

La Grande Evening Observer

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MAYOR HUNTER FATALLY INJURED BY DYNAMITE EXPLOSION

URGES SHIP SUBSIDY BILL

(Observer Special)
Washington Jan. 23—The president sent a message to congress this afternoon recommending ship subsidy legislation, and commenting upon the great desirability of enacting laws to aid American shipping. European powers recognize the need of similarly aiding ship companies to establish and maintain trade. In order to maintain the present wage of American seamen the message says that it is imperative that ship subsidy legislation be enacted. The bill which the president favors, provides for fourteen steamships on the Atlantic, subsidized at a million and a half and twenty-two Pacific coast ships subsidized at a million and a quarter.

OHIO ON RAMPAGE
(Scripps News Association)
Shawston, Ohio, Jan. 23—The Ohio river is still rising today. All communication is off, no trains being able to reach the city.

ANTI ASIATIC
(Scripps News Association)
Sacramento, Jan. 23—A bill was introduced today prohibiting Chinese and Japanese from acquiring further real estate titles and extending leases.

SENATOR BAILEY ELECTED
(Scripps News Association)
Austin Tex. Jan. 23—Senator Bailey was reelected to the United States senate in the joint session of the legislature today.

TO TAX BACHELORS
(Scripps News Association)
Springfield, Ill. Jan. 23—A bill to tax bachelors over thirty years of age, five dollars per year was introduced today in the legislature.

As a result of the explosion of seven sticks of dynamite at three thirty yesterday afternoon, Mayor W. G. Hunter lies dead in his home in Island City today. For the past week Road Supervisor Jeffries has been dynamiting in the gravel pit near the iron bridge crossing the Grande Ronde River at Island City to secure gravel with which he was improving the highway leading to the suburb. Yesterday afternoon the supervisor, as he had done scores of times before, was thawing out seven sticks of dynamite in a can of hot water. To keep the water sufficiently hot, a small fire was maintained beneath the can. The explosive was slowly thawing out and the supervisor and two other men, Mr. Clapp and Arthur McCall, were standing by. Mr. Hunter, who knowing that the county road repairing was nearly completed, had gone to the gravel pit desiring to have the road supervisor repair some city streets. Mr. Hunter had reached the ground standing about the slowly thawing explosive and talked about five minutes, when without any forewarning, an explosion that rocked houses in the immediate vicinity, and trembled those farther away, occurred. Mr. Clapp was farther away from the fire than any of the others, and saw the entire affair.

THROWN HIGH IN AIR
Mr. Hunter was standing but a few feet away, and with his left side nearest the fire. When the terrific explosion occurred, as if providence had aimed the explosion directly at him, the entire charge struck him in the left thigh. Mr. Clapp affirms that the aged man was thrown fifteen feet in the air. He fell to the pit with terrific force. The explosion threw up clouds of gravel. Arthur McCall received scalp wounds, and Mr. Clapp was hit in the chest with a pebble. The noise attracted many to the scene and Mr. Hunter was carried to his home, the other wounded men cared for, and three doctors, Bacon, Molitor and Richardson, of this city, telephoned. Mr. Alderman was also slightly injured by flying rock.

CONSCIOUS THROUT
Mr. Hunter was conscious throught the preparation for the amputation, for it was immediately seen by the physicians that this was the only possible mode of retaining life. Mr. Hunter, though suffering excruciating pain, was conscious and talked with the men who were trying to fight off the encroachments of Death. At five o'clock the anesthesics administered took effect, and a careful examination of the shattered bones made. In the middle of the thigh, for a distance of six inches, the bones were lacerated. Two amputations were made when it was discovered that the hip even, was one mass of broken bones. The can in which the explosive was held had been torn in shreds by the explosion and these strips had literally been driven into the flesh and bones by the dozens. A fusion cap was removed from the hip.

SHOCK TOO SEVERE
The physical shock was too much for the advanced age. There was nothing that medical skill could do, and by six forty-five W. G. Hunter was dead. After succumbing to the effects of the anesthesics, he never again was conscious.

FAMILY THERE
With the exception of Charles Hunter of Wallowa the dying man's wife and family were at his bedside, and all saw their husband and father pass away.

MAYOR OF ISLAND CITY
Mr. Hunter was mayor of his city and had yet one year to serve. He was vice president, and practically half owner of the Grande Ronde Electric Light Company. He also was a leading shareholder in the M & M Company of Island City.

FUNERAL FRIDAY
A brother of the deceased, John Hunter residing in Malheur county, wired friends of the family that he could not arrive until Friday. Consequently the funeral will probably not be held until that day. The light office in this city and all the branch offices are draped and closed today.

FUNERAL FRIDAY
Mr. Hunter was a member of the La Grande lodge of Elks, and representatives of that lodge will form a part of the cortege. At one o'clock the funeral will be held from the Hunter residence. Two members of the city council, and two members of the fire department of Island City will be the active pall bearers to the Island City church, while the Elks will be the honorary bearers. After the church services, the Elks will become the active bearers and citizens will form the cortege. Interment will be made in the family cemetery. Presiding Elder J. D. Gillilan will officiate if he can be brought here, as he is now in Huntington.

FACTORY RUNNING
The sugar factory started up today. To furnish the campaign there are quite a number of tons of beets in the sheds which will soon be converted into white crystals ready for the market.

