

La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME V

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1906.

NUMBER 122

FAIL TO UNEARTH EXPLOSIVES

(Scripps News Association)

Focastio, Idaho, March 27.—Up in noon today the search for the alleged concealed explosives in an abandoned saw mill, as described in the confession of Steve Adams, has failed to reveal anything of importance. Workmen have been digging over the ground but found nothing but glass stoppers of some bottles and the remains of a tin bucket. However, Adams insists that is the location where he buried the package but cannot remember the point in the building where the explosives were concealed. The old building is now used as a stable and the many changes have confused Adams. Some believe that if the explosives were hidden, it was done by others who told Adams about it and he now claims that he was the original man who hid it. The search will be continued until the whole vicinity has been covered.

TRAIN WRECKED

(Scripps News Association)

Topeka, Kan. Mar. 28.—An unconfirmed rumor states that a train on the Santa Fe system was wrecked near Ashfork, Arizona and fifty people were killed. The officials deny that any one was killed but say perhaps that some are injured.

W. W. Randall came up from his farm near Alicel last night and for the next few days will visit several sections of the county in the interest of his candidacy for the nomination for sheriff at the Republican primaries.

Attorney Scott Z. Henderson of Enterprise, who is a candidate for the nomination for district attorney for the counties of Walla Walla and Union counties, arrived last evening and will spend several days in this county. Mr. Henderson is well pleased with conditions in his own county and expects a good vote in this county.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL

(Scripps News Association)

Washington, Mar. 28.—Senator Knox in his speech on the rate bill this afternoon said that the Hepburn bill was unconstitutional. Judiciary review of all controversies is a right wrested from tyrants centuries ago. The function of the court is to act as a balance wheel between contending passions and policies. This right is now established beyond any power and present it in whatever guise you may, it is incomprehensible to me why persons should advocate this bill which is obviously unconstitutional.

CONDITIONS FAVORABLE FOR EX-GOV.

ERNOR GEER

Ex-Governor T. T. Geer, who is a candidate for his former position, and who for eleven years was a citizen of Union county, is in La Grande in the interest of his candidacy. He has just finished a four day's campaign in Umatilla county and is assured of a strong support on that side of the mountains.

Governor Geer is perhaps better known in every precinct in every county in the state than any other man, having a record of campaigning in every county, except one in the state and in most of them many times. This gives him a host of loyal supporters in all sections whose combined efforts promise an easy victory at the primaries.

Governor Geer has been a farmer all his life, is notably one of the "plain people" and his administration was perfectly free from extravagance in every department. His platform stands for honesty and economy in government and for the enforcement of the laws.

The ex-governor has never failed to poll a heavy vote when he has appealed to the people and his continuous traveling over the state during the past two months leaves no doubt of his success.

Mr. Geer is a native Oregonian, is familiar with every portion of the state and has always especially championed every interest favorably affecting Eastern Oregon. If nominated he has publicly declared his intention to challenge Governor Chamberlain to a joint stump speaking campaign covering the entire state.

GRAIN MARKETS

Chicago, March 28.—Wheat opened at 77½ closed 77; corn opened at 43½ closed at 44½; oats opened at 29½ closed at 30½.

WATER AND LIGHT PROPOSITION

As will be noticed elsewhere in this issue, a special meeting of the council has been called to consider several matters two of which are propositions from the Grande Ronde Electric Company to supply the city with water and light. We herewith publish both which will be submitted to the council tomorrow evening.

WATER PROPOSITION

The City of La Grande, is, by its geographical position and entire surroundings destined to be the leading city of Eastern Oregon. La Grande will ever remain as it is today, the principal railroad city in Eastern Oregon, outside of Portland. The sugar beet factory will continue to grow in importance as the farmers learn how to grow the sugar beet. The Grande Ronde Valley will, in the very near future, be cut up into small holdings and all properly irrigated and intensely farmed. This condition will soon increase La Grande's thriving population to ten thousand people.

