

# LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER.

VOLUME III

LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 16 1904.

NUMBER 19

**WEATHER FORECAST**  
 Tonight showers and clouds  
 tomorrow cloudy  
 Friday probably fair

**THE TRAINS**  
 To 3 East bound 9:10 on time  
 No 5 West 9:12 on time

## TERRIBLE SCENES ON BURNING BOAT

### Scores of Children Sucked Down By The Whirlpool of Hell Gate--Many Others Burned.

(Special to the Observer)  
 New York, June 16—One of the most appalling disasters in the history of New York, tragic in its immensity, dramatic in its episodes and deeply pathetic in the tender age of the most of its victims, took place today in East river at the entrance to Long Island Sound within a short distance of New York shore within sight of thousands of persons the majority of whom were powerless to minimize the extent of the catastrophe.

**BURNED TO WATERS EDGE**  
 By burning to the waters edge of the Slocum a three decker excursion steamer, the largest in these waters more than 600 persons, the majority of whom were women and children were burned to death or drowned by jumping overboard or being thrown into the whirlpools by the burning vessel and the crash of the panic stricken passengers.

Approximately 500 bodies have been recovered and are now being tagged at the morgues of Bellevue hospital and Harlem.

Divers are still busy at a late hour taking bodies from the hull of the vessel which they say is choked with the remains of human bodies while the bodies of scores who leaped or were thrown into the river have not been recovered.

**THE NUMBER ABOARD**  
 It is variously estimated there were between 1500 and 2500 persons on board the General Slocum when she left the pier at Third street East river through the Knickerbocker steamship company which owns the Slocum. Officially states the number was 837 being only one third the vessels capacity. It is thought however, there were several hundred children in arms for which fares are not usually charged on these trips.

**FIRE STARTS**  
 At the extreme eastern end of Randall's Island there is a stretch of water known as sunken meadows. At this point just as the crowds were watching the gaily decorated steamer from shore a fire is said to have broken out in the lunch room on the forward deck the overturning of a pot of grease. The wind was high and all efforts to subdue the fire were futile.

**THE BOAT IS BEACHED**  
 At 13th street there are several lumber yards and oil tanks and as Captain William Vanschoelck, in command of the General Slocum started to turn his vessel toward shore there he was warned that it would set fire to the lumber and oil so he changed his course for North Brothers Island where the burning boat was beached. She sank near this place at 12:30 o'clock this afternoon two hours and 25 minutes after the fire was first discovered.

**MANY JUMP OVERBOARD**

In the meantime the passengers had become panic stricken and those who were not caught up by the flames rushed to the rear of the vessel and hundreds jumped overboard into the swiftly running waters.

**LIFE PRESERVERS NO GOOD**  
 The life preservers were too securely fastened to their holdings to be available and stories are told of the frantic efforts made by strong men to shut them loose but even if they could have been torn down they were too high up for the children to reach. It is also alleged that no attempt was made to get out the fire apparatus at the first cry of "fire" though Captain Vanschoelck says he immediately rang the bells for the getting out of the apparatus. According to several statements no attempt was made to lower the ore life rafts.

**DRAMATIC RACE**  
 The race to North Brother Island was horribly dramatic. It was made while the flames, which had been fanned into fury by a strong head wind were consuming hundreds of persons of all ages and white women and children who had jumped overboard were being lashed by the channel whirlpools against the channel side. The women and children were crowded together on the hurricane deck which soon burned away and fell and it is believed that most of those on this deck were burned. The after rail gave way and the passengers who had crawled against it were pushed into the river. Mothers and children became separated and frantically sought each other while in several cases fathers and mothers gathering their children together jumped with them into the water. Little children holding each other by the hand jumped together and afterward were found clasped in each others arms. It is alleged that men fought with women to escape resulting in the trampling under foot of scores of the children.

**TO THE RESCUE**  
 During her flame enveloped run to North Brothers Island the General Slocum's whistles kept blowing for assistance but before the whistles began to blow several tugs, the captains of which had seen the outbreak of fire started after the vessel joined by yachts while row boats put out from shore.

