

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## DAMAGES FOR DEATH HAS NO LIMIT—COURT

NEW INTERPRETATION GIVEN TO THE OREGON LIABILITY LAW BY TRIBUNAL

## TWELVE THOUSAND GIVEN TO ROSEBURG LITIGANT

Damages for Deaths no Longer Confined to a Stipulated Sum but Under the New Law Can Be Any Sum, With Certain Conditions—Supreme Court Decides Issues.

Salem, April 7.—Two important features of the Employers' Liability act have been interpreted by the supreme court in affirming the verdict of the lower court awarding J. P. McClaugherty \$12,500 damages against the Rogue River Electrical company for the death of his son, killed while working as a lineman. The court held, "there is no limit to the amount of damages that may be awarded under this law, when the employer attempts other means than those prescribed by the law for the safety of the employes."

## ASSAULT IS ALLEGED.

Two Ladd Canyon Men Will Be Arraigned on Assault Charge.

Constable I. N. Faulk made a long trip yesterday to serve papers on Mike and Elmer Morris and John Doe, who are charged with assault. The prosecuting witness, H. Eichenberger, alleges that he was hit by a stone thrown by one of the defendants and afterwards held by two of the defendants while the third beat him.

The fight is said to have taken place over in the Ladd Canyon district, where Mr. Faulk had gone to serve the papers. The preliminary hearing is set for tomorrow forenoon.

## CHIEF ON FURLOUGH.

W. W. Randall Will Act as Chief for 15 Days to Rest Avant.

Chief of Police Avant was today given a 15 days' furlough and Manager Lafky has named W. W. Randall as acting chief. Mr. Avant will spend a few days in Harney county before returning to his post.

## ST. JOHNS, OREGON, ELECTS A SOCIALIST MAYOR BY 34 VOTES

St. Johns, April 7.—Dr. A. W. Vincent, a Socialist, was elected mayor yesterday by a majority of 34, according to the complete count.

Salem, April 7.—W. S. Hamilton and W. H. Fisher of Roseburg, both Democrats, have filed for representative from Douglas county, W. H. Lafferty of Corvallis has filed for Republican representative of Benton county.

Birmingham, Ala., April 7.—That Oscar Underwood, majority leader in the house and presidential timber in 1912, defeated Pearson Hobson the Merrimac hero for the United States Senatorship by at least 22,000 in yes-

## Woman Lawmaker Likes Home Best

LADY OF POLITICAL ACTION HERE

## IS DEMOCRATIC

First Woman Legislator of Wyoming Desires to Home Life.

Mrs. Mary G. Bellmay of Laramie, Wyo., is in the city on her way to attend the funeral of her brother-in-law, Ed. Wornstaff of Elgin who died last Thursday. Mr. Wornstaff was in Laramie some time ago and there moved to Union county to settle in Elgin where he has since lived. Mr. Wornstaff leaves an invalid wife who was injured in a runaway accident about a year ago. Mrs. Mary G. Bellmay has the distinction of being the first woman legislator in the legislature of Wyoming. She was the first Democrat to win from her district and the largest vote of any man in the office at the time. She is on the committee of education, libraries, also on the committee of credentials and the building committee. The appointment to the committee of finance was also given her but she resigned in favor of another legislator from her district. Mrs. Bellmay is of the opinion that legislating is not for women, that it is too strenuous. She is not now serving, having declined the honor of re-election which her friends think she could have gotten.

## McKinzie Denied Retrial.

Judge Knowles yesterday denied the motion of McKinzie for a new trial the style of the original case was that of Becker vs. McKinzie and was a suit for conversion of property. The defendant in the original suit converted timothy seed on which the plaintiff had given a mortgage, one day prior to the falling due of the mortgage. The plaintiff got a verdict at the last term of court. It has not been learned whether the defendant will appeal to the supreme court or not. Turner Oliver represented the defendant in that case.

