

La Grande Evening Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER -- PRINTS THE NEWS THE DAY IT HAPPENS

VOLUME XV

LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1916.

NUMBER 211

SCHOOL HEADS DEBATE EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

VITAL TOPICS CONSIDERED IN MINUTE DETAIL

BAKER CHOSEN PLACE OF NEXT
TRACK MEET; RULES
MODIFIED.

MILITARY TRAINING OF
MODIFIED SORT URGED

School Superintendents and Principals of Eastern Oregon Have Most Important Session in La Grande Today—Gold and Silver Medals Taboo—Sunday School Credits Topic.

Discussing in serious manner the question of moving picture shows in smaller cities of Oregon and their influence upon the mind of the child; going into the subject at length of playground apparatus for the school; bringing up the legal side of school board's liability; discussing the changes of rules in high school athletics; settling on Baker as the place of meeting for the next Athletic meet and leaving the time to be determined by Baker; abolishing gold and silver medals from the meets in the future and instead using bronze medals and ribbons with possibly a grand prize to be contested for by the schools over a period of years, and listening to a concise argument by Prof. Strange on "Limitations of Athletics" the forenoon session of the Eastern Oregon association of Superintendents and Principals passed in a very interesting manner.

Representatives from many of the Eastern Oregon schools were in attendance and State Superintendent Churchill journeyed all the way from Salem to attend. "I consider these meetings of extraordinary importance," said Superintendent Churchill to a reporter for the Observer. "While the number are not large the seriousness and earnestness in which subjects are taken up shows desire for improvement in the different lines of educational work."

Prof. Aubrey Smith of Union presided at the meeting this forenoon and the day's work started with a discussion of the moving picture show. It was suggested that school men confer with parents and as a unit they work with the theatre owners in an effort to change the standard of some of the shows exhibited. It was also suggested that a movement be started to install moving picture machines in the different schools and have along with educational subjects suitable films for entertainment, thus preventing the children from becoming attached to the "thrillers" of the moving picture commercial world.

L. L. McKennon, who represented the school board's side was present from Union and when appealed to for his judgment on the matter admitted that he would rather not express himself at this time.

One who was strongly opposed to some of the films now being exhibited claimed that public sentiment should be sufficiently aroused that a demand would go up for Saturday matinees at the picture houses showing educational films exclusively and that these should be augmented with an instructive lecture.

Physical Training Important

Professor Purcell of Enterprise, who has the enviable reputation of having the best equipped playgrounds of any school in Oregon outside of Portland, took the position that playground apparatus is of the greatest importance to the child's education. He wished it distinctly understood that this did not mean for the purpose of developing pugilists, boxers or wrestlers, but for the development of the bodies of all school children. He has a plan whereby a teacher coaches each youngster on the playgrounds thus giving each a certain amount of exercise. So completely has he perfected his plans that every pupil is weighed and measured, his lung test taken and all this information is card indexed for reference and comparison.

He contends the percentage of ac-

cidents from using playground apparatus is no greater than in playing games. Prof. Strange of Baker was not quite ready to accept the plan as outlined although he offered no severe criticism.

Superintendent Girdler of La Grande raised the legal point in using apparatus citing the assembly to a case against Tacoma recently where a little girl was injured on the playground and her parents recovered damages from the school board. To clear up this State Superintendent Churchill assured the meeting that this phase of the law had been looked into in Oregon and it was found that when substantial apparatus is used no damages can be collected from the school district in case of accident. The Washington and Oregon laws differ.

Many Changes in Rules.
Changes in the revised edition of rules for high school athletics in the state are numerous and Superintendent Churchill took up a few of more important changes for discussion.

On motion Chairman Smith appointed Prof. Olsen of La Grande, Prof. Conner of Imbler and Prof. Strange of Baker as a committee to draft by-laws for the organization meeting today and a report will be heard from the committee late this evening.

The track meet for this year was an important topic and it was finally voted to let Baker have the meet, although Ontario is in line for it. Ontario declined the honor and asked that La Grande be made the permanent place for holding the meet, but La Grande, having had considerable experience in the track meet business, suggested that "prosperity be passed around. Then followed the motion to give it to Baker this year. Superintendent Girdler struck a blow that has long been wanted when he moved that all gold and silver medals be abolished from the meet and that bronze and ribbons be given, with possibly a grand prize for the winning school, the same to be defended for

(Continued on Page Four)

TONG LEADERS RUSH TO CITY

SEATTLE DELEGATION REPORT-
ED EN ROUTE.

Injured Man Able to Receive Callers
and May Finally Recover.

