# La Grande Evening Observer

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

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## 64TH CONGRESS CONVENES

## DEMOCRATS IN MAJORITY BUT MARGIN SMALL

SIXTEEN MORE DEMOCRATS THAN REPUBLICANS IN THE UPPER HOUSE.

### BLEAK DAY IGNORED BY WOMAN SUFFRAGE CHIEF

**Tremendous Program Faces New Congress When It Convened at Noon Today—Bomb and Ceremony Carried Out—Baker Re-elected President Pro Tem in Spite of Opposition.**

Washington, Dec. 6.—The first session of the 64th congress convened at noon today in the last congressional meeting before the 1916 presidential campaign. All 435 members of the house and 32 senators, (1-3 of the whole senate), were sworn in. Of the former, 116; of the latter, 9, were new.

**Vice President Absent.**

It was a bleak day in Washington, but just the same the great number of suffragettes were present and paraded the streets, taking active part in demonstrations everywhere. While the voters-who-w[illegible] are carrying out their progra[illegible] ious parties were naming [illegible] the senate, Clark was elected president protem due to the absence of Vice President Marshall, whose wife was sick.

**Gallinger Made Leader.**

Senate Republicans held a caucus this morning and named Gallinger of New Hampshire minority leader in the senate.

Resting upon the legislative program of the new congress today was the shadow of national and world politics. Tomorrow the administration's program will be outlined personally by President Wilson when he reads his opening message at the joint session. Its known, big, outstanding features are: National Defence, Revenue, War Measures and Government Ship Purchase.

There is a mass of other legislation comprising the largest, longest and most important program of a decade. Since adjournment of the 63rd congress last March a score of new and vital questions have arisen in addition to many left over. Continuation of this session well into next summer is predicted by veteran legislators.

**Gay Crowds Attend**

There were the usual mammoth crowds in both senate and house galleries, representing the eyes of a hundred million Americans. Today's actual business was confined to the routine of swearing in new members, organization of both houses and notification of the President of the new legislative epoch.

As the gavels feel at the stroke of 12 at both ends of the capitol, officials and spectators were sobered by the gigantic tasks looming ahend.

Acting President Baker presided at [illegible] he senate and South Trimble, hous[illegible] lerk, in the lower body mending [illegible] peaker Clark's election. After the [illegible] utine tasks both bodies adjourned [illegible] il tomorrow to await the President's massage, according to ancient legal precedent.

**House Majority Suffers.**

[illegible] complemented today, the result [illegible] gressional elections in November 14, the democratic majority in [illegible] ate was increased from 18 to [illegible] he house it was reduced from [illegible] The new senate lineup to[illegible] democrats, 56; republicans, [illegible] ew house: democrats, 230; [illegible] 196; progressives, 7; [illegible] independents, 1. The last [illegible] 86 democrats, 125 republi[illegible] gressives and 1 independent [illegible] first time since the 62nd [illegible] ocialist party was again [illegible] day, Meyer London of [illegible] ne the member.

**[illegible] elfare Considered.**

President Wilson and [illegible] ratic control of the [illegible] was conceded by [illegible] hang upon the re[illegible] on. Political flavor [illegible] by the presence [illegible] Democratic Na[illegible] ich meets tomor[illegible] me and place of [illegible] national conven[illegible] the Republican [illegible] ets here for the [illegible] reconvening of [illegible] among all [illegible] the open[illegible] campaign.

[illegible] litical inter[illegible]

(See Page Two)

**MARRIED FIFTY YEARS.**

**Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Rumelhart Celebrate Golden Wedding Tomorrow**

The Golden Wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Rumelhart, of this city will be celebrated tomorrow (Tuesday, December 7th.) This event will take place at the Rumelhart home on Alder street in West La Grande, and which is called "Fairview."

Mr. aod Mrs. Rumelhart extend an invitation to all their friends to call on them tomorrow as this is to be a celebration without particular formality. They will be pleased to meet all who may call as the importance of the date is the marking of the fiftieth anniversary of their wedded life, and thirty-four of those years have been spent in La Grande.

**EASTERN STARS BEREAVED.**

**Mother of Grand Matron Passes at Roseburg.**

After being ill for several months Mrs. Moore, of Roseburg, is dead. She is mother of Mary E. Huck, worthy grand matron of the Eastern Star in Oregon. News of her death was received by Mrs. Fred B. Schike last evening.

**Initiation Tonight.**

Knights of Pythias will have work in the second rank tonight. All members are urged to be present.

