

La Grande Evening Observer

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

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WATER FAMINE HAS BECOME SERIOUS

FROZEN WATER SUPPLY HURTS PERRY SAWMILL

UNABLE TO RUN BECAUSE THE
RIVER HAS BEEN DEPLETED
OF WATER.

TRAIN SERVICE OUT OF KILTER BY EASTERN COLD

Four Thousand Feet of Service Pipe
Frozen up and City Equips Itself
With Electrical Appliances — Sit-
uation Serious in Pendleton and
Elsewhere—All Small Streams Dry.

HELP NEEDED.

With Beaver creek practi-
cally empty, and the Grande
Ronde river down nine inches
in three days, and with every
inch of water that can be obtain-
ed being pumped into the mains
and even then only a feeble sup-
ply resulting, it has become nec-
essary to appeal to water users
for assistance. The city officials
are all in their power to save
water, but waste in some instances is noted
by reason that water users open
faucets at night to keep them
from freezing. "We are doing
all we can to supply water, but
we must keep fire protection up,"
said Water Superintendent Hoyt today. "If water
users will spare every drop of
water possible it will help im-
mensely. We cannot afford to
let fire protection become weak-
ened, and at the present rate
the limited supply of water is
being used up, our efforts are
in vain."

The ice in the river is being
cut out and the dam enlarged.
A large crew of men are at
work today removing the river
ice, but at the same time the
river is sinking, due to the
almost complete shutoff of sup-
ply in the mountains.
"If stop and wastes are
used, prevention of freezing has
been taken to as great an ex-
tent as leaving the faucets
open," agree plumbers and the
water office. It is imperative
in the face of a complete loss
of water that every consumer
be as economical as possible
with city water.

Union county's snow famine has
extended its tentacles to the sawmill
industry; the general freeze-up
throughout has demoralized train ser-
vice; La Grande is drinking river
water because the mountain streams
have dried up and now the Grande
Ronde river is rapidly diminishing in
volume because the little feeders in
the mountains are dry as bone.
The water supply at the Grande
Ronde Lumber company pond at Perry
is gone, and it is impossible to
operate the mill. For several days
the logging engine was required to
haul water to the camps as the sup-
ply usually taken from the small
streams nearby was exhausted for
lack of snow. Just when the mill
will resume operations depends upon
the speed with which the weather
moderates, or the promptness with
which snow falls.

While extreme cold has been pre-
valent throughout the Northwest for
two weeks, real winter began only
today.

Moderation Felt Last Night.
There was an appreciable modera-
tion in the weather in La Grande last
night, for which those who have froz-
en water systems are much elated.
There are about 4000 feet of service
pipe frozen up and the water depart-
ment has been swamped. Today
electric equipment was set up and it
is believed that the fight against
frost will now progress much more
rapidly from now on.

Individuals by the score are with-
out water. In a great number of in-
stances the frost caught the service
pipe in the street where it is impos-
sible to thaw them out without dig-
ging trenches, or with electric equip-
ment. Plumbers have simply been un-
able to even approach the calls sent
in for help. Burst pipes are in
many instances creating great havoc.
Scores of homes are without water.
Trains from the West were con-

Germany Threatens English Marine

By KARL WEIGAN.
(Copyrighted 1914, United Press,
United States and Great Britain.)
Grand General Headquarters of the
Kaiser in France, Dec. 2.—via The
Hague to New York, Dec. 23.—(De-
layed for review by general staff.)—
"The United States raised no voice in
protest and has taken but little or no
action against the closing of the
North Sea by Great Britain to neu-
tral shipping. What will the United
States say if Germany declares a
submarine war on all of the enemy's
merchant ships?"
Grand Admiral Von Tripetz, Ger-
many's minister of marine, regarded
as the strongest man in the Kaiser's
government—possibly next to the
Imperial Chancellor—put this ques-
tion to me at the first interview he
ever granted to an American corres-
pondent.

