

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## BRITISH WARSHIP SUNK FORMIDABLE AND CREW ARE LOST

### ENGLISH MOURN LOSS OF MANY SKILLED OFFICERS AND SEAMEN

SEVENTY-ONE SURVIVORS ARE RESCUED  
---SUBMARINE IS BLAMED

London, Jan. 1.—The British battleship Formidable sank in the English channel today, it is officially announced by the admiralty. The statement said it was uncertain whether aiding in the fighting of the Belgian torpedoed by a submarine. Seventy-one survivors were picked up and it is possible that others were saved by other ships in the vicinity, and have not reported.

#### Formidable Cost Five Million.

The Formidable was one of the best English 18-knot battleships. It had been doing coast guard duty and aiding in the fighting on the Belgian coast. The complement in peace is 789 and in war it is probably 1000.

#### NEW REFEREE NAMED.

R. J. Green Succeeds John S. Hodgins as Bankruptcy Referee.

United States Federal Judge Bean has named R. J. Green of La Grande as referee in bankruptcy for Union county. He succeeds John S. Hodgins, resigned, and takes office at once. Mr. Hodgins has held that position for a considerable time resigning on account of his duties as county prosecutor to succeed F. S. Ivankoe, commencing this month.

Mr. Green received announcement from the court clerk at Portland this morning of his appointment.

#### CROWDS ARE ORDERLY.

Police Department Has but Little to Do as New Year Approaches.

There was comparatively little of the excitement class as 1915 dawned this morning. Whistles and bells joined in a merry medley of siren greetings, innumerable homes were scenes of social functions, but there was little to keep the police department busy. One or two sipped too freely of the vodka glass and landed in the city jail, but on the whole it was an orderly celebration La Grande gave in token to the new year of 1915.

#### ELKS SPORT STRAW.

Sun Comes Out to Cheer Marching Lodgmens in Summer Garb.

Wearing strange attire ranging from overcoats to mid-summer flannels, but everywhere evidence of strange looking strawhats, the Elks of La Grande marched in their first annual strawhat parade today. It had been snowing up to the hour of the parade and then the sun came out. A band lead the way and several hundred of the antlered herd paraded in the vari-colored and vari-natured garbs.

After the parade which began at 3:30 o'clock, a short dancing party was enjoyed at the Elks auditorium. At 4:30 further celebrations are in store but the nature of these have been kept secret from the members by the committees in charge.

#### Arizona Now in "Dry" Column.

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 1.—Arizona joined the list of "dry" states today, this being the date fixed for the coming into effect of the prohibition constitutional amendment adopted by the voters at the election last November. Strenuous but futile efforts were made to prevent the law from becoming operative. An injunction to this end was sought by a Catholic priest of Tucson, who held that the prohibition law infringed on constitutional religious rights in that it would prohibit the importation of wine for sacramental purposes. Other injunctions were sought by druggists and liquor dealers on the ground that the law was confiscatory. All the injunctions were denied by the courts.

Despite the admiralty's expression of uncertainty, it is generally believed the work of destruction was done by submarines. In official circles it is said the ship's loss wasn't a matter of great importance, since it is old and somewhat obsolete.

#### Loss of Officers Admitted.

It is admitted however, that the death of trained officers and seamen was a serious blow. What other warships accompanied the Formidable at the time of the disaster, wasn't known. She was built in 1901 and cost five million.

A British light cruiser picked up 71 of the rescued men, the admiralty stated later. If more were saved it was by other ships in the vicinity.

## 300 HORSES TO BE INSPECTED

MISSED TRAIN DELAYS INSPECTION HERE.

Russel and Two Army Officers Will Be at Fair Grounds.

W. M. Russell and party, who are inspecting horses and who was to have been at the fair grounds today, was delayed at Wallowa by missing their train yesterday. They will be at the fair grounds tomorrow.

With Mr. Russell are two French army officers who do the inspecting. About 300 horses, it is anticipated will be here for inspection tomorrow. As far as numbers now up for inspection has not changed the situation so far as number now up for inspection is concerned. There is no limit to the number of horses that can be purchased, all those passing muster being put up for sale.

#### Railroads Discontinue Free Folders.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 1.—After today the traveling public throughout the West will not find it so easy to obtain a time-card or folder. Heretofore such railroad literature has been supplied gratis to hotels and other public places and has been obtainable for the asking. In their efforts to reduce expenses the railroads decided that by curtailing the supply of free folders they might chop hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly from their printing bills. While the most of the roads will continue to give away the folders at their ticket offices, it is understood that some of them contemplate making a charge of 1 or 2 cents for the little publications that have been handed out free ever since the first railroad in America began operations.

