

# Lincoln County Leader

J. F. STEWART, Publisher.

TOLEDO.....OREGON

## CURRENT EVENTS OF THE DAY

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Culled From the Telegraphic Columns.

The Oregon state Sunday school union met in convention at The Dalles. The secretary reports that during the year 26 new Sunday schools were organized. There has been a loss from enrollments of last year of 225 schools, 2,544 officers and teachers and 15,979 scholars.

At a special meeting of the San Francisco chamber of commerce the question of the advisability of annexing Hawaii was considered. A memorial was drawn up for presentation to both the houses of congress, urging prompt action looking to the annexation of the Hawaiian republic.

The administration has determined to solve the Behring sea question by branding all seal pups found on Pribilof islands this season. Instructions to this effect have been transmitted to Professor David Starr Jordan, the seal expert, who will soon leave San Francisco for Behring sea.

It has been decided at the admiralty to build a new yacht for the queen and the design has been submitted to and approved by her majesty. The new vessel, which will be built at the Pembroke dockyard, will, in general outline, resemble the great Atlantic liners. It will be 620 feet long, with only 50 feet beam, and be fitted with powerful engines, so as to have great speed.

Representative Crumpacker, of Indiana, has introduced in the house a resolution for a constitutional amendment providing that hereafter no noncontiguous territory shall be annexed to the United States except in pursuance of a treaty negotiated by the president, concurred in by two-thirds of the houses of congress and ratified by the legislature of three-fourths of the states, and no contiguous territory except by treaty concurred in by two-thirds of each house, the vote of concurrence not to be taken into the house of representatives until two years have elapsed from the time of taking the vote in the senate.

Nine children have been killed and many others injured by the collapse of a church wall at Solino, in the province of Cuido Real.

George D. Ladd, an attorney, and one of the most prominent wealthy business men of Peru, Ill., committed suicide by shooting.

The estimate of Chicago's population by the publishers of the directory just printed is 1,828,000, an increase of 76,000 over last year.

Minnie Rose, aged 20, whose mind was unbalanced by the great tornado of last year, committed suicide at St. Louis by taking a dose of Paris green.

A dispatch from Berne says the federal council has refused to ratify the commercial treaty with Japan, owing to the prohibitive duty placed by Japan upon clocks and watches.

The Spanish government has signed a contract for a six per cent loan of \$8,000,000 to meet the expenses of the Philippine war. It will be guaranteed by the Philippine customs.

One of the most sensational tragedies ever enacted in North Texas took place in the Methodist church in Pleasant Valley, Dallas county, in the course of the services. As a result Augustus Garrison and Frank Jones are dead and Thomas Jones fatally wounded.

The volcano Mayn has been in a state of violent eruption, and the flow of lava has done great damage in the province of Albay, particularly to the village of Libon, where the tobacco crop has been completely destroyed. There has been considerable loss of life.

During a thunder storm, lightning struck a convict camp near Dakota, Ga., and as a result four convicts are dead, 10 are dying and 20 escaped during the panic which ensued. The camp is at the lumber mills of Grees Bros., and about 150 prisoners from the state penitentiary were at work there.

Several mysterious robberies have occurred on steamers touching at Hong Kong. The steamer Tayuan on arriving there recently from Australia, reported that boxes containing \$25,000 in gold sovereigns had been stolen from her treasure room. A few days later \$5,000 in gold leaf was stolen from the treasure chest of the steamer Looseok while she was loading at Hong Kong for Bangkok.

On June 14 men from the United States cruisers Marion and Philadelphia were landed at Honolulu. While on march to the drill grounds an orderly brought an order, and the battalion returned on board. This action was taken, it is understood, on account of a rumor to the effect that the Japanese cruiser Naniwa would land a force of men to take charge of the Hawaiian custom-house. The Japanese failed to act, and it is believed that Admiral Beardslee's prompt action caused the captain of the Naniwa to change his mind.

