

La Grande Evening Observer

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

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WARSAW ONLY CITY SOUGHT BY INVADERS

FOOD PROBLEM WILL KEEP GERMANS FROM EXTENSIVE RUSSIAN CONQUEST

FRESH RUSSIANS COMING TO HELP CRUSHED ARMY

Berlin Statement Says that Continued Successes Have Been Recorded by Germans at Chief Points of Contact in the East—Many Prisoners Taken—Warsaw Only Will be Objective.

Berlin, Feb. 24.—Owing to the problem of feeding the alien population, it is learned Germany doesn't contemplate extensive conquest of Russia. General Von Hindenburg, it is announced will halt his advance at Warsaw if successful in capturing the city, which now seems more likely than ever in view of recent German victories in East Poland.

Fresh Russians Coming. Berlin, Feb. 24.—Fresh Russians are coming to support of the crushed Slav army. It is officially announced, twelve hundred prisoners were taken near that place according to a statement today and Russians have been checked west of Grondo. Engagements at Perth, the statement said, were favorable to Germans. It is claimed German lines at Vosges have been advanced and 500 prisoners were taken.

Russians Claim Success. Petrograd, Feb. 24.—Russians from Grondo are pushing back the Germans toward the Russian frontier at several places, according to the war office. A big battle is developing at Stanislaw, Galicia.

Optional Law Liked.

Baker, Feb. 23.—The passage of Senate bill 11, introduced by Senator Dimick, providing that the use of supervisory system in the county school work shall be optional with a majority of the directors of any given county, was the statement made by County School Superintendent J. F. Smith this afternoon. "I have always believed that the law hitherto in operation, was excellent in theory," said Mr. Smith, "but in a sparsely settled county such as this, the expense is rather too great."

Mr. Smith received a letter this morning from State Superintendent of Education J. A. Churchill, formerly city superintendent of this city, stating that the law provided that the original petition from the directors for the discontinuation of the system must be filed with the county court and that a duplicate of the same must be filed within 30 days.

Lumbermen Plan Big Organization.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Plans for the formation of a big organization to include all associations affiliated in any way with the lumber industry were discussed here today at the opening of a two day conference of lumbermen and representatives of the affiliated organizations. The new organization probably will be known as the Forest Products Federation.

The object of the new organization, lumbermen explained, will be to compile statistics concerning fire losses in various kinds of construction, to push the search for chemical combination by which woods may be fire-proofed and to organize an advertising campaign, calling the attention of the public to the advantages of wood over other construction materials. The meeting today was called at the instance of the National Lumbermen's Association.

Today's Oddest Story

Santa Anna, Cal., Feb. 24.—If your house is infested with bed-bugs, you don't have to pay rent.

This is the ruling of Justice Cox who decided in favor of H. Carrithers, a householder who was sued by W. H. Brooks for \$20 rent.

"Your honor," said Carrithers, "there were bed-bugs everywhere in that house. They drove us out."

"Big ones?" asked the court. "Well, some of the rats were almost as big," said Carrithers.

"Dismissed," ruled the court.

COLONIAL CAVALIERS AWARD PRIZE FOR BEAUTY.



Caroline F. Stewart

Miss Caroline Fairchild Stewart is not a southerner, but nevertheless, the Society of Colonial Cavaliers named her as the most beautiful girl at the Southern Relief ball recently given in Washington, D. C.

Each year the "Cavaliers" select the most beautiful girl at the southern ball and award her the prize of beauty.

ROBBERS LOOT CHENEY OFFICE

CONSIDERABLE MONEY AND STAMPS TAKEN.

Marshall Exchanges Shots With Robbers to No Avail.

Spokane, Feb. 24.—The safe of the postoffice at Cheney, Wash., and the hardware store next door, were blown open last night and considerable property taken. Two hundred in cash and a quantity of stamps were secured from the postoffice and \$40 were taken from the store. The city marshal exchanged shots with the robbers without effect.

EFFICIENCY ONLY HALF

Baker's Officials Find Municipal Plant Is Not Up to Quality

Baker, Feb. 23.—That the city of Baker is using all the power available at the present time with a 50 per cent efficiency was the testimony of Commissioner Finley at the meeting of the city commission his afternoon. He stated that the trouble is either in the water wheel or in the penstock.

When the system was installed, according to Mr. Finley's report, it was the opinion of the engineers that from 90 to 100 kilowatt hours could be developed. At present only half of this is being developed. Mr. Finley is having the wheel tested by the brake method and will report within a few days.

JOHNSON FIGHT DELAYED

Jaurez Bout Will Not Be Staged Until Late in March or April.

El Paso, Feb. 24.—Promoter Curley has announced today that the Jack Johnson-Jess Willard prizefight for the championship of the world, to be held at Jaurez, Mex., has been postponed until the latter part of March or the first of April. It was planned to stage the bout early in March.

FAMILY IS CREMATED.

Residence Over Grocery Store Claims Toll of Several Lives.

East St. Louis, Feb. 24.—John Stutzman and two daughters and a son were burned to death early today in a fire which destroyed the grocery store over which they live.