## School Inspection Continues.

County Superintendent of Schools Mrs. A. E. Ivanhoe and Miss Rosine Vreeland, state nurse and inspector of sanitary conditions in schools, left this morning for North Powder, where the latter will look after the sanitary conditions of the schools and the health of the children. Miss Vreeland is inspecting all of the schools of the state and will finish Union county before leaving.

## WAITRESS BURNS TO DEATH AS HOTEL GOES UP IN SMOKE

Hanging Across Sill of Third Story Window, Life is Snuffed Out as Spectators Stand Helplessly By

Condon, Oregon, April 7.—One life was lost and several were injured in a fire that early this morning destroyed the Oregon Hotel. The origin of the blaze is not known but started in the laundry rooms of the hotel. The entire wood structure was ablaze in twenty minutes and the whole block was saved with difficulty. Lodgers escaped in their night clothes, and it was thought every one had escaped when two waitresses appeared at a third story window. One dropped to

the ground safely, and the other, Gertrude Hortas, overcome by the heat, fell across the window sill and hung there burning to death in sight of everybody. She couldn't be saved. A deep moan swayed the crowd as the flames gradually leaped upon her clothes and converted her lythe body to cinders. Women fainted and men shouted for ladders, but all to no avail. The dry wood building burned like tinder and any attempt to save her life would have cost another.

## FEBELS HARASS TORREON CLERGY

Eagle Pass, April 7.—Panic stricken priests are arriving from Mexico and stating that the Constitutionalists warfare about Torreón is assuming the character of an anti-clerical crusade. At Durango they dug up the bodies of all archbishops and divested them of the ornaments and rings and whatever other valuable metal may have been attached to their sacerdotal robes.

## Shehan Wants Job.

Sam Pace one of the most rock-ribbed Democrats of Wallowa county is in the city seeking to obtain signatures of the petition of Sam Shehan who desires to become joint representative of Union and Wallowa counties.

## Finance Quickly Raised.

The Finance Committee of the Union church of Island City met last night and in the space of one hour succeeded in raising \$500. They expect to raise another \$1,500 with which to pay the debts of the church and make necessary improvements, and additions to the building.

## LOUIS D. BRANDEIS.

Boston Lawyer and Expert in Railroad Rates.



## Thief Selects Prize Equine

GRAND PRIZE WINNER STOLEN BUT RECOVERED.

## OWNER'S SON SEES THEFT

By Coincidence J. E. Reynolds Today Has His Famous Mare.

Consummate nerve and thievery was exercised for naught by an unknown horsethief Sunday evening when a prize winning mare belonging to J. E. Reynolds was led from the ranch barn and headed toward Hood River. By a mere coincidence the theft was discovered by Earl Reynolds, son of Mr. Reynolds who was going out to the Reynold's ranch when he espied a man leading a horse which in its gait and general contour greatly resembled one of the best horses on the Reynolds ranch. It was moonlight and when within a short distance of the man leading the animal, he accosted him and asked him where he was going. "I am going to Hood River," he replied and began to show signs of uneasiness. "But," said Earl, "you had better turn that horse over to me." The horse thief beginning to feel that he had been trapped, stammered: "Well, but the halter is mine." "Then get your halter off that mare and turn her over to me," Earl commanded whereupon the horse thief did as he was ordered and ran across country out of harm's way.

The incident was so startling that Earl thought only of the safety of the mare at the time being and thought little of alarming the police of the theft. When the mare had been put in the pasture, he notified authorities but no trace of the thief has been found.

The mare is an unusually valuable one, inasmuch as she took the grand champion prize for mares at the state fair at Salem, last year.

