

# La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME VIII.

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1909.

NUMBER 85.

## TRAIN WRECKED ON NORTH BANK

**ENGINEER ON DERAILED**  
**PASSENGER BADLY SCALDED.**  
Rains Cause Wreck on New North Bank Road Opposite The Dalles, This Morning—General Grip of the Flood is Relaxed in Northwest—All Trains Moving From Spokane—Elgin Slide Cleared—California Floods Serious—Portland is Isolated.

Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 23.—Passenger train No. 3, on the North Bank road, plunged into a ditch at Granddallies, Wash., early this morning. Engineer McLain was badly scalded. The engine, baggage and mail cars left the track, which was loosened by rains and sank under the weight of the engine. Spokane, Jan. 23.—Floods have ceased to menace property in this vicinity. The great Northern and the Northern Pacific trains are starting for the coast. The O. R. & N. will start a train for Portland at 7 tonight. The bridge, 200 feet long, was washed out on the O. R. & N. road. Portland, Jan. 23.—Portland is practically marooned today as far as receiving news from the outside world is concerned. All wires east and south are paralyzed. It was snowing here this morning.

**Landslide Cleared.**  
Elgin, Jan. 23.—(Special.)—For the first time in three days, the Joseph-La Grande train was able to proceed by the landslide just below Elgin. While the obstruction was frustrating through traffic, baggage and passengers were transferred from one train to the other. The last vestige of the slide was removed last night. It is feared

(Continued on page 5.)

## SLEEPING CAR BURIED.

**Landslide Raises Havoc While Laborers Sleep.**  
Santa Barbara, Cal., Jan. 23.—Four men were killed today when a landslide at Punta Gorda, 15 miles south of here, buried an engine and one car filled with sleeping workmen. Many are supposed to be injured. Advices are meager. One dead is reported to be the American foreman; the others are Greeks. A relief train has been sent out.

## RUSSEL SCOWLS AT PRESIDENT

### PRESIDENT STOOPED BELOW HIS DIGNITY, HE AFFIRMS.

World-Famed Preacher Now at Tacoma, Finds Fault With President in Recent Libel Suit—Admires Other Policies, but Criticizes New York World Fracas.

Tacoma, Jan. 23.—Russell H. Conwell, the Philadelphia world-famous lecturer, preacher, educator and author visiting here, today characterized the action of President Roosevelt in starting a libel suit against the New York World as "Childish and foolish to the last degree." He continued, "I believe in Roosevelt and his administration, but this action against the newspapers is going too far. The president is stooping beneath the dignity of his office when he meddles in such petty things."

The Conwell referred to in the above dispatch will be in La Grande January 29.

**Birth Record.**  
Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Stillwell in this city Friday, a son.

## GREAT CROWD ATTENDS IRRIGATION CONGRESS IN THE OPERA HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON

**CROWD OVER-ANXIOUS AND MEETING WAS READY  
TO COMMENCE BEFORE SCHEDULED HOUR FOR IT.**

Judge Stephen A. Lowell, Joseph Barton, John Collier, C. D. Huffman, T. A. Rinehart and J. T. Hinkle Among the Speakers—Greater Success Than the Most Sanguine Had Dared Anticipate—Full Organization Details Are Presented to the Meeting.

**The Result.**  
The securing of liberal subscriptions for more acreage, and the fulfillment of preliminary organization along lines recommended by the special committee for that purpose, were the direct results of the highly successful meeting. Following Mr. Crawford's appeal for land, the subscriptions came forward to the preliminary list in a rapid and highly pleasing manner.

No better criterion of the vast interest taken in irrigation for Union county could well be imagined than the group of 450 farmers and land owners who were assembled in the Steward opera house today before the irrigation congress, to bring to an actual being the proposed Meadow Brook project, convened. Before the actual hour to commence had arrived, the house was well filled and by the time the stragglers had filled the rear seats, there were extremely few unoccupied seats in the house. Without that customary delay, the meeting proceeded with the business in hand.

**Collier Calls Order.**  
Before the appointed hour, President John Collier, of the Commercial club, rapped for order. First explaining the purpose of the meeting he delivered into the broad purposes of the La Grande Commercial club. To the

farmers who perhaps do not follow closely the varied fields of activity which the club enters, the brief discourse was entertaining and instructive. But Collier wasted little time with details. He introduced the first speaker, Stephen A. Lowell, president of the Northwest Irrigation association, with headquarters at Pendleton.

