

CONFESSES TO MURDER

J. P. Webb, a Printer, Killed Johnson.

ROW WAS OVER WOMAN

Prisoners Entered into Details Concerning Horrible Crime that May Send Him to the Gallows.

(Special to Evening News.)

PORTLAND, June 22.—Following the confession of J. P. Webb late yesterday afternoon, in which he claimed that he killed Johnson in a fight over Mrs. Kersh, as the woman's real name proved to be, the police are now endeavoring to discover what has become of the \$25,000 that the woman stated the murdered man received for his ranch near Renton, Washington. Nineteen hundred dollars were found in the woman's stocking when she was taken to the police station. This money was given her by Johnson shortly before Webb killed him, but there is no possible way of accounting for the balance of the \$25,000. Webb told the police a story of a fight in which Johnson was the aggressor, and that he killed him in self defense, but the statement is not believed. It is common opinion that robbery was the motive for the crime and that the woman and Webb conspired to lure Johnson from Spokane for this express purpose, and while it is thought that possibly murder was not at first considered, the crime grew out of the attempt to rob Johnson. The woman is the divorced wife of Bert Kersh, a Seattle electrician, and she stole their seven-year-old son from him at Seattle last November. Kersh is now enroute to Portland to take his little son home with him.

In confession to Deputy District Attorney Fitzgerald, Webb said that he was 45 years old, was born in Iowa, married Lena Samuelson in Axtell, Neb., came to the Pacific coast 10 years ago, and that his wife and two daughters, aged 22 and 17, reside at 212 Eleventh avenue, Seattle. He said he met Mrs. Kersh six years ago and that last November they decided to run away.

"We went to Vancouver, B. C.," said Webb, "and after remaining there a short time she went to San Francisco and I went to Nelson, B. C. I was foreman in the composing room of the Nelson News. Last

April she joined me in Nelson and worked in the 'ad' department of the Spokesman-Review. I never heard of Johnson until three weeks before we came to Portland. She told me about him, but I never saw him until we were on the train on the way to Portland.

"She told me in Spokane that she intended to leave me and go with Johnson. I did not want her to go, but she went anyway. I had our trunks sent to the depot and paid the expressman but did not check her trunks. I checked my own. That was Sunday night. On the train I met Johnson in the buffet car and we had a drink together and talked about various things. Johnson did not know that the woman was anything to me and I said nothing about her to him. She came out and sat on the rear platform with us awhile and I may have passed a remark or two with her. That was all. When I got up in the morning we were 40 miles out from Portland. Johnson was already up and we had a little talk.

"Johnson and I had a few drinks in the barroom and then they went to breakfast. I went out and returned later for my breakfast. I met Johnson again and he wanted to show me the town. He had been here before. We went to the park and walked back, stopping at several saloons on the way to the hotel. The woman was not with us. At the hotel Johnson became quarrelsome, accusing me of trying to steal the woman. We went to my room and he quarreled again. Then he went to their room. That was between 1 and 2 o'clock. I went downstairs, got a bottle of beer and took it to my room. I asked Johnson in to have a drink and forget it. He drank a glass of beer and carried a drink to the woman. When he came back he was sore again. Then I went into their room and we all had a drink of whiskey out of a bottle. Then I went back to my room.

"She went out and I went back to their room again. We had a drink and Johnson said he would fix me. He began to smash at me and I defended myself. Then he pulled a 'blackjack' out of his hip pocket and struck at me. I took it away from him and beat him over the head with it. I did not down him the first time I struck him and hit again. I do not know whether I hit two or three times before he went down on the bed. After he was down I hit several times more over the head. Then I went to my room. In about 20 minutes I went back to his room to examine him and see if he was dead. I felt of his heart and knew he was dead. She then came upstairs and I told her what I had done."

Charged With Murder.

PORTLAND, June 22.—Carrie E. Kersh and Jesse Webb were arraigned in the municipal court today and

GOOD RAILWAY TALK

Mr. Clark Makes No Boastful Statements.

NOT BOND SPECULATORS

His Company Has Quietly Gone About the Work of Survey—Profits Filled—Much has Been Accomplished.

