

A RANCHER CONFESSES TO MURDER

MARTIN SWIFT OF CASTLE ROCK
COOLLY ADMITS HE KILLED
HIS NEIGHBOR

WAS RESULT OF FEUD
OF LONG STANDING

Self-Confessed Murderer Had Helped
Carry Dead Man From the Woods
and Was Also Member of Coroner's
Jury Which Investigated the Case.

CASTLE ROCK, Wash., Dec. 18.—(United Press)—Martin Swift, a rancher living fifteen miles from here, today coolly confessed to the murder of his neighbor, John Gilmore, last Friday, as the result of a feud of fifteen years' standing.

Swift said: "It was him or me. I figured my children were as good as his to have a father."

Swift's arrest came after he had helped the neighbors to carry the dead body from the woods and after he had served on the coroner's jury which investigated the murder.

BRITISH SHIPS RELEASED
HAMBURG, Dec. 18.—(United Press)—Fifteen interned British merchantmen have been released, and sent to England.

PRESIDENT EXPLAINS VIEW

SAYS THAT HE NEVER EN-
DORSED A LEAGUE TO EN-
FORCE PEACE

PARIS, Dec. 18.—(United Press)—"I am not only in favor of a league of nations, but believe that the formation of such a league is absolutely indispensable to the maintenance of peace," President Wilson declared, in denying the authenticity of a dispatch an American newspaper published, declaring that he approved the plan of a league of nations to enforce peace.

He added that any "particular plan of a league to enforce peace was never directly nor indirectly endorsed by me."

France and America Agree.
President Wilson has been in France less than a week, yet the indications are that France and the United States are coming to an agreement. This does not mean in an absolute agreement on the entire peace program, but the parleys are progressing most satisfactorily, according to the French conviction.

Watched in Berlin.
BERLIN, Dec. 18.—(United Press)—Wilson's activities in France constitute the most important news in the papers. Dispatches regarding the president are always displayed in column one on the front page. The remainder is crammed with proclamations, open letters and editorials.

The number of newspaper in Berlin is constantly increasing.

Soldiers, decorated with garlands of leaves and flowers, are now pouring into Berlin at the rate of ten thousand a day. The government is keeping the Berlin garrison under arms to prevent a Bolshevik demonstration.

The number of unemployed is increasing due to the closing of the munitions factories, especially the Krupp works, where a quarter of a million men have been thrown out of employment.

DISTRICT 77 IS COMPLETE

Mrs. D. W. Beck, captain of district No. 77, La Grande, is the first team captain to make a report on the Christmas membership drive. This report was completed and sent in to headquarters yesterday.

Mrs. Beck turned in a nice list of names of those who have become enrolled in the Red Cross membership. The work of the captain, Mrs. Beck, has been thorough and complete and all the new members have received their flags, buttons and seals.

Good progress is also being made in other districts and final reports from several of the captains are expected by this evening.

MAJ. JACQUES CORBUBEN



Maj. Jacques Corbuben, who is the first Frenchman to receive the American D. S. C. He distinguished himself in the Franco-American drive in the St. Mihiel sector, where he commanded one of the victorious battalions.

O-W WINS IN SUPREME COURT

BAKER COUNTY ACCIDENT DE-
CIDE AFTER LITIGATION

Wallowa County Decision also
Handed Down by Tribunal

SALEM, Or., Dec. 18.—The Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation company is upheld in an opinion of the supreme court, written by Justice Burnett and handed down today, involving an accident in Baker county in which Frank Weygant was killed and Alonzo V. Robinson was injured. Plaintiffs in the action were Robinson and R. H. Clifford, the latter as administrator of Weygant's estate. The cases were brought separately into court, but are merged at the trial.

The conclusion of the court is that the judgment in each case shall be reversed with directions in the Weygant case to enter judgment for the defendant as upon a directed verdict in its favor, and in the Robinson case for a new trial of issues involved. Relative to the accusation that defendant was operating its train at an excessive rate of speed and was therefore negligent, and to certain charges to the jury on that point which defendant's attorneys asked the trial court, Judge Gustav Anderson, to make, the opinion today says:

"The trial judge not only refused these requests, but also failed to give to the jury any directions whatever on that branch of the case. Two requested instructions are a fair exposition of the law as applied to this case, and should have been given."

