

La Grande Evening Observer

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J. P. DONNELLY MEETS DEATH NEAR KAMELA

GROUND UNDER WHEELS OF HIS OWN FREIGHT.

Well Known and Popular Young Conductor of This City Meets Gruesome Death at Kamela When His Train Was Pulling Out of Station—Bring Remains to La Grande Tonight—Inquest by Umatilla Coroner—Friends Here Under Pall of Sorrow—Arm and Leg Off and Skull Crushed.

A pall of sorrow fell over the entire city at 11 o'clock today when news of the gruesome death of Conductor John P. Donnelly spread like wildfire over the city. Horribly mutilated, the remains of the victim of the sad accident will be brought to La Grande this evening from Kamela, where instantaneous death took place between 10:30 and 11 o'clock this morning, as Conductor Donnelly was boarding his freight train as it was pulling out of the summit station. The fatal accident was not witnessed in detail by any one, though John Ormond, one of the brakemen on the train, saw his conductor fall, but from where he was standing, could not see the cruel wheels grip the man to pieces as they virtually did. A Kamela resident was on the other side of the train and when the freight had passed, which was only a moment or two—stepped to where the injured man lay. A few nervous convulsions were the only signs of life. Not a word was uttered, not even a scream

of pain escaped the unfortunate man. The injuries.

When the train crew assembled about the inert body, it was to see a severely mutilated form. One arm and one leg were severed from the body. The skull and face were crushed and mutilated, though not beyond recognition. The injuries about the head were unquestionably the immediate cause of death.

News Reaches La Grande.

The grief-stricken friends knew only a portion of the details, but to make matters worse, were reticent in informing Mrs. Donnelly who, at the time the news arrived, was downtown shopping. By various ruses she was persuaded to return to her home, where the sad story was told her. The widow has the deep sympathy of the

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LOCAL FINANCES IN FINE SHAPE

BANKS JOINTLY DO A VERY CREDITABLE BUSINESS.

La Grande National Topped Million-Dollar Mark on February 5, and the New Bank, Less Than a Month Old, Has Large Sum on Hand—Splendid Record for City.

One million two hundred and eighty thousand, five hundred and seventy-two dollars was represented in the banking business in La Grande February 5, according to the statements just published by the La Grande National and the United States National banks of this city. With one bank doing more than a \$1,000,000 business, showing an increase of approximately \$86,000 since the last report, and one bank in business less than a month, the reports reflect a condition

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STRONG EVIDENCE AGAINST JOE WILLIAMS

The Williams Jury.

♦ S. C. Mann, North Powder.
♦ E. P. Staples, La Grande.
♦ William Webster, Alicel.
♦ John Shaw, Island City.
♦ L. M. Jensen, Imbler.
♦ M. D. Sanderson, Summerville.
♦ Henry Hill, Starkey.
♦ I. L. Haller, Telocaset.
♦ J. W. Rhodes, Elgin.
♦ Ed Logan, Summerville.
♦ M. W. Huffman, Union.
♦ L. A. Stringham, La Grande.

The most interesting case before the circuit court from a La Grande standpoint is the present case at issue, the State vs. Joe Williams, colored, charged with arson, the burning of the Hills-Andross residence, on Fourth street, occupied at the time by Yardmaster T. E. Buehler and District Attorney F. S. Ivanhoe. There is little if any question but what the house was set on fire, owing to certain conditions that will come out in the trial. Joe Williams was immediately accused of the act long before the fire was under control. He was arrested the following day, waived examination and was held under \$1000 bonds and the grand jury early in the session brought in a true bill against him. Beyond these incidents the people generally knew little of the actual facts beyond the usual run of rumors, consequently as all interested are well known and the general desire to see the defendant punished if guilty, and exonerated if not guilty, unusual interest in this case has been manifest since the fire.

Get Jury Early.

Contrary to expectations on both sides, the jury was secured out of the regular panel, and the entire 12 men were selected from the first 14 names drawn out of the box. This was because the jury is drawn from all sections of the county, and while many of the jurors had read the press accounts of the fire and the arrest of the defendant, owing to the absence of definite facts little was said or printed.

ed, was sufficient to cause opinions to be formed regarding his guilt or innocence.

Statement of District Attorney.

Following the selection of the jury the district attorney made his statement as to what he expected to prove, which in effect is as follows:

That after retiring, Mr. and Mrs. Buehler thought they heard a noise like hail; a little later they noticed the odor of something burning, which caused the investigation that led to the discovery of the fire which started under the house which was built on a stone foundation about three feet from the ground, and in which was piled a quantity of old, dry shingles; that the defendant for some time was on pleasant terms with the family of the prosecuting witness, T. E. Buehler; later more or less trouble originated and the defendant was often caught prowling about the premises and that property had been damaged about the place; that the night before the fire the defendant was caught looking in the window and Mr. Buehler went out and ordered him away; that the defendant had made threats that "He would get even"; that the defendant told many conflicting statements since the fire to the effect that he had not been out of the house that evening, nor about the house for four or five nights; that the state will prove by three witnesses that he was seen running toward the Buehler residence from Mrs. Zuber's residence, which is on a direct line from the fire, three blocks away; that he was seen running from the fire, and was seen standing in the street opposite the place about 10 o'clock; that a person acquainted with his voice heard him about the premises.

Statement of Defense.

C. H. Finn, attorney for Joe Williams, only addressed the jury a moment, simply stating that in order to secure a conviction in this or any other case, the state would be compelled to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant was guilty of the charge alleged, and that the state would fail to substantiate each and every proposition made in the opening remarks of the state's attorney.

