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SULZER FALLS INTO STRUGGLE OF HIS CAREER

DEMOCRATIC UPHEAVAL IS HIS AID IN REFORM LEGISLATION PLANS.

LABOR LAWS PARAMOUNT

New York's New Executive Takes the Oath of Office One Week From Tomorrow to Enter Into Six-Year Term That Will Be Fight-Marked From Start to End—Progressives in Control.

Albany, New York, Dec. 24.—Probably never before in the history of New York state has a chief executive upon assuming office, faced such serious and complicated problems as will confront Gov. William Sulzer, when he is inaugurated here one week from tomorrow.

Progressive reform measures will flood the legislature. Organized and unorganized labor has united in demanding new laws which will protect the women and children from abuses, the mere recital of which during the last few months has horrified the majority of the citizens. A real workingmen's compensation law is demanded. Complete reorganization of the state factory department is asked. Taxation reforms are demanded. Radical railroad remedial legislation will be urged and reform organizations everywhere are asking that a merit system for all state employees be put into effect.

Sulzer, a Democrat during his entire public career covering 23 years as member of and speaker of the state assembly and member of congress, will encounter momentous problems from the moment he takes the oath of office on January 1st. The incoming legislature, overwhelmingly democratic, takes office the same day. And already the leaders of the famous "Black Horse Cavalry" are on the ground ready for the hardest work of their career. If the general reform legislation is to be enacted both the incoming governor and the legislative leaders will have to put it through in the face of an organized and most determined opposition. Chief interest will attach to the remedial legislation to prevent child labor in the canneries; the employment of women at night in certain factories and as laborers in foundries and other establishments where they are substituted for men because they will work cheaper.

The first big legislative fight will come on these reform measures. If they are enacted the employers of the state will have to cut into their profits to meet the demands of the law. In the "old days" here, it has been considered cheaper to pay money to kill reform legislation than to let the laws be enacted and then live up to them.

Woman's suffrage is also going to be a bone of contention for the new administration and for the legislature. Governor-elect Sulzer is on record as favoring it. Many spectacular plans to attract attention to their campaign have been approved by the advocates of the cause and it promises to be in the spotlight much of the time.

LEAVITT IS PROMOTED.

Friends of Frank Leavitt will be agreeably surprised to learn that he has been promoted to general foreman of the Albina railroad shops in Portland. This is one of the upward steps in a long period of service with the O. W. R. & N. Since the railroad company promotes only men of fitness, it may safely be said that the new position is one of the most important and strict attention to duty. With the new position there will also be a handsome increase in salary.

Mr. Leavitt has served the railroad coming some 22 years, commencing as apprentice in the shops. He then began firing on the road, met with an accident and returned to the shops, where he has remained ever since. During his stay here he has been promoted three or four times, holding the position of shop foreman when the recent promotion was announced.

He is preparing to move to Portland in the near future, where he will make his home. The city loses a fine citizen and Portland gains one.

Family Reunion Held.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Williamson are enjoying a delightful Christmas with a family reunion. Their daughter, Miss Naomi, is home from McMinnville where she is teaching school, and their sons Joe and Lowell, are home from their Burnt River ranch.

CHRISTMAS CHEER IS RUNNING RAMPANT ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Carols of Christmas are being sung, fond parents are "trimmin'" at their Christmas trees for son and daughter, benevolent institutions are combing the city for names of needy families—all this is transpiring this afternoon in the snow-manteled city of La Grande. And what is more Santa Claus is bearing down upon the city with his automobile, or his reindeer, or his sledge or his aeroplane—we are not convinced which vehicles of locomotion he is using this year—piled high with presents and good cheer for every boy and girl under 10 years of age can see him and are urged to see him. Then, too, he is going to flit hither and thither and year throughout the city, leaving reluctant, no doubt, tomorrow evening some time. If a single needy family is not brought Christmas cheer tomorrow it is because of oversight.

Its pace established last Sunday evening at the Presbyterian church with the first Christmas tree of the week, Yuletide spirit has a course outlined that will keep churches and churchgoers keyed to a high pitch throughout the week. Appended are some of the places, churches and otherwise, that Christmas cheer will prevail in unbounded portions during the next 60 hours.

Patients Are Remembered.

The Christmas spirit has invaded the hospital. For some it has hastened the cure and as a result they will spend Yuletide with friends and relatives and eat the pies that mother knows how to make, and the turkey roasted according to the recipe in mother's old fingerwork book. About seven or eight will have this good fortune, and are now speeding along on one of the trains to their destination. For others Christmas is coming in the nature of armloads of presents to cheer the creeping hours of the day or the night. These presents will act as the connecting link between home and their present enforced habitat. To round out the spirit of cheer and make everybody comfortable the good cooks at the hospital will add all the extra touches they can in the preparation of foods. It will be a banner day in the hospital and will make the patients feel like camping for another week.

