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CONFESSION IN PRISON UPHOLDS JURY'S VERDICT

FAMOUS ELLEXSON MURDER VERDICT PROVES TO BE CORRECT ONE.

CONVICTION ON PURELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL CLEWS

Religion Prompts Man Convicted in 1910 for Murdering Perry at Union to Confess His Crime—Case Took Months to Run Down and Contest was Bitterly Waged in Court.

When a Union county jury, back in 1910, convicted T. R. Ellexson on purely circumstantial evidence on the charge of murder in connection with the tragic death of W. T. Perry in his home near Union that year, it applied justice correctly. Ellexson from his prison cell has confessed the murder and prays forgiveness, being prompted by religious motives. No case, in the history of the county, it is contended, and certainly not in the last two decades has been as hotly fought or filled with as many sensational developments as this one, and District Attorney F. S. Ivanhoe, who handled the case as prosecutor, said today that in that case he had the hardest fight of any criminal case he has ever tried. There was absolutely no connection of a direct sort between Ellexson and the crime.

The prisoner had previously to that time been employed by Perry, but just before the murder, Ellexson was working at Baker, where he quit suddenly and started west. He was trailed, by evidence heard at the trial, until he reached Tolocaset and a gap occurred at that point which was not only until Union was reached, but also until Ellexson was proven to have been in the ranch and killed Perry while the latter was hospitably leading his former employer to an upstairs room for the night. Four bullets were fired into Perry's back from behind as he was going upstairs, carrying a lamp. The two had dined together just before. This in a circumstantial manner, came out at the trial, but there was nothing to show direct connection. Ellexson contended he had slept near a pile of ties that night upon reaching Tolocaset, had gone West on a train the next morning to La Grande then worked his way to Hilgard, boarded a train there and got off in Umatilla county where he changed his name and went to work on a farm. That was his story.

The state had circumstantial evidence to indicate that Perry had walked from Tolocaset to the farm, shot Perry, walked to Union station and in climbing through the fence at the station had lost a memorandum book. This book was found later. The state showed how he had gotten to Umatilla county from there, and while there, had written compromising postal cards to Mrs. Perry at Portland at the time. The lady's father got the cards however, and turned them over to the authorities here without Mrs. Perry's knowledge. When these clues were sprung in court Mrs. Perry was seated beside the prosecutor and for the first time during the trial, claimed Ellexson guilty. "That man shot my husband," she exclaimed when the cards were read.

Ellexson was convicted after a fight in which ex-Supreme Judge W. M. Ramsey exhausted every legal effort to free his client, believing the man innocent. His innocence was stoutly maintained by the prisoner at all times, and no case in many years has attracted the notice this one did. "There is no question in my mind but that Ellexson was infatuated with Mrs. Perry, having developed that state of feeling while employed on the farm, but as for her being a party to it, that is a slanderous scandal," said Colonel Ivanhoe today in going over the famous trial. "She treated him as a gentleman should be treated, and he, a worthless rascal, misused the courtesy. Mrs. Perry was as innocent, in my mind, as any woman could be. The late Sheriff Childers and I worked on that case for months before we found the clues produced in trial, but at no time could we actually connect him with the murder directly. I remember it as one of the worst cases I ever handled."

Confession Copy Here. "I now have a copy of the confession, Mr. Ficklin having sent it to me last evening," said Mr. Ivanhoe. The story of the confession, as appearing in a Portland paper, says: After stoutly declaring his innocence throughout his trial and since his incarceration in the state penitentiary, T. R. Ellexson, a convict at

OFFICERS TO TESTIFY AT CHICAGO.

To testify before the Industrial Welfare commission which is to sit in Chicago, numerous officials of the O. W. today left in a private car for Chicago. They included Ed Thomas, master mechanic for this division. Others were J. F. Graham, superintendent of motive power, J. T. Langley, assistant to Mr. Graham and T. H. Yorke, master mechanic of the fourth division at Spokane. They expect to be gone a considerable while. Another private car containing General Manager J. P. O'Brien, C. G. Sutherland, his assistant, and Chief Engineer Holman, was attached to No. 8 today, this group being bound for the Vale line.

BISHOP DESCRIBES CANAL

Hot Lake Guests Hear Interesting Discourse On Panama.

Hot Lake, April 1.—Among the numerous guests now registered at the Hot Lake Sanatorium is Bishop Robert L. Paddock, the Anglican Episcopal Bishop of Eastern Oregon, who is making Hot Lake his headquarters for the present. On Thursday night the bishop gave a very interesting lecture which was attended by all those now in residence at the popular health resort. The subject of his lecture was a journey he took from New York to San Francisco, via the Panama canal. His description of the "big ditch" was especially interesting, and his talk of the Culebra slides and the "cut," the reasons of it, and the remedies adopted to keep the "cut" clear, mark him as one who knows.

