

VOL. XXVII.—NO. 48.

PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 29, 1908.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## J. A. FINCH KILLS RALPH B. FISHER

### Bar Prosecutor Shot by Lawyer.

## VENGEANCE MOTIVE OF SLAYER

### Assassin Had Been Disbarred by Victim's Efforts.

## GIRL WITNESS OF TRAGEDY

### Murderer, Although Caught Red-Handed as He Tries to Flee, Denies All Knowledge of Shooting When Locked in Jail.

Attorney Ralph B. Fisher, prosecutor for the Grievance Committee of the Oregon State Bar Association, was shot and killed almost instantly at 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon by Attorney J. A. Finch, who had recently been disbarred as the result of charges of drunkenness that were prosecuted by Mr. Fisher.

The tragedy occurred in Mr. Fisher's private office, 222 Mohawk building, Third and Morrison streets. Miss Vera Burkhardt, Mr. Fisher's stenographer, 428 East Thirty-fourth street, was the only witness, and she fled screaming from the room. The assassin emerged deliberately from the room where lay his victim, walked down the corridor and was about to take the elevator when seized by Dr. H. F. Leonard, who detained him.

### Murderer Resists His Captors.

Attorney Chester V. Dolph, who, with Dr. Leonard and others, followed Finch to the elevator shaft, blarneyed him with little difficulty, though he offered resistance. He insisted on being permitted to descend, but instead was locked in an office on the third floor and held until the arrival of the police.

Finch was at once taken into the office from which sulphurous smoke still was pouring, and looked down upon the prostrate form that he had slain. He gazed coldly and apparently unmoved upon the bleeding figure, uttered not a word, turned and walked out in the custody of the officers.

"I wouldn't speak to him, and I'll get the rest of the bunch," Finch said to one of the officers who rode in the patrol wagon with him to the station.

### Finch Denies His Guilt.

At the City Jail Finch positively denied the murder to District Attorney Cameron. He had been in his own office nearly all day, he said, and had not been near Mr. Fisher's office. He talked confidently and at times unintelligibly, apparently under the influence of either drugs or liquor, or premeditatedly preparing grounds for the defense of insanity.

### Awaiting Wife and Baby.

Fisher, at the time of his death, was seated at the desk in his private office, awaiting the arrival of his wife and baby. Only a few moments before the entrance of the assassin, Mrs. Fisher had called him by telephone telling him that she would be down presently and would bring the baby. The attorney was smiling in anticipation of the visit and the smile was still on his features as he glanced up into the hideously distorted face of an intruder at whose hands he met instant death.

Miss Burkhardt, who had opened the door of Mr. Fisher's private office and witnessed the tragedy as she stood there, terrified and powerless to "fly," fell into a swoon after hysterically fleeing down the corridors of the building. She was removed to her home, where she had recovered sufficiently last night to tell in detail the story of the deed she was forced to witness.

### Mrs. Fisher Is Overcome.

Mrs. Fisher, who, with the baby, arrived at the office as the coroner was removing the last vestiges of the

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## DIRECT PRIMARY COSTLY IN KANSAS

### EXPERIMENT CAUSES EXPENDITURE OF \$140,000.

### Secretary of State Collects Figures and Is Promptly Accused of Scheming for Repeal.

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 28.—(Special.)—The Western states that have enacted or have contemplated enacting primary election laws will be interested in the forthcoming report to be made by Secretary of State C. E. Denton, Kansas tried a primary election law for the first time this year, and Mr. Denton believes it would be a good thing to find out what the new reform cost the taxpayers.

Accordingly on his own motion, he prepared a list of questions and sent them to each of 105 County Clerks in the state, requesting these officials to furnish him with this information. About 60 of the Clerks have complied with the request. It is known from reports already at hand that the cost to the state will be about \$140,000.

Mr. Denton has been criticized severely, his opponents charging that it was a move of the old machine faction and was intended to pave the way for a fight this winter to repeal the primary election law.

## HAS SEEN REAL CANNIBALS

### Boy With Jack London in South Sea Wants to Come Home.

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 28.—(Special.)—Martin Johnson, the Kansas boy who is now with Mr. and Mrs. Jack London on their tour around the world, writes to his parents at Independence that he has seen some real cannibals on one of the South Sea Islands, and that he wants to get away from it all and come home, but Jack London refuses to relinquish him. Writing from Pennduffry, Solomon Islands, young Johnson says:

"I am sure that Mr. and Mrs. London and myself are seeing more strange things than any person in the world now traveling. We are now going among the most savage people on earth, and, although cannibals are supposed to be a thing of the past, I know that two men have been eaten within the past year. The tribes in the interior of all these larger islands are all head-hunters, and it is never safe to go unarmed or alone in the interior."

