

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## TAFT SENDS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS URGING NUMEROUS IMPORTANT BILLS INCLUDING PANAMA FORTIFICATIONS

Washington, Dec. 6.—President William Taft today told congress what he expects of that august body at its present sitting, in words characteristically free from steam roller strength, yet the executive's position on questions of huge moment were firmly expressed. Urging a merchant marine, curtailment of useless expense through too many custom officers, and civil service for consular candidates, further elimination of the "pork barrel" methods in public building bills, upholding in the main but criticizing in part the Payne tariff bill, advising for a skeleton reserve army, unqualified fortification of the Panama canal, bidding for water power sites, and above all suggestions that aside from trivial matters, legislation against corporations he dropped for the present, form the salient features of his message.

Excerpts from the document follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

During the past year the foreign relations of the United States has continued on a basis of friendship and good understanding.

**Arbitration.**  
The year has been notable as witnessing the Pacific settlement of important international controversies before the permanent court of The Hague.

Arbitration of the fisheries of the dispute between the United States and Great Britain which has been the source of nearly continuous diplomatic correspondence, since the fisheries convention of 1818, has given an award which is satisfactory to both parties. This arbitration is particularly noteworthy because it is the first arbitration held under the general arbitration of April 4, 1908, between the United States and Great Britain and disposes of a controversy the settlement of which has resisted every other resource of diplomacy and which for nearly ninety years has been the cause of friction between two countries whose commercial interest lies in maintaining the most friendly and cordial relations with each other.

The United States was ably represented before the tribunal, I should be wanting in proper recognition of a patriotic service if I do not refer the lucid historical analysis of the facts and the signal ability and force of argument presented the court in support of our case by Mr. Elihu Root.

Appreciating the enlightened tendencies of modern times, the congress at this last season passed a law providing for the appointment of a commission of five members to be appointed by the president of the United States to consider the expediency of utilizing existing international agencies, for the purpose of limiting the armaments of the nations of the world by international agreement, and of constituting the combined navies of the world in a combined force international for the preservation of universal peace.

I have not as yet made appointments to this commission because I have invited and am waiting the expression of foreign governments as to their willingness to cooperate with us in the appointment of similar commissions or representatives we would meet with our commissioners and by joint action seek to make their work effective.

Several important treaties have been negotiated with Great Britain in the past twelve months. A diplomatic agreement has been reached regarding the arbitration of pecuniary claims which each government has against the other.

Turkey: The return of the visit of the special embassy sent to announce

the accession of his Majesty Mehmed V, emperor of the Ottomans, I sent to Constantinople a special ambassador who was charged with the duty of expressing to the Ottoman government the value attached by the government of the United States to increased and more important relations between the countries and the desire of the United States to contribute to the large economic and commercial development due to the new regime in Turkey.

The rapid development now beginning in that ancient empire and the marked progress and increased commercial importance of Bulgaria, Roumania and Serbia, make it particularly opportune that the possibilities of American commerce in the near east should receive due attention.

**The Far East.**  
The center of interest in far eastern affairs during the past year have again been China.

It is gratifying to note that the negotiations for a loan to the Chinese government for the construction of the trunk railroad lines from Hankow southward to Canton and westward through the Yangtze valley, known as the Hukuang loan, were concluded by the representatives of the various financial groups in May last, and the results approved by their respective governments. The agreement, already initiated by the Chinese government, is now awaiting formal ratification. The basis of the settlement of the terms of this loan was one of exact equality between America, Great Britain, France and Germany in respect to financing the loan and supplying materials for the proposed railways and their future branches.

The application of the principle underlying the policy of the United States in regard to the Hukuang loan, viz: That of the internationalization of the foreign interest in such of the railways of China as may be financed by foreign countries, was suggested on a broader scale by the secretary of state in a proposal for internationalization and commercial neutralization of all the railways of Manchuria. While the principle which led to the proposal of this government was generally admitted by the powers, to whom it was addressed, the governments of Russia and Japan apprehended practical difficulties in the execution of the larger plan which prevented their ready adherence. The question of constructing the Chin Chow-Aigum railway by means of an international loan to China, is, however, still the subject of friendly discussion by the interested parties.

