

SENATOR ELKINS DEAD; SENATE MOURNS

MAJORITY LEADER OF THE UPPER HOUSE AND WEALTHY WEST VIRGINIAN.

MALADY WAS MYSTERIOUS

Senate and House Adjourn in Memory of Deceased Senator—His Malady Partially Blamed to Starvation Resulting From Peculiar Disease—Born in Ohio and Was at One Time Secretary of War.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Senators and representatives and other officials called at the Elkins home today to express their sorrow over the death of Senator Elkins who died last night after months of an illness, a mysterious malady which virtually caused starvation. He was one of the leaders of the majority of the upper house. He was extremely wealthy and his fortune is estimated at 30 millions.

Senate Pays Tribute.

The senate, after a seven-minute's session today adjourned out of respect to the memory of Senator Elkins. The house was in session 30 minutes and adjourned for the same reason. The senate convenes Monday.

At One Time Secretary of War.

Stephen Benton Elkins was born in Perry county, Ohio, September 26, '41; He received his early education in the public schools of Missouri; graduated from the university of that state and was admitted to the bar in 1864. The same year he went to New Mexico; was elected to the forty-third congress; moved to West Virginia. From there he was appointed secretary of war in 1891, and served through the Harrison administration. Was elected to the senate from West Virginia in 1894 and was a constant senator up to the time of his death. His term would expire in 1913.

Senator Elkins was a son-in-law of Henry K. Davis, vice presidential candidate with Judge Parker in 1904. He, with his father-in-law, control vast coal, timber and railway interests in West Virginia and Missouri. He is survived by a wife and three children, two sons and one daughter. In a social way he has figured conspicuously on account of the rumored marriage of his daughter, Miss Kathryn to the Duke d'Abruzzi, an Italian nobleman.

WHALEN LIVED HERE ONCE

MAN ARRESTED WITH CHARGES OF BIG THEFTS.

Like Others Implicated in Big Robbery Hails from Eastern Oregon.

James Whalen, the Portland saloon proprietor arrested yesterday by federal officers charged with complicity in the robbery of United States mails from the Alaskan steamer Humbolt last summer, is a former La Grande man and like the others implicated in the big grab of gold bullion, comes from Eastern Oregon. The other men and women involved in the robbery, hail from Pendleton, and Whalen was formerly of this city.

In the days of long ago when the city was wide open, Whalen was a bartender here, working in what was then the Mint saloon, for a time.

He was also a gambler and operated gambling places in this city. His family lived here with him and notwithstanding that he was in the gambling business, was conceded to be an exceptionally good fellow. About 12 years ago he moved to Portland and his since been located there and of late years owned the Fargo saloon there.

Whalen was one of the swiftest men on the old champion La Grande horse teams here and he is well known to members of the old teams here.

The story of his arrest yesterday was told by the United Press in last evening's issue of the Observer. Whalen is alleged to have hidden about \$10,000 of the amount stolen.

The robbery was considered to have been one of the most daring in the annals of mail robberies and as it happened several months ago, and arrests were made yesterday, it indicates how well the crime was covered up. It is not known how well a defined case the authorities have against Whalen.

TAX LEVY STILL UNDECIDED BY THE COURT

STATE TAX COMMISSION HAS NOT SENT IN REPORT.

Appointment of Road Supervisors and Auditing Committee Reports Today.

With the state tax commission's report of assessment of public utilities in Union county still a minus quantity, it becomes more evident today that the county court will adjourn tomorrow evening with the understanding that another meeting is to be called in a week or ten days to fix the tax levy for next year.

During the day the county court and commissioners gave most of their time to auditing reports of the treasurer and county clerk. Road matters and appointment of road supervisors also come in for consideration today and the jury list will be drawn before tomorrow night.

BARBERS WILL BE TRIED.

Supreme Court Orders Idaho Land-Fraud Case Back.

The Oregonian News Bureau at Washington says:

The United States Supreme Court reversed the United States District Court for the state of Idaho in the Barber Lumber Company case and remanded the same for trial on its merits.

