

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XIII.

LA GRANDE, OREGON TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1914.

NUMBER 243.

TAX PENALTIES APPLIED BEFORE FALL HELD INVALID

JUDGE CLEETON DECLARES PENALTY AFTER APRIL FIRST CANNOT BE LEGALLY COLLECTED

Portland, March 24.—Circuit Judge Cleeton has held that penalties of one

GIRL WANTS BIG DONATION.

Asks for 160 Acre Farm With Spring, and Million Feet of Timber Etc.

By answering the appended letter received by the land office, the person who gives the information to the young woman in question, may not only win an ambitious woman, but may also help to enjoy the property which she wishes Uncle Sam to donate her.

As a sample of legal innocence, and of faith in a benign government this letter is a prize winner. The officials in the land office replied to the letter in the most gracious manner, but were sorry to inform her that they knew of no such tract and that if any had ever existed, someone had taken it long ago. It was evidently a case of having heard the bells ringing but of not knowing where they were. Following is the text of the letter:

Prosser, Wash., March 6, 1914.—J. S. Land Commissioner, Baker City, Ore. Dear Sir: I should like to locate the following piece of property if it is possible: 160 acres in Baker Co. in valley, nearly level

(Continued on Page Four.)

DELINQUENTS PAYING CLAIMS

IGNORANCE OF CLAIMS SAID TO BE CONSIDERABLE.

Notice Sent to Those Delinquent by Holder of County Tax Claims.

The purchaser of Union County delinquent tax claims is already publishing summons of liens on property on which the taxes have not been paid. Mr. Chas. H. Marsh of Pendleton recently purchased by contract all of the delinquent tax claims of the county and some of them that are three years old are subject to foreclosure.

Many of the items are small ones, but unless the parties pay the claim the procedure will be the same. Nearly all of the prominent property owners of the valley are included in the list.

In many instances parties whose names had been on the list of delinquent taxpayers did not know that such was the case. In some instances the delinquency came through the transfer of property on which taxes had not been paid or through an oversight on the part of an attorney who had been charged with the duty to see that all things were proper.

This morning a number of these had come to the office and paid the county's claim stating at the same time that they had no idea that any claim existed against them.

All of the 1907 and 1908 claims are enforceable at the present time and others will run a year or two before they are subject to foreclosure. All delinquent taxpayers will be notified of the fact and will have an opportunity to come in and settle, and thereby forestall the payment of interest.

percent a month imposed by the 1913 legislature on taxes unpaid before April first are invalid. He granted a restraining order against tax collector Lewis, enjoining the latter from collecting the penalty.

Cleeton held that the taxes don't become delinquent until September first, that penalties can be collected only on delinquent taxes. The decision is expected to throw the state into a turmoil.

MARRIAGE BY FORCE CLEAR

CATHOLIC PRIEST MARRIED AT PISTOL POINT.

Slander of a Woman Leads to Forced Marriage Says Affidavit.

Buffalo, March 24.—With two regiments of militia assembled at the armories for strike duty, comparative quiet reigned in Lancaster following the riots in which one man was killed and many injured when strikebreakers destined for the Gould coupler plant were bombarded with bricks and other missiles and forced to return to Buffalo.

Guarded by a battalion of the 74th regiment of infantry, a work train was sent to the plant where a group of strikers, overawed by the aspect of the militia, gathered silently but made no attempt to attack them. Less than two hundred strikebreakers are working. Promiscuous shooting occurred during the night, and several were wounded on both sides.

ROBERT E. RUSSELL.

Commander of Battleship South Carolina Sent to Haiti.



Minam Dam Will Not be Blown Out But Fishways Will be Built This Spring

Fishways are to be constructed over the Minam hatchery dam as a result of the visit to Eastern Oregon of Floyd Bilyeu, chairman of the Fish and Game commission, and State Game Warden Evans. This positive statement is perhaps subject to modification but the modification will not be made. Two courses lie before the commission when it is called together as soon as the chairman reaches Portland; either build the fishway or blow out the dam. Wanton destruction of the valuable dam sight when fishways will accomplish the desired end, is not, in the minds of local sportsmen, or in the mind of the chairman, the thing to do. "I shall urgently press upon the commission to do one or the other, and I feel it will not be the blowout process," said Chairman Bilyeu this morning before leaving for Pendleton.

The present crisis in the dam question came about by the general uprising in Wallowa county against the dam which is said to have destroyed steelhead salmon and rainbow trout fishing.

Threats have been freely made in Wallowa county to blow out the dam if the commission didn't take some action. This action is about to be taken and will consist of fishways of concrete, likely, and will be built as soon as possible so that this Spring's run of fish can get over the dam and penetrate the up-river districts. This is the recommendation that the chairman will make, and he has no reason to believe that they will not prevail.

Power Site Wanted.

While in Wallowa county, Chairman Bilyeu had several good offers from firms and corporations to lease the power site. This may be the final outcome, in which event the cost of the fishway will be reimbursed and added revenue accrue to the state game fund. The state owns 240 acres near here, and that long-lease contracts can be obtained is deemed a certainty. If the dam is torn out, this power would go to waste.

The salmon hatchery will no doubt

be converted into a mountain trout hatchery for Eastern Oregon, in keeping with the same theory.

Much of this detail was gone over last evening when the Wing, Fin & Fleetfoot club was host to the chairman state game warden, and Deputies Hazeltine of Canyon City, Jackson of Wallowa, Averill of Pendleton and Leffel of La Grande. After partaking of a toothsome meal the sportsmen settled down to a series of interesting speeches on sporting topics. Mr. Bilyeu and Mr. Evans each promised Eastern Oregon more attention from the state department than it has been receiving and asked for suggestions from this section.

