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FEDERALS ON GUNBOAT JOIN REBEL FORCES

CELEBRATION HELD BY CONSTITUTIONALISTS OVER STEP TAKEN ON GUNBOAT.

ANOTHER AMERICAN DIES AT HANDS OF MEXICANS

Huerta Express Concern Over Reported Hanging of An American at Nuevo Lardo—Details Unascertainable On Account of Bad Communication Facilities With North.

Mexico City, Feb. 25.—The government is investigating reports that Clement Vergara, an American citizen is to be hanged or was hung by the federals near Nuevo Lardo. Difficulty is being experienced in getting information owing to the interruption of communication in the northern part of Mexico. Huerta is worried.

Nogales, Feb. 25.—Messages from San Blas, apparently authentic and said to be confirmed, report that officers of the federal gunboat have renounced Huerta and have joined the rebels. Constitutionalists will celebrate the event tonight.

Want Benton's Body, Maybe. Washington, Feb. 25.—Strong pressure to make Villa surrender Benton's body was brought on the Washington administration today and it is believed the Wilson policy toward the Mexican rebels hinges on the result.

Two Others Executed. The state department is nearly convinced that Gustava Bouch a German-American accused of being a federal spy, and Lawrence, an Englishman who went into Mexico to search for Benton when Benton first disappeared, have been executed.

ELKS' SPECIAL AT 6:30 P. M.

Big Turnout to Elgin Tomorrow Is Looming Up.

The latest and final arrangements for the departure of the Elks' Grand Opera Special tomorrow is to the effect that the train will leave La Grande at 6.30 p. m., to allow shop men and others employed in stores and other places an opportunity to go. The round trip fare will be \$1.00 and the admission to the show will be for reserved seats 75 cents and general admission 50 cents.

Reserved seats can be obtained by application to any members of the committee, consisting of Jack Peare, M. B. Donohue, A. B. Rogers, Chas. Harding, C. O. Ramsey and W. M. Peare. A hundred or more seats have been reserved to date and from all indications it is going to be a big success. The Elks wish to remind those going of the opportunity of showing the citizens of our sister town a royal good time. The show is going to be well worth the price.

Anderson Upholds West.

Baker, Feb. 25.—A decree in favor of Governor West, Colonel Lawson, et al, in the injunction suit in which Judge Anderson ruled adversely to the plaintiffs, H. Stewart and Wm. Wiegand, was handed down by the Judge yesterday. Notice of appeal was immediately given by James H. Nichols, attorney for the plaintiffs. The handing down of the decree in the injunction has no bearing on the damage suits aggregating \$8000 recently brought against the governor and others.

Eyes, Hands Gone; Happy

SIGHTLESS, HANDLESS MARVEL FLUENT SPEAKER.

HE SMILES AT FATE

Provo Man Lectures On Timely Subjects Though Queer Cripple.

Blind and without hands, laughing at fate and smiling through his physical misfortune, N. C. Hanks of Provo, Utah, is here today to deliver his popular lecture at the L. D. S. tabernacle, under auspices of the M. I. A. At the Sommer hotel today Mr. Hanks showed little of humanity that under similar conditions would exert itself unusually. He is neither morose nor chagrined, but has a decidedly bright viewpoint of life.

At twenty-one he and his partner leased a claim near Nephi, Utah, and prospected for ore. They really had one of the richest lead mines in the west, as subsequently proved, but they never found it out.

One noon they had been working near their cabin and were cleaning up preparatory for "chuck." Hanks was feeling as fine as a young man should who is overflowing with life, is working a good claim, has a keen appetite for approaching dinner and has a letter from his sweetheart in his pocket. Someone had brought the letter up to the trial to their lonely cabin. It was the last thing N. C. Hanks was ever to read with his own eyes. Hanks' partner had washed and was ready to go to the cabin, for it was his turn to make the meal. A box of dynamite caps lay in the sun near his jumper. He picked up his jumper and reached for the caps, but saw his gloves lying a few paces. He stepped over to get them first and then paused to stuff them into a pocket and then turned back to the box. Just that close did N. C. Hanks come to escaping being what he is.

As his partner turned, Hanks called to him, "You go on to the cabin and hurry that grub. I'll attend to the caps."

In another moment he had picked up the box, which had lain in the sun until overheated. The slight jar did the rest. Every cap in that box was made to overcome a resistance of 300 pounds. By a miracle he was not torn to shreds, but he was hurled ten feet. Within a minute he arose, blinded, bleeding, but calm. The mountains and the sky had vanished. Where his hands had been were bleeding stumps and with his hands had gone all means of livelihood.

