

DECKER BOY CONFESSES TO MURDER

NINETEEN YEAR OLD YOUTH
SAYS HE STRUCK LOVETT
WITH A CROWBAR.

DECKER DECLARES "THE DEVIL DROVE ME TO IT"

After Lovett Had Been Knocked Unconscious, His "Double" Waited for Several Hours and Then Took the Body in a Buggy to the Railroad Crossing.

WARSAW, Ind., Mar. 19.—Virgil Decker, aged 19, early today confessed that he struck Leroy Lovett, his "double" in physical appearance, with a crowbar, as he slept in a cottage on the Tippecanoe river near here, and, several hours later, took the unconscious body in a buggy to a nearby railroad crossing, where the buggy containing the body was struck by a train. "The Devil drove me to it," said Decker, after signing the confession. He denied the transfer of his own clothing to Lovett's body as a part of the plan to collect insurance totalling nearly \$30,000, payable to his brother, Fred Decker, in the event of the death by accident, of Virgil.

Memories of his early religion revived by a letter urging him to confess and seek forgiveness, combined with the softening influence of the motherly advice given by Mrs. C. B. Moon, the wife of the sheriff, resulted in Decker's confession.

CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY

QUARTERLY L. D. S. CONFERENCE IN SESSION.

Elder Rudger Clawson, of Salt Lake, and Elder Heber C. Iverson, of Portland, in Attendance.

The opening session of the L. D. S. quarterly conference convened in the Tabernacle this morning at 10 o'clock. Representatives from all the branches of the church in this district were present. Elder Rudger Clawson, of the Council of Twelve, arrived from Salt Lake to be present at the conference. Elder Heber C. Iverson, president of the Northwestern States Mission of the church with headquarters at Portland, will also be in attendance, having arrived at noon today. Services were held by the Stake Priesthood this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Tomorrow services will be held at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., the public being cordially invited.

Announcement comes from Salt Lake that John A. Whitson, president of the University of Utah, had been chosen to fill the vacancy existing in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, caused by the death recently of Anthony H. Lund.

MANY SALES OF AUTOS MADE DURING WEEK

The past week has been a busy one for Chase Bohnenkamp, of the W. H. Bohnenkamp Co., who looks after the sales of Oldsmobile cars. Many people have been in to look at this new Oldsmobile Four, and indications point to a large volume of sales in the near future. The first carload of cars has been disposed of and a second carload is expected in the near future. Those purchasing the new Fours to date are Dr. Joseph Ingte, Dr. C. B. Cauthorn, George Kennedy and W. H. Bohnenkamp.

WEATHER FORECAST.
Tonight and Sunday, fair; light to heavy frost in the early morning.

J'ever Hear This? By STRICKLAND GILLILAN

Knocked L. Out of the Lake.
Prof. Blackie, of the University of Edinburgh, was as famous for his wit as for his learning. On one occasion when he was obliged to be absent, he chalked a notice on the blackboard, saying:

"Prof. Blackie regrets that today he will be unable to meet his classes." One of the students who gathered for recitation and saw the notice, rubbed out the first letter of "classes" and put the "L" on the door.

Next day, when Prof. Blackie entered the classroom, he merely glanced at the board, then went and rubbed out the "L."

MURDER OF ARMY OFFICER IS CLEARED

SERGEANT CONFESSES KILLING
OF MAJOR CRONKITE.

Mystery Occurred at Camp Lewis in 1910—Father Had the Case Investigated.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Mar. 19.—Roland A. Pothier, formerly army sergeant, today admitted that he had killed Major General Adelbert Cronkite, at Camp Lewis, in October of 1918. The Camp Lewis army board had found that the major had shot himself accidentally, but the father had the case investigated.

SLIDES GROW MORE SERIOUS

BRANCH LINE EXPERIENCES
TWO THIS WEEK.

Passengers Transfer Around Canyon Which is Filled to Depth of Thirty Feet.

Landslides have been the thing along the branch line above Elgin this week. The third bad slide of the winter occurred Wednesday and another one was reported yesterday, interfering with traffic to a serious extent.

Wednesday's slide occurred 18 miles northeast of Elgin and for a distance of several hundred feet the track was covered to a depth of over 30 feet.

Huge rocks, large trees uprooted and hundreds of tons of smaller rocks, earth and other debris was piled into the canyon. All available workmen were sent to the scene and every effort is being made to keep the track clear.

Passengers are being transferred around the slide, and in this manner only is it possible to reach points beyond Elgin.

HE OVERCAME ADVERSITY

LECTURER WHO SPOKE HERE IS
AN EXAMPLE.

Deprived of Both Hands and Sight, N. C. Hanks Becomes Scholar and Lecturer of Note.

