

La Grande Evening Observer

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THOMPSON AND SELLING HEAD THE LEGISLATURE

DUNKIRK AGAIN SHELLED; FIVE PEOPLE KILLED

GERMAN AVIATOR LAYS WASTE SEVERAL BUILDINGS IN THE MEANTIME.

FRENCH GAINS ADMITTED BY BERLIN OFFICE

Saying French Have Made Gains at Soissons, Germans Also Claim to Have Been Making Progress at Argonne—French killed a birdman Near Amiens, and Capture Another.

Paris, Jan. 11.—Aerial attack on Paris is looked for by military authorities and preparations are being made to resist it.

Paris, Jan. 11.—German aviators bombarded the French seaport of Dunkirk again. Five civilians were killed and several were wounded, and a number of buildings were damaged. A German aviator attempted a reconnaissance of the French position at Alens, and was pursued by French aviators. The German machine was destroyed and the pilot killed. An officer making observation was captured and seriously wounded.

Allies Gain Foothold.
Berlin, Jan. 11.—The war office admitted today that the Allies had gained a foothold in German territory North of Soissons but declared they were unable to make further progress and that the battle is still continued.

Germans Gain at Argonne.
In Argonne, it is said, the Germans have gained, recapturing trenches at Perthes from the French.

NO JOBS AVAILABLE.

Alaska Railroad Construction Entirely Unknown Quantity.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 11.—(Observer Washington News Bureau.)—Members of the Oregon congressional delegation are being flooded with requests from railroad men and ex-railroad men in Oregon to help them get jobs on the new government railroad in Alaska. Senator Chamberlain because he is looked upon as the "father" of the Alaska Railroad Bill and because he is thought to stand close to the Democratic administration throne gets more than the others. The present status of the matter is that there are no jobs now and no definite prospect of any in the near future. The Alaskan Railroad commission here is now engaged in the work of preparing a report of last year's work. Some thousand miles of preliminary surveying was done then of several different proposed routes, the best one remains to be selected. The commission has not yet determined whether the work of construction will be undertaken by the contract system by the government directly as was the Panama Canal. Until these matters are settled there is no chance of employment being given either in construction or operating departments. Applicants can aid their cause most just at present by filing with "Alaskan Engineering Commission," Washington, D. C., a formal application and full particulars as to their training and experience; so that it will be before the commission for action when they begin to look for skilled help.

Mrs. Grady Here.

Mrs. H. C. Grady, for many years a resident of La Grande, and now living in Portland is a guest with Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp this week.

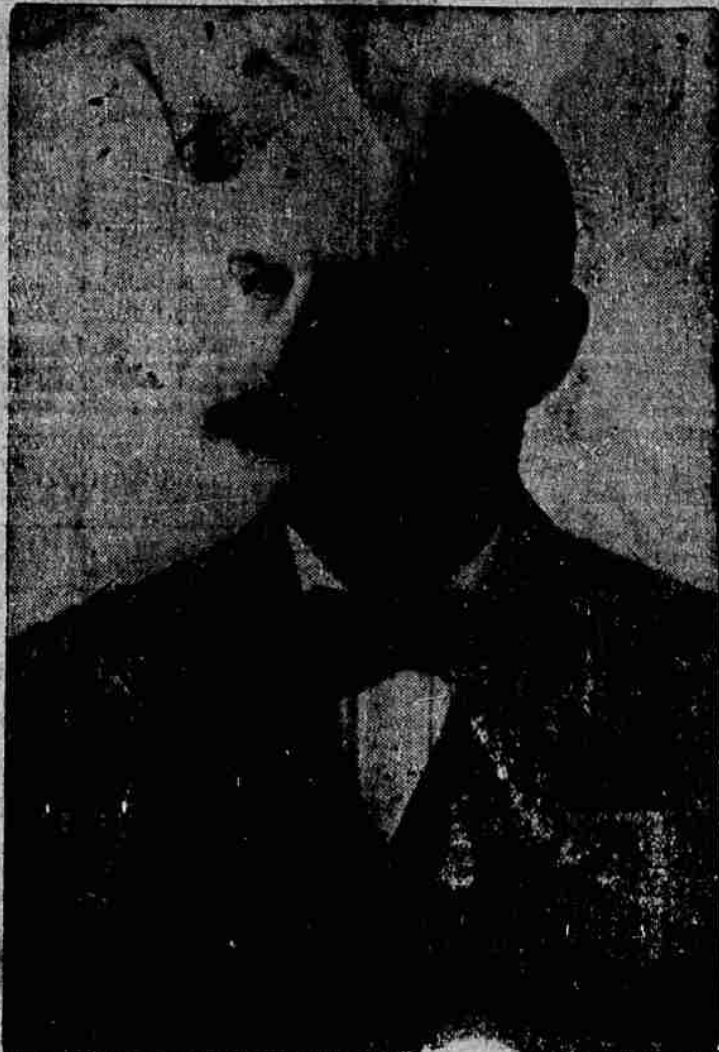
CLIMATIC DATA.

