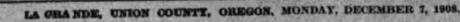
La Crande Zvening Observer

VOLUME VIII.



TRUE LICHT

EXACT AMOUNT OF THE

SHORTAGE STILL UNKNOWN

Investigation and Probing of Local **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 be-Heved 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 hand to cover shortages as fast as they appear to the expert. When Mr. Roberts' private fortune of \$10,000 is own account alone has been called pursuit of the man.

The "Straight" Story. Once again it is The Observer that BLAZE THREATENS LAST SESSION OF throws the correct light on the sad mixture of facts and circumstancesas far as Mr. Roberts, the balance of the land office torce, of even the inspector knows at this time. As usual, of coruse, the expert is badly handicapped when it comes to talking. He "knows nothing." he says, for he has not yet reached a solution.

Roberts Calis Inspector. That which points most strikingly to the assertion that the entire fracas is Land Office Books By Experts is the 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 of-(Continued on page 8.)

ATTEMPTS BANK HOLDUP

NERVY ATTACK ON OFFICERS

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

Ellensburg, Wash., Dec. 7 .- A daring attempt was made by an unmixed state of affairs in the office masked bandit to hold up the First books, is scoffed at here. At any rate, National Bank of this city this mornthere are thousands of dollars now on ing, shortly after opening of the doors. The bandit demanded the stacks of gold and silver in frant of exhausted, if such a thing should be- the assistant cashier, who refused it. come a fact, then relatives worth The bandit fired a shot at him, the three times that much will step to the bullet plercing his arm. He escaped, front with aid. Thus far Mr. Roberts' waving his revolver. A possee is in



HAS SERIOUS BLAZE SUNDAY.

Mr. and Mrs. Bramwell Have Narrow Escape From Asphyxiation in Oregon Hotel at Portland-Grope 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, 4 when the corridors of the Oregon ho- + tel in Portland, was suddenly converted into a veritable smokestack that + tal, 391. trmely alarming. Mr. Bramwell was gasping for breath and Mrs. Bramwell was nearly exhausted when finally the party emerged in open air, folthe smoke-filled halls and elevator

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 burnh: rags.

lepartment 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 alled for the elevator. Throwing (Continued from page 4.)

HOTEL CUESTS GOTH CONCRESS

HOUSE AND SENATE CON-

VENED 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, To-

Washington, Dec. 7 .--- With a series of resounding whacks of a mahog any 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 wo men, 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 to day 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 reelected or upon the accomplished fact. Amid all the handshaking, the ex-

dolence, it was evident that the senators felt death keenly of one of their scoring. number. This was brought promi-

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 "anorstan sides" is "horap" the dropper that the senate was in session, and the third authorized the vice-president to appoint a committee to join the 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 te 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 lows, the chosen successor of the late Senator Allinson, 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 change of congratulations or of con- ready for shipment, but withdrew it on learning of the adopted basis for

Fruitgrowers from the Pacific



NUMBER 57.

FIRST STEP OF GREATEST BOON WAS TAKEN TODAY.

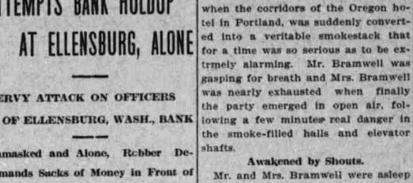
What Can Conservatively Be Called the Greatest Transpiration to Take Place in Union County Since Man First Trod Here, is Recorded This Morning-Preliminary Survey Now Being Run-Ttripled Wealth Population the Goal.

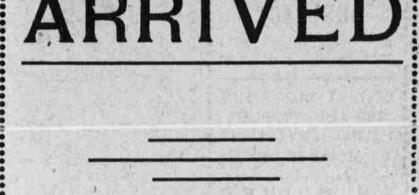
The first real step toward the goal that means tripled population of the city of La Grande, tripled and even quadrupled wealth in the valley, the first step that means the breaking up of large land holdings through the semi-arid sections of Grande Ronde valley and substituting for mediocre wheat fields, money-making orchards -all within a brief period of timewas taken this morning when Englneer 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 comarison 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





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



CHAMBERLAIN TO SPEAK.

