

The Weather
Prediction.....Rain tonight
Heavy frost in the morning
Maximum yesterday.....55.6
Minimum today.....36.6
Precipitation......07

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Weather Year Ago
Maximum.....79
Minimum.....34

Daily—Twentieth Year. Weekly—Fifty-third Year. MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1925 NO. 25

PIERCE PUTS TAX BLAME ON PEOPLE

Oregon Governor Declares He Would Have Cut Taxes in Two As Promised if People Had Not Voted to Repeal State Income Tax—Praises Tobacco Tax.

SALEM, Ore., April 20.—A claim that direct property taxes for state purposes would have been reduced by one-half under his administration if the state income tax had not been repealed, was advanced by Governor Walter Pierce in an address before the Salem Chamber of Commerce here this noon.

In 1922 the tax was nine and a half mills, or the highest direct levy of any state in the union except Nevada," said Pierce. "The levy has been reduced until this year it is seven and a half mills. For next year it will be seven mills and would have been four and a half, making good my promise to cut taxes in half, if the income tax had only stayed."

He indicated that many states of the union are practically abolishing direct state taxes. Pennsylvania and California have no direct tax for state purposes, and seven other states, not mentioned by name, have virtually no direct state tax levy, according to the governor.

"The late Oregon state legislature," late lamented, "was an ordinary legislature. Most of them wanted to do the right thing," declared Pierce. "The main trouble was that there were too many cliques and bands. Organization of the legislature was effected weeks in advance of the session. It would have been much better for every member of each house to come to the legislature a free man."

He intimated that there was too much trading of votes and log rolling measures.

"The real issue of the last session," said the governor, "was the coming together of the various factions, with the governor and the agreement upon levying revenue without direct tax on property. I believe in raising money without direct tax on home owners and producers."

"The farmer needs aid—all you can give him. No particular party is to blame for the fact, but rather economic conditions of our country. The relief of the direct state tax on farmers has been begun; I would like to see it carried further, but if nothing more is done I will feel that my trip down here to Salem has not been in vain."

He referred to the state tax on tobacco, stating that in his opinion it would raise more money than had been estimated. He expressed the opinion that a public service commission should be appointed by the governor and go out of office with him.

Daily Report on the Crime Wave

EL PASO, Texas, April 20.—In an attempt to escape from a group of New Mexico officers today, Ray Patton, Sapulpa, Okla., was shot down after he had wounded one officer, and is being held in jail at Deming, N. M., while Oklahoma authorities are being communicated with.

Velma Hilton, 19 years old, companion of Patton, is being held as a witness for the case. The girl narrowly escaped injury when the officers returned Patton's fire.

The girl told officers that she and Patton had left Sapulpa in a stolen car and headed for the border.

Wall Street Report

NEW YORK, April 20.—The closing was heavy. Maxwell Motors A and Pierce Arrow, prior preferred, attained new peak prices at 111 and 99 respectively.

Stock prices displayed a reactionary tone in today's market. St. Paul and Chicago and Alton issues broke to new low prices. Total sales approximated 1,200,000 shares.

Veteran Winner of Boston Marathon Is Beaten By Mellor

BOSTON, April 20.—(By the Associated Press)—Charles L. Mellor, Illinois A. C., won the 26th annual Boston A. A. marathon road race today, defeating Clarence DeMar, four times a winner of the event and holder of the world's record for the distance by 100 yards. His time was 2:33 and 3-5.

Mellor took the lead in the hard climb over the Newton hills and held it to the end, gradually increasing his advantage during the tiring veteran. DeMar's time was 2:33:37.

ANOTHER WOMAN CONFESSES HER POISON RECORD

Nebraska Matron, Only 28 Years Old, Tells Story of Wholesale Murders—Poisoned Children for Spite—Insanity Admitted By State.

