

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## GERMANY ASSERTS HER RIGHT TO PROTECT HER INTEREST IN MEXICO; DIAZ ALIVE

Berlin, March 8.—That Germany will not rely on the United States to protect her interests in Mexico was officially announced this afternoon by the imperial foreign office. The statement declared that if the situation develops so as to endanger German interests, Germany herself will take protective measures.

Galveston, March 9.—Private and authentic advices today say Diaz is alive but his condition is critical. He is being kept alive by stimulants and death is expected at any moment.

Boise, March 9.—Two Japanese, well dressed, watched and took notes while the first cavalry of 200 men, en-trained for San Antonio today.

Washington, March 9.—The report that President Diaz has been dead for 48 hours, which was received here and at San Antonio today spread like wildfire and has been credited by many of authority, yet, in the face of this comes a formal denial by Ambassador de la Barre of Mexico who is in Washington. The ambassador issued a personal message to all consuls in the United States reiterating that Diaz is alive, and urges all loyal Mexican subject to return to Mexico.

In addition to this, President Taft last night sent a message to President Diaz and today again reiterated his assertions that Diaz was alive.

Rumors of his death are well founded on the other hand. The president is 80 years of age and seriously ill. Then, too, death or fears of immediate death explains the mobilization of troops. It is well known that Diaz's death would be kept secret by the officials to give them time to arrange for emergencies. For this reason many do not credit the official reports that Diaz is alive.

It has been pointed out that only censored messages have been allowed to come over the wires while secret advices received by revolutionists said he has been dying for several days and that the end is rapidly approaching if not already there.

**England Admits Interests.**  
Admission of Ambassador Bryce of England that he had been asked to intercede with the United States to gain protection for English interests because the revolution has passed beyond control of the Mexican government, is causing much comment in the light of official denials from England and France that these governments had sent any requests pertaining to the Mexican situation.

A special from Paris today says the foreign office semi-officially denied the announcement it had not requested the United States to protect the

French interests in Mexico.

**Coast Hears Death Report.**  
San Francisco, March 9.—Reports received on brokers' wires practically united in the statement that Diaz is dead.

**Marines Go South.**  
Portland, Or., March 9.—Two companies of marines from the Puget Sound navy yard passed through Portland today en route to San Diego.

**March Equipment Ready.**  
Sacramento, March 9.—Equipment for 5,000 men, company by company, has been ready at the United States arsenal at Benicia, according to adjutant General Forbes. The equipment is intended solely for new soldiers. The national guard of California is already on a war footing.

**Troops and Ships Move.**  
Chicago, March 9.—Newspaper specials centering here today tell of ships and men moving from all sections of the country. Cruisers from various corners are head south and being are rushing from Denver, Leavenworth, and a half dozen other ports to mobilize on the frontier.

**Much Ammunition Aboard.**  
New York, March 8.—The cruisers Tennessee, North Carolina, and Montana are expected to sail at daybreak for Guantanamo. Five thousand new type Springfield rifles and the same number of revolvers have been placed aboard, and also 40,000 rounds of ammunition.

affairs. There was no dissenting opinions on this matter, and the entire work of the meeting last evening seemed to be in a direction that will bring results.

**Texas Sunday School Workers.**  
Fort Worth, Texas, March 9.—Opening today with a large attendance and everything in good working order, the annual convention of the Texas Sunday School association bids fair to be the medium of much accomplishment in the Sunday school field throughout the state. Sunday school workers of national reputation are on the four days' program and the discussions will cover a wide range of topics. The big feature of the gathering will be a monster parade next Saturday, when it is expected that 10,000 Sunday school pupils will march through the streets of Fort Worth.

