

HERMANN ON STAND

Denies Allegations Set Forth By Prosecution

BRANDS MELDRUM LIAR

Hermann's Evidence is Corroborated by Chas. Holmstrom and Mrs. Moda Silverstein—Evidence is Direct Denial.

(Special to The Evening News.) PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 1.—On the witness stand in the federal court today Blinger Hermann is denying bit by bit the case built up against him by the government. Briefly his witnesses have entered absolute denial to the testimony of Henry Meldrum, and scorn the general relationship alleged to have existed between Hermann and Mays. The witnesses also doubt the statements made by witnesses for the government who gave testimony to the effect that Hermann and Meldrum had discussed the creation of the Blue Mountain reserve in the office of the latter.

Charles Holmstrom denied the testimony of H. L. Patterson, of Oregon, a witness for the prosecution, who testified to the effect that he had seen Hermann, Meldrum and Mays closeted in an office, apparently discussing matters pertaining to the reserve. In making the denial Holmstrom said emphatically that he had never seen the men together as purported.

Mrs. Moda Silverstein denied that she was ever spoken to by Meldrum relative to buying school lands, thus shaping Meldrum's testimony as a lie.

Hermann is now on the witness stand and is revealing what he knows regarding the government case, controverting in every instance the evidence as adduced by witnesses for the prosecution. Relative to meeting Meldrum in the latter's office Hermann advanced an emphatic denial, stating that he never discussed the Blue Mountain reserve with Meldrum or Mays. Hermann also denied advising Meldrum to purchase school lands or that he discussed the reserve or its survey with him. He also denied instructing Meldrum to give Mrs. Silverstein a chance to purchase school lands within the boundary of the survey. Briefly, Hermann's evidence is a direct denial of the evidence adduced by the prosecution.

Portland, Feb. 1.—Flat denials of testimony adduced by the government were made yesterday not only by Blinger Hermann, who took the stand on his own behalf, but by others, including two women. Probably the most telling testimony brought out was that given by a former messenger under Hermann at Washington, who said he had walked in on Hermann and Benson in the commissioner's office and heard Hermann say in wrath, "damn you, Benson, don't you come here and make such a proposition to me."

Hermann was self-possessed. He responded to questions firmly and at times was dramatic in assuring the jury his assertions were true.

In the morning session Attorney Worthington had prepared the way for Hermann's testimony by calling Mrs. Moda Silverstein, his sister and Watchman Holmstrom, of the Salem capitol, all of whom contradicted the testimony of the most important witnesses for the government, ex-Surveyor General Meldrum.

Messenger Aids Defense.

The defense had placed nine prominent citizens of Oregon on the witness stand to testify as to the good character and reputation of Hermann for honesty and integrity. Then evidence was cited from the Washington trial to show it might have been possible for letters, upon which the prosecution lays much stress, to pass through the general land office without the knowledge of Hermann. C. H. Muller, messenger at the Washington office in the regime of Hermann, and a witness for the government, was recalled to show that Hermann and John A. Benson, the California land manipulator and partner of F. A. Hyde, were unfriendly.

Editorial is Cited.

Harvey W. Scott, editor of the Oregonian, testified that he had known Hermann for 40 years. As editor of the Oregonian, Mr. Scott said that he was brought in contact with public sentiment, knew the feeling of the people to some general course of opinion regarding public men and measures. Mr. Scott knew Mr. Hermann through his career as a public officer and politician. They had been mutual friends. The witness said Hermann's reputation for honesty and integrity as a man and citizen had been good, and that it had never been questioned to his knowledge until the accusations leading to the present trial were made. Mr. Scott said his differences with Hermann in politics had been great.

In cross-examination Attorney Heney submitted an editorial in the Oregonian of July 25, 1901, headed: "Hermann's Discovery." Mr. Scott could not say that he wrote the editorial, but said it embodied a good deal of his own thought at the time, and that the article was an echo of the criticism of the manner in which the public lands were being then

handled and which continued until a congressional investigation was ordered.

Attorney Heney read the editorial to the jury. It called attention to a telegram received from Hermann in which he informed the Oregonian that he would not create more forest reserves in Oregon until the lieu land law should be changed. Mr. Scott may be recalled for further cross-examination.

