

La Grande Evening Observer

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FEARED VILLA HAS KILLED 2 MORE VICTIMS

TWO ENGLISHMEN SEARCHING FOR BENTON ARE NOW MISSING.

BENTON'S DEATH HAS AROUSED GOVERNMENT

Critical Situation Develops When It Is Rumored That Villa Shot Benton "Like a Dog" Without Provocation England Will Give America Time to Ferret Facts.

El Paso, Feb. 21.—What is feared to be another cruel murder of second and third Englishmen on Mexican soil within two days, is believed to be a serious possibility here when word was received this afternoon from John Lawrence of his friend named Curtis, who went to Juarez Wednesday for Benton. Friends fear they met the same fate. Gustave Barch, an American, was arrested in Juarez charged with being a spy and is not located. It is rumored rebels shot the three of them but this is denied. Some think they have been moved to Chihuahua.

Two Governments Worried. Washington, Feb. 21.—Benton the Englishman was killed like a dog by Villa," Senator Fall of New Mexico, has been advised by the chairman of the El Paso mass meeting held last night. "It is almost certain that Villa did it purposely. There is no evidence that the English cattle man was an aggressor, and the murder was cold blooded."

The death of Benton on Mexican soil is a grave matter. England has allowed Uncle Sam time to gain facts of the death before making any demands, and the government here is worried. Benton's death is the subject of strong editorials in all English papers.

Villa Is Silent. Chihuahua City, Feb. 21.—Villa arrived here today but would not discuss Benton's death. He is buying ammunition to attack Torreon tomorrow.

KNIGHTS WILL INITIATE Large Delegations Coming From All Sections of the State.

State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, W. P. O'Brien, will be in the city tomorrow from Astoria to attend the initiatory ceremonies that will take place at K. P. hall. At 9:30 a. m. the local and visiting Knights will meet at K. P. hall and march to the church in a body to attend high mass. After high mass the first degree will be exemplified, and the second and third in the afternoon. About 6:30 p. m. a banquet will be served in I. O. O. F. hall by the ladies of the parish. A large delegation from outside the city will be in attendance, including delegations from Portland, Baker, Pendleton, Walla Walla and all points along the O.-W.

No Limit to Signatures. Salem, Feb. 21.—Registered voters can sign as many nomination petitions for his party as he wishes, according to the attorney general.

Marie Lloyd Married. Portland, Feb. 21.—Overcoming severe obstacles, Marie Lloyd married her manager, at noon today.

Cove Needs a Cleaning

Cove, according to information received by the Observer, is in need of a general overhauling. While it is a matter of judgment as to how to proceed in the work, the good people of Cove have a right to complain regarding conditions there, if the stories that this paper has gathered from different, and apparently reliable sources, are correct.

The younger set in Cove has reached a stage in which lack of discipline is apparent. The dances are disorderly and liquor has become a factor in the social circles of the young. The statement that a saloon is running without a license is denied, but even under that denial there is an admission that there is a question whether or not under the Home Rule law the saloon has any right to exist in Cove. Because the matter has never been taken through the courts is considered by some sufficient ground for permission of the city liquor license to be issued, but this is no ground at all. It is the bounden duty of the city officials of Cove to have taken the matter into the courts after the municipality voted dry and there have tested out the question.

Such dilly dally work is wrong and the burden of the blame for social conditions in the Cove is bound to fall squarely upon the shoulders of the city officials. It is generally admitted that the police powers have been entrusted to a man who is either incapable or does not desire to handle the situation as it should be handled.

When young boys and girls cannot go to a public dance without taking a bottle of liquor with them it is high time the people of Cove arouse themselves and recall a few officials.

Sexual crime seems also to be rampant in Cove, judging from the returns of the last grand jury and the further information that percolated from that section when the grand jury was in session here.

Mayor Wilson says he sees nothing out of the ordinary about Cove's behavior, but many good people of that section disagree with the mayor, and it should be no surprise to that official to face a recall at once.

Gambling is also reported. Not open gambling, but the sly, back-room games which cannot go on in a small community without the police having some knowledge of them, provided the police is sufficiently alive to understand what his office is for.

It is up to Cove to clean up and do it now. The ideal home site of the Grande Ronde valley should not be polluted with the vice that without doubt does exist there.

Recall your officials if they will not serve as they should, for they were elected to protect your community.

If the local saloon has no right to exist under the law see that it quits business without further parleying. If it has a right to run under the law, force the owner and his help to abide strictly by the law. Permit no edging over the line, and last of all get a policeman for Cove who will make law and order supreme; get a policeman who will rout the gamblers and stop public dances when those dances do irreparable harm to the young.

LA GRANDE WINS 7 TO 6

Pendleton, Feb. 21.—(Special).—La Grande high won from Pendleton last night a terrific game by the close score of 7 to 6. The team goes to Milton tonight.

