

La Grande Evening Observer

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JEF. W. SCRIBER FOUND GUILTY

GUILTY ON FOUR COUNTS IS DECISION REACHED BY JURY IN SHORT ORDER

Portland, May 27.—Jefferson W. Scriber, cashier of the National Bank and Traders National Bank at La Grande, Oregon, was today found guilty of embezzlement, misappropriation of funds and forgery in the federal court here, becoming liable to a penalty of from five to fifteen years in the penitentiary.

The evidence showed that for a period of five years he had been misappropriating funds and a shortage of \$134,000 was uncovered and forged securities aggregating \$90,000 were found in the vaults of the bank.

Will File Appeal Notice.

The defense took an order for ten days' stay of sentence to consider an appeal from the district federal court. It is not the common belief here that the appeal will be taken. The verdict was found on four counts.

Scriber was unemotional when the verdict was given. He pleaded that business and family troubles caused temporary insanity and while in that condition he committed the acts as charged against him.

The trial lasted three weeks and called more witnesses to the stand from remote sections of the state than any other similar trial has in many years.

Judge Bean instructed the jurors to find Scriber innocent if it has been established that he was insane, or if the testimony did not warrant his conviction. Attorney C. W. Fulton who has been handling the case for Scriber, wanted him to include in his instruction the following, which, however, was not a part of the instructions as given from the bench: "If the jury has a reasonable doubt whether the accused was mentally incompetent to distinguish between right and wrong, or to understand the nature of the acts he was committing, he should be acquitted."

The jury was out a half hour. Scriber was very nervous when the case closed and as the jury went to its room, he wept bitterly.

BOY KILLS A LABORER

E. COFFENBERY DEAD AS RESULT OF ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING AT UNION SAWMILL.

NARROW ESCAPE OF OTHERS

Death Occurs this Forenoon at Local Hospital Where Physicians Found that Operation Would be Entirely Useless—Man was Resting With a Group of Workmen when Boys Commence Target Practice Near Mill.

CREW MAY YET BE SAVED

Boysish desire to manipulate a rifle and the strange emanderings of the ricocheted bullet, are incidents in a gun accident which was enacted 12 miles from Union yesterday and had its final ending in the Grande Ronde hospital this morning at 10:10 o'clock when E. Coffenberg, aged 53, died from gun wounds accidentally inflicted from a weapon in the hands of a 15 year old boy. The accident occurred at the Hess mill out from Union yesterday and last night the victim was hurried to La Grande in a suffering condition. Preparations for an operation were made by Drs. Bacon and Hall, but it was found on diagnosis that the injury was fatal and an operation would only have ended the life sooner.

The death marks the climax of a singularly distressing accident in which Irwin Hess, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hess of Union is the unwilling cause. The death is doubly pitiful because the youngster who fired the bullet, which after a meandering course penetrated the man's body, was fired at an innocent target in an innocent spirit and though all regret it greatly, no blame can be attached to the boy as the bullet took a most extraordinary course after glancing from the target at which it was fired.

Alex Slater will take the body of the victim to Union tonight and funeral arrangements will be announced tomorrow.

Shooting Frequent at Union.

It seems that similar instances are not uncommon. Last Monday Mr. Coffenberg was one of a party that was walking through the Union cemetery and the party heard the report of a rifle. A moment later Otto Compton, one of the party exclaimed, "I am shot." Placing his hand on his hip pocket, he found the bullet had lodged in his handkerchief inflicting a severe burise on the hip. The bullet was well spent when it lodged, otherwise Mr. Compton would likely have been killed. It is presumed that some boy had been practicing at a target and that the bullet ricocheted and struck Mr. Compton. This was in the city limits and illustrates that the 22 rifle craze has become a menace in and about Union.

MOTHER TELLS THE STORY.

Man Was Sitting at the Mill Resting When Bullet Struck Him.

Union, May 27.—Special—Mrs. A. C. Hess, mother of the lad in whose hands the gun was when the accident occurred, today explained in detail the circumstances pertaining to the sad affair. "During the day a belt broke on some part of the mill, and all the hands employed there, went out to rest. All seated themselves along the sides of the building. Irwin Hess, son of the man who owns the mill, and his companion, a Rosin boy, took a 22 rifle and went down to the lumber yard to shoot at

a nail driven in a stump, as a target. In some unaccountable manner the bullet ricocheted and changing its course struck Coffenberg, who was one of the men seated at the mill resting. How the bullet escaped others of the party seated there is a mystery, but fortune seemed to guide the ram-paging bullet into Coffenberg. The entire affair was accidental of course and we all feel the sorrow keenly. Irwin is a boy 15 years of age and like other boys of that age, delights in shooting a rifle. He was aiming the rifle in a different direction than toward the party of men, when the accident occurred."

Mr. Coffenberg has no family other than his aged mother and father who feel the pangs of sorrow deeply. His mother is 84 and his father 83 years of age. Both are pioneers of Union county and the victim has himself lived here about 27 years. He is a relative of Alex Slater who took him to La Grande last evening.

