

Money makes the mare go, and East Oregonian advertising makes business come.



WEATHER FORECAST. Tonight and Sunday occasional rains.

ASSESSMENT ISSUE AGAIN

Assessor Strain Replies to an Attack Made Upon Him by the Baker City Herald.

HE URGES GREAT NEED UNIFORM VALUATIONS.

Mr. Strain Shows Up the Sophistry of the Herald's Position and the Unfairness of Its Attack—He Is Not Only Willing, But Anxious to Meet Baker County's Assessor and the Railroad Officials in Open Debate—'All Property Should Be Assessed According to Earning Capacity.'

In the fight which Assessor Strain is making for a higher assessment for railroad property he has evidently struck home in Baker county, judging from an interview with the assessor of that county, which appeared in the Baker City Herald a few days ago. In it he was vehemently attacked for sending a circular letter to a number of citizens of that county. When seen this morning and asked concerning the letter and the object of its circulation, Mr. Strain said:

'Yes, I have mailed out several hundred letters to the taxpayers of Baker county. It is my intention to send this letter to the various railroad counties of the state. The people of my own county and of the other counties receiving this letter are entitled to a candid explanation of my purpose. We are having a little litigation in this county with the O. R. & N. They have given but one important reason why their assessment should be cut. That reason is that other counties have assessed the O. R. & N. property at less than I have done. All property should be assessed at a uniform rate throughout the state. This is especially true now since the passage of the recent law providing for a pro rata division among the counties of tax on livestock, according to the time it is kept in each county.'

'Therefore, in order to accomplish uniformity of valuations of railroad property and of all property, one of two things must happen: I must either reduce my railroad assessment to meet outside counties, or they must raise theirs up to mine. The object of my circular letter is to present my side of the case to the people of the state, as well as to their officials.'

'Let Them Meet Me.'

'If the assessor of Baker county, or of any other county, thinks my assessment of \$12,675 per mile is too high, let him arrange a public meeting between himself and me. If the railroad people feel that I am misrepresenting them, let them meet me before the board of equalization, or before an audience of Baker county taxpayers. In this way the people can hear their own assessor, or the officials of the railroad as well as myself.'

'As to the Herald article, I am inclined to believe that the editor has spoken without due consideration, for many of his statements are erroneous. For instance, he says that the O. R. & N. is now three years behind in the payment of their taxes in Umatilla county. The facts are that the company is behind but one year. They did not pay their 1903 tax, but it was not collectable until March, 1904. The 1904 tax is now in litigation with the county successful in the circuit court, and the case will come up for settlement by the supreme court in May, or about fourteen months after the taxes were due.'

'Then, again, the Herald article asserts that the W. & C. R. railroad is litigating its tax. But as a matter of fact, that road has paid its tax promptly both years in time to get the discount. The assessment of the W. & C. R. is \$5940 per mile against \$12,675 for the O. R. & N. But the earning capacity of the W. & C. R. is only about \$1500 per mile, whereas that of the O. R. & N. is \$4500 per mile. Basis Should Be Earning Capacity.'

'In this connection I wish to state my position in relation to the assessment of property, which is that its value should be measured by its earning capacity. This policy will generally impose a light tax on a new railroad or a new venture of any kind, and a fair equitable tax on well established, profitable investments. This

- Albert Bell Captured. Tacoma, March 25.—Albert Bell, bank swindler and mail thief, who escaped from the federal prison on McNell's island Wednesday, was captured at noon, hiding in the hay in the prison barn.

policy I believe will encourage the building of new roads and of new enterprises of all kinds. However, it is the only equitable method of arriving at a true valuation of property for purposes of taxation.

'As to attending the assessors' convention at Arlington two years ago, I think I gave a very good reason at that time for my absence. It will be remembered that that convention was called quite late in the season, after other property had been assessed at the various rates prevailing in the different counties. Consequently, it was impossible to fix a uniform value on railroad property while other property was not so assessed.'

