

**The Weather**  
 Prediction Generally cloudy  
 Maximum yesterday 55  
 Minimum today 29.5

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

**Weather Year Ago**  
 Maximum 52  
 Minimum 42

Daily—Seventeenth Year.  
 Weekly—Fifty-Second Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1923

NO. 308

## LADY RUM PIRATES IN B.C. WATERS

**Women Engage in Liquor Traffic From Canada—Wandy With Gun—Smugglers Men of Education—Lonely Isles Used as Signal Bases.**

TACOMA, March 22.—Whiskey Johns and Rum Jennies, hijackers and hijanes are infesting the waters of British Columbia along the imaginary boundary line of the United States, according to a special dispatch to the Tacoma Ledger.

Women are following close on the heels of the men in rum running ventures and nearly 25 per cent of the trips made with cargoes of liquid refreshments are engineered by women or have women indirectly associated with them, it is declared.

During the past week a small boat was "knocked over" in the Gulf of Georgia close to San Juan Island, and thirty cases of liquor taken and the leader of the "knockover" gang was a woman.

Hailing the rum runner, the maid leaped from her boat to the deck of the carrier, colliding with the owner of the runner in such a manner that she had to be supported. So engrossed was the young skipper in assisting the young lady to keep her feet that he failed to notice two men leaping from the other boat to the deck by his side until it was too late. One covered the engineer with his gun while the other commenced to move the cases of whiskey from one boat to the other.

The owner of the cargo reached for his "kat," only to find the young lady when she launched against him in jumping to his boat, had quietly removed the gun and was standing guard over him.

There was no disputing the fact that she was first in command and her deputies did nothing but follow instructions.

Backing away from the owner of the cargo as the last case was transferred the young lady held him under cover until she had safely negotiated the jump to her own boat and then tossing a kiss from the end of her fingers she and her boat dissolved in the darkness.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., March 22.—Whiskey smugglers operating in San Juan waters, south of British Columbia boundary line, have a system of lookouts and signals and follow fixed courses in their efforts to evade federal prohibition enforcement officers, according to a story appearing in the Herald today.

It is declared that lookouts recently stationed on Obstruction Island near Orcas, moved later to a point near Deception Pass when the owner of the place refused to renew the lease on the property and that later an underground cache, large enough for 100 cases of whiskey, was found. Entrance to the cave was effected through a small outbuilding.

Suspicious lights have been reported on Shaw, Frost, Blakely, Cypress, Lopez, San Juan, Jones and Suecia Islands. They are so placed that a runner by night is always in view of one or more of them. If the light is burning, it signifies that the coast is clear, if it does not appear, the whiskey runner, usually in a launch, lays his course toward a burning light in some other channel.

Some of the lookouts are declared to have the appearance of persons of means and education and considerable personality. One now poses as an invalid from the east.

The liquor usually is transferred at the boundary because the British boats as a rule will not cross the line, but some transfers have been reported as far south as Peapod rocks, near Orcas Island.

Various courses are followed. Much of the liquor is unloaded by boats in river channels on the mainland. Occasionally a smuggler, hard pressed for revenue cutters, secretes his cargo on the islands.

SALEM, Ore., March 22.—Dr. A. A. Ausplund, former Portland physician, who was received at the state prison here March 15, 1921, to serve from one to fifteen years on conviction of manslaughter, was granted a full pardon on December 5 last, by Acting Governor Roy Ritner, it became known here yesterday. It also was revealed by the records of the secretary of state's office that Ausplund had previously been paroled by Governor Ben W. Olcott on condition that he leave the United States and never return. He went to Sweden, but has now returned to Portland, it was said.

### Lizzie Wizard Buys Kentucky Coal Lands; Figures in Millions

LEXINGTON, Ky., Mar. 22.—It was learned today by the Lexington Leader from what it considers reliable sources that Henry Ford had bought a tract of coal and timber land covering about 125,000 acres in eastern Kentucky. The purchase price is said to be between ten and twenty million dollars.

The tract was owned by the Peabody interests of Chicago.

### STEEL PROMOTER DIES ON TRAIN ON PROBE EVE

Extravagance Charged in Use of Money Deluge—Chain Stores and Cafeterias Purchased at Fancy Prices—Started on Small Capital—Advertising Reaped Harvest

TOLEDO, Ohio, March 22.—Leonard R. Steel, 43, of Buffalo, head of the L. R. Steel corporation, died suddenly on a westbound New York Central train near here early today. Mr. Steel was found lying in his berth by Ernest Matthey, his chauffeur. When Matthey reached his stricken employer the latter was unable to speak and died before the train reached the Toledo station. Heart disease is believed to have caused death.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Mar. 22.—Leonard R. Steel, founder of the L. R. Steel corporation, which went into receivership on March 8, died early today on a train enroute to Chicago. Mrs. Steel was advised of her husband's death in a telephone message from Toledo.