## FLEET NOT FOR THIS COAST

### Roosevelt Has Little Regard for Hobson and His Opinions.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—(Special.)—Representative Smith called today at the White House, and on mentioning naval matters, the President intimated that he did not wish the California delegation to embarrass him by urging that the Atlantic fleet be retained in the Pacific Ocean. He said that the plans for the future movements of the fleet, ending in its return to Hampton Roads, had been fully worked out, and that they could not be changed. This was in reply to recent appeals in California for the retention of the fleet. Smith made a jesting remark about Hobson and his alarms, to which the President gave one of his characteristic and impetuous replies to the effect that he had small regard for Hobson and his opinions.

## HOW TO GET OFF CARS

### Los Angeles Schoolgirls to Be Taught by Regular Instructor.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 28.—(Special.)—How to alight from streetcars will be taught in the city schools by Wilson Blue, a Huntington motorman, who will probably be officially designated as "Instructor of Car Alighting." He aims to give lectures weekly with models of cars and dummy figures to illustrate his points. Each week the girls from one school are to be taken to a suburban town by trolley and there shown how to get on and off moving cars, and also to wait until cars stop.

The officials of street railway lines are backing Blue, and they hope to avert many accidents and damage suits brought on by women getting off backward.

## UNITE IN DEMAND FOR FREE HIDES

### Tanners and Shoe Makers of One Mind.

## CAN BEAT WORLD IN LEATHER

### One Shoe Manufacturer Is Ready for Free Shoes.

## BEEF TRUST UNDER FIRE

### House Committee Informed Leather Duty Only Helps Monopoly, Not Growers of Cattle—Catgut Cries for Protection.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—A general assault on the hide and leather tariff was made before the House committee on ways and means today by tanners from all parts of the United States and by manufacturers of shoes and other leather goods. The cry was for free trade in hides, the beef trust being declared the only beneficiary of the duty, which is a tax on every consumer. One great shoe manufacturer in New England telegraphed the committee, recommending the entire removal of the duty on shoes, saying he was ready to compete with the world on equal terms. Plans for protection were made by manufacturers of gloves and catgut.

### Tanners Say Beef Trust Favored.

The tanners started the contest in lively fashion today by asking the committee to restore hides to the free list. Fred Vogel, Jr., of Milwaukee, declared that the tariff of 15 per cent on cattle hides did not protect stockraisers and added that the domestic consumption of hides and skins was inadequate and was not increased or stimulated by the tariff.

Then David P. Leas, a Philadelphia manufacturer of leather, stated that the Chicago packers had a monopoly on hides, to which every man, woman and child paid tribute. Representative Boutell suggested that the way to break up that monopoly was to put not only hides, but shoes on the free list.

"If necessary we tanners are willing to have shoes on the free list," added Mr. Leas.

"Drop out that qualification and we will be getting together," interrupted Representative Clark.

There was so much applause over a suggestion by Elmer C. Cobb, a manufacturer of Boston, to place hides on the free list that Chairman Payne found difficulty in maintaining order.

### Shoemaker Wants Free Shoes.

Mr. Payne made the following telegram from A. E. Little & Co., shoe manufacturers, of Lynn, Mass.:

"As probably the largest manufacturers of women's fine shoes in the world, we desire to go on record as declaring the present tariff on such shoes as we manufacture wholly unnecessary to our state and a distinct injustice to the consuming public. We favor the complete abolition of this tariff in welcoming the competition of the world. We should be glad at the convenience of the ways and means committee to present arguments for the removal of the duty on boots and shoes like those of our own manufacture."

### Beat World With Free Hides.

"Put hides on the free list, and the American tanner will beat the world," was the statement that Mr. Cobb made to the committee. As a result of questions by Representative Gaines, Mr. Cobb was led to say that the tariff on hides added only 3 cents to the cost of upper leather in a shoe to the consumer.

"So this 3 cents that every man, woman and child is paying to the huge monopoly is not so heavy after all," observed Mr. Boutell.