Climatic data, based on readings for 24 hours ending last night, at 6 o'clock:

Maximum, 40; Minimum, 35; Temperature at 12:30 today, 40.

Portland Man Chosen to Speakership By Big Vote

NEW SPEAKER OF OREGON HOUSE.



Ben Selling, Portland Merchant.

Salem, Jan. 11.—The 28th legislative assembly of Oregon convened this morning and Ben Selling of Portland was elected speaker of the house by the vote of 36 to 22. Lair Thompson of Lake county was elected president of the senate with no opposition.

Allen Eaton was Selling's only opponent, and after the vote was cast, he made a motion to withdraw his name and as a result the election was announced to be unanimous.

There was no contest for the president of the senate, only one name being placed in nomination.

Governor West will deliver his message, which is said to be a long one, tomorrow at about 10 o'clock, and immediately thereafter Governor-elect Withycombe will be put into office and he will deliver his message to the legislature.

The legislature convened at 11:20 S. B. Huston was elected temporary speaker of the house and W. F. Drager was made temporary chief clerk of the house.

Senator Day was named temporary president of the senate and John P. Hunt temporary secretary. In the senate the credentials committee was named and in the house the committee on permanent organization was appointed.

Legislative Comment.

Portland, January, 10, 1915.—This city has been the point of assemblage for members of the legislature who are on their way to Salem to take up their duties as lawmakers tomorrow.

Senators and representatives from all parts of the state "Sundayed" in the metropolis and the many discussions of laws that are and laws that are to be were decidedly interesting. Some of the statesmen take their places at this time in a very serious attitude. They seem to feel the great importance that attaches to the work of the session all of which is admittedly a very good thing for the taxpayer who is expecting results and who is almost willing to burn at the stake the senator or representative who returns to his constituency without a good and sufficient record relative to reduction of public expense.

The Eastern Oregon contingent in this legislature is to be reckoned with. All members from east of the mountains seem to have their necks bowed in an endeavor to "keep things down" and to get through at Salem and go home. While this may not please Salem, whose hotels, restaurants and blind pigs expect a handsome business from the session, and expect a goodly

part of that business to come from those who are reputed to be "good spenders" east of the Cascades, yet the state as a whole will have no objection to the plan being carried out to the letter.

Representative Woodell, of Union county, was firm in his advocacy today of collecting automobile tax in the counties, but he was not willing to discuss the speakership. The Eaton adherents have been making strong claims that they will lick the Selling crowd at the organization of the House of Representatives tomorrow (Monday) morning and apparently Woodell has let that idea have some weight with him. However, to those with whom he has talked on the matter he jokingly says, "What can a poor lone Democrat do in a speakership fight, anyway?" This may mean a great deal to Union county because on committee appointments depends the effective work of the representative or senator. This may be "politics" but such is the case and there is no dodging the facts.

Portland hotel men will try to take a hand in shaping the new dry law to be passed at this session, and in that shaping will be the provision that liquor may be served with meals in reputable hotels of certain size. Just how much work will be done in an endeavor to get this feature woven into the dry law is not known but outside of those who are working to that end there is a general belief that the boys are losing their time. It is conceded by the careful observer that all legislators are of the opinion that Oregon must be dry in fact and will not stand for any side stepping. When the subject is broached to the new lawmakers he listens and then if pressed for an answer he says "thirty-six thousand majority" and walks away. All of which plainly means that he is not willing to tackle the undertaking and that he intends to stay put with the dry forces and enact strictly dry laws at this session.

There are a few things interesting in Portland besides the coming session of the legislature. For instance, we met up with Mr. Williamson who has been buying horses in Oregon for the past twenty years and this is what he said to us: "The Grande Ronde valley raises the best horses in the

(Continued on Page 4.)

WHEAT PRICES SINK RAPIDLY IN FEW HOURS

SEVERAL CENTS CLIPPED FROM PRICE IN CHICAGO BUYING TODAY.

SENSATIONAL DROP IS FOLLOWED BY A RALLY

Experts Look for Continued Drop—After Sharp Decline, Price Goes up to \$1.35 and Day is Closed at That Figure—"Long" Supply is Held to Be Responsible for Sudden Break.

Chicago, Jan. 11.—A sensational drop in the price of wheat was registered on the Board of Trade today. May wheat opened \$1.38 but before 12:30 today had dropped to \$1.331.

Appearance of a big supply of "long" wheat is responsible for the decline.

Later in the day there was a slight rally and May wheat advanced to \$1.34 and a fraction but the price of wheat is going down, undoubtedly, say experts.

OREGON MAN SHOT IN WAR QUARREL

GERMAN AND SWISS DISAGREE OVER EUROPEAN WAR AND MURDER FOLLOWS.

