

HOPE DIES FOR TRAPPED MINERS

The Klamath Falls News

PRICE FIVE CENTS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1947

(Telephone 8111)

★ No. 10892

WEATHER

Max. (Mar. 25) 40 Min. 27
Precipitation last 24 hours .00
Stream year to date 6.15
Last year 1.10 Normal 5.36
Forecast: Fair today, tomorrow.

Senate Passes Tax On Logs 16-14

School Bill Distribution Battle Ends

SALEM, March 26 (AP)—The battle over apportionment of the \$18,000,000 basic school support fund to school districts was over today after the senate passed the house measure by the surprising margin of 26 to 4.

The bill, which now goes back to the house for certain approval of senate amendments, divides up the fund created by the voters last November. The basis is 75 per cent in grants and aids, 20 per cent for equalization, and 5 per cent for emergency and administration.

The senate gave tentative approval to the house bill to give teachers minimum annual salaries of \$2400 if they have college degrees, and \$2100 if they don't have them. The minimum is \$1200. However, the senate voted to amend the bill by providing that for the first two years of a teacher's experience, the minimums should be \$300 less. The bill was sent back to committee for a correction in wording.

Reds Demand Atom Talks

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., March 26 (AP)—An emphatic Russian demand for immediate consideration of the Soviet plan for harnessing the atom confronted delegates to the United Nations atomic energy commission today.

Andre A. Gromyko, Soviet delegate and chairman of the commission, put the issue up to the delegates during a closed meeting of the working committee of the commission last night. Gromyko warned that his proposals could not be "by-passed" and said they would have to be considered in attempts to reach agreement.

He added that any moves to pass over his proposals would be resisted. The committee adjourned until next Monday (3 p. m. EST) without a decision on its plan of work. The delegates were expected to confer frequently among themselves before the next session.

Even Prisoners Picketed Now

LOS ANGELES, March 26 (AP)—As if things weren't bad enough already, a crew of 30 prisoners, raising a county building, were picketed by an AFL laborers' union yesterday.

The prisoners, under the orders of the county supervisors and working under the keen eyes of deputy sheriffs, weren't in a position to argue jurisdictional matters in their labors.

Rescue Crews At Blast Scene



This AP Wirephoto shows ambulance carts and attendants lined up at the entrance to the Centralia, Ill., coal mine, where they await the arrival of possible survivors of the disastrous mine blast. The mine entrance is at the left background.—AP Wirephoto.

Wagner Jury Hears State Police Officer's Testimony

A barrage of testimony was hurled at the defense this morning in the case of Verne L. Wagner, city police officer charged with assault, armed with a dangerous weapon, when District Attorney Clarence Humble introduced witnesses before Circuit Judge Charles H. Combs of Lakeview.

First witness was State Police Officer William J. Colbert who said he had accompanied Wagner to the home of Bob L. Farris whom Wagner is accused of beating.

According to Colbert, it was during the questioning that Farris called Wagner "a liar" and that Wagner got up from his seat facing Farris, walked around the desk and began slapping Farris with his hand. When Farris got up, Colbert testified, Wagner pushed him against the wall, held his head in one hand and then struck him in the back of the head with a pistol.

The state officer said Farris made no attempt to attack Wagner. Cross examination by the defense failed to shake Colbert's story.

Farris took the stand as the next witness and substantiated Colbert's story. He added that Wagner called him "a dirty, rotten liar" and that he answered: "That puts you in the same shoe."

After this exchange, Farris said, he called Wagner "a damned liar" and then Wagner (Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

Courtright Returns Here

B. G. Courtright, superintendent of the Klamath Indian reservation, was home today from Washington, D. C., where he made an all-day appearance last Friday before a subcommittee of the senate public lands committee, testifying on matters concerning administration of reservation affairs.

Courtright said he told the committee that Indian service officials had not attempted to influence Indian elections. As for charges of excessive expenditures of Indian funds, the superintendent said that the proposals for expenditures spring from the Indians themselves. He denied that the Klamath reservation will be "broke" in a few years, stating that a program of allotments from timber sales has been projected for ten years, and that sustained yield operations will make possible another program at the end of the decade.

The superintendent said he favors legislation which will permit any Indian, if he wishes, to withdraw from the reservation and the tribe, taking his share of assets. He said this action should be final.

Driver Protests Rider's Beefs

SEATTLE, March 26 (AP)—A fare increase went into effect Monday on the Furze stage lines, and the complaints were about what anyone would expect.

