

Morning Enterprise

WEEKLY ENTERPRISE ESTABLISHED 1866.

THE WEATHER
OREGON CITY—Showers Friday;
southerly winds.
Oregon and Washington—Showers;
southerly winds.
Idaho—Showers Friday.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
FAIR
CANBY, OR.
SEPT. 24, 25, 26, 27.

VOL. V.—No. 107.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1913

PER WEEK, TEN CENTS.

STRONG CASE IS MADE AGAINST LA FRANCE

Clackamas and Multnomah Authorities Piece Together Operations of Insurance Swindler and His Confederates in Securing Body Which They Set Afloat in River—Persons Who Assisted in Moving Corpse to River, and Prisoner's Wife, to be Arrested and Prosecuted.

While no decision has as yet been reached by Clackamas county authorities and District Attorney Walter Evans, of Multnomah county as to where the trial of J. C. LaFrance will be held, developments in the investigation of the case seem to indicate that it will be found advisable to arraign and try the insurance swindler in Clackamas county. In connection with the case it is said to be extremely likely that others will also be implicated in the matter, and will be arrested and charged with aiding and abetting LaFrance in his successful plot to collect \$15,000 in insurance and lodge benefits for his supposed death.

Neither Sheriff E. T. Mass nor Coroner Wilson, who have been in communication and consultation with the Multnomah county officials, will talk about the developments of the case, saying that they believe any announcements ought to come from District Attorney Evans, of Portland, as the prisoner is at present in the neighboring county. In spite of their courtesy to the Multnomah official in the matter, however, news of the progress of the investigation has "leaked" from Portland sources, and the swindle now seems to have a complete case can be made out without the woman's assistance. In fact the officials have not even gone to the trouble of ascertaining whether or not she would turn state's evidence against her husband; though it is generally believed that she could be persuaded to do so.

LaFrance himself is said to have given the investigators a great deal of assistance, willingly talking about most of the details of the crime. On certain points, however, he has refused absolutely to give any information. The prisoner, it is said, has persistently refused to tell how he came into possession of the body in the first place, and this reticence on his part at first led to the suspicion that he might have committed a murder as the initial step in his swindle. Evidence has since been discovered, however, that has caused the authorities to discard the murder theory, and they are now practically certain where the body was obtained, and whose it was. This detail, however, is not absolutely settled, and until the identity of body has been definitely ascertained, information in regard to this point is being withheld by those who have guardedly talked about other incidents in the swindle.

Lloyd Williams, who disappeared, and who possibly may have died some two months before the body supposed to be LaFrance's was found. There is reasonably well-founded evidence that Williams did not die at the time of his mysterious disappearance; in fact sometime after he dropped from sight in Oregon City he was seen in San Francisco by a man who is positive of his identification. With Williams possibly removed, some trouble is being had by the authorities in fixing the identity of the body used by LaFrance.

It has been learned that in taking the body used in the substitution to the banks of the Clackamas river, where LaFrance sent it adrift, the swindler had the aid of one, and possibly of two men. The body was procured some distance from the river, and was moved at night from its original resting place to the stream. Developments to date in the case indicate that after the corpse had been carried part of the way, LaFrance's confederates refused to further share with him in the commission of the ghastly work, and left him to complete the carrying of the body to the river unaided. This ghastly feat LaFrance accomplished, it is said, by tying the corpse to a pole, and dragging it by hand and through the woods to a point on the shore of the river. There he hid it again, and the following night dressed it in a suit of his own clothes and set it adrift. It is said it took three days to move the body from the place it was procured to the river.

Wife to be Prosecuted

Mrs. LaFrance, who collected the insurance which her husband carried, and who later sent it to him under an assumed name in Texas, will in all probability be prosecuted for her part in the case. It was thought by officials in charge of the investigation at first that immunity might have to be offered Mrs. LaFrance so that she could be utilized as a witness for the state, but detectives and other investigators who have worked on the case have obtained so much information that it is now believed that a complete case can be made out without the woman's assistance. In fact the officials have not even gone to the trouble of ascertaining whether or not she would turn state's evidence against her husband; though it is generally believed that she could be persuaded to do so.

