

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## HUGE DEFICIT IN POST OFFICES CUT DOWN

### ANNUAL REPORT OF POSTMASTER GENERAL FILED, SHOWING RECOMMENDATIONS.

## DESCRIBES POSTAL BANKS

### Rural Routes Have Been Extended, Wages Increased, More Carriers Put on Service, Proved in Every Way Yet Deficit of Last Year is Cut Down Greatly—New Rates on Magazines—Advertising to be Maintained.

Washington, Dec. 12—Showing a wonderful reduction in the post office deficit, outlining required legislation and picturing the postal conditions as they exist this year, the post master general today filed his annual report. It says in part:

A year ago the fiscal records of the postal service disclosed a deficit of seventeen and a half million dollars, the largest in the history of the country. In the space of twelve months a reduction of eleven and a half millions has been made in this deficit, the excess of expenditures over receipts as reported for the year ended June 30 last amounting to only \$5,848,566-38.

It is most gratifying to report that this unprecedented reduction has been made without any curtailment of postal facilities. On the contrary, the service has been largely extended. Attempts in previous years to reduce a deficit by restricting the development of the postal service have invariably failed. The policy of the present administration has been to wipe out losses by increasing the postal business along profitable lines, and while thus enlarging the department's income to reduce as far as possible the rate of expenditure by cutting out wasteful processes, by simplifying and rendering more effective the methods of handling postal business, and by raising to the highest possible standard the efficiency of officers and employees.

Every practicable measure has been taken during the year to accelerate the movement of the mails. The more quickly mail matter can be handled the less expensive is the process. Delays of any kind are costly, for they result in complaints that must be given attention, and the time thus consumed is a source of heavy loss. The department has accordingly devoted itself with great earnestness to the work of increasing the efficiency of the mail service, considering this the surest method of making the postal establishment self-supporting.

### Postal Savings System.

The Board of Trustees created by the act of June 25, 1910, to control, supervise, and administer the postal savings system has made substantial progress in perfecting a plan of operation.

After a most careful investigation and numerous conferences with leading bankers the board unanimously decided to adopt the plan of using certificates of deposit instead of pass books.

In order to make the first trial of the new system as comprehensive as possible under the limited appropriation provided by Congress a single post-office in each State and Territory has been selected at which postal savings deposits will be received from the 1st of January next.

The amount appropriated for the first year of the system was only \$100,000, and from this sum must be paid all the expenses of equipment, including the engraving and printing of forms, certificates, bonds, etc., as well as the cost of clerical assistance for the conduct of the postal savings business.

Owing to the smallness of this appropriation it has been impossible thus far to establish postal savings depositories in the large city post-offices. The offices designated are all of the second class. In their selection it has been the purpose to choose communities in which the conditions are exceptionally favorable for the development of a postal savings business. Most of them are industrial centers where wage-earners will be especially benefited by the kind of banking facilities afforded. A large patronage of the service is expected from foreign-born Americans in these cities who are now remitting considerable sums to their native countries, usually in the form of money orders. Many of the places selected, particularly in the West, are not adequately provided with other savings institutions. The work of furnishing the

necessary equipment to the post-offices selected and thoroughly instructing the postmasters and their assistants in the operation of the system will consume several weeks, but every effort will be made to have the designated offices ready for the new postal savings system will be given at least a month's trial in the original forty-eight offices before others are added to the list, although it is expected that the number of offices will be largely increased before the end of the current fiscal year.

### Parcel Post.

The recommendation made in the last annual report of the department for the introduction of a limited parcel-post service on rural routes is earnestly renewed. It is believed that as soon as the postal savings system is thoroughly organized the Post-Office department should be prepared to establish throughout the country a general parcel post. As the preliminary step in the development of such a service it is hoped that Congress will authorize the delivery on rural routes of parcels weighing as high as 11 pounds, which is the weight limit for the international parcels-post. This form of service can be conducted with little if any additional expense to the Government. It will not require the appointment of more carriers, for those already employed have the necessary equipment in the way of horses and wagons to distribute the mail as well as the ordinary mail. Rarely is the latter of sufficient volume to take up more than a small portion of the mail space in the carrier wagon. A rural parcel post of the kind proposed, if successfully conducted, would probably lead to a more general system. Before the parcel service is extended to the whole country however, definite information should be obtained as to the nature and volume of the business to be handled. It is accordingly urged that in conjunction with the experiment on rural routes a further inquiry be authorized by Congress in order that the department may be in a better position to develop the system on conservative lines and that a special appropriation for the inquiry be granted at the coming session.

