

The Weather

Forecast: Unsettled with rain or snow, rising temperature Sunday and Monday; warmer Monday. Highest yesterday 52. Lowest yesterday 32.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

3 SECTIONS 22 PAGES TODAY

Thirtieth Year

Full Associated Press

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1936

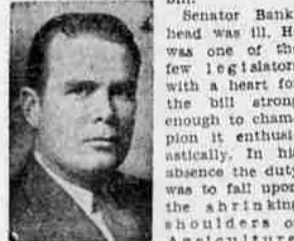
Full United Press

No. 273.

AGE PENSION MUDDLE NEARS END



By PAUL MALLON. (Copyright, 1936, by Paul Mallon) WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—There was uneasiness in the cloakrooms before the senate took up the revised farm bill.



Senator Bankhead was ill. He was one of the few legislators with a heart for the bill strong enough to champion it enthusiastically. In his absence the duty was to be upon the shoulders of Agriculture Chairman (Cotton Ed) Smith.

Many a new deal farm burden has been carried by Senator Smith, but not with enthusiasm.

In fact, Mr. Smith was quoted by his colleagues as saying the bill before that he did not know whether he would "champion that dud-bummed bill or not." At least that is an expurgated account.

In the end, he did champion it—with a smile. His championship was so brief and broad, however, that the press galleries felt he had not yet digested his own report, which was, in reality, prepared by the AAA crowd.

And his smile was so broad that it hid the Republican under McNary, who was trying him in constitutional knots, once invited him to be serious.

Behind this rollicking incident may be found an enlightening evaluation of the farm bill by those who know it best.

Most of the agricultural legislators (except Senator Bankhead) privately suspect that crop control is a soil erosion program is probably as unconstitutional as the original AAA. The disguise is too thin for them, although of course they are not going to say that out loud.

It was upon their inside insistence that a provision was added, setting up a permanent (1938) crop control program to be administered through the states. Indeed, even this did not satisfy them. They later insisted on, and obtained from the AAA, another provision permitting the state control system to be put into effect immediately.

They all know, of course, that it cannot be put into effect immediately or within a year. State machinery will take time. But they are sure this method is constitutional. Immediate authorization of it helps to cover up their doubts about the temporary soil erosion method.

Few congressmen are happy about it. Approving Chairman Aakhus of the judiciary committee likened it to skating. On skates, only half of your course lies within your own power, the other half depending on where the skates take you.

The congressmen will be even more unhappy when they find out in a few months where the skates take the AAA crowd. It is no more than a guess that the AAA-ers will trust in their firm belief of the constitutionality of the soil erosion method, and will not hasten to put the cumbersome, if not inefficient, state method into effect, either immediately or any time soon.

If you start putting two and two together in connection with recent governmental developments, you will get some highly important answers. For instance, President Roosevelt's withdrawal of appropriations from trading agencies plus his repeal of the Bankhead act, etc., plus his new federal reserve board has convinced the most moderate wing of advisers that the new deal furniture is being rearranged in accordance with sound rules of interior decoration.

Add to this the significant quietude of Messrs. Hopkins and Ickes lately. Spending Mr. Hopkins has not said anything unconstructive since he hit Governor Landon, seeks ago. Mr. Ickes has not libed anyone since he called General Johnson a something or other.

You may be certain that these merry lads are not quipped by personal preference.

Word also comes from inside that whatever rearrangements have been made will be made, in the name of Mr. Roosevelt's own ideas. That is, none of the various schools of presidential advisers happen to have the presidential ear at the moment. The latest moves appear to be entirely on his own initiative.

GOVERNOR MOVES TO GET FEDERAL FUNDS FOR AGED

Early Action Due and Waits Legal Opinion — State Co-operates.

SALEM, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Governor Martin took steps today to provide for an immediate application for federal funds to match state and county contributions for old age pensions.

As soon as a legal interpretation can be received from the attorney general's office, the state relief committee will be directed to make the formal application as a result of the filing of the referendum on senate bill 43 which would have diverted funds for straight relief the governor said.

