La Grande Evening Observer

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MINE TRAGEDY KILLS MANY

EXPLOSION AT IRON MINE KILLS 84 MEN

Sixty Others Injured, Some Seriously, in Mine Blast In Alabama.

477 MEN TRAPPED WITHOUT WARNING

Work of Rescue Is Going on —First Miner Rescued Tells of Blast—Explosion Terrific.

(By Associated Press.)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Nov. 23.—Eighty-four lives were lost and sixty persons injured as a result of the explosion yesterday in Dolomite number three coal mine of the Woodward Iron company. The identification is not completed, but it was believed that thirty-eight white were dead, and 28 injured. The accident and blast came almost simultaneously, entrapping 477 men.

Weary hours passed before 333 escaped through two manways into adjoining mines and by main entry. Flames shot hundreds of feet into the air from the main mine, making entry rescue workers helpless for several hours. The runaway of a train of trip cars set off an electric spark, exploding dangerous dust.

BRIMINGHAM, Ala., Nov. 23.—Seventy miners were killed and 60 injured, some of them seriously, Wednesday afternoon in a dust explosion in Dolomite mine No. 3 of the Woodward Iron company, nine miles from this city. The Explosion trapped 480 workers beneath the surface, according to an official statement issued here Wednesday night by D. E. Wilson, president of the company.

According to one of the first miners to be taken out alive, the explosion came with little warning to the men working deep in the entries. This miner stated that the first warning he had was when the concussion of the blast half turned his body about.

Realizing that an explosion had occurred, he started to make his way toward the mouth of the mine. He was joined by other miners.

Survivor Tells of Experience.

This survivor, who escaped unscathed, said that after he had proceeded only a short distance, he began to feel the effects of the dreaded after-damp and for a time believed that he and his companions were doomed.

About this time, he said, shouts of other miners were heard ahead of them and holding their breath as best they could, muffling their faces in coats and clothing, the little band of men struggled onward, finally winning their way to fresh air and thus gaining the entry way. These men were among the first to reach the outside with actual news of the terrible scenes inside the mine. They told of passing over bodies in the main entry and of seeing other miners, badly injured and moaning for help as the fatal after-damp snuffed out their lives.

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CONTEST IN SENATE YET DEADLOCKED

Upton and Moser May Both Be Eliminated; Dark Horse May Win; Fireworks Expected Soon.

Deadlock over electing a president of the state senate continues. While Gus C. Moser, Multnomah and Jay Upton, Crook, are the leading contenders, both may be eliminated and a dark horse may win.

Both Moser and Upton devoted all their time yesterday trying to increase their support. Moser claimed 15 votes and Upton claimed 14. Neither had made any progress up to a late hour and it was predicted that a break might be expected momentarily and new alliances formed.

B. L. Eddy, Douglas, is not out of the race, but has stepped aside for the time being to give Moser a chance to see what he can do.

Flying Squadron Sent Out.

With Upton holding 14 men in line, a flying squadron was sent into the Willamette valley yesterday afternoon to see what could be done with Senator Tooze, Lafollette and Brown. The flying squadron consisted of Senators Strayer, Upton, Ritner and Johnson, while Senator Zimmerman went to Oregon City to interview Tooze. If Tooze, Brown and Lafollette can be secured, then Johnson will go with the rest.

Meanwhile, Moser was working wires and reaching out for a vote or two. At late hour Moser was just where he was earlier in the day.

How long Eddy will wait for Moser to accumulate 16 votes is not known—"a reasonable time" say both Moser and Eddy. If the Multnomah senator does not make a successful demonstration in a few hours the presumption is that Eddy will be back as an active candidate. The coalition of Eddy and Moser has not extended completely to the

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OPERETTA TO BE GIVEN ON FRIDAY EVE

Although a few good seats are left for the Friday night opening of the presentation of the high school operetta, "The Maid and the Middie," it would be well to reserve your seats at the earliest possible minute before the board is closed for the first night. Many good seats remain for Saturday night, but with a heavy sale of tickets they will soon be going fast.

The operetta, the first dramatic production given by the high school this season, promises to be an excellent play. Tonight the cast will hold their final dress rehearsal and reports are that everything is going smoothly under the able tutelage of Miss Fredericka Schilke.

The doors open at 7:30 o'clock, both Friday and Saturday nights, and the performance commences promptly at 8:15 o'clock. The play will be presented in the high school auditorium.

NEW BRITISH PARLIAMENT OPENS TODAY

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Nov. 23.—The new parliament will be asked to continue and to extend ameloriative measures prepared by the Lloyd George ministry as regards to trade and employment, and also to guarantee a loan for the restoration of Austria, said King George today in a speech from the throne officially opening the new session.