N. C. Hanks, the sightless and handless lecturer and entertainer, who gave three talks here last Tuesday, speaking to the high school students, the Ad club and at the L. D. S. tabernacle, has an international reputation as a speaker and is a living example of how far a man with the greatest extremes of handicaps, can go in developing himself.

At 31, he lost his sight when a box of dynamite caps exploded at his mining claim near Nephry, Utah. He had a claim at that time in which he places the faith of all who hear the call of the elusive gold but have not yet discovered its value. In later years someone else developed it into one of the finest lead properties in that section of the country.

Later he began life over again and, through the medium of a teacher taking an interest in him, he began his preparation for the lecture platform. It is now ten years since he first stepped on the lecture platform to make his living. And he has studied the great literature of the world at several universities between lectures, attaining a reputation of being a thorough scholar in the field of literature.

At his lectures here, he won much praise from all, showing his versatility of learning in the three talks he gave. To the high school students he gave a lecture that A. C. Hampton, superintendent of schools, pronounced as showing that it was ample evidence that Hanks is a thorough scholar.

At the Ad club he gave a short, crisp talk, the kind business men will listen to when they would be bored with an ordinary "lecture," choosing as his subject the American business man. "An Hour of Optimism" was the subject of his talk in the church. In this he proved to his audience that he is truly the "man who laughs at fate."

CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD ARE TIED

LONDON, Mar. 19.—Oxford and Cambridge universities broke even in the annual dual track and field games today. Each team won five first places in the ten-event program.

SAYS ROADS WOULD SMASH LABOR UNION

FRANK WALSH CHARGES
PUBLIC OPINION IS BE-
ING CREATED.

SAYS LEE PULISHED FALSE STATEMENTS

Attorney Asks Thomas DeWitt Cuyler, Chairman of the Association of Railway Executives, Why Certain Press Agent Is Retained.

CHICAGO, Mar. 19.—Charges that the railroads, knowing that the railroad labor board had no power to enforce its decrees, were trying to smash the labor unions through public opinion and were attempting to influence public opinion through false and paid publicity, were made before the board today by Frank P. Walsh, union attorney, when he began the second day cross-questioning of the railroad officials.

He asked Thomas DeWitt Cuyler, chairman of the association of railway executives, whether Ivy Lee, press agent, was not employed because he was an expert in breaking down unions. "No," replied Cuyler. Walsh charged that Lee published the false statements regarding the salaries of the union officials in the mine publicity gotten out in 1914.

CONFERENCE OPENS MONDAY

CHICAGO, Mar. 19.—Representatives of the packers and the unions left for the Washington conference today. The conference will be held Monday.

REDUCED LUMBER RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, IS PLAN

PORTLAND, Mar. 19.—The reduced lumber rates to the east are effective on March 31.

NASH MAN VISITS IN CITY, FROM SEATTLE

A. C. Fitch, sales manager of the Chilton Nash Motor Co., of Seattle, was in La Grande yesterday looking over his line of cars which is sold here. Mr. Fitch is a former Oklahoman and lived in the country of cotton and oil for many years. He came out west three years ago and assisted in building the company he represents to one of the substantial concerns of the coast.

POPULATION OF PORTLAND ANNOUNCED

WHITE POPULATION NUMBERS
252,961 IN YEAR 1920.

Chinese Follow Second, With 1846. Nearly a 4000 Decrease Since 1910—Japanese Third.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19.—The white population of Portland, Oregon, in 1920, was 252,961, with 1846 Chinese, 1716 Japanese, 1556 Negroes, 210 Indians, Filipinos and others, the census bureau has announced. The Chinese population decreased 2853 from 1910 to 1920. This gives Portland a total population of 257,289.

FINDS COWS ARE DISEASED

TUBERCULOSIS HERE.

Urges City Ordinance Requiring All Dairy Animals to Be Tested—State Law Already Covers.

That tuberculosis in dairy cattle is prevalent here, is the statement of Dr. J. Trueby, who has tested a number of herds here under the university extension which provides for testing herds free of charge on condition that owners kill condemned animals, receiving compensation from the government for such animals.

At this evening's meeting, Dr. Trueby expects to discuss the matter of better inspection of herds with the county farm bureau directors and also take up the matter of drafting a city ordinance requiring owners of all dairy cows, whether only one or a hundred, who deliver milk in the city, to have their herds inspected.

Dr. E. G. Kirby, city health officer, has already been consulted on this matter and it is understood that he expects to present an ordinance at the meeting of the city commission next Wednesday.

Dr. Trueby states that there is already a state law on the subject but that better regulation is needed by means of local ordinances to protect the cities. He stated that there is considerable tuberculosis in the herds he has inspected and mentioned one instance where a cow gave such a good butterfat test that the milk was used entirely for infants, but on inspection it was found that this cow was infected, the owner being innocent, having purchased the animal only on the butterfat test record.

