

# THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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**THE MERGER STAND**

The Interstate Commerce Commission issued an order or declaration, on the 10th of this month, in the matter of the annulment or retention of the merger of the Southern and Central Pacific railroads. It dealt with, and seemed to settle the heart of the whole controversy. It confirmed the right of the Southern Pacific to own the stock of the Central Pacific, and expressly confirmed its right to hold that stock with direct referent to operation and control. It confirmed the Southern Pacific's present lease hold of the Central Pacific lines, which runs to December 31, 1924, almost 62 years. Many questions have been raised as to the practical bearing of this order, as to the possibility of its being nullified or materially modified by the final report of the Commission embodying its whole grouping plan, and as to the delay that might ensue before the matter reached a settled basis upon which the Southern Pacific would feel justified in beginning operations. Reasoning from the issuance of this order and from what seemed a fair construction of its terms, this view seemed a reasonable one: There seemed to be no occasion for the issuance of this declaration in advance of the final report unless the Interstate Commerce Commission meant that it should be taken as a basis for action. An-

other reason for issuing this declaration just now appeared from some things in its language to be to remove a general impression that the commission and the Supreme court were in conflict, and to indicate that they were working together toward a common and agreed good, both in harmony with the act of congress authorizing the grouping of the railroads. All these speculations seem to be swept aside by a direct statement from Julius Kruttschnitt, chairman of the board of directors of the Southern Pacific company. The Portland Oregonian had sent a telegram to Mr. Kruttschnitt, calling for an answer to certain vital questions raised by the commission's order. Mr. Kruttschnitt's answer was published in this morning's Oregonian. It is as follows: "Our counsel expect, on March 9, the date fixed by court to present commission's order for approval and authorization of the court charged with the execution of the supreme court's mandate, and to seek from this court a decision to the effect that the commission's action has rendered lawful our continued control of the Central Pacific. A final decision by the court in our favor will satisfy conditions set forth in my telegram of last July, wherein the Southern Pacific company was pledged to construct the Natron cut-off whenever and as soon as its title to the Central Pacific was sure."

This seems to mean that as soon after March 9 as the federal court indicated in the dispatch can render a favorable decision on this application, the Southern Pacific will be at liberty to proceed with the completion of the Natron cut-off; and, furthermore, it acknowledges itself as pledged to proceed with it immediately.

**ONE ELECTION BILL**

A bill was introduced in the Oregon legislature a few days ago which, in substance, would make it unlawful for a man to change his political affiliation within the 30 days last preceding an election. If such a measure should become a law, and should be strictly enforced, it would save a great deal of the worry and expense of a political campaign. Since campaign speeches are supposed to be made and campaign editorials written for the purpose of changing the voters' opinion, if such a measure as this became a law, the campaign orators might as well be called in and the editorial writers switched to some other line of work when the 30-day limit was reached; because, after a voter had changed his mind, if he could not change his vote, there would be no use in wasting time or money on him any further. Such a measure might have some effect, too, in checking the publication of political "roarbacks" in the last issue of the newspapers before election, and the springing of sensational "disclosures" in last-night speeches. No doubt it would also greatly reduce the campaign expenses of the candidates, and make the preparation of their reports of campaign expenditures almost as simple a matter as the making out of an income tax return. As it is, you know, every candidate conscientiously reports every item of his campaign expenditures, to the last cent, up to the midnight before the polls open; omitting, of course, such items as certain of his friends have agreed to "take care of"—until such time, after the election and after the reports are in, as these friends shall render their bills. It is said that the object of this bill and of a score of others that have been introduced was to "protect the initiative." It seems to need protection.

H. C. Ethell is again in the employ of The News, and covering very much the same lines of work as in former times. It will greatly facilitate his work, help to make a better paper, serve the interests of the town and be greatly appreciated by us if every person having knowledge of any good news matter or any matter of general interest that should have a place in the paper will communicate it directly to him, instead of waiting for him to comb the whole community on general chances.

Mr. Dan Lyons, a student of the University School of Journalism did service on The News as a local news gatherer and general purveyor of matters of general interest for the past 3 months. A man working under such conditions as Mr. Lyons necessarily did, with only a limited portion of his time to devote to the work, applying himself to his studies all along, and not a resident of this community, has nothing like the advantages of a man who lives in the community, is familiar with all its affairs and can give his undivided attention to the work. But the manner in which Mr. Lyons did his work shows that he has been studying journalism to good purpose, and, when he can apply himself to it under the conditions under which such work is usually done, will no doubt give a good account of himself.

**\$100 REWARD \$100**

For the arrest and conviction of any party or parties who broke into the High school building on the night of the 27th day of January, 1923. By order of School Board, Dist. 19. J. W. COFFIN, Clerk.

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE ON EXECUTION**

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an execution issued out of the Circuit court of the State of Oregon for the County of Lane on the 13th day of February, 1923, upon a judgment rendered therein on the 8th day of June, 1922, in favor of Wayne E. Elliott and against Martinus Lee for

the sum of \$408.35 with interest thereon at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from the 8th day of June, 1922, which said judgment was enrolled and docketed in the office of the clerk of said court in said county on the 8th day of June, 1922, and said execution to me directed commanding me in the name of the State of Oregon, to satisfy said judgment, interest, costs and disbursements, and the costs and expenses of and upon this writ out of the personal property of said defendant, or if sufficient could not be found, then out of the real property belonging to said defendant in Lane county, Oregon, and being unable to find any personal property belonging to said defendant upon which to levy, I have levied upon the following described real property in Lane county, Oregon, to-wit:

The Northwest Quarter of Section Ten in Township Seventeen South of Range Six West of the W. M. in Lane County, Oregon; also Lots 7 and 8 in block 18 in the Town of Veneta, Lane County, Oregon. Now, therefore, in the name of the State of Oregon, in compliance with said execution, and in order to satisfy said judgment, interest, costs and disbursements, and the costs and expenses of and upon this writ, I will on Saturday, the 17th day of March, 1923, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day, at the southwest front door of the County Court House in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, offer for sale and sell for cash, at public auction, subject to redemption as provided by law, all of the right, title and interest of said defendant Martinus Lee, or any other person or persons claiming by, through or under him in and to the above described property.

FRED G. STICKLES, Sheriff of Lane County, Oregon. Date of first publication Feb. 15, 1923. Date of last publication Mar. 15, 1923.



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### EXTRA! Friday, February 16

Frank Mayo in "ACROSS THE DEAD LINE" also 1-reel comedy

SATURDAY, February 17th

Cecil B. DeMille production

### "Fool's Paradise"

with Dorothy Dalton, Mildred Harris, Conrad Nagel and Theodore Kosloff

See this gorgeous picture filmed at the risk of the actors lives. See the hero leap into the loathsome crocodile pit, swarming with horrible, man-eating reptiles, to save his rival and enemy. See his fight with the savage monsters. See this killing, heart-breaking struggle that nothing else ever screened can approach for sheer thrill. You cannot go wrong by seeing this picture.

Also a Nervy Ned comedy: "LOVE DROPS"

SUNDAY, February 18th

Lon Chaney in

### "The Night Rose"

It is a melodrama of the highest type

Comedy: "HOT OFF THE PRESS"

Wednesday, February 21st

### "The Fightin' Devil"

Action? Yes, lots of it because it is a western picture, the kind you like

And a 2-reel comedy: "Dollars and Sense"

Coming Sunday, February 25th

Harold Lloyd's Famous Comedy:

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