Phil Metschan, Sr., said Hermann's reputation was pronounced good. In cross-examination Attorney Heney showed Metschan is opposed to land fraud prosecutions, and that he is the owner of one of the coal claims in Alaska which precipitated the congressional investigation now in progress.

"Your hotel is the headquarters of republicans from all over the state?" asked Attorney Heney.

"Yes," replied the witness. "Which faction meets there?" "There are no factions in the party now," replied Metschan. "but in the old days the Mitchell crowd came to the Imperial. Hermann never took much part either way. He was never an extreme Mitchell man."

"You own one of the coal claims in Alaska, don't you?" said Heney. "Yes. It belongs to the Seattle-Alaska Anthracite Coal company and was located by a man named Green. I have never seen it."

Judge Wolvorton remarked that he had allowed a violation of the rule regarding proof of character to be confined to six persons because of the distinguished positions of the witnesses.

Meldrum's Testimony Denied.

Mrs. Moda Silverstein, of Portland, contradicted the testimony given by ex-Surveyor General Meldrum that Hermann had requested him to give Mrs. Silverstein a clerical position and later wrote to Meldrum suggesting that he have Mrs. Silverstein invest her savings in school lands in the Blue Mountain reserve. Mrs. Silverstein denied that Meldrum or Hermann had ever given her such advice. She said when R. A. Haverham was surveyor-general for this state Hermann had been instrumental in procuring her a position in that office because of favors her father had been able to extend Hermann, who was then in congress. She held the position three weeks. Then, she said, not hearing more from Meldrum, she called at his office in company with her sister to ask for a position, and was discouraged. Mrs. Silverstein said there was never any conversation about school lands and that she had not called at the office of Meldrum at any other time.

Letters Roll Heney.

Attorney Worthington in reading letters written by Mrs. Silverstein, was interrupted by Attorney Heney, who accused the defense of appealing to the sympathies of the jurors. Worthington resented the imputation and was allowed to proceed. The letters recounted the straightened circumstances in which Mrs. Silverstein was left by the death of her husband.

"Never, never, never," exclaimed Mrs. Silverstein when asked if she had heard of the plan which Meldrum testified was suggested concerning the recommendation that she buy school lands in the Blue Mountains.

Mrs. Sam S. Goldsmith, a sister of Mrs. Silverstein, testified that she accompanied her to the office of Meldrum, and that nothing was said about school lands. Mrs. Goldsmith said she did not believe her sister made a second visit to Meldrum.

C. A. Holmstrom, night watchman of the capitol at Salem, was an important witness for the defense. Holmstrom, who was testified by H. L. Patterson, had accompanied Patterson to the office of Surveyor-General Meldrum and saw Mays and Hermann there in September, 1901. Holmstrom testified that he was positive that he had never seen Mays or Hermann in the office of the Surveyor-General. On cross-examination Holmstrom remained unshaken.

Attorney Heney was able to show that Holmstrom had a bad memory and could not recall the birthdays of his four children or on what day he was married. Holmstrom said he had been asked by Patterson if he remembered seeing Hermann in the office of Meldrum. After telling Patterson he could not recall the incident, Patterson testified Holmstrom said "neither could I until Meldrum refreshed my memory."

In an endeavor to show that Hermann was not on friendly terms with the California land manipulators, Hyde and Benson, the defense called a former witness for the government, C. H. Muller. The witness was a messenger at the general land office under Hermann and had access to all the offices. Muller said he walked into the office of Hermann one day in 1901 and found John A. Benson there. They were talking loudly, he said, and as Muller entered Hermann rose from behind his desk and said: "Damn you, Benson, don't you come here and make such a proposition to me." Muller did not know what caused Hermann's wrath, but noticed that Benson "packed up and got out."

THREE COSTLY PRIZES

To Be Given Away By Roseburg Commercial Club

MEMBERS ARE NEEDED

Darby Richardson Urges That Citizens of Douglas County Unite and Boost—Holdbacks Fall in the Background.

The record of the mossbacks and the holdbacks is a plain one. Simply that in one year the club membership dwindled. It is now about 125, as against 175 a year ago. And with a lifeless Commercial Club Roseburg progressed slowly.

On the basis of 500 members the initiation fees and monthly dues will be apportioned approximately 40 per cent for the social features of the club and 60 per cent for publicity work.