(By Associated Press)

LONDON, Nov. 23.—J. Ramsay McDonald, Laborite, assuming the position of leader in the house of commons today, declared in a debate on the speech from the throne that the King's address regarding unemployment was profoundly unsatisfactory to labor.

ARMOUR MERGER IS CONSIDERED

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Legal aspects of the proposed merger of the Armour and Morris interests are under study today by the department of justice with the view of laying a comprehensive formal report before the cabinet at an early meeting.

SONNINO IS NEAR DEATH

(By Associated Press)

ROME, Nov. 23.—Baron Sonnino, former premier, suffered a stroke of apoplexy today. He is reported to be dying.

HABAES CORPUS DENIED

DUBLIN, Nov. 23.—Erskin Childers, DeValera's lieutenant, was denied habaes corpus by the court today.

WEATHER REPORT

(By the Associated Press)

PORTLAND, Nov. 23. — Tonight and Friday will be fair.

IMPEACHMENT IS CHALLENGED

Judicial Committee Adopts Resolution Asking Keller to Give Statement Concerning His Request.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23. — The house judiciary committee adopted a resolution today calling on Representative Keller, republican, of Minnesota, to present by December 1 a statement showing the alleged act or acts for which he has asked the impeachment of Attorney General Daugherty.

FARM BILL IS NOW IN SENATE

Would Provide for Purchase and Sale of Farm Products Through Mammoth Government Corporation.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—A bill to provide for the purchase and sale of farm products through a $100,000,000 government corporation was introduced into the senate yesterday by Morris, Republican, of Nebraska, and was presented in the House today by Representative Sinclair, Republican, of North Dakota.

LLOYD GEORGE HEADS LIBERALS

LONDON, Nov. 23.—The former prime minister Lloyd George was unanimously elected the leader of the National Liberals at a party meeting held today.

BULLETINS

BAKER GIRL SUICIDE

BAKER, Nov. 23.—Miss Ulma Aldrich, 18 years of age and decidedly pretty, died last night at a hospital in Haines where she was taken this morning after having swallowed strychnine. The poison was taken at the home of her step father, Bruce Hawkins. Miss Aldrich has had morbid spells but would never give a definite answer when questioned as to why she wanted to kill herself. No inquest will be held.

UNION HAILS PIERCE AS GOVERNOR

(Special to Observer)

UNION, Nov. 23.—The city of Union, represented by the Union Commercial club hailed Walter M. Pierce, of La Grande, governor-elect, as their governor and gave him a wonderful ovation last evening at a dinner held in his honor in the Union Hotel. Frank Conner, president of the Commercial club, presided.

Mr. Pierce, in his address, spoke of the high taxes and the necessity of a tax reduction and a tax redistribution and again dwelt upon the appointments he must make following his taking the oath of office as governor. "Without favor or fear, without party affiliations, I will appoint the man that I consider best qualified to serve the state," was his statement, which was followed by round upon round of hearty applause.

Thomas H. Crawford, Mr. Pierce's campaign manager, spoke of the triumphs of the campaign and told some interesting incidents that occurred during the campaign that found Mr. Pierce addressing 158 audiences.

Dunham Wright, of Medical Springs, gave an interesting talk which concluded the addresses for the evening.

About one hundred guests, from all over the county, were present at the welcome dinner, among them being Robert Eakin, Charles Reynolds, J. D. Slater, of La Grande, Dr. W. T. Phy of Hot Lake and Dunham Wright of Medical Springs.

Following the address and the completion of the dinner, the party retired to the parlor and spent the rest of the evening dancing.

NEW JUSTICE IS APPOINTED

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Pierce Butler, St. Paul, Minnesota, democrat, today was nominated by President Harding as associate justice in the supreme court to succeed Associate Justice Day who resigned recently.

COMPLICATED RACE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Post Season Game Should Be Arranged; Much Rests on Wallowa-La Grande Game; Elgin Has Outside Chance.

A situation exists in Eastern Oregon that has not been found in this section of the state for many years. The situation is in regards to the probable selection of the championship football team. With Pendleton, Athena, La Grande and others claiming it to date, it is evident, if no upsets occur, that a post season game should be played to decide the championship.

Pendleton Out.

Pendleton is out of it without a doubt. A letter received by the La Grande Evening Observer yesterday evening from H. M. DuBois, president of the State Interscholastic Athletic association, decisively settled this. Pendleton was defeated twice this season by Eastern Oregon teams, by Hermiston and Athena. In his letter, Mr. DuBois states, "Athena and Hermiston are in good standing as members of the association and are entitled to consideration." Which, reading between lines, means that Pendleton's claims to the championship are unfounded. But it does give Athena a strong call.