At the M. E. Church South.

The M. E. church South, 2103 N. Fir street, will give an extensive Christmas program on Christmas eve, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p. m. The church will be beautifully decorated for the occasion. It is free for everybody. The parents of the Sunday school children are especially invited to attend. Harry P. Nelson, pastor; Geo. Chapman superintendent.

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold their annual Christmas service in the afternoon of Christmas day, Wednesday at 5 o'clock. Subject of sermon will be: "Lessons of the Manger." A very beautiful Christmas program will be rendered by the members of the Sunday school and choir. Everyone welcome. T. A. Schoenberger, pastor.

Services at the Catholic Church.

Midnight mass on the night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Children's mass at 8 a. m. Father Murphy, celebrant.

Musical program by the children as follows:

"Holy Night"..... Bohne

"Dear Little One, How Sweet Thou Art".....

"Jesus Is Here"..... Tozer

"Come All Ye Faithful"..... Old Hymn

Music at the midnight mass.

Adeste Fideles (Variations).....Novello

Kyrie—Convent Mass.....Gund

Gloria—Convent Mass.....Gund

Credo.....Wiegand

Santus.....Gund

Benedictus.....Gund

Agnus Dei.....Gund

"Hodie Nobis" (Today Is Born).....

Offertory.....Hamma

High mass at 10 a. m. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 12 noon. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 4 p. m. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 8 p. m. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 10 p. m. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 12 noon. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 4 p. m. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 8 p. m. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Mass at 10 p. m. Musical program same as at the midnight mass.

Thursday night at 8:30, the Sunday school scholars will have their tree in Homan hall. The exercises will be brief, consisting mostly of carols.

At Methodist Church.
Dr. E. B. Fyke of the Methodist church announces a delightful Christmas program at the M. E. church on Fourth street this evening, commencing at 7:30 o'clock. It will be replete with music and speaking, suited for young and old.

MR. HERRON INVESTS.
Buys Modern Cottage of J. R. Price Near High School.

Harold Herron of the clerical force of the La Grande National bank has purchased a modern cottage of J. R. Price situated near the high school. Mr. Herron is simply making an investment, realizing that La Grande is one of the go ahead towns that has a future.

Mr. Price at present is renting the Couch farm, north of Island City, and is arranging to move to southeastern Utah in the spring. He and his family are well known in this community and while their many friends wish them success, one and all regret to learn of their intentions to move away. George H. Currey, the land man, negotiated the sale.

HATCHERY ON CATHERINE.

J. B. Thompson, Owner of Famous Meadows, Is Prime Mover.

Oregon's law makers will be asked to establish a fish hatchery on upper Catherine creek. A petition signed by nearly a thousand people has been circulated by J. B. Thompson of the upper Catherine district, and Union. Mr. Thompson points out that the natural conditions are excellent and that there is great need of a hatchery to replenish the rapidly diminishing supply of trout in that splendid stream.

COMMERCIAL CLUB IS CONTENT

formally opened December third of this year, on which occasion a new era in the Commercial club work of the city was inaugurated by the presenting of a very attractive entertainment program, a part of which was the initiation of several new members of the club into the mysteries of "Ednargal," which is the fun-making degree of the club membership. Following the entertainment program a dinner of no mean pretensions was served at the Foley grill, one hundred and seventy-five of the leading business and professional men of the city taking seats at the banquet. After the satisfying of the inner man and while cigars were being enjoyed, C. C. Chapman, of the Portland Commercial club, addressed the members present in one of the most business-like talks ever given under similar circumstances. His speech while interspersed with wit and humor, was straight from the shoulder business wisdom of the sort to make a better city and a better country around the city. On behalf of the Portland Commercial club, Mr. Chapman presented the La Grande Commercial club with a model of the beautiful statue entitled "The Forge," by the celebrated sculptor, Fugere. This ornament now occupies a prominent position in the parlors of the club and is a monument of the good fellowship existing between the commercial bodies represented by the donor and recipient. The retiring board of directors have worked hard to make the club a success and that their efforts have not been in vain, a visit to the new home will quickly convince the most skeptical. The newly elected board consisting of August J. Stange, president; G. L. Harrison, vice president; Keeney, L. J. French, R. L. Lincoln, H. T. Love, M. K. Hall and E. E. Kirtley, are active and progressive business men and under their management there can only be one result, the most aggressive and vigorous campaign ever carried on for the upbuilding of La Grande and the whole northeastern Oregon, tributary thereto.

COMMERCIAL CLUB'S HOME REJOICED AT.
While Christmas joys are passing around the city tomorrow, members of the La Grande Commercial club will wear the look of comfort as they gather in the splendid club rooms to idle away spare moments. The institution can be justly proud of its present year's work—not the least of which is the obtaining of the new home.

