

# WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

VOL. V

FOREST GROVE, WASHINGTON CO., ORE., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1908.

NO. 32

## 3 KILLED; 26 INJURED!

### Sheridan Local Plunges Over 10 Foot Embankment Garrying With It 100 Passengers Half Mile West of Forest Grove Station.

## BROKEN RAIL CAUSE!

### Mrs. J. E. Bates and Five-months-old Babe of this City Two of the Victims; J. A. McDonald, McMinnville, the Other—Relief Soon Reaches Scene and Injured Cared for—Coroner's Jury Places no Blame and the State Railroad Commission Investigates. Wreckage is Cleared and Victims Buried.

**THE DEAD.**  
MRS. J. E. BATES, Forest Grove.  
HOWARD, W. BATES, the five-months-old son of Mrs. Bates.

JOHN A. McDONALD, brick mason, McMinnville.

**THE INJURED.**  
Six-year-old daughter of Mrs. Bates, face badly cut.

A. Morrison, Portland; leg injured.  
B. H. Grant, 461 East Thirteenth street, Portland; shoulder and head hurt. Travels for Sig Sichel Cigar Company.

Thomas C. Finnegan, Portland; hip injured.

L. E. Harbur, Portland; back sprained and shoulders hurt.

Alexander Petal, Portland; knee injured.

C. C. Peorine, North Yamhill; bruised on head and back.

Mat. Karigus, hurt on leg and face.

J. A. Cunningham, foreman of mill at Carlton; rib broken and shoulder injured.

Miss Grace Harding, Gaston; slightly hurt.

G. B. Tucker, Butler; back hurt.

P. S. Ridgway, Portland; back sprained, arm hurt.

Frank Brown, Carlton; back injured.

J. W. Howard, Cleveland; side and legs injured.

J. E. Brown, Sheridan; injured about neck and shoulders.

J. H. Brown, Sheridan; head cut and bruised.

Mrs. David Stout, McMinnville; chest injured and face cut.

R. G. Dexter, Sheridan, back and side injured and cut about head.

M. W. Gordon, McMinnville; arms and legs bruised.

G. M. Badders, Carlton; knee badly hurt.

Mrs. J. Brown, Sheridan; internally injured—ribs broken.

Frank Knight, Forest Grove; legs and hand seriously injured.

D. M. Nayberger, McMinnville; cut about face.

W. L. Hembree, McMinnville; scalp wound and leg hurt.

Miss Marion Chase, head cut.

Three were killed and twenty-six injured, one seriously, in a wreck of the Sheridan local which was derailed one half mile west of the depot at 5:48 Tuesday evening, when the smoker struck a broken rail and dragged two other coaches over a ten foot embankment.

The train left the Forest Grove depot one minute ahead of time and when the accident occurred was running at a slow rate of speed. The engine, mail and baggage car passed over the broken rail in safety, which was at the end of a small trestle. The accident happened on a slight curve and before the cars left the track entirely, the guard rail was torn to splinters and the rear coaches rode the ties a considerable distance breaking one section of rail into small pieces. The first two coaches to go over lost their trucks and landed on their sides while the third and last coach hung partially over the side of the trestle.

Those in the rear coach escaped with the slightest injuries. Miss Grace Harding of Gaston, who is attending the University here, made a heroic leap, feet first, through a window to a place of safety but landed in the creek below and into about two feet of water. She was practically uninjured. All the others escaped through windows and some through the rear door. There is said to have been about thirty persons in the rear car.

The second coach, in which were many women and children, was where the most injuries were received and the three unfortunates lost their lives. Mrs. J. E. Bates of this city and child, who were killed, were in the front of the car and on the side that first struck the ground. Mrs. Bates was entirely under the coach, while the child was only partially through the window. J. A. McDonald of McMinnville, the other unfortunate, was near by Mrs. Bates, and was also under the coach. It is not known whether they jumped or were thrown through the windows before the car struck the ground. Florence Bates, the six year old daughter of Mrs. Bates, stayed in the coach and was rescued by Mrs. Geo. Boos, who was in the train, through the windows. Mrs. J. H. Brown of Sheridan, who was seriously injured internally and with several broken ribs, was also in the middle coach with the rest of her family.

The first news of the wreck was a call for physicians, and it spread like wild fire over town. People from everywhere hurried to the scene to rescue and give what aid they could. All the doctors in town were soon on the ground and administered to the injured by sewing up wounds, giving stimulants and applying bandages and soon the more seriously injured were taken care of, and the most of them were removed to the residence of Web Hughes, who resides a short distance from the wreck. His house was made into a veritable hospital and at one time there were six victims of the wreck comfortably cared for there. Others were taken to near by houses while others were made as comfortable as possible in the baggage car and mail coach.

