

La Grande Evening Observer

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

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WIDOWS SUFFER IN SWINDLE BY RICH CONCERNS

MANY LEADING PHILADELPHIA COMPANIES INVOLVED IN BIG RAIDS BY AUTHORITIES

ORPHANS VICTIMS OF GIGANTIC MONEY GRAB

Raids Lead to Arrest of Men Prominent in Financial Affairs of Philadelphia—Worthless Stock Disposed of to Unsuspecting Widows and Orphans—Gas and Light Firms Suffer.

Philadelphia, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Federal postal inspectors have conducted a wholesale raid on

declared they have discovered a gigantic swindle, involving \$2,500,000, taken from widows and orphans. They sold worthless stock. Authorities have said the companies involved included the International Can & Electric company, the Bachman bank, the Concord Can company, the Suburban Can company, the Gaston Gas company, the Georgetown Railway & Light company, and the Southern Gas & Electric company.

Alleged Dynamiter Put Under Arrest

Pittsburg, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—James Reed, 26, and alleged to be a German, has been arrested in connection with the explosion of the Fort Pitt works of the Aetna Alchemical company. Three were killed. Officers pursued Reed in an automobile and overhauled him after several miles. Federal officials are hunting three men suspected of complicity in bomb plots. Reed was employed in the Oakdale plant when it was dynamited a few months ago.

Tickets Now on Sale. Seats for "Nautical Knot," an opera to be given next Friday night by the high school, are now on sale at Silverthorn's where reservations may be made. Patrons are urged to be early and get the best seats.

Farmers' Council in Session. Late this afternoon about a dozen men representing various departments of farming and soil products in this valley, are in session to elect officers for the Union County Farm council, for which much is outlined to do the coming year.

FUGITIVE BANDIT IS RETAKEN BY TAYLOR. Pendleton, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Harvey Benzenne, an alleged bandit, fugitive from the county jail, was captured at Henry Hendrickson's ranch this morning. Sheriff Taylor found the trail near Hugh Bell's farmhouse after Benzenne had burglarized the premises. He tracked him through the snow and found Benzenne in bed. He had applied for a job and received shelter.

Kiddies and Old Folks to Slide

Such sport as the kiddies—and the old folks—had yesterday!

Pleasant weather with ample snow to frolic with bobs, coasters and trailers brought out scores of "kiddies" and nearly as many older ones, on the pavement and upon the hills near town. The merry jingle of sleigh bells and the shrieks of laughter from the sliding ground kept up its happy tune all day and into the night.

That a white Christmas is in store the weather man predicts.

The Weather.

Tonight and Tuesday, fair southern Oregon, unsettled and probably rain and snow north. Warmer tonight, east south winds.

Mrs. Bernice Haney, of Enterprise, is a guest in the city with Dr. and Mrs. Dunn.

George McDonald is Conference President

Gathering at Baker Elects La Grande Boy—Next Meeting Place Undecided—Rev. Clarke Favorite Speaker.

Baker, Dec. 11.—(Special)—In the closing session Saturday of the older boys' conference of the Y. M. C. A. of Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho, George McDonald of La Grande was elected president of the organization for the ensuing year, Ted Turner of Caldwell, Idaho, vice president, and Percy Rollins of Union, secretary-treasurer. The place of holding the next annual meeting was left in the hands of the state committee and will not be decided as yet.

There is a plan under consideration to consolidate the Eastern and Southern Oregon conferences and the two Idaho conferences, the other meeting at Pocatello simultaneously this week with the Baker session. If the consolidations are effected, it means two meetings next year. La Grande, Emmet and Weiser extended an invitation for the 1917 conference, but under the uncertainty as to possibility of combination of the conferences the matter of the next conference meeting place was necessarily held in abeyance.

The sessions Saturday were full of interest and enthusiasm, the program

with the addresses and business sessions taking place at the Methodist church, again filled to full capacity at all the meetings. State Secretary I. B. Rhodes was the principal figure in the conference, and other prominent speakers as previously announced were Secretary Newman of Payette, Rev. H. E. Buch of Weiser, J. G. King, general secretary of La Grande, and Rev. G. L. Clark of the same city.

While the business sessions of the conference came to a close Saturday evening, the delegates for the most part remained over Sunday to participate in the special church services at several of the Baker houses of worship. At the morning services the delegates attended church with their hosts and convention officers, and attendants had charge of special services at Cavalry Baptist and Presbyterian churches. An afternoon meeting was held at the Methodist church, featured by addresses by Secretary I. B. Rhodes and Rev. William F. Vance of Caldwell.

