

## TAFT PETITION FREELY SIGNED

**TAFT'S BOOM REACHES  
CITY AND INTEREST  
IS KEEN**

**ELGIN, UNION AND LA  
GRANDE ARE THREE CENTERS**

Chairman Pearce Anticipates Very Liberal Signing of the Petitions When They Are Distributed to Various Sections of Union County—First Day Is Very Satisfactory.

William H. Taft's boom for re-nomination to the presidency by the voters at large of Oregon reached La Grande today when petitions carrying out the precepts of the Oregon presidential election primaries, were received by County Chairman J. H. Pearce. Signatures have been rapidly affixed, and in view of the fact that it is not generally known the petitions are here, the first day of the signing has been remarkably good. One petition will be held in La Grande by Mr. Pearce for local republicans to sign, one will go to Elgin and the third will be sent to Union.

"Republicans at large throughout the city and county are awaiting the opportunity to sign the Taft petitions," said Chairman Pearce today. "We will not only fill the required signatures but we are going to send these three books back to Portland headquarters with a fine list of signatures, one that will instill confidence in Union county republican ranks."

It is a singular coincidence that the republican boom should reach La Grande on the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, for except in this respect, local republicans are not paying any attention to the Lincoln exercises as is the case throughout the country at large.

**Roosevelt Aids Taft.**  
Washington, Feb. 12.—"Roosevelt has done Taft's campaign much good. He has concentrated the progressive support and is not a candidate." This is a statement made today by Congressman McKinley, one of Taft's campaign managers.

**Colorado Republicans for Harmony.**  
Denver, Colo., Feb. 12.—With "harmony" as their watchword, the republican leaders of Colorado, both stand-patters and progressives, gathered in force here today to attend a meeting of the state central committee and a general conference, concluding with a banquet and an address by ex-Senator Beveridge of Indiana. A meeting of the republican editors of Colorado was an added attraction of the gathering. Plans for an aggressive state and national campaign were discussed at the conference. At the election next fall Colorado will name a complete set of state officers and a legislature that will be caused upon to selected two United States senators—one for the full term of six years to succeed Senator Guggenheim and one for the unexpired term of two years, caused by the death of the late C. J. Hughes.

### DOLLAR A DAY PENSION LOST.

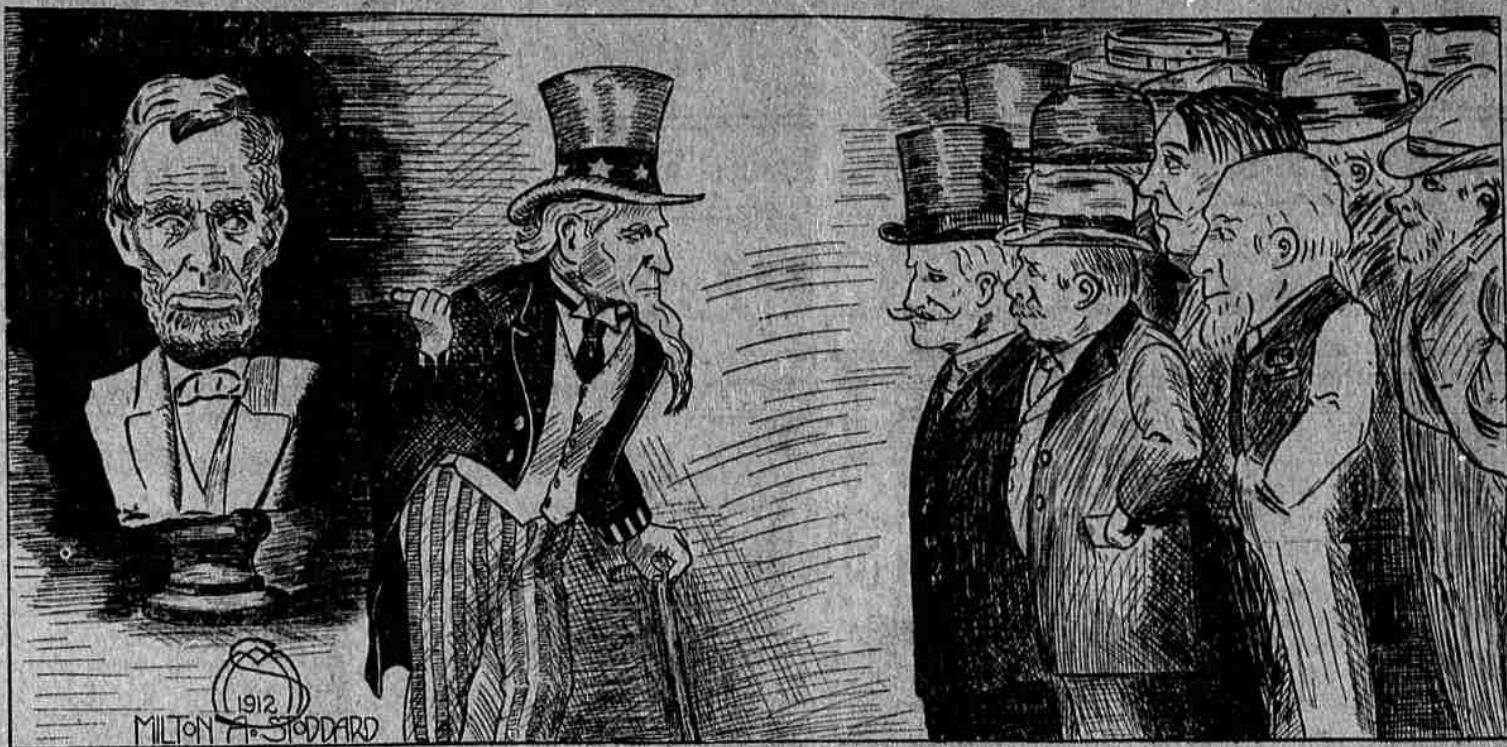
Twenty-Four Million Annually Added to Pension List, However.

