

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XIII

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COUNTY FAIR TOPIC GIVEN MUCH STUDY

STOCKHOLDERS CONVENED TO
TAKE FINAL ACTION
ABOUT FINANCES.

ANNUAL MEETINGS TO
BE HELD IN THE FALL

Good Representation of Stockholders
Present this Afternoon to Take Final
Action on County Fair Proposition—
Discussion Takes Up Many Phases
of Question.

Final disposition of the county fair
problem is being worked out this after-
noon at a meeting of stockholders in
the Union County Fair association.
When President Russel called the meet-
ing to order, the shares represented
was considerably more than necessary
for a quorum and the deliberations
were careful and exhaustive.

One of the first pieces of business
transacted was to vote to change the
annual meeting dates from the spring
to the fall, that the new officials may
have all winter to prepare for the
fair. Election of officers, financial
problems, and other questions are to
come before the meeting.

LAND OFFICE HUSTLING.

Auction Bidding Brisk When Public
Lands are Sold.

Yesterday was a busy day for the
local land office. Many of the isolated
tracts that remained on the records
of the office were disposed of. Part-
ies from many sections of the county
and adjoining counties were in attend-
ance upon the auction conducted by the
local officials, and the bidding was
brisk. Most of the sales were made
to men who had previously acquired
government land or who sought to in-
crease their holdings by purchases
of land contiguous to their present
farms.

The price averaged about \$3 per
acre, and netted the government about
a thousand dollars. The following
men were successful bidders: Jno.
Smittle of Elgin, Max Cumerman of
Enterprise, Jno. J. Burleson, a dis-
tant relative of the postmaster gen-
eral, W. E. Wigglesworth of Galloway,
Lewis E. Titus of Union.

Filings on homesteads has been
brisk since the fine weather set in and
the close of this year will find many
thousands of acres of land heretofore
owned by the government, in the hands
of private individuals.

AWARD PRIZES FRIDAY.

Northside School Contest to End at
Parent Meeting.

Members of the Parent-Teachers'
association of the North Side school,
are to meet tomorrow evening. A
special feature of the evening will
be the awarding of prizes for the best
essays written by students in the 4th,
5th, 6th and 7th grade rooms. The
winning essay will be read to the par-
ents. Unless absolutely necessary,
the parents are required not to
bring their children with them to the
meeting. Principal W. V. Connors
hopes that the meeting will be well
attended as the essays will give good
entertainment and much business of
importance is to be considered. The
teachers in that building from 4th
grade to 7th inclusive are, respective-
ly: Miss Wilson, Miss Bonnell, Mrs.
Dryborough and Principal Connors.

Woman Completes Big Project On Time

Tacoma, March 19.—Signalizing the
entrance of woman in a new sphere of
activity, that of engineering, Mrs.
Nelson Bennet today turned over to
the Northern Pacific the completed
Point Defiance tunnel which shortens
the Tacoma-Portland line and greatly

reduces the grades. Upon the death
of Nelson Bennet, a pioneer railroad
builder, last July, his wife assumed
the contract's obligations and finished
the million dollar project on scheduled
time. She employed 300 men and
was personally on the job from 8 to
10 hours daily.

ALBANY OFFICIALS CONFISCATE LARGE QUANTITIES OF LIQUOR

Albany, Ore., March 19. — Eight
hundred and forty-two pints of whis-
key were confiscated on the order of
the circuit court, under the law re-
quiring liquor shipped into a dry terri-
tory to be labeled as such. The con-

tents of the bottles were emptied into
the sewer by the sheriff.

Last night Chief of Police Austin
disposed of fifty pint bottles which
he seized from a dray on the street,
and which were consigned to a local
drug store.

COUNTY READY TO PAY CASH

ALL OUTSTANDING WARRANTS
TO BE CALLED.

Scalp, as Well as Road Fund Warrants
Now Cash Value.

County warrants, scalp general
and road warrants are going to be
called in by County Treasurer John
Frawley, which will, when paid, leave
the county entirely free from debt.
These outstanding warrants amount to
about \$25,000, and are not very old,
most of them being not over two
months in existence.

Sixteen years ago the county had an
indebtedness of \$280,000 on which it
was paying 10 and 12 per cent inter-
est and for which it was getting noth-
ing. For a dollar's worth of work, con-
tractors charged from \$1.50 to \$2.00,
owing principally to the value of its
warrants, which were considerably be-
low par. Now the county is enabled to
run things on a cash basis and the con-
tractor figures a dollar's work of labor
or material for a dollar in money, thus
saving the county annually not only
the interest it would have to pay on
bonds, but over calculations on the
part of the contractor to make up for
the difference in value of warrants.

