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OHIO EXCISE LAW HELD TO BE VALID ONE

**MOST STRINGENT TAX LAW IN
THE COUNTRY HELD VAL-
ID BY COURT.**

FOUR PERCENT TAX ON GROSS EARNINGS

**Ohio Law Requiring Heavy Tax On
Interstate Earnings and On Other
Corporations As Well, Becomes Ef-
fective by Its Validity Being De-
clared in Supreme Court Today.**

Washington, Feb. 24.—The supreme court today validated the Ohio excise law, one of the most drastic in the country. It provides for four per cent taxes on gross interstate earnings of railroads, and provides a special tax for other corporations doing business there.

The Ohio River and Western Railroad and the Marietta & Cleveland Railroad tested the constitutionality of the Ohio excise law in suits against the Ohio tax commissioner and state treasurer, respectively.

That the tax was discriminatory by providing different rates on different classes of corporations was declared by the railroads. They also asserted the four per cent levy on gross earnings was confiscatory.

The federal district court of Ohio held the law to be constitutional, but granted an injunction against its operation pending the final decision today of the supreme court.

TEACHERS' COMMITTEE MEETS

**Central School Parent-Teacher Com-
mittee Meets Tonight.**

Parents and teachers forming the preliminary committee, together with the parents of all parents of children attending the Central school will meet tonight for the purpose of perfecting the organization for the parent-teachers' organization. A short program has been arranged but the principal business is the perfecting of the organization. Several of the school of the city have perfected their organizations and already good results are apparent.

Unusual interest is manifested in the movement and once things are in proper working order the good that will follow from this united effort for the child's welfare is sure to follow. Professor Prince of the Central school, is chairman of the committee for that school and has requested the Observer to make mention of the fact that this meeting is fraught with much good. It will be held in the Central school building at 7:30 tonight.

New Yorkers to Locate Here.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Craft of New York, guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Fodges of this city, will leave in a day or two for Walla Walla. They have made up their mind to make La Grande their future home and will return here just as soon as they have settled their affairs in the Empire state. Mr. Craft is an expert frescoer and house decorator.

Cove Woman Is Ill.

Union, Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Mr. and Mrs. Logan Thompson of Cove, passed through Union last evening on their way to Spokane where Mrs. Thompson will seek medical treatment.

WORLD'S POWERS RUSHING MARINES TO MEXICO CITY

**Legation Guards Of Every Nation Soon To Take
Station--Independent Inquiry Started Over
Benton Murder By England**

Washington, Feb. 24.—Every world power except the United States will soon have marines and bluejackets guarding their interests in Mexico City. England and Germany already have legation guards, France and Japan have advised the Washington administration they have decided to send guard to their legations and other powers are expected to act similarly, but there will be no landing of American troops unless there is such actual violence as to make it necessary. With the feeling as tense as it is, it is feared the presence of armed Americans in Mexico City, in-
stead of tending to keep peace, might precipitate disorder.
President Wilson remains determined to use the soft pedal in Mexican affairs.
British Inquiry On.
London, Feb. 24.—That the British government is undertaking an investigation of the Benton murder by Villa, independent of the American inquiry, was stated in the house of commons by Foreign Minister Grey today. Washington's administration he added, has been asked to obtain assurance that Villa would not interfere with it.

PLEASANT VALLEY BOY INJURED

Baker, Feb. 24.—Frank Jenkinson, a Pleasant Valley boy, is in the hospital suffering from severe burns as a result of an explosion of powder. He, with two or three other boys, found a can of black powder at the Grand quarry, with the usual result when boys, matches and powder mix. Small explosions got too tame and one of the boys undertook to move a hatful of powder to a convenient place when a spark exploded it.
Young Jenkinson's body was badly burned, but the physician in charge of the case does not consider his injuries fatal. The other boys escaped serious injury.

TACOMA BRIDE MEETS SAD END

**MARRIED A WEEK AGO—SHOT
TO DEATH TODAY.**

**Tacoma Bride On Honeymoon Shot
By San Francisco Man.**

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—Abraham Peeper, a lace salesman, shot and almost instantly killed Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, of Tacoma, today. She was a bride of a week and with her husband was on a honeymoon.

Peeper fired a bullet at his own head but physicians say he will probably recover.

It is learned that Mrs. Johnson, young and beautiful, the victim of her suitor Peeper, had been much pursued by him before her marriage to C. L. Johnson, Tacoma representative of Sherman Clay & Co. Peeper made a telephone appointment to see Mrs. Johnson, saying that it was important. She consented to see him in the hallway of the Sutter hotel Peeper however, flattened himself against the wall beside the door of the room occupied by Mrs. Johnson and her husband. As she emerged from the room Peeper pressed a revolver to the back of her head and fired. He then fired a second time as she lay prostrate on the floor. He then placed the weapon to his temple and sent the crashing missile into his own brain. Johnson rushed from the room only to find his wife on the floor dead in front of him, with Peeper lying beside her with his skull fractured and mutilated.

Washington Appointee Named.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The nomination of John E. Boyle was sent to the senate today to be federal marshal of the Western district of Washington.

SNOW PLOWS CLEAR ALTON

**SNOWDRIFTS PILED ON TRACKS
NEAR SPRINGFIELD.**

**Several Roads In Massachusetts Are
Stalled and Crippled.**

Springfield, Mass., Feb. 24.—With its rotary plows bucking huge mountains of snow drifts, the main line of the Alton was kept open but off that line no wheel was turning today. Dozens of trains are stalled in the snowdrifts in the vicinity of Springfield and a blizzard is sweeping to the southeast. Railroad men said it would be many days before normal traffic is restored. Suffering among the poor is intense and the charity societies are making heroic efforts to reach those marooned behind the barriers of snow.

