

IOWA LAW TO BE COPIED BY OREGON

LOCAL THRESHERMEN WILL SUPPORT MODEL ENGINE LAW TO THE LETTER

MINNICK OBJECT OF ATTACK

Webster Attends Meeting and His Plans for Good Roads Made Plain—Local Session Goes on Record as Directly Supporting the Measure—Would Mean Expenditure of Thousands by Each County in the State.

Selection of Portland as the next meeting place, hearing the message from Judge Webster pertaining to the good roads provisions to be brought before the legislature, "exonerating" John Minnick of Union who is vice president of the state association, framing a law which will be placed before the legislature regulating the transportation of traction engines, constituted the principal features of today's session of the state threshermen's convention.

Webster's Plans Unfolded.

A bill being drafted for introduction to the next legislature by the central board of the state good roads association, containing four salient features, was read and explained by Judge Webster who is here today. The threshermen gave unqualified support to it later. It embodies the appointment of three men to name a highway commissioner for the state who shall direct the expenditure of moneys appropriated by the counties and state to the amount of \$20,000 from each county and \$5,000 from the state for each county. It includes a bill providing for the bonding of the state and counties to that effect; it provides for the maintenance of state primary roads and for working of prisoners in corporate cities on county roads. The plan was explained in detail and adopted.

New Bill Framed.

The Iowa traction engine law, said to be the model of its kind in the world, will be copied in the bill to be presented by the Oregon threshermen. It provides for the blowing of whistles at stated times, stopping the engine when passing a team and above all, repeals all present laws and substitutes this one in its place. The chief point in the new bill is that after December 1911 the bridges shall be built so securely that no bridges will have to be plankled while engines are crossing. This gives the county courts over a year to perfect their bridges. Until that date, the bridges must be plankled as now.

John Minnick Criticized.

A lively tilt over an issue pertaining to the threshermen of the north and south middle west was commented on by John Minnick of Union in a letter to the editor of the Threshermen's Review of Michigan several months ago. It arose over the Wichita fracas of which threshermen are familiar. In response to Mr. Minnick's letter, the editor wrote a virile communication to Secretary Bates and it was read this afternoon. "Illiterate and an ignoramus" were some of the names attached to Mr. Minnick by the Michigan editor. At the conclusion of the letter, Mr. Minnick addressed the convention explaining the details of the epistle and pointed out his position. His position was such that it brought forth a shout of approval and Mr. Minnick was "exonerated" in every sense of the word.

The Portland meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday preceding the Rose festival.

Pendleton put in a bid for the fall meeting a year hence and it will likely succeed in landing it.

The meeting adjourns tonight. The banquet last evening was largely attended and a success in every way. E. E. Bragg was toastmaster and T. A. Rinehart welcomed the threshermen in his enthusiastic way. Several speeches were delivered and the event was a decided success in every way.

WRECK VICTIMS SAVED.

Light House Rescuers Comes to Aid Starving and Freezing Crew.

Oswego, Dec. 10.—After two days of terrible exposure to wintry blasts and hunger, two women and twenty men were taken off the lake steamer Sharpless near Galloup Island today. The steamer was going to pieces

on the rocks near the island, which she struck Thursday during a storm. All the life boats save one was crushed in. The lighthouse rescuers arrived just in time to save the wreck victims.

A. Y. P. Announce Dividend.

Seattle, Dec. 10.—Directors of the Alaska Yukon exposition today announced a dividend amounting to \$30,000 is ready for the distribution among the stockholders. Besides the dividend the exposition left a million dollars' worth of improvements for the University of Washington.

Accident in Canada Mine.

Fernie, B. C., Dec. 10.—Twenty bodies were recovered and eighteen missing, and some were rescued alive although some were fatally injured today at Bellevue coal mine near Frank Alberta. Seven men are still alive in the workings. The explosion occurred last night by gas. Rescuers are clearing the shafts. Nurses and doctors worked all night over the injured. Most were Slavs and Italians.

Services Popular.

The special meetings held in divers places at the Methodist church are becoming unusually intense in their value and interest. Rev. L. C. Elliott has a plain but powerful way of expressing the great religious truths he presents. There have been a number of conversions. He speaks tonight and tomorrow night as well as every afternoon and evening next week. Dr. Gillman, the pastor, will preach tomorrow on "Reason in Religion." The choir of young women are a very pleasing feature of the service.

Connors' Grandmother Dead.

Mrs. J. Coldwell, grandmother of Frank Connors of this city, died last night at her home in Perrydale, Ore. She has been ailing for some time.

RINEHART WILL GET A STATE POSITION

RUMOR GAINS CREDENCE SO RAPIDLY THAT IT IS ALMOST TRUE

State Land Board to be Headed by County Assessor Rinehart.