SERIOUS CRISIS PENDING COURT MARTIAL METED OUT TO SAN DIEGO MEN

LONDON, FEB. 24.—"GRAVE INCIDENTS INVOLVING A RUPTURE BETWEEN BERLIN AND WASHINGTON MAY COME AT ANY TIME." THIS IS THE NEWS RECEIVED TONIGHT BY THE EXCHANGE TELEGRAMS IN DISPATCHES FROM BERLIN. THE MESSAGE SAID: "AMBASSADOR GERARD HELD A LONG INTERVIEW WITH CHANCELLOR VON BETHMANN-MOLLWEG THIS MORNING WITH REGARD TO THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY. IT IS BELIEVED THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE DEADLOCKED, BOTH SIDES ADHERING TO THEIR FORMER VIEWS. EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE DISCRETION OF GERMANY'S SUBMARINE COMMANDERS. THE AMERICAN COLONIES AT BERLIN, MUNICH AND DRESDEN ARE MOST ANXIOUS."

WHEAT FIELDS OF '70 A RESIDENCE PLOT

SUMMERVILLE PIONEER RECALLS EARLY HISTORY

Stage Driver of Early 60's Once Harvested Wheat Where Fourth and Depot Now Mark City's Growth.

Where 45 years ago John Lewis, now of Summerville, harvested wheat, and prolific wheat at that, the Methodist church, the F. J. Holmes residence and other homes from Fourth and Depot west have since displaced the waving grain fields. Mr. Lewis is in the city today visiting his daughter, Mrs. R. O. Paynter, and incidentally told the Observer some interesting sidelights on early history. The interview was prompted by the story of La Grande's anniversary, published yesterday. When Mr. Lewis was a boy of 15 came from Iowa with the Pitman train, there were three business houses in La Grande. That was in 1862. O. D. Andrews and Ben Brown had trading posts in operation and a third trading store was going up.

Mr. Lewis is a pioneer stage driver. He worked for the Thomas Ruckel-Greathouse-Abbott firm which ran the first stage line over the Blue Mountains with Walla Walla and Fort Boise as the terminals of it. Mr. Lewis was employed with that company and in the spring of 1864 helped with "Gravel" Tuttle, now of Elgin to keep the mails open.

Not Much Snow Those Days. "Dad Tuttle had two yoke of oxen," said Mr. Lewis this morning, "but we had an awful time to keep things moving. There was a great deal of snow in the mountains and also a great deal in the valley those days. It was much different from the present snow fall. A little while after our train arrived, Jack Morrow and Ed. Patterson, a brother of the Patterson boys of South La Grande, built new stores in this vicinity, and pretty soon other points in the valley were sought by settlers."

First Valley House Built. "My father, the late John Lewis, built the first house in the whole Northend country, the first North of La Grande at that time. We homesteaded the old place, and after the Shortline stopped the cross-country stage business, I returned to the homestead and have lived there almost continually since."

Remember First Election. "As I recall it, the governor appointed a man named Geer to be sheriff of Union county when this section of the state was cut off from Baker county. When the regular election came about, a man named Gregg was elected sheriff and he named Arthur Warnick (recently deceased) as his deputy. Gregg served two terms and then became county judge."

"In those days the assessors had to go over the entire country lonehanded, and T. T. (Dad) Tuttle officiated in that capacity, covering Wallowa county as well as this county."

Marvels at Growth. Looking up Fourth street and West of it Mr. Lewis pointed out the territory that a youth back in 1870 he had harvested for the wheat it contained. Ben Grandy and Joe Palmer owned most of the fields at that time, and he was in their employ.

Because of the fact that he came to Oregon in 1862, Mr. Lewis ranks as one of the few true-blue survivors of the first immigrant trains. There are several who came in '63 and '64 but indeed few still live who spent a portion of '62 in this valley. Mr. Lewis is 67 years of age.

New Baseball League.

Pueblo, Colo., Feb. 24.—Efforts are being made to start a Colorado State baseball league. The greatest attention is being given to Pueblo as it is believed that if funds for a team here are guaranteed, the success of the new league will be assured. Cripple Creek, Rocky Ford, La Junta and Victor are said to be ready to put up the money for clubs in those towns.

Frisco Fair Tickets Transferable.

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—Books of transferable admission tickets have been placed on sale here by officials of the Pacific-Panama exposition. One book contains fifty coupons and the other one hundred, the price being \$20 and \$40, respectively.

VALUABLE HUNTING DOG IS FIRE TOLL

ANDREWS GARAGE FIRE COSTLY TO OWNER.

Dead Dog Found by Firemen—Valuable Hunting Outfit Destroyed by Small Fire.

A valuable Irish setter, trained to skillfully hunt the game bird, fowl, 2 pieces and choice rifles, hunting costumes including an English make the gift of a friend, damage to a Chalmers automobile that may mean total loss, damage to a garage, and the loss of various other articles, all of which were uninsured, completes the toll of a fire in A. V. Andrews garage last night. Only prompt attention by the fire department which answered the box alarm turned in by Sidney Happersett about 11 o'clock, prevented serious loss to residences and woodsheds in the block in which the fire was located.

