

SHOT DOWN IN A COURT ROOM

Prominent Man Killed by the Husband of His Former Wife

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Aug. 3.—Suit for the possession of a child reached a tragic climax during a conference of the principals in the suit in the circuit courtroom here when W. Y. Ellis, nephew of John F. Rutherford, millionaire lumberman, of Pine Bluff, Ark., shot and killed Nathaniel Parker Willis of Indianapolis Ind., prominent business man and politician, father of the child and former husband of Mrs. Ellis.

The suit at law was just terminated and Judge Falk was instructing that the child be surrendered by Mrs. Ellis to the custody of Willis. The conference was to arrange the details. Those participating were Willis and Ellis, who represented his wife, divorced from Willis some years ago. United States Senator Jeff Davis, who appeared as attorney for Willis, and Judge Falk.

Senator Davis There. Arrangements were being concluded, when Ellis suddenly arose from the table and fired over the shoulder of Senator Davis, at Willis, seated on the opposite side. A court attaché struck his arm as he fired, however, and the bullet went wild. Willis ran from the room with Ellis in close pursuit, the latter firing again when he reached the doorway, inflicting a wound from the effects of which Willis died within ten minutes.

Ellis surrendered and was imprisoned. Later, however, he was taken from the city by officers in an automobile for an unknown destination, for safe keeping.

Relatives of the man killed have been summoned to Little Rock. Following the shooting there in an adjoining room scrambled for an outlet and in the subsequent excitement serious injury to several was narrowly averted. Two attempted to leap from a window, but were restrained.

Had Close Call.

That Senator Davis had a close call is declared by those in the room at the time. Several assert that the first bullet passed through his coat. Explaining a rent in his garment, however, Senator declares that it was torn by catching on an edge of the table as he hastily arose.

Willis died almost instantly after he was shot in his mother's arms, who was waiting across the room, and rushed toward him as he fell in the hallway outside of the courtroom.

Willis secured his divorce a number of years ago and recently started the litigation for the possession of the child. Yesterday he secured an order from Circuit Judge Falk to take possession of the child, who has been for the past ten days in the custody of an uncle at Pine Bluff, and today the parties to the suit met in the courtroom to decide where the child was to be delivered.

Fired at Willis.

White Judge Falk was seated at a table in the courtroom, discussing with Senator Davis the conditions of the transfer of the child. Ellis pulled a revolver from his pocket and fired point-blank at Willis, who was seated across the table. A court attaché knocked up his arm just as the weapon was discharged and the bullet was imbedded in the wall.

Willis ran around the table with Ellis close at his heels. The latter rested his pistol against the door jam just as Willis ran out and fired a second time. Willis fell to the floor, dying clasped in his mother's arms. Sheriff Roberts seized Ellis, pulling him into an ante-room to prevent any further shooting.

Climax of Long Fight.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., July 27.—The shooting of Nathaniel Parker Willis of Indianapolis in a courtroom at Little Rock, Ark., today was the climax of a long fight by Willis for the possession of his child.

The trouble of Willis and his former wife reached the courts with the institution of habeas corpus proceedings by Mrs. Willis (now Mrs. Ellis) in the circuit court here for possession of the child. Domestic troubles had previously caused Mrs. Willis to go to the home of a brother, Harry Bell, at Malden, Mo., taking the child with her. While the party was waiting for a train to return to Indianapolis, Willis took the child and telling his wife to wait at the station for him, boarded another train for Indianapolis.

Wife Fled Suit.

Mrs. Willis came to Indianapolis and filed the suit for possession of the child. She won the case, but

the father appealed to the supreme court of Indiana. Meantime, Willis filed another suit in the Montgomery circuit court, seeking to obtain the child from Mrs. Willis. This case also was appealed and both cases were decided in favor of the mother.

Mrs. Willis took the child to Pine Bluff, Ark., but Willis followed and again instituted habeas corpus proceedings to regain the child. The case was appealed to the supreme court of Arkansas.

FRUIT PACKING SCHOOL.

It Will Open Next Thursday in the Union Packing House.

