

La Grande Evening Observer

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SILVER THAW HITS PORTLAND

La Grande Wrapped in Worst Snow Blanket in a Score of Years

LA GRANDE ISOLATED BY MORE STORM

THE STORM SITUATION IN A NUTSHELL

At noon today stub trains were moving in Eastern Oregon. A stub from The Dalles is due in La Grande about 8 this evening. It is following a rotary snowplow from Pendleton which found its greatest trouble near Duncan.

When this stub arrives, No. 19, which was held here all day and last night, will go west. The outlook is dubious.

The snowplow will then go to Telocast hill where it has been blowing hard today. As soon as it gets the tracks clear, No. 5 will leave Baker, and today's No. 17 will leave Huntington.

There are no snowbound trains outside of eastern Oregon cities.

No trains, even the stubs, will be run until there is no danger of slides, which with wind, are the greatest menace of any facing transportation.

One hundred and fifty men, in a train made up of cooking, sleeping and eating cars, have gone to Imbler to begin to shovel out the branch line train. A smaller crew has left Joseph working this way. No rotary will be used on the branch line.

Late tomorrow or the day after is the time expected to get trains to Joseph. No one knows the extent of the blockade in the canyon, until crews get into it. Al Ray is in charge of the train from this end.

One of La Grande's rotary plows has gone to The Dalles to help clear the eight feet of fresh snow at Bridal Veil. No trains have left Portland since night before last.

If all things go well, there will be trains in La Grande from the east by 12 tonight—this dependent upon ability to keep the Telocast hill clear. School closed today, to remain closed the rest of the week.

The storm situation in Union and Wallawa counties, is summarized thus this afternoon:

Union—Snow continues without cessation and a wind is blowing and there are heavy drifts. A snow plow is clearing the walks but all country roads are blocked.

Cove—There is nothing but snow—forty-eight hours of it and still coming. Snow is two feet on the level but there is no wind.

Elgin—An additional foot of snow fell last night. A heavy wind last night piled up drifts. The wind subsided this morning but the snow still comes.

Imbler—Schools have been closed; twelve inches of new snow fell last night. There has been a light wind and country roads are practically impassable.

Enterprise—A foot and a half of new snow fell last night and today and it is still coming straight down, with no wind. Schools are running. The situation here is typical of the whole county.

La Grande is non-plussed—so is the county, so is the state. Because of a snowstorm that probably breaks all records for a score or more of years, the city is helplessly floundering about in snow today. Schools have closed, railroads are unable to carry through service, stores and other structures with flat roofs are threatened with collapse due to the excessive snow, commercial affairs are crimped, farmers are isolated, and in every imaginable way the storm is leaving its effect. It is Groundhog Day but in the shuffle that fact is generally lost sight of.

Sidewalks Abandoned. Except in down town areas, the city officials have abandoned all efforts to keep sidewalks open. Snowplows such as did good work yesterday, were entirely inadequate to cope with the situation today. Hence a four-horse snowplow was put in motion in the center of the street, and there, in residence districts, pedestrians found walking less severe.

Extra Fire Equipment. Last night, today and until such time as it will be no further needed, the fire department has an auxiliary department. A team of horses is kept in the livery barn, continually hitched to a sleigh loaded with several links of hose and some chemicals. Thus the department will be in shape to get anywhere with very little loss of time. The auto truck might, and might not, get to its destination—hence the pre-

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SIDELIGHTS ON FARM WEEK AND STORM

SOMETHING TO DO AND TO NOT DO.
While the snow blockade prevails, it is good judgment to:
Feed suet on strings to birds.
Don't expect the mail man to be on time, or get around at all.
Don't ask delivery teams to bring you trifling packages—let the man of the house carry the groceries and meats home. It is inhuman to expect a grocery delivery in times like these.
Keep the roofs of your houses shoveled off.
Be careful of fires.
Don't scold the carrier boys if they are late tonight.
Everybody is doing the best he can to do what he can to make every body content. Don't be impatient.

The worst ever, yep, that's true.

Several tons of snow crushed the roof of the sorting sheds at Perry last night and the mill is closed down. Log supplies are also exhausted.

One enterprising firm on Adams avenue today painted the six-foot wall of snow in front of its place with signs crying out the firm's wares.

Bill Siegrist built a German trench, Bert Patison an English and George the Greek put up a neutral wall this morning and did considerable joshing about international warfare.

Horses hitched to wooden drags kept the O.W. platform clear last night and today. At the point where the snow is dumped, the horses walk on five to six feet of snow.

At the "get together" last night in the M. E. church everyone got acquainted with his neighbor; listened to his needs; prescribed for his ailments and agreed with Walter Pierce that the crime of the age is the interest rates paid by the farmer, carefully refraining from considering interest rates paid the other members of the vox populi.