Washington, Feb. 12.—By a vote of eight to four the senate committee on pensions today defeated the motion to report favorably on the Sherwood dollar per day pension bill. The Smoot substitute was then adopted. The bill drawn by Senator Smoot increases the annual pension roll by \$24,000,000 annually.

### PUBLISH STATEMENT TOMORROW

Editor's Report of City Affairs to be Published Tuesday

A complete and detailed statement of the city's finances will be published in the Observer tomorrow. The document sets forth the present financial situation in toto, and will be of interest generally.



ETERNAL INSPIRATION

...that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

## CONSUL LIKES GRANDE RONDE

**ITALIAN STATESMAN AT PORT-  
LAND FETED HERE.**

Dinner Given in His Honor Last Night Brings Warm Promises.

Mario G. Montrezza, Italian consul at Portland, was honor guest at an informal dinner at the Foley grill last night whereat were seated a dozen prominent La Grande men, and out of the congenial atmosphere which prevailed at the dinner has grown a glowing probability of investment of large sums of money in this valley and city. During his after-dinner speech, Hon. Montrezza, who, by the way, is a polished gentleman, a linguist, and a graduate of numerous universities, affirmed that the Italian colony in and about Portland has over \$3,000,000 invested there and he said further that he has every reason to believe that extensive Italian investments will be centered in the Grande Ronde valley. He was taken about the city and shown the valley yesterday by the Givens Investment company and he returns in May to make further and more careful inspection of the ground before advising the investment of Italian capital in this territory.

Seated at the dinner were: Mr. Montrezza, editor of the L'Italico the leading coast Italian publication, Mr. Finner, Portland representative of the Givens Investment company, J. F. Wineland, prominent Portland engineer and builder, F. L. Meyers, cashier of the La Grande National, C. E. Cochran, city attorney, Rev. Father J. P. Driscoll of the local Catholic church, Councilman W. R. Jones, Dr. O'Connor, E. S. Givens and J. R. Richardson and Frank Phyl.

The honor guest was greatly impressed with La Grande and gave his word that he would return at the first opportune moment and make final decision as to the proposed investments here.

### MARY COGER DEAD.

Funeral Services to Be Held Tomorrow at 1:30 From Home.

Mary Catherine Coger, for 23 years a resident of La Grande, died yesterday at the family home, 2115 Second street, and the funeral will be held tomorrow at 1:30 o'clock from the family residence, Rev. J. D. Gillilan officiating.

Mrs. Coger was born in Platts county, Mo., on July 4, 1849. Twenty-three years ago she came to La Grande. On September 29, 1864, she was married to H. D. Coger who died two years ago. She leaves one child, Richard Coger of this city.