Athena first won from Pendleton, then lost a game to Milton-Freewater. With that one loss, Athena has since forged through without a defeat, winning from Hermiston, who also defeated Pendleton. Consequently Athena is the only possible claimant from Umatilla county and Baker county has none. That leaves Union county and Wallowa county still open and two teams have a chance—La Grande and Elgin. La Grande's hold is beyond doubt far stronger than Elgin's inasmuch as both teams have lost one game and that La Grande defeated Elgin. Only an upset in the Wallowa-La Grande game would reverse the situation and should La Grande be beaten, automatically Elgin and Wallowa would be left with the selection going to Elgin, as she had beaten Wallowa, who, should La Grande lose to her, would be considered less stronger than Elgin.

Wallowa Game Important.

Truly a complicated situation. Much rests on the Wallowa-La Grande game in La Grande Saturday afternoon and should La Grande win, that should definitely settle her supremacy in Eastern Oregon with the exception of Athena.

And with La Grande and Athena both in the lead the only fair and just means of settling the championship would be a post season game between the two to be played on a neutral ground with a referee preferably from Baker county. In his letter to the Observer, Mr. DuBois

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MAT WHITE IS LAID TO REST

The funeral services of Mat White, pioneer of La Grande for over thirty years, was held at the Catholic church "Our Lady of the Valley" this morning at eight o'clock and the requiem mass was celebrated by Father A. F. Looser. A large gathering of oldtime friends of Mr. White were present who mourned the loss of one of Union county's finest citizens.

Claude Scranton, J. H. Peare, J. A. Garrity, Sr., B. W. Hughes, Mike Woodard, and George Leadsworth served as pallbearers. Mr. White's remains found their last resting place in the Catholic cemetery.

COCHRAN OUT BY ACTION OF GOVERNOR

Engineer Takes Over Duties of the State Water Superintendent

CHANGE IN EFFECT ON JANUARY FIRST

Olcott Issued Order Merging State Offices Due to Adjudication of the State Water Rights.

SALEM, Nov. 23.—Governor Olcott, by an executive order yesterday, abolished the office of state water superintendent as a separate state office and merged its duties with those of the state engineer, states the Telegram.

The order is effective January 1. The office is held by Geo. T. Cochran of La Grande, who receives a salary of $2400 a year from the state. No additional salary will be paid State Engineer Percy A. Cupper for taking over the new duties.

The governor's action is in conformance with an act of the legislature a few years ago which gave the governor the privilege of merging the two offices whenever the adjudication of state water rights reached the point that such action might seem warranted. In his letter to Cochran, apprising him of the move, the governor says that after investigation it is his opinion that such adjudication affecting the large streams of the state has been made.

The legislature which gave this power to the governor in the same act abolished the office of water superintendent for district No. 1, then held by J. T. Chinnock of Grants Pass, and left but one superintendent for the state, this office being taken over by Mr. Cochran, who was superintendent for what was known as district No. 2.

MRS. PARKER IS LIBERATED

Riga Reports State that She Has Been Released from Russian Prison Where She Was Held by Chekka Agents.

(By Associated Press.)

RIGA, Nov. 23.—Mrs. Adelaide Parker Bennett, formerly a social teacher of Seattle, Wash., has been released from prison in Russia, according to reports reaching Riga, after being arrested by Agents of Cheka and detained for three days.

Mrs. Bennett was taken from her hotel room at two o'clock in the morning but police agents refused to say why she was arrested. She was later questioned by political investigators.

Mrs. Bennett has been in Russia over a year in company with her husband, a hydraulic engineer in the employment of the Soviet government and admittedly a member of the Communist party.

WHEAT MARKET

(By Associated Press)

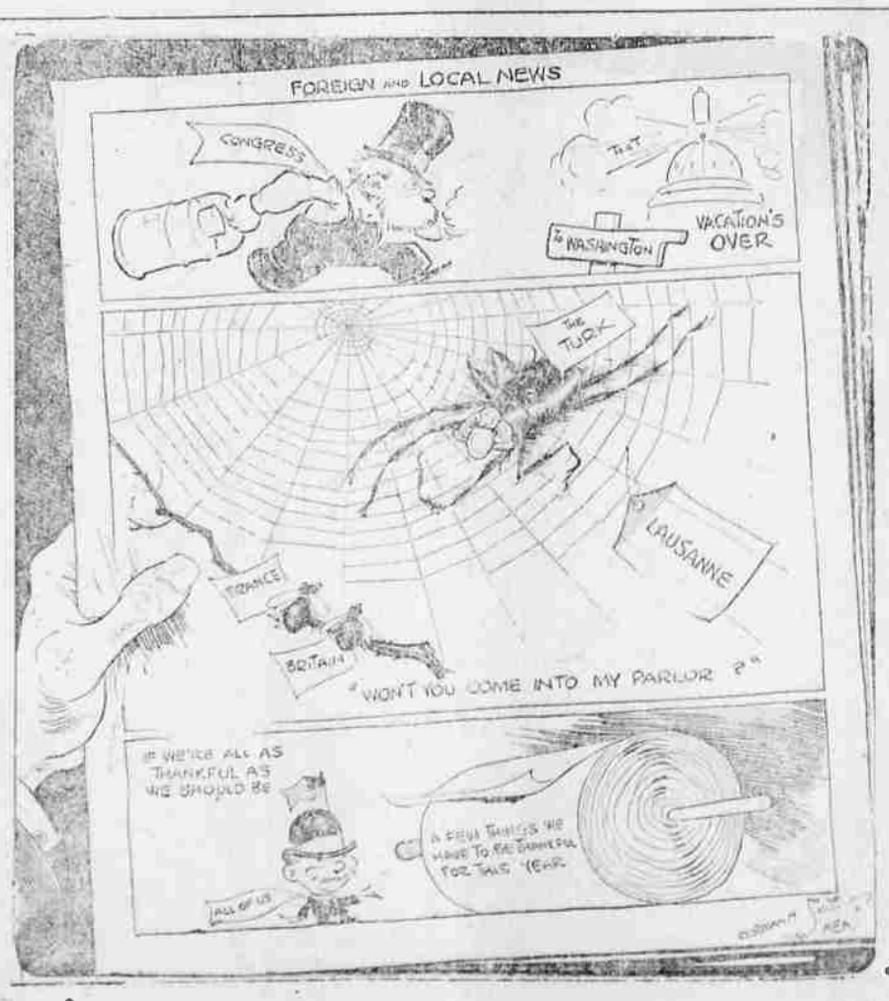
PORTLAND Nov. 23.—Wheat is quoted today from $1.13 to $1.50.

MARKET TODAY

(By Associated Press)

PORTLAND, Nov. 23.—Cattle were weak, hogs and sheep steady, eggs unsettled and butter firm.

THE BUSY MAN'S NEWSPAPER



Chance Plays Part In Capturing Moonshiner

Chance sometimes plays an important part in the lives of the human beings. Chance, coming at the right time, enriched the coffers of the county to the extent of $500 and chance also gave Ward Hendricks, a farmer who lives on Thorn creek, near Telocaset, a nice six months' term in the county jail. Just chance, but the sheriff's office is smiling today and the county is purer by having one less still in operation.

Tuesday evening the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. J Burrell of Union, formerly known as the "Goodrord place" was infested by robbers that relieved the occupants of several articles, among them being a set of harness, some barrels, tools, and the like Apparently the robbers camped in a wagon. The sheriff's office was promptly notified and arrived on the scene.

Re-inforced by some deputies, Sheriff Lee Warnick and Private John Striker hit the trail. They followed the tracks up Pilot Canyon, south of Union, where they became confused by intersecting wagon tracks. Chance sent them on the wrong trail and they traced the wagon tracks to Ward Hendricks ranch at Thorn creek.

Hendricks, who saw them coming, lost no time in attempting to rid himself of evidence but to no avail. The party discovered a complete still, four 50 gallon barrels of mash and one half pint of finished liquor. Hendricks had poured two gallons of liquor into the mash before he could be stopped. He was placed under arrest and brought to La Grande. County Judge U. G. Couch imposed a six months' county jail sentence and a fine of $500 on him this morning in the county court upon Hendricks entering a plea of guilty.

The robbers who raided the "Goodrord" place are still at large.

Sherwood Williams Now President Of Commission

At a regular meeting of the La Grande city commission held last evening in the city hall, Sherwood Williams, who was appointed to the commission to fill the place left vacant by the death of Mr. McKennon, and who was elected as commissioner at the November 7 general election, was elected without opposition to the seat of presidency of the city commission. Mr. Williams took the chair immediately following his election.

The application of the Presbyterian church, which was presented a week ago and laid on the table for consideration, asking for a reduction of the assessment on the church property, was denied last evening on account of the fact that the assessments had been adjusted at the time they were made.

The city manager was authorized to submit a proposition to Mrs. Lydia P. Grandy asking for a right of way over her property for the scenic road.

Other routine matters were attended to before the commission was adjourned.