Mr. Cobb qualified his previous answer by saying that the upper leather was not all the leather that went into a shoe.

H. M. Hill, of Cleveland, represented

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## LOCAL OPTION IS DRYING UP OHIO

### STOPS NOT ONLY LIQUOR SUPPLY, BUT FUNDS OF STATE.

### Has 54 Dry Counties and Eight More Will Hold Elections.

### More Taxes Necessary.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 28.—(Special.)—The voting out of 176 saloons by the Rose county local option law has seriously affected the state treasury. The loss to the state thus far in the four months since the law became effective has been \$200,000. Each saloon voted out must quit business at the end of 30 days, and gets a refund of such part of the Alken tax as is due for the period between closing and the end of the six months for which the tax is paid.

Legislation may be necessary at the coming special session of the Legislature to provide additional revenues for the state.

Within the four months since the Rose law went into effect 56 counties have voted on the proposition, 49 of them voting out 176 saloons. The other seven voted to retain 411 saloons. Previous to holding of the county elections five counties had gone dry under the Rose law, making a total of 54 dry. Also a number of counties which have not voted at all have gone dry. Before the close of the year elections will be held in eight more counties.

## INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

### The Weather.

YESTERDAY: Maximum temperature, 48 degrees; minimum, 25 degrees.

TODAY: Rain or snow; southerly winds.

### Foreign.

Britain alarmed at growth of revolution in India. Section 1, page 5.

### National.

European nations approve American-Japanese Compact. Section 1, page 1.

House committee hears arguments for free hides and free shoes from tanners and shoe manufacturers. Section 1, page 1.

### Politics.

Direct primary proves very expensive in Kansas. Section 1, page 1.

Fisher shot, but excluded, with conference with Hitchcock on Oregon Senatorship. Section 1, page 2.

### Domestic.

Officers of Western Live Stock Indemnity Company to repay \$225,000 in plunder. Section 1, page 2.

Russian rebel not allowed to betray comrades at extradition hearing in Chicago. Section 1, page 2.

Judges Wolcott and Kahlan may conflict in decisions on Booth bankruptcy case. Section 1, page 2.

Local option deprives Ohio's revenue and makes new taxes necessary. Section 1, page 2.

Three boys frozen to death in California mountains. Section 1, page 2.

Great number of fatalities in hunting season. Section 1, page 2.

Negro tells good story about Roosevelt. Section 1, page 2.

### Pacific Coast.

Heads of state universities to hold convention in Portland in 1909. Section 1, page 2.

North Bank road begins condemning land for extension to Grays Harbor. Section 1, page 2.

Good roads convention at Eugene attracts large crowd. Section 1, page 2.

Judge Chiles may be sworn to fill unexpired term of Justice Roth. Section 1, page 2.

### Sports.

All-Northwest football team is selected. Section 1, page 2.

Portland will be only minor league city in baseball. Section 1, page 2.

Portland Automobile Club drafting bill for new charter. Section 1, page 2.

Both Ketchel and Papke are offered many matches. Section 1, page 2.

O'Connell and Heintz to meet on mat. Section 1, page 2.

Australians win world's tennis championship against Americans. Section 2, page 2.

Army wine football game with Navy. Section 2, page 2.

### Commercial and Marine.

Beer production in October shows sharp decrease. Section 4, page 9.

Wheat closes weak at Chicago. Section 4, page 9.

Minor stocks boosted in New York market. Section 4, page 9.

Surplus reserve of New York banks brought down. Section 4, page 9.

Steamer H. B. Kennedy is launched. Section 4, page 9.

### Portland and Vicinity.

Ralph B. Fisher shot and killed by James A. Finch. Section 1, page 1.

Attorney Finch maintains that he does not remember killing Attorney Fisher. Section 1, page 8.

How Attorney Fisher helped to mitigate Finch's punishment for offense against Bar Association. Section 1, page 8.

Petitions again to be circulated absolving statement legislators. Section 2, page 10.

Bond issue is proposed for purchase of municipal lighting plant. Section 1, page 9.

O. R. & N. will open Troutdale-Bonville line. Section 4, page 8.

Agent for vitrified brick concerns defends that type of pavement. Section 1, page 11.

Oregon fruitgrowers will meet in Portland this week. Section 4, page 8.

Women review suffrage fight at 35th anniversary. Section 4, page 4.