## FORD SHAPING COMMITTEES AS SHIP PLOWS ON

CLERGY, PRESS AND SCHOOLS INCLUDED IN LIST NAMED AT SEA.

### COPENHAGEN MADE HOME TO CONTINUOUS SESSION

**These Committees Will Co-operate in Selecting a Committee from Neutral Countries to Sit in Copenhagen Until Peace Is Restored—All Well Aboard the Ship.**

BY CHARLES H. STEWART.

Aboard the Oscar, II, Dec. 6.—(Wireless to Siasconset, Mass.)—Henry Ford began organization today of peace committees. He is appointing clergymen, newspaper men and students to various positions, and these will meet similar bodies in neutral nations.

There they will co-operate in the selection of an international committee which will sit at Copenhagen, Denmark, until peace is restored.

All is well aboard ship.

## GERMANS WANT TO KNOW THE REAL FACTS ABOUT BOY-ED

Washington, Dec. 6.—Germany won't re-call Attaches Boy-ed and Van Papen as the state department has requested, unless the department will inform the German minister of specific charges against them and arranges safe conduct for them and their successors, according to a high official in the German embassy.

Berlin's reply to the request has not been received.

**Fay Re-accused.**

New York, Dec. 6.—Lieut. Robt. Fay and five others accused of plots against munitions ships in new federal indictments were returned today. They are charged with conspiracy to murder, by attaching bombs to ships leaving American ports.

**Crowley Re-arrested.**

San Francisco, Dec. 6.—C. C. Crowley has been re-arrested on charges that he conspired to destroy by fire and dynamite munitions ships bound to Allies. His bonds were fixed at $5000. Plot investigations continue.

**MR. OLIVER ANSWERED.**

**"Taxpayer" Discusses the Charter Amendment Question in Detail**

La Grande, Dec. 6—(To the Editor)—In a communication in your issue of Saturday the 4th inst., Mr. Turner Oliver has set forth what he believes to be good and sufficient reasons why the proposed amendment to the charter of the city of La Grande should be defeated at the forthcoming election.

In contradistinction to Mr. Oliver the writer of this has no personal interest in the outcome other than that of a taxpayer.

I do not know who drew the proposed amendment, but I do know that it is absolutely necessary to adopt such an amendment for several reasons if we are going to do business in a businesslike way, and that the section which has to do with the assessment of property for street improvement is only one of such reasons. The latter however seems to be the only section to which objection is made and I believe that if Mr. Oliver and others who are interested in a personal financial way who object will regard the amendment outside of such personal interest their objections will melt away.

The facts are in connection with Fourth street, that the street has been improved as were other streets and at no greater cost per unit. The property owners on other streets similarly improved are paying for such improvement. The question to be determined at the eletcion is: Shall the property owners of the city at large pay for the improvement of Fourth street or shall the cost be borne by the property benefited the same as on other streets?

There were technical errors in the proceedings leading up to the improvement of Fourth street. Would any of the objecting property owners on Fourth street try to avoid payment of a grocery bill or other obligation for benefits received and compel their neighbors to pay it because they could get out of it under cover of a technical error in the proceedings leading up to the transaction? Would they do so even if they had not ordered the groceries but had made use of them, or had had their property made more valuable by the obligation placed upon them

If they were inclined to do so would it be reasonable for their neighbors to help them to do so?

If such a party employed a lawyer on a contingent basis of payment represented by a percentage of what he enabled them to avoid and place on their neighbors, would it be a good business proposition for such neighbors to walk up amiably and place their necks in the yoke?

That is exactly what voting against the proposed amendment to the charter means. Do not be deceived by the dust raised by Mr. Oliver's plea that the commission will have too much power as well as the several other small smudges which he attempts to raise. The object of the whole thing is to prevent the commission from taking such steps as are necessary to cure a technical error in the procedure leading up to the improvement of Fourth street and place the cost of such improvement upon you and me and the other taxpayers instead of on the property directly benefited. Mr. Oliver knows perfectly well that under the proposed amendment the commission cannot effect an improvement of any street or alley if 55 per cent of the property objects, and that notice by posting in the district as well as by publication is required. The other pleas are equally specious and misleading.

A vote against proposed amendment to the charter means a vote to compel each taxpayer in the city to pay ten dollars on each $1000 of the assessed valuation of his property for the improvement of Fourth street.

Yours truly,
A TAXPAYER.

