

# La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME VIII. LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1908. NUMBER 57.

## TRUE LIGHT ON ROBERTS AFFAIR

EXACT AMOUNT OF THE SHORTAGE STILL UNKNOWN

Investigation and Probing of Local Land Office Books By Experts is the Result of Roberts Calling Expert Here—Has Thousands to Meet the Shortage With—Has Not Been Drinking—A Physical and Mental Wreck—Publicity Over-estimated.

Once more La Grande's reputation has been stained with rumors of fraud on the part of a public official but this time, as far as The Observer is able to ascertain, the reports in circulation are over-estimated, and not a cent of money has been willfully purloined, nor is A. A. Roberts' character blackened by the combination of circumstances that point to his guilt. There is a shortage in the accounts of Receiver A. A. Roberts at the United States land office, but at this time the exact amount of it is unknown. Even the government expert, D. A. Dunning, has no definite idea of the funds involved, though it is placed at any figure between \$700 and \$1500. True enough, this figure may be far below the actual shortage, but it is not believed likely. Expert Dunning is still here and is reaching the end of his inspection as quickly as possible.

**Shortage is Covered.**  
That arrest and prosecution are to follow the self-willed discovery of a mixed state of affairs in the office books, is scoffed at here. At any rate, there are thousands of dollars now on hand to cover shortages as fast as they appear to the expert. When Mr. Roberts' private fortune of \$10,000 is exhausted, if such a thing should become a fact, then relatives worth three times that much will step to the front with aid. Thus far Mr. Roberts' own account alone has been called

upon.  
**The "Straight" Story.**  
Once again it is The Observer that throws the correct light on the sad mixture of facts and circumstances—as far as Mr. Roberts, the balance of the land office books, of which the inspector knows at this time. As usual, of course, the expert is badly handicapped when it comes to talking. He "knows nothing," he says, for he has not yet reached a solution.  
**Roberts Calls Inspector.**  
That which points most strikingly to the assertion that the entire fracas is the result of careless bookkeeping and not willful robbery, is the fact that Mr. Roberts called in the inspector as soon as he noticed a shortage. But before doing this he drew a private check to cover the deficit. It is pointed out that it would be the height of folly for Roberts to turn the inquiring eyes of the department on his shortcomings if he had stolen the money.  
**How it Happened.**  
When Roberts took the oath of office (Continued on page 8.)

## ATTEMPTS BANK HOLDUP AT ELLENSBURG, ALONE

NERVY ATTACK ON OFFICERS OF ELLENSBURG, WASH., BANK

Unmasked and Alone, Robber Demands Sacks of Money in Front of Cashier—That Individual Refuses—Bullet Fired, Injuring Cashier—A Posse is Pursuing Robber.

Ellensburg, Wash., Dec. 7.—A daring attempt was made by an unmasked bandit to hold up the First National Bank of this city this morning, shortly after opening of the doors. The bandit demanded the stacks of gold and silver in front of the assistant cashier, who refused it. The bandit fired a shot at him, the bullet piercing his arm. He escaped, waving his revolver. A posse is in pursuit of the man.

## BLAZE THREATENS HOTEL GUESTS

OREGON HOTEL AT PORTLAND HAS SERIOUS BLAZE SUNDAY.

Mr. and Mrs. Bramwell Have Narrow Escape From Asphyxiation in Oregon Hotel at Portland—Gripe About in Blackened Corridors—Many Wildly Excited—Mrs. Bramwell is Almost Overcome From Fumes—Loss Heavy—None of Guests Injured.

To be face to face with death from asphyxiation is the harrowing experience which Receiver and Mrs. F. C. Bramwell and family went through yesterday morning about 8 o'clock, when the corridors of the Oregon hotel in Portland, was suddenly converted into a veritable smokelack that for a time was so serious as to be extremely alarming. Mr. Bramwell was gasping for breath and Mrs. Bramwell was nearly exhausted when finally the party emerged in open air, following a few minutes' real danger in the smoke-filled halls and elevator shafts.