Saturday evening the crowning event of the session took place, when the delegates and many local guests gathered at the Y. M. C. A. building for the annual banquet, served by the ladies of the churches of Baker, who certainly left nothing to be desired in this detail of the entertainment. The banquet board was spread in the gymnasium and General Manager Frank Gardiner of the Baker White Pine Lumber company, who is president of the local association, presided most acceptably as toastmaster. Music by the local Y. M. C. A. orchestra was a feature and many of the visiting officers and delegates responded briefly to toasts, all concurring in praising the entertainment offered and hospitality shown them by the local members and people of Baker. Rev. G. L. Clark, of La Grande, again delivered an inspiring address, he being the principal speaker of the evening. "The Knight of the Fireside"

Women Ignore Rain To Cast Their Votes

Late in Day Less Than Half Registered Strength Had Been at the Polls—Labor Voting Done at a Late Hour.

La Grande's municipal election today is bringing out but a small vote. At 2 o'clock less than half the registered voters of any ward had been cast, but in spite of the rain and generally slushy conditions of the streets, many women attended to this municipal task this afternoon. It is believed by people in close touch with the voting that by the time the laboring vote is cast after working hours, the aggregate will be reasonably heavy. The South La Grande precinct was the lowest in voting at the noon hour.

In most instances the precinct judges will go to dinner at 7 and not commence counting until 8, and there will probably not be any figures available until 9 o'clock tonight.

POULTRYMEN IN DIRE DANGER OF RUINATION

Portland, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Several of Oregon's biggest poultry ranches are in imminent danger of ruin on account of the egg boycott. Big dealers and market experts are receiving frantic letters asking for relief. Andrew Eggman, of the Mountain View Poultry farm, said the boycott only is hurting the poultrymen.

LYOYD GEORGE SICK FROM OVER WORK AND WORRIES

New Cabinet Named, Containing Two Bitter Northcliffe's Enemies--Bonar Law on War Cabinet

London, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Lloyd George has suffered a chill as the result of working 20 hours daily. He is confined to his bed today, but despite his illness the nation feels the effect of his energy.

Northcliffe's Foes Win. The public believes British conservatism is smashed. Some newspapers have charged that Lloyd George is a tool of Lord Northcliffe, the editor, but the new premier stopped those rumors when he named Balfour and Lord Cecil as cabinet members. Northcliffe hates both of them.

"War Cabinet" Designated. The "War Cabinet" is constituted as follows:

Premier, David Lloyd George. Lord President of the Council, Earl Curzon, who also will be government leader in the House of Lords.

Arthur Henderson, minister without portfolio.

Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has been asked by the Premier to act as leader in the House of Commons, and also as a member of the war cabinet without being expected to attend regularly.

Other Members of Ministry. Other members of the ministry, who

was his topic, and it was a most practical and helpful talk, of which detailed comment is only precluded by lack of space.

Altogether, the annual gathering has been a great success, being the means of cementing stronger the bonds between the young men of Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho, who will be the leaders of the next decade, and resulting also in solidifying to a greater degree the interest of the association and laying the groundwork for better co-operation among the membership for extending and furthering the ends to which it is working.

RECORDER CHANGES HANDS

W. J. Henry Retires From Editorship and Lee Tuttle Installed

Elgin, Dec. 9.—(Special)—The Recorder in its issue Friday announced that a change in the ownership of The Elgin Recorder took place Friday, December 8, the present owners having disposed of the plant, business, good will and subscription list to the Recorder Publishing Co. (Incorporated). The business was transferred on the above date and the new corporation is now in charge.

The incorporators of the company are: F. E. Smith, W. J. Henry and L. B. Tuttle.

The capital stock of the new corporation is \$6,500.00, all of which has been full subscribed. Included in the list of stockholders are some of the best known and most substantial of Elgin citizens and are as follows: F. E. Smith, C. A. Galloway, D. Sommer, Dr. F. W. Whiting, R. L. Shoemaker, W. J. and M. K. Henry, S. A. Tuttle, J. A. Masterson, L. Denham, Guy Ambsberry, F. W. Keller, R. Blumenstein and L. B. Tuttle.

At a recent meeting of the stockholders, J. A. Masterson, W. J. Henry and R. L. Shoemaker were elected directors for the ensuing year.

The officers of the company are: President, W. J. Henry; vice-president, J. A. Masterson; secretary, L. B. Tuttle; treasurer, R. L. Shoemaker.

