

## READY SALE OF WATER BONDS

CITY WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE IN DISPOSING OF THEM.

A Cash Bid for Entire Block of Proposed Water Bonds Has Been Bid In—Company Wanted to Close Deal at Once—Other Bids in Hands of the Council is to Make Payment in Construction of the Project—Good Water Seems Assured.

La Grande will find ready sale for its \$150,000 bonds, which are to be issued at a near date. Though there has been a standing offer from the American Light & Traction company to purchase all the bonds at par, payment to be made in constructing the Beaver creek gravity water system for \$157,000, the special charter committee only met a cash proposition Saturday afternoon. The offer to buy the bonds at par for cash came from a Chicago firm through a Mr. Sutherland, who visited here Saturday, holding extended consultation with members of the council committee. He was so desirous of securing the bonds that he agreed to close the deal immediately, but this, of course, could not be done, as the bonds had not been advertised and the "railroading" would call down criticism for a "frame up" in the council, as it did last year. It is possible, of course, that the city will lose this buyer between now and the time the new charter is adopted by special election, and the bond issue details gone through. But such a condition is not likely to shape itself.

**Election This Month.**  
To all appearances, the special election will be held this month. Could the council have foreseen what the

supreme court would do in the Portland water case, it would have ordered the special election along with the general election. As eventually proved itself true, the supreme court ruled that 10 days' notice is sufficient in the case of a special election. As a result of this ruling, the council will next Wednesday evening, if the attorneys going over the proposed charter find it legally sound, order the special election at once, and it is believed the date will be set some time this month. The system of water, that is pure, cool and wholesome, will speedily be supplied La Grande.

## UNION COUNTY NINTH IN STATE

SCHOOL APPROPRIATION FOR THIS COUNTY IS \$4,787.20.

The Largest School Apportionment in the County of Union and the State at Large Made on August 1—The State is Growing as Evined by Report—Union County Stands Ninth of the Thirty-four Counties in the State.

According to the annual apportionment of the state irreducible school fund, which was made public by State Treasurer Steel last Saturday, Union county secures the highest school apportionment this year in its history. This is true all over the state, where an apportionment of \$3,787.20, Union county ranks as ninth in the state in matter of population of children in school age. The apportionment is based on the population, and each student of the state is given a per capita school apportionment.

(Continued on page 4.)

## HUNDREDS ARE DEAD, \$25,000,000 IN PROPERTY DESTROYED BY FIRE

SPOKANE AND CANADIAN CITIES COME TO AID OF SUFFERERS IN FERNIE FIRE.

Charred Bodies and Ruined Property Marks Path of a Fire Near Fernie, Which Got Beyond Control of Brush Burners and Completely Destroyed an Entire City—Need of Provisions and Tents—Homeless People Living in Open Air—Reports Say Fires Are Still Raging—Impossible to Learn Death List as Communications Are Impossible.

Terrible Disaster.  
Fernie, B. C., Aug. 2.—Seventy blocks of smouldering ashes mark the spot where stood a well built, thriving city of Fernie, with 6000 population. But 14 residences and one business house remain. Between 700 and 800 families are homeless. Twelve bodies have been recovered. It is feared 200 are missing.

The conflagration is the result of a brush fire which got beyond control last Saturday afternoon. Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 3.—It is variously estimated this morning that 170 were burned to death in the Fernie fire, and the property loss is placed at \$25,000,000. The figures are given by Thomas Biggs, secretary of the Fernie Miners' union. The towns of Hosmer and Michel, which were reported destroyed, are saved. Building were dynamited at Hosmer. Sixty men and four women camping in the lumber district five miles from Fernie, are surrounded by fire, and all are reported dead.

Sixty thousand dollars' worth of groceries have been distributed at Fernie. Hundreds are sleeping out of doors, many of them without covering. Constables have been sworn in to guard what is left of the town.

In Fernie, the Western Canada wholesale house, occupying a concrete building which was saved, has stored groceries which are being given to the unfortunates. This distribution is a blessing to the people. The house has been converted into a retail store. Orders are promptly delivered.

President Lindsey estimates the loss of the Crow's Nest Coal company at \$100,000. The Trites Food company's loss is \$250,000. A McDonald, wholesale, and the Crow's Nest Trading companies lost heavily. Relief committees have been organized.