ST. PAUL, Neb., April 20.—Mrs. Della Sorenson, 28, of St. Paul, who yesterday confessed to the killing by poisoning of seven persons, including two of her own children and her husband, probably will never be tried on charges of murder filed against her Saturday by County Attorney Doherty of Howard county. Doherty announced last night that an investigation had shown that Mrs. Sorenson was mentally unbalanced and that she would be placed in the state insane asylum. If she should be released from the institution "within two or three years," the state's attorney said, "the murder charges could be revived."

The investigation into the series of deaths extending over a period of seven years, which led to Mrs. Sorenson's arrest Saturday, and subsequently her confession, was started three weeks ago following the serious illness of two small children, to whom Mrs. Sorenson is alleged to have given some poisoned cookies.

In her signed confession yesterday, Mrs. Sorenson related how she had killed two of her children, a baby, Deloris and her three year old daughter Minnie; the former because her "crying and fretting" irritated her, and the latter "because she was ill with St. Vitus' dance," and "I could do nothing for her."

"I wanted to relieve her suffering," she said. Her husband, Joseph Weldon, she said she poisoned after a quarrel between the couple.

Mrs. Weldon, Mrs. Sorenson's aged mother-in-law, died of poison, administered by the accused woman, according to her confession. In the summer of 1920, "She was feeble and childlike and a burden on my hands. I wanted to get her out of the way," the confession continued.

Two children of Mrs. Wetzell Cooper, Mrs. Sorenson's sister-in-law, were slain, because Mrs. Sorenson said, she had "offended their aunt by gossiping about her." The first of these, a little girl, was killed in July, 1918. The second, a four months old baby, was put to death in August, 1922. "Every time I gave poison to one of Mrs. Cooper's children, I said to myself, 'now I'm going to get even with you (Mrs. Cooper) for what you said about me,'" the confession said.

On the 20th of February, 1919, came the last of the slayings attributed to Mrs. Sorenson. This was the death of Ruth, baby daughter of Mrs. Christian A. Brock, whom Mrs. Sorenson confessed she had poisoned, "because I felt sorry for the poor child, because its mother did not care for it."

"After the death of my little daughter Minnie," the poisoner said, "I had a feeling of elation and happiness. Then after I got to thinking about what I had done, I was afraid and tried to hide it. I had this same feeling after the death of every one of those I poisoned."

Mrs. Sorenson said that she had made her confession voluntarily, "because I want to tell the truth and because I am sorry for what I have done. I want to be sent to some institution where I can be treated and return to my children."

U. S. FORCE IS LANDED: HONDURAS

Marines From U. S. Cruiser Denver Landed at Ceibas to Protect American Lives and Property in Revolution—Capture of Village By the Rebels Is Reported.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(By the Associated Press)—One hundred and fifty-five officers and men from the cruiser Denver of the special service squadron were landed today at Ceibas, Honduras.

They are under orders to protect American lives and property that may be endangered as a result of the revolutionary outbreak.

Captain Jeffers acted at the request of the American consul at Ceibas, supported by the authorities of the port.

Disorders of limited scope were said to have occurred at Ceibas and aroused the authorities to take precautionary steps for the protection of foreign lives and property.

American investments at Ceibas comprise mostly shipping facilities and warehouses, to protect which the American special service squadron landed armed detachments during the revolution which preceded the establishment of the present constitutional government.

Consul Walter advised the state department today that fighting had been reported in the vicinity of Ceibas.

Other reports from Honduras said there had been disorders near the Guatemalan frontier. No mention was made in official dispatches of the movement reported in press advices and said to have resulted in the capture of Octopeo, about fifty miles from San Salvador.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, April 20.—(By the Associated Press)—It is reported that Honduran revolutionists have captured Octopeo, Honduras, a village fifty miles from San Salvador, and are marching toward Comayagua, which is 37 miles northwest of Tegucigalpa, the capital, where the situation is reported as critical.

Reports from Honduras through Managua said April 14 that General Gregorio Ferrera, with 300 followers, had started a revolutionary movement as a result of which the government declared martial law. The Ferrera movement began in February and was reported to have gained strength during the ensuing weeks.

The Denver is commanded by Captain W. N. Jeffers, who advised the navy department by radio dispatches that the landing had been effected.