The formal statement issued by the secretary of state that petitions, referring to the people at the November election senate bill 43 Chapter 50, Oregon Laws, 1935, special session) have been filed in his office, which petitions apparently contained the necessary number of signatures.

Whether or not the number of signatures required by law has been obtained cannot be learned with certainty until a detailed check has been made by the state department.

"Assuming that senate bill 43 has been referred, I am advised by the attorney general that the original old age pension act of 1935 (chapter 407) is now contingently in effect, depending upon whether or not federal funds thereunder for old age assistance are made available to the residents of this state under provisions of the federal social security act.

"I am also studying the effect of the act for the relief of indigent and unemployable persons (Oregon Laws, 1935, chapter 303) as affected by senate bill 65 (Oregon Laws, 1935, special session, chapter 35).

"A study of these laws and of the existing statutes relating to public relief is now being made at my request by the attorney general and the state relief committee to determine the present status of the existing laws relating to old age assistance and public relief.

"I have always been a strong advocate of old age pensions and I remain solicitous for the proper care and attention of our aged people."

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 8.—(AP)—The state relief committee stands ready to swing into action on any old age assistance program legally approved. Elmer Goudy, state relief administrator, said today.

He pointed out that any pension program would have to be certified as constitutional by the Oregon attorney general and then be accepted by the social security board and its attorneys at Washington before becoming effective.

Goudy estimated there are about 17,800 persons in Oregon over 65 years of age who would be needy and able to qualify for assistance. He pointed out the federal program, with which the Oregon law was designated to dovetail, does not provide for a straight pension. Assistance is given according to need, up to \$30 monthly.

It was estimated the pensions, half to be paid by the federal government and half by the state or the state and counties combined, would average \$20 a month.

This would make the annual pension load \$4,291,200. The load would be \$5,498,800 at the rate of \$50 a month.

Goudy said he would go to Salem Monday and confer with the attorney general about the law.

There is indication that the age limit will remain at 70 years under the pension act of the 1935 regular legislative session. The referendum proceedings filed at Salem yesterday held up the special session pension law lowering the age to 65 years and transferring \$1,000,000 from the pension to general relief funds.

REGULATIONS: Generally cloudy Sunday; occasional snow or rain in northwest and snow in northeast portion; slowly rising temperature in north portion; fresh to strong southeast wind off coast, with gales off north coast.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Weekly outlook for western states for week of February 10 to 18, inclusive: Generally fair except snows or rains in Pacific Northwest first of week; by middle of week in California and the plateau region; temperatures slightly below normal; rising after middle of week.

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Moon Stages Show With Vivid Corona

Medford and valley residents who looked skyward last night witnessed a relatively rare spectacle. They saw a corona, celestial phenomenon produced by beams of moonlight shining through high clouds composed of ice particles.

The corona consisted of two concentric circles. The inner circle was a vivid blue outlined by a fringe of reddish brown. The outside circle was pale blue, the rim being streaked with all the colors of the rainbow.

The moonlight, reflected sunshine, striking the ice particles broke up the solar spectrum, thus giving the variety of colors, the weather bureau explained.

The cold wave that blew in from the north Friday abated yesterday and the official forecast was for unsettled weather with rain or snow and rising temperatures today and tomorrow, warmer tomorrow.

DURANT, GENERAL MOTORS FOUNDER, NOW A BANKRUPT

Only Assets His Clothing—Once Worth Millions, the Depression Crushed Him

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—(UP)—William C. Durant, founder of the giant General Motors corporation and director of the investment of more than a billion dollars in the boom stock market of 1928, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy today, listing debts of close to \$1,000,000.

To offset those debts, the financier, once worth many millions, had only his clothing to list as assets in his petition to the federal court. He put them down as worth \$250.

Durant has been broke many times before in a turbulent career in finance and manufacturing. He came out of previous depressions to make more millions. The last one hit him harder. In recent years he has turned his hand to various enterprises in an effort to recoup his losses, but an increasing number of judgments obtained by creditors forced him to declare himself a bankrupt.

