

# ELECTRIC IRON CAUSES BLAZE

### CLAUDE SCRANTON HOME DAMAGED CONSIDERABLE.

#### Smoldering Fire Rats Into Furnishings and Through Floor.

An electric flatiron came near spelling complete destruction of furnishings owned by Claude Scranton and the new residence at Second and Spring owned by Grace Molitor last night. Before departing for the cherry fair yesterday noon, Mrs. Scranton had used the electric iron and in turning off the electricity the switch apparently did not stay off with the result that during the afternoon the instrument became so hot that the ironing table was ignited.

About 9 o'clock Mrs. Scranton, having returned from Cove, with a party of friends in the Fred Holmes car went to her home and found it illuminated with a fire rapidly destroying furniture in the parlor. The alarm was turned in from the Bohnenkamp residence and to master the flames was but a short task. The slow, creeping fire had destroyed tables, chairs, rugs and burned a hole through the floor, before it had been discovered. The loss to Mr. and Mrs. Scranton will be about \$200 and probably a less sum to the owner of the property. Because chemicals alone were used in extinguishing the fire, little furniture outside the fire-infested room was injured.

#### Hay Stack Burns Up.

Yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock the department was called on a long run to east X avenue where a hay stack of about 5 tons of hay owned by Pete Lilley, was being consumed by fire. The stack fire spread through the grass toward residences, nearby, but Nate Zweifel, who was working on a plumbing job nearby, lead a brigade of fighters that stopped the grass fire. Flames from the hay stack spread to outhouses and a little barn and prompt arrival of the fire department with the assistance of volunteers, saved the houses in that vicinity.

### HAZARDOUS MAIL ROUTES.

#### Postmen In Some Countries Are Never Sure of Their Lives.

The camel postman in the Sahara hasn't any cinch—that is, if he has a spooly he's anxious to live for or happens to be leading a care free bachelor existence, for he needs all the nerve that he can possibly summon on every trip that he makes, for the wild tribes regard him as their particular prey, and he never does know when he starts out whether or not he is going to reach his destination.

Neither has the postman in some parts of Switzerland the safest job in the world. In fact in several places in that country it is considered just about the most dangerous profession that a man can enter.

You see some of the postoffices are situated at a height of 7,000 feet. There is even a letter box at the summit of Langard, which is nearly 10,000 feet above the sea level. Here all sorts of disastrous things have happened to unfortunate carriers of mail. Three have been crushed to death by avalanches and a large number swooped down upon and killed by fierce eagles.

Then in India the postman always has to be on the lookout for snakes. It is estimated that within the last year 150 were killed by snake bites and twenty-seven eaten by tigers.

Queer, isn't it, when in this country the business of being a postman seems about the most harmless and least dangerous of any a man could pick out?

In parts of Siberia they have only two mail deliveries a year, while in the interior of China they have no regular delivery of regular postman.—Chicago Tribune.

DANCE AT  
**Danceland**  
Saturday Night  
GALLERY FOR SPECTATORS  
PARENTS ESPECIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.  
STRICTLY HIGH CLASS.  
C. P. FARRIN, Mgr.

# NO INTEREST THEORY WINS

### COUNCIL APPLIES MAYOR'S SCHEME LAST NIGHT.

#### Thousands of Dollars Can Be Saved Through Application of Rule.

Close adherence to the new interest policy worked out and proposed by Mayor M. K. Hall, was made last evening at a special meeting of the council and it became plain that the scheme which is an interest saver to the extent of thousands of dollars will work out in practical application. The application came in the case of O. P. Kingsley who has the contract for excavating the hill on Cedar street. While portions of the contract price, for work already done, will be made by improvement district fund warrants, the warrant will carry the stipulation that there shall be no interest paid until the bonds have been floated. While the sum thus saved is small in this particular case the principle involved is a meritorious one. Had this system been used on Sixth street and North Second, the city would have saved many thousands of dollars. The scheme simply is that in place of issuing improvement fund warrants as in the past, as soon as the work is accepted and allowing that warrant to draw interest until the bonds are floated—sometimes many months later—and charging up the general fund with the heavy expense as there is no other fund available, the warrant will be issued as formerly but will draw no interest until the bonds are sold at which time the improvement district involved has cash with which to take up the warrant. On Sixth street for instance the general fund paid out vast sums of interest money while the street paving case was held up in court. Even in the few weeks that the system has been first applied it will have saved a large sum of money. That the sum saved is enormous is shown in the fact that it required a half mill tax last year to meet the expenses of interest on Sixth street. That sum would have been saved through the application of this principle in the matter.