His partner, screaming and crying like a child, gazed upon him. Recovering, he helped him to the cabin, bound him above the elbows with handkerchiefs and started for help. They were six miles from a telephone of a neighbor, and many more miles from a town or doctor.

All that afternoon he lay alone, save for the companionship of a small dog, which cried piteously all the day. Mercifully, Hanks suffered no pain, except for the bandages which tortured him excruciatingly, as his arms swelled. He tried to gnaw them off, knowing that death would ensue, but seeing nothing better than death in life.

Well, help came. They got him to Provo, to a hospital, the mere wreck of a human being. They patched him up, but as he lay there thinking, life looked black indeed. His sweetheart came to see him, and he broke their engagement. Then he felt better. It was the one duty he had left in life and he done it.

That was some years ago—today he is in La Grande, laughing at fate,

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LITTLE BOYS WITH UNEASY CONSCIENCES BEST SAY THE PRAYERS.



—Darling in Des Moines Register and Leader.

COVE CITIZEN DISCUSSES CLEANUP

Cove, Or., Feb. 24.—The La Grande Observer, La Grande, Oregon. I appreciate the fact that a newspaper is not exactly infallible, and is dependent in a large measure upon the expressed opinions of human beings for its news. I therefore do not place the entire responsibility upon you or your paper for certain statements in your issue of February 21st concerning the conditions of affairs at Cove, and which, it seems to me, places the mayor and the council of Cove in rather a false light.

No reasonable minded person will deny that there are several matters pertaining to the enforcement of laws in Cove which are not as they should be, and which need correction, but on the other hand, no reasonable minded person should attempt to affix the whole weight of responsibility therefor upon the shoulders of a few poor devils of councilmen and mayor. In order to effect a remedy for the condition of affairs which is alleged to exist here, and I dare say in other places as well, it is necessary to produce proof of a satisfactory nature that the laws have been broken, and the production of this proof is no more the duty of the councilman or mayor than of the individual who "knows" the laws have been broken. In fact, it should be less so, for the councilmen and mayor are few in number, and therefore should not be expected to cover so wide a scope as the class of calamity howler which professes to know so much, and yet which proves so little. It should also be taken into consideration that there is a marked distinction between evidence, (and especially hearsay evidence four or five times removed), and real proof which will stand in a court of the law. There is never any difficulty in securing plenty of the former, but usually a marked reluctance or failure to bring out any of the latter.

The fact of the matter is, the council in its several departments, it seems, considered as a part of extension piece, so to speak, for the handle of the dung-fork of investigation; a mere convenience, as it were, for the purpose of preventing the pure hands of the investigator from becoming contaminated with the filth of investigation. I believe it will be admitted that in order to clean house one must some time get one's hands

in the dirt, or some one else's hands at any rate, and if clean hands are dearer than clean house the house must go uncleaned. So with municipal affairs, if the notoriety and inconvenience attached to cleaning up a nasty mess are of greater consequence to the reformer than having a clean town, the person who finds the filth has no reason to complain that it is not cleaned up when he will not even tell his servant where to find it, but instead goes into the next town and howls about the general incompetence of servants, and of his servant in particular.

Cove is no better nor worse perhaps, than thousands of towns of like size or larger, and its inhabitants no better nor worse than those of others, individually. It is suffering considerable notoriety of a disagreeable sort as a result of the conviction of some persons that their neighbor's yards need cleaning, and who are reluctant to get their own fingers into the slime, but who have no objection to seeing the other fellow have his forced into it. Cove's council asserts that not a single complaint has been laid before them regarding violation of the local option law, nor of gambling or immorality; yet we hear on every hand damning of the council for its failure to assume and exercise autocratic powers and authority which in point of justice, real and impartial to all parties concerned, would have been a disgrace to Nero of old. It is exactly as wrong to convict a rogue without evidence as it would be to convict a saint in the same way, so for heaven's sake let us either give our officials something definite to work on, or else stop cussing them. In other words, either put up or shut up.

It has been the common experience of the writer to hear inquiries of "why don't they pull so-and-so for gambling—bootlegging—immorality or this or that? What's the matter with that rotten mayor—marshal or councilman, etc?" Invariably, however, on being asked for proofs or to personally file a complaint, they crawl fish and say that they themselves do not know anything about it, but that Smith told them that Jones told Brown that he had heard some one else say that this was the case, so they conclude that it must be the

Damage Case Moves Slowly

LEGAL POINTS ARE CAREFULLY LOOKED TO.

CROSS-QUIZZ WARM

Plaintiff, Heine Pfeiffer, Occupies the Stand Most of Forenoon.

