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DEFENDANT "MIXED UP" OVER NOTES

Blackington, on Stand Today, Confused During Questioning

SISTER TELLS OF BURNED HEIRLOOMS

Character Witnesses Give Testimony in Arson Trial in Circuit Court Today.

J. C. Blackington, 70-year-old defendant in the arson case that has grown out of the \$50,000 fire that destroyed two warehouses, an elevator, their contents and the railroad stockyards at Imbler the night of May 30, took the witness stand in his own defense at the circuit court this morning.

Except when he attempted to follow notes he had made on the dates of his trips to and from Imbler before the fire, he told his story freely and with no unnatural hesitation.

Sister Testifies. The defendant's sister, Miss M. Alice Blackington, 79, four character witnesses and members of the Briggs family, at Imbler City, with whom Blackington visited until he drove with them to a meeting at the Pentecostal church in La Grande the night of the fire, were others called to the stand by the defense.

Blackington told the jury that he has lived in Los Angeles one and three-fourths years. Before that time he made his home at 2501 Adams avenue, La Grande.

He said he purchased the warehouses at Imbler in 1918, acting as an agent of his sister, M. Alice Blackington, who deeded them later to another sister, since dead. Miss M. Alice, who received the buildings again as a legacy through a will afterward found to be inadequate, joined her brother in the transfer of the property a few months ago to J. Clarkson Black-

4,000 Agents Will Combat Liquor Flow

Government Starts Off New Fiscal Year With Mobilization of Prohibition Army.

WASHINGTON, July 1. (AP)—Prohibition's largest army of 4,000 men was mobilized today—the first day of the government's new year—for the most extensive campaign planned against liquor in the seven years of national prohibition.

General Lincoln C. Andrews, West Pointer and assistant secretary of the treasury, in charge of prohibition enforcement, planned the campaign on the basis of the largest appropriation ever granted for dry enforcement in one year about \$29,000,000.

The campaign will be waged on land and sea, with the attack centered principally on sources of

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BIG ROBBERY IS PREVENTED

Patrolman Arrives in Time to Save Half Million Dollars Worth of Art Objects.

DETROIT, July 1. (AP)—A half million dollar robbery of the Detroit Art Institute was partially frustrated today when a patrolman passed the side of the building from which valuable art objects were being lowered. Three men drove away in a large coach, taking with them a \$75,000 Persian rug formerly the property of Lady Lubbock, of London, England, which was the gift to the institution of Mr. and Mrs. Edsel Ford.

Mrs. McComb Here Planning July School

Mrs. Jessie D. McComb, of Corvallis, state home demonstration leader, is in La Grande today to make final arrangements for "The Observer's Free Home-maker's Institute July 12-16, which will be under her personal direction.

LA GRANDERS TO VACATE CITY ON FIFTH OF JULY

La Grande will present the appearance of a deserted town Monday, July 5, which will be officially celebrated as Independence Day since July 4 falls on Sunday.

Sewer Improvement District Created By City Commission

Creation of a sewer improvement district which will serve some four blocks in Western La Grande in that territory lack of the high school building featured the regular session of the city commission last evening.

La Granders Called Go-Getters

A very prominent Wallowa business man, commenting on the results of the "good will" caravan of the Union county chamber of commerce, Monday, dropped a thought that quite well expressed the sentiment of his county.

FISH BILL PETITIONS ARE FILED

Three Measures Now Assured Place on Ballot Next November

GRANGE TAX BILL PETITIONS READY

Six Others Likely to Fall by the Wayside—Today Closes Period for Filing.

SALEM, Ore., July 1. (AP)—Completed petitions for the fish bill being initiated by the state grange, are the state fish commission, containing 25,704 signatures, were filed with the secretary of state today assuring the measure a place on the ballot in November. Today is the last day for the filing of petitions.

The measure is designed to prohibit the use of fish wheels anywhere in the Columbia river in the state, to prohibit traps and seines east of Cascade Locks in the Columbia, and to prohibit the issuance of license for the use of gill nets more than 250 fathoms long.

This is the third initiative measure for which completed petitions have been filed. The other two are the public service league's income tax bill and the bus and truck license bill for Oregon motors.

It is added the petitions have been completed for the grange income tax bill, and that they will be filed today. Six initiative measures for which petitions have been circulated will, it is believed, fail for lack of signatures. One of these, the proposed automobile certificate of title act, has been withdrawn. The others are the Enquist fish bill, capital punishment abolition, old age pensions, grange hydro-electric bill. Information was received here today that completed petitions for the housewives council hydro-electric bill will be filed this afternoon.

