

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

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Price Five Cents

ANG BODY 997 YEARS OLD

Parliament of Iceland Also Has Problems.

Reykjavik.—The oldest democratic parliament in the world is claimed for the sitting, the parliament of Iceland, which in 1890 will celebrate its millenary.

It was in the year 980 that all the chief peasants and traders were called together to decide upon the new faith as against the pagan Woden cult, with the result that Christianity was accepted by an overwhelming majority.

To celebrate the occasion a church will be built on the Thingvalla plain as well as a national theater in Reykjavik, the capital.

The althing has seen many changes in the 997 years of its existence, but it is considered that never at any time has it been more balanced than now.

The elections during the summer changed the situation completely, inasmuch as the Peasant party got 19 seats against 18 to the Conservatives who were previously in power. As the althing counts 42 seats, the victorious party, however, will have to co-operate with the five Social Democrats and the sole representative of the Independent party. The single Communist will be left alone to attack the new government from the left.

The new premier, Tryggvi Thorsdottir, was originally a countryperson, and is now editor of the Timinn (the Times), the leading paper of Reykjavik. His government will have to face the problem of stabilizing the currency, of building water plants at the many and powerful waterfalls and of constructing railways and motor roads.

A point of special interest is the proposal to use for domestic and industrial purposes the warm water of the geysers, the many natural fountains where boiling water spurts as it does in the Yellowstone park springs.

BEAUTY

There was a young man with a scar
The work of a dangerous bar.
And the whiskers he grew
To conceal it from view
Were the best of his features, by far.

The rising generation ought to patronize aviation schools.

Many Thrills in "The Bat"

Long Awaited Screen Production
Of Renowned Melodrama
Comes

When the screen's big mystery melodrama, "The Bat" makes its bow at Grass Valley Saturday, January 7th, and at Wasco Sunday, January 8th, the problem of its audiences will be to detect the identity of the title character as the film progresses. Thrill after thrill, with everybody fooled to the top of their bent—that is the thunderbolt awaiting the placid fans who may suppose they will get one of those easy movie plots to solve.

As remembered for a perennial stage success and as now presented on the screen as a Roland West production, "The Bat" is a fascinating detective problem, with everything in it calculated to interest the most jaded of audiences. "The Bat" is one sensation after another, with no solution bubbling up until the moment the story gives its secret up. There are attempted murders and sudden encounters on every floor of the seemingly haunted mansion, and its spooky garrets are filled with tales of money. There is an hysterical slaver who jumps at every shadow that crosses the wall, and a comedy detective who butts into odd complications. There is the shuddery, expectant and destructive atmosphere of unexplained evil doings, with a dozen people under suspicion all at once. There is a bank robbery, a financial crash, and the demise of the respected president under peculiar circumstances, and the sudden absconding of the teller who holds the key to the debacle, at least to the vault that held the money. Hidden blue prints of a secret room in the house are sought by eager volunteers. Romance shines undimmed throughout all the troublesome plots and counter plots. There is not one single minute that the spectator's spine is not called upon to rise and shiver, and his throat to rattle in frightful gasps of joy.

Although tens of thousands have seen the stage version of "The Bat" in its several years career, the secret of its real culprit as finally revealed by its authors, Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood, has been well kept. The public has refrained from giving away the solution to members who have not seen it, and it is expected that the same loyalty to good entertainment will prevail when the big film production of the play comes to these cities.

GABBY GERTIE



"Many a man who started in making mud pies has become a specialist in real estate turnovers."

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The Christmas bird census, taken December 26 by the Oregon Audubon society in conjunction with the National Audubon society's 28th Christmas bird census, was the most satisfactory in the history of Portland, according to Willard Ayres Elliot, president of the local society. This year 30 persons identified 64 species in a 15-mile radius from Portland as compared with 51 species last year.

More business was transacted in Portland in November than in any other month last year, according to statements prepared by the Standard Statistics company, New York, one of the largest statistical organizations in the world. The volume of November business was calculated by Standard Statistics as 19 per cent above the average for the years 1920-24 and an increase of four points over that of October.

DR. E. H. CHERRINGTON



Dr. E. H. Cherrington of Ohio, who is director of the new Anti-Saloon League department of publicity, education and research.

ALABAMA IS DENIED ANY POWER PROFITS

Washington, D. C.—The state of Alabama is not entitled to any share in the proceeds from the sale of power generated at the Muscle Shoals project, department of justice attorneys concluded in a memorandum transmitted by Attorney General Sargent to the senate agricultural committee.

