

NOWLIN ANSWERS TRIBUNE'S SLURS

Superintendent Bitely Arraigns Editor of the Morning Paper.

MR. DODD MUST NOT USURP SO MANY RIGHTS.

Superintendent Declares That Criticisms on the Public Schools Were Made in All Candor and That He Has Answered With Prejudice.

Feb. 29.—(To the Editor)—When Lord Byron was criticized and abused by the English press, he answered them with his satire, which begins: "Prepare for rhyme, I'll publish, right or wrong, 'tis my theme, let satire be my song."

have offended that august dignity and self-appointed conservator of the public morals, Elmer P. Dodd, editor of the Tribune, and I give you in your paper that I may myself right.

article written for the East Oregonian on the school situation was asked for the school patrons to read, and I have no apology to offer; but Mr. Dodd, with his characteristic malicious misrepresentation labels it as an appeal to the ignorant, which leads us to believe that he considers the parents of Pendleton children a low and ignorant class of people.

on further reading of the vituperative epithets which adorn his article, we are forced to the conclusion that after deciding, the article is an appeal to the "ignorant," and the writer very naturally imagines that it is a personal attack on himself, imagining that the editor of his editorial effort will be in his position impregnable.

the whole tenor of his harangue is the effect that I should keep my mouth shut. If people had kept their mouths shut, we would be under the domination of England today. If people had kept their mouths shut we would have negro slavery as one of our institutions of our republic.

people kept their mouths shut there would be no progress, there would never be reform, there would be no improvement of any kind. Fake institutions would rear their children and fool the people with such papers as the Tribune continue to humbug the public.

deficiency in intellect is equalled by the immensity of ignorance and the profundity of conceit. Not content with trying to usurp the prerogatives of the judge, the members of the council, the ministers of the gospel, the school superintendent and others, he now denounces parents and pleads for the betterment of their children's educational welfare.

body must talk but Dodd, of it! Dodd, daring to discuss the parents of this community, who isn't the father of the child and never will be, not even if for one were to enter his skull it would blow the top of his head off; assuming the right of parents what they must do for their children, too cowardly to say any side but the popular side, honest to see honesty in the world, with Peckaniffian hypocrisy sits in his den of iniquity and the ugly spider, spins his web and watches for his victim.

is no argument in Dodd's article to answer. This simply a collection of maledictions directed against myself. Knowing that the Tribune was popular, with total disregard to the honesty of purpose manifest in my criticism, he hastened to himself with the crowd and thought would about the

ity is not synonymous with honesty in school work. Principals and teachers may be very popular and students and patrons, and the school work worthy of the praise. Many institutions are popular, but turn out a very low grade of scholarship. What I said about the reputation of public schools is supported by the judgment of some of the best teachers in the school, and I will not hesitate to tell the truth when it is in the hands of them to do so.

Mr. Dodd: "Nowlin should have been to the school board" (the

ass.) I reported to the board nearly two years ago, and many times since. Hereafter I shall report to the people.

Dodd further says, in referring to my article. "The public press is no place for him to do his duty." That expression exactly harmonizes with Mr. Dodd's editorials. He has subverted the press to dishonest uses so long that he is astonished when a man wants to use it to express an honest conviction.

At the close of his abusive and abortive effort at an editorial, he, with characteristic forbearance, consigns me to oblivion. I go one step farther and consign him to the place which Robert Burns consigned Holy Willie, and I know a more appropriate consignment was never made. Respectfully, J. F. NOWLIN.

SPOKANE CONTINUES BOYCOTT.

Northern Securities' Lines Must Make Better Coast Rates.

Spokane, Feb. 29.—Local shippers were informed today through railroad channels of the action of the Chicago meeting of freight officials on requests for reductions in Spokane rates. A large number of articles are reduced from 5 to 60 cents, and some are raised. The average reduction is 10 to 15 cents. It is noticeable that these reductions effect principally the big shippers. Hardware, dry goods and paper and liquors are the articles most effected by the changes.

Companies handling these lines are the leaders in the local rebellion and, it was probably thought by the railroads than by granting these reductions the local trouble could be allayed. Interviews with prominent business men today, however, show the railroads to have erred in their reasoning. The determination is even more strong than before to hold out for a radical reduction in freight rates.

It is pointed out that in nearly every instance the reduction is insufficient to allow Spokane to compete in its own territory with the coast cities.

LAND SHARK IS NOW ON TRIAL

JOHN S. BENSON'S TRANSACTIONS BEING INVESTIGATED.

Clerks in the Interior Department Whose Statements Caused the Arrest of the Gigantic Swindler, Now Deny That He Attempted Bribery—Motion Made to Transfer Hearing to San Francisco.