Francis H. Clarke, president of the Coos Bay & Oregon Central Ry. Co., arrived in this city this morning from Portland where he has been for several days attending to some business pertaining to the company. Before going to Portland, Mr. Clarke made a visit to Boise, where he says the people are very enthusiastic over the proposed road. In an interview with a News representative shortly after his arrival this morning, Mr. Clarke stated that he could not say when actual construction work would be started, but he was prevailed upon to make the following statement:

"The public rarely considers the details of a project which is not already put into material form. They are, therefore, impatient and that is the reason they often give their support prematurely to projects which have not been carefully worked out. We have tried to avoid all the representations and suggestions which may mislead, and we have been anxious only to do our work scientifically and substantially. For this reason we have worked quietly and without any effort at publicity.

"The result is that we have our line surveyed and permanently located, and have filed our profiles, with complete data, with the syndicate which is behind the project. Many unauthorized reports have been circulated which represent us as being in the market to sell bonds. We have never been in the market for such a purpose, and the men who first proposed the construction of this road are still behind it. There has been no change, and there will be none, because there is only one concern which is really interested in building a road between Coos Bay and Roseburg. The people of Roseburg ought to realize that no particular good will drop down upon them without cultivation. They will do well to have faith in all projects for their benefit which are honestly and earnestly undertaken. If I should say to you that our road is a certainty, it would not particularly inspire the man who is determined not to have faith. Naturally, we have no announcements to make, because announcements are no part of a construction proposition. However, I will say, and the people will accept it for what it is worth, that Roseburg and Coos Bay are nearer to a connecting railroad than they have ever been before, and that we have demonstrated much up-to-date and will demonstrate more as time goes on."

"The fact that Mr. Clarke is in the city is evidence in itself that something is being done toward starting preparations.

In Mr. Clarke's opinion, the new road, which, when completed, will operate through an entirely new country direct from Boise to Marshfield, passing through Roseburg, will not only lower railroad freight rates, but it will also make it possible to ship freight by water from Coos Bay to New York City through the Panama Canal. And as Marshfield is to be the terminal of the road it will, of course, be the chief commercial center. But Roseburg has a grand water power supply, which, according to Mr. Clarke's way of thinking, will naturally make this city a great manufacturing center.

SHIP AHOY BIG SUCCESS.

Armory Was Crowded Last Evening to Witness Play.

The Armory hall was fairly crowded to the guards last evening to witness the comic opera, "Ship Ahoy," staged by Prof. Fred Carlyle and presented under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary. It was a musical treat for all and full of life from the beginning until the curtain was drawn at the close of the last act.

Allie Black and Lucy Bridges, the prima donnas, and Arrie Black, the soubrette, were supported by excellent choruses of pretty girls who can, and did sing, to the delight of the large audience. Miss Gertrude Rast, as Mrs. Jones, was a decided hit and kept the audience in an uproar while the Misses Har-

charged with the murder of Johnson. Both the man and woman waived preliminary examination and were bound over to appear before the grand jury. The trial will follow speedily. Mr. Kersh, the father of the little boy who accompanied the woman, appeared before the court and asked for the custody of the child, alleging that his mother, who deserted him some years ago, stole his little son from his home in Seattle November last. A. H. Davis, proprietor of the Willamette rooming house, also asked for the child. The matter was taken under consideration by the court.

riet Barker and Florence Kidd carried their parts out in a clever manner. Christie, the property boy, an important character that fell to the lot of Mark Alexander, was a "stuttering" success and could not have been carried out better by a professional. The sailors of the Turtle, including Wendall Bell, Ben B. Bullwinkle, Dr. F. H. Vincil and Guy Wollenberg, all had an important part which was presented with much credit.

Each number of the program was heartily encored and responded to in a becoming manner. Fred Carlyle, as manager of an opera company, was at his best last night and B. E. Steel the boatswain's mate and Harry Hildeburn, as Captain Luggins, carried out their part of the program in first-class shape. With Miss Merta Bales as musical director "Ship Ahoy" was the hit of the season. The play will be repeated this evening and all those who were not fortunate in being present last evening should avail themselves of the opportunity of witnessing this operatic extravaganza.

RENO WARMLY WELCOMES JEFF

(Special to Evening News.)

RENO, June 22.—Jeffries was warmly welcomed when he arrived here, and will begin training this afternoon at Mona Springs. Things are going forward lively; teams are already hauling lumber to State Park for the arena, and work on the structure will be rushed to completion. The place is about a mile from the center of town and near the railroad tracks. All rooms in the city have practically been reserved and cots are at a premium. Many are setting up tents which will be used as sleeping places.

BIG STICK FORCES ADOPTION OF BILL

(Special to Evening News.)

