

The Weather

Maximum yesterday 53
Minimum today 34
Precipitation .08

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Predictions

Fair.

Daily—Fifteenth Year. Weekly—Fiftieth Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1921

NO. 307

SLAYER U. S. MAJOR, 1918 IS ARRESTED

Death of Major Cronkrite at Camp Lewis Cleared Up—R. R. Pothier, Ex-Army Sergeant, Pleads Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter—Was Called Accident.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Mar. 19.—Roland R. Pothier of Central Falls, formerly an army sergeant, today formally admitted that he killed Major Alexander P. Cronkrite, son of Major General Cronkrite, at Camp Lewis, Wash., October 25, 1918. The federal commissioner before whom he was arraigned, accepted a plea of guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Major Cronkrite, who was in command of a battalion of infantry at Camp Lewis, had marched his men from Camp Lewis for pistol practice, on the day of his death. During the noon hour while his men were at mess, the major walked some yards away behind a clump of bushes and began firing at an old tobacco tin as a target.

On his fifth shot, he turned toward some soldiers idling on the ground nearby and called out "did you see that shot?" The men turned toward him, when suddenly another shot was heard and they saw Major Cronkrite fall. There was a bullet wound under his right armpit.

Body Was Exhumed. An army court of inquiry reported that the officer had shot himself accidentally, but upon the return of Major General Cronkrite from France, a new investigation was started, the body was exhumed and experts are said to have asserted that the wound could not have been self-inflicted.

Since Pothier was discharged from the army in June, 1919, the department of justice has been searching for him. He was arrested here Thursday at the Auburn freight yards of the New Haven railroad, where he was employed as a brakeman.

Federal officers refused to discuss the case further, but it is understood that Pothier told them his pistol was discharged accidentally, while he was cleaning it.

Further arrests are expected, however. Officially Called Accident. CAMP LEWIS, Wash., Mar. 19.—Major Alexander Cronkrite was fatally shot on the pistol range here October 25, 1918. An official army investigating board found that he was accidentally killed by a bullet from his own pistol.

SEATTLE, Mar. 19.—Department of justice agents here under instructions from Washington, D. C., recently conducted an investigation into the death of Major Alexander Cronkrite at Camp Lewis near Tacoma in 1918. When the inquiry was completed it was said that the report of an official board at Camp Lewis, which had found Major Cronkrite met his death accidentally while on the pistol range had been substantiated. A report of the investigation which was not made public here, was forwarded to the department at Washington.

ST. LOUIS, Mar. 19.—Martin O'Brien, chief of police today ordered the arrest of all persons, crying the sale on the streets of "Henry Ford's" Dearborn Independent "because of the anti-semitic campaign conducted by that publication.

B. L. T., Famous Humorist of Chicago Is Pneumonia Victim

CHICAGO, Mar. 19.—Bert Loston Taylor, noted humorist, familiarly known as "B. L. T.," the initials with which he signed his daily column, "A Line O' Type or Two," on the editorial page of the Chicago Tribune, died of pneumonia today at his home here.

He was born in Goshen, Mass., in 1856, entered newspaper work in Plainfield, N. H., edited the Duluth News-Tribune for three years before coming to Chicago. He founded his Tribune column in 1901 but two years later went to New York to contribute to Puck, the Sun and other publications. He returned here in 1908 to resume the conduct of his column. Among his better known writings were "The Well in the Woods," "The Pipe Smoke Carry," "The Charlatans," "Motley Measures," and "A Line O' Verse or Two."

INVITE PRESIDENT TO LEGION MEET EUGENE, JULY 1ST

EUGENE, Ore., March 19.—An invitation to President and Mrs. Harding to be present at one of the sessions of the American Legion convention here July 1 and 2 and to participate in a fishing excursion was sent to Washington today by Commander Ben F. Dorris of Lane county, post No. 3 and chairman of the convention committee. The invitation was extended through the Oregon congressional delegation who were also invited to attend.

TACOMA, March 21.—Elmer Dover, western manager of the republican campaign last year and a close friend of President Harding, said on his return from Washington today that the president is giving serious consideration to an invitation to spend his vacation next summer in the northwest.

