

WELL-TO-DO WOMAN DIES STRANGELY

UNION RESIDENT EITHER KILLED OR SUICIDES TODAY

BODY FOUND IN STREAM WITH HANDS TIED BEHIND HER

Early indications point to suicide but murder theory has superseded it. In latter case indeed deep mystery would veil the situation in every detail. Inquest on.

Union, May 13.—(Special)—Brutal murder or shrewdly outlined suicide with Mrs. Fred Ratz, a wealthy middle-aged resident of Union as the victim, is holding Union agog today. What a first was deemed to be suicide by drowning has become a mysterious horror having all the earmarks of a fiendish murder and mystery veils the affair from beginning to end. At a late hour today no clew has been found that offsets the tangible theories of murder in a most brutal manner. Unless subsequent investigation discloses otherwise, the belief will prevail that Mrs. Ratz was taken to a vacant piece of ground adjoining Little Creek in Northeastern Union, divested of her outer garments, and her hands tied behind with a corset string and a shoe string and thrown into the creek where the waters, now roaring in a torrent from melting snow, are ferocious enough to float a horse, much less a human body. The body was carried down an irrigation flume to the crossing of the road at the Hutchinson place, a distance of several hundred yards where it was unloosed by patrolers under direction of George Huffman.

Suicide First Admitted

In the beginning of the search by about 50 people which was occasioned this morning by Mr. Ratz when, about 4 o'clock he found his wife missing, there was every indication to point to suicide.

In an informal search for the whereabouts of his wife, Ratz soon located his wife's outer clothing, lying in a field near the road. He summoned help and officers and a careful search was instituted that led to the discovery of the body a considerable distance below the spot where the clothes were found. It had been carried under and fastened to a heap of brush which was loosened by the police. When the body was floated to the surface officers immediately removed it to the morgue.

Hands Are Tied.

It was after the body had been recovered that the murder theory cropped out on tangible facts. Her hands had been tied behind her in such a way that it was barely possible for her to have freed herself in an effort to throw officers off the suicide scent, but many who have inspected the remains are concluding that such would be impossible and hold that murder had been committed. In the search for the body the field has been tramped and retramped in such a way that it would be impossible to discover the presence of other footprints than her own on the scene where the body was either willingly or murderously thrown into the water. When tied, her hands were about eight inches apart, and there is a possibility of her having concocted the notion of covering her tracks in this way. It is scouted by many as impractical and almost impossible.

Cause for Crime Unknown.

Though there may yet develop some fact to throw more light on the dreadful accident, there is now nothing to base a cause for either suicide or murder. The woman was middle aged and her well grown family, like Mr. Ratz and herself, are well provided for with worldly goods. Hints of

LA GRANDERS WIN HONORS

SECOND PLACE IN SCHOLASTIC MEET TAKEN

HALF MILE FEATURE

Reynolds Pulls Third Place in Race That Breaks World's Mark.

Eugene, May 12.—(Special)Signal athletic honors went to the La Grande high school last Saturday afternoon when second place was registered by the La Grande athletes in the Oregon state interscholastic held under the auspices of the University of Oregon. Washington High of Portland was an easy winner with 40 points, and La Grande second with 17, Jefferson High, Portland, third, with 12. Baker scored one point in the meet and Pendleton a half dozen.

The feature of the meet which was attended by splendid weather, and competition by over 200 athletes from 30 schools, was the world's mark set up in the half mile. Reynolds of La Grande took third in this fast company of marathons.

Days was the principal point winner for La Grande. He took first in the hammer throw, with a distance of 128 feet, and second in the discus, which was won with a throw of 1021 1/2 feet. In the pole vault, Millering and Roberts tied for first place, clearing 10 feet, 9 inches. Reynolds took third in the half mile.

PRINTERS WON'T JOIN STRIKE

CITIES OUTSIDE OF CHICAGO ARE FEELING THE WAR

Pressmen in San Francisco and Other Cities to Quit Jobs.

Chicago, May 13.—Strikes on several of the Hearst papers outside of Chicago are expected by union men to day. The publishers say they are encouraged by the action of the printers in voting not to join the striking pressmen. Several unions here voted to fine any members purchasing copies of the papers against which the strike had been declared. Today 1,200 police are guarding the news stands.

Examiner Hard Hit.

San Francisco, May 13.—The San Francisco Examiner issued an eight page paper today, devoted largely to classified advertising. The paper also contained a statement declaring there is no personal animus in the local pressmen's strike, the men acting only on telegraphic orders. The orders came from the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union of North America board of directors.

The Examiner statement declares that curtailment of the size of the paper is only temporary. The statement made by the union says: "The strike is not called because of local conditions but because of the abrogation of contracts by the Hearst papers between local No. 7 and the Chicago Union."

Family troubles have circulated about Union but nothing is substantiated. The home was deserted long before daylight by the woman, for her absence was discovered at 4 o'clock by Mr. Ratz. Had she been lured from her home and then murdered, further mystery as to how the details were worked out are created. In this particular phase there is an earmark of suicide. The posse that found the remains eventually, was formed about 6 o'clock, and kept growing in size and numbers until a goodly portion of the city was in the hunt.

