

# La Grande Evening Observer

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LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, ORE.,

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## TWO FIRES IN TWO HOURS' TIME

### NIGHT OF FIRES PREVAILS

#### LOSS EASILY REACHES \$1600

##### ZUBER BUILDING NEAR GEDDES STORE RUINED.

Later in the Night Geddes Store Ignited and Second Call Issued.

Two separate fires in the dead of night, one resultant from the other, is the story of fire facts in La Grande last night. The Geddes store was more or less damaged by the last fire, and stock carried in the store was damaged to the extent of about \$100. This does not include the loss of broken glass and the burned parts of the roof.

At 1:15 this morning the department was called out to fight a fire of unknown origin in a cottage four feet east of the Geddes store. While the flames were beyond control in that structure, the department did, by prompt appearance and energetic efforts succeed in stopping a spread to near-by houses. After the victory, Chief Jones employed two watchmen, and the department dispersed.

**Breaks Out Again.**  
At 3 o'clock, the watchmen discovered evidence of a fire in the roofing of the Geddes store, and the second alarm for the night was turned in. With alacrity the department was again on the scene and managed to stay the progress of the flames, originating in the wooden portion of the roof after the iron sheeting had become heated by the adjacent blaze. The store was well filled with smoke, but water damage to the stock was light. It was a short but bitter fight, and a general conflagration of that section of the town was avoided by the systematic attacks on the fire by the department.

**Cottage Loss Heavy.**  
Cash loss to Mrs. Zuber will easily total \$1500, for the house was built at a cost of \$1800 and had recently

been repaired and generally renovated for a family that was about to move in. While the house was not burned to the ground, charred debris is all that remains of it. It is partially covered by insurance.

While the origin is unknown, it is presumed that hobo's were making night headquarters of the place and had accidentally ignited the wood-work. Incendiarism is not considered plausible.

**Blaze Near Oil Tank.**  
What would have happened had the department not gained the mastery of the Geddes fire is a matter of conjecture only, for the small blaze was directly over the tank containing a large quantity of coal oil. An explosion soon after the fire had started would mean disastrous results to the building and to many others in that vicinity no doubt.

**Record Still Holds.**  
For many years the department here has been holding an enviable record of not letting a fire get beyond their control. The secondary blaze last evening was, in a measure, a spread from the first fire, but for all that the department had left the scene and most of them had retired for the second time that night.

## COIN JINGLERS HOLDING SESSION

F. L. MYERS, REPRESENTING CITY OF LA GRANDE.

Tri-State Convention of Bankers Called to Order in Seattle.

SEATTLE, June 24.—The Tri-State Bankers' Convention was called to order in the Moore theatre this morning. Nearly 600 financiers of Washington, Oregon and Idaho are present. This is the first time a joint session has been held since 1905. The day's session ended with an address on the "Pacific Northwest from an Eastern Standpoint," by J. F. Allen of New York City.

Among the Eastern Oregon representation at this important meeting is F. L. Myers, cashier of the La Grande National bank in this city. He is the only representative from La Grande. While in the exposition city to attend this convention, he will visit the A-Y-P.

## ENGINEER SAYS "COMING SOON"

### DETAIL MAP IS FINISHED

#### WILL BE HERE ON MONDAY

PUSH WORK WHERE IT WAS DROPPED.

North Canal Locations Will be Continued at Once.

The board of managers of the irrigation project received a telegram today from Engineer C. T. Darley, from Wellsville, Utah, that he would arrive here Monday morning, ready to continue the work of locating the line for the canal on the north side of the river.

He also wired the board that he had forwarded a map showing details of certain parts of the work covered by him prior to his departure. The board have been quite restless for several days as they desired the work pushed through as rapidly as possible.

A lull in irrigation quarters has been occasioned of late by illness in the family of the engineer who had the canal surveys in charge. He left for Ogden several days ago intending to be gone for a brief time only, but as he failed to write or inform the committee here in any way, telegrams had been sent him, inquiring for particulars about his return.

It is this condition of affairs that is responsible for the inactivity in irrigation circles, and not apathy among the committees in charge.

**Birth Record.**  
A son to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Briggs, Starkey, Wednesday, June 23, 1909.

