

## LEGION UNITES ALL FORCES IN LEASE ATTACK

Protests of National and State Posts, Legislative Committee and Solid Oregon Congressional Delegation Fail to Shake Lane's Stand

The national legislative committee of the American Legion has joined the forces fighting the proposed thirty year leases of Upper Lake swamp lands to a private development corporation, according to a telegram received by J. H. Carnahan, commander of Klamath Post of the Legion.

T. W. Miller, chairman of the committee, which maintains permanent headquarters in the national capital, assured the local legion head in his wire that the committee would heartily support the Oregon congressional delegation in opposing the leases, and use every effort to have the lands reserved for private settlement, with prior rights to ex-service men.

A bill to prohibit the leasing of the lands by the department of the interior to power interests, and providing for their reclamation by private settlers, with preferential rights to ex-service men, has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman N. J. Sinnott and the entire Oregon delegation is back of the effort to put the measure thru.

Secretary Lane has fixed January 12 as the date of his final decision on the leasing matter and despite the opposition that has developed since Klamath Post started the fight against the leases several months ago, which includes every available force that ex-service men can bring to bear, the secretary, according to his public utterances, is still against the soldier settlement plan for reclaiming the lands included in Hank's marsh, Pelican Bay marsh and Crystal Creek marsh.

In a letter to Congressman Sinnott, answering the representative's protest on the part of the Legion, Lane said recently:

"The heart of the objections made by the legion seems to lie in the assertion that the lands may be easily reclaimed and made suitable for ordinary agricultural operations within the meaning of the average soldier. A careful study of the situation leads me to the conclusion that the legion has been misinformed and the position it takes is not tenable.

"The total area involved in the contemplated plan of reclamation cannot yet be closely determined, but it is likely to approximate 50,000 acres. Of this area two-thirds or more is private land. The remaining one-third consists of public and Indian land. The area embraced in the proposed leases is only 20 percent of the area which would probably be affected.

"The public land in Crystal Creek Marsh, if reclaimed by itself, would require a dike all around it, whereas if treated in connection with the adjoining private land, the same length of dike would protect a very much larger area. Assuming that Government funds were available for the purpose their use for the diking of private lands would be open to serious question.

"The Legion assumes that the construction of dikes in these marshes can be done with small expense. As a matter of fact such diking involves much expense and many uncertainties.

"Our project manager at Klamath Falls has been told the ordinary man could better afford to go in debt and buy productive irrigated land at \$100 an acre than to take over the tule lands of Upper Klamath Lake in their raw state as a gift; that it takes about ten years from the time the land is diked before it can be brought into a condition to pay expenses; that nature must be given several years to act on the tule mat before one can cultivate the land with any prospect of reasonable returns; that the land is

## BRITISH PRESS IS DOUBTFUL OF PLAN

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Aside from one or two irreconcilable journals opposed to Irish home rule, London newspapers on the whole this morning gave a favorable reception to the government's new scheme for Irish self-government. None of the papers, however, express any genuine expectations that the plan will be successful.

## ATHLETIC ASS'N MEETS TONIGHT

Tonight at 8 o'clock at the city hall an adjourned meeting of the local athletic association, which several weeks ago organized temporarily, will be held for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization. The movement has practically unanimous support of the community and a tentative membership list of a couple of hundred persons.

Difficulty in fixing upon suitable quarters was the only bar to permanent organization at the last meeting. A report from the committee delegated to investigate halls is expected tonight and it is probable that some definite action may be secured. All interested in athletics, sports and physical training are urged by the officers of the association to attend and lend their judgment and support to the proper launching of the organization.

## THREE NEW SUITS FILED IN COURT

Herbert E. Anderson yesterday filed suit in the circuit court against H. H. Roberts, to recover \$200, alleged to be due on a note dated March 5, 1913, with interest from that date.

E. P. Combs, assignee of the Klamath State Bank, has filed action against J. L. Porter, to recover \$150 alleged to be due on a note, with interest from March 11, 1919. R. C. Groesbeck is attorney for plaintiffs in both the foregoing suits.

Dr. C. V. Fisher has begun suit against T. W. Stephens and wife to collect an alleged balance of \$199 due on a bill for medical treatment, with interest from December 23, 1919. Manning & Ganong are plaintiffs' attorneys.

absolutely unsuited for settlement in small tracts by the ordinary individual having limited financial means; that it can only be feasibly reclaimed by such individuals or companies as can treat the land as an investment and wait many years for returns.

"Other authorities are cited as declaring the reclamation of these marsh lands for settlement in small tracts as unfeasible.