An Alabama delegation recently presented its claim to a share of the sale before the senate committee, the federal power committee, the army engineers, and the department of justice.

Alabama's claim was based upon the contention that although the federal government probably may have jurisdiction over the river, the river bed belongs to the state.

ILLEGAL TAXES RETURNED

Approximately 240,000 Persons to Receive Tax Refunds.

Washington, D. C.—Refunding of illegally collected taxes totaling \$103,858,687 and affecting approximately 240,000 persons, were reported to congress by Secretary Mellon.

The treasury department's report covered 12,133 typewritten pages and included refunds ranging from 1 cent to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Secretary Mellon said the credit covered the years back to 1925, inclusive, and "prior years."

Refunds made for 1928 amounted to \$68,385,865; for 1927 they totaled \$84,751,602; for 1926 they were \$654,691, and for 1925 they were \$63,528.

Rhineland's Wife Seeks Divorce

New York, N. Y.—The marital affairs of Leonard Kip Rhineland, heir to \$100,000,000 and his wife, daughter of a negro chauffeur, are to be before the courts again in a separation suit brought by his wife, Mrs. Rhineland, who two years ago defeated the attempts of her husband to secure an annulment of their marriage on the grounds that she had deceived him as to her race and color, now asks for a separation on the basis of cruelty, inhuman treatment and abandonment. She asks no specific alimony.

Calles Mexican Oil Bill Approved

Mexico City.—The senate unanimously passed in principle the Calles bill reforming articles 14 and 15 of the oil laws, which have been the source of friction between the United States and Mexico.

Doctor Accused of Killing Widow. Los Angeles, Cal.—Dr. Charles M. McMillan, 87, Los Angeles physician, was arrested as the slayer of Mrs. Amelia Appleby, whose body was found sewed in a sack near San Fernando last week.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—B. B. bluestem, hard white, \$1.38; federation, soft white, western white, \$1.25½; hard winter, \$1.23½; northern spring, \$1.24½; western red, \$1.21½.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$16.50@17; valley timothy, \$17.50@18; eastern Oregon timothy, \$20.50@21.
Butterfat—51@56c.
Eggs—Ranch, 32@34c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$10.75@11.75; Hogs—Medium to choice, \$8@10.
Lamb—Medium to choice, \$11@12.50.
Seattle
Wheat—Soft white, western white, northern spring, \$1.26½; hard winter, \$1.25; western red, \$1.22½; bluestem, \$1.40; dark northern spring, \$1.45½; dark hard winter, \$1.39½.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$25; timothy, \$28; P. S., \$22.
Butterfat—54c.
Eggs—Ranch, 35c.
Cattle—Steers, choice, \$11.25@11.75; Hogs—Prime, \$9.75@10.
Spokane
Cattle—Steers, good, \$10@10.50; Hogs—Good, \$9.50@9.60.

MARINES KILLED IN NICARAGUAN BATTLE

Rebels Are Driven From Sandino's Headquarters Near Quilali.

Managua, Nicaragua.—United States marines engaged in a bitter campaign against rebels led by General Augusto Sandino after a sanguinary battle in which five marines were killed and 23 wounded.

The marines, operating with Nicaraguan national guardsmen, drove the rebels from the Sandino headquarters near Quilali, a few miles south of the Honduran border. The rebels, informed by spies of the marine advance, were fully prepared to meet the attack and the patrol was forced to defeat a thoroughly trained and well equipped force of 500 insurgents to gain their objective.

It is regarded as certain that Sandino is receiving outside aid because his men are better equipped and armed than heretofore. Marine headquarters were informed that the conduct of the rebels in battle was greatly improved and that the men carried both machine guns and rifles.

American marine reinforcements, pushing through the rocky fastnesses of northern Nicaragua to support a detachment that captured Quilali after a sanguinary battle, clashed with rebels and drove them to the mountains.

The American casualties were one killed and five wounded. The rebel casualties could not be determined, since the rebels carried their dead and wounded with them to save them from capture.

The total American losses in the fierce fighting which marked Friday's and Saturday's clashes were six dead and 28 wounded. Rebel losses were much higher.

GOVERNOR JOHNSON WINS REMOVAL FIGHT

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Oklahoma's political inspiration, aimed at the removal of Governor Johnson and at least two other state officers, reached an unsuccessful end when the state senate brought impeachment activities to a close by the dismissal of charges voted by house members against Governor Johnson, Chief Justice Branson of the state supreme court and President Cordell of the state board of agriculture.