Steel's sudden death came on the eve of investigations into the stock selling and other financial methods of his promotions by county and state authorities. Carl S. Herman, state attorney general, yesterday notified the receivers that he desired to make a thorough examination of the books of the various Steel corporations and District Attorney Guy B. Moore announced last night that on account of reports of gross extravagance in the handling of the \$20,000,000 invested by 50,000 stockholders, he would join in the inquiry. Federal agents are also in touch with the receivers but have taken no action.

Starting with a small capital in 1919, Steel, personally directing advertising and stock selling campaigns, disposed of more than \$20,000,000 in L. R. Steel, Inc., and its various subsidiaries. As the money poured in new corporations were founded, chief among them being the L. R. Steel Service corporation which had to do with stock sales; the L. R. Steel realty department, handling all leases and real estate owned by the various branches, and other interlocking corporations, both in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Steel, his former associates say, ruled the policies and destinies of a house of Steel with a high hand. Any suggestion from a subordinate in opposition to Steel's plans for expansion resulted in immediate dismissal, it was said. Chain stores were purchased at what were alleged to be exorbitant prices, restaurants and cafeterias were opened and run at a loss; a large sum was invested in a coal mine and about \$180,000 was spent in exploiting a permanent international exposition at Niagara Falls before the enterprise had advanced beyond the blueprint stage.

The first sign of distress so far as the public knew came in January, when it was announced that Steel had surrendered the presidency of the parent and several subsidiary corporations. It was said at that time that he was broken in health and was retiring virtually without a dollar except his large investment in L. R. Steel stocks.

A financial audit in progress since then is reported to have disclosed a scarcity of quick assets in volume approximating a small fraction of the \$20,000,000 invested by stockholders. The audit, it was said today at the receiver's office, will not be completed until about April 1.

Steel was born in Middletown, Pa., in 1878. He was employed by a chain store corporation in 1918, when he conceived the idea of branching out for himself.

BERLIN.—The Cologne police are reported to have run down the assassin of Joseph Smets, the separatist leader.

### Boston Beats Out Omaha In Beauty Contest At Spring Hatmakers Meet



NEW YORK—Alice McCormick was only "runner-up" in the beauty contest held by the Retail Milliners' Association at their Spring Fashion show at the Hotel Astor, but you can't make Omaha, Nebraska, believe she shouldn't have been first. They point with pride to the fact that Alice's looks do not suffer in the least by comparison with Winifred Blair, queen of the Montreal Winter Carnival, and Helen Morgan, chosen "Canada's fairest daughter." Letitia Marvin of Boston was judged "most handsomely and originally gowned" contestant.

### 'DAVID' HIBBER AND 40 GIRLS SAYS PRIESTESS

Left Men's Suits in Each Room to Leave Impression They All Had Husbands—Cult Founder Rolled in Wealth—Feared Counterfeit Money.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—How Benjamin Purnell, head of the Israelite House of David colony at Benton Harbor, is alleged to have herded 40 girls in Shiloh, his home, into the attic of the residence when he feared a visit by federal investigators, was revealed in federal court here today during the trial of the suit against the colony instigated by John and Margaret Hansell.

The testimony was given by Mrs. Hazel Wuertz, high priestess and preacher in the cult, who is a witness for the plaintiffs.

"Benjamin told the girls in Shiloh that there was to be a special investigation and that officers were coming to make medical examination of us," Mrs. Wuertz testified. "He put a coat, a pair of men's trousers and a vest in the room of each girl to give the impression that we had husbands living with us. Mary, the wife of Purnell, gathered the girls whom Benjamin feared would talk and hid them in the attic. Forty or fifty of us were kept there. While this was going on, others carried Benjamin's beer bottles away so the investigators could not find them."

"After we had been in the attic two or three hours, Mary brought us down, Benjamin said that's the time we fooled them."

That Purnell was the possessor of a large fortune in money and jewels which he kept hidden in Shiloh was declared by the witness.

"One time," she said, "Benjamin heard that counterfeit bills were being circulated in Benton Harbor. He took me to help him examine his money which he kept in a private vault in his clothes press. He examined every bill. There was more than

### WRIGLEY DENIES PUT CASH IN DEAL FOR SEATTLE TEAM

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 22.—William Wrigley, Jr., owner of the Los Angeles club of the Pacific Coast League, declared today he had "not one nickel" invested in the Seattle club and declared he welcomed any investigation of the recent purchase of the latter club by Wade Kilifer, Angel manager, and Charles Lockhard.