The Rogue River Fruit Growers' Union will open its fruit packing school in the Union's packing house in Medford on Thursday next. The Union expects to pack and ship a few carloads of early apples and pears, and it is upon this fruit that the students will be put to work. There have been already upward of 50 applications made to enter this school, and there will undoubtedly be a great many more before the school starts. Mr. Perry, the manager of the Union, has half a dozen first-class, experienced packers who will be instructors in this school. The students will not be shown how to do correct packing by watching the work done by experts, but they will be compelled to pack the fruit themselves under the direct supervision of the instructors. It is expected that these several carloads of early fruit will be packed and repacked several times before the fruit will be considered in proper shape to go onto the markets. The school will continue until about the 15th of August.

STATE DAIRY ASSOCIATION.

Report of the Last Meeting Will Be Sent to Any One by Secretary.

The Morning Mail is in receipt of the report of the Oregon State Dairy association convention, which was held in Salem, Or., December 16 and 17, 1908. This was mailed to this office by the secretary of the association, Carl Abrams, whose office and headquarters is at Salem.

The report referred to should be of great interest to every one interested in dairy work and to all of those it can be stated that they can get a copy of the same by writing the secretary of the association at Salem.

ANNUAL VACATION TRIP.

The Sons of Daniel Boone Will Go to Battle Falls for a Week.

The Sons of Daniel Boone, a local club, composed of many of the young boys of the grammar schools, will leave on their annual vacation trip today.

The club is a frat of a national order and many of our prominent men, such as Roosevelt, Taft, Dewey and other well-known men are its advocates and honorary members, and have given special marks, their names, to be won by clubs by honor, bravery, courage or manliness.

It is named after Daniel Boone and its by-laws try to bring out the best in a young man. They will not allow or tolerate smoking or drinking. They encourage the study of famous men and with the object of making the boys manly.

Those going, aside Rev. W. T. Gendler and his son, Will, are Minno and Ralph Davis, Bert and Harold Snyder, Wallace Dyer, Mort Lindley, James Maloney, Leo Williams and Will Beveridge. They will be gone about a week, camping at Battle Falls.

LEFT THE HEADS.

But the Chicken Thieves Who Visited Ranch Took the Rest.

A complaint was made to the police yesterday to the effect that some person or persons had succeeded in raising a considerable quantity of chickens on the Dutton ranch. The trouble, however, was that the ranch people raised them first, and up until Sunday night thought that they were the sole owners of the poultry.

Early yesterday morning, when the ranchman proceeded to call his chickens to their breakfast only a few answered to the call. An investigation of the henhouse showed that the balances were missing. The thieves were considerate enough to leave all the heads, but they had carried away the rest of them, even the feathers.

FIRE IN JAPAN.

Thirteen Thousand Buildings Were Destroyed at Osaka.

OSAKA, Japan, August 1.—At 5 o'clock this (Sunday) morning a terrible conflagration, which has reduced to ashes a large portion of the city, was under control. Up to that hour 13,000 buildings were destroyed. An area of four miles square was swept by the flames.

EARTHQUAKES SHAKE MEXICO

Hundreds of People Killed and a Number of Towns Entirely Destroyed

MEXICO CITY, Mexico, July 30.—A message just received here says the town of Chilpancingo is completely destroyed by an earthquake. The shocks continued, accompanied by subterranean rumblings and electrical storms.

MEXICO CITY, Mexico, July 30.—Central Mexico from the Atlantic to the Pacific had Quetzaco on the north to Oaxaca on the south, an area of more than 1000 square miles, was shaken today by a series of the most severe earthquakes felt for a quarter of a century.

The report of the loss of life is not complete, but the official figures show 14 killed outright and more than a score perhaps fatally injured. The towns of Acapulco and Chilpancingo are partially destroyed.

Began Yesterday Morning. The earthquakes began at 4:15 this morning. It was very severe, causing the bells in many cathedrals of this city to toll and in some instances leveling the walls.