Tong chieftains, principally from Seattle, are headed for La Grande and will probably reach here tonight in an effort to settle up the tong war which broke out here Thursday morning with the shooting and beating up of Eng Chong, the South La Grande truck gardener. Eng is reported today to be resting fairly well and gives further evidence of eventual recovery. He is in such a condition that he can receive callers.

Lem Quong, the suspect, has been moved from the city jail to the county bastille where he will be kept until the preliminary hearing set down for Monday morning.

No further acts of violence are reported from Chinese quarters, although conditions are greatly strained.

Received Verdict for Ten Dollars.
The jury trial concluded in circuit court since last report was in the case of Jackson vs. Grider in which the plaintiff was given a verdict for \$10.

The case on trial today is that of the State vs. Mulholland in which the defendant is charged with non-support of his child.

Squirrels Are Again Visible.

Reports have been received to the fact that ground squirrels are making their appearance, and this is taken to be as reliable as anything else in the way of a harbinger of spring.

Joseph Physician Here.

Dr. Albert Mount, of Joseph, is a visitor in La Grande and is registered at the Sommer hotel.

On a Visit to Union.

Gus Levy, of the Levy-Vogel Drug company, is in Union for an over-Sunday visit.

BEGINNERS BAND FORMED

La Grande Musicians of Amateur Standing to Get Coaching

At a meeting held a day or two ago some of the older musicians of La Grande promoted a beginners' band for this city. There are scarcely enough schooled men in town to establish a band with full complement, and consequently R. L. Cross of the Wiley piano house was authorized to proceed with the beginners' band. The first meeting will be held next Thursday evening when a complete organization will be perfected.

RADIO SAVANTS GET ACID TEST

NATIONAL TRYOUT TO BE
HEARD HERE.

Boy Scouts to Carry Radio Message
to City Manager Monday.

Next Monday evening La Grande will be the central point and relay station for a unique test of amateur radio efficiency that will be conducted everywhere in the United States. The message to be carried by wireless instruments and handled entirely by amateurs, will carry a wording fitted to a patriotic celebration of Washington's birthday and in every town where received will be carried by Boy Scouts to the mayors and governors of cities and towns. In La Grande Scout Master Robert Eakin will designate a group of Scouts to take the message from O. M. Heacock's receiving station to City Manager Lafky. The exact method and time have not been determined but it is probable that a premium will be put on speedy delivery.

At 11 o'clock central time, there will go out from the Rock Island Ill. sending station a message worded by the American Amateur Radio association, to be carried to every nook and corner of the United States by amateur radio fans.

Mr. Heacock will get his message from Grand Forks North Dakota, and will send it to various stations on the coast. It was first planned to send direct to San Francisco from Grand Forks but this has been abandoned, and La Grande now becomes the relay station. As the message will start at 9 p. m. western time Mr. Heacock will begin relaying it out at 10 o'clock. All amateurs are urged to listen in, in an effort to get the news.

It is a demonstration of radio preparedness and will be given 25,000 amateur licensed operators in the United States.

The government officials, army and navy officers particularly, have given the plan their unanimous endorsement but will refrain from actual participation in the movement. This will be left entirely to the amateur operators, wireless associations and Boy Scout organizations, the latter being used to deliver the message throughout their respective territories. A copy of the message will be handed personally to each governor, and to mayors of the principal cities.

In working out the plan officers of the wireless associations have pointed to radio communication as the best means of arousing the country in time of danger. They contrast their work with the performance of Paul Revere who used the best means then available to spread the news for mobilization of forces. The messages will be read at Lexington Mass., and Mount Vernon, Va., home of Washington, with appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of the Boy Scouts.

BIG DEBATES PLANNED.

Triangular Affair for Eastern Oregon
Now Under Discussion.

While teachers, superintendents and principals of Eastern Oregon schools are assembled in La Grande today, the matter of a triangular debate between Union, Baker and La Grande is under discussion. Aubrey G. Smith, superintendent of the Union schools, is anxious to have the matter successfully arranged, as he has a debating team working in the harness now.

Mark Phy and Mark Crouter were Union's debaters against Enterprise, represented by Sylvester Burleigh and William Ault, Union lost one to two in a close and interesting debate. Union had the affirmative side of adoption of Swiss military system in America. The points were well put forth and concisely handled. The judges on that occasion were from La Grande being Attorney J. S. Hodgins, Miss Flora Koch and Miss Lella Smith. District Director Olsen was unable to be present. That was a contest in the State Debating league.

