

La Grande Evening Observer

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TROUBLE WITH JAPS

THREE FIREMEN STABBED IN VANCOUVER, B. C.

Excitement intense and the agitators are discussing the advisability of driving the Japanese population from the city—Fireman Stumbled Against a Plate Glass Window and Were Attacked by Japanese Mob.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 2.—The four Japanese who are accused of knifing three firemen in this city yesterday during a brawl, came up before the police court this morning, but the case was continued. As there was a mob of Japanese about at the time of the assault it may be difficult to identify the Japs who did the cutting, but under the bed of one of the suspected, was found a bloody shirt and another had a dangerous sheathed knife in his possession.

Local feeling is again aroused by the assault and the agitators are again discussing the advisability of driving the Japs from the city. Fireman Allen Anderson, J. Frost and T. McDonald were walking through the Japanese section yesterday morning when Frost stumbled and fell against a plate glass window of a Jap store. In a moment a mob of Japanese attacked them with knives. Anderson is not expected to live and the other men have long, dangerous cuts.

T. Nasse, the Japanese consul general en route to Japan, is in the city, but says nothing beyond expressing his regrets over the occurrence.

RIOTING RESUMED.

As a Result of Street Car Strike in Indiana.

Muncie, Ind., Jan. 2.—Rioting was resumed today at noon among the car strikers. The mob drove the crews from the cars as fast as they appeared and smashed out the windows. The police and the sheriff seem helpless. The crowd, nearly 3000 strong, is on its way to the car barns and it is feared they will burn them. The general belief is that the militia will have to be called out to restore order.

Later—A hundred strikebreakers housed in the barns have been armed in order to protect the property. The mob has surrounded the building, but lack leadership. Two cars of the city interurban have been wrecked as a result of being operated by the strikebreakers.

IT IS PILLSBURY.

President Appoints Him to Succeed Brownson.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.—It is announced today at the White House that Captain J. E. Pillsbury will be appointed chief of the bureau of navigation to succeed Brownson. Pillsbury is now connected with the navy department.

POWERS JURY OUT.

Believed to Be Hopelessly Hung—Mother on Verge of Collapse.

Georgetown, Ky., Jan. 2.—The jury in the case of Caleb Powers, who is on trial for the fourth time for the murder of Governor Goebel, has been out five hours, and it is believed that it is hopelessly hung. Mrs. Powers, the mother of the defendant, is on the verge of collapse. Powers himself is still hopeful that he will be acquitted.

DISSENSION AGAIN.

Thaw and His Counsel Cannot Agree on Eve of Trial.

New York, Jan. 2.—It is rumored today that dissension has again broken out between Thaw and his counsel on the eve of his second trial. Attorney Littleton continues to have charge of the defense. Stress is also laid on the fact that Evelyn has discontinued her daily visits to the Tombs. Harry Thaw is reported to be morose.

AFTER THE RAILROADS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO BREAK COMBINATION.

Will Not Continue Cases Against Harriman Personally, But Will Make Vigorous Effort to Come to an Understanding With the Companies—Will Give First Attention to the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 31, Jan. 2.—It is stated today by those in position to know that the department of justice will probably within a week begin action somewhere west of the Mississippi with a view to compelling the dissolution of the alleged combination between the Union and Southern Pacific companies. It is intimated also that the government after making a thorough investigation of the Harriman cases it has been decided that it would be futile to begin the original proceedings against Harriman personally.

TWO BOYS LOST.

Were Out Hunting—No News From Them for Three Weeks.

Portland, Jan. 2.—Searching parties are being formed to attempt to discover the fate of Clement Melis, aged 21, and Gusle Larouge, aged 15, two Portland boys, who went elk hunting in the Nehalem country last fall and have not been heard of for the past three weeks. The last information was that their boat was found floating down the Nehalem river.

Another Victim.

Samara, Russia, Jan. 2.—Chief Bobroff, of the provincial gendarmes, was shot dead today, being a victim of the vengeance of the terrorists.

RAILWAY COMMISSION

FILES ANNUAL REPORT: SUGGESTS NEW DEPOTS.

Fifty-Five Miles New Road Built—46 Employees Killed, Two Passengers—Injured List Foots Up 100—No Recommendations Made This Year as to New Laws—Will Wait Until Next Report.

Fifty-five and one-half miles of new railroad was built in Oregon during the last year. The longest piece of new track is 14.24 miles, built by the Malheur Valley Railway company from Malheur to Vale. The remainder of the new construction consists of small pieces of track, part of which was built by logging roads. The total railway mileage in the state is now 2,122.31 miles.

These figures are given in the first annual report of the railroad commission of Oregon to the governor. The report recounts the work of the organization during the past year, telling the complaints filed against the railroads of the state and the work accomplished in bettering conditions on the railroads of Oregon during the year.