The people hardly recovered from the first shock when the second drove nearly every one to the streets and the plazas. The tall buildings of the city averaged several houses collapsed. A large number of the American colony escaped unscathed. The people have been frightened for several days because of the snow on the Volcans Popocatepetl has been melting, according to an old Aztec legend when snow on the mountain disappears, so will the city at its base. The property damage here is slight.

Some of the cathedral walls are cracked and scores of adobe walls went to the ground, but the main business district showed no signs of the shaking. Later in the day there was a third shock, but this was lighter than the others.

The American consul at Acapulco telegraphed tonight that the shocks will continue in diminishing force, but that no Americans were killed or injured. A telegram from Iguala, in the state of Guerrero, tonight says the whole region was trembling from frequent severe shocks. The people were terrified. The shocks have been continuous for nearly 14 hours, but no deaths are reported. Only in towns in Guerrero, where there are stone buildings, has there been much loss of life.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Following the series of earthquakes which destroyed several towns and killed hundreds of persons in Central Mexico, advice received by the state department since indicates that two more earthquakes of greater severity than any of those previously felt shook the same territory.

In a message to the department, Ambassador Thompson says: "Two long and severe earthquakes occurred in the valley of Mexico last night and probably covered all of the territory between here and the Pacific coast. The wires are in bad shape, but it is reported that Acapulco was entirely destroyed."

Vice Consul Tangburn at Acapulco wired:

"Severe earthquake. Great loss of property. Consulate damaged. Few lives lost. No Americans injured."

Five Hundred Killed.

CITY OF MEXICO, Aug. 3.—Reports received here indicate that 500 persons were killed by the earthquake that shook Central Mexico.

Five towns are believed to be totally destroyed and a number of others were partially wrecked.

Heaviest damage is thought to have been done at Chilpancingo, 75 miles from Acapulco, which the messages today indicate was wiped completely off the face of the earth. Scores were crushed to death under falling walls there and their bodies cremated in the fire that followed.

Acapulco is the principal seaport of the west coast of Mexico and has a population of about 5000. It is the coaling station for the Pacific Mail Steamship company and there is also a government supply depot there for vessels of the United States navy which was conceded by Mexico shortly after the Spanish-American war.

Lighthouse Twice Demolished.

The harbor of Acapulco, while small, has a deep anchorage and vessels can anchor almost within a stone's throw of two cliffs that completely landlocked the bay.

The entrance to Acapulco is obscured by overhanging cliffs and when a mile at sea the coast line appears unbroken. A tall lighthouse, which has twice been demolished by

earthquakes and rebuilt, marks the channel to the inner bay.

In 1814 Acapulco was visited by a terrific earthquake that almost wrecked the town. At that time it was the Mexican port for trade with Manila and the Orient. One thousand lives were lost. The records have it that the entire topography of the country surrounding the harbor was changed by the shock.

Some Former Earthquakes.

In the '60s, or about the time of the first great San Francisco earthquake, Acapulco was again visited by a temblor that caused one of the great walls of the Fortress of San Diego, which stands at the extreme eastern shore of the harbor, to crumble. One hundred federal prisoners were killed.

The city of Acapulco is composed principally of low buildings of one and two stories in height. The Pacific Mail offices, government barracks and custom house are its most imposing structures, other than the ancient cathedral, which it is claimed is 200 years old.

There is a two-story opera house built of stucco and marble, a hotel and a governor's palace facing the center of the town, which is marked by a plaza.

Are Constantly Occurring.

The Central & South American Cable company has a relay office at Acapulco and a small land line connects the city with the City of Mexico. This land line is frequently prostrated and the cable service is as often interrupted by seismic disturbances which constantly occur off the Mexican coast.

THE DALLIES FOR HILL.

City Ready to Give Him Cello Portage Road.

PORTLAND, July 29.—No content as business men of The Dalties that Hill and the Great Northern are behind the road being built on the Deschutes gorge into Central Oregon by Porter brothers that they propose to turn over to the Hill people the Cello portage road and a \$10,000 terminal site in the center of the city, to give the railroad an entrance to The Dalties, according to E. C. Chesbro, a real estate man of that city, who is at Hotel Seward.