LaFrance himself is said to have given the investigators a great deal of assistance, willingly talking about most of the details of the crime. On certain points, however, he has refused absolutely to give any information. The prisoner, it is said, has persistently refused to tell how he came into possession of the body in the first place, and this reticence on his part at first led to the suspicion that he might have committed a murder as the initial step in his swindle. Evidence has since been discovered, however, that has caused the authorities to discard the murder theory, and they are now practically certain where the body was obtained, and whose it was. This detail, however, is not absolutely settled, and until the identity of body has been definitely ascertained, information in regard to this point is being withheld by those who have guardedly talked about other incidents in the swindle.

Body Not Williams'

It has been practically established though, that the body is not that of

No Compromise Allowed

That LaFrance and his confederates can be prosecuted for illegal transportation of a corpse is but one of the courts upon which the prosecution will base its case. That this illegal moving of the body occurred in Clackamas county will be the basis of transferring the case to the local courts is hinted by those now investigating the crime. This will be done, it is said, so that if a conviction is not secured on the swindling charge, LaFrance and the others may be held for trial upon another court. Other charges will also be contained in the information, it is said, so that there will be no opportunity for the ends of justice to be defeated.

These various charges are to be placed against LaFrance, it is hinted, so that the prisoner cannot avoid punishment by arranging a settlement with the insurance companies and fraternal organizations that he swindled by paying back a part of the money he received. It is reported that through his tie mill at Coquille the prisoner secured a considerable quantity of assets, which he could convert into cash were the opportunity offered him to avoid punishment by making a cash settlement.

LaFrance is Weakening

In a partial confession made late Thursday night in the county jail at Portland LaFrance said that the men who had helped him remove the body to the river, and who had later balked at carrying out their part of the work, were a couple of medical students. The names he gave the deputies are withheld from publication, mainly because some doubt is still held as to the truthfulness of this confession. Officials who have been working on the case are inclined to believe that LaFrance was aided by men who lived near the place where the body was obtained.



THE GREAT AMERICAN HOME.



Representative James W. Collier, of Mississippi, member of ways and means committee, who has spoken on tariff bill and its effects.

TARIFF TRIUMPH WON BY "DONKEY"

DEMOCRATS FORCE OVER UNDERWOOD BILL IN HOUSE BY VOTE OF 281 TO 139

SPEAKER CLARK RECEIVES TRIBUTE

Bull Moosers Split on Administration Measure, Which is Passed Just Before Long Adjournment Taken

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8.—The Underwood tariff bill, proclaimed by the Democratic party as the answer to its platform pledge to reduce the tariff downward, was passed by the house late today.

The vote was 281 to 139, five Democrats voting against the bill and two Republicans for it. Four Progressives supported the measure and 14 opposed it, while one independent Progressive joined with the majority.

When Speaker Clark announced a vote in loud tones that revealed his satisfaction, exuberant Democrats here started a staffed Democratic donkey over the heads of their colleagues in the rear of the chamber, a faint ripple applause followed and the gavel fell on the first chapter in the history of President Wilson's extraordinary session of Congress.

With the bill on its way to the Senate, there was a rush of Representatives to their homes tonight. An adjournment will be taken in the house three days at a time, beginning next week, until June 1.

NEW TARIFF CHAMPION WHO LEADS DEMOCRATS



Rep. Oscar Underwood, author of revised tariff bill about which congressional fight has centered through-out the present session.

LEE TO PRESENT WATER FRANCHISE

M. J. Lee, through his attorneys, Hicks and Brownell, will present a franchise to the council covering the proposed plan for furnishing water to Oregon City from Canby, B. N. Hicks, of the firm, says that the proposed franchise has been drawn up and will be presented to the council committee upon pure water at some time in the near future.

The franchise is virtually the same as was outlined in The Enterprise Thursday morning. It is proposed to furnish the city with good water from the Canby wells, which are sunk 200 feet into a good, pure supply. From here the proposed company, of which M. J. Lee is one of the principal owners, would extend a pipe line to Oregon City and deliver the water into the city reservoir at Mountain View.

The company in return will demand 50 per cent of the gross revenue derived by the water board from water rents. They will ask for a 25-year franchise, allowing the city the right to take the plant over at the end of any five-year period. This could be done by merely paying the company the valuation of their property, which would be set by board of assessors appointed for task.

The Canby well water was one of the two water supplies favored by Engineer Robert Dieck.