### ATONED FOR HIS CRIME.

L. W. Melson, the Murderer, Executed at Grants Pass.

Grant's Pass, July 5.—Lemuel W. Melson was executed here today. He abandoned all hope yesterday, and was taken into the Episcopal church and baptized by Rev. Isaac Dawson. He spent the day in reading and in writing letters, and was more calm than any one else about the jail. He slept well last night and ate a hearty breakfast this morning. He refused to discuss the crime or his position, saying only when asked that he was innocent. He was very much affected by the church ceremonies and the singing, and wept quietly.

There was a great many people in town to witness the hanging. Sheriff Hiatt issued 100 invitations, and besides those in the enclosed space the court-house yard is well filled. The board fence around the scaffold is so constructed that a good view of the proceedings can be had from the main yard and street. About 500 people witnessed the execution.

Rev. Dawson went into the jail at 8:45 this morning. Melson made a full confession of the crime. Sheriff Hiatt had the death warrant at 9:40, and at 10:03 Rev. Dawson prayed his last prayer.

At 10:01 Sheriff Hiatt and his deputies, with Melson, ascended the scaffold. When asked if he had anything to say, Melson said:

"I am guilty of killing Perry, and am sorry for it. May God have mercy on my guilty soul."

Melson was perfectly composed and calm. He bid the sheriff good-bye, and at 10:13 the drop was sprung. Melson's neck was broken and death was instantaneous. At 10:22 he was pronounced dead by the physicians and cut down. He will be buried in the pauper graveyard at the expense of the county. He wrote a long letter to his wife yesterday.

#### Story of Melson's Crime.

Grant's Pass, July 5.—In March, 1896, Charles Perry disappeared from the Waldo copper mine, near Waldo, Or., where he was employed and was known to have had considerable money with him at the time. Inquiry by his friends for several months failed to disclose his whereabouts, and fearing that he had met with foul play, a searching party was organized on August 25, and after two days' travel in the Siskiyou mountains, the party found the body of Perry in an old well near a deserted mining claim. There was a bullet wound in the right side, and on the ground near by was shell from a 41-caliber Colt's revolver, which the bullet taken from the wound fitted. With this evidence the party returned to Crescent City, Cal.

It was learned that while at the copper mine Perry had often been told by L. W. Melson, his friend, of a fine mining prospect between there and the coast in the Siskiyou mountains, and that Melson left the copper mine on the day of Perry's disappearance. He returned next day and went to Crescent City, Cal., saying that Perry had gone to Waldo.

Melson began spending money freely, though previous to that time he was known to have been possessed of very limited means. It was also learned that Melson had sold a revolver which proved to be the one from which the bullet found in Perry's body had been fired. In his possession was also found a watch which proved to be Perry's.

Melson was placed under arrest at Crescent City, but it was ascertained that the murder was committed in Oregon, and the prisoner was brought to Grant's Pass, Or., for trial. He was convicted and sentenced to death May 14, 1897. The evidence throughout the trial was conclusive of Melson's guilt.

Melson was about 42 years old, and came to the Pacific coast from Kentucky 12 years ago, locating in Clatsop county, Or. He went to Del Norte county, Cal., about four years ago, where he was married, and where he leaves a wife and two children.

Melson's wife did not visit him during his incarceration, and expressed no desire to see him, but wrote to him frequently, saying that she was not surprised at the verdict of the jury. She expressed very little sympathy for him, but requested him, if guilty, to never confess his crime on account of the children.

Charles Perry, the victim, was 53 years of age, and came to the Pacific coast two years ago from Connecticut, where his wife and seven children now reside. He was considered a sober and industrious man.

#### Indians Drank Painkiller.

Brainerd, Minn., July 5.—Five Indians, including Chief Wee Sug, are dead at Malone's Point, on Mille Lacs lake, and several others are expected to die, as the result of drinking painkiller, hair oil and other preparations containing alcohol. Indian payment has been going on there, and the redskins gorged themselves with this stuff, which was bought from Malone's trading post. The Indian riders are scouring every part of the reservation to bring the band together, and serious trouble may result, as the redskins think Malone is to blame for the deaths.