"Without doubt Porter Bros. are backed by Hill," said Chesbro last night. "That is almost the unanimous opinion in The Dalties. Their engineers are former North Bank engineers and most of their equipment has come directly from Northern Pacific camps."

NAVY FOR CANADA.

Squadrons on Both Coasts Predicted by Minister Pender.

VANCOUVER, B. C., July 29.—Minister of Public Works Pender, referring to the proposed Canadian navy in an address before the Board of Trade here last night, said:

"I look forward to seeing a number of first-class vessels of war of purely Canadian origin and manned by Canadians, stationed on both the Atlantic and the Pacific seaboard. The question of a Canadian navy and drydocks on both the Pacific and the Atlantic will be discussed when the delegates to the imperial defense conference return from England. The outcome of the conference will be a decision to construct drydocks capable of accommodating the largest battleships."

RESTAURANT CHANGES HANDS.

W. E. Johnson Will Devote Time to His Ranch North of Medford.

W. E. Johnson, who has been the proprietor of the Emerick restaurant for nearly two years, has transferred his interests to W. C. Phillips and H. Y. Leader. The former is a restaurant man of some experience and the latter has been the chef for some time past at the Emerick.

The Emerick, which is situated on D street, between Sixth and Seventh, has been a very popular and well conducted place since Mr. Johnson has had charge of it, and he claims that the same standard will be maintained by the new proprietors. Mr. Johnson will devote his time to his ranch, which is only two and a half miles north of Medford.

PIKE TO LIE NEAR PEAK.

Explorer's Body Will Be Reburied Under Mountain He Discovered.

DENVER, Colo., Aug. 2.—The body of Zebulon Montgomery Pike will be brought to Colorado for burial at the foot of the peak that bears his name, according to plans made today by Will C. Ferrill, curator of the State Historical society. Pike's body is among those of 256 soldiers which are being disinterred at Madison Barracks cemetery, Sackett's Harbor, Mass. Lieutenant Pike was killed at the battle of York on April 27, 1813.

Mail Want Ads Bring Results.

THE OPPOSITION BROKEN DOWN

Senate Yields on Conference Report and Will Take Vote This Week

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—The complete collapse of all the important opposition to the conference report on the tariff bill was evidenced today when the senate agreed to vote that the measure come up on Thursday afternoon. Half an hour after unanimous consent had been given that the course of disinclination on the part of the senators to speak brought an early adjournment until noon tomorrow.

The lack of interest in the proceedings was evident. This was caused by an agreement of the western senators to vote on the conference report and correct the hide and leather schedule by means of a concurrent resolution to be acted on separately. The concurrent resolution will change the bill so as to make dutiable at 10 per cent boots and shoes, upper leather of which is made wholly or in part, including calf skins if similar changes be made in relation to harness, saddles.

The suggestion for an agreement for a vote made by Bailey and concurred in by Aldrich. The Texas said there might be considerable debate on the concurrent resolution, but did not believe the discussion can be prolonged many hours.

No Autos for Chairmen.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—The conference report on the Philippine tariff bill was agreed to by the house. The measure is supplementary to the Payne tariff bill and is intended to provide enough additional revenue to make up the amount which will be lost to the Philippine government by the enactment of the provision for free trade between the United States and the Philippines.

The remainder of the session was taken up with a discussion of the present deficiency appropriation bill as amended by the senate. One of the amendments provided for automobiles for the vice-president and the speaker, and all of them were disagreed to.

Hawley of Oregon presided by request of the speaker. This is the first time an Oregon man has occupied the speaker's chair since Malcolm Moody presided during the recesses on the late Representative Tongue.

Debt Now \$917,530,857.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—At the close of business July 31, the monthly statement of the public debt showed that the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$917,530,857. The interest-bearing debt is \$317,517,490; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, \$2,444,375; debt bearing no interest, \$369,417,144; total, \$1,291,348,119.