One driver, however, exasperated at the remarks tossed about by customers, drove off the regular route, parked in front of a downtown building, and remarked:

"Here's the main office, folks. Make your gripes to the boss, not to me."

Most of the passengers promptly debarked, registered their complaints, then reboarded the bus and continued on to their destination.

Smuggling Increase Seen For Coast

PORTLAND, March 26 (AP)—Mayor Earl Riley of Portland predicts an increase of smuggling on the west coast, particularly in narcotics, unless the customs service gets its usual amount of money.

He telegraphed Sen. Guy Corcoran (R-Ore.) asking defeat of a proposed appropriations cut already passed by the house. He said the cut would force the customs service to dismiss 23 of the 27 port patrol officers here.

Phone Talks Deadlocked

WASHINGTON, March 26 (AP)—The far-flung Bell telephone system and a federation of 39 unions deadlocked over industry-wide bargaining today as nervous government conciliators eyed the April 7 deadline for a cross-country strike.

The policy committee of the National Federation of Telephone workers, an independent amalgamation of unions representing more than 287,000 workers, proceeded with strike plans after these snowballing developments:

1. Assistant Secretary of Labor John W. Gibson went to New York to talk over the approaching crisis with officials of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, whose long-distance lines would be the first to feel the shutdown.

2. The A. T. & T. officials yesterday referred to the Bell system's various operating companies the NFW's proposal that a bargaining committee be named to negotiate on a nationwide basis the union's ten contract demands. These include a \$12 weekly pay increase.

3. The union policy committee considered that action to be a rejection of its proposal. It countered by turning down "anything less than system-wide bargaining at this stage of the game."

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Klamath Firms Bids Refused

Bids submitted by two Klamath Falls contractors were rejected by the Oregon State highway commission Tuesday in Portland on the grounds those bids were "too high."

Rejected was the \$159,120 bid of Clifford A. Dunn for construction of three bridges over Sprague river on the Sprague river highway, and the \$19,425 bid of Pinniger and Watkins for remodeling the Beardsley building on S. 6th street.

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Opposition Will Ask Second Vote

SALEM, March 26 (AP)—Gov. Earl Snell's \$500,000 annual forestry conservation and research program, already approved by the house, was passed 16 to 14 by the senate today, but opponents gave notice they would ask for reconsideration of the bill tomorrow.

The measure, which would levy 10 cents a thousand feet on all timber cut in the state, was opposed bitterly by lumber interests, who believe the state as a whole should pay the cost.

Sen. William E. Walsh, Coos Bay, who was the leader of the opposition, charged that some senators who opposed the bill said they were voting for it "because they are on the governor's hook" and are thus committed to his program. Walsh said senators should represent the people, rather than the executive department.

The senate, before taking the final vote, defeated 15 to 15 a move to exempt timber taken from government lands.

The senate resolutions committee introduced a bill today to reduce the number of supreme court justices from seven to five.

All hope of ending the legislative session, which was in its 73rd day today, by next Saturday night vanished when the joint ways and means and taxation committees scheduled a conference for this afternoon to plan new bills to raise more revenue so that the budget may be more nearly balanced. The state budget now is about \$6,000,000 in the red.

Tidal Wave Hits Coast

AUCKLAND, N. Z., March 26 (AP)—A 60-mile stretch of the east coast of New Zealand's northern island was hit today by two tidal waves which witnesses estimated to have been up to 30 feet high. The waves followed "a very severe earthquake some miles out to sea."

Many buildings were wrecked and roads and bridges were damaged. Except for the town of Gisborne, the area was sparsely settled.

There was no known loss of life. Many seashore residents fled to higher ground after an ominous road signaled the approaching danger.

Terrifying experiences were recounted by others. A wall of water smashed into the kitchen of one house and swept a man and his wife through the door. Still caught in the swift swirl, they were thrown against a fence and then washed out to a road.

Strangely, neither was injured. Another house was struck by the first wave while the family was at breakfast. Before the water receded, a second wave came, destroying the house. But the family escaped with a few bruises.

Influenza Rate Jumps In State

PORTLAND, March 26 (AP)—A sharp increase in influenza was reported by the state board of health today.

Two hundred and forty-one cases were recorded in Oregon last week, a 92 per cent increase over the previous week. The year's total is 487—less than the 625 which had occurred at this time last year.

Pneumonia struck 24 persons last week, a 33 per cent increase over the previous week.

Transports To Join Fleet Pool

ASTORIA, Ore., March 26 (AP)—The Prairie Channel "cold storage" fleet of 130 war-time merchant ships soon will be augmented by 30 additional army transports, the U. S. maritime commission announced here today.

