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SQUATTER WINS FIRST BATTLE

FAMOUS CASE DECIDED BY REGISTER BRAMWELL TODAY.

Guy M. Byrkit's Application is Set Aside by Register in Preference to Squatter Newlon—Case Sets Precedent for Scores of Other Cases—Many Families of This City Deeply Interested Financially—Byrkit Can Appeal.

Pointing out in voluminous findings that legitimate squatters have preference rights, Register Frank C. Bramwell this afternoon gave the first decision in the notorious 4-41 case, that originated in Wallowa county last summer when close to 50 timbermen filed on timber and stone claims in the north 4, 41, after a line-up lasting nearly a month in this city. In the test case, Guy M. Byrkit of this city, is the protestee, and Finley M. Newlon, the protestant. Standing as it does, as a precedent for the scores of other contests filed immediately after the opening for entry by the government, the decision is of extreme importance to many La Grande people.

Squatter Made Improvements.
It was only recently that the noted contest was heard in this city before Register Bramwell. It required 12 days to take the testimony duly recorded in something like 350 pages of typewritten matter. The findings reached today by the register point out in detail how the preponderance of testimony gave proof that the protestant did make improvements and continued to make improvements until the time the land was filed on by Byrkit.

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STEAMER GOES OVER FALLS.

Realizing His Fate, Captain Blows His Brains Out Before Fall.

Antwerp, Belgium, Feb. 20.—A Congo steamer, Captain Seigstrom, was swept over Stanley falls and 20 of the crew were drowned, according to word received here today. Seigstrom, when he realized the craft was doomed, blew his brains out. The rudder became unmanageable.

FIRE TOTALLY DESTROYS HOME

WOODS RESIDENCE IN ELGIN DESTROYED BY FIRE

Elgin, Feb. 20.—(Special.)—The David Crockett property in this city, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wood, caught fire at 11 o'clock this forenoon from the kitchen fire. Mrs. Woods was ill and by the time she was taken out the fire had gained such headway that little if anything was saved. The property was partially covered by insurance. The fire department responded nobly, but before the property could be reached it was beyond control.

Bride of Two Weeks Killed.
Chicago, Feb. 20.—Mrs. Ida Cooper, a bride of but two weeks, was found murdered in her home today. Her throat was cut and bloody finger marks were on her face and clothing. She was also shot in the head. The body was on the floor of the bath room and was still warm. The police think she was murdered by a disappointed lover, who threatened her life when she married Thomas Cooper.

EIGHTEEN ARE ARRESTED

MOST ARE GAMBLING CASES IN VICINITY OF SUMMERVILLE, AND DEPENDANTS WILL PLEAD NEXT TUESDAY, IS REPORT.

Several of the Ringleaders Have Left the State and Cannot Be Returned by Requisition Papers—Is First Big Batch of Arrests Coming Under Grand Jury Jurisdiction—Attempt at High Finance Exposes the Gambling to Jury.

Eighteen of those 59 mysterious indictments came to light today when Sheriff Childers made returns on 18 arrests made in Summerville and vicinity yesterday.

He had warrants for two classes of cases, three warrants indicting John Stevens, who was up at the last term of the circuit court for selling intoxicating liquors, and his brother, Hymen Stevens and Donaldson, on a similar charge, but these three found it out and took their departure several days ago, and are supposed to be over in the state of Washington, where they are presumably safe, as in cases of this kind governors will not grant requisition papers. Donaldson did not waste any time in making his escape, for it is understood that he was to have been married the day following his departure. The other 15 or 16 indictments charge the defendants with the crime of gambling. It is understood that on Tuesday they will all appear before the court and plead guilty. There is reported to be a little romance connected with this wholesale capture.

Several days before the convening of the grand jury, "Coal Oil Johnny," which is the title the Summerville boys have given Mr. Wilber of Union, who appeared in their midst selling stock in one of the oil companies now prospecting in the vicinity of Ontario

and Vale. He evidently met with splendid success and it is alleged sold stock to the amount of about \$1400. Upon reaching Summerville it is stated that Wilber thought he would open up a banking game and fleece the Summerville boys out of their hard earnings. If the story reported is true, Wilber had trouble in securing a room to open his game in, until John Stevens could not resist the offer of \$25, and permission was given Wilber to open his "21" game. His display of gold and checks offered a tempting bait to get a little "easy" money, and in due time one or two of the most venturesome sat in the game. It did not take the players as well as the slighters long to ascertain that Wilber did not have any too much knowledge of the game, and it was a snap for the players to get rich and Wilber's bank roll, as the story goes, began to dwindle and he closed his "21" game. He thought he understood draw poker better and after a few hours all his money and checks were gone. He then began to realize what condition he was in and took steps to suspend payments on the checks and notified the different banks of the county not to cash them. The grand jury found out and after investigating the evidence of a dozen or more witnesses,

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EXPLOITING SEATTLE FAIR.

Big Excursion With People and Literature to Los Angeles.

Tacoma, Feb. 20.—The Great California excursion from the Puget Sound left here this morning for Los Angeles. It will take seven days to make the trip, which is made to boost the Seattle fair and Sound cities. About 200 are on the train, which is loaded with literature.

GOVERNOR TAKES HAND IN FIGHT

LOCAL OPTION LAW AS FAR FROM SETTLEMENT AS EVER BEFORE

Olympia, Feb. 20.—A sensational address by Hay in Seattle last night, is the sole topic of conversation among the legislators, who are as widely divided in expressions of opinion upon Hay, the acting governor's attitude as they are on the local option bill. The wets assert the executive had no right to "butt in" on the legislative department, and predict Hay will be rapped on the bill he favors.

