

La Grande Evening Observer

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RURAL CREDITS GETS SANCTION OF COMMITTEE

FAVORABLE ACTION PROMISED IN REPORT FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BILL.

SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT GETS A LONG-TIME LAYOVER

Municipal Ownership Test Vote Given in Senate When Borah's Measure Comes Up for Consideration—Feasibility to Be Discussed Fully.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The committee to which it was referred has reported the Hollis rural credits bill proposing loans to farmers at five per cent. Favorable action is promised on the measure.

Anthony Amendment Shunted.
By a vote of nine to seven, the judiciary committee postponed consideration of any women suffrage proposals until December 14th, which means the present congress will not vote for the Anthony amendment.

The committee declined to postpone consideration of the prohibition amendment to the same date. The vote was a tie.

Municipal Ownership Pushed.
By a vote of 39 to 23 the senate today passed Senator Borah's motion to investigate the feasibility of government ownership of all railroads and all public utilities.

DEPUTY SHERIFF RESIGNS
Tom Williamson Hands in Resignation Last Night.

Deputy Sheriff Thomas H. Williamson has tendered his resignation and it was accepted last evening by Sheriff August Hug. Concerning the reasons for the resignation Mr. Williamson today explained the move as follows: "Recently I announced my candidacy for sheriff on the republican ticket. It seems Sheriff Hug looked upon my candidacy with disfavor and he has, for political reasons, asked for my resignation and it was forthcoming. The differences between Mr. Hug and myself are in no way personal."

SLIDE DELAYS TRAIN.
No. 6 Is Nearly Eight Hours Late Today Due to Track Trouble.

No. 6, the noonday train from Portland is about eight hours late, 7 hours and 30 minutes to be exact. The train was held behind a slide on the west end that tied up traffic early this morning.

Sudden Smash Successful.
Berlin, Feb. 15.—Germans have captured over 800 yards of English trenches in a sudden smash in southeast Ypres.

LARGE SUM TAKEN.
Reported that Over \$400 Was Taken from Cove Safe.

It is reported today on good authority that when yeggmen broke open the postoffice safe at Cove Sunday they got \$300 in stamps, \$100 in cash and a revolver.

Some strangers were in Cove the day before and suspicion points to them.

Mrs. Kenyon Very Low.
Mrs. Kenyon is in a very critical condition at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Grout. The latest report this afternoon was in effect that all hope for her recovery had been abandoned.

WILL PEARE IN LINE.
One of Nominees as Member of State Board of Examiners.

Will Peare is attending the meeting of the Oregon Optometrists in Portland. At the meeting Saturday he was named as one of three to be selected as a member of the state board of examiners as a successor to Dr. Henry E. Morris, of McMinnville. The three designated by the convention are: Dr. W. S. Moody, of Oregon City; Dr. W. J. Curtis, of Corvallis and Dr. M. Peare, of La Grande. The appointment is to be made by the governor.

HAY PRICE NEAR RECORD

Hay prices are attaining such stupendous heights that it is very probable all previous records since the day of railroads in this vicinity have been broken. Retail prices in La Grande now range between \$25 and \$30 per ton. One La Grande dealer bought a carload in Haines which cost him little less than \$25.00 laid down in La Grande. Out in the valley hay brings from \$17.00 to \$20.00 in the stack depending on the length of the haul and the quality of the hay.

One leading stockman who feeds more hay, probably, than any other man in this county, contends that hay enough to do all stock was raised last year but that it is not uniformly distributed. He asserts that in places hay was prolific and at such points it is being held for the high prices—elsewhere there was little or no hay and at such points stockmen suffer.

WILL APPEAL HAMILTON CASE

VERDICT OF NOT GUILTY TO BE TESTED.

In No Event, However, Will Defendant Have to Stand Retrial.

The trial of the case of State against Will Hamilton on a charge of violation of the prohibition law ended at about five o'clock last evening, when the jury after short deliberation brought in a verdict of not guilty.

The closing hours of the trial lost none of their interest as legal questions were constantly arising and usually disposed of after short but spirited tiffs. In the absence of the jury, the spectators heard spirited arguments of the lawyers in support of the instructions asked for by each side.

State to Appeal Case.
"Yes, it is true that I intend to immediately appeal this case to the supreme court," said District Attorney Eberhard, today. "The court disagreed radically with the theory of the state in a number of instances and I consider the case is in an admirable state to directly raise these points and to secure an adjudication from the supreme court on some of them at least."

It is only in prohibition cases that the state can appeal from acquittals and then in case the judgment is reversed there can be no further trial, but the law of the case is settled. Therefore, it is certain that Mr. Hamilton will never have to stand further trial nor will he necessarily be compelled to defend the appeal of the state in the supreme court.

DECISION FOR PLAINTIFF.
Important Case Tried Out in the Justice Court.