ASSAULT HEARING LONG DRAWN OUT

The case of Stanley Rice, of Portland, who is being sued by Joe Hedges for assault and battery, was begun Thursday afternoon in Justice of the Peace Sievers' court at 1:00 o'clock. Considerable difficulty was encountered in securing a jury, and the case was not begun until nearly four o'clock. Joe Seaham was the only witness examined, and simply stated to the jury the story of the assault as he saw it.

His story was to the effect that Joe Hedges, who is the son of J. E. Hedges, had returned from Portland on a late car, after having witnessed a show in that city, and had stopped at the Falls confectionery shop, this being about 1:00 o'clock a. m. Seaham, who was working at the Falls at the time, stated that he and Allie Levitt, who was in the place, got into an argument, concerning the make of an automobile which was outside. To settle their dispute they went out to see what make the machine was. Hedges and several others boys following them.

Seaham said two women were in the car, and that one of them tossed a bottle out at the boys. One of them picked it up and put it back into the machine. A young man who was driving the car became slightly "peevish" at this, and told the boys that if they did not look out "they would get the car knocked off of them."

At this time Rice came out and heard the remark. Thinking one of the boys said it, he lit into the first one he saw, the unlucky person being Hedges. He was knocked to the ground in an unconscious state, and as a result sustained a cut cheek. The case will be resumed at 9:00 o'clock on Friday.

Steinger's Auto Stage TO MOLLALA AND RETURN
Leaves corner of 7th and Main St. Oregon City, every day, except Sunday at 4:00 p. m. Get tickets at Elliott's office, down stairs.

TRADE TO BOOM WITH NEW ROAD

COMPLETION OF CLACKAMAS VALLEY LINE WILL BE IMPETUS TO BUSINESS

LUMBER ACTIVITY TO BE RESUMED

Service From Beaver Creek to Put Many Dollars Into Circulation Locally—Much Progress Being Made

That the installation of service on the Clackamas Southern railroad, the latter part of this month or early in June, will result in a renewed and increased prosperity in Oregon City is the general belief of those who have been watching developments along the line and at its local terminal. Freight service will be commenced on the line as soon as track-laying to Beaver Creek is completed, and initial shipments will consist largely of cordwood and timber. Soon afterwards, it is expected, heavy shipments of agricultural products will be made over the line, and return loads of supplies will be taken in.

While the cordwood traffic will mainly provide the road with resources with which to meet its operating and construction expense, bringing to its Oregon City terminals of a large quantity of timber is expected to result in full time operation at the local mill. This will give steady employment to a large number of men in the different departments of the mill, and will renew the market for ties and other mill products at Oregon City.

Preparations are already under way for the handling of this work at the mill, and machinery is being overhauled, and some new apparatus is being installed. As soon as shipments of timber come in on the new road, mill activity will commence, and material that cannot be handled at once will be stacked in the yards. Men will be needed to handle the stuff, and in this way the pay-roll will be considerably increased, and this money will find its way into city trade channels.

The traffic in agricultural products and supplies on the road will make Oregon City a clearing house and point of exchange for many commodities to even a greater extent than it is at present, and so again the line will materially in adding to the volume of business daily transacted here. With the extension of the line this business will increase, and as practically all the profits of this business will find their way into Oregon City trade channels, it is generally expected that the completion of the line will mean many thousands of dollars of annual increase in local business.

With the recent bright weather, completion of the line is being rapidly advanced towards Beaver Creek, and track laying is going on daily. Street is being hauled out over the line from Oregon City, and as the rails are put down the construction train is steadily advancing towards the first main station on the road. Grading crews are completing their work far in advance of the track-laying outfit, and a large crew of tamperers is pounding ballast behind the end of the steel. Bridge and culvert work has been practically completed, so there is nothing to delay the hurrying of the line into Beaver Creek. The light rain of Thursday did not interfere seriously with progress that is being made, and track and embankment work so far completed is reported to be fast getting into permanent shape.

GOVERNOR WEST THREATENS SUIT

STATE EXECUTIVE TO REPLY TO ATTACKS BY PORTLAND PAPER—LEGAL ACTION

FULL INVESTIGATION OF ACTS ASKED

Attorney General is Invited to Probe Charges, and to Start Proceedings if Allegations Are Found True

SALEM, Ore., May 8.—(Special)—Libel suit, probably for \$50,000, will be begun by Governor West against The Evening Telegram, of Portland, in the next two or three days, the governor stated today. The cause of the action will be alleged defamatory publications that have been made by the paper relative to the governor's connection with the brick yard at the state penitentiary.

