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Medford Daily Tribune.

The Weather

Cloudy tonight and tomorrow; colder; northerly winds.

THIRD YEAR.

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1908.

No. 242.

CHESTER B. ALLEN ELECTROCUTED

20,000 VOLTS PASSED THROUGH HIS BODY

Death Was Instantaneous--Was Aiding in the Construction of Electric Light Line to Talent From Phoenix

Chester Allen, a young man of 22 years, was electrocuted Tuesday afternoon as he was at work on the new power line between Phoenix and Talent. Over 20,000 volts passed through his body, death being instantaneous.

Allen was standing in a small puddle of water through which the wire passed and was throwing a wire over a pole, when it came in contact with a power wire running to the southern end of the valley. The entire voltage, over 20,000, being carried on that wire, passing through his body. The fact that the wire was in a small puddle of water rendered any escape from receiving the full current most unlikely.

Doctors Summoned. Dr. C. R. Conroy of this city and an Ashland physician, both responded to the summons for aid. But they could do nothing. Allen in all probability never knew what had happened to him. No marks were visible upon the body other than a small scratch upon one of his fingers, which had grasped the wire.

Allen was not a regular lineman and had only been at work a few days. He applied for work and upon being told that no one was needed volunteered his services, telling the foreman to pay him what he was worth.

On Monday Allen undertook to flip the wire over a tree and was told by

the foreman to desist, as it might touch the "loaded" wire and kill him. On Tuesday, disregarding this advice, he flipped the wire over a pole and was killed.

Talked After Accident. It was the barest chance that the two other linemen were not killed with Allen. They had dropped the wire but an instant before. He then gave the wire a flip and dropped it. The electric sparks in the water warned the two boys, who jumped to one side. Allen sank to his knees and then leaned up against a fence. They asked him if he was hurt, and he answered "yes." He then fell to the ground.

For some time Allen breathed, the boys doing what they could for him. But he soon sank into unconsciousness. When Dr. Conroy reached the scene Allen was still warm, but nothing could be done.

Relatives Prostrated. Young Allen leaves a father, mother and sister to mourn his untimely end. His father, James Allen, has long lived in the valley and is well known. Chester bore a splendid reputation for being an exemplary young man and has many friends in this county.

Superintendent H. C. Stoddard of the Rogue River Electric company, who are installing the lines so that Talent may have electric lights, went to Talent Wednesday morning to obtain particulars of the affair, and from there he went direct to Gold Bay, to consult with Dr. and Colonel Ray.

OVER 100 ARE IMPRISONED

Coal Mine Disaster in Kentucky Worse Than at First Feared

MAYBURN, Ky., Dec. 30.—It is now said that over 100 are believed to be imprisoned as the result of an explosion Tuesday in the mine of the Lick Branch Colliery company's coal mine at Lick Branch, Va. So far 12 dead bodies have been removed. Five have been taken out alive.

Th scenes surrounding the mouth of the mine are pitiful in the extreme. Mothers, wives, sisters, brothers and sweethearts surround the shaft's opening, bemoaning the fate of their loved ones. Every effort is being made by rescuing parties to reach the imprisoned miners.

ROBBERS OF MONROVIA BANK HAVE BEEN FOUND

MONROVIA, Cal., Dec. 30.—It is asserted tonight that the Pinkerton detectives have a definite clue to the person or persons who robbed the First National bank of Monrovia of \$29,000 some days ago, and that at least one person is under strict surveillance.

One arrest and possibly more than one is expected to take place tomorrow, and it is said that the action will cause a sensation in southern California.

The detectives have not gone far from this city in their search for clues, and that they have been successful in securing sufficient evidence upon which to base some arrests seems now quite certain from statements made tonight, although no names will be given out.

