

La Grande Evening Observer

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BLYTHE STRIKES AT CABINET AND SENATE

"WHO'S WHO" BLAMES POLITICS FOR ATTACK ON MAGAZINES AND THEIR RATES

BLAME FREELY SHIFTED

Hitchcock Blames it to Deficit and Taft to His Needed Support and so on Affirms Blythe—Extinction of Second Class Magazines Will Result of the Added Rates are Passed as Hitchcock Desires.

Washington, Feb. 15—Threats of forcing an extra session of congress if the administration adheres to its plan of increasing second class postage rates were made freely here today by friends of those magazines effected which it is said would put the magazines out of business.

By Samuel G. Blythe—Who's Who (Copyrighted by the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 15—Politics, and not the postal deficit, is the underlying motive for the administrative's attack on the magazines and the periodical press, through increase of second class postage.

Postmaster General Hitchcock's excuse for the move, is the alleged postal deficit; President Taft's excuse is that he is supporting his cabinet minister who is trying to put the department on the self sustaining basis; the administration senators who attacked the amendment on the postoffice bill have the excuse that the president demands the increase.

They are making these excuses, too, now that they are discovering how thoroughly the people are aroused on this matter of using the taxing power of the government to confiscate. That is what it amounts to for the free press that dared to criticize and condemn certain acts both of the administration and of the administration's supporters in congress.

Laying aside the tremendous economic fact that the imposition of this tax means ruin to the magazines and periodical business of the country and the absolute extinction of the popular magazines, look at the politics of it. Three facts are certain, first, That the tax is part of a carefully matured plan of the administration in conjunction with those interests, the republican majority in congress has reserved for years to stamp out the progressive movement by depriving that movement of its means of publicity and its mediums for spreading its propaganda. Second: It is especially directed against the newly formed progressive republican league and the progressives in congress whom the magazines and periodicals of the country supported in their aim to rid the country of Aldrichism and Cannonism.

Third: It is an act of direct reprisal by the President, Hitchcock, Cannon, Aldrich and all of the Cannon-Aldrich crowd in congress of whom there are seven on the committee pulling for the amendment of the senate bill intending to punish those magazines and periodicals that have spoken fearlessly about government political abuses.

Of course the publishers can make out a case—and are making it out—that this method of discrimination and reprisal will bankrupt them and in the case of those who can continue it will inevitably increase the price of the popular magazine to the reading public.

But this is not the main point. The vital thing is that the administration, exerting its taxing power is endeavoring to abolish the free press not only in the interests of its own political ambitions, but in the interest of and for the protection of the financial powers it seeks to serve.

The question is bigger than one of money, either in the government's

purse or out of the purses of the publishers.

It is bigger than even the interest of even the thousands of men who will be thrown out of employment if the publishing business is curtailed as it will be if the proposed increase of second class postage becomes law.

It is a blow at that liberty guaranteed by the constitution of the United States and is subservient of every American idea of justice, of fair play and of decent politics.

Want Sunday Baseball.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 15—Delegations of baseball fans, club managers and others interested in amateur sport appeared before the Assembly Codes Committee this afternoon to urge the passage of the McGrath bill to permit amateur Sunday baseball in New York state. Representatives of various Sabbath organizations also were on hand to oppose the measure. The opponents of the bill declare that it is designed as the entering wedge for the introduction of professional Sunday baseball in the East.

HOUSE AGREES ON RECIPROCITY

ITS DOOM TO BE MET IN THE SENATE IS BELIEF

London Shocked at Remarks of Champ Clark in House Last Night

Washington, Feb. 15—Thoroughly angered by Champ Clark's talk of annexation in the house yesterday, President Taft today instructed Secretary of State P. C. Knox to voice a sharp rebuke to the Democratic leader in his speech tonight in Chicago. Taft believes Clark has seriously menaced his reciprocity plans.

Washington, Feb. 15—The reciprocity agreement with Canada, which passed the house last night is likely to meet defeat in the senate as many Democrats and Progressives oppose it. Filibustering is feared. President W. H. Taft is today trying to smooth the way for his pet measure, partly by argument and by threats of an extra session.

Washington, Feb. 15—In a letter to Congressman McCall today President Taft writes: "Canada is and will remain a political unit. The agreement has no political significance. There is no thought of future annexation or of political union in the minds of either side."

England Resents Clark

London, Feb. 15—Champ Clark's "Annexation speech" in the house at Washington yesterday evening has aroused England to fear of ultimately losing Canada if President Taft's reciprocity agreement is ratified. Practically all papers of the country are a unit in censuring Clark in declaring this country's aim is to annex Canada.

Clark must be singularly ignorant, says the Gazette to make such a statement.

Canadians Express Contempt

Victoria, Feb. 15—Champ Clark's speech yesterday was received here in bad grace, as both friends and opponents of reciprocity say the ultimate result will be prejudicial to justification of the reciprocity by Canada.

