

La Grande Evening Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER -- PRINTS THE NEWS THE DAY IT HAPPENS

VOLUME XIII

LA GRANDE, OREGON,

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1913

NUMBER 111.

FARM TOPIC FOREMOST IN SPEECH LIST

BANDMEN SERENADE THE DELEGATES

TWO STATES REPRESENTED

ARTHUR SWIFT, PRESIDENT, RAPS GAVEL FOR ORDER AT 9 THIS MORNING.

TENNESEAN IS A FEATURE

First Day's Sessions Consist of One Open and One Closed Period—Local Citizen Welcomes Farmers—Reception Tonight at Rex Hall for the Visitors.

Face to face with problems which if correctly solved, will lead the farmer nearer to his just dues, ready to hear addresses on vital subjects by men pre-eminently qualified to speak, and with many hours of "good of the order" before them, the fourth annual convention of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of Oregon and Southern Idaho, met in La Grande at 9 o'clock this morning. Fully 200 delegates are here from the two states, and more will come tonight, and tomorrow Union county farmers will pour in. From the opening crack of the gavel until late this afternoon the delegates have been closely absorbed in business, going into executive session this afternoon after an opening meeting this morning.

The convention opened this morning in L. D. S. Tabernacle. Members of the Union marched in a body to the meeting place, headed by the La Grande band. Upon arrival there they were welcomed to the city by ex-Mayor M. K. Hall, who informed them in a pleasing vein that the city was theirs. Arthur Swift, state president of the union and vice president of the national organization presided and introduced F. Burkholder, of Coquille, to respond to the address of welcome. The keynote of this address was this: The Farmers' Union will be felt as a great power in the commercial world as well as in the political world, and will be recognized by the greatest politicians of the country.

President Crow, of the Washington organization, was then called upon to speak. He asserted that it was not the purpose of the Farmers' Union to do away with the middle man, but that they should be salaried men of the union and would carry out the wishes of the farmers in the disposition of crops. He spoke with a great deal of authority on marketing and handling crops, and made the assertion that the farmer was the most talked-of man in the world and that co-operation was the big thing which was now engaging the attention of the farmers throughout the land.

Mr. Crow was followed by L. M. Rhodes, of Tennessee, who brought forth applause by the statement that all the farmer wanted was a square deal, and by the Grace of God he would get it.

Mr. Rhodes is substituting for C. A. Barrett, president of the National organization, and succeeded in collecting some hundred or more subscriptions to the "National Field," the official organ of the National organization.

Prof. J. P. McPherson of the Agricultural college, was then called upon.

CORDELL HULL

Tennessee Congressman Who Framed the Income Tax.



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LUMBERMEN FORM BRANCH

PLUMMER GATEWAY THEME OF LUMBERMEN.

Branch Organization to Handle Local Matters Hereafter.

Perfection of an organization within an organization transpired at the Commercial club today when white pine lumber makers of Eastern Oregon took definite steps to create an organization that will control and carry on the Plummer gateway fight, at the same time being ready to take up other matters that concern Eastern Oregon purely, in the Western White Pine Manufacturers' territory of the Northwest. To employ competent counsel skilled in the rate questions, to appear before the interstate commerce commission in February when final argument on the closing of that link to middlewestern market will be heard, will be the probable result of the meeting. However the Eastern Oregon White Pine Manufacturers' association, within the parent organization, was created and officers were elected late this afternoon.

Those present included, W. C. Geddes, Joe Stoddard, A. S. Shockley, E. L. Kennon, all of Baker; David C. Eccles, of Ogden; J. F. Ravenscroft, Vincent Palmer, George Stoddard, L. B. Stoddard, Elmer Stoddard, W. R. Kivette, all of La Grande; George Cornwall, of Portland, and Charles Minnaugh, of Wallawa.

