

La Grande Evening Observer

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SHOT WITHOUT ANY FORMAL TRIAL

MEXICAN OFFICER TELLS HIS VERSION OF BENTON'S SLAUGHTER.

BULLET FIRED IN VILLA HEADQUARTERS BY GUARD

Court-martial Story and Alleged Testimony Are Fakes, Avers Mexican Officer Who Was In Juarez at the Time of the Shooting—Huerta Is Ready to Create Some More Money.

Douglas, Ariz., March 7.—William Benton, the Englishman, was shot to death in General Villa's office by one of his body guard without formality of arrest or trial or court-martial, according to the statement at Agua Prieta by a constitutionalist officer who was at Juarez at the time of the Benton affair. He gives his information as being very authentic, in fact correct, and is the first man who claims to know all about Benton's death, and is willing to tell.

Court-martial Story a Lie.
It is further stated that all transcripts of testimony before a court-martial must be signed by the defendant and sealed before the witness. It is said that Benton's alleged testimony was a fake and that testimony purported to have been given by him before the "court-martial" was signed by an officer after Benton was killed.

Quarrel Precedes Shooting.
According to the story, Benton was shot while heatedly arguing with Villa. The guard who shot Benton believed the act would win him promotion. The body was destroyed to hide the crime.

Resignation Expected Soon.
Mexico City, March 7.—Huerta's resignation is reported to be imminent. It is said he would start immediately afterward for Torreon to assume the federal field command. It is his plan to let the United States and England agree on a successor. If Huerta is crushed, the rebel president would ask for recognition of his government.

Money is scarce and Huerta is planning on the manufacture of some of his own. His idea is to do it through creation of government banks which are to issue \$400,000,000 pesos of fiat currency. The decree creating the bank awaits only a formal publication.

CASE NEARS END.

Question of Perfection of Spark Screen Chief One Before Court.

Laselle Bros. and Paine vs. the Central Railway of Oregon, will be with the jury this evening. The loss of the fruit drier attributed to sparks from an engine of the defendant is turning on the point of fact of whether the screen in the engine at the time of the fire was in proper condition and capable of preventing sparks from the engine setting fire to anything. The plaintiff sought to establish this fact, but the chief mechanic of the Central railway, who bore the brunt of the cross questioning on this point, testified to the fact that the screen was in good condition and that it was the same as in use at other times.

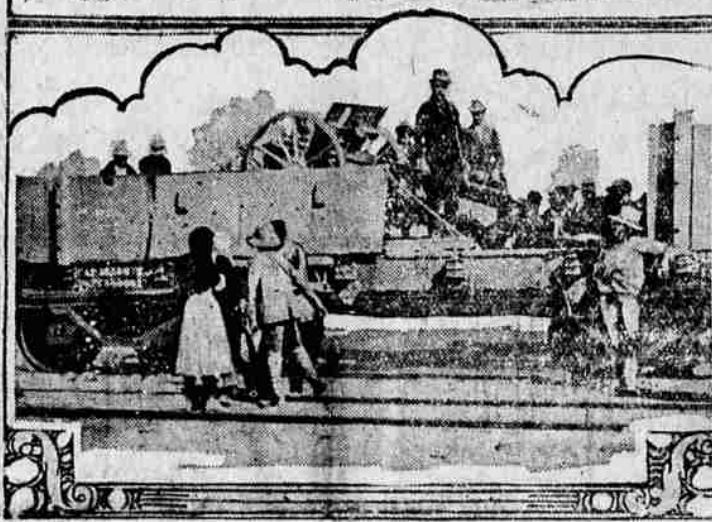
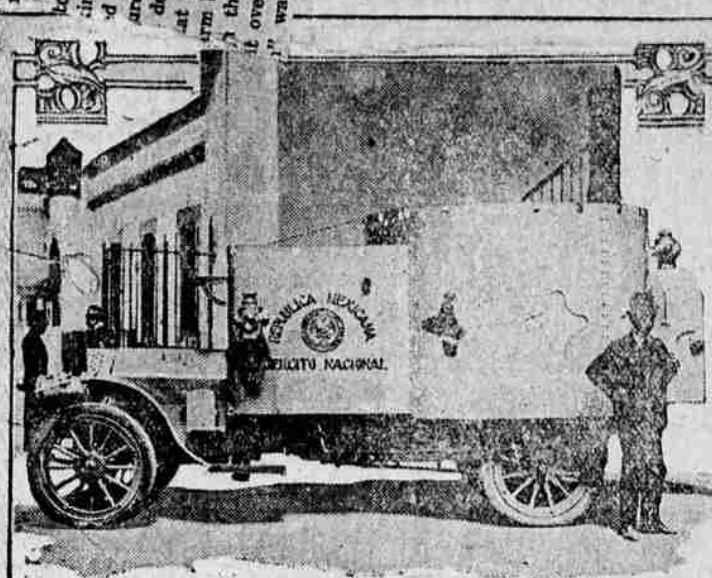
The insurance on the building was paid by the German American Insurance Co., and by a Philadelphia concern amounting to some \$3000.