Mr. Dover said he had explained to the president the advantages of the summer climate in this section together with the opportunity to fish and play golf.

"The president took kindly to the invitation," Mr. Dover said. "He said many things in favor of the suggested trip to the northwest. He declared the idea appeals strongly to him, and that he will consider it further after the adjournment of the special session of congress."

WOOD ALCOHOL AND DYES IN BOOTLEG

SASKATOON, Sask., Mar.—To give it "a kick" and the "correct color" wood alcohol and aniline dyes are being used freely for doctoring and diluting liquor handled by some of the export liquor houses in the province, according to R. E. A. Leech, chairman of the Saskatchewan Liquor commission.

"Some of the product is little less than rank poison," said Mr. Leech. "The wood alcohol is used to give the drink a 'kick' and aniline dyes are used to give the dope the requisite color. The dyes can be skillfully shaded to represent Scotch whiskey, Irish whiskey or almost any other brand of spirits. In addition to these ingredients, instead of distilled water being used for the mixtures, anything that has a semblance of water, whether it be from the pump, a river, or a slough serves the purpose."

PLAN PUTTING MORRIS HOUSE BACK ON FEET

Creditors of Bond House Launch Move to Reorganize Institution—Trustees From Various Parts of Oregon Named to Form Agreement.

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 18.—Plans of a group of holders of unsecured interim certificates and owners of preferred shares of the bankrupt house of Morris Brothers, Inc., to re-organize the institution were announced yesterday by a voluntary committee of creditors.

Those designated as trustees in the proposed trust agreement were A. M. Fanning of Salem; Charles Cleveland of Gresham, and Leroy Chambers, Dr. J. D. Duback, S. C. Jaggar, F. A. McGuin and Dr. M. H. Lake of Portland.

The plans propose forming a new corporation with capitalization of \$1,000,000 based on claims of creditors. The plan provides for continuing the bonding business pending liquidation of claims, or permanently, as stockholders may determine.

QUEEN MARY AND ROYAL FAMILY SEE CARPENTIER FIGHT

LIVERPOOL, Mar. 18.—King George, Queen Mary, the Prince of Wales, Hugh C. Wallace, American ambassador to France and other distinguished guests of the Earl of Derby, were last night given a reproduction of the later rounds of the Carpenter and Levinsky boxing contest which was fought in Jersey City last October. Carpenter appeared with Lenaris, his Belgian sparring partner at Knowlesy hall, near here, where the Earl of Derby is entertaining a house party for a few days.

2 AMERICANS WIN IN ENGLISH GAMES

LONDON, Mar. 19.—Cambridge, which was the favorite in today's games, led with five points to four when the last event, the running broad jump, was staged and Oxford's victory in the final contest gave the dark blue an even break in the day's sports.

DRUNKARD'S FRIEND EX-TANK IS DEAD

NEW YORK, March 19.—The body of John H. Wyburn, "the drunkard's friend," was expected to be brought back today from Clifton Springs, to lie in state in the famous old Jerry MacAuley mission, over which he presided for 15 years. Mr. Wyburn died last Thursday on his 62nd birthday.

Himself an "ex-tank," as he expressed it, Mr. Wyburn achieved marked success in his work at the mission. Hundreds of "ex-tanks," now prosperous business men, are expected to visit the dingy little mission in Water street and pay final tribute to their friend.

Klamath County Ct. Finally Decides to Obey Laws of State

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Mar. 19.—The Klamath county court has issued an order for the collecting of taxes in accordance with an injunction order of Judge Calkins prohibiting the collection of \$50,000 for the Hot Springs court house construction and \$14,000 for miscellaneous expenses. The miscellaneous fund was understood to have been intended to pay attorney fees in the courthouse litigation.

The county court has indicated, however, it does not intend to quit the fight for the Hot Springs court house. The \$50,000 construction fund will be submitted at the June election in the form of a bond issue, it was said.

SOLDIERS KILLED IN IRISH AMBUSH, TERROR PREVAILS

CORK, Mar. 19.—(By Associated Press.) Seven soldiers and one policeman were killed and several wounded and seven members of the attacking party were killed in the ambush of military and police near Kinsale early today, according to the latest reports received here.

