

## OFFICERS TAKE LETTER WRITER

**LaGrande Man Would Not Stand for Blackmail—Offender Caught.**

**JAIL HOLDS HIM SECURE**  
Letter and Instructions—Fake Jar Hidden For Crook to Dig Up.

La Grande, Oregon.—A deep and well-laid plot to blackmail J. D. McKennon, a leading grocer of this city, was frustrated, it is hoped, this morning, when arrest was made of a man sent by the gang of blackmailers to collect the money demanded in the anonymous letter to the merchant.

Two days ago Mr. McKennon received a letter demanding that he pay \$1000 or lose his home property and even his life. The letter was turned over to the police, who were at the designated spot all night. Their long wait was rewarded by the appearance of a young man. He was arrested without difficulty and is now in jail.

The letter was written at Walla Walla on Pendleton stationery, and explains itself. Others of the gang are here, as evidenced by signs of communication made with the prisoner at the city jail this morning. The letter, verbatim, follows:

"Dear Sir—You will no doubt be very hostile on coming to possession of this letter. But it will do you no good. My request is more easily complied with than refused. All I want of you is the sum of \$1000, one thousand dollars. See! Now, to business and directions, and be very careful of your movements after receiving this. For I have two men stopping at LaGrande.

"First place the amount named in a 1-2 gallon fruit jar and bury it at the Northwest corner of the Mormon sugar mill. You will notice post or piling running toward the wagon road. Will put the jar in a hole in front of the nearest post to the road and farthest toward bridge. Just cover so it won't be noticed. Two inches from surface will do. Don't forget the date, August 2, 1907, at 10:30 P. M.

"Now, McKennon, this means you. I will tell you some important facts to keep constantly in your head. Don't think you can have anybody there to capture the boys, or that you can run away and get around paying us, for the first move you make, you die. If you value your life and family and store in La Grande, come through, that is all. This is the only time I will warn you by letter, and I will not bother you for any more if you act according to directions.

"XAVIER 23-23.  
"P. S.—If you try to be a hero and get gay, then look out—the best you can do is to keep still. If you should happen to get the man that goes after the coin, there is still some of us left. Now, do as you please.

"The facts are here. X 23."  
Mr. McKennon secured the services of ex-Deputy Sheriff Tom Johnson and ex-Chief of Police L. Rayburn, who took with them enough provisions to last them, secreted themselves in the best sheds in view of the proper location last Thursday night and remained there until they got their man this morning. About 6:30 last evening the special officers saw a man walk by on the road and look over in their direction. A few moments later another followed and the two returned together, one being the man arrested.

A little before 5 o'clock this morning the officers saw a man climb over the fence, walk by them within six feet, then immediately got to the exact spot designated and commence scraping around. Finding the dirt soft he picked up a stick and commenced to dig up the jar buried there. At this juncture Rayburn stepped out and covered him with a shotgun.

The prisoner was surprised and made a move to his hip pocket but was ordered immediately to throw up his hands, which he reluctantly did.

## HOP PICKING ANNUAL OUTING FOR CITY FOLKS

City Inhabitants Flock to Willamette Valley During Hop Picking Season

Portland, Aug. 6.—Conrad Krebs, who has large hop yards in different parts of the Willamette valley, is in the city arranging to open headquarters for engaging pickers for the season. "Picking will begin about September 1," he says, "and as we need about 1500 pickers, we have to begin engaging help early. I look for a good supply of pickers this year, however, as the people who have picked our hops in former years are mostly figuring on returning to our yards this year again.

"Whole families take their regular annual vacation in our yards, and they make money at the same time. I know of some heads of families who are making as high as \$5 a day in the city, but they have notified their employers that the regular hop yard vacation is due pretty soon and that a leave of absence is expected. Where the family is large and all the members work, they can make as much as \$20 a day in our hop fields, and they return to the city with health renewed as well."

He says he will have preachers on hand at the Independence yards to conduct a revival during the three weeks of hop picking, and that this will be considered quite an attraction by those religiously inclined. In other yards, however, he will have different kinds of recreation.