This statement was made after Mr. Wrigley was informed that Ed R. Maier, president of the Vernon club, had wired William H. McCarthy, league president, urging an investigation of the sale.

"Charles Lockhard is wealthy," said Mr. Wrigley, "why he could borrow enough money to buy the Seattle club, using his Catalina Island property as security. He did not have to borrow the money, however. Lockhard had cash enough to swing his end of the deal."

"Wade Kilifer is putting his own money in the club also. All the boys around the ball park know where he got the money. He sold his walnut grove near Whittier and his home in Los Angeles to make ends meet."

### The Noted Dead

WASHINGTON, Mar. 22.—Milo D. Campbell of Michigan who recently became the "dirt farmer" member of the federal reserve board, dropped dead today while playing golf at the Columbia country club.

Mr. Campbell, whose home is at Coldwater, Mich., was president of the National Milk Producers' association and was widely known as a practical farmer. He was named a member of the reserve board by President Harding under a new law authorizing farmer representation on the board and took office about a week ago.

### Willamette Debaters Lose

APPLETON, Wis., Mar. 22.—Lawrence college negative team won from the Willamette university team of Salem, Ore., last night by a two to one decision.

### PROMINENT MEN NABBED IN FILM TOWN BOOZE RING

Member of Liquor Landing Party Down—Seize Seven Autos and \$20,000 Worth of Scotch Whiskey—Two Japs Make Getaway.

LONG BEACH, Cal., March 22.—One man is believed by the police to have been killed in a raid early today on a liquor landing party which also resulted in the arrest of three prominent Long Beach men and four others suspected to be members of a Hollywood smuggling ring.

The police fired upon a launch seen pulling away from the dock of the Curtis corporation, fish packers. One man was seen to fall overboard. His body was not recovered.

The men arrested were Alexander Stewart, president; V. C. Lord, sales manager, and Albert C. Leahy, general manager of the Curtis corporation all of Long Beach; G. O. Hogan, Joe Morris, Lewis Edwards and John Johnson of Hollywood.

The raiding officers seized seven automobiles belonging to the Curtis corporation and 166 cases of liquor they said was worth \$20,000, alleged to have been landed from the launch. The cases had been billed from Scotland to Emserenda, Lower California, via Vancouver, B. C.

The police said they believed the man who disappeared in the water was a Japanese. Two other men, also said to be Japanese, escaped from one of the seized automobiles.

### FUKIEN INVADDED BY CHINESE FORCES

AMOY, China, Mar. 22.—(By Associated Press.) In a threatened invasion of Fukien province, Sun Chuan-Fan, the general from Kiang-Si province, is reported to have entered Shaowu and to be proceeding to Kiencing in a drive toward Foochow, the capital. Shaowu and Kiencing are in Fukien.

### Jewish Athlete Able to Bite Thru Steel Bars; Bends Rails On Head

LONDON, Mar. 22.—That a Jewish athlete named Breitbart, 34, six feet 3 inches in height, and weighing 210 pounds, can bite through steel, is vouched for by a medical correspondent of the Lancet.

Breitbart's performances astounded a committee of engineers, smiths and athletic heads who saw him sever with his teeth several iron and steel chains one-fifth of an inch thick; bend into a circle iron rods half an inch square; using his mouth as a fulcrum to bend over his head a rail four inches thick by two and a half inches.

The correspondent says: "The committee are satisfied that he accomplishes these tasks by means of extraordinary muscular power, coupled with excellent scientific training and muscular energy."

### GROCERT'IA KING SAYS WALL ST. RAZORAT THROAT

Piggly Wiggly Head to Fight—Ten Million Used to Corner Stock, Profits Unknown—Grocery Clerk Now Millionaire.

NEW YORK, Mar. 22.—While dozens of its members were scurrying around in quest of Piggly Wiggly stock to cover their short accounts, the New York stock exchange this afternoon by action of its board of governors struck Piggly Wiggly Stores, Inc., permanently from the list of securities traded in upon the floor.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Mar. 22.—Clarence Saunders, Memphis groceryman and head of Piggly Wiggly Stores, Inc., stood today with a demand that "short sellers" in Piggly Wiggly stock settle with him on the basis of \$150 a share by three o'clock this afternoon as his answer to the riddle which came as a sequel to a hectic day's trading on the New York stock exchange which terminated in the banning of Piggly Wiggly temporarily at least, from the "big board."

Mr. Saunders made his demand in a statement in which he scored what he termed "Wall street and its gang of gamblers and market manipulators," and declared that as a result of the battle in the stock market Tuesday, more than 25,000 shares of Piggly Wiggly are "short" to him on delivery.