MRS. WILSON BETTER.

Washington, March 19.—That Mrs.
Woodrow Wilson's case has not taken
a turn for the worse, as rumored last
night, was asserted at the White
House today.

UNKNOWN SHIP SINKS AT SEA

ALL ON BOARD GO DOWN TO
WATERY GRAVE.

Wilhelm der Grosse Collides With
Schooner in North Sea.

Ostend, Germany, March 19.—Col-
iding in a dense fog with the German
liner Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, an
unidentified schooner sank in the
North sea with all on board. The lin-
er was not damaged, according to a
wireless received here.

The captain stated the three master
ank so quickly that the boats lowered
by the great liner could be of no as-
sistance. How many perished is un-
known.

MILL REPORT BY COMMERCE HEAD "FALSE"

SUCH IS CHARGE BY REPRESEN-
TATIVE HUMPHREY ON
HOUSE FLOOR.

SEC. REDFIELD GIVEN
GRILLING FOR REPORT

Humphrey, of Washington, Defends
Recent Charge that Commerce Sec-
retary Falsified His Report on Shin-
gle Mill Industry in Washington—
Former Policy Criticized.

Washington, March 19.—Represent-
ative Humphrey, of Washington, to-
day accepted the challenge of democ-
rats to prove his statement that Sec-
retary of Commerce Redfield had "fal-
sified" in a letter to congress on his in-
vestigators findings on conditions in
the Washington shingle industry.

He charged that the investigator had
used "the disreputable and contempti-
ble method of reporting behind an-
onymous witnesses" and criticized the
secretary for accepting such evidence.

Quoting freely from the investiga-
tors' report and from parallel refer-
ence in the letter Redfield sent to con-
gress, Humphreys declared he had
proved conclusively that the main
statements of Redfield were contra-
dicted in the report.

"An ex parte statement based on
anonymous evidence," he said, "is
used only by cowards, character as-
sassin and expert political investi-
gators."

Redfield said that stagnation in the
shingle industry was not mainly at-
tributable to tariff removal, as Hum-
phrey had charged on the floor some
time ago. Humphrey today averred
that Redfield's own investigation had
shown conclusively:

That 80 per cent of the Washing-
ton mills were closed; that the British
Columbia mills opened when the tariff
wall was removed; that in December
the state had more idle men than ever
before.

"It is hard to tell whether this in-
vestigator was blindly partial inten-
tionally dishonest or intentionally
dull," Humphrey remarked, after indi-
cating Redfield's alleged discrepan-
cies.

Incidentally he walloped the democ-
ratic domestic and foreign policies,
saying:

"Everywhere the country is suffer-
ing from the democratic administra-
tion. The souphouse has started.
Such is the condition at home after
one year of democratic rule, under
the benign influences of the 'new free-
dom.'"

"Our foreign policy has become a
national disgrace. We stand dis-
tricted, discredited, our prestige de-
stroyed abroad. A frantic effort is
now being made to cover up the ego-
tistical stupidity of this adminis-
tration with the Hay-Pauncefote treaty.
To such low estate have we fallen
that at the price of self respect we
are trying to purchase friendship. In
this, as we look at conditions at home
and abroad, it has become, indeed, a
proud distinction to be an American
citizen."

More Victims Recovered.

St. Louis, March 15. — After 37
hours' burial under the ruins of the
Athletic club walls, which fell this
week, killing many outright, G. Burke
was taken out alive today but died two
hours later in an emergency hospital.
Burke was a workman in the Seed
company which suffered from the crash.

Public Dance Edict Passed

DEFINITION OF PUBLIC HALL
GIVEN.

MANAGERS MUST PAY

"Ragging" Ordinance Bans all "Lewd,
Immoral" Dances.

Every hall in La Grande which is
used for dances, to gain admission to
which guests must pay, is hereafter
governed by an "anti-ragging" ordi-
nance and each of such halls must pay
a yearly license. The ordinance was
passed by the city commission last
evening and specifically states that all
halls charging admission to their
dances shall be deemed to be public
dance halls. The title of the ordi-
nance is "regulation of 'public' dance
halls and academies," yet the meaning
of the word public is made clear in a
subsequent paragraph. The yearly
license is \$100, payable semi-annually.

In defining "public" dance hall, the
ordinance goes on to say:
"Any room or place where dancing
is regularly carried on or conducted
or which is leased, let or rented for
hire where admission fee is charged,
for attending any dance therein, either
as participant or spectator under the
provisions of this ordinance shall be
deemed a public dance hall, and any
room or place where dancing lessons
or instructions in dancing shall be
given for hire or any money or stipend
received therefor, shall be deemed a
dancing academy."