Inquest This Afternoon.

Immediately after luncheon, the coroner's jury went to the scene of drowning and then convened in a

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HANFORD SCALP NOW SOUGHT

SOCIALIST CONVENTION HEARS RECALL DEMANDS

SOCIALISTS EVERYWHERE PROMISE TO FIGHT DECISION

National Convention Wants Decision Recalled or Impeachment Proceedings Against Hanford Started at Once—Republicans and Democrats Said to Be Supporting.

Indianapolis, May 13.—Delegates to the national convention of the Socialist party today lined up behind a movement to compel United States Judge C. H. Hanford of Seattle to recall his decision annulling the citizenship papers of Leonard Olson of Tacoma because the latter admitted he was a socialist, or face impeachment proceedings.

Scores of telegrams from republicans and democrats of all sections of the country in which they promised to help the socialists in efforts to prove that Hanford permitted personal prejudice to rule his action, were read to the delegates.

The decision, the delegates say, will be carried to the United States supreme court, for a reversal, if necessary.

Seattle Socialists Act.

Seattle, May 13.—Resolutions condemning the decision of Judge Hanford, depriving Leonard Olson of his citizenship rights because he is a socialist, will be passed by the executive committee of the county socialist organization at the city meeting tonight. The committee will prepare a campaign to carry Olson's appeal to the United States supreme court, if necessary.

FIRST CAMPING TRIP HEAD

Milem Girls and Friends Enjoy Outing, First of the Season.

Camping fever has seized hold of La Grande and yesterday marked the first "formal function" in this line when the Milem club and gentleman friends climbed Deal canyon. The day was spent in the shady seclusions of "Foley's grove" and two bountiful meals were served by the society belles.

BUFFALO VERNON VISITS IN CITY, PLAYING NEW STUNTS

"Buffalo" Vernon, king of the buckaroos and bulldozers, is in La Grande today visiting his old friend, Pat Foley. Pat and Vernon formerly worked together in Nevada on the Wild Horse ranch and whenever either is in reasonable distance of the other they have an old-fashioned Buckaroo visit.

Vernon is the best known buckaroo in the world today. For a long time he was with the vaudeville circuit and gave fancy roping exhibitions throughout this country. He was the headliner at Pendleton roundup last year and Cheyenne people would not think of holding their annual wild west show without Vernon.

Arranging a New Stunt.

When seen by a reporter for the Observer today Vernon said: "Everything is good in its time. All of my exhibits seem to please the people but I am on the lookout for something new and I think Pat and I have it. We propose to rope a steer from an automobile at the Pendleton show this year, something that has never been done before. By doing this we will have combined the new method of transportation with roping. No, we do not expect to induce every citizen to buy autos for his cow-

TWENTY-ONE OF 24 FOR COLONEL

ROOSEVELT CARRIES MINNESOTA WITH 'HANDS DOWN'

SPLIT IN WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION IS PREDICTED

Early Returns From Minnesota's Primary Election Give Roosevelt Every Congressional District Save Two—California Expects Big Vote Tomorrow at Primary Election.

St. Paul, Minn., May 13.—The latest returns from the state primaries election today indicate that Roosevelt has carried every congressional district, except possibly two. Roosevelt has 20 and probably 21 delegates of Minnesota's 24 to the national convention. California Fight Closes.

San Francisco, May 13.—A record-breaking vote is expected Tuesday in the California primaries. Interest is centered in the Taft-Roosevelt-La Follette fight for republican delegates to the national convention. The race between Clark and Wilson, democrats is expected to be close.

Split in Washington Likely.

Seattle, Wn., May 13.—Whether there are to be two conventions at Aberdeen Wednesday depends on the action of the state central committee which meets tomorrow. The Taft leaders are alleged to be openly boasting that this is a pro-Taft committee and will arbitrarily disregard the Roosevelt-La Follette majority, and will sent every Taft delegate to the convention on roll call. If the insurgents fail to get what they think they are entitled to they will bolt, and hold a separate convention.

Taft Quits Personalities.

Mapleeta, O., May 13.—Expressing a determination to eliminate all anti-Roosevelt personalities and confine his speeches to a discussion of his administration and its accomplishments in support of his claim for the presidential nomination, Taft arrived here today to begin his 10 days' campaigning before the Ohio state primaries.

La Follette Campaign Over.

San Francisco, May 13.—Returning to Frisco from San Diego Senator La Follette arrived here today.

SMALLPOX IN MEXICO, RUMOR

AMERICANS FLEE FROM LATEST MENACE THERE.

MANY DEATHS OCCUR

Many Cases Yet to Be Heard From—Transport Bringing Americans.

Nogales, Ariz., May 13.—Smallpox in a virulent form has again appeared in Mazatlan, and the west coast of Mexico, according to refugees arriving here today.

Several deaths and more than 100 cases of disease are reported. The United States transport Buford is en route to San Francisco via Salina Cruz, according to railroad men, and carries 200 American refugees taken aboard at the various west coast ports.