Holds Up Church Elders

Oklahoma City, Okla., Apr. 2.—F. E. Hims walked into the study of Rev. Phil Baird where he and eight directors of the First Presbyterian Church were holding a meeting. Hims pulled a pug-nosed gun from his pocket and said: "Gentlemen, I have a very unpleasant duty to perform. I want your money and I want it quick." Rev. Phil Baird walked deliberately up to the gun and said: "What's your dear man. You probably need money but I will help you to get it honestly. I will get you a job." Hims, a college man who later admitted having served time in New York workhouse, wanted his money on the spot. He said he had not eaten food for twenty four hours. When finally the minister had talked him into putting away the gun, the meeting took up Hims' case. Every man present pledged himself to keep the facts secret to save Hims.

Hims broke his promise to the minister and also lost the job the elders obtained for him. A week later he appeared at a church entertainment with the same business-like gun. A second time they made him put away the weapon. But while Rev. Baird was willing to try religion on Hims again the elders called the police. That's how the story became public.

GERMAN PRISONERS MAY SHIELD ENGLISH COMMERCE

Scheme Proposed to Compel More Attention From Submarines

AUSTRIANS SAID TO BE SUEING FOR PEACE

London, April 2.—"Place big detachments of German prisoners on board all British merchant ships as they ply the seas."

This is the startling proposal ship-owners are urging upon the government. Petitions are being circulated, demanding that this step be taken. With German military prisoners carried by all merchantmen, submarines must either show mercy in undersea warfare or send their own countrymen to the bottom, it is argued.

Three more merchantmen were torpedoed Thursday with a loss of 80 lives, and this has aroused another storm of indignation in Great Britain. Fresh demands for reprisals are being made.

London, April 2.—With Russian armies threatening to burst through the Carpathians and sweep Hungary, Austrian diplomats are making overtures for separate peace with Russia, according to reports from

Russia. The reports are utterly unconfirmed officially.

Swiss diplomats are acting as intermediaries for the Austrians, it is said. These men have been informed, it is stated, Russia would not negotiate with Austria-Hungary unless it concludes peace with France and England. Russia is willing to halt her armies in the Carpathians and listen to peace proposals, it is stated.

London, April 2.—An Austrian steamer carrying war munitions was sunk in the Danube. Serbian artillery sent her to the bottom.

Debate U. S. Preparedness

New York, April 2.—Whether lessons of Europe's war require Uncle Sam to increase his army and navy will be debated tonight at Carnegie Hall by Rev. A. P. Gardner, of Mass., author of the agitation for "preparedness," and Morris Hiliquit, foe of martial expenditures.

SCHEME TO LOCALIZE BOY MANAGED HOG RANCHES HAS BEEN GROWING IN FAVOR HERE

Embryonic plans to localize the boy-managed hog industry and spread the hog raising propaganda among the boys of Union county farms, by loaning Union county money to them with which to finance the business, are afoot in various circles, County Judge J. F. Phy and County Agriculturalist Claude C. Cate leading the discussion. In this plan these men and many others who have given it study, see certainty of wide-spread interest in hog raising. Union county business men are being approached and readily take to the plan. If the plans mature, as they likely will, loans will be made to deserving boys upon notes due after the pigs are sold. In this way it has been found elsewhere, rapid advancement of the hog raising business is made, the boys learning the most advanced methods of hog raising while young and are versed and skilled in the business

when they become farmers on their own responsibility, it has been found in other states that the production of hogs is immensely increased in this way, sending the industry into every farm's list of resources.

La Grande and Union county men are willing to help finance the proposition, and the matter of enlisting boys to take hold of the scheme has been taken up already.

The Union Stockyards at Portland has been working along the same line; taking notes from the boys, but a localized project is admittedly far superior in that the interest is kept up more noticeably. It is also reported that the stockyards are out of hogs, and if the scheme can be financed and carried to a successful fruition in this county entirely, far greater results are predicted than where the money comes from a distance.

SQUIRREL POISON REACHES GAME FOWL.

Squirrel poison, carelessly placed, is creating havoc in various ways, it appears. China pheasants are the last to suffer from this respect. Two splendid birds were found dead near Hot Lake, along the highway, this morning, and investigation leads to the belief that they ate poisoned grain, placed for squirrels. The squirrel poison should be placed well into the squirrel holes, where birds and other fowl and domestic animals cannot reach it, a great deal of harm has already been done from this source, and considerable objection and remonstrance is being heard against promiscuous placing of this poison.

