

La Grande Evening Observer

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PORTLAND TRAINS HAVE STARTED EAST

The first of four trains from Portland is due to arrive in La Grande at 9 tonight. The branch line will be open tomorrow morning, according to railroad advices at 3 p. m.

Portland, Feb. 5.—The northwest is wriggling from beneath the blankets of snow. Telegraphic and telephone lines are slowly being restored. Street service in Portland is mostly resumed and the temperature is slowly rising in Western Oregon. Rain is predicted tonight or tomorrow.

Snow is falling heavily at Hood River, where a wood and meat famine is threatened. Two trains are stalled there.

Twenty miles of telegraph and telephone lines are down along the Columbia. Astoria is reached only through Seattle and telephone companies route Seattle business through Chicago or Spokane.

After lying in Portland since early Monday morning, east bound passenger trains are moving out today. The first of three such O.-W. trains, which left Portland this morning, is due in La Grande this evening or tonight some time.

While conditions have manifestly improved on the mainline, the branch-line is still clogged but is near relief, and O.-W. officials here express the belief that they will be able to send out trains tomorrow to Joseph. This is dependant on good fortune in the canyons where the snow shovelers met more obstruction than had been anticipated.

Westbound traffic continues to move with some difficulty but nevertheless with more or less certainty. Yesterday's No. 17 passed through La Grande today noon. That traffic is open on the D. & R. G., and other eastern roads which tap the Rockies is the report brought to La Grande by men traveling through from Texas and other states and who stopped over here today. Learning that No. 17 would very likely reach Portland they board it and so did most of the O. A. C. extension staff which has been waiting for a train that had some chance of reaching the terminal.

There are still slides of various degrees in different localities especially on the west end, and while there is some tangible indication of trains getting through this evening, unforeseen obstructions may delay them to a greater extent than is now thought likely. Mail and papers are nearly a week will be brought in by these trains.

For the first time in nearly a week Pendleton papers were received in La Grande today. They tell of storm conditions that are not only serious but almost appalling, and it is further feared that the real havoc of the storm is yet to come.

Three Feet in Pendleton. Snow has reached the three-foot mark in Pendleton and, with snow still falling and the weather man promises a continuance of the same weather during the next 24 hours, there is little hope of immediate relief.

From 4:30 Monday until 4:30 Wednesday the fall was 21 1-8 inches and there was a nine inch thickness on the ground when the present storm began. The snow keeps settling a little so that measurements about the city vary somewhat.

The storm during the past 24 hours has not been continuous. The snow has ceased falling for an hour or more at a time only to begin with increased energy.

The situation in Pendleton and Umatilla county is hourly growing more serious and the oldest of old timers are now willing to admit that no storm in their experience in these parts has equalled that of the present.

Thorn Hollow Stock Perish. Indian cayuses and cattle are dying from hunger and exposure like flies off about Thorn Hollow, according to Supt. F. B. Hayes of the water department who made a trip to the head of the city pipeline. He states that everybody with whom he talked reported the stock dying off rapidly, particularly along Squaw creek.

The Indians are not alone the sufferers, he states, quite a number of white settlers having lost stock as well. Few Indians or whites in that vicinity, he states, made any great provisions for a hard winter and the heavy snows have found them without food or chances to get any.

At noon Thursday Major Swarthlander said there was no hope for the cayuses running on the range because there is no way of getting feed to them and they will die.

St. Andrews Cattle. Wednesday afternoon 80 head of cattle from the St. Andrews mission herd were driven from the mission to the Umatilla agency and they are now being fed on government hay at the agency. The cattle are Herefords and they started from the mission at 1 o'clock and arrived at the agency at 5 last evening. The cattle were much exhausted from the trip but all got through alive.

The government is feeding 255

head of Indian cattle at Cayuse and now has only sufficient hay to last four days longer. It will be necessary to ship in hay by rail or the cattle will soon be without feed.