The chief necessity in our town today is a sufficient supply of pure water. Modern experience teaches that pure water can best be obtained by means of a modern filtering system. The pumping of water from the Grande Ronde river for domestic purposes in La Grande as the water is now pumped, direct from the river, is very expensive, last year costing \$4285.10. The supply is very impure and insufficient in quantity and a new pumping plant must soon be installed, should the present system be continued. Morgan Lake is a natural reservoir. It has been made valuable by the expenditure of large sums of money. The lake is supplied at present with water from Sheep Creek, which is sufficient for power purposes, but to supply La Grande with a sufficient supply of pure water, a constant flow of pure mountain water must be obtained from Rock Creek, more than five miles from Morgan Lake. This of itself

would give to La Grande, if Morgan Lake water was used, a better supply than Pendleton and most other cities, and at least equal to the water of Baker City. We believe however, that La Grande ought to have better and purer water than the neighboring cities. Hence the company believes that a modern filtering plant ought to be installed, and only absolutely pure filtered water stored in La Grande's reservoir for domestic uses. Filtered water is unquestionably the best water that can be obtained. St. Louis and all other cities on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers pump the impure water from these rivers, filter the same and use it. In fact nearly every city in the United States of importance, uses this class of water. Albany and Fresno in this state situated not far from the foot of the Cascade mountains, are pumping water from the Willamette river, and are now installing modern filtering plants.

The Grande Ronde Electric Company is a home organization. All of the stock holders are friends and citizens of this city. The company wishes to be absolutely fair and only asks a fair interest on money invested, as the betterment of the city means better conditions for all. It will cost the Grande Ronde Electric Company approximately \$60,000 to construct pipe line making available a constant supply of pure mountain water, and install a modern filtering plant, such a one as would receive the approval of the State Board of Health.

The Grande Ronde Electric Company will enter into a contract with the city of La Grande, whereby it will agree to put in the proposed pipe line, install the filtering plant, and deliver 500,000 gallons of pure filtered water daily for \$550 per month, and increase the supply at the same rate as the city demands more water. It is now very difficult to secure a supply of pipe, and it may require some months to install the filtering plant and pipe line. The Grande Ronde Electric Company will enter into a contract with the city of La Grande to install a Byron Jackson centrifugal pump direct connected to a 50 H. P. alternating current motor, and operate said motor to capacity at the present pumping station, pumping the water through the present mains until the pipe line and filtering plant can be installed, said company to furnish motor pump, install and operate the same for \$550 per month, operating the plant ten hours per day. This pump will deliver at the reservoir, 500,000 gallons of water in ten hours, which, according to the water superintendent, is more than an ample supply for the city of La Grande.

The old pumping plant should be maintained and kept in order so that it can be operated by steam in cases of emergency. In case the city uses more water than can be pumped in the above mentioned ten hours, then the city shall pay at the same rate for any over time, the Grande Ronde Electric Company to furnish current to run the pump not more than eighteen hours in any day, except in case of fires, when the company will furnish current to operate the pump for twenty-four hours in the day.

By this arrangement the city would have available 720,000 gallons of water in the twenty-four hours. The Grande Ronde Electric Company would at once prepare to furnish to La Grande at the earliest possible date, a sufficient supply of pure filtered water, and in the mean time make a saving to the city of the present operating expenses.

During the year 1905 the city expended to operate its steam pumping plant, the following amounts:

Wood and Coal	\$3111.45
Engineer and help	1093.65
Oil	80.00

Total \$4285.10

This includes the operation of the pumping plant alone, and does not include anything for other expenses in maintaining the water system nor the wear and tear and deterioration of pumping plant and engine, which must be \$500 annually.

These facts are based upon the operation of the pumps about ten hours per day. The pumps are rated at about 800,000 gallons, maximum, in twenty-four hours, making a running schedule of ten hours about 300,000 gallons. The pumps are old and the chances are that the city does not get 300,000 gallons with ten hours pumping.