The cash in the treasury is classified as follows: Gold reserve, \$159,000,000; argent funds, \$1,533,211,869; general funds, \$169,094,224; in national banks and depositories, \$51,022,746; in Philippine treasury, \$5,901,272, against which there are trade demand liabilities outstanding of \$1,342,211, which leaves a cash balance of hand of \$259,457,075.

Daniel Charges Fraud.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Discussing the exclusion of the Democratic members of the tariff conference in the senate today, Daniel said there was a peculiar fraud committed to both the houses of congress.

"This country stands this moment between the gallows and the grave," declared he, commenting on the methods of the majority. "I charge that the senate is apparently in control of the law."

Daniel charged that the committee acted in bad faith in signing the conference report without allowing himself and his colleagues on the committee to vote upon it as offered by Chairman Aldrich. Aldrich replied that his committee followed the course that had prevailed since the beginning of the government.

The Conference Report.

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The beginning of its consideration of the conference report on the tariff bill by tedious reading of the document, which was insisted upon by the

senators who proposed to see that no undue haste is exercised in the final passage of the measure. The senate dragged along nearly all of seven hours today without accomplishing any important results. Bristow denounced the tariff as a violation of Republican pledges and announced he would not stand for it.

Hides and Leather.

The hide and leather question was again delayed in legislation of the tariff bill conference called together once more today. The Western senators will compel further changes in the hides and leather schedule. These senators complain that the leather schedule arranged is unfair and states those interested protected hides.

Shortly after the senate met they learned that there was a "joker" in the compromise. The leather question had upset a comfortable majority that they previously counted for the adoption of the report. Westerners claimed they were led to believe all the boots and shoes were to be dutiable at 10 per cent; that all harness was to be dutiable at 20 per cent.

Western Senators Hot.

When the conference report was issued it appears that the reductions only applied to articles manufactured in the chief part of the class of hides which were to be made free of duty. The Western senators are extremely bitter and said they, with the president, who approved the schedule, have been fooled and that the trick on the consumer is nothing short of buncombe.

TOOK SHOT AT LAWYER.

Noted New York Hotel Scene of a Thrilling Gun Escapade

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.—In the crowded Waldorf-Astoria hotel today Mrs. Mary A. Castle, 35 years old, shot William D. Craig, a lawyer. The bullet struck a fountain pen and inflicted only a slight flesh wound.

The shooting occurred while Craig was on his way to the Rocky Mountain club. Mrs. Craig, who had been waiting for him, tried to detain him, but Craig shook her off and went to the elevator. As he was about to step inside, Mrs. Castle shot. When the detectives arrived the woman was weeping hysterically. She pointed to Craig, who was standing near by, and after pleading with him to forgive her, said:

"It was the cause of my trouble. He has thrown me over."

Craig and Mrs. Castle, who is the wife of Neville Castle, of San Francisco, were childhood friends in that city.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 2.—Mrs. Castle is the daughter of H. H. Scott, a prominent merchant. Her brother is the husband of Admiral Sampson's daughter. Her marriage with Castle in 1897 was a brilliant social event. Mrs. Castle went on the stage after her husband went to the Alaska gold fields in an effort to relieve his fortune.

He has not been heard of for several years. Mrs. Castle made her debut in the Frawley company in "The Princess and the Butterfly" in New York in 1900. Later she went into vaudeville.

Craig is a son of W. Craig, of Craig & Craig, lawyers, of this city.

ORDER OF OWLS.

Organizer Raymond Was Here and Says Order Will Be Organized.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Raymond, recently from Marchfield, left for Portland last night. Mr. Raymond is national organizer for the Order of Owls and he will return to install an order in Medford.

In reply to the question, "Do you like Medford?" he replied: "I have traveled from Maine to the Pacific, from the Gulf to Quebec. I have lived in large and small cities, but Medford is the finest town I have ever been my good fortune to live in for climate, prosperity and live-fire business men. I mean this: I'm not giving hot air; for I intend to come back here and live. On my return in a few days I will buy property here. I have many friends and I shall advise them to come here. If a man is looking for investments let him come to Medford, and if he can't pick one up every day, why then he'd better get hunting, for he never will find one. Yes, indeed, this town looks good to me. For several years I have read of Medford and I laughed, for I thought it was hot air; now I'm kicking myself for not coming sooner. You can say for me that the season will see me an owner of property here."