Washington, Feb. 29.—O. H. Harlan and S. A. Volk, clerks in the interior department, testified on Saturday evening in the examination of John S. Benson, the land swindler of San Francisco, that Benson did not attempt to bribe them by offering a large sum of money for the privilege of reading secret reports of the department concerning Benson's transactions.

The arrest of Benson six weeks ago, was based upon the statements of these clerks to the effect that Benson had offered them \$100 to be permitted to see certain private records of the general land office.

They swore at the examination that the money paid them by Benson was for services rendered him several years ago and that it was in no way a bribe.

A motion to dismiss the bribery charges against Benson was at once made by his attorney, and was taken under advisement until Tuesday by the commissioner.

Evidence was also taken in the case against Benson and F. A. Hyde, also of San Francisco, for defrauding the government in securing bogus titles to large tracts of land in Oregon and California.

A motion was made by Benson's attorneys to transfer the hearing to California, as all the witnesses live there and many of them cannot be reached from the national capital.

It is thought that Secretary Hitchcock will consent to transfer the case to San Francisco.

HOT PRIMARIES.

Five Hundred Special Officers on Guard at Polling Places.

GREAT FLOODS IN CALIFORNIA

One Town is Under Water by the Overflowing of Pit River.

HIGHEST WATER THAT HAS OCCURRED IN YEARS.

Sixty Thousand Acres Are Flooded by the Breaking of the Sacramento River Banks—Water Carried Every Levee Before it—Most Disastrous Flood Since 1881—No Deaths Are as Yet Reported.

Redding, Cal., Feb. 29.—The town of Adin, Modoc county, is under water. The Pit river broke over its banks. There is over one foot of water in the leading stores of the town. When the news reached Redding the river was still rising. It is the highest water that has ever been known here.

New Hope District Under Water.

Stockton, Feb. 29.—The east banks of the Sacramento river broke. 6 miles north of New Hope at 3 o'clock this morning. Sixty thousand acres of rich lands north of Mokelumne river were inundated. The flood waters carried every levee before them. The water poured into the Mokelumne river, raising that stream until it burst its banks on the south side, flooding 7,000 acres of the New Hope district. It is the most disastrous flood to the northwestern part of this county since 1881. Stockton is absolutely safe. No deaths are as yet reported.

COLUMBIA SOUTHERN.

Active Work Will Begin by March 15 on Oregon's Needed Extension.

The Dalles, Feb. 29.—Chief Engineer Hammond, of the Columbia Southern railway, was at Shaniko the latter part of last week, and is credited with the statement that active construction of the Columbia Southern extension will be begun by March 15.

It is practically certain that the railroad will be completed as far as Cross Keys during the present year, and it may reach the Willow creek basin, though it is hardly expected that the road can be extended that distance during the current year.

PAUPER DROPS DEAD.

Aged Man From Sumpter Expires at Baker City Railroad Station.

Baker City, Feb. 29.—Louis Colanbar, an old man who was being brought down from Sumpter yesterday to the county poor farm, died suddenly while walking from the Sumpter Valley depot to the Crabbill hotel where he intended to spend the night.

He was taken with a hemorrhage and died before assistance could be procured. The deceased was about 60 years of age. He was formerly a miner and has lived in Sumpter for about four years.

MONROE AND JEFFRIES.

Will Fight at San Francisco During the Last Week in May.

New York, Feb. 29.—Jeffries and Monroe were matched here today to meet in a 20-round contest for the heavyweight championship of the world at San Francisco in the last week in May.

AFTER THE DOGS.

Marshal Carney Will Start the Chase Tomorrow.

Tomorrow the dog crusade will begin. Marshal Carney will put four dog catchers to work and impound every dog found running loose without a license. If they are not deemed they will be killed.

Emperor to Cruise Mediterranean.

Plymouth, Feb. 29.—The Kaiser's Hohenzollern sailed today for Gibraltar, where the emperor will take a cruise in the Mediterranean.

Bridges is Register at Roseburg.

Washington, Feb. 29.—The president sent to the senate the following nominations: Panama canal commissioner, Walker, Chairman; register of the land office at Roseburg, Ore., J. T. Bridges; receiver of public moneys at Roseburg, J. H. Booth.

During the month of February 5.59 inches of rain fell at Ashland, the average rainfall in the month of February during the past 22 years being but 2.30 inches. Five inches fell in 1900.

RUSSIA CAPTURES BRITISH WARSHIP

Advices Say the Cruiser Oriol is Seized in the Red Sea.

JAPS SINK THREE RUSSIAN SHIPS AT PORT ARTHUR.

Japanese Are Instructed to Take Port Arthur by March 1, and at Any Cost—Japan Sustains Three Badly Damaged Cruisers in Last Engagement.

Liverpool, Feb. 29.—A private telegram this afternoon reports that the Russians have captured the British cruiser, Oriol, in the Red Sea.

