



The Evening News

Daily Weather Report

Fair Tonight and Tuesday.
Highest temp. yesterday... 58
Lowest temp. last night... 31

VOL. VII.

ROSEBURG, DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1916.

No. 50

PLAMAN CASE NOW IN COURT

Sewing Machine Agent Accused of Burning Dwelling.

MANY WITNESSES ARE EXAMINED

Man's Actions Are Traced and Used As Evidence—Many of the State's Claims Are Admitted.

The court room was well filled this morning with the many citizens who were desirous of hearing the testimony introduced in the case of the State vs. Plaman, accused of arson. The jury was chosen shortly after 10 o'clock and the attorneys stated their case to the jury. According to the statements of District Attorney Neuner, the state will endeavor to prove that on the night of December 21, a fire was discovered in the house owned by Mrs. E. R. Hanan, situated on the corner of Douglas and Fowler streets and which was occupied by the defendant, Wm. F. Plaman. That shortly after the fire was discovered by two girls, Audrey Wallace and Doris Miller, a man came from the shadow cast by the trees in front of the property and started down Douglas street towards town. That the girls called to him, telling him that the house was on fire and that he asked for the location of a telephone and that upon being told there was one at Harry Kenney's house, walked to that residence and asked Mr. Kenney to turn in an alarm.

Two days before the fire occurred, Mr. Plaman took out an insurance policy of \$1,000, covering his furniture and sewing machines for which he was an agent. That he represented to the insurance agent that there were eight machines in the house and when an examination was made only five of an old design could be found. Upon leaving the house in the evening it is claimed by the state that he went to the Methodist church where a celebration was being given by the W. C. T. U., accompanying his wife and a neighbor lady. Upon reaching the church he stated that he desired to mail a letter and left them, going to the postoffice. They claim that in regard to his movements after this time the defendant has made conflicting statements, one being that he returned home to obtain an umbrella and the other that he had left the kitchen door unlocked.

The state will also try to prove that on the night of the 21st Mr. Plaman purchased kerosene at one of the local stores and that following the fire partially burned blankets which had been saturated with kerosene were found in the burned building.

Mr. Herman, who appears for Mr. Plaman, in presenting the defendant's case, stated that his client came to this country about five years ago and settled in the Swedish colony. He lost his land there through a misfortune and then came to Roseburg where he engaged as a sewing machine agent. He rented a house from Mrs. Hanan known as the London property, situated on the corner of Fowler and Douglas streets, the house being known as one of the oldest in the city. The defense admitted nearly every claim made by the state and expects to account for every one of them. It is admitted that Mr. Plaman took out an insurance policy two days before the fire occurred and the shortage in sewing machines is accounted for by the fact that two had been sold, while several more were out on approval. In regard to the statements which the state claims are damaging to Mr. Plaman, both are accredited, it being claimed by Mr. Plaman that he returned not only on account of having an umbrella, but also because he was certain he had left the door unlocked. Upon reaching the house he says that he found it aflame and that upon entrance fell over some article of furniture and was then forced from the room by the flames.

It is claimed that a dozen condi-

RUMORED WATER AND LIGHT PLANT SOLD

It is rumored on the streets today that A. Welch, owner of the Douglas County Water & Light Company, has sold his interests to Mr. Pullman, of Portland. Although not confirmation of the report can be obtained, the rumor is persistent and the final papers will probably be taken out in a few days.

tion, as the effects of the severe fall and the sudden shock of finding the house afire accounted for the lack of haste displayed by Mr. Plaman in summoning aid. In regard to the kerosene purchased, the house was lighted by kerosene lamps and this was necessary to provide lights. The blankets found were used by Mr. Plaman as lap robes when driving about the country and when found were under a stairway which was still intact. In case the state endeavored to prove that the fire on the two succeeding nights were started by the defendant, Mr. Herman stated that he would prove a complete alibi for those nights.

Mrs. Hanan was the first witness called and testified as to her ownership of the house, giving the age of the premises as 53 years. Upon cross examination she drew a map of the house, showing location of rooms, stairway, stove, etc. Martin Ridell, who was boarding at the house was called and testified as to Mr. Plaman's going to the church and leaving to go to the postoffice. The matter of Mr. Ridell's trunk which was examined by the sheriff was also inquired into, Mr. Ridell stating that everything was intact, nothing having been taken.

Miss Audrey Wallace stated that she was standing across the street and noticed a red glare on the snow. At the same time she saw a man coming from the building, and whom she believed to be Mr. Plaman. The claims of the state in regard to the man's movements were supported by her testimony. The reason for her being at the place at the time the fire occurred was accounted for by the fact that her companion, Doris Miller left the Palace theatre where she was employed at 9:30 and went to her home to change her shoes and obtain rubbers before going to the New Years ball at the Armory.

Miss Miller substantiated the testimony of Miss Wallace. Neither were closely cross-examined. Other witnesses were called by the state who merely substantiated the testimony formerly introduced or sustained the claims made by the district attorney in opening. Among the witnesses called were W. H. Kenney, Ella Stewart, John Long, Jessie M. Compton, Geo. K. Quine, E. C. Benson, Mrs. G. W. Prior and T. A. Rafferty.