Another plan is to hold the senate bills in public morals committee of the house and concentrate efforts to force the senate to take the McMaster's bill from committee and pass it through the senate. A third alternative is to make the senate bill in the house and amend it to conform with the league bill, except as to the unit. It is practically conceded the dries are willing to permit the amendment to the league bill, making separate units of first and second-class cities, instead of having the entire county as a single unit.

So many legislators were absent today that it is impossible to predict what the next move will be in the local option fight. One plan is for a joint committee of three senators and five representatives to frame an entirely new bill.

HOUSE REMAINS IN SESSION LATE

DYING HOURS OF LEGISLATURE GRINDS OUT BILLS.

Finish Will Be Written on Work of Dying Legislature Late Tonight Some Time—Ashland Normal Goes the Same Way Weston Did—Eastern Oregon Solons Unable to Forestall Defeat of Weston School—Many Money Bills Given Passage.

Salem, Feb. 20.—It was nearly 2 o'clock this morning when the senate adjourned after passing the deficiency appropriation bill, carrying \$104,000. The house bill setting aside \$75,000 for removal and a site for deaf mutes, the general appropriation bill with \$70,000 for supreme court; \$17,000 for state treasurer's expenses. These two figures were restored after being reduced.

Repeated motions to adjourn were ignored by Hart, who was in the chair. The latter finally put a motion to adjourn and it carried. President Bowerman was presented with a gold watch by the senators.

Weston Normal Doomed for Certain.
The house that went on record for three Normal schools, compromised with the senate today to save from utter defeat, and voted to retain one Normal school at Monmouth, conceding the abolition of the schools heretofore maintained at Weston and Ashland. Members of the eastern and southern Oregon fought fiercely to save their schools, but failed on roll call.

The house rejected the state printing bill as it came back from the senate, which were substitutes to amend the fee schedule. The house passed the general game code with a few amendments. Two important bills are in the senate committee on industries, the Campbell eight-hour law, and the

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FEW ARRESTS MADE IN EIGHT MONTHS

Chief of Police Walden made the remark yesterday in a casual way that the police records did not show a single arrest for drunkenness made during the month of January, and only one so far during February. When questioned as to the accuracy of the statement, the chief remarked that before he would make the statement to go before the public he desired to

look over the records. He not only found that that statement was true, but also that the record shows that during the eight months since the passage of the local option law there have been but 28 arrests for drunkenness, and that the eight months just preceding the date of the local option law taking effect there were 133 arrests.

SEA BULL DOGS NEAR THE FOLD

GRAND RECEPTION PLANNED FOR ATLANTIC SQUADRON.

Reception to Home-Coming Squadron Will Be Elaborate—Will Be Culmination of Most Notable Event in Nautical History—Big Program is Set for Monday.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 20.—Out on the broad blue bosom of the Atlantic—to use the most approved sea-story language—18 great bulldogs of the sea are plowing their way westward, headed for Hampton Roads and the greatest home-coming celebration ever tendered a wandering fleet. By tomorrow morning, it is expected, the war vessels will be visible to the nude eye on the eastward horizon, although they will not make their grand entry into Hampton Roads until Monday.

What has happened in the past when Johnny came marching home, will not be a circumstance to the warmth and wealth of greeting that is now ready for the prodigal Jack of the Atlantic fleet, now nearing home

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PREDICTS QUAKE BEFORE MIDNIGHT

SLIGHT SHOCKS IN FRANCE PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATE HIM.

Frenchman Several Days Ago Predicted Severe Quake in France—Slight Shocks Felt Already and Astronomer Confident of Disastrous Trembler Tonight.

Paris, Feb. 20.—Astronomer Marchand's prediction of a terrific earthquake for today was partially vindicated by shocks felt at St. Georges, a village near Grenoble, with little damage.

Marchand predicted several days ago, that the earth would be shaken today by a quake leaving conditions similar to those at San Francisco, Valparaiso, Kingston and Messina. He said this afternoon he was confident a great shock would come before midnight.

He bases his prediction on the position of the sun and moon with reference to the meridian. He says it is such as to cause maximum influence of the rays of the sun and moon to affect the particularly weak spots of the earth's surface.

ROBIN COOPER TAKES THE STAND

Nashville, Feb. 20.—Robin Cooper, he was taken to a surgeon to have the bullet removed from his shoulder after the shooting. An effort is being made to locate the bullet, as upon it hinges one of the most important phases of the case. The prosecution claims the bullet was from Colonel Cooper's revolver, and that Robin was wounded by his own father. The defense contends the bullet was from Carmack's weapon.

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EVENING GOWNS

Just received by express

GOTHAM LATEST DESIGNS

You are wanting these gowns for the season's social functions

WE HAVE THEM

In the daintiest Laces, Embroideries in sheet material.

Dainty Waist

What lady is there that does not want a new waist. Call and see them.



THE Fair Store
La Grande, Oregon

COMPLEXION BRUSHES

Nature and a complexion brush can undo most of the havoc that time and weather works. Nature renews a complexion when you take pains to stimulate the circulation and to brush out the worn out tissues. These brushes do make good complexions and sooner or later you will use one. We make it easier for you to use one now. Our prices are very low and we carry the sort of brushes that have received the highest approval.

NEWLIN DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON