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VICE AND CORRUPTION IN BAKER CITY LAID BARE BY MINISTERIAL BODY

BAKER CITY EXCITED OVER ATTACK ON ITS CITY OFFICIALS

STINK POT OF CORRUPTION IS THE CHARGE

Following Anonymous Letter to Ministerial Association Comes Bitter Attack in Way of Dodgers. Publicly Posted

Baker City, Ore., Jan. 27.—A sensation such as has not been enjoyed in eastern Oregon since the assassination of Harvey K. Brown, was sprung late yesterday forenoon when a dodger issued by the Ministerial association of this city was circulated, bitterly criticizing officials of this city and county.

The circular charges Baker City with being a "stinkpot of corruption." Among the specific charges are these:

"That Judge Smith of the circuit court, and Mayor Johns, were seen drinking before a saloon bar four and

one-half minutes after the opening of the Harvey Brown memorial services.

"That a prisoner in the county jail accuses Judge Smith of being intoxicated during the progress of his trial.

"That boys and girls are allowed to wander about the city at all hours of the night.

"That the skating rinks are allowed to open on Sundays.

"That a member of the Civic Purty league once found a policeman in a gambling den, drinking and gambling."

Johns Doesn't Deny.

Mayor Johns today refused to deny that he had been seen drinking and playing a slot machine in the Geiser Grand hotel bar-room four and one-half minutes after the Harvey Brown memorial service last October, as charged by the circular.

Apparently the mayor is not greatly excited over the charge of the ministers. Judge Smith, who was accused of being with the mayor in the bar-room at the time, is out of town.

The entire crusade against the city and its officials was precipitated by receipt of an anonymous letter addressed to the Baptist minister of Baker City. The letter follows:

"Pastor First Baptist Church, Baker City, Oregon.

"My Very Dear Sir: I want to ask you and all the other Baker ministers a question: Who is being paid to look after the morals of this town? Isn't it the ministers? Are you doing it? The question is an open one. Every one of you know there is a state law against gambling—you also know

that Baker is the only open town in the state—you also know that by going before the grand jury and laying in a complaint you could have the sheriff close gambling in mighty short order.

"Why don't you do it? Why don't some of you get instead of stand and whine from the pulpit? It is because you lack backbone—you lack nerve. Every minister in town is responsible for the gambling and open saloons in Baker City. That does not sound very complimentary, does it? Too bad we have not a minister or two like some of those in Portland. See what they accomplished in a city like that, and in a little place like Baker the ministers stand around afraid to speak their minds—if they have any! Some times when I see boys in the saloons I think the ministers haven't any minds or morals either.

"Please read this carefully and pass to one or two other ministers for you are all to blame. I, like a great many others, am disgusted.

"Sincerely yours for morality."

Ministers Make Reply.

The Ministerial association then rounded up a printer or two and after compiling facts and figures that would require two newspaper columns to reprint in full, had posters printed and scattered broadcast over the city of Baker. Replying to the letter the dodger says in part:

We publicly charge the writer of this letter with being a liar and a coward; a coward in that he dare not sign his name to his letter; a liar, in that he states lies from beginning to end. This we will prove.

We also charge the special correspondent of the Oregonian with being in the same class with the above writer, for, in the Oregonian of the 24th he states lies, and proves that he dare not write the truth to his paper. This we will prove. Let us take you into our confidence.

First, at the Harvey Brown Memorial.

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BLOW AT UNIONS.

Discriminating Act Declared Unconstitutional by Supreme Court.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 27.—Organized labor lost a hard-fought battle today when the supreme court decided that part of the Erdman act prohibiting railroads engaged in interstate commerce, from discriminating against employees belonging to labor unions, was unconstitutional.

FIRES RE-VISIT EASTERN CITIES

PORTLAND, ME., AND BALTIMORE BLAZES AGAIN.

Three Fires Raged During Morning Hours—Baltimore and Portland, Me., Are Scenes of Two Destructive Fires in Less Than One Week—Chicago Blaze Injures Twenty Persons and Damages Many Large Buildings—One Man is Reported Killed.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 27.—Three disastrous fires, causing a property loss of over a million and a half dollars, occurred in this country between midnight and morning. One is still beyond control. The Standard Oil company's tanks at Baltimore caught fire early this morning and, fanned by a gale, the blaze is still raging. One man is reported dead.

Second Portland Fire. At Portland, Me., the second big fire within a week occurred. It is a fire in the business section of the city, causing a loss of almost \$800,000. By 3:45 this morning it was under control and was confined to one block.

Big Chicago Fire. At Chicago one fireman was killed and three injured and property to the value of \$500,000 destroyed in the printing establishment of W. P. Dunn & Co. The flames spread to the Florence hotel and drove the occupants into the street in scanty garments.

The magnificent new Corn Exchange building is damaged. Twenty persons were injured.

At noon the Baltimore fire is still raging, the flames leaping hundreds of feet in the air. It is estimated that 500,000 gallons of oil have been consumed so far.