Casualties to the crown forces were caused by the blowing up of a bridge while three lorries were crossing it. Twenty Sinn Feiners were captured, of whom seven were wounded and the military took a large quantity of ammunition.

A reign of terror prevails in county Cork and the crown forces are reported to have burned farm houses and produce in reprisal for the ambush. Search for the members of the ambushing party who escaped is being continued.

RELFAST, Mar. 19.—(By Associated Press.) A great ambush by Irish republican forces near Kinsale, county Cork, this morning in which six crown soldiers were killed and five wounded, is reported. The attackers suffered heavy casualties and the battle still is in progress.

LATEST NEWS OF THE STATE

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19.—Daniel Boyd, Enterprise, Ore., was presented today to President Harding by Senator McNary, Oregon, who urged his appointment as minister of Nicaragua.

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 19.—Dr. Jefferson D. Fenton, prominent Portland physician, has been missing since last Sunday, his family have reported to the police. He had been in ill health for some time. He has a daughter in Seattle, but no trace of his wife was found there, said relatives.

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 19.—Reduced rates on lumber and shingles from the Pacific northwest to middlewestern and eastern markets will be effective March 21, according to word received by local railroad officials. The reduction is seven cents a hundred from the increased rates in effect since August 25, last.

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 19.—Hotel men of the state have called a meeting here Monday to consider concerted action looking to a request to the public service commission to reconsider its action in authorizing increase in telephone rates.

SPARKS FROM TODAY'S WIRE

SPOKANE, Mar. 19.—A charge of manslaughter was placed today against P. C. Heddick, driver of an automobile which collided with a street car here yesterday morning, killing one woman and fatally injuring a man.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19.—The white population of Portland, Ore., in 1920 was 252,961 with 1,846 Chinese, 1,735 Japanese, 1,556 negroes and 210 Indians, Filipinos and others, the census bureau announced today. The Chinese population decreased 3,523, or 67.9 per cent.

LITTLE CHANCE OF PURCHASING CAMP GROUNDS

Unless City Council Reverses Judgment, Believed P. & E. Terminal Will Not Be Considered—Councilman Keene Leads Opposition.

Although there is considerable interest in the proposition by which the city is asked to purchase the Pacific and Eastern railroad terminal property to be converted into a new city auto camp grounds, there is little likelihood of the deal being made unless the city councilmen change their minds from the attitude on the project assumed by them at their meeting last Tuesday night when the subject was up for discussion before it had been made public.

While the councilmen and mayor all admitted that the asked for purchase would be a good investment in time at the price asked, \$20,000, and terms, yet while taking no formal action the subject was dropped after Dr. Keene put up vigorous opposition, declaring that it would be unwise to obligate the city to such a large debt for this purpose at this time in view of the unsettled financial conditions existing throughout the country and the financial status of the city.

He dwelt especially on the fact that to him it seemed absurd for the council after having just voted to pay off \$38,000 of the city's bonded indebtedness, due April 1, to go into debt again for \$20,000.

Therefore, the councilmen dropped the proposal and with the mayor, discussed the matter of either fixing up the present auto camp grounds or of purchasing some other site at a comparatively small sum.

The present outlook is that unless the councilmen are awakened by public opinion Medford will continue to have among tourists the reputation of having one of the worst city auto camp grounds on the Pacific coast for a city of its importance and size on a main traveled highway.

POLISH-RUSSIAN TREATY SIGNED

WARSAW, March 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—News that the treaty of peace between Poland and soviet Russia had been signed in Riga was received here late last night. It was immediately transmitted to President Pilsudski and the cabinet ministers, who were attending a gala performance in the opera house in celebration of the adoption by the diet of the new constitution.

SINN FEIN RESENT CHURCH DICTATION

LONDON, Mar. 19.—Irish Catholics adopted resolutions at a mass meeting last evening protesting against the pastoral letter issued in February by Cardinal Bourne, in which the cardinal denounced disorders in Ireland. The resolutions warned Cardinal Bourne that while dutiful Catholics will obey the church in matters relative to faith and morals no ecclesiastical dictation or interference in political matters will be tolerated.

