

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## JOHNSON IS NEAR DEATH

### Lincoln-Like Statesman Making Game Struggle Against Death

### HIS LIFE HANGS BY SLIM THREAD

REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT A CHANGE FOR THE WORSE WILL MEAN HIS DEATH—LATER REPORTS SHOW THAT THE FAMOUS DEMOCRAT WAR HORSE IS RESTING WITH A SLIGHT THREAD HOLDING HE AND LIFE TOGETHER.

ROCHESTER, Minn., Sept. 18.—Though it was declared this morning that Johnson has only a short time to live, the governor is making a game fight for his life. Despite his critical condition his mind is clear, and remembered Taft was due in Minnesota today.

Governor Johnson at 9:45 this morning showed a slight improvement, and almost a perceptible rally. He went to sleep and appeared to be resting.

Johnson's life is hanging by a thread, any change for the worse will be fatal.

Frank Day, the governor's secretary this morning received the following from the house surgeon, McNevin, at the hospital: "The governor's death is but a question of a few hours."

Governor John A. Johnson of Min-

nesota, was born at St. Peter, Minn., July 28, in 1861. He was the son of J. C. Johnson and Caroline Haden Johnson, both natives of Sweden. At the age of twelve he worked in a drug store, and supported his mother and the remainder of the family. He managed to attend public schools. He worked several years in the drug store, and obtained an interest in the St. Peter Herald. He was captain of the Minnesota National guard for seven years. He was state senator from the St. Peter district, and was elected governor in 1904, on the Democratic ticket, and re-elected in 1906-08.

"By far the best medicine that ever came out a drug store." This is the way Governor Johnson was once described. Johnson was obliged to leave school in the twelfth year to prevent his mother from continuing labor, by taking in washing. He rose

from abject and cruel poverty, but remained simple and strong of character. Once, when introduced to Speaker Cannon, he took it as a matter of course that he should sit on the speaker's desk with his back to all members of congress because he hadn't an extra chair for him. He was beloved by all Minnesotans.

The governor was a great student all of his life. He held high ideas and once said: "As a life work I would rather be able to provide for the needs of my family and enjoy the fellowship of good friends, good books and write one book that would be read for a hundred years, than to be able to amass all the money in the world."

In 1908 he was elected state senator and again in 1900. In 1904 he was elected governor by a plurality of 8,000 while Roosevelt carried the state by 161,000. Two years later he was re-elected by 88,000 and was re-elected last year.

Johnson was not a society man. Both he and his wife fulfilled the courtesies of the gubernatorial position, but love of home life was very strong with them.

Governor Johnson was a great baseball fan, a good swimmer and an all found sportsman, but withal, modest.

#### Suffragettes in Jail.

BIRMINGHAM, Eng., Sept. 18.—Eight suffragettes were arrested last night during a riot, which was started to prevent Premier Asquith from speaking. They were arraigned here today, and two sentenced to jail for eight months. The remainder will be sentenced later.

#### Murderer Given Sentence.

PORTLAND, Sept. 18.—Three years in the penitentiary was the sentence imposed on R. T. Dickerson, the local contractor, by Judge Gastenbein this afternoon for killing Harry A. Garrett, on the morning of June 21. Under the jury's verdict of manslaughter, the sentence could have been from one to 15 years.

## TAFT GRIEVED AT SERIOUS ILLNESS

### EXECUTIVE VISITING IN THE TWIN CITIES TODAY

President Taft Received With Great Ovation Notwithstanding That Minneapolis And St. Paul Are Hushed With Silence Due to Johnson's Illness—Will Attend Banquet at Minneapolis Tonight—Johnson Wives From Deathbed.

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 18.—Taft arrived at 7:15 this morning and breakfasted at the Commercial club. Thousands greeted the presidential train.

Replying to a message sent by Governor Johnson to Taft, the president wired the following: "Am greatly distressed because of your serious illness. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the welcome you've sent me from your bed of pain. I fervently hope for your speedy recovery. I send you my compliments, and my respects to Mrs. Johnson, whose visit to Washington I remember with much pleasure."

(Signed) WILLIAM TAFT. The president left for St. Paul at noon. At St. Paul he had luncheon at the auditorium, and afterwards was driven to the state capitol grounds. Tonight he will attend a banquet at the Minneapolis auditorium.

## SPIRITED MULE CONTEST RACING

### OWNER ISSUES DEFIES TO ALL MULE OWNERS.

### Three in Pool Already And May be Side Show Worthy of Entering.

A spirited mule contest is running rampant. In fact it now gives evidences of becoming as much an issue as is the question who is going to capture the blue ribbon at the display of horse flesh at the fair. Pride in yearling mules was the starter. It isn't necessary to relate just how the competition arose, but it has arisen and there are already three \$10 bills in an open pool to back the statements of as many mule owners who all claim to hold the winner.

W. B. Grandy, who owns mules and J. D. McKennon another mule owner, each brandished the filthy lucre at each other this morning, and Walter M. Pierce, a third mule owner, got in his simoleons to back his statements. Now the matters stands where it did previously except that when the judge from Corvallis passes on the grade of horses in the fair display he will give his final word that will throw the money to one of the men in the pool. Bring on your mules and \$10 is the defy issued by the three now in, each and everyone feeling confident of securing the honor of owning the best mules in the valley and also of taking down the pool money. During fair week it is expected that the pool will swell materially.