At the time of the accident, Weygant and Robinson were driving in an automobile from Meridian, Idaho, to Battle Ground, Wash., and were traveling on a county road in the burnt river canyon of Baker county. Weygant was driving the machine when it collided with a freight train at a grade crossing. Charges of negligence were brought by plaintiffs. The opinion places contributory negligence on plaintiffs themselves.

The Alder Slope Ditch company, appellant, vs. Moonshine Ditch company; appeal from Wallowa; contest over water rights in connection with adjudication of water rights in Hurricane creek; opinion by Justice Olson; Circuit Judge Knowles affirmed.

RETURN WILL BE DELAYED

NAVAL OFFICER FIXES NEXT
JULY AS DATE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(United Press)—The United States will keep naval stations at Cardiff, Queenstown, and Brest until all American forces are ready to leave Europe. Captain Lansing of the bureau of navigation informed the house naval committee today.

The stay of the army in France is indefinite, he said, adding, "I do not believe that our forces will be coming back before July 1, 1919."

FLEEING BANKER CAUGHT BY LOLA

MRS. BALDWIN GRABS YOUNG
DAVIS OF PORTLAND.

Strange Case of Robbery is Finally
Unearthed by Woman.

Under a San Francisco date line the story of the fleeing banker of Portland's East Side bank, who robbed the institution of money and bonds and his capture by Lola O. Baldwin, former police matron at Portland, is told as follows:

Hailed by Mrs. Lola G. Baldwin, Portland, Or., police woman, as he was about to step into his new limousine, Arthur O. Davis, said to be wanted in Portland for the embezzlement of \$18,500 from the East Side bank, in which he was a bookkeeper, was placed under arrest today.

"All right," said Davis after his arrest, "I'll tell you everything." Whereupon he made a complete confession before Mrs. Baldwin and a detective, turned over \$220 of his loot and promised to reveal the whereabouts of \$5000 additional today. The funds recovered were \$2230 in currency and the balance in Liberty bonds and Davis' automobile.

According to the police, Davis is 21 years old and has a wife and two children in Portland. A reward of \$500 had been offered for his capture.

Mrs. Baldwin had been here for a year, having drawn a leave of absence from the Portland police department to do war work here.

Mrs. Baldwin this morning notified Chief of Police Nelson Johnson of the capture by telegram and Detective W. H. Hyde has started for San Francisco to return Davis. The robber was stepping into his newly purchased limousine when haled by Mrs. Baldwin. Mrs. Baldwin's telegram read:

"I have located Arthur Davis and have in my possession bonds and funds belonging to the bank. He will return without extradition papers and make amends for his act. Send for him. (Signed) MRS. LOLA G. BALDWIN."

Had Known Davis a Long Time.
Mrs. Baldwin has known Davis since he was a small lad, and the police believe that he recognized him on the street in the Bay City. She has for the past year been on a leave of absence from her position on the local police force and has been engaged in war work for the department of training camp activities. "It was on this work that she was in San Francisco last night," Mrs. Baldwin said in Portland when young Davis absconded with the money and visited the Davis family several times during a short stay in the city.

State Board of Health Renews Its Faith in Serum Against the Flu

At its meeting in Salem recently the State Board of Health besides arranging for money with which to carry on its campaign against the prevailing epidemic, also reiterated and re-instated its faith in the merit of the vaccine which it has been using for some time but which had lost cast and favor in the eyes of some of the members of the board of health. The board now assures the people that not a single death from the disease has been reported where the patient used the state vaccine.

TAXATION LAWS MAY BE CHANGED

ASSESSOR'S MEETING SHOWS
THAT NEW LAWS ARE
NEEDED.

PLAN TO CHASE DOWN
MONEY AND CHATTELS

A. P. Davis' New Tax Idea Given Con-
sideration by Many Assessors—Next
Legislature Will Have Chance to
Remedy Existing Wrongs.

That some radical new legislation is contemplated on the laws of taxation is apparent from the attitude taken by the different county assessors of the state who were in session in Portland a few days ago.

The bone of all assessors is the fact that money hides at tax paying time; that notes and mortgages go ground-heating also and that the man who has money and chattels frequently avoids applying anything like what he should on his entire property.

County Assessor Couch has returned from the meeting and he says the resolution passed to urge the coming legislation to repair the tax law so that idle riches might be forced into the taxpaying channel was a resolution backed by all members with sincerity and energy.