LOOKS BAD FOR FORAKER

Taft Will Probably Be the Next Senator From Ohio--Politics Are Humming

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 30.—Republican chieftains of Ohio are gathering today to discuss the senatorial situation, in advance of the party caucus on Saturday, which will definitely decide the issue. Charles P. Taft, the Cincinnati newspaper owner, capitalist and brother of the president-elect, will succeed to the toga now worn by Joseph Benton Foraker. Friends of Foraker have not yet given up hope of his re-election, but it is generally admitted that the tide has turned strongly against him.

The rank and file of the party favors Taft and the republican legislators will hardly dare to delay the public demand for his selection. Apparently the days of Foraker in the senate are numbered. Signs of activity are displayed in the camp of the friends of Joseph Benson Foraker following the letters he has sent to assemblymen-elect. These letters, it seems, were invitations to the recipients to visit the senator in Cincinnati. Representative McFadden of Fayette county is the only one who is reported to have responded in person. Old followers of Mr. Foraker who received the invitation sent excuses. They privately admit that they cannot vote for the senator's re-election if they wish to retain the favor of the great mass of their constituents. They declare that the only men in their counties who are demanding the return of Mr. Foraker to the senate are politicians who have been allied to the old organization or to Foraker personally.

With the senatorial fight practically settled, the republican leaders are making plans for overturning the democratic regime at the next state election. A continuous campaign is being seriously considered in order to effect this end. A matter of great moment among the republican politicians just now is the gubernatorial nomination in 1910. Republican leaders said they would a live candidate, a man accustomed to the management of big affairs who was popular and had the goodwill of the people. The sentiment seemed to be for a northern Ohio man. It was declared that the northern part of the state was entitled to the candidate.

Arthur L. Garford of Elyria was named a man who would fill all the requirements. Others mentioned in connection with the nomination were David J. Youngstown, Joseph G. Buttle Jr., of the same city, and J. Warren Harding of Marion.

with the past few years have either been dropped or the garden feature connected with them has been maintained, and improved and the investigators made available for general work. The usefulness of our men, as is the case with Mr. O'Gara, often depends on their individual experience. This is a big entry and we have an immense territory to cover, so you see, we have to divide our attention.

Medford Is Important. Fully appreciate the importance of the problems around Medford, and Mr. O'Gara is instructed to give his first consideration during the present winter and spring to the Rogue River valley, but to devote a part of his time to problems we had previously started in California. He is expected particularly to work farther south, but could not accomplish much with you. Our policy is to give our attention where it is best needed and appreciated. Mr. O'Gara will be back again and will keep close track of your problems and do everything that can be done in our line to assist. He will doubtless leave his address with some of you, and would suggest that if any change takes place in the situation in regard to diseases or spraying before he returns he will doubtless come on receipt of a letter from you.

Yours very truly, M. B. WAITE, Pathologist in Charge.

PS.—Have referred the matter of soil every to the bureau of soils in charge of Professor Milton Whitney.

35,000 PERISHED IN REGGIO TIDAL WAVE

Less Than 1000 People Escaped--Sea Rolled in Mighty Wall Submerging Entire City--No Building Left Standing

ROME, Dec. 30.—Following is a summary of the main events in the earthquake:

Estimated dead is as high as 200,000. Twenty cities of southern Italy and Sicily are burning. Another shock today. Little damage. Burning bodies in streets of Messina. All roads destroyed. The volcano on island of Stromboli is in eruption. Hailstorm sweeping over country injuring unprotected on the ground. Over 6000 square miles of devastated territory.

CANTANZARO, Dec. 30.—The city of Cantanzaro, with a population of over 36,000, was entirely submerged by the tidal wave of Sunday night. Less than 1000 of the population escaped alive. Not a building remains standing in the lower section of the city.

Such is the report brought to this city today by a captain of a company of carabinieri, which arrived today.

"The sea, without warning of any kind," said the captain, "raised like a mighty wall and rolled in on the city. At the same instant great convulsions of the earth threw people to the ground, giving them no possible chance to escape."