#### Legal Flaw is Found.

John Williams, alleged highwayman on trial in Circuit Court yesterday charged with holding up and robbing Harvey Leonard at the Pierce ranch secured a new trial and Joel Richardson the youngest attorney in the city, who was defending Williams is celebrating the legal victory scored in his first case, when he picked a technical flaw in the indictment as returned by the grand jury. The flaw made it necessary to take the case back to the grand jury for a re-hearing and in the meantime Williams must continue an inmate of the county jail until that time.

#### New Year Babe Comes.

At 4 o'clock this morning there was born to Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Nelson, Spring and Walnut streets, a daughter.

## GOLD MINING ON ISLAND PROSPERS

FORMER HILGARD CITIZEN  
HOME TO VISIT RELATIVES  
AFTER YEARS ABROAD

MONEYED INTERESTS ARE  
DOING WELL ON ISLANDS

J. V. Lafferty Home and Greets  
Former Neighbors of County.

Gold mining in the Philippine islands, to the man with capital to install proper dredging material, is a prosperous vocation according to J. V. Lafferty, of Hood River, who was in the city yesterday the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Noyes, and calling on old-time friends, fifteen years ago the family lived at Hilgard, and while here yesterday they renewed acquaintances with many of their old-time friends. From Hood River the younger man went to the Philippines. He served two years there during the uprising, as a soldier, and went into the mining business. At an expense of \$150,000 he installed a dredger and is now operating the mine. He brought home a bottle full of nuggets and made a present of one to Mr. Noyes. The Oriental gold is slightly different in appearance in its rough state, to the local material.

Mr. Lafferty recites, interestingly, the customs and habits of the natives. American invasion and thrift have largely removed mosquitos and fever germs, and sanitary conditions are greatly improved.

Wages for common labor ranges about 25 cents a day. Skilled help such as engineers, get 40 and 60 cents a day. Living is correspondingly cheap.

The Lafferty mine is located about 150 miles from Manila, and in the town of 6000 population there are only 50 whites. His help is largely native.

After visiting with relatives on the Pacific coast on the 9th he will sail from San Francisco for his oriental holdings.

The dredging system of mining is the only profitable one he says. Many valuable properties have been abandoned long ago, some as many as two centuries since, because of lack of pumping facilities, but these conditions are being overcome, and dredge mining is now being conducted on a considerable scale, although it requires, says Mr. Lafferty, considerable capital to get started.

Native women sit in the water all day long hungrily watching the tailings from the dredger for paystuffs, and sometimes make as much as 25 cents a day; again they glean nothing in their vigil.

## BIG SAN DIEGO FAIR OPENS AT TOUCH OF BUTTON BY WILSON

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 1.—From the White House, promptly on the first stroke of twelve announcing the debut of the New Year his morning, President Wilson started the electric spark which turned on a myriad of lights, and amid the tumultuous shouts of thousands, the music of a dozen bands and the waving of flags the great Panama-California Exposition became a reality. An event of such magnitude could not have been initiated under more favorable auspices, from the moment that the gates were opened to the public last evening until a salute of guns announced the conclusion of the dedication exercises today. Everything moved with the smoothness of a well regulated military family, amid all the music, the cheers of the great throngs and the animated scenes in and about the handsome structures composing the exposition. Secretary of the Treas-

ury McAdoo was present as the personal representative of President Wilson and was the central figure at the dedication exercises today. Other prominent participants in the program were the exposition officials and the governors of California, Utah and other of the Western states.

#### Governor Ferris Begins Second Term.

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 1.—Woodbridge N. Ferris today entered upon his second term as governor of Michigan. At the same time Lieutenant Governor Dickinson, Secretary of State Vaughn and other state officials elected in November were inducted into office. The inauguration ceremonies were of a simple character. The oath of office was administered to the officials by Flavius L. Brooks, of Detroit, the new chief justice of the Supreme court.

## WOMEN POLICE OF LONDON CAP TURING A CROOK.



London has women police now, and this illustration shows two of them taking a crok. Inasmuch as their strength is not equal to that of the average male crook they had to learn expert methods of subduing him. They have studied jiu jitsu, the Japanese wrestling system, by which a very small woman may protect herself from a very large man who doesn't understand it. Each woman has tak-

en this man by the wrist with her arm under his elbow. Thus a leverage is formed, and a single quick downward movement on the wrist will crack his arm at the elbow. The victim here is helpless, for he cannot stand the pain of the slightest forward pressure on his wrist. Were he to start a desperate struggle both arms could be broken before he had done any damage.

## PORTLAND MAN TAKES OWN LIFE

UNIDENTIFIED MAN LEAPS 126 FEET.

Letter in Pocket Give Some Clue to Identity.

Portland, Jan. 1.—Broken and mangled the body of an unidentified man, believed to be A. C. Cook, was found in the Jefferson street canyon this morning under the Ford street drive, from which he has jumped, a distance of 126 feet.

In his pockets was an empty envelope addressed to Mrs. A. C. Cook, San Francisco.

