

La Grande Evening Observer

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SCRIBER ARRESTED BY UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR FORGERY

WILL BE TAKEN TO PENDLETON FOR ARRAIGNMENT THIS EVENING ACCORDING TO PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS

CASHIER MADE TWO CONFESSIONS OF HIS GUILT

APPARENT THAT HE CANNOT MEET HEAVY BONDS AND WILL GO TO FEDERAL PRISON IN PORTLAND.

Cashier Scriber Will Tonight Leave the City for Pendleton and Portland—United States Federal Officers Here—Grand Jury Forbidden to Act—New Notes Brought to Light Today—Said to Total \$24,500—Gatch Talks.

W. Scriber, cashier of the suspended Farmers & Traders National bank, is in the toils of the law, following the arrival today of Deputy United States District Attorney Evans, and United States Marshal Griffin, and two lengthy confessions in which he poured out his wrongdoings in detail, though the wording of these confessions have not been made public. Not alone is he arrested, but according to present instructions from the United States district attorney at Portland, he will be taken to Pendleton—the nearest commissioner of the United States court—and arraigned.

He will, it is thought, waive examination, go to Portland tomorrow and be incarcerated in the federal jail at the metropolis. Such in brief, is the sad tale of a man once honored and once respected, and who leaves behind him a family of three young men, sterling in quality and upright in their business relations. The public is unanimously grieved at the affair on the sons' account, if for no other.

Arrested This Morning.

While not in irons or anything of that sort, Scriber has been held at the bank office most of the day under surveillance of the deputy United States Marshal. He took lunch with the deputy and will remain in his care until after the Pendleton arraignment and subsequent incarceration. The charge is embezzlement.

Makes Two Confessions.

Early in the day Scriber told his story to Evans. It was substantially a duplicate of the same confession made to Examiner Gatch early in the week, but kept closely secret until today. What he confessed to, is not publicly known.

The Amount of Bonds.

By the amount of bonds which will be placed on his head when he faces the commissioner at Pendleton, John Halley, can be ascertained the amount of forgeries. It is safe to announce, in fact there is ample ground for the statement that the bonds will be more than \$24,500. The bonds will,

however, be a trifle more than the sum which was embezzled.

Unable to Meet Bonds.

While discussing the matter of bonds with the officials, Scriber is known to have intimated that he could not meet a \$12,500 bond, which at that time was thought to be sufficient. Since then \$12,000 more have been brought to light and it is now doubly certain that the bonds will not be met. According to present schedule, Attorney J. D. Slater will accompany the marshal and Scriber to Pendleton, to look after the legal connections with the case. To all present appearances, the incarceration at Portland will be made within two days.

National Bank Examiner Gatch said today:

"An ingenious cashier, a board of directors that neither knew its duty nor did it, is to blame. The bank examiners have been over-confident."

From this statement can be gleaned much. No elaboration is needed.

From the statutes and regulations in control of such instances, come exonerations, if the term can be used in this connection, on the part of Examiner Gatch, for not "leaking" any of the facts in the case. Even now he has been as close-mouthed as he was when he first came here. From a man close to the affairs from the start, comes the statement that Gatch found defalcations less than one hour after he reached here Tuesday morning. From that time on until this morning, new cases have come to light regularly, until now the sum has reached the amount stated.

Big Bunch From Seattle.

This morning a representative of the banking house of Dexter & Horton of Seattle, arrived with a bunch of notes said to total \$15,000, of which amount \$12,000 are thought to be forgeries. It is known that notes outside of the bank which are forgeries total no less than \$10,000, but \$4000 of this amount will not affect the standing of the bank.

The very question the depositors would like to know is the very thing

that, for the time being at least, is withheld; that is, what per cent will they bank pay out. This information will be furnished as soon as the comptroller of the United States treasury makes it known. The state bank examiner, and those who have been assisting him, are sworn to absolute silence until the matter is made public by higher authorities.

In view of the fact that Examiner Gatch discovered gross irregularities very soon after entering the bank, Deputy United States Marshal Griffin and Deputy District Attorney Evans were summoned immediately.

It is stated that this was one of the most trying official acts Bank Examiner Gatch was ever called upon to take charge of. In the organization of the Farmers & Traders National bank, the position of cashier was tendered Mr. Gatch, and after he finally decided to decline the offer, was asked to recommend some one. He walked across the street in Salem and offered the position to Mr. Scriber, who accepted. Both were schoolmates and enjoyed the confidence of each other for years. When Mr. Scriber confessed this morning, both men wept

bitterly. It was pathetic.

Possibly a Receiver.

While The Observer is not in position to say whether or not a receiver will be appointed at this time, it can say that this matter will be decided within the next 24 hours, if not sooner. So many complications have had to be given consideration that a great deal of time has been consumed with the details of the forgeries. Nothing from an official source, or even a suggestion would warrant the statement that a receiver is to be appointed. Nevertheless, in case one is appointed no one should be surprised.

The depositors who have been keeping in close touch as is possible, are still figuring that they will be paid in full, or at the worst, nearly so.

Grand Jury Unable to Act.