Mac Wood Slightly Ill.

Unable to be at his place of business Mac Wood, president of the city is confined to his home with a slight attack of lagrippe.

Judge Henry Improved.

After several days illness due to severe cold, County Judge J. C. Henry is able to be out again.

FARMERS DRAFT FEASIBLE PLANS TO RECLAIM 30,000 ACRES OF RICH LOWLANDS

Two methods possible in proposed drainage and dredging scheme: Create draining districts similar to irrigation districts and bond the district, resulting in completion of projects in shortest possible time.

Create draining district as in first plan, but pay for costs by direct taxation to run over period of years—until the work is finished. Probably eight or 10 years.

Estimated acreage suffering from floodwater now, 30,000. Annual damage, \$10.00 per acre, or \$300,000 annually.

Estimated expenses, \$200,000. Benefits, conservation of one-tenth of county soil resources.

First steps that may lead to one of the greatest conservation and reclamation projects Union county has yet dreamed of, were heard in a tangible way today when farmers and land owners heard propounded, and discussed, the ways and means to drain vast areas of rich bottom land near Union and Hot Lake, and to save overflow of the bottom lands near the Elgin cut.

Farmers of this territory met this afternoon at the Commercial club to discuss first discussion of the matter. E. S. Norris, who has been the moving spirit up to this point, proposed the two feasible methods that may be used in realizing what will bring vast sums of money to the valley annually.

At two o'clock 30 prominent farmers were in attendance and the audience grew until it was very representative. At press time no final action or recommendations had been made.

One plan which the farmers have heard discussed is to bond, exactly as for irrigation, creating districts and with the money in one batch proceed with the work and hurry it to completion. One argument against this plan is that the work cannot be promulgated but a few months of each year on account of high water.

Another course open is to create the districts and pay for the cost by direct taxation on the land in the district. This would permit expenditure of certain sums yearly, and promotion of the dredging and draining piece by piece until finished. When no work remained to do, even though the specified time had not elapsed, the taxation would stop.

It is estimated that 30,000 acres of land are flooded yearly at a loss of \$10 per acre at the very lowest figure. By direct taxation this land could be made to pay \$1.00 per acre for a period of ten years, which time

might possibly be required to do the work. The sum needed would be raised with little effort in this way. There is little question but that the scheme will eventually work out—the best course to cover seems to be the only question. It must be picked from the two mentioned.

The plan involves dredging and the straightening of the Grande Ronde river just south of the Elgin cut. This would reclaim hundreds of acres of land that now yearly suffer heavily and sometimes lay idle because of overflow. That in the main is the part that Elgin is working for and the citizens are interested and really enthusiastic, offering big subscriptions to start the work.

The proposition calls for draining vast areas of land near Union. The scheme as it now stands, subject to change, is to put in a flood gate just above Union and guide away what water the creek cannot handle in its regular course, and leading the new stream around the foothills from Union to the Point and reentering the creek at Lower Cove. The swamp lands near the foothill would be drained, the creek prevented from flooding its adjacent lands on the regular creek bed, and furthermore, allow drainage of the Hot Lake tule land, impossible with the creek running over its banks as now.

Irrigation Also Possible. To continue the reclamation, it would be possible under similar plans to proceed with irrigation on the Sandridge by using water from the Grande Ronde, tapping at Oro Dell. This is a new development which the farmers are likewise discussing. The whole system represents one of the greatest reclamation schemes yet dreamed of in this county—its possibilities are said to be almost limitless, with no heavy burden on any one section.

POOLS OF BLOOD ON STREET JANUARY 5TH EXPLAINED TODAY BY CONFESSION OF PRISONER

Complete explanation was given today to the spray of blood that crimsoned the intersection of Fir and Jefferson on the morning of January 5. A confession given in the city jail this morning by a suspect arrested by Chief of Police Howard Avant, makes perfectly clear what was from January 5 to this morning, a deep mystery. On the morning of January 5 the intersection was found to be spattered with blood; today its

presence was explained. The police department had slight clues to work with and last night nabbed and arrested a floater named Ed. Conley, who is a stranger here and claims to have no relatives anywhere. He confessed, when pressed for explanation, that he hit two local men in a fight over card games striking them over the head with rocks, and left them for dead—at least he thought one of them was dead. The three men had quar-

reled, began to fight, and the assault resulted. A fine of \$100 was placed against Conley. The assaulter left town immediately, but drifted back, only to be arrested.

OREGON TIMOTHY POPULAR

Seed Grown Here Commands Fancy Prices in Middlewestern States.

Timothy seed grown in Grande Ronde valley commands the top price and in fact a premium in the timothy producing sections of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. This was learned by C. M. SeCor who took three carloads east this winter for the Eastern Oregon Produce company of this city, and who returned yesterday. In addition to placing the timothy seed at top prices, various other trade stuff was disposed of. He sold two carloads of apples, finding the market good for fancy stuff especially. The apple market is generally strong everywhere for fancy stuff. Some carloads of potatoes were moved, at a very low figure however.