## TWO FORMER POLICEMEN PUT UNDER ARREST FOR FIGHTING

Bad blood between two former members of the La Grande police force, Tom Driscoll and B. A. Bennet, last night led to their arrest by Chief of Police Avant. A fight indirectly over the city administration led to the arrest of the men and today both paid a fine of \$5.00 for disorderly conduct. Three months ago the foundation was laid for the fracas last night. About that long since Bennet was removed from duty by City Manager Lafky, and it is said that Bennet has been free with criticism against the administration since. Shortly after his release, a letter was written from La Grande to Governor West relative to alleged disorderly houses and other matters, and the signature to the copy of the letter sent back to La Grande by Governor West was "B. A. B." It has been generally supposed that Bennet wrote the letter, though nothing is known to guarantee the statement other than the similarity in initials. The contents of the letter dealt principally with an affidavit given by a Wallowa county man who entered a Northside hotel understanding it to be immoral and learned that while prices charged for rooms were high, he had to admit, he found no immorality but claimed he had been fleeced out of his money. This affidavit "B. A. B." had included in his letter to West.

Driscoll Out Since April 1st. Driscoll has been out of service since April 1st, not because of any dissatisfaction with his work by the administration but because of ill

health. Last evening he and Bennet were discussing what is purported to have been a petition asking for the removal of City Manager Lafky the principal signers of which it is said, are men who have been removed from city payrolls for one cause or another, and their relations. The police story goes that Bennet struck Driscoll a blow in the face and that Driscoll responded with an upper cut to the jaw that stretched the tall man full length on the pavement. Both were arrested and later gave \$20 bonds to appear in court this morning, and Judge Eakin fined each \$5.00. The chief was present at the time, having been perusing the petition which Bennet had in his possession. Those who have seen it say there are in the neighborhood of 15 signers.

## PERRY SAWMILL IS RUNNING

"Full blast" is the way General George Stoddard has things humming at Perry where the Grande Ronde Lumber company is located. For several days the mill has been operated, after its winter' layoff, at half capacity but today both sides are going full tilt, and about 200 men are drawing wages from the company as a result.

Sawmill business generally is picking up throughout Eastern Oregon. The Nibley-Minnaugh mill at Wal-

## MANY SUBMIT LOW BIDS FOR NEW BUILDING

LOCAL CONTRACTOR BESTS BIG LIST OF BIDDERS FOR Y. M. C. A. CONTRACT.

## LOWEST BID IS BELOW TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND

Four Closely Bunched, but Two Local Contractors Figure in the Lowest—Final Acceptance Not Made but Such Steps Will Be Taken in Due Time.

G. H. Rush a local contractor who has put up two of the big buildings in La Grande recently, computed the lowest bid for the construction of the Y. M. C. A. building, when the bids were opened by the building committee last evening. The Rush bid was \$24,487 and the general opinion among the Y. M. C. A. directors is that the figure is very reasonable. It is considerably below the estimate prepared by Architect Bloch.

While the building committee deferred final acceptance of the Rush bid, such action is sure to follow and within the course of a day or two the final contract will be entered into, barring unforeseen exigencies.

Less than 400 separated the four lowest bidders. These four bids were all under \$25,000 and among the four low men were two La Grande contractors W. C. Hanson being third low. Portland, Boise and Gooding, Idaho were represented among the bidders from out of town. All the bids opened last evening were:

G. H. Rush, La Grande	\$24,487.00
J. H. Tillman, Portland	24,860.00
W. C. Hansen, La Grande	24,942.00
E. R. Evans, Gooding	24,980.00
I. F. Douglas, La Grande	26,534.00
J. L. Slater, La Grande	26,634.75
S. R. Haworth, La Grande	28,434.00
Story & Murphey, Boise	22,450.00

\*Does not include heating and plumbing, an item of about \$5,500.

Computing the cost of the building at \$25,000 every cent and more, of the amount contributed by public subscriptions last fall will be needed to "get out of the red." The amount subscribed was \$40,100. Of that amount \$10,500 went for site \$1,200 for excavation gravel and sands, which items are not included in the building bids, \$5,000 will be needed for furnishings and about \$25,000 for the building. Collection expenses are not provided for and it is easily seen that there will not be a cent's margin, provided every subscription is collected.