#### Mrs. Cook Located.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Mrs. A. C. Cook collapsed today when told that a man believed to have been her husband leaped to his death in Portland. She refused to say whether or not her husband had been in Portland, but it is learned from friends of the family that he had been engaged in publicity business there.

## HEAVY WIND TOPPLES WALL

FIRE WALL ON NEW ELKS BUILDING DAMAGED.

Grocery Store Front Blown in and Policemen Guard Groceries.

The high wind that swept over the valley about midnight last night left its effects on the new Elks' building where about 60 feet of the fire wall five feet high on the Depot street side was blown down, the debris falling inside of the building. The fire wall was just completed yesterday, winding up all of the brick and terra cotta work on the building with the close of the old year. The fact that the wall was still green caused it to yield to the pressure of the high wind which otherwise would not have affected it.

The damage will not in the least affect the carpenter work on the building as the wall was only blown down to the roof joists and the work of putting on the roof which was under way at the time will proceed. The greatest delay will be experienced in replacing the damaged terra cotta blocks which formed the coping on the building. These blocks must all be made to order and require about sixty days to complete so that the building otherwise will be practically completed before the fire wall can be rebuilt.

Plate windows in the Berry Bros. store, located in the Haworth building, Fir and Adams, were blown in by the storm and the police department had to keep a watchman at the window during the night. The plate had previously been cracked and the heavy wind last evening tipped the glass in, exposing the entire line of goods to the public.

#### Georgia Has Child Labor Law.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 1.—Georgia is no longer to bear the unenviable distinction of being one of the worst states in regards to the conditions of child labor. Under a new state law which went into effect today children under fourteen years old are prohibited from working in any manufacturing plant, laundry or place of amusement. Exceptions are made in the cases of orphans dependent upon their own labor for support.

## HORSE BUYER ATTEMPTS HIGH FINANCE GAME

TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR BANK  
DRAFT TURNED DOWN BY  
PORTLAND BANKERS.

ALLEGED CANADIAN CUTS  
STRANGE AND FAST PAGE

Union Horse Owners Have Experience With What is Termed Bogus Horsebuyer—Union Bank Presented With Big Draft, but Arrest Orders Follow—Man Hurried to Baker Yesterday.

Chas. G. Thomas, giving his residence as Calgary, Alberta, Canada and posing as a horsebuyer in the employ of the British army, is badly wanted in Union county just now following a week of high finance unprecedented in its boldness in the annals of the county. A \$10,000 bogus bank draft marks his trail.

Thomas appeared in Union Sunday evening ostensibly for the purpose of buying horses, taking all of the animals that were offered, buying them on the spot, paying from \$5.00 to \$10.00 more than other buyers were offering and paying for them with his personal checks. He is said to have purchased between 60 and 70 head of animals from the farmers in the neighborhood of Union, all of the animals having been delivered at the Gassett living barn awaiting shipment, but none of them having been shipped so that the owners of the horses are only out their time and efforts in bringing the stuff to the market, and at the same time are ahead considerable in experience.

Wednesday Thomas deposited with the Union National Bank a bank draft on the Ladd & Tilton bank at Portland for \$10,000, leaving it in the hands of the bank for collection. Cashier Hutchinson of the Union bank stated this morning that no money had been advanced by the bank on this paper but that it had been sent in to Portland immediately, a telegram being received yesterday to the effect that no such person was known to that bank and no funds had ever been deposited in that name. In the meantime Thomas had succeeded in cashing a check for \$125 at the G. F. Hall store, and this with \$30 advanced him by Tom Johnson of that city is all of the money that he is known to have gotten away with.

The sheriff's office here was notified late yesterday evening but so far no trace has been obtained of the man. Ben Shores of this city was called to Union Wednesday night to bring Thomas to this city and he left here at 3:30 yesterday morning to take Thomas to Baker where the man claimed a big deal awaited his coming a profit of not less than \$500 depending upon his arrival in Baker ahead of No. 4. This was the last that has been heard of Thomas. Ad- vices from Baker state that he didn't register at the hotels in Baker and as Shores saw him cross the street from the automobile in the direction of a hotel it is presumed that this was simply a "stall" and that he went only as far as the lobby from where he immediately made his way to the depot and boarded No. 4 eastbound.

Thomas was less particular than others in the horses he accepted, and spread the report that he would pay more than do the inspection buyers who are in the county at present, and with whom are associated local men. Thomas went his own game and is not a part of the Grandy-McKennon-Russel contract horse buyers. Practically the only horse purchases at Union for which he paid in full, are two said to have been paid for prior to delivery. The owners of these horses still have their money and the horses, and it is thought this was done as a blind to indicate sincerity and conscientiousness on the part of the buyer.

#### Union Wins Game.

Union, Jan. 1.—(Special)—Union high defeated Joseph high last evening 38 to 16.