'As to the recent assessors' convention in Portland, it will be remembered that I prepared a paper, which was published in the Portland Journal, and which set forth my views as strongly as I am able to present them. 'Now, then, I propose to meet any representative of the railroad, or any of their friends or apologists before the taxpayers of Baker county or of any other county, and discuss this matter face to face with the taxpayers as jury. Finally, as a proof of the justice of my valuation of the O. R. & N. property, I desire to cite the fact they are fighting the payment of their tax in this county solely upon technicalities. They have never produced any proof which even tends to show that their assessment is too high.'

NEW TRIAL FOR CURTIS JETT. Caleb Powers Will Soon Be Tried for Fourth Time.

Frankfort, Ky., March 25.—The appellate court today granted a new trial for Curtis Jett, under sentence of death for the murder of J. B. Mareum at Jackson court, and also overruled the petition of the state for a rehearing of the case of Caleb Powers, convicted of complicity in the assassination of Governor Goebel, and granted a new trial. Powers will soon be tried for the fourth time.

MALICIOUSLY STARTED A RUN

POSTAL CARD CAMPAIGN AGAINST SAVINGS BANK.

One of the Strongest Financial Concerns in Cincinnati Is Undergoing a Great Strain, But Promises to Meet All Claims, and Also to Institute Investigation Through the Medium of the Postal Department—Offers of Assistance.

Cincinnati, March 25.—The run which started yesterday on the Union Savings Bank & Trust company, one of the strongest financial concerns in this city, continued today. The bank is crowded and the police maintain order. All demands are promptly met.

The bank has received many offers of assistance. Officers of the bank assert the run was started by malicious rumors deliberately started by means of postal cards, and will request the postal authorities to investigate.

WILL INVESTIGATE THE U. P. Stockholders Are Dissatisfied With Harriman.

New York, March 25.—There is talk today of a protective committee of Union Pacific stockholders to investigate the property and the Harriman management. It is believed that the investigation will show that the control rests elsewhere than in the hands of Harriman and his friends, and an appeal may be made under the laws of Utah, under which the company is organized, to put the real owners in control. The law permits the ousting of a minority management on 30 days' notice. The selling of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, which recently unsettled the stock market, is traced to Harriman, according to good authorities. It was said that, realizing his loss of control, he was liquidating his holdings regardless of the consequences.

Morgan and Rockefeller brokers have quietly absorbed the Union Pacific stock thrown over by the Harriman brokers, and it is beginning to dawn in the street that Harriman no longer represents the Rockefeller interests, as intimately as he once did.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT. McMinn's Orchestra at Music Hall at 4 O'clock.

McMinn's orchestra will give its regular Sunday afternoon concert in Music hall tomorrow commencing at 2 p. m. The following is the program that will be followed: March—"A Night Off." Selection from Thannhauser. "St. Louis Rag." "Orpheus." "Thomson solo—"Nazareth." (sacred), Frank Hayes. March—"On Jersey Shore." No admission is charged for admission to the concert, and the public is invited to attend.

JAPANESE INTRIGUES IN MONGOLIA SCARE RUSSIA

Their Emissaries Active Among the Lamas—Damaging Admissions by Russian Military Department.

Authorities Admit the Loss of Nearly One-half Million Men by Death and Sickness, Wounds and Prisoners—Peace News in Russia Cause Unbounded Thanksgiving Among the People—Reported Terms of Peace Would Cede Liao Tung Peninsula to Japan, and Concede Her the Protectorate of Korea—Maxim Gorky Will Be Prosecuted on the Charge of Sedition.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—The retirement of the bulk of Linévitch's force northward continues. A Russian correspondent warns St. Petersburg authorities of the dangers of Japanese activity in Mongolia, where he says their emissaries are enlisting the Lamas and arousing their old warlike spirit.

Enormous Military Supplies. St. Petersburg, March 25.—The publication by the Army Organ today of figures showing the strength of the forces dispatched to the Far East, has created a sensation in military circles, and the war office is being freely criticized for revealing military secrets.

