

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XIII

LA GRANDE, OREGON,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1914.

NUMBER 182.

SOUTH AFRICAN STRIKE SIGNAL FOR UPRISING

GENERAL MASSACRE OF EUROPEANS THREATENED BY NATIVE RIOTERS.

TWO TRAINS DYNAMITED AND THIRD ATTEMPTED

Sudden Break of Railroad Strike in South Africa Likely to Create General Starvation—Demands for Food Already More Than Supply—Situation Growing Tenser.

Jagersfontein, South Africa, Jan. 10.—Seven natives are dead and forty wounded, and twelve whites are suffering from hurts as the result of last night's fight between whites and natives who had taken advantage of the uprising and chaotic conditions incidental to the South African railroad strike. There are nearly a thousand natives breaking out in Compound. They raided the town and are threatening a general massacre of Europeans. The whites have suppressed outbreaks after hard struggles. The situation is tense and further trouble is feared.

Starvation Aggravates Strike. Pretoria, South Africa, Jan. 10.—The railroad strike situation is alarming throughout the nation. It developed with paralyzing suddenness and two dynamitings of trains and the attempted dynamiting of a third, has aggravated matters. Quitting work on short notice, food supplies are short in many towns and it is admitted that a general tieup of transportation means starvation of thousands of natives and whites. Natives in many places are reported unruly. Widespread outbreak is feared and a number of labor leaders are under arrest. If not liberated the strike will spread to all industries it is anticipated.

UNION PEOPLE IN CITY

County Convention and Shopping Draw Many Union People.

Close to a score of Union people are in La Grande today. Many came to attend the county meeting of the Farmers' Union and others came on regular shopping tours.

Those who came to participate in the convention include, Theodore Keckritz, A. G. and William Paddock, J. W. Baxter, L. L. McKennon, Dr. C. H. Law, Jacob Kohler and W. O. Haggerty.

No Pool or Cigarettes for Minors.

Elgin, Oregon, Jan. 10.—(Special.)—The city fathers held their regular meeting Thursday night, and besides disposing of the usual grist of bills and smaller matters of routine business, devoted some time to the discussion of the law that prohibits minors from playing pool. The discussion ended in the marshal being instructed to enforce the law to the letter and also one in regard to the selling of tobacco to boys under 18, as well as their using it.

Big Evangelistic Campaign.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 10.—More than half of the 130 churches of Indianapolis have arranged to participate in the great evangelistic campaign which is to be inaugurated here tomorrow with the avowed purpose of those in charge to make it stir Indianapolis as religion has never before succeeded in doing. For an entire week there will be nightly meetings in all the churches and noon services in the business centers. A number of noted evangelists and out-of-town ministers will assist the local clergy in the campaign.

Wedding Unites Noted Families

New York, Jan. 10.—Two of the wealthiest and best known families in New York were united at the wedding of Miss Margaret Louise Schieffelin and Frederick Henry Osborn, which took place this afternoon in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian church. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Jay Schieffelin and a great-granddaughter of William H. Vanderbilt. Mr. Osborn is a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Church Osborn and a great-gandson of William Earl Dodge, the millionaire philanthropist.

Postmaster Twenty Years.

Springfield, Minn., Jan. 10.—William Mueller, who is believed to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest postmaster in the United States in point of service, retired from his position today as postmaster of this place. Mr. Mueller received his first commission as postmaster from President Cleveland twenty years ago and has served continuously ever since.

COUNTY LOCALS IN CONVENTION

ELECTION OF OFFICERS COMES LATE TODAY.

State President Brown Among Guests at Big Convention Today.

With State President Brown, of Arlington, in attendance, the annual convention of the Union county locals of the Farmers' union is in progress this afternoon. The attendance is large and an enthusiastic meeting is in progress, to come to a close with the election of officers. Retiring President Wells presided at the sessions today.

Prof. French, of the Oregon Agricultural college, was one of the men appearing on the program this afternoon.

The sessions began at noon and will continue until late in the day.