The number of these or its constantly grew and not the least dramatic incidents of the catastrophe were the efforts of people on these boats to rescue those who had jumped overboard from the burning vessel.

**THRILLING RESCUE**  
 The men crowded to the rails of the tugs and caught up drowning persons as they were borne by the current. These were many thrilling rescues by this means. Captain Van-

schick and his two pilots, Edward Vanwart and Edward M Weaver have been arrested.

**MORE BODIES RECOVERED**  
 New York, June 16—At one o'clock this morning according to a statement issued by Coroner O'Gorman 483 bodies have been recovered. Tugs are arriving hourly with bodies from North Brothers Island. At two o'clock the coroner announced the total recovered as 485. Deputy Coroner Danlington said that probably hundreds of corpses are still in the wrecked hull of the Slocum.

### MARRIED

One of the happiest and most charming weddings of the season was the marriage of Miss Florence Louise Bates to Mr Gilbert Ferguson Boreman, both of Park City Utah. The nuptials were solemnized Wednesday evening at the home of Dr and Mrs Richardson, the latter a sister of the bride. The ceremony was performed by the Rev Bard of the parish in Walla Walla and by a company of witnesses relatives and friends. From an archway between the reception hall and drawing room long festoons of smilax and roses, arranged artistically about a vase of pretty flowers and potted palms. The ceremony was very beautiful and impressive. The Episcopal service was carried out in detail. During the reading of music was rendered on the piano. Mr Richardson sang in an impressive manner "O Promise Me." The bride party entered the drawing room just at the appointed time to the strains of Lohengrin played by Mrs. Woodward.

Rev Bard advanced followed closely by the groom where he received the bride at the altar who was given in marriage by her brother in law Mr L M Clark. Master Frank Clark carried the ring on a silver tray. During the ceremony and while congratulations were extended Mrs Berry played soft Mendelssohn's wedding march.

The bride was most charmingly attired in a gown of white silk crepe de Chine trimmed in pearls and carried a beautiful prayer book bound in old ivory.

The rooms were beautifully decorated the drawing room in pink roses and smilax, the reception hall in Bride's roses and smilax, while the dining room was exquisite in red and green roses being used in profusion. The table arrangement was unique in its decoration in the center was a large block of ice in which were frozen fruit and roses, on the top of this was a large cut glass bowl of berries, long sprays of smilax extended from the chandeliers in the corners of the table. Candles shaded with red were in much evidence lending their softening rays to add to the beauty of the scene.

Mrs Richardson presided at the wedding supper assisted by the Misses Lula Gulling, Ada West and Iva Long. After the delicacies had been served the companions were charmingly entertained by instrumental music by Mrs Woodward Berry and Vocal solos by the Rev Bard, and Mrs Richardson. Mr and Mrs Boreman were the recipients of many beautiful gifts, they received many telegrams from friends extending congratulations from Salt Lake City, Ogden and Park City. Mr and Mrs Boreman will make an extended tour through the East visiting

St Louis, Chicago, New York and Boston. They will be at home August, 1 Park City Utah.

### Rusticating

President Joseph Smith, head of the Mormon church in Salt Lake City, who was in attendance at quarterly conference of Latter-Day Saints in La Grande, Saturday and Sunday is now at Perry, six miles from here, with the O W Nibley family rusticate for a few days. He intends going to Portland before returning to Salt Lake City. President Smith was accompanied by Apostle Seymour B Young, a relative of Brigham Young.

## WERE REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSS

### Japs Attack Russian Position With Disastrous Results--Three Japanese Squadrons Entirely Wiped Out.

Tokio June 16—Although it is rumored the Japanese squadron overtook and engaged the Vladivostok squadron off Iki Island, it is extremely improbable there has been an engagement. A storm accompanied by a heavy rain which swept over the sea in the neighborhood of Iki Island yesterday hid the movements of the Russian vessels. One Japanese scouting vessel is reported to have got in touch with the Russian squadron and to have followed it. It probably lost the Russians when night came on. The indications are the Russian squadron is moving eastward. This increases chances for an open sea engagement. The Japanese are pursuing, keenly eager for a fight.

