

# OREGON CITY COURIER

24th YEAR.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 1907

No 39

## WATER HIGHEST SINCE 1890

### Willamette River Goes On Rampage

#### MUCH DAMAGE IS DONE

#### Factories All Shut Down and Many Men Thrown Out of Work-- City in Bad Fix.

The usually placid basin at the head of Main street is a swirling, seething maelstrom of waters. Impelled by the mighty mass of waters above, the turbid Willamette rushes through the city, sweeping everything before it in its mad rush towards the Columbia.

Not since the memorable flood of 1890, when logs floated down through Main street and crashed through store windows, has the river reached the point where it now stands. It is impossible yet to estimate the damage that has been done. All the interests in the city have suffered, and the city itself will have an expensive bill for repairs to sidewalks and roadways. Hundreds of men have been thrown out of employment. Numerous families have been rendered homeless. Shipping has suffered, navigation is tied up. Manufacturing interests are practically at a standstill, and still the river is rising.

The rise started last Thursday and has continued with leaps and bounds till all previous records save one have been eclipsed. Not once have the deepening waters receded, nor have they even remained stationary. By feet and by inches has the depth increased, and each day has added to the tale of damage done.

Sickness May Result. The injury to the city cannot be measured in dollars and cents alone. Oregon City may even be on the eve of an epidemic of disease, due to the fact that with all the water, there is none in the mains with which to flush the sewers. Wednesday noon the pumping station was compelled to shut down, and will remain closed till the waters recede sufficiently to allow it to be operated. The reservoir on the hill is full, but this will be kept for emergency use in case of fire. Physicians are apprehensive that the accumulation of sewage may breed disease in the city.

Last Thursday the gauge showed a depth of three feet more than on the preceding day, since when the average rise has been between two and three feet for each twenty-four hours. The snow and rains of the earlier part of the week helped to swell the flood, and as the streams tributary to the Willamette became swollen, they poured their waters into the larger volume helping to increase it.

First Part of Town to Feel Effects. The north end of the city was the first to feel the effects of the high water, which spread over the flats and flooded the truck gardens below Greenpoint. As the upper river rose, the mills of the Willamette Pulp and Paper Co. and the Crown Pulp and Paper Co. were affected, and the Willamette company had to close all of its mills but mill D.

The Crown Co. has received a serious set-back in its work owing to the fact that it is shut down on both sides of the river, and the east side mill will be tied up for several weeks until the basin can be fixed. As the flood progressed, and the water kept rising, other industries were affected, and now practically all have been forced to close. Navigation was at an end on the upper river after Monday when the water rose to such a height that the locks could no longer be used. Tuesday the river steamers could not pass the suspension bridge. The bridge across the Clackamas used by the O. W. P. Co.'s cars was deemed unsafe, and passengers had to walk across, the cars running to either end. It is said that the bridge has moved slightly from its foundations, and that there is danger of its going out. The old covered bridge across Clear Creek at Stone went down with a crash Wednesday, narrowly missing taking Jesse Williams and his team with it.

Trouble for Southern Pacific Thursday. During the night the water rose so rapidly that the tracks below Greenpoint were inundated for over a mile. Night trains had difficulty in crossing the flooded space, for the water was high enough to put out the fires in the engines. Those burning oil could easily light up again, but it took some time to get the coal burners started. Three feet of water covered the tracks.

Thursday was the climax of the flood. During the night the walls of the basin went out, as well as the greater part of the breakwater between Canemah and Oregon City. This caused the rush of waters to sweep away a log boom on the east side of the river belonging to the Crown Pulp and Paper Co. There were estimated to be 3,000,000 feet of logs in this boom, and the loss will be great. It also flooded the pulp mill, and the woolen mill, and forced them to close. Thursday morning a large crowd of people watched a boom of logs belonging to the Willamette com-

#### RESULTS OF THE HIGH WATER THUS FAR.

Publication of THE COURIER delayed. Industries Closed: Pumping Station. Willamette Pulp & Paper Co. Crown-Columbia Pulp & Paper Co. Portland Flouring Mills. Oregon City Mill & Lumber Co. Oregon City Manufacturing Co. Cascade Laundry. Chinese Laundries. Oswald & Fredericks Furniture Co. Navigation stopped. Clear Creek Bridge gone. O. W. P.'s Clackamas Bridge unsafe. One house destroyed. Southern Pacific tracks submerged. Many sidewalks gone.

pany break loose and go down stream. Logs have been continually going down the river, to help swell the jams that have formed below.

