

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## H. K. THAW IS FOUND NOT GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY SPRING CAMPAIGN ON CONTINENT NOW VICIOUSLY OPENED BY BOTH SIDES

### JURY ACQUITS AND 4 FRIENDS ARE ALSO FREE

MOTION TO SEND THAW TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FOLLOWS VERDICT'S APPEARANCE.

ACTUAL FATE DECIDED  
AFTER HEARING MONDAY

Not Guilty of Conspiracy in Charge Preferred Against Harry Thaw and Charges Against Four Others are Dismissed—Thaw Again in Tombs Pending Disposition of His Case.

New York, March 13.—Harry Kendall Thaw, slayer of Stanford White, was acquitted today on a charge of conspiracy to bring about his own escape from Matteawan insane asylum in 1913.

As soon as the verdict was brought Attorney Stanchfield, who handled Thaw's defense, moved that Thaw be sent back to New Hampshire as a free and a sane man. Justice Page set Monday afternoon for hearing argument on this motion.

Thaw was recommitted to the Tombs pending the argument. Motion of the state's attorney, charges against Thaw's four co-defendants who helped him drive out of the institution in a big automobile, were dismissed.

RAIN HINDERS ATTENDANCE  
Union Crowd Reduced to One by it—Several Go From Here.

Rain last night hindered attendance of several Union and North Powder teachers at the meeting of Union county teachers in Elgin. Several auto loads had planned on attending but a heavy rain last evening spoiled the roads and there was no time to catch trains. Prof. Smith was the only Union man to get to Elgin. About a half dozen of the high school teaching force and several from the grade schools in La Grande, went out on the morning train. In regard to the list of speakers at Elgin, the Recorder last evening said:

Among the speakers on the program are Principal W. V. Connor, of Imbler; Principal E. E. Borneman, of Island City; Supt. A. G. Smith, of Union; Prin. C. E. Olsan, of the La Grande high school, and Supt. John Girdler, of La Grande. N. C. Maris, field worker for industrial fairs, will also have a prominent place on the program. The institute is held under the direction of County Superintendent A. E. Ivanhoe, who will be presiding officer of the meeting.

Teachers will have an opportunity for the discussion of their own problems in a round table discussion. This meeting is not restricted to teachers alone, but is open to the general public and all interested in the public schools are cordially invited to attend.

NEW STEAMER ORDERED  
Cramps Will Build Sister to Santa Catalina for Coast Trade.

Portland, March 13.—W. R. Grace & Co., operating a fleet of steamers between Portland and Atlantic ports, has awarded Cramps, of Philadelphia, a contract for building the first ship in the new steel fleet. The boat will be a duplicate of the Santa Catalina and will cost \$600,000.

Rush for the Jitneys

Toledo, O., Mar 13.—The all popular jitney bus threatens to become more popular in Toledo.

A heavy explosion wrecked a Toledo apartment and store building. The blast shook a large area. Newspaper extras were soon on the street. Newsboys yelled: "All about the explosion."

Jitney bus owners yelled: "All aboard to the explosion!" Every jitney did a rushing business.

### WAR BULLETINS

Bordeaux, March 13.—The Canadian Pacific liner Montrouze is ashore on the Portugal bank near Mbrura, Senegal, on the west coast of Africa, according to cables received here. She is sending wireless calls for assistance. The Montrouze is a four-master, built in 1907, and has accommodations for several hundred passengers. The captain is G. S. Webster.

She was commandeered as a British troop ship at the beginning of the war, and it is assumed she was either returning with troops from South Africa or transporting Portuguese troops to Portuguese colonies there.

London, March, 13.—A steamer believed to be the "Anna," a Swedish boat, ran afoul a floating mine and

sank off Scarborough. Her crew of 18 are reported saved, except two who were killed.

London, March 13.—Reinforced by six British warships from the Dardanelles, Admiral Pierce's squadron is prepared to begin the actual sea assault which will bring the downfall of Smyrna, in Asiatic Turkey. The bombardment of the forts from inside the harbor continues, with the Turkish gunners replying spiritedly.

Among the six reinforcing ships is the British battleship Triumph, Athens dispatches say. For several hours this boat shelled the Moslem defenses until forced to retire when the Turkish projectiles began to explode on her deck.

### CHINESE, RESIDENT OF CITY NEARLY 40 YEARS, IS DEAD

Ghin Jin Hing, a Chinese who has lived in La Grande practically since such a name appeared on Oregon's map, died last evening after a brief illness, aged about 70 years. His body has been taken to the Bohnenkamp chapel where the funeral will be conducted from tomorrow at 1 o'clock.

Ghin came to La Grande nearly 40 years ago.—38 years according to his

own statement of the situation,—and was undoubtedly one of the oldest Chinese residents of Eastern Oregon at the time of his death. He lived on the river on Greenwood street and was known to old settlers of La Grande as an unobtrusive, industrious oriental. He has a brother here, but it is not definitely known what his family connection in the Orient are.