The objectionable articles have appeared both in the Oregonian and The Telegram, but the suit will be aimed only at The Telegram. The latest of the stories appeared in The Telegram on Tuesday. The Telegram has published articles of a similar nature at different times since March 25, 1912. Certain of the articles have stated that the governor is both civilly and criminally liable for an alleged wrongful expenditure of state moneys.

Today the governor sent a letter to Attorney General Crawford, asking him to investigate the accusations that have been made by the Portland papers and to bring suit against the executive if he finds that any money has been expended in an illegal manner.

"I take it that the managements of the two papers above mentioned have in their possession such evidence as in their opinion would justify the publication of such charges, and that the same will be placed at your disposal upon request," says the governor in the letter to Attorney General Crawford.

"I have remained silent in the face of The Telegram's attacks long enough," declared the governor today. "There comes a time when forbearance ceases to be virtue. The penitentiary officials have receipts for every cent of money collected at the state prison. It has all been turned over to the state treasurer. It is the lookout of the state treasurer if any money has been paid out of that office unlawfully. Not a dollar of the state funds has come into my hands."

BALL GAME SUNDAY

Canemah park will be the scene of another baseball game Sunday afternoon, when Price Brothers' nine of West Oregon City, will meet the crack Crystal Lake Park team of Milwaukie. The game promises to be a fast one from start to finish, for the local boys are in good trim, and although Crystal Lake Park will put up a hard fight, they will have to go some to slip anything over. The game will be called at 2:30 sharp.

Good Advertising is News

Manufacturers, merchants, and others who use the advertising columns of THE ENTERPRISE no longer regard their expenditures in the light of expense, but of investment.

Now that advertising is being purged of exaggeration and untruth, the reading public, especially that large circle of ENTERPRISE readers who receive the paper at their homes or carefully carry it home with them each day, take as much interest in the advertisements as they do in the news.

After all, ENTERPRISE advertising is news of the most interesting, instructive, and profitable kind.

And if it is a good investment for the advertiser to place his news before you constantly it is equally profitable for our readers to read attentively the valuable information thus imparted.

NEW LOCAL CHURCH BEING CONSIDERED

The Rev. John Ovall, of the Methodist church, who has been appointed missionary among the Scandinavian people in Oregon and Southern Washington, spent all day Thursday in the city looking over the situation here with a view of opening a regular church for Scandinavian people in this city. Rev. Mr. Ovall is well known in this part of the country, having traveled as district superintendent of the Methodist church in the Northwest for several years.

Mr. Ovall is greatly interested in the subject of starting a new church here, and believes that Oregon City has a great future. He believes that the Scandinavian people will come to this part of the country by the thousands as soon as the Panama canal is completed, as there are a number of the Scandinavian steamship lines that will run ships direct to Portland as soon as the canal is opened.

Two Good Houses for Rent

Owner prefers to rent by the year. Dwellings are within one and a half blocks of Gladstone station, in good repair, modern, fine lawn and garden space. See G. S. CROSS, GLADSTONE REALTY ASSOCIATION, Gladstone.

Wanted!
Girls and Women
To operate sewing machines in garment factory.
OREGON CITY WOOLEN MILL

MOST American railroads demand that watches of the grade admitted to their service must not vary over 20 seconds per week.

The **Hamilton Watch**
"The Railroad Timekeeper of America"
surpasses this requirement so consistently that it is immensely popular.

There are more Hamilton Watches in use on such roads than all other makes put together.

The business or professional man who starts out to buy a watch of unusual accuracy will be interested in the beautiful Hamilton 19-size thin model. Come to and look at some of the Hamilton Watches we can show you.

Burmeister & Andresen
Oregon City Jewelers



Steinger's Auto Stage TO MOLLALA AND RETURN
Leaves corner of 7th and Main St. Oregon City, every day, except Sunday at 4:00 p. m. Get tickets at Elliott's office, down stairs.

For Farms and City Property In and Around Molalla
Call on
W. A. Beck & Co.
Molalla
Exclusive Agents for Gregory Addition, Kaylor Addition and Harless Addition to Molalla.