#### Courier Tied Up.

On Thursday occurred the trouble at Station B of the Portland General Electric Co. The high water caused the wheels to turn so slowly that hardly enough current was generated to supply light. The station sent all of its current to Oregon City and vicinity, but even this failed to supply all that is necessary to run motors in town thus tying up the Courier plant with the rest. For a time during the afternoon no current at all was sent out. At this writing it is not known whether the rise has been checked or not. If there is a further rise, Oregon City will be in darkness. Up to this time there have been no fatalities from the flood but many have had to be rescued from homes that have become inundated. Thursday morning William Beard waded through the water and took his three grandchildren from their home at the corner of 16th and Washington sts. They were the children of William McLary.

### TOO ANXIOUS TO PAY DEBTS

#### Hamilton Meets Obligations and Goes Under.

Does a hoodoo pursue the "Red Front" store? E. Hamilton has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, and R. L. Sabin, trustee of the Northwest Merchants' Protective association will take charge of the books pending the investigation of the assets and liabilities. This is the second time that Mr. Hamilton has failed on this site, and is the fourth failure that the ill-fated store has gone through. Previously the Red Front Trading company tried to do business here and failed, and before that George T. Howard could not make the place pay. It is said that had Mr. Hamilton not been so eager to pay up his creditors from the former failure he would be in better condition to meet his obligations at the present juncture. Too much accommodation in the way of extended credit and too many bad debts are said to be responsible for his present embarrassment.

We regret to state that the interference of the high water with the electric power compels us to issue this number a day late.

#### FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

##### Unusually Good Program Arranged for Next Week.

An unusually interesting program has been prepared for the series of Farmers' Institutes to be held throughout the county next week. The speakers are all well qualified to handle the subjects to which they have been assigned, and reports come in to us that the attendance will be unusually large at the different places where the institutes are to be held. The dates and places of meeting are as follows: Estacada, Feb. 11. Damascus, Feb. 12. Logan, Feb. 13. Molalla, Feb. 14. Canby, Feb. 15. Oregon City, Feb. 16. Dr. Withycombe will speak on the subject of "Diversified Farming"; William Schumrich, on "Dairying"; Mr. Judd, on "Draft Horses"; J. H. Reid, on "Fruit Pests"; and A. J. Lewis will handle the subject of "Small Fruits". The list of subjects presented includes much that will be of great help to the farmers of the county, and every farmer knows that it is the intelligent working of the farms in these days that makes them pay. Thorough assemblies such as these institutes ideas can be propagated that can not fail to benefit the farmers.

#### UNKNOWN KILLS HIMSELF.

##### Steps in Front of Train at Clackamas—Thought to Be Insane.

An unknown man committed suicide Tuesday afternoon by stepping in front of a north bound Southern Pacific train at Clackamas. He is said to have acted queerly for some time before the train came, walking up and down the track as though waiting for

ately stepped in front of it and was cut to pieces by the engine.

Coroner Holman was notified at once by telephone, and left on a special engine with a coffin, since the roads are so badly flooded that travel by them is impossible. The remains were brought back here on the five o'clock train and an inquest was held Wednesday in the coroner's office. The unknown was about five feet tall and stockily built, weighing about 160 pounds. He had brown curly hair, a sandy complexion and wore a moustache. His nose was peculiar feature of his face, being large with a noticeable upward turn at the tip. The clothes he wore were rather old, and he had the appearance of a tramp or a workman out of a job. Nothing was found on his person that would give any clue to his identity, but there was some small change in one of his pockets. He had also a Bible and some religious tracts stamped by a Tacoma mission, thus showing that he had been in that city recently. There was also in his possession cards of various business firms throughout the state of Washington.

The coroner's jury attached no blame to anybody for the accident, and it is thought that he met death voluntarily while in a fit of insanity.

#### Water Commissioners' Report.

The report of the board of water commissioners of Oregon City has just been made public. The report shows that this is the only department of the city that is self-sustaining. During the past year much extension work was done, in laying mains and adding to the equipment of the plant, so that now Oregon City possesses a water system the equal of any town of its size in the country. The property inventories at \$28,490, of which the greater part is in the mains, which are put down at a value of \$40,000. The report shows that the past year brought in an increase of \$109.99 of receipts over the preceding year. The total disbursements during the year amounted to \$13,013.63. There is no bonded indebtedness for the benefit of the water system, but the board has a floating indebtedness consisting of warrants for \$31,040.02.