All the attention that can be given a complicated, important case by alert lawyers, is in evidence in the progress of the Pfeiffer-O.W. case wherein is involved \$45,000 damages. That the jury will not get the case today, or not until late in the day, if at all, is apparent. The morning session opened with a rigorous cross examination of Heine Pfeiffer, the plaintiff. Attorneys C. E. Cochran and Crawford & Eakin took the plaintiff over the series of incidents leading to the Pilot Rock Junction accident last May, when Mr. Pfeiffer was severely hurt, in an effort to establish their theory of the case that he had not adhered to the company rules as to giving signals to protect himself while he was under the engine, as engineer, making some repairs.

On indirect examination another hour was spent, the plaintiff's counsel attempting to establish that the engineer had been prudent in his caution. Much effort was spent to bring evidence to the jury to show that he had amply protected himself before going under the engine. The plaintiff's lacerated hand was in plain view of the jury during the examination of the plaintiff.

fault of that d—d council which does not act.

Therefore, in the name of common decency, let us try to be just to both sides. If you see an unclean spot in Neighbor North's yard, clean it up if it is your duty to do so, or notify Neighbor East if it is his duty to clean it, but for heaven's sake don't go to Neighbor South and yell yourself black in the face about the big gob of filth in Neighbor North's yard and that Neighbor East is a blackguard and a scoundrel because he won't clean it up, and should be recalled, when as a matter of fact Neighbor East has not even heard of it. Let us clean up, by all means, where it is needed, but let us also back our hands with real proof instead of mere hearsay, and not try to throw the whole responsibility upon someone else.

Respectfully yours,
LOGAN E. ANDERSON.

Post Mortem Held.

Pedro Fuentes an employe of the O.W. at Union Junction, who two weeks ago fell from the water tank at that place and injured his head, died last night from the effects of the fall. A post mortem examination today showed that he had sustained a fracture to the base of the skull, near the right ear, which resulted in hemorrhages of the brain. He had been warned by the section foreman to stay off the tank, but curiosity got the better of his judgment.

He is a Mexican by nationality and is not known to have any relatives in this community. Henry & Carr have charge of the funeral arrangements.

Big Sum Stolen.

San Francisco, Feb. 25.—Masked robbers who held up an express car on the Southern Pacific between Burlingame and San Francisco, secured a considerable sum from the safe, it is reported. The express company will not issue a statement but it is believed the bandits heard that a big sum was to be shipped and chose the right hour to do it.

COVE SALOON CLOSED WHEN COURT MEETS

JUDGE HENRY HAS NO RETURNS GIVEN HIM AT ELECTION TIME.

"MISUNDERSTANDING ALL AROUND", THINKS JUDGE

Fern Hobbs Reports to Governor That Cove Went Dry By a Majority of Ten—Suggests That County Judge Close Saloon On Home Rule Bill—Court Meets Next Wednesday.

Cove will be officially declared dry and her lone saloon closed next Wednesday, according to plans. Miss Fern Hobbs has found, and so reported to Governor West, that the precinct of Cove voted "dry" by a majority of 10 in 1910, but that no official order was declared making the town "dry," ad because of these facts, the precinct should be dry now.

County Judge Henry cannot act on the matter until the next regular commissioner's court meets, next Wednesday, and that the order closing Cove's saloon will be given at that time, is foreordained. Miss Hobbs recommended such action in her report following her return to Salem from Cove, and a letter of instruction to Judge Henry is on the way.

"It appears to be a misunderstanding all around," said Judge Henry today in speaking of the matter. "The county voted 'wet' and when the county court convened it so declared the election. There was no return made of the Cove precinct at the time, and the first I have heard of the application of the home rule bill, was a few days ago. So far as I know there will be no objection to issuing the order next Wednesday when court convenes."

Ernst Thorsen, formerly of La Grande, is the proprietor of the saloon at Cove.

COVE INVITES WEST

Invitation Extended to Governor to Come to Cove Cherry Show.

Cove, Feb. 25.—Directors of the Cove cherry show have invited Governor West to come to Cove and deliver an address at the cherry show this year. The directors anticipate a bigger crop of cherries than ever, and expect to have a bigger show than ever in view of that fact, and have invited the state's executive to be present and deliver an address.

COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY.

Erroneously, it was announced yesterday evening that the Central school Parent-Teachers' organization committee was to meet last evening, while the date should have been Thursday. Attention of the committee members is called to this correction. Parents are especially urged to be present. Without them the work cannot progress, and the committee has set tomorrow night as the date of organization.