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REPUBLICANS WON'T FIGHT PREPAREDNESS

ISSUE MUST NOT COME UP IN
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS, AVER
REPUBLICAN LEADERS.

ST. LOUIS CONVENTION DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE

After Conference with Minority
Leader President Promises that
Preparedness Will Not Be Made a
Party Issue and that it Will Not
Come up in Caucus Either.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Senate republicans won't fight the administration preparedness program provided the matter is kept out of democratic caucus. Republican Senate Leader Gallinger told the President that while republicans strongly favor preparedness they will refuse to support the proposition if it goes to a caucus. The President assured him he won't make the measure a party issue. Convention Plans Mature.

Chairman McCombs of the Democratic National committee announced today a special convention committee will assemble here December 20th to make arrangements for the national convention in St. Louis, June 14th. The President was host at a luncheon to the committeemen at the White House today.

SPAIN DECREE REVERSED.

Salem, Ore. Dec. 7.—A "quotient" verdict found by the jury and failure of the court to withdraw vague evidence from consideration today caused the Supreme court to reverse the decree of Circuit Anderson, of Baker county, in the case of John Spain against the Oregon-ashington Railroad & Navigation Company, appellant. The opinion was written by Justice McBride.

Spain brought action against the railroad company for damages following his ejection from a train at Huntington. He was alleged to have been drunk at the time and was placed in jail. The plaintiff alleged that because of his confinement in jail his arm, which had been amputated, became inflamed and another operation was necessary. Damages for this injury and humiliation because of his arrest are sought.

He obtained a favorable verdict, but the Supreme court held that the verdict of the jury, which was arrived at by taking the sum of each juror's estimate of damages and dividing it by the number of jurors favoring damages, was illegal. The evidence that Spain suffered injuries to his arm through imprisonment was also declared insufficient and should have been excluded by the court.

Other decisions today were as follows:

Lane, Goff et al., appellants vs. Grace Kelsey et al.; appealed from Union county; action to enforce oral contract for the conveyance of land; opinion by Justice Harris; Circuit Judge Knowles' judgment for defendant affirmed.

G. F. Hall et al. vs. Catherine Creek Development Company, appellant, appealed from Union County; suit to foreclose a mortgage on land; opinion by Justice Burnett; Circuit Judge Knowles' judgment for plaintiff reversed.

J. H. McHargue vs. Alex Calchina, appellant, appealed from Union county; action to recover damages for removal of timber; opinion by Chief Justice Moore; judgment of Circuit Judge Knowles for plaintiff modified.

FRED KIDDLE MAYOR.

Island City Ties on Vote for Councilmen at Annual Election.

Island City, Dec. 8.—(Special)—The returns from the annual election at Island City give the following results:

For mayor, F. H. Kiddle; recorder, M. W. Kiddle; treasurer, Mrs. W. W. Wade; councilmen, N. Perrine and W. Wade. For the third councilman G. W. Williams and Sam Irwin received tie vote, and the contest to see which one of the two will be relieved of the job will be left to the two candidates.

STATE BANKS HEALTHY.

Salem, Dec. 8.—A combined statement of all banks in Oregon on November 10th shows a decided business improvement, State Bank Superintendent Sargent said today. It is the most satisfactory since September, 1914, indicating a rapid return to normal.

The total resources are now \$164,481,432. The resources increased since September 2nd last, \$2,870,960.00. The deposits increased \$3,882,169.00.

STATE CONGRESS CALLED TO MEET

O. A. C. FARM WEEK HERE
SPREADING.

State President of Congress Calls Women to Meet in La Grande in February.

That La Grande will have a host of things going on of state importance during the week that O. A. C. veritably moves its college to La Grande, is daily becoming apparent. While O. A. C. will bring a score or more of professors and experts to the city that week, other associations are planning on making La Grande the meeting place. One such is the Oregon Congress of Mothers.

Mrs. George W. McMath, president of the congress, writes that the O. A. C. management has asked the congress to hold a Parent-Teacher conference in La Grande during Farmers' and Home Makers' Week.

Speaking of the proposed meeting, Mrs. McMath goes on to say:

"As near as we know now, the date will be February 3 to 5 inclusive.

"Mrs. Aristen Fella past president will be the general chairman, Mrs. Dora B. Schilke, vice president of La Grande, will be chairman of the local committees. "We will ask our vice president marked on the letter head to promote it in their districts and will let you have the program as soon as we can.

