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WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, DECEMBER 28, 1904.

R. F. IRVING, Editor, and Proprietor

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DISASTROUS FIRE.

TWO MILLION-DOLLAR LOSS FROM DEPARTMENT STORE BLAZE.

City Shoppers Ran for Their Lives—Two Blocks Destroyed in Business Section—Man jumps and Is Killed.

Sioux City, Dec. 23.—A fire, which resulted in the death of one man, a monetary loss roughly estimated at \$2,000,000, and the destruction of nearly two blocks, started in the basement of the Pelletier department store building at Fourta at 8 o'clock tonight. The district burned over lies in the center of the business portion of the city and among the buildings were several of the most substantial structures in the city. In these buildings were located a large number of stores and several wholesale establishments and three national banks. The fire started in the basement of the store, but its origin is in doubt. The man killed was a tenant in the Massachusetts block, who jumped from the fifth story.

A large number of Christmas shoppers crowded the stores, and it was with difficulty that all managed to escape from the burning building. The flames enveloped much of the building before the fire department arrived, and was quite beyond control. For three hours and a half until they had got beyond range of the large buildings, the flames carried everything in their path. Both telegraph companies were put out of business by reason of their wires all being burned out, and the office of the Western Union was destroyed. Although a great number of telephone circuits were within the district, long-distance circuits were later established with outside points.

From the Pelletier store the flames spread to the Massachusetts block, on the west, a large six-story building. The fire continued westward, driven by a brisk wind. In the course of their flight, the flames were communicated to a score of other business places located in the building west of the Toy block. Several families lived in the rear of the building, but so far as known all the occupants escaped.

Leaping across the alley, the fire next spread to the smaller buildings facing Fourth street. When the flames had reached a point near the Tribune building, facing Pierce street, the firemen concentrated their efforts and managed to prevent the destruction of the Tribune building, although it was much damaged. The outside departments did not arrive in time to offer material aid.

Pekin, Dec. 24.—The Chinese yesterday seized 3,000,000 rounds of Russian rifle ammunition near Feng Tai, in the vicinity of Pekin. The ammunition was consigned to a Russian firm at Tientsin, and was evidently for Port Arthur.

The shipment was concealed among bales of wood brought on the backs of camels from Kalgan, the caravan being in charge of the agent of a German firm.

General Oku's headquarters, via Fushan, Thursday, Dec. 22.—The Russians along the front of General Oku's army during the night of December 20 made a determined attack on Lamuting, but were driven back with heavy losses. The Japanese sustained no casualties.

Dismounted Russian cavalry attacked the cavalry on the extreme left of the Japanese line on the night of December 20-21, but were repulsed with heavy losses.

Small detachments of Russians nightly attack the Japanese outposts and patrols, but with no success.

New York, Dec. 23.—The jury in the case of Nan Patterson on trial for the murder of Caesar Young, reported to Justice Davis this morning that they were unable to reach an agreement, and were discharged. It was reported that six votes for conviction stood as follows: One for murder in the second degree, two for manslaughter in the first degree and three for manslaughter in the second degree. It is said there was no vote for murder in the first degree.

The question of bail is the most

interesting one at present to the imprisoned actress. Before her trial the district attorney offered to accept bail in \$20,000, but this could not be raised, and the prosecuting officers declined to indicate today what their attitude on this point will be. District Attorney Jerome said he had nothing whatever to say at present as to whether he would agree to a lower bail or whether he would accept bail at all.

This morning, Nan Patterson asked for news from the jury. She became hysterical while awaiting an answer, and the Tombs warden went to see her. He assured her that there was no news, and that she could not possibly hear anything until it was announced in the courtroom before her.

Instead of reassuring her, this news made her worse. She had a severe attack of hysteria.

Dr. Levin, the Tombs physician, was sent for in a hurry and prescribed for her. About this time her father arrived at the Tombs. Owing to her state of collapse he was allowed to go to see her. As soon as she was somewhat composed she was led across the bridge of Sighs to the criminal court building.