In this case Judge Bean sustained a plea in abatement to the fourth count of the indictment charging a fraudulent attempt to acquire extensive areas for timber land in Southern Idaho, and the case was carried to the Supreme Court on a writ of error. Chief Justice White, who rendered the opinion of the court, holds that "the motion to dismiss the writ of error for want of jurisdiction is overruled."

He then holds, in substance, that the Barber Lumber company cannot raise the defense of the statute of limitation by a special plea in bar, as it tried to do in this case, but must raise it under the general issue of a plea of not guilty. The case against the Barber Lumber Company has never been tried upon its merits, but is remanded and will now go on trial.

The Supreme court affirms the decision of the Supreme court of the state of Washington in the case of the Spokane & British Columbia Railway company, involving the right of way across the Colville Indian reservation from the Republic to the Columbia river. The court holds that the grant to the latter company was a grant in present, made by the act of June 4, 1898 and subsequent rights held to have been acquired by the plaintiff under the general right-of-way act cannot be held to interfere with the rights conferred by this special act of congress. Both roads are seeking Spokane as their southern terminal.

NORRIS WHACKS AT OLD RULES IN HOUSE

WANTS COMMITTEEMEN TO GIVE PUBLIC VOTE ON ALL THEIR ACTIONS.

SECRECY TO DISAPPEAR

Insurgent Norris Proceeds Further in Pruning House Rules—Will Introduce Two Rules That Tend to Further Regulate the Powers of the House—Wants Committee Men to Show Their Stand on all Bills.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The first move the present session by insurgents for reformed house rules was made today when Representative Morris of Nebraska, introduced two resolutions, which are intended to end the committee secrecy rule and will compel the records of committeemen's stands on all measures referred to them by the house and doing away with the secret vote.

The second changes a former rule amendment providing for the discharge of a committee on request of the members introducing the bills.

"Abuse of the committee is one of the greatest evils in the present conduct of legislative affairs. The present necessary steps in the reform of the house procedure," said Norris.

He continued, "It prevents the evasion of responsibility heretofore possible in throttling bills in the committee."

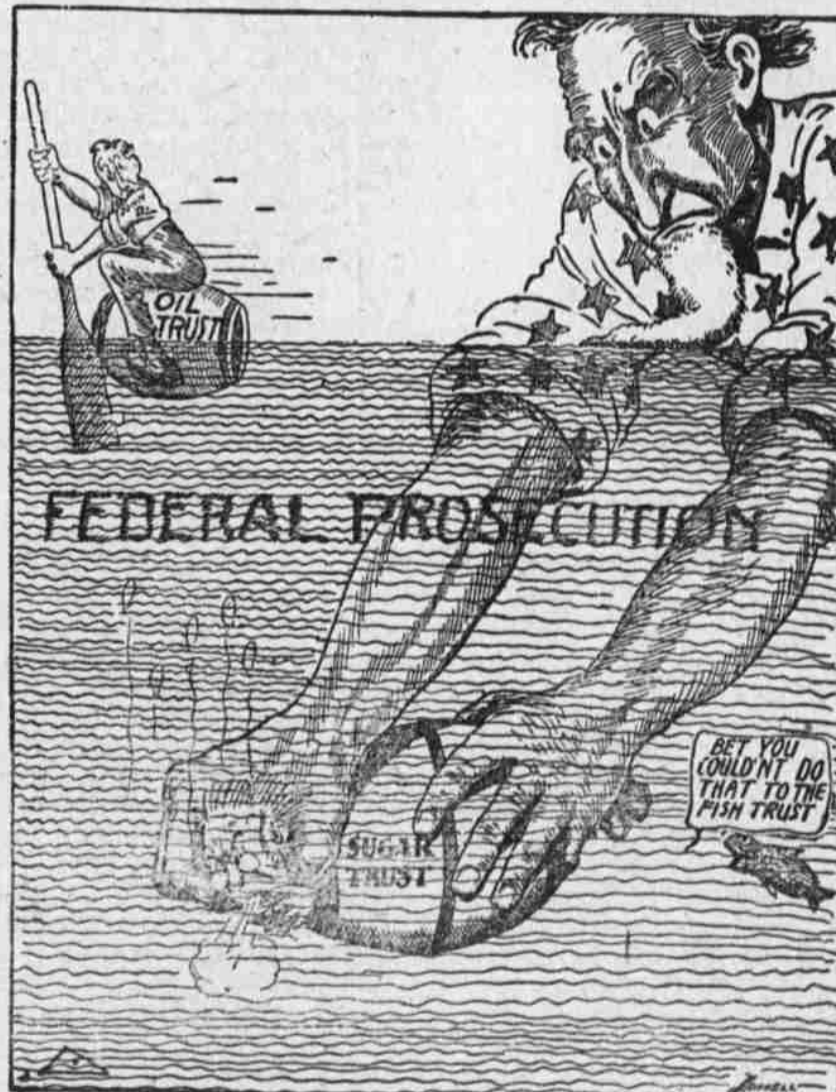
"The bill referred to the committee can not be killed without any one assuming the responsibility. It simply disappears. I propose to make every member of the committee responsible to the house."