STRIKE HAS FIZZLED.

Mediation Results in Settlement of Proposed Operators Strike.

That there is no further danger of a strike of operators on the O.-W., is announced from Portland where, through the efforts of the federal mediation board, an agreement to prevent a strike was reached between the O.-W. and the Order of Railway Telegraphers. Concessions made by the company include granting a schedule contract, better working conditions and a slight increase in pay for certain branches of employment.

With New Guns; Kidnaped Auto Is Kidnaped



Photos by American Press Association.

SINCE President Wilson lifted the embargo from the exportation of arms and ammunition to Mexico both sides have strengthened their armament. One of these pictures shows an up to date armored automobile purchased by the federals for use in Mexico City and suburbs. This land battleship or moving fort, as one might term it, was not so formidable as it looks, for a band of rebels is reported to have kidnaped the machine when no one was around. The other picture shows a flat car loaded with guns from the United States for the federals.

"NOT GUILTY" IS WHITNEY'S PLEA

MILLIONAIRE CLUBMAN AND RANCHER DISCLAIMS GUILT.

Under Promise of Marriage Woman Is Led from State to State.

San Francisco, March 7.—"Not Guilty" is the plea entered in federal Judge Dooling's court by J. Parker Whitney, the millionaire clubman and rancher, charged with violation of the Mann white slave act, by Mrs. Genevieve Hannan-Harris. A motion by the attorneys for the defense to dismiss the charge on the ground that the indictment did not give with certainty the means of transportation, was overruled. The case has been put over two weeks when the trial date will be set. The woman was not in the courtroom. United States District Attorney Preston promised to have her on hand when the trial commenced.

The millionaire led the woman to believe that he would marry her but on arriving in the west repudiated her. Instead of suing him for breach of promise she seeks vengeance in this manner.

MANY HEAR EXPERTS.

Prof. Jackson and President Newell of State Board in La Grande.

After a tour of the valley which resulted in speeches before interested orchardists of Cove, Union and Imbler, President Newell of the State Board of Horticulture, Prof. Jackson, of the O. A. C., and County Farm Expert C. C. Cate are in La Grande this afternoon. Late in the day they will address fruit men at the Commercial club. They had good audiences everywhere they went and propounded lessons to the orchardists relative to early spring care and prevention of blight.

Trouserless Man Worried

TRAIN SCHEDULE JOLTED BY A TROUSER HUNT.

DRUMMER IN GRIEF

Man Stopping Off in La Grande Leads to All the Worry.

A train schedule was smashed, a traveling salesman embarrassed, a Pullman conductor harassed and a pair of expensive gray trousers are wandering around somewhere in eastern Oregon, hunting an owner, as a result of United States Marshal John Montag's trip to eastern Oregon this week, says a Portland paper.

Montag left Tuesday night for La Grande to arrest a Greek charged with white slavery. In the same sleeper were Dr. Calvin S. White and Dr. Andrew Smith of the state health board; Captain William Gadsby and son. Portland furniture dealers, on their way to Europe; Assistant United States Attorney John Beckman, en route to Baker, who tells the story. After Montag retired to lower 14, his berth, an unknown traveling man, of large waist girth, boarded the train, presumably at Pendleton.

Montag left the train at La Grande about 4:30 a. m., Wednesday. An hour later the porter started making up his berth and discovered in it a pair of gray trousers of expensive weave. Captain Gadsby was stirring about and

(Continued on Page Four.)