BY C. M. HUMPHREYS.
(Secretary La Grande Commercial Club.)

The La Grande Commercial club was organized in the early nineties, and primarily instituted for the purpose of an athletic club was later merged into a Commercial club. In looking backward over the old roll of officers one can see the names of men still active in the commercial life of the city. Among them are found Turner Oliver, F. L. Meyers, J. H. Pearce, W. B. Sargent, C. H. Conkey, William Miller, R. L. Lincoln, and A. V. Andrews, all of whom are still in the harness. The Commercial club has enjoyed the prosperities and adversities that usually fall to the lot of such an organization, numerous of the present day enterprises of the city being traced directly to its activities. The present Elks' club building was for many years the home of the Commercial club and with pardonable pride the members of the organization held this out as one of the most successful of its many undertakings. Misfortune befell them and they were forced to abandon their commodious home and were practically forced to the curb. But not for long; such indomitable spirits as were responsible for its inception in the commercial life of the city could not and would not for any great length of time permit the institution to languish. Some of the old war horses, together with a bit of new blood that had but recently come into the community got together and effected a reorganization of the club, the result of which is shown today in the active and vigorous institution that has its headquarters in the new five story Foley building at the corner of Adams Avenue and Chestnut street occupying the entire fifth floor of that building. Here in their new home the members of the Commercial club numbering two hundred and fifty, have elegant quarters fitted with good substantial furniture consisting of cozy rocking and opera chairs, reading, writing, card, billiard and pool tables, thus providing comfort and amusement for the members of the club and their visiting out of town friends. These quarters were

LABOR NEARS JURY'S DISPENSATION

SENATOR KERN CAUSTIC IN DEFENSE OF FORTY-SEVEN LABOR LEADERS.

SPITE MOVED GOVERNMENT

Beautiful Piece of Fiction Is Description Given the Government's Case Against the Laborites—McManigal Is Called Arch Fiend—Accuses Him of Being Carefully Coached First.

Indianapolis, Dec. 24.—Senator-elect Kern of Indiana opened the argument today in the trial of the 47 laborites charged with a conspiracy to dynamite. In the course of his speech to the jury he declared:

"The government's case is too circumstantial. The uncorroborated portions of McManigal's story are a remarkable piece of fiction, and damn the whole tale. It is founded on spite and revenge."

He declared the archfiend expressed his motives for telling the tale, when he testified, "When I am caught we are all caught."

"By careful coaching," Kern continued, "he has been helped to defile the names of innocent men."

The attorney referred to the correspondence captured in a raid on the labor headquarters and interpreted the section used by the government attorney against the laborites. The meat of his argument was that John McManigal, now serving a sentence in the San Quentin prison, was responsible for the dynamiting.

Occupancy of Office Delayed

ARCH FIRST LIMIT OF CONTRACT TIME.

New Quarters Are Needed

Big Increase in Postal Business Emphasizes Need of New Building

Patrons of the postoffice will not have the satisfaction of seeing the department housed in the new \$85,000 structure on the first of January. While the plastering is completed, it will take all of a month to put on the finishing touches. The contracting firm has until the 1st of March in which to complete the structure, but if it is not finished by that time the postoffice will have to renew the lease for the present building or make some other arrangement. According to the contract the contractors will have to pay a fine of \$25 a day after the first of March until the department is able to move in. According to Superintendent Campbell of the contractors, an additional force will be employed to do the finishing work and the hope is entertained that by the middle of February La Grande people will be posting their letters in as fine a building as La Grande's size.

The need of a new building is forcibly preached by the great increase in the postal business. Postmaster Ritchie estimates the increase over last year's business at 25 per cent. The parcel business this year is enormous. Just what the cause of this immense increase over last year is cannot be definitely stated. Good times and the increased population may be the chief factors.

KANSAS MAN BUYS.

Dr. Upton Exchanges Fruit Farm for Hotel in Lucas.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeClous are the owners of the Dr. C. H. Upton 20 acre fruit farm in Fruitdale, one of the choice tracts which are so numerous in that section. Mr. and Mrs. DeClous and daughter Minnie arrived from Lucas, Kansas, several days ago and will immediately take possession of their purchase. They are well pleased with the city, and state that they expect to be able to interest several of their friends who expressed the fact to them just before their departure that they had the western fever and to keep them posted on La Grande.

The consideration was \$600 per acre, \$12,000.00, and Dr. Upton took in exchange for the farm the leading hotel in Lucas, which he immediately leased. The deal was consummated through the George H. Currey real estate agency.

DRY CLEANERS HERE.

La Grande to Have First Class Dry Cleaning Establishment.

