

# The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Vol. XVIII.—No. 17.

CORVALLIS, OREGON, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1, 1905.

B. F. IRVINE, Editor and Proprietor.

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## ABOUT THE FIGHT

### MERIWETHER TELLS ABOUT QUARREL WITH BRANCH.

His Bitter Repentance—Would Rather Have Met Enemy's Fate Than Lived—Had to Fight or Be Ostracised and Then Resign.

Annapolis, Md., Nov. 29.—Midshipman Meriwether today took the witness stand in his own behalf. His story of the trouble between himself and Midshipman Branch did not differ substantially from the testimony of previous witnesses. He told of having had a fight with Midshipman Humphreys, in 1904, in which the latter "knocked out" the witness.

Speaking of the night when the feud came to a head, Meriwether said:

"I went in Branch's room and the light was turned on. I said that I had come to see him about what occurred. Branch said, 'You are a dam fool to come to see me, you know that my class hates you.'"

"I said, 'That is not so; you are the only one who does.'"

"Branch asked, 'What if I do?'"

"I said, 'Then you are a damn, sneaking coward, and I will fight you, though I am not in fighting condition.' I added, 'If you get up I will lick you.'"

"He said, 'You mean you will try.'"

"That's what I will, I said, 'and if you get up I will show you.' He did not get up, and after a little further conversation, Jaeger and I left the room.

"I called Branch what I did because I was told the custom was that a fight would end feeling, and Branch had told me he was going to 'bilge' me—that is, make me fail and I wanted to fight and end the matter. I did not intend to fight when I went to the room, but he again told me that he intended to 'bilge' me."

Meriwether's counsel then asked him about his refraining from hitting Branch during the fight, although to do so under the rules. The witness told of two instances of this, explaining that he did not believe any blows should be struck in a stand-off fight unless men are on their feet. He also told how he fouled and offered to give up the fight, but the seconds would not allow it.

"After the quarrel with Branch," said he, "Midshipman McKittrick came to my room and told me that he had been appointed Branch's second to arrange a fight. I wanted Jaeger as mine. The details were then arranged. During the fight we first fell under the blinds. About the 12th round I rushed Branch, and both fell sideways through the door. The next round Branch hit me a terrific uppercut. It stunned me for some rounds. I returned to his jaw. He threw his head back and I returned, but swung my arm around his neck, we fell in that position, his head striking the floor."

"We were lifted up. My arm could not be used for the next two rounds. My left arm was crushed in a football game about three years ago. The arm is still weaker than the other."

Meriwether then showed a deep scar on the wrist of the left arm. He said a silver plate had been put there.

"At the end of the 23d round," he continued, "Branch came across the room and we both apologized and he said: 'Afterwards we will be friends.' He then left and I have never seen him since. We parted as friends."

"I could not go to breakfast the next morning. I had to go to the hospital. An orderly came and said that there was a man unconscious in the hall. He was brought to the hospital that night, and Dr. Ames told me that Branch was doing well. About 3 o'clock the next afternoon I was told by a nurse that Branch was dead. I requested an official investigation by the superintendent. I was grieved beyond expression. I think that Mr. Branch was indeed more fortunate in being in his place, in going to sleep and not waking up, than to be in mine and having to live this life after this sad and deplorable affair."

Duluth, Nov. 29.—The net results of the great storm so far as

known are the total wrecks of the steamers Mataafa, Crescent City, Odenburg and La Fayette, the sinking of the Ellwood and the stranding of the barge Manila, steamers W. B. England and Bransford, and besides two barges are missing. The Bransford escaped with a puncture in the forward compartment, and succeeded in reaching Duluth. The fireman of the Lafayette was drowned and the second assistant engineer of the Edenburg was lost. Nine men foundered on the Mataafa.

Early today when the life-saving crew resumed its efforts to reach the Mataafa, the form of a man was seen standing at the door of the captain's cabin. A megaphone was secured and in response to repeated calls a man appeared on deck, and replied "All alive forward, can you get us ashore?" This spurred the life-savers, and with great difficulty through a sea so rough that the waves were rolling over the wreck and clouds of spray that flew mast high, the life-boat tossed like a chip, reached the side of the wreck and a rope was thrown to the eager hands on board.

San Francisco, No. 28.—From the coast of faraway Luzon comes a story giving the pathetic features of a tragedy of the sea. As the coast guard steam schooner sent from Manila on a tour of the smaller islands cautiously approached a desolate islet lying on the northeast coast of Luzon, the captain stood on the bridge, glasses leveled at a particular place amid the breakers on shore where a vessel was stranded. Flying from the truck of her only remaining mast was a string of signal flags, and the captain of the coast guard ship was engaged in deciphering its import.

"Farewell" is what they mean," he said at last to his mate.

The wreck was that of the coast guard schooner Leyte, which had been at sea during the great typhoon tidal wave which swept the Philippine islands two months ago. During that storm many vessels were wrecked even in Manila harbor. The Leyte never came to port. All on board the vessel undoubtedly perished as there are no indications on the island that any escaped.

As the little steamer went to her doom, the brave American officers, recognizing their fight for life as hopeless, hoisted the sad message spelled by tiny signal flags, "Farewell" as a last word to the world and their families.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 28.—The first jury composed exclusively of women ever convened in this state was impaneled at Winchester yesterday to decide an issue between Miss Juliet Hathaway, a young society woman, and Mme. Zentmyer, a modiste. Miss Hathaway accused the dressmaker of having made some lingerie which did not fit.