Boosting is a misnomer if the citizens of Douglas county do not boost all together. One good long pull by all for one year and Douglas county and Roseburg are out of the slough.

The renaissance of Roseburg and the Roseburg Commercial club is now at hand. The building up to a higher plane has begun and will steadily continue. Intelligent advertising has commenced and will continue. Money will be needed for the work, and it is coming in and will continue.

Knocking and not boosting, apathy instead of enthusiasm have clearly demonstrated what will happen to a Commercial Club when inter-cine strife begins. In this particular it is the Roseburg Commercial Club and the community which the club was designed to build up and promote that have been the sufferers.

Money is not the sole requisite to successful advancement of Douglas county interests. Soul and spirit must be put into the body of the people. Assurance must be honestly given to capital and industries which we seek to attract, that henceforth every effort will be exerted by the community to provide those facilities which are indispensable to the success of new ventures.

The Roseburg Commercial Club should live up to its name. There are hundreds of good men, enterprising men, in Douglas county, and Roseburg, who are not members. Many of them have been reached by the progressiveness of the Commercial club's new publicity department. They are now asked to show their faith in the future of the county and city, and in the work of the publicity department, by becoming members of the Commercial Club.

Five hundred members is to be the 1910 slogan. Realization of this ambition should come soon. To hasten the securing of 500 members the initiation fee will be lowered during the present month of February to \$5, with monthly dues of \$1, for citizens of Roseburg. For residents of Douglas county the initiation fee is \$5 also, with total yearly dues of \$4, payable quarterly.

The publicity manager announces that he will present three beautiful prizes to the persons securing the greatest number of new members during the present month of February. The sole condition is that the initiation fee and first month's dues must accompany the application. The first prize is a ladies' solid gold watch, Elgin movement, solid gold case, 15 jewels; the second prize is a solid silver berry spoon, with gold lined bowl, and the third prize is a genuine cut glass berry bowl. The several prizes are now on exhibition in the show window of Jeweler Clingenpeel. Any one of the three prizes may be exchanged for something else of equal value.

Aspirants for the three prizes to be given for securing new members to the Roseburg Commercial Club should go immediately to the office of the publicity manager and obtain application cards. Any person desiring to join the club will surely have the opportunity of doing so through some of the contestants for membership prizes. The lady or gentleman who obtains the largest number of new members during February will receive first prize; the one nearest, second prize, and the next nearest the third prize.

All together. Boosting—not knocking. 500 members. Let us have a real, live, representative Commercial club. For Sale. Good piano, price \$400. Terms can be had if desired. Address A. C. Pattimore, general delivery, Roseburg.

JAMES LOGAN TO DIE

Will Be Hanged in Washington Next Week

VISITED IN ROSEBURG

Negotiated for the Purchase of Farm Through Farmers' Real Estate Company—Gave Worthless Check for \$5,000.

LOGAN TO HANG.

James F. Logan, alias William Frederick Jahns, Frank Romandorff and William F. Smutz, who is condemned to die on the gallows according to the following article taken from the Spokesman-Review, visited Roseburg about a year ago and negotiated for the purchase of a farm through the Farmers' Real Estate Company. In part payment he presented a check on a Washington bank in the sum of \$5,000, which upon investigation proved to be worthless. Before the check was returned, however, Logan was gone. Later he was captured by the Washington officials and taken to Colville to answer to the charge of murdering his former housekeeper, Mrs. Agnes Johnson.

COLVILLE, Wash., Feb. 1.—Facing Judge Carey with no sign of emotion and a ghastly grin on his wrinkled face, William Frederick Jahns, alias James F. Logan, was this morning sentenced to be hanged for the murder of Mrs. Agnes J. Janson, his German housekeeper, near Bissell postoffice, October 23, 1909. Judge Carey overruled the motion for arrest of judgment and for a new trial when Attorney Joseph, for the defense, made exception to the ruling in each instance.

When "Logan" was told he would be hanged by the neck he nodded his head approvingly, but his countenance did not change. He stood like a piece of statuary and looked the judge straight in the eyes. He looked away once, to glance at the clock. While waiting for court to open, "Logan" chatted and laughed at his attorney.