**FOURTEEN ARE ADDED.**

**Enrollment of New Members in the Salvation Army.**

The meeting at the Salvation Army hall Sunday evening was of more than usual interest from the fact that fourteen were enrolled in the membership of the local corps. The hall was crowded with people and the services claimed unusual attention.

At this meeting, also, there was presented the flag to the La Grande Salvation Army Corps. This was a beautiful flag of the regular army design and in connection with it was also an American flag and during the presentation the audience joined in singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee." The presentation was made by Col. Scott, of Seattle.

**MRS. GOODERHAM DEAD.**

**Funeral Services to Be Held Tomorrow Morning at 9:30.**

Mrs. Eva M. Gooderham, a resident of East Pennsylvania, died last night after a considerable illness, due to Bright's disease. She is survived by three sons, and was 55 years of age. The sons live in this city, two of them being in railroad employ. The third is under age.

The funeral will be held tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock at the Catholic church.

**ART CONNOISSEUR AND PRETTY SECRETARY WIN.**

Mme. Lisetta Morosino.

Professor Elia Velpix Volpi.

When Professor Elia Velpix Volpi, wealthy and famous art connoisseur, who had and dealt with J. Pierpont Morgan, and his secretary, Mme. Lisetta Morosino, arrived in the United States the other day, and were sent to Ellis Island, later to be ordered back to Italy, artists in the United States were shocked. Professor Volpi brought with him some $750,000 worth of Italian works of art for sale here, and these were held while he was in trouble. An Italian enemy had cabled to the immigration commissioner, making charges against him and his beautiful secretary. Not until an appeal was taken to the Washington authorities, was the order of the New York immigration official overruled. The art connoisseur and his secretary were then admitted.

A short time before the elder Morgan's death Professor Volpi arranged to collect for him bronzes and paintings valued roughly at $5,000,000. Mr. Morgan died and the deal was called off, the collection remaining on Volpi's hands. He determined to come to this country to sell as much of it as he could. It was under these circumstances that he sailed with Miss Morosino.

**New Dairy for North Powder.**

Another sale of land was made the first of this week, Will Hutchinson selling 120 acres of the ranch he recently purchased of Lane Goff to A. K. Graham who will use it for dairy purposes, says the North Powder News. The consideration was $8,000. Mr. Graham will erect a concrete milk house and will add other improvements which when completed will make his one of the best dairy farms in Eastern Oregon.

**Fire Alarm at Union.**

An alarm of fire Tuesday afternoon brought the fire department out in a hurry and the wagons were hustled away to the Sol Seaman place in South Union, where a burning chimney started the scare, says the Republican. The fire was practically out however when the fighters arrived. The department gave a practical demonstration of getting there, however.

**Home From California.**

County Prosecutor and Mrs. Colon R. Eberhard returned home yesterday from California where they have been attending the recent fair. After viewing the principal sights they returned to Salem, spent a day or so there, visiting Mr. Eberhard's mother at McMinnville and then called on friends in Portland.

**Train Details Ready.**

J. H. Keeney, O-W agent, has announced the running time of the special which will carry guests to the Hot Lake Party next Thursday. The train leaves promptly at 8 o'clock and returns leaving Hot Lake at 11:15.

## MINNESOTA'S PLIGHT PROBED

**FEDERAL OFFICERS INVESTIGATING SITUATION.**

**San Diego Knows Nothing of Crippled Freighter at Sea.**

San Francisco, Dec. 6.—Federal officers are investigating reports of a plot to disable the Hill freighter, Minnesota, which at day break was believed still off Coronado Islands, 25 miles southwest of San Diego, apparently in a serious condition.

Developments in the local situation are expected today.

Wireless messages say that several aboard the ship are prisoners for trying to blow up the ship. She was reported last night to be practically helpless.

**Trace Seems Lost.**

San Diego, Dec. 6.—Fishermen have reported there is no sign of the Minnesota on Coronado Islands. Local radios deny having received any wireless calls from here.

**HAD A BIG TIME.**

**La Grande's Delegation to K. of P. Convention Returns.**

The La Grande members of the Knights of Columbus who attended the big meeting at Pendleton arrived home this morning. None of the high expectations for a great gathering miscarried as there were delegations from nearly every important point in the northwest including Willamette valley towns. Between thirty and forty were present fror La Grande and to this section of the visiting Knights was assigned, under direction of District Deputy J. H. Peare, the important duty of conducting the ceremonies of initiation.

After the business of the session had been disposed of a great banquet took place, the last named feature having been prepared under the efficient direction of the Catholic ladies of Pendleton.