It has been computed that between 36,000,000 and 37,000,000 babies arrive each year.

## THE SPANIARDS ARE TIMID

### Trial of the Competitor Crew Again Postponed.

#### NO FUTURE DATE WAS SET

Officials Fear the Effect on American Relations of Passing Sentence on the Prisoners.

New York, July 5.—A Herald dispatch from Havana says: The trial of the Competitor crew did not take place on July 1, as had been reported. It may not take place for several months yet, unless the United States presses the matter. The authorities here hesitated to bring the men to trial for diplomatic reasons. They realized the fact that if the laws of Spain mean anything, and are not to be brought into disrepute, the sentence of the Competitor filibusters must be a severe one. On the other hand Spain does not desire to aggravate any hostile feeling that may already exist in the United States against her.

It was just about the middle of June that Consul-General Lee, by direction of his government, pressed here for an early trial. He pointed out that a long delay had already taken place and declared it unjust. To the consul's letter General Weyler sent a most indefinite reply. He began by excusing the past delay on the ground that proceedings on the part of the prosecution had consumed much time, and now, he said, the lawyers who had been assigned to the prisoners had been given until the end of July to prepare the defense. In conclusion he stated that it was "impossible to say when the trial would be brought on." This means that it has been thought best to delay the trial indefinitely.

In the meantime the Competitor crew are languishing in prison. Some of them cannot stand the confinement much longer. They are not treated badly, so far as Spanish treatment of prisoners in Cuba goes. Americans cannot realize what the confinement in Cabanas during these hot months means. When Melton, for example, was taken prisoner, he was a remarkably fine specimen of a man. Today he is broken down beyond recognition. His shoulders are bowed and his frame wasted to skin and bone.

Disease among Spanish troops in Santiago de Cuba has been so severe that when General Weyler ordered the move into the interior against the rebels, the only soldiers available were convalescents. All over the island disease among the Spanish troops is increasing at a fearful rate. Out of the thousand men in the Vegar battalion in Pinar del Rio, nearly 700 have been rendered unfit for service by malaria. The hospitals in Havana are crowded to overflowing.

General Ruiz Rivera is dangerously ill. The prisoner's doctors have performed a delicate operation upon him, and he is now in a critical condition.

The Herald's correspondent in Matanzas reports a fierce engagement on Saturday last between Spanish troops and a large body of insurgents. Between 60 and 70 Spaniards were killed and wounded. The rebel loss is not known. General Meline, who was with a column of men, came to the assistance of the Spaniards and was badly wounded during the engagement. There are in the vicinity of Matanzas 2,200 insurgents well armed and equipped.

The rebel leader Guaraacha captured and killed two Spanish spies near the city limits of Matanzas. The Herald correspondent vouches for the statement that the Spaniards mached 17 pacificos, men and women, who had left Matanzas for a plantation to get food.

#### Rivera's Condition.

Havana, July 5.—A press correspondent has had an interview with General Rivera, in San Ambrose hospital, to which he was removed from Cabanas fortress by the advice of attending surgeons. General Rivera expressed himself as satisfied with the medical and surgical attendance provided, as well as with the nurses. All the food supplied him is excellent. His meals are served from a restaurant near by at his own expense.

#### Terrible Suicide of Three Men.

St. Louis, July 5.—Just west of Wellsville, there is a coal chute belonging to the Wabash line. As passenger train No. 6 was dashing through this chute, Engineer Robinson saw three men lying with their heads upon the rail. He tried to stop his engine, but the distance was too short, and in an instant the men were ground beneath the wheels. A close examination of the bodies revealed the fact that the men must have been perfectly sober when they took their places beside the track.

#### Canovas Angry at Reporters.

Madrid, July 5.—Senor Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish premier, and the Duke of Tetan have had a long conference on the subject of the latest news from the United States. The premier has notified the reporters he will not give them any news hereafter, on the ground that they publish it in a form calculated to influence the stock exchange.