Details of his report on the situation were not revealed but other advices to the Washington government from Honduras sources tend to indicate that the revolutionary movement had assumed widespread proportions.

4 AUTO THIEVES CAUGHT, ROSEBURG

ROSEBURG, Ore., April 20.—Four men are held here today charged with two automobile thefts. Felix Esposito and Angelo Messina were arrested last night by city officers, who recovered a coupe belonging to R. C. Stacey of Cottage Grove. The two men charged with the theft will be turned over to Lane county officers. City Recorder Whipple stated this morning that both prisoners admitted being deserters from Camp Lewis.

Henry McDonald and Thomas McNamare, were arrested by Sheriff Starmer and a large touring car, claimed to be the property of W. L. Henry of Los Angeles, recovered. Sheriff Starmer said that the men were apprehended while pushing the car off the highway onto a side street. The oil and gasoline had been used up.

Methodist Church Conference Refuses To Condemn Klan

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., Apr. 20.—A condemnation of the Ku Klux Klan was eliminated from the report of the committee on the state of the nation at the close of the Troy conference of the Methodist Episcopal church today by a vote of 68 to 55.

Stearns Another Col. House?



Is Frank W. Stearns another Col. E. M. House? Washington is wondering whether the president's closest friend is in Europe on an unofficial, confidential mission of the sort upon which the late President Wilson used to send Colonel House. When the Stearnses left the White House for a trip abroad it was announced the voyage was purely for pleasure.



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W.C. MCCLUSTON CAPTURES YEGG SINGLE HANDED

An alleged burglar, caught red-handed in an attempt to loot the home of W. C. McCluston, 923 West Main street yesterday afternoon, and held at bay with a club by Mr. McCluston until the police arrived and took him in custody, nearly sawed the lock off his cell at the police station last night, but was discovered just in time by Policemen Leggett and Cave, who had entered the police headquarters room adjoining the jail a short time before and detected the noise of the saw working.

The prisoner, who at the time of his arrest gave his name as Conger, but later said that his name was Paul Christensen, claimed to be a paroled prisoner from the Salem penitentiary where he said he had served 13 months for grand larceny. He is between 25 and 30 years old, seemed to be of the tramp variety, and said he had only been in the city a few days.

The arraignment of Christensen in Judge Taylor's court on the charge of burglary of an inhabited dwelling, was scheduled for late this afternoon.

W. C. McCluston, who is the local agent for the Kelly-Springfield tire, and Mrs. McCluston left their home shortly before 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon for a drive up to the cemetery and return. On their return about 20 minutes later a noise was heard in the cellar and then a man was discovered there.

Arming himself with a club Mr. McCluston at once stood guard at the cellar door, told the intruder to keep quiet or he would brain him, and remained on guard until Officer George J. Prescott arrived in response to a phone alarm that had been sent to police headquarters. Prescott took the prisoner to the police station and locked him up.

A jimmy was found on the prisoner but no loot, despite the fact that the intruder had been upstairs. Evidently the return of Mr. and Mrs. McCluston had frightened him and caused him to hurry to the cellar.

Immediately after the discovery of Christensen's almost successful attempt to saw his way to liberty, the prisoner was taken over to the county jail for safe keeping.

GRAND DRAGON FOUND AT LAST, IS PUT IN JAIL

INDIANAPOLIS, April 20.—D. C. Stephenson, former grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested today on the charge of first degree murder in connection with the death of Miss Judge Oberholzer, 23, of Indianapolis. An indictment on the murder charge was returned against Stephenson by the Marion county grand jury last Saturday.

Earl Klinek and Earl Gentry, former residents of Evansville, Ind., both indicted with Stephenson on the murder trial were taken into custody with him. All were taken to the county jail.

Judge James A. Collins of criminal court, in issuing capias for their arrest announced they would not be admitted to bail.

Stephenson, Klinek and Gentry were arrested in the office of Eph Imman, their attorney. They had been missing since the return of the murder indictments Saturday.

Stephenson told newspapermen he had been in the southern part of the state on a fishing trip and that the "fish were biting fine."