### Crusade Against Fraudulent Use of Mails.

The crusade started by the Post-office Department early in the year against the fraudulent use of the mails has been pushed with great vigor. During the last few months the principal officers of 34 corporations, companies and firms have been placed under arrest by post-office inspectors for swindling the public by this method. In 46 additional cases individuals have been arrested for conducting similar schemes to defraud. It is estimated that the 80 important cases recently brought to a head represent swindling operations that have siphoned from the American people in less than a decade fully a hundred million dollars. As the work of investigation proceeded it became apparent that schemes for swindling through the mails were vastly more numerous and extensive than supposed. Many of these fraudulent enterprises proved to be as far-reaching in their ramifications as the postal service itself. Not only have they swindled many thousands of credulous people out of money foolishly invested, but to a large extent they have shaken confidence in legitimate enterprises. The stamping out of these frauds is therefore as important to capitalists engaged in lawful business undertakings as it is to investors. Their attempts will undoubtedly save to the American people millions of dollars annually.

The department's former practice of issuing fraud orders in such cases proved ineffectual. While by that method the offending concern was deprived of the use of the mails it was a simple matter for its promoters to organize under a new name and thus evade the law. In the present crusade the department's plan has been to secure the arrest, conviction, and imprisonment of the swindlers themselves. This method, which is proving to be most effective, will be continued until the fraudulent use of the mails is brought to a close.

### Annual Vacations.

In the department's last report it was recommended that a law be passed granting thirty days' annual leave of absence with pay to post-office clerks and city letter carriers and also to railway postal clerks who are required to work six days or more a week throughout the year. Such a measure would place the employees in the postal service outside of Washington on the same basis as the departmental employees with respect to vacations. It is hoped that Congress will take the desired action at the coming session.

### BUYS SNODGRASS FARM.

A. Milenberg of Cove Acquires Title to Farm Near This City Today.

One of Cove's substantial and enterprising farmers, A. Milenberg today closed a deal through the Curry real estate agency for the purchase of the 160 acre farm three miles southeast of La Grande known as the Snodgrass farm, and a part of the W. J. Snodgrass estate. He will take possession about March 1st. The purchase price was \$6500.

## 106 PASSENGERS MENAGED BY SHIPWRECK

### STEAMER POUNDING ON ROCKS ON BLIGHTS ISLAND; NO ONE KILLED.

## PASSENGERS BELIEVED SAFE

### Ship Has Been Pounding on Pieces Since Midnight—Passengers Had Just Escaped a Similar Accident—Boats Hurrying to Rescue of the Crew and Passengers—Wireless Caught From Ship Operator, Today.

Seattle, Dec. 12—Local officials of the Alaska Steamship company this afternoon received word that the 103 passengers and crew aboard the Olympia were rescued, being taken to Valdez. No word of how they were rescued has been received. The vessel will be a total loss.

Seattle, Dec. 12—At 9:30 this morning no report had been received from Cordova as to the fate of 106 persons aboard the wrecked steamer Olympia, which is being pounded to pieces on a reef on Blights Island, Prince William sound, where she struck Saturday night during a gale.

According to last word heard from Operator Hays aboard the steamer, the gale continues and waves are breaking high over the vessel. Life boats were ready to launch but won't be used until a last resort. It is believed the steamer June, which left Valdez and the steamer Dora, which left seaward to aid have arrived. The Olympia carried 52 passengers and a crew of 54.