It is rumored that the whole fracas started through the diplomacy of Will Church. If rumors are right, Church told Mr. Grandy that McKennon had snorted at the quality of the Grandy mules, and Church soon after reversed the persons on McKennon. That started it, and this valley rich in fine mules, will as a result have a side treat for visitors at the fair.

## BIG ATTENDANCE FIRST WEEK

### TOTAL OF EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVEN PRESENT

Superintendent Stout Compiles Table of First Week's Attendance—High School Has Enrollment of 128 Already—Attendance Outtops Other Years For Opening Week—Many More to Enter as Farm and Fruit Ranches Are Gleaned.

A grand total enrollment of the city schools for the first week of school ending yesterday was compiled by Superintendent Stout today, showing that 857 are in attendance the first day, a figure that outdoes former years. According to the table of enrollment, the following registered the first week:

High school building—High school 128, 8A 42, 8B 35; second A and B, 38; primary 48. Total 363.

White building—6A and B, 46, 5A and B 31, 4A and B 52, 3A and B 22. Total 181.

Northside building—6A 21, 6B 28, 5A and B 47, 4A and B 33, 4B and 3 A 51, 3B and 2A, 50, 2B and 1A 47; Primary 36. Total 313. Grand total 857.

This total in view of the fact that many of the boys and girls too, living near the city and in this district for high school education, are held at their homes for a few days until the busy season is ended. As a rule these students do not register for two or three weeks. Next Monday will see a material increase in the high school enrollment.

## INFURIATED LION ATTACKS DRIVER

### EXPRESSMAN SAVES OWN LIFE BY LIGHTED MATCHES.

### Lions Break Out of Cage And Consume Express Horse And Goats.

NORTH YAKIMA, Sept. 18.—For nearly a half hour James Symonds, an expressman, held an infuriated lion at bay by throwing lighted matches in its face.

Two lions escaped from the cage which Symonds' wagon was carrying. One attacked the horse so furiously that it will die, and then ate two trained goats. The other attacked Symonds. It was finally beaten and re-captured in the stable.

#### Packed to The Doors Again.

The popular Pastime theatre was packed to the doors again last night with an audience, who came knowing that they were to pass an enjoyable two hours, and they certainly had it. Applause, laughter and tears were generously indulged in by all, and the play was given the best possible production.

Tonight will be the last performance of this beautiful drama, and tomorrow night, the popular company will present Sol Smith Russell's greatest play "Peaceful Valley" with a cast of eleven people.

#### Street Car Collision.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 18.—Seven were injured in a rear end street car collision on Mission and Third streets. The cars were completely demolished. Many were injured and cut with the glass.

## DAREN ESTATE SOLD AT AUCTION

### ONE OF SPEEDIEST REAL ESTATE SALES THIS YEAR

Sale at Court House Late This Afternoon Brings Big Delegation From Elgin—Tract Knocked to W. D. Hindman of Elgin, Who Offers Five Thousand For The Property—Two Hundred Acres of Land And Considerable Timber on It.

One of the most important yet, and one of the most speedy real estate transfers of the season, took place at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the court house, when in a few minutes the well known Daren estate located near Elgin, was sold to W. D. Hindman for the sum of \$5,000. A large number of wealthy people from Elgin and other parts of the county were present to bid on the well known farm consisting of 200 acres of wheat land, 40 acres of pasture, and 100 acres of timber.

The sale was the outgrowth of the partition suit brought by Edmund Daren against the other heirs of the estate. The case was tried at the last term of circuit court.

## TEXAS RACE WAR GROWS INCIPIENT

### TWO BLACKS LYNCHED FOLLOWING SHOOTING FRAY.

### Negroes Arming Themselves And Will Retaliate on Whites.

SANDY POINT, Texas, Sept. 18.—Steve Hayes and Charles Delancy, Negroes were lynched today, making a total of seven deaths in the recent man hunt, and incipient race war here. The blacks are arming and preparing to retaliate on the whites, who are aroused by the killing of three whites by Hayes yesterday. Two blacks were killed in a running fight in connection with the pursuit of Hayes and Delancy.

#### BACK FROM HARNEY COUNTY.

Wm. Smith, returned yesterday from an extended trip through the Harney, and Malheur country, and is loud in his praise of that section. He says that that particular section of Eastern Oregon is filling up with settlers from the east at a very rapid rate and that one who had not seen that country for a year previous would scarcely know the country at this time. New homesteads and farm houses are to be seen in every direction and a general look of prosperity prevails all over Eastern Oregon. While away he visited the oil fields in and around Vale and other sections and says that the spirit of "oil" is just as strong in the breasts of the prospectors and investors as it ever was and that they have pretty good grounds for being optimistic on the subject. Some of the wells are producing large quantities of gas and some of them are showing splendid indications of oil.

While away he visited the new coal discovery near Vale and gives it as his opinion that Oregon in no distant day will have one of the finest coal fields in the west. He says the coal is of good quality, the veins being some five to seven feet in thickness and extremely easy of development. The only trouble is the lack of transportation which is expected to be supplied by the building of the Oregon Central railroad.

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For Style **THE FAIR** For Style



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The Skirt with a Swing and a Dash that is not found in other skirts. The skirt that is properly tailored; the styles are right and made from the newest cloths.

New Suits  
New Shoes  
New Hats  
New Silks  
New Coats  
New Sweaters



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They Fit, they Wear and they have the magic style  
**YOU WANT THEM**  
See Our Royal Tailored Clothing

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