State Grange will study domestic science. Section 4, page 10.

Healthy tone shown in Portland realty market. Section 3, page 8.

Old buildings make way for modern structures. Section 3, page 8.

Many important sales made on East Side. Section 3, page 9.

## EXPLOSION KILLS 275 COAL MINERS

### Shaft Near Pittsburgh Becomes Tomb.

## RESCUERS' TERRIBLE STORY

### Every Man in Fatal Chamber Stifled by Firedamp.

## ENTRANCE OF MINE CHOKED

### Rescue Parties Compelled to Remove Huge Piles of Debris Before Lifting Dead Bodies—Force Caused Earth to Tremble.

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 28.—An explosion occurred in the Pittsburgh-Buffalo Coal Company's mine, Rachel, at Manassas, Washington County, yesterday at noon, and it is believed that all of the 275 miners at work were killed outright. Up till midnight the rescue parties had taken out but one man alive. He is Peter Arnold, an American.

Joseph Kearney, one of the rescuing party, reported there were other men alive. Arnold was found unconscious 300 feet away from the Agnes shaft. When he reached the surface he said the explosion occurred close to the Agnes shaft.

Arnold's statement is the first authentic news to be brought from the mine regarding the explosion. It is believed that the vapors which followed the igniting of the gas in the mine were responsible for most of the fatalities.

When the first rescuing party reached the workings at 8:30 o'clock tonight it found bodies scattered about the floor of the mine.

### Smothered by Vapors.

Few, if any, of the bodies are mutilated, and the men were undoubtedly smothered by the deadly vapors which followed the explosion. All but two of the bodies in the mine, it is said, are those of foreigners. No effort has yet been made to remove them. Instead, the rescuers and the mining experts are making a complete exploration of all of the workings to see if there are now safe. This work is expected to occupy several hours.

The workings in which today's catastrophe occurred are known as the Rachel and Agnes mines, in reality a double mine with underground connections. Construction work was practically finished and Deputy State Mine Inspector Henry Loutlet a few minutes before the explosion had completed a two days' inspection which had revealed no cause for apprehension. He and General Manager Kerr came to the surface a few minutes before 11 o'clock. Mine Foreman Henry Thompson and two miners entered the cage and it was started toward the bottom of the 500-foot shaft.

### Felt Like Earthquake.

Suddenly there was an ominous rumbling, then a trembling of the ground around the mouth of the shaft. From an earthquake and an instant later there was a terrific report and the cage was hurled up the shaft and through the roof of the shafthouse, the mine foreman and the two men still in it. Their bodies were tossed through the top of the building and far beyond it. Thompson was dead when picked up and the others mortally injured.

So great was the force of the explosion that shattered portions of the woodwork about the mouth of the shaft were blown into Ten Mile Creek, 200 feet away. Besides the three men in the cage, portions of at least two other bodies were blown from the shafthouse and were found in a field nearby.

Immediately following the explosion a dense column of smoke issued from the shaft and it was feared a fierce fire was raging at the bottom of the shaft. A short time afterward the smoke almost ceased, but those on the surface were unable to tell whether the fire had been smothered or the shafts so filled with falling debris that the smoke could not escape.

## ANGELS TREMBLED AT LOUD RAPPING

### NEGRO DREAMS HE SAW ROOSEVELT IN HEAVEN.

### Tells Police Judge What Happened When the Big Stick Knocked for Admittance.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—(Special.)—It is not often a good story of National interest comes out of a Washington police court. Today a colored preacher was awaiting his turn to testify in Judge Kimball's courtroom, and while waiting he told of a dream he had had.

"Ah dreamed ah was in heaven the other night. As ah stood jest inside de golden gate dar comes ah, rap and George Washington was announced by St. Peter.

"Let him come up an' sit on mah right side," said de good Lawd, who was sittin' on de throne.

"Pretty soon there wuz anothah knock, an' Abraham Likum was announced by St. Peter.

"Let him sit or mah left side," said de Lawd.

"Den ah heard a terrible knockin' at de gate, an' de angels all trembled, and den he turned 'round' an' sed to de Lawd: 'You'll have to get down an' give him your seat, Lawd. It's Mister Roosevelt.'"

