

WOODCRAFT HEADQUARTERS

Commercial Association Will Try for the Plum.

HUNDRED NEW MEMBERS WILL BE SECURED.

Association Will Co-Operate in the Order in Swinging the Scales Here—A Building to be Erected—\$140,000 Will Be Expended for Expenses in the Headquarters City—In Matter of Mail Boxes and Geographical Location Pendleton Leads All Competitors.

Commercial association determined to bring the headquarters of the Women of Woodcraft to this city, if a strong pull, all to accomplish this result.

Meeting of the board of management of the association held yesterday, it was definitely decided in the contest for the headquarters that would attract the coming grand circle session to Los Angeles, on April 18.

Commercial association will at once campaign for membership order of the Women of Woodcraft. Believing that a strong moral element of the order, a phenomenon to the membership in this city, and a strong delegation in this city will achieve more in securing the headquarters, cash or land donation.

Order now enjoys a membership of about 225 in this city, and it is expected that by a united effort on the part of the business men and the order, an addition of members can be secured by April making Pendleton the strongest town in the jurisdiction to population, and a moral influence in favor of the order.

Membership Campaign. Membership campaign will thereupon be opened at once, and every business man in the city interested in bringing the headquarters here, will become a member of the order, to secure new members and swell the total membership order in the city beyond even the number of the officers.

At the present headquarters order has taken such deep interest in this matter that at this time members, or 10 per cent of the population of the city, are on membership rolls there. It has been headquarters largely because of strong local membership.

Order will expend the sum of \$140,000 per year on the headquarters, and will locate headquarters, and give all the grand officers to the headquarters town. This would be added to the population of \$140,000 per year on the headquarters, and will be expended in general and in the entire membership of the order, comprising now over 47,000 members, and touch with the headquarters every day. The Pacific Jurisdiction comprises the states of Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and the order sends out headquarters every month, 10,000 pieces of literature, in the Pacific Echo, the official which goes to every member.

Heavy Expense Account. Following statement of expenses for the year 1904 will give an idea of the immense volume of business transacted:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes items like 'Total', 'Cash', 'Expenses', etc.

State Socialism in Kansas. Governor Hoch today again announced to foreclose his action on the state refinery bill. He personally opposed to a refinery, but it is believed he will support the bill on account of the public sentiment. Later this afternoon Governor Hoch signed the bill for establishing a state oil refinery.

handle this additional amount of money, that this amount of money would be added to the current volume of business, and that this number of people, of the best class, would erect homes and spend their salaries here.

Pendleton Leads. From the standpoint of mail facilities, one of the greatest inducements that can be offered, Pendleton is 100 per cent better equipped than any other northwest city. Being on the main line of the Harriman system, at the junction of the Spokane branch and at the terminus of the Northern Pacific, there are eight mails per day in and out of the city, giving the readiest access to every portion of the Pacific jurisdiction. The healthfulness of the climate here cannot be questioned, the school facilities for the families of the officers and employes, cannot be excelled in the northwest, and the prospects for permanent renters, in the Woodcraft building is far ahead of any point that has so far entered the competition.

It is the intention of the order to build a building that will accommodate the head offices 20 years hence, and it must necessarily be built larger than the present force will require. The unused portion will be rented.

Organizers Will Come. Organizers for the order will probably be sent here, and an active campaign for membership will be inaugurated. The insurance furnished by the Women of Woodcraft cannot be excelled in any of the fraternal insurance orders. Its rates are exceedingly low, and its conservative business principles have enabled it to invest its money in interest-bearing bonds and securities, thus affording a constant income from its investments. Over \$20,000 of the funds of the order are invested in Pendleton sewer bonds, and other like investments yield a handsome income to the order.

WEBER MAKES A POOR DEFENSE

HIS WITNESSES PROVE WEAKNESS OF HIS CASE.

Screams Were Heard at the Weber Residence at the Hour When Adolph Admits Being There, but Claimed All Was Serene at That Time—Arguments Will Be Made Soon and the Case Expected to Go to the Jury by Saturday Afternoon.