SURVIVOR ASSERTS HE SHOT IN SELF DEFENSE

Silverton Scene of Murder When European War is Discussed.

Hillsboro, Ore., Jan. 11.—Ulrich Herche shot and killed Joe Shellenberger, a Swiss farmer near Beaton last night after a quarrel over the outcome of the European war. Herche was arrested. He says he shot in self defense. Both men are said to have been drinking.

Four Licenses Issued.
Four licenses to wed have been issued by the county clerk's office in the past two days to the following parties: Rufus Keefer and Hazel Reed; Fred Waldrop and Elizabeth Hall Rennie; Ezra S. Basel and Mary E. Snyder; Lewis Henderson and Eva Olsen, the latter couple from North Powder.

Chairman at Salem.
J. H. Pearce, chairman of the Union county republican central committee, left Saturday night for Salem, to witness the opening of the state legislature today.

TWO MEN HELD AS SUSPECTED LODGE ROBBERS

NORTH SIDE RESIDENT SETS TRAP FOR MEN HE THOUGHT WERE THE ROBBERS.

TAP THOMAS IDENTIFIES GOODS NOW BEING HELD

Harry Mann and a Stranger Who Gives Name of Smith Held Under Suspicion—Andrew Blockland Loses \$40.00 Worth of Goods Saturday Afternoon from His Rig—Cool Thieves Run.

Through the coolheadedness of a North La Grande resident, the police today have in custody Harry Mann and another fellow who gives his name as John Smith—thought to be fictitious—and in these two men the county and city officials feel certain they have solved the recent Park lodge mystery when practically every item in the home, save the heavier furniture, was taken away at night while the owners were out of the city.

Mann and his partner were arrested after evidence had been secured which it is believed points conclusively to them as being responsible for one of the most complete burglary tricks ever turned in the city.

The first step toward their arrest came when they attempted to sell pillow cases, sheets and other bedding to a man in North La Grande. He immediately became suspicious, and dickered with the men, promising to pay only a portion of the \$5.00 which they asked, telling them to come back for their change. On their departure he telephoned the officials and when the two men returned to get their property, they fell into the trap.

"Tap" Thomas, who owned the goods originally, has positively identified such portions as have come to light. Whether he will be able to recover all the items, and the legal papers of value to him but useless to any one else, remains to be seen.

The men under arrest are to be arraigned this afternoon or evening.

Many Cases of Thievery.
Saturday afternoon Andrew Blockland, an Island City farmer, lost about \$40.00 worth of goods he had purchased at the Golden Rule. He left them in his rig at the hitching racks and went to a nearby drug store to get some goods, on his return the goods were gone. The purchases included an overcoat, shoes and other valuable goods.

The police are looking for a gang of men who Friday evening were attempting to steal several sacks of coal from an Eastern Oregon Produce coal car. They were scared away, leaving the sacked coal at the car. No trace has been found of them.

VALIDATE TICKETS HERE

Former Inconvenience is Removed by Order Effective in February.

La Grande is soon to be placed on an equal footing with Baker and Pendleton in the matter of validating railroad tickets. Instructions have been received here to the effect that commencing February 7th, Lester Bramwell, O.-W. ticket agent under J. H. Keeney, would be authorized to take care of the tickets for validation acting as joint agent for the transcontinental passenger association.

This arrangement will mean a great accommodation to the traveling public. Heretofore visitors to this part of the state who have been traveling on reduced rate round trip tickets have been compelled to make a trip to either Baker, Pendleton or Portland in order to have their tickets validated for the return trip. Under the new arrangement this can be attended to in La Grande as well as at the other validating offices.

Social Club to Meet.

The Eastern Star Social club will be entertained Tuesday with Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp as hostess. It will be held at her home.

JANUARY 28 IS DATE SET TO ARGUE THE PROSECUTOR STATUS

Salem, Jan. 11.—(Special.)—On the 9th day of January, 1915, there was issued out of the Supreme court of this state a writ of Quo Warranto, directed to John S. Hodgins of La Grande, commanding him to appear before that tribunal on the 28th day of January, 1915, and show by what authority he presumes to act as district attorney of Union county. This writ was placed in the hands of Sheriff Hug today to be served upon Mr. Hodgins. This proceeding is brought in the name of the state upon

the relation of F. S. Ivanhoe for the purpose of determining the validity of the law passed by the last legislature, providing for the governor to appoint all district attorneys within the state, thereby depriving the people of the right to determine by their votes who shall represent them in this constitutional office, the attorneys for Ivanhoe allege.

Crawford & Eakin of La Grande are representing Mr. Ivanhoe.

LEADER OF THE PERSIAN KURDS FIGHTING RUSSIA.



This photograph shows how the great war has spread over the earth. The figure on the right is Omar Agi, leader of the Persian Kurds, who is fighting with the Turks against the Russians. The young man is his brother.