The policy of this government in these matters has been brought about by a desire to make use of American capital in the development of China as an instrument in the promotion of China's welfare and material prosperity without prejudice to her legitimate rights as an independent political power.

This policy has recently found further exemplification in the assistance given by this government to the negotiations between China and a group of American bankers for a loan of \$50,000,000 to be employed chiefly in currency reform. A preliminary agreement between the American group and China has been made covering the loan.

For the success of this loan and the contemplated reforms which are of greater importance to the commercial interests of the United States and the civilized world at large, it is realized that an expert will be necessary and this government has received assurance from China that such an adviser, who shall be an American, will be engaged.

The year has further been marked

by two important international agreements relating to far eastern affairs. In the Russo-Japanese agreement relating to Manchuria, signed July 4, 1910, this government was gratified to note an assurance of continued peaceful conditions in that region and the recognition of the policies with respect to China to which the United States, together with all other interested powers, are alike solemnly committed.

The treaty annexing Korea to the empire of Japan, promulgated August 29, 1910, marks the final step in a process of control of the ancient empire by her powerful neighbor which has been in progress for several years past. In communicating the fact of annexation the Japanese government gave to the government of the United States assurances of the full protection

(Continued on Page 6)  
**Johnson Would Meet Jeffries.**  
Chicago, Dec. 6.—Jack Johnson today said he is willing to give Jeffries a chance to come back at any time. Johnson however, wants the hog's end of the purse.

## RUNNING COSTS OF NATION IS ESTIMATED

### THREE DEPARTMENTS PREDICT A DECREASE IN EXPENSE.

Total Figures for Running Government in 1912 Estimated Today.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury of the funds needed to conduct the government business during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, were transmitted to congress today.

In the 1912 estimate there is no estimate for the postal deficiency which in 1911 was placed at \$10,834,112. Only three departments shows decreases in 1912. The navy, interior, territorial government.

Estimates for the different departments follow:  
Legislative, \$13,426,805; executive \$998,720; State, \$4,875,576; Treasury, \$141,599,996; territorial, \$202,150; independent offices \$2,638,695; District of Columbia, \$1,269,785; War, \$205,257,545; Navy, \$123,942,158; Interior \$189,151,875; Post Office, \$1,497,490; Commerce and Labor, \$16,278,970; Justice, \$2,036,576.

### ORCHARD IN LIMELIGHT.

#### Murderer of Gov. Steunenberg Denies He Was Offered Pardon.

Boise, Dec. 6.—Harry Orchard, serving a life sentence for the murder of ex-governor Steunenberg, today denied he had been offered a pardon or parole or that he had applied for it. The denial follows the publication of a report that he had been offered his freedom but refused, fearing vengeance of friends of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone.

"Vengeance of God is all I fear," said Orchard. Governor Brady likewise denies the parole was offered to Orchard.

#### Garment Workers Talk Peace.

Chicago, Dec. 6.—Whether there will be peace or whether the garment workers' strike will continue is being

debated today by tailors affected by the peace negotiations. Cutters yesterday accepted conditionally the proposals made by the manufacturers. The final acceptance depends on the tailors who began voting on it this afternoon.

**Fire Kills Insurance Agent.**  
Evansville, Ind., Dec. 6.—Fire today, starting in Feurick Cigar factory, caused the destruction of a block, entailing the loss of a million. Thomas Beldelman, agent for the fire insurance companies carrying the risks, dropped dead while watching the fire. The cause of the fire is unascertained.

## NECESSITY OF BOND ISSUE IS TOLD

### MAYOR EXPLAINS WHY ORIGINAL AMOUNT DID NOT COVER EXPENSE.

Bonds Should Carry in Order to Complete Sewer Without Delay.