**Awakened by Shouts.**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bramwell were asleep in their room on the third floor of the Oregon, when shouts from the hall awoke them. Mr. Bramwell rushed to the door, feeling certain that fire was threatening their lives or else an insane person ran amuck in the corridors. When he opened the door it was to find a fellow-being groping about searching for a rope and calling for assistance. The corridor was filled to suffocation with a smoke that had the smell and effect on the throat of burning rags.  
A moment later the Portland fire department dashed up to the building and Mr. Bramwell was doubly sure that a blaze of a greater or less degree of severity was threatening the hostelry.  
Instructing his wife and child to dress quickly, Mr. Bramwell located the elevator shaft by reason of an intimate knowledge of his bearings, and called for the elevator. Throwing

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## CHAMBERLAIN TO SPEAK

Oregon, Washington and Bay State Aably Represented at Convention.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The national capital is this week to entertain more distinguished men than ever before in its history. Besides congress, the several great conventions with the improvement and conservation of natural resources as the general object in view. Taft presides tomorrow at a formal joint conservation conference, and Roosevelt will make the opening address. Governor Chamberlain speaks in behalf of the governors. Definite plans for the improvement of waterways and harbors on the Pacific coast will be urged on congress by the National Rivers and Harbors congress. Former Governor Pardee of California, Dr. N. G. Blalock of Walla Walla, Wash., and A. H. Devers of Oregon will present plans for the improvement of rivers and harbors in their regions.

## LAST SESSION OF 60TH CONGRESS

HOUSE AND SENATE CONVENED AT 12 O'CLOCK.

About 10 Senators Are Sitting for the Last Time—Slight Pause in Hilarity When Death Vacancies Are Called Attention to—221 Republicans and 168 Democrats in the House—Senate Largely Republican—Hale Pronounces Prayer.

**Salient Points.**  
Session—Final of 60th.  
Opens December 7.  
Closes March 4.  
Senate—Republicans, 61; Democrats, 31. Total, 92.  
House—Republican, 221; Democrats, 168; vacancies, 2. Total, 391.

Washington, Dec. 7.—With a series of resounding whacks of a mahogany mallet wielded by Uncle Joe Cannon and three gentle taps of an ivory gavel in the hands of Vice-President Fairbanks the house and senate opened today for the final session of the 60th congress. Whereupon the solons formally got ready for the business of deciding how Uncle Sam may best spend a billion odd dollars next year. An hour before the beginning of the session the galleries were packed. A large majority of spectators were women, and they were arrayed in the latest fashions. Their presence and their finery were due to the fact that custom has made the capital on opening days of congress, a show place.

At least ten senators are starting today on their last term of duty. On the other hand there are nearly twice as many who are receiving congratulations on the apparently sure indications that they would be re-elected or upon the accomplished fact. Amid all the handshaking, the exchange of congratulations or of condolence, it was evident that the senators felt death keenly of one of their number. This was brought prominently to their attention later when a resolution was offered and adopted in memory of late Senator William B. Allison of Iowa. Those senators who are probably beginning their last terms today are Ankeny of Washington, Foraker of Ohio, Fulton of Oregon, Hansborough of North Dakota, Hemmenway of Indiana, Kirtidge of South Dakota, Long of Kansas, McCreary of Kentucky, Platt of New York, and Teller of Colorado.

Those whose re-election has already been accomplished or seem sure, are: Brandagee of Connecticut, Clarke of Arkansas, Clay of Georgia, Dillingham of Vermont, Gallinger of New Hampshire, Gore of Oklahoma, Heyburn of Idaho, Hopkins of Illinois, Lattimer of South Carolina, McInerney of Louisiana, Newlands of Nevada, Overman of North Carolina, Penrose of Pennsylvania, Smoot of Utah, Stevenson of Wisconsin, Stone of Missouri. The latter and Brandagee have a fight on their hands. Vice-President Fairbanks, who will retire March 4, was early on the scene. He was all urbanity and smiles. After the opening prayer by the venerable chaplain, Edward Ever-

ett Hale, and the roll call, the three customary resolutions which mark the beginning of a new session, were adopted.

The first fixed the hour of daily meetings at noon. The second directed that the senate was in session, and the third authorized the vice-president to appoint a committee to join the committee appointed by the house to notify the president that the congress was ready to receive any message he might wish to send.

Senator Dolliver then rose. In simple words he depicted the grief which he and the other members of the Iowa delegation felt at the death of his colleague. He offered a resolution expressing the deep sense of the senate in the loss that it had sustained. The senate adopted the resolution and adjourned until tomorrow.

Governor Albert B. Cummins of Iowa, the chosen successor of the late Senator Allison, will probably be sworn in at tomorrow's session. Scores (Continued on page 8.)

## ROOSEVELT TOUCHES BUTTON AND SHOW IS ON

FIVE MILLION DOLLARS REPRESENTED BY DISPLAY

Great Event From Apple Growers' Viewpoint, is Now in Full Swing at Spokane—Button at Washington Opens Affair—Hood River is Not Represented in Display.