His most recent position was president of the Pomeroy-Lay Land Co. and it was as such that he described himself in the bankruptcy petition. He listed debts totaling \$914,313. The individual items ranging from \$9,987 to \$178,000.

The Pomeroy-Lay company is a comparatively small concern holding property in Flint, Mich.

STATE JUSTICES GUESTS OF HONOR AT BAR MEETING

Half a hundred attorneys attended the dinner-meeting sponsored at Valentine's cafe last night by the Southern Oregon Bar association in honor of the justices of the state supreme court.

All of the justices were present excepting Justice Henry J. Bean, who was unable to come to Medford because of the illness of his wife.

Tom Miller, president of the association, presided and called upon the supreme court justices and several Medford attorneys for talks. Justice Harry D. Norton spoke on behalf of the circuit court over which he presides in Jackson and Josephine counties.

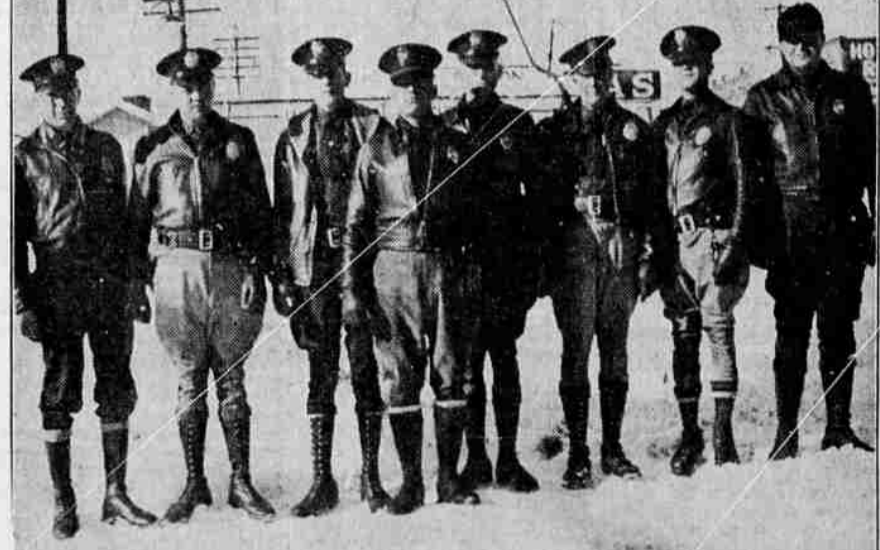
Justice Harry H. Belt described the working of the supreme court; Justice John L. Rand spoke on the friendship existing between the bench and the bar and recalled many contacts with the southern Oregon bar.

Justice George Roseman commented on the growth of the bar in the United States as compared with that of England and Canada, saying that in this country there was one lawyer for every 965 persons whereas in the other two countries there was one attorney for every 1,200 persons.

Justice J. O. Bailey described the reception accorded the supreme court by new members and Justice Percy B. Kelly dwelled on the kinship of lawyers and the law, emphasizing that work was the paramount commandment. Chief Justice James U. Campbell summed up the addresses of his colleagues.

Talks also were given by Gus Newbury and Evan Reames. The meeting adopted a resolution expressing the bar's sorrow over the recent death of Judge William Colvig. A resolution regretting the illness of Justice Bean's wife also was adopted. In third resolution, the justices were thanked for coming to Medford for the dinner and meeting.

