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East Oregonian

PENDLETON, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1903.

Eastern Oregon Weather

Tonight and Friday cloudy, with probably snow.

OVER 700 WOMEN AND CHILDREN PERISH IN THEATRE FIRE

Sickening Scene in Chicago's Awful Death Trap, Piled High With Mangled and Roasted Corpses, Beggars All Description.

Admitted Perjury.

Grand Rapids, Dec. 31.—There was a sensation in the trial of Senator Nichols for complicity in the water scandal this morning, when Boyd Shannlin, a well known hotel man, came into court, corrected his former testimony, and admitted perjury in behalf of his friend. He had before testified he had not rented the room in which it is supposed the bribery took place.

NEW STEAMER FOR UPPER SNAKE

Portland Builder Will Construct the Boat.

Lewiston to Have Another River Vessel in Service by May 1—Cost of New Boat to Be \$10,650, and Will Be First-Class in Every Respect—Built Especially for Mad Rapids of Upper Snake.

Lewiston, Dec. 31.—The contract for the building of the engines and boilers for the steamer Mountain Gem was awarded yesterday to the Willamette Iron Works of Portland, the contract price being \$10,650. The secretary, W. E. Howard, was instructed last night to inform the Portland company of their successful bid and the work of building the machinery will commence at once.

It is believed that the new boat will be ready for service early in May and every effort will be made to place the craft in commission at an early date if possible.

The sawing of the timbers for the frame will be done by the Portland Shipbuilding Company and it is expected that the arrival of the first material for the construction of the hull will be in about three weeks.

All of the work that can be handled without the shipbuilding machinery will be done in Lewiston and every piece of material that enters into the construction of the boat will be carefully inspected at the Lewiston yards.

The hull will be built particularly for traffic on the upper river and the hold will be so reinforced with compartments that little danger of damage will be experienced in navigating the wild waters between Lewiston and Eureka.

REGULAR VENIRE.

List of Names Drawn for Jury Service in January.

This afternoon W. D. Chamberlain, the county clerk, and T. D. Taylor, the sheriff, drew the regular venire of jurors for the January term of the circuit court, which will convene on the third Monday of the month, the 18th.

There are quite a number of cases to be heard at the coming term, though none of them are of great importance to the public. The names drawn from the jury box are given below:

A. B. Stephens, Jr., merchant, Umatilla; W. S. Goodman, farmer, Valley; William Duff, farmer, Fulton; Frank Wells, farmer, Union; H. S. Latimer, farmer, Pilot Rock; Alec Malcolm, laborer, Echo; J. H. Parks, clerk, East Pendleton; J. J. Baumgartner, farmer, Pendleton; J. H. Price, farmer, Weston; A. Hopson, farmer, Milton; G. W. Gross, merchant, Athena; G. W. Staggs, farmer, Weston; Kenneth Warner, stockman, Pilot Rock; H. B. Loe, farmer, Milton; C. A. Cole, carpenter, West Pendleton; J. Hudeman, farmer, Fulton; Joseph Cunha, farmer, Echo; Angus McDonald, farmer, Milton; J. B. Mumford, farmer, North Pendleton; John Cumming, merchant, Weston; W. P. Temple, merchant, North Pendleton; J. A. Borie, merchant, Pendleton; E. L. Smith, farmer, South Pendleton; E. B. Gamble, stockman, Ukiah; E. A. Dudley, farmer, Athena; Robert Still, farmer, Milton; Tivis H. McBroom, laborer, North Pendleton; Doug Belts, stockman, Pilot Rock; H. O. Mousu, contractor, South Pendleton; John McGinn, laborer, East Pendleton; Jesse Moore, stockman, Echo.

Burglars Tuesday night cracked the safe of O. Coher, at Des Moines, and secured \$8,000 in jewelry and money.

BODIES TRAMPLED TO SHREDS AND STRIPPED OF CLOTHING

Women and Children Lying in the Morgue by the Hundred, Mutilated and Burned Beyond Recognition—Frantic Crowds Surging in the Streets.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Coroner Traeger at 7:45 p. m. reported by actual count 736 dead.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—At 9 this morning the police compiled a list of bodies recovered from the Iroquois coliseum. The total is 531, with a prospect of finding other bodies in the debris. It is almost certain the number will exceed 600. The coroner still believes the total will reach 700, as the basement, upper dressing rooms, stage and part of the upper gallery have not been thoroughly searched.