Joseph Geddes Dead.

Baker lost a highly respected pioneer, an honored resident and a business man last evening in the death of Joseph Geddes, who passed away at 10:30 o'clock, at his home on East street, following an extended illness. His conditions had puzzled the attending physicians, various complications having contributed to his death, only after he had fought a hard fight.

The deceased was 63 years of age. Indiana was his native state, but Mr. Geddes came to Baker 43 years ago, shortly after his first marriage. He was engaged in ranching and stock-raising and amassed a fortune by strict and careful attention to business. He was for a long time associated with William Polman in conducting the Geddes-Polman market in Baker, and has always been prominent in public affairs. While never holding public office, Mr. Geddes was always a hard worker for the interests of the republican party and a man numbering his friends throughout the whole of Eastern Oregon. He was a member of the Baker lodge No. 338, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Baker Lodge No. 25, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

By his first wife, Mr. Geddes was the father of several children, two of whom are now living, Mrs. Eva Landreth of North Powder, and Frank Geddes of this city. His first wife died a number of years ago and in 1908 he was married to Miss Emma Moeller of this city, who with three young children survive him. The funeral arrangements have not been completed, but the services will be held Sunday afternoon, with the hour and place not yet decided on.—Baker Democrat.

Falls On Icy Walk.

Charles Ethell had the misfortune to slip and fall on the icy street at the corner of Adams and Depot this noon and severely sprained his knee. He had just about recovered from a serious injury to this same knee and the new injury will retard recovery.

GOVERNOR AND HIS LIEUTENANTS KEEP AWAY FROM BAKER HEARING SENDING LEGAL AGENT INSTEAD

Argument to Be Heard This Afternoon Before Judge Anderson, is Plan

Baker, Jan. 10.—Attorney Collier, representing Governor West, Miss Fern Hobbs and Colonel Lawson, defendants in the injunction suit in which the circuit court injunction was ignored a week ago, arrived here today. Collier filed his answer at two o'clock and at that time it was planned to proceed at once to argument in the case.

Legal Tangles Loom.

Baker, Jan. 10.—Court proceedings in the now famous Copperfield case promise to furnish some likely tangles when the case was called at two o'clock for hearing before Circuit Judge Gustav Anderson in the circuit court room at the county court house today. The defendants, Governor West, Miss Fern Hobbs and Colonel B. K. Lawson, will not appear in person, but by attorney, Frank Collier. It is said that the proceeding will be an answer to the complaint on which the temporary restraining order was issued in which the defendants will set forth that martial law was proclaimed at Copperfield and will set forth that the conditions in the little town were such as to warrant the closing of the saloons and the shipment from the town of the liquors, and will set forth that Colonel Lawson, acting under orders from his superior officer, Governor West, disregarded the injunction. To this procedure which it is said will take place will be a demurrer which will be filed by Attorney James H. Nichols, acting for the two saloonmen of Copperfield, H. A. Stewart and Wm. Wiegand, in which the plaintiff will admit that martial law might have been passed legally proclaimed and will admit that conditions might have been described as outlined in the answer, but will con-

tend that even under such conditions the defendants had no right to interfere with the saloon business of the plaintiffs, under the law.

On this will be the argument before the court and it is said that this argument will follow promptly the filing of the answer and the demurrer.

Schedule Not Clear.

Baker, Jan. 10.—(Special.)—Today the legal scrap resulting from the governor's so-called vice crusade in this county will start, but just how far matters will progress is uncertain. Attorney James H. Nichols, representing Wm. Stewart and Wm. Wiegand in their injunction suit against the governor, Colonel Lawson, Miss Fern Hobbs and others, is informed that an answer to the complaint in the cases will be filed at two o'clock today. Mr. Nichols' further action depends then entirely on the nature of the answer which Attorney Collier will file. Then possibly a demurrer to the answer will be filed and possibly argued before Judge Anderson at once. On the other hand, no demurrer may be filed and the question of law will be submitted at once to the court.