## LABOR UNIONS TO BLAME

### Ellot Says They Prevent Training of Young in Trades.

BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 28.—(Special.)—In the rooms of the Twentieth Century Club today the Massachusetts State child-labor committee was organized. President Charles W. Elliot, of Harvard, the principal speaker, said he was interested in the child-labor question almost entirely from the educational standpoint. He said:

"In this state a child of 14 years, when having the grammar school, is absolutely untrained to become a skilled laborer, and as a consequence takes a position in which there is little hope of advancement. A child of 15 is little better fitted. We need very much that co-operation which proves so beneficial in Germany and we seriously need to do something for children between the ages of 14 and 16. 'Labor unions are mainly responsible for these conditions. They seek to monopolize the skilled labor of the country, restricting the number of apprentices to less than is absolutely needed to fill the demands of skilled labor. These exist and I am sorry to confess that I do not know what can be done to improve them while the labor organizations are run as they are.'"

## FLEET TO PUT ON PAINT

### Navy Department Orders Slate Color for Vessels on West Coast.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—(Special.)—The Navy Department has ordered that war color be applied to those naval vessels on the west coast of the United States. Accordingly a slate color will be applied to the West Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Tennessee, Washington, California, South Dakota, St. Louis, Oregon, Buffalo, Milwaukee and Rainbow. The ships' forces will do the painting.

## HEAVY STORMS IN KANSAS

### Will Benefit Wheat Crops in Three States.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 28.—A heavy rain and snow, the latter from six to 12 inches in depth in some places, has fallen all over Southwest Kansas, in Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle, and as far west as New Mexico, during the past 24 hours. The wheat crop will be greatly benefited by this moisture.

## ROB TRAIN OF \$125,000

### Russian Bandits Kill Three and Wound One in Hold-up.

TROITSKOSAVREK, Russia, Nov. 28.—A local mail train was attacked today by a band of robbers while running between Kizhi and Ugra. The thieves got away with \$125,000. Three of the train escorts were killed and one severely wounded.

## EUROPEAN POWERS SUPPORT TREATY

### Nations Lend Sympathy to Japan and U. S.

## SOVES EASTERN QUESTION

### Believed Agreement Will Maintain Peace of China.

## IS READY FOR SIGNATURE

### Baron Takahira in Conference With Secretary Bacon Leads to Belief That Text Will Soon Be Made Public.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—(Special.)—Cordial support of and sympathy with the ends sought to be obtained by Japan and the United States in the agreement respecting China and the Pacific as outlined in the Associated Press dispatches printed today, has been given by some and, it is believed, will be given by all the nations of Europe having interests in that section of the world. Its influence in maintaining the status quo on the Pacific and the peace of China is considered to be great enough to make the agreement second to few recorded in recent pages of the world's history.

The reluctance of the State Department on the subject permitted comparatively little to become public concerning the negotiations and this little was confined to the announcement that there would be a restatement of the positions of both countries regarding China, designated, it is said, to clear up any misapprehension that might exist.

### Ready for Signature.

That the negotiations have progressed to the point of actual signature of the agreement, thus indicating a tacit acquiescence in the course by the other nations having large interests in the Far East, marks, so diplomatic officials assert, a decided step in the solution of the Eastern question. The American Government has fully sounded the nations of the world having interests in Asia as to their attitude on the subject of the new agreement. These included the governments which heartily gave their assurances to the "open door" policy, warmly advocated and consistently urged by John Hay, while Secretary of State. Answers have already been received from some of them.

Having reached an entire accord on the principles of the agreement, all that remains to be done is to agree on the text. This work has made splendid progress, and it was said at the State Department today that in all probability the agreement would soon be made public. Baron Takahira, the Japanese Ambassador, called at the State Department today and remained for some time in conference with Acting Secretary Bacon.

### Covers Period of Years.

The agreement reached between Japan and the United States is the culmination of a long line of conventions, treaties and understandings between the two countries, dating back to the controversy over the Japanese school question in San Francisco, which, for a time, in the minds of some persons, threatened a rupture of the friendly relations of the two countries. That was settled amicably. Later there was a copyright and trade-mark convention; an arbitration treaty; a prompt answer to an invitation by Japan to participate in the Tokyo Exposition, and, last of all, the visit of the battleship fleet, the rapid succession of which events in the minds of the State Department officials has but tended to strengthen good feeling between the two nations, which is now vitalized by

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## LAST WEEK'S DOINGS SKETCHED BY HARRY MURPHY