Miss Hathaway and her dressmaker both donned the questionable garments and paraded before the jury, Justice John M. Johnson watching the proceedings over his wise old spectacles. The jury retired, resolved themselves into a debating society for the discussion of fashions in general, much of which had no bearing on the case in hand.

A decision was finally rendered in favor of Mme. Zentmyer, who impulsively embraced each member of the jury whom she believed voted for her.

Houston, Tex., Nov. 28.—A subterranean volcano has broken loose in the Humble oil field and formed a crater 100 feet in diameter, swallowing derricks and machinery. The eruption is hurling tons of earth and rock into the air.

New York, Nov. 28.—The application made by William R. Hearst to open final ballot boxes and recount the votes in them, cast during the recent mayoralty election in this city, has been granted by the supreme court. It was expected that the boxes would be opened tomorrow, but today in view of the fact that an appeal may be taken from Justice Amend's decision, and the delay that will be occasioned in the selection of a judge to preside at the recount it is not thought the boxes will be opened for a week from next Wednesday.

## SEDITION IN ARMY

### MAY REFUSE TO SHOOT AT MUTINEERS, BUT WOULD NOT SHOOT COMRADES.

Spirit of Rebellion Has Spread Through Army From End to End of Empire—Cossacks Alone Loyal.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 29.—The last day of grace accorded the mutineers at Sevastopol expired at midnight with no signs of surrender on the part of the men. The hills towering above the harbor of the Russian stronghold in the Black Sea may resound this morning, as they did in the days of the Crimean war, with the roar of musketry and cannon, should the government attempt to carry out its announced intention of crushing the revolt with the mailed fist.

The rebellious sailors are playing a waiting game and apparently have full confidence that the guns of the fleet will not be turned against them. If they have not actually regarded the summons to haul down the red flag, they seemed determined to make the authorities show their hand.

Whether General Nepluff, the commandant of the fortress, who was released by the mutineers today and who relieved General Baron Gakomoleskie, will dare to accept the challenge of the mutineers and stake the discipline and loyalty, not only of the troops at his disposal, but of the whole army, on the cast is, however, doubtful. Dispatches from more than a score of garrisons in Russia show that the land forces of the empire are in a state of discontent, and any order to the troops to fire upon their comrades in the sister branch of the service might probably precipitate a general and widespread mutiny. On the other hand, it would be difficult to starve out the sailors by a regular siege, as provisions and water can be obtained by them, and as they are under the guns of not unfriendly warships.

The staff quarters at Sevastopol are guarded by Cossacks and the officers in the streets are accompanied by escorts of Cossacks, the only branch of the service the fidelity of which is unquestioned.

Even the members of the guard regiments treated well and superlatively paid, are joining in the revolutionary movement. Two hundred and fifty men of the guard regiments who were said to be leaders in spreading the revolutionary propaganda, were arrested at their barracks tonight. It is understood that the soldiers of the equipages from which the crews of the imperial yachts are drawn will be withdrawn to St. Petersburg on account of disaffection among them.

A delegation representing the Newspaper Union called on Count Witte yesterday to demand that the writer, M. Serracheffsky, who was expelled from Warsaw by Governor General Skallon, be allowed to return. The Premier said he would telegraph to the governor-general suggesting the exercise of all len-

ency possible in the case of M. Serracheffsky, but he was unwilling to issue a direct order.

"You know," he said, "how touchy these governor-generals and governors are just now. Say a word to them and they resign."

Professor Podsky, editor of the Nasha Shisin, called on the Premier to demand permission for Father Gagon to return to Russia.

"What is the use of deception among friends?" said Count Witte to the professor. "You and I know, even if the police do not, that Father Gagon has been living in your house since August 13."

### Common Colds are the Cause of Many Serious Diseases.

Physicians who have gained a national reputation as analysts of the cause of various diseases, claim that if catching cold could be avoided a long list of dangerous ailments would never be heard of. Everyone knows that pneumonia and consumption originate from a cold, and chronic catarrh, bronchitis, and all throat and lung trouble are aggravated and rendered more serious by each fresh attack. Do not risk your life or take chances when you have a cold. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy will cure it before these diseases develop. This remedy contains no opium, morphine or other harmful drug, and has thirty years of reputation back of it, gained by its cures under every condition. For sale by Graham & Wortham.

In answer to a question, Meriwether said:

"If I had not resented Mr. Branch's continued actions, I would be in the same position as another classmate with whom no one had anything to do. Under these circumstances I would have to resign and could never hold up my head again."

The prosecution then began its cross-examination. The defendant was requested to describe "running" as Branch had conducted it toward him. Pressed for direct answers as to what Branch had done, Meriwether said:

"I don't care to relate them."

Meriwether then whispered to the judge-advocate and the question was withdrawn. It was evident that Meriwether hesitated to mention certain things before the women, of whom there were a number in the courtroom. He then declared that he had not been "ratty" but had unfairly acquired the reputation.

At the end of Meriwether's testimony, the defense announced that it had closed its case.

Captain George P. Colvocoresses, commandant of midshipmen, was the first witness for the rebuttal. He told of a conversation with Midshipman Churchill Humphreys, president of the second class, in which he had told Humphreys that he was under oath to obey all regulations. He, as commandant, took the stand that fighting at the academy was against good order and discipline, and would not be tolerated.

"This," he said, "I think is also the view of superintendent Sands."

Midshipman James R. Williamson, of New Jersey, a member of the first-class of the naval school, who testified before the court-martial yesterday, was this morning dropped from the navy for general inefficiency, by order of Secretary Bonaparte. The superintendent's recommendation that he be dismissed was made before the Meriwether court-martial proceedings began. Williamson was a leading member of the academy track team.

## A Matter of Health

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