No recommendations are made in the report, the commission deeming it best to withhold recommendations until the next legislative year. The report says in this connection:

"In view of the fact that there will be no regular session of the legislative assembly for more than a year, and also that the railroad commission act has been in effect a comparatively short time, we think it advisable not to make any recommendations as to amendment of the railroad laws of the state until our next annual report."

However, under the heading of depots, the report has the following to say:

"We wish to call especial attention to the generally run-down and inferior condition of the depot buildings at most of the important stations in this state. The contrast between the fine, new depots erected by the Oregon Short Line Railroad company at Nampa, Caldwell, Ontario, Payette and Weiser and the depots at stations of similar importance on other lines in the state is almost painful."

Of railroad accidents during the year the report discloses that this state has had its share. Eleven collisions, seven derailments and 90 accidents from other causes are reported, resulting in the killing of 48 people, of whom only two were passengers, and the serious injury of 100 others. Nine persons were killed who walked on railroad tracks and there were nine more fatalities falling from trains and cars. The report says:

"Careful analysis shows that the great majority of all the casualties scheduled were due directly to the want of care on the part of the person injured or of some railroad employe. The 11 collisions, resulting in seven deaths and 16 injuries, it would seem, could have been prevented had the rules of the railroad company been observed."

Despite the belief, at the time the law was passed, that the reciprocal demurrage act would prove a long-sought remedy for the annual car shortage on Oregon roads, the report shows it has not been resorted to a single time by individuals anxious to claim damages from the failure of the railroads to supply cars.

Complaints filed during the year with the commission numbered 170. Thirty matters docketed as complaints were investigations undertaken by the commission on its own initiative. The railroads filed 33 applications during the year, 27 being for permission to make rates effective on less than the statutory period of notice, and six being requests for rulings on provisions of the commission act. Of the 222 matters docketed during the year, 204 have been disposed of, leaving 29 pending.

FAVORS A NEW CHARTER

ATTORNEY FINN SUGGESTS A COMMISSION SYSTEM.

Indebtedness to Be Limited to \$75,000—To Do Away With City Council—All Offices Subject to a Recall—City Taxes to Be Voted at Annual Elections—Trial by Jury—Salaried Officers.

Some desire for a new city charter has manifested itself, hence what its general character should be is a matter of some concern and public interest. The trend of public sentiment is against strictly representative government—either in state or municipal. The people realize the possibility of self-government—simple, economical and effective, to the exclusion of political machines, self-perpetuating officials and venal graft. Already the legislative assembly of the state is shorn of the exclusive law-making power and its enactments are subject to revision at the polls. Undoubtedly there is a strong probability of the total abolishment of that body during the next decade, and why not? If the people can make and unmake the constitution by direct vote, why not enact all the laws in the same manner?

So, the incorporation of cities for municipal government is left now to the people by constitutional amendments, and the framing of new charters, revisions of old ones as well as their amendments, will become a matter of some consideration at the ballot box. The present constitutional provisions are as follow:

"The legislative assembly shall not enact, amend or repeal any charter or act of incorporation of any municipality, city or town. The legal voters of every city and town are hereby granted power to enact and amend their municipal charter, subject to the constitution and criminal laws of the state of Oregon."

How?

"The people reserve to themselves power to propose laws and amendments to the constitution, and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the legislative assembly; and also, reserve power at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any act of the legislative assembly. The first power reserved by the people is the initiative—to propose any measure by petition; and the second power is the referendum, and it may be ordered by petition, etc. The initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by this constitution are hereby further reserved to the legal voters of every municipality and district, as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every character in and for their respective municipalities and districts.

So, charters are to be initiated with the people and by petition; the power being given only to the legal voters to so initiate and adopt and not within the powers of city councils or social organizations to frame and adopt charters—or even refer them for adoption to the voters. It is quite apparent to a close observer that the principal trouble about the present city charter is, that its provisions are too much ignored by the council in its ordinances, policies and control of the execution of law, and upon a plea of construction. The clash of conflicting departments of local government can be obviated by the people initiating a simpler charter with less machinery, and removal of one branch dictating to another on mere matters of policy.

Now, as one of the plain people, having no ax to grind, but with some experience in municipal affairs, I propose the initiation of a new charter by petition and adoption at the polls, having the following provisions:

1. The usual limitations, powers and territory required to make it a charter.
2. The annual election of the following officers: Mayor, auditor, treasurer, fire commissioner, water commissioner, street commissioner and law and order commissioner.
3. All officers to be put upon stated salaries, under good and sufficient

ANNA GOULD Said to Be Responsible for an Expected Duel.

Paris, Jan. 2.—A duel is expected to take place between Count Boni de Castellane and Prince de Sagan, cousins, over Madame Anna Gould. Boni and the prince met by chance, but were separated by the gendarmes who hurried them before the police commission. They were released later. There was no actual clash, only verbal insults were passed between them.

SOUP KITCHENS AGAIN.

