

# The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, JANUARY 27, 1904.

H. F. IRVING  
Editor and Proprietor.

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On Goods sold  
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Will pay you to investigate.  
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Fine Lot Bamboo Furniture just in  
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**E. E. WILSON,**  
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**B. A. CATHEY, M. D.,**  
Physician and Surgeon.

Office, Room 14, First National Bank Building, Corvallis, Or. Office Hours, 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 4 p. m.

## EXPIATED HIS CRIME.

EXECUTION OF PLEASANT ARMSTRONG IS SENSATIONAL IN MANNER OF NERVE.

Kills His Sweetheart in a Fit of Jealousy and Repents and Says He Will Meet Her Again—Confesses to the Crime.

Baker City, Jan. 22.—The first legal execution in Baker county took place at 7 o'clock this morning in the court yard, Sheriff Brown and his deputies being the executioners, Pleasant Armstrong the criminal.

All during the night the condemned man, whose crime is well known to the community, entertained his friends and two brothers in his cell. He did not sleep much because of receiving so much company. He played for some time on his violin and seemed cheerful. Father Olivetti spent most of the night with him and during the latter part, towards morning, they were alone. At 5:30 o'clock this morning, Armstrong washed and dressing himself carefully in a suit of black, ate a hearty breakfast of broiled ham and omelette, potatoes, bread and coffee.

Shortly after 6 o'clock the invited witnesses to the execution began to gather in the court house square and by half past six 500 stood in front of the gallows inside of the high board enclosure. Sheriff Brown and deputies Hemple, Lachner and Snow, had all arrangements made to perfection.

Doctors McDaniel and Curry of Baker City, Brock of Sumpter, Grant of Harney and Francis of Haines were summoned officially to judge of the death.

Newspaper men and reporters representing all the local papers and the Portland and San Francisco papers were given a position inside the wire. A few minutes before 7 o'clock Sheriff Brown led Armstrong from his cell and as he passed through the jail he shook hands with his fellow prisoners and attendants and said: "Good-bye, boys, I will meet you in another world." The procession formed and marched through the rear of the jail, Sheriff Brown and Deputies Snow and Lachner leading, the condemned man with the priest coming next, Deputy Hemple and a number of assistants bringing up the rear.

Alone and unaided, Armstrong stepped lightly up the scaffold stairs and took his position facing the crowd, with Father Olivetti at his side.

The priest invoked the blessings of the Deity upon the repentant criminal, and after reading the death warrant when Sheriff Brown asked Armstrong if he had anything to say, the slayer of Minnie Easminger, standing erect facing the light of the breaking day, in a clear voice made quite a lengthy speech, holding in his hand before him a crucifix.

"You all see the world. This cross is the other world. It is a symbol of love, love for father, mother, children and friends. I had a sweet girl once whom I loved—Minnie Easminger. I took her life, and I stand ready to die for the crime. Minnie Easminger in the other world knows I was not responsible for the crime. Love prove all natures. I have prayed day and night and I die in the state of Christ and in the spirit of the true church. I sincerely repent of all my sins, especially of the great crime for which I suffer. I humbly trust in infinite mercy of Christ, my savior, who died for me. Into Thy hands, oh Lord, I commend my spirit."

As the sheriff adjusted the noose and black cap Armstrong cried out, "Did you ever see a brave man?" Look at me. I forgive you all." Two minutes before 7 the trap was sprung and Armstrong's spirit shot into eternity with scarcely a quiver of his body. The neck of the executed criminal was broken instantly and the doctors pronounced the body dead in eight minutes.

Armstrong was 26 years of age last August. His victim was about 20. The dead man's body was turned over to the undertakers for burial at 4 o'clock today.

The crime was revolting in the

extreme. Armstrong was a farm hand, industrious but passionate and impetuous. Prior to a year ago last Christmas he worked on a ranch near Haines. He was 25 years of age, good-looking, and generally popular. His descent was Spanish. He had for some time worked in the neighborhood of the place where he did the killing.

Christmas night, 1902, there was a dance at Redding's ranch, near North Powder, Baker county. For more than a year Armstrong and Minnie Easminger had been "keeping company," but several weeks before the holidays, the young girl's parents forbade longer association.

A few days prior to Christmas Armstrong was informed by Miss Easminger that she should have nothing more to do with him. It is said he grew violently angry and told her he would get even.

