

# La Grande Evening Observer

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LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON.

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## WOODSMAN RUNS AMUCK WITH WINCHESTER

### TWO LADIES ESCAPE HARM WHEN BULLETS WHIZ OVER THEIR HEADS.

## GROCERYMAN ALSO ESCAPES

### Freak Interference of Luck Alone Saves Snodgrass Grocery Store Employee. When a Man Named Earl West shoots up the Town on Fir Street—Gun Plugged and Bystanders Rush in on Assailant.

Freak interference of fortune at noon today saved Ray Boun, an employe of the Snodgrass grocery from instant death, and poor aim saved the liver of two unknown ladies in a buggy, when a man identified as Earl West ran amuck with a dangerous weapon. The gun he used and with which he fired two shots at a passing buggy containing two ladies, is a 45-60 calibre, short barreled affair and is unquestionably the most wicked weapon of the old school of winchesters. Intoxicated and mean and probably crazed by drink, he reached North Fir street just across the street from the Julius Fisher saloon and was standing near the Dutley bakery when the cannonading commenced. He aimed at a passing buggy a few feet away and fired two shots in rapid succession. Spectators gasped in horror but fortunately the bullets went wild and doubtless buried themselves in the railroad yards somewhere. At least no report of injuries have been received.

### Whirls Against Pedestrian.

Probably angered by his poor aim, the man swung about and aimed the weapon at the heart of Ray Baun, who was passing and had been frozen in his tracks by the rash act intended to kill the women. Baun was only a few feet away from the muzzle of the gun when West commenced to pump in a shell and pulled the trigger. That Baun is alive now is due entirely to the fact that the third shell stuck in the breech. While the man was working frantically to get the mechanism in working order, Julius Fisher lead a hastily formed posse and overpowered the fellow. Policemen were hastily summoned and the man is now in the city jail sleeping off a drunken stupor.

The man was identified in the cell by G. W. Nelson, who during the summer months worked with him on the paving project. Nelson claims he is quite well acquainted with the man. Of late he has been a wood chopper.

About two weeks ago West made another gun play but got his weapon out of sight and himself to refuge before the police was notified.

### COURT ADJOURNED.

### Present Session Comes to an End for Holiday Period—Recalled Later.

Jurors for the December term of circuit court have been excused indefinitely. With the Ellerson case out of the way, it was thought best to adjourn until after the holidays. There is still one man in jail, charged with larceny from the Baker residence, but he will not be tried at this time. Then too, there is a hung jury case to be reconsidered. These two cases will be disposed of as soon after the holidays as it is convenient to hold court again.

### NEGROES BURNED TO DEATH.

### Disastrous Fire Breaks Out in the South, Killing Three.

New Orleans, Dec. 23.—In a fire that caused \$200,000 damage in the Barrens street business district and heavily damaged the Shubert theatre, three negroes were burned to death today. For a time the fire threatened the entire district.

### COOK IN AMERICA.

### Will Devote His Attention to Lecturing to Americans.

New York, Dec. 2.—Dr. Cook, following his return to America from Europe on the steamer George Washington, declined to be seen at the home of his brother in Brooklyn, where he is staying. He said over the telephone that he would give out a statement Monday. "I am going to lecture, but intend to devote myself to scientific matters which have engrossed my attention for twenty years. I will convince the American people that I believe that I reached the pole."

### Bury Chief With Honors.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Fire Chief Marshal Horan who was killed in the fire yesterday will be buried with military honors by the city. The plans are being completed but the time of the funeral has not been set.

## YOUNG MAN FALLS FROM LOAD AND IS KILLED

### CHRISTMAS BRINGS SORROW TO WALLOWA FAMILY.

### Young Man Killed Leaving Four Children and Widow.

Wallowa, December 23 (Special)—Christmas joys were suddenly routed from the home of a young family here last evening when Pamel Pales, a young man of twenty-eight years was almost instantly killed while hauling a load of hay on the Amos Greer farm near this town. He is survived by a young widow and four children, the oldest four years and the youngest four days.