Stephenson had been at liberty under \$25,000 bond, provided following his arrest several days ago on indictments charging him with attacking Miss Oberholzer.

Death Toll of the Automobile

SALEM, Ore., April 20.—Judge George W. Belt of Spokane, who was killed in a traffic accident in that city Saturday night, was an uncle of Justice Harry H. Belt and a brother-in-law of Justice George H. Burnett, both of the Oregon supreme court. He was a brother of Mrs. Burnett who died about a year ago.

Judge Belt was born in Salem 71 years ago and was a graduate of Willamette University.

PRINCE OF WALES HAS ROUGH TRIP ON R. R.

IBADAN, Southern Nigeria, April 20.—(By the Associated Press)—The Prince of Wales arrived here today after a tiring journey from Kano. He encountered a welcome change in temperature with cool breezes.

At the prince's request, the speed of the train was accelerated during the trip yesterday afternoon, with the result that it rocked considerably. Plates were thrown from the tables and the prince's electric fan was flung out of a window.

Dollar Steamship Co. Wins Decision In Columbia Court

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The injunction suit which the Pacific Mail Steamship company sought to block sale of the shipping board's Orient line to the Dollar interests was dismissed today in the District of Columbia supreme court.

Historic Remark On Hen Is Quoted By President's Friend

WASHINGTON, April 20.—John M. Woods of Boston, during a chat today with President Coolidge recalled the latter's reply when both were members of the Massachusetts legislature to a query of a colleague as to whether a hen "sets" or "sits."

"Out our way," he quoted Mr. Coolidge as then saying, "when a hen cackles it isn't a question of sitting or setting, but of whether she is laying or lying."

Mr. Woods, who is 87 years old, told the president that the first time he was in Washington he camped near the Washington monument as a Union soldier.

WHEELER SAID HE WOULD FIX UP OIL LEASE

Witness in Senator's Trial Testifies Montana Senator Agreed to Fix Things Up in Washington—Walsh Explains Fight Film Deal.

GREAT FALLS, Mont., April 20.—(By Associated Press.) Testimony that Senator Burton K. Wheeler agreed to "fix things up in Washington," for his client, Gordon Campbell, Montana oil operator, was given in the trial of the Montana senator here today by L. J. Wertheimer, formerly a stock salesman for Campbell.

Wertheimer said Wheeler's remark was made during a general discussion of Campbell's oil prospecting permits, obtained from the department of the interior. The government charges that Wheeler wrongfully used his influence before the interior department in prosecution of Campbell's claims.

Under cross examination Wertheimer said the remark about "fixing things up" referred to the ability of Campbell to transfer titles to certain lands from one of his companies to another for the purpose of organizing a \$10,000,000 concern.

Wertheimer declared that while he was in New York a department of justice agent and a postoffice inspector called on him and told him to go to the federal building to make an affidavit regarding Wheeler's statement about federal permits.

When several questions about Wertheimer's visit to New York had been objected to by the government, Senator Thomas J. Walsh, chief of counsel for Senator Wheeler asked that the jury be excused. He then explained to the court that he expected to show by cross-examination that Wertheimer went to New York with Jack Kerns, manager for Jack Dempsey, heavyweight boxing champion; that Kerns was closely associated with Tex Rickard, fight promoter, who recently was convicted of illegal transportation of the Dempsey-Carpenter fight films.

Senator Walsh declared also that the defense proposed to show, through questioning Wertheimer that Senator Wheeler "expressed the connivance of the department of justice," in allowing the films to be moved from one state to the other at the Brookhart committee investigation and that the affidavit was obtained from Wertheimer by Kerns in reprisal for what Wheeler had done in the fight film investigation.

President Returns Home

WASHINGTON, April 20.—President and Mrs. Coolidge returned to the White House today from an overnight cruise down the Potomac on the Mayflower. Their guests were Secretary and Mrs. Everett Sanders and Senator and Mrs. Norbeck of South Dakota.

