

## COMMITTEE HAS REPORT

### CONDITION OF THE GRADE BUILDING FAR FROM SATISFACTORY IS GIST OF THE REPORT

### NEW HIGH SCHOOL TO BE RECOMMENDED BY THE BODY

At meeting tonight report will be made public in full—Stands for a new building of unnamed amount, but new features of the report are that repairs to the grade schools are absolutely essential as well.

Urgent appeals for repairs, sanitary and life preserving and holocaust preventive to the grade schools of this city and recommendation for a new high school building will be inculcated in a report to be filed with the Commercial Club by tonight by the committee appointed some time ago to make recommendation relative to the new high school building.

The committee visited the schools, and, according to the report, found urgent need for immediate attention to the grade schools, as well as ample reasons for building a new high school. The details of the report will not be made public until at tonight's meeting but the men have arrived at a conclusion and that is as stated.

The amount of the recommended bond issue is not stipulated for that part of it is left to be filled in at the discretion of the Commercial Club, but that the committee found it necessary to recommend a new school building is apparent. The tour of inspection revealed the other fea-

ture of the report, that the grade schools are in bad shape. There is no ventilation in many of the rooms and sanitation is bad. The way the young fellows fill the hallways on dismissal is enough to alarm and person who gives the welfare of child life any consideration.

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting of the Commercial Club tonight and offer suggestions and listen to the discussions pro and con relative to the school house question.

The members of the committee to make the report are George Stoddard, J. D. Stout, Turner Oliver, John Slater and W. L. Brenholts.

Parents Should Investigate  
Parents and taxpayers in general need not listen to the arguments of others in ascertaining conditions. The schoolroom door latch is always out and if individuals are undecided as to the conditions in La Grande's schools and disbelieve the needs of a new high school and grade facilities, let them visit the institutions. One visit would be sufficient for the ordinary mortal.

### Taft's Brother Ill

Los Angeles, Feb. 1.—Henry W. Taft, a brother of President Taft, was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital today suffering from erysipelas and it is reported today he is much improved. He passed a restful night and it is expected he will be able to travel in a week.

### Banquet on the Fourteenth

February 14th is the date of the Commercial Club banquet. Governor F. W. Benson will be in Baker City on the 12th to attend a Republican smoker there and on the 14th will attend the banquet here, which promises to be the biggest thing ever attempted here in the Club banquet lines.

### COUNTY COURT MEET TOMORROW

The February term of the County court convenes tomorrow. There is little out of the routine slated for this meeting.

C. O. Ramsey has returned from a business trip to Boise.

## HERMANN DENIES ALL

### EVERY BIT OF EVIDENCE INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT BEING DENIED BY DEFENSE

### CONTRADICTIONS OF GOVT. EVIDENCE CONTINUES TODAY

Evidences of many government witnesses, denied in toto by the defendant and by other witnesses called by the defense—Hermann himself on the stand in a strong denial. Denials absolute and often.

Portland, Feb. 1.—Binger Hermann is denying, bit by bit, the case built up by the government against him. His witnesses have entered absolute denials of the testimony of Henry Meldrum, surveyor general to the effect that Hermann and Mays discussed the creation of the Blue Mountain reserve in Meldrum's office. Charles Holstrom has denied the testimony of H. L. Patterson of Baker City, who said Hermann, Meldrum and Mays were together in an office of Holstrom, who with Patterson says he never saw either Mays or Hermann in Meldrum's office.

Mrs. Moda Silverstein denied she had ever been spoken to by Meldrum about buying any school lands, thus giving Meldrum's testimony the lie. Hermann himself, now on the stand has started in the beginning of the government's case, controverting evidence right down the line. He denies he ever met Mays in Meldrum's office. He denies ever having discussed the Blue Mountain reserve with Mays. He denies the discussion of the reserve with Meldrum. He denies he ever advised Meldrum to buy school lands or that he discussed the reserve or its survey with him. He denies instructing Meldrum to give Mrs. Silverstein a chance to buy lands in the boundaries of the reserve.

## SULLIVAN MUCKRAKING

### OLDTIMER DECLARES 'COMING MILL IS A FRAMEUP'

### Says Jeffries will not enter ring if in danger of losing the fight.

Boston, Feb. 1.—The flat announcement of the thought that the Jeffries-Johnson fight for July 4 has been "fixed" was made here today by John L. Sullivan. "I do not think Jeffries and Johnson are on the level about the fight," declared the old time champion. "Johnson can win if the bout is on the level," added John L., "but in my opinion the whole matter looks mighty bad."  
"As a matter of fact, I do not think Jeffries could be dragged into the ring with Johnson unless it was arranged so that Johnson could lay down. It looks that way to me and I believe it is a fixed fight."

