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ONE WEEK BEGINNING

Monday, September 25

MISS COURTENAY MORGAN

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Union County Fair

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JEWELERS AND OPTICIANS

MURDOCK CLOSE TO ROOSEVELT

INSURGENT HAS BEEN MUCH IN PUBLIC EYE.

Lecture of Tim'ly Subjects Will Be Delivered Tomorrow Night.

The lyceum course that has booked Victor Murdock this season, will hear one of the greatest public men of the day. Few men except Theodore Roosevelt have been more in the eye of the public during the past year. He is, by the way, a close friend of Roosevelt's, having, it will be recalled, been his guest at Oyster Bay soon after the return of the ex-president from Africa. Murdock is everywhere known as the "Leader of Insurgents." He has been congressman from Kansas for eight years. His lecture will, therefore, be especially timely.

Wichita, Kansas, was a frontier town when it became the home of Murdock in 1872, but he received his education there, first attending the common schools and later Lewis academy. At the age of ten, during vacations, he began the printer's trade, became a reporter at 15, and when he was 20 years old he went to Chicago and worked there as a newspaper reporter. In 1894 he became managing editor of the Wichita Daily Eagle in which capacity his forceful editorial utterances soon brought him into public life.

Murdock comes to La Grande tomorrow night.

A Narrow Escape From State Prison

By SAMUEL E. BRANT

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I was cashier for Richard Steptoe & Co. I had the safe combination and was implicitly trusted by the head of the firm. The amount of cash in the safe varied. Sometimes there would not be \$10, sometimes there would be \$1,000, and occasionally when a large amount of currency would come in after banking hours it must be kept overnight there. At such times I was always troubled, for the safe was an old pattern and the lock out of date.

I always counted the cash in the safe, night and morning. One morning my cash did not correspond with what had been there the night before by \$20. I thought that I must have made a mistake in my count the night before, but on balancing my cash I could detect no error. Fearing that something was wrong with me, I said nothing about the missing money, but, being sure that my cash balance was right, made up the deficiency from my own pocket.

Within a week I missed another amount from the safe. This time it was \$15, a smaller sum than before, but the amount in the safe was much smaller than before. It now became evident that some one not an outsider had the lock combination and was helping himself whenever in need of ready cash. I feared it might be one of the clerks who was tempted. I shrank from being the means of sending any one, especially one I knew well, to prison, so I went to Mr. Steptoe and told him that I thought we should have a new safe or at least a new lock. The matter was compromised by a safe and lock workman changing the combination.

What was my astonishment ten days later to miss another \$10. I had been given the combination by the man who had changed it. He had not even spoken it. I had handed him a slip of paper on which he had written it and handed it back to me. There was something uncanny about these disappearances. I am no more superstitious than other fairly educated people, but I couldn't momentarily resist the feeling that a ghost was helping himself to the cash.

Still, I didn't report the matter. I had a dread that I should get some of my fellow employees into trouble or that I should discover that something had gone wrong with myself. After thinking about the matter a good deal I found that I couldn't add a column of figures twice with the same result. I called on my doctor and told him that I suspected my mind was giving way. He recommended me to take a vacation. I didn't take his advice, not liking to leave the safe to any one else during my absence.

I thought of watching the safe nights, but I couldn't watch every night, and I couldn't know when

a robbery would occur. Sometimes several weeks would elapse between them. But after I had made up a hundred dollars from my own pocket I began to think I had better take measures to stop the leak.

One day, when one of the clerks, George Simpson, came for his salary, I noticed while he was signing the receipt slip that the end of the forefinger of his right hand was covered with the finger end of a kid glove.

"Cut your finger?" I asked.

"No; burned it."

The next week when this young man, Simpson, came to draw his salary he still wore the covering on his finger. When I remarked upon it I detected a look of uneasiness cross his face. I didn't think much about it, however, but when another week had passed and I still noticed the kid covering I began to wonder about the finger.

"Not healed yet?" I asked.