The figures given show that up to March 12 the war office had dispatched 13,997 officers, 751,467 men, 145,498 horses, 1521 guns and 725,321 tons of ammunition and supplies to the front, declaring that their transportation has strained the Siberian railway to its utmost capacity. The Army Organ admits that the Russian troops in the Far East at the beginning of the war did not exceed 60,000, and denies that Russian officials failed to properly estimate the strength of Japanese military resources, but frankly admits that the talents of the Japanese officers and wonderful spirits of the Japanese soldiers were miscalculated.

Based on these figures, it is estimated the Russian losses in killed, wounded, prisoners and sick reach 500,000, leaving the Russian effective strength now at 300,000. Skirmishing Along the Front. St. Petersburg, March 25.—Linévitch reports under yesterday's date: 'A Russian patrol was fired upon by Japanese cavalry. Our infantry occupying the village of Puljuschu. There has been no change of position of the armies during the day. March 23 detachments of Russian cavalry repulsed a force of Japanese cavalry at Shuan Ing Aua. The same day the Russians repulsed the Japanese at Nan Shen Tsai.'

Russian Position Hopeless. Kobe, Japan, March 24.—Richard Little, correspondent of the Chicago News, and three other foreign war correspondents, arrived as prisoners of war on the Awa Maru today. They are well treated and will probably be released soon. Little says the battle of Mukden was a splendid affair on the Russian side as well as the Japanese. Several villages were taken and retaken several times.

Little and his companions are surprised to learn the Russians have not asked for an armistice, and say the Russian position in the field is hopeless. That Kuratskin has lost all his heavy guns and the railway line. Mukden is not much damaged. The Japanese refrained from setting fire to any part. The tombs of the Manchuria kings are practically undamaged.

Modifying the Censorship. St. Petersburg, March 25.—The preliminary press censorship on books in Russian as well as in foreign languages, has been removed.

End of War in a Fortnight. London, March 25.—From what is considered a source of undoubted authenticity comes the statement today that the end of the Russian-Japanese war will be an accomplished fact in a fortnight. Dispatches from St. Petersburg lend an air of probability to rumors that Russia has decided to initiate peace negotiations.

Reported Terms of Peace. St. Petersburg, March 25.—Reports that peace is about to be negotiated with Japan are spreading throughout the country and everywhere the people are falling on their knees in thanksgiving.

It is said the terms on which the war will be ended include a Japanese protectorate over Korea, its lease of Liao Tung peninsula, and the making of a free port of Vladivostok, Russia. It is said, will give Japan \$500,000,000 stock in the East China railroad and other China railroad stock and grant Japan fishing and hunting rights in the island of Sakhalin and in Kamchatka peninsula.

Helping Pay the Bills. London, March 25.—An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from St. Petersburg states that the czar has ordered the payment of 500,000 rubles toward the expense of keeping the Russian prisoners held by the Japanese.

Morgan May Loan to Russia. St. Petersburg, March 25.—It is reported that J. P. Morgan has intimated to Russia that he can arrange for a loan which could be secured by the hypothecation of valuable forest lands.

Russian Squadron Enters Canal. Port Said, March 25.—Admiral Nebogatoff's division of the second Pacific squadron, which arrived from Crete yesterday, entered the canal this morning.

Will Prosecute Gorky. St. Petersburg, March 25.—The authorities have definitely decided to prosecute Maxim Gorky, charged with drawing up proclamations with the object of overthrowing the government and disturbing the public order. The penalty is three years' imprisonment in a fortress. Gorky

D. R. & N. OFFICIALS VISIT PENDLETON

H. M. Adams, assistant general freight agent of the O. R. & N. and J. H. O'Neill, traveling passenger agent of the same system, are in the city this afternoon from Walla Walla on a tour of the lines. Mr. Adams is elated over the prospects for heavy wheat crop and heavy wool clip in Umatilla county this year, and expresses surprise at the remarkable improvement in the breed of sheep in this county. 'Ten years ago six and seven pounds per fleece were considered good averages for range sheep in Eastern Oregon and now they tell me you are shearing sheep in this county that average 12 pounds each. 'This is the most remarkable story I have listened to for many a day. It proves what can be done by intelligent husbandry and systematic labor. It costs no more to care for one of your Rambouillet shearing 12 pounds than it did to care for a scrub shearing six pounds, and you have twice the weight of mutton and twice the weight of wool on the same hoof. It reads like a romance and yet I do not doubt it, when I think of the wonderful progress made in other industrial lines in your coun-

try and Eastern Oregon.'

Mr. Adams assures the people of Pendleton that his department is ready to assist Umatilla county in any possible way to increase business, widen out the industrial possibilities or bring new enterprises into the county. Mr. O'Neill, who is known by every man, woman and child along the O. R. & N. system has been busy for the past three weeks since the tourist rush began, learning the names of the tourists' babies an answering questions of the great northwest, the Mecca of the crowds now coming Westward. He believes Umatilla county will receive its share of the substantial settlers that are now leaving the crowded Eastern states and hopes to be able to direct many of them to this county to become citizens. His department is one of the busiest on the system at this time and the busy days have not yet arrived. He believes Portland will take care of the immense crowds in a graceful manner and will do all in his power to direct the homeseeker to that section of the state best suited to his ability and occupation.

is still at Riga and in broken health. Rojevstevsky Sails. London, March 25.—A dispatch to Lloyds from Tana Tav, Madagascar, says the Rojevstevsky fleet sailed from there today, destination unknown. Internal Loan Called For. St. Petersburg, March 25.—By imperial decrees issued today, the new internal war loan of \$100,000,000, will be issued at 5 per cent. Half the loan will be offered for public subscription. WARNED ABOUT ANARCHISTS. 'Goblins' Get y' Ef y' Don't Watch Out.' Madrid, March 25.—The government authorities have received word from the New York police that two dangerous anarchists have embarked from that point bound for Barcelona. The police at Barcelona are instructed to keep careful watch for them. GRAIN MARKETS. Quotations From All Points Handling Umatilla Produce. Chicago, March 25.—May wheat opened at \$1.12 1/2 and closed at \$1.12. Corn closed at 49 and oats 30 1/2. Dry Goods Company Burned Out. Columbia, O., March 25.—Fire which burned all night has destroyed the building of the Columbus Dry Goods company, and damaged adjoining property, entailing a total loss of \$250,000. \$21,552 Relief Fund. Brockton, Mass., March 25.—The relief fund for the benefit of the sufferers from Monday's explosion and fire in the Grover shoe factory has reached \$21,552. MORMON BAND COMING TO ECHO PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR MAY DAY PICNIC. Governor Chamberlain to Be One of the Speakers of the Day—Elaborate Basket Dinner Surpassing Any Former Effort Will Be Served—Citizens' Club Will Prepare Excellent Program for Echo Picnic and Invites Pendleton to Attend. In the next four weeks the Citizens' club of Echo expects to complete arrangements for the most elaborate county picnic ever witnessed in Umatilla county, to be held at Echo on May 1. The club is now in communication with the Mormon band of La Grande, and hopes to secure this organization to furnish music for the occasion. The Mormon band consists of 28 pieces and is one of the leading musical organizations in Oregon. Aside from the musical program, literary exercises will be rendered and leading speakers of the state, including possibly Governor Chamberlain will be present. One of the most complete basket dinners ever served in the country is to be prepared for the occasion. Those who remember the basket dinner given by the women of Echo at the picnic last spring can estimate their ability as entertainers. The people of Pendleton and surrounding country are cordially invited to attend and take part in this May Day event. Rioting in Crete. Athens, March 25.—Reports from Crete state that rioting has broken out there owing to disputes which have arisen over the efforts to unite Crete and Greece. A number of people were injured, and the situation is serious. Primary School Burned. Sacramento, Cal., March 25.—The Lincoln primary school at Fourth and O streets, burned at an early hour this morning. Loss, \$25,000, fully insured. Presumably the work of the work of tramps. WILL TRY HUNTINGTON HERE. Baker County Case Removed on a Change of Venue. The case of A. H. Huntington, ex-sheriff of Baker county, has been transferred from that judicial district to this and will in all probability be tried here, before Judge Ellis, at the June term. The change of venue was granted by Judge Robert Eakin, before the creation of the new judicial district by the legislature. The circuit judge of that district is now Samuel White, who, during part of the Huntington trial was the district attorney, and as such prosecuted the ex-sheriff. Huntington is accused of defaulting to the extent of something over \$10,000. Colfax, Wash., had 2121 population in 1900. It is now somewhat over 2700.