Meeting in a downtown hotel, to which they retreated after they had been dispersed at the doors of their capitol chamber by national guardsmen under the direction of the governor, the senators decided, by vote of 26 to 16, that the house of representatives had no authority to convene itself and vote impeachment charges.

Members of both houses, who had persisted in meeting despite a series of unfavorable decisions by the state courts and the military resistance, abandoned their activities abruptly after the senate decision and began to depart for their homes, unpaid for their efforts.

OIL DATA NOW AVAILABLE

Way Made Clear for Testimony of Fall's Son-in-Law.

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge has signed the bill sponsored by Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana, which will permit M. T. Everhart, son-in-law of Albert B. Fall, to testify in the Teapot Dome conspiracy case without incriminating himself.

The measure decreases the statute of limitations in government fraud cases from six to three years and opens the way for what the prosecution in the conspiracy trial of Harry F. Sinclair and Fall, considers important evidence that Everhart declined to give previously on the ground that his testimony might incriminate him.

Hickman's Captors Take to Stage

Los Angeles, Cal.—Hickman's two Oregon captors, Chief Tom Gurdane of Pendleton and Sergeant Cecil Leuallen of the Oregon state highway police, have signed vaudeville contracts for a local theater run. The officers are in Los Angeles pending distribution of the reward money.

2 Marine Battalions Go to Nicaragua

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of the Navy Wilbur announced two battalions of marines—one thousand men—would leave soon from the east and west coasts of the United States, to reinforce the present marine force in Nicaragua.

Wyoming Ranches Damaged by Flood

Rock Springs, Wyo.—A wall of water swept down upon Green River valley, doing heavy damage to ranches and threatening to exterminate large herds of cattle, following the collapse of an irrigation dam near here.

G. S. FERGUSON



G. S. Ferguson of Greensboro, N. C., who has been appointed a member of the federal trade commission by President Coolidge. Mr. Ferguson is a Democrat.

REMUS IS DECLARED CRIMINALLY INSANE

Cincinnati, Ohio.—George Remus, once the "brains" of a powerful bootlegging ring, was adjudged criminally insane and ordered sent to the state asylum at Lima, Ohio.

The finding handed down by Probate Judge William Lueders is the sequel to the killing by Remus of his wife, Augusta Imogene Holmes Remus, whom he accused of carrying on a love affair with Franklin Dodge, federal prohibition agent.

Following a trial of five weeks a jury of 10 men and two women, after deliberating 19 minutes, brought in a verdict of "not guilty on the sole ground of insanity," the only "not guilty" verdict allowed in the charges of Trial Judge Chester Shook.

Mrs. Remus was shot and fatally wounded by her husband on October 6 as she was en route to the court of domestic relations, where she was to testify in her suit for divorce.

Under the jury's verdict it was compulsory that Remus be brought before the probate court for a sanity hearing.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

Colonel Charles A. Lindberg was warmly received by the Central American countries visited after leaving Mexico.

John E. Richards, 79, first governor of Montana and nationally known political leader, died at a family reunion at his home in Berkeley, Cal.

Gavin McNab, San Francisco attorney, and prominent figures in democratic politics, was found dead, seated in a chair in his office in San Francisco.

Colonel Bronson Cutting, publisher of the Santa Fe New Mexican, was appointed by Governor Dillon to succeed the late United States Senator A. A. Jones.

A gift of \$1,000,000 from the supreme council, Scottish Rite Masons, of the southern jurisdiction, to George Washington university, was announced by the university trustees.

Will Free Vancouver-Portland Bridge

Portland, Ore.—At midnight on December 31, 1928, the Vancouver-Portland interstate bridge will be toll free. At that time the Oregon section of the span will become a part of the state highway system and be under the control of the Oregon state highway commission. The Washington state highway commission will assume control of the Washington half.

Old Grid Rules Are Revived

New York, N. Y.—After a short debate over the changes made early this year in the football rules, the American Football Coaches association approved a recommendation to eliminate the alterations affecting use of the lateral pass and the recovery of fumbled punts. The coaches voted in favor of returning to the 1926 rules affecting these features.

Vancouver to Get Big Whisky Cargo

Glasgow, Scotland.—The biggest shipment of whisky ever to leave this city on one vessel was loaded on the liner Salacia which sailed for Vancouver, B. C., Saturday. The vessel will carry 100,000 cases of assorted liquor and many casks totaling more than 1,250,000 bottles.

Mellon Not Presidential Candidate

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of the Treasury Mellon said he is not a candidate for the republican presidential nomination and knows nothing about a boom reported started for him.