ALLEGED FORGER HEARD FROM.

Leonard, Alias Grant Said to Have Been Seen in Boise This Week.

W. Leonard, alias Grant, the newspaper man, who is alleged to have forged several checks on Jack Nice in this city last week, is said to have been seen in Boise. It is also said that he is under indictment in that city for "stunts" similar to the ones he is accused of here.

"I AIN'T HAD MUCH SUCCESS YET AGIN OIL; BUT, BY JING, I'LL BET I CAN DISSOLVE SUGAR."



—Donnell in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

SEATTLE MAIL CLERK SHOT IN MOUTH

AFTER SUFFERING GUN WOUND IS LOCKED IN CLOSET BY DARING ROBBERS.

AMOUNT STOLEN UNKNOWN

Two Men Hold up Mail Car Force and Loot All Valuable Mail—Drop Off When Next Station is Reached—Train Crew Discovers Robbery and Releases Prisoners Who Were Overpowered in Car.

Seattle, Jan. 5.—Mail Clerk Harry Clacks, who was shot in the mouth last night by two bandits who held up the North Coast limited last night shortly after it pulled out of Seattle, is resting comfortably at the hospital today and it is believed he will live. He lost practically half of his teeth when the bullet ploughed through his face.

A sheriff's posse is still searching a suburban district and thirty detectives are scouring the lodging houses.

The chief of the detective force of the Northern Pacific left St. Paul for Seattle today to take charge of the investigation. It is not known how much the thieves got. After they entered the car and shoved Charles Reid Clark into the closet and after shooting Clark they grabbed the registered mail and dropped off the train as it slowed up either at Argo or Kent.

The train left King street station at 7:30 p. m. and soon after leaving the men opened the side door of the mail car and entered with leveled revolvers. They ordered hands up and shot Clark before he could obey. Then they grabbed a valise containing fourteen pieces of registered mail and dragged Clark into the closed and locked Rein in also. The trainmen discovered the open door at Auburn. A bloody trail led to the closet. Clarke was brought to this city and Reid continued the trip.

Beveridge Still Active.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Senator Beveridge announced today he is preparing a minority report of the Lorimer

investigation. He did not sign the majority report extenuating Lorimer of charges that he secured his seat through bribery. He will probably present the report to the senate on Monday.

SCOW DWELLER FIGHTS

Stops Operation By Chasing Federal Dredger Employees Away.

Marshfield, Or., Jan. 4.—Wild-eyed and armed with an ax, James Pierce, a shack dweller on the bay shore, brought the operations of Uncle Sam's dredger Oregon to a halt yesterday and kept the pipeline force jumping around like a lot of lively fleas to escape his wrath until he was roped hand and foot by these men. Pierce's abode had been included in the bulkhead into which the dredger was pumping mud from the bottom of the bay. As the mud began to rise in Pierce's cabin he took the time to load his gun and prepare for hostilities. He ordered the captain to cease operations and enraged by the refusal, got out his ax and chased the men off the job.