The Olympia left here Dec. 6, arriving at Cordova Saturday, leaving Saturday night for Valdez. She struck near midnight, as shortly afterward the naval wireless picked up faint calls for assistance. The Olympia carried 26 passengers who had sailed previously for Alaska on the steamship Northwestern, which ran aground at False Bay, San Juan Island, Dec. 2.

Aldez, Dec. 12—The U. S. revenue cutter Donaldson, with two tug boats started from Valdez to aid the Olympia and will probably reach there this afternoon.

### Passengers Reported Safe.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 12—A wireless picked up here says passenger at the Olympia are safe. The message was received at 9:30 this morning.

## RETURN FROM FUNERAL.

### Mr. and Mrs. Palmer and Two Girls Return After Sad Visit East.

Leaving La Grande several weeks ago for a happy sojourn with relatives in the east, but doomed to sorrow and grief over the sad demise of their only son, is the story of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Palmer who returned to La Grande yesterday accompanied by their daughters, Carolyn and Margaret. While in the east their son, James Frederick, died at Red Oak, Iowa, at the home of his grandfather, James Frederick Palmer. Interment took place in Brodhead, Wis., the former home of Mrs. Palmer. The junior Palmer was a husky, healthy youngster when he left for the east with his parents earlier in the fall.

## \$125,000 INSURANCE DEAL.

### Hot Lake Sanatorium is Insured by La Grande Insurance Men.

Walter Pierce, president of the Hot Lake Sanatorium Co., is placing \$125,000 of insurance on the sanatorium today. The total is being divided among the local insurance men.

## POULTRY ENTRIES COME RAPIDLY

Birds are arriving in encouraging numbers to be entered in the second annual poultry show which opens tomorrow morning in the I. O. O. F. auditorium and the birds thus far brought in indicate that the cackle conclave will be far in excess of last year's event.

Millar Purvis, the well known poultryman will arrive this evening to award the scores. Mr. Purvis is editor of several poultry journals, is a lecturer of repute and his coming alone means much toward the success of the show.

### Give Poultry Away.

Every day of the show a pair of

## MISSING MAN IS WANTED, BADLY AS WITNESS

### INDIVIDUAL KNOWING MORE THAN ALL OTHERS, LIKELY, IS MISSING QUANTITY.

## REBUTTAL IS LENGTHY ONE

### State Going Over Its Evidence Again With Rebuttal Testimony—Story of Wills Being Drunk is Refuted by a Large Number of Witnesses for the State—Was Road Gravel or Dusty Is Question of Importance.

When Judge Knowles reconvened court this morning the prosecution had a line of work mapped out that evidently will require considerable time to complete. It was noticed in the lobby of the court house that several new witnesses were an hand from Elgin, and among them, Dr. Kirby was recalled.

It is believed that an important point for the jury is the disappearance of an eye witness to the shooting and why he disappeared. Attempts to show that Wills was the drunk man lying on the porch the night of the homicide will be combated to the bitter end, for a number of witnesses stand ready, and some have sworn, that Wills was not drunk, nor had he been drinking anything during the day. This brings the matter up to some other man whose identity can only be described as follows:

A man by the name of Myers was hired for the threshing crew the afternoon of August 5th. Myers had a partner—a man who was touring the country with him—and the two men went out to Porter's just before the shooting took place. The unknown man was drunk, according to statements made by people from Elgin, and Myers was sober. When the shot was fired Myers happened to be very near Porter and assisted in carrying him into the house. He was a handy man around the scene and knew as much about the real transaction probably as any man on earth. At six o'clock the following morning Myers and his partner concluded to move on, but Myers was detained for the evidence he would give at the coroner's inquest. But his partner was overlooked and has never since been seen. That partner was the drunk man, is the claim made by several witnesses.

### But what became of Myers?

He gave bond for his appearance as a witness before the grand jury but disappeared and has never been seen since the coroner's jury closed. Why Myers and his peculiar partner evaporated, as it were, is one of the mysteries. Why he did not stay and give in his testimony in the case and render himself a valuable witness at the trial is what cannot be understood by many.

