

MEDFORD NATIONAL GUARD RANKS ARE BEING FILLED UP

The ranks of Co. A, National Guard of Medford have been filling with new recruits, without a real active campaign, but more recruits are coming now to bring the company up to thirty men, the number necessary now for the peace strength company under the present regulations.

Oregon now stands at the head of the western states in the National Guard work and more recognition is being given to the men in the National Guard service each year. The recruits for West Point are now selected from the army and the National Guard and Medford has a National Guardsman, Corporal Jesse Pressler, appointed for one of the sea men from Oregon for West Point in July.

The educational department of the state of Oregon through Superintendent of Public Instruction Churchill, has now arranged for all young men of the high school who are members of the National Guard, to receive certain credits towards graduation, for drill with the National Guard. A number of the young men of Medford of the high school will now receive these credits, and those who have been members for time past will be given credit for the time they have served in the National Guard, providing they are continuing the service.

The new armory will be fitted up when completed with gymnasium equipment a bowling alley is to be installed, shooting gallery, shower baths and everything to be found in a first class gym. Captain Canaday has secured a drawing of the new armory as it will look when completed and as soon as the pictures have been finished the people of Medford and Jackson county will have the opportunity to see what the new building will look like.

The company has just organized a basketball team and have secured their new jerseys, of maroon color, with wide band of white upon which is placed a large infantry design of cross rifles and the figures 188, representing the regiment to which the Medford unit is a part, together with the company letter beneath the cross rifles.

The last quarters' pay was brought last Saturday by General George A. White upon his visit to Medford and next Wednesday night will be pay night for Company A and also at this time will be distributed the new caps to be worn by all enlisted men, instead of the service hat that has been worn for the past several years.

FIRES IN ILLINOIS COAL MINES BURN FOR MANY YEARS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 5.—(By the Associated Press).—Fires burning for years in coal mines, deep beneath the ground, are one of the unsolved problems of coal mining in Illinois.

Many of these fires, which have caused trouble in southern Illinois mines, according to Robert M. Medill, director of the state department of mines and minerals.

The Donk brothers mine at Collinsville, the North mine of the Illinois and Indiana coal corporation at Witt and several mines near Springfield have been compelled to seal up portions of these smoldering furnaces, which burn without stopping in the hidden chambers underground. One mine was ordered closed entirely.

The fires start in the refuse, which is left after the coal is dug and are caused by a process similar to spontaneous combustion, according to Mr. Medill. The miners call them "gob fires," from the word applied by coal diggers to the debris in the mine. They do not flare up in flame, but burn slowly, smoldering away for years until they eat themselves out of fuel. Chambers where these fires start become a mass of live red coals and must be sealed up to keep the air from them.

The trouble is caused when a fire eats its way through a wall and threatens to break through into the mine workings. Sometimes the smoldering coal eats up the supporting coal pillars resulting in weakening the support for the ground above.

These fires cannot be extinguished by water, Mr. Medill stated. Water only makes them worse. It is the chemicalization resulting from the mixing of water and the refuse that causes the original combustion. The only way to stop the fires is to seal up the burning coals from the mine. Many such fires may be seen on black piles on the surface in this section of the state. These can be flooded with water and extinguished, Mr. Medill stated.

"Merry Widow," Page Tonight



Although cataclysms have swept across the world since she first made her charming appearance in 1906, "The Merry Widow" which comes to the Page Theater tonight is as charming as ever.

Frank Lehár's operetta is a perfect work. How beautiful its melodies are. How richly its orchestration pours out. Best of all, as presented this season, the work is really sung. Mr. Savage has gathered together for the present tour a cast rich in singing voices and dramatic ability.

There is the unforgettable waltz, of course. But this is only one gem in a gleaming diadem. The vocal and or-

chestral delights of "Vilva" and the Marsovian dances never fail to stir the pulses, while the beauty of the stage picture holds the eye. The Maxim song, that rollicking lyric about women, and the other gems, come one by one in quick succession to be greeted by the audience with thunders of applause.

The three modern stage settings are filled with color that makes the old ones seem commonplace. The second act is especially beautiful with its glowing night sky, and the superb last act shows the interior of Maxim's with the Madeleine towering in the background.

TO DISCUSS HOGS DAIRYING AND COWS WEDNESDAY NOON

The possibilities of dairying and the raising of registered cattle and hogs here in Southern Oregon will be the subject under discussion at the members' forum of the Medford Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday.

Clyde E. Niles, manager of the River Banks farm, which is west of Grants Pass, has been the leader in this locality in the breeding of registered animals and he is in position to give a great deal of practical information on this subject which he has consented to do on Wednesday.

To say that Clyde Niles is interested in the success of the Jackson county fair is placing it very mildly for he exhibited last year one dozen registered Guernseys and 25 registered Berkshire hogs. These cattle and hogs drew down in premiums a very neat sum of money and ribbons which substantiates the contention that it pays to raise nothing but the very best.

