

Morning Oregonian

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PORTLAND, OREGON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1903.

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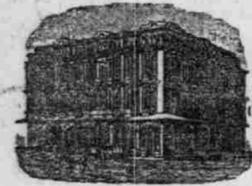
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WOULD SLAY HIM

Insane Man Appears at White House.

ARMS WELL HIDDEN

Officer Injured in Overpowering Him.

FIGHTS LIKE A DEMON

Turned Away Once, But Returns in a Short Time.

SAW ROOSEVELT AT CHURCH

Anarchist Shook Hands With Him and Appeared of Sound Mind—Assassination Planned Before Leaving Home.

SOMETHING OF THE MAN.

ANARCHIST—Peter Olsen Elliott, a well-known character of Minneapolis, who told his friends he was "going to Washington to occupy White House."

METHOD—He approached the White House at 10 o'clock, saying he wanted to see the Executive "for fun." At noon he reappeared. A policeman was summoned, and he was removed from the ground, after a fierce struggle.

WEAPON—A bulldog five-shooter, which was concealed in a pocket which seemed to be an enlarged watch fob.

WARNING—Secretary Loeb received a letter and photograph from the man several days ago, which he turned over to the secret officers. The photograph made recognition easy.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—A desperate hand-to-hand encounter with an armed insane man, who was determined to see President Roosevelt in the vestibule of the White House, occurred shortly before noon today.

The man, who gave his name as Peter Elliott, and his home as Minneapolis, was overpowered by the officers on duty at the White House entrance and carried to a police van which had been summoned. He was placed in the van in the custody of two officers.

Seemingly to realize that for the first time, that he was under arrest, Elliott began a furious struggle with his captors for liberty. He drew a revolver and attempted to shoot Officers James Cicile. The officer grabbed his hand and wrenched the weapon from his grasp. Elliott's struggles were so fierce, however, that the two officers in the cramped quarters of the van were unable to overcome him. Officer Cicile then drew his revolver and fired two shots to attract attention.

Officer Cicile sustained a serious cut on his right arm, two inches of flesh being cut out of the fleshy part of the arm. He suffered considerably from loss of blood, but his injuries are not serious. The van was hurried to the emergency hospital, where the injuries of both Cicile and Elliott were dressed.

Elliott is violently insane. Several days ago Secretary Loeb received a letter postmarked Washington, and written on letter paper of the St. James Hotel, this city. The letter enclosed a photograph of Elliott and an incoherent request for an interview with President Roosevelt. The letter was signed "Peter Ell," the statement being made immediately under the signature that the writer was registered at the hotel as Peter Elliott.

It was evident to Secretary Loeb that his correspondent was insane, and he issued directions at once that the officers on duty both at the White House and at the Executive office should be on their guard against him. The photograph was turned over to the secret service officers.

Addresses President at Church. Nothing was seen of the man until yesterday when the President attended morning services at Grace Reformed Church. Elliott went to the church early, and during the first part of the services occupied a seat in the gallery overlooking the pew in which the President sat. He left the church at the beginning of the communion services and leaned against the fence of the house just across from the church. When the President emerged from the church he walked suddenly up to the President and put out his hand, saying:

"Roosevelt, shake hands with Elliott." Without slackening his walk, the President removed his hat and held out his hand, saying:

"I am glad to meet you," and passed on.

At that time the man manifested no symptoms of insanity and quietly left the vicinity of the church when ordered to do so by the officers.

About 10 o'clock this morning he ap-

peared at the Executive offices. Entering the vestibule he inquired for President Roosevelt. One of the doorkeepers asked him why he wanted to see the President. "Oh, just for fun," he replied. "The President sent for me, and I just want to see him."

Indifferent to Rebut. Elliott was told to return next month. He smiled and walked away, not offering the slightest objection to the rebut which he had received. His appearance attracted very little attention, and he gave no indication at that time of insanity.

All the officers, both at the White House and at Executive offices, however, were warned to be on the lookout for the man and not to take any chances with him. Shortly before 12 o'clock Elliott walked up to the main door of the White House, stepped inside and inquired of Officer Cicile if he might see the President. Chief Usher Stone and Officer Parker were standing just within the vestibule at the time. Mr. Stone told the man he could not see the President just at that moment, as he was engaged, but he might possibly arrange to see him after a while. Instantly, the man having been recognized, a hurry call was sent for a police van. Scarcely had the call been sent when Elliott became violent. The officers and attendants, after a brief but strenuous struggle, overpowered him.

Gun in an Unusual Place. Officer Cicile made an examination of his pockets, but found only a pair of shears and a large penknife. The man became quiet, but refused to leave the White House until he was forced to do so. The officers conveyed him to the police van which, by that time, was waiting at the gate of the White House grounds. The struggle in the van occurred almost immediately after Elliott had been placed in the vehicle. He drew his revolver from a pocket which seemed to be an enlarged watch fob. As this is a most unusual place in which to carry a pistol, Officer Cicile, in his hurried search, had overlooked the weapon. The pistol was an ordinary bulldog five-shooter, of cheap pattern.

At the Emergency Hospital, where his wounds were dressed, Elliott said he was a Swede, and that his home was in Minneapolis. From the hospital the man was taken to the First Precinct Police Station and incarcerated in one of the detention wards.

Sent to Asylum. Late this afternoon the police surgeons, after a careful examination of Elliott, certified that he was insane. An order was issued for his removal to the St. Elizabeth Hospital for the insane. He was removed late this afternoon without trouble.

At the St. James Hotel it was said Elliott arrived there last Wednesday evening. He registered as P. O. Ell, New York. He had no baggage and paid for his room in advance. He conducted himself about the hotel in a quiet, gentlemanly manner, and nobody with whom he came in contact imagined that he was insane.

Elliott is about 5 feet 8 inches high, 35 years of age, with light brown hair and beard and apparently is of foreign birth. At the station Elliott gave his occupation as that of a machinist. He said he had lived in this country for 11 years.

(Continued on Second Page.)

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WINS ITS FIGHT

Town of Union Remains County Seat.

LA GRANDE IS DEFEATED

Act Providing for Removal Is Invalid.

SO SUPREME COURT DECIDES

County Is Now Indebted Beyond Its Constitutional Limit, and Cannot Voluntarily Assume Additional Indebtedness.

Union County is now indebted beyond the constitutional limit. The constitution says that any additional indebtedness voluntarily incurred by it shall be invalid, and of no effect. The Legislature requires it, in a certain event, to incur an additional indebtedness, not to exceed \$45,000, payable in five years. The question is, which shall prevail, the constitution or the Legislature? Clearly, the constitution.—Oregon Supreme Court.

SALEM, Oct. 5.—(Special.)—The town of Union has won in the county seat fight and La Grande is defeated. The Supreme Court today declared unconstitutional the act of the last Legislature submitting to a vote of the people the question of moving the county seat to La Grande. The act provided for the building of a Court house at a cost of \$45,000 if the county seat should be removed, and the act is in conflict with that portion of the constitution which forbids a county to incur a debt of more than \$200,000 voluntarily.

The decision of the Supreme Court was rendered in the case of A. E. Eaton and others against J. H. Minnagha, County Clerk. The plaintiffs are taxpayers, and brought the injunction suit because of the injury that would be done them, Judge Rankin, who resides at Union, declined to try the case, because he is in a measure interested, and asked Judge Sears, of Portland, to sit in his stead. Judge Sears decided against the plaintiffs, and dismissed the injunction restraining proceedings under the act. An appeal was taken, with the result that Judge Sears has been requested to write an opinion in support of the act, and the County Clerk of Union County will be enjoined from making arrangements for an election on the county-seat question.

The provision of the constitution which is violated is section 19 of article 11, which provides:

"No county shall create any debts or liabilities which shall singly or in the aggregate exceed the sum of \$200,000, except to suppress insurrection or repel invasion."

It was conceded by all the parties to the litigation that the act was entire, and that if the provision relating to the indebtedness is invalid the whole act is void. The argument in support of the validity of the county-seat act was: (1) The provision of the constitution did not contemplate the creation of a debt against the county. All these arguments are held by the Supreme Court to be unsound. The opinion says in part:

"The constitution does not provide, as in many other states, that the county shall not be allowed or permitted to become indebted beyond a certain sum, but simply prohibits it from creating such an indebtedness. It has therefore been construed not to apply to involuntary indebtedness thrust upon the county by operation of law, such as fees of witnesses and jurors, salaries of officers, expenses of election, costs of conducting courts and such other outlays as the law imposes upon the county and which it is powerless to prevent or postpone. It does, however, apply to debts incurred for the construction of county bridges, building of courthouses and jails, putting shelves in vaults, and the like, because voluntarily incurred."

"Generally speaking, it may be said that a liability imposed upon a county by law, which is not at liberty to evade or postpone, is involuntary, and not within the terms of the constitution. But a liability arising from the performance of some public duty of a discretionary character, or which the county authorities may in their discretion postpone indefinitely or temporarily until some means are provided for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, cannot be so held. It is no imposing debt upon it for the construction of the constitution does it seem that a debt incurred by a county for the building of a new courthouse can be said to be involuntarily incurred. The county has authority to levy taxes annually upon all the taxable property within its limits, with which to raise revenue sufficient to pay its expenses, and the law and the constitution contemplate that it will exercise its powers in that respect. . . . When the county is already provided with ample accommodations, the provisions of the constitution cannot be avoided by a mere change of the county seat. We are clear, therefore, that, under the constitution and the facts of this case, Union County cannot legally create an indebtedness for the building of a new courthouse."

In answer to the argument that the constitution does not prohibit the Legislature from creating a debt, the opinion says:

"Under such a construction the constitution would afford but little protection to taxpayers. To rid itself of the undesirable restraint it would only be necessary for the county to secure the enactment of a law imposing debts upon it for the construction of expensive jails, courthouses, etc., regardless of its financial condition or the wishes of its people; or, if the county authorities were unwilling to incur such indebtedness, designing persons might secure such legislation. But . . . the Legislature did not create a liability. It directed the county to create the indebtedness, and this it had no authority to do."

It is also held that the act in question creates a debt such as is contemplated by the constitution, and that the provision of the act for an annual tax levy does not alter the character of the debt.

Rehearing Denied. SALEM, Oct. 5.—(Special.)—Rehearings were denied in the Supreme Court today in the cases of White vs. Grubb, Beaver Flume Company vs. Eckler, Williamson vs. North Pacific Lumber Company, Randall vs. Langwall, McFarlane vs. McFarlane, State vs. Nelson, Patterson vs. United Artists, and Union Street Railway vs. First National Bank of Union.

SUCCESSOR TO HERBERT

King Edward Favors British Minister to the Hague.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—The British Minister to the Hague is reported to be the King's choice for the vacant post of Ambassador at Washington. The King alone will make the selection, and it is unlikely that the Premier or the Foreign Office will be requested to name the Ambassador. The likeliest selection from the service is said to be Sir Arthur Nicholson, British Minister to Morocco, who is regarded as being in line for an embassy.

It is well understood, however, that the King may go outside the regular service, as he did in sending Sir Francis Bertie, then Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador to Rome, an appointment that annoyed several Ministers.

CASSINI PAYS RESPECT TO HERBERT

PARIS, Oct. 5.—Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador to the United States, has sent a wreath to the Foreign Office, with Sir Michael Herbert, the late British Ambassador at Washington, whose funeral occurs at Wilton, England, tomorrow.

BISSELL IS VERY ILL

Ex-Postmaster-General Rallies, but Is by No Means Out of Danger.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 5.—Ex-Postmaster Bissell, who was said to be dying early this morning, rallied during the day, but when Dr. Sherman was asked if he would live through another day, he replied that the sick man was by no means out of danger. Dr. Sherman is constantly at his bedside.

ITALIANS WILL HONOR COLUMBUS

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—Italian residents of this city are preparing for a big parade October 12, in honor of Christopher Columbus. It is expected that fully 200 men will be in line. The line of march will cover the entire length of Manhattan.

CABINET NAMED

British Crisis Has Dramatic Ending.

DURABILITY NOT PROBABLE

Balfour Suffers the Loss of Liberal Unionists.

DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE RESIGNS

Had He Remained, Premier Might Have Staved Off an Early Election—Lytleton Succeeds Chamberlain—Surprise Is Great.

NEW BRITISH CABINET. LONDON, Oct. 5.—The new Cabinet is composed as follows: Mr. Bredrick, ex-Secretary of War, succeeds Lord George Hamilton as Secretary for India. Austen Chamberlain, Postmaster-General, succeeds Mr. Ritchie, as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Alfred Lytton, Recorder of Oxford, succeeds Joseph Chamberlain as Secretary for the Colonies. H. O. Arnold Forster, Secretary to the Admiralty, succeeds Mr. Bredrick as Secretary of War. Graham Murray, Lord Advocate of Scotland, succeeds Lord Balfour of Belfragh, as Secretary for Scotland. Lord Stanley, Financial Secretary of the War Department, succeeds Austen Chamberlain as Postmaster-General.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—The three weeks' Cabinet crisis has ended in a manner more remarkable and dramatic than that of its inception. Mr. Balfour's new ministry affords a measure of the enormous difficulty he has had to contend with in the task of reconstruction, and its composition seems to indicate that the Premier himself can have little belief of its durability. The most sanguine supporters of the government tonight express the smallest hopes of such an administration living many months, and the prevalent idea is that there will be a general election before Parliament re-assembles.

The Duke of Devonshire, leader of the Conservative party in the House of Lords, complicated matters by resigning today. This is a heavy blow. Had he remained the government might possibly have survived another Parliamentary session by avoiding legislation dealing with the fiscal problem, but with him goes the support of the strong party of Liberal Unionists in the country. One consequence of the Duke of Devonshire's retirement is extremely unfortunate for the government. It will bring the leadership of the House of Lords to the unpopular Lord Lansdowne. No successor has yet been appointed. The Duke of Devonshire, and several minor government offices still remain vacant.

Of the few appointments announced tonight, the most surprising is that of Hon. Alfred Lytton as Secretary for the Colonies. Mr. Lytton is a man of acknowledged ability and a good speaker, but he has had no Ministerial experience whatever. He is better known to the colonies as a cricketer than a politician. He and his seven brothers were famous cricketers at Eton, while Alfred and his brother Edward displayed even greater prowess at football, racquets, etc. Alfred Lytton was always an enthusiastic cricketer, and has taken several teams on colonial tours. He was alone for 15 years the champion tennis player, and has won international football honors.

Mr. Lytton is related to Mr. Balfour by marriage. He is credited with being in full sympathy with Mr. Chamberlain's colonial policy and Lord Milner's South African ideas, and he is personally popular. Austen Chamberlain's appointment to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer has been fully discounted. Doubts are expressed as to the approval of any assignment him to such an important office, although his ability is not called in question. Mr. Bredrick's transfer to the Indian Office will probably evoke the fiercest storm and most resentment in India, where the feeling will be that he has been sent to the Indian Office because he was a failure at the War Office.

Arnold Forster has always been a student of the question of defenses and a strong critic of War Office methods. If allowed a free hand he should introduce drastic reforms.

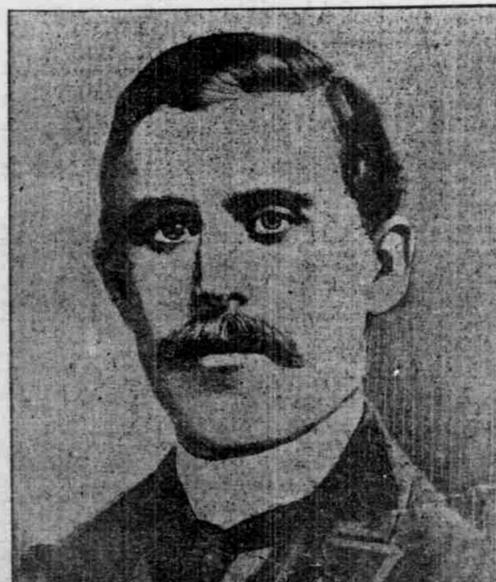
CONSERVATIVE LEADER RESIGNS

Duke of Devonshire Takes Issue With Balfour on Free Trade.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—The Duke of Devonshire, who was leader of the Conservative party in the House of Lords, resigned the office of Lord President of the Council, and the King has accepted his resignation. The Duke of Devonshire wrote to Mr. Balfour giving his reasons for his resignation, which he attributed, among other things, to the Premier's speech at Sheffield and his pamphlet on insular free trade. The Duke of Devonshire has not yet made his letter public, but a letter of acknowledgment from Mr. Balfour was published tonight. The Premier expresses great surprise and regret at the resignation, saying he had fully discussed his policy with the Duke, whom he regards as one of his supporters, and with which he had freely conferred.

The Duke of Devonshire's letter to Mr. Balfour was communicated to the public tonight. It indicates the point in which he differs from Balfour's fiscal policy.

NEW BRITISH SECRETARY FOR INDIA.



WM. ST. JOHN BRODRICK.