

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER. Foreign Advertising Representative: THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

A number of cities in the east have established their free soup kitchens. Back in the early nineties we remember the free soup kitchens. And often within a stone's throw of the free soup kitchen was an eating kitchen where one could climb on a high stool and get a good meal for a five cent piece. For that five cents one got a big piece of steak, potatoes, bread and coffee and onions for dessert. The trouble in those days was to get the five cent piece. If one's pride hindered him from going to the free soup house or the Salvation Army barracks he could go into some of the big saloons and get a free bowl of soup with a big stack of bread with a big platter piled high with sliced onions. Those were the days when the people went through hard times. Now, if a man joins the soup line he feels that at least he ought to be well dressed. The old time tramp and the hundreds who used to hang around the big beer joints are gone. We have seen a regiment of Coxy's army on the march and seen them in camp, when each carried his tomato can and took his portion of soup out of one of the big kettles. Those were the good old days of hard times. And they were hard. Up to date there has been no hard times compared with the early nineties. It was then that the general bankrupt act was passed to supercede the insolvency law of the state, and the bankrupt courts were the busiest court on the job. It is true that times have been hard and many men suffered loss, but when it comes to the hard times that have been experienced in this country, the present crisis would not even be a curtain raiser. Wait until a five cent piece gets to be as big as the harvest moon and as hard to find as the needle in the haystack and then we will be getting back to the days of 1890. You can rest assured that in those days only a comparatively few could have afforded to ride in a thousand dollar car if such a thing was possible and there would have been a mighty few on the road burning up 40 and 50 cent gas. We do not believe that we will ever experience such a condition again and we certainly hope never to see again the time when a man can get a meal for a five cent piece.—Canyon City Eagle.

It's looking better for the sheep industry. Hooray! Some of the sheep men may save a part of their investment yet. Most of the Oregon sheep men are either "broke" or badly bent, and it means everything to them if conditions permanently improve.—Oregon Voter.

Let the farmer keep his weather eye open when he considers taking advantage of legislation aimed at greatly enlarging his borrowing capacity. The adage "Beware the Greeks Bearing Gifts" may not fit the situation with a nicety, but it may be well to remember that borrowed money is easily squandered while that earned by the sweat of the brow usually is carefully conserved. Relief must be afforded, of course, and it will be afforded, because if the nations' prosperity is not to be dangerously checked the expansion of farmer credit is inevitable. However, washing all the confusing technical fly specks off the picture and looking at it through plain horse sense glasses the farmer never will have a cent of money lent to him except it be on security that is unquestionable, legislation or no legislation, and when money is borrowed there is established a lien on the farmer's production and correspondingly a certain domination of distribution and the fundamentals of business management. Care must be taken that the financial interests do not get too strong a grip on the agricultural group of our American life. It is obvious that farmers, particularly stock raisers cannot operate on short time loans but they should be cautious if opportunity is presented to them to get money with such ease that its value will be lost to sight. It is easy to drift down the stream, but there must be a day of reckoning—always a day of accounting and settling up. The role of domination must be played by the farmer, not by the financier.

Operating executives of a great railroad system feel responsibility for the lives and safety of all passengers. The degree to which they feel this responsibility is hard to realize except by those who are associated with them and watch them grow old under the strain. These operating executives do their utmost to hasten the installation of every safety device, and are limited in this regard only by the funds that are available for capital expenditure. The Public Service Commission feeling no such responsibility and meanwhile

doing its utmost to discredit the railroad so it cannot obtain adequate funds for capital investment, flippantly blames the railroad executives for alleged neglect as the principal cause of a wreck which cost seven lives. And Oregon Journal follows the lead of the politicians on the Public Service Commission by asserting that "the company by its own acts was chiefly responsible." The public service commissioners and the Oregon Journal both become exceedingly popular for their heroism in denouncing the railway executives. The public service commission heroes get re-elected and the Journal circulation grows. The railroad executives, giving their lives to the cause of safety, reply not, but silently grow older and grayer.—Oregon Voter.

