

### La Grande Evening Observer

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CURREY BROTHERS,  
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS

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It is Labor.  
It is labor and to labor only, that man owes everything of exchangeable value. Labor is the talisman that has raised him from the condition of the savage; that has changed the desert and the forest into cultivated fields; that has covered the earth with cities; and the ocean with ships; that has given us plenty, comfort and elegance, instead of want, misery and barbarism.—J. Macculloch.

#### MAYOR JOHNS' POSITION.

A special dispatch to the Oregonian from Baker City, in case it reports Mayor Johns' position correctly, places him before the people generally, on a very low plane. Mayor Johns, like any other mayor, was elected to see that the laws were enforced. Mayor Johns is an attorney and a good one, whose life work has been the study of the law, and if he has not missed his calling, it should teach him if anything, to respect law, not pass up its enforcement in a cowardly manner, to a few ministers, which, if they did attempt to enforce the city ordinances of Baker City, would undoubtedly meet with their first opposition from Mayor Johns. Mayor Johns was recently a candidate for the office of governor of this state, but was defeated for the nomination, in fact was defeated in his own county by the late Harvey Brown, who was recently assassinated. Brown's campaign for governor was based entirely upon the enforcement of the law, backed further by a personality that had the nerve and record behind him of law enforcement.

If Mayor Johns is so flexible regarding so-called public sentiment, he might ponder over the result of the primaries two years ago and ascertain why Brown defeated him in his own county. Herewith is the dispatch that appeared in the Oregonian under a date line from Baker City: "The officials of Baker City and county are not taking any action in the fight that is being waged by the ministers of this city for civic righteousness, but are ready to abide by the decision of the people."

"Mayor Johns' position relative to the gambling question has been made plain to the people. It is the one upon which he stood at his election to the office of mayor and one which he still maintains as the chief executive of Baker City. At the time of Mayor Johns' election he was opposed by F. M. Saxton, who advocated a closed town and the enforcement of the laws of the state of Oregon as they related to Baker City."

"Mayor Johns thought at that time—three years ago—that the sentiment of the people of this city was for an open town, and it was with the understanding that the town would remain open that he was elected to office. Since that time Mayor Johns has always been ready and willing to obey the wishes of the people, and when they make known to him their desire to have gambling closed in Baker City he will enforce the law and comply with their wishes."

The first load of wheat rolled into Portland this week over the completed north bank line of the Northern Pacific railroad. This will be of no small benefit to both Oregon and

Washington, as it furnishes a through competing line. On the other hand, while riding down the Columbia river one cannot help but realize what a useless waste of money and energy was expended unnecessarily. In its broadest sense one line was sufficient to carry all the traffic and how much better the state of Oregon would have been had this money been invested in the construction of a road through the central portion of the state, which is today the largest territory in the United States without railroads and consequently no market. However, commerce and business connections often bring desired results from unexpected sources. The fact that the Northern Pacific has built into Portland may result in the central portion of the state securing relief much sooner than if this road was not in operation.

A little law with a little enforcement often makes many changes for the best. To illustrate, since the city ordinance became effective prohibiting the dumping of refuse into the streets and alleys, the old-time manure piles have long ceased to exist.

## ONLY FIFTEEN DAYS MORE

After receiving the report this morning of the men who visited Morgan lake, Manager Fred Housh, of the Grande Ronde Electric company, stated that unless a thaw came to their rescue, whereby the Cove plant could be operated, that the entire system would have to be shut down within the next 15 days. Last year at this time there was quite a stream flowing into the lake from Sheep creek, but that, in common with other creeks, is running but little water. Mr. Housh states that there is nothing in the report that Morgan lake is not holding the water and that a leak was the result of the present condition, that the increased business and load carried for the past season was what took the water, and the present winter was such that little if any water ran into the lake.

#### MARVELS OF THE NEW TRISCO.

City by the Bay Rising Proudly From Her Ruin.

"Walk up Market street in San Francisco, remain a while and then retract your steps and you can appreciate the great progress being made to rebuild the city which was practically ruined by fire less than two years ago," said Fred Russell, a lumber dealer of Dorena, Ore., at the Hotel Portland this morning, says the Portland Journal. Mr. Russell's home is in San Francisco, but his lumber mills are near Dorena.

"I was in San Francisco several days ago and marveled at the work of rehabilitation. For instance, on the new Palace hotel steel frames are being put into place so fast that one can see the structure grow over night."

"I was actually astonished at the rush of workmen and machinery. Seven huge derricks are used to assist the workmen in the construction of the steel work of this one building alone. At the present rate the Palace will be completed in a year or possibly 18 months. It is being erected on the same ground, but it is to be more of a skyscraper than the old hotel, which was known around the world."



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## JOINT INSTALLATION OF ARMY POST AND CORPS

Seated about a festal board loaded with such things as the old warhorse prayed for when he carried a musket and bled and fought for his flag in the rebellion, a large number of Grand Army men of Union county this noon commenced a day of feasting and joint installation of officers in the G. A. R. The W. R. C. was the hostess.

The occasion of officer installation has attracted several people from Union, among them State President Mrs. Cora Davis and General and Mrs. Al Goodbrod. Several other members of the two orders were present and enjoyed the hospitality of the local organizations.

Following the dinner came installation of officers in the Oliver P. Morton post and the Oliver P. Morton corps No. 27. In the G. A. R. department, installing officer General Goodbrod took charge of that department and the following officers were given their posts: Commander, I. W. Faulk; S. V., George Jacobs; J. V.,

William Thompson; Sergeant, G. W. Coleman; chaplain, W. F. Burnett; quartermaster sergeant, Frank Kilpatrick; officer of the day, G. W. Allen; officer of the guard, Moses Thompson; adjutant, J. W. Oliver.

In the corps, No. 27, Oliver P. Morton post, department of Oregon, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Goodbrod installed the following officers:

President, Mrs. Ellen H. Cross; S. V., Mrs. Orvella Shaw; J. V., Mrs. S. J. Faulk; secretary, Mrs. Anna Roesch; treasurer, Mrs. Rachel E. Worstell; conductor chaplain, Mrs. Mary C. Davis; conductor, Mrs. Violet Morgan; guard, Mrs. Anna Jones; assistant conductor, Mrs. Burnett; assistant guard, Mrs. A. Lawrence; patriotic instructor, Mrs. Jennie C. Currey; press correspondent, Mrs. Rachel E. Worstell; color bearers, No. 1, Mrs. Henrietta Thompson; No. 2, Mrs. Artie Coffey; No. 3, Susan Williamson; No. 4, Mrs. Ida M. Gore. The musician was not appointed.

the Dauphin county court Monday. One of the five conspiracy cases against Architect Joseph M. Huston, Contractor John H. Sanderson, Former Auditor General William P. Snyder, former State Treasurer William L. Mathues and James M. Shumaker, former superintendent of grounds and buildings, will be the first to be tried. A great array of legal talent has been engaged by the defense.

Graft Trials Next Week.  
Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 25.—Trial of the capitol graft cases will begin in

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#### Arrival and Departure of Trains at La Grande.

No. 1, westbound Portland Special, arrives 9:25 a. m.; departs, 9:30 a. m.  
No. 6, eastbound passenger, mail and express, arrives at 6:45 a. m.; departs 6:50 a. m.  
No. 2, eastbound Chicago Special, arrives 8:05 p. m.; departs, 8:10 p. m.  
No. 5, westbound passenger, mail and express, arrives 9:55 p. m.; departs, 10 p. m.

Elgin Branch.  
Leaves La Grande at 8 a. m. and arrives in La Grande at 5:30.