If extreme care and caution, triple checking of every step taken, and progress forward slowly can accomplish the purpose, there will be no litigation over Spring avenue paving. The council last night backed up and did all over again that preliminary work that had been done on Spring avenue preparatory to paving that street. A few meeting nights ago the plans were all spoiled by the discovery that there will be a 25-foot roadway from Fourth, a portion of the way to Third street, instead of a 30-foot space. That necessitated a complete revision of the specifications. Then the property owners agreed on the narrower specifications, and asked the council to please hurry matters. The council met in special session to make this haste but they did it slowly and it is safe to say that no street improvement has ever been carried on with more care and attention to details. As the matter now stands, the bids will be opened on August 20 at which date objections to the paving will be heard. There won't be any objections, however of moment and the council ordered bids advertised for to be in that date. As there are 12 different grades of paving in specifications for that street it will require a few days probably to fix the grade wanted. At any rate the council will attempt to have the work done this year as has been requested.

It was remedy night and several pieces of defective transactions in connection with street improvements of previous origination were gone over. The re-assessment ordinance of North Second was passed and various other details attended to. Mayor Hall was called away late in the evening and Councilman Lincoln was made mayor, or rather president pro tem in the absence of President Campbell.

V. E. Bean has offered to take the old water pipe, taken from the active service on Jefferson avenue, in return for rent money for the pest house, and his offer was accepted. About \$75 worth of this pipe will be thus disposed of.

#### Election Resolution Passed.

The council passed a resolution formally and officially fixing Wednesday, October 1 as the date of election on the commission form of charter. It fixed the polling places and named

election forces. At the court house is where the first ward will vote.

#### Women on Board.

In Number one, two women were assigned positions on the election board. The complete list of officials for that board are:

M. McMurray, W. M. Monroe and Geo. Wagoner, judges; Mrs. Wall Lane and Mrs. J. W. McAllister, clerks.

In Number two the city council chamber will be the polling places and officials are:

H. W. Stoner, O. R. Coolidge and J. K. Wright, judges; C. M. Humphreys, N. J. Mansager, clerks.

In Number three, the polling place will be established in the Donohue property on Third and Washington and officials are:

J. M. Hiltz, C. C. Penington and Howard Davis, judges; Will Hamilton and B. W. Grady, clerks.

In Number four the polling place will be in the Fir street brick school house and John Ladd, E. S. Brassell and R. A. Masterton will be judges. Will Thompson and William Randall, clerks.

#### Muzzles Are Scarce.

The fact that all dogs or even a large per cent, are not muzzled was lamented but it was found there is a scarcity of muzzles both here and in Portland.

If possible Mill creek will be re-connected with the reservoir so that in case a break in the Beaver creek pipe line at least some water pressure for fire protection purposes can be had. The water superintendent was instructed to ascertain what the cost would be to replace the worn-out plant with pipe from Jefferson avenue.

In that connection it was also ordered that a supply of four joints of each of the four sizes of pipe used in the Beaver creek line be purchased that breaks if they should occur, can be repaired without much delay.

#### Speeders Given "Cussing."

Motorcycle speeders and fast auto drivers came in for sharp scoldings last night. Councilman Lincoln championed the causes of children that on some of the city's race courses are daily menaced by speeding motorcycles, the councilman mentioning Main avenue as one of the worst speed courses in the city. In this conjunction Councilman Fitzgerald urged the necessity of parents keeping children off the streets as much as possible. The danger that threatens children through careless driving of motorcycles and automobiles was discussed at length and the plan of putting on a special police to put a halt to it was brought up but not acted on finally.

#### Liens to Be Enforced.

City Recorder Warnick was instructed to prepare a list of delinquent improvement assessments and the treasurer will also be instructed to fore-close liens. There is quite a list of such delinquents and many pieces of property will become involved in lien foreclosures within the next few days unless the sums of money delinquent are paid.

Mayor Hall reported to the council that he had obtained prevailing rates from many nearby towns. In Caldwell, the rates are \$3 monthly for each arc light, and he found that Baker pays \$5 because she has over 100 lights, found Pendleton paying \$5.50. The Dalles \$3, and so on. The executive suggested that effort be made to lower the rate here where a six dollar charge for each light has been made in the past. It is proposed to submit a contract to the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company calling for a \$5.00 rate on the basis of 100 lights. The city now has 97. It was also found that La Grande has been entering into longer terms in contracts than other cities in this section.

The Smith Construction company was awarded the contract for constructing cement sidewalks on M avenue.

The petition for vacating a portion of C avenue was returned to the petitioners on the grounds of improper drafting.

The water committee reported on the petition for a four-inch water main on K street from Second to Cedar by recommending that a two-inch main be laid. At first there will be but three or four taps on this service main.

#### Dr. Hall to Build.

Dr. M. K. Hall will begin at once to erect a modern two-story, nine-room residence on Second street. Contract for interior and exterior furnishing was let today to E. C. Thatcher. Mr. Thatcher also contracted today for interior and exterior decorations of the Dr. Underwood residence.