It was a fine meeting, although lightly attended because of the heavy s-n-o-w.

J. D. Slater presided and told of his experience as a farmer which consisted of driving hogs from the Bartmess ranch to the mines in Baker county "years ago."

Miss Smith, of the High school, sang a beautiful number and answered a vigorous encore.

Then Walter Pierce spoke at some length on the different vicissitudes of the farmer, also mentioning the eccentricities of some of his farmer acquaintances in the way of investment, etc.

"As an office farmer Walter is a wonder," remarked one man who actually follows the plow, "but I question if his viewpoint would not change a great deal should he hit the ball every day in the year from the small land owner's position."

Then George Cochran spoke on topics of interest to the farmer, denying some of the Pierce allegations and endorsing others.

Chairman Slater acted as chairman and attorney as well for when he heard utterances that seemed to him a little off color as to fact he drew the speaker on the carpet and chastised him.

"Farmer" Smith stirred up a little excitement in the vestibule of the church as the meeting was closing by arguing the livestock situation earnestly. When the old man stopped to take a breath he looked around and as he slipped down the steps to the open air he said, "Pardon me, I forgot I was in church."

All the O. A. C. boys were present and Chief Booster Brewer of the Portland Chamber of Commerce was also a spectator.

The meeting was in every way satisfactory and the few who were in attendance enjoyed the evening.

Yesterday afternoon Mrs. Hilda Anthony was heard in a splendid piano number.

One taxi of the auto sort was running part of the forenoon today. No one set of people worked any harder during the night than taxi drivers. Several autos were abandoned in various parts of the city during the night and today one taxi owner got out a team and cutter and answered jitney calls that way.

Merchants generally set their clerks to the roofs to shovel off the snow to avoid collapses. More snow was shoveled than bundles were wrapped, by a good deal.

The Merchants' Delivery put on two extra teams today and are doing everything possible to make deliveries promptly but cannot guarantee anything. But four deliveries daily will be attempted at present.

The Sawyer-Clark company reports that it requires a four-horse team to haul a half ton of coal, and patrons are asked to exercise patience as deliveries will be made with all the dispatch that is possible.

The whole square of snow on one side of J. R. Oliver's roof on his home at First and Main, started to slide off some time during the night but changed its mind, and with several feet on the block protruding over the eaves, slid sliding. It would have been "curtain" for his front porch had the avalanche come down as it started to do.

Western Union officials had their grief today. Everything to the west is down save one dispatcher's wire. La Grande and Baker commercial business is being handled via Salt Lake over one wire. Manager Sprinkle managed to get everything away in fairly good shape, notwithstanding there was no west commercial service.

The Home Independent Telephone company had but little service this morning. Tonight it has a trunk line to Walla Walla, service with Wallawa and full service to the east. Walla Walla is cut off from Portland.

Owing to unfavorable weather Mr. Arctomys Monax did not put in an appearance today. This is the Zoological cognomen of what is otherwise known as the American woodchuck, or Missouri ground-hog. For some time past this personage has officiated as the weather pace-maker for the six weeks following Candlemas day, and decide whether or not it is advisable to move his family up stairs or set up light housekeeping in the basement.

APPAM TO BE HELD.

Although the British Embassy Will Demand Release.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The Appam will not be allowed to leave Norfolk. The highest officials of the state department said that this course has been practically determined upon although no formal decision to that effect has been given out.

The British embassy announced that it will demand the release of the Appam and return to the owners. The German prize crew will undoubtedly be interned but the status of the British army and navy officers aboard is a knotty problem.

TOMORROW'S FARM WEEK PROGRAM

- Dairy Day.**
9:00-10:00—Improving the Dairy Herd Through Co-operation—Auditorium
M. E. Church—F. W. Kehrl, Field Dairyman.
Possibilities of the Prunes and Cherries in the Grande Ronde Valley—Y. M. C. A. Building—W. S. Brown.
10:00-11:00—How to Make Dairying More Profitable—M. E. Auditorium—Helmert Rabild, Investigator Dairy Farming U. S. Department of Agriculture.
Grain Smuts and Their Control—Y. M. C. A. Building.
H. P. Baras.
11:00-12:00—Breeding for Better Cows—M. E. Auditorium—E. B. Fitts, Extension Specialist Dairy.
Marketing Fruit and Fruit Products—Y. M. C. A. Building.
W. S. Brown.
1:00-2:00—General Assembly.
Music—School Glee Club (a) Stars the sky Adorning, (Wikerlin) (b) The Fisherman (Gabuzzi).
Address—Some Phases of Rural Parcels Post.
E. E. Bragg, Post Master, La Grande.
Address—Mrs. George W. McMath, President Oregon Congress of Mothers.
2:00-3:00—Cow Testing Associations—Methodist Auditorium.
Helmert Rabild.
Pruning Demonstration.
W. S. Brown.
3:00-4:00—Feeding for Milk Production—M. E. Auditorium—E. B. Fitts.
4:00-5:00—Best Crops for Dairy Animals—M. E. Auditorium—W. W. Howard, County Agriculturist, Malheur County.
Dairying in Eastern Oregon.
"Farmer" Smith.
7:30—Music—Soprano Solo—(a) Lift Up Thine Eyes (Logan). (b) Never a Winter but Sang of the May (Speaks)—Mrs. T. J. Scroggins.
Address—"Reading for the Home and How to Get It"—Mrs. Ida J. Kidder, Librarian, O. A. C.
WOMEN'S SECTION
9:00-10:00—Infectious Diseases of Children.
Mrs. Dolman.
10:00-11:00—School Lunch.
Miss Turley.
11:00-12:00—To be announced later.
1:00-2:00—General Assembly.
2:00-3:00—Children's Reading—Mrs. Ida Kidder, Librarian, Agricultural College.
3:00-4:00—Influence of School Girl's Dress.
Mrs. Brooks.
4:00-5:00—Rights of the Child—Mrs. Geo. W. McMath, President Oregon's Congress of Mothers.
7:30—General Assembly.

