

TAFT THINKS INTERVENTION UNNECESSARY

LACK OF AMMUNITION IS BELIEVED SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

ADMITS NEED OF SHIPS

While Four Battleships Are Going to Mexican Waters and Provisions to Mobilize Troops With Are Ready, President and Cabinet Will Not Order Intervention Now.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Only overwhelming catastrophe of American or other foreign lives and property in Mexico will cause actual intervention, though care to protect property will be taken by sending ships to the ports in the trouble zone. The administration is waiting in hope that exhaustion of ammunition will force a cessation of hostilities. President Taft and his cabinet believe the situation will ultimately work itself out. A crisis in Mexico is expected before tomorrow. It is learned authoritatively that President Taft will not order intervention under the present conditions. Accidental injury to Americans is not held to be sufficient grounds.

Ships in Trouble Zone.
Washington, Feb. 14.—Three United States battleships are due in Mexican waters today and the fourth will arrive tomorrow night. The Georgia is due at Vera Cruz at noon, the Virginia tonight, the Nebraska tomorrow night and the Colorado is due at Mazatlan today. It is not known whether marines will be landed or not.

All indications point to mobilization of American troops on the Mexican border soon. Sufficient provisions to last 5,000 troops a month are ready for shipment while stores for 15,000 more are ready to load on the transports at Newport News.

STOCKMAN MAY COME. McMinville Stockraiser Thinks of Shipping in Stock.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Casey of McMinville left this morning after a delightful visit at the home of their brother and brother-in-law Wm. Casey of the Golden Rule company. E. P. Casey is one of the leading stock raisers of the McMinville country. He is a breeder of fine dairy cows and intends to come to La Grande with several cars of high grade Holsteins and Jerseys. He recently sold a cow to a Sacramento man for \$800 and an eighteen months old heifer for \$400. A number of the California men are after his fine herd and his coming to La Grande with the fine stock will depend on his sale to the California people. Local creamery men have invited him to ship the consignment to this place, but the result will not be known for some time. He will announce his coming through the pages of The Observer.

MRS. JENSEN ILL. Supposed Case of Appendicitis Proven to Be Tuberculosis of Bad Sort.

Mrs. Lewis Jensen of Imbler was brought to the Grande Ronde hospital for an operation for supposed appendicitis. When the incision was made the physician discovered that instead of appendicitis the patient was suffering from an advanced stage of tuberculosis of the intestines. The condition is very serious and little hope is entertained for ultimate recovery. It is said that she will recover from the effects of the operation but that recovery from the affliction is not likely.

While the hospital is full, no other very serious cases have come to the institution in the last few days. With the advent of better weather and a busier season the applicants at the hospital will be as many as during the winter season. No new cases of small pox have been reported in a week or more and the epidemic is about wiped out.

AMERICAN LEGATION FIRED AT--UNION JACK RIDDLED

Exploding Shells Kill Nuns and Children at Prayer in Convents.

MADERO REPORTED WOUNDED BY BURSTING SHELLS

Madero Backs Cannon Against American Legation to Answer Diaz Fire.

Mexico City, Feb. 14.—It is reported that Madero has been wounded in the thigh by a fragment of bursting rebel shells. No confirmation is obtainable.

Mexico City, Feb. 14.—Placing heavy guns in front of the American consulate, apparently to invite destruction of American property, Madero resumed his battle with Diaz for control of the city today. Foreign diplomats believe Madero seeks to compel intervention by forcing Diaz to make American property his target.

After a brief desultory firing the real battle was started at 6:30 this morning. The casualties in yesterday's struggle is estimated to be a thousand dead and two thousand wounded.

Despite optimistic statements by Madero and General Huerta, the government is now on defensive and unbelieved government troops will be less reinforcements arrive soon it is forced from the city. Newspaper correspondents believe the diminishing fire from the federal cannon is due to shortage of ammunition.