It was a heart rending sight that met the gaze of those who were first on the ground to see the injured strewn about on cushions and bearing their sufferings in silence; none gave but cheerful news of themselves and everybody else was hurt worse than they, were the answers they gave. The train crew worked heroically to extricate those who were unable to escape and the dead pinned under the debris. It was hard work at first to locate many owing to the darkness, and there were few who had lanterns, but soon the clouds cleared away and the big moon came out, seemingly in answer to their silent prayers.

By the aid of pick axes and crowbars the part of the coach that held the dead was torn away and the bodies, in a horribly mangled condition, were removed to the undertaking establishment of V. H. Limber and prepared for burial.

All of the injured who were on their way to points south were taken by the engine and two cars that did not leave the track to their several destinations.

One of the singular incidents of the wreck was the fact that those who were injured, with the exception of one or two, were only slightly injured and those who lost their lives were killed instantly. Miss Marion Chase of Portland, who is well known here, was on her way to McMinnville, experienced perhaps one of the most peculiar incidents to a railroad wreck. When she regained her senses from fright she found herself standing out in the field without any shoes on. She wore low shoes and in her exit they were somehow lost, but by the kindness of two traveling men she was soon clothed in that particular.

B. H. Grant of Portland, was severely injured about the arm and shoulder,

and he also lost a valuable diamond which was jerked from his ring. Another party whose name could not be learned, lost \$21.00 in his hurried exit.

Walter Hembree, of McMinnville, was fastened under the roof of the smoker and had to be chopped out. While in his perilous condition he was fearful that the train would catch fire before he could be rescued, and begged his rescuers to hurry their work. One of the greatest wonders of the catastrophe is that it did not break forth in flames as the train plunged over the embankment. The lights were of the ordinary kerosene lamps and the mode of heating was by stoves. The lights went out when the cars began to bump on the ties and the darkness added all the more to the frightfulness of the accident. The stoves were bolted to the floors and the doors were fortunately securely fastened.

News of the wreck was wired to the officials at Portland and a relief train was hurriedly made up with physicians and nurses, and arrived about 9:40. It contained, besides several doctors from Portland and Hillsboro, the following officials of the road; General Manager J. P. O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent G. C. Morris, and Major D. E. Hall, claim agent. This train rendered what assistance it could and returned to Portland at 11:30. The track was cleared at eleven o'clock and trains are now running on regular schedule. The wrecking train arrived Tuesday night late and the overturned coaches were removed to Portland.

Undertaker Limber of this city rendered valuable assistance at the wreck in the removal of the victims. The officials of the road also notified him to prepare the bodies in first class shape for burial and the expense would be stood by the company. The body of McDonald was shipped to McMinnville Wednesday afternoon, and will be buried Friday from its late home. He was a man about 55 years of age.

The remains of Mrs. Bates and her babe were laid in the same casket, and will be buried this afternoon. One of the sad incidents of the fate of Mrs. Bates was the fact that when she boarded the train she was going to Gaston where they were to reside, her husband having already purchased a large farm there and a part of the household goods had been sent by team. Mr. Bates assisted them to the train and intended to remain in Forest Grove until the next morning, when but a few moments later the crash came that altered all their future plans. She was 30 years old and was born at Belfast, Ireland.

Coroner Brown of Hillsboro arrived on the relief train and decided to hold an inquest next morning, the result of which is as follows:

The coroner's inquest was held at the undertaking parlors at 2.30 yesterday afternoon. Elmer Zimmerman, the engineer, was called and stated that he had been an engineer for 23 years and had been on this run for three months, that he was familiar with the track and saw nothing but a clear track. He also swore that on the body of McDonald was found a small diamond wrapped in paper besides a ladies' gold watch carefully tied up; apparently was about to make his wife a gift of it.

Chas. Cramps, the section foreman, was then called and testified that he had a stretch of track from Hillsboro to Dille; that he was familiar with the track and supposed it was in good condition.

S. Thompson, the conductor, testified that he was the conductor of the ill-fated train; that it was on time and in fact that he was obliged to wait at the depot for a few minutes. That the train was running slow when the accident occurred; could not tell what caused the wreck.

V. H. Limber, the undertaker, was called and told of assisting in recovering the bodies.

The jury took the testimony under advisement and shortly afterward reported the following:

We, the jury duly empanelled by E. C. Brown, coroner of Washington county, Oregon, to investigate into the cause of death of Sarah Bates, Howard W. Bates, infant, and J. A. McDonald, do find as follows:

That the parties aforesaid all came to their death in a wreck on the West side Division of the Southern Pacific railroad at a point three-fourths of a mile west of the depot in Forest Grove, Oregon, on the 11th day of Feb., 1908.

That at the time of their deaths they

were passengers in a passenger car on said railway.

Signed by the jury this 12th day of Feb. 1908.