The permanent organization committee consists of Messrs Kennon, Geddes, Minnaugh, Stoddard and

SALEM MAN IN CITY TO LOOK OVER HELM JOB

F. J. LAFKY NEGOTIATING WITH COMMISSIONERS FOR THE MANAGERSHIP.

FINAL CONTRACT APPARENT

Salem Business Man Here to Look Over Managerial Job and Commissioners Confer With Him This Afternoon—President and Commissioners Don't Admit He Is Hired.

That La Grande's commissioners are nearing the point where they will be in position to close negotiations and give La Grande a permanent manager as by the charter provided, is indicated today by the presence in La Grande of F. J. Lafky, a well known businessman of Salem. The commissioners held an informal session this afternoon at the city hall where they and Mr. Lafky were in attendance. The commissioners would not say that the deal had been closed, and in fact it is not generally believed that the Salem man has been offered finally the job or that he has accepted, but on Wednesday evening it is presumed that the negotiations will be closed if the commissioners agree to employ Mr. Lafky. Mr. Lafky arrived yesterday and has been looking over the field carefully, consulting with some of the department heads, and in a general way acquainting himself with conditions which would have to be met, were he employed as the city's manager. In view of the fact that the commissioners have not admitted the negotiations today certainly mean agreement on a manager, it is taken for granted that all that stands between Mr. Lafky and the commissioners now are the minor details.

Vincent Palmer. This afternoon this committee made its first report and before adjournment tonight the Eastern Oregon White Pine Manufacturers' association will be formed.

The gateway committee consisted of George Palmer, D. C. Eccles, George Stoddard and George Cornwall.

Late this afternoon it was decided to meet again on the 13th of this month for the purpose of perfecting the organization and of electing officers.

Johnson Buys Shop.

E. T. Johnson formerly of Wallawa yesterday afternoon purchased the Club barber shop equipment and will operate the place solely hereafter.

BLACK TOP PUT ON SPRING

Hot stuff, or black top, was placed on Spring street today, and if dry weather prevails for 10 days more, the street will be complete. The first batch of the covering was placed on the East end of the street. It consists of a layer of hot bitumen ranging from a quarter to half an inch in thickness and when placed on the perfectly dry and clean concrete has a heavy coating of sand rolled into it. The process is speedily done with favorable climatic conditions. A serious problem to traffic will be solved if at least some of the blocks are finished this fall.

PUBLIC UTILITIES BRING COUNTY VALUATION TO \$20,000,000

Almost twenty millions is the final and total assessed valuation of Union county, all items compiled. County Assessor Couch today received the state tax commissioner's assessments on public utilities in Union county and taxpayers generally will be glad to hear that the commission placed the assessments a trifle higher than had been expected. The utilities are assessed at \$4,429,157.00, which will bring the grand total for the county up to \$19,954,052.00. By Wednesday the county levy will be fixed, and added to the state levy of 5 mills. The state levy last year was 1.15.

President Wilson Pleads For Farm Credits; Huerta Grilled As An Impostor



President Woodrow Wilson, who read, not dispatched, his message to the second session of the 63rd congress, and Vice President Marshall, who escorted the executive to the capitol.

Washington, Dec. 2.—For the fourth and more readily each decade do the time since his inauguration, President Wilson personally today addressed the joint session of the house and senate. The lawmakers were gathered for the occasion in the representative chamber.

The president arrived at the capitol direct from the whitehouse and Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark were named a committee to receive him at the entrance and escort him to a place beside the speaker's desk, where he was left standing easily before the gathering to receive his message. He remained only long enough to read it, then bowed courteously to the legislators and left the chamber, escorted as he had been as he entered, by Marshall and Clark. He motored back to the executive mansion.

General Huerta was soundly grilled by the president. The farmers' credit, banking and other subjects were touched upon, but chiefly he laid stress on the Mexican situation and the farmers' problems. He commenced by saying:

In pursuance of my constitutional duty to "give to the Congress information of the state of the Union," I take the liberty of addressing you on several matters which ought, as it seems to me, particularly to engage the attention of your honorable bodies as of all who study the welfare and progress of the nation.

