

# WHITNEY IS HELD FOR GIRL'S DEATH

## Funeral of Mabel Wirtz at Crematorium Stopped by Coroner's Order.

# DEATH CAUSED BY POISON

## Forest Grove Dentist Admits Causing Fatal Illness of Sweetheart and Must Face Charge of Manslaughter.

Admitting that he caused his sweetheart's death by supplying her with an antiseptic preparation containing corrosive sublimate, Dr. J. B. Whitney, a dentist of Forest Grove, is in jail tonight. The charge lodged against him in a warrant sworn out by Justice of the Peace Reid's court is manslaughter. The girl, Miss Mabel Wirtz, died early Monday morning after an illness extending over about three weeks. From the time of her death until late yesterday afternoon the attending physician withheld the death certificate, to give Whitney an opportunity to make a voluntary statement, assigning the true cause of the young girl's untimely end and avowing his connection with it. Whitney failed to keep his agreement. The hour of the funeral arrived and services were begun. The undertaker, who prepared the body for cremation, unable to permit the removal of the body from the chapel, finally telephoned for the death certificate. When this was furnished him and the cause of death, "mercuric poisoning," met his eyes, he at once notified Coroner J. P. Finley, who stepped into the case.

## Coroner Stops Funeral.

The coroner permitted the services to proceed, but forbade the removal of the dead girl's body until he could satisfy himself that there were no suspicious circumstances attached to the case. Investigation soon brought out Whitney's connection with the case and the coroner immediately swore out a warrant for the young dentist's arrest. Constable Lou Wagner found Whitney at his brother-in-law's residence and took him into custody. The information of felony was drawn by Assistant District Attorney Stevenson on complaint of Coroner Finley.

Miss Wirtz was 21 years of age, the daughter of Justice of the Peace Henry Wirtz, of Forest Grove, and was employed as a milliner by the Crown Hat Company. The family resides in this city at 306 1/2 College street. The funeral services were to have taken place yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock from Holman's undertaking chapel and were to be followed by cremation at the Pacific Coast Crematorium. These ceremonies were interrupted by Coroner Finley, who, after learning the facts in the case, gave orders that the ceremonies would have to be postponed so that a judicial post-mortem examination might be made.

"It was the coroner's action which led to the arrest of Dr. Whitney. That official, finding that none of the relatives of the dead young woman cared to make a complaint, took the initiative in the case and, after consulting with the District Attorney's office, at once prepared the charge against Dr. Whitney. The coroner maintained that the facts as revealed by his investigation yesterday afternoon show a clear case of manslaughter against the arrested dentist.

Whitney has confessed that about three weeks ago he secured for Miss Wirtz a solution, claiming that it contained mercury in such quantity as to be dangerous, and persuaded her to make use of it, for reasons growing out of their intimacy. The result was her death from mercuric poisoning. The felony information against Whitney is based upon this alleged crime. The facts in the case were first brought to light about 9 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when Dr. J. Allen Gilbert, who had been attending the young woman, made out her death certificate, attributing the cause to "mercuric poisoning." The body of the young woman had been taken to Holman's immediately after her death on Monday morning and all arrangements had been made for the funeral and cremation.

When Miss Wirtz was taken ill about three weeks ago she maintained that she had become ill through eating a hot tamale, as all the symptoms of her case were those of ptomaine poisoning, the attending physician gave this as his diagnosis. It was supposed that this was due to a short time before her death when it became known that her condition was most critical.

## Tells Truth to Physician.

At this juncture, it is said, Dr. Whitney came forward and told the physician the true story in which the young woman, too late to save the young woman's life. According to information in the hands of the coroner, the physician is said to have informed Dr. Whitney that there was little or no hope for the girl's recovery, that he would have to inform the girl's father, which he did, and that he would give the death 24 hours in which to come forward and assume full responsibility.

# INCENDIARY MORNING FIRE

## Believed Attempt on Life of Mrs. Lee Dal Hoy.

Fire that was discovered in a house at 379 Pine street early this morning, evidently of incendiary origin, is believed to have been set with the intention of murdering Mrs. Lee Dal Hoy, widow of a Chinese merchant, who was killed by lightning a short time ago. The woman is the chief witness against the Oriental accused of the crime, and the police consider the fire a move in the local tong war.