Good Roads Boosters To Meet in La Grande

George Cochran, president of the Union County Good Roads Association, has returned from Portland, where he succeeded in inducing the attendance of Messrs. Benson, Yeon and others at the good roads meeting to be held in La Grande Thursday, February 24. Mr. Cochran says: "The names of these men are especially connected with the good roads movement in Oregon. They are men who have made their money and their greatest interest now is in what they conceive to be for the highest welfare of the public. If they are to leave a monument of good deeds it will be through what they have already done and what they hope further to do for the lasting benefit of the state in good roads."

Mr. Cochran met many of the road enthusiasts in Portland, including members of the advisory board of the state highway commission.

Want Cross-State Road.
"The sentiment around Portland is

ASTORIA WINS FIGHT TO GET CHEAPER RATE

FAMOUS CASE DECIDED BY IN-
TERSTATE COMMISSION
THIS AFTERNOON.

PORTLAND, SEATTLE AND
TACOMA GET SAME RATES

Discrimination Found to Exist in
Favor of Puget Sound Cities—
North Bank Compelled to Lower Its
Rate Into Astoria—Big Seaport for
Astoria Expected.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has declared the famous rate case in favor of Astoria, placing her on an equal rate basis with Portland, Tacoma and Seattle.

Undue discrimination was found to exist in favor of Puget Sound ports. The decision orders the North Bank railroad to reduce the rates. The commission remarked that Astoria cannot develop into a great port while discriminatory rates prevail.

Heretofore Astoria paid 90 cents more per ton than Seattle, Tacoma and Portland. Taking of evidence began in June, 1914. The city of Astoria, filed complaint against the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad, which was the only railroad reaching there.

Astoria people consider the decision removes the only obstacle preventing the city becoming one of the biggest ports on the Pacific coast.

ENGLAND PRODDED BY U. S.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The state department is sending England a reminder that she hasn't answered the protest against mail seizures. It is explained however the reminder wouldn't contain a hit at a time limit within which an answer to American objections must come. It will merely urge a prompt reply and declare seizures continue, to the annoyance of America. Secretary Lansing has indicated he probably will send the reminder Monday if no reply is received then.

Representations to Turkey concerning Armenian massacres are expected to reach Constantinople next week. These are not formal requests, but if additional massacres are reported, strong objections are expected.

Last Word Spoken.

Berlin, Feb. 19.—Germany has said the last word in the Lusitania case. She won't prepare another note, according to strong indications among officials. Though not commenting, for publication, but reports that Secretary Lansing won't recognize the Teuton right to torpedo armed merchantmen without warning, the official attitude is known to be that Germany don't believe America should interrogate her closely about how the new policy has been forced. The method is a naval secret which Germany regards purely a military question concerning herself and the allies. Bernstorff has been fully instructed about the Lusitania case. He was permitted to make a change in the

Business Status Recouping

PRESENTATION PROGRAM
OUT.

Public spirit will be whetted next Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock when the Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution's gift of a flag to the Circuit court of this county will be presented with fitting ceremony. It will be a patriotic service to which the public is earnestly requested to be present. It will be held in the Circuit court room Attorney H. E. Dixon presiding. The program will begin with invocation by Rev. Chas. A. Edwards, followed by the singing of "A Flag Without a Stain," by C. P. Ferrin and quartet; then will come the presentation speech by Hon. Walter M. Pierce; an acceptance speech by Circuit Judge Knowles, closing with "America" by the audience. Admission is free and attendance is deemed a patriotic duty.

Rev. Edwards Called to Baker.
On account of a funeral at Baker, Rev. Charles A. Edwards will be absent from his pulpit tomorrow, but there will be regular services. Ensign Childers will deliver the morning sermon and in the evening Rev. H. J. Richards of Allice will preach.

Fair Board Reorganized.
J. E. Reynolds has returned from Salem where he attended a meeting of the reorganized State Fair board. He reports business progressing smoothly, looking toward a successful fair this fall. Mr. Reynolds visited at Corvallis while on the trip.

Holiday Tuesday.
On Washington's birthday the postoffice will have holiday hours. The rural delivery will not go out, but there will be one delivery in the morning. The windows will be open from 9 until 10 o'clock in the morning.

Fireman Is Improved.
W. W. Kenzie, veteran fireman, is able to be down town and enjoy the sunshine after a prolonged illness.

proposed settlement which was suggested at a recent conference with Lansing. Official declare the Lusitania case really closed at that conference and the new warfare plans have nothing to do with the case.

German Blunder Cited.
Washington, Feb. 19.—Germany blundered when she issued a decree of warfare against merchantmen and is now trying to find a way out of the difficulties, according to interpretations of some officials placed upon the Berlin dispatches saying Germany doesn't want to be questioned closely regarding submarine warfare in the future. It is thought the story constituted a hint that the Teutons realize they have placed themselves in an awkward position.

indicated, who have had personal experience and the inside knowledge permanent road building which will be of value to all who are present.

