

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XIII.

LA GRANDE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1913.

NUMBER 162

GOVERNMENT PREPARING TO TAKE OVER TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

Post Office Department is Investigating Bill Before it is Presented to Senate

Washington, Dec. 17.—Government what striking in view of the fact ownership of telephone lines is to become one of the realities in the near future. There is strong probability that a bill will be introduced in the senate by Senator Lewis of Illinois, providing for the ownership by the government of all lines and all systems. It is becoming an administration measure and is the talk of political circles.

Postal officials are scrutinizing the bill closely. Burleson asked Senator Lewis to postpone action on the bill until the postoffice department had made an investigation of the provisions. The bill provides that the government absorb all telephone systems by January 1, 1915. This is to be done by condemnation proceedings. One of the strange features of the bill is that it does not refer to telegraph lines. This is some-

Brakeman Falls Off Freight Car

PICKED UP IN UNCONSCIOUS CONDITION BY MATES.

CAUSE IS NOT KNOWN

Missed When Crew Arrives at Durkee—Accident at Weatherby.

Freight Brakeman G. H. Hepfer fell off a freight train last night and was picked up in an unconscious condition. The accident occurred somewhere near Weatherby, about 12 miles from Huntington. When the freight on which he was braking, arrived at Durkee it was discovered that he was missing. The engine and crew then left the train and returned to Weatherby where the unconscious form lay beside the track. The conductor on No. 5 was ordered to pick him up and bring him to the city. Upon the arrival of that train he was put into the baggage car and brought to the city. It has not been learned to what extent he was injured.

No one heard what caused him to slip and fall to the ground but it is supposed that a gust of wind had caught him off his balance and hurled him to the ground.

DREADNOUGHT DISABLED.

Crank Shaft Cripples Big Craft and Necessitates Towing.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary Daniels of the navy department has ordered the navy tug Sonoma to make all speed to the battleship Delaware, which is towing the dreadnought Vermont to Hampton Roads. That the damage to the Vermont is serious is indicated by a cipher wireless message received by the department. On her return voyage from the Mediterranean last Saturday the port crank shaft of the big vessel was cracked, but she was still able to travel under her own steam. Four hundred and fifty miles from Cape Henry she became so disabled as to require assistance. Yesterday the Delaware took the totally disabled vessel in tow.

White Sox Defeat Giants.

Manila, Dec. 17.—With General Bell pitching the first ball, the White Sox defeated the Giants, 2 to 1 before 7,000 spectators. General Harrison and his staff were among the excited fans.

Mrs. F. S. Bramwell Ill.

During the course of last night Mrs. F. S. Bramwell was suddenly taken ill, necessitating the calling of a doctor. Reports this morning are to the effect that she is slightly improved.

PORFIRIO DIAZ.

Former Dictator of Mexico May Return to Native Land.



REPUBLICANS DISCUSS MEN FOR PRESIDENT

BORAH, CUMMINS, AND HADLEY SPOKEN OF AS LIKELY FOR CHIEF HONOR.

ROOSEVELT MAY BE LEADER

Committee Recommends New Apportionment Plan, Which Cuts Down Representation from South 62.—"Reunite" Is Slogan.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Presidential timber for 1916 was one of the subjects discussed at the meeting of the Republican national committee. Borah of Idaho, Cummins of Iowa, and former Governor Hadley of Missouri were among those frequently and favorably mentioned for this position.

It was the opinion of many of the committeemen that an amalgamation of the Republican and Progressive parties could be brought about. In this event it is certain that Roosevelt will head the party ticket. A subcommittee of the whole was of the unanimous opinion in its report that the problem of reapportioning representation should be effected. If this plan is adopted it will reduce the number of delegates by seventy, taking from the southern states alone 62.

All efforts are being bent to reunite party. If Roosevelt consents to come back to the party there is no doubt, some say he will be the nominee of the party. But if he is consistent others declare, he will stick to the Bull Moose party and attract to its ranks an increasing lot of Republicans. This seems to be the crux of the whole situation and is certain to result in the bitterest kind of feeling, for men who voted for the redoubtable colonel as a Progressive.

BUGGY AND HORSE NOT FOUND

Youthful Employee Is Suspected of Taking Animal and Vehicle.

The buggy and horse taken from Mardich & Bandure, who have recently opened a fish market in the Abe Harris store building, on North Fir street, have not been found in spite of the fact that all towns and hamlets in the valley, and along every avenue of travel have been notified of the theft. Chief Howard Avant has sent out notices to other sheriffs but so far no clue to the young thieves has been discovered.

A young lad by the name of Tiffany, who was working for the new firm, is missing. Another lad by the name of Flores, is also missing. Both are said to have made their getaway on the night of the theft. They were seen on the day before making purchases at Eberhard's grocery and to have blankets in their possession. Suspicion is turning their way, but nothing definite connecting them with the disappearance can at this time be said about the case.

GENERAL W. H. CARTER.

United States Army Officer in Command on Mexican Border.



F. B. HARRISON.
New York Representative Named Governor General of Philippines.



OUT AGAIN—EMMALINE.

Hunger Once More Forces Men to Release Doughty Militant.

London, December 17.—Emmaline Pankhurst has been released from the Holloway prison, under the cat and mouse act, for the sixth time since she was sentenced in April. She was released this time as a result of the hunger strike, the authorities being forced to release her to save her life. It has been announced that she will go to Switzerland and recuperate, returning to England in time for the parliamentary session in February.