Arriving from the Orient, these ships will be manned by Japanese crews and will be de-commissioned at the base here. Last fall about 30 vessels arrived here with Japanese crews and were de-commissioned.

The Japanese sailors will be kept aboard the transport John Weeks until their return home.

31 Survivors Of Blast Safe; 110 Trapped

CENTRALIA, Ill., March 26 (AP)—Tired rescue workers fought against time today to reach 110 soft coal miners still trapped by an explosion after bringing 31 out alive from the deep pits.

A 2 p. m. (CST) report on the tragedy and rescue operations was given by Chief Clerk J. O. Hays of the Centralia Coal company who said that of 142 men known to have been in the mine at the time of the blast, 31 had been brought out alive and one dead.

How many of those still in the caverns 540 feet beneath the surface were alive could not be determined, rescue workers coming up the shaft reported having counted at least 14 bodies underground.

Old hands at mine tragedies agreed those trapped didn't have a chance of being removed alive. But the sleepless families of the men, quiet and staring, stayed on at the bleak tipple to face the worst.

The 31 survivors did not include some rescue men who had rushed down the shaft, fallen in the fumes and been saved by others.

Bodies Counted
Some of the dead had been counted, but there was no hurry to get the bodies up to the top. The main effort was centered on burrowing through fallen timbers and other debris and sealing the rooms off one by one as they were searched.

Rescue Work Rushed
But not all hope had been abandoned, and rescue teams, on the job through a freezing night, still were trying to get through poisonous gas and fallen timbers to save any who might have survived the fumes.

Other experienced mine men at the scene shared Chief Electrician Fred Hellmeyer's pessimistic view of the situation. Elmer N. Baird, face boss, said it would take "at least until 6 o'clock tonight" to recover the last body, because "we may have to work at the rate of 30 minutes for each 60 feet of progress."

If none of the missing men is found alive, this will go into the records as the nation's worst coal mine disaster in nearly 19 years—since 195 were killed at Mather, Pa., May 19, 1928. It would be the worst in Illinois since the Cherry mine disaster of 1909, which took 259 lives.

Night Shift Waiting
The explosion occurred with a rumbling "whosh" just before the day shift of 141 was about to give way for a night crew. The night men were standing around waiting for their time, and for that reason there was no shortage of rescue workers.

Clouds of thick, milky gray smoke curled out of the shaft, and before it faded in the cold wind ambulances, inhalators, doctors and nurses were on the way from a radius of 50 miles and more.

Anxious, grieving families, still holding to a thread of hope as the chill night hours passed with only nine of their men brought out alive, pressed against ropes at the pit head and watched the mercy crews come and go.

Governor Present
Gov. Dwight H. Green of Illinois decided late last night to hasten here from Chicago and "make certain that everything is being done that can be done and to look into the situation personally." He called for a plane to fly him to nearby Salem and a car to bring him on to the mine.

The mine is the Centralia Coal company's No. 5, an old one, which has been producing 2100 tons a day. Unlike many others in this area, it is not isolated; it is in the thick of the populous village of Warrick, a southern suburb of Centralia, beside the Illinois Central railroad yard and car shop.

At one time ambulances were lined for about a quarter of a mile. Their lights, with those of hundreds of automobiles, mingled with the beams of floodlights shining on the bleak setting.

Women, crying softly, huddled in blankets and sagged into chairs and appeared to be numbed by the shock. Several collapsed. Relatives stood about them and protected them from the pushing crowd.

GOP Backed \$3 Billion Tax Cut Wins First Round

WASHINGTON, March 26 (AP)—The republican-backed \$3,840,000,000 tax-cutting bill won its first test today when the house voted to consider this measure on a take-it-or-leave-it basis.

A voice vote clamped on the no amendment rule. This action came shortly after President Truman in effect voiced opposition to the measure by citing to newsmen his message to congress in January, in which he said, "I cannot recommend tax reduction" and added the opinion that "high taxes contribute to the welfare and security of the country."

At a treasury news conference, Secretary Snyder also was asked whether he would advise Mr. Truman to veto the bill. Snyder replied:

"I am very positively opposed in these prosperous times to having the government do deficit financing."

Rep. Knutson (R-Minn.) opened house debate on the \$3,840,000,000 tax-slashing bill with declarations that it would (a) ease the burden of little taxpayers, (b) encourage new risk ventures by business and (c) "put the axe to punitive taxes."