Slat's Diary. By ROSS FARQUHAR

Friday—ma went to a wedding this after p. m. & when she cum home she sed she had all ways herd that marriages witch was on Friday was unlucky. Pa sed he reckon they was he sed he diddent see why they shud ought to be any diffrent from other marriages. ma sed WHAT. What also sed I, because I diddent understand what he ment. So while they was Deciding it out I tuk the dog & we went up to Jakes house and chased the cat.

Saturday—pa and me went down town to watch & lissen at the prade & evry 1 witch walked a past pa tuk a look then laffed. Finely pa got sore & sed he wood bust sum body on there noses if they kept on that- away. Finely I looked up above his hed & there was a sine hung up & it sed Unfurnished Room For Rent & that was the cause of the laffing.

Sunday—when pa started in to shine his shoes ma sed go out in the shed. when he lit his pipe she sed go out dors. Finely he put on his hat & went out & ma sed Where you going & he answered & replied I am going down to the crick & spit.

Monday—The teacher ast 1 of the girls if she had ever tuk Percentage & she sed she was exposed to it but never ketchid it. Got a slap for snickering.

Tuesday—ma had Co. this evning witch is a reglar Gosip. Pa sed Less me & you go out in the shed the only nice things that woman ever says is about her own self.

Wednesday—are skool studies is getting harder evry day. Had to stay in tonite because when the teacher ast me what was a Referendum I sed it was sum thing you shoot off of the 4th of July to sellabrate I got caught in the rane. also in a lie beings I sed I stayed to help the teacher clean up the skool. Pa new diffrent.

Thursday—I gess Jane is peaved with me agen. I think I will let her go forever this time. She sung the Love nest to me & then ast me if I thot she ever cud do anything with her voice & I tud her they was a lot of money in being a auctioneer.

French & Co. Bank At The Dalles Is Closed

The banking house of French and Co. at The Dalles closed its doors last Thursday morning, and has been in the hands of the state banking department since. This is the oldest banking institution in Eastern Oregon and throughout the long years of its existence it has stood out as one of the financial Gibralters of the Northwest, and weathered many a financial storm successfully.

The bank is now in charge of O. B. Robertson, state bank examiner. The private fortunes of the French family, amounting in the aggregate to more than \$500,000, will be thrown in the breach to prevent loss to depositors, and Mr. Robertson issues the following statement concerning the reopening of the bank: "Under ordinary circumstances I would hesitate in my official capacity to make a statement such as I shall now make pertaining to the French & Co., bankers, but I do not consider this case an ordinary one. I firmly and sincerely believe that this institution will reopen for business within a period of ten to 15 days and perhaps sooner.

"I base my conclusions on the fact that the stockholders of the bank represent heavy financial interests in other lines, and they have turned over to me outside assets aggregating approximately one-half million dollars with instructions that I negotiate a loan against these assets in a sufficient sum to liquidate all of the slow and doubtful paper under criticism by the state banking department. There is nothing to prevent putting the institution in first-class shape on the securities to which I have above referred, and I feel quite positive it can be done. "It is really a pleasure to me to state that the French families are willing and anxious to sacrifice their private fortunes for the purpose of preventing a loss to their depositors. In view of their attitude in the matter I feel that the depositors should

refrain from making permanent banking connections in other quarters, for after this bank reopens with the bad and doubtful assets eliminated, it will be an institution thoroughly worthy of the support and patronage of its old clients." "O. B. ROBERTSON, "State Bank Examiner."

\$100,000 Suit Is Filed By Woman Against O-W. R. & N.

News from The Dalles is to the effect that damages aggregating \$100,000, as a result of injuries sustained at Celilo in the head-on collision of two O. W. R. & N. trains, were asked of the railroad company by Mrs. Reta E. Cole of Amity, Oregon, in a complaint filed by local attorneys of The Dalles on February 25.

This is the second large damage suit to grow out of the Celilo disaster, an action for \$25,000 for personal injuries having been entered two weeks ago.

Mrs. Cole was on train No. 17. Her young son, Jack Cole, and her mother, Mrs. J. W. Walling, were killed when the coach in which they were riding was practically demolished. Mrs. Cole herself was injured, both legs and both arms having been broken, and other injuries sustained, the complaint alleges.

