

La Grande Evening Observer

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BALLINGER PROBE SURE

BALLINGER HIMSELF PRESSES CONGRESS TO LOOK INTO RECORDS

HOME STATE WANTS THE MATTER SIFTED THOROUGHLY

There Will be No Delay in Turning The Department Records Topsy Turvy in Probing Matter

Washington, Dec. 21.—It was finally determined today that there should be a thorough investigation of the so-called Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. Senator Flint today introduced resolutions which were adopted, calling upon President Taft to turn over to congress all reports, statements purporting to contain charges made by L. R. Ciavis, former chief of the field division of the land office against Secretary of the Interior Ballinger.

After the resolution had been adopted, Senator Jones of Washington read before the senate a letter from Ballinger demanding in the strongest terms a thorough investigation of his department, and that of the forest reserve service. Senator Jones declared that he would have offered a resolution himself for the investigation immediately after holidays.

Senator Jones of Washington, after reading Ballinger's note in the senate, declared that Ballinger did not wish a whitewash. He said if the charges made against him were true that he was unfit to hold the office. The people of the state of Washington, he said, demanded this investigation, whether the charges were true or not.

Rescue Hose Meeting.

Rescue Hose Company No. 1 will meet tonight and as there are matters of importance, a full attendance is desired.

GRAFTING FAILS TO SAVE LIFE OF ELECTRICIAN

Walla Walla, Dec. 21.—Reed Crews the electrician who was so terribly burned here on October 23, by falling on the live wires of the Northwest ern Corporation sub-station, died of his wounds this morning.

Crews made a great fight for his life. His physicians grafted over 900 inches of skin which was donated by 350 people of Walla Walla.

ACT ON READING ROOM.

Mission Movement Put in the Hands of a Committee Last Night.

A men's mission room and reading room is now in the hands of a committee consisting of Rev. Gray of the Baptist church and Ellis of the Christian church. At the meeting called at the Baptist church last evening for that purpose, the mission subject was discussed at length. The committee is now choosing a favorable location in the downtown district where a mission can be opened.

SYMPATHY WITH STRIKE

FREIGHT HANDLERS AND CLERKS WILL JOIN STRIKE.

Large Territory To Be Included in The New Turn of the Switchmen's Troubles.

Minneapolis, Dec. 21.—More than 2,000 freight handlers and railway clerks that are now being employed by the railroads of the Northwest will go out on a strike in sympathy with the members of the switchmen's union, according to a statement made today by H. B. Perham, chairman of the railway department of the American Federation of Labor. The proposed strike it is reported, will extend over the entire territory that is now being affected by the switchmen's strike.

\$25,000 FOR DEPOSITORS

RECEIVER GETS PARCEL FOR DEPOSITORS IN BANK NOW DEFUNCT

WANTS IMMEDIATE CALL FOR DIVIDEND CHECKS.

Farmers & Traders Checks Come For Depositors—Expectations Met—Means Considerable to Local People Just Now.

Approximately \$25,000 in the shape of dividend checks reached La Grande last night from the comptroller of the currency, and early this morning Receiver Walter Niedner commenced a rapid distribution of the Christmas presents to the depositors in the defunct bank. The regular avenues which the checks went through must have been smooth ones for the receiver's prediction that the checks would return here properly signed by December 20, proved an accurate one. The checks represent a 10 per cent dividend to the depositors.

In order to facilitate matters it is important that depositors appear with the receiver's certificate of deposit at once and remove the checks. This is important from several standpoints. All the credentials that is necessary is the certificate of deposit issued by the receiver.

With this amount of money dropping in just previous to Christmas many dollars will be put into circulation this week which otherwise would miss the whirl of Christmas shopping and Christmas buying.

Attempt at Lynching.

Belleville, Ill., Dec. 21.—Sixteen men are in jail here today following an attempt at lynching of Will Clark a negro, who is accused of killing two street car platform men. Clark was surrounded in the jail by a special guard which prevented the attempt at a lynching here.

SPELLS DOOM TO DR. COOK

DANISH CONSISTORY FLATLY DENIES THAT DR. COOK REACHED POLE

EXPLORER'S DOWNFALL IS COMPLETE AND CONCLUSIVE.

Nothing in His Data to Warrant His Statement—His Secretary Severely Grieved and Claims More in Other Data.

Copenhagen, Dec. 21.—The committee which have been investigating the data of Dr. Fredrick Cook, today officially reported to the consistory of the University of Copenhagen that Dr. Cook's records of observations were wholly insufficient to warrant the verdict that the North Pole had been discovered by the Doctor.

Discrediting Dr. Cook was a severe blow to the Danish scientists, who have stood firmly by him, giving him their support under Commander Peary's charges.

When Dr. Cook first arrived in this city he was given a great reception, and honors were paid him by both high and low even including the King who since has recalled somewhat openly his chagrin. It is well known that the Danish experts were personally inclined toward Dr. Cook, most of them having come out with statements substantiating his claims.