Firecrackers and oil fuse were found in the lower part of the house after the fire had been discovered, giving conclusive evidence that the fire had been intentionally set. Only slight damage was done to the building.

# SILVERSTEIN IS DYING

## New York Bombthrower Cannot Live Another Day.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Selig Silverstein, in whose hands the dynamite bomb prematurely exploded last Saturday, is dying tonight and the physicians at Bellevue Hospital state that the bombthrower will not live 24 hours.

Alexander Beckman was arraigned in court today on an affidavit charging him with advising the Union Square meeting. The magistrate held Beckman in \$5000 bail for examination on Friday afternoon. Bail was furnished.

# FAVOR THE CHANGE

## Lawyers Indorse Plan to Remodel the Court System.

# BAR ASSOCIATION ACTS

## Votes Unanimously in Approval of Constitutional Amendment Designed to Revolutionize Present County Government System.

ASTORIA, March 31.—(Special.)—A letter of the "Black Hand" type was received through the mail yesterday by W. L. Thorndyke, editor of the Leader, and a weekly paper published in this city, and he has turned the imitative over to the postal authorities. The letter contained drawings of a skull and crossbones and was written in a clear, bold hand, apparently without attempt at disguise, although some of the words it contained were misspelled. It was as follows:

Astoria, Or., March 30, '08. Mr. W. L. Thorndyke, Astoria, Or.—Dear Sir: Your paper has deliberately printed articles which have been a source of misapprehension to some of Astoria's citizens in the tenderloin and if you do not desist within 30 days steps will be taken to force you to vacate of your life endeavored to prepare to get out. Your movements will be watched from now on. Yours Truly, ONE OF THE GANG.

# WATSON FOR PRESIDENT

## Populists Will Again Nominate the Georgian—Their Platform.

ST. LOUIS, March 31.—The Populist National Convention will be called to order Thursday at 10 A. M. in the Olympic Theater by James Heffelf, of Joliet, Ill. General Jacob S. Coxey is slated for temporary chairman. Unless present plans miscarry, Thomas B. Watson, of Georgia, will be nominated for President. So far but two persons are mentioned for Vice-President. These are Judge Samuel Williams, of Vincennes, Ind., and Frank E. Ritchey, of St. Louis.

The latter in a statement today said the paramount plank of the platform will be devoted to the money question. This will declare in effect that the leasing of money is a function in Government that should never be delegated to corporations or individuals; that all the money should be issued by the Government in such quantity as shall maintain stability in prices. Other planks in the platform will be:

All public lands to be held for actual settlers and not to be subject to speculation or alien ownership; Government ownership of railroads and all other public utilities of National scope; Municipal ownership. Graduated income tax. Initiative and referendum and the vesting in the people of the power to recall any official who disregards the wishes or instructions of his constituents.

All offices to be filled by direct vote of the people.

"I think the vesting of probate jurisdiction in the Circuit Court is a good thing. It has been tried in other states with success. Of course, in this county we are not bothered with incompetent county judges, but in other counties they are at times a great annoyance. I think the bill also provides for the increase of the judges of the State Supreme Court from three to five. The act was introduced by Senator Bingham, of Lane County, but I do not know who drew it. I think it would be a very good thing if defeated at this election because the voters are not interested in it."

## Works Well Elsewhere.

Mr. Wright said that he believed the bill should pass and that the bar associations throughout the state should be urged to take action.

"I believe the amendment should carry," said Judge Webster. "We all know that two additional members of the supreme bench are needed. This amendment is not self-enacting, as it requires an act of the Legislature in order to put it into effect. I have no doubt that the Legislature could act with reference to one county or any number of counties without reference to the entire state. Many members of the bar, and the persons framing the amendment also concur in this belief."

"I do not think it would be well to place the work of all the county judges of the state in the hands of the Circuit Court. For instance, in some of the outlying counties I do not think it is a good thing to have a circuit judge for every county. I don't think there is work enough for them. Take for instance Klamath and Lane, Grant and Harney counties. In the first two counties the county seats are 100 miles apart, that is in Summer. In the winter they might as well be 500 miles apart."

