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Washington State News

Important Occurrences of Past Week Briefly Compiled for Our Readers.

Fire destroyed a big store and four homes at Maple Falls near Bellingham.

Work on Seattle's power plant at Nehalem is impeded by four feet of snow.

Arthur A. Bousquet was nominated by President Harding to be postmaster at Wenatchee.

The Tacoma public schools were ordered closed until Monday on account of the heavy blanket of snow covering the streets.

Estimates of Seattle city officials as to the cost of last week's snow-storm to the city government range from \$200,000 to \$350,000.

A mammoth slide, containing hundreds of tons of loose rock and debris, has blocked the road around Lake Crescent near Port Angeles.

Judge Charles B. Dunning, a resident of Spokane for 37 years and former head of the Washington G. A. R., died at his home in that city, aged 84 years.

In spite of freezing temperatures and a foot of snow, nine couples made their way to Vancouver February 14

in order to be married on St. Valentine's day.

A proposal of the veterans' bureau to lease the Liberty hotel at Vancouver for a vocational training school is held in abeyance pending receipt of further information.

Development of the use of magnesite for home building and house flooring purposes is being pushed by a Spokane firm with a capital of \$50,000. The plant is located at Mead.

George A. Joiner of Anacortes was appointed by Governor Hart as superior judge of Skagit county succeeding Judge Augustus Brawley, who recently died at Mount Vernon.

As a result of complaints by farmers of Benton county, County Agriculturist Jorgeson has tendered his resignation to the commissioner. The office will probably be abolished.

A campaign to fill the ranks of the Seventh infantry, stationed at Vancouver barracks, with men living in the vicinity is being waged by Colonel Thomas M. Anderson, post commander.

Severe weather and snow did not stop construction work on the North Bank highway last week and the contractors expect the road to be finished and open for travel as far as Blingen by May 1.

Three members of the Brown family, which landed in jail at Vancouver because of numerous petty thefts and a burglary in the neighborhood of Baker, were given 30-day sentences in the county jail.

Promises of a fruit crop in the Walla Walla valley for the coming year is 10 to 15 times as good as usual, according to John B. Wiley, district horticulturist. He bases his estimate on the fruit spurs showing on the trees.

A municipal election held in Camas for the purpose of deciding whether or not the city was to issue \$155,500 in bonds to take over the water works system resulted in a victory for the bond issue. The vote was 232 to 7.

Thomas H. Robertson, aged 90, believed to be the oldest man ever to enter a state penitentiary in this country has begun to serve his second term in the Washington state prison at Walla Walla. Robertson was committed from San Juan county.

Two hundred high school boys from all parts of the state of Washington will meet in Vancouver March 2, 3 and 4 in a conference under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian association. The boys will be entertained by the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

January proved the biggest month in point of shipping that has been recorded in the Port of Tacoma, figures of Harbormaster Rowland indicated. During the month past there were 25 more vessels arriving than for the corresponding month of last year.

The magpie, which is scarce in western Washington, exists in eastern Washington in such numbers as to be a real economic danger, according to Leo K. Couch, biological assistant, in charge of rodent control in the Washington district. So numerous are the magpies in some sections of eastern Washington that state and federal hunters, before they could work on coyotes, found it necessary to poison magpies.

State Land Commissioner Savidge has received notice from the general land office at Washington, D. C., that the state has been given title to another block of land under the exchange agreement by which the common school grant is being reimbursed for lands lost by the establishment of the national forest. The block is part of the Columbia national forest, contains 19,000 acres, and is situated in the western part of Kibikitt county.

Selection of Sutton, Whitney & Dougan, Tacoma and Portland architects, as the designers for buildings for the College of Puget Sound's new campus at Tacoma was announced by Dr. E. H. Todd, president of the college, following a meeting of the college board of trustees.

Report that another order has been issued by the department of justice at Washington, D. C., to remove the United States marshal's office from Tacoma to Seattle, aroused the trustees of the Tacoma chamber of commerce to action to protest any such move, if contemplated.

A newly formed community club, embracing the towns of Napavine, Ewallis, St. Urban, Toledo and Winlock, has named officers as follows: M. J. Rarey, St. Urban, president; Rex Smith, Cougar Flats, vice president; Max Townsend, Vader, secretary; M. E. Meloy, Winlock, treasurer.

A motorcycle does not require a "for hire" license, in fact there is no provision in the law for issuing such a license, Attorney General Thompson advises the department of licenses. The same license for private use of a motorcycle may be used regardless of whether it is used for hire

Governor Hart has issued an unconditional pardon to C. E. West, ex-mayor of Auburn, convicted of malicious prosecution in connection with charges he filed against Sheriff Starwich of King county, while the latter was candidate for sheriff last fall. West was sentenced for six months at Walla Walla.

Two herds of hogs in Kittitas county are suffering from the ravages of hog cholera, according to County Agent W. L. Davis. Twenty-eight in a herd of thirty at Peck Point, near Cle Elum, have died and the majority of a large herd near Ellensburg have fallen victims to the disease, for which there is no sure cure.

The port commission and the chamber of commerce of Vancouver are preparing a report to Major R. Park, United States district engineer, for the purpose of showing the need of the federal government to maintain a twenty-five-foot channel in the Columbia river from Vancouver to the mouth of the Willamette river.

A final dividend of 3 per cent is now being distributed among the depositors of the German American Mercantile bank of Seattle, which closed its doors in January, 1917. John P. Duke, supervisor of banking has announced. The total dividend paid to unsecured depositors, aggregates 73 per cent of their claims.

Reopening of the North Bank highway east of Skamania has been delayed again because of the snow storm. The road was scheduled to be opened last week, but repairs on the washouts and damaged bridges were held up by the snowfall. The road between Skamania and Stevenson has been closed for about six weeks.

With a smaller force than in any previous year since the department was created, the state license department in January handled a record rush of applications for automobile licenses and at the close of business Saturday had mailed out 149,357 sets of 1923 plates, which was about 22,000 above last year's number on the same date.

Soundings of the Columbia river near Wenatchee are being made by a corps of four men under the direction of R. H. Kenyon, a state highway engineer, who is also taking other data in connection with the proposed Rock Island project, which has for its purpose the completion of the Chelan and Okanogan highway on the Douglas county side of the river.

Townley's Brother Killed in Collision. Lincoln, Neb. — C. A. Townley, brother of A. C. Townley, ex-president and at present national organizer of the non-partisan league, was the man killed in the automobile grade crossing accident near Lincoln.



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