Therefore this absolutely flat decision against him is all the more convincing. It is believed that if the data and records had provided any ground whatever for the scientists to have stood out that the scientists would have held to Dr. Cook as long as there was any possible show.

A member of the committee today said that it took the committee but a few minutes to see that Dr. Cook's observations and so-called records were absolutely worthless. We could have reported immediately, said he, but it took us several days to recover from our surprise. The so-called note book on which Dr. Cook relied to a great extent for vindication had only the accounts of his observations rather than a record of the observations themselves. These note books were thrown aside without a moment's consideration. "We can not understand how a man with Dr. Cook's reputation as a scientist, could have attempted to bolster up his claims with such stuff," said he.

Cook's private secretary, Lonsdale who represented the explorer here, is bitterly disappointed. He is making every effort to have the consistory withhold his final judgment until the whole of Cook's data is presented to it. Lonsdale told the committee that the missing data, which was a part of Cook's original documents, were sent here from America by a different route from that by which he came. He claims that the additional data will arrive in a few days. The secretary said the method of sending the data two different routes was adopted for protection. Consistory refuses to pay any attention to Lonsdale's appeal, and the findings as announced today have been declared as final as far as the consistory is concerned.

Ferry Delighted.

Washington, Dec. 21.—When shown today's dispatches from Copenhagen, Commander Peary said: "Three or four months ago from Labrador I sounded an explicit warning to the world based upon complete and accurate information obtained regarding Cook. In doing so I accepted the responsibility devolving upon me, and fulfilled my duty to the world, myself."

Fight Pictures Tonight.

Every one who enjoys clever boxing will see the finest moving pictures of a fight ever made when the Ketchell-Johnson pictures are seen at the Pastime tonight.

The first performance was given at 1 p. m. today and ever since the doors were opened a steady stream of sport loving patrons has been pouring into the Pastime. All say that for clearness, steadiness and all round high class pictures, these have anything but a "Salt Lake block" seen in La Grande.

Tomorrow night "Facing the Music" and Thursday night, the famous "My Friend from India" will hold the boards.

Wheat Continues High.

With wheat hugging the dollar mark in the Grande Ronde markets, there is but little sale, compared to the amount which has changed hands here in the recent past. The price is constant however and fluctuates but very little.

FOUR DEGREES ABOVE ZERO RECORD HERE LAST NIGHT

Registering four degrees above zero last night, the government mercury machine operated by W. A. Worstell records that the cold snap of last evening was exactly as cold as the coldest night this winter. During the present day the mercury never went higher than 21 and at 2 o'clock had reached 19 above, going down rapidly. The weather predictions say there will be no change over the weather of last night.

Grane Is Home.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—Expressing a belief that the Jeffries-Johnson fight will be held in Salt Lake City, promoter Eddy Graney arrived yesterday from New York. "I didn't get what I went after," said the "honest blacksmith," "but I have no kick coming. I put in what I consider a good bid for the fight but other fellows thought differently, that's all to it."

PASSENGERS TELL STORY

REMARKABLE INCIDENTS RELATED BY EYE WITNESS OF THE WRECK.

Two Tramps Came Out Safe With the Car in Which they were Riding Reduced to Kindlingwood.

That the stockmen in the caboose attached to the runaway freight yesterday on the Kamela hill did not know of their precarious predicament, is another of the startling features of the wreck which has been the wonder of all the Northwest where the news has reached.

The men were conversing in the caboose when the train started and thinking that the engine was attached paid no attention to it. Soon they discovered the terrific speed at which they were going down the hill, and immediately commenced to "cuss" the engineer. As the speed increased the men became alarmed at their reckless driving. Suddenly below, Meacham the train came to halt with 24 cars in the ditch and the men then realized that they had been riding in a runaway train down a mountain side.

Car Tilted Edgewise.

So near derailment was the caboose according to an eyewitness, that it was tilted on edge at an angle of about 45 degrees. Aside from unseating the occupants of the car no resemblance of injury was felt.

Tramps Narrow Escape.

Two tramps had been stealing a ride on the train and added their experience to the others on the runaway. At the time of the smashup, the car on which they were riding was so completely converted into kindling wood that its resemblance to a freight car was utterly lost. Notwithstanding this, the men escaped without a scratch, and begrudged fate that had not carried them to a wet town before the spill. Their escape is even more of a miracle than of those who occupied the outfit cars.

Engine Followed Train.

Today the details of the sensational affair are creeping out as the eye witnesses and participants of the affair are telling their stories. Engineer Fields and Conductor Rae were working near their engine at the Kamela coal chutes, when the alarm was given. The engine followed as closely as possible to the fleeing train and was at the scene of the wreck a few minutes after it had happened.