County Assessor T. A. Rinehart, Democratic warhorse is in line for the head of the state land board, and though Governor-Elect West has not announced his appointment, and doubtlessly will not for some time to come, the political weather wane points its finger at "Tod" and no mistake. Mr. Rinehart himself may not be abreast with the affair, his friends who have put the matter up to West are cognizant of the fact nevertheless. It is freely rumored in Portland and Salem and has come, during the past few days to be considered a sure-ty in this city.

The state land board is an important organization and the fact that Mr. Rinehart is aboard for the head of it, has added to the importance of the appointment. La Grande has fared extremely well in the matter of prospective appointments and it is a self evident fact that when the appointments are actually made, the word La Grande will be tacked to a large number of appointments.

Just what would happen if the appointment is tendered Mr. Rinehart is not known, but on account of the political prestige going with it and the matter of salary too, should and doubtlessly will be sufficient force to call Mr. Rinehart from his present post as assessor.

MRS. E. DAMON DEAD.

News Comes from Portland of Death Last Night at That Place.

Mrs. Bonsel, an old time friend of the E. Damon family, received a telegram this afternoon from Portland saying Mrs. Damon died there last night. Mrs. Damon was the mother of W. L. Damon and the wife of E. Damon, a former resident of this city. The family has a large circle of friends in this city who will be grieved at the news of her death.

IS PLEASED WITH TOWN.

Reed of Denver Expects to Locate and May Start New Firm.

Fred Reed and wife of Denver are here looking over the ground with the object in view of finding a business opportunity. He undoubtedly will locate here in a few days. The only objections that he has to the town is that there are no vacant locations available.

DEFENSE RESTS CASE WITH TESTIMONY OF THE DEFENDANT PARKER--REBUTTAL STARTED

The jurors have been ordered to report for duty next Tuesday, indicating the Parker trial will be over about that time.

Was Al. Willis intoxicated on August 5th?

The defense says he was and the prosecution says, no. The testimony of Willis is not conclusive to the defense's success and it is intended to show, if possible that Willis was polluted with the juice of John Barleycorn on the evening of the homicide and therefore was not capable of seeing things correctly.

To substantiate that claim Mrs. Devaney was placed on the stand just before noon and testified that a man lying on the porch apparently intoxicated was seen that evening by her as she drove past. When questioned closely she did not see the man's face but she did think he was of the same build as Al. Willis who was presented to her in the court room today.

The Defense Rests.

Shortly afternoon the defense rested its case and the prosecution began its rebuttal, the first witness being Joe Jones of Elgin who swore that he knew Al. Willis, was with him August 5th thrashing at Jones' farm; that Willis, in his opinion, was not drunk, nor had there been anything to drink on the premises during the day.

There was a lively skirmish between attorneys, the defense attempting to bar this evidence and the prosecution holding for it. Judge Knowles deliberated on the point and decided that the evidence was all right and ordered the witness to proceed.

The "Wettest" Day.

Weather Observer Worstel was called to locate dates of rainfall between August 5 and Sept. 26, which he did with his official records. Then Mr. Rand said:

"You may tell the court the wettest day since August 5th."

While Mr. Rand was no doubt innocent of the mirth he had provoked it was nevertheless amusing for Mr. Worstel smiled as he said: "I find that November 8th was decidedly the wettest day of the year."

This date happened to be election day when Union county went wet and Mr. Worstel is an earnest prohibition worker. The jury saw the point, as did the court, and while no demonstration followed it gave every one a chance to change position and smile.

Jess Parker, who sent the fatal bullet into the breast of his father-in-law, W. M. Porter, was placed on the stand last evening and when court convened this morning his testimony was continued. A long series of questioning on direct examination brought the story of the killing as told in last evening's issue of the Observer. Parker played up the protection of his child in a very clever manner and was ready with answers to all questions.

On cross examination Attorney John L. Rand took the witness down the line with questions that required some hesitation before answering. Parker showed a disposition to resent some of the questions to the attorney, but he is cool headed at that, and usually lashed his answers in a shape that apparently did him little harm.

It was permanently established that the first trouble between Jess Parker and his father-in-law arose over the division of a straw stack located on the farm of Sam Parker, father of Jess. In this trouble the two Parkers were apparently against Porter and young Jess admits having hit his father-in-law across the shoulders with the handle of a pick. He also admits having pounded his face with his fists until his father-in-law yelled, "enough". Whether the older Parker held Porter while young Jess did this beating was not thoroughly established although some bits of evidence might indicate that such was the case.

The second time trouble arose between Jess and his wife's father was also over the straw, according to the defendant. At this time there was a plow and gun that entered into the trouble, but evidence on these two articles was ruled out.