LIQUOR SEIZED ON BOARD THE FLOYD C

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 19.—The launch, Floyd C, was today seized with 500 cases of liquor, from Seattle.

DR. J. D. FENTON, OF PORTLAND, IS MISSING

PORTLAND, Mar. 19.—Dr. Jefferson D. Fenton, prominent physician, has been missing since Sunday. He had been ill.

DANIEL BOYD INTRODUCED TO HARDING

EASTERN OREGON MAN IS
WORKING FOR MINIS-
TERIAL POST.

INTRODUCTION MADE BY OREGON SENATOR M'NARY

Enterprise Man Has Support of Oregon and Indiana Delegations—Was Raised in Latter State, Coming to Oregon After College Days.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19.—Daniel Boyd, of Enterprise, Ore., was presented to President Harding today by Senator McNary, of Oregon, who urged the appointment of Mr. Boyd as Minister to Nicaragua.

It is understood that Daniel V. Boyd is receiving the support, not only from the Oregon senators and representatives, but also from the Indiana delegation.

Mr. Boyd, who has been a resident of Eastern Oregon for about 18 years and active in Republican politics, is a native of Indiana. He went west just after finishing his education at Wooster college, Wooster, O.

Thomas Thompson has announced his candidacy for postmaster of Pendleton, Ore., and has asked the endorsement of the Oregon congressional delegation.

IRISH MAKE GREAT AMBUSH

BELFAST, Mar. 19.—A great ambush by the Irish republican forces near Kinsdale, resulted in the killing of six crown soldiers and the wounding of five. The attackers suffered heavy casualties. The battle is still in progress.

HOTEL MEN WILL OPPOSE INCREASE

PORTLAND, Mar. 19.—The hotel men will meet here on Monday to consider the telephone rate increase.

HOOD RIVER LEGION TO HAVE NEW QUARTERS

HOOD RIVER, Mar. 19.—The Hood River American Legion post is considering the purchase of the P. S. Davidson residence here, one of the largest homes of the city, to be used as permanent quarters of the body of ex-service men. A proposition of the Commercial Club, offering the Legion exclusive use of the club room one night a week, is under consideration, but Legion sentiment favors exclusive quarters.

JAPAN WILL STAND ON HER YAP MANDATE

TEN JAPANESE STATESMEN TO
VISIT UNITED STATES.

Viscount Uchida Says Japan Is Working Against Laws Being Passed in Other States.

TOKIO, Mar. 19.—Japan will stand firmly on her mandate over the Island of Yap, Viscount Uchida, foreign minister, told the diet committee. He said Japan was doing everything possible to prevent the passage in other states of the United States of laws similar to those in California. Ten members of the house of representatives will visit America this summer.

OPERA PROVES BIG SUCCESS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRE-
SENT "PRISCILLA."

Packed House Greeted Youthful Players on Opening Evening—Well Presented Throughout.

The first presentation of the comic opera, "Priscilla," by the high school students at the high school auditorium last night, was pronounced one of the best amateur performances ever given in La Grande. The performance being a credit to all participants, those responsible for the coaching and the school in general.

The opera was based on the old and always interesting story of the courtship of Myles Standish, Geneva Smith as Priscilla, scored a decided hit, both in her song numbers and in her general fitness for the part and its general execution. She showed in every way what the role called for—the pretty pilgrim—and showed much talent in the make-believe of the stage.

Playing opposite her, Delber Snider, as John Alden, the friend in need, the lover whose heart is torn between his own love and his pledged duty to his friend, which would mean the sacrifice of his love.

Alfred Meyers showed himself to be a born actor in his presentation of Hatched Higgins. He provoked many a laugh from the audience and kept the serious side of the story from taking too deep a hold on them, furnishing the appeal to the comic at the right moment and in a manner that would give deserving praise to one more mature and more experienced.

Resignation, the middle-aged spinster, was well played by Leulah Smith, while Mildred Lovett, Thelma Choate and Myrtle Black played the parts of the three Mayflower Buds well.

Squanto, the reformed Indian, played by Wm. Heughan, was largely a role of silence, but he took advantage to turn that silence to good use by making his movements show the moods that he should be in in the story.

Myles Standish was well played by Ted Larson, while Leo Shannon played the part of William Bradford, governor of New Plymouth. The captain's bashfulness when his love was near, his bravery in battle, and his enthusiasm in martyrdom—for John Alden—were all well presented. The governor's part called for the ability to assume a dignity beyond a high school lad's age, but Leo Shannon "got by" with his part admirably.