## 4500 NOTICES OF TAXES OUT

**AMOUNTS STAGGER SEASONED  
TAXPAYERS.**

With Only Few Exceptions, Sums Run Far Ahead of Last Year.

Forty-five hundred taxpayers of Union county will be by tomorrow, suffering pains of financial remorse—the cause, the issuance of that many tax notices. The sheriff's office Saturday night mailed the number of notices noted, and with a few exceptions the sum required for taxes is astonishingly high. A few instances are noted where there is no material difference but that is in the case where the valuation has not been brought up to the usual standard. Notice for notice, they run far and ahead of last year's consignment at which time there was much gnashing of teeth and mutterings of discontent. Last year's excessive taxes were deemed severe but almost without exception, the present batch shows an increase that has made last year's quotations look sickly.

### ALEXANDER ANSWERS CRITICISM

Denies He Is What Newspaper Article Charges Him With.

Editor Observer: Referring to an article that appeared in the Morning Star under date of February 10th bearing the heading, "Preying on Labor," I deem it my duty as a man who upholds honest labor, to say a word in answer to the same.

I would like to say to Mr. Eckley, the editor of the Star, that he has in my judgment committed a crime and without doubt under the libel laws I would have a good case against him. However, I cherish the belief that I am too much of a man to enter into such a fight, and prefer to rise to a higher plane than he has done, judging by his article referred to. His accusations are wholly untrue and I believe the enlightened and fair thinking people of La Grande really understand this phase of the question. As for myself personally, I am not a salaried officer of the federation and have never in all my life drawn one cent of salary from that organization. Neither am I a bloodsucker as charged, and I hope not a sucker of any nature whatsoever. But I am a union man of 21 years' standing and am prouder of the honor of being chosen as a representative of my fellow workmen than to hold any position within the gift of a railroad or any other corporation. That is no position that I would accept, regardless of salary or power, that would tempt me to throw any thing in the way to defeat the humane and noble cause for which my

## STRIKE HEADS GIVE DEFENSE

**ITALIANS AT LAWRENCE TESTI-  
FY BEFORE COURT.**

Large Number of Witnesses Called for the Defense's Case.

Lawrence, Mass., Feb. 12.—A hearing in the case of the strike leaders Etter and Giovannitti, held in connection with the riot in which Anna Lapizzo, a striking textile worker, was killed, was resumed today before Judge Mahoney.

Seven witnesses were examined and 30 more are waiting to be called by the defense. The defense expects the prisoners will be held for the grand jury. The strike situation is unchanged.

### RUSH GETS CONTRACT.

Will Erect \$44,000 School Building at Ellensburg.

G. H. Rush, of La Grande, has just been awarded a contract to build the \$44,000 school building at Ellensburg, Wash. Mr. Rush is well known over the entire northwest and has erected some of the best buildings in this territory. He is a permanent resident of La Grande.

### UNDERWOOD'S BID LOWEST

Will Enter Into Contract at Adjourned Meeting February 14

Dr. H. L. Underwood's bid for the position of county physician has been accepted by the county court and Dr. Underwood will enter into a contract on February 14, when a special term of the court will be held. The meeting adjourned last week intending to meet again on the 14 and transact other important business.

fellow workmen are now striving for. My record is an open book to anyone. I welcome investigation from my birth to the present time, and I deem such articles as appeared in the Star as not only unfair but malicious as well.

Two weeks after the present strike was called President Schuler of the federation left La Grande and I was chosen president. Forty-eight hours thereafter I personally assured the mayor of La Grande, with endorsement of our executive board, that we would do anything in our power to observe order and keep the peace of the city.

This explanation is respectfully submitted to the public.

Very truly,  
L. G. ALEXANDER,  
President Shop Federation

## HUNDREDS HEAR POPULAR THEME

**WALLA WALLA CONTINGENT EX-  
PLAINS NEW PLANS.**

Sunday Given Over to Men and Religion Movement.