Thus the action in the drama today hinges entirely on one detail—the answer to the complaint that will be made by the attorney for the defendants. It had been hoped that the governor and his secretary would appear in person to answer the restraining order, although it was not thought likely that they would make the trip to Baker, although Miss Hobbs stated positively that she would return.

The doings of the day will be awaited with keen interest and that the court room will be well filled if arguments are heard, is certain.

Local Bank's Joining the Regional Reserve Force La Grande Institutions Hope to See Regional Bank at Portland

Both La Grande banking institutions have complied with the requirements of the recently-passed currency bill and have filed their applications for members of the regional reserve banks. The December meetings of the directorates of both the La Grande National and the United States National banks have been held and at these meetings the directors

took steps to become members of the reserve banks. All national banks must join, but have 60 days in which to join. The local institutions have joined within 15 days from the time the bill was passed. As Portland would offer better banking facilities for the local institutions, both are working to have one of the eight or 12 banks established at Portland.

REUTER BATTLE IS ON ANEW

Bartlesville, Okla., Jan. 10.—A great legal battle to save Mrs. Laura H. Reuter from imprisonment in the penitentiary for life is scheduled to begin here Monday, which is the day set for the opening of the second trial of the Tulsa woman on the charge of having murdered her husband. The first trial was held last October and resulted in a verdict of guilty and a sentence of life imprisonment. Since her conviction Mrs. Reuter has been at liberty on \$5,000 bail. Judge R. C. Allen of Muskogee county has been named to preside at the second trial.

Few cases in the court records of Oklahoma have attracted so much attention as the Reuter case. Charles T. Reuter, the murdered man, was one of the leading attorneys of Tulsa. Prior to coming to Oklahoma he

had resided in Peoria, Ill. On the morning of May 5, 1912, he was found dead in the bed room of his home, in the fashionable residential section of Tulsa. He was shot twice through the head. Neighbors found Mrs. Reuter, who slept across the hall, locked in her room. They had been attracted by the shots and the scream of the woman. One hundred and fifty dollars in cash and some valuable jewelry which Mr. Reuter was known to wear were missing and the natural inference was that the lawyer had been killed by burglars.

But the burglary theory did not altogether satisfy the police and they started an investigation along different lines. The result was the arrest of Guy D. Mackenzie, Grover Bellow, his chauffeur, and Joe Baker. The

three were taken into custody on the theory that Reuter's murder was the result of conspiracy, with robber as a blind to conceal the real motive. The police learned that Mackenzie often visited the Reuter home; that he had taken Mrs. Reuter on automobile rides frequently; that he had received presents from her; that he had helped Mrs. Reuter put her children to bed when Mr. Reuter was absent; that he stole Mr. Reuter's revolver from his office desk and that Reuter had threatened to kill him if he did not stay away from his home.

Bellow, the chauffeur, made a confession of the part he had taken in the conspiracy. Immediately after, Mrs. Reuter was arrested on a charge of first degree murder. The charge against Bellow was dropped in consideration of his turning State's evidence. Mackenzie and Baker were tried, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Mrs. Reuter was then placed on trial and likewise was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

The convicted woman comes of a good family and prior to the tragedy occupied a high social position in Tulsa, where she was prominently identified with church work and women's club life.

OFFICIALS ON AN INSPECTION

SPECIAL TRAIN CARRYING THE PRESIDENT HERE.

President Farrel and Many of His Lieutenants in La Grande.

President J. D. Farrell, president of the O-W., together with A. W. Perley, special representative for the O-W. of the mechanical department, R. Blaisdell general auditor, M. J. Buckley general superintendent, J. T. Langley, assistant superintendent of motor power, and Division Superintendent Wm. Bollins, left this noon on a special train for Huntington on a tour of inspection. They were accompanied by local officials of the road.

ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY

Important Reports to Be Read by the Commercial Club Chiefs.