The third bunch of trouble came when the divorce of Mrs. Parker was filed. He said his wife had left him at different times but had always come back until along in July when she left and returned to her father's home and the next thing that happened was divorce proceedings in La Grande. It seems on the Sunday following the filing of the divorce Jess Parker came to La Grande on the Wallawa train and on the same train was Mr. Porter and his daughter, (Jess' wife). When Mr. Rand drew the witness down to a fine point as to why he came to La Grande on the same

day and rode on the same train with Mr. Porter and daughter, Jess said he had come to meet an engineer whom he was to take back to Elgin that evening. He also said he got off the train before it reached the station in order to avoid trouble with Porter, yet immediately following he stated that he went to the Ronde Valley hotel where Porter had registered himself and daughter, and Jess made an objection because his wife did not use the name of Parker in registering at the hotel.

The prosecution contended that Jess' story of meeting Porter and daughter in order to make trouble he had followed his wife and her father to the Ronde Valley hotel. This was denied by the witness.

Is Jess a Gunman?

Leading up to the night of the homicide Mr. Rand took the witness through a time when he had visited the Porter home and according to report had leveled a gun on Mrs. Porter, his wife's mother, and the daughter pleaded with her husband not to shoot the old. While this seemed to be a strong point to spectators it was apparently hard to get at for the attorneys abandoned it shortly.

The tale of how he happened to be in the road at the Porter home on the night of the killing was a trifle vague for Jess admitted that he had telephoned his wife and baby boy he would be out that night and had been given privilege to come and see them. Later in his evidence he said he intended to make a visit to his mill and he got back in time intended to stop and see the wife and baby.

Apparently every juror noticed this and interest began to increase. Jess then told of putting a gun in his clothes because it was growing late and he expected to return to Elgin through the timber road. When asked if he was afraid he said no. He also said he was not in the habit of carrying a gun, yet when questioned closely regarding putting the gun in his clothes he said he frequently did that when he intended to be out at night.

Every once in awhile there would occur such a discrepancy in his testimony as to cause either a juror or a spectator to unconsciously take a sharp look at the witness.

Held the Boy While he Shot.

Then came the tragedy described by the man who pulled the fatal trigger. He said his little boy, his wife and himself had been visiting for three quarters of an hour; that the youngster wanted to go to a carnival in Elgin of which he (Jess) had told him and was pleading to go. Jess admitted he did not want to take the boy to Elgin that night and that the boy's mother objected to having the child go then, but promised he could go later. Apparently the father, mother and child were having no trouble until the wife's father appeared on the scene. Whether he appeared was not divulged. Whether threats threw Porter into a fit of anger and caused him to rush at Jess, or whether the mere sight of his son-in-law was so repulsive to the wife's father that he lost control of himself is a guess, for the testimony jumps from a pleasant family gathering in the public road to a frantic rush of Porter, a shot from Jess' pistol--another, and another--and then the scene changes showing Porter wounded and on his knees, the wife and daughter screaming and hysterical. Jess in a self-composed state while the poor little boy is lost sight of entirely.

"Why did you hold the little child in front of you if you expected trouble," asked Mr. Rand of the witness. "Why did you not put the child down and get in front of him to protect him as a loving father would naturally do, rather than keep the child between you and danger?"

These questions grated a little on the witness apparently but he stoutly maintained he though he could protect the little one better by holding him in his arms.

When asked why he shot the second and third time at Porter, Jess said he was not sure he had hit him the first time. When Mr. Rand step by step recalled the scene of the homicide, evidently refreshing Jess Parker's mind of the fearful crime for the witness showed signs of meditation.

Yesterday Evening's Evidence.

The witnesses one by one were taken through the process of questioning, but the salient points of the case remained the same and the evidence to substantiate and make stronger what had been claimed by the defense, i. e., that the killing of Porter was purely in self-defense.

Nell McLeod, formerly a resident of this county and well acquainted with Elgin and vicinity, was placed

on the stand. He reviewed his acquaintance with W. M. Porter in which he stated that Porter had made threats on Parker because of alleged mistreatment of Parker's wife, who was a daughter of Porter. This occurred shortly after divorce proceedings in the Jess Parker family had been begun.

Sam Parker Testifies.

The father of Jess Parker was an important witness. He was placed on the stand by the defense to give information relative to a division of straw between Parkers and Porters at which the first trouble is said to have occurred, and also at which time Porter had said before death that one of the Parkers held him while the other pounded him over the head with a pick handle.

The pick handle has been an important factor in the case and is often referred throughout the trial. Following it there seems to have been bad blood between the Porters and the Parkers.

Another Case Recalled.

When Sam Parker was telling of the Porter trouble he remarked that W. M. Porter had made threats against the Parkers saying he would say them under the sod just as a relative of his had done the Macey family.