To Advertise Old Dominion

Richmond, Va., Feb. 15—In response to an invitation issued by Governor Mann a conference was held in Richmond today to discuss plans for advertising the resources and advantages of Virginia with a view to attracting immigration and the investment of capital in the Old Dominion. The conference was attended by representatives of chambers of commerce and similar organizations in many of the leading cities of the state.

Chinese Aid Home Country

Victoria, Feb. 15—Chinese here are collecting funds for famine sufferers in Anhui. It is believed the funds will be large as there are several million Chinese who will all donate liberally.

RIVER GRADE TO MINES MADE POSSIBLE BY PROMISES OF FUNDS BY LOCAL MEN

TWO MOUNTAIN RANGES TO BE LEVELLED AND NINE MILES CUT OFF THE TOTAL DISTANCE TO UP RIVER MINES—WORK TO COMMENCE AS SOON AS SPRING ARRIVES IS PLAN FULFILLS FOND DREAM OF YEARS.

GRANDE RONDE LUMBER COMPANY ROAD TO BE USED

La Grande to be Made Base of Supplies for up River Mining Country, Instead of That Trade Going to North Powder—Will Shorten Distance to Forty Miles—Cost of Fifteen Hundred in Cash, Abetted by Big Gift From Lumber Company Involved in Transaction.

Elimination of two mountain ranges and nine miles of difficult road, by construction of three miles of county road between Fly and Sheep creeks up the Grande Ronde river, and giving La Grande river grade connection with the mining districts up the Grande Ronde river, and diverting the traffic and source of supply from North Powder to La Grande, have today become possible by the promised subscription of necessary funds to the work needed. The big connection link of nine miles up the river, and beyond Starkey, comes from the Grande Ronde Lumber company which has promised to dedicate their privately-owned road to the county in the plan now under foot.

The last and shortest link is the three miles between the mouth of Sheep creek and Fly creek. When that piece is built, which it will be as soon as Spring arrives, there will be river grade to the vast district described by the mining belt.

Means Much to La Grande.

The plan has been discussed and fostered for years and the scintillating prospects of having it completed this year has encouraged the city as a whole. Aside from the benefits to the mining districts, it means La Grande will be a base of supplies for the mines up river where North Powder was the base, and the hauling of ore

and provisions by the miners and mine owners will be greatly alleviated.

Mountain Ranges Disappear.

To reach North Powder or La Grande either, the miners have to cross two mountain ranges. To reach La Grande they take a circuitous route of nine miles more than the forty miles of road when the link is completed. The dream of the commercial club and business men in general for several years and though it has been discussed to a great extent nothing tangible was ever commenced.

COMMERCIAL CLUB HOLDS ROUSING MEETING LAST EVENING

Many Things Considered—New Census to be Taken—Belt Line Around the Valley Discussed—Addition Endorsed

La Grande will not stand for the government figures on her census. This was evidenced last evening by the manner in which the Commercial club considered the idea of taking a new census. It will probably be the latter part of March or the first of April before the census is taken, but it was settled last evening that the work be done. A committee consisting of Fred Geibel, Frank Phy and Frank Lilly was named to take the census matter in hand and it is likely this committee will appeal to the Neighborhood club for assistance in procuring enumerators.

Belt Line is Seen by Club.

A belt line around Grande Ronde valley is another thing that appeared before the club last evening and very encouraging information was received from a concern that has had its eye on this particular development for a long time. Not only may it result in a belt line, but it is also probable that a road from Walla Walla will be built through the Summerville pass, thus connecting La Grande with the Hill lines and giving this city the advantage of competitive freight rates.

"This alone will start La Grande on that great advancement which will result in it being the Spokane of Eastern Oregon," remarked one member of the club and the entire assembly was very enthusiastic over the possibility of the new road.

Another Addition to La Grande

While there has been a growing sentiment against the concerns that come here from a distance and take money out in monthly payments, a plan was unfolded to the club last evening by Messrs. Cleland and Chapman that promises to turn the tide of investment into La Grande. These gentlemen want to put the O'Conner tract on the market. In fact they already have it optioned and will begin tomorrow to form a syndicate for the handling of it. This means about \$20,000 expended for advertising La Grande and the valley, and after due consideration the Commercial club thought it was a worthy enterprise, each member offering any assistance possible to render.

Reorganization to be Made

The re-organization plan for the club was not taken up last evening be-

cause of so many other topics. Throughout the evening there was lively discussion and it was decided to put off the election of a president and the re-organization until next Tuesday evening. The committee appointed to present a new plan was Mac Wood, George H. Curry, Charles Dunn, Al Andrews and John Collier.

Meeting Was Like Old Times.

After adjournment had been taken many members expressed themselves that last night's meeting was like old times when La Grande was really doing things through the club. There was a sort of reunion spirit prevailing and each member is enthusiastic over the outlook for this city the present year.