Meacham Residents Flee.

The Kamela operator notified the Meacham operator of the runaway, and employees and residents living near the track at the railroad helper station, quickly sought places of safety before the train reached there. They expected derailment at that point, if other hazardous places were passed. When the runaway dashed through the station with a frightful roar the inhabitants again crowded to the depot awaiting word of some description of what would happen when the train was finally wrecked.

CHRISTMAS GROCERIES.

Look Over this List Before Placing Your Order.

Fruits, Oranges, Bananas, Cranberries, Sliced Pine Apples, Sliced Peas, Vegetables, Cauliflower, Celery, Sweet Potatoes, Squash, Parsnips, Lettuce, Cabbage and a whole store of other good things at J. G. Snodgrass's grocery. This store will be closed Christmas.

MADROZ HAS PRESIDENCY

ESTRADA IMMEDIATELY PLANS ATTACK ON NEW LEADER OF NICARAGUA

ESTRADA IMMEDIATELY PLANS ATTACK ON NEW PRESIDENT

Successor to Zelaya Takes His Seat Today and Storms Immediately Begin to Gather.

Managua, Dec. 21.—Jose Madroz today assumed the presidency of Nicaragua, succeeding former President Zelaya, who has resigned.

Madroz recent threat to break with Zelaya coupled with a subsequent announcement of his presidential candidacy, supported by the Mexican government which had sent Senor Creel to Washington for the purpose of interceding in his behalf is construed by his supporters to mean that he will be president in fact as well as in name and intends to give the country a new deal.

Battle Will Resume.

Bluefields, Dec. 21.—Reports from Rama today say that Estrada and his army are advancing against General Vasquez, just outside of Rama. The battle is expected to take place immediately. The first decisive movement on the part of the revolutionists against the election of Madroz as successor of President Zelaya was made in this significant and hostile movement of the Estrada's army.

AFTER POTATOES.

Union Dealer Here to Buy Up Early Rose Variety for Market.

O. P. Pratt, the Union commission merchant in the city today looking up the potato market. He has orders for several car loads of Early Rose potatoes for the California markets. So far he has only been able to secure a portion of his order.

Mr. Pratt states that if our potato growers would cultivate the California trade a good market could easily be worked up.

About January the California growers plant but this crop is harvested for young or early potatoes and do not mature, therefore there is always a demand in California for seed potatoes and they prefer Oregon stock to all others and the principal demand is for the Early Rose variety. Mr. Pratt estimates the present crop in this valley at 250 car loads but with the exception of choice graded fancy stock prices are going to rule very low this winter.

TALK SCHOOL ON TUESDAY

BOARD MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH ENTHUSIASTS.

Method of Procedure to Secure \$75,000 Building Will Be Made Plain.

City high school matters will come to a focus next Tuesday night when the board of directors of the Commercial Club will meet with the enthusiasts and the opponents alike, of the new school building, which is to cost approximately \$75,000. At this meeting methods of procedure are to be outlined and carried into execution immediately afterward. The petition asking for an election will not be filed with the school board until after this meeting has been held.

The school question is rapidly gaining that point where its enemies are few and far between and its promoters legion. The Observer is safe in predicting that the board will go on record as being not only willing to give its endorsement for such a structure, but will lend a helping hand to its successful culmination when the time comes to vote on the matter. As stated the question will be voted on pro and con, and the method of procedure outlined at this meeting.

Xmas Suggestions

CHRISTMAS IS NEAR. OUR STOCK HAS NEVER BEEN LARGER OR CONTAINED SUCH A VARIETY OF CHRISTMAS NOTIONS. THESE SUGGESTIONS CONTAIN ARTICLES SUITABLE FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. BUY EARLY. WE WILL LAY YOUR PURCHASE ASIDE TO BE DELIVERED AT ANY TIME YOU DESIRE.

FOR MEN

Pocket knives, safety razors, shaving mugs brushes, razors and razor strops, fish baskets, shot guns, hunting coats, moustache cups, cigar and tobacco jars.

FOR BOYS

Ice Skates, Express Wagons, Tricycles, Coaster Sleds, Tools, 22-rifles, air guns etc.

FOR WOMEN

Brass and China Candle Sticks, Table Cutlery, Manicure Knives, Fruit Knives, Salad and Oyster Forks, Scissors, Savory Roasters, Lisk Roasters, Crumb Trays, Carvers, Game Shears, Fern Dishes, Hand Painted China, Japanese China, Silverware, Cut Glass, Venetian Glass, Mayonaise Mixers, Bread Mixers, Percolators, Baking Dishes, Fireless Cookers.

FOR GIRLS

Chaffing Dishes, Embroidery Scissors, Table Tennis, Vases, Casters, Ice Skates, Cups and Saucers, Toy Irons, Banks.

F. L. Lilly Headquarters for HOLIDAY GOODS