There were two cases before Justice of the Peace Williams yesterday and the litigants were the same parties in each case—that of John Shaw of North Powder against A. L. Fugate. The plaintiff brought the action to regain possession of property which had been under lease to the defendant. The decision of the court was in favor of the plaintiff in both cases. Leroy Lomax, an attorney of Portland, represented the interests of Mr. Shaw and Attorney A. A. Smith, of Baker, appeared for the defendant.

OF 918 REGISTRATIONS 182 ARE WOMEN; REPUBLICANS LEAD

Less than one-eighth of the voting strength of Union county is registered. Figures compiled in County Clerk Ed Wright's office up to and including Feb 12th, show that there is marked lethargy in this respect especially among the women. Out of a total of 918 people registered only 182 are women. In view of the fact that the registration this year is permanent, provided the voter doesn't move his home or neglects to vote at two successive state elections, there is general disappointment at the slowness with which this duty is performed. Registration offices are maintained down town for the benefit of ladies and busy men.

Republicans in the Lead.
Registrations to date are largely republicans. Men and women of that political creed who have registered now total 631 and democrats 295.

Progressives total nine, and prohibitionists 19. Socialists number 41 and independents 21. Miscellaneous embraces two. Of this total which is 918, 736 are men and 182 are women.

WALLINGFORD BUBBLE MEETS ABRUPT BURST

SIGHT DRAFT MANIPULATED CLEVERLY TO OBTAIN CONSIDERABLE GOODS.

SUSPECT ARRESTED IN PENDLETON YESTERDAY

On Strength of Rented House and Alleged Balance Due Him at Furniture Store He Obtains Goods at a Third House—Same Plan Worked, It Is Said Elsewhere.

What businessmen and officials claim is a clever attempt at swindling on a new and deep-plotted basis, has come to light with the detention in Pendleton of a man who established credit in this city by renting a house and on the strength of an uncashed sightdraft, obtain a large bill of drygoods. It is claimed by the police that the man who is probably under 30 and claims to be a signal service expert, is operating a similar game in Pendleton. Among those who are familiar with his doings in La Grande some contended that his movements are such as to immune him from the law and that he has committed no technical offense in the eyes of the law. At any rate his actions have led to his arrest and admission that if purposefully criminal, are the footprints of a master.

If the supposition of the police is correct, then he went about it with methodical precision and established proof of his good intentions in the most trivial yet impressive manner. Telegraphic communication with the Spokane bank where the draft was drawn on discloses that there is no money there. This news has caused a great deal of interest.

(Continued on page 8.)

GERMAN PRESS QUARRELS

Berlin, Feb. 15.—Settlement of the Lusitania negotiations have suddenly become the center of violent party storms. Newspapers today attacked Von Bethemann-Hollweg, and Von Jagow for failing to explain the terms of the settlement in the Reichstag. They declared officials ought to tell the public whether Germany has made further concessions tending to cripple submarine warfare. Other papers expressed delight at unofficial report of a settlement and they are anxious for the maintenance of good relations between Germany and America.

Conservatives desirous of annexing Belgium to gain harbors and iron mines, are bitter over the Lusitania incident. Radicals are supporting the government.

Came to La Grande for Brides.

The latest records show that our community is all to the bad in one way. The export of brides exceeds

SOUP DINNER FIRST GUN OF WORLD-WIDE WAR ON CLERGY AND ALL CHURCHES

BISHOP MUNDELEIN, RECEIVING HOMAGE FROM PRIEST JUST BEFORE FAMOUS SOUP EPISODE



Archbishop Mundelein, who was honor guest at Chicago poisoned-soup dinner, only a few days before left New York for Chicago to become the new archbishop there. At the Grande Central station the new archbishop's ring was fervently kissed by a priest of the Brooklyn diocese where Mundelein was chancellor.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—World-wide plots to wreck churches and kill clergy, were revealed today in letters of John Allegrini arrested as a witness against Jean Cronos, who was the chef in the recent soup deal, and who is suspected of attempting to poison the soup served to Archbishop Mundelein and 300 guests at the University club. Interpreters this morning concluded reading the Allegrini letters. The plots were directed from anarchistic headquarters in Rome, and the letters showed that no creed was to be spared.

Then persons, it is believed, constituted the gang in Chicago, and the police is endeavoring to round them up.

MRS. MARKS HEARD FROM.
Letter to Her Mother Tells of Hold-Up Experience.

Mrs. M. A. Harris has received a letter from her daughter, Mrs. Rhoda Marks, formerly known as Mrs. Cul Smith, who was in the train hold-up near Cheyenne last week. "The letter confirms the report you had printed," says Mrs. Harris, referring to the details of the affair as furnished the Observer through the United Press.

"My daughter says, however," continued Mrs. Harris, "that she did not become really frightened until after the robber had left the car in which she was seated. She then began to speculate on the probabilities of the highwayman coming back and she immediately divested herself of rings and other jewelry and put them in her shoe and hid her purse under the car seat." According to the letter the gallant outlaw did as he had promised—that is he did not molest any of the women passengers.

Mrs. Marks went east on receipt of a telegram from her husband at Omaha stating that he would meet her at the Colorado city. It is not known what plans they have for returning to Oregon.