"Why not?" he continued. "Great
Britain wants to starve us. We can
play the same game. We can bottle
England up by torpedoing every
British or allied ship which nears
the English harbor, thereby cutting
off from the islands large food sup-
plies."
Admiral Von Tripetz analyzed, ac-
cording to his views, the causes which
led to the war, blaming the growth
of the sea and the world power de-
veloped by Great Britain, until, as
he put it, "the domineering arrogance
of the British culminated in the present
conflict, which they engineered in
order to crush the national growth
and development of the power of the
German empire."

GERMANS QUIT OSTEND

So Says Report from the Trouble
Zone in the West.

Paris, Dec. 22.—Not only were the
Germans said to have quitted Middle-
kerche, but unconfirmed reports are
current to the effect that they have
evacuated Ostend. It is learned that
the British warships have been bom-
barding Zeebrugge and Heyst for the
past two days. They are supporting
a general land movement to clear the
Belgian coast of the German troops.

Fresh Progress Claimed.
Paris, Dec. 22.—Fresh progress
along practically the entire 200 miles
of front from the North Sea into Lor-
raine is claimed by the allies in a
French war office statement issued to-
day. "Between the sea and the river
Lys," the statement said, "the action
was confined to cannonading Monday.
Between Lys and Aisne the repeated
attacks of the German forces have
been repulsed. In the Aisne district,
and at Rheims the cannonading con-
tinued."

ROCK ISLAND AUCTIONED OFF

CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY
BUYS CONCERN

Considerably Over Seven Million Paid
for Famous Railroad

New York, Dec. 22.—The Rock
Island Railway was offered for sale
on the steps of the New York court
house this morning.

It was bid in by James Wallace,
president of the Central Trust com-
pany at \$7,135,300.

Early Settler Here.

Mrs. Alice Bell, of Independence,
Ore., was a visitor in the city this
morning on her way to Union where
she will spend the holidays with her
sisters, Mrs. S. A. Pursel and Mrs.
J. B. Thompson. Mrs. Bell was a
pioneer settler in the valley, coming
here in the early 70's, having been
preceded some eight years by her
brother, E. S. McComas, publisher of
one of the first newspapers in La
Grande. The three sisters who will
spend Christmas together in Union
this year are the sole survivors of a
family of eight children who helped
blaze the trail into this western coun-
try, coming from Iowa in the days
when the comforts of life were not
so plentiful in the Grande Ronde val-
ley as they are today.

McMinnville Lady Returns.

Mrs. Josie Eberhard, of McMinn-
ville, mother of Attorney Colon R.
Eberhard, returned to her home last
evening, after a visit here and at Hot
Lake.

CLIMATIC DATA.

Temperature at 12:30 today, 21.
Climatic data, based on read-
ings for 24 hours ending last
night at 6 o'clock:
Maximum, 26; Minimum, 11.
31.

SARGENT HOME SUFFERS LOSS

MIDNIGHT FIRE THREATENS
SPLENDID NEW HOME ON
SECOND STREET.

PET BULLDOG FOUND IN COMA STATE BUT LIVES

Sparks from Furnace Start Blaze
That Does Considerable Damage.

HOWARD SARGENT IN MORE EXCITEMENT.

When Master Howard Sar-
gent, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.
B. Sargent, was carried from
his snug cot in the middle of
the night to a place of safety while
the fire department fought the
flames in his parent's home, he
figured in the third sensation
of his short life. When a mere
child he walked out of an up-
stairs window and catapulted
to the ground; later he fell in
the fire place and last night his
half brother, Donald, carried
him from the danger zone, him-
self being clad in pajamas and
with shoes still under his bed.
Miss Helen, the youngest, rather
enjoyed being "packed" about
in the middle of the night.

