

La Grande Evening Observer

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NUMBER 182

ALL ENGINEERS WILL REMAIN IN THIS CITY

Railroad Company Has Accepted Engineer's Proposition in Full.

Portland, Jan. 15. C. M. Humphreys, La Grande, Oregon.—Our proposition accepted. Passenger engine crews will run out of La Grande. Signed, G. O. BARNHART, General Chairman Grievance Committee.

Thus reads a telegram concerning a matter of extreme importance to La Grande. Regarding the proposition, little detail has reached La Grande and until the return of the committee, due allowance for re-arrangement of the plan of handling passenger engines which went into effect yesterday, will probably be made. Local officials are not as yet familiar with full details of the arrangement but that the engineers will remain in La Grande and handle passenger engines from Pilot Rock Junction to Huntington, is definitely established by the chairman's announcement.

Doubly Good News Prevails.
Not alone is La Grande much elated over the fact that the eight or nine old-time citizen families of La Grande will remain here where they have lived a good many years, but the present status of railroading in general is encouraging. When today's paychecks arrived, there were 658 of them, all ranging well toward record fatness.

The number of checks now received compares favorably with about 500 a year ago, of smaller denominations. More men are employed now, out of here than regularly at any time in a large number of years. The total number of traincrews now employed is but two or three under the maximum number in a long period of time, and, furthermore, three brakemen are now employed where, under the old maximum, only two were used. Shop crews are as big as they ever were.

With the west-end passenger engineers to remain, paychecks more numerous and fatter than for a number of years, La Grande has rare occasion to look upon the year 1916 as a banner one to the city, her inhabitants and surroundings.

BRANCH LINE TIME CHANGES.

Ten-Minute Difference in Leaving For Joseph Provided For.

With the issuance of the new time table yesterday morning, considerable changes are put in vogue but only in one instance does the change directly affect La Grande. This is on the outgoing Joseph train which now leaves at 9:20. It arrives at Joseph a half hour later than usual, distributing the difference of 20 minutes along the way and means the train has more time to make the trip in. On the new basis, the outgoing train will reach Island at 9:20; Alicel at 9:40; Imbler at 9:50; Elgin at 10:15; Vincent at 11:22; Wallowa at 12:20; Lostine at 12:40; Enterprise at 1:05; Joseph at 1:30. The return trip schedule is unchanged.

No. 6 Touches Umatilla.
No. 6 is the only train that touches Umatilla on the new cut-off plan. It goes there to pick up the Spokane sleeper for Boise. The new timetable carries the new railroad map, showing the mainline running straight through from Hinkle to Coyote, and

LETTER WEEK BEGINS TODAY

Portland Ore., Jan. 17.—Letter writing week begins today.

Some time this week everybody who catches the idea of it is supposed to write a letter to friends "back east" telling them of the advantages of spending their summer (or winter) vacations in Oregon.

The first day's batch of mail from Portland was dumped into the post-office in a bunch and nearly swamped the clerks. A huge letter box bearing a persuasive banner, has been erected outside the Portland postoffice to receive the mail.

The letter-writing week scheme was inaugurated by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Governor Withcombe was induced to issue a proclamation calling upon all the people of Oregon to write letters. Contests for the best form letters were organized several weeks ago, and students who wrote the most attractive boost were awarded prizes. Publicity matter of all sorts was scattered broadcast throughout the state by commercial organizations.

They have made it easy to write letters in many Oregon cities. Stenographers have been stationed in hotel lobbies for the purpose. For ten cents a piece these stenographers will write any one of a half dozen form letters and mail it to any address.

FIRE LEVELS MILL CREEK'S POWER PLANT

LIGHT COMPANY FACING A SHORTAGE OF POWER TO SUPPLY WANTS.

SOUTH LA GRANDE WILL BE WITHOUT ARCS TONIGHT

Mill Creek Power Plant Burns Up at Noon, and Big Power Drains Are Immediately Cut Off to Conserve Juice for Lights This Evening—Loss Is Almost Complete.

Fire today noon laid waste the Morgan Lake emergency power plant in Mill Creek canyon which the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company has been using this winter to help carry the load of supplying power and light. The flames originated in a defective flue it is believed and burned rapidly, destroying the generator, the switching plant and other appurtenances, the water wheel alone being saved.

Power Is Shorn.
The fire leaves the company pinched for power juice. Big drains such as the flour mills, have been cut off this afternoon in an effort to maintain lights. However, South La Grande's arc lights were connected up with the plant which was destroyed today, and that section will have no arcs this evening. The Cove plant is frozen up, and for that reason the nominally emergency plant on Mill creek was in constant use. Unless unforeseen contingencies arise, the city will have lights tonight and in the future until other temporary arrangements are made.

The fire department attempted to reach the blaze with chemicals but snowdrifts south of the city prevented.