"At the present time there are fully 8,000 acres of public lands under the Klamath project which are adapted to settlement in eighty-acre tracts whenever water can be made available for irrigation. It will, however, take a year's work and \$250,000 or more to get water to the land. I suggest that the Legion could do a very desirable work if it would lend its influence toward the securing from Congress of the necessary funds to irrigate the lands referred to."

This statement has been subject to denial and attack from every angle by the advocates of the ex-service men, who by petition, letter, telegram and personal hearing have bombarded the secretary with arguments asserting the productive quality of the land, its ease of reclamation and assuring him of the intention and ability of the members of the legion to perform the tasks of actual settlement and reclamation.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 23.—Alexander Howatt, Kansas district president of the United Mine Workers union, has been released. Howatt agreed to join international officers of the union in sending telegrams to Kansas in an effort to end the coal strike in that state.

## FINAL SERVICE IN OLD CHURCH HELD SUNDAY

How the bad boys of the neighborhood used in the early days to throw rocks on a neighboring Indian camp, and then hide in the belfry of the church while the infuriated squaw would march into the church with a club and break up the meeting, and many other incidents of humor and interest connected with the pioneer days, were brought out by the older members of the congregation Sunday afternoon at the final service held in the old Presbyterian church at the corner of Third and Pine streets.

As this edifice was the first church to be erected in Klamath county and was for a number of years the only place of religious service in this section of the State, it is only natural that the memory of many of the old timers has many fond associations that are bound to the structure. It was somewhat with a feeling of regret as well as of rejoicing over the new home, now ready, that the formal leave taking was made. The church was erected thirty three years ago, when Klamath Falls was a town of three or four hundred people. Its struggle for existence during the "eighty's" and "ninety's" was strenuous but it has finally emerged triumphant and will move to its new site at the corner of Sixth and Pine streets well equipped to carry forward the work for which it was founded.

The services next Sunday are to be held in the new building.

## ORDINANCES AUTHORIZING BONDS PASSED

The city council held a comparatively short meeting last night, adjourning at its conclusion until next Monday night.

The ordinance authorizing issuance of the \$50,000 Mills Addition sewer bond issue was adopted, as was the ordinance authorizing the \$320,000 bond issue for the improvement of Eighth street. When the controversy over the Eighth street contract arose recently, Warren Bros. Construction Company laid a block of the paving and their bills were presented and allowed and in order to meet the claims it is now necessary to issue the bonds, which were voted by the electors last summer.

A codification of city ordinances issued since 1915, indexed and brought up to date, has been prepared by William Ganong. Typewritten copies for the police judge, city attorney and each member of the council were prepared. The volume of city laws contains about 130 typed pages. Mr. Ganong's claim of \$75 for the work was allowed.

W. S. Wiley, attorney for the as-

## MANY IN LINE TO GET SEATS FOR CONCERTS

Evidence of the great interest that is being taken by the community in the series of concerts to be held this winter under the auspices of the Musical Study club was evidenced yesterday in the long line of business men and busy women who left their work and holiday preparations and stood for two long hours or more in line at Earl Shepherd's piano depot waiting to get seat reservations on their season tickets.

Nothing could more clearly indicate that Klamath Falls has had a musical awakening than did the eagerness of the opening crowd. They were assuring themselves beyond any possibility of disappointment that they would have seats at the three famous attractions promised on the club's program for different dates during the season.

The Musical Study club naturally feels highly encouraged by this evidence that the public is supporting their undertaking and the eagerness with which holders of tickets came forward to secure their reservations is assurance that a large and representative audience will attend the concerts.

Much interest is being shown in the first concert of the series, the appearance of Alice Neilson, world famed soprano, whose triumphs in grand opera extend over both the American and European continents, at the Houston Opera House December 30. Ruth St. Denis, the noted dancer, and Cecil Fanning, the great tenor singer, will follow in two later performances.

Notwithstanding the initial demand for seats, there are a number of desirable places left, it was announced today. Tickets are on sale at Earl Shepherd's music store. Those who have not yet obtained tickets are advised to do so at once as the supply is fast diminishing and it seems quite likely from present indications that every seat in the house may be sold before the night of the Neilson performance.

signee of a \$500 warrant issued Louis Behn, contractor on the Bridge street improvement, told the council that suit would be brought against the city unless the claim was settled. It appearing that there are a number of outstanding assessments on the improvement, the police judge was instructed to notify delinquent property-owners that property on which liens were unpaid by January 15, next, would be advertised for sale on or after that date.

The Klamath Heating company applied for a permit to erect a pneumatic pipe line from the Ewauna Box company plant to their heating station at Fourth and Klamath to convey sawdust and shavings for fuel. The matter was taken under consideration.

A permit was issued to Mrs. J. M. Williams to conduct the Washington Rooming house on Sixth street.