I shall ask your indulgence if I venture to depart in some degree from the usual custom of setting before you in formal review the many matters which have engaged the attention and called for the action of the several separate departments of the Government or which look to them for early treatment in the future, because the list is long, very long, and would suffer in the abbreviation to which I would have to subject it. I shall submit to you the reports of the heads of the several departments, in which these subjects are set forth in careful detail, and beg that they may receive the thoughtful attention of your committees and of all members of the congress who may have the leisure to study them. Their obvious importance, as constituting the very substance of the business of the Government, makes comment and emphasis on my part unnecessary.

Mexican Troubles Reviewed.

The country, I am thankful to say, is at peace with all the world, and many happy manifestations multiply about us of a growing cordiality and sense of community of interest among the nations, foreshadowing an age of settled peace and good will. More

countenanced or dealt with at all. We are the friends of constitutional government in America; we are more than its friends, we are its companions; because in no other way can our neighbors, to whom we would wish in every way to make proof of our friendship, work out their own development in peace and liberty. Mexico has no Government. The attempted to maintain one at the City of Mexico has broken down, and a mere military despotism has been set up which has hardly more than the semblance of national authority. It originated in the usurpation of Victoriano Huerta, who, after a brief attempt to play the part of constitutional President, has at last cast aside even the pretense of legal right and declared himself dictator. As a consequence, a condition of affairs now exists in Mexico which has made it doubtful whether even the most elementary and fundamental rights either of her own people or of the citizens of other countries resident within her territory can long be successfully safeguarded, and which threatens, if long continued, to imperil the interests of peace, order, and tolerable life in the lands immediately to the south of us. Even if the usurper had succeeded in his purposes, in despite of the constitution of the Republic and the rights of its people, he would have set up nothing but a precarious and hateful power, which could have lasted but a little while, and whose eventual downfall would have left the country in a more deplorable condition than ever. But he has not succeeded. He has forfeited the respect and the moral support even of those who were at one time willing to see him succeed. Little by little he has been completely isolated. By a little every day his power and prestige are crumbling and the collapse is not far away. We shall not, I believe, be obliged to alter our policy of watchful waiting. And then, when the end comes, we shall hope to see constitutional order restored in distressed Mexico by the concert and energy of such of her leaders as prefer the liberty of their people to their own ambitions.

Banking Law Discussed.

I turn to matters of domestic concern. You have already under consideration a bill for the reform of our system of banking and currency, for which the country waits with impatience, as for something fundamental to its whole business life and necessities.

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Death Thins Pioneer Ranks

UNION SETTLER OF 86 IS DEAD

"GRANDPA" COFFINBURY PASSES AWAY MONDAY.

Mrs. Augusta Langford, Pioneer of Union Also With Her Reward. Union, Dec. 2.—(Special.)—Grandpa Coffinbury died on Dec. 1st. He has been sick for some time so that his death was not a surprise to his many friends. Charles C. Coffinbury was born in Michigan over 86 years ago. He was the oldest of nine children. He moved to Wisconsin with his parents where he met and married his wife, who survives him. He was married in 1849 and they lived together 64 years and three months, lacking only a few days. To this marriage was born nine children of whom four died in infancy and Edwin who was accidentally killed in 1911. They have been in Union 26 years and have lived in the same

house that they occupy at present. Mr. Coffinbury was a pioneer in Kansas and moved from that state to Union. The aged couple were able to care for themselves until the past few months and since that time they have had the care of a loving and devoted daughter, Mrs. Minna Wason, who has been with them all the time. Short funeral services were held at the home today and the remains were laid to rest by the side of his son. The aged wife and children mourn the loss of a loving father and husband, and the community an honest and kind man.

Mrs. Augusta Langford died at her home on Thanksgiving day. She had a long and lingering illness of many months' duration. Mrs. Langford had been a member of the Christian church for many years and was one of the early settlers of Union. She is survived by three children. Mrs. Langford's husband died some years ago. Short funeral services were held at the house on Nov. 28. The passing of Mr. Coffinbury and Mrs. Langford shows that the old pioneers are going rapidly, as that makes four in the past few weeks. Four of them were in the eighties.