against the proposed action of the railroad corporation in eliminating daily round trip service on the Shelburn branch.

Mrs. G. T. Gertinger of Dallas, C. C. Colt of Portland and William McKinney of Baker were reappointed by Governor Patterson as regents of the University of Oregon. They will serve for terms of 12 years. Their present terms expire April 15.

DEPRESSION EXISTS IN AGRICULTURE

New York. — A general agricultural depression exists and calls for consideration as a national economic question, says a preliminary report of the business men's commission on agriculture, which will publish its complete findings this summer.

"The evidence which has been given is practically unanimous upon the fact of depression, but is varied and at times contradictory both as to its cause and remedies," said Charles Nagel, chairman, in announcing conclusion of nationwide hearings by the commission, which were begun last January. "Those who have been consulted practically agree that the country's heritage of fertile land is being impaired and that for some, if not many, years we have been living on our agricultural capital."

"Some rural sections of the country are virtually bankrupt as communities and are for the time carried by the more prosperous urban areas of the state in which they are located," Nagel added. "Even the most efficient farmers seem of recent years to have done little better than hold their own by cutting their expenditures below their accustomed standard."

The commission was formed last November by the National Industrial Conference board and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

AL SMITH ANSWERS QUERIES

New York Governor Sees No Conflict Between Church and State.

Boston, Mass. — Governor Smith of New York, in a letter to the Atlantic Monthly, declared that he recognized no power in the Roman Catholic church to interfere with the operation of the constitution of the United States or the enforcement of the laws of the land.

The governor, a Roman Catholic and potential candidate for the presidency, wrote the letter to the magazine in reply to an open letter, published in the monthly last month by Charles C. Marshall, New York lawyer and Episcopalian, who asked him a number of questions seeking to define his views on the relation of the Catholic church to the state. Mr. Marshall has been described as an authority on canon law.

Girl Jumps Over 17 Feet.

Eureka, Cal. — Miss Elita Cartwright, Humboldt State Teachers' college student, jumped 17 feet 4 inches in the broad jump, taking that event in a field meet against the men students of the college and bettering the national mark for women by four inches.

Oregon Auto Toll 13 in March.

Salem, Or. — Thirteen persons were killed and 292 persons were injured in 3030 motor vehicle accidents reported to the state traffic department during March.

Marriage in Oregon is losing ground in the contest with divorce, a report by the department of commerce, Washington, D. C., authorized for publication, shows. In 1926 there were 7085 marriages and 3086 divorces in the state, according to figures which the government has assembled from state and federal bureaus. Marriages increased 14 per cent in 1926 over 1925 and divorces 6.9 per cent.

A telegram rescinding the order to transfer the Southern Pacific passenger terminal from Roseburg to Eugene was received in Roseburg last week from William Sproule, president of the Southern Pacific lines. The order checked the preparations of passenger trainmen who were making plans to remove to Eugene immediately following the putting in operation of the new schedule, effective on April 17.

Members of the state highway commission held a meeting at Falls City recently and considered the boundaries for the proposed Falls-City-Vale highway improvement district organized recently under an act of the 1925 legislature. The district proposes to construct a cutoff highway to the coast. The road would be 25 miles in length and would reduce materially the distance between Willamette valley points and Taft.

Bonds of the state of Oregon and its numerous subdivisions now outstanding total the stupendous sum of \$202,588,359.51, according to a report compiled by State Treasurer T. B. Kay. In addition to the bonds there are county, school district, city and other warrants outstanding aggregating \$10,173,704.48, making a total debt of \$212,762,063.99. As an offset to this debt, there are assets, including sinking funds, amounting to \$39,585,011.01, reducing the net debt to \$173,176,552.98.

OREGON TRUCK LOAD LIMITATION UPHOLD

United States Supreme Court
Rules Against Auto
Lines.

Washington, D. C. — The Oregon law of 1921, under which the state highway commission restricted the use of certain highways by solid tire trucks, and reduced to 16,500 pounds the load they would be permitted to carry at certain seasons, was sustained by the supreme court.

When the suit, brought by Morris & Lowther and other trucking companies, was before the court last October, it was dismissed as moot, upon a showing that the order complained of had expired. When the order was renewed last winter, the companies obtained from the supreme court an order reinstating the appeal and reopening the controversy.

The companies contended that the commission had illegally reduced the maximum load the legislature permitted upon the Columbia River highway and other government-aided highways, and that the order constituted an illegal burden upon interstate commerce. The state described the order as intended to preserve the highways from damage during the winter months.

Salem, Or. — The constitutional question upon which the case of R. B. Morris, et al., vs. the state highway commission, went to the United States supreme court, was based upon a contention of the truck line interests that the law passed in 1921 in effect confiscated their property without due process of law, since they had been licensed by the state to operate trucks to a full capacity of 22,000 pounds.

The order as first made by the state highway commission went into effect October 1, 1925, and reduced maximum truck loads to 16,500 pounds on the Columbia highway from the Multnomah county line to the city limits of Hood River.

McKenzie Pass is now buried under from seven to 12 feet of snow for a distance of 23 miles over the summit, according to recent reports.

Fire losses in Oregon, exclusive of Portland, during March, aggregated \$188,669, according to a report prepared by the state fire marshal.

The new state highway steel bridge over the John Day river, at the Old Oregon Trail highway crossing near The Dalles has been opened to traffic.

A report of the three Baker banks shows resources amounting to \$4,976,741.87 and deposits of \$3,876,754.52, a gain of \$87,452.93 in less than three months.

The Clatskanie telephone company has asked the public service commission for permission to increase its rates in the city of Clatskanie, effective May 1.

Since the beginning of the system in 1920 to the present date, the Yamhill county court has spent a total of \$438,960.64 on the various market roads in that county.

Fred Floeter, Jr., 14, of St. Helena, was shot fatally while on a hunting expedition with three other boys. The shooting took place about a mile from St. Helena in a wooded section where the boys had gone, with a .30-30 rifle, to hunt cougar.

Representatives of the Marlon and Yamhill courts held a conference in Salem recently and decided to proceed with the remodeling of the Newberg bridge during the present year. The cost was estimated at \$30,000, which will be borne equally by the two counties.

Claude V. Davis, 46, is dead of internal injuries suffered last Thursday when his team of horses ran away near Roseburg. Mr. Davis had been leading wood on a steep hillside when one of the reins broke, frightening the horses. They bolted, throwing him from the wagon, which passed over his body.

For the purpose of ascertaining the sentiment of the people toward the proposal to consolidate Oregon City, West Linn, Gladstone, Parkplace, Canemah and Clackamas Heights into a single municipality, there is a possibility of a trial ballot being taken by mail in the several communities concerned.

Garland Ganger, 10, lies in a Pendleton hospital with his left hand practically blown off and his right eye injured to such an extent that he may lose the sight, following the explosion of a dynamite cap, ten miles west of Pendleton. His hand was blown off with the exception of the little finger.

AMERICAN FLIERS BREAK AIR RECORD

Minneapolis, N. Y. — Bert Acosta and Clarence D. Chamberlin, civilian aviators, landed after setting a new record for endurance flying by remaining in the air for 51 hours 13 minutes.

The record-breaking performance, eclipsed by six hours the previous world's record of 45 hours 11 minutes and 59 seconds.

By the time of the landing the crowd had swelled to thousands and was held in check by ropes stretched along the runway and by police reserves called out when the throng became unmanageable.

Seven gallons of gasoline an hour were used in the flight.

The last 10 gallons lasted for 2 hours and 13 minutes, and observers on the field felt sure that the fliers had remained in the air until the tank was absolutely dry.

As soon as the plane landed the cheering crowd broke through police lines and swarmed about the record-breaking plane and the two aviators.

COMMANDER BYRD INJURED

Three Companions in Spill at End of Test Flight.