**Others on the Stand.**  
On the rostrum behind the speaker were Secretary Fred G. Taylor, Mac Wood, T. H. Crawford and William Miller. These took active part in the program as the meeting progressed.

**Lowell's Address.**  
Judge Lowell immediately cemented the skeptical element to the general tone of the meeting by affirming that he was there, not as a promoter financially interested in the project in anyway, but there for the general development of irrigation—be it in Union county, Washington, Idaho or any other great semi-arid country of the northwest. In the next breath he created a sensation by affirming that Idaho was leaping forward with greater strides—at greater speed—than Oregon; because irrigation had been adopted as the great elixir of life on semi-arid land. Running through his entire speech were frequent assertions that are only too true, but often dodged because of the altruisms they represent. Lowell's speech was given the audience at the psychological moment, for there is no gainsaying that his address won over many a doubting Thomas.

**Mr. Barton's Address.**  
Joseph Barton of Baker City, is no stranger to Union county or La Grande. He was here as an official for the sugar company and knows what difficulties lie in the path of raising beets without water. The speaker reviewed how a little band in 1847 in Utah made a great community out of the district. Irrigation was the life-giving

(Continued on page 5.)

## CAUCUS CALLED TO END DISPUTE

**SUCH IS PLAN OF EAST-ERN OREGON DELEGATION.**

Baker City and Pendleton Solons Unable to Settle Among Themselves—Call Caucus and Allow Caucus Decision—Location Undecided; Bill is Certain.

Salem, Jan. 2.—The Umatilla house and senate legislators at Salem are laying plans to call a caucus to be attended by members from the districts east of the mountains to caucus on the question whether the branch insane asylum shall be located at Baker City or Pendleton.

Representative Barrett already has a large number of signatures to the caucus call.

The asylum question promises to be the cause of one of the biggest fights of the legislative session. The main institution at Salem is badly overcrowded and the eastern Oregon delegation is working hard to secure a branch at this session. The location is the principal fight, the institution being practically assured.

## HUNGER VS. LAWBREAKING.

**Tacoma Family Starving, Yet Fine is Imposed on Son for Misdemeanors.**

Tacoma, Jan. 23.—Sympathy is expressed here for Jesse Uhly, aged 16, who was fined \$50 yesterday for killing deer out of season. It was shown the Uhly family is in straitened circumstances, the young children suffering from hunger. The mother pleaded in court that her son was trudging through the woods every day seeking game for food.

## TWO SUICIDES BEFORE CROWDS

**TWO THIEVES CAUSE  
COMMOTION AND DISASTER.**

Regular Western Theft and Running Fight Occurs Near London This Morning—Attempt to Steal Pay Checks—After Wild Dash for Liberty Bandits Suicide.

London, Jan. 23.—Surrounded by a mob and policemen, two bandits, both Poles, shot themselves in the head, dying instantly this afternoon at Tottenham, a suburb. They had just killed a policeman and wounded five others in an attempt to escape with the pay envelopes for factory employees.

During the excitement an unknown bystander seized the satchel containing the money, and fled.

The bandits fired at the police, then boarded a street car, shot the motor-man and conductor, and fired into the midst of the passengers. One bandit took possession of the car and ran it at full speed, while his companion held the passengers inside with a revolver. Leaving the car they jumped into a moving van and whipped the horses into a furious speed. Reloading their weapons they fired at their pursuers until surrounded by the police, when they suicided.

## Disaster Narrowly Averted.

New York, Jan. 23.—A sea disaster was narrowly averted today when an unknown vessel collided with the White Star liner Republican, 26 miles south of Nantucket. All the 450 passengers are safe. The revenue cutter Baltic, a short distance away, went to the rescue.

Woodshole, Mass., Jan. 23.—The steamer Nantucket, on its way to aid the Republic, ran on the rocks and sank bow down. Great holes were punched in the sides of the vessel. The crew, and seven passengers reached shore.

## Slide at Corbett.

Passenger train No. 2 was delayed several hours at Corbett on the sandy division, by a landslide that hit the engine.