Auburn, Cal., Feb. 17.—Most of the morning's session of the Weber trial was taken up with direct and cross-examination.

Expert Kiezer, of Sacramento, was called by the defense to contradict the evidence of the prosecution's gun expert, Howard Carr. The remainder of the morning session was taken up with redirect testimony by the prosecution, sustaining the good character of Carr.

J. Hulien testified to hearing screams from the direction of the Weber house at 6:30 the night of the fire. This agrees with the prosecution's theory, exactly.

Arguments will begin tomorrow, possibly this evening, and Judge Prefett will charge the jury by Saturday afternoon.

GRAIN MARKETS.

Quotations From All Points Handling Umatilla Products. Chicago, Feb. 17.—The advance in May wheat continues today. May closing at \$1.21 1/2, after a fitful advance from \$1.20 1/2. July opened at \$1.02 and closed at \$1.01 1/2. Corn, 47 1/2 and oats 31 1/2.

San Francisco—Cash wheat, \$1.50 to \$1.55. Tacoma—Bluestem, 93; club, 87 1/2. Portland—Walla Walla, 88; bluestem, 95, and valley 87 1/2. Liverpool—May wheat, 7s 1/4d.

WILD WHEAT FLUCTUATIONS.

The Pit Operations Are Wild and Erratic. Chicago, Feb. 17.—Bearish reports consistent in their nature, sent wheat tumbling on the Board of Trade this morning. Shorts went down the tomorrow morning. Bids were opened boggan slide with it. May opened \$1.20 1/2 and dropped to \$1.19 1/2. Frantic attempts by the bulls to stem the tide brought the option back to \$1.20. The wheat pit is wild and erratic.

Will Investigate Confession.

Bedford, Ind., Feb. 17.—Judge Wilson has called the grand jury to meet Monday to investigate the alleged confession of Elmer Browning, concerning the murder of Sarah Schaefer.

The Natorigaw, a steamer, collided with a breakwater at Osaka, Japan, and 24 persons went down with her and were drowned.

WILL MOVE WASHINGTON'S CAPITAL.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 17.—The house today passed the senate bill for capital removal to Tacoma. The bill provides for referring the question to the people at the next general election, Tacoma to furnish a site Wright Park and all necessary offices and legislative halls until a splendid capitol can be erected. The bill passed the senate two weeks ago.

GRAND DUKE SERGIUS WAS BLOWN IN PIECES BY BOMB

Deed Committed by Students, Who Were Hurried Away by Police—Essential Detail of Reform Program.

Assassination Took Place in Moscow, at the Nicholas Gate of the Kremlin, and Ushers Out of This Life a Brutal Tyrant Who is the Uncle of the Czar—He Had Gone to Moscow as a Measure of Safety—Was Hated and Feared by the Masses of the People as he Was a Reactionist and Conservative.

London, Feb. 17.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg states that an explosion has occurred at the Kremlin, Moscow. Another report says that Grand Duke Sergius has been assassinated.

Sergius Assassinated. St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—The assassination of Grand Duke Sergius by a bomb thrower is confirmed, also an explosion in the Kremlin palace.

Blown to Pieces. The assassination occurred at 3 this afternoon. The grand duke, horses and carriage were blown in pieces. He was driving from the historical museum in the direction of the Kremlin palace and was close by the law courts when the bomb exploded.

Story of the Event. Today Sergius left the Kremlin in a carriage and drove to the museum of history. About 3 o'clock the grand duke started on his return. As the carriage passed the law courts a cab which had been standing there some time and which contained two men, drove in behind his carriage.

When near the Nicholas gate of the Kremlin, the driver of the cab, at a signal, whipped up his horses. In a few seconds the cab and carriage of the grand duke were at close quarters. Then one of the men in the cab hurled a bomb directly under Sergius' carriage, blowing the vehicle and horse to pieces and killing and horribly mutilating the grand duke. The bomb was thrown at such close quarters that not only Sergius was killed, but his assailants were wounded, one seriously.