**La Grande Couple Married.**

The marriage of Sam Parker and Lillie E. Hall was solemnized at the home of George Ball in La Grande Saturday evening, December 4th, Justice of the Peace A. C. Williams officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Parker are residents of La Grande.

**Many Attend Funeral.**

Twenty from the south and west ends of the valley went to Elgin yesterday to attend the last rites paid to the memory of the late George Lindgren. A large concourse of people were assembled in the Elgin opera house for the sad event.

**Portland Woman Suicides.**

Portland, Dec. 6.—After making a careful toilet, Mrs. Jennie Corless, aged 41, and wife of a grocer, suicided this afternoon by shooting herself in the abdomen. Ill health is given as the cause.

**Seven Archbishops Created.**

Rome, Dec. 6.—The Pope has issued his allocution containing a stirring peace appeal. Seven archbishops were created.

**First Council Held.**

Paris, Dec 6.—The first war council with all Allies represented was held today. Gen. Joffre presided.

## LAND GRANT DECREE READY

TWO INJUNCTIONS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT READY TO BE FILED.

### S. P. COUNSEL HAS THE DOCUMENTS FOR PERUSAL

**Decrees Will be Entered in the Federal District Court Monday Covering the Essential Disposition of the Land Grant Matter—One Halts Proceedings Until Congress Acts.**

Portland, Dec. 6.—A decree in the Oregon-California land grant case will be filed in the federal district court at Portland Wednesday according to announcement by Assistant Attorney General Constantine Smyth. The decree was submitted to the Southern Pacific counsel so their possible objections will be heard before the decree is entered.

Smyth said: "The supreme court has ordered two injunctions. One is intended to be permanent and forbids the railroad violating restrictive provisions of the grant. It means the road can't sell for more than $2.50 an acre nor greater than 160 acres or to non-settlers. The other injunction is preliminary. It forbids the company to sell or dispose of the land until congress has an opportunity to provide for their disposition. If congress will not act the railroad may apply for a court order modifying the injunction against disposal on any terms."

**SPRUCE UP WITH DIGNITY THE FARM WITH A NAME**

J. A. Churchill, superintendent of public instruction of Oregon is enthusiastic over the possibilities of the "Rural Home Beautiful" project for the industrial clubs in the rural districts of Oregon. This is a new club project added this year at the suggestion of Theo. B. Wilcox of Portland, who provides the prizes offered in this contest. Club members entering this contest will furnish drawings and one or more photographs showing the condition of the premises at the time of taking up the work of improving and beautifying the home. They will also furnish drawings and explanations setting forth their plans for improvement. The work will include care of lawn, tree and shrub planting, flower and garden planting and the [illegible]ry about the work so many points to be credited to each, The capital prize for the one making the highest score in this contest is the same as in each of the other club projects—a trip to the Oregon Agricultural College and membership in the summer school for boys and girls, with all expenses paid for the two weeks.

Superintendent Churchill thinks through this project a great deal can be accomplished toward solving the problem of "keeping the boy on the farm" by getting the boys and girls to thinking and working, on a competitive basis on the improvement of the rural home—making it more pleasant and attractive by improving and caring for the lawn, planting a few shade and oranmental treets, adding a little shrubbery, giving some attention to the planning and planting of the garden, etc.

In connection with this, the idea is suggested that every farm or rural home should have a name and that that name should be prominently displayed on an arch over the front gate entering the premises, or in some other conspicious place. Surely every rural home is worthy of a name and should be dignified by one. There is usually some distinguishing features to suggest an appropriate name.

A few years ago the Oregon legislature passed a law providing for the registration of farm names with the county clerks. No special attention has ever been called to this law or to the importance of the matter and only a small per cent of the farmers have followed the suggestion Mr. Churchill believes a campaign among the school children will result in the naming of a large per cent of the farm homes, very much to the improvement of their appearance. Besides the aesthetic aspect of the question, it has a possible commercial value as well. With an appropriate name for the farm, it shoud adorn the letterheads used in the farm correspondence. Most breeders of purebred stock or poultry have their printed stationery just as business and professional men do, and all farmers selling any sort of produce should do the same and attach the name of the farm on their butter, eggs, potatoes, fruit and all other produce. If this name guarantees the quality of said farm's products as it should, the customers of the merchant who handles them will soon learn to call for this particular brand, thus creating a demand that will enable him to pay the highest market price for whatever this farm has to sell.—Portland Live Stock Journal.