

LOCAL ITEMS.

C. R. Hibberd, the Imbler real estate man and automobile merchant, is visiting La Grande friends today.

W. L. Salder and family are up from their valley farm today, transacting business with La Grande merchants.

A large number have joined the Thomas dancing school. The first lesson will be given Monday night.

Joel Richardson, a University of Oregon student, is home for the Christmas holidays.

Miss Hattie Short is home from McMinnville, where she is attending college. She will spend vacation with her parents here.

Manager Eccles, of the Pastime theater, will open a branch house at North Powder. Thomas Bruce has been employed as pianist there.

Misses Irene Murphy and Edna Wisler reached home this morning from Portland, where they have been attending school.

Julius Roesch is preparing for the natural ice harvest. He will have a force of men cutting ice from Dutch pond Monday morning.

Skating parties are the order of the day, and night, too, just at present. From all indications there is no danger of the ice giving way.

Miss Effie Baker of Summerville, arrived this afternoon and will be a guest of Miss Helen Currey during the holidays.

J. A. Thronson and family are in the city today. They came up from their Imbler fruit ranch in their 60-horse power automobile.

Miss Imogen Russell returned home from Walla Walla where she had been attending St. Paul's, to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Russell.

The cooked food sale held today under the management of the Ladies Aid society of the M. E. church was a most successful venture. The ladies netted a neat sum from their efforts.

The new calendars are being distributed today. Among those received at The Observer office today and which deserve special mention, are those of the La Grande National Bank and the Blue Mountain creamery.

M. Buchard, one of Union county's progressive farmers, was a La Grande visitor today. Mr. Buchard was accompanied to town by his wife and son, who took the time to make The Observer office a pleasant call.

Mrs. Gavin received a letter this morning from Portland, stating that her son James, is resting easy, and that the doctors are giving him encouragement in the belief that he will fully recover from his injuries.

The freight train crew which had charge of the train that yesterday morning luckily escaped a wreck due to a split wheel, may be discharged. They were put on the carpet this afternoon.

Loy Wisler met with an accident this afternoon while working with an Observer job press, which will cause him considerable pain, though it is not a dangerous hurt. Three fingers of the right hand were badly hurt, though no bones were broken.

There were more farmers' teams tied up to the hitching racks in La Grande than there has been for many weeks. It is therefore evident that the merchants are doing some Christmas business. Union county farmers have the money with which to buy holiday gifts.

Clyde Kiddle of Island City, is winning honors in Holmes Business college at Portland. In a class contest held the other day, he won first place in a group where students were entered who had been in college two months longer than he. The test was to take five letters in shorthand and transcribe them on the typewriter—neatness, accuracy and speed being considered. His mark was 99 out of a possible 100.

Ralph Russell celebrated his 13th birthday last evening at his home on Main avenue, in a joyful manner, by inviting about 20 of his little friends to help make the occasion a memorable one. All the games listed in a boy's category were played and delicious refreshments were served to round out the evening's pleasure. Late in the evening the boys departed agreeing that Ralph was a royal host.

**BALLINGER IS TIMBER.** Attorney Generalship is Food for Thought—Knox is Named. Washington, Dec. 19.—Much specu-

lation is indulged in today regarding the probable choice for attorney general by Taft, following the official announcement that Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, will be secretary of state. He will undoubtedly be picked from this list: Frank Kellogg, "trust buster"; Charles Nagel, of St. Louis; Henry M. Hoty, of Ohio, Taft's college mate; George W. Wickersham, of New York, and George Knight of California.

The authentic list of those considered for the commerce and labor portfolio includes William R. Wheeler of California, now assistant secretary under Secretary Straus; William Loeb, the president's secretary, and Judge Richard A. Ballinger, of Seattle.

**Dr. W. D. McMillan**  
**Painless Denistry**  
La Grande National Bank Bldg  
Both Phones

**Sentence Ruef Thursday.**  
San Francisco, Dec. 19.—Judge Lawler today postponed until Thursday, the sentencing of Abe Ruef, convicted of bribing Supervisor Furey. The court announced that Ruef's attorneys must take definite action in the meantime, as no further postponement will be allowed.

EDUCATIONAL TEST.

**Wants to Know Results of Modern Schooling.**

New York, Dec. 19.—Dr. Leon Elbert Landone, director of applied sciences and arts at Los Angeles, has announced today that \$100,000 has been placed in his hands by a wealthy New Yorker, to be used at the rate of \$10,000 yearly, to gather reports on the phase of school work which fosters executive ability in children rather than that which fills their heads with theoretical knowledge.

Castro Buys Rifles.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—After receiving a cablegram today announcing that Vice-President Vincente Gomez had declared himself president of Venezuela, President Castro opened negotiations for the purchase of 50,000 rifles and other munitions of war.

Annual Election.

All members of the A. F. & A. M. are hereby notified that the annual election of officers will be held this evening and a full attendance is desired.

A marriage license was issued today to D. W. Sanford and Miss Lottie Manger, both of Hilgard.

Andrew J. Wisdom, who has resided on Indian creek for several years, was adjudged insane today. He recently recovered from a severe attack of typhoid fever, which weakened his mind and it is quite possible that he will soon be restored to his usual condition.

CITIZENS ENJOIN.

