

# The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 26, 1903.

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Editor and Proprietor.

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## UNSUCCESSFUL HOLD-UP

TRAIN STOPPED NEAR CORBETT BY FOUR MASKED MEN.

One Bandit Is Killed and Engineer Barrett Is Wounded Slightly—Robbers Escaped Without Plunder in a Boat.

Portland, Sept. 24.—Portland Oregonian: In an unsuccessful attempt made by four masked men to hold up and rob the O. R. & N. overland train leaving Portland last night at 8:15 o'clock one of the robbers was shot and instantly killed and Engineer Ollie Barrett, of Portland, was wounded. Express Messenger Fred Korner fired the shot that slew the bandit, and the bullet, after passing through his body, wounded the engineer, striking him in the left shoulder.

The men had badly bungled the job after having successfully stopped the train and compelled the engineer and fireman to accompany them in their work. Instead of attacking the express car they blew open the door of the baggage car with dynamite. The noise aroused the express messenger, and he opened his door and fired at the leading robber, who stood at the time but a few feet from him.

The death of the unknown bandit, apparently the leader of the party, disheartened the others, and they abandoned the attempt to rob the train. Not a shot was fired in return, and the bandits escaped before the express messenger fired again.

The hold-up was attempted on the curve west of the tunnel which appears above mile post 21, at about 9:30 o'clock. Two masked men stole aboard the train at Troutdale, hiding on the "blind" end of the baggage car. A short distance out from Troutdale the two men crept over the tender and, covering engineer Barrett and fireman Stevenson with their revolvers, ordered the train to proceed to a point near mile post 21. When this spot had been reached the bandits ordered the engineer to stop.

The other men joined the bandits at the mile post, and the four ordered the engineer and fireman to accompany them back to the express car. The robbers, apparently ignorant of train formation and very nervous, attacked the baggage car. When the doors were not opened promptly they used dynamite and blew the door open.

Though he had been ordered, with the firemen, to keep ahead of the party, Engineer Barrett managed to slip behind the leader. As the door to the express car was opened and Korner's gun was poked out, he was standing directly behind the man who was under the door. Korner fired immediately, the bullet instantly killing the robber and wounding the engineer. The other bandits, frightened by the shot, retreated.

The dead body of the bandit was left lying at the scene of the hold-up, but Engineer Barrett is of the opinion that his companions returned and removed it. He believes the men had a boat lying on the river bank and made their escape in this manner.

When the robbers stopped the train, members of the train crew immediately warned the passengers of the impending peril. It is related by those who talked with people on the cars that the conductor ran through the coaches crying a warning and urging every one to hide valuables. Purses, watches and jewelry were hastily thrust under seat cushions. Women screamed and some passengers, both men and women, attempted to hide where they could be safe from the bullets that they expected to fly at any time or where any robber making a trip through the cars would be unable to find them.

Engineer Barrett lost his valuables. These are lying on the platform at Bridal Veil, and constitute the only loss, save that which the company sustained, which followed the hold-up.

All the actions of the four men, and especially their precipitate flight when the leader was shot down, indicate that the hold-up was attempted by novices. Railroad officials believe that the men were either desperate Portland men or that they live somewhere along

the railroad. Their bungling in blowing open the baggage, rather than the express car, and their action in permitting Engineer Barrett to hide behind one of their number are further indications that the men had no previous experience. They acted at all times as though they were nervous and were anxious to get away. It is extremely doubtful whether the robbers would have attempted to interfere with the passengers, even had they succeeded in robbing the express car.

A posse left Portland shortly after midnight last night for the scene of the hold-up. The posse was delayed an hour from the fact that Sheriff Storey could not be reached by telephone. A messenger had to be sent for him.

Washington, Sept. 22.—When the state department closed today it was agreed that the Panama canal treaty was dead, although eight hours yet remained within which the Colombian congress might take affirmative action upon it. Nothing, however, had been received during the day, either from Minister Beaupre at Bogota or from Mr. Herion, the Colombian charge here, which gave the slightest hope of a favorable issue.

A report is current here that Colombia congress, in secret session, has clothed President Marroquin with full power to negotiate a treaty. If this report should turn out to be true, President Marroquin, who is counted a friend of the treaty, could proceed untrammelled by the fear of future reckoning with his congress.