MANY SIGNED HERE

Union county men signed the petition for the fish bill in large numbers. Several petitions were circulated in La Grande, all received scores of signatures.

GREAT NORTHERN PROCURES STOCK IN THREE ROADS

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., July 1. (Special).—The Evening Herald tonight will print under a San Francisco date line a statement that the Great Northern railroad, under the direction of Arthur C. James, has entered into agreement with the Northern Pacific whereby all of the holdings of the latter in the S. P. & S. the Oregon Trunk and the Oregon Electric will pass under the control of the Northern Pacific.

Horses, Bull, Tomcat Give Battle to Lions

CREMONA, Italy, July 1. (AP)—The peaceful public square of Cremona, filled with farmers attending a cattle fair, was transferred into the semblance of an ancient Roman arena today, when five lions, part of a traveling circus menagerie escaped and attacked the terror-stricken horses and cattle.

Mother of Durkin on Witness Stand Today

CHICAGO, July 1. (AP)—The mother of Martin Durkin, the bandit, who was the first witness in his defense today against the charges of murdering a federal agent, testified that Martin "sold" her the \$450 with which he started in the second-hand automobile business. Her tears threatened a recess of court.

Americans Reach Net Finals at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, July 1. (AP)—Vincent Richards and Howard Kibbey, Americans, reached the final of the men's doubles in the Wimbledon lawn tennis tournament by defeating Randolph Lycett and H. W. Austin 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

Reveal Plot To Kill King; Arrest Two

Spaniard Anarchists Prepared to Slay Alfonso During His Trip in France.

PARIS, July 1. (AP)—What apparently was a well developed plot to assassinate King Alfonso, of Spain, during his visit to France has been uncovered by the arrest of two members of a band of five.

The men are said by the Matin to have confessed that they purchased an automobile in which to meet the train on which Alfonso and Queen Victoria were traveling and do the king to death at the last stop the train made before it reached Paris. If the effort to kill the monarch failed there, it was the purpose of the conspirators to slay him during his walk in Paris. The prisoners had ample funds, three carbines and plenty of cartridges.

Both Anarchists. The men held are Spaniards, both notorious anarchists. One of them, Abadía Francisco Acero, is declared to have confessed that he assassinated Cardinal Soldevila Y Romero, archbishop of Saragossa, Spain, in June, 1923. He attempted to fire upon the police when he was arrested, but was overpowered.

The other man arrested is Bonaventura Durelli. The conspirators at large are known in anarchist circles under the names of Ova, Fernandez and Garcia.

WATER SHORT OVER OREGON

Little Left for Irrigation Purposes in Baker and Wallowa Counties; Short Crop Seen.

SALEM, Ore., July 1. (AP)—A short second crop on many Eastern and Southern Oregon irrigation projects due to a water shortage has reached such an acute stage that State Engineer Laper was beset by telephone calls from Eastern Oregon until midnight, asking that something be done to relieve the situation. About all that can be done, he said today, is to hold all users strictly to their rights and prevent waste.

The only projects that have water, said Laper today, are those that have good storage, such as Tumalo, Hermiston, Warm Springs and Klamath. The Talent project in Jackson county will have water till about August 1.

Central Oregon O. K.

In Central Oregon it is said there is sufficient water for all projects except Crook county district No. 1, a new district and for this project the state is attempting to get an adjustment on the Deschutes that will save the project's crops this year by enforcing strictly the adjudication decree on the river, which allows each user three acre feet, and by stopping all waste.

Because of low water crops will be short on Powder and Burnt rivers in Baker county. Wallowa county has some shortage, but not serious. The Wallowa lake storage has practically all been used. All streams in Eastern Oregon are about normally low and the lowest water in the history of Oregon stream records is expected this year. Lack of precipitation for several seasons is the cause.

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TAMPERING FIGURES IN AIMEE CASE

New Angle Injected Into Mystery of Woman's Kidnaping

SIGNIFICANCE IS NOT DETERMINED

Investigation Centers on a Letter on Which the Stamps Have Been Changed Since Delivery

LOS ANGELES, July 1. (AP)—The Los Angeles Times, working on the Aimee Semple McPherson mystery, says it has learned a new angle through postal officials, the police and the district attorney's office, that stamps on a letter having an important bearing on the case have been tampered with, apparently in an effort to make it appear that the communication was received after and not before a large sum of money and many pledges were received at a memorial service held for the missing evangelist.

