

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## DEMANDS GOVERNMENT LIBEL SUIT AGAINST PULITZER

Washington, Dec. 15.—Asking that the government prosecute Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York World, for libel upon the ground that the good name of the United States in connection with charges of fraud in the purchase of the Panama canal, Roosevelt today sent a vigorously worded special message to congress. He transmitted all records and papers concerning the deal. The message says:

"In view of the constant reiteration of association of corrupt action with the government in the acquisition of the Panama canal, I deem it wise to submit to congress all the information I have. The stories first brought to my attention, as published in the Indianapolis News, are scurrilous, libelous and false.

"Delavan Smith, publisher of the Indianapolis News, shelters himself behind the excuse that he accepted the statements of the World. The real offender is Pulitzer. The great injury

is blackening the good name of the American people. It should not be left for a private citizen like Pulitzer to do with as he pleases. He should be prosecuted for libel by the government.

"It is idle to say that the known character of Pulitzer and his paper is such that statements in his paper should be believed by nobody, but unfortunately there are thousands who believe the statements they see printed, even though they are in Pulitzer's paper. Congressmen are actually induced to introduce a resolution with reference to these charges."

The president then quoted the specific charges as published, bringing in the name of Charles Taft, a brother of the president-elect; Douglas Robinson, a brother-in-law of the president.

The message continued: "The statements sometimes occurred in the editorial columns and sometimes in the news columns; they were false in every particular from beginning to

end. The wickedness of the slanders are surpassed only by their fatuity. The inventor of the Taft story evidently supposed that Taft was secretary of war during some period of the Panama purchase. He did not become secretary until after the transaction was closed. Inventor Robinson did not take the trouble to ascertain if he was connected in any way or phase of the deal. No shadow of proof can be produced to support the stories. They consist of strong, infamous libels. In form they are in part libels of individuals—Robinson and Taft for instance, but in fact, they are libels upon the government. It is a high national duty to bring Pulitzer, who only seeks to connect the government with the wrongdoings, of the basest and foulest kind, to justice. The attorney general is considering the form of prosecution."

The remainder of the message is devoted to a description of the methods of purchasing the canal.

## OFFICER GIVEN TWO-YEAR TERM

NOT NATURALLY A BAD MAN, BELIEVES THE COURT.

Man Who Stole a Watch From Inmate of Redlight District, Gets Two Years—Was Brought From the South on a Charge That Later Was Dismissed as Insufficient—Will Appeal Case to the Supreme Court at Once—Stay in Commitment.

Two years in the penitentiary at Salem for stealing a watch from an inmate of the restricted district, is the fate which was meted out to James B.

Officer, erstwhile deliveryman for the Cherry Laundry in this city. Calmly enough, Officer was given his sentence today noon by Judge J. W. Knowles. He was immediately remanded to the custody of the sheriff and taken back to his cell.

Character Good in the Past. "There are several other indictments against you," said the court, when Officer stood up to receive sentence, "but this court cannot consider them. I believe the jury was justified in finding you guilty, on the evidence produced. But as a man before the crime was committed, the court has known you intimately for some time. He has known that you worked for a small compensation at an honest vocation." Further, the court pointed out how Officer was, to all appearances, an exemplary man, but might at the time of committing this specific crime, have had intentions of committing a crime. But such a supposition would have no bearing on the case in this instance of pronouncing sentence. "It is deemed

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## SANDRIDGE LAND IS NOT FOR SALE

BIG SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE SECURED THERE MONDAY.

Land Prices Shoot Up and No Sales Are Made—Half-Hearted Interest Evident Before by Sandridge Farmers Disappears for Sharp Rush for Water Rights—Scattering Tracts Can Be Had, But Great Bulk Stands at \$100 Per Acre Already.

Sandridge land is not for sale. A short time ago land, the best there was, could be had for \$50 at the most, but now there is very little if any for

sale. One piece of land that is known of, could be purchased at \$75 per acre but the owner is not particularly anxious to sell even at that figure. The general price is \$100 per acre. Local real estate men who have dealings out there, say that the owners are holding back in anticipation of the coming irrigation ditch. They refuse to sell at any reasonable figure.

Subscribe Liberally.