### ELGIN HAS GRIEF

Water Service There Indicates Water Famine

Elgin is facing a serious proposition in regards the water system. To the untitled fact that a crew of from four to ten men have been employed daily for the past four or five weeks in repairing breaks caused by the long continued cold spell of the past winter, it may appear as a trifle but when it is considered in dollars and cents the situation assumes an entirely different aspect, says the Elgin Recorder.

As many as 16 breaks have occurred within a single block, each requiring repair work that results in an average cost of no less than \$2.00, or in this particular case, and there are many of almost equal proportions, a total expenditure of \$32.00 to the block for repair work.

In short, the repair work that has been made to the city water mains during the past few weeks has cost during the past few weeks at the rate of \$200.00 per week.

This has been the approximate rate of expense for several weeks and the end is not yet. It is reckoned by many in a position to know that the trouble will not cease before the last of April and if the past and present rate of expense continues until that time the total expenditure will be such that the city will be placed in a compromising position in a financial way.

There is no particular criticism to offer. The city water superintendent and the various city authorities have coped with the situation as best they could, but the question is whether or not the right course is being pursued, in that many believe, and figures almost substantiate their contention, that it would be cheaper in the end to replace the smaller, damaged mains with new pipe.

The Recorder does not advocate this policy from a direct viewpoint, but it is a matter in which the city officials ought to deal with the utmost care and business judgment.

It is not a shortage of water or insufficient pressure for fire purposes that is causing the apprehension, as from a general standpoint, there is a sufficiency for both, but it is the financial status that is being daily created that causes the alarm.

The repair work must be done and must be maintained until the system is in perfect working order, but it is just as imperative that every care be exercised in seeing to it that the repair work be done with a view to permanency and economy that will not allow of a repetition of the present condition.

### Attorney Moves Office.

Attorney Jno. S. Hodgins has moved his offices to the La Grande National bank building, where he is now located.

### IVANHOE IN OFFICE

Former District Attorney is Back in His Former Position.

F. S. Ivanhoe, for several years district attorney, is today back in office as pursuant to the findings of the supreme court several weeks ago. Mr. Ivanhoe has taken charge of the office today, succeeding Jno. S. Hodgins.

### The Bottle Came Back

Vigonia, Minn., Mar 13.—A. B. Coates has just received a bottle filled with the product that made Louisville, Ky., famous. The bottle looked familiar. Investigation proved that the very same bottle that he and a party of friends had emptied while dropping down the Nile River. Before throwing the bottle, into the murky waters, Coates slipped his card into it and bottled it. Apparently some one picked it up and sent it to Louisville, where it was originally made. The distillery apparently thought it a good enough joke to carry it a little farther.

### LADY ATTACKED IN JITNEY

Portland, March 13.—Mrs. Cecil Marshall was attacked by male occupants of a jitney bus early today. The driver, joining in the scuffle, let go of the steering wheel and the car

crashed into a telephone pole and was wrecked. The woman was picked up senseless after the assailants had fled. The police is seeking H. Stokes, supposed to be the driver.

### RAILROAD EMPLOYEES MEET TO TALK SAFETY FIRST ISSUES

Officials and employees from all departments talked "safety first" in this city today. Recently the method of holding monthly "safety first" meetings in Portland was abandoned, and La Grande was made the gathering place of one representative from each department in this district each month. Today the attendance drove the meeting from the office of Superintendent Hollins to the O.-W. club house, where for several hours, the men went through the various questions of moment that have come up the past month, and interchanged suggestions for safety first. The attendance today was unusually representative.

Among those present, there being 34 in all, were many from out of town. The agents present included

### FIVE BRITISH CRUISERS LIE OFF VIRGINIA

NO ESCAPE FOR THE EITEL FRIEDERICK ALLOWED BY THE ALLIES.

INCOMING VESSELS SEE FLEET OUTSIDE LINES

Should the Eitel Attempt to Make a Run for it, She Will Encounter British Cruisers Ready to Sink Her British Steamer Puts Into Port and Relates Seeing Ships.

Newport News, March 13.—Five British warships are patrolling the Atlantic outside the Virginia capes to prevent the escape of the German cruiser Prinz Eitel Friederich, should the captain decide to make a dash for freedom from this port. The British steamer Anglo-Patagonia has arrived and her crew and officers reported they sighted the ships last night while steaming through the blockading line just before dusk.

### RIFLE CLUB FORMS.

Union Civilians to Organize Under National Rifle Club.

Citizens of Union are going to organize a rifle club. A meeting will be held at the city hall next Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, to complete the organization of a Civilians' Rifle club for Union. This club will be organized under the direction of the National Rifle association, an organization connected with the army department for the promotion of good marksmanship throughout the country. Under this plan high-power rifles and a limited amount of ammunition is furnished to the club free. Additional arms and ammunition are furnished at a very low price.

### Count Witte Dead.

Petrograd, March 13.—Official announcement is made of the death of Count Sergius Witte, former premier of Russia and one of the strongest men in the history of the czar's empire.

### Mr. Bramwell at Lake.

F. S. Bramwell, who has been critically ill at Portland, went to Hot Lake today, being joined by his son F. C. Bramwell here. He is considerably improved.