## Rebuttal Will be Lengthy.

Contrary to rebuttals in most cases, the state is believed to have a long line of procedure up its sleeve. Instead of merely calling a witness to either substantiate or contradict some point, the witness placed on the stand in this rebuttal is taken down the line of tragedy and rivet after rivet in the mechanism of the prosecution is being clinched much as the boiler-maker clinches his iron rivets on a job.

Interest has not lagged for a moment and this morning before the hour of opening court had arrived there was a large attendance. Elgin people are here whether subpoenaed or not, for the case is one of such importance that the entire county is interested in it.

## Pistol Story is Important.

From the way in which attorneys for the prosecution are weaving their

chain of evidence in an attempt to break down the story of Parker finding a pistol in the dusty road at the point where the shooting occurred, it is considered that this is one of the vital points from a legal view of the trial.

J. M. Darr was called to testify regarding the condition of the soil in the highway in front of the Porter home and he said it was of a gravel formation and not subject to becoming dusty. Attorney Cochran for the defense took the witness in hand and grilled him pretty lively finally succeeding in not only getting a portion of the evidence struck out, but also that portion of a prior witness, D. A. Barnes, which bore on the subject of dusty roads. Darr was in the road on Sunday following the killing and made examination of the surroundings. He was also there Tuesday.

Cochran asked the witness if there had not been refuse from an old saw mill nearby hauled into the road at that point but the witness did not agree there had been.

Charles A. Flessar said he was on the premises immediately after the shooting; that he remained all night, and had been over that particular part of the road in question many times

ever the shooting, he said the exact spot of the shooting was never pointed out to him but he observed the road was gravelly and not very dusty. The defense counsel went after him with severe questioning. Attorney C. E. Cochran said:

"Who told you to say there was no dust in that road?"

"No one," replied the witness.

## Chadwick a Firm Witness.

George Chadwick of Cove was a firm witness. He knew Porter in South Dakota and had been his friend ever since. Porter came to this valley in 1884, according to Chadwick. He said he was called to the Porter home on the day following the crime. He also asserted there was no dust in the road to amount to anything; that the ground was of a gravel formation, and while some dust appeared in the wagon tracks, there was practically no dust outside of the tread of the wheels. The witness and defense attorneys locked horns over the dusty road question but Chadwick held his own very well and in the minds of many he made a good witness for the prosecution.

Just before the noonday adjournment Jewel Galloway was called to the stand. He lived on the Porter farm from the time he was 12 years of age until he was 25 years of age. Evidence of this nature on the topography of the country and the dryness of nearby highways, also the nearest streams and the places where gravel and rock were obtainable, is considered valuable for a boy growing up never forgets these points in his surroundings. Mr. Galloway said he knew the condition of the road where the revolver is alleged to have been found and that it is a gravel road with very little dust; that the gravel had been hauled in at some earlier period in order to prevent the water from crossing the road in the spring-time. He also told of the stream that flowed nearby and the little spring that was caused by a little spring a few hundred feet distant.

When Jewel Galloway had told of the roadway as he had known it for many years, stating there is a gravel formation there and as a rule there is little dust it had a bearing on the entire proceeding. He was followed by E. E. Jones, former road supervisor of that district who corroborated the statement made by Mr. Galloway.

Editor Lee Tuttle of the Elgin Recorder was called to testify regarding his visit to the Porter home the day following the tragedy, but he could say but little concerning the dust in the road for he had paid no attention to it. His impression was that there was very little dust.

Dr. Kirby retold a portion of the story of his professional visit to the Porter home after the shooting also told of going out to give his horse some oats after midnight and stumbling over a drunk man in the runway of the barn. This, according to the doctor, was the same drunk man who had figured in a mysterious manner in this case from the beginning, but the man was not Al. Wills. Again it was established that the drunk man was a partner of Myers who disappeared with Myers the next day after the killing.