Los Angeles Again Has Familiar Signs of 1893.

Los Angeles, Jan. 2.—The soup kitchens made familiar by the panic of 1893, made their appearance again in this city today. The Salvation Army opened a free kitchen at their headquarters and invited all who were hungry to eat. Several cases of starvation in the city were discovered by the Army, and the soup kitchen is the result of their discovery.

OKLAHOMA SCANDAL

STATE SENATOR OWEN UNDER INVESTIGATION.

Interior Department Has Been Investigating the Facts as to How the Senator Secured 4000 Acres of the Best Land in the New State—Owen Asserts That He Has Done Nothing Unlawful—Proceedings to Be Instituted.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Robert T. Owen, state senator for the new state of Oklahoma, has been under an investigation by the interior department and as a result Secretary Garfield proposes to institute a suit in the federal court to cancel certain deeds held by the senator, as is alleged, in violation of the law.

Two inspectors were sent to Oklahoma to establish the facts in connection with Owen's acquisition of 4000 acres of land situated in the richest section of the state. Owen asserts in replying to this land he did nothing unlawful.

RECEIVERS APPOINTED.

For Seaboard Air Line Company or Petition of Directors.

Danville, Va., Jan. 2.—Davies Ward and R. Lancaster Williams have been appointed to the receivership of the Seaboard Air Line company, which made an application for a receivership last night. Federal Judge Pritchard took formal action upon the petition of the directors and officers. The Fidelity & Deposit company furnished the bonds and the receivers will take possession at once.

AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS

THE PETTIBONE CASE ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW.

Defense Asks the Court to Instruct the Jury That if the Evidence Shows That Haywood and Pettibone Were Parties to the Conspiracy, the Fact That Haywood Was Acquitted Should Acquit Pettibone.

Boise, Jan. 2.—Further requests for instructions were presented by both sides in the Pettibone case today, requiring an adjournment until tomorrow, to give Judge Wood time to examine them. The defense asked that the jury be instructed that the verdict of not guilty in the Haywood case made it impossible to find a verdict of guilty in this case, if the evidence shows that Haywood and Pettibone were parties to the same conspiracy. The state has decided to present arguments and James H. Hawley will open. The present plan of the defense is not to make any arguments. Pettibone appeared in court today very weak and was immediately taken back to the hospital.

WHO WILL IT BE?

Whose Business is It, Anyway, if She is Pleased.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Miss Ethel Roosevelt, now the "young lady of the White House," will be given a ball tomorrow, night by her father and mother, and the members of Washington's younger social set are awaiting the function with the greatest impatience. As a matter of fact, the ball will be Miss Ethel's informal coming out party. Dame Rumor has taken advantage of the occasion to roll under her tongue many juicy morsels of gossip concerning the president's daughter and her alleged love affairs, and many of the old dame's aides are circulating stories to the effect that there will be another wedding in the White House before President Roosevelt leaves. Charles Clover, son of a bank president, is most often mentioned as the leading suitor for the hand and heart of the fair Miss Ethel, although other wise ones insist that Captain McCoy, one of the president's military aides, is in the lead in this contest of the Lochinvars. The latter is said to be a favorite with Mr. Roosevelt, who would welcome him as a son-in-law.

SHIP OVERDUE.

Mount Royal, With 400 Passengers, Long Overdue.

St. John, N. B., Jan. 2.—The Canadian liner Mount Royal is now 25 days overdue from Antwerp. Great anxiety is expressed in shipping circles. The Mount Royal carries nearly 400 passengers. She is in charge of Captain Purcell.

Place Your Surplus Funds With the Farmers and Traders

NATIONAL BANK

Comparative Statement as Made to the Comptroller of the Currency

September 6, 1900,	Deposits,	\$179,324.05
September 30, 1901,	"	156,108.60
September 15, 1902,	"	194,041.94
September 9, 1903,	"	226,904.70
September 6, 1904,	"	184,443.64
June 18, 1905,	"	141,879.65
June 18, 1906,	"	145,225.34
June 21, 1907,	"	218,731.05

We pay you interest on your Savings Bank Accounts.
No interest paid on Checking Accounts.
We are prepared to handle any Banking business entrusted to us with care, promptness and safety.
With 20 years experience in Banking we are confident we can give you satisfaction.

Your business is appreciated by its officers:
J. W. SCRIBER, Cashier
JOSEPH PALMER, President
G. E. McCULLY, A. C.

WE SINCERELY THANK

Our many customers for the liberal patronage bestowed upon us, which has enabled us to make this the foremost drug store in this section of the country. All can rest assured that our gratitude will be further shown by giving the most scrupulous care and conscientious attention to every detail of our business.

IF YOU

Are not yet one of our customers let this be your invitation to become one. Get the habit of coming here with your prescriptions and for your drug wants; you will never care to change

HILL'S DRUG STORE

La Grande Oregon

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