U. S. Passes Hundred Million Mark Today

Washington, April 2.—At 4 o'clock this afternoon—no sooner and no later—the 100,000,000 population goal of the United States will have been reached, according to estimates of C. C. Sloan, Census Bureau geographer. At that hour, he figures, the nation's noses will number 100,000,059. Treasury Department's actuaries, however, figured that the hundred million mark was passed Feb. 1. Different standards cause the confusion. The Census estimates being based on the growth of population between 1900 and 1910.

"Illini" In Dixie

Starkville Miss., April 2.—The University of Illinois baseball team opened its 20-game season schedule here today with the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. Coach George Huff of Illinois says he has one of the best teams in the history of the university. The Illinoians will play another game here tomorrow, on their annual Easter trip to the south land, and on Monday will play Tulane University at New Orleans.

Los Angeles In Roofing Business

San Pedro, Cal., April 2.—The city of Los Angeles will put its own roof on its municipal freight shed here, according to a decision reached by the harbor commissioners. Los Angeles producers will be given an opportunity to bid on the material to be used. It is planned to make the sheds completely a home product.

Club Women to Be Athletic

Cleveland, April 2.—The new building planned for Cleveland's Woman's Club will have swimming pools, bowling alleys and paraphernalia for strenuous sport, according to Mrs. E. H. Baker, recently elected president of the club.

Yale vs. Georgetown.

Washington, April 2.—The Yale baseball team opened its season here today with a game against Georgetown on the Hilltop grounds. Tomorrow Yale will play the Washington American Lacquers and Saturday the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

FRENCH SEND DELEGATION TO PANAMA FAIR

NOTABLES TO VISIT THE EXPOSITION AND GIVE A LOVING ALBUM.

ACTS OF FRIENDSHIP BY AMERICANS PROMPTS

Sixty Elegant Artpieces to Be Given to America by French, and Delegation of Notables Will Visit Panama Fair Out of Courtesy for American Good Will During Great War.

(By WILLIAM PHIPPS SIMS.) Paris, April 2.—To show appreciation of the many spontaneous acts of friendship by people of the United States, France will send a delegation of leading statesmen to the Panama exposition at San Francisco, it is announced.

As an added token, a special album of 60 original drawings are being fashioned by French artists, for formal presentation to America through Ambassador Sharp. The presentation will be made by President Poincaré. The ceremony is to take place some time in May, probably at Sorbonne. Senator Hanotaux, president of the Franco-American commission, is in charge of the matter and is assisted by the noted artists, Leon Bonnat and Henri La Pauze.

New Field For Press Agencies

Chicago, April, 2.—If you have ever been in a campaign manager's candidate's "headquarters," just before election, a definite idea can be garnered of the headquarters of railroad attorneys, statisticians, witnesses and press agents during arbitration time.

Since it has become a part of the railroad manager's daily work to testify before interstate commerce commissions and state railroad commissions and make speeches to commercial clubs in behalf of or in defense of railroads, the press agent is a necessary adjunct to railroading.

Chicago has two headquarters for railroad arbitrators. One is in the Federal Building, where half dozen typewriters are clipping all day long turning out copy. The other is in a suite of rooms at the LaSalle. Besides the press stenographers there are private secretaries to the counselors and the railroad officials attending the hearing have a stenographer too.

The "headquarters" is completely organized, circus-like, it is ready to move at short notice. Wherever arbitrating is on the press agent and his retinue are likely to be called.

