

## FREIGHT RUNS AWAY ON STEEP GRADE FROM KAMELA TO MEACHAM

### MORE FAKES DISCOVERED

### COOK SAID TO HAVE FAKED THE NORTH POLE FLAG PHOTOGRAPH

### PLANES AT SEA AS TO WAY TO BACK OUT OF MATTER

### Whether Adverse Nor Favorable Report Will Be Made By Danish Committee Is the Latest.

Pittsburg, Dec. 20.—That Dr. Fred A. Cook the Brooklyn explorer faked the picture of the flag which he claims to have planted on the pole as the charge made today by John A. Brasher, an astronomer, connected with the University of Pittsburg. Had the flag been planted at the pole, Brasher declared, it would have cast long shadows as the sun at that time had only an elevation of eight degrees. Cook's picture, he charges, shows no shadow. Cook explains this by saying that the picture that he took was a very small one and that any details had been lost when it had been enlarged for actual use in the lantern slides. Dr. Brasher does not believe that either Cook or Perry ever reached the pole.

Danes are Embarrassed. Copenhagen, Dec. 20.—That the committee investigating the data of Dr. Cook will not return a report either favoring or adverse to the claims of the explorer, was the prediction today by a member of the faculty of the University of Copenhagen, who is cognizant of the deliberations of the committee. The savants of the Danish university who are serving on the committee are said to be deeply embarrassed by their former championship of Dr. Cook, coupled with their inability to find anything approaching acceptable proof of his reports and are now casting about for a way to gracefully retire from the controversy.

### BEAN UKASE FILED HERE

### CITY CAN REPAIR WALK AT ITS OWN EXPENSE NOW.

### Bean's Decision in the Oliver Case Affirmed with the County Clerk.

Judge H. J. Bean of Pendleton, on this morning filed with the county clerk his decision on the application of Anna Oliver to reinstate the injunction against the city of La Grande and its street superintendent, pending the appeal to the supreme court, by which decision the injunction was reinstated for a period of twenty days until the transcript on appeal can be filed in the supreme court, after which the supreme court will have jurisdiction. In the meantime the city is permitted at its own expense to make such temporary repairs upon the walk as will make it passible for the public without doing any injury to the plaintiff's lawn trees or shrubbery.

### WALLA WALLA APPEARS WET

Walla Walla, Dec. 20.—An early prediction at noon based on the heavy morning vote indicates that the town of Walla Walla will remain wet of about 300. Both sides are claiming a victory as a matter of course but it is believed

### FUNERAL LARGELY ATTENDED

### Neighbors and Friends of Victim of Fall Escort the Remains to Burial.

The Methodist church yesterday was filled to capacity with friends of the late C. R. Thornton and sympathizers of the lately bereaved family, when the funeral services were held over the remains of the victim of the recent fall at Enterprise. The family has the sympathy of the entire community. As a reflection of the attentive devotion which the deceased gave to the church of his faith, it need only be mentioned that he was Sunday school secretary for twenty consecutive years, and his church affiliations along other lines were fully as attentive as this. His life has been an unassuming, unostentatious one, filled always with strict attention to his vocation, his family and his church.

### THREE BURN TO A CRISP

### CHILDREN ATTEMPT TO GET A BREAKFAST BUT START A FIRE.

### Parents were Unable to Prevent the Gruesome Incineration of their Little Ones.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Mary, aged 6; Charles, aged 4; James, aged 2, all the children of John Paromi, were burned to death in their home today when one of the little girls was trying to get the breakfast for her parents. The parents arose early this morning and went to shed in rear of the premises for the purpose of butchering a cow which Paromi had purchased the day previous for that purpose. Some fifteen minutes later the woman saw large quantities of smoke pouring from the kitchen windows. She rushed to the house and found to her horror the lifeless bodies of two of the little children stretched on the floor while a little distance away were the bodies of the other two children, shriveled almost beyond recognition. Mary, the oldest lay at the side of the little ones, and as her mother rushed into the burning room she raised herself upon her elbow and faintly said: "I was getting breakfast for mama." She never spoke again and in a few minutes expired.

### THIEF LANDS IN PRISON

Baker City, Dec. 20.—The Democrat says: "Through the clever detective work of Sheriff Ed. Rand, Deputy Jno. P. Hannon of Huntington, and Marshal Kelsey of that place, the man who robbed the Knox jewelry store at Huntington of valuables to be estimated at about \$4,000 on last Thursday evening about 5:30 o'clock, was arrested yesterday, so advices received here at the sheriff's office stated, last night, and the prisoner was brought here on the train arriving last night from that place. Without doubt according to the story of the officers, they have the right man and they are to be congratulated in not only affecting the arrest but also in securing the valuable plunder that was stolen.

that the wets have it. Intense excitement prevails on the streets and three hours after the polls opened at 9 o'clock, half of the 3,235 registered votes had been cast.

### ESTRADA WANTS RECOGNITION. Will Not Be Dictated to By Congress Or Zelava he Affirms.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Provisional President Estrada has made a request that the United States government now recognize the Nicaraguan revolutionary party in whose hands the government now is. Estrada declares that he will not accept a president named by Zelava or the Nicaraguan congress and intimates that he will fight to the end should Madriz Iris be chosen.