Vice presidents of the congress are: Mrs. H. J. Fitzpatrick, Portland. Mrs. W. J. Kerr, Corvallis. Mrs. J. G. Montgomery, Pendleton. Mrs. E. R. Seely, Medford. Mrs. Dora B. Schilke, La Grande. Mrs. B. G. Skulason, Milwaukie. Mrs. C. W. Bradford, Roseburg. Mrs. F. H. Skelton, Eugene. Mrs. Walter Brown, Lake County. Mrs. J. M. French, The Dalles. Mrs. W. W. Usher, Ashland. Mrs. Andre Gagnon, Marshfield. Mrs. D. C. Thomas, Jefferson. Mrs. H. P. Belknap, Prineville. Mrs. B. W. Barnes, Hillsboro. Mrs. F. M. Lowe, Malheur County.

MR. OLIVER QUIZZED

La Grande, Dec. 8th (To the Editor)—As a taxpayer of this city, I desire to ask Mr. Oliver a few questions regarding the proposed charter amendment, to be voted on by the people Monday the 13th of December and to ascertain if possible Mr. Oliver's active hostility to this amendment.

First, I would like to know what, if any, personal or financial interest Mr. Oliver has in this matter? Is it true as reported, that Mr. Oliver has a large fee, said to be ten per cent of the \$40,000.00 assessment on South Fourth street, or \$4000.00, contingent or depending upon his success in defeating this amendment, thus preventing the city from assessing the property owners along that street for this improvement, and as a result, throwing the said \$40,000.00 upon the general taxpayers of the city? Is not the sole purpose of this amendment to make it possible for the city to re-assess for the South Fourth, and North Second street improvements? And is not Mr. Oliver the chief counsel or lawyer for the fight that is being made by certain property owners to escape paying for these improvements?

If the answers to the foregoing questions are "Yes,"—as I dare say they should be—then is Mr. Oliver a safe adviser for the general taxpayers of this city? Is any person, who has several thousand dollars at stake, in a position to advise the taxpayers of this city how they should vote upon a proposed charter in order to protect their own interests? Would we in the every day affairs of life take the advice of a man who, we knew at the time we asked him for such advice, was the retained and paid lawyer of the opposite side? In brief, if I, a business man, have a dispute with my neighbor or customer and we cannot adjust the dispute, and we resort to a law suit, is it advisable or safe for me to go to a lawyer of my opponent for advice?

I have read some where that Mr. Oliver claims that the proposed charter if adopted by the voters Monday would lead to endless litigation and countless law suits. Is it not a fact Mr. Oliver that you have been engaged in almost endless litigation and almost countless lawsuits with the city of La Grande since you have lived here, and was not the same true of your residence at Union?

But really, Mr. Oliver, in all seriousness, did any one ask you to write your Saturday's article in the Observer? Have you not formed a fixed habit of writing articles for newspapers hostile to the charter amendment? Have you not written these articles without solicitation from any one, and prompted thereto solely by the hope of large financial gain by defeating the efforts of the city to re-assess South Fourth street, and thus save the general taxpayers about \$45000.00? Have you not, and your assistant attorney, Richardson, been going about our city asking the people to vote against the amendment, all without solicitation from any one? Would not your success in this work win for you a very large and healthy contingent attorney fee, and likewise result in giving you a free hard surface pavement in front of your residence on Fourth street?

In closing I dare to assert, with-

(Continued on Page Eight)

MINNESOTA IN NEED OF MORE HELP IN STORM

NORTHEASTER MAY HIT DISTRESSED BOAT NOW BEING TOWED ASHORE

MYSTERY STILL SHROUDS THE CRAFT SAY OFFICIALS

What State of Affairs on the Minnesota is, Officials Profess Not to Know—Two Boats Pulling Her in But They Haven't Stated What the Matter Is.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—Her boilers crippled, perhaps by spies or mutiniers, the food-laden Hill freighter Minnesota, which has been a mystery ship for several days, and which recently cleared from Seattle Englandward, is being towed in today by two tugs. More tugs will be sent however, as a wireless request for this has been received.

Storm Is Feared.

A heavy storm is blowing on the upper coast and it is feared the wind will jeopardize the Minnesota.

Aberdeen Storm Center.

Aberdeen, Dec. 8.—A terrific southeaster has raged throughout the night. The tide is the highest in the year. Several hundred feet or false work on the north jetty was destroyed. Shipping in the lower bay had difficulty maintaining anchorage.