Guest of Dr. Bouvy.

Dr. John N. Coghlan, of Portland, was a visitor in La Grande yesterday and was the guest of Dr. Bouvy.

City Manager Ill.

F. J. Lafky, city manager, is confined to his home today with an attack of la grippe.

WOOD CASE IS FULL OF 'PEP'

MARKED WOOD ALLEGED WAS STOLEN BY MARTIN.

After Being Found Guilty, Defendant Appeals to Circuit Court.

The trial of the criminal charge against Guy Martin, of South La Grande, upon a charge of larceny of a load of pole wood belonging to Theodore May from the top of Glass hill, on New Year's day occupied Saturday in Justice of the Peace Williams' court. The witnesses for the state, under the guidance of District Attorney Eberhard, gave testimony tending to show that May had in December hauled his 16 and 18 foot pole wood out from the woods to the top of Glass hill and had there placed a secret mark on many poles; that Martin had gone out toward the location of the marked wood on New Year's day, and had brought a load of pole wood into town and sold it to Lee Bellinger through Jas. Garity, who were witnesses at the trial; that shortly after January first May missed some of his wood at the hill, and after a week's search in town learned of the wood deal between Martin and Bellinger, when he, with Bellinger and others, tore down the frozen wood as it was then piled at Bellinger's home, after having been sawed, and there found his marks upon the butt ends of some of the sticks. These blocks of wood were in evidence. Witnesses for Martin, under examination of Attorney C. H. Finn, denied statements of previous witnesses that recently cut deal pole wood could be distinguished from other like wood; and also testified that a small load of wood was left last Fall on the "Sprat" Montgomery place, to be seen there about Dec. 20th, and to be noticed removed from its location on January 4th. Mr. Martin then took the stand and denied getting the wood from the pile belonging to May, but stated he went on past that pile to Montgomery's place and got pile of 16 and 18 foot wood which was cut and left there last Fall and delivered that wood and not wood of May to Bellinger. Much testimony was directed to whether any other lots of wood as short as 16 feet were ever before cut on the Montgomery place; also as to whether May really had any marks on any of his wood.

At the conclusion of the trial, Justice Williams, who was called upon to decide the case after defendant had waived a jury trial, found the defendant guilty as charged, assessing the sentence at a fine of \$30 and costs. Defendant immediately appealed to the circuit court which meets the first Monday in February.

MONTENEGRO SUES FOR PEACE WITH AUSTRIA

Eastern Fronts Report Decisive Gains Against Moslem Hordes.

Berlin, Jan. 17.—Making the first break in the ranks of the Allies, Montenegro has asked Austria for peace. Crushed, broken and threatened with complete destruction before the hordes of Austrians, the country has surrendered completely. This announcement was made in the Hungarian parliament. Tizza said Austria demanded Montenegro law down arms unconditionally and that King Nicholas has acceded to the proposal. Negotiations will begin immediately.

Parliament burst forth in joyous demonstration. Rejoicing was reflected at Budapest and Berlin. It is understood Nicholas has gone to Italy. Probably an Austrian will occupy the throne he quit.

Peace terms will include Germany and Austria. Montenegro had not signed the pact binding England, France, Russia, and Italy to not make separate peace.

Constantinople, Jan. 17.—It is officially admitted the Turkish advance posts in Caucasus have retreated several miles before the Russian offensive.

Spanish Boat Sunk.

London, Jan. 17.—The Spanish steamer Belgica has been submerged. Twenty of the crew were rescued.

Wheat Supply Bought.

Burchest, Jan. 17.—An English syndicate has paid fifty million in gold for 80,000 cars of grain. It is understood the Allies intend to purchase the entire Roumanian grain surplus and plan to starve out Germany.

COLD SNAP A RECORD MAKER

YESTERDAY'S EQUAL TWICE IN 15 YEARS.

Seven Below Last Night Creates Trouble With Water Pipes.

Several January thermometer records were shattered Sunday and Sunday night in La Grande—which suffered along with other eastern Oregon towns in the severest cold snap in a number of years. One record broken yesterday was for maximum during the day. Sunday, the mercury attained 12 above zero at the warmest part. Not since 1910 has this record been equalled and only twice during the 15 years that the government has maintained official records here. These dates were January 3rd, 1910, when the maximum was 10 above, and 1902—the 25th of January—when a mark of 11 above was the maximum.

Data compiled by Weather Observer Benham shows all Eastern towns suffered—the only comparatively warm place was at the Beaver creek intake where, peculiarly enough, the mercury remained at 14 above zero.

Saturday night's mark of six below was the coldest in three years, and last night's mark of 7 below was the coldest since 1910 when it was 11 below.

Railroading suffered some, but water systems more. The thick blanket of snow preserved many homes, but in spite of that innumerable bursted pipes and frozen up systems made the plumbers busy men today.