# CONLEY JURY CAN'T AGREE

### NO DATE FOR SECOND TRIAL HAS BEEN SET.

#### Appearance of Gebhart at Portland Marked With Odd Details.

Disagreement was the result of the jury deliberations of a Portland jury selected to hear the state's case against A. B. Conley, pioneer wheat king of this county, on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a former La Grande girl, now Mrs. Frank Gebhart. Mr. Conley, his counsel and George Miller, returned this morning from Portland, where Mr. Conley was given his liberty on bonds after the jury had disagreed. No date of a new trial has been set, notwithstanding that the state moved for a trial in September.

Those who heard the evidence say that Mrs. Gebhart contradicted herself on the stand repeatedly and would deny a statement made in one breath by a contrary statement in the next.

A damage suit of several thousand dollars has been commenced by the mother of the girl who, herself, was on the stand and said that the girl was under 16 years at the time of the alleged delinquencies and who soon after made affidavits at Pendleton that the girl was over 18. It is argued that if the state's case is won the damage suit will have easy sailing and vice

versa. In connection with the trial came a peculiar phase of the state's case, in that Gebhart had been called to Boise under what the defense claims to be peculiar circumstances. He was taken to Portland from Boise on threat of a bench warrant, he says, and on an agreement of \$10 per day and \$75 in addition. He had no particular bearing on the case and after showing the contract by which he was brought to Portland, was put on the stand and there admitted the overtures made to him by the state. This one fact is conceded to have had a great bearing on the action of the jury.

#### Walla Walla Suffers In Heat.

Walla Walla, July 24.—Hovering around the century mark for the past four days, reaching 105 degrees Sunday, 96 on Monday, 99 Tuesday, and 101 degrees Wednesday, heat records for the two years have been broken in this valley, and the crops have suffered to some extent.

Harvest is well under way but the intense heat is said to have cooked some of the grain, while the fruit is ripening so fast that it can scarcely be picked in time. Indications Thursday night point to a change.

**Lawn Social.**  
A lawn social and a musical program will be given by the ladies of the Parish society of the Zion Lutheran church on Friday evening, at 8 o'clock on the lawn of Mrs. Knapp, corner of Third and Jefferson streets. The program will be very unique and there will be several Norwegian and German songs sung. Ice cream and cake, sandwiches and coffee will be served. A silver offering will be taken instead of the usual church offering. All are cordially invited to see whether they are members of the church or not.

#### Notice to Dog Owners.

Notice is hereby given that the muzzling law will be strictly enforced and that inability to obtain muzzles this time will be no excuse for allowing dogs to run loose. They will be tied up in the yards of the owners unless muzzled.

By order of

J. H. McLAUGHLIN, Chief of Police.

Adv. 7-24 2t

TEN TEAMS WANTED for work on Jefferson ave., near depot. Warren Construction Co. 7-24 3t.

**LA CHEERABLE CIGARS**  
ALL CUBAN HAND MADE  
NOTHING BETTER CAN BE MANUFACTURED

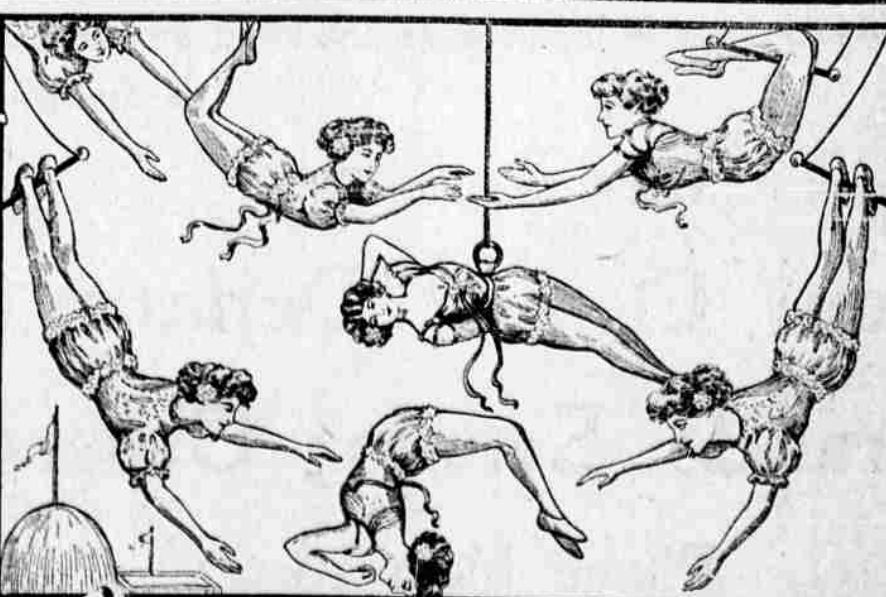
La Grande Thursday **JULY 31**  
**RICE BROS.**  
COLOSSAL  
**SHOWS** HIPPODROME AND MENAGERIE

Conquering New Fields---Making New Friends---Adding New Laurels.

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**SEATS**  
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