At the city hall, where a list of victims, and descriptions of unidentified dead is being compiled, men, women and children throng the corridors.

The death list is being added to by hospital reports, where the injured were taken. The police believe at least 250 were injured.

Pumps are working on the basement, which is flooded.

At every step in the building the police find diamonds, jewels and furs.

No one is permitted to enter the building without a special permit from the chief of police, and accompanied by a special guard.

Many thousands of dollars worth of wraps and jewels have been hauled to police headquarters.

The Ways of Death.

A few of the people were burned to death by fire, many were suffocated by gas and scores were trampled to death in the panic that followed the mad rush of the frightened audience for the exits.

There are bodies lying by dozens tonight in the undertaking rooms, in the police station and in the hospitals from which nearly everything that could reveal the identity of those who knew them best is gone. Their clothing is torn to rags or burned to cinders and their faces have been mashed into an unrecognizable pulp by the heels of the crowd that trampled them down as they fled for safety.

Perish in Doorways.

Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in two doorways on the first and second balconies that the greatest loss of life occurred. When the firemen entered the building the dead were found stretched in a pile reaching from the head of the stairway at least eight feet from the door to a point five feet in the rear of the door.

Fight for Life.

This mass of dead bodies in the center of the doorway reached to within two feet of the top of the passageway. All of the corpses at this point were women and children. The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points is something that is simply beyond human power to adequately describe.

Only a faint idea of its horror could be derived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay. Women on top of these masses of dead had been overtaken by death as they were crawling on their hands and knees over the bodies of those who had died before. Others lay with arms stretched out in the direction towards which lay life and safety, holding in their hands fragments of garments not their own. They were evidently torn from the clothing of others whom they had endeavored to pull down and trampled under foot as they fought for their own lives.

No Fire Escapes.

The theater had been constructed but a short time and its equipment was not all yet in place. This included, unfortunately, a fire escape in the rear of the building. The small iron balconies to which the iron ladder was to be attached, were up, but the ladder had not yet been constructed. When the panic was at its

height a great number of women ran for these fire escapes only to find as they emerged from the doorway up on the little iron platform that they were 30 to 50 feet from the ground, fire behind and no method of escape in front. Those who reached the platform first endeavored to hold their footing and keep back the crowd that pressed upon them from the rear.

Progress of the Fire.

As soon as the fire was discovered, Eddie Foy, the chief comedian of the company, shouted to lower the curtain, and this was immediately done. It descended about half way and then stuck. The fire thus was given practically a free through which a strong draft was setting, aided by the doors, which had been thrown open in the front of the theater.

Burned Where They Sat.

With a roar and a bound the flames shot through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and, reaching clear up to those in the first balcony, caught them and burned them to death where they sat. Immediately following this rush of flames there came an explosion which lifted the entire roof of the theater from its walls, shattering the great skylight into fragments. As soon as the flames first appeared beyond the curtain a man in the rear of the hall shouted "Fire, fire," and the entire audience rose as one person and made for the doors. It is believed that the explosion was caused by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the theater, causing them to burst.

Will J. Davis, manager of the theater, said after the catastrophe that if the people had remained in their seats and had not been excited by the cry of fire, not a single life would have been lost.

Suffocated by Gas.

This, however, is contradicted by the statements of the firemen, who found numbers of people sitting in their seats, their faces directed toward the stage as if the performance was still going on. It is the opinion of the firemen that these persons had been suffocated at once by the flow of gas which came from behind the asbestos curtain.

Many Exits Provided.

As near as can be estimated at the present time, 1,300 people were in the theater. Two hundred of these were on the first floor, the remainder being in the balconies and in the hallway back of them. The theater is modeled after the Opera Comique, in Paris, and from the rear of each balcony there are three doors leading out to passageways toward the front of the theater.

Chicago is in Gloom.

The city today is in a profound air of gloom. The death list is so great that hundreds of thousands number either relatives or friends or acquaintances among the victims.

Business in many lines is practically suspended, and the Board of Trade closed at noon out of respect to the disaster after a morning of apathetic trading.

From morgue to morgue weeping ones hurry in quest of missing, or emerge from the charnal houses bearing evidence that the search is ended and worst fears realized.

The mayor's office is buried in telegrams of inquiry.

Equal almost to the heart-rending scenes at the morgue is that at the police custodian's room, where are curious ones going over the heaps of garments and trinkets left behind in the mad rush to escape from the burning theater.