"No; I guess my blood must be in a bad state."

"Let me see it."

He took off the covering. The tip of his finger looked as if the skin had been taken off and had not grown again. I made no remark, but took the receipt he had signed and filed it.

At a time when no money had been missed for a space of twelve days I made up my mind to watch the safe nights. I couldn't remain awake every night in succession, so I took a book-keeper, Travers, into the secret, and we started in to watch alternately. I took first watch, Travers second. On the fourth night, being my turn, about 11 o'clock I heard a key put in the lock of the office door. Some one came in stealthily, and I could hear the tread toward the safe. Pretty soon I heard a faint sound like a tumbler falling in a lock. I waited awhile and heard another, then another, until I had heard four. My position was behind a desk over which was an electric light. Hearing the safe door swing open, I switched on the light. There was a man reaching into the safe. He turned pale as a sheet and faced me. I went to him. He was Simpson.

"I wasn't taking anything out. I was putting it back," he gasped, holding out his hand with some bills in it.

"Simpson," I said, "you're a fool."

"I know it."

"I have known of this for a long time. Tell me how you did it."

"I pried the skin of my forefinger down to the quick, making it so sensitive that I can feel the tumblers fall. I breathed a sigh of relief. He was returning all he had taken. I did not report the matter, and he has never again taken such a risk at money borrowing. He had a narrow escape from a wrecked life."

Classified Advertising

FOR SALE—Corrugated iron building, suitable for garage. Size, 20x20. Must be sold at once to make room for brick building. Talk fast as time is money. See John L. Mars. 9-25-11

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms for light housekeeping. 1808 Third st. Phone Main 75. 9-23-11

FOR RENT—Furnished sleeping rooms. Also fine housekeeping suites, strictly modern. Inquire 905 Spring street. Phone Black 3881. 9-20-11

FOR SALE—Dry chain wood in any quantity. \$1.50 per cord at the Perry yards. Grande Ronde Lumber company Perry, Ore. 6-15-11

WANTED—School girl to work for room and board. Mrs. C. Ralston, 1409 Wash. 9-19-11

FOR SALE—A good milch cow. Inquire J. D. Kerr, 701 Adams and First. 9-16-11

LOST—Baby pin, Roman gold, lettered "Lola." Lost between Observer office and postoffice. Leave at Observer office.

WANTED—Room and board in private family. Address J. H., care of Observer. 9-24-11

WANTED—A boy to deliver papers in mornings. Call at Silverthorn drug store tomorrow evening at 5.30. 9-25-11

FOR SALE—Jersey cow, soon to become fresh, one horse wagon and single harness. Inquire Mrs. Miller, 1206 B avenue. 9-26-11

WANTED—A home in La Grande. Have \$600.00 cash to pay down. 2nd door east of postoffice. The Slough Investment Co., La Grande, Oregon. 9-26-11

Economical Clothes



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AND YOU WILL WEAR THE MOST SATISFYING GARMENT YOU EVER PUT ON. WE ARE SHOWING HUNDREDS OF STYLES TO SUIT THE DESIRE OF ANY MAN, NO MATTER HOW PARTICULAR HE MAY BE; AND BEAR IN MIND, PLEASE, THAT ADLER'S COLLEGIAN CLOTHES COST YOU NO MORE THAN THE ORDINARY MAKE.

ASH BROS. CLOTHIERS AND FURNISHERS

Notice of the Meeting of the Board of Equalization.

Notice is hereby given that the county board of equalization for Union county, Oregon, will attend at the court house, La Grande, on Monday, October 11th, 1911, and publicly examine the assessment roll, correct all errors in valuation, descriptions or qualities of land, lots or other property, as assessed by the county assessor, and it shall be the duty of all persons interested to appear at the time and place given.

All persons having grievances regarding the 1911 assessment may appear before such board and present their affidavits containing grounds for complaint. All such affidavits must be presented during the first week of the meeting of the board.

D. M. CLARK,
Assessor for Union County, Oregon.

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