Mr. Pales was crossing a ditch and in some way was thrown from the load so that he fell directly behind the horses. One wheel ran over his body and he was taken to his home where he died in about 2 hours. The affair is so distressing that the entire town of Wallowa is in mourning. The young family was popular and highly respected. No funeral arrangements have been made to date.

### JUDGE BEAN COMING.

### Will Render a Decision in the Caviness Case Next Week.

A case of unusual importance in water litigation history will come to a focus next week when Judge Bean will come to La Grande and render a final decision in the Caviness case. This is the case in which J. L. Caviness won a temporary restraining order last June entitling him to prior rights on the Grande Ronde river for irrigation purposes at May Park. The news of the Judge's coming was conveyed to Judge Knowles this afternoon.

### PARKER HEARING DELAYED.

### Motion for New Trial Will be Made Within Five Days From Date.

Judge Knowles this afternoon granted a prayer for the extension of time in which counsel for Jess Parker, of Elgin, found guilty of manslaughter, in connection with the murder of William Porter, may file a motion for a new trial. The original ten days' limit expired today but the decision of the court gives five more days to prepare the motion in.

### Beri-Beri at Seattle.

Seattle, Dec. 23.—Six Hindus, sailors of the British steamer Beachy, are afflicted with the Japanese scourge Beri-Beri, according to local health authorities. The vessel is now loading at Tacoma. It will be quarantined this afternoon. One died Tuesday and another is reported dying. The ship arrived earlier in the week from the Orient.

## I. W. W. CROWDED INTO PRISON AT FRESNO

### ARRESTS FOLLOW VILE ATTACKS ON OFFICERS WHO BREAK UP STREET MEETINGS.

## PLACED ON BREAD AND WATER

### Danger of General Outbreak Apparent as Industrialists are Camped Outside the City—Extra Guards Placed Around Jails to Prevent Wholesale Jailbreaks—Residence District Menaced by Talk.

Fresno, Calif., Dec. 23.—Eighty-five members of the Industrial Workers of the World are locked in the county jail here on charges of vagrancy for having violated the anti-street speaking ordinance and were placed on a diet of bread and water today. The change of fare is the result of a demonstration last night. Prisoners cursed Sheriff Chittenden and other officers so loudly that officers were forced to close the windows to prevent the people in the residence district from hearing the vile din. Officers then quieted them by threatening to turn on the hose. Armed guards are around the jail to prevent a wholesale jail delivery. Citizens are aroused and fear they will attack industrialists who are camping outside the city. It is reported other industrialists of the coast are hurrying to join the agitators here. The industrialists are agitating a repeal of the street speaking ordinance.

### SPANISH CHURCH SEPARATED.

### Act Means the People Will be Freed from Church-State Allegiance.

Madrid, Dec. 23.—Despite the Carlist clerical attempts to impede the progress of the measure, the house today passed the famous "Padlock Bill" providing for separation of the church and state in Spain, and restricting the establishment of religious orders. Premier Calalejas slipped the measure through without any warning, perfectly aware that the passage of the bill will cause the church to appeal to the people to overthrow the government. The premier announced he will proceed with further anti-clerical legislation and seek adoption of a plan for the improvement of the Spanish masses.

### Accused Gold Thieves Released.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Charges of grand larceny against C. M. and J. C. Woodson, E. L. Smith and Margaret Henry, brought here in connection with the theft of \$60,000 worth of gold bullion from the ship Humboldt near Seattle, were dismissed today in local police courts. They will be tried however on a charge of bringing stolen goods with in the state.