In any event, President Roosevelt must now take the next step. He can elect to proceed under the Spooner act and take up the Nicaraguan route, or he can allow the matter to drift for the present in the hope that a way may yet be found to straighten out the present difficulty in the path of the Panama route.

London, Ky., Sept. 22.—After a trial of eight days, the jury in the case of Curtis Jett, charged with the murder of Town Marshal Cockerill, at Jackson, Ky., July 21, 1902, this evening rendered a verdict of guilty, and fixed the punishment at death. The jury retired at 2:44 p. m. When the jury entered the courtroom at 5:10 p. m., after agreeing on a verdict, quiet reigned for a few moments. Jett's mother had gone away earlier under the impression that no verdict would be reached, and the verdict of death coming two hours after the jury was out was a surprise to every one in the courtroom. The reading of the verdict did not affect Jett, but his brother was very much distressed.

Elijah McKinney served as foreman of the jury, and after delivering the verdict to the court the jury was polled. The death sentence was then read to Jett, after which he was given over to the custody of the deputy sheriffs.

This has been the second trial of Jett on the trial of murder. In his first trial for the murder of J. B. Marcum at Jackson, Jett and Thomas White were sentenced to life imprisonment.

The jurors agreed among themselves not to divulge the proceedings in the jury-room. One juror, however, stated that for four ballots 11 jurors voted for the death penalty and one for a life sentence. All agreed on the fifth ballot.

New York, Sept. 22.—Falling from the eighth floor of a building in course of erection at No. 20 West Eighteenth street, a distance of about 80 feet, and turning three somersaults in his descent, Joseph Heiser, an ironworker, has escaped with a slight laceration of two fingers. A score of workmen rushed to the cellar, expecting to find his mangled form. Instead they found him calmly examining his lacerated fingers. To convince them that he had escaped without injury, he danced a jig. Then he went back to work at the top of the building.

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Vetch, rye and cheat seed at Corvallis Flour Mills.

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See our new fall stock of men and boys suits and overcoats, larger and better than ever at money-saving prices.

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## A DESPERATE MAN

BURKE, ESCAPED FORGER, OVERCOMES OFFICER AFTER STRUGGLE.

Robs the Deputy of His Weapons—On Turning a Corner He Jumps Into the Brush by the Road and Escapes—Other News.

Stevenson, Wash., Sept. 22.—Bloodshed may result from the manhunt now in progress on the Washington side of the Columbia River, between The Dalles and Vancouver. Burke, the forger and escaped prisoner from the Hillsboro jail, overpowered a deputy sheriff who had captured him yesterday and secured two revolvers, a rifle and a large supply of ammunition. His action and escapades of the past few days brand him as being desperate, and should the posse which is now out on his trail overtake him, there is little doubt but that a pitched battle will ensue.

Burke's feats of the past week have shown that he does not intend to spend his time in jail. Sunday he escaped from Sheriff Totton, of Skamania county, who had recaptured him at the hotel at Carson. The sheriff sent a shower of bullets after the fugitive, but the shots apparently only made the fugitive run the faster, none of them taking effect.

Sheriff Totton located the escaped man at the hotel in Carson, Wash., early Sunday morning, after having scoured the country in the vicinity of The Dalles, where Burke was reported to have been seen. The sheriff captured his man, getting the drop on him, and at once started with him for Stevenson, the sheriff riding with his gun trained on the captive, who walked ahead.

It was at a sharp turn in the road that Burke made his escape. Being shut out for a second from view he bolted into the brush without the least warning. The officer emptied his revolver into the brush, clipping the twigs right and left, and ordering Burke to halt, but there was no sound from the fugitive. Sheriff Totton at once rode to the different settlements of the vicinity and left instructions that a sharp lookout for the man be kept.

Every available officer was put on his trail, with the result that a deputy sheriff from Lower Cascades came upon him yesterday and arrested him in the brush near that settlement. Burke was unarmed and did not resist, especially when the officer thrust a gun in his face and informed him that the least show of resistance would make him a fit subject for the undertaker.

Burke's eyes were bloodshot, and he showed the hardships of running through the forests all day and night without food. Apparently he was quite docile, and the officer started with him for Cascade Locks to place him in confinement for safekeeping.

