

## POISON AND FIRE TRIED

WHAT IS THOUGHT TO BE PLAN TO EXTERMINATE FAMILY CAUSES DEATH AND LOSS

MOTHER AND ONE CHILD ALREADY DEAD FROM FIRE

Neighbors come to rescue of Wisconsin family in time to save some of the children and husband from fire but all are dying from effects of poison thought to have been administered by some enemy

Washburn, Wis., Feb. 2.—Poison and fire are believed to have been the weapons used by unknown assassins in an attempt to destroy the family of P. Behrants today. The Behrants home is practically in ruins, and three children are dying of poison and another of the children is dead. Behrants escaped with his life but is suffering from the effects of the poison.

The Behrants home was discovered afire early this morning. Neighbors who responded to the alarm found Behrants, clad in his night clothes, running about the yard apparently crazed from pain. The rescuers entered the burning home and found Mrs. Behrants dead. In her arms was the dead body of her child.

Neither had been touched by the flames. Three other children were found in their bedroom unconscious and dying. An investigation by the authorities is under way.

Behrants declared he could not ascribe any motive for the crime.

## CANDLEMAS DAY BEING CELEBRATED

THOUGH IN CONNECTION WITH GROUNDHOG NOT RELATED

Cold weather superstition with religious observance features

London, Feb. 2.—Although the groundhog has no connection with this day in King Edward's realm there are many old superstitions connected with Candlemas Day. This is especially true of Scotland, whose inhabitants firmly believe in the old legend:

"If Candlemas Day be fair and clear There'll be twa winters in the year."

In Scotland if a tenant fails to pay his quarterly rent on Candlemas Day it is a sure sign that he will be in disfavor with the landlord; for it is one of the four term days in the Scottish law for this transaction.

In the Roman Catholic Church, Candlemas Day is, as its name signifies, the occasion for the solemn annual consecration of the candles to be used in the church services for the ensuing year, and the procession with lighted candles constitutes one of the most ceremonial events of the church calendar. Its solemnity is added to by its signification of the purification of the Virgin Mary.

Anciently the Angelican Church marked the day by candle-bearing ceremonies, which were done in the memory of Christ as a spiritual "light to enlighten the Gentiles." Before the Christian era the Romans on this day burned candles in honor of the Goddess Februa, the mother of Mars.

**Many Iowa Conventions**  
Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 2.—Members of the Farm Grain Dealers Association convened today in annual session. More than 100 conventions are to be held in Des Moines this year and they will probably bring 100,000 visitors to the city.

## SCHOOLS ARE FIRE TRAPS

COMMITTEE FINDS DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS IN ALL BUILDINGS

Following a thorough investigation this building were finished it would be a credit to any city. At the present time it is heated with stoves, which are very undesirable, as it is impossible to distribute the heat properly in cold weather and have the is all ready for the installment of a heating plant and water closets, which should be installed.

In order to properly take care of the school children of this city it is necessary that we have an up-to-date High School. This would take care of the pupils above the eighth grade, and then the Central School Building and the North Building would take care of the lower grades in good shape at the present time. There are other reasons why we should have a high school building which are as follows:

1—Owing to a lack of suitable rooms, properly equipped with plumbing, ventilating hoods, lighting, etc., the work of the Science Department has been greatly handicapped. It has been impossible to do any work in chemistry. The work in physics has been done for the most part without experiments, which render the work bookish and inefficient. Biological subjects have been poorly presented, owing to the lack of a separate room and proper apparatus.

2—The Commercial Department has no separate quarters, which renders efficient progress along those lines very difficult.

3—There is no assembly room, provided with stage, etc., where public speaking, debating, literary work and chours training can be done.

4—The present building affords no place for manual training, which is one of the most practical departments of a modern high school. Also, there is no place for physical training. La Grande schools are behind in that they have no department of manual training, and no gymnasium where attention can be given to physical culture.

5—The High School Department is now crowded with an enrollment of 163 students. At the opening of the school in September there will be promoted to the high school 36 children from Mrs. Bullard's room, 42 from Miss Bush's room and possibly 38 from Miss McIlroy's room. Under these conditions there will not be even seating room for the students.

6—A separate building for high school students is desirable from the standpoint of discipline. Grade students need one kind of discipline while high school students need a different kind. This is necessary to make self-governing men and women out of our boys and girls.

7—Owing to the above named defects, the La Grande high school is not up to the standard of even the average high schools of the Northwest. Our graduates cannot hope to be accepted to full college entrance until better facilities and better equipments have been provided.

In making this report we donot want it understood that we are criticizing the action of the school board as we feel that they are doing all they can under the existing conditions.

Respectfully, Committee.  
Geo. Stoddard, J. D. Stout, J. L. Slater, W. L. Brenholts, Turner Oliver.

**A New Invention.**  
At the M. & M. Co's. tomorrow, the 3d, there will be exhibited the Peerless Thill Supporter, of interest to all owners of bugles. Come and see it demonstrated.

## EITHER DRINKING NEW PARIS VICE

NEW PLAY WILL BE SHOWN IN AMERICA TONIGHT.