CHAS. E. HINES, foreman.  
C. E. GEIGER.  
A. B. THOMAS.  
G. S. ALLEN.  
J. W. CORNELIUS.  
WALTER HOGE.

### FUNERAL OF THE VICTIMS.

The funeral of Mrs. Bates and child was held at the Congregational church at 1:30 this afternoon and the remains were followed to their last resting place by a large number of friends and relatives. She leaves besides her husband and little daughter Florence, two brothers, Andrew Dickson, of the Oregonian, Frank Dickson, the singing evangelist, and two sisters, Mrs. John Baxter and Mrs. A. C. Alexander of this place.

### STATE R. R. COMMISSION INVESTIGATION.

The State Railroad Commission, composed of Oswald West, J. K. Campbell and Clyde B. Aitcheson, arrived yesterday and made a thorough investigation of the condition of the S. P. track where the wreck occurred. The commission's investigation began at eight o'clock last night in a private car at the depot, and was not concluded until well into the night. Testimony was taken from the following officials of the road: M. J. Buckley, General Supt.; Mr. Bollins, Assistant Engineer; Thos. Mills, Road Master; Geo. H. Beard, Bridge Foreman; Chas. Crampe, local section foreman, and A. H. Wolf, section foreman at Dille. The Commission would not give out its findings, but it is estimated that it found the track here in bad condition. Just what action, if any, will be taken by the Commission is not known.

Both the officials and the Commissioners left on the eight o'clock train for Portland.

### Notice to Fruit Growers.

There will be a rally of fruit growers at Vets Hall on Feb. 22, 1908. Prof. A. B. Cordley of the O. A. C., M. O. Lonsdale, a prominent apple grower of Yamhill county, and Hon. W. K. Newell will address the meeting. A question box with a competent man to answer the questions will be a feature of the meeting. Mr. Forbes will exhibit his air-condenser sprayer and show how it operates. In fact no pains will be spared to make the meeting of profit and interest to all advocates of horticulture. Let everybody come and bring his neighbor. Let all jump into the band wagon and help place the fruit interests of Washington county, which are now well in the rear, into the front rank, and add another source of revenue to our farmers. Nothing is accomplished by inaction. It is an aggressive campaign that is demanded. Fruit men have grown big red apples in other localities. We can do the same or know the reason why. Lets study the "whys" on the 22d.

Respectfully,

W. K. CURTIS,

Pres. Forest Grove Horticultural Society.

### Former Citizen Dies.

News of the death of J. C. Greer, of Spokane, was received here Saturday. Mr. Greer was a former resident of this city and for many years was in the grocery business here in the stand now occupied by C.-R. Callaway. Deceased left here some six years ago and went to Hillsboro where he was engaged in the shoe business. From there he went to Spokane.

The remains were brought here Sunday evening and the funeral was conducted from the M. E. church under the auspices of the local lodge of Odd Fellows of which he was a member. He had been an Odd Fellow for the past forty years and stood high in the ranks of that order. He was at one time city treasurer and has held other positions of trust. The funeral was held Monday morning at ten o'clock, Rev. L. F. Belknap officiating. Interment at the Naylor cemetery.

Deceased leaves besides his wife, two children, Mrs. Tera Glaise and a son Leslie M.

### Married.

A pretty wedding occurred at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Cady, when Miss Hazel became the bride of Chas. R. Swaney. The ceremony was performed at 8 a.m. this morning under a bower of ferns and Oregon grape. The bride was attired in a gray traveling suit, carrying a bouquet of violet. After a bountiful wedding dinner the young couple, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Hartley, went to their home which the groom had neatly furnished on the Base Line road, where they will make their home.

## BANK \$20,000 SHORT!

### Banker Haines Makes Statement to Citizens and Depositors.

### A Committee of Three Chosen to Close Bank's Affairs and Work is Already Begun. W. B. Haines, Former Cashier, Exonerated. F. T. Kane Makes Statement.

State Senator and Banker E. W. Haines made sensational charges against former employes of his bank at the meeting of the depositors of the defunct money institution last Saturday, when he said that he had been robbed of \$20,000 during the past few years.

Masonic hall was packed at the announcement that Mr. Haines would disclose matters of a sensational nature, and there was not at any time so large an audience in the building as was there then. The audience was made up of people from all over the county, and a large percentage of the audience were, or had been, depositors of the defunct institution. Mr. Haines started in by giving his history and that of the bank, which twice before had had reverses, but not under the direction of Mr. Haines. Ten years ago he began his career as banker and under conditions most favorable to the success of the institution. Everything grew better, the country grew richer and naturally the business became greater under his direction. Mr. Haines became ambitious and aspired to positions of state importance and won them with many laurels. He had three times served the county as its State Senator and at the last session of the legislature was made president of the senate. He was also made president of the State Bankers association, and was interested in many enterprises of a local character. All of these took more or less of his time and as a natural consequence he employed others to look after, in a degree at least, his banking affairs, and it is stated by him, that it was at this time in his career, his footing gave way.