**Fire Still Burning.**  
Winnipeg, Aug. 3.—Reports received over the railroad wires from points nearest the great Crow's Nest valley fire today, indicate that the flames are still roaring over the country, and that the damage will probably be greater than expected last night. It is estimated that the full amount of loss in the whole burned district will be \$25,000,000. The total loss of life is variously estimated at from 400 to 700. The suffering and destitution is horrible.

Acting Mayor Harvey has called a meeting of the board of control this morning.

Already subscriptions and a relief fund are rolling in. It is possible that a full extent of the loss of life and property will not be known for several days yet.

**Provisions Exhausted.**  
Nelson, B. C., Aug. 2.—A thousand refugees, the overflow from Cranbrook, arrived here this morning, most of them destitute. There is great difficulty in getting provisions here. The big Canadian cities have wired money.

**Loss is Appalling.**  
Spokane, Aug. 3.—A carload of provisions was sent from Spokane yesterday. Three thousand loaves of bread were sent this morning, the mayor and chamber of commerce responding quickly to appeals. Reports say that tents and bedding are also needed. A relief committee is swamped with contributions. Reports also say the towns of Olson and Sparwood are destroyed. The loss is appalling, but it is difficult to obtain figures and facts on account of wire interruption.

### WIRES UP SOON.

Special Crews Repairing Damages to Wires at Island City.

Ever since the conflagration at Island City, the linemen of the Home Independent and the Pacific Telephone companies have been at work straightening out the tangled mess of burned wires in the vicinity of the fire. Both companies report that all their wires will be in working order by tomorrow, due to exerted efforts by both firms. Men were kept at work all day yesterday.

Hundreds and hundreds of people viewed the ruins yesterday. From La Grande there were scores who walked out to the scene in the cool of the evening.

### WALLA WALLA MAKES GOOD.

Subscribes Liberally to Make Whitman the "Yale of the West."

Walla Walla, Aug. 2.—A canvass of the results of the ten days' campaign among business men of Walla Walla to raise \$200,000 with which to start a subscription of \$2,000,000 for the greater Whitman college, revealed the fact that there has been pledged by

the business men of this city \$120,000 up to date, while there yet remains \$20,000 to be raised. The committee assured Prof. A. W. Hendrick, who has charge of the work, that several who will give toward the cause have not yet been approached, and that the remaining amount will be raised with a few days more to work.

Among those who came to the rescue of the cause yesterday was Senator Levi Ankeny, who pledged \$10,000 for the new college, and promised to give more if it is needed. This subscription along with several other substantial gifts went a long way toward reaching the required sum.

## FIVE KILLED IN RENO LAST NIGHT

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION FOLLOW ELECTRIC STORM.

Terrific Electrical Disturbances and a Cloudburst Fills an Entire Valley Near Reno With Water—Several People Rescued—Cattle Washed Away—Dispatches From Other Sections About Indicate Heavy Damages Elsewhere.

Reno, Nev., Aug. 2.—A terrific electrical storm broke in Washoe county last night and left death and destruction in its wake. The extent of the damage is unknown, but it is thought that at least five were killed. There was a cloudburst of rain. Etta Pixley, daughter of a wealthy logging camp owner in Dog valley, was killed instantly by rushing water. The body was found at the bottom of a gulch. There were many thrilling rescues.

An unknown woman was also killed with Miss Pixley. The bodies were found together. A white cook and two Chinese were swept away. Their bodies have not been found. Twenty head of cattle and all the livestock of the valley were killed. The valley is full of water.

Miss Cicereau, daughter of a judge, of Verdi, was rescued from death by a laborer. She was swept away from the mountain pat and carried down stream, when she was pulled out.

News from Spanish gulch says the entire gulch is flooded by a cloudburst.

Hundreds of men are searching Dog valley for the bodies of the men supposed to have been caught in the flood. The valley is a scene of utter devastation. The only houses standing are on the hill, high up from where the flood occurred. Miss Pixley was a school teacher. Luke Smith, a laborer, is also dead. All told, five were killed, three of whom were Chinese.