But Burke was merely biding his chance. When officer and captive had walked some distance and gotten on fairly friendly terms, Burke suddenly seized the deputy and a terrible struggle ensued.

Both men fought for every inch there was in them, but Burke's strength was supplemented by desperation, and he fought like a demon until he had the deputy overpowered. He then helped himself to the minion's rifle, revolvers and ammunition, bade him a sarcastic adieu and disappeared in the brush down the river.

This episode as soon as it became known, convinced the officers that they have a desperate man to deal with. Sheriff Totton promptly organized and equipped a posse and went on the trail determined to take the man, dead or alive. They will scour the country along the river to Vancouver. A reward of \$150 is offered by the Washington county sheriff for Burke's capture. Burke is the man who swindled the Jackson county bank out of about \$250, and tried the same swindle at Forest Grove, where he was arrested as he entered the bank to pass a forged check. The officers of the bank had been forewarned, and thrust guns in the man's face when he walked into the bank. When arrested he was taken to the Hillsboro jail, where he located a weak

spot in the walls and dug his way out, in company with a young fellow named McNamara, who has since been recaptured.

Salem, Or., Sept. 22.—The State Board of Portage Railway Commissioners held a meeting today and formerly directed the attorney general to begin proceedings against the O. R. & N. Co. to condemn a right of way for the portage road over a portion of that company's right of way near Calilo. Engineer A. E. Hammond is here, and will assist the attorney-general by furnishing the necessary data regarding the proposed location on the road.

Mr. Hammond's maps show that the portage road will encroach upon the O. R. & N.'s right of way for about a mile, but its nearest approach to the company's tract is 35 feet, and that for only a short distance. Mr. Hammond informed the board that while he was at the irrigation congress he told some of the Eastern Oregon people that if the cost of securing a right of way should be too great, the portage road project might have to be abandoned for want of a sufficient appropriation.

He was told that the Eastern Oregon people are so anxious to have the road built that they would be willing to raise \$50,000 or more if necessary in order to secure the construction of the road and the consequent reduction in freight rates.

The Dalles, Sept. 22.—A great deal of excitement prevailed around The Dalles land office beginning Sunday, when about 40 men and women were holding the fort at the land office so as to be the first to enter the office when the big front door opened on Monday morning. The cause of the rush was fractions of four townships of timber land being open for filing. These townships are located in different parts of Wasco and Crook counties and these men and women had found that two men representing an Eastern syndicate were here to file on the land themselves, and having script and cash to take up the entire tract. All the parties stayed near the land office all Sunday and Sunday night and had their meals carried to them and Dick Goeman, the local real estate man, was busy all night making out filing papers.

When the door of the land office was open Monday morning the would-be filers spotted one of the syndicate men, and held him so the settlers could file, but syndicate man No. 2 slid in ahead and did the work for his syndicate, shutting out the 40 men and women. It is not yet determined what the ruling of the land office will be.

## AT PHILOMATH.

Opening of the College of Philomath—Public Exercises—Sales by Ambler.

The College of Philomath opened its fall term Tuesday. There was a very encouraging attendance. In the evening an entertainment was given consisting of music, recitations, etc. Those who took part did their work in an excellent manner and all are to be complimented. This college has an encouraging outlook. There is a strong probability of its buying the Philomath college to increase its facilities. Miss Hawks and Miss Wheelton have been added to the teaching corps, which makes an excellent and enthusiastic faculty.

Mr. Pugh has bought the residence property which Mr. Scott recently purchased of the Mason heirs. The deal was negotiated through Mr. Ambler who has also sold Walter Kisor's property to Mrs. Irwin.

Moses Brothers have issued vol. 1, No. 1, of the Philomath Rustler, to spread the news of the vicinity and advertise their extensive business. It was printed on the college press.

The Philomath public schools will commence next Monday with four teachers, Prof. and Mrs. Pratt and Prof. and Mrs. S. G. Springer.

Mr. Oscar Weed has gone to Columbia county on a trip of business and pleasure.

## For Sale.

Several nice Poland China pigs, both sexes, eligible to record. Inquire of Robert Wylie, Lewisburg, five miles north of Corvallis.