

La Grande Evening Observer

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WEDNER FLAYS IMPROPER ACTS

FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT READY FOR COMPTROLLER.

Condition of the F. & T. N. Bank Tonight Reported to the Comptroller—Scores Any Man Who Would Take Advantage of the Muddled Affairs—Calls Him Worse Than Scriber Himself—Big Budget of Details to Be Sent in Soon.

The condition of the defunct Farmers & Traders' National bank at the close of business December 31, 1908, known as the first quarterly report, will be prepared and sent to the comptroller of the currency within five days by Receiver Niedner.

This is the most voluminous budget that has ever gone out from the bank, and contains an enormous volume of details. Others that have preceded it have had to do with the condition of the institution at the time it was declared insolvent, but this one has to do with the affairs today. Its preparation has required the burning of midnight oil by the receiver and his assistants. It records every step and every item that has been transacted since the receiver took charge.

In an interview today relative to the matter of claims against the bank, Receiver Walter Niedner said:

"If any man attempts to take advantage of the muddled condition of the bank and profit by it, because the records have been improperly kept and in some instances destroyed, I consider him a worse culprit than the late cashier. There is no evidence that any member was seeking personal benefit, and as his assertion that he was sin-

FIGHT WARMS UP

GOLDEN STATE UNITED IN FIGHTING FREIGHT RATES.

Money Pours in From All Sections to Protest Against Rates Effective Next Saturday.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Pledges of financial support have poured in today to the executive committee appointed by the California shippers, who are protesting against the proposed advance in railroad freight rates by transcontinental lines in the state. As a result of the meetings held throughout the state yesterday, brewers, manufacturers, merchants, agriculturists and commercial interests are now united in a common cause. It is possible action will be taken by shippers to enjoin the change in rates before Saturday, at which time the increase is scheduled to become effective.

ning in a futile effort to save the life of the sinking institution, has not been contradicted, I say that for any one to take advantage of the affairs for personal benefit is a contemptible act."

WON HIS WAGER.

But it Nearly Cost Him His Life in Carrying Out Agreement.

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 31.—John Robbins, of Fruitvale, proved to the world he was such a "game" sport that he could put a billiard ball in his mouth, but he is minus several teeth and is half dead from the nervous shock. He has a doctor's bill to pay as a New Year's greeting, but he won \$2.50.

While playing billiards yesterday a friend said: "I'll bet you \$2.50 you can't put that ball in your mouth." "You'll lose," said Robbins, and with great difficulty he forced the ball into his mouth. Then trouble came. The doctor said it was impossible to remove the ball before several teeth were removed. While this was being done Robbins nearly choked to death.

CHARLES TAFT IS OUT OF RUNNING

WITHDRAWS FROM OHIO SENATORIAL CONTEST FOR PEACE.

Dick Faction Will Hold Full Power in Ohio—Charles Taft to Succeed Dick Two Years Hence, is the Belief—Representative Burton Thought to Be the Successor of Foraker—Chas. Taft Values Peace More Than the Honor of Solon's Toga.

Columbus, O., Dec. 31.—Charles Taft, brother of the president-elect, today announced officially his withdrawal from the Ohio senatorial contest. Politicians say this means he will succeed Senator Dick two years hence. Representative Theodore Burton is now almost certain to succeed J. B. Foraker. Taft withdrew in the cause of harmony.

Burton is a republican of Cleveland, born at Jefferson, Ashtabula county, Ohio, in 1851. He first went to the legislature in the 51st session, meeting defeat for re-election the next time. Then he was elected to the 53d, 55th, 56th, 57th and 58th, and re-elected to the 59th.

Charles Dick, until this year the junior senator, now heads the Ohio delegation. His office expires March 4, 1911.

Foraker Withdraws.

An hour after Charles Taft announced his withdrawal from the senatorial contest, Foraker made a similar announcement, leaving a clear field to Theodore Burton.

Miss Emma Goeck is suffering with a slight attack of appendicitis.

ANNUAL DEBAUCH IN NEW YORK CITY

NATION'S METROPOLIS TO BE "SOUSED" RIGHT.

New Year Will Be Ushered in in Hilarious Manner—Thousands Wasted on Expensive Wines in Which Debauchers Become Liberal Spenders—One Quiet Moment During Celebration, Just Prior to Midnight—Trinity Chimes Will Ring Tonight.

New York, Dec. 31.—New York began its annual New Year debauch this afternoon, and it is conservatively estimated that by 1 o'clock tomorrow morning a third of the city's adult population will be "soused."

To thus welcome the New Year in any of the popular resorts is an expensive pleasure. For a fee of from \$5 to \$50, according to the would-be guest's means, a table is reserved for him and his party. Often this reservation is made in July or August, because every year the rush for tables on the night of December 31 grows greater.

And, as if hiring a place to sit were not enough, most of the big places have a rule that nothing in the way of drinks shall be sold except "wine"—which in the patois of 42d street and its vicinity means always champagne. Indeed, some proprietors go even further and stipulate that nothing less than a quart may be bought.