Five bushel baskets are filled with purses, gloves, handkerchiefs and jewelry, and two barrels are required to hold the overshoes and shoes alone.

All night long and yet today crowds

Run Amuck When Drunk.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—A stock yards employe, Charles Peck, rony, crazed by drink, this morning entered a room of his boarding house and attempted to force a fellow boarder, Vincent Clar, to take a drink. The latter refused and Peck rony shot him, mortally wounding him. He rushed in to the hallway and met Mrs. Mary Krogg, and without warning shot her twice, inflicting a fatal wound.

NEITHER SCARCE NOR EXPENSIVE

REAL SITUATION IS NOT CRITICAL TO STOCKMEN.

Unless the Remainder of the Season Brings Protracted Cold and Deep Snows the Spring Will Find Stock in Good Shape—Supply Equals a Year Ago and the Price is Almost as Low as Then.

The hay situation, according to the majority of the men of conservative minds who deal in that commodity, is not so serious as it would appear from the reports that are sent out about the price and how little hay there is in the country, and how hard it is to get that little.

Hay is almost as cheap at the present time as it was just before the harvest a year ago. At that time the farmers asked \$13 a ton for their hay in the field, while it can be bought, if the right course is pursued, at the present time baled and delivered for \$11 a ton.

Nearly all of those who use a large quantity of hay have bought their supply early in the year paying from \$8 to \$10 a ton for it, and both loose wheat and alfalfa can now be bought for \$12.50 from the farmers, and in some instances cheaper than this. Of course if the prices are set by the city dealers it will scale above this, for they have to make their profit, their insurance and pay for the delivery, besides other little expensive details of the business.

But the hay in the field or in the stack is not so high as seems to be the current opinion. Baled hay is now being hauled into the city at \$10.50, and it is said that there is plenty of it to be had for the asking.

The supply seems to be as great as it was at this time last year, and unless there is a hard winter and closed spring there will be hay left in the stacks when the cattle and horses need no more feed.

There is just one thing that will put a lot of money into the pockets of those who have hay to sell, and take it from those who hold cattle and sheep, and that is a lasting snow later in the year. If the late winter and early spring is as open as is usually the case, hay will get cheaper instead of the reverse, as the time passes; but if a snow comes and stays, compelling the stockmen to feed their sheep and cattle for a length of time, then the price of hay will jump and perhaps to quite a height, for the men will have to feed and the holders of hay will be able to name the price. But, so say the wise ones, this is a thing that is unusual, and therefore not to be considered too seriously. If the snow comes the hay will be bought; if it does not, the stockmen will be the better off, and it is useless to worry until the conditions warrant it.

From this it would seem that there is plenty of hay in the country at a fair price, though not excessive, and that it can be gotten when and where it is needed, with no worry to the consumer, and so that there is no cause for alarm.

New Japanese Cruisers.

Rome, Dec. 31.—The Japanese minister went to Genoa this morning to inspect the two Argentine cruisers purchased by Japan. The guns are not yet mounted, but could be made ready for active service in a short time.

Ten Mill School Levy.

La Grande, Dec. 31.—The school board of this city last evening voted a 10-mill tax for the coming year.

COE COMMISSION COMPANY QUILTS

OFFICES IN THIS CITY CLOSED TEMPORARILY.

Fixtures Shipped to Missoula, Mont., Where a New Office Will Be Opened—Diminishing Patronage Here Cause for Suspension of Business—Charles Hannum, Operator, Goes to North Yakima—Pendleton the Only Office Closed in the Northwest.

The offices of the Coe Commission Company were closed today and the fixtures shipped to Missoula, Mont., where a new office is being opened.

H. V. Hansen, Western manager for the Coe company, arrived last evening and ordered the business closed here and today has been busy packing and shipping the property of the company to Missoula.

The Coe company has operated in this city for about a year, and while it has been patronized very liberally most of the time, business has dropped off this winter, until it was deemed to close for the present, at least.

The offices at Walla Walla will continue to do business, and all the other branches in the Inland Empire will remain open. A new wire has just been strung into Seattle, giving the company a through line from Minneapolis to the coast and the number of offices in the Northwest now reaches nearly 400.

E. B. Kennedy, who has successfully managed the office here for the past four months, will remain in the city but has not yet decided what business he will engage in.

Charles Hannum, the general operator in the Coe office here, will be transferred to North Yakima, and will leave tomorrow, accompanied by Mrs. Hannum, for that place, where he will be chief operator in the Coe office.