Alaska Indian Woman, 115, Dead

Juneau, Alaska.—Mrs. Skookum Jim, known as the oldest Indian woman in southeastern Alaska, died here. Members of her family said she was 115 years old.

HICKMAN DEFENSE PLEA OF INSANITY

Another Murder Is Confessed by Slayer of Marian Parker.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Plea of insanity. Jerome Walsh, counsel for William E. Hickman, said, would be the confessed kidnaper and slayers' answer to the charge of abducting and murdering Marian Parker.

Walsh, Kansas City attorney retained by Hickman's mother, who came here to defend the 19-year-old youth, said that a study of the California penal code offered four possible avenues of plea. These are, he pointed out, "guilty," "insanity," "guilty and insane" or "not guilty and insane."

Walsh expressed his belief that Hickman has withheld some information concerning the kidnapping and murder. He said he was convinced that the crime had not been committed by one person alone.

Another murder was confessed here by Hickman. Under repeated questioning by jail officers, he told of shooting down Ivy Thoms, a druggist of Rosehill, a suburb between here and Pasadena, during a holdup of the druggist on Christmas eve, 1926. Thoms died the day after Christmas.

Welby Hunt, an Alhambra, Cal., youth, who Hickman said was his companion in the holdup, was taken into custody and, according to the officers, made a confession corroborating that of Hickman. Hunt, however, while admitting his part in the holdup, denied that he was shot from his pistol which killed the druggist.

The shooting occurred when a police officer entered the store during the holdup and opened fire on the two youths. In returning the fire, the druggist was shot in the chest by Hickman and the officer was wounded in the right hand.

MOVEMENT STARTED TO HOLD UP TAX BILL

Washington, D. C.—The full force of the administration will be thrown behind a movement to delay final legislative action on the tax reduction bill until after March 15.

The movement, started by Chairman Smoot of the senate finance committee and supported by Secretary Mellon of the treasury and the republican leader of the senate, will be opposed by the democrats, who already have begun to array their forces for a counter attack.

Taking the stand that postponement of action until after March 15 would permit congress to act on a basis of "reasonable certainty," as more accurate information on receipts and expenditures would be available, the administration group is prepared to put up a stubborn fight to hold the tax measure in the background after congress reconvenes.

U. P. WRECK FATAL

F. C. Warnke, Portland, Dies in Coach at Scene of Train Wreck.

Portland, Ore.—Five persons were injured and 90 passengers had a harrowing escape from death or serious injury Sunday when Union Pacific train No. 23 bound for Portland from Salt Lake City, feeling its way through a terrific blizzard, crashed into a slide at Oneonta siding, one mile east of Multnomah Falls.

Fred C. Warnke of Portland, locomotive fireman, died Monday night. His skull was fractured.

Because of storm conditions it had been impossible to move him from the scene of the wreck, although he had received medical attention in the office car in which he was placed following the accident.

Miss Lillian Carnes, nurse, living at the Alhambra apartments in Portland the only passenger injured, is at St. Vincent's hospital, with possible skull and pelvic fractures.

San Francisco Asks Bridge Over Bay

Washington, D. C.—A vertical clearance of 150 feet over 2½ miles of deep water in San Francisco bay is specified for a bridge which the board of supervisors for the city and county of San Francisco want to build, and permission for the construction of which would be provided by a bill which Senator Hiram Johnson of California has introduced to congress.

Klamath Falls Merchant Is Slain

Klamath Falls, Or.—John Ansel, veteran and "trusted employee of the Klamath gun store," was murdered by a robber, who looted the store safe of more than \$800 in currency and checks. One bullet from a .45-caliber revolver ended Ansel's life.

Byrd Buys Vessel for Antarctic Trip

Oslo.—Commander Richard E. Byrd has purchased the Norwegian Polar vessel Samson, of 75 tons, for his Antarctic expedition.

Grass Valley SATURDAY
January 7th

Wasco SUNDAY
January 8th

Moro MONDAY
January 9th

COMEDY
AND
NEWS

15c-35c

The World's Most Electrifying
Plot of Excitement Now
Masterfully Transferred
to the Screen!

At last in motion
pictures—the tremendous
record-breaker of
the stage. Lavishly filmed, alive
and dynamic, crammed with
LAUGHS!... SHUDDERS!
and AMAZEMENT!

TREMORS OF FRIGHT
SPASMS OF GLEE



ROLAND WEST'S
PRODUCTION OF
"THE BAT"

A COMEDY~MYSTERY~DRAMA

by MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
and AVERY HOPWOOD

DANCE

WASCO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th

"SIX CASCADIANS"