## CHICAGO VICTIMS NUMBER FIFTY AT LEAST

### TWELVE STOCK YARD MEN REPORTED KILLED WHICH BRINGS TOTAL TO 53.

## ALL CHICAGO IN MOURNING

### Crowds out Hunting for Missing Stock Yard Men—Twenty-Six Bodies Have Been Recovered and Dead is Estimated at Fifty—Without Counting the Stockyard—Relief Societies Come to Aid.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Reports that a dozen stockyard laborers perished in yesterday's fire caused a great crowd to gather about the smoking ruins of the Nelson-Morris company's warehouse where forty-three engine companies and three truck companies are still pouring water on the smouldering pile to prevent it breaking out afresh. A majority of firemen are searching the ruins for bodies. It is estimated the dead today are placed at forty-one, not including the stockyard employes who are reported killed. There are twenty-six known dead and fifteen firemen missing. The search will be continued until all are accounted for.

Flags at public schools and public buildings are at half mast and a dozen movements have been started for the relief of widows and orphans of the firemen.

Up to 9 this forenoon, twenty-five bodies have been recovered.

### BIGGER COAL SUPPLIES.

### Government May Establish Several Coaling Depots Soon.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Fuel depots at Bremerton, San Francisco and San Diego will be established soon if recommendation made by the Secretary of the Navy meets with the approval of congress. Olongapo, Pearl Harbor, New York and Boston are also mentioned as likely coaling stations. "Ample stock of coal is as essential powder and shells in preparing fleets. Plenty of stations with plenty of coal is the first thing to be considered. More vessels and better guns can follow," said Meyer. He is urging an appropriation of a million to establish the proposed bases.

### Mother Poisons Daughter.

Chico, Calif., Dec. 23.—Mrs. William Whiteline is dead and her daughter, Miss Lavina Corey is seriously ill as the result of poisoning. The police are investigating. The two women were found in their home yesterday. It is supposed at the time they had entered into a starvation compact. After an examination the physicians said it was poison. The girl recovered consciousness today and said she had been poisoned by her mother.

### FINDS FRIEND DEAD.

### Portland Land Agent Comes Here on His Way to Visit Late Mr. Dillworth.

W. R. Townsend, with the Alameda Land company at Portland, came as far as La Grande this morning on his way to call on the late W. R. Dillworth, the Enterprise editor, before he learned of the editor's untimely death. He and Mr. Dillworth had business relations and were quite well acquainted but he had not heard of Mr. Dillworth's suicide. On learning of the sad affair of several months ago Mr. Dillworth cut short his journey.

### Presents to Married Employes.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Each married employe of the White House today received a turkey as a Christmas present from the present. One hundred and two fowls were distributed.

## NECK SPARED AS PRECAUTION SAY JURORS

### IN PRISON MAN CAN'T HARM SOCIETY.

### Should Innocence be Established Man Could be Liberated Later.

T. R. Ellerson's neck escaped the noose as punishment for the killing of Waldo Perry at Union September 11, or thereabouts, when the jury which has heard the case returned a verdict shortly after midnight of murder in the second degree. This entails a punishment of life imprisonment and forbids hanging, as would have been the case under a first degree verdict. The jury was out about eight hours, and the judge, attorneys and defendant were in attendance at 1 o'clock this morning to go through the legal processes that the jury might be excused.

Considerable surprise has been manifested at the verdict. The general opinion was that Ellerson would either be acquitted or found guilty of murder in the first degree. In view of the fact that the state could not bring the defendant nearer than about six miles to the scene of the crime, it was likely the unanimous opinion of the jurors that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant hanging, yet strong enough to convince them that Ellerson did the act.

### A Man Without a Country.

Ellerson is apparently a man without a country. During the recent census enumeration he gave his permanent residence as no where, and when quizzed about his birthplace, refused to answer it. That was before he was under suspicion in the Perry case. Other matters, however, which have been observed in his conversation and action, indicates the man is a southerner though. Why he refuses to reveal his birthplace or whereabouts of his family is not known.

### How the Jury Stood.

It is interesting to note that the jury took into consideration the mere and slight possibility of innocence. Though the jury on the first ballot was almost unanimous for murder in the first degree, it took into consideration on subsequent ballots that there was a remote possibility of innocence and arguing that in the event that in subsequent years the murder should be discovered to have been committed by someone else, then the freedom of Ellerson would easily be accomplished. Should he be the man who did it, as the jurors firmly believe, then he will be placed where he can do no harm to society. Two of the jurors held out for murder in the first degree until midnight and then agreed to a second degree verdict. The ballots continued to show a falling off from first degree to second degree until the last two who hung out several hours. None of the jurors considered second degree murder first and then voted first degree.