### BRUSSELS SONGBIRD WARBLES IN U. S. A



When Brussels theaters were converted into hospitals a few months ago, Belgian songbirds migrated to America to trill their melodies far from the din of battle. Almost the last of the grand opera stars to leave the annihilated Belgian capital for the United States was Alice Verlet, "the Belgian Tetrazzini," and she only left after she had spent several weeks nursing in the Red Cross hospitals.

### RECESS TAKEN UNTIL MONDAY

RAILROAD COMMISSION IN OTTAWA TODAY.

Man Who Appraised Plant for Bilsby People, on Stand.

Adjournment in the form of a recess has been taken in the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company rate hearing, transferred from La Grande to Baker yesterday morning. The commission was required to go to Ontario to hear a telephone dispute and will return to Baker Monday morning and take up more fully the testimony.

Attorney H. E. Dixon, representing the Commercial club here in the hearing, has returned from Baker. He affirms that a great deal of testimony was taken yesterday at Baker, and that George M. Maddock, who supervised the valuation of the company's plant by the Bilsby people, will be on the stand again Monday morning.

A system of cost distribution between the Baker and the La Grande divisions was advocated yesterday afternoon by J. A. Rockwood, electrical expert, on the grounds that while a considerable amount of power generated in this district is used in the La Grande territory, none is sent back in exchange and the higher cost in this district resulting from transmission and generation, is at present assessed against the Baker districts.

Mr. Aitchison expressed himself as being surprised at this testimony as it was in direct opposition to that given yesterday morning by Rockwood when he first took the stand.

George M. Maddock, who appraised the property of the company, acting for Bilsby & Co., of Chicago, gave his estimate of the electrical holdings of the corporation as \$2,180,000. He was on the stand for a large part of the afternoon, testifying concerning details of construction used in the various plants.

Company's Accountant Testifies.

Baker, Ore., March 13.—Dayton Taylor, auditor of the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company, on the witness stand yesterday at the hearing before the State Railroad commission in the investigation of the rates of the company, testified that if the company was compelled to do all its business on the basis of nine cents per kilowatt hour, it would lose money. Mr. Taylor qualified this statement by explaining that he meant if the company was obliged to furnish "juice" for power purposes and domestic use on the same ratio as charged for current for lighting, it would fall to show a profit and in fact could not produce the power for that amount.

He followed this testimony with the statement that the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company was compelled to reduce its rates from 15

### ARMENTIERES IS HUB OF BIG BATTLE FRONT

WINTER LULL IN NORTHERN FRANCE APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED.

GERMANS BRINGING UP HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS

Germans Have Abandoned Plan to Recapture Neuve Chapelle, Finding Opposition Too Strenuous—Birdmen Kept Busy Making Maps and Dropping Bombs—Several Wounded.

London, March 13.—A great battle marking the opening of the spring campaign, is impending between Armentieres and Labasse. Dispatches from the continent indicated Germans are bringing up heavy reinforcements to check the British offensive which has been developing rapidly in that vicinity.

An official communique issued at Paris announces that British and Indian troops are making further progress towards Aubers, having delivered a determined attack upon the German positions near there. The British took 612 prisoners yesterday.

Side Campaign Abandoned. Berlin, March 13.—(Wireless via Saville.)—Official admission that the Germans have abandoned their attempt to recapture Neuve Chapelle is forthcoming from the war office. It is stated, "The attack had successful beginning but a superior English force was encountered, and the attempt was discontinued."

British are showing the greatest sort of activity in this district. Aviators are kept busy making maps and dropping bombs. Three of them were brought down and captured, by rifle-men.

cents per kilowatt hour to nine cents under coercion on the part of the city government, which holds a club over the company in its ability to build a municipal power plant to operate in competition with the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company whenever the taxpayers vote a bond issue to finance the project.

The testimony of Mr. Taylor was the most interesting from a local point of view, the greater part of the testimony being relative to the financing of the various projects of the power company, its methods of declaring dividends, fixing rates of power, etc. Clyde B. Aitchison and Thomas K. Campbell are the members of the commission present, and Mr. Aitchison is conducting the inquiry. Mr. Neill, engineer for the commission, was also present. The Eastern Oregon Light & Power company was represented by Wm. A. Jackson and John L. Rand, while City Attorney McColloch was present in the interest of the city of Baker.

### FALL IS PAINFUL.

Mrs. Ida French Sustains Broken Arm in Fall at Her Home.

Mrs. Ida French, who lives at 1305 Third street, fell yesterday at her home and sustained a broken arm. Mrs. French suffers considerably today but expects to be able to take off the splints in due course of time.

### New Texas Labor Law

Austin Texas, Mar 13.—A 54-hour week bill for women workers, certain to become a law at this session of the legislature, passed the senate with women in cotton and woolen excluded from its protection. Senator Bee, author of the measure, felt constrained to apologize for the fact that it excluded these workers. He said that he had consented to it only because fourteen of his colleagues told him they would not vote for it if the bill did not exclude these workers.

### \$6 For Graduating Dress

Mitchell, S. D. Mar. 13.—Girl graduates of the Mitchell high school have by mutual agreement decided they would not spend more than \$6 for their graduating dress. This follows high school agitation about rich girls overdressing at graduation exercises, to the embarrassment of poor girls.