It is important that every voter should be posted on the bond issue which is to be voted upon at the coming city election and in order to impart all information concerning the subject the following communication has been written by Mayor Meyers who is thoroughly familiar with the situation:

**Editor Observer:**  
In order that the taxpayers and voters of La Grande may understand the necessity of an additional issue of bonds to the amount of \$10,000 for the completion of the main or trunk sewer, the septic tank and disposal of plant and the purchase of the ground where the latter is located, I desire to submit the following statement as to the cost of the work and price of the 7 1-2 acres for disposal plant.

Paid for 7 1-2 acres land	\$ 3000.00
Cost of Septic tank	7200.00
Cost of 32-inch pipe (not assessable to property)	6040.00
Cost of 22-inch pipe (not assessable to property)	5030.00
Cost of excavating (not assessable to property)	3400.00
Cost of 200 yds. excavating (not assessable to property)	680.00
Estimate of city's portion of work in District No. 1	13887.40
Estimate of city's portion of work in District No. 2	3000.00
Estimate of city's portion of District No. 3	4820.00
Cost of engineering plans, specifications, etc.	1500.00
Cost of inspecting and over-seeing work (Salaries)	1200.00
Total	\$49,757.40

At our last city election bonds to the amount of \$40,000 were voted for this work, so there will be a deficit of \$9,757.40. The voters at the election to be held on Monday, Dec. 12, 1910 are therefore earnestly requested to vote for an additional issue of \$10,000 in order to cover this deficit. It must be understood that the original \$40,000 voted was not based on exact estimates, the City Council was not in possession of sufficient details to know exactly what the work would cost so it was roughly guessed at \$40,000 and this amount voted on so that the good work might be started and pushed as rapidly as possible to a finish. I trust that all of our citizens will realize the necessity of an up-to-date system of sewerage for our city, without it we will be seriously handicapped. We now are credited with being the best city in Eastern Oregon. Let us all vote, work and strive that we may maintain and unquestionably hold this distinction.

Yours very truly,  
F. L. MEYERS, Mayor.

### HERR OUT OF DANGER.

#### After Weeks of Suffering from Burns Is Declared Improving.

George Terr, burned terribly by the explosion of a lamp some time ago, was declared today to be out of danger by the attending physician, Dr. Underwood. Mr. Herr was so badly burned that for a time it was doubtful if he would recover. This however, is indicated now. Considerable skin graft will yet be necessary.

#### Fire in Oregon Town.

Suthlin, Ore., Dec. 6.—Twenty-five thousand dollars fire this morning burned four structures in the heart of the town. The loss is partially insured. The cause is unknown.

## JURY TO TRY JESS PARKER IS COMPLETED IN A HURRY AND HARD LEGAL STRUGGLE IS ON

Twelve men have been permanently selected to try the case of Jess Parker. At 3:10 this afternoon Fred Gaskill, farmer, was allowed by both sides to take the temporary seat held by L. C. Smith, who was excused for cause. At 3 o'clock the state had exercised five preemptory challenges and the defense four. Three were excused for cause, and the following twelve men have been seated in the juror's box permanently: Joe Woods, liveryman, John Peebler, farmer, E. L. Halley, farmer, John Wells, farmer, R. E. Hall, farmer, M. Reynolds, retired farmer, S. V. Ficklin, farmer, Elmer Workman, carpenter, E. E. Bolde, fruit man, C. D. Huffman, farmer, Robert Deal, retired capitalist, Fred Gaskel, farmer. The following were preemptory challenged by the state: John Reeves, E. O. Zeck, Sam Ruckman, T. B. Johnson and J. S. Chandler. The defense exercised the same rights on Sam Brooks, J. L. Woodell, J. W. McAllister and George Roberts. W. X. Parker, E. L. Harris and L. C. Smith were excused for cause and C. D. Jordan was challenged.