It is believed that the fire was started through an oil lamp that had been left in the garage to keep warm and comfortable the family bird dog which was "indisposed." It was necessary to keep it warm and the stove plan was hit upon. It is likely that flames formed and spontaneous combustion resulted. The automobile, a light runabout, had two of its wheels dismantled and for that reason could not be removed handily. Mechanicians are investigating the matter of making a truck out of it, but this may fail.

The building itself was not harmed to any great extent. Because there was no insurance and because the expensive and elaborate hunting equipment which Mr. Andrews maintains was in the building, the loss will be fully \$1000 with such reductions as the "residue" of the damaged automobile may bring him.

It is presumed the explosion blinded the canine and he was cornered and cremated. The charred remains were found by the firemen but the fire had gone too far to be checked with a dozen pulmoters.

CAST DIFFERENCE SEEN

Report Published Today Vastly Larger Than One 30 Years Ago

Striking growth of La Grande is shown today in the financial report of the city, published elsewhere. In it City Treasurer C. M. Humphreys is shown to be handling enormous sums as the regular business of the city. When Treasurer Neill was given the first funds the city boasted of 30 years ago yesterday, the whole amount was only a few thousands.

A concise statement is published today by the city showing the whole financial situation of La Grande's finances.

Sheriff Home Again.

Having safely conducted Williams, recently sent up to the penitentiary from this district court, to his future abode, Sheriff Hug returned today from Salem.

FERN HOBBS RESIGNS AND BOWLBY WILL STAY ON JOB

Salem, Feb. 24.—Miss Fern Hobbs, made famous in connection with her Copperfield and Cove episodes, and who was given a \$3,600 job by Governor West on the State Industrial commission just before West retired from public life, has tendered her resignation. It is set down to take effect May 21.

She had previously promised to resign if the Schubel bill was passed by the senate unamended.

Bowlby Will Remain. The State Highway commission has

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EXPLOSION RECENTLY KILLING NINE RESULTS IN SEVERE PUNISHMENT

COMMANDING ADMIRAL HAS ORDERED COURT MARTIAL

Secretary Daniels Will Approve Recommendation of Pacific Fleet Chief Who Conducted Inquiry on Board the San Diego—Chief Mechanist and Water Tenders Ones Removed.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Court martial of five officers and men on the cruiser San Diego as the result of the recent explosion aboard that vessel which caused the death of nine persons, is recommended by Admiral Howard chief of the Pacific fleet. This was conveyed to the navy department by wireless today.

Secretary Daniels, of the navy, it is announced, will approve the recommendation. The inquiry was held on board the San Diego and it submitted these names to court martial: Lieut. K. L. Hill, chief machinist; Thomas O'Donnell, chief water tender; W. I. Appleby, W. D. Redmon and A. P. Priddy, water tenders.

OATHS INVIOABLE

Land Office Oaths Defined by the Supreme Court Decision.

Of special interest to residents of the La Grande land office district, is a decision of the supreme court handed down yesterday relative to the weight of oaths connected with land office affairs. The matter is handled in a Washington dispatch as follows:

Broadening the government's power in prosecuting land frauds, the supreme court of the United States today held that violation of oaths prescribed by land office regulations, although not by statute, is perjury.

The decision came in the case of Jerome Luther Smull of Portland, Or., who was ordered tried on a perjury indictment. Dismissal of the indictment by the lower court was reversed.

Portland, Feb. 23.—Jerome Luther Smull, of Portland, filed a homestead application, according to United States District Attorney Reames, in which he said that he had never before applied for a homestead, which was untrue, as the records showed to the contrary. The homestead law does not require an applicant to say whether or no he has applied before. The regulations of the interior department, however, contain such a requirement.

Smull was indicted for perjury relating to which the law requires that an oath be taken on a material matter. Smull, through his attorney, demurred to the indictment, and, following the rule of the circuit court of appeals in such cases, the demurrer was sustained in the local United States district court. The case was taken direct to the United States supreme court, and its decision against Smull means that the case will be sent back and tried in the Oregon court.

NEWSPAPER MAN GOES EAST

A. L. Lindbeck to Become Managing Editor of Kansas Daily.

After having been associate editor of the Morning Messenger during its existence in this city, and connected with the evening Observer on the news staff for several months, A. L. Lindbeck has resigned to assume a position of responsibility on a Kansas paper. Mr. and Mrs. Lindbeck and daughter expect to leave this evening for Hutchinson, Kans., where Mr. Lindbeck will become managing editor of a morning daily.

The Lindbeck family came here from Oklahoma some time ago and have become enamored of this section of Oregon but the opportunities offered in a business way in the Kansas town offset their desire to remain in the west. The many friends of the family here hope for unlimited success to the young couple in their Eastern environments. Mr. Lindbeck is a thorough newspaper man with a long experience in the game.

Australians to Organize.

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—Arrangements have just been completed here for the organization of a permanent Australian society. The arrangements were made at a meeting of the various Australasian state commissioners to the Pacific-Panama exposition and prominent Australian and also New Zealand business men.