Early this morning District Attorney Ivanhoe appeared before the grand jury, which has been in session here, and ordered an investigation of the Scriber affair. Foreman Galloway conferred with the United States officials and learned that there was nothing for the circuit court to do—that the federal government has the matter in charge.

FOREST FIRES CREMATED ENTIRE TRAINLOAD OF FUGITIVES

ENTIRE NORTHWESTERN PORTION OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN BURNING WITH GREAT PROPERTY LOSSES

METZ DESTROYED WITH A LOSS OF 200 LIVES

FLAMES SURROUND VILLAGE AND TRAIN IN WHICH INHABITANTS FLEE, IS DITCHED AND CONSUMED.

Worst Fire in History of Middle West Threatening Town After Town, and Has Already Claimed Many Lives—Frequent Corroboration of Metz Disaster—Train Crew Fights Fires While Fugitives Flee—Are Burned to Death.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 16.—It is reported here that a train bearing 200 refugees from Metz, are hemmed in by forest fires and are probably dead. The town of Metz has been entirely destroyed.

The flames had surrounded Metz, and attempts to save the buildings were futile. The inhabitants gathered at the depot of Millersburg, 20 miles distant. Word received here says the train bearing the inhabitants was ditched in the midst of a burning forest. Searching parties have been forced to retreat on account of the flames.

Dispatches from Alpena, Mich., say the fire has advanced on Millersburg and destroyed that town. Two relief trains have left Alpena for the scene, but were forced to return. It is impossible to make progress in the face of the fierce fire. It is believed here that many small towns will be wiped out.

Whole Sections Afire.

Alpena, Mich., Oct. 16.—The whole of northwestern Michigan is burning. The flames have already swept four counties. The loss of life and property is heavy. Fourteen women and children are known to have perished at Metz. Reports received here say a greater part of the population at Metz perished.

Fine Box of Apples.

W. R. Gekeler was an Observer caller this afternoon, bringing with him a box of apples from the Maple Home farm. This box contains nearly every variety of apple to be found in Union county. They are all splendid specimens and would be entitled to a place of honor in any fruit display in the land, and the entire Observer force will testify that they taste just as good as they look.

HASKELL STARTS A DAMAGE SUIT

HEARST SERVED WITH SUIT FOR \$600,000 FOR LIBEL

Omaha, Oct. 16.—William Randolph Hearst was served with papers in a suit for \$600,000 by J. M. Haskell, as the former was passing through the city this morning. A deputy boarded the train, but found Hearst's state-room locked. Mrs. Hearst announced through the keyhole that her husband was out sending a telegram. The deputy then used his shoulder as a battering ram and forced the door, falling into the room. Mrs. Hearst was but half dressed and rushed down the aisle screaming. He then went to the toilet room adjoining the state-room and kicked violently. Hearst appeared and accepted the service.

The suit was filed at 11 last night, and is based upon the statements of Hearst that Haskell is the agent of the Standard Oil company, resulting in Haskell's resignation as democratic campaign treasurer.

It is thought that when the whole story of the fire becomes known, it will prove to be the most appalling in the history of this part of the country. There is practically no hope for 200 refugees on the wrecked train in the burning forest.

One refugee who arrived here today says that but few escaped, and corroborated the report that nearly the whole population of Metz perished. Arthur Lee, a fireman, and William Lee, a brakeman, John Kivveln, an engineer, are known to be dead. They remained and tried to put the train on the track while the refugees fled. It is reported the flames overtook the train crew and burned them to death.

Cheboygan, Mich., Oct. 16.—Flames have destroyed Bolton; in addition to Metz. Pulaski is threatened. The loss of life must be heavy. Reports received later this afternoon confirm the story that 200 were burned to death in the forest.

Calumet, Mich., Oct. 16.—Brush fires are raging over the entire Copper country in northern Michigan, and the Keweenaw peninsula. Several small towns are threatened. The inhabitants are battling with the flames. The entire timber country between Calumet and Lake Superior is burning.

More "Boys" Out Hunting.

Spokane, Oct. 16.—Clifton Warner, aged 17, is the latest victim of a hunting trip. Accompanied by two companions, he was standing on a log in the vicinity of his home in Colville, yesterday, when he slipped. An instant later a cartridge in Warner's rifle exploded. He fell, exclaiming: "Boys, I'm shot." The bullet pierced his heart, killing him almost instantly.

TAFT MADE HIS OWN SELECTION

MAGAZINE PUBLISHES CONCLUSIVE LETTERS ON MATTER

New York, Oct. 16.—An announcement was made today by Hampton's "Broadway Magazine," that it will publish in its November number, a letter from Roosevelt to Taft, and another from Taft to Roosevelt, relative to the presidential nomination, in which the president declined to advise Taft as to what course to take. The Taft letter expressed preference for the supreme bench, but saying the circumstances seemed to have imposed upon him the trust that he could not disregard. Roosevelt told Taft of strong arguments against him in taking the justiceship because he thought Taft had the best chance of being nominated for the presidency. The letter says in conclusion: "No one can with wisdom advise you."