Attorney Herman, for the defense, admitted the greater part of the claims of the state, merely attempting to account for the actions of his client. He first called a number of character witnesses, among them being C. M. Hermann, John Blomberg, W. S. Powell, Oscar Hansan, A. J. Lingren and J. B. King. On Mr. King's testimony the defense based their theory of the blankets bearing traces of kerosene which were found by the sheriff. The blankets contained only a faint trace of oil on them, and it was thought by the officers that they had been saturated. Mr. King, however, testified that he had often placed a can of oil in the wagon driven by Mr. Plaman and had covered it with the blanket which was used for a lap robe. In the bumping of the vehicle it is probable that some of the fluid was spilled on the blankets, which would give it the smell noticed by the officers.

The case will probably go to the jury before noon tomorrow.

SEVERAL INJURED BY NIGHT FIRE IN PORTLAND

PORTLAND, Feb. 25.—Two were injured, and six rescued in their night clothes, in a fire that burned a frame building on Fourth street this morning early. A fireman fell from a nearby building and was seriously injured, and a woman attempting to escape, fell down a stairway.

LINER IS MINED IN THE CHANNEL

Sinks Quickly With Heavy Loss of Lives.

RESCUER IS ALSO SUNK BY MINE

Seventh Victim of Mines in Two Days—Latest List of Dead Reaches 171—Ship Sinks Close to Dover.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The Times estimates the Maloja dead at 147, of whom 117 were Lascars.

DOVER, Feb. 27.—The steamship Maloja, a 12,431-ton vessel belonging to the Peninsular & Oriental line, struck a mine and sank within a half hour, two miles from Dover today. More than 140 persons were drowned or killed as a result of the accident.

The British tanker Empress of Fort William, going to the rescue, struck another mine and sank nearby. One man of the crew of the Empress of Fort William was drowned.

Up to midnight the bodies of victims landed include 18 men, 11 women and four children, in addition to 11 Lascars. Among the dead is Mrs. McLeod, wife of General McLeod.

Attempt to Reach Vessel Fails.

The Maloja left Tilbury only yesterday for Bombay with mails, 115 passengers of all classes aboard, and a crew numbering about 200, most of them Lascars. Other passengers were to join the ship at Marseilles.

The steamer had just passed Admiralty pier at Dover and was opposite Shakespeare Cliff when an explosion shook her from end to end. She listed immediately to port.

High seas were running and the captain, realizing that great damage had been done to the after part of his vessel, tried to run her aground, but the engine room was swamped and the ship became unmanageable.

Dozens of Craft to Rescue.

The plight of the vessel was observed and dozens of craft went at full speed to her rescue. It was one of these, the Empress of Fort William, of 2181 tons that sank.

Aboard the Maloja everything possible was done to get the passengers and crew off. All the boats had already been swung out before she struck, as a precaution against accident, and all those aboard had sufficient time to put on life belts, instruction in the use of which had

been given the previous evening.

Bodies Are Washed Ashore.

Boat after boat and seven rafts were sent away, but several persons leaped into the water and were picked up by the surrounding craft. It was at first thought that all had been saved, but later bodies were washed ashore and their number was gradually added to during the day.

Owing to the fact that Dover is under strict military law, it was possible to obtain only meager details from those rescued. The captain said that both passengers and crew behaved splendidly.

British Officials on Board.

The passengers were for the most part British officials in the Indian service, the most prominent being Judge Oldfield, of the Indian high court. They were returning to service in the east.

Death Loss on Liner Raised.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—A revised report today stated that 171 persons perished when the liner Maloja, a sister ship of the Persia, was mined off Dover yesterday. Forty seven of the dead have been identified at the Dover morgue.

The Russian liner Petshenga which was sunk today, makes the seventh victim of mines in two days. Fifteen of her crew have been landed. The other ships destroyed were the British liner, Empress of Fort William, going to the rescue of the crew of the Maloja, and the British vessel Trignac, and the Dutch vessel Teignac, and the Dutch steamer Mocklenburg. An investigation to determine how the Maloja was mined, is now proceeding. She sank within view of Dover. A baby girl, wrapped in blankets and unharmed, was picked up an hour after the Maloja sank. The bodies of the captain and eight members of the crew of the liner Dido which was sunk on Saturday, washed ashore in Lincolnshire today.

ADMIRAL ASKS FOR TWO NAVAL BASES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Naval bases on the Pacific and Caribbean are needed, Admiral Knight, president of the navy and war college, told the house naval committee. He declared that we cannot now defend the Philippines, and asked two millions for the Caribbean base as an immediate necessity. He criticized the lack of men and fast cruisers, and said that the navy was unable to put forth more than half of its strength. He suggested that we do not build any more dreadnaughts this year, but construct battle cruisers instead.

GERMANS HOLD FORT DOUAMONT

French Fail to Capture After Five Heavy Assaults.