HAY RETIRING PERMANENTLY His Health is Badly Broken and is Said to Be the Cause of His Retirement. IS NOT DETERMINED WHO WILL BE HIS SUCCESSOR.

Taft Is Acting Secretary of State and the President's Chief Advisor—No Developments in Relation to the Venezuelan Trouble Today—Twenty-three Graduates of the Government Naval Medical School Addressed by President Roosevelt—Secretary Hay Arrives at the Azores Somewhat Improved. Washington, March 25.—It is stated on the best authority that Secretary Hay will not resume his place in the cabinet on his return from his present vacation. Ill health is the sole cause of his determination to retire. The president is now canvassing the names of several eminent gentlemen with a view to asking one to become Hay's successor. Among those considered are Joseph H. Choate and Whitelaw Reid. Hay's friends had hoped a few weeks' rest and change of air and scenes would enable the secretary to resume his place at the head of the state department, but that hope has now been abandoned.

Hay at the Azores. London, March 25.—A dispatch from Ponta Delgada, Azores, states the steamer Crete has arrived there with Secretary Hay aboard. Hay is feeling well, though keeping to his stateroom. The dispatch reports a comfortable passage. No Developments. Washington, March 25.—Secretary Taft, who is acting in an advisory capacity to the president on affairs of state, had a conference with the president this afternoon on the Venezuelan situation. On leaving, Mr. Taft said there were no developments today. Addresses Graduates. Washington, March 25.—President Roosevelt this morning presented diplomas to 23 graduates of the Government Naval Medical school, following the ceremony with a 10-minute address. Maurice Barrymore Dead. New York, March 25.—Maurice Barrymore, the actor, who has been an inmate of the Long Island Actors' home for the past six years, died this morning of paresis. He was father of Miss Ethel Barrymore, and Jack Barrymore, the well known actors. REMOVAL OF LAND OFFICE. Will Be Transferred July 1 From Oregon City to Portland. Portland, March 25.—President Roosevelt has signed the order directing the removal of the land office at Oregon City to Portland. The date at which the change is to be made is left to the discretion of the commissioner of the general land office. It is believed that the change will go into effect on July 1, at which time the offices and equipment will be installed in new quarters at Portland. The announcement of the order for the removal came as somewhat of a surprise to Senator Fulton, who is said to have regarded the matter as deferred indefinitely. This opinion was based on the fact that no action was taken on the matter when the change was advocated by himself and Senator Mitchell a year or so ago. In the opinion of the senator the change was made by the administration for reasons of economy purely. BEEF TRUST INVESTIGATION. Grand Jury Trying to Get at Wholesale and Retail Beef Prices. Chicago, March 25.—L. M. Byles, private secretary of Nelson Morris, a Cudahy manager, was among the witnesses summoned today by the grand jury conducting the beef investigation. Wholesale meat dealers are also being subpoenaed. It is understood the jury is seeking to get at the prices of beef, both wholesale and retail. The jury has adjourned until Monday.

Building Collapsed. St. Louis, March 25.—The Washington state building, which is being wrecked on the World's Fair grounds, collapsed at noon as the result of high winds. Three workmen were seriously injured.