

La Grande Evening Observer

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SUBURB DESTROYED BY CONFLAGRATION

ROADS TO FIGHT ASSESSMENT TAX

DECLARE ASSESSMENT ON PUBLIC SERVICES TOO HIGH.

State Commissioner Learns That Railroads of the State of Washington Are Preparing to Fight Assessment Case—Declare Rate Is Not Equitable—Securing Data and Men to Testify in Courts When Legal Steps Are Taken.

Bellingham, Aug. 1.—That the railroads of Washington are collecting data and preparing for a bitter legal fight in the case of assessments of public service corporations, of which they are the most important, raised higher than they think is equitable by the board of state tax commissioners,

was the statement made today by State Tax Commissioner Frost. The Northern Pacific and Great Northern roads particularly, it is said, already have men in several parts of the state obtaining figures on the value of real estate from experts who can testify in the court.

A DEEP WELL.

E. W. Oliver Sinking on His Sandridge Farm—Down 250 Feet.

D. M. Hunt, is sinking an eight-inch well on the Sandridge farm of E. W. Oliver. The well is now down to a depth of 250 feet and they expect to go possibly 50 feet deeper before they quit. This well, like all of the other deep well in this section of the valley, goes through practically no gravel whatever, and the water rises within about seven feet of the surface.

Card of Thanks.

Mr. Volawinkel of Island City, wishes to thank his friends who so kindly helped to save his household goods from burning in the conflagration last night.

Business District of Island City Gutted by A \$120,000.00 Blaze

Smoldering Heaps of Coal All That Is Left of What Was Once A Thriving and Prosperous Little City

CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF LOSS IS \$120,000.

Island City's business district is a smoldering mass of ruins today. Last night one of the worst conflagrations in the history of the Grande Ronde valley consumed the heart of the prosperous suburb, leaving but a shell of residences and one business house. Many of the owners are absent from their homes, and a positive statement as to the amount of insurance carried by the respective losers cannot be gained. The most conservative statement of losses, compiled after interviews with as many of the owners as possible, follows:

Pioneer Flouring mill and entire stock	\$60,000.00
Island City M. & M. company implement house and stock	\$9,000.00
W. C. Perry's store and stock	1,200.00
Joseph Perry's residence	1,200.00
Robert Smith's butcher shop, building and stock	700.00
Lee Umphrey's store building	1,000.00
Saloon building and part of contents	600.00
Lindsey Amusement hall	1,500.00
Bear's hotel (a landmark of Union county)	2,000.00
Oswald's barn and outbuildings	400.00
Building and residence occupied by Ed Clark	1,000.00
Lee Childers' residence, (household goods saved)	700.00
Other outbuildings, and loss to telephone companies	1,400.00
Grand total loss, approximately	\$120,000.00

The demon fire destroyed more property when Island City was laid low in ashes last night than in any previous conflagration in Union county.

The fire started in the general merchandise store of W. C. Perry, about 11:15. Everything was so dry that it spread rapidly and it was only a few moments until the flames leaped from

one building to another, until both sides of Main street was one wild, roaring mass of flames. It required only a few moments from the time the mammoth implement house of the M. & M. company caught, until the big Pioneer flouring mill ignited. These created such intense heat that it was only a matter of a few seconds until the Smith meat market, Lindsey hall and the hotel, were ablaze.

There was a stiff breeze blowing at the time and owing to the fact that a fuse immediately blew out at the pumping station, it was impossible to get water.

La Grande was appealed to for aid and a special train carrying two hose carts and fifty or more firemen and citizens, responded, but outside of assisting in removing the furniture from residences in the danger zone of the fire, they could do but little.

Heroic work by the bucket brigade did prevent the destruction of the blacksmith shop of Garrity & Brown, also the residence of Wes Walters.

The home of Joe Perry, with much of the contents, was burned, entailing a loss of not less than \$1200, with insurance of \$800. The home occupied by Will Clark, was another residence consumed by the fiery element. The building was owned by the M. & M. company. The household goods were saved.

The Pioneer mill was insured for \$18,000, but as the books are all in the safe, which cannot be opened until it becomes cool, the entire amount of insurance cannot be ascertained. In addition to the mill and grain, 6000 barrels of flour were burned in warehouse No. 5, as well as a carload of barley, which was on the side track. In all, Kiddie Bros. estimate the loss at \$60,000.

Coming as it did at this season of the year, the company will lose the profits of this fine large mill for the next year.

Will Rebuild.

Ed Kiddie, one of the owners of the mill, was away with his family enjoying an outing on Catherine creek, and did not know a thing of the disaster until 7 o'clock this morning, and immediately left for Island City, arriving there about 9. After viewing the smoldering embers a few moments, he remarked that it would not be long until another mill would take the place of these red-hot ashes. This simply means that on the site where he has been twice wiped out by fire, that he will still soon be doing business at the old stand.