As for prices for hops, Mr. Krebs thinks there is very little encouragement to pick this season, but he hopes that the market will change by the time the hops are in the bale, and that the hop growers of the state may be recompensed for their labor and outlay. He expects an average of a ton of hops to the acre for the entire 800 acres under cultivation this season.

## THEY HAD HEARD THE LOUD CALL OF COOS BAY

Gathering at Chamber of Commerce Headquarters Compare Notes With Strange Results.

The cosmopolitan population of Marshfield as well as the remarkable change and increase in the population in the last few months was well illustrated today by an incident which occurred at the Chamber of Commerce rooms. About a dozen men were present and one of them mentioned the fact that he was from New Mexico. Thereupon a census was taken on the spot by states and the following result was scored: Kretz from New Mexico; Lederle from Michigan; StaFord from Illinois; Blake from Indiana; Thurston from Maine; Clarke from Massachusetts; Lyons from Kentucky; Snover from Oregon; Morris from Idaho; Schlager from Pennsylvania; Whinnant from South Dakota; Dodge from North Dakota; Watkins from California. It was voted that many states had heard the Call of Coos Bay.

## FIRE DESTROYS BASE BALL BLEACHERS

San Francisco, Aug. 6.—A fire which started near the baseball grounds this afternoon spread to the bleachers, destroying them. No game.

Portland, Aug. 6.—Oakland 5, Portland 4.

Vancouver, Aug. 6.—No game, rain.

Oakland, Aug. 6.—Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 7. (11 innings.)

## FOUR PEOPLE KILLED IN RAILROAD WRECK

Pittsburg, Aug. 6.—Four were killed and twenty-five injured in a wreck on the Pennsylvania railroad near Kelly, about 85 miles from this city, today. While passing through Kelly, the Titusville express was "sideswiped" by a gondola car and the engine, tender, baggage, express and three day coaches were derailed. The victims all live in Pennsylvania.

## Convict Stabs Another.

Salt Lake, Aug. 6.—Abe Majors, doing a life sentence for murder, in the Utah penitentiary, almost killed another man today. He stabbed Henry Waddel, a long termer, six times. Guards went to Waddel's rescue, but probably too late. It is thought Waddel will die.

## WAR VESSELS SHELL MOORS

French and Spanish War Craft Bombard Arab Quarter at Casa Blanca.

HUNDREDS ARE SHOT DOWN

Shore Batteries Show Fight, But Did No Damage—Foreigners Are Fleeing.

Tangier, Aug. 6.—Casa Blanca, on the Moroccan coast, has been bombarded by French cruisers, and Moors are reported shot down in large numbers and the town since Sunday night has been practically in possession of landing parties from the French and Spanish cruisers. The first shots were fired by the Moors. The occupation of Casa Blanca is a direct outcome of a native uprising which resulted in killing last week of eight Europeans there. Both France and Spain are hurrying additional warships and troops to various points on the Moroccan coast.

Tangier, Aug. 6.—According to a semi-official account, there is fighting at Casa Blanca. The French cruiser Gallie asked permission to land a guard of sailors to protect the French consulate. This was granted, but while the guard was proceeding to the consulate, it was fired upon and seven were wounded. The French then cleared the streets at the point of bayonets, killing many Moors. Arriving at the consulate, the guard signalled the news to the Gallie and the French ship notified a Spanish cruiser which had landed a guard for the consulate of Spain. The warships then bombarded the Arab quarter of Casa Blanca. The Casa Blanca battery fired a couple of blank shots which drew the fire of the warships in the harbor, causing the Moors to retire. The European part of the city was not touched. The Du Chayla shelled the beach where a number of Kalyes assembled, killing many of them. Reports from Rabat say the situation is critical. Berger tribesmen continue to threaten to invade the city. Europeans are fleeing.

## COUNCIL CONTRACTS STREET IMPROVEMENT

Bids Let For Macadam and Planking In Various Sections of City—Other Business.

The city council held a meeting on Monday night to consider bids on work recently ordered. There were bids to be opened for work on 10th street, and California avenue. The offers were opened and considered, but action on them was postponed until August 19th when the board of equalization will meet to adjust prices on the improvements. The work on 10th street is estimated at \$1.67 per front foot and on California avenue, \$1.18. The meeting was adjourned to last night.

