

La Grande Evening Observer

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LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1908.

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SPECIAL SESSION OF CITY COUNCIL

WATER PROJECT BONDS TO BE FULLY DISCUSSED.

Lethargy on Part of Chicago Bonding Company Relative to Further Action on Bonds, Worries Council—Water Committee Held Meeting Last Evening to Discuss Plans—Others Willing to Take Hand in Deal if Neuvanne Gets Out.

The city council is becoming impatient with the seemingly inattention to business as reflected by the action of John Neuvanne & Company of Chicago, who bid for the purchase of the \$150,000 Beaver creek water bonds. Members of the water committee held a session last night and after going over the matter thoroughly decided that they would recommend at the next meeting of the council that the matter of taking up the bonds must be acted upon immediately by the purchaser or the bid would be cancelled by the city.

Mayor M. K. Hall, upon learning of the action of the committee this morning, in order to facilitate matters, issued a call for a special meeting of the council for tomorrow evening to consider the bond question and all matters pertaining to the water proposition. Marshal Walden served the notices this forenoon.

The facts are that the purchasing company has done nothing aside from asking for a transcript of the records and after receiving notice that their bid had been accepted, Recorder Cox sent all of the information asked for, and after the voters adopted the new charter the recorder wired them that it had been carried. The council did

not expect that anything would be done until after the charter had been adopted, but since they have remained so painfully silent since the election, which took place November 24, the council has decided that the Chicago company must either take up the bonds or get out of the way.

It is more than probable that something will develop at the meeting tomorrow evening that will disclose that there are other companies who desire a chance at the bond issue.

Scotty Was Foolin'.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Walter Scott, better known as "Scotty," left here today for New York. He declares he was only joking when he entered a recruiting station for the marines recently, and announced his intention to enlist. He took the examination and then asked for a leave of absence to settle up his business affairs.

E. Stewart and Walter Zweifel have gone to the mountains to hunt deer.

WIDOW SEEN IN COURT ROOM

WIFE OF CAPTAIN ANNIS LISTENS TO TALE OF MURDERER

Flushing, L. I., Dec. 29.—Mrs. Annis, widow of William Annis, for whose murder Thornton Hains is on trial, and a number of members of the Bayside Yacht club, were in court when the trial was resumed this morning. Witness Tierney was confronted by Mrs. Annis when the hearing commenced. He said he did not see her at the time of the shooting. James Smy testified the actions of Captain Peter Hains were those of an "exceedingly eccentric person."

SOUTHERN ITALY DEVASTATION IS WORSE THAN FIRST THOUGHT

TOTAL DEATH LIST WILL TOUCH THE EIGHTY THOUSAND MARK, IS EARLY ESTIMATES.

Messina, Sicily, is the Center of Destruction—Looters Clash With Soldiers While They Try to Steal—Two Feet of Mud Covers Messina, Covering Many Unto Suffocation—Many Are Without Medical Care and Suffering From Injury and Hunger is Appalling—Terrible Conflagration Raging—Threatening to Destroy Cities Not Entirely Obliterated by Tidal Wave and Earthquake—America, England and France Coming to Aid of Sufferers With Subscriptions.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The complete destruction of Messina, a large seaport town of Sicily, with a population of 150,000, was today confirmed in an official dispatch to the Italian government. The dispatch fears Reggio, across the straits of Messina, is annihilated, and it is also feared most of the towns on the straits were destroyed.

Can't Check Fire.

The messages say the fire is spreading rapidly over Messina, with no means of checking the flames. A squadron of battleships left here today for Messina, which is the second city in Sicily. It was established by the pirates in the eighth century, B. C.

Take Refugees Away.

Railway communication into the stricken towns has been established. Transportation is confined to bringing in supplies, government troops, and taking out refugees. Dispatches indicate the city is doomed. Even if water is provided, there is no organization to fight. When they arrive at Messina, the battleships will be divided to patrol the coast of the devastated district.

A late edition of the Tribuna estimates the number of dead at between 67,000 and 75,000. It says twice that

many were injured and are suffering. A relief committee is rushing food, supplies and medicine stores to the stricken places. There is a fearful loss of lives and the suffering is appalling. Hundreds of thousands are homeless, most of them without food. The soldiers are doing good work. In nearly all the cities affected, orders to shoot looters are carried out. The heaviest damage was sustained by Messina, in Sicily, and Reggio in Calabria.

The destruction of Messina was more the result of a tidal wave than a quake, according to refugees arriving here. They say the dead is officially reported at Messina at 1800, but it is probable there are as many as 12,000.

No Medical Care for Wounded.

Cantanzaro, Italy, Dec. 29.—Reports this afternoon indicate that eight per cent of the cities of 25,000 inhabitants are either dead or wounded as the result of the quake. Martial law prevails. All supplies have been seized by soldiers and given to the sufferers.

Food is in great demand. Most of the survivors are camping in the open country about the town. Hundreds severely wounded, have received no medical attention.

Roosevelt Condoloes King.

Washington, Dec. 29.—President Roosevelt has cabled a message of condolence to the King of Italy. He said the Red Cross would issue an appeal for contributions.

Mud Covers City.

Naples, Dec. 29.—Twenty-five thousand deaths is the best estimate made today of the loss of lives by the earthquake and tidal wave, which devastated southern Italy and Sicily. King Emmanuel passed through the city today en route to Rome. The king received reports from Messina, saying the tidal wave left a two-foot layer of mud and slime over the city and scores were smothered.

Clash With Looters.

A clash between soldiers and looters

at Messina today resulted in many deaths.