SLOW THAW IS CAUSING WORRY

Slight thaw that has prevailed since yesterday, is commencing to put officials and citizens on the alert for what may happen should the unusually deep snow in the mountains and on the level as well, be converted to water with a sudden rain or chinook. No danger is anticipated in La Grande itself as the snow under such conditions would make resident streets impassable only so long as the storm sewers would require to take the surplus away. The danger of damage to bridges on the river, however, is serious, although officials and those versed in the matter say that the damage to the bridges will come a little later on when mountain snow commences to swell the Grande Ronde to unusual volume. The people along the river bottom, however, are looking for very high stages as most of the mountains are covered with from three to six feet of snow. There is a half mile of log jams above the Perry dam, solidly frozen in the ice and farther up the river logs are piled up from eight to 10 feet from bank to bank. If a warm wind or rain should set in, the ice thaw and logs start down river, the consequences can best be surmised. There was no frost in La Grande last night and the streets are already slushy.

Floating Palace Planned.
New York, Feb. 14.—A huge art building and public auditorium to float in the waters of New York harbor is the next wonder which is in store for New York. If the plans are carried out which have met with remarkable approval here during the exhibition of the Architectural League. On a huge scow of concrete the designer would erect a building of circular form, with graceful Doric columns of concrete or steel, and inside he would have besides ample space for art exhibitions and schools of art and crafts an auditorium which would outclass anything now standing in this country. Its seating capacity would be 8,000 persons and provision would be made to use it for public meetings, great concerts or operatic performances. By a system of screens, the size of the auditorium would be capable of being reduced to suit a theatrical performance. Performances would be given by municipal actors, according to the designer's plan, and prices would be kept at the lowest possible level. Especial emphasis would be laid, however, upon the use of the building for artistic purposes, particularly as a school of the arts and higher crafts. By floating in the harbor it would save entirely the cost of land, and it would be moored where most convenient.

COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS MERITS OF COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

The city council will again take up the charter for the proposed commission form of government. This was brought about when Councilman Sargent asked that a committee be appointed to bring the charter before the present council and Mayor Hall appointed Councilman Sargent, Jones and Davis. That the proposed charter will be brought up at once there is no doubt and from the time of its appearance before the present council attention will be centered on it until the document is perfected to warrant a mass meeting of the citizens to pass on the different provisions. This program will meet with approval, according to the opinion of all who have expressed themselves, for the belief exists that the present council should go over the charter and make what changes it believes should be made and then submitted to mass meeting or meetings for the taxpayers to decide what should be embodied in the proposed new document.

Finance Committee Not Censured
It seems there was a misunderstanding of Mayor Hall's message to the council when he stated that no financial statement of the city's condition had been made public. As The Observer understands the mayor there was no disposition to reflect discredit upon the present finance committee, but the desire was to get at the details of the financial condition and acquaint every taxpayer with true conditions. The finance committee at that time had not had time to become familiar with the entire condition but were at that preparing a statement which later was submitted to the council and by that body ordered filed.

BOATS RAM IN FOG, SINKING BOTH VESSELS

PASSENGERS TAKEN OFF AND THE CREWS TOO, ARE LANDED SAFELY.

SHIPS SINK QUICKLY

San Francisco Bay Is Foggy and Outgoing and Incoming Vessels Meet With Terrible Force—Passenger Steamer Is First to Go Down, Followed Soon by Grain Steamer.

San Francisco, Feb. 14.—Struck amidship by the steamer Hugh J. Corcoran off Angell Islands, the passenger steamer Seminole went to the bottom of the bay in a few minutes this morning. The crew and passengers were taken off by the steamer Napa Valley. The Corcoran was so badly damaged that she sank a few minutes later. Her crew of 41 was taken off by the steamer Angel Islands. The Seminole was bound for Sacramento and the Corcoran, grain-laden, was returning from that city.