When the jury came in at 12:30 Miss Patterson became very nervous. The color of her face seem to deepen, and her whole attitude showed that she was undergoing keen suffering. When the jury reported their disagreement, and the justice discharged them, she turned to her father and threw herself on his shoulders, weeping bitterly. Up to the last she had hoped to be free in time to go home to Washington to spend Christmas with her mother, and the disagreement was a most poignant disappointment to her. The old man tried to comfort her, but she fell fainting in his arms.

The girl was revived from her fainting spell, but continued to sob hysterically. Justice Davis thanked the jury and remanded Miss Patterson to the Tombs. She was led out sobbing violently and in a state of severe nervous collapse.

Nan Patterson collapsed again when she was being taken across the Bridge of Sighs. It was said she was in a serious condition for the time being. She was revived sufficiently to be taken to her cell, where she again collapsed.

Once in her cell Miss Patterson wept. A Tombs missionary tried to comfort her, but she would not be comforted. She cried for her father, but when he was admitted to her cell she did not immediately recognize him. The father wept in company with his daughter.

"Don you think," she asked the missionary, "that the jury believed me guilty because I broke down and cried along toward the last? You remember after I had stood Mr. Rand's attack as long as I could, I just had to break down and cry, and I thought that maybe I was that kind of woman."

The missionary reassured her and she became more cheerful.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 24.—Tarred and feathered after having been accused of poisoning the stock and burning the barns and grain of Gus Lindstrom, a neighbor, John Pawling and his housekeeper of Andrus, Wis., are guarding their homes with shotguns. A quarrel took place between Pawling and his nearest neighbor, Gus Lindstrom, a few days ago. The night following, the burning of Lindstrom's property and the extensive poisoning of his stock occurred mysteriously. Pawling was suspected and a whitecappers' visit followed. Masked men dragged Pawling and the woman from their beds to a barn lot, where they were stripped, tarred and feathered. They were then ordered to leave the community and never return. Pawling, however, returned and secured the arrest of eight of the wealthiest men in that section on a charge of assault.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought
a *Chas. H. Pritchard*

MITCHELL & HERMANN

DENY REPORTS THAT THEY ARE CONNECTED WITH LAND FRAUDS.

Expect to Appear Before Grand Jury Tuesday—Mitchell Calls the Report That He Got Pay for Promoting Patents "an Infernal Lie."

Portland, Dec. 24.—Senator John H. Mitchell and Congressman Binger Herman, who arrived last night from Washington, will not have an opportunity to appear before the federal grand jury until next week, as the jury adjourned at noon today until next Tuesday morning.

When interviewed this morning both Senator Mitchell and Binger Hermann emphatically asserted their innocence of any complicity in the land frauds. Rumors that Senator Mitchell had received large sums of money in consideration of his services in expediting the patenting or fraudulent claims were denounced by him as "an infamous lie." Congressman Hermann declined to make any detailed statement until he had an opportunity to learn the nature of the charges against him.

No further indictments were reported before the adjournment of the grand jury, but it is said that the jury has practically agreed to indict S. B. Ormsby, former superintendent of the Cascade forest reserve, and C. E. Loomis, former special agent of the land department, both of whom are charged with having aided the Puter ring by sending in false reports upon the fraudulent entries in township 11-7.

Dr. W. H. Davis, mayor of Albany, was a witness before the grand jury this morning, and it is rumored that the purpose in calling him was to inquire into his alleged connection with the land frauds in Linn county. At the time when those frauds were committed, Davis was chairman of the republican county central committee of Linn county and his relations with Binger Hermann were close. He had correspondence with Hermann on the subject of the pretended entries in township 11-7, and this correspondence is an important element of the evidence in the government's hands.

In March, 1901, Davis wrote to Hermann, who was then United States land commissioner, saying that about 40 citizens of Linn and adjoining counties had established squatters' rights in township 11-7, in the year 1892, and that when the township was included in the Cascade forest reserve they supposed that their claims had been forfeited, and they made no further improvements until the fall of 1900. In that year, Davis wrote, "they were informed on what they considered legal advice, that the years intervening would be credited to them as that of bona fide residence," and they thereupon proceeded to make final proof.