Port Arthur by March 1.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 29.—A telegram from Tiao Yang, Manchuria, states foreigners living at Yinkow assert that the Japanese have been instructed to storm Port Arthur and capture it at any cost by March 1.

Sunk Three for Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 29.—An unconfirmed rumor is current here this evening that two Russian battleships and a torpedo boat have been sunk at Port Arthur.

Three Jap Ships Damaged.

Tien Tsin, Feb. 29.—The newspaper the Courier, learns that the Japanese cruisers Asano and Tokana and the battleship Yamashiro, damaged in the last engagement at Port Arthur, are being towed to Nagasaki.

Will Fight Until Death.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 29.—A telegram from Port Arthur reports that General Stoessel, commanding, today issued an order directing the attention of troops and inhabitants to the fact that the Japanese intend to land at Port Arthur and seize the fortress.

He calls on everybody to fight to the death, as none can save themselves without.

To Assist Wounded Soldiers.

Moscow, Feb. 29.—A large meeting of the nobility and government officials was held to devise methods of giving assistance to the soldiers wounded Sunday. A telegram expressing loyalty to the emperor brought a reply of gratitude. There is a determination of the Russian nobles to serve the emperor as in former days.

Germany Aids Russia.

London, Feb. 29.—The Gazette of St. Petersburg states an important conference occurred there last week between the czar's confidential banker Rothstein, and Count Buco, the German chancellor. The latter urged to keep up the value of the Russian securities by German financiers. Buco acted promptly and personally. He influenced many leading bankers with the result that Russians became steady.

Report Was True.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 29.—The news agency prints a Port Arthur dispatch confirming the report that a Japanese destroyer was blown up and another boat sunk in the recent fighting. The wreck of the latter has washed ashore.

Russians Marching South.

Chee Foo, Feb. 29.—A Liao Yang dispatch states that a detachment of mounted Cossacks are marching south, commanded by General Mischtschenko. They are expected to arrive at Ishio Yang today. Korean officials are fleeing and informing Japanese of the approach of the Russians. Snowstorms prevail.

Japs Make Another Attack.

Tokio, Feb. 29.—A report of an attack by four Japanese torpedo boats on the Russian torpedo transport Amur, at Port Arthur, has been received here. The result is unknown.

Lord Hope Weds Again.

London, Feb. 29.—Lord Hope, the divorced husband of May Yohs, married on Saturday, Olive Thompson, the daughter of a Melrose banker.

Southern Pacific Strike Settled.

Sacramento, Feb. 29.—The boiler-makers' strike of the Southern Pacific shops, is settled amicably. The men will go back to work tomorrow.

From Suez to Manila.

Suez, Feb. 29.—The United States destroyer Botilla sailed for Manila this morning.

MOROS GIVE FIERCE BATTLE.

Wade Gives Reports on an Engagement in the Philippines.

Washington, Feb. 29.—General Wade, commanding a division in the Philippines, cables this morning: "Wood reports an engagement at Jolo by Major Scott, of the third squadron of 14th cavalry, with a single gun of the 18th battery of field artillery against a remnant of the Hessianas Moros. Scott attacked the Colta and took it after lively fighting. Firing was twice stopped to give the Moros a chance to surrender, but they declined until all were dead or captured, but Hassan whose located friendly Dattos assisted the troops.

"Cable was not working, which accounts for the delay of the news. The wounded are Lieutenant West, thigh, religious; Hubert, troop I, right side; Hinderer, troop I, shoulder; White, battery, knee; Callaway, troop M, right arm; Cox, battery, shoulder; Hanifan, troop K, thigh."

KILLED BY TRAIN ROBBERS.

Negro Outlaw Is Captured by Bloodhounds After Desperate Attempt to Escape.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 29.—In an attempt by a gang of negro desperadoes to rob the postal car train of the Alabama Great Southern limited, near Meridian this morning, J. T. Stockton, postal clerk, was shot and killed and Postal Clerk A. J. Bash was shot in the arm. Jim Paris, colored, did the shooting.

He secured some registered letters, but jumped from the train and crushed his leg. He dragged himself three miles, where he was captured by bloodhounds.

WHOLE TOWN IN DANGER.

Loss at Livingston Already Reaches \$150,000.

Livingston, Mont., Feb. 29.—Fire is raging in the business section of this town. The postoffice building has been destroyed. The loss is \$150,000. The flames are beyond control.

THREE TO ONE FOR CORBETT

BATTLES WITH SULLIVAN AT 'FRISCO TONIGHT.

Wise Ones Feel That Sullivan Will Be an Easy Mark for Corbett—Both Are in Excellent Condition and Promoters Say Fight Should Be a Desperate One.