ELK TOUR FAVORITE

**One Hundred Reservations Made For
Trip to Elgin Thursday.**

Reservations for the Elks' Grand Opera tour to Elgin on Thursday night have been brisk. Up to the present time 100 reservations have been made and those intending to go are requested to speak to the committee having the matter in hand. Eight ladies have been added to the cast of characters, including some of the stars of the Elks' Tooth and Miss Bock's County Fair artists. No minstrel has caused the comment which this particular affair has aroused in the last week, and all who witnessed the performance at the Elks' auditorium, that is all the men, say it is par excellence. Nothing will help cement the feeling between Elgin and La Grande as this stunt and for this reason reservations are being made with much briskness.

Captain Becker Given New Lease On Life By Retrial



Mrs. Chas. A. Becker, who daily visited her husband, the grafting police lieutenant, and John Becker, brother of the accused man, are shown above. Lieutenant Becker was today given a new trial, just as Mrs. Becker has contended he would be from the start. Her smile was never erased by the first trial and the Sing Sing imprisonment.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Former Police Lieutenant Chas. A. Becker, under sentence of death at Sing Sing, has been granted a new trial by the circuit court of appeals. The decision of the lower court is reversed on errors said to have been committed by Justice Goff, who presided at the trial.
Four gunmen under sentence for the actual killing of Rosenthal, the gambler, have been denied new trials.

ENGINEER PFEIFFER SUIT FOR \$45,000 DAMAGES UNDER WAY

Initial steps were taken this morning in circuit court before Judge Knowles in what is conceded to be the biggest damage suit in the history of Union county, when H. M. (Heine) Pfeiffer's suit against the O-W. for \$45,000 came to issue. The jury selection started this morning. The Pfeiffer case has grown out of injuries sustained by Mr. Pfeiffer May 22, 1913, when he was running an engine out of La Grande. He had stopped his engine a few miles west of Pendleton at Pilot Rock Junction, and was down under the piston working on a defective part. He alleges that his engine was bumped into by a switch engine and he was hurt as a result thereof. The injuries were such as to send him to the hospital for a considerable length of time, and he says in his complaint have ruined him physically for life.
The suit is the biggest ever filed in this county it is said.
The railroad company contends that the engineer should have notified the rest of the crew of the dangerous position he was going into, the company intending to prove by witnesses that Pfeiffer had not done so. The company further avers that the rest of the crews believed him to be in a safe place at the time.
The jury was selected and the case is now under trial. Chas. E.

Cochran of Portland, is handling the railroad's case, and F. S. Ivanhoe and R. J. Greene are handling that of the plaintiff.

DAM STILL INTACT Expected Blowup Fails to Materialize On Stipulated Date.

Wallowa, Feb. 24.—(Special.)—As was reported in the papers the dam at the fish hatchery was to go out at 2 o'clock Saturday. Many people from Wallowa were present on the scene at the appointed time, but to their amazement they were informed by the keeper that he had had no orders to blow out the dam. Everybody seems to be crying "blow out the dam." But what would be the results? The carp would come up from the Grande Ronde river and carp are not fit to eat. True, salmon would come up the river, but there is a law against catching salmon in the Wallowa river. Many were disappointed at not getting to see the dam go out, but it would only put a temptation before the people as the salmon would be here and some would have a hard time keeping from catching them.

HASTY PROBE OF SITUATION AT COVE MADE

**CONFERENCES, PRIVATE AND
PUBLIC, HELD AT CITY
HALL YESTERDAY.**

UNION TENDERS WARM RECEPTION TO AGENT

**Big Crowds Greet Miss Hobbs at Cove
and Union—Investigation at Cove
In Brief—Social Function at Union
Arranged In Her Behalf—Comes
to La Grande For An Hour.**

Closely adhering to a previously formulated schedule, Fern Hobbs, private secretary to Governor West, yesterday investigated conditions at Cove, caught the evening train out, and passed through La Grande last night on her way to Salem to file a report of what she found. She would disclose nothing, or indicate what the tenor of her report would be. Her investigation was cursory at the best for she was there but a short time, and much of her period spent in Cove was taken up with public gatherings. Big crowds greeted her both at Union and Cove.

Stay In La Grande Brief.

Miss Hobbs came to La Grande on the "Pony" from Baker and spent an hour or so at the E. E. Bragg home before going to the midnight train and home.

The Observer's prediction yesterday that no attention would be paid La Grande at this time proved true. Miss Hobbs hurried home to make her report to Governor West before his departure for New York. What course he will pursue, if any, is not intimated.

UNION HONORS FERN

**Reception at Union For Secretary Is
Brilliant Function.**

Union, Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Union paid social tribute to Miss Fern Hobbs last evening when Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wright tendered a reception in honor of her. She was in Union from 5 until "pony" train time and during these hours, she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wright at dinner and then a reception at which Union society was out in force. She was also a guest at the Wright home for luncheon while on her way to Cove.

Films Reproduce Scenes.

Cove, Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Moving pictures were taken of the crowd that met Miss Hobbs at the station yesterday afternoon, and of the crowd that followed her to the city hall where she held her consultations and where she inspected the books. A Portland firm sent the machine to Cove.

Nervousness Apparent.

The officials and the men of Cove were nervous at first because they had no notion of what Miss Hobbs would do. At first they deemed her impertinently "butting in," but she convinced them that she was there for investigation only. She made it clear that the governor had been told that the marshal of Cove had no, so far as known, refused to enforce the law, but that no specific violation of moral laws had been called to their attention. She spent considerable time in the city hall, the place being

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