This remark caused every old timer who is familiar with Eastern Oregon history to take notice, for in the early days the Macey family were murdered in Pine valley by a man named Porter and after trial and conviction Porter was hanged in Union. Up until Sam Parker spoke of the Macey crime it is doubtful if any one in the court room, and possibly no one in the county, had ever thought of connecting the Porters at Elgin as relatives to the man hanged at Union. There still may be no connection and the remark may have been one of those chance statements which ar-

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POPULATION OF COUNTRY IS KNOWN

WASHINGTON DRAWS THREE ADDED CONGRESSMEN.

Totals for the Entire United States Given Out by Durand Today.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The population of the United States is 91,972,266. The population of the country including territorial possessions is 93,402,152. Census of Washington state is 1,141,999.

The country's increase is 15,977,691 or 25 per cent. The increase including territorial possessions is 16,145,521 or 20.9 per cent. The grand total population of the United States and all its territories and possessions is 101,000,000.

The Washington increase is \$623,887 or 120.4 per cent. Under the present apportionment it means three more congressmen.

WISCONSIN'S CENSUS IS 2,333,860.

Wisconsin's census is 2,333,860, an increase of 12.7 per cent. Georgia has 2,609,121, an increase of 17.7 per cent. Each state is entitled to another congressman. The population of Alaska is 64,356, an increase of 724 or 1.2 per cent. Hawaii has 190,168, an increase of 37,908. The military, and naval population of the United States is 55,608.

WRIGHT MAYOR OF UNION

Election Held This Week Elects New Officers for Town of Union.

The municipal election in the city of Union took place this week with a total of 208 votes cast, the individual vote standing as follows, says the Union Republican.

TO PLANT SEVENTY ACRES.

Thronson Buys Trees for Seventy Acre Orchard of Union Firm.

J. A. Thronson has purchased of the Union, Ore., nursery, trees for a 70-acre fruit farm. They were all apple trees and of the Rome Beauty and Jonathan varieties. The prospects are for a much increased orchard acreage next year.

STRIKE VOTE NOW BEING COUNTED AT CHICAGO

REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET MANAGERS AT CHICAGO NEXT MONDAY.

LOCAL ENGINEERS ALERT

Generally Believed That Strike Will be Voted But Negotiations to Follow

After the Vote is Announced Will be Exhausted Say Engineers—Managers May Meet Representatives Before Vote is Fully Counted.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—To count the votes on the strike question by engineers of the sixty-one western railroads, unless a wage increase is granted, officials of the Brotherhood of Railway Engineers are gathered here today. Counting is under way at the Great Northern hotel. While the ballot was taken secretly it is believed the engineers voted to strike. It is intimated the votes may not be all counted before representatives of the engineers meet the general managers, at railroads Monday to negotiate for a fifteen per cent wage and settlement of the mailer engine dispute. Probably the negotiations will take much time.

Strike as Last Resort.

The engineers' representatives intimated that they will use every persuasion possible before any orders are given to the men to strike.

La Grande engineers were of the opinion that the strike would be announced today and that the engineer's representatives would announce the vote today. The above contracts the belief.

It is the general feeling of local engineers that every possible precaution will be taken not to strike, but if forced to do such action will be taken. There is no question in the minds of the engineers themselves but what the vote will show strike by a big majority. Loath to see trouble, and loath to see the strike precipitated, the engineers are anxious to see their points gained without a walkout.

About ten days will be required to get official word here of the outcome of the Chicago count, though its wording is pretty safely guessed in advance.

CLAIRE REACHES CITY.

Comes From Union With Dog and Pony, to Stay Three Days.

Miss Alberta Claire, the slucky Wyoming girl who is riding from New York to San Francisco on horseback arrived this afternoon from Union where she spent the night. She will appear at the Orpheum theatre in a vaudeville stunt tomorrow and Monday.

Her trip here was uneventful. Her dog was badly tired out but the horse stood the trip well. She is a dashing woman, but affirms that she has had nothing to war her pleasures except disagreeable weather and bad roads. From here she goes directly to Portland. Her turn at the vaudeville houses along the way is said to be very good at all times.

1600 Licenses.

The number of hunting and fishing licenses that have been issued by County Clerk Ed. Wright for the past season in round numbers is 1600. There have been 777 hunting licenses and 820 fishing licenses called for up to date, which exceeds last year's total but very little.

Big Increase in Census.

That the school census of La Grande will show 165 per cent is the careful estimate made by School Clerk Williams and Enumerator Rogers this afternoon just before the final check up of the enumeration take place. Last year the count stood 1472, which makes a large increase in one year. It is possible that the estimate today will vary a few counts one way or the other but it is not a likelihood. This increase is larger than even the most sanguine had hoped for.

Storm Off Spain.

Cerebers, Spain, Dec. 10.—Many are reported to have been killed by a tornado that swept Northern Spain early today. Six fishing vessels sank in Cerunna harbor and several of their crews were drowned.