### CLOSE CALL FOR JACK TARS.

Thirty Men Scalded on Board of the Monitor Puritan.

New York, July 5.—Thirty men narrowly escaped death in the boiler-room of the monitor Puritan. That they were not scalded to death is due to the presence of mind of one of the crew.

The Puritan is moored at the foot of the main street of the Brooklyn navy-yard, and has been undergoing repairs to her boilers. The repairs had been completed and the men were only putting on the finishing touches at the time of the explosion. Orders had been given to start the fire under the boilers, and get up steam, so that both engines and boilers could be given a thorough test, as the vessel had been ordered to sea for target practice.

Engineers were in the engine-room, giving instructions to firemen. There was suddenly a slight hissing sound of escaping steam in the room, but the men continued to work. Then a sharp report and a flood of hot water and steam from one of the boilers started them to their feet. In an instant the room was filled with steam that was so dense the men could hardly see.

When the burst of steam came from the boiler August Wilson, the boiler-maker, in charge, ordered the men to get out of the room. Wilson was the last to get out, and while he was trying to find the entrance to the engine-rooms Chief Engineer Cowie, of the Puritan, who heard the report of the explosion, rushed into the room. Cowie made several attempts to get to the valves, but was held back by Wilson. When the steam was nearly exhausted the valves were closed, but not until Cowie had been burned about the head and neck. The injured were attended by the ship's surgeon.

The cause of the accident was the blowing out of the crown sheet in one of the boilers. It was a miracle, the officers say, that none of the men were killed or greater damage done to the vessel. As it is, the monitor will have to remain at the yard for some time, so the boilers can be put in trim.

### BAD FOR WORKING CLASSES.

A Serious Labor Problem Now Confronts Chile.

New York, July 5.—A special to the Herald from Valparaiso, Chile, says: If the government does not soon take steps to better the condition of the working classes throughout Chile, there will be a dark, despairing outlook in store for them. The Herald here says the closure of the engineering establishments will cause others to follow and leave more than 1,000 workmen's families exposed to hunger. It adds that this may cause the paralyzation of several nitrate establishments in Tarapaca province, throwing 1,800 men in the streets and causing the stoppage of all building work throughout Chile.

Workmen are preparing to hold a monster meeting next Sunday to protest against the delay of congress in discussing the reform customs tariff law, which has been submitted to that body. The workmen will also protest against the idle political discussion in congress on the resolution of the government railway directors to order five locomotives from the United States after having promised to protect the national industries.

#### Could Not Live Apart.

Guaymas, Sonora, July 5.—A sensational double suicide has occurred here. Senor Clodomiro Maytorena, a widely known and popular young man, had been engaged for some time to Senorita Ampora Ynigo, the daughter of an equally aristocratic family. Another suitor found more favor in the eyes of her stepmother than did young Maytorena, and the latter was notified to cease paying his visits.

This led to clandestine meetings, and when a mutual friend attempted to interfere, a personal encounter resulted. For this the young man was about to be arrested when he took two pistols, one in each hand, pressed each to his temples and fired two balls, both entering the brain. When the shocking news was conveyed to the young lady she took poison, and is reported to have since died.

#### A Collection of Ivories.

San Francisco, July 5.—John L. Bardwell, of this city, has presented to Golden Gate Park museum one of the largest collections of delicately carved ivories that can be found in the United States. There are 700 pieces in all, ranging in value from \$25 to \$1,000 each. They represent every conceivable kind of animal and vegetable life, with protecting gods and goddesses.

#### Will Not Give Up Thessaly.

London, July 5.—A dispatch to the Times from Constantinople dated Wednesday says: Tewfik Pasha will announce to the ambassadors of the powers tomorrow that the cabinet maintains the indefensible right of Turkey to retain Thessaly by virtue of conquest.

#### The Effort Failed.

Washington, July 5.—The Republican managers of the tariff bill have been making an effort on the floor of the senate to secure a unanimous agreement to take a vote on the tariff bill tomorrow. The opposition declines to agree upon any date until the proposed amendments are in. The Democrats say they hesitate out of caution to provide against a possible surprise.

