

La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME VIII

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON,

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1909.

NUMBER 271.

GREAT HOST OF PEOPLE STALLED

STRANGE CLOUDBURST TEARS UP GREAT DEAL OF TRACK

Relief to Stranded Trains Came Sooner Than First Anticipated—First Train Moves Shortly After 10 o'clock—Depot, Restaurants And Hotels Congested With Strangers—Boosters Get Busy in the Meantime.

Though trains have left La Grande going east, optimistic reports as to the speedy clearance of tracks were misleading for the workmen—straining every nerve to repair the tracks—reported to Dispatcher Corbett at 2:30 this afternoon that trains would not be moving over the washouts until 5:30. This late report being taken as the most plausible, trains from the east will arrive in La Grande about 8:30 or 9 o'clock tonight.

Approximately 1500 people congested the hotels, depot and public places this morning and last night, due to a cloud burst which late yesterday afternoon created havoc with the main-line tracks in the region of Unity, near Durkee. The size of the crowd held here for clearance was larger than any since the famous washouts in the Blue mountains three years ago, but, sooner than local officials had anticipated, troubles were righted and the congestion relieved when No. 8, which arrived here last evening, was sent eastward. Passenger trains from the east were held at Huntington, though one train was turned there this morning and sent back east. The trains held at Huntington were Nos. 9, 5, 11 and 7, and these were started westward at noon today.

Storm Unforewarned. At 1 o'clock yesterday the air was practically clear at Unity west of Huntington. Half hour later 600 feet of track and a 10-foot filling had been

washed out. One hundred and seventy-five men and three work trains were immediately rushed to the scene and some of the fastest work in the history of railroading took place.

This morning at 9:30, Chief Dispatcher Corbett received a 'phone message from the front to start trains which were tied up here. This was done at once. No. 8 left La Grande at 10:10 o'clock, No. 6 left at 10:30 and No. 10 at 10:45.

After that the yards were practically clear of trains which has been tied up here for the past 12 hours. Depot Stilling.

Tourists and passengers, either too late to secure hotel accommodations or too alarmed about their trains' departure to leave the depot, filled the waiting rooms to suffocation. Children were crammed in like sardines and tired mothers tried in vain to reduce the hub bub of crying children. (Continued on Page Eight.)

DAGO WARSHIP BROKE SEA CODE

TROUBLES OF INTERNATIONAL NATURE MAY RESULT.

Italian Warship Ran Across Target Formation Lines.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—Private information of the unprecedented action of the Italian cruiser "Etna" which is alleged to have steamed deliberately into the line of formation of the U. S. Atlantic fleet during the target practice off Cape Henry, was received in navy circles today.

It is rumored the incident will be the subject of international, but unofficial correspondence between America and Italy. The existing naval code recognized the privacy of target practice. The "Etna" ran close to the targets and then crossed the lines of the battleships and saluted Admiral Wainwright's flagship Georgia and departed.

SENATORS SLIP BY IN THE NIGHT

SENATORS UITE WITH CADETS AT BAKER CITY TODAY.

Special Train Bearing Senate Irrigation Committee Passed Through La Grande After Midnight Last Night—Held at Baker City Pending Repairs to Track—Given Midnight Banquet at Pendleton Last Evening.

A four-coach train bearing the United States Senators who form a senatorial committee to inspect irrigation projects in the Northwest, were stranded in Baker City today, awaiting repairs to the tracks at Durkee. The train passed through La Grande last night, at about 2 o'clock, but contrary to the methods adopted with the passenger trains, the special was not held here, but sent on to Baker City, there to await a clear track. The train slipped out of here without being seen by anyone but trainmen, much as local irrigationists would enjoy having conversed with the August party.

Thinking the senators would be in the city this morning, several irrigationists were at the depot and made an effort to find the special in the conglomerate mess of trains, but were unsuccessful.

Coupled With Cadets. At Baker City this afternoon the special train was attached to the train carrying the Salt Lake cadets, who passed through La Grande last night. The soldier special has been held at Baker City all day.