BISHOP'S CARRIAGE COMING

Elks to Put on Well Known Drama at a Nearby Date

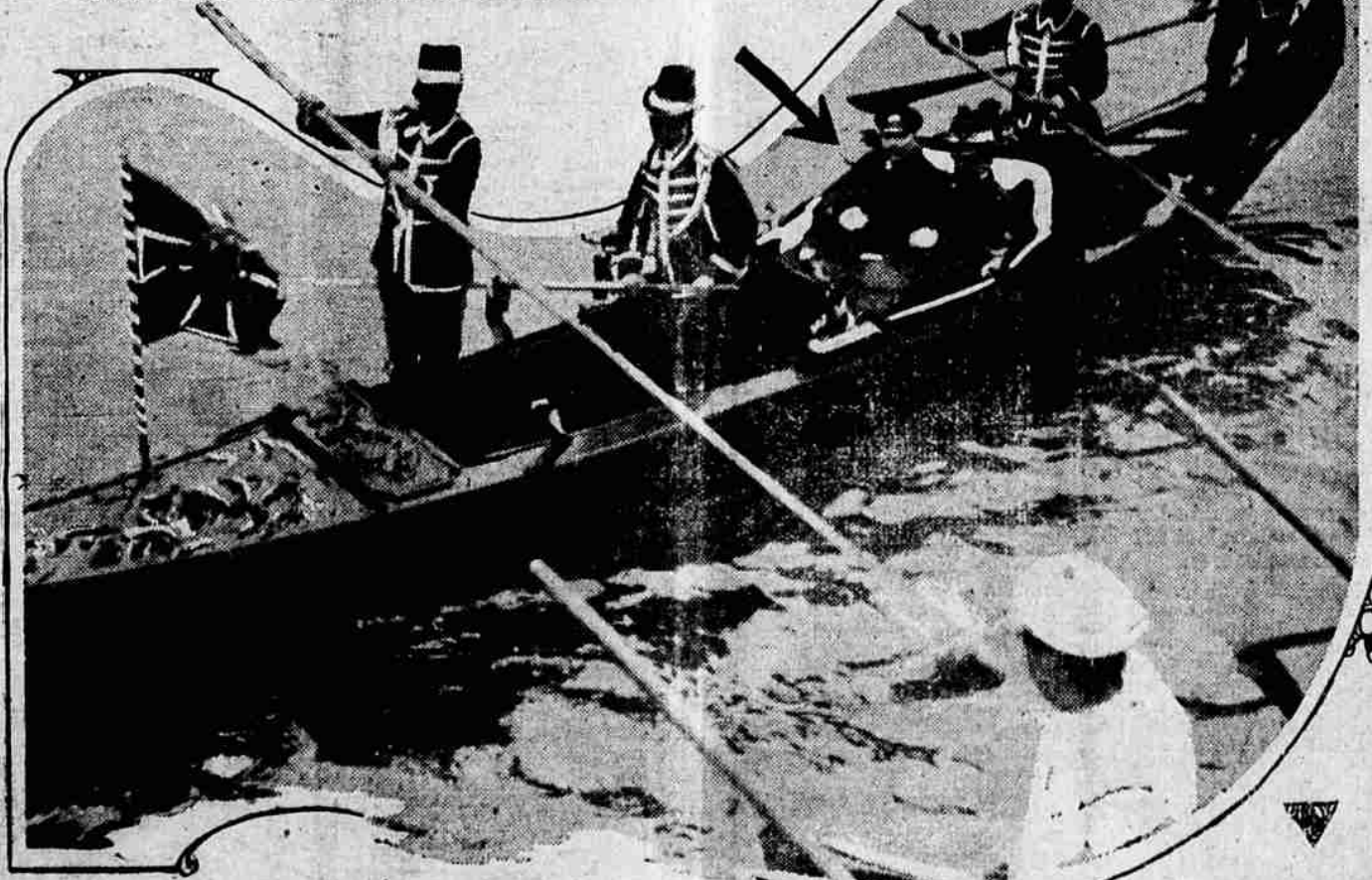
The Elks' lodge of La Grande is going to produce one of the biggest New York successes, "In the Bishop's Carriage." This piece has always been a big success having had a continuous run of four seasons in all the large cities besides having a worldwide reputation through the efforts of the charming little actress, Mary Pickford, in the pictures. Those who may have seen the picture will lose nothing by seeing the real drama for the committee has put forth every effort to secure a cast well suited for every part. All know what the B. P. O. E. have done in the past and will continue to do in the future, so don't forget to boost for the new home and big show at the Arcade, April 9th. Cast will appear in the near future.

Concert Will Be Feature.

In order to accommodate the large number of men who will attend the sacred concert to be given Sunday afternoon at the Y. M. C. A., the main lobby will be used. After hearing a few numbers to be given through the phonographic machine today, the secretary said, "It is going to be far beyond what I expected. A few records were played for me this morning and it made me happier than ever that we could offer this treat to the men of the city. Some of those numbers just take a fellow right off his feet. We will begin promptly at 8 o'clock with 'Boston Commandery March.' It is simply great. From that number on to the closing record, 'Hallelujah Chorus,' from the Messiah, will be one solid hour of good cheer. Rev. Myers will give us an Easter message during the hour. We want men to know that this is Easter and what Easter means to the world and to them. The price of admission is simply the energy required to get into the building. This concert is for men, not for men's clothes, which means that all men are invited."

WHEN KING AND KAISER WENT GONDOLA-ING.

EMPEROR WILLIAM OF GERMANY AND KING VICTOR EMANUEL OF ITALY IN THE LATTER'S STATE GONDOLA ON THE GRAND CANAL IN VENICE. THE KAISER SITS AT THE KING'S RIGHT (ARROW POINTING TO HIM). WILLIAM AND EMANUEL WERE GOOD "PALS" BEFORE THIS AWFUL WAR STARTED. AND MANY A HAPPY HOUR THEY SPENT TOGETHER.



(Continued on Page 8.)