

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## FIRST AUTHENTIC REPORTS ARRIVE

MAN KNOWN IN LA GRANDE WAS IN THE DISASTER.

Collision at Sea Last Saturday is Accurately Told by Members of the Passengers Who Have Reached New York Today—Bodies of Some Mangled Horribly—Mr. Hoover of Kennebec, One of the Survivors, and Tells Graphic Story.

New York, Jan. 25.—The first authentic account of the collision between the liner Republic and the Florida Saturday morning off Nantucket, Mass., was given today by Captain Ransom of the liner Baltic, which anchored at Ambrose Channel, New York, with several Republic passengers. He said:

"The Florida struck without warning, but immediately backed away, and disappeared in the fog. Two state rooms caved in and the water rushed through, filling the boiler rooms. The firemen remained, preventing a boiler explosion until the water was up to their necks. The wireless mechanism was disabled, but Operator Binns remained amidst the wreckage sending flashes for assistance. Thirty minutes later the Florida returned and took the passengers away after a small panic, in which two fell overboard but were later rescued."

H. J. Hoover, of Kennebec, Wash., en route for an auto tour of Asia, Africa and Europe, with his wife, was a passenger on the Republic. He said today:

"The impact was terrific. Many of us were hurled from our berths. Nearly all ran on deck in their night clothes. We were greatly excited until Captain Sealby made speeches in which he said there was no danger of us losing our lives. When we saw the coolness of the crew we got our nerves

back. It was a strange sight to see hundreds of Italian immigrants kneeling barefooted on the deck, praying aloud. The accident will not alter our plans to tour the old country. Most of us are dazed yet."

(Mr. Hoover and his wife were in La Grande last fall, remaining here several hours while their touring car was being overhauled.)

James B. Connelly, the author, was a passenger on the Republic, and said today:

"After the Florida struck the Republic it was discovered that five state rooms on the saloon deck and two below were ripped open. Fifty women collapsed or fainted while they were being transferred to the Baltic. One

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## SEVERE JOLT TO LOCAL OPTION

WASHINGTON SENATE HAS WARM TIME OVER FIRST "DRY" BILL

Olympia, Wash., Jan. 25.—There was a warm time in the senate this morning. The first anti-saloon bill was lost in the first round, being referred by a vote of 47 to 45 to the judiciary committee instead of being made a special order for tomorrow. Then the bill was passed between Senators Palmer and Davis. Davis made a speech intimating Palmer was objecting to the anti-saloon bills, as he had one favoring the liquor interests. Immediately Palmer called Davis a shrew, ugly word, denying all allegations of Davis. Palmer said he did not even drink tea or coffee.

### Return the Coats.

Persons having rain coats belonging to the fire department will confer a favor upon the chief if they will return them to the fire building.

JOE JONES, Chief.

## LEGISLATURE AT WORK AGAIN

BANK GUARANTEE BILL IS BEING DISCUSSED.

Special Message From Governor is Expected Within a Few Days—Tax and Assessment of the State Prove Hard Problems With the Solons—State Senate Meets at 11 O'clock—No Particular Business Excepting Second Reading.

Salem, Jan. 25.—The senate met at 11 o'clock this morning and took up the forenoon with the second reading of bills. There were no special orders. The house met at 2 o'clock with a special order on joint bills for relief of Indian war veterans. Orton, author of the Oklahoma bank guaranty bill, accepted an amendment permitting banks to borrow back from the state treasurer, three-fourths of the guarantee deposit of one per cent on circulation.

It is expected that within a few days Governor Chamberlain will send a special message to the legislature regarding the tax situation. At present the legislature is trying to avoid trouble growing out of the assessment and collection of state taxes. Senator Bingham plans to have a special message referred to the senate committee on assessments and taxation, and that the committee will prepare a bill calculated to remedy the defect of the present law. The plan is to have a bill pushed through both branches of the legislature.

Through a bill introduced in the senate by Senator Chase today it is hoped to have the boundary lines of Coos and Curry counties defined. It fixes a line in the mountainous country between counties, following section and quarter section lines, thereby making the boundary definite.

## HILTS-ANDROSS HOUSE IN RUINS

ENTIRE WESTERN SECTION OF CITY WAS ENDANGERED.