The annual meeting of the Commercial club will take place next Tuesday night, when the election of officers for the ensuing year will take place. The meeting is called for 7:30 sharp. The important part of the meeting will be the reading of the annual report.

On Wednesday night Tom Richardson is scheduled to arrive at 8:30 p. m., and will then address the meeting on good roads.

Sumpter Mill Wins.

For the second time the Service & Wright Lumber company has been winner over the Sumpter Valley Railroad company in its damage suit to recover for overcharges on log and lumber shipments, the jury in the second trial of the case early yesterday morning reporting a sealed verdict in favor of the plaintiff company, which was reported to the court at 9 o'clock.

By the terms of the judgment, the plaintiffs will recover approximately \$17000 damages, including the costs of both trials. The jury in the present case found for Service & Wright in the sum of \$11,345.62, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent from May 27, 1906. The interest added to the amount of the judgment brings the amount to \$16,860.59.

The present trial lasted 11 full days, and during its progress several evening sessions were held by Judge Dalton Biggs of the 9th judicial district, who presided for Judge Anderson, the latter having been of the attorneys for plaintiff in the first trial and having since been elected circuit judge, ineligible to hear the case.

Interest has been high and the verdict eagerly awaited, owing to the long record of the case in the courts and the issues it involved. That it will again journey to the supreme court is the announcement, and the action of the state's highest tribunal will likewise be awaited with keen anticipation.—Baker Democrat.

COPPERSTRIKE BRUTAL, FINDS FEDERAL PROBE

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES FIND CONDITIONS THAT CALL FOR SHARP CRITICISM.

MEDIATION MEASURES REJECTED BY OWNERS

Strikebreakers Give Testimony That Indicates Strike Was Caused Purposely By the Mineowners, In Michigan—Congress Will Be Asked to Intervene, It Is Said.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The federal labor department issued a statement criticizing the treatment accorded the strikers and the strikebreakers by the mineowners in the Michigan controversy. Five mediation propositions were outlined, all of which the mineowners rejected. There is but a passing reference of the Christmas eve panic at Calumet.

The report contained an informal recital of facts and conditions in the strike region, as furnished by three agents of the department sent there to make an attempt to settle the big strike. Regarding the treatment of strikebreakers the report said: "Many of these men made affidavit to the agents and informed them that there was no trouble or strike where they were at work, but on their arrival they were guarded by deputies and not allowed to leave the bunk houses at the mines."

No further information is given out by the department, but it is assumed that congress will take a hand in the settlement of the difficulty, and just what the nature of the intervention will be is beyond calculation.

Sand Cars Off Track.

Two cars of sand were derailed at Nelson's siding by the falling of a brake beam today noon. The wrecker left at noon to put the cars back on the track. There will be no delay of trains, as they will be able to pass on the passing track nearby.

Chinaman's House Burns.

A silent alarm was sent to the fire department this noon from the extreme end of North Greenwood. When the department arrived they discovered a small blaze in the home of a Chinaman, whose name could not be learned. A small portion of chemical was used in extinguishing the flames.

Many Gall Stones Removed.

L. H. Russell of this city, was operated on this morning at the Grande Ronde hospital for gall stones, by Dr. Rockey of Portland, assisted by local physicians. Seventy stones were removed from the bladder. The operation was successful and the patient is resting well.

President Returns to Washington

Pass Christian, Jan. 10.—President Wilson played his last game of golf here this afternoon. He said goodbye to local friends he has made since his coming here, and will leave tomorrow for Washington.

Flemings Will Leave Soon.

(Elgin Recorder.)

Thomas Fleming has sold his ranch of 245 acres located on Gordon creek to C. R. Hibberd of La Grande, and will move from here with his family to the Willamette valley in the course of the next two or three weeks. Mr. Fleming has purchased 72 acres of choice land near Gaston, a mile and a half from Cherry Grove, and will continue to make a specialty of the dairy business in his new location. With this object in view he is taking with him seven head of his well known Jersey herd, and also three horses. These fine cows should aid him materially in making a success