The interest of the Grande Ronde Electric Company and those of the city of La Grande are mutual. The company is very anxious to enter into a reasonable equitable contract, sincerely believing that our united efforts in furnishing a pure filtered water supply and delivery of cheap electricity in La Grande, will be of material assistance in building up a grander and more beautiful city.

Respectfully submitted,

THE GRANDE RONDE ELECTRIC COMPANY.

LIGHT PROPOSITION

The City of La Grande is at the present time very poorly lighted, owing to the insufficient number of lights and the quality of the present arcs used.

The Grande Ronde Electric Company is now furnishing eleven arc lights on an old arc system and twenty three incandescent lamps, for which the City is paying the Grande Ronde Electric Company \$143.00 monthly.

There should be installed in this town a new, up to date Adams Bagnell arc system, the same as is being used in Pendleton, Baker City, Walla Walla, and other large towns.

It would cost the Grande Ronde Electric Company approximately \$4000.00 to install this system. New lamps will have to be purchased at a cost to the Grande Ronde Electric Company of \$15.00 each, beside copper wire, transformers, etc.

The Grande Ronde Electric Company is very anxious to see La Grande properly and well lighted with the new system. The Grande Ronde Electric Company will furnish new lamps of the most modern type and will install the new system, which will give at least 35% more light for each lamp, providing the City of La Grande will take thirty lamps at \$8.00 apiece each month. If thirty-five lamps are taken, the Grande Ronde Electric Company will furnish the same for \$7.75 each per month. If forty lamps are taken, the Grande Ronde Electric Company will furnish the same for \$7.50 each per month. We believe that this is the lowest rate that has been made anywhere in the West for arc lamps in so small a number as named above. The average life of the arc lamp is about one year. That is, it has to be renewed in parts, breakage, etc., so the furnishing of the arc lamp will cost the Company about \$15.00 each per year. Beside this, the Company will be obliged to clean the lamps and furnish new carbon at the expense of about 50 cents per month for each lamp.

We would advise the use of the arc lamps almost entirely and the abolishing of the use of incandescents. This contract to be for all night lighting except two nights in the month when the moon is full, providing the weather is clear. We believe this provision for not lighting the arc system for two nights in the month, is made in all contracts for City lighting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grande Ronde Electric Co.

HONG TALK

Hong Talk, a Chinese, died of consumption at the home of his brother, Hong Duk, the Chinese merchant, last night. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock according to Chinese custom, with interment in the Odd Fellow's cemetery.

ITALIANS KILLED IN A HOVEL

(Scripps News Association)

Minneapolis, Minn. Mar. 27.—Six Italians were murdered in a hovel on tenth street last night. During the night the police heard a noise and upon investigation, eight men were seen running from the building. This caused the police to believe the fight was over and all trouble settled. But this morning when some one entered the building, four bodies were seen, brutally hacked and cut to pieces with knives. Two more bodies were found in the basement. There is no trace of the murderers.

The nine men rented the house two months ago. Their movements have been mysterious for some time. The victims evidently fought for their lives. Robbery was not the object as \$500 in Italian money equal to \$400 in American money, a \$375 check was found and several grips containing expensive robes of both Greek and Catholic church.

MORE FRAUDS UNEARTHED

(Scripps News Association)

Washington, March 28.—The President today bared to congress the scandalous conduct in the consular service. John Goodnow, former consul at Shanghai and Robert McWade, former consul at Canton, are made the subject of official complaint. There are 82 charges against Goodnow in the collection of collection claims, and McWade is charged with issuing false Chinese certificates.

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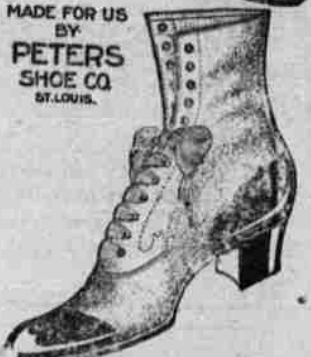
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