W. J. and M. K. Henry will retire from the business as editors and man-

are not in the war cabinet, include Lord High Chancellor, Sir Robert Bannatyne Finlay; Secretary of State for the Home Department, Sir George Cave; Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Arthur J. Balfour; Secretary of State for the Colonies, Walter Hume Long; Secretary of State for War, the Earl of Derby; Secretary of State for India, Austen Chamberlain; President of the Local Government Board, Baron Rhondda; Minister of Labor, John Hodge; First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Edward Carson; Minister of Munitions, Dr. Christopher Addison; Minister of Blockade, Lord Robert Cecil; Food Controller, Baron Davenport; Shipping Controller, Sir James Paton MacLay; Postmaster-General, Albert Illingworth; Minister of Pensions, George N. Barnes; Attorney-General, Sir Frederick E. Smith; Solicitor-General, Gordon Hewart, K. C.; Secretary for Scotland, Mr. Munro; Lord Advocate, Jas. A. Clyde, K. C.; Solicitor General for Scotland, Thomas B. Morrison, K. C.; Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Baron Wimborne; Chief Secretary for Ireland, Henry E. Duke; Lord Chancellor for Ireland, Ignatius J. O'Brien, K. C.

agers, though they are among the stockholders.

L. B. Tuttle, secretary of the company, and who in conjunction with S. A. Tuttle, was a liberal subscriber to the stock of the corporation, has been paper.

PACK HORSES CARRY FLOUR

Three Sacks Lost Along Trail From Troy to Wenaha.

The vicissitudes and trials of the carriers of Uncle Sam's mails on the canyon and cliff routes of Wallowa county are illustrated in recent experiences on the Wenaha-Troy line, says the Enterprise Chieftain. The schedule is so arranged that the carrier has to cross the canyon after dark all the year except in summer, when the days are good enough to be long, and the twilight lingers after the sun is down. Travel is by saddle horse over a trail that is very bad in places. Freight and packages are carried only on pack horses.

Recently A. P. Owens, of Wenaha, had three barrels of flour sent from Troy by parcel post. A week ago Tuesday William Pettry and son took three horses from Wenaha to Promise to help pack parcel post packages across the canyon. On the trail something went wrong with one pack, and as a result three sacks of flour were scattered along the way. Mr. Pettry sent to Wallowa to get flour to replace what had been lost.

Settlers served by the trails feel they should be put in better condition for the travel which must go over them.

Shipping flour by parcel post, over routes traveled by pack horses, is an extension of the system the heads of the department in Washington hardly contemplate when the rules are made. A couple of years ago W. H. Baker had a lot of timothy seed he was anxious to ship in the dead of winter, and he investigated sending it by mail, either north from Paradise or south from Flora. But he found the plan impracticable. Fifty pound packages, the limit allowed in the near zones, are common, but it is not often they have to be carried over steep trails.

SECOND BARNES TRIAL IN AUTO BOOZE CASE BEGUN AT ELGIN

At Elgin today there is being tried out for a second time the state charge against O. R. Barnes, alleging a nuisance, following Barnes' arrival at Elgin from Utah with an automobile load of liquor. The case has two phases. One concerns the disposal of the liquor which officials seized and propose to confiscate. The justice has this matter under advisement, but there is the other phase which deals with the nuisance end of it. The state contends that because Mr. Barnes had

in his possession, when arrested, an unusually large amount of liquor, and because the liquor was not in his own home at the time, he is guilty of conducting a nuisance. He was tried a couple of weeks ago but the jury disagreed, standing four to two for conviction.

The trial today is the second one, and because of the points involved, and the prominence of the defendant, there is an unusual amount of interest in the case.

Florida Journey is Ended; South is Busy

E. S. Norris Home From National Convention and Also the State Gathering at McMinnville, Oregon.

E. S. Norris, of this city, returned today from Palatka, Florida, where he attended the national convention of the Farmers' union as delegate from Oregon, and then from there he went to McMinnville, this state, to attend the state convention of the same order. Mr. Norris had an interesting trip, and reports business generally good in the south. The business done at the national convention he says was important. The meeting went on record on many issues. The convention advocated a cheaper and more elastic money in reality; government ownership of utilities to be taken over on physical valuation; the abolition of the electoral college and direct election of presidents; election of a national supreme judiciary; abolition of free seed graft; radical working over of the rural credits bill to do away with red tape and expensive and impractical features and to make of it a practical use rather than simply a fulfillment of a promise; a graduated tax with a minimum, and many various other important issues were discussed.

The treatment in Florida, he says, was royal and ample.

On the way home Mr. Norris lost his suitcase and with it many reports and brick-a-brac he had picked up en route.

At McMinnville the business was largely routine. J. D. Brown, of Portland, and the other members of the official slate were re-elected, and this includes Mr. Parkes, of Elgin, who is a member of the board.

Those in attendance from Union county included: I. E. Chenault and wife, James Moss, C. C. Welch, Henry McGorrick and wife, W. O. Parkes and wife, Mr. Wealty, John Wells, Mr. McCullough and Mr. Norris.