The letter, addressed to Mrs. Marie Kennedy, the pastor's mother, contained what was allegedly a lock of her religious leader's hair and answers in part to questions propounded by Mrs. Kennedy to satisfy herself as to the truth of a claim that her daughter, instead of having been drowned at Ocean Park, was in reality being held for ransom by kidnappers.

Given Cline June 23. The Times described Herman Cline, chief of Los Angeles detectives, as saying that the letter was forged over to him by Mrs. Kennedy June 23, the day before Mrs. McPherson disappeared into Agua Prieta, Mexico in a state of collapse. Cline quoted Mrs. Kennedy as saying she gave him the communication that she had received it the day before and was reading it over for the second time.

Cline in turn took the letter to postal authorities to learn from them where it was placed in the mail. Police inspectors, the newspaper says, discovered the following factors: The letter demanding a ransom of \$500,000 was placed on board a Southern Pacific mail car June 18 as a special delivery communication some where between Tucson, Ariz., and El Paso, Texas. Postoffice records show it was delivered the evening of June 19, to Mrs. Blanche Rice, an Angeles Temple worker, who signed for it. Further that when the envelope was turned over to postoffice inspectors the special delivery stamp it originally bore had been substituted by a regular two-cent stamp.

Delivery Explained. It was pointed out that the communication wouldn't have been delivered until Monday June 21, had it borne merely two two-cent stamps instead of a special delivery stamp and one two-cent stamp as it originally did.

Cline admitted last night, the Times says, that postal officials had reported to him the alleged tampering with the stamps. "I have had no opportunity to question Mrs. Kennedy about this," he said, "and cannot say just what significance there may or not be in it."

Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. McPherson returned yesterday to Douglas, Ariz., to aid in the search for the slacker in which the evangelist says she was held captive. It was indicated at the time they left that

Echo Bank Robber Is Captured; Admits Crime

PENDELTON, July 1. (AP)—Jim Mayer, confessed bank robber, who held up the cashier of the Echo bank yesterday at noon and secured nearly \$1,500, was caught last night when he returned to the scene of his crime to get off for his car. Immediately after the hold up Mayer jumped into his car and headed for the sand dunes toward Cold Springs. After changing his clothing and the license plates on the car he headed back toward Echo, where he was taken. He had the money and his gun in a false bottom in the car.

TODAY'S GAMES

Table listing today's games for National League, Brooklyn, Boston, Pittsburgh, and American League, including teams and scores.

"I'm Coming By Airmail"



The west is beginning to use the airmail for passengers. Here is Miss Maud Campbell of Salt Lake City, the first woman passenger to make the trip over the new contract airmail route between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. At airmail postage rates, such travel is hardly recommended for the stout folk.

BAKER COPPER FIRM FORMED

Five-Million-Dollar Company Organized to Develop Rich Belt South of Here.

BAKER, Ore., July 1. (Special).—The organization of the new \$5,000,000 Oregon Copper company, the transfer to it of deeds to five miles of the Baker copper belt, and the election of officers and directors by the new company were effected here yesterday.

As a result of this move more than 250 acres of mineral lands, 16,000 feet of underground workings and many millions of dollars worth of ore are brought under a single ownership and the way cleared for large scale development.

Needs to all the properties owned by the Mother Lode, Goose Creek and Balm Creek companies, with 56 claims owned by Spokane men and 21 claims purchased from private individuals have been acquired and filed. The immense property owned by the new company is entirely clear of incumbrance. The Oregon Copper company begins operations with no debts.

Properties Are Listed. The properties of the new company include: Balm Creek, 9 claims, 312 acres of patented land. Mother Lode, 21 claims, 400 acres. Goose Creek, 24 claims, 480 acres. Spokane interests, 56 claims, 1129 acres. Twenty-one miscellaneous claims.

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Bulletins

WASHINGTON, July 1. (AP)—The senate passed today the \$51,000,000 second deficiency bill, carrying funds for public buildings throughout the country and many other appropriations. Because of minor amendments it now goes to conference.

ST. LOUIS, July 1. (AP)—Abandoning tentative plans for a new federal building, the St. Louis board of public works today for New York from where he will sail, for Rome.