LOS ANGELES 'EXPEDITIONARY FORCE' AT BORDER



In a move designed to stem the flow of transients and indigents into California, Los Angeles dispatched squads of policemen to border points throughout the state to cull them out. Here is the squad assigned to the checking station at Truckee in the Sierra Nevada in northern California on one of the main trunk highways coming into California (left to right): H. J. Gramm, Charles Fromm, H. A. Wetzel, Police Sergeant Don G. Douglas, L. G. Weitzel, E. W. Benson, Jack Ellery and Frank Durham. (Associated Press Photo)

CALIFORNIA BARS OWN CITIZEN AT SISKIYOU BORDER

Man Claiming Long Residence in Bear State Tells Story of Hornbrook Reception; 8 Quit Train Here

Medford played host Saturday to eight travelers eager to testify that California's much-vaunted welcome has turned decidedly sour and the highly recommended sunshine is meant only for those who arrive in lordly array. The eight, rounded up Thursday at Hornbrook by the recently established Los Angeles police "bums brigade," were forced to spend the night in the old and deserted Hornbrook hotel building which has been repurposed as a sort of jail. Friday they were herded aboard a freight car and sent back north, hunger forcing them to detrain here Friday night.

The Los Angeles police apparently are not so much concerned about the origin of their would-be visitors, as about the state of their finances.

James Taylor, who claims long residence in the sunshine state, left his home, 174 Normandy street, Hollywood, on December 17 to visit a sister who was ill in Olympia, Wash. The California was en route home Thursday when rounded up with the other travelers at Hornbrook and refused admittance.

Here is Taylor's story. "I have lived in California for many years, owning property, paying taxes and trying to get ahead in a business way. I am a veteran

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IL DUCE BLAMES ALL ON BRITISH

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(Sunday)—(AP)—The Sunday Observer in an interview today quotes Premier Mussolini as saying the British "have turned a colonial war into what may be a worldwide disaster."

The interview was with Sir Arnold Wilson, a member of parliament. Referring to the now dead Hoare-Laval peace proposal, Il Duce was quoted:

"I had already drafted a cautious formula of acceptance as a basis of negotiation... when the news came out that your gentlemen in London who had praised Sir Samuel Hoare so highly in September had dismissed him with ignominy December 19.

"As a direct result of your action blood Ethiopian and some Italian must be spent. You have prolonged the war. A great responsibility lies on you."

Sir Arnold said Mussolini "looked tired but robust." Stories he continued of "his impending decay or demise may safely be ignored" for he will "remain at the helm until the hand of death removes him."

Wharton on Job SALEM, Ore., Feb. 8.—(AP)—Wallace S. (Rube) Wharton, executive secretary to Governor Martin in charge of the budget department, took office here today.

VAN VLACK FOUND GUILTY; WILL HANG FOR WIFE MURDER

TWIN FALLS, Idaho, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Douglas Van Vlack, bushy-haired Tacoma, was convicted today of the murder of his pretty young former wife, Mildred Hook, and will appear next Tuesday to receive the death sentence the jury recommended.

The verdict finding him guilty of first degree murder and recommending that he be executed was returned to District Judge Adam B. Barclay this afternoon at 2:15 mountain time after the jury had deliberated since 5:10 last night.

Mrs. Carl Van Vlack, mother of the defendant, took her son to her arms and kissed and comforted him, whispering reassurance into his ear. Joseph F. Hook, father of the slain girl, said only "The state of Idaho gave me justice."

Van Vlack himself apparently was unmoved by the verdict. As the fatal words were read, he evidenced the same stolidity that he has maintained almost constantly since his arrest. Only during his cross examination did his calm attitude fall.

Leo Teats, Tacoma attorney who fought doggedly to convince the jury that Van Vlack was insane at the time of the killing and had been for some months previously, said the conviction would be appealed.

Attorney General Bert H. Miller, who directed the trial for the state, praised the jurors for their courage.

FARLEY ASSAILS 'NEW DEAL' FOES

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Postmaster General James A. Farley assailed critics who called President Roosevelt's policies "socialistic" with a charge tonight that they were "certain sources which always seek and welcome special privileges at the hands of the government."

The chairman of the New York state and national Democratic committees told New York postoffice employees at a dinner in his honor that the president has not been shaken "one iota in his conviction that the needs of every citizen and every group of citizens is entitled to just and fair consideration at the hands of the government."

NEUTRALITY ACT NOW IN DISCARD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Congressional leaders abandoned their campaign for immediate enactment of permanent neutrality legislation today in an attempt to bring adjournment of congress by May 1. Chairman Pittman (D., Nev.) of the senate foreign relations committee denounced the new strategy. He forecast the committee would report promptly a resolution to extend for one year the temporary ban on shipments of arms and munitions to belligerents. That will expire February 29.