Not only are the men holding back from a standpoint of land sales, but the Sandridge farmers are holding their land for water. They are subscribing liberally. The first day Mr. McKennon—who, by the way, is the great subscription getter of the county—was discouraged with the result of his canvass, but yesterday he was out again and this morning said his most sanguine hopes had been weak. The subscriptions secured were both liberal and large. The farmers want the water badly and are taking anywhere from 10 to 50 acres of water rights.

Since it has become known that the entire Sandridge country can be watered, there has been new vim in the irrigation proposition. In the past, the land owners were not certain that the ditch would be satisfactory.

## IRRIGATION SOLE TOPIC AT BAKER

LA GRANDE'S DELEGATION TO ABSORB ALL POSSIBLE.

Congress of Oregon State Irrigation Association Convenes in Baker City This Afternoon—Prominent Men From Many Phases of Irrigation to Speak—La Grande's Irrigation Boosters Among the Number—More Will Go Tonight From Here.

La Grande's delegation to the state irrigation congress at Baker City, took its departure this morning and will be augmented in numbers tonight by others who are desirous of going, but could not leave this morning.

Union county, itself so much in need of new ideas along irrigation lines, just at this time, has sent a set of delegates who will absorb as much of the learned addresses as any set of men could, and when they return, it will be to tell their fellow citizens of what was done at the great congress now in session. Among those to go this morning were J. D. McKennon, J. E. Reynolds, J. M. Berry and Turner Oliver. Others will go tonight.

The Congress Program.

Baker City, Dec. 15.—Today, at 2 p. m., in Elks' hall, the Oregon irrigation congress convened in one of the most important sessions that has ever been held in this state. There was in attendance a number of the very best informed men in the state of Oregon, as well as from neighboring states, who will take part in the proceedings and elucidate the great value of irrigation products in Oregon.

The program for the congress is: "The Conservation Movement," Hon. Stephen A. Lowell.

"Irrigation in Western Oregon," A. P. Stover, United States Department of Agriculture.

"Forestry," E. T. Allen, chief instructor forest reserve.

"Hydrographic Survey and State Cooperation," J. C. Stevens, United States geological survey.

"Irrigation a Factor in the Development of Oregon," Dr. James Withycombe, Oregon experiment station.

"Irrigation Development and Future Possibilities in Baker County," J. A. Smith.

"The Work of the Reclamation Service in Oregon," D. C. Henry, supervising engineer, reclamation service.

"A Comparison of the Wyoming and Idaho Systems of Adjusting Water Rights," Clarence J. Johnston of Wyoming.

"Investments Discouraged Through the Inadequacy of Present Water Laws," John H. Lewis, state engineer.

## FIND BODY OF CHIEF OF POLICE BIGGY NEAR GOAT ISLAND

PASSING BOAT DISCOVERS REMAINS FLOATING ON SURFACE OF THE BAY AND GAVE THE ALARM.

Chief of Police Actually Suicided—Theory of Hiding is Dispelled by the Discovery Today of Body, Badly Decomposed—Has Been in the Water Since November 30, When Prosecution of Police Department Seemed an Assured Fact—Towed Ashore.

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—The body of Chief of Police Biggy, lost from the police patrol boat on the night of November 30, was found today in the bay near Goat Island.

As soon as the Key Route ferry boat from which the body was sighted, arrived at the slip, the police were notified. Sergeant James Donovan went out in a launch and towed the body to the foot of Mission street, where it remained in the water until the coroner's deputies arrived.

By this discovery today is dispelled all doubt that the chief of police is not dead, but alive and in hiding. His suicide followed the threatened prosecution of the police department for not protecting Haas, the would-be assassin of Francis J. Heney.

The remains were badly decomposed and extreme care was exercised in the handling, lest limbs be torn from the body.

It required little effort to positively identify the well known figure of San Francisco's former chief of police.

Biggy's hands were clasped behind

Negroes Combat White Plague.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 15.—Representative negroes from many parts of the country are assembled at Tuskegee Institute today, responding to the call of Dr. Booker T. Washington for a Negro congress for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. The International association has installed an extensive exhibit at the institute, which will remain open throughout the week.

Statistics are presented showing that the negro race is especially susceptible to the dread disease, and leading colored educators, physicians, clergymen and men of affairs will deliver addresses, in which they will attempt to rouse the colored people of the country to the necessity of beginning an active warfare against the plague. The program arranged for the six days of the conference and exhibition follows closely that of the International congress on Tuberculosis recently held in Washington.