WASHINGTON, July 1. (AP)—A senate bill providing increases of pensions to Civil and Mexican war veterans and dependents at an estimated cost to the government of \$15,000,000 annually was passed today by the house without a record vote. The measure now goes to the president.

LOS ANGELES, July 1. (AP)—District Attorney A. E. Keyes returned from San Francisco today and upon being advised that his deputy, Joe Ryan, had announced himself ready to present evidence in the McPherson disappearance case before the Los Angeles county grand jury, declared that he did not consider the evidence collected by his office sufficient to warrant the case being taken before the grand jury.

Many Arrests Recorded in Seattle During June

SEATTLE, July 1. (AP)—Figures published today, show that traffic arrests here in June, the first month of a new police administration under Mayor Bertha Knight Landes totaled 3129, nearly twice those of June 1925, when 1117 were booked. For other offenses 1414 were arrested last month compared with 1120 in June 1925.

O'Connor Denies Story Told Investigators By Reporters

WASHINGTON, July 1. (AP)—After taking another glimpse into the affairs of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, the senate campaign funds committee today again turned its attention to the senatorial primary in Pennsylvania and heard Frank X. O'Connor, a south Philadelphia magistrate, deny that he had accused William S. Vare of trying to purchase his support for the senatorship.

Under cross examination by Chairman Reed and in face of testimony to the contrary by three Philadelphia newspaper reporters, O'Connor insisted that he had never said Vare offered him \$75,000 and then \$150,000 for his aid in Vare's senatorial campaign against Senator Pepper and Governor Pinchot.

Second Appearance. It was O'Connor's second appearance before the committee and on the first occasion a similar denial but afterward the three Philadelphia reporters all testified that he had made such a statement. When he took the stand today Senator Reed read him his previous testimony and asked him whether he wanted to modify it. "I want to still say I did not

NINE FORGES INTO LEAD LATE TODAY

North Dakotan Municipalities Favor Hanna, Coolidge Republican

SENATOR LOOKS FOR RURAL VOTE

Old Time Non-Partisans Fail to Reincarnate A. C. Townley as a Political Power.

FARGO, N. D., July 1. (AP)—Senator Gerald P. Nye, non-partisan leader, was announced the republican U. S. senatorial nomination in Washington yesterday by L. B. Hanna, his "Coolidge" republican opponent, in a statement this afternoon.

FARGO, N. D., July 1. (AP)—With his opponent's rural strongholds largely unreported, L. B. Hanna, independent, or Coolidge republican, early today led Senator Gerald P. Nye, non-partisan, for the long term republican senatorial nomination in North Dakota's primary election.

Similar returns marked the race by the same candidates for the short term or special election to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Ladd, ending March 8, 1927.

Rural Vote Important. Hanna's lead was based largely on returns from municipalities, which are generally independent voting centers. The real outcome of the contest rests in the rural vote, which was heavy. Coolidge republicans also had early leads in the gubernatorial race, but as in the senatorial race, the rural non-partisan stronghold were still to be heard from.

Townley Leads On. A feature of the early returns was the decisive failure of efforts by a committee of "old-time non-partisans" to reincarnate A. C. Townley, original league organizer, as a political power in the state. A "sticker" candidate through last-minute appeals by the committee for the gubernatorial nomination the one-time "boss" of the

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24,642 SIGNERS SEEK SUBSTITUTE TRUCK, BUS BILL

SALEM, Ore., July 1. (AP)—Completed petitions, containing 24,642 signatures, were filed with the state department yesterday for the initiation of a motor bus and truck licensing bill which is designed as a substitute for house bill 413 of the 1925 legislature on which the referendum has been invoked. The new measure is being initiated by the Oregon Motor Stage association.

Of 10 initiative measures that have been started only two petitions have been completed up to the closing hour at the state house yesterday. All that are not in by midnight tonight will automatically fall of initiation. The public service league income tax bill has been completed.

make that statement to newspaper men on election night" said the magistrate.

"Did you make it on election day?" "I did not." "Did you make it at any time?" "I did not." O'Connor said that on election day some newspaper men asked him if there was any truth in a rumor that he was to be permitted to nominate the next sheriff of Philadelphia county.

"I simply told them that was political rot," he said. Declaring there was nothing in political history he equal the bribery, graft and perjury that had characterized the republican primary campaign, senator Nye, democrat, West Virginia, urged for action on his resolution to limit the amount of money that could be used in senatorial elections.

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