HEAVY TOLL IN DEAD AND PRISONERS

Fortress is In Fragments Now—Steel and Concrete Walls Could Not Withstand Awful Shell Fire.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing under yesterday's date, says:

"A German correspondent says that the front of Fort Douamont was entirely destroyed by the concentrated fire of the 17-inch and 12-inch guns, which blew the steel and concrete cupolas to fragments. One fort nearby was blown up by a high explosive shell, which penetrated the magazine.

"Before the attack hundreds of German engineers had been making roads for conveyance of the 17-inch guns. French prisoners, dazed, said, according to the German correspondent, that the terrific fire quickly made Douamont untenable.

"As the great battle at Verdun reaches its climax, sympathetic activity is spreading over the entire front. Guns in Flanders are heard on the Dutch frontier. The British made local attacks in the region of Armentieres, but the fighting is mainly confined to heavy artillery.

"Enemy flying machines are out in great numbers. A very large battleplane mounting two guns was seen leaving Zebrugge.

"The German newspapers received here today express the greatest confidence in the result at Verdun and are enthusiastic over the bravery of the German troops.

"The Koelische Zeitung says: 'The renowned Brandenburg regiment has added a bloody laurel to the wreath on its colors. Its sons have shown themselves worthy of their fathers.'

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—Five determined attempts made by French troops to recapture from the Germans fort Douamont, one of the outlying Verdun fortifications, were repulsed yesterday with sanguinary losses, according to the official statement issued by the German headquarters staff. German troops, it was asserted, had stormed the fortified works of Hardaumont, as well as the town of Champneville and the Cote de Talou. The number of unwounded

Frenchmen taken prisoners, it was added, totaled 15,000. The text of the German official statement follows:

"On various portions of the front there were intense artillery and mine battles.

"South of Ypres a British attack was repulsed.

Five Attacks By French Fail.

"On the heights to the right of the Meuse the French attempted by attacks, repeated five times with fresh troops, to recapture the armored fortress of Douamont. They were repulsed with sanguinary losses.

"To the west of the fort our troops have taken Champneville, the Cote de Talou, and have advanced as far as Nave on the southern border of the wood northwest of Bras.

"To the east of the fort we took by storm the extended fortified works of Hardaumont.

"In the Woivre plain vigorous fighting is taking place on the German frontier, the battles extending as far as the Cotes Lorraine.

"According to information at present at hand, the number of unwounded prisoners amounts to nearly 15,000.

Aeroplane Squadrons Active.

"In Flanders our aeroplane squadrons repeated their attacks on the camp of the enemy troops.

"A bomb attack on Metz by enemy aviators resulted in the injury or death of eight civilians and seven soldiers. Several houses were damaged. In the neighborhood of the fortress a French aeroplane was brought down in the aerial battle and by the bombardment of anti-aircraft guns. The occupants of the machine included two captains, who were captured."

Verdun Drive Halted.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The French reinforcements checked the German drive on Verdun, but it has spread to Champagne, 40 miles west of the Verdun woods. The Berlin statement today virtually confirmed the French claim that the Verdun offensive had halted temporarily. The Germans reported the capture of 1600 yards of trenches at the Savarin farm, the scene of the desperate conflict during the September offensive, and a thousand prisoners were captured. Paris admitted the Champagne loss, attributing it to a surprise attack. Berlin did not claim any important gains in the Verdun region, although the Meuse peninsula, a strip of land five miles from Verdun was cleared of French, who were exhausted from attacking Douamont and Hardaumont. The Germans have progressed further in the direction toward Vacher-aux-vaux and Bras, four miles North of Verdun, and gained the foot of Cote Lorraine and Woivre. The Teutons must storm Pepper heights, before they can take Bras.

ALL BIDS ARE UNSATISFACTORY

Although several bids were submitted by local and outside contractors for the erection of the Catholic church building none were satisfactory and unless an agreement can be reached, the members of the church will employ a foreman and supervise the work themselves. Father Walsh stated this morning that the bids received were a great deal above the estimate and that they would not be considered.

The building, it is estimated will cost about \$5,000 and will be a very beautiful structure. It will be located on the present site, the present basement being used as the foundation for the additional structure. It will be extended several feet in the rear, giving much more room in this direction.

The plans and specifications call for a building two stories in height. The first floor will be constructed wholly of concrete with a number of concrete steps leading up to the entrance and has a large gallery over the rear and sides of the lower auditorium. The walls of the upper floor will be constructed of metal lath and concrete and the interior will be divided into small rooms.

The entire building will be surmounted by a tower bearing the usual wooden cross. The design shows a very beautiful building which will be a credit to the city.

KING OF MONTENEGRO AND ENTIRE ROYAL FAMILY IN EXILE



Seated, King and Queen of Montenegro. Standing, left to right: Princess Vera; Princess Zenie; Princess Melizza; wife of Prince Danilo; M. Mouchikovitch, president of the consul; Prince Danilo.

The King of Montenegro and his entire family have fled their country and are now in exile at Lyons, France. The meanwhile, the conquered Montenegrins are getting along as best they can. This photo was taken in Lyons this month, and just reached this country.