**Pendleton to Meet Fossil.**  
Because of the fact that the Wheeler county high school at Fossil defeated Weston high last night in debate, it now becomes necessary for Pendleton to meet the victor. The question which will be debated is, "Resolved, That further material increases in the U. S. navy are desirable," but the sides, place and date have not yet been decided. There are but two other teams in the eastern Oregon division which have not been eliminated, the Baker and Pringle teams. These two will meet soon at Baker and the winner will contest with the victor in the Pendleton-Fossil debate. Pendleton won from the Fossil team in this city last year and it is very probable that the contest this year will be held in the Wheeler county town.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

**SNOW STORM IN MOUNTAINS**  
Beaver Creek Region Scene of Heaviest Storm of Year Yesterday.

According to a telephone message from Ed. Propck, caretaker of the intake of the Beaver creek pipe line, 18 miles back in the hills, the heaviest snowstorm of the year visited that region yesterday. In sharp contrast to the severe storm in that section was the delightful weather in the valley, 1,200 feet below the spot where the message came from.

## ATKINSON FREED BY COURT

**JUDGE KNOWLES HOLDS THAT PUCKETTE MUST PAY.**

**Cashing Check on Which Payment Had Been Stopped Not a Crime.**

Basing the opinion on the grounds that Ralph Atkinson had committed no crime in presenting a check issued by Al Puckette in favor of Atkinson when Puckette had ordered non-payment of the check. Circuit Judge Knowles this afternoon instructed the jury in the trial of Atkinson to bring back a verdict for the defendant.

It is said the check was issued by Puckette to Atkinson to pay a gambling debt, and that Puckette ordered payment stopped the next day. Atkinson cashed the check at the A. V. Andrews Toggery and Andrews instituted charges of obtaining money under false pretenses against Atkinson. The court held this afternoon that Atkinson had committed no crime and that Andrews could bring suit to collect from Puckette as there was money in the bank at that time to pay the face value of the paper.

**SOLDIERS DRUNK ON TRAIN.**

**Civil Authorities at Baker Dared Not Make Arrests Called For.**

Shielded behind the mighty arm of Uncle Sam, two soldiers of the regular army, in charge of two military prisoners en route from the east to Fort Vancouver, created considerable excitement aboard the evening west bound train following a carousal while the passenger was coming from Huntington to Baker. The conductor called for help at Baker but the officials were informed by the drunken soldiers that they were on duty for Uncle Sam and could not be arrested. The officials saw the weight of the argument and at the same time the men quieted down. Guards and prisoners alike were well saturated, it is said, and for a time had the passengers on the anxious seat.

## OIL BURNING SHEA HERE.

**Improved Engine Enroute to Portland for Use by Albina Company.**

Advanced type of the oil-burning Shea engines were seen here today when a new engine destined for the Albina Incline company passed through the city from the east. The engine is a powerful machine, as all Sheas are, but is provided with many new wrinkles that go to make it the very latest in the market. Improved oil feeds, method of lubrication and a half dozen other improvements on former styles were all of much interest to local engineers who saw the machine.

## CHANGE IN BANK OFFICIALS

**GEORGE PALMER DESIGNS AND FRED J. HOLMES ELECTED.**

**La Grande National Bank's Official Personnel Slightly Changed.**

After contemplating for more than a year resigning as president of the La Grande National bank George Palmer at a recent meeting of the directors stated he could no longer give the bank as much of his time and attention as he felt that he should and therefore asked the board to elect someone to succeed him. This action was caused by the increasing business of the Palmer Lumber company, of which he is president.

Fred J. Holmes, head of the M. & M. company, was elected to the presidency and W. J. Church was elected vice president—the office formerly held by Mr. Holmes.

No other change was made in the La Grande National's officers and the working force of the bank will remain the same. In retiring from the presidency of the financial institution Mr. Palmer is fulfilling a duty which he has felt he owed to himself for a long time. The lumber company, which he gives his personal attention, has grown to such proportions that his time is entirely taken up by it.

**SHEEPMEN DELIGHTED.**

**Winter Has Been Favorable and Indications Point to Good Fleece.**

Oscar Jacobson of North Powder is in the city today. Mr. Jacobson is one of the largest sheep breeders in Baker county and in reviewing the sheep industry says that this has been exceptionally fine winter for sheep and they will be in fine condition for the lambing season, and that the fleece this year is the best in all his experience in the sheep business.