### NONE HURT IN MAD DASH OVER A TEN MILE COURSE

### EXTRA WEST BREAKS LOOSE AT KAMELA AND ENGINELESS TEARS DOWN THE PRECIPITOUS MOUNTAIN SIDE.

### Train Crew Left at Kamela With the Engine, but Stockmen and Outfit Cars Carried Away by the Runaway Train—Cars Picked out of the Middle of Train and are Hurled for Miles. Twenty-Four in the Ditch.

Providence never watched more closely over the lives of half a hundred men and scores of cattle than it did this forenoon when an extra west freight train broke loose from its moorings at Kamela and without engine, raced madly down the steepest incline on the O. R. & N., rail road to a point 4 1-2 miles west of Meacham, a distance of 10 1-2 miles, scattering cars right and left, wrecking telegraph communication, destroying railroad property, but through it all, preserving the lives of men unwillingly participating in the mad rush. It is one of the freaks in railroading, that none were killed and none injured. Twenty-four cars are in the ditch, all but one at the point west of Meacham where the runaway came to a halt. The La Grande wrecker is on the scene, responding to a hurry call at 11:30 shortly after the run down the hill commenced.

Airbrakes Leaked. The extra had let No. 11 the fast mail pass it at Kamela, and was coaling up the engine when the run started. The train crew was off the train, and was left at the summit while the runaway was under way, but in the process were half a dozen stockmen who were in charge of several cars of stock which made up a good portion of the train. It appears from the meagre details obtainable, that while the crew were working with the engine the air brakes had leaked and became loose and without warning the train, engineless, commenced a wild career down the steep grade. The men made no attempt to jump from their places in the caboose until such an action on their part would have been useless and fatal. The story of the mental suffering of the men in the caboose and the 15 laborers in the outfit cars which were also a part of the train, is of course unknown. That they expected death momentarily is a foregone conclusion, as the hill is especially steep and is filled with sharp curves and tunnels.

Through the town of Meacham, six miles from the summit, the train sped with terrific momentum. It seems that the more dangerous portions of the run were passed successfully.

Strange Things Occur. Perhaps another feature as strange as any is that one car of lumber was thrown from the middle of the train and struck terra firma many feet from the railroad track. This incident however was no bar to fast transportation, as the train, now running in two sections, continued to run as swiftly as ever. Four miles or a little over west of Meacham the train finally came to a halt. Twenty-three cars went into the ditch then. Of this number, some were in front and some were in the rear of the car of stock. These stock cars were left on the track with the caboose. Otherwise everything was twisted into an indiscriminate mass and in which the track was badly torn up.

Four outfit cars carrying a number of men estimated at between ten and twenty, were among those derailed. Traffic At Standstill. So badly were the telegraph wires twisted and torn in the accident when the cars were sent hurtling from the track and striking the poles of the Western Union and the railroad wires that all communication was instantly cut off and stayed so until about two o'clock and when a detachment of signalmen managed to get some temporary wires to working.

Not a turnout running west was stalled at Kamela. As to the time of clearing up the wreck, little can be learned and guesses are futile. There is little hope of clearing it way this evening, but indications point to a clear track by morning.

Railroad men and officials shudder at the thousands of things that might have occurred to the runaway, but standing out most prominent of these possibilities is what would have happened had a train been on the hill. Of course block signals would have been of no avail in such instances for the town of Sumpter.

### TRAINS RUNNING LATE.

### Continual Drifting of Snow in Wyoming and Through Nebraska is To Blame for This.

West bound passenger trains are running on frightfully late schedules. The slow orders still prevail as the drifting snow mixed with sand through Wyoming and western Nebraska necessitates the continuous cleaning of the tracks. About 12 hours late, but more often complete annulment is the rule of the service. To eliminate long delays, eastbound trains are turned at the points of the trouble and run back west again as stub trains for the accommodation of local passengers.

W. J. Townley of Union left this morning for Wallawa county where he is largely interested in the hay business.

### BRIDGE FALLS AND 27 DIE

### COLLAPSE OF RUSSIAN BRIDGE IS FATAL FOR MANY.

### Victims are Precipitated to the Frozen Waters of the Pripet River.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—Twenty-seven persons were drowned by the collapse of a wooden bridge across the Pripet river at the village of Mosyr, situated in the province of Minsk, according to the report reaching here today. A crowd of workmen and women were crossing the bridge for the purpose of beginning their daily toll when the bridge collapsed, throwing them into the river, which was running swiftly and which was filled with great blocks of ice, making it impossible to rescue the unfortunate victims.

### NEWS COMES LONG WAYS

### CRIPPLED WIRES CAUSES ENORMOUS TRIP BY WIRE.

### La Grande and Baker City Reached by Hundreds of Miles of Relay Service.

Expense is no item of consideration in bringing the news of the day to the clients of the United Press, among which is the Observer. Today's wreck has so crippled the telegraph wires that Eastern and Foreign news accumulating in the Portland offices this morning and forenoon could not be communicated to the Observer via the Portland wire. Instead, at a late hour when it became known that the congestion was serious, the files were sent to San Francisco, then to Salt Lake and relayed to Boise, from whence they were transmitted to Baker City and La Grande.