Upon request of the defendant's attorney the court issued an order that all waiting witnesses in the case be excluded from the court room during the trial.

Mrs. Buehler's Testimony.

Mrs. T. E. Buehler, who, with her husband, occupied one-half of the burned property, said on the witness stand:

"Between 10 and 10:30, I think, I heard a noise like shingles burning under the house, but we thought it was hail. Later we smelled smoke. I then looked into the stove where there was no fire; I then looked through a knot hole in the dining room and saw the flames, and we gave the alarm, and attempted to put out the fire. I have been acquainted with the defendant ever since we moved into the house. He assisted with the moving. He worked for Mr. George Palmer frequently when he occupied the other portion of the double house; also worked for Dr. Mollitor. For the last two months he has been instructed, often, to keep away, and I told him if he continued I would tell Mr. Buehler and he said if I did he would get even on me. I kept the door locked and he tried to get in; also attempted to get into the window and went away swearing. I knew him to be about the house frequently during the night time. I saw him looking in the windows; the first time I was in the bath room bathing, about 10 o'clock; I turned out the light and he was looking in the window. There were other similar occurrences. I reported them to Mr. Buehler and other parties. I saw tracks one night about the house. These annoyances usually occurred about 8:30 or 10 o'clock, commencing about last November and up to the time of the fire. I reported the matter to Mr. Gibson and asked him to report the matter to the police. The fire started under the house which was not used by us. The night of the fire I heard an unusual noise."

Cross-Examination.

In cross-examination she testified

that she was never under the house prior to the fire; the opening under the house was about the size of a half-window, protected with a door on hinges fastened with a key.

Defendant was friendly one day, angry the next. It was in the first part of November, when he said he would "get even." I never spoke to him since last Thanksgiving. Denied the question that she had received money from Joe, in partial payment for cloak, or for anything; never wrote him a letter when Joe was in Boise, or any other time; never asked him to assist me in washing, nor to help in moving into the Ladd house, which I now occupy and was preparing to move into, just prior to the fire. Defendant was employed by Dr. Mollitor.

Re-direct Examination.

Defendant often crossed our property in the rear of house. No fence

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L. OLDENBERG TAKES CONTRACT

WILL MANAGE LARGEST PROPOSED ORCHARD KNOWN.

Twenty Thousand Acres Near Bandon, Oregon, to Be Planted to Fruit Trees Under Supervision of L. Oldenberg—Family to Move to Location on Coast.

To manage what is to be the largest orchard in the world, is the lot that has fallen to L. Oldenberg of this city, who is now in Portland doing preliminary work under his new employment.

The Lee Bowler & Co. corporation, reports C. E. Moore, who returned from Portland this morning, has purchased 6000 acres of land at Port Orford, in the Bandon section, and will lease or buy enough land to make a 20,000-acre tract. The tract will be subdivided into five and 16-acre tracts for the market. Through recommendation from the horticultural department at Corvallis, Mr. Oldenberg was given the management of this vast estate. He has signed a four years' agreement to clear what land has not been prepared for orchards, and look after the planting and proper care of the growing trees. In the near future he will move his family to the region of his new location which is on the seaboard. The salary coming with the distinction, is a lucrative one, also. His friends in La Grande and Union county will be sorry to have the pioneer fruit man of this district leave the county, but will also feel elated at his prospects.

Graft Prosecutor Sick.

San Francisco, Feb. 10.—Francis J. Heney, the graft prosecutor, is ill in bed today, suffering with grip. He is in a nervous condition, bordering on collapse.

SOLONS DISCUSS NORMAL SCHOOLS

SUNDAY CLOSING BILL

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

Nearly the Entire Day at Salem Consumed by Senate Arguments—Normal School Question Takes Up Much Time—Fate of Weston and Ashland Schools in Hands of Committee—More Salary Bills Vetted by Governor Chamberlain Today.

Salem, Feb. 10.—In the house report of the house committee favoring one Normal school at Monmouth, and to abolish the Normal schools at Ashland and Weston, was discussed for an hour, involving the whole subject supporting the state Normal schools.

The bill for one school was referred to the ways and means committee with instructions to bring in a bill maintaining all three schools as now established.

The governor vetoed three more salary bills affecting raises of Clatsop county officials.

In the senate Abrahams bill for a drastic Sunday law was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 18 to 9. Nearly the entire morning was consumed in senatorial debate.

ADMISSION DAY CELEBRATION

Management Sends Out Invitations to Attend Festivities.

Oregon will properly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the admission of the state to the Union. The formalities are to be held in Salem on February 15, under the management of the legislative assembly, and the Oregon Historical society. The Observer acknowledges receipt of an invitation from the management. The committees having the celebration in charge are headed by these:

M. A. Miller, chairman senate committee of arrangements; J. L. Carter, chairman house committee of arrangements; Frederick V. Holman, president Oregon Historical society.

ENDORSEMENT FOR ELL

Spokane Divine Sends Heartily Endorsement to La Grande for Ell.

Spokane, Nov. 11.—(Special.)—"I take great pleasure commending Captain Ell and his lectures to any and all who would know more, and most of us know too little about the wonders of the deep, or to those who enjoy a good laugh. He has spoken for us three times and the third time had a larger crowd than ever.

"Whole Spokane is delighted with his work. REV. E. M. HILL, "Pastor Jefferson St. M. E. Church, Spokane, Wash."

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