**GROW RICE IN OREGON.**

**Willamette Valley Said to Be Suitable for the Oriental Foodstuff.**

Portland, Ore., March 8.—(Special)—That rice can be grown in the Willamette valley successfully is the belief of government experts and attempts will be made to introduce this new crop. Charles B. Chambliss, in charge of rice investigations for the United States department of agriculture, will come to Portland soon to look over the situation. Local people believe the Willamette valley offers ideal conditions for rice culture.

The crop has been found to be a success in Arkansas and Texas and tests made at Red Bluff, Cal., last year were encouraging. Seed from the California experimental plots will be used in sowing the small tracts to be tried in this state. The mild winters, early springs, dry summers, with abundant water for irrigation and flooding the rice fields of the Willamette valley indicate that rice culture may be made very successful here and a big industry built up.

The character of the soil has been found to be similar to that at Louisiana, Ark., and the elevation is about the same. There rice growing has be-

## HELPER ENGINE UNCOVERS WHAT IS PROBABLY PLOT TO DERAIL AND ROB WEST BOUND TRAIN

Circumstances indicating on the face of them that a concerted effort had been made by train robbers to ditch second section of number five last night and loot the American Express company treasury safe carried on that train, were uncovered by a helper engine crew yesterday evening at Durkee and brought to the attention of the secret service department of the O-W, though no subsequent developments carry out the conclusion at first reached.

Chain lay across the line at the point where the engine stalled and jammed into the frog in such a way that it could readily derail the engine, was found after the first section of number five had passed Durkee and before No. 18 and second five had reached that point. Its discovery was in a fortunate manner. The helper engine was about to back in on the siding where 18 and five were to pass, when, while running slowly, it struck the obstruction on the track. Ever alert, the discovery was reported to the dispatcher's office here by the crew and instantaneously steps were taken to frustrate what at that time looked like an attempt to derail some train. A secret service agent was sent out on second five from Huntington and a close guard maintained all night, but aside from finding the chain on the track there were no other developments.

**May Have Been Dropped There.**  
It is possible that the chain was dropped by No. 5. This is the most popular opinion among railroad men.

come a big business with good profits to the farmers. There is a duty on imported rice of 2 cents per pound and a ready market is found for the product in the United States at 7-1-2 cents a pound. It is said to be a more profitable crop to grow than wheat.

Many suppose it is a difficult cereal to raise and harvest. This is said to be a mistake for by modern methods it can be handled as easily as other grains. Only after the planting has been made is the field flooded and the water is drained from the ground a few weeks before harvest. Then heat-ers are run over the field and the rice threshed the same as if it were wheat.

**Birmingham Awaits Roosevelt.**

Birmingham, Ala., March 9.—An enthusiastic welcome awaits ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, who is coming to Birmingham tomorrow to speak before the National Child Labor conference. Upon his arrival in the city he will be greeted by a reception committee of the Birmingham chamber of commerce, whose guests he will be while here. In the forenoon he will address the school children assembled in Capitol park. At luncheon he will be the guest of Governor O'Neal and other prominent men of Alabama. The afternoon will be devoted to seeing the city and in the evening Col. Roosevelt will deliver his address before the child labor conference.

**Pugsley-Ross Wedding.**

Montreal, March 9.—A wedding of note today was that of Miss Marion Howard Ross, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George T. Ross of this city, and Mr. William G. Pugsley, son of Hon. William Pugsley, minister of public works of Canada. The ceremony was performed in the American Presbyterian church and was followed by a reception at the home of the bride's parents.

**Deputy Consul Coming.**

Deputy Head Consul of the Woodmen of the World D. K. Beakey will meet the local camp Saturday night and all Woodmen are requested to be present. C. C. Fitzgerald has issued a call for the occasion.