"Later a section of the Russian cavalry marching in the direction of Lian Chou and Lun Koo discovered on its right flank a great force of Japanese cavalry. An engagement ensued, and according to the latest dispatches the fighting is proceeding all along the line, the Japanese having received reinforcement from Vafangou consisting of three infantry divisions with artillery and cavalry."

### VLADIVOSTOCK ATTACK

Tokio June 16—The Vladivostok squadron evidently attacked the Japanese transports Hitachi and Sado yesterday off Iki Island. The details of the attack have not been received here.

### For Judge Parker

Jackson Miss June 16—The democratic state convention today instructed for Judge Parker for the presidential nominee.

Hot Springs, Ark., June 16—The democratic state convention today instructed for Judge Parker the presidential candidate.

### For A Cannery

J L McKinnis, the well known miller and farmer while in this city this morning stated that among the important industries that should be started in La Grande was a cannery, and his years of experience in horticulture in this valley is such as carry weight.

Mr McKinnis states that we grow as good pears, plums, cherries, blackberries, raspberries, currents, gooseberries, pea and beans as grow anywhere and a cannery would be the means of furnishing a market which only remains to be opened by such an enterprise.

Jelli could be made from our apples that are not shippable. In fact we have quantities of the raw material to keep a cannery busy for months each year. There is no question but what a cannery will be erected here some time but if the matter was taken up by our commercial club it would be secured no doubt sooner than if we wait until it comes of its own accord.

### He Was Relieved

Capt. Sam White returned from Union to lay, where he has been in attendance upon Circuit Court. He is jubilant and looks but little the worse for his defeat. In fact, the Captain is reported as having said that he did not realize what it was to be relieved of such a responsibility as he has been under for a number of years.—Baker City Herald.

Baker City June 16—Deputy Sheriff Jesse Snow returned Tuesday night from Huntington where he went at the instance of the Cooks and Wait-

### LATE DETAILS OF DISASTER

New York June 16—Laden with a thousand excursionists, mostly women and children, the big steamer General Slocum caught fire in the waters of Hell Gate today, and between 800 and 500 people perished in the flames or were drowned. It is impossible to more than estimate the loss of life. The disaster is the most appalling that has ever occurred in New York Harbor and it made more distressing by the fact that most of those who lost their lives were women or children of tender years.

### STILL FIGHTING

Liao Yang June 16—The battle at Vafangou lasted till 8 o'clock yesterday evening. The Japanese in tremendous force attacked the Russian position, but were repulsed with terrible loss. It is reported that six squadrons of Japanese dragons were absolutely wiped out and sixty men captured. The Russian loss was 311 men. According to the latest reports the Russian troops were attacking the Japanese this morning. The particulars are not obtainable.

### (Special to Observer)

London, June 16—A dispatch to the Express from Tokio dated yesterday says the news has been received there but not officially published of a great Japanese victory near Fushou on the railway 70 miles north of Port Arthur. The Russians it is added were overwhelmed and a thousand men left all their guns on the field and retreated in disorder.

The Chronicle correspondent at Tokio cables the same news adding the Russians to the number of 7,000 men are now in full flight toward Tshi Chalo and Kalchou.

ers Union of this city to investigate the cause of the death of the man Suttle found in a box car a short distance out of Huntington early last Sunday morning and brought to this city where an inquest was held over the remains. Mr. Snow says that absolutely no clue has been discovered. There is a supposition now that Suttle left here last Friday in a boggy and the finding of his body wrapped in a bulky robe of seal-skin color to the theory, but none of the lively men of Baker City a suit having related him a team. The case is a very mysterious one and the Union has decided to continue the investigation.

## A FORTY FOOT FALL

### OR & N Bridge Carpenter at Meacham Slidged From a High Bridge.

Meacham June 16—Albert Swanson, a bridge carpenter working for the O R & N, fell from the new high bridge, N. 155, (17) miles west of Meacham yesterday afternoon and is now at the Pendleton hospital at the point of death as the result of his injuries.