Some of the records reported officially for last night were these: Pendleton 20, Enterprise 22, North Powder 22, Union 10, Walla Walla 14, Kamela 12, Cove 11, Elgin 22 and Summerville 22. (All below zero.)

GOAT GOES SHOPPING.

Stranger Billy Would Make Loan at Financial Institution, Too.
Somebody's billygoat went calling

SOUTHERN FLOODS CONTINUE

Los Angeles, Jan. 17.—With the entire southern California suffering in floods, the down pour continued today and more rain is forecasted for tomorrow. Streets have become torrents, the residence districts are flooded and interurban railways are demoralized

by washouts. Four inches had fallen this morning, making 10 1-2 inches for the season against 4 1-2 last year. Washington boulevard, the main automobile road between Los Angeles and Venice is covered with water. Schools in San Bernardino are closed.

GERMANS PHOTOGRAPH FRENCH MOTHERS AND BABIES FOR IDENTIFICATION.



This official German photograph shows one of the most pathetic effects of the war. So many French mothers and babies in the northern and eastern part of France held by the Germans have been separated that they have undertaken to photograph every mother and baby within the German lines, so if they are separated at any time the photograph will identify them.

ASSASSIN'S CORPSE DANGLES IN CUSTOM YARD AT JAUREZ

El Paso, Jan. 17.—The distorted corpse of General Rodriguez who was instrumental in the recent massacre of Americans, was exhibited today in the yard at the Juarez custom house. A placard announced that enemies of the defunct government would meet a like fate.

Four former Villista generals and eight followers have been executed. Three refugee trains, heavily guarded, are heading toward the border today. British subjects, and Americans too, are quitting Northern Mexico. The British ambassador at Washington has issued a warning.

Bitterness Continues.

Bitterness over the massacre continues. Thousands attended the funeral of Watson and Mercedes, slain in the massacre. Sympathy was shown for the Americans yesterday at Fort Hancock. The trouble there subsided after several Mexicans were cleaned out.

London, Jan. 17.—Turks are being rushed to Asia to meet onslaughts at three fronts, Athens has reported. Operations in the east are eclipsing those on the western front. Turks are retreating on both sides of the Tigris, south of Kutelamara.

General Aylmer appears likely to accomplish his purpose of relieving the besieged British garrisons. Simultaneously Russians in the Caucasus front are trying to ram into Mesopotamia and join the British. It is known Germans have united with Turks in Persia for a bitter struggle near Hamadan.

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London, Jan. 17.—Chamberlain has announced in the Commons that the Ahlmer relief expedition has again defeated the Turks, capturing a position in the Kutelamara region. Petrograd reports Turks were hurled back on a wide front and Russians are approaching Kermanshah, where a battle with the Turko-Persian force is imminent.

Rainy weather hinders pursuit of Turks in Kutelamara but it is believed the siege will be lifted shortly.

London received joyously news of allied successes, believing it the beginning of collapse of the Teutonic eastern ambitions.

this morning, in the down town districts. Whence he came and whence he went, none knows. When first discovered on the shopping tour, he occupied a niche well up on the wall of the United States national bank building, Roy Clark Y. M. C. A. secretary, coaxed him down and at the first opportunity Mr. Goat walked in, sized up the cashier's office and with his wise look in good language plainly asked the institution for a substantial loan. Mr. Scroggin himself ushered the caller out again but the closed door served only to bring the goat up on his hind feet, and with his forefeet rapping for entrance again. N. K. West's store was next visited, the men's side first and then the ladies' furnishing department was carefully inspected. Clerks kept their eyes open for any clyptomanic stunts. In due course of time Mr. Goat pattered out on the street and continued his perambulations about the business district.

TWO RUNS ADVERTISED.

Vacancies Occur on Mainline Passenger Department.

Advertisements are up for bids on two vacancies on the mainline passenger run from Pendleton to Umatilla. These are to fill the vacancies of the late Rube Wissler and Conductor Baker.

Al Ray and Bill Wade are among the oldest men who might bid for the job, but it is not certain that either will. The oldest of the conductors applying for the positions will get them.

BENSON BANQUET GROWS.

Big Attendance Expected to Hear Portland's Philanthropist.

Commercial club officials report much interest being taken in the dinner tomorrow night at the Methodist church when Simon Benson, Portland's wealthy philanthropist, and one or two other men visit La Grande. The Commercial club is directing the dinner in their honor, and good roads will be the pass word. The dinner begins promptly at 6:30 o'clock and those who have not reserved plates must do so with Secretary Currey before tomorrow noon.

Dr. M. K. Hall, will probably officiate as toastmaster, but it is very likely that the two visitors will be the chief speakers. Mr. Benson has won renown throughout the state by philanthropic endeavors and is a good roads promoter of the first water. It is primarily the road roads movement that brings him here.