Tacoma Bootlegger Makes \$15,000 Clear In One Year's Work

TACOMA, March 19.—The large profits realized by manufacturers and sellers of moonshine whisky was revealed officially today when Louis Primorsch confessed to federal authorities that his profits were \$15,000 last year. Primorsch confessed ownership to a still in a cave in Mason county, officers said. The man admitted that he sold his product in Tacoma and Aberdeen.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 19.—The launch Lloyd C., was seized by the coast guard cutter Tulare today as she was entering the harbor and a cargo of 300 cases of liquor confiscated. Her captain, J. Houston, and four other members of the crew were arrested by customs officials.

WALSH CONTINUES PUBLICITY PATTERN SPITE OBJECTIONS

CHICAGO, March 19.—Charges that the railroads, knowing the railroad labor board had no power to enforce its decrees, were trying to smash the labor unions through public opinion and were attempting to influence public opinion through false, paid publicity, were made before the board today by Frank Walsh, attorney for the unions, when he began his second day of cross questioning of railroad officials.

Mr. Walsh renewed his investigation of railroad publicity despite objections from Judge R. M. Barton, chairman of the board, that the matter was irrelevant. He called T. DeWitt Cuyler, chairman of the association of railroad executives, to the stand and resumed questioning along the line which yesterday brought statements from Mr. Cuyler that public articles supposedly written by Mr. Cuyler really were written by Ivy Lee, a press agent.

"Wasn't Mr. Lee appointed press agent of the Association of Railroad Executives because he is an expert at breaking down unions?" Mr. Walsh asked.

Fair Weather

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday are: Northern Rocky mountain and plateau regions—Generally fair, temperature considerably lower than during the week just passed. Pacific states—Generally fair except along the north coast where occasional rains are probable; normal temperature.

JAP REPRESENTATIVE CHARGES JOHN F. STEVENS WITH ANTI-JAP PROPAGANDA

TOKIO, Mar. 18.—(By Associated Press.) Japan will stand firmly on her mandates over the Island of Yap, Viscount Uchida, foreign minister declared at a meeting of a diet committee today.

HOLY BIBLE WINS WHERE POLICE FAIL

After Withstanding Third Degree Virgil Decker, 18 Year Old Youth, Confesses to the Murder of Double, After Reading Scriptures—Wife of Sheriff Influential.

WARSAW, Ind., Mar. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—Memories of his early religion revived by a letter urging him to confess his sins and seek forgiveness, combined with the softening influence of motherly advice given by Mrs. C. B. Moon, wife of the sheriff of Kosciusko county, has resulted in a confession from Virgil Decker, 18 years old, in which he declares that he alone was responsible for the death of his chum, Leroy Lovett, a 19-year-old youth of Elkhart, Ind.

Since his arrest Tuesday at Marion, Ind., on the charge of murdering Lovett, the Decker boy has insisted that he had no part in Lovett's death. Yesterday he received in a letter from Mrs. George Walker of Saymore, a woman who, unknown to him, a deeply religious appeal that he confess "everything to the man you have harmed," and imploring him to "lean on Jesus."

Late yesterday Decker requested a bible. Later, Mrs. Moon heard him talking as he walked about his cell. She listened and heard him quoting the scriptures. Bible Loosens Tongue. "Did you find something to comfort you?" she asked.

"My favorite verse is John, chapter 3, verse 16," said he and quoted: "For God so loveth the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish but have everlasting life." "Isn't that good?" he shouted. "It makes me feel better already."

"But, Virgil, if you keep on telling lies, don't you know that you will only make your case worse?" suggested Mrs. Moon. "Yes, I know it, but I have made my peace with God and I'm ready to tell all," declared the boy.

WARSAW, Ind., Mar. 19.—Officials of Kosciusko county today continued their efforts to draw from Virgil Decker, 19 years old boy of Elwood, the reasons for the attack upon his chum, Leroy Lovett, of Elkhart, Ind., which led to the latter's death. Early today Decker confessed he had struck his chum on the head with an iron bar as he slept in a cottage on the Tippecanoe river near here, and several hours later returned to the cottage with a horse and buggy, taking Lovett's unconscious form to a nearby railroad crossing where it was struck by a train.