At the Christmas dance both attended, but the girl came in company with another man. All the evening Armstrong was sullen and outwardly displayed his rankling jealousy. He left the dancing place sometime before the party broke up. He lay in wait at a neighboring ranch where he knew the object of his crime was to sleep. About 1:30 o'clock the morning of the 26th, Miss Easminger came through the gate. Armstrong jumped behind her and shot her in the back with a long new Colt's revolver. After the girl fell mortally wounded, the murderer fired another shot into her breast and turning the weapon upon himself he inflicted a slight wound on his temple. Then he ran.

Several who were in the party returning to the ranch-house with the wounded girl, gave chase and he was speedily overtaken and captured. Miss Easminger died 4 o'clock that morning, or a few hours after being shot.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 24.—Ernest Cashiel, the condemned murderer who escaped from the Calgary police garrison a few days before the date set for his execution in December last, was caught by the police today a few miles from here. He is supposed to have been hiding in an old cellar since his escape. Cashiel is now in the guardhouse.

Ernest Cashiel, the young murderer and desperado who escaped recently from Calgary, N. W. T., while awaiting execution for the murder of a Canadian officer, entered upon his criminal career in Northern Wyoming three years ago. Cashiel was only 18 years old then, but he was one of the shrewdest and most desperate criminals that ever infested that region.

Cashiel's first crime was the theft of a watch from Attorney M. B. Camplin, of Buffalo, Wyo. Cashiel was arrested, and while awaiting trial escaped from the county jail at Buffalo in a most ingenious manner. For several days he complained of being ill. His muscles bothered him, he said, and he was permitted to spend much of his time in the corridor. One night Cashiel, after placing a dummy in his cell, crawled on top of the cage. He was not seen by the jailer when he was locked up for the night, and during the midnight hours Cashiel sawed off the bars of a window opening on a back street. He then broke into the sheriff's office, secured a rifle and some ammunition, and made his way into the mountains.

While in the mountains Cashiel again resorted to a shrewd move to evade capture. He tied back one of his fingers, bandaged it carefully and covered the bandage with the blood from a rabbit he had killed. He told the mountaineers that he had accidentally shot off one of his fingers. A few months later Cashiel was arrested at Casper, but as he did not answer the description of the fugitive in that there was no missing digits, he was released.

Cashiel was next arrested in Kansas, and Sheriff Kennedy of Buffalo, started after him, but the wily youth again eluded the officers by crawling through a water closet and escaping. He was next heard from in Northwest Territory, where he was arrested for cattle-stealing and forgery. While awaiting trial he overpowered the jailer, killed the sheriff and made his escape, and it is for this crime that he has been sentenced to die.

Dr. Wells, the Albany V S will be at Fruits livery stables every Friday of each week. Bring your horses and have them examined free of charge.

## DEATH BY CYCLONES

ENTIRE TOWN IN ALABAMA DESTROYED AND THIRTY-NINE KILLED.

Through the East Mississippi Valley Wreck and Ruin is the Result of Cyclones—Heart-rending Scenes—Floods in the East.

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 22.—Consternation and intense excitement prevails here today over the reports of the terrible cyclones that are swooping over portions of the state.

Great loss of life is reported and the full particulars are not known at this hour.

Last reports show a heavy loss of life at Moundville, 70 miles north of here, in last night's cyclone. Conductor Capehart of the Queen & Crescent railway wired from Akron that he could not pass Moundville owing to the wreckage on the tracks. He declares that all the inhabitants of that town are killed.

Capehart has backed his train to Akron and sent a message in a roundabout way. A special wrecking train left here with doctors and nurses for the scene.

Cyclones are reported in several places in Alabama this morning. At North Birmingham five stores and several residences were blown down and a number of persons killed. Moundville is also wrecked by the storm.

At Memphis, wires south of there are down owing to cyclone conditions. In the Mescham suburb of Memphis five houses were destroyed but the inhabitants escaped.

Another message from Akron states the entire Northern portion of Moundville, which is practically the entire residence section, is destroyed and the population killed.

At Vicksburg, Miss., several houses were demolished and Charles Lavinski, a blackman, and two horses were struck by a falling wall and killed.

Pittsburg, Jan. 22.—Intense excitement prevails here today. Telegraphic warnings have been sent as a weather forecast that breaking ice has formed an immense gorge in the Alleghany river. The police department has notified all business houses and residents in the threatened districts that the worst flood in 40 years is expected. Reports from the entire state show an unprecedented rush of mad waters.

The Ohio river is a raging torrent and all along its course the inhabitants have been warned.