He attributes his downfall to the incessant knocking of those who were his opponents together with the shortage mentioned; that banking institutions were started in opposition, they knowing his condition and they using undue advantages. Mr. Haines' remarks caused the cold shivers to chase each other up and down one's spine as they implicated some of the most prominent people of our city, and who are considered our most substantial citizens. Mr. Haines made his assertions in a most decided manner, resembling a no less person than the late Hon. John H. Mitchell, U. S. Senator, who in his famous speech before congress defending himself of the accusations made against him in the land fraud cases. He brought tears to the eyes of his audience as he told of the breaking of the news of the bank's failure to his family, and his two little girls. He said that when he closed the bank that he had but \$7.50 in his pockets and the balance of his money, about \$2,000, were in the defunct institution to be done with as his depositors saw fit. He said that he had never overdrawn his personal account and that the money he used for personal expenses were not all taken from the bank but had been earned from other sources, that when the dam at his power plant went out he had been severely criticised but that his accusers did not know the load he was carrying. That he had not used the depositors' money in private enterprises nor for personal expenses, that the books of the bank would show that he had not misused any of the funds of the bank.

He stated that at this time parties wanted to buy his bank and that the conditions of the affairs were given in confidence, but were used against him. He stated also that it was known by those who wanted to buy that he could not sell owing to the conditions, and it was for this reason that the other banks were started.

In concluding his speech he stated that he would do everything in his power to make the bank pay out and suggested that a committee be appointed from among the depositors to settle the matter.

After the speech those who were not depositors were asked to retire, and the meeting proceeded to business. After discussing the best method of settling the affairs with the least cost and to avoid making an as-

signment, a committee of nine was selected to go over the bank books and also to select a committee of three to settle up the business of the bank. The committee is as follows: Rev. C. F. Clapp, Hon. W. K. Newell, W. H. Hollis, C. O. Roe, H. J. Goff, L. J. Corl, S. G. Hughes, B. H. Laughlin, E. W. Haines.

The committee met Sunday morning at the bank and discussed matters pertaining to the best methods of procedure, after which an adjournment was taken until Wednesday. Following are the minutes of the Wednesday meeting:

"The committee of nine members of the E. W. Haines Bank Depositors Association met in the bank room on Wednesday, Feb. 12, all of the members being present. Temporary organization was effected by electing E. W. Haines, Chairman and W. K. Newell, Secretary. On motion this organization was made permanent.

A statement made by Mr. Haines showed total liabilities of approximately \$75,000.00 and assets of about \$95,000.00.

It was unanimously voted that a committee of three be selected from among the members of the depositors association who shall be authorized to go ahead and settle up the affairs of the bank, acting in all cases in which they are agreed. But in case they are not fully agreed they or any one of them shall be authorized to call the full committee together at any time.

Moved and adopted that a majority of the committee of nine shall be considered a quorum.

Moved and adopted that we proceed to elect the committee of three by secret ballot, a majority being necessary for a choice. The result of the ballot showed the election of E. W. Haines, H. J. Goff and W. H. Hollis. Judge Hollis then, in view of an apparent dissatisfaction among some depositors and a possibility that there might be objection from the outside of the committee, offered his resignation, which was reluctantly accepted.

L. J. Corl was elected to fill the vacancy.

Moved and adopted that Miss Alyce Cronin be employed as bookkeeper and clerk at a salary of \$45 per month to begin the day the bank closed, Feb. 1st, 1908.

W. K. NEWELL, E. W. HAINES,  
Secretary. Chairman.

### E. W. Haines Makes Statement.

The following communication is self explanatory.

"To Whom it may Concern:

In view of the statements which appeared in the daily papers wherein I was quoted as saying that "I discharged W. B. Haines from my employ because of alleged shortages in my bank during his incumbency as bookkeeper or cashier," or words to that effect. I desire to say that I made no such statement in my address to the citizens of Forest Grove, in the meeting held at Vert's hall, Saturday, February 8th, 1908, and I have said to parties that I did not believe he had taken any money wrongfully."

Signed, E. W. HAINES.  
Dated at Forest Grove, Ore., Feb. 11th, 1908.

### F. T. Kane Makes Statement.

Hillsboro, Ore., Feb. 12, 1908.

To the Editor:  
Inasmuch as Mr. E. W. Haines has by insinuations and innuendoes attempted to charge me with being responsible for a shortage of twenty thousand dollars at his bank, in the year 1903, and while I do not consider it necessary to deny the charge made in the manner and form this charge was made, yet I desire to say, for the benefit of my friends, that if there was any shortage in the funds of E. W. Haines, Banker, at any time during my incumbency as cashier of that institution, I never knew anything of

(Continued on last page)