

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## MRS. MOHR AND THREE NEGROES PUT ON TRIAL

### THOUSANDS GATHER ABOUT COURT HOUSE TO HEAR THE PROCEEDINGS.

### POLICE BREAK WAY TO TRIAL ROOM BY FORCE

#### Notorious Shooting of Providence Doctor by Negroes, Who Claim Doctor's Wife Hired Them to Do It, Begins Today—Negroes Have Been Held Without Bail.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 10.—Mrs. C. Franklin Mohr and three alleged negro accomplices were placed on trial in Superior court here today on the charge of murdering Dr. C. Franklin Mohr as he rode with a young woman in his automobile, past a lonely spot near Nyatt, R. I., on the night of August 13, 1915. The Mohr family is wealthy and socially prominent in the summer colonies hereabout.

Mrs. Mohr demanded a separate trial. The negroes' attorneys asked for permission to withdraw, but this wasn't granted. The widow's attorney sprang a sensation, forcing Joe Aldrich to admit he had been visiting several talesmen. One juror was excused because of this.

The jury was secured late this afternoon. Several thousand gathered at the court house, many before daybreak and the police had to break a way for the defendants.

Dr. Mohr, of Providence, well-known in Newport and New York, was murdered about 9 o'clock. He was shot in the head and right shoulder and died at the Rhode Island hospital a few hours later.

With Dr. Mohr at the time of the murder was Miss Emily G. Burger, young and pretty, for several years his housekeeper. She also was shot in the head and right shoulder. She recovered. Dr. Mohr and Miss Burger were on their way to Dr. Mohr's Newport home. Their machine was operated by George W. Healis, a negro, who had been in the employ of the doctor a short time. Healis called for help and gave the police the first story of the crime.

During her ride to the hospital Miss Burger told all she could remember of the shooting. She said that soon after the car left Providence Healis complained that the motor was working badly. When the car reached the top of the hill, at the bottom of which he crime was committed, she thought Healis flashed the lights. He stopped the machine in a spot overhung by trees, according to Miss Burger, got out and lifted the hood. Then, she said, there was a crackling in the underbrush followed by flashes and revolver shots. The doctor stood up, half turned and fell across the back of the machine. She tried to get out of the car. There were more flashes and then she knew no more until just before she was lifted into the ambulance.

Healis denied flashing his lights. He said he stopped at the bottom of the incline to adjust his carburettor. He said he heard no noise prior to the person or persons who fired them. The negro chauffeur next morning at Providence, after many hours grilling is said to have confessed to having knowledge of a plot to rob Dr. Mohr, who, he said, was known to be carrying considerable money.

Healis is said to have implicated another negro, Cecil Victor Brown, who had been discharged from Dr. Mohr's employ three weeks before. Healis said that he was not in the plot. All he was supposed to do, he is said to have said was to stop the car when Brown held it up between Nyatt and West Harrington. He, it is said, said Brown was to trail the Mohr auto on his motorcycle, which Mrs. Mohr is said to have purchased for Brown. Brown was arrested at the house of George Daley on Earle street. Brown denied that he knew anything about the crime and said he could prove an alibi. He said the reason for his discharge by Dr. Mohr was that he had held a two-minute conversation with Mrs. Mohr in the barn of the Newport estate. In Dr. Mohr's pockets after the murder, were found two blood-stained envelopes addressed to Brown and containing pleas for an immediate interview with him. They were written in a woman's hand and signed with a woman's name. These letters, it developed later, were intercepted at the Mohr home and given to Dr. Mohr. Brown denied ever having received notes from Mrs. Mohr through her son. After an all-night grilling, Brown is said to have confessed that Mrs. Mohr offered them money if they would kill Dr. Mohr. He, the police say, admitted that he, Henry Spellman and George Healis planned the shooting. Spellman was

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## DRUNK CHARGES MISSING LONG

### MUNICIPAL JUDGE HAS LOST HIS STRIDE.

#### Absence of Drunk Case in Municipal Court Runs Prior to January 1st.

It has now been so long since Municipal Judge Robert Eakin has had a drunk case in his court that he has about forgotten his customary procedure in disposing of them. "We had no such cases in our court the last week of December and there has been none since the prohibition law went into effect in this state" said Judge Eakin today in going over the drunk and disorderly charges likely to come up throughout the state.