Generals Dawes and Pershing Do Paul Revere's Ride in Motor Car

CONCORD, Mass., April 20.—A spectacular celebration of the 150th anniversary of the battle of Lexington and Concord. Although preliminary observances were held yesterday, the actual anniversary of the battle, the main events were reserved for today.

Vice-president Dawes arranged to greet at Lexington two horseback riders impersonating Revere and William Dawes.

At Concord the feature was a reproduction of the fight with the British at the bridge over the Concord river. National Guardsmen were detailed to show how the minute men and militia marched down to the bridge, and drove back the British regulars.

STORM KING TAKES TOLL IN ILLINOIS

Many Killed, Scores Injured, and Millions in Property Damage As Result of Tornadoes in Middle West and Blizzards in New England—Peoria Hit Hardest.

CHICAGO, April 20.—(By the Associated Press)—A severe wind and rain storm, approaching the proportions of a tornado in some localities swept a destructive course from the Mississippi to New England yesterday. Several persons were killed and in the neighborhood of two score injured while property damage was estimated at \$1,500,000.

Scores of buildings were destroyed or unroofed, trees were felled, boats were beached and telephone, telegraph and power service crippled while fire in some towns completed destruction in the wake of high winds and driving rains.

Churches were marked sufferers, the roofs of steeples of several being carried away while services were in progress within, but without injury to congregations. Two persons were killed in Peoria, Ill., in the collapse of a building, while a man was electrocuted at Macomb, Ill., when he picked up a live wire blown down by the storm. Ten were injured at Wheeling, W. Va., fifteen at Pittsburg, two at Millbrook, Pa., and a dozen others in scattered towns throughout the storm area.

In central Illinois, Peoria and Pekin were the hardest hit. In Peoria where property damage was estimated at \$500,000, two night watchmen were killed when a five story brick block crumbled.

The storm in Peoria drove families to the streets in panic. A repetition of the recent storm that swept through the southern part of the state was feared. Through the business quarter plate glass windows were shattered by hail.

Three schools were beached at Racine, Wis., when torn loose from their moorings. Four and one-half inches of snow fell at Duluth. The snowfall at Woodville, N. H., was reported at fourteen inches.

KENT COOPER, NEW MANAGER OF A. P.

NEW YORK, April 20.—The appointment of Kent Cooper as general manager of the Associated Press, succeeding Frederick Roy Martin, resigned, is announced. Mr. Martin's resignation takes effect on Wednesday. Mr. Cooper has been assistant general manager for five years. He entered the service of the Associated Press fifteen years ago in a subordinate position.

The Associated Press today begins observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its organization in its present form and of the presidency of Frank B. Rowse.

BASEBALL SCORES

National.
CHICAGO, April 20.—"Gabby" Hartnett, catcher, knocked his sixth home run of the season today. Rogers Hornsby, St. Louis National second baseman, also hit a homer.

At Cincinnati..... R. H. E.
Pittsburg.....4 9 1
Cincinnati.....2 7 2
Batteries: Meadows and Gooch; Rixey, J. May and Hargrave.

Other big league games postponed; rain.

PORTLAND POLICE CLAIM CAPTURE OF INCH AND A QUARTER JIMMY

PORTLAND, Ore., April 20.—Wounded by a shot in the leg when he attempted to escape from two policemen who reported they had caught him in the act of trying to break into a house last night, Alexander Gerlich, 35, admitted, police said today, that he had committed more than thirty-five robberies in the northeast section of the city. He denied, however, that he had perpetrated robberies which were attributed to a robber who used an inch and a quarter jimmy. Officers said loot taken by Gerlich was not of the class stolen by "Inch and a Quarter Jimmy."

Detectives Taekaberry and Phillips, assigned to question Gerlich, insisted shortly after noon that the man is "Inch and a Quarter Jimmy."

The Noted Dead

HELENA, Mont., April 20.—A. M. Burt, vice president of the Northern Pacific, died on his private car this afternoon at one o'clock at Jamestown, N. D., according to word received here. Mr. Burt was on an inspection tour. He had succeeded the late J. M. Rappe as vice president.