The Maine Remembered.

Havana, Cuba, February 15—All Members of the American colony in Havana today placed flags and floral wreaths on the wreck of the Maine in observance of the twelfth anniversary of the destruction of the battleship.

SEWER PROJECT LARGE ONE

HEART OF CITY TO BE INCLUDED UNDER ONE CONTRACT

Possible Secure Low Construction Prices by Lumping Sewer Laterals.

Practically the heart of the residence district of La Grande is to be thrown into one section and handled at such in the awarding of sewer construction contracts. The proposition comes up tonight and the plan of the majority of the councilmen—actuated by popular clamor for residence sewer connection—is to let the entire batch of sewer connection and lateral construction to one firm that the lowest possible price for construction may be obtained. This district is large. It embraces everything bounded by N avenue on the South, Cedar street on the west, Jefferson, a portion of the way on the North, and then diagonally across the railroad track on X avenue which forms the remaining north boundary, and then diagonally across southeast to the place of beginning. By lumping the huge contract to one concern the heavy machinery used in digging ditches can be used to advantage and the cost of construction greatly reduced.

Action looking toward consummation of such a plan will come up tonight when the regular session of the council convenes.

The clamor for sewer laterals to connect with those already laid and leading to the disposal tank has been so persistent that the committees and council as a body has become fully convinced that a big majority of the property owners are in accord with the plan as outlined.

Racing Ends in California

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 15—After having flourished almost without interruption since the early pioneer days the horse racing game in California became a thing of the past today, with the coming into effect of the Walker-Young anti-race track law. The new law absolutely prohibits betting of any description. Profiting by the experience of race tracks in other sections of the country the California track owners will make no effort to conduct meetings with betting eliminated.

Western Canada Lumbermen.

Winnipeg, Feb. 15—The convention of the Western Canada Retail Lumber Dealers' association, which assembled in this city today, is the largest in point of attendance ever held by the organization. Prominent representatives of the trade from Manitoba to British Columbia are in attendance. The sessions will last three days and will be devoted to the consideration of numerous questions of importance to the trade.

JUAREZ SAVED BY NAVARRO AND HIS TROOPS

PROPOSED ATTACK ON JUAREZ BY REBELS SCARCELY PROBABLE IN VIEW OF RELIEF

GENERAL NAVARRO FETED

With Fifteen Hundred Men in all Federal General Reaches Juarez and Claims he Saw no Insurrectos—Will Sally Forth and Chase Away the Orozco Crowd—Banquets Tendered the Popular Hero of Mexico.

El Paso, Feb. 15—Coming of Mexican Insurrectos around Juarez and the possibility of a battle between federal troops and Orozco's men, was believed ended with the arrival of General Navarro, a Federal leader, with 100 infantry and 500 cavalry. Navarro is hailed as a hero—is banqueted and feted by the populace.

Saw no Revolutionists.

Navarro says he saw no revolutionists, save scattering pickets. The fact that he had to repair twenty-five bridges, burned and destroyed presumably by insurrectos, delayed him seriously at Juarez with relief.

It is expected that he will sally forth and chase away the rebels soon. They are today located at Zaragoza, or near there.

Future of the Equitable.

New York, Feb. 15—In financial and insurance circles considerable interest is being manifested in the annual meeting tomorrow of the board of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. Whether the society will be mutualized or will continue business as a stock concern will probably be definitely determined at the meeting. J. Pierpont Morgan, who holds the controlling interest of the organization, is said to be agreeable to the mutualization project, providing a plan can be devised that will be satisfactory to the directors, the stockholders and the state insurance department alike. Doubt is expressed as to whether this can be done, owing to the many legal obstacles which have arisen since the legislation following the Hughes investigation was put into effect.

USES GOLD PEN

President Taft Signs Resolution Giving San Francisco the Fair.

Washington, Feb. 15—President Taft today signed the resolution awarding the Panama exposition to San Francisco. He wrote the words with a gold pen and duplicated his signature on another resolution so that one might go to San Francisco and one to the archives at Washington.

New Yorker Weds in Denver.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 15—The wedding of Miss Marie J. Sheedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Sheedy, and Robert L. Livingston of New York took place today at the home of the bride's parents in this city. The bride had her sister, Miss Florence Sheedy as her only attendant. Archibald Barkle of Philadelphia, acted as best man. Among the guests was the Countess de Laugier-Villars, cousin of the bridegroom.

Texas Veterinarians Meet.

Austin, Texas, Feb. 15—The Texas Veterinary Medical Association began its ninth annual meeting in Austin today with an attendance of members from all over the state. In addition to the president, Dr. F. G. Cook, of Paris, the speakers heard during the day included Dr. E. R. Forbes of Fort Worth, Dr. C. D. Folse of Marshall, Dr. John E. Wilkins of Greenville and Dr. Mark Francis of Texas A. and M. college. The business of the meeting will be concluded tomorrow.