EMPLOYEES ARE HELD FOR LOOT OF OVER \$40,000

EMPLOYEE, THIRTY YEARS IN SERVICE, IS NOW BEHIND BARS FOR PILFERING.

FLEISHNER-MAYER CO. LAUGHED AT ACCUSATION

Constable Wernberger Keeps on Trail Which Leads to Den Where Stolen Goods are Held and Sold—Other Trustees Come to Grief By Discovery—Conviction Means Prison Term.

Portland, March 7.—Wholesale thefts from Fleishner-Mayer & Co. of this city, aggregating about \$40,000, have been discovered and have resulted in the arrest of Al Howard, chief stockman and employee who has been with the company for thirty years. Harvey Estes, an employee of ten years service, has likewise been arrested and charged with larceny. Half a dozen men in a hotel were arrested as second hand men and are charged with receiving the stolen property.

Constable Wernberger has been investigating the matter for weeks, even after the owners of the store had laughed at the idea that their trusted employees were guilty of looting from the store. Howard is in jail and Estes is out on bond. A warrant has been issued for Ed. Settle, of Oakland, Oregon, who will likewise be brought to the bar of justice to answer to the charge of receiving the loot. The employees sold the stolen goods and netted a big harvest.

SEVERAL OFFICERS PROMOTED.

Ed Thomas Now Master Mechanic of La Grande O.-W. Division.

Several promotions of officials connected with the mechanical department of the O.-W. here, have been made since the resignation of Master Mechanic Ross who has gone to California. Ed Thomas, of this city, becomes master mechanic over the La Grande division. J. Burley becomes division foreman. J. Ridenaur is shop foreman and A. Duryea becomes round house foreman.

WILL PREACH AT BAKER.

Local Rector Will Visit Baker Parish Tomorrow Morning.

The Rev. Upton H. Gibbs goes to Baker, where he will hold services tomorrow for the Rev. Owen F. Jones, of St. Stephens parish, at that place. The Rev. C. H. Powell of the Cove, will take Mr. Gibbs' services here tomorrow.

Copperfield Deserted.

Copperfield is closed "tighter than a door nail." Such is the information of the station agent who prior to the governor's activity had a job as telegrapher and agent at that much advertised hamlet. Two general stores constitute the entire business that is carried on there. Not even the proverbial blacksmith shop, or the village barber shop remain to lend their activity to the revenue of the town. Nearly all of these houses have been closed and the exodus is continuing. But 52 persons remain in the town and these, according to the informant, who refused to give his name, are waiting to move as soon as they find an opening elsewhere. Copperfield will now become the mecca of the nachorite and the hum of industry will cease. It will become another theme for a Goldsmith whose immortal "Deserted Village" is a classic in most of the schools.

M'ADOO NOT ENGAGED.

Report that Eleanor Wilson Was to Become Bride Denied By Mother.

Washington, March 7.—Through her secretary, Miss Bell Hanhar, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson denied that her daughter Eleanor was engaged to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo.

Milk Tests By Students

HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY CLASS EQUIPPED.

FREE TESTS OFFERED

Farmers Can Obtain Babcock Tests of Milk at Local School.

A new feature whereby a study of the Babcock milk test is made a part of the chemistry and agriculture course has just been introduced into the science department of the high school. The apparatus for this work has been recently added to the equipment of the school and in order that it may be made as valuable as possible to the community, Mr. Maris is planning to have the work done by the students including the testing of any samples sent into the school from the county. This will bring the work directly into the practical field and at the same time render an excellent service to those who can avail themselves of this opportunity for the Babcock test. The charge made will be just large enough to cover the cost of the acid and will amount to not more than ten cents.

REPUBLICANS LEAD VOTERS

REGISTRATIONS TODAY ARE ONLY LUKEWARM.

Some Precincts Have Not a Single Registration to Date.