THOUGH UNDER FATHOMS OF WATER, MAY BE RESCUED.

Divers Hear Knocking on Inside of Sunken French Vessel.

Callas, May 27.—The Pulvoise lies in 30 fathoms of water under the English channel today. Divers who put chains around the craft for the purpose of raising it say they heard tapping on the inside of the hull. It is believed, however, that none can live owing to the fact that the vessel cannot be raised until tomorrow as the suitable apparatus arrives tonight. Commander Callot and 26 men are in the submarine which was rammed and sunk yesterday.

Hopes of rescuing the imprisoned officers and men of the sunken French submarine were renewed today when Minister Payrere telegraphed Premier Briand today that considerable water had entered the submarine and that the crew would undoubtedly be saved.

SUPPLEMENT TO BIG BOND

CHICAGO BANK WILL TAKE OVER MILLIONS IN BONDS.

Largest Bond on Record in Union Co. Revived by Action Yesterday.

Legal requirements for the floating of \$1,000,000.00 in Eastern Oregon Light & Power company's bonds, were complied with yesterday afternoon when a supplement to a bond filed with the county recorder over a year ago, was placed on file to comply with the request of bond buyers. When the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company went into business here, a bond of \$22,750,000 was filed with the county recorder, showing what was to be done with the money and what the company intended to do with it. Later the First National Bank of Chicago has agreed to take over \$1,000,000 in bonds, but before doing so, requested the filing of a supplement to the bond showing various minor details that are necessary in the legal transactions. The supplement does not represent a new bond, but merely a technical procedure in connection with the bond already on record.

WICKERSHAM IS TENACIOUS

PERSISTS IN HAVING LID LIFTED FROM HEARING.

Brin's New Charges Against Guggenheim and Morgan Interests.

Washington, May 27.—Direct charges of Alaskan Delegate Wickersham before the sub-committee of the senate on judiciary, that the Morgan and Guggenheim syndicate caused the appointment of T. R. Lyons as federal district judge and the nomination of John Rustgard as U. S. district attorney and Herbert Faulkner at U. S. marshal, if sustained today, promises to start a congressional movement for an open investigation of the affair.

Every political act of the syndicate will then be probed publicly. Judge Lyons is one of the attorneys who defended Edward Hassey while on trial for murder. Hassey was a deputy U. S. marshal, while an employee of the Guggenheim interests, and whose trial was the outgrowth of a battle between the citizens of Valdez and Guggenheim men when two men were killed in a fight over the possession of a railroad grade in 1907.

GRAFTERS PLEAD GUILTY.

Admit they Defrauded Government out of Sugar Money.

New York, May 27.—Withdrawing their pleas of not guilty to charges of fraud in connection with the short weighing of sugar, three former sugar checkers of the American Sugar Refining company, confidants of Charles Helke, the company's secretary, pleaded guilty today and asked for the court's mercy. The men are Harry Walker, Jean Hoelker and James Halligan.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

Is Throws From the Rig in Front of Vehicle's Wheel.

Promise, Wallowa County, May 17.—Mrs. A. Peterson met with a serious accident on last Sunday. After church at Grossman, Mr. and Mrs. Peterson with others started in their hack for Mrs. Rhoda Trump's home. While crossing a bridge where the water had washed deep ditches on either side she was thrown from the seat

John Redmond Forces Win in Fight With O'Brien Crowd.

Newmarket, Ont., May 27.—One man dead, a dozen wounded and several hundred slightly injured is the result of a clash between the followers of William O'Brien, leader of the United Citizen's League and John Redmond, head of the Nationalist faction. The fight began last night when the Nationalists attempted to speak here. This is one of O'Brien's strongholds. Fists were used first and then there was a riot. The infuriated combatants wrecked several houses before the police were called. The authorities used clubs and the mobs were dispersed. There will be further trouble unless Redmond recalls his speakers and this he will probably not do.

SUMMING UP HEARING

BRANDEIS VIRILE IN HIS ATTACK ON BALLINGER DURING FINAL CLOSING ARGUMENT.

Secretary Resigns.

Washington, May 27.—Fred Carpenter, secretary to President Taft, resigned today. He was nominated as minister to Morocco. It was announced that his health was breaking down due to overwork.

Strong Terms of Attack Hurlled at Secretary Ballinger by Attorney Brandeis who is Summing up Case in Ballinger Investigation. Lands Kerby and Glavis on Other Hand—Harps on Ethical Points.

Washington, May 27.—Keen critical analysis of Secretary R. A. Ballinger whom he characterized as an "irresolute, shifty, unethical public officer, tried and found wanting" was the summing up of his case today by Attorney Brandeis before the senate committee today.

Brandeis summed up coldly and unemotionally the desirability of the Cunningham claims, their history and he showed that Ballinger was unfit for office. The attorney paid a tribute to the zeal of Glavis and Kerby when they did their duty to the American people, although Ballinger and Commissioner Dennett regarded them as traitors.

Brandeis declared the investigation was a struggle for conservation and for a democracy. He declared the cause of Glavis was the cause of the people.