## VOTE APPARENTLY HEAVY.

### Practically Entire Registered Vote of the City will be Cast Today.

Quietly though steady voting has been going on in the four precincts of the city today for the annual municipal election. True to an undeniably custom in vogue here for years, many are being sworn in, old time voters even being included in the class. The vote is heavy in all the precincts and the total vote when the polls close tonight at 7 o'clock will likely be more than the registered strength. Much interest is taken in the outcome but few predictions are made. Friends of those not conceded to be in the running are energetic in rustling a heavy vote, hoping to take advantage of lethargy among those who force certain victory for their particular friends.

## DEMOCRAT CHIEF JUSTICE NAMED BY TAFT

### JUDGE WHITE DISPLACES GOV. HUGHES FOR HIGHEST POSITION ON THE BENCH.

## CONFIRMATION IS EFFECTED

### Though Taft Was Inclined to Appoint Hughes, Lawyers and Representatives Argue the Executive Out of the Notion—Democrat, White, Sels New Precedent in Annals of Appointments—Two Democrats, Van

Washington, Dec. 12—Justice Edward White of the Supreme Court of the United States was today nominated to be Chief Justice. A few minutes afterward congress confirmed the president's nomination.

Judge Willis Vanderventer of the Eighth circuit court of United States and Judge Joseph Lamar of Georgia, formerly of the Georgia supreme court were nominated for associate justices. Taft decided to appoint White chief justice instead of Hughes after a long conference with Attorney General Wickersham.

White is a Democrat and this is the first time in history the president has nominated a man to such a position of opposite political faith. Judge Lamar is likewise a Democrat. The makeup of the Supreme Court now is: Edward White, Chief Justice; John Marshall, Harlan, Joseph McKenna, Oliver Wendell Holmes, William Day, Charles Hughes, Willis Van Devanter and Joseph Lamar. White has been on the Supreme Bench since 1894. He was appointed by Cleveland. It is known Taft favored Hughes for the position, but members of the Cabinet presented objections of a number of attorneys and congressmen so he changed his mind.

## COMMERCE COURT MEN NAMED.

### Taft Makes Appointments for Newly Created Court of Commerce.

Washington, Dec. 12—President W. H. Taft today nominated Martin Knapp new chairman of the interstate commerce commission and Judge Julian Mack of Illinois and Robert W. Archibald, United States Judge of the central district of Pennsylvania, now judge of the customs appeal court, and Wm. Hunt, of Montana, judge of court of the customs appeals as judges for the newly created commerce court, making the bench for the court now to read, Knapp, Archibald, Hunt, Carland and Mack.

C. C. McChord of Kentucky and B. H. Meyers of Wisconsin will be appointed to fill the vacancy left on the Interstate Commerce Commission.

## TROUBLE SEEMS BREWING.

### Game Wardens Return from Investigation and Consult Prosecutor.

Chas. B. Orat, the game warden for Union county and Joe Clemons, the game warden for Wallowa county have just returned from Tu Kanon in the northern part of Columbia county, Washington where they went to investigate the report of slaughtering of deer on the Oregon side of Wenaha forest reserve. Mr. Clemons is at one of his old tricks and he was allowed to see the district attorney at once on his arrival. It is apparent that there are some grounds for it looks rather serious. Mr. Orat is in attendance at court today and was in consultation with the district attorney and J. L. Rand. The report of their investigations will be made public as soon as permissible.

## ALDRICH IN RUBBER TRUST.

### Hooks Shows He Owns Big Majority in Firm Known as Trust.

New York, Dec. 12.—Nelson W. Aldrich, senator from Rhode Island, owns 346 shares in the United States Rubber company which likewise is known as the rubber trust, according to the New York World. The story is based on an examination of the books of the company.

## WALLA WALLA HAS 19,000.

### Population of Several Washington Towns Announced by Durand.

Washington, Dec. 12—The census bureau announced the population of Centralia, Wash., at 7,211; Hoquiam, 2,171; Olympia, the capitol, 6,996; Walla Walla, 19,364; Aberdeen 13,660; Bellingham 24,298.