Registration has not been very brisk to date. The appended list partial as it is with regard to the voting strength of the county, is nevertheless some indication of the political color of this voting unit. Just how well this tabulation represents the true situation no one can tell, with certainty, but it may be assumed that most of the voters in the county have registered according to their past affiliations, and that hocus-pocus registration for political reasons has not been resorted to. The registered strength of the republican party for the county last year was 1962, for the democratic party 1114, for the progressive party 32, for the socialist party 252, for the prohibition party 32, for the independents 87. Following is the registration for the respective precincts to date:

PRECINCTS	Republican	Democrat	Progressive	Prohibition	Socialist	Independent	TOTAL
Alice	6	4					10
Antelope	2	1					3
Big Creek	1	11	4				16
Cove No. 1.	38	29	1				69
Cove No. 2.	23	23	1				48
Elgin No. 1.	11	8	3	3			25
Elgin No. 2.	16	10	2			2	30
Elgin No. 3.	8	10	1	1			20
Elgin No. 4.	17	7				1	25
Hilgard	2	2					4
Hot Lake	3	1					4
Imbler	1						1
Island City	12	7		1			20
Kamela	2	1					3
La G. No. 1.	18	10	1	3	1	2	35
La G. No. 2.	36	14	3	2		2	57
La G. No. 3.	7	6	2				15
La G. No. 4.	5	2	2			1	10
La G. No. 5.	19	13	2	3			37
La G. No. 6.	8	4	3	1	1		17
La G. No. 7.	5	1	1	1		1	8
Perry							
No. P. No. 1.							
No. P. No. 2.	1						1
Starkey	11	2		1			14
Summerville	34	21	3	3	1	2	64
Union No. 1.	15	7	2				24
Union No. 2.	18	15	2				35
Union No. 3.	10	5	2	1			18
Grand Totals	326	216	30	22	7	10	611

FARMERS LIKE PROJECT WHICH RECLAIMS SOIL

BIG ATTENDANCE AT SECOND MEETING TO ORGANIZE DRAINAGE AREA.

RAILROAD COMPANY IS WILLING TO LEND AID

Procedure is Plainly Set Out in Law—Organization of Corporation Officials is Ultimate End in View—Meeting Today Drafting Petitions and Many Signing up on Project.

Organization of an association which has for its sole but stupendous purpose the reclamation of thousands of acres of rich valley land by caring for spring floods in Catherine creek in the Union bottom lands, and dredging the Grande Ronde river near Elgin to halt inundation of big areas in the spring in that vicinity, became a near reality today. For the second time in two weeks farmers and land owners who have direct benefit in sight from such a project, have held meetings to discuss it. The meeting at the Commercial club today was largely attended.

The plan of procedure is clearly defined. The organization as it now stands sees to it that the county court is properly petitioned. Eight weeks later the court calls an election within the prescribed boundary when the financial matter will be voted on as to which course to take, and three directors chosen by popular vote. These three have all the powers an incorporated municipality has and the people within the district rule through them. About 70,000 acres will be within the area but of that acreage about 30,000 will not be subject to tax because it derives no benefit from the proposed project. In such case the owner has no voice in remonstrance. There are some objections to the plan and many questions are being asked this afternoon by men who are not familiar with the workings of the system. Every question dealing with the legislative, executive and other branches of the district is handled through the taxpayers themselves.

State Immigration Agent Brewer was in attendance this afternoon.

Railroad Company Interested.

The O.-W. has signified its intentions to help in clearing the river at Elgin of rocks, for in the end it is going to mean a tremendously increased business for them, for the reclaimed land will yearly produce crops instead of very irregularly.

One Petition Necessary.

At the outset, it was believed that five petitions to create the district could be circulated and later joined into one, but it has been found necessary to have the petition signed as one and not as five separate ones. This afternoon the petition grew in length rapidly and the desired number will be obtained, that is a mere matter of detail.

One big problem to delve into, however, is to decide whether the districts shall be bonded outright, or if a direct tax levied on the district shall be used or per chance named a certain tax to run for not more than 10 years, or as many less than that as it takes to complete the two projects.

Organization Big Topic.

The meeting this afternoon was primarily to perfect a definite organization and to talk over the best methods to pursue. That the meeting today will recommend which route it will use, is not deemed likely. The meeting was the outcome of the one two weeks ago when the plan was put up to the farmers and freely supported.

HIGH CHURCH MEN COME.

Conference of L. D. S. Sunday School and Church On.

Apostle David O. McKay and Patriarch Hiram G. Smith, of Salt Lake, arrived this morning to attend the Sunday school and church conferences of the L. D. S. church. Many are here today but tomorrow is the biggest day of either and hundreds of out of town churchmen will come from all parts of the county.