He added there will be "such amendments in the form of additional legislation as will not justify unlimited debate."

HOLMAN DEFENDS OWN HANDLING OF STATE FINANCES

Treasurer Here On Visit Holds Funds Should Not Be 'Frozen' — Answers Governor.

Gov. Charles H. Martin, in an Associated Press dispatch from Salem Friday, branded as false the rumors that \$11 and a half million dollars were lying idle in the state treasury, saying that all money now on hand is obligated. The governor added that "persons familiar with the state's financial condition know that we have a deficit of more than a million dollars, with an added delinquency in excess of \$14,000,000."

State Treasurer Rufus C. Holman, in Medford with Mrs. Holman visiting old friends while in southern Oregon to attend the Oregon Law Enforcement association meet in Grants Pass where Holman was to speak, yesterday made the following statement:

"Certainly we have a deficit of over a million dollars. But we have 11 and a half million dollars actually in the banks and had over 14 millions a short time ago. True, that money is all obligated for certain purposes, but it is ultimately for the purpose for which it is intended.

"It is my notion that these funds should not be frozen, but should be

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PEACE PACTS FOR AMERICAS URGED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—A move by the United States to consolidate the peace machinery of the western hemisphere was revealed tonight with the official admission that President Roosevelt is planning shortly to issue invitations to an all-American peace conference.

The president plans, it was stated, to issue invitations to all governments of the two Americas as soon as Paraguay and Bolivia have returned formally and officially to the ways of peace and have officially resumed diplomatic relations.

It was understood that at this conference an attempt may be made to work out a formula which will replace the Monroe Doctrine as the bulwark of American nations against aggression from overseas.

COAST PROMOTER APPEALS REPORT

PORT ORFORD, Ore., Feb. 8.—(AP)—Gilbert E. Gable, head of the several corporations developing this area, announced today a formal appeal would be made in opposition to the United States army engineers' adverse report regarding proposed improvements to the port here. He said he did not regard the situation as discouraging and indicated construction of the do. would proceed.

Society Lady Takes Her 2nd M'divani

PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 8.—(AP)—Louise Van Alen, of Newport and Palm Beach, was married this noon to her second Mdivani prince.

In the flower-bedecked Van Alen villa, with members of the family and friends watching, the 25-year-old society belle, divorced in 1932 from the late Prince Alexis Mdivani, became the bride of her erstwhile brother-in-law, Prince Serge Mdivani, 33.

The bride, great granddaughter of the late Mrs. William Astor who once ruled New York society, married Prince Alexis Mdivani May 15, 1931, and divorced him at The Hague in 1932.

WINTER'S WORST BLIZZARD HOWLS OVER MID-WEST

Sub-Zero Cold and Storm Paralyzes Rail Traffic—Fuel Shortage Feared.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—(AP)—A blizzard, whirling along a wave of sub-zero cold, howled out of the west tonight in winter's bitterest assault of the year.

Racing 38 miles an hour across eastern Iowa bound for the lake states, it plummeted temperatures 20 to 30 degrees, paralyzed rail and highway transportation, and added from two to six inches of new covering on the two-foot of snow already on the ground in that state.

Additional deaths, a general interruption of traffic schedules, new misery and suffering were reported all over the plains states as the mercury dropped under zero as far south as Texas.

Mill City, S. D., saw the column fall to 42 below.

The onslaught of the storm was so swift that 400 persons, attending a dedication, were marooned all night in a school house at Radium, Kan.

Further west, temperatures moderated after Friday's sudden storm brought Denver its coldest day since 1878—minus 25—and three deaths from highway accidents in that state.

But the western storm was due to reach Indiana during the night and speed on to Ohio, the central forecast office said.

Along the Atlantic coast, shipping was delayed by storms and New York was awaiting a blizzard predicted for Sunday, unless conditions changed.

