

## LOW WATER IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WRECK

### INQUEST TODAY

Fred Beard, of Yoncalla, Important Witness.

### REPORT BLAMES LOW WATER

Richard Morris, Traveling Engineer, Says Locomotive Was Thoroughly Inspected Less Than a Month Ago.

That the explosion of Southern Pacific freight locomotive No. 2538, near Rice Hill, on Thursday afternoon which resulted in the almost instant death of Engineer M. M. Bartlette and Fireman A. S. (Bert) Adron was caused by low water in the boiler, was the opinion expressed by Master Mechanic Younger and Superintendent L. R. Fields, of Portland, who returned here late last evening after a thorough inspection of the wrecked locomotive.

Both Mr. Younger and Mr. Fields contend there is no question but what the crown sheet dropped, the same having been found in the fire box after a brief inspection of the locomotive yesterday morning. They also allege that the bolts holding the crown sheet in position were found in good condition, a fact which refutes current stories to the effect that the explosion was the direct result of unskilled mechanics employed in the local shops. In explanation of this theory of the explosion, Master Mechanic Younger says it is the practice of many engineers to allow the water to run low on heavy grades and thereby place the locomotive in a position to operate at its fullest capacity. In this statement he is substantiated by Superintendent L. R. Fields as well as a number of local railroad employees who yesterday visited the scene of the wreck.

In order to further investigate the explosion, a number of men experienced in the art of boiler manufacturing went to the scene of the wreck this morning where the formal investigation is being held. Today's investigation is held, it is said, simply to confirm the contention of the officials who returned from the wreck last night. Included among those who went to the scene of the explosion this morning are O. O. Jennings, representing the engineers; C. O. Hosmer, representing the firemen; Master Mechanic Younger, of Portland, and George Woodhouse, foreman of the Sacramento shops, representing the Southern Pacific Company; Mr. O'Laughlin, a disinterested boiler maker formerly employed in Two Brothers' shops at Portland, who represents the railroad organizations, and J. L. Wood, of Albany, representing the Oregon Railroad Commission.

Concluding the inspection of the boiler the above named gentlemen will continue to Portland. A formal report embodying the opinion of the investigators will be issued later.

**Coroner's Jury Returns.**  
The members of the coroner's jury, composed of Edward Marsters, E. N. Ewart, S. J. Jones, W. D. Bell, H. M. Marsters and C. K. Root, returned here last night from Rice Hill where they made a thorough inspection of the wreck.

This morning the jury assembled at the court house at 10 o'clock and shortly thereafter commenced the examination of witnesses who were present at the time of the wreck or were in possession of knowledge otherwise pertaining to the explosion. The inquest is being conducted by Coroner N. T. Jewett, with District Attorney George M. Brown interrogating the witnesses.

**Due To Low Water.**  
Richard Morris, for more than thirty years a locomotive engineer and at present holding the responsible position of traveling foreman of engines for the Southern Pacific Company, was one of the more important witnesses examined during the morning. Mr. Morris declared, that in his opinion the boiler exploded as a result of insufficient water. He said he arrived at the scene of the explosion Friday morning, and after a brief investigation found the crown sheet lying in the bottom of the fire box. He also said he made a close examination of the crown sheet bolts, finding them in good condition. When asked as to how he fixed his opinion that low water caused the explosion, he said that all indications pointed to that end. In fact he said the crown sheet showed evidence of intense heat, which under normal conditions could not have been discovered. Mr. Morris also testified that he inspected the boiler of the locomotive in question less than

"A Young Man and His Politics, or A Young Man as a Citizen."  
Will be the subject of K. M. Mears at the South Methodist church, Sunday night. Mrs. Fory will sing. There will be special Easter music. You are cordially invited.

a month ago and at that time found it in the best of condition. He further told of investigating similar wrecks in time past, and in each instance, found the explosions due to low water. One of these accidents occurred at Sheds, Oregon, about two years ago, and another in California a short time previously. Mr. Morris contended that every locomotive in service was inspected at frequent intervals, and that a card indicating the defects was placed in the cab in accordance with the federal laws. He said that he had been unable to locate the card in this particular case, but would produce duplicates in the event the coroner's jury so desired.

