LOCAL ITEMS.

C. R. Hibberd of Imbler, arrived on the afternoon train.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stiles left today for Dayton, where they will visit friends a few days.

Mrs. Luther Ward and daughter of Hilgard, arrived this afternoon from Elgin, where they have been visiting friends.

J. E. Birch, the Pacific Express company route agent, was in La Grande this morning inspecting the local office.

Conductor Toppings has ceased the strenuous life for a month and will till the soil on his homestead in Wallowa county.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Thorson returned to Elgin this morning after having attended the Elks' ball last evening.

Larry Larson, the Allen-Lewis drummer, is on the road again after having been sick at Burns for some time.

J. M. Nolin, general manager of the Mutual Life Insurance company of New York, at Portland, is in the city today on business matters.

Charles H. Button was removed to the hospital last evening, having suffered a slight relapse from his seeming rapid recovery. He is resting easily this afternoon.

Lee Bell, the hustler-booster real estate agent of Elgin, arrived on the afternoon train to transact business here.

Mike Halley of Caldwell, was in the city a few hours today, feeding six carloads of cattle which he is shipping to Portland. While here he took advantage to visit the J. H. Pearz home.

Frederick A. Graham, patent lawyer and mechanical draughtsman with the Scientific American's compiling department of New York, is in the city today transacting business.

District Attorney F. S. Ivanhoe, who is spending the week at Pendleton on legal matters, returned this morning after having attended the annual Elks' ball last evening.

Hugo DeGroot, from across the valley, left today for Portland and northern California. He will be gone a few days on business connected with timber lands of southern Oregon.

A "Safe Refuge" will be the theme at this evening's services at the Baptist church. The special meetings last evening brought out a great many people. All are cordially invited to attend the meetings.

J. E. Reynolds leaves Thursday from this city with a Union county group of homeseekers in the Calgary country. He has an important announcement in another part of this paper.

The regular monthly meeting of the missionary circle of the Baptist church will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Maud Brook in East La Grande, for the study of foreign missions. An interesting program has been prepared under the leadership of Mrs. Ellsworth.

W. R. Hamilton is in Summerville today on business matters.

Henry Posselt who a year ago was manager of the Hall ranch, and about six months ago returned to his native country, Denmark, for a short visit, has returned to Union county. He arrived in Union last Saturday and today came to La Grande. He was accompanied here by his brother, Knute Posselt, who is a stranger to the western country. Both will remain here indefinitely.

FIRE AT ELGIN TODAY

Elgin, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—A new two-story frame house, built last summer, and belonging to William Brooks, located on the west side of the city, was burned this morning at 11 o'clock. The origin of the fire is laid to a defective flue. A little bedding of small value, was all the furnishings saved. Due to the high wind blowing, the surrounding property was in danger for a while, but the fire department came to the rescue at a timely moment. The total loss is conservatively placed at $1200, and insurance to the amount of $800 was carried.

The owner of the property was at the Hackett mill at the time of the fire.

Half Walls Fall.

San Francisco, Feb. 23.—One man was killed and another seriously injured when a portion of the west wall of the old city hall, which is being wrecked, collapsed today. Both were precipitated from the third floor and buried under a ton of twisted iron and masonry.

Cooper Trial Continues.

Nashville, Feb. 23.—The cross-examination of John D. Sharpe, co-defendant in the trial of a charge of murdering former Senator Carmack, continued today. Nothing developed for the prosecution. Col. Duncan Cooper, also a co-defendant, was next placed on the stand by the defense, and testified that he brought Carmack to Nashville many years ago as an editorial writer for his paper. Relations were friendly until four years ago, when the witness espoused the cause of Robert Taylor against Carmack for the United States senatorship. Taylor was elected.

TAFT FALLS UP STAIRS.

Stubbed Toe on Top Stair and Sprawls Full Length on Floor.

Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—The sight of President-elect Taft, sprawled full length, after falling up stairs in hurrying to catch a train, greettd the eyes of hundreds of persons today. A crowd was following the rushing president-elect, when he stubbed his toe and fell. He picked himself up in a hurry and remarked: "Well, I always heard it was good luck to fall up stairs."

WILL MOVE LOCATION

The Van Duyn Realty company is soon to move into more comfortable and spacious quarters. At present the firm is located in the Scriber building, but in a few days will occupy the room on Depot street formerly occupied by the "Smoke House." The room is being fitted up today and will be remodeled in several respects, a plate glass front being one of the new improvements promised.

ASSETS IN BANK GROW

SEVERAL SETTLEMENTS ARE NOW EFFECTED.

Eighteen Thousand Added to Dividend Paying Powers of the Farmers & Traders by Settlements Made Between Scriber and Pierce and Striker.

So far as indications are concerned a series of settlements have been effected between debtors and the receivership of the Farmers & Traders' National bank that will net approximately $18,000 to the assets of the institution. This sum will add something like 10 per cent over and above the dividends that would have been paid had these settlements not been made, and are substantially the entire extent of what Attorney McMahone of Salem prophesied would be the outcome of his efforts while in the city.

The payments of these moneys, representing two notes, means that the bank will have these assets at hand without bringing suit. Two of the notes were paid by Walter M. Pierce, being in the neighborhood of $7000. Another note was paid by Henry Striker.

As stated, this, in part, fulfills the promises made by McMahone who claimed 20 and 35 per cent would be realized by the settlements. Scriber arrived in La Grande two days ago to perfect the settlements, and was successful as far as Striker and Pierce are concerned. While there are columns of history connected with this case, little of it needs be republished.

SCARE AT ELGIN OVER

Elgin, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Notwithstanding that physicians decreed last night that one member of the Curtiss Comedy company has been seized by small pox, the troupe will show as announced, this evening. One of the actors was taken ill, only slightly, and when a physician was called in declared the case to be a light attack of smallpox. Other doctors were consulted and yesterday evening the opera house was declared in quarantine. Today the doctors agreed that the case is so mild that it is scarcely to be placed under the head of smallpox, and while the man in question will not be allowed out of the hotel, the show will proceed. There was no show last evening. Dr. Kirby this morning pronounced the case harmless and that there is no cause for alarm of any degree.

BURIED IN SEWER.

Workmen Near Seattle Exposition Grounds Killed by Cave-in.

Seattle, Feb. 23.—The report has reached here that a cave-in on the North Trunk sewer near the exposition grounds, resulted today in the death of three men and 14 others are entombed alive 20 feet below the surface. A pipe was forced through the loose dirt to afford air. Falling planks afford a roof for the entombed men.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY.

WANTED—Help wanted in small family. Call at this office or 'phone Red 1321. 2-22tf

LOST—A small black purse with silver and jewelry, in this city last night. Finder leave at this office.