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## LINE WILL TAP STATE

A story published in the Portland Telegram relative to electric railroad development, is of especial interest to La Grande, though the line is not announced to pierce the Grande Ronde valley, but is mapped to pass near it, where a feeder line would be an easy matter. The story runs like this:

Shrouded in mystery, an immense railway project has been started by the filing in the county clerk's office articles of incorporation of the Portland, Baker City & Butte Electric Railroad company.

The incorporators are Mark W. Gill, H. J. Martin, of Rome & Martin, and C. D. Charles. Neither Mr. Gill nor Mr. Martin will discuss the new railroad, both saying there was nothing to give out.

In response to direct questions, it was stated that local capital is not involved in the project, but that it is backed by big eastern interests. More than that could not be learned. The new company is capitalized at \$2,000,000 and Portland is designated as the principal place of business.

As indicated by the name of the company, the purpose is to construct and operate a line of railroad between Portland and Butte. Portland is to be the western terminus. The road is to run, say the articles of incorporation, eastward through Clackamas county, across the Cascades south of Mount Hood to Trout creek, on the Deschutes river, Burnt ranch, and on through Grant and Wheeler counties to Baker City, and from Baker City across Idaho into Montana and to Butte. The articles give the company broad powers.

C. D. Charles is admitted to be the moving spirit in the organization, but he is out of the city. His associates say he may return early next week, and it was said that he has been in eastern Oregon for some time promoting the project at various points along the proposed route.

It was learned in Baker City that C.

D. Charles, who is reported to have been in this part of the state promoting the scheme, has been in the east for several weeks in connection with the proposed line. Associated with Mr. Charles in his work of promoting the road is Attorney Clark of Portland, who is known to be a member of the Hill legal forces. It is also known that these men have had frequent conferences with the Hill interests in the east.

All indications now point to a merry scrap between Hill and Harriman for new territory. Oregon has long been in the grip of Harriman, who has refused to build any roads to develop new territory. Hill has had his eye on the rich interior country, but there has apparently been no means of securing control of that great country lying south of the Columbia river and east of the Cascades. At last a way has been discovered that will cause Harriman to sit up and take notice, or the rich interior will no longer be his. The electric line from Portland to Butte will give Hill a foothold which will enable him to branch out and invade Harriman's territory in a way that the wizard has never feared before. Let the scrap go on. Oregon will benefit from it and secure some of the transportation that she has long deserved, but which Harriman has refused to give.

## FIREMEN CALLED OUT

Spontaneous combustion originated a barnyard fire in the rear of the E. C. Tuckey resident in South La Grande at 11 o'clock this morning. The department was called to the scene but could do nothing when it arrived, as the combustion was confined to a heap of rubbish emitting more smoke than flames. Attention was given the smudge during the day, however, as the gale was blowing the smoke through a dry orchard where a spark might have ignited the dry grass. The Tuckey barn was but a few feet away, while the residence and the John Frawley home were in close proximity.

## PRISONER RELATES DETAILS

(Continued from page 1.)

er a long blade. I ran around an old wagon box which was in the road. He followed me around the box and I told him that I had a gun and would hurt him if he did not let me alone. He did not stop, but gave me a few more cusses and I ran around the box again and told him that if he did not stop following me with the knife I would wing him. He called me a "damn scoundrel" and came at me again. I then pulled my gun up and told him to stop again. This time I fired at his right side to cut him. He stopped and staggered a little, and started after me again. I should have said the first time I told him to stop I fired over his head, thinking that I could bluff him into letting me alone. After the second shot—the shot which hit him in the side—he lunged at me again and followed me around the wagon box once more. This time I drew my gun down on him and told him that if he did not let me alone I would kill him the next shot. He said: "I wish I had my gun, I would shoot you." After saying this he turned and went to his house and we—Ratz and myself—went to my father's house, where I told them what had happened, and they telephoned to town that there had been trouble and that the marshal had better come out.

## NEWS OF DEATH.

News reached headquarters of the G. I. A. to the B. of L. E. here today, that W. A. Murdock, husband of the national president, died last night at Chicago. The many members of the lodge here will be grieved at the news for Mr. and Mrs. Murdock were well known characters, though none of the La Grande members have ever seen either. Mrs. Murdock was the founder of the auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers 21 years ago, and has since then been national president continuously. Through her efforts 450 divisions have been organized in the United States, and all are prospering today. In her arduous tasks Mrs. Murdock was ably assisted by her husband. For these reasons the death will be a loss to the order.

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## La Grande National Bank

Of La Grande, Oregon

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