Fire in the basement of the resi-
dence of W. B. Sargent at 1908 Sec-
ond street at an early hour this morn-
ing resulted in the loss of a quantity
of wood stored in the basement, the

WINSTON CHURCHILL AT WHOSE DEPARTMENT OF THE EN- GLISH WARFARE GERMAN OFFICIALS ISSUE THREATS TODAY



Winston Churchill, half an Ameri-
can, has just celebrated his fortieth
birthday. On him as head of the
admiralty has developed the defense
of the British Empire in the greatest
war the world has known. Churchill
has so far escaped criticism for the
part he has played in the manage-
ment of the war, with the exception

burning out of the partitions in the
wood and coal bins, the smoking of
the walls to such an extent that it
will be necessary to retint the enire
house, and the charring of the furni-
ture to a considerable extent, besides
almost costing the life of Pat, the
famous bull dog, who rooms in the
vicinity of the furnace.

Pat was found in the dining room
to which place he had retreated from
the heat and smoke of the basement
fire, and was declared dead by several
experts who examined his apparently
lifeless body. First-aid methods
promptly applied by "Dr." Mackey
who happened upon the scene, suc-
ceeded in restoring the noble animal
to life and thus the accidental death
list was robbed of one victim.

The fire was evidently started in
the woodpile by sparks from the fur-
nace and quickly developed into seri-
ous proportions. The alarm was
turned in at 1:35 this morning and
only prompt work on the part of the
fire fighters saved the fine new resi-
dence and contents from total de-
struction.

Estimates this morning place the
damage at \$800 practically covered
by insurance.

J. A. WHITBY INJURED

Side Injured and is Taken to His
Home on Main Street.

Late this afternoon J. A. Whitby,
chief O.-W. boiler inspector met with
an accident in the boiler shops. Hasty
examination at the emergency hospital
indicated the likelihood of a broken
rib, though the exact condition is not
known at press time. It is apparent
that the injury is not serious.

Library Closed Christmas Eve.

The city library will be closed
Christmas Eve, and not opened again
until the day after Christmas at 1
o'clock. The Sunday afternoon hours
proved immensely popular last Sun-
day, a large attendance taking ad-
vantage of the rule.

HOBSON'S BILL WILL BE VOTED ON AT 9:30 P.M.

GALLERIES FILLED WITH WO-
MEN WEARING WHITE RIB-
BONS DURING DEBATE

OPPOSITION IS LEAD BY REP. BARTHOLDT

Hopson Avers that if National Prohi-
bition Amendment is Killed it will
be the Big Issue in 1916 campaign—
Eight Hours Allowed for Debate on
the subject by Solons.

Washington, Dec. 22.—With the gal-
leries packed with men and women
wearing white ribbons, the House met
at 10:00 to consider the Hobson na-
tional prohibition amendment.

Representative Hobson, of Alabama,
led the fight for the amendment, op-
posed by Representative Bartholdt.
Hobson indicated that if the amend-
ment failed to carry it shall be made
the big issue in the presidential cam-
paign of 1916.

The House passed the rule allowing
eight hours for debate. A vote is
expected on the amendment about
9:30 tonight.

GRAND JURORS QUIZ SUSPECTS

TRIAL JURORS HAVE NOT BEEN
CALLED IN.

Elgin Case in Equity Occupies At-
tention of Court.

The grand jury convened this
morning with a big docket of cases
which have been referred to them
for investigation from the justice
courts of the county.

Among the cases up for consid-
eration are a number of larceny cases
and several statutory charges. It
will probably require the greater part
of the week to clean up the business
that is being referred to the jurors.

The trial jury has not been called
as yet, the court at present being
busy with the Miller vs. Keene litiga-
tion.

The litigation involves a dispute
over a trade of Oregon land for
Arkansas land. Mr. Keene insists
that the land he was to get in the
trade proved not to be what rep-
resented and that the deed was delivered
without his consent. He is now try-
ing to have the transaction set aside.
The case began yesterday morning
before Judge Knowles and will prob-
ably be completed today and the mat-
ter in hand taken under advisement.

Refuses to Join Force.

Richard Leighton today began serv-
ing five days in solitary confinement
on a diet of bread and water—that
is unless he changes his views on the
labor question between now and the
expiration of the five day sentence im-
posed upon him this morning for dis-
orderly conduct. Leighton was fined
\$10.00 for fighting and acting disor-
derly. In lieu of the cash he is lay-
ing out the fine and refused to join
the street brigade, hence the punish-
ment.