The farmers interested in registered cattle and hogs are extended the privilege of this forum and their attendance is solicited.

JACKSON CO. SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE IN SESSION THIS WEEK

The Jackson county Sunday School Institute will hold all day sessions at each of the following places: Gold Hill, Tuesday, February 6, at M. E. church; Medford, Wednesday, February 7, at Baptist church; Eagle Point, Thursday, February 8, at Union church; Ashland, Friday, February 9, at Baptist church. Everyone in the county should be so interested in these instructive meetings as to attend at least one day at one of these points. There will be speakers at each session who come highly recommended from different fields of native service. Rev. F. M. Jasper, religious educational director for the M. E. churches of the Oregon conference. Rev. A. J. Ware is the Baptist missionary for Clackamas county, also president of Clackamas County Sunday School council.

Those having met Miss Georgia Parker or heard her talk, know with what glowing enthusiasm she speaks, her personality is inspiring. This institute has been carefully planned by devoutly interested parties and the officers hope that those especially connected with the Sunday school will take advantage of this institute. The following program will be presented: Medford, Wednesday, February 7.—Morning Session. 10:00—Devotional. Local Pastor 10:15—"Value of Vacation Schools" 10:30—Rev. F. M. Jasper 10:45—"Our Local Situation" 11:00—"Organized Classes" 11:15—

ASHLAND LAUNCHES A VIGOROUS DRIVE AGAINST GOPHERS

ASHLAND, Feb. 5.—Beware of "gophers." This, however, will be used in a legitimate matter, and narcotic addicts need not fear the wholesale application of it as noted in this connection. Gophers are to be the victims of the fiery potion, and a wide extent of Valleyview territory will be the scene of broadcasting the same over an extent of land which will include several thousand acres. This work is to be done systematically under auspices of the State Agricultural college, as directed by a representative of its biological department. The specific territory on which the exterminative warfare will be commenced comprises the land situated between the irrigation ditch and Bear creek north and south, and west of Butler creek.

Ultimately further sections will be incorporated within the poison zone, this depending upon arrangements which may later be entered into with property owners in adjacent districts. The land proprietor will administer the dope, the college being an necessary before the fact, inasmuch as the state institution will supply the agent of elimination. The exact nature of the poison is not stated, though its base is supposed to be strychnine in heroic doses, rendered palatable through the introduction of a comparatively harmless agency as a chaser. Property owners either non-resident or who do not care to personally do this work, can have it done by applying to a representative of the Farm Bureau unit within such territory as is covered by the gopher eradication project. It would be useless to eliminate the pest from one ranch, leaving adjacent ones infested, consequently the intent is to wage the war of extermination throughout the entire scope of territory being benefited by the big irrigation project. As to expense of the poison campaign, this will be adjusted as per agreements reached between landowners and the Agricultural College authorities. With the advent of irrigation, the elimination of gopher ravages is not merely one of expediency, but necessity. All property owners will doubtless willingly sign up on this proposition "for the duration of the war." However, if some demur in the face of moral sanction to join the extermination movement, recourse may be had to compulsory methods. Better enlist voluntarily than be drafted into service later on. The advantages of an early advance along all lines in the Valleyview basin will be apparent in the good old summer time, when nature, given encouragement, is at its best, and when the pestiferous gopher, given free range, is at its worst.



Splendid Show at Rialto

Richard Barthelmess scores again in his latest contribution to the screen, decidedly so, for his "The Bondboy" which opened for three days at the Rialto Theatre yesterday, is without question one of the finest motion pictures produced in many moons. There are touches of deep pathos, expertly acted scenes that tug at the heart-strings and just enough of a let-up in bits of comedy to relieve the tenseness of the excellent story.

Richard Barthelmess has never done finer acting than in the scenes showing him awaiting execution and with his mother after his escape. Here is playing of the most capable sort, a credit to the screen and a distinct triumph for this young star. "Our Dick"

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INSURANCE FINES CUT BY OVER \$7,000,000

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 5.—Total fines of \$8,000,000 assessed against 142 fire insurance companies which formerly operated in Mississippi and which are being prosecuted for alleged violation of the state anti-trust law, were reduced to an aggregate of less than \$1,000,000 today through a decision of the state supreme court.



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is superb in the role. Others who help materially to make a success of "The Bondboy" are: Mary Thurman, Charles Hill, Malles, Lawrence D'Orsay, Mary Alden and Virginia Magon.

At the Page Tuesday

"The Woman He Married," one of the most successful plays on the legitimate stage, has been transformed into a motion picture, which will be shown at the Page Theatre again tomorrow. Anita Stewart is the star of this First National attraction and Fred Niblo, the creator of "The Three Musketeers," directed it.

Larry Semon has a new and subtle vein of comedy in "The Bakery," which is the other feature offering on the same bill that elicits smiles rather than guffaws. Larry uses several of his famous animals and introduces them in new stunts such as the color-changing cat, the bread mouse, the stuck-up monkey.

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