The man was working on the top of the bridge, and in walking around missed his footing or stepped on a loose plank in the scaffolding and was hurled to the ground, a distance of 40 feet striking the timbers of the bridge in his fall and bounding from brace to brace until he struck the earth.

The unconscious man was picked up by his fellow workmen and cared for to the best of their ability until the midnight train came along, when he was placed upon it and sent to the hospital.

Swanson's right thigh was broken, his skull was fractured badly at the base and his teeth were knocked out

by his chin striking the timbers in his fall. He also received other serious injuries, from the effects of which it is thought that he will die.

## THE STATE NORMAL

### Eastern Oregon State Normal at Weston is in a Thriving Condition.

J W Scriber, president of the board of regents of the Eastern Oregon State Normal school at Weston returned this morning from Weston where he went to preside over the annual meeting of the board. The board elected officers and teachers for the ensuing year.

Mr Scriber states that the past year has been a most successful one and that the future seems bright. While the board was in session the annual graduating exercises took place. The graduating class consisted of ten young ladies, not a single young man appearing. Those graduating were: Della Wall, Kate Kirkpatrick, L Bell Reed, Unice L Barnes, Joyce L Ross Reed, Alma F Garnett, Mable Craftut, Jennie Retherley, Ella M Wall, Agnes Bull-Sch

Robert O French was re-elected president of the school for ensuing year, and George A Peblee was again chosen to act as vice-president of the school. Mrs R O French was re-elected as one of the faculty, and Miss Marguerite Tunc of Portland, was elected mistress of the girls' hall for the coming year.

The election of the rest of the faculty was deferred until some subsequent meeting of the board.

J W Scriber was re-elected president of the board of regents. F A Worthington of Portland secretary, and J E Klugore, treasurer. The executive committee of the board, upon which devolves most of the work, was appointed yesterday by the president, and consists of R Alexander, chairman, William Blahly and H M Saxon of Baker City.

The conduct of the school and its work for the past year have been entirely satisfactory to the board, as is shown by their action in re-electing President and Mrs French to their old place for another year. The grade of scholars in the Weston schools is recognized by the state department to rank with that of any educational institution of the nature in the state or outside.

### SOMMER HOUSE

Billie	Norris & Rowe	Flow
Walter	Waaser	Spokane
F Harlike		Rosburg
H Kaul		Irish
Geo H Fairbrother		Portland
Frank Jennings		Boise
Joe Moot		New York
H Sprague		Walla Walla
Thos Carwall		Pawnee Ill
Robt McFiggart		do
G O Foster		Boise
K Murten		Portland
M L Leay		N Y
E Thompson		Portland
B E Wanner		do
S A Sheldon		do

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## CLOSING OUT SALE

For the next thirty days I offer my entire stock of goods, including dress goods, trimmings, shirt waists, skirts, hosiery, shoes, millinery—in fact everything in my line

## AT COST

An invitation is extended to the public to come in and learn prices whether you buy or not.

### R W Laughlin & Co

**La Grande's New Shoe store**

Is now open and ready for business with a complete line



**\$3.00**

Ladies', Gentlemen's and children's Shoes. You are invited to call and examine my stock whether you buy or not.

**T M STUBBLEFIELD,**  
Next door to J M Berry's.

**Wm. Miller & Bro**

Are preparing to move their office to No. 1107 Adams Avenue—Foley-Roesch Building, ground floor—where they will have the finest and most modern suite of offices in the city.

They will be better prepared than ever to take care of everything in the line of

**Real Estate INSURANCE Mortgage Loans**

**FOR WARM WEATHER READING.**

It will be well to keep in mind these days that we have a very satisfactory line of books and light summer reading matter.

Suitable reading is the safest and most profitable form of hot weather diversion. The late publications are here; you can find just what you like. The price is light whether the literature is heavy or light. Never possible before to get so much reading for so little cost.

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