"I understand that municipal judges look at a drunk case now in the light that it required a deliberate act to get drunk; there can be no excuse that friends bought too much for the victim, nor can he advance any other excuse except that he deliberately sought out the liquor with which to get drunk. Under this viewpoint, many judges are inclined to use the full limit of punishment when such cases come before them."

#### Ban on Patent Medicines.

Salem, Or., Jan. 10.—Whether patent medicines can be used as an intoxicating beverage will be a ruling factor in deciding if they can be sold legally in Oregon, according to Attorney General Brown.

The test is whether the goods come under the head of intoxicating liquor within the meaning of the statute, according to Brown. He says that he knows that certain bitters were intoxicating beverages at one time, but is not certain as to their status now. He has requested the board of pharmacy to make an analysis of a number of medical preparations to ascertain if they can be used as intoxicating beverages.

He quotes a Georgia decision that the sale of certain patent medicines is unlawful because they can be used as a beverage, despite the fact that they contain helpful medicinal properties.

A former wholesale liquor firm was told today that it could not deal in alcohol for use of mechanical or any other purposes.

## LETTER WEEK PLANS SLIGHT

### IN FACE OF HARM DONE, UNITY URGED.

#### Portland Chamber Ignores Eastern Oregon Scenic Spots.

La Grande expects to participate in the big letter-writing week which begins January 17; hopes to see the plan attain its fullest possibilities—in spite of the fact that Baker, Pendleton and La Grande, not to say anything of Wallowa Lake, the scenic automobile routes in Wallowa county and in other eastern Oregon counties, have each, separately and collectively been overlooked by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Going into the scheme in great detail, the Portland Chamber has sent to the La Grande Commercial club, various material with which to promote letter-writing week. In all the literature sent out, Portland and the Columbia highway are featured so thoroughly that only in a condescending way are Hood River, Bend and Medford mentioned. All others are forgotten.

#### Form Letters Drafted.

All this is overlooked by the La Grande Commercial club, but the officials of that association deem it a fact that the last straw to break the camel's back came when the club sent out a dozen form letters which might be copied by the public to send to eastern friends, urging them to spend the vacations in Oregon. These form letters purport to name all the points of attraction in Oregon; Wallowa Lake, the nature freak equalled only by Crater Lake, isn't mentioned in a single instance; neither are the wonderful Seven Devils' mountain district superior to anything the Alpin areas can boast of.

"Portland persistently forgets we exist, out here in Eastern Oregon," said Secretary Currey in speaking of the campaign. "We don't expect Portland to boost one town above the other outside of Portland itself, but as long as the Chamber of Commerce proposed a dozen or more form letters to be copied, we deem it only right that Eastern Oregon get some specific mention, in view of the fact there is ample here to entertain the vacationists. We don't wish to detract from what others have, but for the sake of justice, let's all get what's coming to us."

With this sentiment out of their systems, club officials today urged La Grande and Union county people to get behind the movement and incorporate some Eastern Oregon matter in the literature. Blanks to be filled out by letter writers, and sample letters which can be augmented at will, can be obtained from the secretary.

## WEST GRIPPED IN ZERO SPELL AND BLIZZARDS

### MONTANA CENTER OF STORM THAT SWEEPS OVER WESTERN STATES.

### GALE AND BLIZZARD IS FELT IN GRANDE RONDE

#### Seattle Beach Homes Crushed by Rocks Blown by Wind—Much Damage to Docks—Entire West Feels Storm Which Sweeps Over Grande Ronde Valley During Day.

One of the worst storms of the year is gripping the Rocky Mountain states, and points west, today. La Grande got its share in the way of a gale that made the loose snow sing, Country and city travel was difficult, the biting snow whipping in true blizzard style. The local gale reached its height at the noon hour but continued more or less fiercely during the entire day.

Theodore May came down this morning from his homestead located nine miles south of La Grande. All through his section the depth of snow is rated at five feet on the level. On account of the fact that a large number of teams are working on wood hauling, logging and other similar operations in the timbered country south of town, the roads are kept broken and traveling is not at all difficult on the main highways.