The soldiers fired on the looters and drove them into the mountains. General Costa, who is also an archbishop and commander of the garrison at Messina, is among the dead.

Expanding Day Tideway.

Catania, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Signs of volcanic activity were noticed today at Mt. Aetna. It is feared an eruption is imminent.

Victims Under Ruins.

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Twelve thousand are dead at Messina, according to a report received here. It is feared hundreds are alive under the ruins and will be roasted.

French Ships to Messina.

Paris, Dec. 29.—France today ordered the battleships Justice and Verte, and three destroyers to proceed under forced draught to Messina.

New York Italians Donate.

New York, Dec. 29.—A benefit performance for the victims of the earth-

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POLICE STOPPED FIGHT TOO EARLY

BURNS ASSERTS HE COULD HAVE LICKED NEGRO IF PERMITTED

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—A friend here has received today a cablegram from Tommy Burns, the former heavyweight champion, defeated by Jack Johnson, the coon, in Sydney, Australia, saying the police stopped the fight at the suggestion of Johnson's seconds and affirms that Burns was still strong and could have won the fight.

The Burns cablegram says: "Sydney, Australia, Dec. 29.—Johnson's seconds influenced the police in stopping the contest. I was strong. I had a chance as Nelson did with Gans. Johnson was turning. The pictures will show everything. Am willing to fight Johnson again. Can beat him. Will arrive home in two months."

MINERS MISJUDGED.

Kentucky Miners' Leader Pleads for Justice by the Public.

Cincinnati, Dec. 29.—Berry Simpson, the alleged leader of the striking miners, at Stearns, Ky., who fought deputy sheriffs and United States marshals, in a letter to the United Press declares the miners are unjustly pictured. He says if the governor would investigate he would find "good citizens" guilty of crime instead of the miners.

Sentence Ruef at 4:30.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Judge Lawler this morning postponed sentencing Abe Ruef until 4:30 this afternoon, to give the prosecution an opportunity to submit affidavits in rebuttal, showing the jury was not guilty of misconduct and was not intimidated.

SILVER CITY IN DIRE DANGER

DYNAMITE RESORTED TO WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS

Town Near Boise Threatened by a Fire Which Destroyed Eight Buildings—Chinaman Commence Looting the Burned District—Soldiers Guard the Property Saved From Buildings—Total Loss From Fire Reached Fifty Thousand Dollars.

Boise, Dec. 29.—Flames starting in a Chinese restaurant destroyed eight buildings and caused a total damage of \$50,000, and threatened the destruction of Silver City, a mining camp in Owyhee county, early today.

The liberal use of dynamite with which the buildings were blown up, saved the big War Eagle hotel.

Armed guards protected the goods removed from homes and stores. Several Chinamen were caught looting, but were driven away with six shooters.

Three hundred miners fought the fire for four hours.

DUNBAR UPHELD BY JUDGE EAKIN

UNLAWFULLY COLLECTED FEES SCANDAL IS OVER.

Justice Eakin Writes Decision in Secretary of State Dunbar Case That Exonerates Former State Official—Was Done Unlawfully, But Fees Thus Collected Are Property of Those From Whom Collected—Orders Case Dismissed.

Salem, Dec. 29.—On the ground that the defendant was not accountable to the state for fees collected unlawfully, but to the persons alone from whom they were collected, the supreme court today reversed the case against F. I. Dunbar, former secretary of state, prosecuted by Attorney L. H. McMahon of this city, to recover \$100,000 alleged to have been exacted unlawfully during the Dunbar administration.

The money was collected between 1899 and 1907. The opinion was written by Justice Eakin, who ordered the case reversed and dismissed.

The opinion says: "It is contended that fees received for filing articles of incorporation, issuing commissions to notaries and the appointment of commissioners of deeds, miscellaneous commissions, warrants of arrest were unauthorized, but were collected under the code. The fees received as ex officio insurance commissioner were to compensate him for services rendered as such, and are fees, perquisites to compensate him for additional service as insurance commissioner and not construed as collections for the benefit of the state. Unauthorized exactions of fees by an officer cannot operate to give the state and county title to money so received. They are the property of the person from whom they were illegally exacted. The state has no right thereto, nor can the defendant be held accountable."

County Treasurer Robbed.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Dec. 29.—Two masked men today robbed Michael Meler, treasurer of Sanborn county, of \$5097, and escaped. They entered Meler's office with revolvers, and forced him into the vault, where they secured the money. They locked the treasurer in and rode away.

Castro in Fight.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 29.—News of an engagement at Macuro between adherents of the deposed president, Castro, of Venezuela, and officers of the new president, Gomez, in which 20 were killed and 50 wounded, was received here today by the gunboat Miranda.

Mr. and Mrs. George Crandall, who arrived here Christmas morning to visit their mother, Mrs. M. J. Crandall, are now in Baker City visiting relatives and are expected to return this evening and remain a few days before returning to their home in Spokane. This is George's first visit home in eight years.

A GIFT THAT PLEASURES

is not always the expensive one. Something beautiful and useful and in good taste suits best. One thing that is always acceptable, and which will remain a pleasant reminder of the giver, is good perfume. We have a nice line of

CHRISTMAS PERFUMES

put up in fancy gift packages or we can sell you the same odors in bulk. When you are at a loss what to buy thin of these. Just what you want for just what you can pay. The quality is the very best

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La Grande, Ore.

It is unnecessary for us to go into detail as to our ability at January price cutting. Everything in our store has to go under our magic prices.

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The FAIR STORE

La Grande, Oregon