Ellerson will be sentenced next Tuesday.

## NEW COMPANY TO CHANGE TIME SLIGHTLY

### NEW RAILROAD CONCERN TO BE A REALITY AFTER MIDNIGHT WHEN O. R. & N. DIES.

## TABLE NUMBER ONE OUT

### Great Merger of Railroads Being Accomplished This Afternoon and Conference at Portland is Over—One Hundred and Fifteen Million is Total Valuation of the New Concern—Scramble for New Timetables.

Portland, Dec. 23.—Propertes to be taken over by the newly incorporated Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation company aggregate in value, \$15,000,000. Today, affairs of the O. R. & N. and ten of its subsidiary companies and North Coast, its subsidiaries are being settled and at 11:59 tonight these companies will be merged into the new Harriman company. The most valuable line is the O. R. & N. valued at \$78,380,000. The next is the Oregon-Washington, at \$15,000,000. Others are branch lines in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Other lines affected by the merger are the Columbia river and Oregon Central, Tillamook railroad, the Columbia Southern Lake Creek and Coeur d'Alene, Oregon-Washington and Idaho, Snake River valley, Idaho Northern, Umatilla Central, North Coast, Northwestern railroad and Malheur Valley railroad. At 2 o'clock today the conference of the officials is ending here and last night it was announced that the officials for the present will be retained in the old capacity. It is believed there will be changes later. It is announced that the bonds will be issued to pay all indebtedness on the various lines in the merger that further development work in the northwest may be started soon.

### NEW ROAD TOMORROW.

### Time Table No. One Will be Issued Tomorrow on New Railroad.

This is the last day of the O. R. & N.'s existence tomorrow morning at one minute after midnight it will be known as the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation company but briefly and for convenience sake will likely be termed the O-W. A new time table to be designated as No. 1 comes into effect at midnight.

### New Time Table Here.

There is a slight change in the arrival of No. 5 after today. Instead of reaching La Grande at 10:25 p. m. the passenger will arrive at 11:10, putting it in Portland about noon the next day. This is the only change in the table today.

### Rush for First Table.

Time table No. 1 will be in demand for railroads are going to keep it as a souvenir. The last table issued by the O. R. & N. was No. 108 and the first one of that company's table was handed to O. W. (Dad) Moon, when that pioneer pulled the first engine into the Grande Ronde valley. Mr. Moon is now running an engine out of Pendleton.

### REOPEN RULES FIGHT.

### Norris Will Battle Against Bad Rules of the House in 1911.

Washington, Dec. 23.—A repetition of the fight over the house rules immediately after the holiday recess is predicted today by Representative Norris of Nebraska, the insurgent who led the fight last March with the result of the curtailment of Cannon's powers. Norris said he would introduce the resolution, amending the rules covering motions to discharge committees from consideration of bills.

He said: "We intend to attack the imperfect rules and will fight harder than we did last March."

## ROADS PRESENT SUPPLEMENTARY PROPOSITION TO PREVENT STRIKE

A wild rumor was afloat in La Grande this morning that a walkout had been ordered last midnight. Hasty examination divulged the fact that local engineers know nothing about the progress of negotiations further than that which the papers tell them. The order to strike will come to the heads of the local brotherhood. In the interim, the local engineers are officially "in the dark."

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Commissioner Nell today presented to the engineers a proposition for a supplementary ne-

gotiations to prevent the pending strike. The railroads now offer ten per cent increase. Stone said, "This is no time to talk. I will say the railroads must offer more or there will be a fight."

Stone continued, "We won't arbitrate the whole matter of increased wages again. If the railroads want to arbitrate between their latest offer of ten per cent and our wage demand of fifteen per cent, the basis of the agreement may be reached. If they persist in refusing concessions, there will be trouble."