Men and Religion Forward elixir has been planted in La Grande. As the first manifestation of the rapidly spreading germ, will be a pilgrimage to Walla Walla next week to attend a session of Men and Religion Forward workers whereat five nationally known men will be present to lecture, as experts on the five different subjects of the movement which has a remarkable short time. How the grown to remarkable proportions in movement grew out of a conference with Frank F. Smith, the evangelist, at New York, how a convention was held at Buffalo by men of various brotherhoods and church denominations who realize that the men are drifting away from the church and are struck with the seriousness of the fact that there are over 3,000,000 more girls and women in the churches than men, how these men appointed a committee of 100 to supervise a movement to get the nation's men into that church, how that committee met at Chicago and having in its midst some of the greatest bankers and thinkers of the country, how it was decided to employ experts along various lines of church work and send them out over the world to get the men into the church through a series of channels in which men are more frequently interested—this and more was told yesterday when all the churches of the city surrendered their pulpits to a delegation of Walla Walla workers.

### Mass Meeting Fruitful.

As a consequence of the meeting held in the Baptist church yesterday afternoon, attended by men and boys, steps were taken and plans laid for a pilgrimage to Walla Walla next week to attend the "center" convention of the Men and Religion Forward movement. Fred W. Witham, secretary of the Walla Walla Y. M. C. A., told of the general plan of the movement, how it is divided into five subdivisions, looking after the social, missionary and other features of the church proper and having for its other aim, the welfare of the boy. The conference at Walla Walla will last five days, and on each day experts in all the five departments of the movement will deliver lectures on their special theme, and by a series of progressions, all delegates will get to hear all five experts.

L. E. Meacham, one of the visitors, was chairman of the meeting and at the conclusion of the session the various church denominations held cau-

(Continued on Page Eight.)

## JAUREZ FEARS REBEL ATTACK

**REBEL GENERAL NOW  
MARCHING AGAINST  
THE CITY**

**UNCLE SAM WANTS  
ERNO GONZALES PUNISHED**

Jaurez Citizens in Great Alarm at the danger of Attack Tonight From the Rebel Force—Madero Now Admits That Diaz Methods Alone Can Maintain Peace and Order in Mexico.

El Paso, Feb. 12.—Jaurez is in ferment and its citizens are rushing preparations tonight to resist the expected attack tonight by Colonel Rojas. The town is practically defenseless as no troops have been here since the mutiny. It is said that Rojas leads 500 men.

Governor Gonzales is expected to reach Chihuahua by tomorrow. He is confident the difficulties there can be adjusted. It is reported that a plot is on foot to capture him.

**Diaz Methods Adopted.**

Mexico City, Feb. 12.—Minister of War Salos will be forced to resign, and Geronimo Trevino substituted, as a part of the program decided upon by President Madero in abandoning the democracy and making himself dictator of Mexico. The report is unofficially confirmed and is given full credence. It is declared now that Madero admits the Diaz methods are only ones by which peace may be maintained.

### Gonzales Must Pay.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The United States will demand of President Madero that Gonzales, acting governor of Chihuahua, be summarily disciplined for inflammatory remarks he is declared to have made in regard to the "United States crushing Mexico under a military force." This statement is authorized today by the state department.

### UNIFICATION THEME HEARD.

Bishop Paddock Extols His Pet Theory of Modern Church Practice

Preliminary to the recital of a heart touching story of a Bowery boy by Bishop Paddock of the Eastern Oregon Episcopal diocese, the bishop elucidated on the modern theory of his own invention, first mentioned at Pendleton some months ago, at the afternoon mass meeting yesterday. One church in every town is the key thought of the sky pilot in this movement. He pictured it beautifully and left his theory plainly evident. At present, he said, the half dozen or more churches in every little town are bordering on bankruptcy. The structures are oftentimes kept from crumbling by assistance from church loan funds; the ministers kept from starvation by the generosity of eastern rich. This where a half dozen churches that worship primarily on the same basis could with little or no change of differing principles, unite their efforts, build a church house that would be the finest building in the city, employ a big, broad-minded man at salary of say \$6,000 yearly where as under the present conditions this same sum and more is expended on six different individuals.

Library, gymnasium amusement parlors, a church house of worship, all this could be provided in the greatest splendor for the one-church congregation; he pointed out, and as all denominations worship the same God, he could see no reason why the change was not desirable.

As a climax to his address the bishop very fluently related his personal experience with one particular Bowery boy in the New York slums.

### Michigan Legislature Called.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 12.—Chiefly to consider the presidential primary law, Governor Osborn today called a special session of the legislature for Feb. 26th.