The orchestra and the boys and girls choruses deserve much credit for the excellent work they did in last night's performance. Miss Francis Birney, musical director of the public schools, and Miss Frances Smith are to be complimented highly on the thorough training they gave the boys and girls.

The boys chorus was composed of the following: Tenors—Harry Snodgrass, Harold Schroeder, Francis Robinson, Earl Larson, Leo Hawes, Herman Berger, B. B. Christian, Sheldon Brownson; baritone—Waldo Stoddard, Willard Stone, Palmer Byrkit, Milo Blokland, Wright Christian, Clark Price, James Coker; bass—Brook Colt, Ralph Clark, Robert Williamson, Frank Black and Christian Sanborn.

The girls' chorus was composed of the following: first soprano—Marion Howell, Frieda Klopfenstein, Ruth Sanborn; Flavia Ritter, Winona Lyman, Genevieve Hanna, Juanita Leavitt, Maurine Earhart; second soprano—Bernice Lofland, Felvia Cady, Bernice Johnson, Leona Morris, Al-

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PEACE TREATY MAY BE SIGNED

WARSAW, Mar. 19.—News that the peace treaty between Poland and soviet Russia had been signed, reached here last night.

FATE IN HANDS OF JURY NOW

JURY STILL DELIBERATING OVER
FATE OF TWO ACCUSED
OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER

PREDICTION MADE THAT MRS. JONES WILL BE FREE

Judge J. W. Knowles, in His Instruction Admits That Prosecution Has Not Proved All Its Contentions—Those Favoring Defense See Hope for Acquittal in Instructions.

Whether or not Mrs. Charlie Jones and Chin Mon Bill are guilty of slaying Jau Sheu last December, and if one or both are guilty, what degree murder it was, is now being determined by the twelve men chosen to act as jurors in the trial. It was just four minutes after noon when the jury left the courtroom to retire to the jury-room, where they are now deliberating. After organizing, they immediately were taken down town by the bullfinch for lunch and returned shortly after lunch to commence their deliberations.

The arguments of the attorneys began yesterday morning at about ten-thirty and the state closed its case at about 11:30 this morning, over half an hour being taken then by Judge J. W. Knowles to give his instructions to the jury.

Ed Wright, district attorney, made the opening argument for the prosecution yesterday. This was his first appearance in an important criminal case since taking office, and Mr. Wright's friends, both of the bar and those who heard him, declare that his outlining of the prosecution's case was done in a thorough-going manner and complimented him highly.

R. J. Kitchen, attorney for the defense, followed Mr. Wright and pointed out the salient points of evidence which the defense brought out in attempting to prove its contentions of self-defense in the case of Chin Bill and innocence on the part of Mrs. Jones.

Mr. Kitchen closed his argument yesterday afternoon and this morning F. S. Ivanhoe, special prosecutor, closed the state's case with forceful arguments, so characteristic of him.

Result a Speculation.
What the verdict will be is a matter that is being discussed pro and con by the hundreds who followed the case during the entire week. The general opinion seems to favor a prediction of acquittal for Mrs. Jones and either a hung jury or acquittal, with a possibility of a verdict of manslaughter, for Chin Bill. But no one has ever succeeded in predicting with certainty what the verdict in a murder trial will be so as the hours pass the interest is growing in intensity, with the theory that the jury will disagree on the fate of the Chinaman gaining added plausibility.

Judge Instructions Jury.
In his instructions to the jury, Judge J. W. Knowles went into the details of the laws governing cases of homicide in detail. He called attention to the legal presumption of innocence until guilt had been established beyond a reasonable doubt, calling attention also to the application of this law to the grade or degree of crime.

"Murder in the first degree is the unlawful and felonious killing of any person by another, purposely and of deliberate and premeditated malice," he explained, while "if any person shall purposely and maliciously, but without deliberation and premeditation, kill another," it is second degree murder, and "if any person shall, without malice, express or implied, and without deliberation, upon a sudden heat of passion, caused by a provocation apparently sufficient to make the passion irresistible, voluntarily kill another, such person shall be deemed guilty of manslaughter," he declared.

Self-Defense Explained.
The right of self-defense is given to every man, according to the law, Judge Knowles stated. The explanation of this factor was considered of paramount importance by the several hundred spectators who had listened from beginning to end of the trial with intense interest, the defense having based its case largely on self-defense.

In discussing this important point Judge Knowles said: "This means that he may defend his life and may defend his person from great bodily harm. He may resort to force by force, and he may resort to such force as under the circumstances surrounding him may reasonably seem necessary to repel the attack upon him, and in his defense he may even go to the extent of taking the life of his adversary."

Specific Reference to Case.
Continuing, he made specific reference to the case of Chin Bill. He

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Times Do Change