CURRENCY BILL FOR SATURDAY

AMENDMENT GUARANTEEING DEPOSITS DEFEATED.

Last Roll Call Is to Come on Saturday—Joint Committee Next.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate today defeated the Hitchcock amendment to the currency measure by a vote of 41 to 37. This amendment would guarantee deposits in all of the state as well as in the national banks under the reserve system.

A tentative agreement was also reached for a vote in the senate on Friday. This means that the final roll call will be made on Saturday. From all indications thus far it is figured out that the administration's bill is safe and that it will pass the senate by a safe majority. A joint house and senate committee will then settle the differences between these two bodies and the bill is expected and Salazar will forcibly deprive ado.

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FIRE FIGHTERS WILL REVISE THEIR BY-LAWS

HEAVY EXPENSE TO BE CUT DOWN ON SUGGESTION OF MANAGER.

MEN WILL CO-OPERATE

Chief Benham Thinks Department of Volunteers Might Be Cut to Fifteen and Increased by Draft, When the Necessity Arose.

At a meeting of the volunteer firemen of the city nothing definite in the way of settling the matter of lessening the cost to the city for attendance at fires was accomplished. The constitution and by-laws under which the department is now working were drawn up under the old regime and some changes will have to be made to make this set of rules and regulations conform with the new city charter. A committee consisting of P. A. Foley as chairman, L. M. Hoyt, superintendent of Water Frank Bay, was appointed to make the revision referred to and report at a meeting to be held in the near future.

The record of the fire department shows an average of 15 men at every fire whether small or large, and this has proven to be a drain on the finances of the city. It is the observation of the fire chief and others that at many of the fires there are too many men, who by reason of the large number cannot lend any effective assistance in the extinguishing of the flames.

It is also observed that some of the men come to the fire and then fail to assist in as much as rolling up the hose after the fire has been put out.

Manager Lafky put it up to the men at the meeting, stating that he did not desire to lessen the salaries of those on the department. Nor did he deem it advisable to lessen the equipment or anything that would diminish the efficiency of the department as it now exists, but he did impress upon their minds the necessity of cutting down the expenses of the city and suggested that they would be in a position to do the city some good. Fire Chief Benham is of the opinion that the volunteer department should consist of some 15 men all told and that these be selected from among the men nearest to the fire house. He argues that this number is sufficient for most purposes, and if the occasion should require he has it within his power to call in the assistance of as many men as would be needed to cope with any fire that might come up. There is a state law to this effect and would do away with the necessity of having such a large force of men on the list.

Just what the committee will do is to be seen, but it is apparent that all of the volunteer department took the suggestion of the manager in the right kind of spirit and will acquiesce in whatever ruling will be made to lessen the expense of the department.

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JAPANESE-MEXICAN ALLIANCE SAID TO HAVE BEEN FORMED

Mexico City, Dec. 17.—Despite the denial of foreigner minister Mohna, a Huertaist officer is quoted as positively asserting that a Mexico-Japanese alliance had been formed or was forming and that Minister De La Barra, Mexico's minister to Paris, had gone to Tokio to complete the details. The same officer said that

in modern times were on the way to Mexico from that country, that Huerta had already received from there 150,000 rifles, and a million rounds of ammunition. No credence is put in the report owing to the almost bankrupt condition of Mexico. It is claimed by others that at a scheme of the dictator to put confidence in federal soldiers.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER WILL BE RICH IN MATERIAL, ARTISTIC IN MAKE-UP.

The special Christmas edition of the La Grande Evening Observer will be the best ever. At first we stated that we would print 20 pages, but the special articles have increased to such an extent that we must add more pages. It is to be the biggest paper ever printed in La Grande and will tell in a fitting manner about the progress of this community. The industrial edition will be model in its make-up and contents. Stories about the death rate, birth rate and other vital statistics of the county will be in this big feature number.

It will contain the history of the first permanent settlement in the Grande Ronde valley. Data for this brief sketch was furnished by John Baker, now 71 years of age and one of the members of the train that started from Corydon, Iowa in 1861.

This story will get into print some of the earliest bits of information concerning this courageous undertaking by settlers for new homes. The story is well written and should be saved. Owing to the demand for these copies you will favor the Observer by sending in your order. Ten cents will cover cost and mailing by this office to any part of the United States. The Observer suggests that you save each of these annual copies for comparison.

Grande Ronde Snow Covered.

Three and a half inches of snow have fallen since 7 o'clock this morning and a light sheet of the fleecy stuff is still falling.

Citizens of the valley were beginning to think that Christmas would not be white. Indications are that it will continue to snow throughout the night.

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MERCADO WILL LOSE COMMAND

OROSCO AND SALAZAR THINK OFFICER LAZY.

Generals Think Federal Officer Could Have Held Chihuahua.

El Paso, Dec. 17.—Generals Orosco and Salazar will forcibly deprive General Mercado of his command of the forces at Ojinaga. The details of the story are lacking but it is known that Orosco and Salazar thought that their superior was insufficiently active against the rebels. General Orosco has started southward with 3,000 men and it is believed that he will join the federals now marching on Torreon against Villa at Chihuahua City. Mercado was in command of the federals at Chihuahua City, when Villa marched on that city.