"They have since ascertained," Davis further informed Hermann, "that they had not complied with the law, and that all this was done under a misapprehension of the law." In behalf of the alleged settlers Davis requested permission for them to withdraw their final proof in order to enable them to take the necessary steps to complete title.

At the same time that this letter was written C. E. Loomis, then special agent of the land department, also wrote to Hermann endorsing what Davis had said in reference to the claims in township 11-7. Loomis is referred to the persons interested in the claims as "some very good friends of yours," and it was after the receipt of these two letters that Herman made the claims "special" and patents were issued.

Davis is said to have become subsequently the owner of some of the claims in township 11-7.

It is believed that the cases of Davis, Loomis and Ormsby will be disposed of by the grand jury before Senator Mitchell and Congressman Hermann are given a hearing. George C. Brownell's alleged connection with the frauds perpetrated by Henry Meldrum will be investigated later.

Senator Mitchell, when seen at the Portland Hotel this morning,

declared in most emphatic terms his entire innocence of any part in the land frauds. He spoke with indignation of the charges against him and said that he would have no difficulty in disproving them.

"I have little to say at this time except to declare in the most unqualified terms that I was in no way concerned in the land frauds," said the senator. "I have done a great deal of work for people of Oregon who had business with the general land office and I was frequently flooded with letters asking my assistance, but I have never been concerned in any fraud upon the government. Until I am thoroughly acquainted with the alleged facts which form the basis of the rumored accusations against me, I can say little more."

"One of the rumors is that you received large sums of money for expediting claims to patent. Is that true?"

"That is an infernal lie," replied Senator Mitchell with indignation. "If that statement is made by any one it is an absolute falsehood."

"Then you received no money for your services in expediting the claims in which Puter and Emma Watson were interested?"

"No, sir; and if any one has sworn to anything of that kind it is infamous perjury. There is not one word of truth in it. Not one dollar was paid to me."

Senator Mitchell stated that he would have something further to say for publication a little later after he had had opportunity to learn the nature of the charges against him. A protracted conference was held this afternoon between Senator Mitchell and Assistant Attorney-General Heney.

Congressman Hermann who returned from Washington in company with Senator Mitchell, appeared at the postoffice building about ten o'clock this morning. The grand jury had just begun its session, but the congressman made no effort to evade the juryroom. He called upon United States District Attorney John Hall, with whom he was cloistered for half an hour, and afterward visited Judge Bellinger's office.

Mr. Hermann was asked what he had to say about the rumors connecting him with the land frauds, and he replied,

"Until I have found out the nature of the charges against me I can say very little, except to assure you that I am in no way involved in these frauds. I have no fear of the outcome."

"Were you acquainted with Puter before he came to you with that letter of introduction from Senator Mitchell?"

"Only very distantly, very distantly," said Hermann. "I had met him two or three times before that. But my acquaintance with him was very distant, just as with the rest of the people concerned in these transactions."

The congressman was not disposed to discuss the subject fully until he has opportunity to learn more definitely the precise charges which he must meet, and the conversation ended.

It is freely asserted by the secret service men now in the city that efforts have been made to tamper with the grand jury, in the interest of persons suspected of complicity in the land frauds. The jurors come from all parts of the state and many of their friends and acquaintances have recently appeared in Portland under circumstances that have aroused suspicions of a deep laid plan to approach the jurors and influence their proceedings.

One man whose actions have excited especial suspicion is Henry Ford, a private detective. Secret Service Agent Burns says that he has positive proof that Ford made overtures to the defendants in the Puter trial offering to "fix" the jury which was trying them, but the proposition was rejected.

Lewiston, Idaho, Dec. 24.—Officers have hit on a novel plan to rid the town of bad characters. Any one caught and found guilty of a petty offense is given a shovel and put to work on the street. The officer gets out of sight and the man makes a sneak. The plan has been tried many times, and the man has never been known to return.

Holiday Rates.

Oregon City Trans Co will sell tickets to all points for 1-3 fare the round trip Tickets on sale Dec 21 to the 24th. Good returning Jan 3. Boats leave Mon., Tues., Thursday and Saturday, at 6 a. m.