## Defects in the Plan.

"If a joint Circuit Judge were to serve for the two counties, court would not be in session in either county during a considerable portion of the year. It has been suggested that the powers of the clerk could be extended, but that brings us back to the same question. I have no doubt that Multnomah is one of the counties where I think the probate work should be separated from the other work of the County Judge. I know that there is really enough work in the Probate Court alone to occupy the attention of one man. It is a character of work which requires constant attention and more or less attention to details. It requires that the judge who does the work should be a strong factor in the work itself. He must constantly push the work along. We as attorneys are always inclined to put off doing the useful until the last minute, so that if reports are to be made

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The Multnomah Bar Association, at a special meeting last night, unanimously voted in favor of the proposed amendment to article VII of the State Constitution, increasing the number of Supreme Judges from three to five and curtailing the powers of the County Court. This

at all, they must be made almost at the point of the sword in the hand of the judge. "The Probate Court is more important in some of its aspects than the Circuit Court. The interests are often large and at many times intricate. It is a clumsy way of going to it to appeal from the County Court to the Circuit Court and from that to the Supreme Court. There should be but one court of appeal.

## Duties Too Numerous.

"As it is now the County Court must attend to the holding of roads and run out into the country to attend to endless details, and he must watch his work carefully, for unfortunately, in the present temper of the people, they have a right to get everything they can from the county."

Regarding the election of district, county and precinct officers by the Legislature, Judge Webster said, the new law might leave a loophole for political deals, but he believed it could safely be left to that body.

Upon a motion made by Waldemar Seton, the association last night expressed itself against the alleged practice of the newspapers of Portland making of their readers an arena for criticisms of the work of the courts.

Claud Strahan, R. C. Wright and Judge L. R. Webster were appointed by the association to prepare a memorial to the late Judge T. G. Halley.

# TITLE BANK CASE IS ARGUED

## Judges Take Motion for Change of Venue Under Adversement.

Charging that the articles that have appeared in the daily papers of the city relative to the operations of J. Thorburn Ross and his associates in the Title Bank have been inflammatory and of a libelous character, Attorney Wallace McCannitt, for Ross, argued his motion for a change of venue before the four judges of the Circuit Court sitting in Multnomah County yesterday afternoon. Before him on the table was a stack of papers dating back to the time of the bank failure, about the first of November, and from that time to the present. After District Attorney Manning had failed to secure a ruling of the court excluding them on the ground that Mr. McCannitt had not included them in his filing.

It was the contention of Mr. McCannitt that the District Attorney had used the press to secure pre-judgment of the libelous articles, and that, therefore, they could not obtain a fair trial in this county. District Attorney Manning filed 30 additional affidavits in court yesterday afternoon, in which he stated with Attorney's 28, but McCannitt refused to accept them and argued his point at length. Judges Cleland, O'Day, Bronaugh and Gantenben took the motion under advisement.

# DAUGHTER ON THE STAND

## Mrs. George Stevens Testifies in the Myers Will Case.

The County Court adjourned yesterday afternoon in the midst of the testimony of Mrs. George Stevens in the Myers will case. Mrs. Stevens broke down just before 5 o'clock and it was necessary for her to leave the courtroom. Mrs. Stevens had previously refused a number of letters written by her father at various times during 1901, 1902 and 1907. In these she expressed affection for him, but she said she was always afraid of writing him, by writing too frequently. She said that when she married Mr. Stevens her father made her a wedding present of \$500, and that he often had said that he wanted to build her a home. Among the witnesses called to the stand yesterday morning was Dr. A. E. Rockey, who said Dr. Robinson was one of the most widely read and best-informed doctors he had ever met in his life. In Dr. Rockey's opinion Myers was fraudulent on the subject of Dr. Robinson.

As Judge Webster will leave the city today, the hearing was continued for two weeks.

# PEABODY SUES SON-IN-LAW

## Declares F. H. Meader Broke Agreement to Support Him.

On the ground that Frederick H. Meader, his son-in-law, refuses to support him, William Peabody, 75 years old, is suing in the Circuit Court to recover \$3500, or deeds to 24 acres of land in Washington and four acres near Jennings Lodge. Peabody has deeded his home in Wasco County to Meader, with the understanding that he was to be cared for the remainder of his days. The act in the Wasco County property for \$2500, it is stated, and purchased the Washington land.

Then Peabody's daughter, Meader's first wife, died, and Meader married again. Meader contends that the property belonged to Peabody's wife, and descended to Meader's first wife by right of inheritance.

# SAYS HE THREATENED HER

## Mrs. Joseph W. Kane Sues Husband for Divorce.

Charging that her husband threw her across the room several times, and taking her by the throat, flourished a butcher knife about her head, and told her she intended to finish her, Mrs. Minnie M. Kane has filed suit in the Circuit Court to obtain a divorce from Joseph W. Kane. They married in Vancouver in 1904.

Frank G. Barton has filed suit for divorce from Shale C. Barton on the ground that she taught the children that he would kill her. The couple were married in 1892. Barton says his wife deserted him in 1905. The couple recently had a suit in court over the custody of the two children.

# Wife Made Administratrix

Mrs. Mira C. Alger has been appointed administratrix of the estate of Hollis Alger, who died March 23. He is said to have left an estate of more than \$20,000. The estate goes to the widow, according to the provisions of the will, except \$6000, which is to be equally divided between Hollis, Edgar and Morton Alger, the three sons.

# THIRTY ADJUDGED INSANE

With the commitment of George Inman to the Insane Asylum yesterday, 30 persons have been sent there from Multnomah County this month. Inman, who is 88 years old, was at the Home for the Aged for a long time. For 20 years his son had supported him, but an unsuccessful business venture is said to have placed the young man in a position where he is now unable to care for his aged parent.

# Want More Electric Lights.

Harry Clapp has been appointed chairman of a committee by the Mount Scott Improvement Association, to act with a representative of the electric light company in securing signatures for additional lights for that district.

# Want McCarren Dethroned.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Opposition in the leadership of Patrick McCarren, State Senator and chairman of the County Democratic Committee of Kings County, crystallized yesterday in a resolution adopted by seven of the 23 members of the executive committee of the County Democratic Committee, calling for a reorganization of the party machinery, if harmony is to be restored and the party saved from

# PORTLAND WANTS RESULTS FROM ITS DELEGATION AT THE OREGON LEGISLATURE

Mr. Voter:— Elect men of weight and experience; men who know what Portland needs and how to get it—responsible men, whose success in business and public life inspires and commands the confidence of those who know them.

# AWAKE, CITIZENS!

To the realization that "Statements No. 1, 2, 3" are of minor importance compared with what Portland has at stake in the next legislative session.

# THINK IT OVER

disaster. They declare that they have waited in vain for Chairman McCarren to sacrifice himself, and they therefore appeal to the voters to co-operate with them to regain confidence in the party. The appeal is headed by Borough President Bird S. Fishery and Michael Fishery, former Sheriff.

# DRAFTS FORM OF BALLOT

## Secretary of State Submits Arrangement of Names to Clerk.

Of the Republicans who will run for office at the coming election, E. M. Coker and Charles W. Fulton, candidates for nomination to the office of United States Senator, are to appear in twelfth and thirteenth places, respectively, on the ballot in Multnomah County. Secretary of State Benson has just returned to the office of the names of candidates who have submitted to him valid petitions for nomination.

Republican candidates for nomination for Representatives in Congress, and for state and federal offices, have been assigned places on the ballot in the following order:

For Representative in Congress, Second District, W. R. Ellis, Umatilla County; Theodore T. Geer, Umatilla County; George S. Shepherd, Multnomah County. Justice of the Supreme Court, Robert S. Grosvenor, District of Columbia; Food Commissioners, W. B. Baily, Alexander Reid; Commissioner of the Railroad Commission of Oregon, Second Congressional District, Clyde E. Atchison, Joseph Gaston, A. N. Hamilton, W. H. Hurlbut, C. C. Loucks, Howard Whiting; Judge of Circuit Court, Fourth Judicial District, Department No. 1, Earl C. Bronaugh, William R. McGarry, Lawrence A. McNary; Judge of Circuit Court, Department No. 2, Robert G. Morrow; Prosecuting Attorney, Multnomah County, George J. Cameron, James Cole, James S. Davis, Gus C. Moser, Roger B. Sinnott, Edward T. Teggart, Henry S. Westbrook; Representative, Seventeenth Representative District, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties, Walter C. Belt, C. N. McArthur.