**Beard and Harden.**  
F. L. Beard, once employed as engineer by the Southern Pacific Company, but of late engaged in the mercantile business at Yoncalla, and J. H. Harden, a Yoncalla merchant, who were called to investigate the accident yesterday morning, testified as to their observations. Mr. Beard, who is well versed in boilers, said he found the crown sheet in the fire box, apparently as it had fallen at the time of the explosion. He also told of investigating the crown sheet bolts, which in some instances he claimed, were badly worn. He also gave testimony to the effect that a number of stay bolts were broken, and that several flues showed evidence of leaking. The latter defects he claimed were of no great importance, however, considering that they would have little to do in causing an explosion of this nature. Although reciting the details of the above defects which he declared existed at the time of the explosion, he said his formal report showed that the locomotive probably exploded through lack of water. He said this was his opinion and was not conclusive.

J. H. Harden, of Yoncalla, who assisted Mr. Beard in the examination of the locomotive, corroborated Mr. Beard's statements in detail when placed on the witness stand. Harden admitted upon examination that he had never had any experience with boilers and consequently was not as competent to judge as the preceding witnesses.

**Trainmen On Stand.**  
Jesse Woodson, engineer; R. C. Robinson, fireman; L. C. Johnson, conductor; M. B. Young and J. T. Bratten, brakeman, were also called as witnesses at the inquest this morning. These witnesses simply told of the explosion, and of finding the ill-fated engine dead beside the right-of-way. They did not attempt to tell from what cause the explosion occurred or the condition of the locomotive at the time of the accident. Wadson and Robinson were the engineers on the locomotive immediately behind the ill-fated engine, while Conductor Johnson and Brakeman Bratten and Young were members of the train crew.

**Foreman Testifies.**  
L. C. Adams, foreman of the local Southern Pacific shops, testified that he made a complete inspection of the wrecked boiler and found the crown sheet as it had fallen at the time of the explosion. He contended that the crown sheet bolts were in a perfect condition, and consequently had nothing to do in allowing the crown sheet to fall. Mr. Adams said he paid particular attention to the crown sheet, and upon brief investigation, found evidence tending to indicate that it had been intensely heated. This, he said, was due to a lack of water in the boiler. Mr. Adams further testified that the soft plug, stationed in the crown sheet, was missing and had either blown out at the time of the accident or was later removed without authority. Asked as to what condition the ill-fated locomotive was in when it left the shops on the morning of the explosion, he said he inspected it personally and found it in good shape. Mr. Adams said it was his opinion that the explosion was caused by low water, which was substantiated in the condition of the crown sheet when inspected yesterday morning. Pieces of steel, including a part of the crown sheet of the ill-fated locomotive, have been placed before the jury in order to assist

### FRANK S. FIELDS

Candidate For Secretary of State is Here Today.

### DOUGLAS COUNTY IS FOR HIM

Record of Ben Olcott, as Manager of Gov. West's Campaign, Puts Him Out of the Race.

Frank S. Fields, who for ten years has been county clerk of Multnomah county, and who has given that county the best record of efficiency and business it has ever had in that office, and who is the republican candidate for secretary of state at the primary election to be held on the 18th of this month, was a visitor in Roseburg today.

Mr. Fields' visit here was short, but brought him many promises of support from republican voters. The general feeling here is that Ben Olcott, who is also aspiring to the same

### HON. FRANK S. FIELDS.



Who is a Republican Candidate For Secretary of State.

nomination has no just claim on it although he holds himself as a republican. Olcott was two years ago the campaign manager for Gov. Os. West, and in that campaign he (Olcott) spent \$15,000.00 of his own money to help elect West to the governor's office. Later when Secretary of State Benson died Gov. West appointed Olcott to serve until the next election which is this fall. Now Olcott decided that he wants the job for a regular term and is asking the voters of the state to forget his part in the election of Gov. West and wants the good republicans to stand by him and nominate him for this important position in the state house.

Fields has been a life long republican and a staunch friend of the people. He has given the people of Portland and Multnomah county the best administration as county clerk that that county has ever had. He comes before the republican voters with a clean record and seeks by their votes the nomination for secretary of state.

During his stay here he was entertained by local republicans and a number of them took him to dinner at the McCallen hotel. He left for northern points at 1:50 this afternoon.

### MORE FIRE PROTECTION

Wanted By The Volunteer Department—Conditions Are Bad Now.

Charging that the fire protection of this city is inadequate to cope even with the smaller fires that break out from time to time in this city, and in an endeavor to bring about some solution of the situation the members of the volunteer fire department met last night to consider what course to pursue. No definite program was arranged and after some discussion a committee was appointed to confer with the Board of Fire Commissioners of Roseburg and with the Commercial Club. The committee is composed of J. H. Chapman, Chief Engineer Payroll and Assistant Engineer Jas. Perry.

### CREST OF FLOOD

Is Expected in Memphis Some-time Sunday.