The identity of the assassins is not yet known. The police hurried them off for surgical attention and refused all information. The wildest stories are current about the affair, and the excitement is intense. Few sympathize with the victim, who is detested to the utmost by the great mass of the people.

The Kremlin, near where the assassination occurred is a district enclosed by walls, having five gates. Within these walls are a palace, senate building, arsenal, treasury, barracks and several churches. The Nicholas gate, in the northeast entrance, leads to a great public place known as the "red square."

The grand duchess, who is beloved by the people, was recently warned not to go out with Sergius, indicating a plot on foot to kill him.

JAYNE BILL KILLED AT CLOSING SESSION

Salem, Feb. 17.—The last day of the legislative session was filled with exciting clashes on many bills, resulting in the death of the Jaynes bill, amending the local option law.

All the members are ready to leave for home tonight. It has been impossible to follow the proceedings half the afternoon, owing to the rush of urgent business.

WHEELER COUNTY SHERIFF SHORT \$1700

Fossil, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Sheriff Keeton, of Wheeler county, is declared by the experts who have just finished experting the county records, to be \$4700 short in his accounts. His bondsmen will make good the amount. No arrest has been made yet, and it is not known at this time whether he will be brought to trial or not.

It is alleged that the shortage is due to carelessness in keeping the accounts, combined with gambling.

ANALYSIS SHOWED ARSENIC.

One of Hoch's Wives Died From Effects of Poison. Chicago, Feb. 17.—Coroner Hoffman this morning admitted that the chemical analysis of the remains of Mrs. Walter Hoch developed the fact that death was due to arsenic poisoning. Mrs. Haines Lewke, who made the investigation, reported to the coroner, today, to this effect. Arsenic was found in both stomach and liver in sufficient quantities to kill.

The report will be laid before the coroner's jury Tuesday, which it is believed will refer the matter to the grand jury, with a charge of murder.

No Shadow of Evidence.

San Francisco, Feb. 17.—The case of the United States against James Thompson, ex-receiver of the Eureka, Cal., land office, was dismissed this morning. The court, in discharging the defendant, declared there was not a shadow of evidence in support of the accusation of extorting illegal fees.

Mother and Babe Murdered.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 17.—Returning to his home near Shiner this morning, Joseph Steika, a young farmer, found his wife and 15-months-old baby dead. Both were shot through the head. The woman had been outraged. A mob is in pursuit with the intent of lynching.

Six Dead.

Queenstown, Feb. 17.—Two of those injured by the explosion aboard the submarine A-2 in the harbor yesterday, died during the night, making the list of dead six. Several injured are still in dangerous condition.

Whiskey and Murder.

Owensboro, Ky., Feb. 17.—Roy Greene, aged 18, was hanged here this morning for the murder of James Coomes, on July 13, 1904. The prisoner confessed and said whiskey was the cause. Coomes was murdered in cold blood for money.

WILL CONTROL ALL PIG IRON

SOUTHERN OUTPUT IN CONTROL OF MERGER.

Meeting of New York, Chicago and Southern Magnates Are in Session Arranging Details, Which Include a Capitalization of \$115,000,000, and the Absorption of a Tennessee Railroad—All Southern Mills and Mines Involved.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Plans for the consolidation of all Southern iron and steel properties into a new corporation which will practically control the pig-iron output of the country, was completed at a meeting of Chicago, New York and Southern men here today. The capitalization will be about \$115,000,000.

The properties involve a merger of the Republic iron and steel, Sloss, Sheffield steel and iron, Sheffield iron and steel and the Tennessee Coal & Iron railroad.

DEATH OF O. O. BENSON.

Occurred in Portland as Result of an Operation. News has been received here of the death of O. O. Benson, at the North Pacific Sanatorium in Portland, last Wednesday afternoon, death coming as a result of an operation.

Deceased was well known throughout Eastern Oregon, where he has spent all but the past five years of his life. He is a brother to Mrs. Winn Johnson, of this city, who has been in Portland for several days in attendance on the sick man. Another brother is T. C. Benson, of Cascade Locks, who was also present at the time of his death.