At the adjourned meeting, held last night, bids were let on the following work: Grading and macadam on First and Cedar streets, together with curbing and crosswalks, from A street to the north bridge; grading to J. J. Burns, and the other work to Masters & McLain. Second street from Pine to Alder, macadam and grading, together with curbing and crosswalks; grading to J. J. Burns, other work to Masters & McLain. Sheridan avenue, Washington to Pennsylvania; planking, Masters & McLain. Pennsylvania avenue, from Sheridan to Coal Bank Inlet; planking, to Masters & McLain.

The great activity in building affected the bidding, as there were no other bids for the macadam except that of Masters & McLain.

Seymour Bell was present at the meeting and gave notice that he would apply for a franchise for an electric railroad at the adjourned meeting which is set for August 19th.

## Pasha Surrenders the City.

Madrid, Aug. 6.—A dispatch to the Imparsial, from Tangier, says it is reported the Pasha at Casa Blanca has surrendered the town and that guards for the protection of foreigners will be landed soon as possible at Mogador, Rabat, Safi, and Mazagan.

## OIL AND RAILROADS TO FIGHT EXPOSURE

Are Effecting Combination to Beat Government Investigation.

Chicago, Aug. 6.—Conferences indicating a combination of interests between the Standard Oil and railroads to fight further government investigations are in progress in Chicago and New York, according to the Chicago Record-Herald. The Chicago and Alton, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and Chicago and Eastern Illinois lines jointly named in 3491 indictments returned by the federal grand jury are represented in the negotiations. The attitude of Judge Landis in declaring the railroads equally culpable with the oil corporation in rebating offenses and calling a special grand jury has caused the hasty banding together of the different interests.

## A MINNESOTA FARM GIVES UP SKELETONS

Likely Remains of Indians Killed In Long Ago Tribal Wars.

Mankato, Minn., Aug. 6.—The skeletons of 16 men, minus their heads, believed by representatives of the Historical Society who have examined them to be those of Indians who were buried 200 or more years ago, have been removed from a mound on Arthur Mitchell's farm in South Bend township. Excavating has ceased for the present, but will be resumed within a short time, when it is expected other skeletons and perhaps some more interesting things may be found.

While residents of South Bend cling to the belief that the skeletons are those of white men, others do not think so. Thomas Hughes, the county historian, is of the opinion that the bones have laid where found over two hundred years. He believes that a party of Sioux Indians that had gone to Fort Le Huillier to trade was ambushed by a war party of Sacs and Foxes from Wisconsin and a number slain and their heads carried away as trophies, and that the men from the fort then buried the bodies.

One of the skeletons has a flint arrowhead sticking between the vertebra, thus indicating the manner in which this man came to his death.

## STRANGER PLEASED WITH COOS COUNTRY

Has Recently Seen Most of Western Territory—Coos Bay Suits Him.

"Coos Bay is good enough for me," was the earnest declaration of D. B. Crites, late of Las Vegas, N. M., and who has toured extensively the vast area of country intervening between the state of Indiana, southwesterly to where the sluggish Rio Grande divides the Sal Del Fierro range in Mexico.

"Of all the coast places I have seen in my travels up the Pacific slope," said Mr. Crites, "none compare with Coos Bay, either in natural resources or climate. My objective point has always been here, but I desired to thoroughly investigate the different localities, where promises of wonderful possibilities are held out before coming. I am free to say that in no way am I disappointed in the expectations which the wonderful claims for this place naturally caused me to hold."

Mr. Crites has been on the bay but a day yet like so many others before him he has become one of the enthused converts to the Coos Bay faith. He says to his personal knowledge there were twelve families in Las Vegas making arrangements to pull stakes and set their faces Coos Bayward. He says the wide publicity which the Coos Bay country has attained is nothing short of remarkable. In the hamlets and cities of Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kansas and the Indian Territory, he heard of Coos Bay; always the reports spoke the same—until it came to him to be like some refrain—"Coos Bay, the young man's goal and the Mecca of the opportunity seeker."

Mr. Crites is a young man and after a few days spent in looking around the bay he will make definite plans for the future.

## HOW SALMON EGGS ARE TAKEN

Season Yet Early and Hatcheries Have Not Obtained Any Eggs from Fish.

12 STATIONS IN OREGON

Season, It Is Believed, Will Be Very Late—Columbia River Has Five Stations.

Astoria, Aug. 6.—Master Fish Warden Van Dusen is receiving word every day from the men in the state hatchery department that the twelve different stations in the state are getting ready to handle the eggs which will be swamped from the salmon this season. At no point in the state have any eggs been taken or received into the hatcheries. At the Clackamas and Salmon river stations the work will begin earliest in the season. The eggs taken so far at these places have been taken solely for the purpose of determining their condition. The salmon at the Clackamas station near Cazadero are not yet ripe.

From Bill Smith, who is in charge of the Clackamas station, who reported to the fish warden yesterday, comes the information that there are plenty of fish in the stream there but that they are not yet ripe. He states that there will be no difficulty in taking the salmon as the sein has been tried and found to work perfectly. At the Clackamas station there is an arrangement of two sets of racks and a place to hold the salmon in until they mature. This station is only a temporary one, the miles further up the river but as the permanent station being located 30 Portland General Electric Company has a 60-foot dam at this point no fish could go above it this year. The company, however, is blasting a fishway over the dam and Smith informs Mr. Van Dusen that the work is being done at the upper end of the fish ladder so that the blasting will not interfere with the work of the state in taking eggs. Blasting in or near the water has proved in the past to be the best way to drive fish entirely out of a stream.

The 12 Oregon hatcheries are capable of handling 50 million eggs and Mr. Van Dusen thinks that should everything be favorable that this amount will be taken this season.

Should the greater per cent of this take be hatched and liberated to the streams there should be no difficulty with a slack salmon season as this one is reported to be. But among hatchery men this is not considered to be a dull fishing season; it is generally believed to be a late season. Reports coming from Alaska bear this out. The run of salmon there has been kept down by low temperatures and at the time the last reports were sent in the run was increasing.

The work in the office of the fish warden is just beginning to commence and after a few weeks there will be all that the force cares to do. The correspondence from men in charge of stations is piling up and this is merely an incident of the work. There are five stations tributary to the Columbia river. They are located at Ontario, McKenzie river, Wallawa river, Salmon river, and Clackamas river, which is a temporary station. The coast has the balance of the stations which are located at Coos Bay, Umpqua river, Sinslaw river, Yaquina bay, Tillamook, Alsea and Coquille, the latter two stations are new.

## MAN MURDERS WOMAN AND KILLS HIMSELF

Los Angeles, Aug. 6.—Thomas H. Chapman, aged 50, an expert accountant, late this afternoon shot and mortally wounded a woman with whom he had been living ten years, then blew off the top of his own head. Neither can recover. Chapman came from Detroit. The woman was Barbara Hayward, of Sacramento, Cal., but it is stated she was married to Raymond Wise, also of Sacramento. Chapman met her at Battle Creek, where she was studying to become a nurse.

## NEAR CRIMES INCREASING

New York City and Suburbs Overrun With Mobs and Lynchers.

Angered Citizens Ready to Poison Upon Men Who Show Familiarity.

New York, Aug. 6.—More "near crimes" and "lynchings" occurred today. Scores of complaints were filed against alleged insulters and assaulters of women and children, but only half dozen required serious attention. More than one innocent man was wounded until unconscious by angry mobs of men and women, but police were generally on the scene in time to prevent serious results. The least familiarity shown by men to women and children was seized on as an opportunity for the gathering of mobs. Superintendent Jenkins, of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, denies a "crime wave" and says statistics show no greater increase in this class of crime than in previous years.

## LIFE RAFT REACHES SHORE

Clothing Found on Same Belonged to G. T. Sparks.

San Francisco, Aug. 6.—A life from the Columbia was picked up today at Half Moon bay, thirty miles south of this city. On the raft was found an oar and undergarment bearing the initials "G. T. S.". This presumably belonged to George T. Sparks, banker, Fort Smith, Ark., who was among the drowned.

## WEATHER FORECAST

Western Oregon, showers, cooler, except near coast. South west to west winds. Western Washington, showers, westerly winds. Eastern Oregon, Washington, Idaho, showers, some derstorms, cooler.