The M. & M. company is the next

largest financial loser. The large building, which was owned by the company, including the contents, consisting of agricultural implements, harness and saddles valued at \$35,000, is a loss. This company also owned other buildings destroyed which contained large stocks of furniture, building material, sash, doors and fruit jars. This week three carloads of harvesting goods were received and in fact, only partially unpacked. They think their insurance will be in the

Mrs. Fred Holmes, assisted by other lady friends, supplied hot coffee, which was appreciated by the fire fighters, along about 1:30 this morning.

Charles Lewis had a narrow escape in the M. & M. building, and Will Clark received an ugly gash by a door. He remained on the scene until after the fire had devoured everything that it could and then went to La Grande, where he had seven stitches taken in his cheek.



Pioneer Flouring Mill That was Burned Six Years Ago. Occupied Same Site as the New One Did.



Pioneer Flouring Mill as it Looked Before the Fire.

half their loss. Another loss which they will suffer is the loss of goods at this busy season of the year.

Six years ago fire destroyed the implement house of the M. & M. company, also the Pioneer flouring mill, but the ashes were not cold until both sites were occupied by more substantial structures than their predecessors.

It was a scene of sorrow and gloom as the many scores of La Grande people viewed the streets of Island City today. For a number of years the commercial and social relations between La Grande and Island City have been so interwoven with friendship and good will, that the two towns have practically been one, and it is with the deepest sorrow that La Grande views the wanton destruction of so much valuable property.

For a time it looked as though the general store of the M. & M. company would be the next to go, but the wind kept the heat and flames away, so it could be protected. It did catch once or twice.

Early this morning there was activity among the several crews of linemen representing the Grande Ronde Electric company, the Pacific States Telephone company and the Home Independent company. The last named company soon had a 'phone fastened to a post taking care of its business.

Acceptance Speech Nearly Done.

Lincoln, Aug. 1.—Bryan today confirmed the report that he will reply to Van Cleave's circular. Bryan's speech of acceptance is being transcribed today and will soon be in completed form.

Cool, Comfortable Hot Weather Necessaries AT MOST ATTRACTIVE PRICES

Men's Wear Section

Men's "Porous Knit" Underwear

Just what the name indicates. Open knit underwear, giving the maximum comfort. Shirts made with short sleeves; most sanitary and comfortable; regular 75c values; here at 65c per garment; the suit\$1.25

Men's White Gauze Underwear.

Athletic Shirts, Knickerbocker Drawers, made from fine white combed yarns; hot weather comfort in fullest measure; per garment, 65c; the suit\$1.25

75c French Balbriggan Underwear, fine combed yarns, silk finish; natural Balbriggan collars; special, now53c

Men's Comfortable Shirts 38c up

In Golf and Negligee Shirts, in Percale, Madras, Mercerized Cotton, Mohair, Pongee Silks, and fine lightweight Flannel; regular prices 75c up; special now38c up

Ladies' Wear Section

Ladies Shirt Waist Suits

In white and colors, made from fancy ginghams, Batistes, Indianhead Muslins and "Hyde" grade Galatia Cloths, all at special saving in price\$2.50 up

Kimono and Dressing Saques

In dainty Lawns and Dimities, in Japanese and Empire styles, long and short, all at a saving of from 20 to 30 per cent.

Ladies' Summer Vests

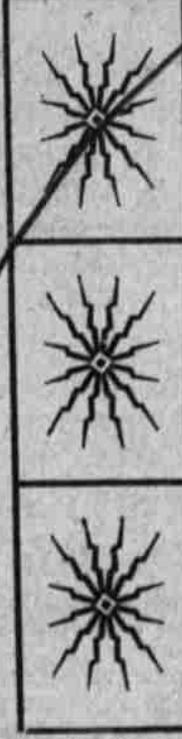
In Cotton, Lisle and Silk, Jersey and Swiss ribbed, in gauze and medium weights, with and without sleeves; plain and lace-trimmed, 15c, and all intermediate prices up to\$1.50

65c Ladies' Umbrella Pants 50c

In the "Get-Snug" style, lace-trimmed; special Fair Store price50c

\$1.00 to \$2.25 Ladies Waists 68c

In white only, in Lawn and Lisle, plain and embroidered fronts. Only a few, slightly mused and soiled; to close out—just the thing for vacation wear68c



Boys' Canvas Shoes - 95c
Men's Canvas Oxf's - 60c up
Boys' Canvas Oxf's - 50c
Ladies White Duck Oxfords - \$1.29 up

The Fair
DEPARTMENT STORE

Take a Little Soda For Your Stomach's Sake

This Advice Certainly Holds Good with Everyone This Sort of Weather

Soda served at our fountain is more than a tasty thirst-quenching beverage. It is tonic and refreshing and every glass a strengthener for the stomach.

Our Soda is absolutely pure, strengthening, reviving, refreshing and healthful. It "lands direct" on the "dry" spot and quenches thirst as nothing else will, because we serve it at just the right temperature.

HILL'S DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON