

La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME VII. LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1908. NUMBER 15.

NEARLY TWO MILLION-DOLLAR LOSS BY TWO EASTERN CITIES BY FIRE

ANNOUNCE BIG EXPANSION OF 'PHONE SYSTEM

HOME INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY GROWING.

City of La Grande to Be Provided With New and Modern Telephone System—2000 Feet of Underground Wires—Poles in Alleys—Combines Rural Subscribers of the County With Every Resident and Business Phone in La Grande—Up-to-Date Central Energy System to Be Used—Work to Commence at Once.

The most modern and up-to-date central energy system of telephony is to be installed by the Home Telephone company in the city of La Grande, at once, and to do this, the company has purchased and has stored in this city one and a half miles of lead cable and 2000 feet of underground bitumen fiber conduit, which is to be submerged in the principal business section of the city.

Within a few days digging of the three-foot trenches will commence and with it the laying of conduits and the cable. In alleys and outlying districts, poles are to be used. Many of these have already been erected, but in the business section they are restricted to alleys alone.

A switchboard of modern make, following a perfected central energy system to be installed in the home office of the company, and while the board is being installed, the trenches

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POSTPONE THAW CASE TWO DAYS

MANY WITNESSES FOR DEFENSE CANNOT ATTEND.

When Court Convened to Continue the Thaw Case Today, the Defense Asked for a Postponement Until Monday, at Which Time Needed Witnesses Will Be on Hand—Storm Has Delayed Arrival of the Steamer Adriatic One Day.

New York, Jan. 24.—When court convened this morning Attorney Littleton asked that proceedings in the Harry Thaw case go over until Monday as witnesses which he wished were on the Adriatic, which had not yet arrived. The boat is anchored off Sandy Hook on account of a storm and cannot make the city today.

Another Thaw witness is suffering with pneumonia and could not appear today.

District Attorney Jerome did not oppose the motion, and there will be no continuation of the case until Monday morning.

BLIZZARD IN NEW YORK.

First Heavy Storm of the Year Breaks Over New York City.

New York, Jan. 24.—This city is in the grasp of the first blizzard of the year. Snow fell all night and more than four inches covered the ground.

A thirty-mile gale has developed and traffic on the streets, elevated roads has been interfered with and by noon the streets were blocked. Owing to a fuel shortage the poor in the tenement districts are suffering greatly.

FIVE DEAD AND TWENTY-TWO INJURED IN ONE FIRE WHILE ANOTHER BLAZE THREATENS CITY

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 24.—Five firemen are dead and 22 others injured, and property to the value of \$500,000 destroyed, this morning as a result of the most disastrous fire that has occurred here since the great fire of 1904. The fire started in a brass works and spread with remarkable rapidity.

George Horton, chief of the fire department, is among those thought to be fatally injured.

The identified dead are: FRED HARMAN, Lieutenant. W. B. PUGH, fireman.

Starting shortly after midnight the fire spread so rapidly that a general alarm was sent in.

A gale from the northwest spread the flames and the cold weather made the work of the fire fighters difficult.

Maine City Burning.

Portland, Me., Jan. 24.—The entire business district of this city is burning and the town may be entirely destroyed by flames unless aid speedily arrives from Bath and Lewiston, to which telegrams asking assistance, have been sent.

The beautiful city hall building has already been destroyed. A howling northeast wind is raging, which is driving the flames from the center of the city down the steep incline toward the water front.

Portland, Maine, is a city of 50,145 inhabitants, according to the last census. It is the largest city in

Maine, and one of the oldest in New England. Its principal industries are shipbuilding and manufacture of locomotives and iron works. The home office of the Union Mutual Life Insurance company is also located here. Large warehouses are located along the waterfront to care for the West Indian and European trade.

Although the fire is under control this morning, the \$800,000 city hall was completely destroyed. All records were lost excepting those of the city treasurer and city clerk. It is estimated the fire caused a loss of \$1,000,000. It is the worst fire that has visited the city since 1866.

Alarm System Defective.

Due to crossed wires in the alarm system the alarm could only be sent to the nearest sub fire station. To reach the principal stations, the telephone system was resorted to, and the strong hold gained by the fire before the principal department arrived on the scene, is responsible for the heavy loss.

Miraculous Escapes.

That no one was killed is remarkable. One of the greatest losses is that of the complete destruction of the Greenleaf library, valued at \$10,000.

Although the property loss is estimated at \$1,000,000, this does not cover the irreparable damage to property holders in loss of deeds and documents.

In a hall nearby 700 people were dancing at a Knights of Pythias ball. All were taken out safely.

Chief Engineer Melville Eldridge is among those seriously injured.

SOCIALISTS STILL DEFIANT

MORE AMMUNITION GIVEN TO CHICAGO POLICEMEN.

Police and City Authorities Comment on Realizing the Seriousness and the Strength of the Clash Between the Police and Unemployed Yesterday—March Has Precipitated Trouble Entirely Unlooked for—Ben Reitman Demands Quick Trial.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 24.—The police authorities are actually alarmed at the strength and fighting spirit shown by Ben Reitman's unemployed socialist followers yesterday and today. Chief of Police Shippy ordered that an extra round of cartridges be given officers in case of call, and has ordered firemen of the city department to use the fire hose if necessary.

Reitman, the leader, is still defiant and demanded an immediate jury trial this morning. His case was set before Justice Sadler of the municipal court.

The reserves have been ordered strengthened by Chief Shippy. The authorities were not awakened to the seriousness of the situation until Reitman's men showed fight yesterday. They had not believed that the police would be defied in the slightest manner.

Salt Lake Paper Changes.

Salt Lake, Utah, Jan. 24.—Two important newspaper combinations were consummated today. The Salt Lake Herald was purchased from ex-Senator W. A. Clark by Samuel Newhouse and Colonel E. L. Wall, and the Evening Telegram was taken over by the Salt Lake Tribune.

STIEWER HAS WITNESS STAND IN HALL TRIAL

NOTHING SENSATIONAL IN HIS TESTIMONY.

Confessed Land Fraudster and Conspirator, is Star Witness in Mays-Hall Trial at Portland Today—Reiterates Outline Statements Made by Heney—Hall Was Inducing Stiewer to Vote for Fulton—Evidence Given Not Effective to Hall.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 24.—W. W. Stiewer, a co-defendant in the Hall-Mays land fraud and conspiracy case, who pleaded guilty to the charge late yesterday afternoon, was the star witness in this morning's session.

Stiewer testified that Hall came to him several times during the session of the state legislature in 1903 and talked of the fencing case with him. At that time, said Stiewer, he did not believe that Hall was attempting to influence his vote in favor of any particular senatorial candidate. He testified that he voted for T. T. Geer until the last ballot, when he switched for C. W. Fulton.

A letter was introduced in evidence by Heney which was written by Hall to Stiewer on December 19, 1907. In it Hall inquired if Stiewer knew whether Hendricks was going to turn state's evidence.

"If he does this and testifies to things that never happened, he will be laying himself open to a much more serious charge than that under which he is now indicted," Hall wrote. Stiewer was on the stand the rest of the day.

CHAUFFEUR SAID TO HOLD DAMAGING EVIDENCE AGAINST ABE RUEF AND HIS GRAFTERS

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 24.—District Attorney Langdon has filed notice with Abe Ruef's attorneys that tomorrow he will ask Judge Lawlor to appoint a commission to take the deposition of Artie Latham, formerly Ruef's chauffeur, who is supposed to know details of passing of bribe money in the United Railroads case, from T. L. Ford to Abe Ruef.

The motion is based on affidavits from Detective Burns and others, to the effect that Latham is very anxious to leave the city, and that his testimony is of utmost importance to the prosecution. The defense will resist this move as they allege that the prosecution has ulterior motives in having Latham's testimony taken at this time instead of directly at the time of trial.

Weather Forecast.

Eastern Oregon—Rain or snow tonight and Saturday.
Southern Idaho—Snow and rain.
Eastern Washington—Fair tonight and Saturday.

H. M. CAKE SEEKS SENATORIAL TOGA

HAS OPENLY DECLARED HIS CANDIDACY TODAY.

H. M. Cake Gives Voice to Public Press That He is a Candidate for Nomination to the Office of United States Senator—Favors Statement No. 1 and Direct Primary Law—Will Stamp the State—Wants Rivers Improved, He Says.

Portland, Jan. 24.—(Special.)—Hon. H. M. Cake last evening announced his candidacy for nomination to the office of United States senator from Oregon. In his public announcement he states that he favors statement No. 1, believe in and will promote the direct primary law, will devote generous time and effort to river and harbor improvement, and a careful revision of the tariff laws.

The candidate will stump the state of Oregon during the coming season.

Will Wed Wealthy Widow.

San Francisco, Jan. 24.—District Attorney William R. Langdon, known throughout the land as the prosecutor of San Francisco's grafters, has fame, health and a good name. To these desirable possessions he will shortly add wealth and a wife, when he takes as his bride Mrs. Myrtle McHenry, a young widow of great riches and greater beauty. Mrs. McHenry is the widow of a Modesto banker and a graduate of Stanford university.

Study the past if you would divine the future.—Confucius.

Inventory and Year's-End Sale

This Week--Unusual Price Reducing in Nearly Every Line--Ladies, Childrens, Mens and Boys Departments Liberally Represented.

We are in the midst of our Stock Inventory and find in every department lines more or less broken, which must be disposed of, and will be MARKED DOWN FOR QUICK

SELLING--To profit by these "TRULY BARGAINS" you must visit our store often, as every day will bring forth new bargains.

\$21.00 Ladies' Suits	.....\$12.45	\$13.00 Ladies' or Misses Coats	.....\$7.45
\$22.50 Ladies' Suits	.....\$11.25	\$12.50 Ladies' or Misses Coats	.....\$6.20
\$20.00 Ladies' Suits	.....\$9.95	\$10.00 Ladies' or Misses Coats	.....\$4.95
\$12.00 Ladies' Suits	.....\$7.45	\$7.50 Ladies' or Misses Coats	.....\$3.70
\$10, \$12.50, \$14.50 Ladies' Suits	.....\$4.25	\$5.00 Misses and Childs' Coats	.....\$2.45

400 Boxes Andrew Jergen's 25c Toilet Soaps 9c This Week, per box

\$3.00 to \$4.50 Boys' Overcoats	.....\$1.45	\$1.25 Ladies' heavy Outing Flannel Waists, this week	.....25c
50c to 65c Boys' Shirts	.....25c	25c to 35c Ladies' Collars	.....15c
Odd lot Boys' 25c and 35c Caps	.....9c	50c, 65c and 75c Ladies' Belts	.....25c
65c Boys' Outing Night Shirts	.....38c		

1c

10c Key Rings, this week
2 lamp wicks, this week
2 School Rulers, this week
2 bunches Wire Hair Pins

1c

The Fair
DEPARTMENT STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON

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 her with your prescriptions and for your drug wants; you will never care to change

HILL'S DRUG STORE

La Grande Oregon