Hasbrouck Heights, N. J. — Commander Richard E. Byrd and Lieutenant Floyd Bennett, heroes of last year's flight over the north pole, and Lieutenant G. O. Noville, mechanic, were injured at the Teterboro airport when the trans-Atlantic airplane, the America, turned over in landing. Anthony Fokker, Dutch airplane designer, the fourth man in the plane, was not injured.

At the Hackensack hospital, where the men were taken, it was announced that Bennett and Noville were severely injured, and Byrd only slightly. Bennett suffered a broken leg, broken arm, several broken ribs and a broken collar bone.

Noville had a possible fracture of the pelvis and severe internal injuries. His condition was serious. Byrd had a broken left wrist.

Tornado Toll Mounts to Sixty-One.

Rock Springs, Texas. — Sixty-one dead was Rock Springs' toll from the devastating tornado which leveled the town. Some of the approximately 170 injured persons taken to San Antonio hospitals were still in critical condition and it is feared deaths from injuries will increase the toll. Little hope is held out for the recovery of 12. Damage was estimated at \$500,000.

Steel Corporation to Increase Stock.

Hoboken, N. J. — Stockholders of the United States Steel corporation, at the annual meeting of the corporation here, approved the proposed increase in capitalization by voting to issue 2,033,210 shares of new common stock to be distributed as a 40 per cent dividend to present shareholders.

Coos county's share in the recent disposition of land-grant moneys made by the government to Oregon and California under the Stanford act of 1925 is \$603,706.98. It was announced by the county treasurer, a check for that amount has been received and the money is being assigned to the various county funds.

Portland has grown from a population of 347,781 to 384,000 in the past year, according to the estimate accompanying the new issue of the R. L. Polk & Co. city directory, just off the press. This, say the publishers, is a conservative estimate, despite the fact that the 1920 federal census gave Portland only 258,238 people.

Mipers, assayers and chemists of central Oregon who have heard much in recent weeks about the "mystery metal" of the Grants Pass country, watched this white metal chill into large buttons when it was melted from rocks brought to Bend from the Golden Cross mine of Gold Hill, owned principally by Bend residents.

The Hawley Pulp & Paper Mill company will enlarge its plant at Oregon City to a new capacity of 300,000 tons of paper a day. The present capacity is 120 tons a day. Ground will be broken May 1 on the project and it will be completed January 1, 1928, at a cost of \$1,500,000, according to announcement made recently by Willard P. Hawley Sr. and his son.

A few days ago a large oil barge which was tied up at the oil station of the Pacific Spruce corporation at Toledo became fouled during the night and the following low tides stranded her, causing her to tip sideways and spill into the bay some 500 barrels of black oil, causing a loss of approximately \$1000. Some fear is expressed that it may result in the loss of clam beds along the shore.

Knocking the "I" Out of Bleat



Dumping Millions

Dumping good money after bad has been the experience of the city of Seattle, which has dropped the princely sum of fourteen million dollars in a power house and crib dam on Gorge creek. The fact that the expenditures have run around nine millions in excess of the original estimates does not appear to have discouraged the members of the city council, as a new project is now contemplated based upon estimates running from seven to ten millions of dollars.

One conviction has registered firmly in the Seattle mind, and that is the contemplated expenditure of more millions. The Gorge creek plant is frequently shut down for repairs and produces about one-third the power that was promised from its construction.

Seeking a way out, the council has ordered the city's own railroad extended to Diablo canyon, where it was determined to build a great concrete dam. This work would require at least \$3,400,000 more bonds, which the council has authorized, but no provision has been made for the cost of power house and machinery.

Bed-rock base for the new dam has not been located, although at a depth of about 80 feet the city light department struck a huge boulder, which was thought to be bed-rock.

The experience of Seattle and the waste of millions of money wrung from the taxpayers have caused widespread criticism, but it is the customary experience of municipalities which mix politics with business in an effort to compete with private business at public expense. Salvo to the public is sometimes offered in the form of low rates, but the taxpayers are compelled to pay the bills in the end.

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