Steps to ascertain and determine whether it is to be the hangman's

## INSURGENTS DON WAR PAINTS PROMPTLY

### INDICATION OF FIREWORKS HAVE ALREADY APPEARED.

Though Session Has Just Begun, Turbulent Waters Appear Ahead.

Washington, Dec. 6.—With the congressional session one day old insurgents are giving the impression that some fireworks won't be long in starting. Appointment of justices of the supreme court, it is said will be one place in which defiance toward the regulars will show itself. If Democrats and Progressives line up as they did the last time it is believed that the appointments can be held up for some time. Insurgents made it known they favor Hughes for the bench, but stated emphatically that certain men named in press dispatches as possibilities would in no way be acceptable. Politicians say efforts to seal the breach between the two wings of the party are not encouraging. While the progressives in the Senate form a smaller contingent than in the House, it is gossip today that the Senate Progressives would start a fight on men deemed unsatisfactory for the supreme bench. Also the supreme court question is considered the only incident in the fight which may be expected before the session ends.

### MORE CENSUS FIGURES.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The population of Arkansas is 1,574,499, an increase of 20 per cent. The population of South Carolina is 1,515,400 an increase of 13.1. Arkansas gets an additional congressman.

### Commerce Court Men Named.

Washington, Dec. 6.—At least two members of the new court of commerce has been chosen, according to rumor today. They are Franklin Lane of California and Judge Protty of Vermont. Both are present members of the interstate Commerce Commission and stand high in Taft's estimation.

noose or future freedom for Jess Parker, the Elgin man accused of killing in first degree murder, his father-in-law during a quarrel which the two men indulged in near the home of the victim last summer, when, this morning circuit court opened and the selection of a jury commenced. The forenoon session indicated that the case will be tried in a hurry, as believed, and it is practically certain that few preemptory challenges will be issued.

### Case of Wide Interest.

The large crowd of men and women in the court room even at this early stage of the trial indicates conclusively that the case is to be a hard fought legal battle and marked with attentive and wide spread interest. The audience was composed entirely of Elgin people who arrived yesterday and were added to in numbers this afternoon.

### Widow and Wife Attend.

Pathetically, sorrowfully, their ears alert to catch every word, the widow of the murdered man, and the young wife of the defendant on trial for his life, are in the court room today. The aged widow shows the tell-tale marks of age and sorrow too is written on every lineament of her countenance; with the wife of the man whose life is at stake, the expression is a different one though as fully marked. Anxiety and alarm crops out in every line of her face. Close by her, innocently content at the surroundings, sits the tiny daughter of the defendant and his wife, and over whom the testimony will show, arose the trouble finally leading to the death of Mr. Porter.

### Stereotyped Questions Asked.

Attorneys Cochran & Cochran and T. H. Crawford surround the defendant while District Attorney Ivanhoe sits alone, though he is to be joined by John L. Rand of Baker City. The questions asked the prospective jurors were and continue to be principally of a stereotyped nature. "Are you a member of any secret order?" "Have you formed an opinion?" "Are you acquainted with that principle of law which gives the accused the benefit of any doubt?" "Are you acquainted in and about Elgin?" "Are you willing to return a verdict of guilty when you realize that the punishment is death?" More and along the same line are hurled at each juror, and

### BIG XMAS FOR EUROPEANS.

#### Foreigners on Coast Sending Money to European Countries.

Portland, Dec. 6.—A canvass of the Pacific Coast today indicates that fully \$100,000 daily is being shipped to Europe by foreigners on our shores as Christmas gifts to those in the old country. Portland postoffice is sending approximately \$10,000 daily, Victoria \$4,000, Vancouver \$3,000, Spokane, \$6,000, Seattle \$10,000, San Francisco, \$25,000, Los Angeles, \$10,000, Bellingham \$1,000, Sacramento \$3,000. If looks like Europe will have a splendid Christmas. Most of the money goes to England, Austria, Italy, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

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