Three o'clock this afternoon was fixed by Mr. Saunders as the time limit for the \$150 price. After that, his statement—in effect an ultimatum—declared the price would be \$250. He indicated that recourse in the courts would be brought if settlement is not made.

"A razor to my throat, figuratively speaking, is why I suddenly without warning kicked the pegs from under Wall street," Saunders declared in detailing his fling in the stock market with Piggly Wiggly, which, he declared, was his first experience in trading in the New York exchange.

"It was strictly a question of whether I should survive, and likewise my business and the fortunes of my friends, or whether I should be 'licked' and pointed to as the 'boob' from Tennessee," he said.

Mr. Saunders, who came to Memphis as a grocery salesman and attained wealth on his idea of a self-serve grocery, christened Piggly Wiggly, asserts in his statement that, as a result of his drive in the 'street' he now holds 198,872 of the outstanding 200,000 shares of the corporation, 105,000 of which he accumulated within the last few days.

"Thus the situation stood today with the next move necessarily to come from traders who Saunders asserts are sold 'short' to the extent of 25,000 shares.

Mr. Saunders has not made public any estimate of the anticipated profits to himself and his associates. He declared, however, that \$10,000,000 in cash was required to handle his operations on the stock exchange.

Saunders declares he is through with stock exchange trading.

"Our company never will allow its shares to be traded in again on the New York stock exchange," he declared.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Brigadier General Caleb Henry Carlton, U. S. A., retired, civil war veteran, died.

## SUGAR PRICE GOUGE UNDER FEDERAL QUIZ

**Vague Fear of Shortage Sole Basis—Gamblers and Profiteers Reap Benefit—To Call Spreckles As Witness—Hoover Rouses Iowa Senator to Demand Probe.**

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Demands for an investigation of fluctuations in the sugar market during the closing days of congress by western senators were revived today by publication of a letter written to President Harding by Basil Manly, director of the People's Legislative Service, charging that the American people were in a fair way of being robbed of \$500,000,000 "for the benefit of sugar gamblers and profiteers."

"It is suggested," said Mr. Manly, whose organization was formed by members of the progressive bloc in congress, "that as one of the first witnesses the federal grand jury should hear Claus Spreckles, president of the Federal Sugar Refining company, who has publicly stated that the sugar gamblers, aided by the department of commerce, 'have been enabled to rob the American people of millions of dollars.'

Mr. Manly declared the rise in prices had its sole basis, "so far as the public is informed," in a statement issued by the department of commerce on February 9, which was interpreted by all the newspapers as "predicting a great shortage of sugar during the coming year," and that although Secretary Hoover had declared the statement was misinterpreted the opening sentence was so worded as to "send prices leaping upward."

"Even after this statement had aroused an orgy of speculative activity on the sugar exchange, and its evil effects were known," the statement continued, "the department of commerce further 'bulled' the market by issuing a statement particularly directing attention to the increased consumption of sugar in the United States during the past year."

The letter cited what it described as efforts to reduce the sugar crop of Cuba, declaring that Mr. Hoover played an important part in that plan. Correspondence between Senator Smoot, republican, Utah, described as "undertaking to represent beet sugar interests," and General Crowder, then the president's representative in Cuba, relating to the prices, was quoted.

"You may not be informed," Mr. Manly continued, "that Secretary Hoover has on other occasions displayed a readiness to use the powers and resources of the federal government in order to maintain artificially high prices at the expense of American consumers."

Declaring that an attempt of Senator Brookhart, republican, Iowa, to secure a senate investigation of sugar prices was blocked by Senator Curtis of Kansas, the republican whip, who pledged an investigation by the commerce department, the letter asserted that since that time Secretary Hoover had announced that his department did not intend to make an inquiry, and suggested the grand jury also should summon Mr. Hoover and Senators Smoot, Curtis and Edge, republican, of New Jersey, to ascertain "what they know regarding influences that were exerted to block the senate investigation."

Action of Basil Manly, director of the People's Legislative Service, formed by the progressive bloc in congress, in writing to President Harding that department of commerce statements had assisted sugar speculators, was characterized by Mr. Hoover as the circulation of a "legend."

"As I have repeatedly stated, there is no economic justification for the high price of sugar as there is an—"

(Continued on page eight)

### REFERENDUM UPON INCOME TAX LAW

PORTLAND, Ore., March 22.—Headquarters were opened here yesterday by an organization calling itself the Oregon state income tax referendum league. Its purpose is to invoke the referendum against the state income tax law enacted by the recent legislature.