BASKETBALL REFEREEING

Editors Please Copy. Editor Gazette-Times, Heppner, Oregon, Sir:

The following letter is written in the hope that it will be read by referees, coaches and players of basketball in this section of the state. Insofar as they find the matter of interest to their readers other editors are requested to give space to the letter in their columns and to use the caption "Editors Please Copy" in order to insure a wide circulation.

This letter is not written with a feeling of resentment against any other referee or team. And there is no wish to give the impression that Heppner teams are at present more free from the practice of fouling in basketball than are other teams.

The writer is simply convinced that in this section of the state basketball is not being played as it should be played if the highest development of play are considered. The game should be characterized by bullet-like passing and by rapid criss-crossing of players on the court as

they receive and pass the ball. Good basketball is always thus played whether the game adopted by the coach is long-pass, short-pass or a combination of these two as is now becoming more general with the big teams. However, instead of a game characterized by rapid shifting of players and swift passing rushes, ending in a shot for goal, we see contests in which there is an excess of mass play, wrestling between players, holding hacking, charging, and rolling about on the floor after the ball. Basketball games, all too frequently, are changed into football games. We often hear discussions of the relative weight of basketball teams as if that had anything to do with the matter. The physical qualities that make a basketball player are speed, height, shiftness, stamina and ability to pass and shoot accurately. The instant one man starts to use his weight in a basketball game he commits a foul.

There are several reasons for this lack of good basketball play in north-central Oregon. One is the size of the courts. Basketball cannot be properly played on a court much less than 50 by 70 feet in size and 60 by 80 feet is still better, and the ceiling should be high. It is true that the official rules provide for a smaller area but the result of playing on small courts is a maximum of overguarding. A basketball team must have a chance to maneuver. A slow, heavy, strong team will find it easier to win over a fast team skilled in the rudiments of the game when the contest is played on a small court. Only one or two steps need be taken before a man is covered. Gymnasiums are now largely constructed for basketball but architects and school boards pretty generally fail to realize the desirability of a large court.

But there is another reason for our lack of fast basketball, namely, the manner in which the referees and other officials handle the games. Possibly we cannot change the courts but we can change the refereeing. In many instances there is a lamentable lack of knowledge of the rules covering fouling and a lack of capacity to see the fouls and call them. Some officials like to see teams rough it. They feel that calling fouls simply slows up the game. Such men have never appreciated basketball at its best. Basketball is a far more interesting game both for spectators and players when there is a maximum of open passing and shooting movement and a minimum of wrestling.

The official basketball rules are explicit in the matter of personal fouling. When a player finds him-

self near an opponent who is passing or shooting for goal this player may do one of three things: 1. He may throw his body or arms in front of the opponent in an effort to block or interrupt the pass or shot after it has left the hands of opponent; 2. He may strike the ball from the opponent's hands providing the blow hits the ball only; 3. He may lay hold of the ball in an attempt to wrest it from opponent's grasp. A careful reading of the rules will show, it is believed, that any other action or play is impossible. The instant the player lays his arm or hand across the opponent's arms, or makes body contact with opponent, he has committed a foul. Consider the matter of guarding from behind. It is practically impossible for any player to guard from behind without body contact. And yet the practice is constantly followed by players with no reproof from officials. A recognition of the meaning of the personal foul would do much to improve the quality of play. If every referee would call his teams together before each game and tell them that their guarding was to be limited to the three methods mentioned above we would have a new and far more interesting game of basketball.

The best official the writer has had the chance of observing in action is Ralph Coleman of O. A. C. Mr. Coleman officiated at the state tournament at Salem last year. If he was to officiate at some of the games in this section he would throw all of the members of both teams off the court for personal fouling before the first half was completed. Estimating roughly after one or two attempts to keep count during a contest the writer judges that an average of fifty or sixty fouls are committed during an ordinary basketball game as we now play it. Only about one in five of these is called and sometimes not one in ten.

Basketball is fast developing into a great high school and college sport. In popularity and interest it promises to approach football. Some of our big universities are playing to crowds of ten thousand or more and the size of the crowds is frequently limited only by the seating capacity. Basketball used to present a yearly deficit which was met by the profits from football. Now it is regarded as a money-maker. If the game is to develop to its best in our smaller high schools we must make a closer study of the application and enforcement of its rules.

Yours truly, J. W. HEARD. Heppner High School, February 28, 1922.

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