Fifty-Five Hundred Dollar Fire Destroys Elegant Cottage on Fourth Street and Ruins Much Household Goods—Origin Thought to Be Incendiary—Molitor House Saved—A Terrific Gale Blew Embers Over Greater Portion of City.

Fifty-five hundred dollars' worth of property were eaten up by fire late last evening when a blaze—presumably of incendiary origin—totally destroyed the elegant double cottage on Fourth street, at the intersection of Depot street. The property is better known as the Hilts and Andross property, and was occupied at the time of the fire by District Attorney and Mrs. F. S. Ivanhoe, and Yardmaster and Mrs. T. E. Buehler. The loss of property by the two families will overtop \$500 at the lowest possible mark. In addition to the destruction of the cottage, the loss to the occupants, the furniture and fixtures of Dr. N. Molitor, were quite heavily damaged by hasty removal and drenching by water.

Heavy as the loss is, and ruining as it does one of the finest residence buildings on the street from a viewpoint of excellency, in location, the destruction has many fortunate corners.

The gale that fanned the flames was terrific. It was almost impossible to get a stream of water to play with any force against the wind, a fact that for a time gave evidence of costing many dearly. Because of the peculiarities of the house construction, the fire had gained great headway before the exact spot of it had been located. The fire department fought the advance tooth and nail, but it was early discernible that to save abutting property was the ask at hand—the burning structure was irrevocably lost. Once more the volunteer fire department stood by its luty like trained fire fighters, being actually so successful in preventing spread by actual ignition from the flames, that the Molitor house, only a few feet away, was unscorched.

### Every One Willing.

A great concourse had gathered. Every man and boy present was willing to aid in the rescue work. A group of Summers branded themselves as fitted for any fire department by their energetic efforts to save property. When the danger was passed, the Molitor goods were returned to the house, but that which was saved from the ruined structure was taken to the homes of neighbors and cared for to prevent subsequent breakage. Articles less liable to perish were left on the street. Both families spent the night with friends and as soon as they find suitable houses will again resume housekeeping.

### Inmates Scantly Dressed.

It happened that both families had retired, and when Mr. Buehler discovered the fire and gave the alarm, the inmates rushed to the street in scanty clothing. The wintry gale that blew continuously exposed them to serious illness, but so far none have been stricken.

### The Origin.

The first intimation of a fire was discovered by Mr. and Mrs. Buehler, who retired but a few moments before. Investigation disclosed a small blaze in the basement below Mr. Buehler's bedroom. Inability to get water from a garden hose at that time was largely responsible for the disastrous spread of the flames among the dry kindling in the basement.

### Firemen Rewarded.

Last night the firemen were partially rewarded for their work by cash donations. Dr. Molitor presented the chief with a check for \$10, and invited the entire department to an oyster supper. A. C. Huntington presented them with a \$10 check and J. J. Carr

### Near Beer Men Fight.

Dublin, Ga., Jan. 25.—The inalienable right to life, liberty and the drinking of near beer will be defended in court today by the near beer dealers. The dealers are in a junction preventing the city from enforcing the ordinance declaring the sale of near beer a nuisance. This injunction, together with other matters, will be heard today. Meanwhile, the city is "dry," and will remain so unless the dealers are successful in their legal battle with the city officials.

Do well the little things now; so shall great things come to thee by and by, asking to be done.—Persian Proverbs.

## TAFT'S PANAMA TRIP COMMENCES

WITH BODY OF ENGINEERS PRESIDENT-ELECT SETS SAIL TODAY

Washington, Jan. 25.—When William H. Taft and his party of engineers sailed for Panama from Charleston today, the president-elect took the first step toward assumption of a tremendous responsibility that will bear heavily on his shoulders throughout his administration as chief executive of the nation. The coming four years will be critical ones in the great project for dividing a continent and changing the course of the world's commerce. The Panama canal is likely to be the glory or the shame of the Taft regime.