REVIVAL UNDERWAY.

Evangelist Williams Conducting Services at Baptist Church.

"Williams" the well known Baptist evangelist, is in the city conducting a revival. His houses, here as well as elsewhere he has been, are packed. There is talk of having to go to a larger building. "Williams" is credited with being a fearless person in denouncing wrong and sin. "Williams" like other evangelists, is sometimes criticized, but much good is spoken of him and to sit in his audience will convince anyone that he is genuine. "The city is being stirred" said a member of the church today "and a great revival is expected. His language is good and his methods are safe and sane. His discourses are masterly. He does not fight any other church but speaks kindly of all. He is appealing to the heart and character of his audience urging them to 'stick after he is gone.'"

WASHINGTON "LIBELED"

Tacoma Man Swears Out Complaint
in Defense of Nation's "Father"

Tacoma, Feb. 19.—Because Paul Hasser wrote a letter, published in a Tacoma newspaper, describing George Washington as a profane man, and a drunkard, Colonel Albert Job, a leading citizen of Tacoma, swore out a complaint charging Hasser with criminal libel. Job will produce statements from Hamilton, Jefferson and others to prove Hasser "is a falsifying blackguard." This is probably the first criminal action ever taken in such a case.

OUTLOOK FOR A COMMERCIAL REVIVAL GOOD

MAIN CHANNELS OF INCOME IN
LA GRANDE EXTREMELY
HEALTHY THIS YEAR.

LUMBER AND RAILROAD
INDUSTRIES HUMMING

All Barometers of Trade and Thrift
at An Encouraging Level—Better
Year Faces Mills Than for a Long
Time—Closed Canal Spells Continued Railroad Action.

Marked acceleration has been given to business in La Grande since the new year began. All barometers of trade and commerce show rapid inclination toward prosperity. Practically every businesshouse has a flattering increase in percentage of profits and while not yet up to the high plane of attainments prior to the hard times the last year or two, it seems to be rapidly approaching it. Banks, exporters, largely, of business condition, say a marked revival has taken place. The dollar-wheat sales of late have stimulated business considerably. Five successive heavy paychecks from the O-W. have left their good effects, and all in all the year begins encouragingly.

Snow Drifts a Boon.
The heavy snow brought good business, like it always does. Merchants have cleaned up their winter wearing apparel nicely and have clean sheets for the spring trade; all lines of fuel were in demand and sales were brisk; grocers and butchers have good business because the public appetite is stimulated by cold weather and less losses from bad accounts are felt. Sales for cash are more numerous; there is money to buy spring goods with.

Telephone Increases Business.
Another proof that business conditions have rapidly improved is that the Home Independent Telephone company reports a net gain of 26 telephones to the La Grande exchange since the first of the year, notwithstanding the fact that quite a number were lost on account of saloons closing up. The gain is not confined to local business as the long distance calls since the first of the year show a gain of approximately 25 per cent, over a similar period of last year. Western Union business has been brisk; the wheat cleaning process at the La Grande mill not only employs many men night and day, but that condition is bringing in extra wheat trains daily from the west to go east where the cargoes are cleared; lumber mills are ready for a prosperous run with the market in better condition than it has been in several years—and the Perry and La Grande mills will unquestionably pour a bigger payroll into the city's business channels than for a number of years.

All Lumber Trade Looking Up
Retail lumber dealers look forward to a business building year, meaning brisk business for the painter, the contractor, the paper hanger, the hardware man who sells nails and so on down the line. There is little likelihood of the Panama canal being opened for business for a considerable time, and while it is closed, the great revival in railroad business through La Grande is bound to continue, bringing its dollars into the city's business channels.

With the great gobs of moisture in the soil certain, and the snow going off gradually, farmers anticipate another record crop of grain. Hogs have suddenly gone up in price, beef cattle prices kept up well in spite of high feed prices—and dealers say this is remarkable but nevertheless a fact.

Chief Incomes Healthy.
Thus, with railroad business certain to keep at high tide for a considerable time, lumber mills facing a remarkably busy year at better prices, climatic conditions forecasting banner crops, and commercial affairs already on a firm footing, La Grande can with safety bank upon one of the most prosperous years of its late history. All the barometers and commercial wanes point that way.

Plowing Will Begin Soon.
Leo Smith, of Island City, says the frost is rapidly disappearing from the ground; the snow is practically gone, and the moisture that may now come will go mostly into the soil. He figures that plowing will commence in a very few days.