## CREDITORS TO FARE WELL MAYBE

**IMMUNITY BATH WOULD MEAN  
FULL REIMBURSEMENT.**

Story Given Out in Portland That Coolidge is Ready to Pay Depositors Dollar for Dollar if Full, or Even Partial Immunity is Given Scriber—Precedent Alleged to Exist in Pendleton, Where Wade Has so Far Escaped Punishment.

Portland, Jan. 22.—(Special.)—There is a great possibility that the creditors of the wrecked Farmers & Traders National bank of La Grande, Ore., may receive dollar for dollar. It hinges on whether or not government prosecution can be forestalled. It is stated by those who have knowledge of the inside workings of the frame-up, that nothing will be done in Union county, all that the people there are interested in is that the creditors do not lose their money. There have been several meetings here in this city between Attorney McMahon of Salem, who is the defaulting cashier's attorney; Cashier Coolidge of Spokane, who is very wealthy, and a brother-in-law of J. W. Scriber; and Cashier Thorson of Elgin, who held the first discovered forged note. Receiver Nledner has also been in the city several days and has been in conversation with Mr. Scriber, but whether or not he is a party to the matter of squelching government prosecution cannot be stated. Scriber is known to have made the remark today that he committed no crime for his own personal benefit, but to save the bank. Coolidge, the man who is to put up the money, sent a representative to La Grande to look into affairs of the closed bank, and when he ascertained the shortage was in the neighborhood of \$120,000, and that there was forged paper in evidence in many places, and that Scriber had made a full and complete confession to not only the government bank examiners, but to the deputy United States district attorney, and that the family had been disgraced to such an extent that he considered it impossible to prevent Mr. Scriber from serving a period in the penitentiary, he refused to entertain a proposition to make up the deficiency. It is stated that Mr. Coolidge was disgusted at the start, but is reported to have said that had Mr. Scriber come to him and confessed the true condition of the bank before it became public, he would have covered the bad paper and would have purchased the bank, and sold it later at a profit that would have reduced the actual loss materially.

Scriber has been in the city for the past six weeks or more, and he has been very active and has enlisted some very strong and influential friends in his behalf, and there is little question

(Continued on page 5.)

## CLEANING HOUSE

Our January Sale is drawing to a close. We are making Special Heavy reductions on the remaining winter goods. Here are a few of the bargains gathered from each department.

LADIES' SUITS	MEN'S SUITS	MEN'S SHOES
Closing out at HALF price. Ladies' Hats, closing out at LESS THAN ONE-HALF price. Ladies' Skirts at a GREAT SAVING.	Do you need a Suit? This is the time. A large assortment at HALF PRICE.	At Junky Prices. \$5.00 Shoes, sale .....\$3.45 \$3.50 Shoes, sale .....\$2.68 \$2.00 Shoes, sale .....\$1.98
LADIES' FELT	LADIES' WAISTS	WHAT MEN WANT
Line Shoes .....\$1.39 Children— Wool Hoods .....28c Wool Toques .....29c Wool Gloves .....19c Wool Scarfs .....38c Misses— Outing Skirts .....38c Misses' Coats HALF PRICE.	A New Line to Select From. \$1.50 Waists at .....79c \$2.50 Waists at .....\$1.19 \$6.50 assorted Wool Waists at .....\$2.98 \$7.50 assorted Silk Waists at .....\$4.35	Home made wool Sox .....45c Good quality Night Shirts .....89c Heavy work Shirts .....89c Warm Mitts .....22c Winter Caps .....29c Wool Underwear .....89c Dress Shirts .....49c
NEW	SEE OUR REMNANT DEPARTMENT It will save you money	
COAT		
SWEATERS		
JUST RECEIVED		
LADIES' BARGAINS	BLANKETS	RUBBER GOODS
Wool Hose .....19c Wool Gloves .....29c Wool Underskirts .....\$1.15 \$1.00 Wool Scarfs .....38c	Large ten quarter blankets Oregon Wool Blankets \$5.39	Men's Rubbers .....50c Boys' Rubbers, Rooleedge .....49c Special prices on— Slickers Boots, Overshoes, and Rubber Coats.
THE FAIR STORE		