This is the first death sentence passed in Stevens county superior court since statehood, and the second execution ordered in its history, the last being an Indian hung in the jail yard in 1883.

Colville, Wash., Feb. 1.—In a last effort to save the neck of William Frederick Jahns, alias Frank Romandorff, alias James F. Logan, who was convicted of the murder of his German housekeeper, Mrs. Agnes J. Janson, and sentenced to be hanged at the state penitentiary at Walla Walla, his attorney, Joseph and Grinstead today filed their notice of appeal to the supreme court.

SUSPECT MURDER NOT ACCIDENT

(Special to The Evening News.)

BENEZIA, Cal., Feb. 1.—Murder and not accident is believed today to have caused the death of Mrs. Marguerite McGuire, who perished in her home which was destroyed by fire yesterday. Later developments caused Coroner Klotz to call District Attorney Haines, Sheriff McDonald and other officers into consultation, at which time he informed them that he had found circumstances which tended to substantiate the theory of foul play. The bones of the woman were found in the charred remains of what appeared to have been the trunk and shoulders, while the skull of the aged woman was found near her feet.

MORE BODIES ARE RECOVERED TODAY

(Special to The Evening News.)

PRIMERO, Colo., Feb. 1.—With the discovery of three more bruised and torn bodies today the number of men known to have lost their lives in the explosion at the coal mine owned by the Colorado Fuel company is increased to 27. When the explosion occurred there were 150 men at work in the mine, 70 of whom are either dead or entombed in the tunnels under tons of rock.

DO YOU WANT TO SELL? If you want to sell your business of any kind, or if you want to sell your property, and will make the price right, I would like to hear from you. Give description and price. Address J. E. Smith, 513 Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Ore. f24d

STRANGER FOUND DEAD

Hangs Himself in a Barn Near Oakland

CORONER IS CALLED

Is Found Hanging From a Rafter—Used a Check Line as Noose—Apparently 45 Years of Age—Leaves Family.

A telephone message was received in the city from Dr. Page, of Oakland, shortly before noon today, to the effect that a man by the name of Arnold, a recent arrival in that section of the county, had been found hanging from a rafter in his barn at an early hour this morning, all evidence tending to show that death was the result of strangulation.

When interviewed by phone this afternoon Dr. Page said that the deceased was apparently 45 years of age and that little was known of him in the vicinity of Oakland. He arrived at Oakland, so it appears, but a few months ago and purchased a small ranch a short distance from the city, where he has since resided.

When discovered the remains were still warm, showing that he had committed the tragic deed shortly before. He leaves a family to mourn his loss. It is said that he resided in the Willamette valley prior to coming to Oakland.

Coroner Jewett left for Oakland on this afternoon's train to hold an inquest over the remains.

(Special to The Evening News.)

OAKLAND, Ore., Feb. 1.—William Arnolds, who came to Oakland from Idaho in December last, committed suicide this morning by hanging himself with a tether in a barn on his farm one mile north of this city. No cause is assigned for the act. On account of financial reverses before coming to Oakland, together with ill health, no doubt temporarily unbalanced his mind. He is survived by a wife and six children who reside in Oakland. A mother and brother lives in Washington.

Miss Ellen Gertrude Harth, teacher of vocal and piano. Studio at Oak and Kane sts, Care of Mrs. A. C. Marsters. f8

1/4 OFF DON'T DELAY BUYING ONE OF THOSE GOOD HARTH'S TOGGERY SUITS. \$15.00 Suit or Overcoat ..... \$11.25. \$18.00 Suit or Overcoat ..... \$13.50. \$20.00 Suit or Overcoat ..... \$15.00. \$22.50 Suit or Overcoat ..... \$16.95. \$25.00 Suit or Overcoat ..... \$18.75. This Winter-Weight Regal Style Has The New York Custom Tag. The original of this identical Regal style is now on display in one of the most exclusive and highest-price custom shoe shops in New York—and is now being worn by the best-dressed New Yorkers. This Regal style is made of heavy Oil-grain leather, especially for winter wear. REGAL SHOES. give the same perfect fit and comfort as custom-built shoes—because they are made in quarter-sizes. We would like you to compare our latest Regal models with any other shoes in town—for we know that Regals will gain by the comparison. Harth's Toggery