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The Spokesman

Keeps you posted on news matters all the time

PAPER MAN ASSAULTED BY WEST

MAKES SURPRISE ATTACK ON F. L. PERKINS IN CAPITOL; "ENTIRELY UNPROVOKED," SAYS SENATOR BEAN; WEST INTERRUPTS CONVERSATION TO THROTTLE MAN WITH HANDS IN POCKETS

A Salem dispatch of the 15th to the Portland Evening Telegram has the following to say: Stung to the quick by the allegation that in neglecting, out of pique, to issue a proclamation to wear white flowers in memory of Captain Robert F. Scott and party who perished in the Antarctic when directed to do so by the Legislature, he had shown small caliber, Governor Oswald West threw the last vestige of official dignity to the winds last night by an unprovoked assault on Frank L. Perkins, a Telegram legislative correspondent.

The attack occurred in the lower corridor of the state capitol, opposite the entrance to State School Superintendent Alderman's office, and was marked by language on the part of the Governor so foul as to be unprintable.

Accompanied by Senator L. A. Bean, of Lane county, the correspondent walked from the Hotel Marion to the state capitol and had just entered the building by the south door when there came a sound of applause from the State School Superintendent's office. Senator Bean and Perkins stopped in front of the office door in the main corridor. Governor West stepped out of the office just as the newspaper man inquired of Senator Bean if he knew what was taking place inside to occasion the applause. Wheeling and facing them, West said:

"Were you speaking to me?"

"No, sir," was the answer, "I was talking to Senator Bean."

"Well," declared West, "I don't want you to ever speak to me."

"I have not the slightest desire to speak to you," retorted Perkins.

The Governor started away, flinging back as he went:

"No dirty scoundrel that has lied about me can ever speak to me afterward."

"I have not lied about you," asserted Perkins; "and nobody knows it better than yourself."

Turning around, West returned to where Senator Bean and Perkins were standing, and shook his finger menacingly under the correspondents' nose. Perkins, who wore a heavy overcoat, stood with his hands in his side pockets, smoking a cigar. Not in the least expecting an assault, he was taken by surprise when the Governor suddenly seized Perkins by the throat and overbalanced him by the ferocity of the attack; both men went to the floor, West using language comparable only to that of a drunken logger in a drunken bar-room brawl.

Spitting out the cigar, which had filled his eyes with ashes, and jerking his hands from his pockets, Perkins grasped the Governor by the collar and thrust him backward. He half rolled his heavier opponent and began to beat a tattoo on his stomach with his feet. Bean, declaring that the Governor, who had made the assault, should be permitted to extricate himself from the mixup, refused to interfere. At this juncture, however, the door of Superintendent Alderman's office opened and from it emerged President Malarkey, Senators Thompson, Burgess and Moser, Representative Spencer, Lot Q. Sweetland and others. They at once seized West, who already had been kicked out of reach, and Perkins leaped to his feet.

Throwing off his overcoat, Perkins darted toward West, but was tackled football fashion by Representative Spencer and others, and borne backward.

"You may be Governor of Oregon," he shouted, as he struggled with the men holding him, "but you are a dirty coward to tackle a man with his overcoat on and his hands in his pockets."

All this time Spencer was trying to quiet the correspondent. The Governor made no reply and stood back some distance. He then turned and accompanied by several persons went upstairs to his office.

"I didn't interfere," said Senator Bean, "because the Governor started it. I proposed to let him finish it. The assault was unprovoked and the Governor broke in on Perkins' and my conversation without excuse. I would have liked to see the contest go to a finish."

Neither principal was injured materially, Perkins merely bruising an elbow slightly and the Governor's left cheek being marked.

While the article in which the "small mental caliber" of West was referred to probably was the immediate cause of the attack, it was not committed in the heat of passion,

but evidently was premeditated. Several hours had elapsed since West had read the story and he had in the meantime addressed a meeting in the State School Superintendent's office. He has been exceedingly bitter in his reference to Perkins recently and for a week has passed him in the corridor without speaking. Reflecting the state of mind of his employer, the Governor's private secretary also ceased speaking to Perkins several days ago. At a banquet which he attended two weeks ago the Governor is reported to have said that Perkins, who is a district game warden under State Warden Finley, could not work any longer for the state if he (West) had anything to do with it.

"I am going to 'get' him," West is credited with saying.

While in the active discharge of his duties as warden, Perkins arrested two men near Holley, in Linn county, for killing four deer, including a doe and a fawn. They were pardoned by West, though extreme leniency already had been shown by the trial court and prosecutor, presumably because the arrests were made by Perkins, against whom the Governor has held a grudge since the expiration of the biennial session of 1911. His antipathy was due to Perkins, at that time in the discharge of his duty as a Telegram legislative correspondent, giving publicity to his undignified conduct on various occasions and the methods he employed to use his official power in venting his spleen upon personal and political enemies.

Governor West and a newspaper friend, who is said to have been promised the job of attorney for the State Land board, evidently conferred to invent some sort of an excuse for the Governor's conduct," said Perkins. "I have never vowed vengeance on the Governor, though I have recounted the fact of the pardon while discussing the Governor's conduct of his office, instancing it as an example of how he permits his personal feelings to influence his official acts. I have been told by numerous persons, some friendly to West since this session began, that his behavior for some time has been so erratic as to warrant the belief that he is mentally unbalanced. I myself am inclined to be charitable, and to accept this as a reason for his conduct."

This is not the first time that the Governor has threatened violence in the case of those who either for real or imaginary reasons have incurred his displeasure. He used strong language and threatened to assault J. E. Morson, president of the Deschutes Land Co. because Morson declined to comply with certain demands made upon him by West, which the courts have since decided were unwarranted. Furious with rage because he could not intimidate Morson, the Governor picked up a paper weight, and threatened to hurl it at him, and issued an edict that Morson never again should enter his office.

Nor is this even the first time that he has threatened bodily harm to newspaper men with courage to write the facts in relation to him, as they found them and dared to tell the truth. Some time ago he called another correspondent of the Telegram into his office, and using the vilest language, threatened him with assault. Frequently when articles have appeared in other newspapers which displeased him, the Governor has threatened their reporters.

SOON HAVE A 24-HOUR SERVICE

Light and Power Co. Waiting for Completion of Cove Plant

Supt. R. L. James of the Deschutes Power Co., the company that has taken over the Cline Falls and Cove power sites on the Deschutes river, stated recently that his company intended to put on a 24-hour electric light and power service as soon as the plant at the Cove was completed, and the pole line could be connected with the present line along the Crooked river route.

This will better the service here and other points, and give all the power demanded of the plant. Mr. James said the Cline Falls plant was not capable, in its present condition, to furnish the needed power and light.

CROOK CO. POSTOFFICES PAYING GOOD SALARIES

Prineville Review: Prineville is at the head of the list as the best paying postoffice in Crook county. Postmaster Ledford, whose term expires January 28th, 1914, draws a salary of \$1800 a year.

Bend comes second. Its postmaster gets \$1700 a year, according to the 1912 Blue Book. Madras and Redmond are tied for third place, both offices pay \$1400 a year. The salary is based on the amount of business transacted.

According to telegraphic dispatches President-elect Wilson will, it is believed, allow all presidential postmasters to serve out their four years' term except in cases where it is shown they are incompetent.

A NEW SCHOOL HOUSE FOR TOWN OF SISTERS

Sisters Herald: The plans and specifications for Sisters' new school building have arrived and as soon as they are approved by the county superintendent, bids will be advertised for. The plans were drawn by C. H. Burggraf, architect, of Albany.

METOLIUS CITIZENS WANT THEIR POSTMASTER FIRED

Metolius Oregonian: A petition bearing the signatures of all of the business men of Metolius has been sent to the postoffice department at Washington asking for the removal of John Hoffman as postmaster at this place. Gross irregularities in the conduct of the office are charged.

A man doesn't discover that there is a boundary line between his own lot and his neighbor's until the first snow falls and he has to clean the walks.

Good Printing

THE VALUE of the printing matter you use depends on the impression it makes upon your present and prospective customers. Your printing should always be advertising. It should advertise you, your business or profession. It becomes valuable to you as such only when it gives the right impression. Then it tells your story as you want it told. It's effective. It brings the results you desire. It takes more than paper, ink and type to obtain these results. It takes brains, a little extra effort by your printer to create that appearance and strength of composition which forces attention and cash returns upon your printing expenditures. It is known as

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