The senators were given a banquet between 11 and 12 o'clock last night at Pendleton, and left there at 12 o'clock promptly.

Oregon Postmasters Will Meet.

Oregon postmasters of the fourth class are to assemble in Portland, September 10 and 11 for the purpose of making themselves felt as a unit at the National Capital, and having offices placed on the classified list, in order not to be at the beck and call of the congressmen of their respective districts, says a Portland paper.

The meetings are to be held in the convention hall of the Commercial club, and are expected to be the most generally attended of any since the organization was effected.

The meetings are to be held simultaneously with those of the Presidential postmasters of Oregon, and there will be some attempt at unity of purpose with both classes of officials. The railroads of the state have made concessions in regard to rates, and credit will be given on the tickets at the Portland offices on presentation.

ALARMING LOSS IN MEXICO FLOOD

SEVERAL TOWNS COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY STORMS

Towns of Several Thousand Population in Ruins After Floods—Late Reports Show That Original Estimates Were Far Below Actual Conditions—Boats Can't Land Because Bar Has Formed in The Harbor at Montrey.

MONTREY, Mexico, Sept. 3.—News from the flooded districts today indicate that property loss will be greater than the early estimates. Reports from Tampico, and the surrounding country say the damage is worse than reported. The suburb, La Barra, is annihilated, and numbers are missing.

A bar formed across the harbor and a number of boats outside are unable to discharge cargoes.

The towns on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande river are feeling the brunt of the flood. Arguillas, Saynosa, Corales, Canario and San Miguel are completely inundated and several other towns are practically destroyed.

The Mazas river is overflowing its banks, and a wide strip of fertile valley is inundated. Lerda Gomez, Palacio and Matamoros are threatened with destruction. The lower part of the Torreon is directly in the path of the flood. The city of Tula, having nine thousand inhabitants has been destroyed. Tula is in the state of Tamaulipas.

PLAN TO WRECK ENGLISH BOATS

ANOTHER BUNCH OF EXPLOSIVES FOUND IN BIG SHIP.

England Alarmed at Concerted Efforts to Wreck Warships.

LONDON, Sept. 3.—Following the discovery of high explosives in the bunkers of the crack battleship "Forward" the admiralty and state departments are in a wild state of excitement at the discovery. The discovery has been made in the midst of a rigid investigation and the finding of high explosives in the holds of three other

ships recently has created a feeling of consternation. The only deduction to be made from the recent discoveries is that a gigantic plot has been on foot for the purpose of destroying the best ships of the British navy and every effort is now being put forward to discover the source of the conspiracy.

Since the discovery every ship in the service has been ordered searched and every precaution will from now on be taken to apprehend the culprits attempting this dastardly work.

INTERESTING MEETING TONIGHT.

An interesting meeting of the Board of Directors of the Union County Exposition is scheduled to take place tonight at the Commercial club rooms. They will discuss plans and listen to the report of the entertainment committee. Other important business is to be transacted and it is desired that a full membership be present.

BELMONT ANGRY AT REPORTERS

SWEARS AT QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS MARRIAGE.

He Claims that it is not true That He Married the Actress Eleanor Robinson.

NEW YORK, Sept. 3.—August Belmont is reported to have married Miss Eleanor Robson, the noted actress, while abroad. Upon his return today on the steamer Lousitania, the following interview occurred: "The cablegram, Mr. Belmont, stated that you had married Miss Eleanor Robson, the actress, while abroad. We would like to have you verify the report, if you please," said the reporter. "It is none of your bankety-blank business. No one has a right to pry into my private affairs," replied Mr. Belmont. "That is so, Mr. Belmont, but the papers this morning say that Mr. and Mrs. Belmont are passengers on the Lusitania, and we would like to get at the truth of the matter," replied the persistent reporter. "Well, I told you that it was none of your bankety-blank business. It's not true. Now are you satisfied?" heatedly replied Belmont. He then turned on his heel and stalked away "blankety-blanking" everybody in general and reporters in particular.