Spokane, Dec. 7.—The National Apple Show opened in this city today at 10:30, by President Roosevelt touching the button at the White House. Louis W. Hill made a formal opening address, followed by Mayor Moore and F. E. Goodall, president of the chamber of commerce. Five million dollars in fruit are displayed. Hood River, the famous, is not represented in the display, due to a disagreement over points in grading. Hood River had a splendid exhibit ready for shipment, but withdrew it on learning of the adopted basis for scoring.

Fruitgrowers from the Pacific northwest especially, are pouring into Spokane to attend at least a portion of the feature meetings. Fountain pens, the very best made. They will make useful Christmas presents and can be had at Silverthorn & Mack's.

## FIRST PEEP AT THE COMING ERA

FIRST STEP OF GREATEST BOON WAS TAKEN TODAY.

What Can Conservatively Be Called the Greatest Transpiration to Take Place in Union County Since Man First Trod Here, is Recorded This Morning—Preliminary Survey Now Being Run—Tripled Wealth and Population the Goal.

The first real step toward the goal that means tripled population of the city of La Grande, tripled and even quadrupled wealth in the valley, the first step that means the breaking up of large land holdings through the semi-arid sections of Grande Ronde valley and substituting for mediocre wheat fields, money-making orchards—all within a brief period of time—was taken this morning when Engineer Pickler and his assistants commenced the survey of the big water ditch.

In a casual manner, farmers look, in some instances, on the coming of the great ditches conveying the life-giving fluid to the dry land and water-needy products of the soil, as something worth while, all right, but hardly up to the standard claimed by the more optimistic promoters. But nothing of greater consequence has ever happened in this county in all its history of rapid development from a barren plain to its present stage of progress that holds a comparison to the commencement of the preliminary survey this morning.

Inquiries come from afar: "Are you going to land the irrigation project?" To such as these it can be answered "Yes," with all the fervor of certainty. When the preliminary lines are run, things will liven up everywhere.

**Committee Out Today.**  
Simultaneously with the commencement of the survey work, the soliciting committee started out after the last half of the 20,000 acres of land required. That they will come back in a month with all, or practically all of it subscribed, is a foregone conclusion for the populace is now waking up to what it means. With the proposed irrigation a reality, La Grande and Union county is on the doorstep of a new era—an era of prosperity such as no nook or corner of the northwest can duplicate.

## MINERS' HEAD ANGRY AT HIS ENEMIES

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 7.—Characterizing his enemies as character assassins, and declaring them the worst enemies of the labor movement, President Lewis of the United Mine-workers of America, in a statement today taunted the press, and announced his intention of exposing them before the delegates at the next national convention. He says he will not at the present name the ones to whom he refers, but the masks will be torn off at the next convention. He says: "Too much time is spent in building up the miners' organization to permit selfish, prejudiced, personal enemies to destroy it. The mineworkers will know the facts in due time. Those attempting to injure my name and reputation will pay the penalty."

## THE WAY OF CURING PAIN

First: Drug it away; Second: Coax it away by the application of heat. Heat relieves almost any pain, and when it will answer it is the better remedy. Every home should contain a

### HOT WATER BOTTLE

Heat can then be applied anywhere, at any time and in the most effective manner. If the bottle be wrapped in a woolen cloth it will remain hot for hours. There are few things a home can contain that will be more useful than this modern convenience. Those we have are made of the highest quality of Para Rubber, will last for years and cost but little

Newlin Drug Co.  
La Grande, Ore.

# ARRIVED

Our Full Line of New Dolls, Toys and novelty Xmas goods Will be on Display Tomorrow

FAIR STORE  
"Satisfaction or Your Money Back"

## W. G. PEACH, PIONEER, SUCCUMBS

W. G. Peach, a pioneer of the Grande Ronde valley, died this morning at 5 o'clock at his home near Island City, of Bright's disease, following a lingering illness of three years, but a more acute and painful sickness of three months. In his sickness, the county loses one of the hardy type of men who helped make Union county what it is, for he came here in 1873 and has made his continuous residence here since that time. In 1853 he came to California from his birth state, Vermont, and 20 years later moved to Union county.

His age at time of death, was 75 years, 1 month and 23 days. He leaves four children to mourn his death, his wife having died several years ago. The living children are: James and George Peach, Mrs. Mary Young and Mrs. Angie Van Tress. All of these except Mrs. Young, live here. Mrs. Young lives in Manitoba, Canada.

The funeral will be held Wednesday morning at 9:30 from the Peach home, and at 11 o'clock from the Island City church, with interment in the Peach cemetery near Island City.