MAY SPLIT CHINA.
South Part May Become a Separate Republic.

London, Feb. 15.—China will be split into two separate republics as a result of the revolution, Englishmen arriving from Hong Kong have predicted. It is reported several southern provinces have secretly pledged support to Yuan Anan revolutionists if the government is conquered. No battles of major importance have occurred thus far, but rebels are reported gaining followers daily. Native traders and southern China businessmen are financing the revolt. Yuan, realizing his helplessness is strengthening his position in the north.

DAMAGE SUIT FOR \$16,500.00 IS UNDER WAY

J. B. FISHER AND GEORGE YOUNG DEFENDANTS IN SUIT FOR INJURIES.

FALL UNDER CANDY STORE CAUSED LOSS OF ONE LEG

Clarence W. Batterson, Candy Maker Once Employed Here, Is Plaintiff and What Promises to Be Spirited Case Gets Underway—Both Sides Outline Cases.

Litigation in which hinges \$16,500 was begun in circuit court this morning when the case of Clarence W. Batterson, a candy maker now living in Portland, became the plaintiff against J. B. Fisher, and George Young, owners respectively of the Fisher building which houses Young's confectionery, and of the store itself. In April 1914, the 6th day to be exact, Batterson while employed by Young as a candy maker, fell into a cess pool or sink hole in the basement of the building, and as a result of the injuries there sustained, eventually lost one leg. Crawford & Eakin of this city, and Platt & Platt of Portland, are counsel for plaintiff with P. L. Fales of the Portland firm representing Portland counsel. C. H. Finn is counsel for the defendants.

The plaintiff's complaint, and arguments made by counsel repeated it, that in the cellar under Young's store was a large basement and in the basement a sinkhole or cess pool in which were junk, foul water, glasses and bottles and that the hole and the ground and room about it was not properly lighted. The plaintiff claims that he was requested by Young to go into the basement to shut off some water supply pipes, and that while so in the employ of Mr. Young fell into the cess pool. The injuries consisted of scratches on the face, and elsewhere but principally laceration of the knee that some time later necessitated amputation of the right leg. The plaintiff claims that improper lighting facilities were responsible for his falling into the cess pool.

The damages asked for total \$16,500, subdivided into the following items: Medical treatment, \$807; nurse hire, \$402; hospital fees, \$391; artificial limb, \$150; general harm done and suffering sustained, \$15,000.

Defense Is Outlined.

Before the testimony was introduced counsel for the defendants outlined what the defense would be, and said that Mr. Batterson was employed as a candy maker and had his duties to perform on the main floor and in a space in the rear of the basement 25 feet long; that the cess pool into which he fell was not in that part of the basement; that Batterson had no business going to the further end where the cess pool was; that he could, had he wanted to, turn the water off at a point where all things were safe, and that under no circumstances was he ordered or required or had any reason to go to the part of the basement where the cess pool was. The defense will further be that the injury sustained was trivial and had he kept off the leg for a time and attended to it that there would have been no ill effects; that the infection which followed was entirely the plaintiff's own fault through negligence.

The defense further claims that the part of the basement in which was the cess pool has long since ceased to be used for any purpose whatever, and that under no circumstances, or condition would it be necessary for an employee of the store to go there; consequently it is claimed Mr. Batterson was not legally in the employ of Mr. Young when he fell.

The jury was picked with little difficulty, and after that the case was presented from both angles to the jury and testimony was commenced. E. D. Selders, a former occupant of the building, was the first witness called for the plaintiff this morning. It is expected that the trial will occupy considerable time, and will develop into a heated bit of legal battle.

Five Per Cent Allotment.

County Treasurer John Frawley received word yesterday from the treasury department at Salem, that Union county's allotment of the \$4,597.12, accruing to the state from five per cent of the federal government's receipts from the sale of public lands in 1915, will amount to \$100.96.

From the same source, Grant county will receive \$217.34, Harney county \$477.61, Malheur county \$475.21 and Baker county \$147.14.

KING ABSENT FROM OPENING

PRECEDENT BROKEN FIRST TIME SINCE VICTORIA.

Fall from Horse Deemed Responsible for His Absence.

London, Feb. 15.—When parliament reassembled today the Sovereign was absent for the first time since the reign of Queen Victoria. It is understood the king is still suffering from the fall from his horse while visiting the western war front. The Lord Chancellor read his speech, urging expenditure of sufficient sums for successful prosecution of war.

Canyon City Man Named.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The President has nominated Victor C. Coad, of Canyon City, register at landoffice in Burns.

BRANSON CONVICTED.

McMinnville Jury Finally Bring Conviction.

McMinnville, Ore., Feb. 15.—William Branson was convicted of murder by the second jury which was out since yesterday. Mrs. Booth, jointly charged, will have a second trial later. Her husband was killed last fall.

DYNAMITE PLOT FOILED.

Washington, Feb. 15.—It is reported Carranza has notified the administration that the plot to dynamite the battleship Kentucky, at Vera Cruz was foiled by them. The alleged plotters are unknown.