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Betting over tonight's Corbett-Sullivan battle continues this morning three to one. Before the men step into the ring it may go to four, despite the reports that Sullivan is in good condition. Wise ones feel that Sullivan will prove an easy mark for Corbett. Not to be caught by promoters, the fighters talk of a close, desperate contest.

The belief that the affair would be one-sided would have a depressing effect on the attendance. Sullivan was nicely under the required 130 pounds this morning. He took only sufficient exercise to prevent his muscles from becoming stiff. Corbett is about one pound over weight.

He was up early, put on sweaters and blankets and in a super-heated room began work, taking off the surplus flesh. He will have no trouble in making the required weight.

Five Stores Gone.

Camden, Del., Feb. 29.—Five stores in the National Park burned this morning. The loss was \$50,000.

GETS HIGH AVERAGE.

Pendleton Sportsmen Return From Elgin, Where They Make Good Records.

Sam Thompson, A. D. Stillman, D. C. Clark and James Spence returned this morning from their trip to the Elgin shoot, where they made a good record for the Pendleton association, H. J. Stillman carrying off the high average. The shooting was not so good as was expected owing to the high wind which blew the birds straight up in the air when they left the trap, making the chances very difficult to take.

It is reported that all of the party with the exception of Mr. Spence, walked from Elgin to La Grande, a distance of 12 miles, to reach a train where they knew the conductor, and that Conductor Brown brought them in from that point.

Heavy Snowfall.

The head end of passenger train No. 1 looked like an aged man with long white whiskers this morning, when it pulled into the station, covered with snow. There has been a heavy fall through the mountains, while it has been raining here.

SAFE AT ATHENA IS DYNAMITED

Crackers Escape With \$40 of Postoffice Money and Leave No Trace.

BELIEVED THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH OFFICE.

Violent Explosion Was Heard All Over City and Large Crowd Rush to Bank, Thinking Robbery Was Being Committed Here—In Meantime Blowers Make Escape—This is Fourth Robbery and it is Believed One Gang is Doing All the Work.

Athena, Feb. 29.—(Special.)—Safe crackers blew open the postoffice safe in this city last night between 1 and 2 a. m., and made good their escape with about \$40 in cash, the entire contents of the safe.

Entrance to the postoffice was effected by boring through the rear door, and removing the bolt, the job being done by some one perfectly familiar with the premises.

The tools used by the robbers were stolen from a local blacksmith shop, and were left lying on the floor of the postoffice. Two charges of dynamite were used in blowing open the safe, the first evidently doing little damage, but the second and heavier shot completely demolishing the front of the safe and exposed the inner apartments. Postmaster L. A. Githens estimates the amount taken at about \$40.

The explosion which shattered the safe door, was heard all over town, and a large crowd rushed down to the bank, thinking an attempt was being made to rob that building, but on reaching the bank, Cashier Le Grow, who was the first to reach the building, found that nothing had been molested there, and the crowd then went to the postoffice, finding the safe door blown into fragments and the tools lying on the floor, but the robbers gone.

They had made quick work of rifling the safe after the explosion, as no one saw them, as the people rushed past the postoffice down to the bank building, and by the time the crowd returned to the postoffice no trace of the robbers could be found.

This is the fourth safe blown open in Umatilla county within the past month, and the work has evidently been done by the same parties as the same general methods have been pursued in all the robberies. The robberies mentioned are the Milton station safe, of the O. R. & N. company, the Oregon Lumber Yard safe in Pendleton, the Cayuse postoffice safe and the Athena postoffice safe.

It is thought that an organized band of safe blowers is at work in Umatilla county, so well organized and expert as to elude the extraordinary vigilance of the efficient county officials and police.

GALE CAUSES DAMAGES.

Smokestack of Scouring Mills is Blown Down.

The high wind of yesterday afternoon made things hum around the city for a while and left some damage in its track. The smoke stack at the scouring mill was blown over, about half of the tall pipe being bent down by the force of the wind. Sign boards have been thrown down at several places in the city, the wires of the telephone and telegraph lines crossed here and there and other little tricks played that while they hindered and inconvenienced various business for a time, did but a small amount of damage.

RESUME IRRIGATION WORK.

Engineer Davis Has Arrived and Mr. Whistler is Expected Shortly.

Edmund S. Davis reached the city this morning and on the first of the next week will head a party of surveyors who will take up the government work in the Echo country, where it was dropped last fall. Mr. Davis is from the state of Maine and has been in the service of the reclamation department of the government for some time. He will have charge of the work here until about the middle of March, when John T. Whistler will return from Washington to take charge of the work in this section for the year.

An office building was recently finished in New York which has 20 stories, but enumerates 21 because 13 was "skipped" in the numbering. The same thing was done in numbering the rooms of the different floors.