RAIN STARTS NEW TROUBLE IN PORTLAND

Portland, Feb. 2.—Silver thaw struck the northwest this morning, practically cutting Portland off communication from the outside. All schools are closed, street cars are stalled, telephone and electric wires are breaking under the weight of ice. Trees in all parts of the city have tumbled and limbs are torn off.

Buildings, wires and trees are coated thickly with ice.

Streets are seas of slush from the recent snows and gutters are running full of water.

Rain is falling steadily in Portland, though a heavy sleet storm driven before a wind, prevails elsewhere.

Huge chunks of ice are falling from buildings in the business section and have endangered pedestrians.

Tacoma Suffers Too

Tacoma, Feb. 2.—The heaviest storm in a decade has played havoc with railroads and transportation here, pre-empting floods when warmer weather comes. Dynamite was used in the Cascades to break drifts before the rotaries. The Great Northern trains are mostly annulled, the Milwaukee and Northern Pacific are greatly delayed. It is believed train service will be completely stopped by tonight if conditions continue. It is raining in Tacoma today.

WILSON GROWS WEARY.

Says He Tires of Simply Writing Notes About War.

Aboard the Presidential Special, Kansas City, Feb. 2.—Wilson swung into Kansas this morning to feel the pulse of the wheat belt on the subject of preparedness. Few knew he was here during the few minutes the train was switched en route to Topeka. After speaking at Topeka at one afternoon he will return to Kansas City for his main speech tonight. It is expected he will reiterate his statements made at Des Moines last night that he doesn't relish the idea of continually writing notes and will urge action necessary to back up notes. He is scheduled to make a rear platform speech at Lawrence at ten this morning. From Kansas City tonight he will go to St. Louis and wind up his address tour. He then returns directly to Washington.

BABIES ENTERED DESPITE STORM

BABE SHOW PROMISES TO BE OF MUCH INTEREST.

Comfortable Quarters Provided—Mothers Should Follow Schedule Closely.

Two days ahead of time, the list of babies entered in the Eugenics contest which will be conducted under general direction of Mrs. A. Bayly of Portland, head of the Eugenics department of the Oregon Congress of Mothers, is growing rapidly. Mrs. Bayly didn't come this morning but at every assurance is given that the baby show will be held Friday as scheduled. Mrs. A. L. Richardson has asked that the mothers be as prompt as possible in coming at the hours assigned them. This will insure comfort, convenience and plenty of opportunity to have measurements taken with utmost accuracy. The library building will be as comfortable as any home. The list of babies now entered include:

Alice Margaret Cook
Marion Raymond Cook
Lena Maud Johnson, Summerville
Hallie McFarland, Umatilla
Dwight Mahoney
Iris Hughes
Phyllis Eleanor Dunn
Miriam Fay Hanna
Dorothy Jane Howland
Howard Sargent
Helen Catherine Sargent
John Edwin Miller
Georgia May Gilbert
Lawrence Bay
Graydon Edward Holt
Richard Lee Holt
Robert Goodnough Holt
Edward Marsh, Ontario
Adam Leighton
James Hugh McClure
Alice Byrdette Mason
Harriet Jewel Weagle
Ruth West
Maravene Kiddle
Mary Ruth Geibel
Ralph Henry Geibel
Franklin Eberhard
Russell Winters Nelson
Frances Newlin
Paul Newlin
Vincent Newlin
Helen Winifred Newlin
Elizabeth Jane Olson
J. Douglas Lynch
Anna Jane McMillan
Mary Rose Miller
Frank Wesley Oliver
Franklyn Charles Bramwell, Jr.
Robert Calvin Jones
Mary Kathryn Spathe
Max Stoddard
Helen Jane Wall
Helen Deitchon, Portland
William Edward Adcock
Robert Adele Goss
Loew Joseph Cook
Vincent Norbald Donovan
Mary Kathryn Cook
James Ardele Burns
Mary Jane Menig
Margaret Fay Menig
Robert Lewis Kelly
Edith Kathleen Kelly
Everett Joseph Reynolds
Packy M. Farland
Frank Barton Connors
Edith Alice Lathan
J. C. Williams
Ruth Murchison
Valery Harper
May E. Huff
Ethel Harnden
Leah Lumper
Karl Johnson
Sarah Dooley
Kenneth Oxner
Frederick Walter Newland
May Dorothy Newland