### Another Merger On

Pittsburg, Feb. 1.—The next step reported in the telegraph merger is to be absorption of the American District Telegraph Company by the American Telegraph and Telephone Co., according to a rumor in financial circles today. From the same source the report emanated that the Postal Company will soon be included in the merger.

## HOMESTEAD LAW REVISION

### SENATOR BOURNE HAS MEASURE THAT IS OF DEEP IMPORTANCE TO PEOPLE OF THIS STATE

### NEED NOT LIVE ON HOME-STEAD BUT MUST FARM IT

Radical departure from regulation homestead law to be applied to Oregon if Bourne carries his measure—Show certain amount of productiveness from the land but need not live on the place at all.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 1.—Editor Observer Dear Sir—I am sending you general form of letter to many newspapers, granges and commercial organizations of Oregon for the purpose of getting before the people the idea I have embodied in a bill I shall introduce in the senate that Production of Crops rather than residence upon a homestead is the essential of successful and most efficient development of our resources. I have done this in the hope that the people of Oregon will favor their delegation here in Congress with their views as to the wisdom of the proposed legislation.

I am informed by Mr. William Hanley, an extensive stock raiser in Harney county that there are 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon incapable of irrigation but nearly all of it susceptible of cultivation under the scientific methods now in vogue in "Dry Farming." Mr. Hanley's suggestion of substitution of crop production rather than actual residence as the requirement for obtaining title, impresses my mind.

If the bill which I have introduced should become a homestead law on non-irrigable land in what is known as the arid region need not live upon his land at all, but must live within the state. He must cultivate it either personally or by representative and he must show by annual proofs that within a period of five years the land has produced crops of a total value of \$1500.

Assuming that Mr. Hanley's estimate of 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon is correct and that the same can be brought under cultivation by adoption of what is known as "Dry Farming," this area of land would furnish opportunities for 60,000 homestead entrymen who, before they could acquire title, would be obliged to produce crops to a total value of \$90,000,000. Thus it will be seen that the nation, state and community would be benefited in the development of our natural resources, wealth increased, and what is more important, a class of citizens gained who would be obliged to produce rather than merely live on the land—a population of workers.

In its present condition and in its present state of settlement and of transportation facilities most of this land is not suitable for homemaking, though it could be cultivated by men who would make their homes elsewhere, or upon the land through only a part of the year.

My bill is based upon the theory that if a tract of land is made productive it will provide some family with a home even though that family lives in a town near the land rather than upon the land itself, therefore, all of the essential objects of the homestead law will be accomplished. The great difficulty under the present homestead law is that a great many men who settle upon land under the homestead act do as little cultivation as the law will permit and avoid as many as possible of the Govern-

ment's requirements, and their land is not made productive.

Believing that production is the real essential, I made that the most important feature of my bill. Land suitable for "dry farming" is frequently such as a man would not wish to make his home upon for 12 months in the year, but the present law permitting an entry on 320 acres requires actual residence, and, I believe, without accomplishing any desirable end by such requirement.

Under the plan proposed by my bill an entryman under the 320-acre homestead act could keep his family in any town of Oregon, where his children could go to school and all members of the family have the advantages of attendance at church and social functions, and, at the same time, by complying with the law regarding cultivation and production he could secure title to the land. There would be no opportunity for fraud because the law requires that annual proofs must be submitted showing the amount of land cultivated and the character, quantity and value of crops produced.

I believe that the average farmer on 320 acres of land subject to entry under the changed homestead act would be able to produce crops of much more than \$1500 in value in a period of five years; but the minimum list is fixed as a standard to which the entryman must work and I believe that even under adverse circumstances any man who is enterprising and diligent will be able to produce crops of this value.

The theory of the homestead law is that the Government should provide cheap homes for the people. This theory is in no way violated by my bill. Land taken under this measure will maintain homes for the entrymen even though these homes are a few miles distant rather than upon the land itself.

The resident requirement of the homestead law is in the nature of a penalty, the punishment being inflicted not only upon the entryman but upon his wife and children. At present the entryman takes his wife and family into isolated regions in which vacant lands can be found and keeps them there to live for a period of five years, separated from association with fellow-beings.