Mr. and Mrs. Hannum have been in Pendleton since the first of last August and have made many friends here during their brief residence.

TWO SUITS BROUGHT.

One on a Mortgage Note, the Other on Goods Furnished.

A suit has been filed by A. M. Gillis against Charles Carpenter and Martha Carpenter, his wife. It is an action brought to recover money for a bill of lumber and building materials furnished to the defendants by the plaintiff. The amount involved is \$1,344.25, and the plaintiff asks for legal interest on the amount from December 31, 1902, together with the costs and disbursements of the action. Halley & Lowell are the attorneys for the plaintiff.

A suit was filed this morning in the office of the county clerk by Carter & Halley as the attorneys in the case of Sarah Figg Thompson vs. F. M. Bates et al. It is a suit brought to recover on a note issued for \$750 on February 6, 1902, with interest on the same at 8 per cent.

The plaintiff also asks for foreclosure on a mortgage given to protect the note, and asks that the property be sold to satisfy the claim. Further relief is asked for in the sum of \$75 for attorneys' fees and the costs and disbursements of the action.

R. V. HUTCHINS IN TROUBLE.

Stated That His Wife Secured a Divorce, Followed by Interesting Developments.

From advices received here it is stated that Robert V. Hutchins, who for some time was a resident of this city, has been brought to Dayton, Wash., from his last residence on the coast, to answer to a charge of contempt of court.

Hutchins' wife sued him for divorce some time ago, and a decree was granted in her favor and the defendant was ordered to pay her a certain amount of alimony. This he refused to do and he was brought to Dayton (where his wife had sued for the divorce) from siwaca, where he has been in the newspaper business, to answer to the charge of ignoring the mandates of the court. Hutchins was unable to pay the fine imposed upon him by the court, and went to jail, but friends afterwards paid the fine and he was released.

Returned to Kentucky.

J. E. Harmon left last night for his home at Jackson, Ky., a place near Louisville, where he has been called by a telegram from his parents stating that owing to the condition of their health they wished him to return to his home. He has been in this part of the state for some years, having been employed in this city and for a time having held the position of manager of the warehouse at Youkum.

Chicago Wheat.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Wheat opened 84½, closed the same.

INGTON AND RELEVANT NEWS

GOVERNMENT TO MEMORIALIZE RUSSIA

Assumes Them He Can Do.

An indictment returned against John Benson, charged with fraud—Cuban Congress Re-impose Tariff on American

Dec. 31.—A dispatch from Powell, of San Domingo yesterday, says two sailing vessels, bound for the island of Curacao, bound for the island of Curacao, were captured by Dominican government forces. The latter is assuming the office of a successful at Guaymas being sent to San Domingo.

Land Frauds.

Dec. 31.—An additional indictment against John Benson, a real estate dealer of San Francisco, who is charged by the government with being the author of the land frauds in a dozen states and territories, has been returned by the grand jury here.

Protestants.

Dec. 31.—Simon Wolf, of various Jewish societies on Roosevelt this morning the threatened massacre.

They were given out, but it is being further done by the administration only a hypothetical case is in all consular and diplomatic show no recent anti-Semitism and no authentic that fresh outrages related. The administration will take all possible to prevent a renewal of Jewish

on American Goods.

Dec. 31.—The senate last night the bill proposing to restrict duty on American goods today will probably have action.

Will Not Interfere.

Dec. 31.—Answering questions regarding the nanship, Roosevelt has refused to offer it to anyone, but his offer. He has said he will be glad to see Roosevelt gave special the denial that the placed Root or Crane.

SHORE WRECK.

Ran Into an Open Three Trainmen Killed.

Dec. 31.—The Lake with a double-header, open switch at 60 miles of the city this morning. Spring and MacIntosh Kelpin were killed a number of passengers seriously. The wreck

PIPE EXPLODED.

Killed and More Madly Hurt.

Dec. 31.—Seven men three probably fatally, of a steam pipe in a plant works today. fatally hurt are Vin George Gable and Adolph

FOR 25 YEARS.

Had a Riot and Shot Two Men.

Dec. 31.—Joseph Spind was nearly lynched down two men and at another, was this 25 years, on 3

PACIFIC WRECK.

Smashed Near Montana.

Dec. 31.—The Twin Northern Pacific east been wrecked near report says that 16 another that only a were hurt

Conciliatory Reply.

Dec. 31.—A dispatch from says Russia's reply to report says that 16 another that only a were hurt