SIXTEEN KILLED IN WRECK.

Disaster Overtakes an Express in Suburb of Paris.

Paris, Feb. 2.—Sixteen persons were killed and forty-five others were injured in a wreck of the Calais express in a suburb of Paris this morning, it is reported.

VESSEL NOT SUNK

Japanese Freighter Has Showed Up Off Halifax.

Halifax, Feb. 2.—Though reported sunk in a collision last night, the Japanese freighter Takata Maru is floating this morning, the steamer Silverbell standing by. A wireless has reported the engine room to be flooded.

Turkish Prince Reported a Suicide

Amsterdam, Feb. 2.—Prince Yassuf Iszeddin, heir apparent to the Turkish throne, committed suicide according to an unconfirmed Constantinople dispatch.

PROGRAM AT 'FARM WEEK' KEEPS GOING

Tonight's program, none other, are cancelled.

Great oceans of snow that neither man nor beast could effectively combat, didn't detract an iota from the interest in the lectures and demonstrations going on in both departments of Farmers' and Homemakers' week today. It was horticulture and animal husbandry day up stairs in the Methodist church, and it was "how to help the sick at home" in the basement. Mrs. Dolman had a very creditable audience of women who appeared at nine o'clock, as walking snowwomen. Mrs. Dolman's speeches will be published tomorrow.

Up stairs, questions of very vital importance were discussed. Chief among these were Walter M. Pierce, discussing fall calves, a proposition in which he is a leader among northwest stockmen, and Prof. W. S. Brown's speech on horticultural topics. Mr. Pierce's lecture will be published in the Observer tomorrow.

The question is often asked the Extension horticulturist "What is the matter with my old orchard? The leaves turn yellow, the trees don't bear so well as they used to and the fruit is poor." That something is lacking, usually, in the soil and that something should be done to bring the trees back to normal again was shown by Prof. Brown in his talk on "Cover Crops for the Fruit Grower."

In the afternoon Prof. Brown will show that figures gathered from over 1000 fruit farms in the Northwest make it plain that the production of apples and other fruits is costing more in some cases than the prices received for them. That this cost of production must be cut to a much lower figure than is the average at present if the producer is to keep on in the business is a fact that few will gainsay. How is the grower to cut this cost is the question? Prof. Brown will indicate how our present costs may be cut materially in many ways.

In the evening the problem of making the surroundings of the home more attractive and beautiful will be taken up and some of the reasons why our boys and girls leave the farm, reasons that are often overlooked will be brought out in Prof. Brown's lecture entitled "Home Grounds, Their Planting and Care."

For Thursday morning a topic has been chosen that will undoubtedly be of interest to all fruit growers of this valley, "The Possibilities of Cherries and Plums in the Grande Ronde Valley." The Grande Ronde Valley has several natural advantages which are not enjoyed by other sections of the northwest. Is all being done that might be done for the fruit industry? We believe not. There is an especially attractive field in trying out some of the best of the new plums. The question of varieties together with the best horticultural practices for the cherry, plum and prune will be taken up in this lecture. In the afternoon a pruning talk and demonstration will be given by Prof. Brown. Those who are bothered with some of the vexatious problems of pruning should be out for this work.

Tomorrow's program is especially attractive from every viewpoint, and it is believed that there will be some relief in transportation facilities by that time. Some of the speakers for tomorrow haven't arrived, and may not, due to isolation at Portland.

DRY FARMING TOPIC

Mr. Larsen Has Message of Interest to Dry Farming Followers.

J. E. Larsen has brought a special message to such Eastern Oregon farmers as follow dry farming. In the course of an interview he said: "We hear a great many theories regarding soil moisture. A few: Rain follows the plow; after a country is settled up for a while there will be a larger annual precipitation. Now, this is a great capital for the real estate man. It is hope-food for the settler coming to make a home and stake on dry land. But we cannot dodge the facts. There is about so much rain in a given section annually and it will not vary greatly through a long series of years. Records do not bear out the first theories mentioned. Dry farming centers about the following practices:

1—Get all the moisture you can in gardening practices.

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