### GOVERNMENT ABANDONS LEVIES

A Clash Within The Miners' Federation is Reported Today—Many Threaten to Leave The Union.

(Special to The Evening News.)  
CAIRO, April 6.—With the Mississippi river at the 54 foot water stage and still showing a tendency to rise, nearly every able bodied resident of Cairo is today laboring to strengthen the levees which are said to be weakening under the heavy strain. Today the water, is even higher than yesterday, with no indication of relief in sight.

In the vicinity of Slickman, Ky., more than 100,000 acres of cotton (and is submerged, and the loss is estimated at fully \$100 per acre. While not in a position to make precise accurate figures regarding the loss to date, conservative estimates place the damage at no less than \$5,000,000.

**Levees Are Abandoned.**  
MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 6.—All hope of saving the St. Francis levee and the St. Francis basin was abandoned by government officials today.

The levees are gradually growing weaker and will probably give away before nightfall. This will mean the devastation of thousands of acres of valuable land in this section as well as a general suspension in business. The local railroad bridge, estimated to cost \$5,000,000 is also in danger. The crest of the flood is expected on Sunday when the greatest damage will likely result.

**Withdraw from Union.**  
LONDON, Eng., April 6.—A clash within the ranks of the miners' federation came today, when a number of its members threatened to withdraw from the union in the event the labor leaders persisted in calling off the present strike. The leaders are unanimous in their opinion that the men should accept the minimum wage scale and return to work. Today's clash came at a secret meeting of the federation and has caused quite a sensation. It is reported here this afternoon that one-third of the men will return to work Monday morning, regardless of the attitude displayed by those who solicit a continuation of the trouble.

### LOCAL NEWS.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Cobb pleasantly entertained a few of the public teachers last Thursday evening at a six o'clock dinner. Those present were Miss Tipton, Miss Parrott, Miss Doan, Mrs. Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Groves.

Now's the time to buy that new machine. We have only the very best, the old reliable Singer. A machine with a record for worth, at a price lower than any agent will offer.—Rice & Rice, the house furnishers.

William Harris, who is employed in the Douglas County Abstract office, and Edward Cockerleaze, candidate for county assessor, subject to the will of the republican voters at the primary election on April 19, went to Canyonville this morning where they will spend a few days.

District Fruit Commissioner A. H. Carson, of Grants Pass, arrived in Roseburg last night and left this morning for Portland where he will attend a meeting of the state fruit inspectors. Mr. Carson says the outlook for a bumper fruit crop was never better than at present. In fact, he says the yield will eclipse all previous years, barring the possibility of a frost. He reports a light frost throughout the Rogue River Valley yesterday morning, but fortunately the fruit was unharmed. The only variety of fruit that has as yet suffered to any extent from frosts is the early peaches.

The fourth annual convention of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Klamath district held very interesting meetings in the Methodist church Thursday and Friday of this week. Mrs. A. N. Fisher, corresponding secretary of the Columbia river branch, and Mrs. H. D. Kimball, president of the Columbia river branch, and Mrs. J. T. Abbott, of Eugene, were present and gave very inspiring and helpful talks. Mrs. Mootz, a returned missionary to the Philippines was present also, and gave two very instructive talks. Mrs. G. F. Billings and Mrs. E. E. Dunlap, of Ashland; Mrs. S. Loughridge, and Mrs. J. M. Isham, of Grants Pass; Mrs. M. L. Jenkins, of Willburn; Mrs. M. E. Davis, Mrs. W. N. Dates, Mrs. A. Davis, of Oakland; Mrs. Rosen and Mrs. Rummel, of Ten Mile, were delegates to the convention. Mrs. Billings, corresponding secretary of the district, gave a very encouraging report of the work done throughout the district.

### CARPETS AND RUGS.

The most pretentious assortment in Southern Oregon. Beautiful Wilton, Holly Brussels, Axminster Tapestries Brussels and Ingrains from \$4 to \$55. Room size rugs, also all the new things in carpets, an assortment that makes choosing easy.

**RICE & RICE.**  
The House Furnishers.

**DR. POSEY.**  
Oculist & Aurist.

Eyes fitted with glasses, Parrott bldg. Roseburg, Or.

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### CHURCH NOTICES.

**First Methodist Episcopal Church.**  
Preaching morning and evening by the pastor. There will be beautiful Easter music at night by the large Junior chorus of 50 voices. The pastor will preach a revival sermon in the evening. Everybody come.

**Christian Church.**  
J. N. McConnell, pastor, Sunday school at 10 a. m.; Easter exercises will follow immediately after Sunday school; C. E. 8:30 p. m.; Special program and short sermon at 7:30. We will be pleased to see you at our services.