PLANS TO GET DEFENSE MAPS

TWO SHREWD PLANS MADE TO ROB ARMORY

What is Believed to Have Been Two Japanese Spies, Were Frustrated in Their Plans of Entering the Large Militia Armory at San Francisco in Two Attempts—Sentries Discovered Would-be Robbers—Shots Were Fired and Burglars Flee.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 27.—Bullets fired by sentries guarding the armory of the National Guard here, frustrated a second attempt within 24 hours to enter the big building in which are kept the valuable military maps of San Francisco and its coast defense. The attack on the building was not made by ordinary burglars. The persistency of the mysterious visitors makes this apparent.

Early Saturday morning, and again Sunday morning, two men tried to gain entrance to the building. Fearing another attempt, sentries were doubled Sunday night.

From descriptions furnished officers by soldiers it is believed that the

GIRL-STUDENT OF SEVENTEEN YEARS TAKES CARBOLIC ACID

two men were Japanese spies. During the fusillade of shots Saturday one of the burglars' hat was shot off.

Thieves at Bellingham. Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 27.—Thieves entered the armory here Sunday and stole \$50 worth of revolvers.

We never live, but we ever hope to live.—Pascal.

POSTPONEMENT IN LAND CASES

AFTER CLOSING HALL-MAYS CASE COMES REST.

Because Heney Wants to Go to San Francisco and Brecker Desires a Vacation, a Postponement of Land Fraud Cases in Portland is Expected—Hermann's Case is Next Up, But Conditions Exist Which Mean Certain Delay in That, Too.

Portland, Jan. 27.—Following the Hall-Mays case, which will probably close Friday, another postponement in the land fraud case is expected. Judge Hunt announced today that a conference between Prosecutor Heney, Brecker and himself on this subject, would soon occur.

Heney wishes to get to San Francisco and Judge Hunt desires to return to Montana. Attorney Brecker has been here but a short time and would like more time to become familiar with the Oregon procedure.

The next case on the docket is the Binger Hermann land fraud indictment. Hermann's attorneys are in Washington at present and might not be able to reach this coast within the next 10 days.

Today Franklin P. Mays resumed his testimony, but told nothing of material interest. It was merely a detailed resume of his legal relations with Steiwer. Following Mays Heney attempted to put Moldrum on the stand, but owing to the fact that Moldrum is now a convicted felon and serving a sentence for land frauding, his eligibility as a witness was objected to and Judge Hunt took the matter under advisement.

BYRNECA COE SUICIDES AT MILTON, ORE.

Despondent over Inability to Keep Up With Her Studies and Takes Her Own Life—Suffers Terrible Agony

Despondent over apparent inability to keep up with her studies in Columbia college at Milton, Ore., suffering under the humiliation which she believed would be heaped upon her, were she to fail at the final examinations this spring when she would either be graduated or forced to take another year of school work, Miss Bernice Coe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Coe of Milton, and well known in La Grande, last evening drank carbolic acid and died a few hours later at the home of her parents in that city.

The news of her suicide was telephoned to La Grande. Bridge Superintendent J. F. Campbell and his wife were at one time caretakers of the girl before she entered college, and Mrs. Campbell is a sister of the girl.

The first intimation of the deplorable act reached here last evening about 10 o'clock, when Mr. Campbell was notified that the deed was done and life was but a matter of hours. Physicians were working over the young girl at that hour, and informed Mr. Campbell that death would soon follow. At midnight again the telephone was brought into use to learn the state of the suicide. She had died a few minutes before connections were made, after a few hours of excruciating suffering.

This morning Mr. Campbell and his grief-stricken wife left for Milton. Nothing is known of the exact circumstances.

(Continued on page 4.)

HOUSE KEEPERS

Look To The Needs Of Your Linen Closets This Week - - -

While we offer you an unusual opportunity to supply your linen needs this week we will also continue our last week's "Year-End and Inventory Sale" as advertised last week. Ladies Suits, Hats, Coats and Jackets, and Misses and Childrens Coats at Half and LESS THAN HALF PRICE, Boys and Mens Overcoats at Unordinary Prices, and all Broken Lines at Heavy Price Reductions.

TABLE LINENS, BED LINENS, TOWELS AT INTERESTING PRICES

25c Linen Towels 38x18 inches, in Plain and Fancy Borders
3 for 50c

20c Linen Huck Towels Plain and Striped Borders
Each 15c

15c Linen Toweling 11c

45x36 in. Pillow Cases
3 for 50c

22 in. Bleached Linen Napkins this week
Per Set 39c

50c Table Linens in Turkey red and Canary Colors
33c

\$1.15 values in 72x80 inch Sheets
95c

The Fair
DEPARTMENT STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON

68x90 inch Bleached Linen Table Cloths in beautiful Floral Patterns, this week
\$2.78

\$1.25 Bleached Linen Damask 72 inches wide, this week
89c

\$1.50 Real German Linen 72 inches wide, this week
\$1.05

VALENTINES

Splendid Assortment
All 1908 Styles
All Prices

HILL'S DRUG STORE
La Grande, OREGON