Another opinion advanced by officials and railroad men here is that had there been any attempt to commit a crime as might be suggested by the incident, it would have been perpetrated at some remote point and not right at Durkee.

**Circumstances Match Well.**

The fact that second five carried valuables of great amounts, and other incidental circumstances are responsible for a steadfast belief by some that there was something really behind the proposition.

Three men immaculately dressed and apparently out of place in the small town of Durkee, were seen near a saloon there last evening. Popular suspicion was pointed at them the moment the chain incident became known but there have been no developments to corroborate the theory prevalent today that these men had been "tipped off" to the fact that big sums of money were aboard second five and had chosen Durkee as the scene of their operations to ditch the train and grab the loot. In any event the manner of finding the chain was fortunate for had any passenger train, especially No. 18, come along the line at the usual speed assigned for that spot, the outcome would have been disastrous to say the least. As it was, the helper engine made the discovery without even derailing the lone locomotive.

Railroad officials are confident today that robbery was not the motive, basing their opinion, as pointed out, on the fact that such effort would have been concentrated at some remote point on the road.

## BARRET SUFFERS RE-ARREST

**FREED AT FRISCO BUT ARRESTED ON PORTLAND PAPER**

**Man Accused of Stealing from Steamer Humbolt in More Trouble.**

San Francisco, March 9.—Charles Barrett, arrested at Salt Lake for alleged complicity in the robbery of gold bullion from the steamer Humbolt, last fall, was released today from San Francisco, and immediately rearrested on a Portland warrant charging the same crime.

**Grandmother Seals for Child.**

Tacoma, Wn., March 9.—Mrs. M. J. Morrill, aged 63, was arrested today for stealing three bottles of milk for her 10-year-old grand daughter, whom she said was hungry, and had no food in the house. She declines to say where she lives, and probably will be released, so the needy child can be located.

**Washington Solons Done.**

Olympia, March 9.—Tonight the legislature adjourns. The session will be recorded as the most progressive in the history of the state. It passed the initiative and referendum bills for constitutional amendments, the eight hour law for women, and the public utilities bill.

**Esenilda in Danger.**

Mexicali, March 9.—Driven by reports that the United States intends to occupy Lower California, General Leyva, the revolutionist, announced today that unless attacked before tomorrow by federal troops, reported near, he would advance on Esenilda.

**Gold Streak Located.**

Tanana, Alaska, March 9.—Pay gold has been discovered on the banks of Koyukuk stream in this district. Hundreds are rushing to the scene.

## TO RE-ORGANIZE THE CLUB

**BIG MASS MEETING HELD LAST EVENING WITH GOOD RESULT**

**Tax for Maintenance Will Be Small for Each Individual.**

It was practically settled last night that La Grande is to have a commercial club once more. This was determined by a mass meeting of the business men. There was no undue excitement and no air castles. It was a plain business proposition—if La Grande wants a permanent club and a man to look after things she must pay for it, and to do that there must be a small tax raised from the business people of the city. A schedule was introduced which works no hardship and in fact places the rate very low on each commercial concern in the city.

No definite action could be taken last night, for it was a mass meeting, but this did result: A motion prevailed asking all directors of the old club to resign and come in and assist in forming a commercial organization that is to be active. Another motion carried to revise the constitution and in fact make the new club slightly different from the one La Grande had for some time.

The committee named to look after the matter of reorganization is composed of Messrs. Fred J. Holmes, Chas. Dunn, John Collier, George Currey and Mac Wood. This is an executive committee empowered by the mass meeting to call to their assistance any person in the city. The report from them is to be made Monday evening, March 20th, at the Commercial club rooms, when the further work of putting the new organization on its feet will take place.

**Will Hire a General Worker.**

It was the sense of the meeting to hire a man. Not a professional "booster," neither will this club at first enter the field with magazine advertising. But the man to be chosen will be on the ground every day and look after the strangers who enter La Grande and take charge of all public