Picks Up Past Career.

Brandeis scored Ballinger for being strange and unethical in the attitude he took as secretary of the interior in regard to the Cunningham cases and he said that Ballinger was under the potent influence of these claimants when he resigned his commissionership of the general land office he forgot the rules of professional ethics. He forgot the rules of the interior department over which he has presided, by which rules he was debarred from practicing before it for two years. But when he became secretary after serving the Cunningham interests, he drew strange ethical distinctions.

He had been left at liberty to serve the Cunningham interests but on becoming secretary he felt barred from representing the people.

"Some of the harpies ready to pounce," was the way Brandeis described the Morgan Guggenheim syndicate, and influential senator makers such as Charles W. Sweeney, Smith and others interested in Alaskan coal mines.

WHEAT GOES DOWN.

Patten-Armour Scrap Causes May Options to Sink Rapidly Today.

CHAUTAUQUA COMMITTEE TRANSACTS BIG AMOUNT OF BUSINESS LAST NIGHT.

The Continental Congress of 1776 will be reproduced in this city and all speakers will be garbed in continental dress, the liberty bell will be here in likeness, and the declaration of independence will be read under inspiring circumstances on July 4th this year, according to decisions that were reached by the chautauqua committee last evening. The opening Sunday services will be free and the ministerial association of this city will have charge of the meetings. All the Sunday schools will participate in the program of that day.

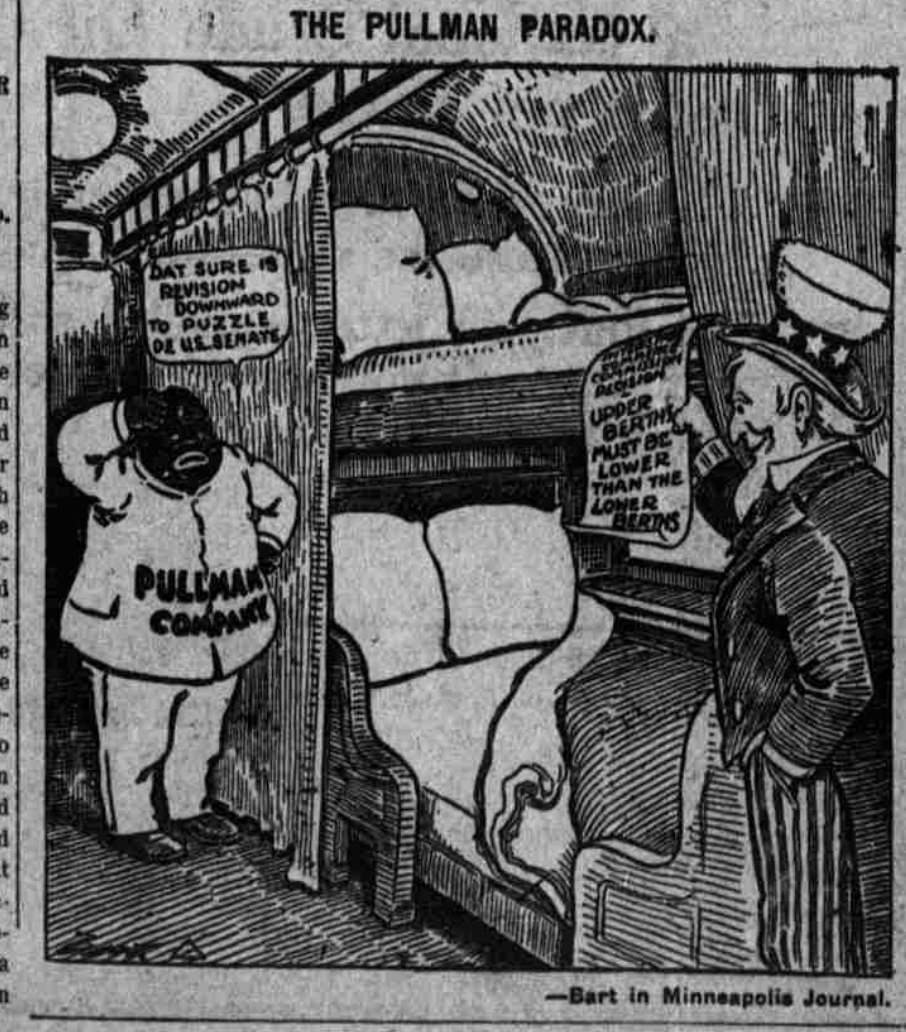
It was decided to leave the matter of programs and program printing to George H. Currey, Jr.

Bids were ordered asked for in connection with concessions at the chautauqua grounds, and another matter transacted was to ask the city engineer to run the line fences.

There will be a strenuous effort to have a same celebration during the Fourth. No fire crackers, fireworks or confetti will be allowed on the grounds.

Ex-Congressman Dead.

Indianapolis, May 27.—Ex-congressman Jesse Overstreet, for many years representative of Marion county, died today. Overstreet was for a long time chairman of the house committee on postoffices and post roads. He was beaten two years ago.



—Bart in Minneapolis Journal.