"The great wave swept over the entire city. In the lower section not a building remains standing. This section of the city is settling and it is feared that it will drop into the sea. The scenes were pitiful in the extreme."

"The higher portions of the city broke out in fire and many lost lives in the flames."

Reggio was a well built and enter-

prising city opposite the city of Messina at the extreme southern point of the Italian peninsula. It was founded by Greek colonists at an early period, becoming later a Roman possession.

In 1783 its ruin was almost completed by earthquake. Its population is given in the Americana Encyclopedia as 44,000 in 1901.

Queen Helena Swoons. PALERMO, Dec. 30.—Queen Helena swooned when she and the king approached Messina today. After she received both wept like children. Insane survivors fell at the feet of the royal couple, moaning piteously. Many tried to kiss their hands.

CANTANIA, Sicily, Dec. 30.—Risking her life, Queen Helena rescued a wounded child from a wrecked building in Messina today. The king and queen were passing a building, when the pitiful wail of an infant attracted the queen's attention, who rushed into the structure despite the king's protests and carried the child to a relief boat.

Consulates Destroyed. BERLIN, Dec. 30.—The American and German consulate buildings in Messina were destroyed by the quake and tidal wave, according to telegram received by the government via Rome.

American Consul Killed. WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The state department today received the following dispatch from Consul William Gale at Malta:

"Consul Arthur S. Cooney and his wife are both dead at Messina. Their bodies were not recovered."

ATTACK LOCAL OPTION LAW

Liquor Dealers Will Demand Radical Amendments at Coming Session

Anti-local option legislation is destined to poke its nose into the business that will come before the next legislature. The liquor dealers of the state want three cardinal changes made in the local option law as it now stands.

The anti-saloon league will oppose their requests, however, so that there is every indication of a big fight over the question during the session.

The liquor interests of the state in general and of Portland in particular want three things. They ask that the local option law be so amended that cities and towns of 3000 or more inhabitants will be exempt from the operation of county local option elections. They want the proportion of signatures necessary to call a local option election up before the people to be raised from 10 per cent, as under the present law, to 20 per cent. They want the law amended so that once an election is held in any precinct or district no other similar local option election can be held in that district for two years.

As the law now stands it is possible, as has been demonstrated in the cases of Pendleton, Medford and various other towns, for the rural districts of a county to be joined with a town on the local option question with the result that the rural anti-saloon vote overwhelms the liquor vote of the towns and closes the towns against the wishes of a majority of the town's residents.

HELD TOWN AT BAY AND ESCAPED WITH LOOT

OKLAHOMA, Okla., Dec. 30.—After holding the citizens of Wellston at bay for three hours today, six masked men looted a bank and escaped with \$5000. They used 14 charges of nitro-glycerine before the safe vaults were shattered. The citizens were unable to cope with the robbers, being held at bay at the points of revolvers. A posse is in pursuit.

GOVERNOR-ELECT COSGROVE IS STEADILY IMPROVING

PASO ROMBLE, Cal., Dec. 30.—Governor-elect Cosgrove of Washington announced today that if his health continues to improve at the present rate, he will be in Olympia, Wash., January 11 to take the oath of office. The governor is now resting quietly and sleeps well.

The saloon interests contend that this is not fair and that the law should be amended so that the municipal governments can control their own liquor fights.

The law now requires that the signatures of 10 per cent of the voters of any district can compel the submission of the local option question to the people. The saloon interests contend that this proportion should be raised to 20 per cent of the legal voters of any district. It is now possible for the anti-saloon league to call an election in any district at any election. If the district refuses to vote dry the anti-saloon people can call the question up at the next election, no matter when that date may fall. Should the district vote dry, however, the saloon people cannot call the question up again for two years. The saloon men contend that this is not fair and ask that both the saloon interests and the anti-saloon league be put on the same footing.

In addition to these general provisions there is a movement on the East Side to amend the law that the suburban residence districts cannot be joined with the downtown districts for the purpose of voting on local option.

O'GARA WILL ALWAYS RETURN

Though Stationed in Other Sections a Letter Will Bring Him Back

For the purpose of having Professor P. J. O'Gara stationed in the Rogue River valley and carrying on exhaustive work here for the benefit of fruit growers, A. C. Allen of this city has been in communication with the authorities in Washington for some time. The success with which he has met is told in the following letter from M. B. Waite, pathologist in charge of the plant bureau, to whom Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture referred Mr. Allen's request, not having received it from Senator Bourne of this state:

Professor Waite's Letter. "Mr. Albert C. Allen, Medford Or.—Dear Sir: Your letter of December 3 to the honorable secretary of agriculture has been referred to me through Dr. Woods, assistant chief of the bureau.

"We note your request that Mr. O'Gara be permanently stationed at Medford. It is, of course, very gratifying to us to know that the work of Mr. O'Gara and of this office is appreciated in the Rogue River valley. We want to do everything possible to help you at the present time and in the future. On the other hand, we regret to say that we cannot comply with your request. None of our pathologists are now stationed permanently at points in the field. There used to be a condition that practically amounted to this in the bureau by which we established branch laboratories. These branch laboratories

DYING MOTHER SEES HER CHILD'S CASKET BURNED

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—While at the point of death, Mrs. Edward O'Connor of Williamsburg saw the body of her daughter, May, 5 years old, burned in an adjoining room.

The woman screamed and a relative, rushing into the parlor, found the casket a mass of flames. The men carried it to the street where the flames were extinguished, but the body of the child was terribly charred.

Today, an hour before the funeral was scheduled to take place, Mr. O'Connor raised a window and the wind blew a lace curtain against the candles which surrounded the casket, setting fire to it.

PRESENTED MARK TWAIN WITH REAL BIG ELEPHANT

DANBURY, Conn., Dec. 30.—Redding, where Mark Twain lives in an Italian villa, is laughing over a practical joke on Mr. Clemens.

Robert J. Collier, the New York publisher, wrote to Mr. Clemens' secretary a few days before Christmas that he had arranged to give the humorist an elephant for a Christmas present. He asked them to prepare a plan for it and the family, unwilling to risk an injury to Mr. Collier's feelings, prepared to turn the garage into elephant quarters.

A few days later a load of hay was received with the compliments of Mr. Collier, who sent word that it was for the elephant to eat. Next came a man who introduced himself as Professor May, a professional elephant trainer, who caused the garage floor to be strengthened.

The elephant arrived at night and when Mr. Clemens went to view his gift he discovered in his garage a papier-mache elephant as big as a full-grown cow.

Mrs. Frank Bellinger, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Elwood, William Howard, E. Judy and Mrs. L. F. Loxier attended the funeral of Rev. Merley at Ashland on Sunday.

EX-BOSS RUEF GETS 14 YEARS

Given Maximum by Judge Lawlor-Day Was Devoted to Battle for New Trial

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 30.—Abraham Ruef, ex-boss and arch grafter, was late yesterday afternoon sentenced to 14 years in the penitentiary.

The sentence came at the close of a day devoted to a legal battle wherein the defense sought to introduce many reasons for a new trial. When Judge Lawlor denied this, the defendant arose and stood unmoved throughout the remainder of judgment. There was no demonstration of any kind.

The crime for which Ruef was convicted was bribing of former Superintendent Ferry to favor the award of an overhead trolley franchise to the United Railroads.

LANGFORD ISSUED DEFI TO STANLEY KETCHELL

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 30.—Sam Langford, colored, of Boston, today issued a challenge to Ketchell, middleweight champion, agreeing to stop him in 20 rounds.

Mrs. C. W. Fralry, wife of Street Commissioner Fralry of Ashland, is enjoying the holiday season in this city visiting friends.