WASHINGTON, June 22.—Although insurgents and demerats in the senate protested against the acceptance of the house postal savings bank bill, a test vote today indicates that Taft's big stick methods forced enough regulars into line to insure the passage of the measure. Insurgents and demerats will make a hard fight against the bill, but their efforts will probably avail little and it will be passed with trifling delay.

ON VERGE REVOLUTION

Election Farce in Mexico Arouses the People.

IMPRISONED OPPONENT

President Diaz, not Liking Liberal Candidate for Presidency, Sends Him to the Penitentiary—Meetings Broken Up.

(Special to Evening News.)

MONTEREY, Mexico, June 22.—Madero, the Liberal candidate for the presidency of Mexico, running opposition to Diaz, the present incumbent, has been lodged in the penitentiary here today at the order of the administration. The charge of insulting the government was first pressed against Madero then he was arrested, but later was changed to inciting a riot. This last move on the part of Diaz, the Liberals declare, indicate that the election Sunday will be a farce. Revolutionists throughout the country are thoroughly aroused and the entire population of the republic is boiling with excitement. It is believed that the coming election will be the most bloody one in the history of Mexico. Meetings called for the purpose of denouncing the government for the arrest of Madero were broken up by the police.

TO REDUCE FIRE LOSS.

Supervisor Bartrum Making Extensive Preparations Along Line.

Supervisor Bartrum informed a News reporter he was making extensive preparations to reduce the annual fire loss the coming season.

He is establishing tool stations at advantageous points within the forest. These stations, about fifty in number, consist of a substantial shed 12x14 feet, under which will be constructed a tool box six feet long, three feet deep and three feet wide. These boxes will be covered with 1-3 inch tray wire netting to prevent food supplies being destroyed by rats and mice. A number of shovels, axes, mattocks and other fire-fighting tools will be constantly stored at these stations. Whenever there is a fire discovered in the vicinity of one of them forest officers can immediately go there and sup-

press it before it gets under headway. Otherwise delays would be necessary if they were compelled to secure tools and provisions elsewhere. It is presumed that the traveling public can also take advantage of these tools in the event of fire that they may accidentally start or find burning in route of travel. The convenience of this method will certainly insure a greater protection than any system heretofore originated.

The people are beginning to realize more than ever the great value of this wonderful resource. Mr. Bartrum states that Douglas county alone has forty billion feet of timber worth a hundred million dollars. When this timber is manufactured and exploited, fully fifty-five per cent of its manufactured value goes for labor, supplies, etc. Therefore, every citizen and enterprise within the state are benefitted directly or indirectly.

So the destruction of this resource by fire is a greater loss to the people than it is to the owner, since he has only the stumpage value. Mr. Bartrum also states that the forest service is co-operating with companies and individuals outside of the national forest to prevent destructive forest fires.

IS HIGHLY PLEASED.

And Gives Some Good Advice to Prohibitors and Church Folks.

Editor News:—The school election is over. We have elected a splendid new director. He is a new man in our community, but he will prove a hummer. The church folks and the prohibitors seemed to want the other man, but my advice to them is not to feel sore. We all have to take our medicine at times. I have no objection to Mr. Nichols, the prohibitor candidate, but Mr. Marshall was my man and we won out. The majority was only six, but it was enough to show which way the wind blows. Any talk about our new director not being a permanent resident and taxpayer is all rot. He owns a cigar store in Roseburg. My advice to any set of men is if they can't run things their way, don't get sulky. Some of our citizens did noble service in carrying the helpless to the polls in autos.

T. B. G.

BORN.

CLEMENTS.—At Mercy hospital, in this city, June 22, 1910, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clements, a daughter.

Mrs. Etta Weaver, who has been visiting her sister, Miss Cassey Weaver, in this city, returned to her home in Elkton this morning.

CLOSING OUT SALE

I have to vacate my store for repairs. I will offer my entire stock, beginning Monday, June 20, at 9 a. m., at prices you can't afford to miss.

Table listing various tobacco products and their prices per pound, including Dixie Queen, Gold Shore, Mail Pouch, Pedro, Peerless, Red Bell, Union Leader, Climax, Drummond, Gold Rope, Granger Twist, Horse Shoe, Honey Dip, Spear Head, Standard Navy, Star, Days Work, and Westover.

Table listing various household goods and their prices, including All 50 cent Baking Powder, Tea, Coffee, Catsup, and Package Goods.

Wash Bowls and Pitchers. \$1
7-inch Plates, per set. 55c
Teacups and Saucers. 60c
All 25 cent Washing Powder. 20c
Everything in the store will be reduced in price. Some things below cost.

A. S. FREY

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