#### Lodge Establishes New Branch.

Mrs. Augusta Lutz returned last Thursday from Milwaukee where she has been for the last twelve days in the interests of the Knights and Ladies of Security. It is the intention of the order to organize a branch in that town and fourteen charter members have been secured through the efforts of Mrs. Lutz. The ceremonies incident to the organization of the lodge will take place Tuesday evening February 12th in Woodmen Hall.

### HOUSE KILLS HUNTLEY'S BILL

#### Votes to Postpone Indefinitely--Amounts Really To Rejection.

The bill introduced by Representative Huntley and called "Corrupt Practice" bill failed to pass the House by a vote of 30 to 23. Seven members were absent. While the House did not definitely fail to pass the bill merely, it was postponed, which is the same thing as if the bill were lost. Mr. Huntley gave a strong argument in favor of his measure, pleading for an equal show for the poor and the rich candidate in an election, and showing that the possession of wealth does not necessarily fit a man to hold office, but is rather an advantage which he has over a poor man in obtaining the office. He predicted that a law similar to those which this bill contains will have to be passed sooner or later.

Mr. Campbell spoke in favor of the bill's passage, and to criticisms that had been made to the effect that the bill was too cumbersome, Rodgers of Marion county spoke against the bill, and attributed its authorship to W.

S. U'Ren. In reply to him Mr. Campbell said: "If these men want this sort of a law, why don't they introduce a bill proposing such a law? So far as the author of this bill is concerned, the gentleman from Marion is also mistaken. The bill was carefully prepared by one of the foremost judges in this state, one for whom every lawyer removes his hat, a judge whose decisions are less frequently reversed in the Supreme Court than are those of any other judge in the state—the Hon. Thomas A. McBride. "A law similar to that now being considered was adopted by the British parliament, the members of which receive no pay for their services, as early as 1883 and in 1892 the greater part of this bill was incorporated in a law by the legislature of Massachusetts, which, I think, includes just about as many brilliant statesmen as are to be found in either the Marion or Multnomah County delegations in this House."

#### Young Boys Turn Robbers.

Boy robbers have made their appearance in Parkplace. Little Peter Rotter of that place was sent to the store of W. A. Clark to purchase some groceries. A five dollar bill was given him to pay for them, which he put in the side pocket of his overcoat. At the store he met some other boys of the neighborhood, who engaged him in play, and when he went to pay for the groceries, the bill was gone. The matter has been reported to the authorities, and they have been

working on the case with such good results that the offenders are known and will be brought up shortly and taught a lesson.

#### Remodeling Their Store.

Goldstein & Levitt are remodeling their store on Main street, taking out the old shelves and installing new fixtures. It is their intention to get out of the salvage business that they have been conducting, and to make their clothing store a legitimate business, modern in every way.

## START RIGHT BEGIN WITH ELECTRIC LIGHT IT IS CHEAPER

Make 1907 an ELECTRIC YEAR in your Household as well as in your Store and enjoy the convenience, the labor-saving, the healthfulness, the safety, the economy and the prosperity that attend the use of ELECTRICITY.

FREE LAMP RENEWALS:—The Company will henceforth furnish free of charge, to all meter customers, new Edison base lamps of 4, 8, 16, 32 and 50 candle power, in exchange for burned out or old lamps heretofore furnished by the Company. Lamp renewals will be made at the Company's Office, Main Street Oregon City.

FREE LAMP RENEWALS mean better light, and is Equal to a Substantial Reduction in the Cost of Lighting.

Call MAIN 6688 for information.

## Portland Railway Light & Power Co.

C. G. MILLER, Contract Manager for Oregon City

### APPLE TREES and OTHER TREES

## MUST BE SPRAYED NOW



Just received, GENUINE REX RED LIME and SULPHUR SPRAY SOLUTION. Eastern importation. If you furnish can, 40c per gallon, or \$2.00 for 5 gallons and we furnish can. One gallon REX SPRAY will make 11 gallons of Spray. Recommend for the San Jose Scale by the Fruit Inspector.

### FRANK BUSCH

Opposite Court House,

Oregon City

WE CARRY FULL LINE OF SPRAY PUMPS