Many have doubtless noticed the substantial new brick building adjoining Cherry's New Laundry on the east. This is to be the home of the new dry cleaning plant which will be conducted as a department of the laundry business. The building appears now nearly full of new crated machinery and appliances of the latest approved type. Others are still to come, but within a month they will all be assembled and ready to operate, when, we are reliably informed, there will be offered to the people of La Grande and tributary towns a service without superior in the state.

This will be another source of satisfaction to all of us who believe La Grande is the best town on earth.

LARGER HOSPITAL SOON.

Grande Ronde Hospital to Be Practically Doubled in Size.

Managers of the Grande Ronde hospital finances have announced that the coming year will very likely see a substantial addition to the present institution. In fact an extension of these prospective plans that it carried out will mean the construction of another wing, practically doubling the size and capacity.

"We feel the need of a big institution of this sort in Eastern Oregon and believing our patronage will increase as splendidly in the next year as it has this year we are justified in contemplating these extensive improvements," said R. E. L. Holt today as a prominent individual in the ownership and management of the hospital.

Viceroy Is Improving.

Delhi, India, Dec. 24.—It is said that Viceroy Harding, who was wounded by a bomb explosion during the Durbar now in progress there, is resting easier than yesterday. It was feared that blood poisoning would set in, but the danger seems to have passed. He was in a feverish condition last night and experienced considerable pain. Morphine was administered to induce sleep. On awaking this morning the fever had left him and his general condition was good.

Aviator Falls to Death.

London, Dec. 24.—Aviator Edward Petri of Lomonplangins marks met instant death near Yorkshire today when his machine capsize and hurtling to the ground. He was attempting to fly from Brooklands to Edinburgh.

PAVING AREA EXTENDED TO OVER 6 MILES

NEARLY THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND EXPENDED FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

SEWER SYSTEM COMPLETED

Total Paved District Now, If Extended, Would Be Over Six Miles With Two and a Fraction of It in Macadam—Residence Districts Have Been Solely in Paved Area This Summer.

DYING YEAR BROUGHT SEWERS.

Nineteen hundred and twelve saw the actual completion of the La Grande sewer project, entailing a huge expense. The 11.1 miles of sewer now in operation is the last word in modern sanitation, sewage being consumed scientifically in an up to date disposal tank. There is no better system in vogue in the northwest.

Four and four-tenths miles of macadam, a grand total of six and a half miles of improved streets within the corporate limits of La Grande have been rounded out with the completion of the second street paving project by the Warren people a few days ago. This sum total had a substantial beginning last year but was added to materially during the year just drawing to a close. The majority of contracts this year were based on gravel bitulithic at \$1.47½ a square yard. Its total cost is distributed over more than two years but more than half of it was done this year. Compilation of total disbursements for this year alone, along the Hancock act plan, is made by Engineer Roscoe Nell showing that \$211,899.73 has been expended in street improvements—street and sidewalk. The striking feature of this year's paving is that, barring two or three blocks of Washington avenue, and one or two other minor projects, the entire batch of it was in residence districts. Added to this as La Grande's grand total improvements for 1912 are approximately \$300,000 for new residences, or \$600,000 in all.

Paving "Habit" Is New.

Paving propaganda first bore tangible fruit two years ago but during the first year of hard surface paving the business streets were principally the beneficiaries—in 1912 it was the residence district that benefited. As far west as Oak, and as far east as 12th street the paving fever spread, block after block of residence streets between these two extremities being treated during the past summer with hard surface paving. City Engineer Roscoe Nell has computed a table of expenditures for street improvements during the months elapsing from July first to the present day and it is a surprisingly big total. Incidentally his annual report shows an engineering expense of .32 of one per cent, probably less than any other city's engineering expense in the state. It is uncommon even for it to reach as low as one per cent.

Jefferson avenue will be paved next year and Fourth street's "dressing" is retarded only by winter weather, it giving a connecting link between South and North La Grande, and making a final binding link between the southern, western, eastern and nearly the furthestmost northern sections of the entire city with the heart of the business district. A majority of the total paving is 40 foot type though a portion is built on the 30-foot plan.

ments made in La Grande this year are:

(Continued on page 2, section 2.)

Bandits Rob Train.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 24.—Four masked bandits held up the Chicago & Alton train five miles east of here. Bloodhounds have been put on the trail of the robbers and a report says they are surrounded somewhere in the vicinity of the city near the Wash tracks, and that their capture is hourly expected.

NO PAPER TOMORROW.

The Evening Observer will not be published tomorrow. Not only the Observer but every enterprise and industry in La Grande anticipates to halt in its progress of hunting the almighty dollar and partake of a genuine recess. The office will be open from 9 until 10 and from 4:30 until 6 in the evening.