The short, bald Minnesotan told his colleagues:

"For years we republicans have been warning that the short-haired women and long-haired men of alike minds in the administrative branch of the government were trying to wreck the American way of life and install a hybrid oligarchy in Washington through confiscatory taxation."

Succession Bill Passed

WASHINGTON, March 26 (AP)—The senate rules committee today approved legislation placing House Speaker Joseph Martin, Massachusetts republican, first in line for succession to the presidency.

The vote was 6 to 5, with the committee dividing along party lines. Republicans supported the proposal. Democrats voted no.

President Truman recommended more than a year ago that the speaker of the house be next in line after the vice president. Under present law, Secretary of State George C. Marshall would take the presidency in the event of the incapacity of Mr. Truman.

Chairman Brooks (R-Ill.) of the rules committee told reporters the committee approved a bill by Senator Wherry (R-Nebr.) which would set up this new succession sequence:

1. Vice president.
2. Speaker of the house.
3. Presiding officer of the senate (should the speaker fail to qualify).
4. Secretary of state and on down through the cabinet.

70 Formosans Executed Today
NANKING, March 26 (AP)—More than 70 Formosans, constituting the self-styled "people's government" on Formosa during recent rioting, were executed by national government authorities Monday, press reports stated today.

The Central News quoted an official Tainan garrison communiqué adding that more than 100 persons suspected of subversive activities had been arrested since March 3.

Travel Tie-Up Possibility

PORTLAND, March 26 (AP)—The possibility of a transportation tie-up in Portland April 1 increased today as the Portland central labor council stepped into the Portland Traction company wage controversy.

The council asked the city to reconsider its refusal to allow the company to raise fares to 10 cents. The company said money for a wage increase could come from no other source. The present fare is three rides for 25 cents.

H. L. Thompson of the streetcar employees added that the unions do not care to work after April 1 without a contract. He said, however, that if negotiations could be started and any increase be made retroactive to that date, the unions would continue work.

The unions seek a 25-cent increase to \$1.50 an hour.



By FRANK JENKINS

IN London this morning, word got around the lot that Paulette Goddard, who is appearing in a \$2,000,000 British movie production, was having her hair done by a Swedish expert from Hollywood. Whereupon twelve English hair dressers, objecting to foreign competition, walked out in an unauthorized strike.

The walkout left a thousand actors, actresses and technicians idle and is costing the London film studio that is producing the picture some \$12,000 a day in lost time.

(BRITAIN hopes to show the movie here when it is finished. Shown in America, it would produce DOLLAR EXCHANGE, which would enable the hungry British to buy and pay for more American food.)

HERE in America, we are going ahead with straight and solemn faces preparing to paralyze our entire communications system with a telephone and telegraph strike.

Paralysis of communications would slow down American production, which is greatly needed at home and even more greatly needed throughout the world. Because of lack of production, people over a large part of the earth are hungry and cold. Hungry, cold people are apt to do reckless things.

In fact, in many, many places over the globe, hungry, cold people ARE doing reckless things that upset the apperant of normal, happy living.

DOWN in Louisiana, angry dairy farmers whose prices have been reduced are holding up milk trains and trucks by armed force and dumping the contents of the cars and trucks alongside the highways and the railroad rights of way, where the milk soaks uselessly into the ground.

The world needs milk, in vast quantities. For the lack of it, in many countries, babies are dying. You can't expect fathers and mothers, watching their babies die for lack of enough milk, to think very straight or very soundly.

Lack of sound, straight thinking, more than anything else, is heading us toward war in an atomic age, when war will be horrible beyond the present power of human beings to understand.

THE blame for all these things will be variously placed, according to the PREJUDICES of those who are doing the placing, but all sensible people should agree that we OUGHT to find a better way to settle our differences.

In fact, many thoughtful people are becoming convinced that if we DON'T find a better way our hopes for a better, happier world can't possibly be realized.

ANOTHER thought: Suppose you were the top communists who rule Soviet Russia and were planning the downfall of the United States of America and all other countries with capitalist economies—

Wouldn't you be as pleased as Punch by developments such as these?

COMMUNISM is a way of life. Capitalism is OUR way of life. Most of us are so passionately sure that our way of life is better than communism that if need be we will fight another war rather than submit to having communism forced upon us.

But thoughtful people can't (Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

9 O'Clock Is Coffee Time



At a local coffee emporium this morning, our 9 o'clock photog caught a shot of John Sandmeyer and Justice of the Peace A. Mahoney enjoying their "coffee and . . ." while George Seymour steals a glance at the morning paper from over their shoulders. Yep, 9 o'clock is coffee time.