NO DELIVERIES CHRISTMAS

From Wednesday night on to
Christmas, grocery stores and
meat markets will keep open
evenings, but there will be no
deliveries Christmas day and
no grocery or meat shops will
be open for business. The gen-
eral merchandise stores are ex-
pected to be idle all day Christ-
mas as well.

"Shop early" is the cry. Gro-
cery orders, and meat orders
can as well be placed early
avoiding the all-night grind of
horses and delivery boys, and
making Christmas more pleas-
ant to all concerned.

SISTERS FIGHT BURGLAR WHO SLAYS FATHER

W. M. ALEXANDER, LOS ANGELES
MILLIONAIRE MURDERED IN
HOME THIS MORNING.

SON ATTACKING INVADER RECEIVES TWO WOUNDS

Man Had Entered Home to Rob—Sis-
ters Attack Murderer of Father
with Hair Brush and Bare Hands,
After Brother had Received Two
Wounds in Body.

Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 22.—W.
M. Alexander, millionaire attorney,
recently from Dallas, Texas, was shot
and instantly killed by a burglar in
his home early this morning.

W. M. Alexander, Jr., son of the
murdered man, received two bullet
wounds in his body when he attacked
his father's assailant.

His sisters, Penelope and Anna,
joined in the fight, the former wielding
a hairbrush, the latter unarmed. The
murderer, apparently wounded, fled.

Postoffice Records Broken

All records for business were bro-
ken at the local postoffice yesterday
when 75 sacks of packages were sent
out from La Grande to all parts of
the United States on their mission of
Santa Claus cheer. Never before has
this record been equalled, but this
morning the indications were that to-
day's business might be equally as
good if not better as patrons of Uncle
Sam's delivery service were lined up
in the lobby awaiting their turn at
the stamp window. The stamp sales
for the day also exceeded all former
records, nearly \$2.50 worth of the lit-
tle stickers being sold.

First Ohlan in 1915 to Get Gifts.

Lorain, O., Dec. 22.—The first baby
born in Lorain after January 1, 1915
will come into the world in possession
of the proverbial silver spoon. A Lo-
rain newspaper today offered a prize
of ten dollars for the first 1915 baby.

Lorain merchants are also to be
asked to come forward with offers
of go carts, clothes and other arti-
cles necessary to the well-being of
infants.

Lorain first 1914 infant received
gifts ranging from a corset to a case
of beer.

Petty Stealing Rampant.

Petty pilferings are becoming most
discouragingly regular of late, and
the police department are besieged
with appeals for aid in locating arti-
cles that have mysteriously disap-
peared between two days. Last night
a couple of log chains and several
armloads of wood were reported mis-
sing, and there is no end to the small
stealings that have become almost a
nightly occurrence.

Ferguson Family Gathers.

Mrs. Will F. Thatcher, wife of a
former Western Union manager in
this city, now located at Pocatello, is
home to spend Christmas with her pa-
rents, Engineer and Mrs. Luke Fergu-
son. Homer Denny and family, lo-
cated at The Dalles, and Miss Ger-
trude Ferguson also of The Dalles, will
be home to eat Christmas dinner with
the Ferguson family.

Old Offender Back.

Pendleton, Dec. 21.—Jack Gebhart,
who not long since was a repeating
guest at the city jail, is back in the
bustle after an absence of many
months. He left Pendleton for Sa-
lem a year or more ago and was an
inmate of the state prison, from
which he was liberated last fall. Sat-
urday he fell into his old ways, got
intoxicated and is serving a three
day sentence.

Old Eli's Sons Tread Boards at Albany

Albany, Dec. 22.—The Yale Dram-
atic association will produce here to-
night four playlets. The offerings will
combine comedy and tragedy. Yale
alumni of this city and vicinity will
entertain the players before and after
the performance.

Few Numbers Left.

A few numbers of the Christmas
edition can be had at the Observer
office and at the news stands of the
city. Price mailed and wrapped, 10
cents.

(Continued on page 8.)