O. O. Benson lived in this place for a while in early times. His father, Jesse Benson, was one of the earliest settlers in the Echo country. After leaving here Mr. Benson lived in Baker county, and had mining interests at Sumpter, among which was stock in the Rey Boy mine. During the last few years he has made his home at University Park, near Port-home at University Park, near Port-home at University Park, and left considerable property.

Funeral at Walla Walla.

This morning the body of Virgil Thorne was sent to Walla Walla on the 9 o'clock train. The funeral will occur immediately upon the arrival of the corpse.

New Electric Sign.

This afternoon an electric sign is being placed on the cupola of the St. George hotel. It is to show the name of the hotel and may be seen from a great distance when lighted.

Reports from 104 cities of the United States indicate that the use of water for all purposes equals 111 gallons per capita per day.

GRIPPENBERG COMPLAINING

If He Had Been Properly Supported Would Have Overwhelmed the Japanese.

KUROPATKIN REFUSED HIM REINFORCEMENTS.

Insists That He Had One Hundred Thousand Japanese at His Mercy But Kuropatkin Was Badly Bluffed—Russian Naval Officers Break Their Parole and Return Home From San Francisco—Russians Burn Two Japanese Hamlets—War With Varying Fortunes in the North, With One Decisive Japanese Victory.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—General Grippenberg, who arrived from Manchuria last night, confirms the reported rumor that he relinquished command after the recent attempt of the Russians to flank Oyama, because of Kuropatkin's refusal to send him help when victory was in sight, and instead ordered him to withdraw. Grippenberg will make a personal report to the czar.

Kuropatkin's enemies are making the most of Grippenberg's removal, in order to force the former's report from the Manchurian command. Grippenberg says his flanking movement would have been entirely successful, had not Kuropatkin twice refused him reinforcements at critical moments. He had 100,000 Japanese at his mercy, but was forced to withdraw by Kuropatkin, who was overawed by the Japanese demonstration on his center.

Russian Officers Break Parole.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The navy department this morning made public that the Russian officers of the cruiser Lena, who broke their parole and returned to Russia from San Francisco, are Midshipmen Peter Mychaloff, Andre Kyre, Dinjan and Engineer Sergejokophin. The government has called upon Russia for an explanation of their conduct.

Decisive Japanese Victory.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—A message from the front states that a large force of Japanese surrounded a Russian detachment. The Russians sustained heavy casualties and lost one gun. Kuropatkin in his reports today says the Japanese have been repulsed in an attack on the Russian right flank. The Russians burned two hamlets occupied by the Japanese.

Russian Cavalry Checked.

Tokio, Feb. 17.—Oyama reports the advance of Russian cavalry to the southward and the enemy retreating.

BUCKING ASPHALT COMPANY.

Venezuela Takes Radical Steps to Resist the Monopoly. Paris, Feb. 17.—A report from Caracas states that upon orders from President Castro, the supreme court has ordered the sequestration of the landed property of the American Asphalt company. The decision causes excitement in the American colony.

Pioneer Editor Here.

E. S. McComas, one of the first newspaper men to operate in the virgin fields of Eastern Oregon, founder and for years proprietor of the Mountain Sentinel, of Union, is in the city from Seattle, on a few days' visit with Dr. Lynn K. Blakeslee, and old friend. Mr. McComas is now engaged in the mining brokerage business in Union and now has a party of prospectors in Alaska on Miasa creek, making investigations in a new mining region in that country.

School Houses at Standstill.

During the cold weather now prevalent, work on the new school houses has been practically at a standstill. No one has been at work except a few carpenters, it not being possible to do plastering. Contractor May, however, hopes to have his full crew at work again by Monday.

Paternalism in Indiana.

Muncie, Ind., Feb. 17.—Independent oil operators of the Indiana fields today asked the state to aid them in their fight against the Standard Oil, which is securing control of the Muncie field by freeing out independent by excessive pipe-line rates. The legislature is requested to pass the anti-trust bill now before it.