Mitchell Lloyd, well known Indian, has lost six head of cattle out of 45 head he has been feeding.

Six Feet at Birch Creek.

There was six feet of snow last evening at the government station in Granite Meadows at the head of west Birch creek, according to a phone message received by Superintendent Cryder of the Umatilla forest from the ranger who visited the station to make his weather observation. The snow was still falling and it is estimated by Supt. Cryder that the snow is now seven feet deep at the station.

The snow at this station is the deepest known anywhere in this region and is deeper than higher up in the mountains. At Meacham the snow was five feet deep this forenoon. There have been reports of deeper snow than mentioned above. However, the reports seem unreliable.

Walla Walla Buried in Snow.

At 11 o'clock Thursday forenoon the snow was 38 inches deep on the level in Walla Walla and snow was still falling. It had been reported here in Pendleton that rain was falling in Walla Walla but the report proved untrue. The Walla Walla fore-

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SHORTAGE IN BUTTER SHARP

FARMERS BEGIN TO STRAGGLE IN WITH RELIEF.

Main Arteries in Country Begin to Open After a Week's Blockade.

Country roads are slowly being penetrated along main arteries, and it is a general blessing that they are. Many commodities such as butter, eggs and cream were running extremely low. In a few instances teams have crossed the valley with farm produce, and Ladd Canyon and more nearby farmers are struggling into town in the face of great odds. The relief in eggs and butter was greatly appreciated today.

The up-river districts are very much isolated.

CARRIERS ATTEMPT TRIPS.

Go as Far as They Can and Then Give Up the Job.

Rural carriers have attempted to reach patrons but haven't to date reached the complete route since the storms broke. They go out various roads, attempting to reach as many as possible. Carrier Kimmel has had the best luck while Carrier Fuller has had no roads broken for him in his territory at all.

SALEM MURDER BRUTAL

Salem, Feb. 5.—Though three suspects have been arrested the police are still baffled over the brutal murder last night of Mrs. J. R. Hinkle, aged sixty-six. George Clark, an escaped convict, is being sought as the perpetrator of the crime. Apparently three blows by a blunt instrument were inflicted on Mrs. Hinkle's head crushing her skull when she was surprised by a robber in the kitchen at her home. The house had been ransacked and fifty dollars in cash stolen. The husband of the murdered woman is a retired farmer and is wealthy. He discovered the body when he returned home. He is frantic with grief.

CHEMICALS "DOPED"

Parliament Extinguishers Contain Inflammable Liquids.

Ottawa, Can., Feb. 5.—Charles Stewart, house doorkeeper, declared today that the hand extinguishers in the Parliament buildings apparently contained inflammable chemicals which spread the fire in the Parliament buildings the moment they were used.

FORMER ENGINEER HERE

Man Who Once Ran Train Out of La Grande Visits Old Friends.

Sam L. Winter, of Columbus, Mont., is in the city visiting friends. Wm. Winter has until recently been in the train dispatching business and telegraphy, but about 14 years ago was a locomotive engineer out of La Grande. He lived here a number of years, and enjoys the visit to his old haunts immensely.

BLUE MOUNTAIN HOTEL RAZED BY MORNING BLAZE

STRUCTURE BURNS TO GROUND WITH COMPLETE LOSS OF ITS CONTENTS.

ROOMER LEAPS TO SAFETY VIA WINDOW

Snow On Adjoining Roofs Saves General Conflagration of the Entire Block Which Is Largely Wooden—Loss Is Complete—Seven People Roused from Rooms.

The Blue Mountain hotel building was totally destroyed by fire a little after 3 o'clock this morning. Buildings occupying the same site have been burned down in the years gone by and the latest structure has been on fire at least twice within the past six years, at one time only the kitchen part in the rear being destroyed and on another occasion most of the upper story was left a charred mass.