### WEATHER REPORT.

OREGON—Tonight and Wednesday, occasional rain, moderate southerly gales.

## ALLIED LAWYERS INDICT KAISER

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Law officers of the crown held a consultation with French and Belgian law officers today with regard to the former German emperor. It is reported that the conferees made out a case against the former kaiser and framed an indictment on the facts considered.

## DOAK RANCH HOUSE BURNED

Word was received here this morning of the destruction by fire at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon of the ranch house at the Dpak ranch on the Upper Lake, with all its contents. The house was the property of D. P. Doak, owner of the ranch, and was valued at about \$5000. The ranch had just been leased by Manuel Dabner and some of the furniture belonged to him. The contents were probably worth \$1500.

The ranch barns, which are at some distance from the house, were not injured, nor was the Doak bungalow damaged, the fire confining its destructiveness entirely to the house, according to the telephone message received by Mr. Dabner, who was in this city at the time of the blaze.

No one was injured, according to the report. Children of the vicinity, some of whom come long distances to attend the school on the Doak ranch found it convenient to board at the ranch house. What arrangements will be made for them now is not known.

## WILL CELEBRATE MIDNIGHT MASS

For the second time since the Catholic parish has been established in this city a midnight mass will be celebrated Christmas Eve. The services will begin promptly at 12 o'clock, midnight, tomorrow, in the Sacred Heart Church, Rev. Father Marshall officiating. Elaborate preparations have been made and high mass will be sung by trained singers, assisted by a boy's choir, all under the direction of Charles Wood Eberlein.

## UNION HEAD JAILED; KANSAS MINES IDLE

PITTSBURG, Kas. Dec. 23.—Seventeen Kansas coal mines where approximately 3000 miners are employed were idle today. The miners struck in protest against the action of Federal Judge Anderson at Indianapolis yesterday, in sending Alexander Howatt, president of the United Mine Workers of the Kansas district, to jail.

### WHAT HAS BECOME OF

The United States (Note: This is published by request of the American soldiers in Siberia.)

## FARM BUREAU IS ORGANIZING FOR DRIVE ON PESTS

Four Cents an Acre Is Pro Rata Contribution Necessary to Rid County of Squirrels Estimates Executive Committee in Laying Plans

A big squirrel poisoning drive of probably a week's duration.

Rabbit poisoning drives during the winter whenever weather conditions are favorable.

Immediate campaign to secure funds from the various land owners which will enable the farm bureau to secure the most advantageous prices on poison supplies; Four cents an acre for each land owner being the amount specified.

To supply a mechanical mixer and a man to direct the mixing of the poisoned grain. The amount to be mixed is estimated to exceed 10,000 quarts.

To petition the county court for the appointment of a poison inspector. The duties of this official are to see that every property owner shall effectively rid his land or premises of squirrels according to the law.

The foregoing in a general way outlines the program to be pursued by the Pest Work Committee of the Klamath County Farm bureau in its campaign to effectively rid the County of its pests. At an informal meeting of a portion of the committee at the office of the county agriculturist, Saturday afternoon, a definite plan was outlined and the necessary steps to carry out the same will be immediately instituted.

County Agent Thomas was just in receipt of a letter from the U. S. Biological survey in which it was suggested that if the Farm Bureau could arrange to place its order for poison supplies before the middle of January, it would be possible to pool same with the orders from the different farm bureau in this and other Western States and thus effect a very material saving in the cost. In order to take advantage of this opportunity the committee decided to mail to each property owner as soon as possible, a letter and subscription pledge which will be substantially as follows:

"The time for poisoning rabbits is now at hand. In a short time, the campaign against squirrels must commence. We have an opportunity to save a great deal in the cost of our poisons and supplies, but we must act at once. At a cost of four cents an acre, you can secure poison sufficient to rid your land and the community of its destructive animal pests. Are you willing to contribute this amount voluntarily and immediately? Remember that unnecessary delay means a higher cost per acre and more unsatisfactory results. Let's get together on this big poison drive and make it a general community affair. This is the only way to secure results. Watch the newspapers for details and in the meantime, send in the amount of your assessment. Do it now."

It was estimated by the executive committee that a general assessment of four cents an acre would provide one quart of squirrel poison for each five acres of land and it is thought that on an average this would be sufficient to take care of the squirrels. Also that in addition to this there will be enough to take care of the rabbits and grasshoppers. In other words, if each person concerned will contribute four cents an acre and do it at once, the committee can secure its poison supplies at the lowest possible price, buy the grain, bags, etc., secure a mechanical mixer, get a man to mix the poison and distribute it to the different community centers, so that when the time for the big poison drive is set everything will be ready and each person who has so contributed his

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# ONLY 1 MORE SHOPPING DAYS—UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