RULE IN FORCE TODAY.

No Tickets on No. 8 After Today For O. R. & N. Points East.

Today marks the beginning of the time when no tickets to points between here and Huntington will be sold by the O. R. & N. for passenger train No. 8, leaving here at 8:30 p. m. Points beyond Huntington are not included in this provision.

COOK WELCOMED TO COPENHAGEN

WILL MEET KING AT 1 O'CLOCK TOMORROW MORNING

An American Gives First Welcome to The Explorer as he Draws in Sight of Danish Mainland—Will Come to Shore Under Danish Flag And Not An American in One—Mrs. Peary Scouts His Veracity—Baldwin Talks.

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 3.—Late this afternoon Dr. Maurice Francis Eagan, the American minister at Copenhagen, aboard the yacht "New Yorker" met the steamer "Hans" de, and with a wave of his hat gave the first greeting from the American people to Cook, the discoverer of the North Pole, who, standing on the deck of the steamer, bore the American flag which was a welcome sight to the explorer, after a long and perilous trip. In deference to the wishes of the Danish government which requested Cook be allowed to land under Danish colors, Dr. Eagan abandoned the plan to transfer Cook to a yacht so he might land under the stars and stripes.

It has been announced that the steamer bearing Cook here could not arrive before midnight, even though it traveled at top speed. The result was to decide to travel leisurely and arrive Saturday morning. An official reception will be given at ten, Saturday, and immediately afterward Cook will meet the King.

Baldwin Talks Freely.

NEW YORK, Sept. 3.—The discovery of the north pole by Dr. Cook and probable discovery of the south pole in the near future will result in a great stimulus to arctic explorations and a rush of scientists to the polar regions can now be looked for, is the opinion of E. B. Baldwin, the celebrated explorer and meteorologist. He went on to say that Cook's discovery was simply wonderful. He was fortunate in his exploration in finding a chain of islands where game was plentiful and also encountered a comparatively smooth surface to within five degrees of the pole. The assistance of the brave little Eskimos was a great value and can not be underestimated. He says that considerable skepticism is being manifested regarding Cook's wonderful mode of fast travelling, he having covered 500 miles in 35 days, but that it is not well founded for it is not only possible but highly probable that he covered this distance in the time specified provided the weather was favorable.

Instruments of The Best.

NEW YORK, Sept. 3.—John Bradley who financed the Cook expedition, today denied the explorer was unprepared for a dash to the pole. He said he left with three years' supplies, and he didn't know how much science, but from the price paid for the instruments he believed Cook had the best.

CHICAGO, Sept. 3.—P. G. Bradley, Bradley's brother, has announced that it cost his brother \$50,000 to finance the polar trip.

Mrs. Peary Doubts Story.

SOUTH HARPWELL, Me., Sept. 3.—Mrs. Peary, wife of arctic explorer, is satiric over Cook's discovery. She said:

"I have been expecting to hear that report since I knew Cook started for the pole. It has been a standing joke at the explorer's club of our set in New York. Please don't quote me as being incredulous over the report. It would look too ugly coming just at this time. After all, the great surprise to me is that Cook was alone with two Eskimo boys and had been able to accomplish what men of greater experience and better equipment were unable to do. I am sorry he wrested the honor from my husband, but I congratulate him."

CLEAN SWEEP SALE

Of Seasonable Merchandise

Wash Suits 1-2 Price

Parasols 1-2 Price

Wash Dresses Now 1-2 Price

An elegant line of Wash Dresses with separate Waists and Skirts in white and colors. Values to \$7.50, This week for \$2.47

THIS WEEK ONLY

The Fair

Watch Our Windows

THREE OF THE SENATORIAL IRRIGATION

COMMITTEE AT BAKER CITY TODAY



FRANCIS EMORY WARREN, WYO.



GEORGE E. CHAMBERLAIN, ORE.



WESLEY L. JONES, WASHINGTON.