Indianapolis, Jan. 22.—The first casualties from the flood were at 5:30 o'clock this morning when John Shobe and his wife were drowned trying to escape from a houseboat. The entire west part of Indianapolis is practically out of the White River bridge is tottering. Dispatches from Terre Haute and Vincennes on the Wabash this morning say that they are dynamiting the ice under the bridges in order to save the structures.

Cincinnati, Jan. 22.—Twenty miles of ice is coming down the Ohio in the flood and a big gorge reported at Coney Island let go this morning. Several barges were destroyed and people along the banks are terror stricken.

Loraine, Ohio, Jan. 22.—At noon today 20 vessels are lying helpless in the Black river and ice is jamming against them. The water is 10 feet above the normal stage. The damage will already reach half a million dollars. It is still raining hard.

Findlay, Ohio, Jan. 22.—Many streets are under water and also a portion of the residence section. Two hundred families have been rescued. The damage is immense to electric plants and power houses which are under water.

Cleveland, Jan. 22.—Three big steel trust boats, one heavily loaded broke from their moorings this morning under the great pressure of the flood on the Cuyahoga. The boats were swept down together into the Superior street viaduct and completely blocked the east passage,

badly damaged the viaduct and greatly damaged the east abutment. One boat was badly crushed and another had a hole torn in her bow above the water line. On the way down stream she struck the fire boat Cleveland, damaging it so badly that the latter was beached to keep from sinking. The ice then piled up against the lodged steamers. The viaduct, which is the largest drawbridge in the world is completely closed to traffic and the damage will be heavy.

Tillamook, Or., Jan. 24.—Henry H. Alderman, sheriff of Tillamook county, shot himself in his own barn early this morning, death resulting instantly.

Sheriff Alderman had been seriously ill for more than a month and in addition to his physical troubles there had arisen unfortunate gossip growing out of a dispute with accountants regarding a discrepancy in his books, which he declared he could and would make good in full.

Compounded with his ill health, his financial troubles apparently unsettled the sheriff's mind temporarily, and he became despondent. When he arose this morning he had apparently no thought of committing the deed, as he at once began the usual routine.

About 7:30 this morning he got up and awakened the hired girl. Then he apparently went immediately to the barn, a short distance away. When the girl went to the barn half an hour after to milk she noticed bloodstains upon the ground floor. Going to the upper floor she discovered the body of Sheriff Alderman lying prostrate upon the boards. Evidently when alone in the barn his despondent condition had reached its climax, and prompted by his characteristic impetuous nature, he had committed the deed instantly. The pistol from which he had sent a bullet into his mouth was lying a few inches away.

Sheriff Alderman was about 40 years of age. He had lived in Tillamook county for many years, and had held the office of sheriff for the past seven years. A month ago he made a trip to the southern part of the county, and there was taken sick, from which he never fully recovered. He left a wife and one child, a girl of 11 years.

The dead sheriff was a member of the Masonic Order, as well as of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World and ancient Order of United Workmen. He has one brother, W. P. Alderman residing in this county.

The financial troubles reached their height on last Friday, when a warrant was made out for his arrest, it being alleged that his accounts were \$7,000 short. By his residence of many years in Tillamook County Sheriff Alderman had acquired property worth considerably more than the sum said to be missing. He also carried a heavy life insurance. He had declared that he was able to fully pay for any unconscious error in his books and if the report of the accountants is confirmed, this will be done. A number of friends have stood by him faithfully, never doubting his integrity.

Edward Paxson, of Butte, Montana, will exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition his famous painting of "The Custer Battle Field," which has attracted so much attention at Washington, D. C. This is one of the most widely known paintings by this artist and it is said to be best representation of the celebrated battle field on which the gallant General Custer and his force of brave soldiers were killed. The picture contains more than 200 figures, troopers, scouts and Indians, all in one struggling fighting mass. The dead and wounded lay all about. There are horses galloping over the dead. Others are wounded and are struggling over the fallen men, most of whom are dead.

This was one of the fiercest battles of the Northwest. Sitting Bull was chief of the Sioux Indians by whom General Custer and his company of soldiers had been trapped. The General is shown in the center of the picture bareheaded and fighting for his life. A number of his officers are in the foreground, each in a hand-to-hand conflict with the Indians. The picture is so full of realism that it is said many old frontier soldiers have been seen to weep as they stood gazing at it. The details are graphically portrayed. The painting is valued at \$10,000.