### Stole Thousands in Stamps.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—After terrorizing the postmaster of a northern Michigan town for 10 years, stealing \$50,000 in stamps and money, George Ross and Franch Rocach were arrested today in a hut in the woods near Escanaba. Postal authorities found \$10,000 in stamps and postal orders in their possession.

## HARRIMAN LAUGHS AT TRAFFIC DREAM

HURRYING TO OREGON TO SPEND THE SUMMER.

In a Brief Interview "King" Harriman Says There Will Be No Abandonment of Traffic—Ocean Business Mostly a Dream, Anyway—Accompanied by Army of Operators and Stenographers and His Family—His Trip Purely Enjoyment.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—In an interview granted on his way to Oregon, E. H. Harriman declares there will be no abandonment of railroads, and that there will be no abandonment of railroads.

He was discussing a deal whereby a syndicate of bankers recently took up for \$5,000,000 about \$12,000,000 short time notes of the Wheeling & Lake Erie road, which belongs to the Gould system. He said:

"Anything done in this connection is not for the purpose of making money. It is bad business for a railroad to go into the hands of a receiver, so we try to prevent it whenever possible." Speaking about the oriental trade, he said:

"Oriental trade is largely sentimental. The hope of building up a large Asiatic trade through the Pacific coast ports was mostly a dream. It turned out, to a great extent, to be a fake. This is not my dream. I knew conditions from the start."

Mr. Harriman is accompanied by his family, telegraph operators, servants and stenographers.

### Merely on Pleasure Bent.

Guarded with utmost secrecy the Harriman special cars were at Evansville, a suburb, today. Officials of the Gould and Harriman lines are instructed not to give any information as to the movement of the special. Harriman remained in his car all night to avoid interviewers. He was driven to the general headquarters of the Harriman lines this morning, and held a conference with officials there. All he would say was: "This is not a business trip; just a vacation. Going to Oregon to ranch and along the Pacific coast where I have large interests."

### Castro May Respond.

Willemstad, Aug. 3.—Following the arrival here of the Dutch cruiser Golderland from LaGuayra, Venezuela, it is feared that President Castro is preparing to make a show of armed forces. News of an outbreak is hourly expected.

### Poison Drinking Water.

Los Angeles, Aug. 3.—Travelers arriving here from Mexico tell of an attempt to exterminate the entire population of a town Mexicala, near the border, by poisoning the water supply. Most of the dogs in the town died. Several persons drinking the water narrowly escaped death. Revolutionists are suspected and President Diaz has ordered wholesale arrests.

## Ladies' Dusters at Specially Reduced Prices This Week

DUSTERS in all the most popular and serviceable materials including mercerized cottons and real linen, made mostly in the large roomy auto styles which can be worn with the greatest comfort and without messing the most dainty waist—some made perfectly plain—others trimmed with straps and buttons others with trimmings on collars and cuffs of contrasting colors of the most pleasing sort. All at especially reduced prices this week.

\$2.50 Dusters for \$1.98; \$3.50 Dusters for \$2.79; \$5.00 Dusters for \$3.98

**\$7.50 Black Voile Skirts \$4.78**  
A shipment of these beautiful Skirts just received from New York a few days ago. The most superb values we have ever offered. Eleven-gore Skirts, with pleats and 2 1/2-inch satin band around bottom; choose this week for ..... \$4.78



**Ladies Dainty Embroidered Front White Lawn Waist \$1.75**  
With pleated fronts, short sleeves, lace edging on collar and cuffs. In all colors and all styles, with fancy and plain buckles, worth regularly up to \$1.25; choice for ..... 48c

Special Values in Cotton Blankets—Just the Thing to take for Your Camping Trip. Each 75c.

SUIT CASES at attractive prices, in all leather, matting and waterproof imitation leather; in large assortment; in prices from \$15.00 down to ..... \$2.50

MEN'S WORK SHIRTS, values up to 75c, now ..... 45c  
In light, dark, and medium colors; special this week, at each ..... 45c

Men's, boys and ladies' 50c  
Straw Hats, suitable for Outing wear ..... 35c  
75c to \$1.50 Straw and Cloth Hats, for, choice ..... 45c

Brays Canvas Shoes, Leather Soles - 95c  
Boys Canvas Oxfords, Rubber Soles - 50c  
Ladies White Duck Oxfords - \$1.29 up



## 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