After being out one hour and 45 minutes, the McCoy jury returned with a verdict of guilty as charged. As this is a crime of burglary in the night time, it is a serious offense, and the minimum sentence that can be imposed is five years in the state prison. Sentence will be read to McCoy at a nearby date.

At 1:30 this afternoon the case of Raymond McCoy, now singly accused of breaking into a house on First street and assaulting Mrs. Geytrup, the half-witted woman formerly living there with a half dozen children, in the most deplorable manner, was given to the 12 men who heard the evidence. Since yesterday McCoy has been alone, his two alleged companions having been dismissed on account of lack of evidence.

All morning the attorneys argued with the jury. C. H. Finn went over the testimony of the defense, pointing out the weak spots in the chain of evidence presented by the state, all tending, he said, to show that there was room for doubt in the story told by the little girl yesterday. The girl was the principal witness for the state, identifying McCoy positively, but not knowing the other joint defendants.

For the state District Attorney Ivanhoe addressed the jury. The court's instructions were read as soon as the afternoon session commenced, and the jurors withdrew for deliberation.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The president today nominated the following postmasters in Oregon: N. E. Chambers, Arleta; Charles W. Merrell, Bond; J. N. Baskett, Freewater; Edgar Hosletter, The Dalles; G. M. Richey, La Grande.

## RICHEY NOMINATED FOR OFFICE BY PRESIDENT

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## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SITE FOR THE FEDERAL BUILDING

In a long letter written and signed by Secretary Cortelyou of the treasury department at Washington, J. M. Berry is apprised of the fact that his bid for site for the federal postoffice building, has been selected. In addition to a large mass of other business details the epistle states that papers making the transfer of property will be made out at once. This settles for once and all the speculation as to where the postoffice building will be located. The first news of the selection came in a telegram to Turner Oliver last evening from a private attorney at Washington, but the advance news was today made official by the arrival of the letter from the department.

The Berry property is located at the angled corner of Fourth street and Adams avenue, where there is a street

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## Bargains in Ready-made Goods

Prices Cut in Two. Last of the seasons ready made goods must be closed out regardless of cost. Our stock is being reduced very rapidly

### Ladies' Suits

We have only a few ladies' Suits left to be closed out at ridiculously low prices.

- 1 \$15 black Serge goes at.....\$4.95
- 1 \$12.50 black Serge goes at.....\$2.35
- 1 \$25.00 black Cheviot goes at.....\$9.85
- 1 \$18.50 black Cheviot goes at.....\$9.85
- 1 \$47.50 brown stripe goes at.....\$28.85

### Millinery

All ladies' Trimmed Hats Half Price.

- \$10.00 Hats, to close, at.....\$5.00
- \$8.50 Hats, to close, at.....\$4.25
- \$6.50 Hats, to close, at.....\$3.25
- \$4.00 Hats, to close, at.....\$2.00
- \$2.00 Hats, to close, at.....\$1.00

### Ladies' Waists

- \$8.50 wool and silk Waist, reduced to.....\$4.35
- \$6.50 all-wool and silk Waists, reduced to.....\$2.95
- Wash Waists, lot 1, reduced to.....95c
- Wash Waists, lot reduced to.....\$1.95

### Misses' Coats

Our stock of Misses' Coats is very large and we have decided to make prices that will move them.

- Lot 1—Children's Coats, values to \$3.50, at.....\$1.00
- Lot 2—Misses' Coats, values to \$6.50, ages to 14 years.....\$2.85
- Lot 3—Misses' Coats, values to \$8.50, ages to 14 years.....\$4.85

### Ladies' Skirts

You know our reputation on the famous "Beverly Skirts." To buy these at the prices we are offering them is surely an inducement.

- Skirts, in value to \$5.00, to close \$1.95
- Skirts, in value to \$8.50, to close \$4.85
- Skirts, in value to \$12.50, to close at.....\$7.65

### Ladies' Coats

- Lot 1—Ladies' Coats, values to \$10.00.....\$2.50
  - Lot 2—Ladies' Coats, values to \$15.00.....\$4.85
- This is a reminder. If you want a coat, decide quickly.

# THE FAIR STORE

La Grande, Oregon.