DEATH CHAIR READY.

Unfrosted Minister's Death Will Come Within a Few Days, Perhaps.

Boston, May 13.—Investigation into the mental condition of Rev. C. V. T. Richeson, condemned to the electric chair for the murder of his sweetheart, Avis Linnell, was continued today with Doctors Stedman, Frost and Tuttle conducting the examination. Preparations for the electrocution of the unfrosted minister were begun today by Warden Charleston of the state prison. Richeson is to meet death May 19. The death cell is put in order, and the electric wires inspected.

PIPPINS HOME FOR 1ST GAME

SEASON TO OPEN IN LOCAL BALL WICK.

Foster to Get on the Mound for La Grande—Kellackey Here Tonight

With two actual games won out of the series at Boise, the La Grande club returned today under the tutelage of Mgr. Bradley and the baseball season will be ushered in tomorrow commencing at 4 o'clock with auspicious circumstances. The contest will obtain this afternoon and evening the name of every house that will close tomorrow at 3:30 o'clock and automobile fans are going to form a cordon of protection at 3:30 at the Foley hotel for the ball players and give a little sideshow attraction in the way of a parade. The day promises good weather and there will be plenty of opportunity for a great concourse of fans to gather around the festal ballwick to see Mayor Church heave the first ball and to watch the impending struggle. Foster who was sent to Boise to get acquainted with the player and loosen up will climb on the hilltop for La Grande and Fox or Karr will do similarly for Boise. Umpire Longenecker will come from Walla Walla to handle the indicator and Knell who officiated at Boise goes to Pendleton where Walla Walla opens tomorrow with much pomp.

Tomorrow's game will find both teams settled to a something like natural stride and high class ball is predicted. Hugh Kellackey arrives tonight with his irrigators and will warm up in the morning probably. After tomorrow the games start at 3:30, lasting throughout the week and Sunday.

ALL STORES TO CLOSE.

Butcher shops, clothing stores, drug stores, confectionery stores, grocery stores, furniture stores, hardware, barber shops, pool rooms—practically every house in every line of business, will close at 3:30. To facilitate matters the grocery and meat delivery schedule will be changed to run the last delivery at 3:30. The town will be as deserted as a whistling post for 24 hours. This is the report of a committee which canvassed the city this afternoon.

I. W. W. MEMBER MEETS DEATH

CRUSHED TO A PULP WHEN ENGINE CAR

INSTRUCTIONS GIVE IDENTIFY AND HIS RELATIONS

Un-mailed Letter Addressed to Brother in Manitoba Discloses Name of Young Man Killed at Pendleton Yesterday and Found When the Rip Track Employees Inspect Car.

Crushed to a pulp between two piles of lumber in a freight car, a young I. W. W. named J. Logan, who halls probably from King Edwards postoffice, Manitoba, was found by rip track employes in the La Grande freight yards yesterday afternoon. He was killed at Pendleton where the car in which the Industrialist was riding, was bumped by a switch engine with such force that the end of the car was caved in, and driving the three tiers of lumber in it together with telescopic effect. The car was run on the rip track when it reached La Grande and the body discovered. Nothing was known of the accident until the car was inspected for repairs at this point.

Carried Emergency Address.

Coroner Bacon, when called to the scene, found numerous addresses about the remains, including a letter written and addressed to a brother, George T. Logan, King Edwards station, Manitoba. In addition to this identification, he carried instructions on his person, which advised that if killed or seriously ill, to notify Miss Olson, 293 Tenth street, Portland. This has been done; the address is presumably the living place of a sweetheart or a near relative.

The coroner's inquest was held this afternoon, being more or less perfunctory in view of the facts already known. Instructions will probably be received during the afternoon or evening covering disposition of the body. The man is young, about 20, was sandy haired, five feet, nine inches tall and weighed about 140 pounds.

In addition to these other descriptions found upon his person it was learned that he was a member of the I. W. W., an organization now creating disturbance throughout the Pacific coast.

REBELS MEET DEFEAT.

Wholesale Desertions Come When the Rebel Leader Is Defeated.

Conchos, Mex., May 13.—After routing the rebels yesterday and capturing ten cannon in a battle in which each side lost about 500 killed and wounded the federals under General Huerta are preparing today to annihilate the rebels under Orozco, who have fled to Escallon where they are expected to make their last stand today.

El Paso, May 13.—General Orozco's rebels, tired and hungry, are making possibly their last stand at Pellano Depellano today against General Huerta's federal troops. The last reports were that the rebels were fighting desperately.

The rebels at Juarez are badly demoralized today as the result of Orozco's crushing defeat at Conchos. Twenty men from the Juarez garrison deserted today, and crossed the border into El Paso. They report another defeat of the rebels will result in wholesale desertion. General Orozco is defeated today it is believed he will retire and make Chihuahua his base of operations and if able to gather men enough, will make a serious resistance.

Five New Bishops Certain.

Minneapolis, Minn., May 13.—That five new bishoprics will be created tomorrow when the report of the Episcopal committee of the quadrennial conference of the Methodist church is made, seems certain today.