Thrilling expose of new vice in Paris that of ether drinking.

New York, Feb. 2.—Ravages due to ether drinking, now a popular vice in Paris, are depicted in a realistic manner in Alexander Bisson's new play, "Madame X," which will have its American premiere tonight. The drama produced a great sensation in the French capital. Jane Harding will play the part of Jacqueline in the American production.

Jacqueline is the wife of a Parisian attorney who deserts her husband and little boy. After 20 years of disappation she takes up ether drinking to drown her woes. Her companion, Laroque, conspires to blackmail her husband. She kills Laroque to keep him from betraying her identity to her son, now an attorney. Her son defends her on the trial and her wronged husband is president of the court, but neither recognize her. After the trial the son learns that his client is his mother, and she dies as husband and son forgive her.

## LOWER RATES ASKED FOR

SACRAMENTO AND SAN FRANCISCO IN PRAYER ATTITUDE.

Want rates from Ogden changed—Claim discrimination also.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Oral arguments will be heard today by the Interstate Commerce Commission on the application of Sacramento and San Francisco for lower distributive rates on the Southern Pacific lines east of Sacramento and west of Ogden, Utah.

Consistency in rate making, and the claim that the present rate is much too high is the basis of the arguments for the reduction of the rates by the two cities. The demand is made distinctly for the reduction of rates between Sacramento and Ogden, as the rates between San Francisco are kept low on account of competition by water.

## NELSON MILL DAY IS SET

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY TIME OF CHAMPIONSHIP SCRAP.

Nelson and Wolgast will meet at Alameda at 45 rounds.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Following a conference with Battling Nelson, who arrived here today, Promoter Sid. Hester announced that the Nelson-Wolgast fight will be held on Washington's birthday by the Alameda Athletic Club in the city of Alameda. The fight will be for 45 rounds, which is possible in Alameda county.

**Terminate Agreement**

Washington, Feb. 2.—The commercial agreement between England and the United States respecting import duties on English works of art entering the United States and drummers' samples entering the United Kingdom, entered into on November 1, 1907, was officially terminated today.

## WITNESS IS RUN TO EARTH

MASTERLY QUIZZING AND ANSWERING THE TWO MEN ARE FIGHTING IT OUT TO A FINISH

TWO IMPORTANT POINTS GAINED BY GOVERNMENT

Hermann admits that he knew the general points about what the reserves would mean in a graft way and admits that had he temporarily withdrawn school land that the frauds would have been averted.

Portland, Feb. 2.—Francis J. Henev is having his inning today at the Hermann trial. Beginning slowly yesterday afternoon in the cross examination of Hermann, he took the defendant through his early career in Oregon up to the time when he began his services as Commissioner of the Land Office. Then he plunged sharply into the subject. During all the morning session it has been a game fence, thrust and parry between the government prosecutor on one side and the defendant on the other.

Candor compels the statement that at times during the contest Henev has passed the armor defenses and drawn blood. Henev has forced two important points from Hermann; one that he had a general knowledge of the fact that the school lands could be and perhaps were being used for fraudulent exchange under lieu of the land act of 1901, and the other that he had made a temporary withdrawal of the proposed reserves as soon as the investigation into the feasibility of the reserves were commenced it would have served as an effectual bar against the school land or other frauds.

These two points came into Henev's possession after much parrying between the witness and the prosecutor and may trips about the various details of the land office routine and back again to the main question, always skillfully parried by the witness.

## FIRE BREAKS OUT IN ELGIN

HALLGARTH BUILDING AFIRE AT AN EARLY HOUR

One place of business destroyed and others threatened.

Elgin, Feb. 2 (Special)—An early morning fire in the Hallgarth building, corner Front and D. street, here this morning did nearly \$1000 damage to the Hickie soft drink emporium and other places of business, routed out many roomers in the Hallgarth rooming house on the second floor of the building and threatened the electric theatre and complete destruction of the building before the fire department mastered the flames.

At 5 o'clock this morning a slight explosion of some sort in the soft drink shop, at present unknown, started the fire. The place's contents were destroyed completely. The roomers on the second floor were routed out before the smoke and fire had seriously threatened any of the furnishings on that floor.

**To Play Imbler.**  
The B. M. A. basketball team has made arrangements to go to Imbler next Saturday afternoon.

# Greatest of all Sales

Still Continues to be a hummer. Store Crowded all day Saturday.

Tuesday will give to first 25 ladies entering our store 10 yards best American print for 25 cents

A Few Red Hot Specials

One lot of children's coats, good colors and sizes from 4 to 10 worth up to \$6. on sale for

\$1.98

Mens ribbed underwear, all size regular 40c seller on sale for

16c

Childrens \$1. to \$1.25 sweaters sizes 20 to 24, color red, gray, and white, on sale for

68c

One lot of boy's school suit., good assortment to choose from a good value for \$4. on sale for

\$1.95

Boys heavy fleece lined underwear, regular 40c to 50c selling

19c

One lot of pillow tops, good designs, regular 50c to 75c seller on sale for

19c

# THE FAIR