## NEW CHARTER IS NOW EFFECTIVE

MEN FROM EAST HAVE GIVEN IT SANCTION.

If Anything Wrong Exists, Correct Charters Are Scarce.

La Grande is now being governed by the new charter. The third time is supposed to charm. At any rate several of the acknowledged authorities on charter proceedings in the east looked this over and submitted their instructions, which were strictly followed, and if there is anything wrong this time it simply shows the folly of trying to comply with the whims of certain attorneys.

The city floated bonds several times under the first charter and if this new charter is defective it can fall back on the old one. However there is little likelihood of such a condition.

## FIRST SPEECH REPRODUCED

### OUR CHURCHES THE THEME

#### SHORT, SENSIBLE SENTENCES

THE CHURCH THE GREATEST INSTITUTION ON EARTH.

First of Speeches at Banquet to be Published as Per Promise.

Deeming that the speeches delivered at the Commercial club banquet last Monday night are all worthy of publication, the Observer will carry out its announced intentions of publishing parts, or all of a great many of the addresses. President Collier's opening address and report, will be reproduced tomorrow for the benefit of those who did not hear it. Dr. S. W. Seemann's words, spoken that night, follow:

**"Our Churches."**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I am quite sure, that I am expected, being a minister, to have eloquence on tap, but you will not expect me on this notice to say anything that will be particularly edifying, or pleasing or entertaining. If I am to speak on "Our Churches," the churches of La Grande, I am sure, that I have a theme that ought to be not only my deepest interest, but my enthusiasm, but the interest and enthusiasm of every man who loves his home, of every man who loves his family, of every man who loves his city, of every man who loves his state, of every man who loves his nation. We understand, and all those who have read history, all those should know something about civilization of that land.

We know that the history of civilization during these nineteen cen-

turies has virtually been a history of the Christian church, and we know that as civilization advances into the nations of the world, that civilization is preceded by the church of Jesus Christ. Missionaries are the advance guard of civilization, and no community can prosper, no community can invite the best citizenship, no community can attract new settlers, which does not highly regard the church, and which does not, gentlemen, esteem the church of Jesus Christ. And so if you are interested in the development of our city, if you are interested in the growth and development of the beautiful and splendid Grande Ronde Valley, I am sure you will sustain the churches of this valley and the churches of our own beautiful city. And so I am glad to call your attention to an institution that invites your sympathy and your aid and your co-operation. I am glad tonight to stand in your midst as one who is to speak for the greatest institution on the earth, the most potent factor of civilization, the one institution that is necessary both for the safety and security of our homes, for the welfare of our families, for the security of our government, and for the development of our civilization. Thank you, gentlemen.

## SHAWMUT CAR ON A. Y. P. GROUNDS

REGISTER AT AN EARLY HOUR—MUCH EXHAUSTED.

Ford No. 1 Reported to be Out of Dangerous Pass and Running

SEATTLE, June 24.—The Shawmut car, second in the New York to Seattle race, arrived at the exposition at 5:33 this morning after an exhausting fight with deep snow in the Snoqualmie pass in the Cascades. Owing to the early hour of arrival the car was not greeted by the crowds. Driver P. A. Pettingill and Mechanic R. H. Messer, went to bed at the nearest hotel. Their time was 23 days, 16 hours and 33 minutes.

Ford car No. 1, which will be third, is reported to have passed through the Snoqualmie pass at day break. It should cross the finish line this afternoon.

## ANT-CIGARETTE LAW IN LANCER

### OLD RULES ARE IN VOGUE

#### RESTRICTION SEEMS LIKELY

CIGARETTE LAW'S STORM OF PROTEST TEST EFFECTIVE.

House Insurgents Decide to Change Many Prevailing Laws.

OLYMPIA, June 24.—Working under the theory that because reorganization was defeated, the special session is proceeding under rules adopted at the regular session. Members of the house insurgents at a caucus late last night, decided to introduce a bill, and attempted to repeal several laws passed by the last session. The anti-cigarette law which raised a storm of protest, is one of the bills against which an attempt is being made to have a change.

There is a sentiment against continuing the session. It may be strong enough to rule out all business except that pertaining to the insurance commissioner and other officers' departments, investigated by a legislative committee. Insurgents are of the opinion that action of the victors in the speakership fight has convinced the barriers and that the way is open for any legislation the members care to consider.

**Four Men Drowned.**

CONCUNULLY, Wash., June 24.—Word has been received of the drowning of four men in the Columbia river Tuesday afternoon by the sinking of a ferry boat. Bert and Rich Webber, farmers, two hired men and twenty head of horses were lost. Wives of the two farmers witnessed the drowning from the bank.

**W. J. Bryan Jr. Married.**

GRAND LAKE, Colo., June 24.—William Jennings Bryan, Jr., and Miss Helen Berger, of Milwaukee, were married here today.

## HOMESTEADS IN BIG DEMAND TODAY

Seven homestead entries, one additional homestead entry and two timber and stone claims were filed in the local land office today. William Birch, of Baker City, John Kalogeropoulos, of Holdman, Ore., Agal Xedes, of Holdman, Ore., George E. Bader, of Pullman, Wash., Walter E. Glapsy, of

Pullman, Wash., Richard H. Baker, of Copperfield, Ore., and Mary M. Christian, of Weatherby, Ore., all homestead entries; George Xedes, of Holdman, Ore., made additional homestead entry, and Walter E. Pratt and Irwin D. Smutz, both of Alice, filed timber and stone claims.

## ROUGH HOUSE AT UNION

### GREEKS ATTACK FREIGHT CREW AND CASE IS NOW IN COURT

Rough house in the truest sense of the word, was enacted at the Union Junction last Tuesday noon, and aside from severe drubbings sustained by a freight crew from La Grande at the hands of 21 ruffian Greeks, the case was in court at Union today. The story has been held in abeyance until today.

It seems that Tuesday noon a freight crew was doing some switching at Union, and accidentally bumped a car into a Greek outfit car with considerable force, scattering dishes in

several directions. The Greeks raised a demonstration in words without music, actuating one of the train crew to strike the interpreter. A general melee followed in which Yankee fists were outdone by Greek numbers. Through Agent Shaw, the Greeks were arrested and arraigned on charges of assault, 21 being defendants. Justice Maxwell bound them over until today, when District Attorney Ivanhoe appeared at 10 o'clock in Union for the state, and L. J. Davis of Union, for the defendants.

## HORNBECK FACES SERIOUS CHARGES

L. W. Hornbeck, the man arrested at Baker City yesterday on the charge of non-support of wife and child was taken before Justice Angus Stewart today, but on account of District Attorney Ivanhoe being at Union, the time of hearing was postponed.

On the 16th of March, 1908, Hornbeck was tried on a similar charge, and was sentenced to serve one year in the penitentiary, but on giving bond

to pay his wife and child the sum of \$20. per month, he was given a parole and it is alleged that he made the payments up until the time of his sentence expired and then dropped payments. He will probably be tried on the same charge, and this time it is not likely that a parole will be given to him.

Hornbeck's hearing has been set for tomorrow at ten o'clock.

## EXTRA EAST WRECKED

### PASSENGER SERVICE AT STANDSTILL FOR SEVERAL HOURS

Two freight cars of an extra east early this morning, demoralized traffic on the mainline for several hours. The accident occurred near Durkee, and was not cleaned up until after the wrecker had arrived from La Grande and spent several hours of diligent work on the mess. No one was hurt. It was another of the many minor, but lucky wrecks which happen on the mountain lines.

Passenger train No. 11, due here at 5:15, backed up to Huntington and let

the fast No. 7, due here at 9:35 a. m. pass it. The latter train reached La Grande at 2:15 p. m., and the train which should have come first, followed it an hour later.

**Call For Bank Statements.**

WASHINGTON, June 24.—Controller today issued a call for statements of the condition of all National banks at the close of business, June 23.

## Boosters To Gather At Burns For Big Boostfest In July

SALEM, June 24.—Within a few days delegations will leave for Burns, Oregon, where a meeting of the Oregon Idaho Development Congress will be held July 1, 2, and 3. Delegates from Weiser and Northern Idaho, will go with the proposition to have the

proposed railroad extended to the Coeur De Alene mining district. Two day will be devoted to discussions and reports on the Coos Bay railroad project. The third day an old-time Fourth of July celebration will be held.