Money is loosening up in the east, factories are resuming their runs and throughout Michigan especially, factory orders are coming in better than for any time in eight or ten months. "Bankers generally" said Mr. SeCor, "are looking up and predicting looser money at once."

JUDGE BENNETT IN TOWN

Has Been Building Political Fences Throughout This Section.

Unwilling to publicly analyze the political situation as he has found it, for the reason that he might not see the situation as it really is, Judge Bennett veteran democrat candidate for democratic nomination to the office of governor, and so-called disturber of the democratic program in re governorship, is in La Grande today. He has been to Baker and is now headed toward his home in The Dalles. "The situation suits me," said the judge today to his friends and tillicums here. "However, I am not prognosticating, for I might find that men who promise they are for me, might accidentally not vote for me at the primaries," whimsically ventured the old war horse.

COURT CASES HURRIED

Monday to Be a Judicial Holiday Throughout the State.

Tom Mylin was acquitted late today by the jury on the rape charge. He must serve his former jail sentence however of nearly a year.

The case of the state vs Tom Mylin has progressed rapidly and this morning the attorneys for the state and defense presented their arguments to the jury.

Dan Kelley who was charged with larceny in a dwelling pleaded guilty and then requested the court to withdraw the plea. He then pleaded guilty to the charge of simple larceny and the fine of 60 days in the county jail was imposed.

The case of Pfeiffer vs. the O.-W. is scheduled for Tuesday. There will be a court holiday on Monday owing to the fact that Washington's birthday falls on Sunday, in which case the following day, according to the statute is observed as a holiday.

REWARD FOR MURDERERS.

Seattle, Feb. 21.—Lewis Hill has offered a reward of \$30,000 for arrest of the bandits, dead or alive, who last night held up a Great Northern train near Bellingham and killed two men. Every outlet from the pass is being guarded. Many are joining in the hunt and it is believed they will be captured before night fall. Much cash and jewelry was taken prior to the murderer. The bodies are held in the morgue awaiting word from relatives.

Rev. Adams Out Again.

Rev. A. J. Adams is able to be out again after a short but severe illness.

NEW EPOCHS MARKED WHEN KNIGHTS COME

REMARKABLE SESSION HELD IN LA GRANDE BY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION.

LESSON OF FRIENDSHIP RANKS AS STELLAR EVENT

Jubilee Dates, Dokies and Remarkable Exemplification of rank of Page Make Convention Noteworthy, and Banquet Brings Out Speeches—Enterprise Entertains Next.

Epoch marking in three respects, the fourth annual convention of the eleventh district of Knights of Pythias was held in La Grande last night. It marked epochs in three divisions to-wit: in amplitude and magnitude of the exemplification of the rank of page introducing for the first time in Eastern Oregon the dramatized lesson of friendship, and secondly, because the convention marked the institution of the first Knights of Khorassan temple in Oregon, outside of Portland. Both phases of the Pythian epoch were stellar in importance.

The third phase was the fact that the convention was held a half century and a day after the foundation of the order, and the golden jubilee played important parts in the post-prandial speeches. Furthermore Grand Domain officers from three states were in attendance.

The Wallowa train brought 127 Knights, about 50 of whom were also tyros. Orion, Kinsman, Blue Mountain and the Enterprise lodges were extremely well represented—few conventions in the past have equalled the attendance. Baker, Pendleton and other lodges throughout the state, along with Red Cross lodge, swelled the number in attendance to more than 200.

Rain Spoils Parade. A drizzling rain was falling when the train arrived and it was impracticable to take the regalia from under roofs. Led by the La Grande band, the Knights, 200 strong, paraded the city's business district and disbanded for supper.

Convention Is Remarkable. The convention convened in Rex hall with District Deputy Dixon presiding. He turned the lodge over to the rank of Page, and Wallowa's splendid team took charge of the initiation of a class of nine novitiates in Red Cross lodge. With that precise, remarkable and beautiful exemplification of the work, for which Wallowa is famed, centering around skilled floor drills, the Wallowa team took the novitiates through the steps of the rank of Page. Then it was that the added features came, for Enterprise lodge presented, for the first time in Eastern Oregon, a dramatized lesson of friendship, taking the convention back to ancient Syracuse where was enacted the marvelous incident of friendship when Pythias staked his life on fidelity and loyalty of his good friend Damon. The incidents leading up to the incarceration of Damon, his death doom, his liberation with Pythias as hostage, his good bye visit with wife and child, his frenzied return to Syracuse where he arrives at the very moment the headman was to decapitate the hostage prisoner, were all acted out and the beautiful lines

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