#### Rotary Goes West.

Although there is absence of wind the snow fall in the mountains has been practically continuous throughout the day and there was lots of snow last night as well. The rotary, No. 061, was sent over the hill today at noon.

#### Homes Crushed Like Eggs.

Seattle, Jan. 10.—Two homes in Alki Point were crushed like eggshells when huge rollers, driven by a thirty-mile gale, dashed them against rocks. Scores of other homes are threatened with destruction.

A board walk skirting the municipal bathing beach was torn up and carried out to sea.

#### Montana Blizzard Bad.

Missoula, Jan. 10.—With wind blowing 50 miles and mercury flirting at zero, western Montana is gripped in the worst blizzard of recent years. The wind broke a number of windows in the University of Montana and classes were suspended.

#### POOL SUIT DISMISSED.

### War Has Done That Which Government Sought to Accomplish.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The supreme court has dismissed the Transatlantic Steamship pool case, declaring the war has already broken the pool.

In the so-called Trans-Atlantic pool case U. S. vs. Hamburg-Americanishe et al., the government charged practically all steamship companies in the North Atlantic steamer trade with combining to apportion the steamer trade among themselves in definite percentages, fix rates and drive from the field competitors not in the combination, thus attaining a virtual monopoly.

"The general pool agreement," the government declared, "included or included practically every steamship line engaged in the steamer traffic between the United States and Europe north of Cadiz, Spain, including the British Isles and Scandinavia. The only exceptions are the Russian Volunteer fleet, which was driven out of business, and the New York and continental line which commenced after the pool was formed, and which, twice ruined and forced to reorganize by the unfair and oppressive practices of the combination hereinafter set forth, persists today in an insolvent condition as the Uranium line, the sole surviving independent."

When a line outside the combination advertised a steamer's sailing date, one of the lines in the combination would advertise the sailing of an opposition steamer about the same day and at lower rates, it was charged. These were called fighting ships. Usually the rate was \$1 lower. If the outside line reduced, the fighting ship would cut again until both vessels sailed at a loss. The loss to the pool lines, however, was distributed among all members. This system is said practically to have wiped out all competition.

In pleading that the pool be included under the Sherman act, the government said:

"It is insinuated that permitting combination between steamship lines would somehow tend to build up an American merchant marine. Waiving the irrelevancy of the point, how could it, when these defendants are already combined to destroy new competitors—the government being impotent to prevent their doing so?"

## MOSLEM CITY GAY WHEN HER SOLDIERS WIN

### STORY OF ALLIED WITHDRAWAL FROM GALLIOLI REACHES BERLIN

### PORTE ORDERS CITY DECKED OUT IN FLAGS

#### Ten Thousand British Troops Surrounded by Turks Is Reported Received Today—Sofia Bombarded by Aircraft and Much Damage Done to the Place Is Rumored.

Berlin, Jan. 10.—(Via Sayville Wireless Station)—The greatest Turkish victory since the war, is reported from Constantinople. These are made preceding as a result of three days of fierce fighting the Allies' withdrawal from Gallipoli.

#### Transport and Men Sunk.

The artillery sank an Allied transport filled with soldiers. Enormous batteries were taken.

#### Moslem City Celebrates.

Constantinople made a festival occasion of the event. The city is flag draped. The city greeted delightedly the fact of the Dardanelles abandonment which releases Turkish forces for services elsewhere.

#### Turks Surrounds British.

Berlin, Jan. 10.—Turks have surrounded 10,000 British troops at Kutlamara. Constantinople reports say. The British constituted a detachment covering the retreat of Townsend's forces.

#### Krupps Lose Factory.

Amsterdam, Jan. 10.—Fire has destroyed the Krupp Wheel works, at Essen, and damaged other buildings.

#### Sofia Bombarded.

Saloniki, Jan. 10.—French airmen have bombarded Sofia and considerable damage was wrought it is reported.

#### EXPLOSION KILLS THREE.

### One Man Saved Because He Was Late to Work.

Wilmington, Jan. 10.—Three were killed in an explosion in a small powder house adjoining the Dupont plant this morning. The fourth escaped because he was late to work. A strict investigation is proceeding.

Three men were blown to atoms. The shock shook towns for miles around.