For the present law providing for the taxing of money and securities it is requested that the legislature put into effect a measure which will establish a recording tax on all notes that are secured and a stamp tax on all notes that are unsecured. To make it plain, if a man makes a loan taking a note therefor and that note does not bear the receipt for registering or the county stamp, the man who loaned the money has poor chance to ever force a collection. The new recommendation also provides for non-taxation of bonds.

A. P. Davis' Plan Discussed.
The plan of A. P. Davis to raise money for public purposes along the plan that Union county raised war funds was discussed by many of the assessors at the state meeting. Some believed it practical to raise a good portion of the public money and were in favor of whipping a measure into shape to try it out.

When told of the result of the assessors' meeting today Mr. Davis said: "I doubt if it would be practical to raise a part of the public money in that way unless it is all raised, for two plans of taxation is very dangerous. We now have several plans worked into one complex plan which does not work well and I believe the Union county idea of raising war funds is ample and sufficient to render all taxation just and fair and I sincerely hope there will be others take up the idea and give it consideration."

PORTUGUESE CABINET RESIGNS

LONDON, Dec. 18.—(United Press)—The entire Portuguese cabinet has resigned, it is authoritatively announced.

AIRPLANE LINE TO CROSS OCEAN

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ACROSS
ATLANTIC NOW ASSURED

Navigation of the Air Is Now a Com-
mercial Matter.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Capt. Benjamin B. Lipsner, who resigned recently as superintendent of the government aerial mail service, announces that, backed by a group of wealthy men, he will establish next year the first aerial passenger and express lines in this country.

Captain Lipsner said that he was not at liberty to announce proposed routes, but asserted that the first line would be put into operation on May 15, 1919. The service, he said, would be started with six planes, each with a speed of 110 miles an hour and a capacity of 40 passengers or an equivalent weight in express. Equipment of passenger planes, he said, will include a wireless telephonic system and all latest scientific appliances. The rates "will be within the reach of all," he said.

Captain Lipsner also said that unless some one else has already done so, on June 15th he will make the first trans-Atlantic flight, selecting the route followed by the transport George Washington in taking President Wilson to France. He added that "a seagoing plane" to be used in the flight is now being constructed.

STOCKMEN USE RESERVE FREELY

SHEEP AND CATTLE IN LARGE
NUMBER ARE PASTURED

Uncle Sam Is a Landlord for the Mul-
titude of Growers.

Nearly 2,140,000 head of cattle and more than 8,400,000 sheep were grazed under permit on the national forests of the country during the 1918 season, according to the report of the secretary of agriculture for 1918, which has just been received by District Forester George H. Cecil, Portland.

In two years there have been placed on the forests approximately 1,000,000 additional head of live stock, representing about 25,000,000 pounds of beef, 16,000,000 pounds of mutton and 4,000,000 pounds of wool. This material increase in the production of meat and wool on the forest ranges was brought about after careful observation of range conditions and studying of the methods by which the most complete utilization of the forage might be obtained without over-grazing the forests.

The season of 1918 illustrated in a striking manner the advantages offered by the national forest ranges to the western live stock industry. Because of drought conditions, the ranges throughout the west outside the forests were generally in bad shape. Owners dependent upon the open public range find the live stock business becoming so precarious that many are closing out and the number of range stock is being reduced. On the other hand, the use of the national forest ranges is increasing and their productivity is rising under the system of regulation. The wisdom of government control of these ranges was never more manifest than at the present time, according to the secretary of agriculture.

THIS IS WHERE PRESIDENT WILSON LANDS



The schedule for the trip of President Wilson across the Atlantic provided for his landing at Brest on December 12. Above is a scene in the harbor of Brest, which has become one of the large American naval bases in Europe.

COL. GEORGE E. GASK



Col. George E. Gask, D. S. O., of London, an authority on the treatment of gunshot wounds, is consulting surgeon of the Fourth British army in France. He has been visiting the United States.

MAN AND WOMAN PAID FINES

WERE OCCUPYING ROOM IN
LODGING HOUSE.

Case of Young Boy and Girl on
Similar Charge Is Before the
Juvenile Court.

In a raid by the police on a lodging house yesterday morning Albert Carpenter and Goldie Black-enthrop were taken into custody and were brought into the municipal court on the charge of disorderly conduct. Carpenter was fined fifty dollars and the young woman was fined twenty-five dollars. Both fines were paid.