The striking discovery for Mr. Norris on the trip was the free use of oxen teams in the south. Queer combinations are evolved by the plebeians, often driving oxen, mules and horses to one wagon. One rancher in that vicinity drives two big stags.

While the business clip is moderate, the south seems wealthy and prosperous—and content.

Bids on Baptist Church.

Bids on the proposed new Baptist church were opened Tuesday by the trustees, and now action depends on how much money can be raised for the construction of the building, declares the Enterprise Chieftain. A canvass is being made. If enough is raised to erect the structure on the plans made, with the bids received, the work will be started without delay. Otherwise plans will be revised to meet the funds available. It is the intention to make no start until money enough is on hand to complete the building. The plans on which bids were asked call for a building costing less than half the sum put into the church that was burned two years ago.

Frederick Bloomquist Dead.

Frederick Bloomquist, aged 80, died yesterday at the home of his daughter at 1017 Z Avenue. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 from the L. D. S. tabernacle.

Big Feature Number Given This Evening

Mt. Vernon Quintet to Sing This Evening in What Is Promised to Be a Baffling Musical Attraction.

An attraction that is considered without a question of a doubt, the best in their line on the lyceum platform, will be in La Grande tonight. The attraction is known as the Mt. Vernon Quintet and is composed of five persons of the highest musical type. This number is an additional number to the Y. M. C. A. High School lyceum course and it was secured by the local people to make up a small deficit caused by the change in nights of the Maurer Sisters. The local committee secured this attraction, which is more expensive than the Maurer Sisters at a very reasonable rate, so that all the ticket holders that did not see the Maurer Sisters might receive full value on their tickets. All who did not see the Maurer Sisters will be admitted free tonight, and in order to make up the deficit the committee offers to the music lovers of La Grande one of the best numbers ever booked by any lyceum committee, at an exceptionally small price. It is hoped by the committee that the people who stand for good things musically will rally to the relief of the committee. The Mt. Ver-

BULGARS CROSS DANUBE, TAKING A NEW FOOTHOLD

ROUMANIANS DRIVEN BACK FROM CERNAVODA BRIDGE HEAD AND ELSEWHERE

MANY AEROPLANES BROUGHT DOWN DURING THE DAY

Berlin Admits Roumanians Are Making a Stubborn Resistance at Various Places, but Dynamited Bridges Do Not Deter the Campaign Prosecuted by Germans—Quiet in West.

Sofia, Bulgaria, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Bulgarians have captured western Cernavoda, a bridge head and it is announced a force has crossed the Danube into Roumanian territory near Silistria and captured Kalapasi. Several enemy attacks in Macedonia were repulsed.

Four Aeroplanes Brought Down. Paris, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Four German aeroplanes were destroyed south of Somme. Intermitent cannonading continues.

King Protects Blockade. Athens, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—King Constantine has formally protested to the allies against continued blockade of Greek ports.

Successful Raids Made. Berlin, Dec. 11.—(United Press via Sayville)—The Austrian war office has announced naval aeroplanes raided enemy stations at Belgia and batteries at Sobba. Three hangars were struck. All raiders were returned unharmed.

Roumanians Retake Trenches. Petrograd, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Roumanians have regained positions along the Ploesti and Masul highway. They vigorously countered after Teutons took the trenches Saturday.

Roumanian Resistance Stubborn. Berlin, Dec. 11.—(United Press via Sayville)—Roumanians are strongly resisting pursuit, but the German campaign has proceeded despite the rain, and dynamited bridges. They captured several thousand prisoners. French Argonne positions were partially destroyed. Seven enemy aeroplanes were wrecked.

Argue Adamson Law on January Eighth

Washington, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the Adamson law arguments January 8. Government attorneys asked for haste as the law is effective January 1. The government and railroads have agreed not to enforce the law until the court decides.

Mrs. Honeyman Dead. Portland, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—Mrs. William Honeyman, aged 78, and widow of the founder of the Honeyman Hardware company, died this morning. She has lived in Portland 54 years.

Mrs. Ivanhoe Visits Enterprise. Mrs. F. S. Ivanhoe went to Enterprise Saturday to join her husband, Colonel Ivanhoe, where he is detained on a trial.

Women Elect Were Almost Debarred

Umatilla, Dec. 11.—(United Press)—It was learned today Mayor-elect Laura Starcher and six women city officials, scheduled to take office January 1, were nearly disqualified. Mayor Starcher suddenly remembered Saturday night the council forgot to canvass the votes. He hurriedly summoned the council and counted the ballots just before the four-day time limit expired. Starcher said: "If we'd let the women be disqualified, I never would have gone home again. The world would have been too small to hold we men officials."

non Quintet is now in the city and the entertainment will start at 8:15 sharp.