RAN OVER HORSE.

A complaint has been laid against the owner of an automobile for driving his machine over the fire hose yesterday morning on Eighth street. The man claims that he thought there was danger of the hose catching fire and he did not want to take any chances of losing his machine.

RAPID INCREASE IN LAND PRICES

Recent Sales Show That Some Lands Have Jumped 1000 Per Cent

A few days ago mention was made in these columns of the purchase of the E. R. Oatman 12-acre tract of land near Talent by a gentleman from the East.

A gentleman in from Talent yesterday gave a Morning Mail representative a bit of history as to the increased valuation of this particular tract of land which is very interesting. In the spring of 1901, M. L. Pellet sold this 12-acre tract to William Lamb for \$800. About eight acres of it at that time was seeded to alfalfa; a very short time thereafter Mr. Lamb sold the tract to E. R. Oatman for \$1000. Now, alfalfa did not look nearly so good to Mr. Oatman as he imagined growing apple trees would on this same land, and he at once put this notion into operation, and that same spring set the land to apple trees. Two years ago Mr. Oatman set the remainder of the tract to Bartlett pear trees. The consideration of the recent purchase was \$10,000 cash.

It can be easily figured that this particular tract of land has grown in value in eight years just \$2000. This must not be considered as all profit, however, for Mr. Oatman has expended no small sum of money and energy in growing this orchard, but there is a satisfaction in the realization that his labors have brought him this handsome sum.

Those who have seen the orchard and are familiar with the soil condition there are of the opinion that even at the price paid the place was "cheap for the money."

\$800 to \$8500

How Price of 25 Acres Has Multiplied in a Few Years

Another case of great increase in values of farm property in the Rogue River valley is shown by the sale of the Ashworth place, consisting of 25 acres and which is located just west of Central Point. A few years ago this tract was sold for the sum of \$500, and yesterday it was sold again for the price of \$6500. The sale was made by the Oregon Realty company, which has offices in the Jackson County Bank building and also at the Rogue River depot. The transfer was made from Robert Ashworth to William U. Hoyer, son of George Hoyer. The property is situated about five miles north of Medford and is planted to fruit and alfalfa.

A few days ago Mr. Hoyer sold his place about three miles south of Medford to J. E. Watt for the sum of \$6000.

WAS RAPID INCREASE.

Ranch Sold for \$7500 Was Sold Few Years Ago for \$2000.

J. A. Buchwell yesterday sold to L. W. Zimmerman, recently from Minneapolis, Minnesota, a ten-acre orchard and tract, south and west from Medford, on the Orchard Home road. The price paid was \$7500. This property sold not many years ago—no more than two and a half—for \$2000. It has changed hands since then at \$4000, then a few months later at \$5000, and when Mr. Buchwell bought it, about six weeks ago, he paid \$6000. After the sale had been made to Mr. Zimmerman for \$7500, Mr. Buchwell offered him \$500 for his bargain. This sale was made by J. W. Dressler.

80-ACRE SALE.

Edwards, Nebraska, Man Makes Purchase in the Valley

Yesterday W. H. Brown sold his 80-acre orchard, three and a half miles east of Medford, to Frederick Trabo of Lincoln, Nebraska. The price paid was \$21,000, which included the stock and farm implements.

Mr. Trabo is a brother-in-law of Dr. Stokes of this city, and it is quite probable that Mr. Stokes will move to the place and superintend its operation.

Nearly all of this land is set to fruit, and some of the trees are now in bearing. There is an irrigating ditch on the place and this season Mr. Brown put in a gasoline pumping plant and by this means was enabled to put water over the entire tract.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Brown paid a considerable here for this land then he has now sold it it is considered to be a good buy and easily won the money paid.

The sale was made by the Oregon Orchard Syndicate.