The Seminole with 45 passengers, aboard had just left for Sacramento when she swung out of her course in the fog. Coming down the bay with lookouts unable to see but a few yards ahead, the Corcoran suddenly loomed up and was upon the Seminole so quickly that neither vessel could alter her course. The Seminole was rammed amidships, a huge hole being torn in her side.

Cigarette War on.

New York, Feb. 14.—New York which has seen about every possible kind of commercial and financial "war" start within its borders, from the stamp act struggles of colonial times to the gambling war of last year, is now the storm center of a "cigarette war" whose field of operations covers the whole United States. The fight is raging between several of the leading tobacco companies, and the distinguishing features just now are the "souvenirs" which each side is giving away with packs of its cigarettes. The trick is as old as trade—Egyptian embalmers used to slip picture cards of clay showing process of the dead through the lands of the other world into the cases of the mummies which they prepared for burial. But a mummy was a bigger piece of goods than a package of five-cent cigarettes, and the Egyptians never went to the trouble of working out such bewildering systems of cards as the modern cigarette makers do in their attempt to make people believe they are getting something more than they pay for. Pictures of actresses, of fishes, of baseball players, of buildings, and about everything under the sun, scraps of silk with college emblems stenciled on them, playing cards coupons redeemable for a toothbrush or an automobile when you have smoked a few thousand dollars worth of the cigarettes—all is grist that comes to the premium mill. Evidently the souvenir plan works, or it would not draw the hundreds of thousands of dollars which the tobacco people pour into it. A woman who is prominent in the anti-cigarette movement has suggested that, since the souvenir plan seems to have started with mummies, it might be well to throw in a mummy or two with each cigarette package as a gentle reminder of the moral which she would have drawn from the whole affair.

HONG TUCK NOT WEALTHY. Executor of Estate of Late Merchant Issues Final Settlement.

Conclusive proof that the late Hong Tuck, a Chinese merchant reputed to be wealthy, died in practically bankrupt financial circumstances, is shown in the final adjustment of his accounts arranged by Executor F. L. Meyers. Twenty-five cents on the dollar is all his estate can pay. The total claims amounted to \$1800.25, and 25 per cent dividends have just been issued by the executor.

TAPS SOUND ON BASEBALL

NEARLY \$2500 IN FUNDS NOT ENOUGH.

LEAGUE STATUS DULL

With No Hope for Recovery, Organized Ball Is "Demised."

Class D baseball was tossed overboard in La Grande last night. This much was determined at an obsequies gathering at the Commercial club. The reasons are varied, deep-rooted and branching. Just what is to become of the proposed Western Tri-State league is problematical, but it is a safe bet that Pendleton will draw back with La Grande precedent to the effect that there is some little question of remaining there as only \$2,000 have been raised. But that is not pertinent to the meeting held last night which said the last and rites over organized baseball in La Grande for many a day—so many, no doubt, that those who lacked the nerve to tackle what might be a repetition of the disastrous 1912 fiasco, will themselves rue it.

Reports from the soliciting committee that covered a rosy portion of the town, during about six or eight hours of work, showed that there were about \$2200 subscribed in note form, but a few hundred had been given on the proviso that the amount be paid monthly. The big bulk, however, was negotiable notes, as good as cash; the rest on notes that in due time were as good as cash. During the meeting last night enough more was promised—but not actually signed up—to bring the total to better than \$2400. Some who anticipated that the financial loss of last year would again be a reality, insisted on \$4,000 cash to start with; others wanted "to go" with what was at hand, with some 15 or 20 to back any deficit that might be met at the end of the year; others suggested other things. Business men in general, were perfectly willing to support it with money if the support had to be made but didn't fancy the proposition remembering well the financial loss of last year—without diagnosing the reasons for the deficit last year. The rosy phase was ignored last night and all the possibilities of reverses discussed, resulting in a quite but nevertheless effective little "blow" before anybody lost a cent: all the time a purse at hand big enough to run a team if conditions were as they should be; team winning, players popular, and all that. The immediate consequence of this little obituary will be known in a day or two, and though talk of aligning Weiser in La Grande's place is made, this is doubtful.