That Mr. Taft realizes this great responsibility is evidenced by the present trip and his further determination to make a tour of inspection of the isthmus each year of his term and to take with him eminent civil engineers who are not connected with the work. There is some danger, he believes, that unless this close supervision is maintained regarding the physical features of the project that grave mistakes might be made. The problem that will receive the greatest consideration during the present trip relates to the engineering features of the Gatun dam. There has been some expert criticism as to the quality of the foundation which can be found for this structure, and it is Mr. Taft's intention to obtain from the most reliable sources available as much as may be known.

It is generally admitted among those having authority to speak on such topics that Mr. Taft is especially fortunate in the selection of the engineers who are accompanying him on the trip commenced today. These men are Arthur P. Davis, chief engineer, reclamation service, Washington, D. C.; John R. Freeman, Providence, R. I.; Allen Hazen, New York; Isham Randolph, Chicago; James Dix Schuyler, Los Angeles, Cal.; and Frederick P. Stearns, Boston, Mass.

## NIGGER JOE IS UNDER ARREST

PRESENT CHARGE ACCUSES ONLY DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

What is Believed Will End Up in a Prosecution for Arson, Commenced by the Arrest of Well Known Negro This Morning—Buehler's, Also Ivanhoe's Firm in Their Belief That He Started the Disastrous Fire Last Evening in Spite Work.

Charged with the crime of disorderly conduct, "Nigger Joe," the street nickname of the young negro who has been doing odd jobs about the city for several years, is in jail today. While the city has a strong case against him on that charge, it is believed that one far more serious will eventually be filed in the higher courts. To be explicit, the negro is suspected of having touched the match that ruined the Hilts-Andross property last evening.

### Climax Last Evening.

For some time past, he has held animosity against the Buehler family. From time to time he would be caught at various misdemeanors until last evening Mr. Buehler and the negro came to sharp words. Soon afterward the house was discovered in flames. The hundreds who were called out by the fire alarm, saw the starting place of the disastrous fire. It was immediately below the bedroom of the Buehler home, where no match or light has been for days, say members of the family. Dry kindling is the only contents of the basement. "I am sure the negro touched the match," said Mr. Buehler today. "I have caught him in overt acts several times, and he has threatened to get even with me." Other members of the cottage are equally as firm in their belief that the negro did the work.

As soon as sufficient evidence is compiled to warrant procedure against his "Joe" will be released of his present charge and brought to hearing on the more serious ground. Punishment for arson is almost equal to that provided by manslaughter.

During one of the recent minor troubles Joe had used insulting language to Mrs. Buehler, and this instance was the grounds for arrest made by Chief of Police Walden this morning.

### Joe's Story.

Joe was visited this afternoon and he told a story covering nearly every moment of the time from 6 o'clock until after the fire bell rang. He is stopping at the home of Mrs. Zuber, for whom he has worked for several months, and Mrs. Zuber does not believe that it would have been possible for Joe to have committed the crime he is suspected of. She does not know when he could have left the house last night, and his absence not have been known to her.

## NEW Bright and Snappy

Below you will find a few of the newest merchandise that people want . . . . .



These Hats represent style The College Hat, the new Derby the new Fedora.



COLORS: Bronze, Green light Tan, Dk Brown, Med Buff

PRICES: \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50

What the Ladies Need Our Latest New Goods . . . . . RUSHING

You will find here just what you have been looking and wishing for. All desirable colors. Price 35 to 85c a yard

NETTS These goods are the new thing for trimming, yokes, waists and dresses. Cream, white and blk Collars Ladies dainty neckwear, the latest dainty designs. Prices 25, 35, 50 and 75c.

NEW SHOES A new consignment just received, from the stylish shoe down to the old ladies' comforts. For Men, Women and Children.

VEILING The newest in veiling. All the new shades in all widths.

## THE FAIR STORE

Worthy Rubber Goods There is probably no one line in which there is so much deception as in rubber goods. Much of it is almost worthless. None of these goods come to us. By picking the best goods and buying direct from the makers, we insure security and saving. We can sell them at right prices and also guarantee the quality. We have Hot Water Bottles in all the new styles, colors and sizes. You will get your money out of one many times before Spring. We have every kind of syringe you ever saw and some kinds you haven't seen. PRICES RIGHT ON ALL

## NEWLIN DRUG STORE

LA GRANDE, OREGON

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