Mr. Bilyeu assured the local sportsmen that it would be the policy of the present commission to spend all the money that the hunting and fishing licenses bring in each year, and not horde any of it. The entire game commission is maintained by the sportsmen alone, the last legislature not making a cent of appropriation. In 1913 the revenues from licenses was not all used up and this the new commission proposes to put to some use for the benefit of the sportsmen, who alone support the game protection and game commission.

Mr. Bilyeu predicted that the elk on Billie Meadows would soon be turned loose to forage for themselves and that the mountains of this district are to be stocked with mountain goat, which make good hunting.

Other speakers for the evening were:

Judge J. W. Knowles, J. M. Kohl, president of the local club, J. H. Jackson, deputy for Wallowa L. M. Hoyt, Ed Myrissick, Chas. B. Orsi, former deputy E. F. Averill, district deputy with headquarters at Pendleton, H. I. Hazeltine deputy for Grant county, P. A. Foley and F. D. Haisten. Informal discussions on the subject in hand followed the regular speech program.

LOCAL BUSINESSMEN DESIRE TO HELP BUILD COUNTY ROADS

Good roads' day, originating among the automobile men of the state, has taken firm root everywhere. Pressure is being brought to bear on Governor West to have April 10th appointed as a roads day throughout the state, and on that date the plan is to depopulate the cities of men who will, for the day, become road makers under expert generalship. In Portland it has been much talked of, and in La Grande the plan is taking well. If the day is set aside, there is no question but that an array of men will drop their office and store duties for a day and hie to the roads. In other states where this plan has been tried, great sport has resulted for those who climb into overalls and much benefit done to the roads.

Ladies Often Assist.

In many states, women club's furnish picnic dinners for the workers, affording much enjoyment for the ladies as well.

The piece of road to be "tackled" if road day prevails, will likely be the worst sections of the Hot Lake road, and the up river roads, the "workers" being divided into groups. Union, Elgin, Imbler and all the other districts of the valley will be appealed in the scheme if a state-wide road

day is established as is now planned. Bird Lewis is one of those promoting the plan locally and is confident it will result in much good. Members of the Union County Automobile Club are also supporters of it.

KEEFER TAXI OWNER CHARGED.

The Keefe taxi was the first automobile concern to feel the ban on speeding. Proprietor Keefe was arrested this morning charged with speeding, and his case was set for this afternoon. Up to the time of going to press the case had not come up for trial.

PROHIBITION LECTURE HERE.

Tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock at the M. E. Church J. Bolster will talk on Prohibition.

Manager Lafky Home.

City Manager F. J. Lafky returned yesterday from Salem where he visited with his family a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Heuston Parents.

Professor Heuston principal of the Elgin schools and Mrs. Heuston are the proud parents of a nine pound girl, born this morning at the Grande Ronde hospital. Both mother and child are reported doing nicely.

FEDERALS DRIVEN TO THE LAST STAND IN TORREON

REBEL ADVANCE HAS BEEN RAPID-BATTLE IS TERRIFIC AND VICTORY FOR REBELS IS NEAR

Gomez Palaces, Mexico, March 24.—Driven within the last defenses of Torreon, the federals are making their last stand against the rebels. The fight for Gomez palace raged with great fury for a period of forty hours and ended with the complete route of the federals at 5 a. m.

The onslaught of the rebels was so terrific that the federals saw the hopelessness of the situation and sounded the command for retreat. The

rebels were on their heels, and killed many in their flight. Villa did his utmost to get between them and the city's defenses but failed. Many were cut down and killed or taken prisoner, but the main body reached the fortifications safely.

The attack on Torreon proper began immediately? Villa estimates that the federal losses were fifteen hundred killed wounded and captured. He did not state his own losses.

MISSION CROWDS GROW.

There was a very perceptible increase in the congregation last night to hear the Rev. Father T. J. Brady, Apostolic-missionary, who is giving the mission this week in the Catholic church for the women of the parish. Last night he spoke with emphasis and power on the dread subject of mortal sin picturing the sad consequences that overtook the sinner. He referred to the sin of the angels, the sin of Adam and Eve, and showed how the anger and the displeasure of Heaven fell upon them as a consequence of their guilt, warning the people that the same miseries would overtake all those who set the laws of God aside to follow their own perverse will and minds. He stated that the nations should take warning from the fate that overtook Egypt, Babylon, Rome and Greece because of their contempt for the laws of the Creator.

The speaker then alluded in vigorous language to the depraved tendencies of so-called Christian men and women of today. His discourse was a brilliant exposure of modern society, recklessly following the behests of passion and spurning everything that meant self-control.

Tonight the Reverend Father Brady will speak upon man's last act, "Death."

HENRY SIEGEL.

New York, Boston and Chicago Merchant Who Failed.



Photo by American Press Association

GIRL ANNOYED BY THREE MEN

POLICE LIE IN WAIT FOR PARTICIPANTS.

North Side Girl Halted on Streets and Submitted to Insults is Charge.

Chief of Police Howard Avant and Officer Tom Driscoll lay under a wagon on a North Side street last night and witnessed three young men tantalize and annoy a girl of 16 who was on her way home from up town. When the officers had seen enough to insure conviction, they sprang from their hiding places and corralled the three young men who gave their names as Henry Payne, Anson Hager and Glen Eachson. The three were jailed for the night and this afternoon arraigned in municipal court. The girl, daughter of a well known fireman, was seriously annoyed, the police say. The men prevented her free access of the streets pinched her, said insulting things, the police say, and attempted to stage a "ragging" party on the street. The police officers were returning from a call to the North Side when they spied the proceedings and hid themselves to get more evidence.

The boys were arraigned this afternoon and will stand trial at 5 p. m.