PROSECUTING THAW CASE

(Scripps News Association)
New York, Jan. 23—Crowds thronged the streets early this morning in an endeavor to see Harry Thaw, about to be tried for the murder of White, some months ago. Thousand of application for places in the court room had been refused. Newspaper man from Europe and this country were admitted. The Molineux and Patrick cases are surpassed in public interest by this case.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB
A good attendance was present at the regular meeting of the Neighborhood Club Tuesday afternoon and under the splendid leadership of Mrs. Geo. Palmer, the study of English Literature was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The lesson began with the Religious Revivals of the Fourteenth Century and extended to William Shakespeare and his successors. Chaucer, his writings, and the age in which he lived; the printing press and the work of William Caxton; the Scotch poets; representative prose and verse in the Elizabethan Age; and the development of the English drama are but a few of the many points discussed.

The magazine study was taken up by Mrs. J. W. McAlister and Mrs. Turner Oliver. Mrs. McAlister taking the English Drama and Stage before Shakespeare and Mrs. Oliver, The Birthplace of Gray's Elegy.

A very interesting and carefully prepared paper on Shakespeare's Women was read by Mrs. H. Hanna.

The time being so short for the amount of work to be done, the Club voted to continue the study of English Literature for the remainder of the term, the third book of the course, Contemporary England, to be read at home.

A flower committee, consisting of Mrs. Turner Oliver, Mrs. Geo. Palmer, and Mrs. G. C. Osburn was appointed to plan for a floral exhibit in the fall.

In the study work for the next meeting, Feb. 5th, Shakespeare, Milton, and Bacon, will be prominent.

LEFT! LEFT! LEFT!

F. B. Curry and O. A. Coffin went to Elgin yesterday on the Speedless Limited, commonly known as the Elgin Branch. They managed to stay with the train until they reached Imbler. While looking thru the window, so it is reported to this office, the junior editor of the Observer, observed, what he considered a possibility of securing a subscriber. Inquiring from the conductor of the "Limited" he found that he had ten minutes wherein to land the prospective subscriber. With the circulation manager at his side he made his way to the man who wanted the paper and talked circulation to him. And he got the subscription. Alas, but after seven minutes, the train was thundering Elginward. A sprint that spoke well of the athletic abilities of both, availed nothing. Nothing daunted, the gentlemen began a forced march to Elgin. As the length of their strides were being gauged to conform with the distance between the ties, some one was heard to say, with the sonorous voice of a militia captain, "Left! Left! Left!" Our informant says that Mr. Curry was heard to say "We don't care if we are left." Further questioning from our reticent informant, elicits the fact that the editor and circulation man, recounted the ties, hired a vehicle and completed the journey to Elgin by team.

BRASSEL BADLY INJURED BY FALL FROM ENGINE

Late yesterday afternoon E. E. Brasel sustained a dislocation of his left ankle and a compound fracture of both bones immediately above the same ankle, while at work in the round house. Dr. Bacon set the fractured bones temporarily until the injured man could be sent to a Portland hospital.

Mr. Brasel was washing the boiler of an engine in the round house, and from his position on the running board, he tried to shift the hose. A strong stream was playing thru it, and in making the shift, Mr. Brasel lost his balance. The loss of equilibrium, assisted by the pulling of the hose, was sufficient to throw him to the ground, about nine feet below. The fall, in view of the fact that Mr. Brasel is fifty-three years of age, was sufficient to fracture both bones at the ankle and dislocate the joint. He was sent to Portland late last night. The attending physician predicted that the fractures could be set and the ankle healed, thus avoiding amputation.

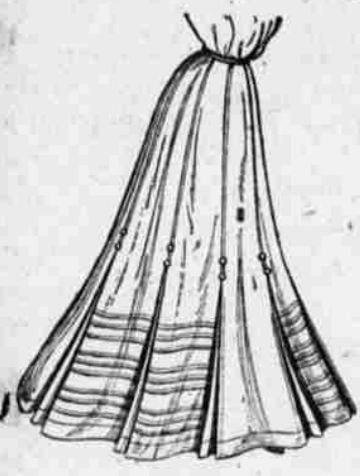
COLLISION IN PORTLAND
(Scripps News Association)
Portland, Jan. 23—A dense fog and a green mortormen were responsible for two trolley collisions in this city this morning. Two cars on the Irvington line were smashed. Wm. Evans, a conductor, is seriously injured and several passengers were out and bruised. Another car on the Waverly line was knocked into kindling wood.

COMMISSION BUSY
(Scripps News Association)
Seattle Jan. 23—Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane today concluded the hearing of the car shortage. Today's session devolved the defense of the railroads to the charges of a faulty system of distribution, favoritism and petty graft among the railroad employes. The timbermen will be given an hour to debate the testimony offered by the railroads.

TWENTY MINERS KILLED
(Scripps News Association)
Denver, Jan. 23—It is now known that twenty miners are dead and scores of others injured as a result of an explosion in the Primero mine early this morning. It is impossible to generate the shaft and ascertain the extent of the disaster. The shaft was just going to work.

TO INCREASE SALARIES
(Scripps News Association)
Washington Jan. 23—The Senate agreed today to increase, after March 1909 the salaries of senators and representatives from \$5000 their present pay until \$7,500.

EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY
(Scripps News Association)
Rome Jan. 23—A severe earthquake occurred this morning in Central Italy along the Adriatic coast.



New Dress Skirts

We have just received from New York, a line of the late skirts, these are beyond a doubt one of the best line of skirts on the market.

Dress Skirts in Fancies

This includes all the novelties in plaids, checks and mixed material. Very latest workmanship.

A beautiful line ranging in price to **\$25.00**

Dress Skirts in Blacks

Black skirts are very strong for this season especially in the lighter grade as Panamas, Voiles and the sheer materials. Very best material.

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depends for its success upon three things. First, your companion, second, the dinner, third the service. You pick out the companion, we supply

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If you do your part as well as we do ours, the meal will be one of the bright episodes in your life. We are ready for the test whenever you are.



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