**Eugene Citizens Object to Half Million Dollar Bond Issue.**

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 19.—Representative citizens of Eugene today filed an injunction to restrain the council from proceeding with the project to construct a power plant on the McKenzie river. Mayor J. D. Mallock is one of the defendants. Action follows the rebuke administered the council October 1 by voters in defeating the proposed half million dollar bond issue to finance the proposed Ritchey creek municipal gravity system.

Imbler Property

For sale by owner.  
Hotel and barn with 7 lots; price, \$2,000.  
Shop with 6 lots; price, \$400.  
6-room house, with 6 lots; price \$1000.  
3-room house with 3 lots; price \$700.  
For terms, call on or write

W. T. HARTLEY,  
Imbler, Ore.  
12-18-26t

CLUB GOES THROUGH.

**University Chappies Are at Baker Today—Here Monday.**

The University of Oregon Glee and Mandolin clubs passed through La Grande this morning en route to Baker City, where they give one of their popular performances before returning to La Grande Monday for their appearance here. The clubs are splendid ones this year and are capturing high praise wherever they go. It is conceded by the students themselves that the organization is much better than it was last year. The club members were joined here today by H. M. McKinney, the old-time football star in the university, who returned to his home this morning.

Knights of Pythias, Attention.

There will be work in the first and second rank Monday night, December 21. Members and visitors are urged to be present.

AFTER CONVERTS.

**Baker County "Anti" Man Spent Yesterday With Local Solons.**

Here for the purpose of converting local representatives-elect to the precepts of anti-statement No. 1, and going home without affirming his success one way or the other, is the sum and substance of the visit to La Grande yesterday by H. M. McKinney, erstwhile football star of the University of Oregon, but now an anti-statement member of the legislature from Baker county. He was here yesterday and feebly replied to a query as to his success here, that he had devoted all his time to argument with Turner Oliver (democrat) why Governor Geo. E. Chamberlain should not be elected United States senator.

SELF-CONFESSSED EMBEZZLER.

**City Official Admits Shortage and Threatens Suicide.**

Petaluma, Cal., Dec. 19.—E. C. Ward, for many years city marshal and ex officio tax collector, today confessed to having embezzled \$1300. He is almost a physical wreck and has threatened suicide. His friends are guarding him today.

Funeral Today.

The funeral of the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Crossen was held this afternoon from the family home on Cedar street. Rev. O. H. King, pastor of the Central Church of Christ, will officiate.

TOYS—TOYS—TOYS

Every nitch and corner of our immense store is crowded with toys. The ceiling shelves, tables, and floor are burdened with gifts to commemorate the greatest day in life. The day to breathe peace to every man, woman and child, and bring joy in every home has arrived again, only once in a year, why not be

HAPPY--HAPPY--HAPPY

Happiness does not come in receiving, but in giving. If you are blue, down cast and think no one cares for you, buy a few small presents for children or friends and see how light your heart will become and how bright the world will have grown and how easy it is to drive away life's cares. Of course the selection of these presents is of great moment to every person. To get the right present for John or Mary, one they will appreciate and one you can afford, is the greatest problem before you.

WITH OUR IMMENSE STOCK

At your disposal the selection of presents become a mere trifle and within the reach of all. We place presents from the greatest value to the mere toy at the LOWEST PRICE possible.

FREE ---SOUVENIRS --- FREE

Besides helping to make shopping a pleasure and to show our appreciation to our patrons, we are going to give absolutely FREE, 100 handsome souvenirs a day for one week commencing Saturday, December 19th. We limit these souvenirs to one in a family. Buy your Christmas Goods where you can get everything you want at the lowest price.

The Golden Rule Co.

Evening Observer Want Ads Pay

STEWARD'S OPERA HOUSE

2 NIGHTS 2

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23th and 24th  
THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA COMPANY

40 PEOPLE ON THE STAGE 40 Including Teddy Webb, Geo. Kimball, Evelyn Francis Kellog, Addie Sharpe, Ame Liester and A BIG BEAUTY CHORUS  
PRESENTING ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT SHUBERT BROS. JAPANESE-AMERICAN MUSICAL COMEDY

"Fantana"

The piece with remarkable record. Over on solid year in New York, six months in Chicago, five months in Boston  
COMEDY FROM START TO FINISH WITH 27 BIG MUSICAL NUMBERS  
ON THURSDAY NIGHT, CHRISTMAS EVE, H. C. CLINE'S TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH "LA PAUPEE" OR

"The Toymaker"

The finest Yule-tide opera ever written. It is one continuous lauga set to beautiful music

Both Operas Produced on a Scale of Spectacular Magnificence

PRICES: \$1.50; \$1.00; 75c and 50c. Seats on Sale, Mail orders filled in the order received

CHRISTMAS WILL SOON BE HERE

CHRISTMAS seems to be quite a long ways off and yet by the Calendar there are only 9 days more until Christmas will be here. That is not too far away for you to begin to do some hard thinking about holiday gifts and it is so much easier to make right selections when you have plenty of time. We have made all our holiday preparations and the stock is now ready for your inspection. We cordially invite you to call at your earliest possible convenience and as often as you can. In extent, variety and novelty far exceeds any other that will be seen in this locality and our prices are proportionally low. Any item on which a small payment has been made will, if you so desire, be laid aside for you. In case of duplication, gifts will be exchanged. We shall be pleased to be of assistance to you in any way.

NEWLIN BOOK & STATIONERY COMPANY