DEFECTIVE GLADSTONE BABY ADOPTED BY OREGON NURSE

Portland, Dec. 8.—Expressing the strongest disagreement with the action of Dr. Haisleden of Chicago who permitted a defective baby to die, Miss Helen Kielblock, age 135 and a trained nurse, has formally adopted the 18-months' old defective daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown of Gladstone, Oregon. It is partially paralyzed, and is otherwise subnormal.

The baby has been named Albertine Kielblock, and the nurse declares she will rise it to healthy womanhood to prove her theories.

"FREE SPEECH IS ON TRIAL—NOT I" SAYS ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN.



ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN.

This I. W. W. worker who was arrested in Paterson, N. J., when she attempted to address silk mill workers, claims that Paterson officials are seeking to abridge right of free speech.

Titanic Social Service Begun With Two-Bits

Olive Childers, ensign of the Salvation army barracks, is undaunted by obstacles. Example: She has a plan to put a Thanksgiving dinner in to every needy home of La Grande and to provide turkey for every homeless son and daughter that may be in La Grande that day. It will cost \$500.00 and she has 25 cents. A little matter like \$499.75 deficiency in the fund doesn't harass her seriously.

The German army isn't catalogued any better or indexed any more thoroughly than are the needy and sick of La Grande. Miss Childers and her assistants will have prior to Christmas at their fingers' end the street address of every needy family the number in the family, and their physical condition whether or not they can come to the barracks for the Christmas dinner, or whether it must be sent to them. This information is obtained by calling at every known needy home, but it would not be amiss for citizens to notify her of any such family that may be known. Several reports on one family does not harm.

Undertaking Is Immense. Miss Childers told the Observer in her own words just how this great undertaking is going to be managed. Said she:

"The Salvation Army, all over the world will carry out their usual plan for bringing Christmas cheer to the needy.

"The La Grande corps will also do their part.

"The system used by the Army will be carried out here. Every family will be visited, the number of children in family noted, and conditions generally studied. Each family will receive a ticket with number corresponding, to the held by the officer in charge.

The box will be packed for that special family, and numbered, so that

the large family will not receive a box that has been packed for a small one.

"The boxes will be delivered the day before Christmas, so the family can enjoy the preparation of the dinner, in the privacy of their own home.

Monster Dinner Planned

"Then, on Christmas day, long tables will be spread, and a good dinner served in the army hall, to those who care to come.

"A special invitation will be given to the men, and boys who are deprived of home comforts. Christmas music, and singing will be enjoyed by all, during the day.

"The tree for poor children, will be held on Christmas eve.

"The Army Officers are anxious to carry out their plan successfully and ask the co-operation of the public to make this the best Christmas La Grande has ever known.

"The Army Hall, will be open every day, and a representative, on hand to receive any donation of food, clothing etc. For particulars, phone me at Black 1481.

"The following list in an estimate of the amount of provisions necessary for the boxes and Christmas dinner:

50 boxes of apples; 50 sacks of flour; 25 sacks of potatoes; 50 1 lb. buckets of lard; 50 lbs of coffee; 50 lbs of butter; 50 cans of condensed milk; 50 cans of tomatoes, corn or peas; 50 lbs of rice; 50 lbs of beans 5 sacks of sugar; 100 jars of fruit, or glasses of jelly; 100 loaves of bread; 50 cakes; 50 pies; meat, chickens and turkey for 50 boxes; Oranges, candy, nuts and popcorn for the Christmas tree."

the street with Dr. Best at the head soon after the mayoralty contest was decided. This, however, was not attended by any disorder. The ground in front of the Bowman hotel polling place was the place where the trouble started. Resentment against Dudley Evans, one of the challengers, had been nursed all day and threats of violence were made. Evans did not emerge from the polling place until the ballots were all counted and by that time some of the feeling had died down. Dr. Best had advised against violence and the officers had given warnings against it.

However, there was quite a crowd there when Evans came out, most of the people being there out of curiosity. Evans walked through the crowd which fell in behind and not a suggestion of violence was made. Only a few loud remarks were made as he walked down Main street and turned up Alta to the city hall. At Alta street Dr. E. J. Sommerville, who had been a prominent supporter of Best, joined the crowd and made demonstrations toward Evans. The police tried to pacify him and Evans walked up the steps and stood facing the crowd. Dr. Sommerville walked part way up the steps and made an impromptu speech, denouncing Evans and declaring the election results a victory for the common people.

Evans again walked through the crowd and was unmolested. After he had entered the hotel, he was followed by jeers and those in the foreground shoved Dr. Sommerville through the door where friends tried to calm him down. In the meantime a brief fracas had been going on in the lobby between other members of the party and the crowd outside started to force its way inside. Officer Omar Stephens attempted to hold them back and finally drew his club and revolver and so menaced them that they scattered in all directions.