A half dozen freight trains were buried in Iowa snowdrifts and as many or more through passenger trains were held up at stations while the storm raged. Only through trains moved in Nebraska, and rail service was seriously affected in southern Minnesota and South Dakota.

Because of the drifts highways to the lignite mines in South Dakota were blocked and a serious shortage of fuel threatened towns in the northwestern section. Similar plights were reported many other places.

Maitland, Mo., caught in its worst storm of the season without fuel, appealed to Governor Parks, who ordered two carsload shipped. Kewanee, Ill., bins were exhausted and miners found it difficult to get to work because of a heavy snow.

Unable to withstand longer the extreme cold of a 35-degree below zero temperature, Holley was arrested at Des Moines hospital in Romean early today after he had applied for treatment for his badly frozen feet and hands.

His arrest ended a two-day flight westward across Montana, during which time he kidnaped two persons in his efforts to escape.

Zero Weather Haze LEWISTON, Idaho, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The three-story Mason-Ehrman warehouse building lay in ruins today, destroyed by a fire which defied firemen in zero weather.

CURTIS, NATIONAL POLITICAL CHIEF, DIES SUDDENLY

Former Vice-President Suffers Heart Attack—From Teepee to Prominence — Capital Stunned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Charles Curtis, former vice-president, who left an Indian teepee to scale the heights of American public office, died unexpectedly of a heart attack today at the age of 76.

For 40 years he had been in the thick of Republican political combat, and, despite his age, death came just as he was planning a return to the arena as champion of his old friend and fellow Kansan, Gov. Alf M. Landon, for the presidency.

His passing shocked the capital. Expressions of regret from those now high in the government quickly attested a popularity which took no account of the party lines, by which his own political career was rightly governed. President Roosevelt said he was "deeply distressed."

Senator Capper, also of Kansas, one of the first to call at the home which Curtis shared with his sister, Mrs. Dolly Gann, announced the funeral would take place Tuesday at Topeka. The body, he said, would leave Washington tomorrow night.

For several days Curtis had been suffering from a cold. This morning he seemed much improved, and, encouraged, Mrs. Gann went shopping. Sometime afterward Curtis suffered a heart attack. A frightened maid phoned Mrs. Gann to return at once and called Dr. George E. Calver, congressional physician.

Both rushed to the shrubbery-surrounded house in Cleveland park, but the former vice-president was dead before either arrived. Dr. Calver returned to the capital, called newspapermen and handed them a brief statement:

"The Honorable Charles Curtis, former vice-president of the United States of America, died of a heart attack at 10:25 this date."

Meanwhile in the living room of the home, Mrs. Gann walked back and forth until imbedded members of the family came to be notified. Repeatedly, she expressed regret that she had been unable to reach the home a few minutes earlier.

"He died easily," she said. "I'm so glad he didn't suffer."

Then she retired to her room weeping. From the White House, President Roosevelt issued a statement:

"I am deeply distressed to learn of the sudden passing of my old friend, Charles Curtis," the President said. "Whether they knew him as a senator, as the vice-president of the United States, or as the man that he was in his own right, his legion of friends will remember him, always affectionately, and will mourn his passing."

"I was always fond of him," said Vice-President Clegg. "I was associated with him in the house and then the senate. He was a fine man and a good friend."

Curtis' successor as Republican leader, Senator McNary of Oregon, praised him as "a quiet and yet successful Republican leader" and a "popular and efficient presiding officer when he was vice-president. He added:

"He was an able and lovable character."

Curtis was born in 1860, on a farm near North Topeka, the son of a Kansas pioneer, Capt. Orren A. Curtis who had married a girl of Indian descent. Curtis himself, was one-eighth Kaw Indian, the only person of such ancestry ever elected to the vice-presidency.

LAMSON TO KNOW FATE THIS MONTH

SAN JOSE, Cal., Feb. 8.—(UP)—David Lamson, former leader of the Stanford and journalism on the Stanford university campus, will know his final fate on wife murder charges by the end of February, it was indicated today.