At the same time a boy aged seventeen and a girl sixteen were found occupying the same room. They were turned over to the juvenile court.

GERMANY'S DEATH TOLL

BERLIN, Dec. 18.—(United Press)—The total number of Germans killed in the war is officially announced as 649,000.

WAR STAMPS NOT UNDERSTOOD IS THE OPINION EXPRESSED

"There are a lot of people throughout Eastern Oregon who do not understand just what War Savings stamps are," said Fred Lockley, who is in the city enroute from Wallowa county to Central Oregon.

"One of your leading business men said to me today: 'These War Savings stamps just what are they, isn't it sort of a kid game, a sort of a two bit proposition? Inasmuch as a person can invest any sum from \$5.00 to \$1000 in these War Savings stamps it can readily be seen that it is not a kid game. Union county has raised all but \$40,000 of its quota and I hope it goes over the top by the end of this month. F. L. Meyers, cashier of the La Grande National bank is county chairman of this drive and he is anxious to impress upon every person in Union county who has signed a pledge to buy stamps, that the time is short to make good on their promise. The stamps can be secured at any bank or post office in the county."

To a large extent the business men have centered their attention upon the various "thrift" loan drives and overlooked the importance of the W. S. S. drive. I am going to quote for their information what Governor James K. Lusk of California says about the importance of the W. S. S. Work.

Needed to Learn Sacrifice

He says: "The War Savings Stamp is one of the most important innovations undertaken by the government of the United States."

"The attempt of the government to impose the habit of thrift and savings on the whole people is a stupendous undertaking, and it could not be successfully accomplished if it were not for the medium of the War Savings Stamp."

"Going to our long continued

ALICEL IS THE FIRST ONE OVER

ONE DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY
MAKES COMPLETE REPORT
ON RED CROSS DRIVE

MUCH DETAIL WORK
REMAINS TO BE DONE

Team Captains Requested to Make Out
Their Reports Promptly in Order
That the County May Be Maintained
at Head of the List.

Mrs. Cochran, campaign manager for La Grande, has opened headquarters at Palterson's Grocery store, with her executive committee consisting of Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Nielsen and are on the job all the time getting out supplies, listing names and giving general information. Mrs. Omer as field worker is making things hum, assisting the workers in getting started.

The flu, weather and Christmas rush are all tending to make the Christmas membership Roll Call start slowly out work is gradually getting up steam and will soon be under full headway all over the county.

The lieutenant-colonels in La Grande are working hard to get the captains started to work and expect to have all working by today—only about half of the team captains have reported so far.

Team captains are requested to get their lists made out as promptly as possible so daily reports can be forwarded to headquarters each day and keep Union county in her place at the head of the list. Alicel is the first district in Union county to make a complete report on the Red Cross Roll Call. Mrs. Chas. Playle, campaign manager for that district, has a complete roll ready for her district.

While the War Chest has done away with a good deal of work connected with the Red Cross Christmas Roll-Call and has made the financial part easy, there is still considerable detail work to be done in making up the list of

(Continued on Page 2.)

prosperity we were fast approaching the condition of luxurious degeneration which spelled the downfall of the Roman empire. We needed to learn again the meaning of the word 'sacrifice.' Our men were flabby, both physically and morally. Our boys were growing up without respect for their elders or regard for the law, and our girls indulged in luxurious tastes in dress.

"This war has brought us up with a round turn. The magnificent response of our young men and young women to the call of the nation has demonstrated the inherent vitality of the race and has shown that the heaven of luxury has not eaten in very far. Let us resolve here and now never to let it get foothold again. Let us emulate the simple virtues of our forefathers, the hardy men and women who with ax and rifle and spinning wheel, conquered the American wilderness. In mastering the wilderness they became masters of themselves.

Redeem Pledges Now

"The War Savings Stamp invites us to return to the habit of thrift and saving. It is the best investment any 'government' has ever offered to its people, and that is one reason why the sale has been limited to five per person. While it is true that it produced huge sums for the prosecution of the war, by the same token it will produce equally huge sums for the payment of the bill. Even if we expect posterity to pay the reckoning, how can we equip them better for the task than by imposing the habit of thrift on our children.

"As a measure of your appreciation of the dangers through which our nation has been passing, redeem the Pledges or War Savings Stamps now. If fifty people make good citizens, and we will need many good citizens in the trying days to come."