A probability more likely is that Boise goes into the Union association.

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STODDARD IS GIVEN HONORS

WESTERN PINE MANUFACTURERS ELECT HIM HEAD.

Presidency of Big Lumber Association Goes to Local Man.

George Stoddard, general manager of the Grande Ronde Lumber company at Perry and well known citizen of La Grande has been honored with the position of president of the Western Pine Manufacturers' association at its last Spokane conference. All the pine mills in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are members of this association and combined cut 1,000,000,000 feet annually. Quarterly meetings are held throughout the district that the millmen may keep abreast with conditions and things touching their industry. Mr. Stoddard has long been a member of the association and the honors paid him are deserved.

Among those who attended the last meeting from Eastern Oregon were Vincent Palmer of La Grande, J. H. Minnaugh of Wallawa, Frank Gardiner of Sumpter, Joe Stoddard, William Geddes, D. E. Eccles and W. H. Eccles of Baker.

LONDON PAID HOMAGE WITH TEAR AND DIRGE

KING WEEPS, UNASHAMED, AS TRIBUTE IS PAID TO EX-PLORERS.

THOUSANDS PAY TRIBUTE

"Rock of Ages" and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" Chanted by Sorrowing Congregations While Services in St. Paul's Cathedral Progress—King and Ministers Attend Service.

London, Feb. 14.—Weeping but unashamed King George and his ministers formed the center today of the greatest national memorial England has ever paid a son at a service in St. Paul's cathedral in memoriam to the late explorer, Robert Scott. The cathedral was ablaze with decorations. The King, Premier Asquith and other notables of the land gathered to pay honor to Scott and his companions. The cathedral was packed with 1500 outside clamoring for admission.

"Rock of Ages" was sung by the orchestral choir, this opening the service and then the band of Coldstream guards struck up the dirge, "Dead March in Saul." At the close of the service all sang, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." Sobs of the relatives and intimate friends were heard above the cadence of the hymn.

ZIMMERLE WINS CASE. Circuit Court Takes up Summerville Case for Consideration.

In the case of David Zimmerle versus Frank Childers, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff. Mr. Zimmerle sued the sheriff for attaching certain hay and hogs that were assigned to Mr. Zimmerle for claims that were owing to Mr. Zimmerle by the La Grande Orchard company. The verdict was for \$127.50 for the 17 tons of hay, and \$321.65 for the 22 hogs attached by the sheriff.

Today the court is hearing the case of the state against George Buchanan charged with assault with a dangerous weapon. Mrs. Smith of Elgin and her son are the prosecuting witnesses. From the evidence so far given it would seem that Mrs. Smith and her son met the defendant in the road in the vicinity of that city and that the defendant asked them to pay a certain bill which he alleged they owed him. Mrs. Smith claimed payment of the account and Buchanan claimed the opposite. Buchanan is said to have then called the prosecuting witness vile names and threatened to cut the horse's throat with a knife. Smith thereupon dismounted from his horse, it is said, and approached the defendant who drew a revolver and threatened to shoot him. Smith approached the defendant and threw his coat over the latter only to see the muzzle of a revolver pointed at him in a threatening manner. The case will go to the jury this afternoon.

The next case to come up for hearing is that of Smith against Ames. In this case the plaintiff alleges that the defendant caught up some of his stray horses and worked them, for which he alleges damages. The case arose in the vicinity of Union and will follow the cases of state versus Buchanan.

SWEET SEEKS INFORMATION.

A message was received from W. N. Sweet late this afternoon asking: "What will La Grande put up to a man who will take the franchise and furnish ballance needed, La Grande to furnish free use of park?" At time of publication no further information as to whom the franchise seeker is has been obtained, and definite answer to Sweet cannot be given until the fans discuss the situation. If the man seeking the franchise is of reputable character and responsibility this solution is worthy of consideration, and brings forth the only way to operate a club year in and year out.