It is all gone now. The fire department answered the call and undertook to use the truck but on account of the narrow passageway at Adams avenue could not proceed further. Then a very correct imitation of Bingville's fire brigade ensued, but they got there just the same. While hope of saving the main building under the conditions was futile, there were in a short period three hose streams playing on the adjoining buildings all of which were saved without a scratch. The emergency team and sleigh got hose to the scene. The only apparent origin of the fire is the overturning of the stove in the hotel office. The blaze had such a start that all the fixtures shared the fate of the building, with very few exceptions. Some gasoline that was in tubs was carried out by the firemen and dumped in the street. An automobile in the rear was also saved. Wooden structures less than six feet from the burned building were saved, the snow stopping a widespread clean-out of the entire block which is largely wooden.

Man's Escape Narrow. A man whose name is not learned, suffered severe burns of the hands and neck during the fire. Aroused by the noise in the hall he peered out only to have flames lick his face. Turning in fright he dove through the window of the second story, nearly crushing a man upon whom he landed in the deep snow. The flames followed him to the window and burned his neck before he got out. One hand was badly burned.

Seven people are supposed to have been in the hotel and these are all accounted for. Everything in the way of furniture was a total loss.

The department was thoroughly exhausted by the long fight with the flames in the deep snow but were re-tooled to good cheer by a breakfast at a restaurant at six o'clock which City Manager Lafky arranged for the tired and water-soaked department members.

LUSITANIA CASE MAY YET BRING DIPLOMATIC BREAK

Berlin, Feb. 5.—Germany doesn't foresee an immediate crisis with America over the Lusitania torpedoing. She believes further informal exchanges are certain to occur before Germany frames a formal answer to the last American note. If the deadlock is reached it is believed possible to avert a break by referring the dispute to arbitration. Few believe America would refuse such a proposal.

Washington Much Concerned

Washington, Feb. 5.—The Lusitania situation is very grave. President Wilson met Secretary Lansing in the first of a series of important conferences to determine America's future policy toward the Germans. No decisive step was planned today. In a confidential report from Colonel House the belief is expressed that tension public opinion is opposed to admission of any illegality torpedoing, hence hands of the foreign office are tied.

Uniform is Honored.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 3.—While national legislation is framing to

JEW IS CENTER OF SUPREME COURT STORM.



GOOD ROADS MEN ELECTED

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION EFFECTED YESTERDAY.

Vice Presidents in Various Districts to Have Advisers.

Permanent organization of a county-wide organization "to assist the county court in promoting good roads" was effected yesterday in this city out of the temporary organization that previously existed. The meeting was held in the Y. M. C. A. and the election of permanent officers was one of the principal business items transacted. The men who will direct the organization are:

President, George T. Cochran; Secretary, F. B. Curry; Vice-presidents, La Grande, C. S. Dunn; Union, Dr. J. P. Meyers; Elgin, L. B. Tuttle; Cove, Hugh McCall; Summerville, A. C. Glenn; Imbler, Mrs. H. McGoldrick; North Powder, Dr. Irvine. The executive committee as elected consists of Mr. Cochran, M. K. Hall, A. B. Andrews, Mr. Tuttle, Mr. Meyers, Karl Stackland and Mr. Curry. Each vice-president is authorized to appoint an advisory board in his respective territory to conduct the campaign.

Within a few days several well known Portland road builders will come to La Grande to speak and bring stereopticons with them. These men include Mr. Ferris, who is Hill's road man, Simon Benson, who was booked to come recently but failed to make connections, and Roadmaster Yeon of Portland.

The membership roll which is being distributed by vice presidents in each district, sets out the purposes of the organization in the following words:

The Membership Roll.

We, the undersigned legal voters or taxpayers of Union County, Oregon, believing that co-operation is the mainspring which moves the wheels of improvement and progress and for the purpose of forming an organization to promote good roads in Union County, Oregon, to aid in locating a system of good permanent roads and to furnish an organization to aid and assist the County Court of Union County, Oregon, in the solution of the good road question, do hereby join ourselves together under the name of Union County Road Association.