### THAW LOSES LAST ROUND

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Supreme court doors today were closed against Harry Thaw. Justice McKenna handed down a ruling refusing to review the case. At present at least, Thaw must stay in the mad house, suffering from insanity which was the cause of his killing Architect Stanford White on the Madison Square Roof Garden.

Chester Hamilton one of the eluding merchants of Summerville, is in the city today.

### MAYOR'S VETO AXE SWINGS

### STRINGENT LIQUOR ORDINANCE TO BE VETOED BY THE MAYOR TONIGHT

### ACTION TAKEN ON THE GROUND THAT LEGALLY INCORRECT.

### Will Call a Special Meeting This week To Give the Ordinance Back to the Council.

Mayor M. K. Hall will veto the stringent ordinance passed by the council at its last meeting, which in the main, is to force physicians to file with the recorder of the city a duplicate of the orders on drug stores for alcoholic liquors for medical purposes. The veto-axe was swung tonight, the fifth day after passage of the ordinance.

Mr. Hall has no objections as to the main provisions of the ordinance, to-wit: the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors and the keeping of them on the premises for the use of others. His principal objections is on legal grounds, having been advised by several of the attorneys that the provisions requiring physicians to file copies of their prescriptions which they may write for alcoholic stimulants with the recorder cannot be enforced.

He has also been informed that the state law holds that the relation between physician and patient are privileged and that a physician has no right to disclose the facts concerning his patients which may have come to him as the result of professional confidence. Dr. Hall states that he would not obey such an ordinance himself unless the supreme court ordered it, and that he cannot conscientiously by a party to the adopting of such an ordinance, and considers it his duty to prevent its passage if he can. There are also several minor technicalities. The mayor states that it is his intention to call a special meeting of the council for Wednesday the 23 inst. to return the ordinance to the councilmen, and in case the veto is upheld, to submit for their consideration an ordinance practically the same with the objectionable parts eliminated.

### MOTHERS IN SORRY MIXUP

An amusing, but no less distressing occurrence took place Saturday afternoon, when by mistake a La Grande mother, while out shopping in one of the stores, mistook another baby buggy for her own and wheeled it to another store. A half hour or more had passed when the baby began to cry and when the lady went to quiet the little darling she discovered her mistake and left the baby and buggy there and hurried back to the original store.

The mother of the baby at the first store had discovered her loss and she, too, left the baby and buggy that was supposed to be hers, but was not. Consequently both babies for a time was deserted. It so happened however, that the father of the child first taken happened to be in the store shopping and in the midst of the confusion recognized that it was his child and immediately took the baby home. The cause of the initial mistake was the fact that the two baby carriages and dresses of the infants were almost exactly alike in appearance.

### SUICIDE AS REVENGE.

### Too Poor to Buy Wedding Presents So Hangs Himself.

Tacoma, Wash. Dec. 20.—Because he found himself financially unable to purchase a wedding present for his daughter who was married last week E. A. Olson, a taylor, committed suicide by hanging himself.

### FEARED THE WORST

### Local Doctors Held Ready to Go Out With the Wrecker.

Arrival here of the first news of a wreck of this description created consternation among local officials and physicians were hurriedly summoned to be rushed to the scene of the wreck where the officials naturally enough feared many were injured. Before a rescue train consisting of crane and men could be put under way, additional news of the wreck was received in which it was learned that none on the train were hurt. The doctors in that event were not needed and the rescue train was hurried to Meacham at 11:30.

The train crew safe. In view of the fact that the train crew was with the engine while it was taking on coal, that number of men escaped the terrible ride down the mountain. The engineer was Fields and F. Ray was the conductor. Both of these men are residents of La Grande.

### News of the Wreck Meager.

While some of the most important features of this sensational run have been telephoned to Chief Dispatcher Corbett by the caboose telephone method, the sensation experienced by those many men will not be related in full in many days. The many fortunate features will easily brand the entire affair as the most remarkable in the annals of Oregon railroad history.

### EXTEND THE MAIL LIMITS

### SOUTH AND WEST LA GRANDE TO BE INCLUDED.

### Orders go Out from Postoffice to Become Effective Soon—Muchly Needed Improvement.

An extension in the city carrier service of this city has been ordered and will become effective on January 16. All of South La Grande, commonly known as Old Town, and the west side hill are to be included in the service at that time, according to information filed with Postmaster Richey. A carrier and a substitute will be named by appointment, and examination in the near future.

At present the system is bounded by the foot of the Westside hill and excludes all of South La Grande. The new carrier will take beyond these limits to the sections named. The service will be extremely welcome. This order comes after strenuous efforts on the part of the postmaster, and the showing made in sidewalk improvement in that section.

### J. C. Ardrey Appointed.

Among the nominations sent to the senate today appears the name of J. C. Ardrey for the Portland Land Office and H. S. Buck, postmaster at the town of Sumpter.