Democratic candidates for these offices will be placed on the ballot in the following order:

Representative in Congress, Second District, Andrew Jackson Derby, Wasco County; John A. Jeffrey, Multnomah County; Judge of Multnomah County Circuit Court, Department No. 2, Thomas O'Day; Prosecuting Attorney, Multnomah County, John Manning.

# ASSAULTS AN OLD MAN

## Louis Roberts Arrested on Complaint of John Heagney.

Louis Roberts, an older employed by the Portland Cordage Company, was arrested yesterday forenoon for a brutal assault on John Heagney, a 60-year-old man. Roberts is said to have thrashed the old man because of his refusal to permit a 17-year-old daughter to accompany Roberts on a trip to Seaside. Heagney's leg is believed to be broken and he is in bed. He has also painful bruises.

The assault was made Monday night at the Phoenix Iron Works, where Heagney is employed as watchman. J. E. Wolf, one of the owners of the iron works, says Roberts called on the old man and after a discussion about taking Miss Heagney to Seaside pounced on Heagney and beat him nearly into insensibility.

Heagney was unable to appear and swear to a complaint, but this office was performed by Mr. Wolf. When arrested Roberts was required to put up \$200 bail. His trial will be deferred pending the outcome of Heagney's injuries. Roberts would not tell his side of the story.

# Fee Expected Next Week.

Charles S. Fee, passenger traffic manager for the Southern Pacific, will reach Portland next week from Chicago on his way back to San Francisco. It is expected that with Mr. Fee's coming the gateway question will be cleared up. Mr. Fee has been in Chicago in conference with Traffic Director Stubbs of the Harriman lines, and will be thoroughly familiar with the plan to be followed by the Harriman interests in opening up the closed Portland gateway.

# L. N. Hill Coming Here.

Louis Hill, who succeeded his father, James J. Hill, as president of the Great Northern Railway, will visit Portland April 8, coming here from Southern California, where he has been with his

family. Mr. Hill will look over the new Spokane, Portland & Seattle line, not having seen it since it was open for traffic. Mr. Hill will probably spend several days in Portland.

# Eleven File Declarations.

Candidates for central committee filed their declarations with the County Clerk yesterday as follows: Republicans—Lewis C. Lindsay, Precinct 8; Joe H. Meyer, 78; H. B. Nudelman, 2; Charles B. Merrick, 26. Democrats—Earl Ogle, 31; A. W. Rahles, 18; L. C. Thompson, 14; C. I. Brown, 108; Samuel J. Rafferty, 32; A. J. McCabe, 19; D. M. Watson, 8.

Manila—Governor-General Smith and the Philippine Commissioners have gone to Baguio for the hot season. The Assembly has announced its recess from April 4 until April 27.

# County Coroner

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION



# JUDGE E. C. BRONAUGH

(Appointed to Succeed the Late Judge Frazer)

Candidate for Republican Nomination for Circuit Court Judge, Dept. No. 1

# E. E. ERICSON

## Ericson Undertaking Co.

409 AND 411 ALDER STREET K. of P. Building

If elected to this most responsible position at the hands of the voters of this county, I will personally attend to all the duties of the position. Realizing the responsibility of the office fully, I pledge myself to conduct it economically, feeling that the county can be saved much needless expense by showing a more conscientious regard for the taxpayers' interests.

# REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## PRIMARY ELECTION APRIL 17, 1908

# JAMES COLE

Formerly Assistant U. S. District Attorney. CANDIDATE FOR Republican Nomination for District Attorney

These men are not put forward as representatives of any committee, club or clique, but offer to come into the business men, under the provisions of our direct primary laws. They are worthy of your suffrage.



# ROGER B. SINNOTT

His Platform: The Oath of Office.

# ROGER B. SINNOTT

Republican for DISTRICT ATTORNEY

# GEO. J. CAMERON

Republican Candidate for District Attorney

# ROGER B. SINNOTT

His Platform: The Oath of Office.

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