They gathered again, however, and considerable wrangling, goodnatured and otherwise was indulged in before cooler heads prevailed upon the crowd to separate. Dr. Sommerville came down the street and joined E. W. McComas, another strong Best supporter, near the St. George Hotel and soon the two encountered Officer Stephens and Chief Manning. Words led to blows and in the short melee Stevens was knocked down. At this juncture Chief Manning drew his club and felled McComas with a blow over the head. He then took McComas and Sommerville in custody and escorted them to the police station.

The crowd gathered again, followed and started to force its way up the steps of the city hall. Chief Manning drew his gun and held the crowd back. He fired no shot but dealt several blows with his club before the leaders were dissuaded from advancing.

Dr. Sommerville and Mr. McComas were taken in the police office and medical attention secured for the latter. Several stitches had to be taken in the scalp wound. Meanwhile Councilman Murphy, City Attorney Carter, Deputy Sheriff J. A. Blakely, Judge J. A. Fee and other prominent citizens talked to the crowd and finally induced it to break up. This was after midnight, however.

The Election Results.
For Mayor—Best, 1197; Montgomery, 965.
For Treasurer—Moorhouse, 1431; Horton, 291.

MONTENEGRINS TIRE OF WAR; ALLIES SCOLD

KING NICHOLAS REPORTED ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE SEPARATE PEACE SOON

THREATS MAKE ANSWER FROM BIGGER POWERS

Confusion Arises Over Fate of the Standard Oil Tanker—Though Safe Sunday May Have Since Put Out to Sea Again—Safe Conduct Will Be Denied by England.

Berlin, Dec. 8.—Wireless to Sayville—The Frankfurter Zeitung declares King Nicholas of Montenegro, has suggested to the allies they permit him to conclude separate peace because Montenegro is exhausted. The organ said the allies replied by asserting they would sever diplomatic relations and withdraw all support if Montenegro acted independently.

Unconfirmed Reports Float.

New York, Dec. 8.—Unconfirmed reports around the reefer building say Von Papen and Boyd-Ea will depart Germanyward Tuesday. Steamship offices said no reservations had been made.

State of Tanker Uncertain.

New York, Dec. 8.—What the state of affairs is with the Standard Oil Tanker Communipaw, is hard to tell. It has been established finally she put in safely at Alexandria Sunday but may have put out again and have been sunk. Ambassador Page at Rome has cabled that a vessel, believed to be the Communipaw, was torpedoed and sunk. The scene and other details are not mentioned.

Ambassador Page tonight cabled that the Communipaw had been captured and conveyed to an unknown port.

WAS GREATLY ENJOYED.

Large Attendance at Concert in Tabernacle Last Night.

The concert given in the L. D. S. tabernacle last night was superb in every particular.

It was not only among the most pretentious musical entertainments ever attempted in La Grande, but claimed the further interest of home appreciation of a home production. There was a very large attendance, the major portion of the large auditorium being fairly well filled. Not one was disappointed but on the contrary all were pleasantly entertained and mutually shared in the gratification of an artistic success.

A more extended review of the event is reserved for Saturday's issue of the Observer.

Some Sales of Wheat.

A portion of the wheat crops of Garret Taal and Mrs. L. F. Proebstel, amounting to about 2000 bushels and stored with the La Grande milling company, was sold yesterday to the mill company. The price paid was 86 cents. A quantity of barley was also disposed of at \$1.25 per hundred.

W. C. Common Elected Mayor

W. C. Common, a former resident of La Grande, was elected mayor of Sumpter at the election held at that place Tuesday. He received a vote of 131 against 56 for his opponent, C. F. Holly.

GOOD WILL EXTENDED.

L. Garrick Advises Property Owners to Vote for City Change.

La Grande, Dec. 8.—(To the Editor)—With good will to all and malice toward none, let us all vote for the new city charter. Give the commissioners power to carry on improvements when and where needed and also to decide how and by whom the improvements shall be paid. Because if we are swayed to and fro by the objections of individuals who have axes to grind, we shall never get anywhere.

In almost every community we can find men who would object to the sun rising every morning if they were called on to pay their proportion for the initial force that turns the world around.

We believe our city commissioners are able and honorable men. Let us encourage them to remain so by granting them the power they require to carry on the city's business. We also find it hard to pay our taxes but we rejoice in city improvements.

L. GARRICK.