To the person who has not had the forethought or desire to hire a table and add to the profit of viniculture, Broadway is on New Year's eve a moving picture. The sidewalks are jammed with a merry mob, moving aimlessly north and south, blowing horns, shaking "buzzers," throwing confetti, and using those "ticklers" against which one police commissioner railed in vain, although certain wagish spirits had instituted the custom of concealing a sharp tack or nail at the head of the stick among the feathers.

It is early in the evening that this out-of-doors celebration begins. Patrolmen are detailed at the rate of two to a block, and although the crowd is in the main good natured, there are always fights to be settled by the arm of the law plus the nightstick. This year matters will be facilitated by the night court, and it will be interesting to know what luckless weight will begin 1909 by being fined or committed at 12 m.

There is one feature of New York's New Year's eve that many a visitor from out of town has anticipated. It is the church bell chimes, especially those of Trinity, ringing out over the graveyard and along the "silent" reaches of Wall street and lower Broadway.

And while the street crowds hail the midnight bells with clamor, the patrons of some of the restaurants have a pretty custom that has grown up through the years. Just as the hands of the clock are within a moment of overlapping all the lights in the restaurant are turned out. The orchestras stop playing. Everybody keeps silence. Then with the flashing forth of the lights once more everybody knows that the new year is a fact, and a toast is drunk standing. But this isn't the only toast, for New York, and more especially the "white light" district, sees to it that the sun has almost risen before the festivity closes.

ATTENDED MEETING

NORTHWEST SUPERINTENDENTS HOLD INTERESTING SESSIONS.

Gillilan Returns From Meeting Where Bishop C. W. Smith Preaches—Delivers an Address.

Presided over by Bishop C. W. Smith, in Centenary church, Portland, and inspired by his quiet and business-like dignity, a convention of the district superintendents and other of the northwest met for a two-days session Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Those present were Superintendents Sulliger of the Puget Sound country, Hollingshead, Rowland, and Dunlap, of the Willamette and the Klamath regions, and J. D. Gillilan of our city, representing this portion of the Idaho conference. Mr. Gillilan returned this morning.

Questions and themes ever everywhere valuable, but now particularly pertinent to the needs of this western rapidly growing semi-commonwealth, were prominent in evidence. The proper name for the meeting was "An Institute on Home Missions and Church Extension."

Mrs. C. L. Weaver of Chicago, gave an address on the work of the Woman's Home Missionary society; its place in the church.

Mrs. C. W. Jones explained the work of the Woman's Missionary league in Oregon conference, a sort of sustentation fund-maker to assist needy charges in supplying the needs of their ministers.

T. S. McDaniels gave a history of the Oregon Laymen's league, and President Homan of Willamette university showed the relations between our denominational schools and church benevolences.

Reports of the work of foreign speaking peoples were made by the following missionary pastors now at work in the city of Portland: E. E. Hertzler for the Germans; John Oval for the Swedes; H. P. Nelson for the Norwegian-Danish constituency; Chan-

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NEW HORROR IN QUAKE SECTIONS

SMELL OF BURNING FLESH SICKENS THE SURVIVORS.

Government Gives Out Estimate of Dead at 118,000—Separate Widow From Remains of Dead Husband, But She Follows Body to Flames—Aid Being Rushed to the Districts—King and Queen are Working Unflinchingly in Streets.

Official Death List.

Rome, Dec. 31.—The government today issued the following official estimate of dead: At Messina, 50,000. At Reggio, 40,000. At Monteleone, 1800. At Bagnara, 1000. At Gazzini, 1000. At Palmi, 600. At Seminara, 400. In country districts, 24,000. Total, 118,506. The press estimates the number of dead at 200,000.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Dispatches from naval officers at Messina say the number of dead there is 135,000. The whole southern part of Italy and Sicily is one vast hospital and morgue. The suffering at Messina and Reggio is appalling. The streets are temporary hospitals, with no means of moving the injured.

Soldiers raised the roof from a wrecked railway station at Messina and found scores of corpses packed solid. No effort was made to count the dead.

The burning of bodies continues.

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ELEVENTH ANNUAL SALE

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.

Nothing Reserved

Everything in the house reduced. We are the people who keep the prices down.

The FAIR STORE

La Grande, Oregon

HAMMER AND SAW JOIN MELODY OF RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

This has been one of the finest more are to follow. Zachariah Lilly has purchased four building winters for many years. While these words are being set in lots on North Fourth street and is type, the hammer and the saw are to now gathering material for a neat cottage. Mrs. Sullivan's new house on Adams avenue is nearing completion. Mr. Crawford has his new house on

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SALOON ROBBED.
Barkeeper Bound and Gagged—Safe Robbed of \$3000.
San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Bound and gagged, James C. Milholland, a bartender in the Golden Gate Avenue saloon, was found yesterday by the proprietor, bleeding from a gaping wound. The place had been ransacked by robbers who secured \$3000 from the safe. Milholland was alone when the thugs entered.

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

Newlin Drug Co.

La Grande, Ore.

FEAR MOUNTAIN FEUD IS RAGING

URGENT CALL FOR TROOPS TO JACKSON COUNTY IN KENTUCKY

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 31.—Governor