FARM HOME BURNED.

Haines People Lose Property According to Word Brought Here.

Mrs. L. M. Hoyt has been advised that the home of her sister, Mrs. C. E. Morris, five miles from Haines, was destroyed by fire last night. The entire furniture equipment was a total loss it is reported.

MR. TOPLIFF WINS BID.

Conductor Goes to Passenger Run on Huntington Swing.

Freight Conductor Topliff has won the bid for the vacancy on the Pendleton-Huntington passenger run, and will go to work at once on his new post. He is providing himself with a uniform, and will be in regular service shortly.

HEAVY LOSSES IN CANADA ARE CAUSING PROBE

ATTEMPT TO DESTROY VICTORIA BRIDGE AT MONTREAL FRUSTRATED.

LOSS OF PARLIMENT BUILDING NOT ALL

Valuable Army Plants Burn Destroying Much Clothing and Haversacks—Man Held as Suspect in Parliament Fire is Released—All Aliens Rounded up by Police.

Amsterdam, Feb. 5.—Belgium frontier is completely closed to travelers, it is announced today and it is believed this indicates an important concentration preliminary to a strong offensive.

Montreal, Feb. 5.—Troops have frustrated an alleged attempt to wreck the Victoria bridge. They fired on a man creeping along the ice to the bridge. He fled and escaped. He had appeared previously at midnight and fled when challenged. The bridge, spanning the St. Lawrence is one of the largest on the continent and is closely guarded.

Parliament Buildings Burn. Ottawa, Feb. 5.—Fire, believed to be incendiary, destroyed the war supply plant of Grant, Holden & Graham Co., this morning while the officers were investigating destruction of Parliament buildings. Thousands of dollars in clothing and haversacks were ruined. A few men in the plant escaped safely.

Watchman is convinced a fire bug is responsible. Charles Strony, a Belgian musician, is held as a suspect, but was released this morning.

Rundown of Foreigners Begins

The greatest roundup of aliens since the beginning of the war was ordered when dominion police instructed its men at all points to apprehend all foreigners who left Ottawa the night of the parliament fire. Foreigners were furnished tickets in numbers. The war supply fire resulted in a half million damage. It is reported here a plotter who attempted to dynamite the Victoria bridge later drowned. His tracks were traced to open water.

Many Germans Drown. Amsterdam, Feb. 5.—Four hundred and fifty Germans attacking Dvinsk were drowned when Russian fire broke the ice of the Dwina river, dispatches have said.

Riots in Lisbon. Paris, Feb. 5.—Riots assuming proportions of a revolution, broke out in Lisbon last night and continued today, crowds attacking the republican guards and pillaging passengers.

FLOOD MOVES COWS.

Brenholtz-Smith Ranches in Southern California Under Water.

The Robert Smith and W. L. Brenholtz families, at one time residents of this city and now in the dairy business at National City, Southern California, are having troubles of their own as a result of the recent floods in that vicinity. Writing to the H. J. Ritter family Mr. and Mrs. Smith tell how they have 26 acres under water, or did have January 27, and were forced to move their cows. Backwater from the floods seems to be the principal cause of the trouble. Mr. and Mrs. Byrket who live near there, are reported to be in poor health—otherwise the La Grande colony in that vicinity is prosperous and well.

HOSPITAL REPORT FILED.

Directors and Officers for Ensuing Year Re-Elected.

The report made by the secretary at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Grande Ronde hospital, held recently, shows 389 cases treated during the year 1915, 204 operations having been performed. The records show that patients have been treated from 38 cities and towns in Oregon while others have come from the states of Idaho, Nevada, Tennessee and Alaska. Twelve births were recorded for the year.

The Training School for Nurses maintained in connection with the hospital sent out a class of eight trained nurses at the graduation exercises held last June; at present the school has an enrollment of 11, being the largest number in its history enrolled at one time.

All the old directors were re-elected and the same officers have been chosen for another year.