"Any person or persons who shall
organize, promote or conduct any
dance hall or ball for profit or shall
charge or receive any admission fee for
attendance at such dance or ball either
for participants or spectators, or shall
sell any tickets for the same shall ob-
tain a license from the city recorder
and pay in to the city treasury for
each dance the sum of \$5.00.

"Any 'rag' dances which in their na-
ture have immoral or lewd tendencies
or are offensive to common decency,
are prohibited and all persons pro-
moting or allowing or engaging in
such dances shall be deemed guilty of
violating this ordinance."

The ordinance places a ban on sell-
ing or bringing intoxicating liquors
into any dance room or hall.

No pass-out checks which will al-
low any person re-admission to the
hall after once having left it, shall be
issued at any public dance, and unless
the person is willing to again pay the
admission fee, he cannot leave the
room and return.

The fine is from \$10 to \$100.

Various other matters came up for
consideration by the commission.
Manager Lafky was given a leave of
absence until Monday and City Treas-
urer N. J. Mansager has been named
temporary manager. The monthly es-
timate on the Second street sewer for

(Continued From Page 4.)

PRIMARY FOES LOSE IN FIGHT

INDIANA DEMOCRATS PUT IN
PRIMARY PLANK.

Heavy Pressure Wins at End of An
All Night Session.

Indianapolis, March 19. — Indiana
democrats have given in to the pres-
sure from president and presidential
lieutenants and adopted a primary
election plank.

After an all-night session the democ-
ratic state convention this morning
at 5 o'clock adopted a state-wide pri-
mary plank. The demands from the
Indiana congressional delegation, the
president and others as well, prevailed
in the end. Thirteen committeemen
opposed the plank but finally agreed
on its insertion.

BOND BUYERS OFFER BONUS OF 2 PER CENT

IMPROVEMENT BONDS SOLD
LAST NIGHT AT FANCY
PREMIUM FIGURE.

TOTAL BLOCK AMOUNTS
TO MORE THAN \$47,000

Portland Trust & Savings Bank
Through F. L. Meyers of this City,
Presents Successful Bid on Big
Block of Improvement Bonds—Com-
mission Transacts Much Work.

Improvement bonds on Spring ave-
nue and Second street and the West
side sewer, reaching a grand total of
\$47,392.61, were sold last night by the
city commission at a fancy figure of
about 2 percent premium. F. L. Mey-
ers, cashier of the La Grande National
bank, presented the successful bid on
the bonds for the Portland Trust &
Savings bank, and that bid was
promptly accepted. In sharp contrast
to the eastern bids opened and read,
the bid presented by the local banker
offered premiums. Two eastern money
houses bid for the total bond issue but
in each instance asked for heavy legal
inspection fees. The bids opened were
as follows:

F. L. Meyers for the Portland Trust
& Savings company, par and accrued
interest plus \$902.55.

Sidney-Spitzer Co., of Toledo, par
and accrued interest less \$940.00 for
legal inspection fees.

F. F. Parr, Chicago, par and accrued
interest and \$710.99 for legal fees.

Warren Construction company (for
Second street block of bonds) par and
accrued interest.

CURFEW LAW PROPOSED.

Fire Bell to Ring 15 Minutes Before
Curfew Hour.

The curfew law ordinance came up
for its second reading and will be
passed at the next meeting. It pro-
vides that the fire alarm bell shall be
rung nine or ten times 15 minutes be-
fore the curfew hour. This hour, from
September 1st to April 30th, is 9
o'clock, and for the balance of the
year is 10 o'clock. The parents or
guardians, and not children under 18
years of age, are responsible and they
alone must stand the responsibility.
The punishment is from \$2.00 to \$25.00
fine for each offense.

Circulators Have Serious Problems.

Grief of a candidate's petition cir-
culator is serious in La Grande.
Scarcely any men, and fewer women,
have registered and thus a vast ma-
jority of the citizens are unqualified
to sign nominating petitions. C. W.
P. Ellsworth, who does most of the cir-
culating of petitions in La Grande, is
stumped, day after day. New peti-
tions are coming in, and those already
in his possession are clamored for
by the owners. This is especially true
of state job candidates who have sent
their petitions to La Grande. A mere
handful have registered.

While men are slow to register
throughout the county the women are
even more so. A very small percent
of registrations thus far made are by
women, and the primary vote will be
extremely light unless registrations
pick up. Nearly all sections of the
state report greater registrations than
prevail in Union county.