Oregon, Washington and Bay State Ably Represented at Convention.

Dakota, Long of Kansas, McCreary of Washington, Dec. 7 .--- The national capital is this week to entertain more distinguished men than ever before in Teller of Colorado. Those whose re-election has already its history. Besides congress, the sevbeen accomplished or seem sure, are: eral great conventions with the improvement and conservation of natur- Brandagee of Connecticut, Clarke of i resources as the general object in Arkansas, Clay of Georgia, Dilling-Taft presides tomorrow at a ham of Vermont, Gallinger of New formal joint conservation conference, Hampshire, Gore of Oklahoma, Heyand Roosevelt will make the opening burn of Idaho, Hopkins of Illinois, Governor Chamberlain Lattimer of South Carolina, McIneraddress. speaks in behalf of the governors, ny of Louisiana, Newlands of Neva-Definite plans for the improvement da, Overman of North Carolina, Penof waterways and harbors on the Pa- rose of Pennsylvania, Smoot of Utah. cific coast will be urged on congress Stevenson of Wisconsin, Stone of Misby the National Rivers and Harbors souri. The latter and Brandagee have congress. Former Governor Pardee a fight on their hands.

of California, Dr. N. G. Blalock of Vice-President Fairbanks, who will Walla Walla, Wash., and A. H. Devers retire March 4, was early on the of Oregon will present plans for the scene. He was all urbanity and improvement of rivers and harbors in smiles. After the opening prayer by the venerable chaplain, Edward Evertheir regions.



His age at time of death, was 75 W. G. Peach, a ploneer of the Grande Ronde valley, died this morn- years, 1 month and 23 days. He ing at 5 o'clock at his home near Is- leaves four children to mourn his land City, of Bright's disease, follow- death, his wife having find several ing a lingering illness of three years, years ago. The living children are: but a more acute and painful sickness James and George Peach, Mrs. Mary of three months. In his demise, the Young and Mrs. Angle Van Tress. All county loses one of the hardy type of of these except Mrs. Young, live here, men who helped make Union county Mrs. Young lives in Manitoba, Canawhat it is, for he came here in 1873 da.

and has made his continuous residence The funeral will be held Wednesday here since that time. In 1853 he came morning at 9:30 from the Peach home, and at 11 o'clock from the Isto California from his birth state, Vermont, and 20 years later moved to land City clurch, with interment in the Peach cemetery near Island City.

nently to their attention later when a northwest espeically, are pouring into Spokane to attend at least a portion resolution was offered and adopted in memory of late Senator William B. of the feature meetings.

Allinson of Iowa. Those senators who are probably beginning their last terms Fountain pens, the very best made. today are Ankeny of Washington, For-

aker of Ohio, Fulton of Oregon, Hansborough of North Dakota, Hemmen-Mack's.

vay of Indiana, Kittridge of South

Kentucky, Platt of New York, and

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 7 .- Char- the present name the ones to whom acterizing his enemies as character he refers, but the masks will be torn assassins, and declaring them the off at the next convention. He says: worst enemies of the labor movement, ' "Too much time is spent in build-President Lewis of the United Mine- ing up the miners' organization to perworkers of America, in a statement mit selfish, prejudiced, personal enctoday taunted the press, and announc- mies to destroy it. The mineworkers ed his intention of exposing them be- will know the facts in due time. Those fore the delegates at the next nation- attempting to injure my name' and al convention. He says he will not at reputation will pay the penalty."

THE WAY OF CURING

First: Drug it away; Second: Coax it away by the application of heat. Heat relieves almost any pain, a d 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 lost for years and cos but little



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 They will make useful Christmas pres- new era-an era of prosperity such as ents and can be had at Silverthorn & no nook or corner of the northwest can duplicate.