#### CHAUTAUQUA TEAM FORMS.

### Oregonians Will Join With Ellison-White People.

Eugene, Jan. 10.—Professor A. F. Reddie, Professor Dosch, Miss Janet Young and Ralph Ash will compose a company that will appear on the Ellison-White Chautauqua circuit this spring. Prof. Reddie is the head of the department of dramatics at the University. Prof. Dosch is in the arts department, Miss Young is a graduate, and Ash is a former student.

Professor Reddie has obtained a leave of absence from the University for May and June. He said last night that the company expected to be on the circuit from May 1 until into August.

While Professor Reddie is not at liberty to give out the program at this time, it will be in connection with the Shakespeare Tercentenary which is being celebrated all over the country at this time in honor of Shakespeare.

The company's circuit will be the largest on the coast and will comprise 10 states going as far south and east as Texas. All of the coast and the western states, with the exception of Colorado, are included.

Miss Young was graduated from the University in 1913. Since then she has appeared at the Baker theater in Portland with the Baker players and is now connected with the Ellison-White system. She is a member of Delta-Gamma sorority. Mr. Ash was prominent in college dramatics and is now in Pendleton. He is a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

#### MRS. CRAWFORD MOVES.

### Pioneer Boarding House Keeper Goes to Pilot Rock Junction.

After having conducted popular boarding houses, principally patronized by railroad men, for a decade in this city, Mrs. D. C. Crawford has moved to Pilot Rock Junction. For the past seven years she has been located at 1434 Adams avenue where she was always recognized as a pleasant and efficient landlady whose table was always crowded with satisfied boarders. The possibilities at Pilot Rock Junction were seized a few days ago and there she will make her home hereafter. Frankie Crawford-Chabeneau accompanied her to remain a week, assisting in getting ready by the 15th when the Junction becomes a terminal.

## LETTER HEADS A FARMER'S FRIEND

### UNIVERSITY HEADS POINT TO VIRTUES.

#### Farm Name and Stationery Good for Any Rancher He Contends.

The Oregon farmer can swell his annual receipts by using good printing and by occasional advertising in the weeklies of his county, says D. W. Morton, dean of the new school of commerce of the University of Oregon.

A farm letterhead should carry the name of the farm, the name of the owner, the location of the farm, and perhaps a small picture of some feature of the place, says Dean Morton, who regards the farmer as a business man with a substantial investment upon which he should make every effort to pay interest.

"It gives a farmer a certain business standing if he has a neat letterhead of good stock, and it improves the value of his farm to have a name and something of an individuality," he said. "There is some initial expense in having a picture taken and a cut made, but the publisher of the nearest country paper will attend to the details and afterward will do the printing reasonably.

"If the farmer raises highclass animals, his letterhead may contain a picture of a prize animal with its record; or if he has a stock farm, a picture of a bunch of stock; or if he has the best house or barn in the neighborhood, a picture of that; or a picture of a grove or a stream is usually effective on stationery. There are few Oregon farms not worth naming, and few that do not provide something worth a permanent picture.

"Advertising rates are very low in Oregon country papers, and a farmer at a cost of from 10 to 50 cents may often sell a horse, a second-hand machine, or some other thing about the place; he does not need by putting a small advertisement in his weekly paper.

"A farmer's advertising should of course conform to the best advertising standards; it should be very definite and absolutely truthful."

## WILSON WILL MAKE APPEAL

### PREPAREDNESS TO GO TO THE PEOPLE.

#### First Effort to Enlist Support to be Made in Speech.

Washington, Jan. 10.—President Wilson expects to take his preparedness program squarely before the people and ask their moral support. The first appeal is expected in an address soon. The White House stated today the president expected the international situation to clear rapidly, and then he will concentrate his efforts in national defense which faces an embarrassing situation in congress. It is reported the democratic central states opposed the program and floor leaders are not lending support.

Formal announcement of the settlement of the Louisiana controversy is expected within a week. After a 15 minute confidential conference with Secretary Lansing this morning, Ambassador Bernstorff frankly hinted the belief America will be pleased at the outcome of the situation.

#### SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTED.

### Strikers and Officials Dicker for Peace at Early Hour.

Youngstown, Jan. 10.—The State Board of Mediation is seeking to settle the strike of steel workers. The Tube company officials have attempted to reopen the plant with 500 workers. Militiamen, except two companies, were removed from the scene of the strike. The grand jury has started investigation of the riot. Three hundred negro strike breakers are coming from Chicago. Over 400 were arrested and held in improvised bull pens. Gangs are clearing debris resulting from riots and fires.

#### New Offensive Started.

Paris, Jan. 10.—Germans today began a violent offensive in Champagne, following bombardment by Asphyxiating shells it is officially announced.

#### REV. CLARK TO STAY.

A special meeting of the membership and congregation of the Presbyterian church was held on yesterday morning, and as a result Rev. G. L. Clarke, who has been serving the church since October 1, 1914, has accepted the call extended to him some weeks ago by the church to become the permanent pastor and his installation as such will be held as soon as possible.

## BULK GRAIN METHOD MAY BE USED HERE

### FARMERS' UNION ADOPTS RESOLUTION CONCERNING PROPOSED METHOD.

### HIGH GRAIN SACK PRICES BEHIND IT

#### Old-Fashioned Granary May Be Adopted—Resolutions Looking Toward That End Passed at Annual Meeting of Farmers' Union Here Saturday Afternoon.

The important business proposal receiving attention at the Saturday afternoon session of the Union County Farmers' Union was the adoption of a resolution which in effect is to hereafter handle grain in bulk and thus do away with the expense of sacks. The resolution simply voted the approval of the union in this matter. Details are to be carried out later.

The price of sacks has advanced to such a price that some means of escaping the burden seems a necessity. Sacks are now quoted at 10 1-2 cents, whereas the former rate to 7 cents was considered the next thing to prohibitive.

The plan to be followed will be for each farmer to construct on his own premises a granary of sufficient capacity to house his own crop. This movement is to be supplemented with the construction of grain elevators of sufficient size to handle the shipments from railway points.

Nearly all the shipments of grain eastward from various sections of eastern Oregon are going in the cars in bulk, and it seems that this system of grain handling is looked forward to as the most economical and expeditious in the future. Such a plan, the members of the Farmers' Union believe, will do away with the exorbitant expense of sacks as well as the inconvenience of handling at threshing time. Since the adoption of the resolution Saturday it is stated that two or three farmers of the valley have already placed orders for material for granary construction.

#### Election of Officers.

The Saturday afternoon session of the Union county division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, was the annual meeting at which time officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows:

President, W. J. Case, of Alice.

(Re-elected.)

Vice President, J. D. Woodell, of Imbler.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. H. McGoldrick, Imbler. (Re-elected.)

Conductor, Everett Walsinger, Alice.

Doorkeeper, A. Wealty, Elgin.

Chaplain, J. M. Gilkeson, North Powder.

Executive Board, John Wells, Imbler; W. O. Parks, Elgin; I. E. Chenault, La Grande.

#### FEARED FAVORITE SUFFERED.

### Grandma Sends Heavy Comforter to Grandson in Haiti.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 10.—Fearing the Government did not provide sufficiently warm clothing for her favorite grandson serving in the United States Marine Corps, an elderly lady today brought a fleecy, handwoven comfortable to the local recruiting station of the sea soldiers and requested Sergeant George S. Fynmore to forward it to him.

"Poor Fred may be shaking and shivering with cold just like the soldiers in Europe," she told Fynmore, "and this comfortable will be just the thing. You'll send it to him, won't you?"

Sergeant Fynmore assured the old grandmother that it would be a privilege and a pleasure to do so. But when he forwarded the package to Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, where the grandson is now serving, he enclosed a note explaining that the old lady had worked hard in an endeavor to have the comfortable finished in time to come as a Christmas present and that he didn't have the heart to disillusion her about the need for such things in Haiti.

"But," he added in the note, just by way of encouragement, "sometime when you're serving in Alaska I'll get her to send you a cake of ice."

#### HENDERSON IS BACK

### Cabinet Member's Resignation Either Refused or Withdrawn.

London, Jan. 10.—Arthur Henderson appeared unexpectedly at today's cabinet session after once resigning. It is assumed he either has withdrawn his resignation or it was rejected.