ARMY-YALE TO MEET SATURDAY

COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL NOW IN FULL SWING EVERYWHERE

New York, Oct. 16.—Hundreds of admirers of the gridiron game will go up to West Point tomorrow to witness the first big football struggle of the 1908 season in this vicinity. The Yale eleven will be the opponent of the soldiers of Uncle Sam's military academy. While the lads from New Haven are confident of victory, the West Point team has developed some good material this year, and may make the blue eleven work hard to prevent a defeat.

Next in importance among the games scheduled for eastern gridirons tomorrow is that between Pennsylvania and Brown university. The Providence institution has always been among the leaders of the smaller universities and the Quakers are not likely to roll up a big score.

Out at Princeton tomorrow afternoon the Tigers will tackle the squad from the Swarthmore college, and the contest should afford the New Jersey players an opportunity to show their mettle for the big game with Yale next month.

Harvard will play Springfield Training school, Cornell will meet Colgate and the Carlisle Redskins will tackle the Susquehanna eleven. The Naval academy team will play Lehigh at Annapolis, and Syracuse and Rochester will play at Syracuse.

Western Football.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—Although the football season in the west began two weeks ago, popular interest in the struggle for baseball honors overshadowed the gridiron heroes. Tomorrow they will come into their own, however, when the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois, old football enemies, will meet on Marshall field. Thousands of enthusiastic rooters, of both institutions, will witness the struggle, and the game is expected to be one of the most exciting and spectacular ever seen here.

Other important western games scheduled for tomorrow include Nebraska vs. Minnesota, Iowa vs. Missouri-Wisconsin vs. Indiana. Special interest attaches to the contest between the Cornhuskers and the Gophers, which will be played at Minneapolis.

Died on Train.

Missoula, Mont., Oct. 15.—William Thygeson, who has been living at Yakima, Wash., for years, died this morning on passenger train No. 4. The death took place between Thompson and Plains. Hemorrhage of the lungs was the cause. His wife was on the train with her husband. The body will be taken to Crookston, Minn., for burial.

ELGIN FAIR IS A HUGE SUCCESS

FAIR WEATHER AIDS OPENING DAY OF FRUIT FAIR

Elgin, Oct. 16.—(Special.)—The Elgin Fruit and Agricultural fair opened this morning, complete in every respect, and with as fine a display of agricultural and horticultural exhibits as were ever shown in eastern Oregon. The attendance for the first day was satisfactory in the extreme to the managers. On the other hand, the exhibits are equally satisfactory to the visitors. This afternoon C. D. Huffman, of La Grande, delivered a masterly address, and tomorrow afternoon Hon. J. W. McAllister will deliver an address, taking for his subject, "The Dairy." The musical program is an exceptionally good one. The management has so skillfully arranged the details of the program that there is literally "something doing" every moment of the day and in the evening a grand ball has been arranged for each evening. Elgin has reason to congratulate herself upon having made so successful a beginning in the matter of an agricultural fair.

MUST SHOW TICKETS.

New Law Making This Necessary Goes Into Effect in Seven States.

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 15.—The rule requiring railroad passengers to show their tickets for inspection before boarding their trains went into effect today on all the railroad lines in Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Arkansas.

The new rule is not particularly popular with the trainmen, because it means considerable delay in boarding the trains, at least until the traveling public and the conductors shall have become thoroughly used to the new system. On the other hand, the new system has the advantage that it will prevent difficulties in paying fares to conductors on trains and will also prevent passengers from boarding the wrong trains or sections of trains. Difficulties with the conductor used to arise frequently when the passengers were required to pay their fare on the train. This has been done away with altogether, as all passengers must procure their tickets before they can board the train. From several of the large railroad centers slight delays and confusion have been reported today as a result of the enforcement of the new rule, but the difficulties were not serious, and it is expected that the traveling public will soon become accustomed to the new rule.

Mrs. Laura Stuits, a former resident of La Grande, but lately a resident of Portland, has returned to La Grande and will again make this her home.

BUTCHER 23 IN LISBON CHURCH

HORRIBLE MASSACRE OF ANARCHISTS BY REPUBLICANS

Lisbon, Portugal, Oct. 15.—Twenty-three men were killed or mortally wounded, and 40 injured in a great riot at Azambuja, between anarchists and republicans during the municipal election primaries today. The republicans outnumbering the opponents, were the aggressors and put the anarchists to flight. Anarchists took refuge in a church, barricading the doors. The republicans obtained a heavy post with which they battered down the doors. Breaking the windows, the mob rushed into the church and a bloody battle followed. The anarchists having no means of exit, fought desperately. The town is under martial law.

GRAND JURY IS ADJOURNED TODAY

MAKES RECOMMENDATION FOR MANY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

To recommend the immediate fencing and improvement of the court house grounds, to urgently recommend that the county furnish a fire hose in the court house; to recommend suitable rooms for the keeping of a duly authorized deputy sheriff, and to make many other highly important recommendations is the text in brief of the grand jury report made late this afternoon. The grand jury adjourned after being in session 10 days and in that time having returned 11 true bills and three not true bills. The report has considerable length and is published in The Observer elsewhere. Its recommendations are such as need immediate approval and culmination by the county court.