In a great many cases the homesteader performs just as little work upon his land as possible, and as soon as he gets title removes his family to town where they can have the advantages of school and social intercourse. The real object of providing homes is not accomplished by the requirement of actual residence upon the land. This object would be accomplished, however, by the requirement that a man should bring his land into productiveness. To produce, some one must cultivate the land. To cultivate economically, vicinity, labor and intelligent attention are required of the entryman or his representative. The entryman's desire is the acquisition and ownership of the land; title can only be obtained through production; production necessitates increased population, either of the entrymen or their representatives. The value of the land acquired by the entryman depends upon continuing production. Thus, it is certain that the land once acquired will under normal conditions, continue productive, as otherwise there is no incentive for entry nor to purchase after title is acquired. Necessitated production eliminates the evil of the land due to non-resident owners.

My bill requires that the entryman should cultivate at least one-eighth of his land the second year, one-fourth the third year, one-half the fourth and fifth years and that he must file in the local land office by the first of December of each year a sworn statement verified by the affidavits of two persons having knowledge of the facts, showing the character, quantity and value of the crops produced by him.

I would be pleased if the people of Oregon would advise their delegates in Congress of their views on this measure.

Yours very truly,  
JONATHAN BOURNE

## MINE HORROR IN COLORADO

### PRIMERO, COLORADO SCENE OF CHENEY MINE HORROR WHEN MANY ARE KILLED TODAY

### THIRTYONE ARE KNOWN TO BE DEAD AT NOON TODAY

Fifty-three escape from mine and more than that number are still unaccounted for—Fire breaks out but is disposed of in short order preventing general conflagration—Many may be entombed yet.

Primero, Colo., Feb. 1.—After more than a week of investigation by the master of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's shaft near here, in which 32 men are known to have lost their lives, officials declare their belief that there are still 110 men in the mine. The only known survivor is a Dianado Virgin.

Primero Mining Camp is of the Western type. Almost every building and home is owned by the company. This morning when the sun arose, scores of women wrapped in shawls were gathered as near the tunnel entrance as the officials would permit. Many of them had been there nearly all night.

The operator stated today that he believed there was little chance of any of the imprisoned men being taken from the mine alive. He permitted but few relatives of men who are known to be imprisoned in the tunnel to view the bodies. Tonight, he said, when other victims are brought to the surface, further attempts at verification will be made.

Primero, Colo., Feb. 1.—With the discovery of seven more bruised and swollen bodies today the number of men known to have lost their lives in an explosion of a coal mine of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company was increased to 31. When the explosion occurred there were 150 men in the mine. Seventy of these are unaccounted for and are either dead or are entombed in the tunnels under tons of earth.

Fifty-three of the miners escaped with slight injuries. Soon after the explosion fire broke out in the main tunnel. It was quenched, it is believed, before it penetrated the three other tunnels, where the men are imprisoned.

## GIVE CASE TO GRAND JURY

### TRIAL OF TWO BOYS MUST BE FROM INDICTMENT

### Information filed with Justice of the Peace late this afternoon

That the grand jury may soon be called together to consider the case of Lester West and Harry Holmes, the two local boys arrested on the charge of burglary "not from a dwelling" seems the most likely outcome of the case wherein Detective Wood is appearing as private prosecutor for the O. B. & N. District Attorney Ivanhoe late this afternoon filed information with the Justice of the Peace, A. C. Williams, and the boys will either be bonded out until further action in the matter, or held in the county jail until the grand jury meets. The boys were arrested for alleged theft from a box car.

# Greatest of all Sales

Still Continues to be a hummer.  
Store Crowded all day Saturday.

Tuesday will give to first 25 ladies entering our store 10 yards best American print for 25 cents

## A Few Red Hot Specials

One lot of children's coats, good colors and sizes from 4 to 10 worth up to \$6. on sale for <b>\$1.98</b>	One lot of boy's school suit, good assortment to choose from a good value for \$4. on sale for <b>\$1.95</b>
Mens ribbed underwear, all size regular 40c seller on sale for <b>16c</b>	Boys heavy fleece lined underwear, regular 40c to 50c selling <b>19c</b>
Childrens \$1. to \$1.25 sweaters sizes 20 to 24, color red, gray, and white, on sale for <b>68c</b>	One lot of pillow tops, good designs, regular 50c to 75c seller on sale for <b>19c</b>

# THE FAIR