TWENTY MILLION ASKED FOR BY PRESIDENT

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS OUTLINES EXECUTIVE'S IRRIGATION POLICY.

EASIER TERMS TO USERS

Report of Army Engineers for Reclamation Work Throughout the United States Adopted by President in Special Message—Wants Several Changes in Manner of Apportioning the Available Funds.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Approving the report of the board of army engineers and recommending appropriation of \$20,000,000 for reclamation work, President Taft sent a special message to congress today. The report of the board accompanied the message.

The president's recommendation provides for a readjustment of the apportionment recommended from time to time as found necessary for intelligent and proper prosecution of the work. He urged further legislation empowering the executive to modify the conditions of payment for water rights in certain projects declaring the return of the government for the cost of projects, the cost not to be secured unless the settlers have given terms easier than those authorized by the interior department.

The president also urged legislation permitting a surplus store of water available for reclamation purposes to be disposed to persons, associations and corporations operating systems of delivery of water to individual users for irrigation of arid lands.

ROBBERS LOOT HOTEL.

Take Five Thousand Dollars From El Paso Hotel and Escape.

El Paso, Jan. 5.—Two masked bandits held up Night Clerk Price in the Angelus Hotel early today and took \$5,000 from the safe and escaped. Texas rangers are pursuing the men, who fled north. The robbers are believed to be the same who robbed the Sunset Limited two weeks ago. Large rewards are offered for their capture. The money belonged to Juarez racing track men.

Maryland Awarded Prize Pennant.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The pennant awarded for the best marksmanship of any ship in the navy, was run up the halyards of the cruiser Maryland today.

EMULATE UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

MISSION WORKER WOULD WORK FOR FACTORY GIRLS.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Example to be Emulated in New York.

Los Angeles, Jan. 5.—Aiming to do for the factory girls of New York, what Harriet Beecher Stowe did for the slaves by her book "Uncle Tom's Cabin", Miss Pauline Worth today announced her intention of going to New York at the end of this month and live as a factory girl in order to secure material for a book. She is a well known mission worker.

Gone to Los Angeles.

Low Zindel, formerly with the Toggery, left last night for Los Angeles, California and other southern points, on a pleasure trip. He will be gone several weeks.

LITTLE BETTER TRAFFIC ON U. P. TODAY

TRAINS NOT QUITE AS LATE AS YESTERDAY.

Press Dispatches Meagre Relative to Weather Conditions.

With only slight changes for the better in the running time of trains over yesterday, there is every indication to believe that the storms in the Montana and Wyoming districts are not abated much in fury. The trains from the east are running about the same as yesterday. Last night's No. 5, due here at 11 last night, arrived today, and this morning's west bound train was slated 8 hours late. The trains make up time as soon as they hit the Oregon road for the balmy weather and lack of snow makes easy running. Press dispatches and railroad telegrams and not indicate the storm in the middle west is increasing, though little news from beyond Chicago is sent over the western wires today on account of wire troubles.

ASYLUM DEEDS APPROVED.

New Commission Will visit Site for Asylum at Pendleton Soon.

With the report that the attorney-general had approved the deeds of the Oliver-Carpenter tracts, recently selected by the state board for the insane asylum, W. L. Thompson, the president of the commercial association, returned to Pendleton today, says the Pendleton Live Wire.

Warrants will be mailed here in the course of a few days for the site for the insane asylum and the state will formally take over the property.

"What about the Plamondon appointment?" Mr. Thompson was asked. "I am unable to discuss that in any way," he said. "I can say this much."

"I talked with both Dr. Steiner and Tom Kay. The latter assured me the new board would visit Pendleton in a few days and visit the site. I take this to mean they will say whether the site has their approval or not, although of course nothing can be changed.

"Dr. Steiner told me it would be necessary for reports to be made on the urgent necessity for an increased appropriation. He said at least \$400,000 additional ought to be voted by the legislature for the asylum. He said Pendleton ought to get together and get thorough asylum data on the matter, which would be presented to the legislature."

Mr. Thompson said he did not know how the situation lay with regard to the district attorneyship.