## MEET UNEXPECTED REVERSAL

### The Finance Committee Suddenly Defeat Three Times.

#### WHITE PINE DUTY CUT IN TWO

General Breaking Up of Party Lines on Both Sides of the Chamber—The Bill Now Practically Completed.

Washington, July 3.—The finance committee suffered several unexpected reverses during the progress of the tariff bill debate today, being defeated on three important votes. Cotton bazaar was placed on the free list, 30 to 23, and cotton ties also, by a vote of 23 to 23. The duty on white pine lumber was reduced from \$2 to \$1 per 1,000 by a vote of 33 to 31.

The amendment on pine occasioned the greatest surprise, and led to general breaking up of party lines on both sides of the chamber. During the early stages of the debate, the duty on lumber, including pine, was placed at \$2 after a protracted contest. Today, however, the amendment was defeated by a close vote of 32 to 33, four Republicans—Baker, Carter, Hansbrough and Quay—joining with the Democrats, Populists and silver Republicans in the affirmative, while three Democrats—Bacon, McEnery and Martin—voted with the Republicans in the negative.

Following up this close vote, Mantle moved to reduce the rate on white pine from \$2 to \$1, and it was carried by a majority of one. Two Republicans—Baker and Carter—voted with the Democrats in the affirmative, and three Democrats—Bacon, McEnery and Martin—with the Republicans in the negative.

The bill is now completed, with the exception of the reciprocity section and some comparatively minor paragraphs.

Much progress was made today in clearing up detached paragraphs heretofore passed over. Only three of these—coal tar, potash and tea—remain, so that these items, the reciprocity section and the brief internal revenue and administration provisions are all that remain of the bill to be disposed of before the final vote is taken.

#### Tariff Bill in the House.

Washington, July 3.—When the tariff bill reaches the house after it has passed the senate, it is not probable that there will be an attempt to oppose the motion which will be either directed by Chairman Dingley, or by the operation of a special order, to disagree to the senate amendments and send the bill to conference. The Republican leaders will avoid debate. Mr. Bailey, the leader of the minority, said today he would not oppose a motion to get the bill into conference, provided the Republicans would agree to a reasonable time for debate when the bill is reported back to the house. He thought that three or four days for discussion at that time would be sufficient. The number of conferees to be appointed on behalf of the house, has not yet been decided, nor the political division, but the conferees, as usual, will be the ranking members of the committee from each side. It is believed possibly that there will be seven conferees. The political division may be five and two, or four and three. The Republicans of the house committee, in their ranking order, are Dingley, chairman, Payne, Dalzell, Hopkins, Grosvenor, Russell, Dooliver, Steele, Johnson, Evans and Tannev, and the Democrats, Bailey, McMillin, Wheeler, Robertson and Swanson.

#### ARMY OF DELEGATES.

Westward Movement of the Christian Endeavorers.

Denver, July 3.—Since early morning special trains loaded with delegates to the Christian Endeavor convention have been rolling into the union depot of this city. The Gulf road began dispatching trains around the famous "loop" in the mountains at 6 A. M., and thousands of excursionists made this delightful trip. Twenty special trains were sent west over the Denver & Rio Grande railroad today, and tomorrow 50 trains will be dispatched on that line. The Colorado Midland will also handle a large number of extra trains.

Railroad men estimate that 10,000 people arrived in Denver from the East today, and most of them are en route West tonight.

#### The Traffic Through Nevada.

Reno, Nev., July 3.—Superintendent Wright, of this division, is here making arrangements for Christian Endeavor traffic, expected next week. Colonel Wright said it would take 50 trains of 10 cars each to carry them. They will run about 45 minutes apart, and to avoid accident, trains will run from station to station, that is a train leaving Reno would not be followed by another section until the preceding one had passed Verdi. All freights will be abandoned. It is expected trains will begin passing Reno some time Monday afternoon. Fifty big mountain engines and 50 crews will be sent from Sacramento to Wadsworth Sunday.