**Christian Science Society.**  
Corner Lane and Main streets. Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Sunday lesson sermon subject "Unreality" 11 a. m. Wednesday evening testimonial services 8 p. m. Reading room in same building open 2 p. m. to 4 p. m. daily except Sunday. All are invited to attend the services and visit the reading room.

**Presbyterian Church.**  
J. E. Burkhardt, pastor, Sunday school at 10 a. m.; morning worship at 11 o'clock; Junior C. E. at 2 p. m.; Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:30 p. m.; evening worship at 7:30; prayer meeting on Wednesday evening of 7:30. The services tomorrow will be appropriate to Easter, with special music and appropriate sermons. You are cordially invited to attend. Come and bring a friend.

**Saint George's Church.**  
Corner Main and Cass streets. The Rev'd Charles Wilson Baker, rector, Easter Day. Holy communion at 7:30 a. m.; morning prayer and holy communion at 11:00. The Rev'd Mr. Powell, of Portland, will preach at this service. Evening prayer at 3:00. Ascension Comandery will attend this service. Children's festival at 5:00 p. m. No evening services.

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### RUEF IS ANGRY

Is Called Human Hyena by Newspapers.

### SPELLBINDERS ARE VERY BUSY

Chicago Woman is Awarded \$2,400 Damages Suit To Recover \$100,000—Says Reputation W's Attacked.

(Special to The Evening News.)  
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 6.—Angry because of a recent editorial in a San Francisco morning newspaper, in which he was described as a human hyena and a "surly cunning cynical issue," Abe Ruef, once powerful political boss of San Francisco, today published a partial statement of his connection with graft in the Bulletin. He mentions Patrick Calhoun, of the United Railroads, and William Herron, of the Southern Pacific, and others who are anxious that he reserve publication of the graft proceedings.

In his article he says he will tell all when the indictments against him are admitted as they will soon be if the advice of the prosecutor is acted upon. Ruef says he will give a full and complete history of the alleged conferences with Calhoun and others regarding the corrupt use of money.

**Makes Twenty-Two Speeches.**  
LINCOLN, Neb., April 6.—Traveling 200 miles and making 22 speeches in the presence of no less than 15,000 people is the remarkable record of United States Senator LaFollette yesterday. LaFollette spoke to varied audiences, including farmers, merchants, professional men and others. He closed the day with a rousing speech in the auditorium of this city. Today the Senator is speaking at Omaha. On Monday he speaks in Western Nebraska, later leaving for the West where he will stump Oregon.

**Others Also Busy.**  
CHICAGO, Ill., April 6.—With 3 special trains transporting presidential candidates touring Illinois today, a score or more of spellbinders are busy boosting their favorite candidates. Among these distinguished men are President Taft, Governor Wilson, of New Jersey, and Secretary James Wilson, of the department of agriculture, who is one of Taft's strongest supporters.

**Must Pay \$2,500 Damages.**  
CHICAGO, Ill., April 6.—Dean Marion Talbot, of the Chicago university, must pay Esther Mercer \$2,500. This is the amount the jury today awarded the plaintiff in her suit for \$100,000 brought against Talbot, who is alleged to have attacked the defendant's moral character.

**TRIAL EARLY NEXT WEEK.**  
Bawdy House Inmates Will Stand Trial In Court.

The two bawdy house inmates who were arrested Thursday afternoon, will stand trial in City Recorder Carl Wimberly's court. They were arraigned late Thursday and both entered pleas of not guilty. Later both were liberated on the deposit of a \$25.00 cash bail. The trial will be Monday or Tuesday of next week.

**THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT**  
didn't leave an unlimited supply of cash for furnishings, so Jack and Mrs. Jack came to us to find a WAY. You ought to see their home. No house in town is more artistic. The total outlay is so small as to astonish you.

**RICE & RICE.**  
The House Furnishers.

**A MARVELOUS RECORD.**  
In 1909, also in 1910 and again in 1911 Oregon Life sold more policies in Oregon than any other company. March, 1912, was the biggest month that this company has ever had, and in the first quarter of 1912 more policies were issued than ever before in any three months since organization. Death losses paid remain just where they were at the close of business, December 31, 1911, namely, a total of only \$38,000 since organization of Oregon Life. Mr. John F. Roche, the well known expert on life insurance, says: "Oregon Life Insurance Company is an institution of which the people of the state, the directors and its policy holders may well be proud."

William Emery, of Coles Valley, spent the day in Roseburg attending to various business interests.