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WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 17, 1906.

R. F. IRVING Editor and Proprietor

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DISMISSES COUNSEL

HARRY THAW REFUSES PLEA OF INSANITY AS DEFENSE.

Stormy Interview With Olcott Brings Crisis—Says He Is Boss—His Mother In New York—Other News.

New York, July 14.—Harry Thaw has dismissed the law firm of Black, Olcott, Gruber & Bonnyne, in a fit of anger, and the firm, of which ex-Governor Frank S. Black is the head, will not defend the young Pittsburger in his trial for the killing of White. The dismissal was the culmination of a number of arguments Thaw has had with various members of the law firm over the question of a defense. Judge Olcott, who has been the active member of the firm in connection with the case, all along insisted that insanity be made the chief point in the defense, while Thaw insisted, with equal if not greater emphasis, that he would not stand for the insanity plea.

While there have been numerous arguments between Thaw and Judge Olcott on this question, there was no open break until Friday afternoon, when Thaw, during a verbal combat with Judge Olcott in the Tombs, became enraged and wound up a tirade by telling his lawyer flatly the firm of Black, Olcott, Gruber & Bonnyne no longer was his counsel.

"I am the boss," Thaw is declared to have said, after Judge Olcott had given it as an ultimatum that Thaw should place himself absolutely in the hands of his counsel as a patient in the hands of his physician, and submit entirely to the judgment of the law firm as to the best manner of conducting the defense. "And I will not stand for the insanity plea," the prisoner added.

Judge Olcott then left the prison, it is said, and today received a letter, according to the story, from Thaw, in which the young man put in writing his dismissal of the firm. A member of Judge Olcott's firm when questioned about the matter tonight, said:

"Our firm was not engaged by Harry Thaw, but by the law firm of DeLafid & Longfellow, who are counsel for Harry Thaw's mother and were counsel for Thaw's father during the elder Thaw's life time. They retained us to take charge of the criminal end of the case. We have been obliged, in making our plans for the defense of young Thaw, to go along lines in defiance of his wishes. Further than that I do not care to talk just now."

It is said another cause for the disagreement between Thaw and his counsel arose out of the payment of certain bills Thaw contracted in the Tombs after his arrival there as a prisoner. A noticeable disagreement between Thaw and Olcott's firm came one day last week when Thaw issued a statement to the newspapers with Judge Olcott's consent, denying that he was insane and declaring that that would not be the defense when his case came to trial. Judge Olcott, in speaking of this statement, said:

"Yes, I permitted Harry to make the statement; he pestered me so much I had to."

Thaw was very angry when he heard of this, and the next day he called in the reporters and made a verbal and still stronger statement along the same lines without Judge Olcott's consent or even knowledge. It was Judge Olcott's turn to get angry when he saw this second statement in the newspapers, and it is said he laid down the law to Thaw Friday afternoon and, according to the story, received his dismissal as Thaw's legal representative in connection with the murder trial.

District Attorney Jerome, accompanied by two of his assistants, Messrs Garvan and Notter, left for the South tonight to be gone three days. It is reported today that the district attorney wanted to interview Joseph Leiter, of Chicago, as to some details of a dinner party at which Thaw was present, but this was later denied by Mr. Garvan. Thaw wrote a letter today to Messrs. Black, Gruber & Bonnyne, formerly dismissing as counsel and directing that all papers in the case be turned over to Clifford Hart-

ridge. Mr. Hartbridge has heretofore acted as personal counsel to young Thaw.

New York, July 14.—Mrs. William Thaw, mother of Harry Thaw, who is a prisoner in the Tombs, charged with the killing of Stanford White, arrived this afternoon from England. She was met at quarantine by friends, and from them she learned the particulars of the tragedy. Tears filled her eyes, and she evidently had difficulty in keeping from breaking down when she was questioned by a reporter whom she met.

With the return of Mrs. Thaw the lawyers who will look after Thaw's interests in the coming legal battle are preparing for a conference, at which the young prisoner's mother will be present. It is understood Mrs. Thaw is in favor of setting up a defense of insanity. If such is the case, she will be in accord with the lawyers. On the other hand, if Mrs. Thaw should listen to the pleadings of her son, who does not like the insanity defense, there will be a difficulty to overcome.

Seattle, Wash., July 13.—Fully cognizant of the punishment the law demands for the crime of murder in the first degree, Esther Mitchell declares she had rather be hanged than obtain her liberty, or even immunity from the law, on the ground of insanity.

"I am not insane," she insisted this morning, "and before shooting my brother I gave all the possible results the fullest consideration. I knew that I would be arrested, and that the excuse I had for doing what I did would not be considered by the court."

To a question as to whether or not she thought more of the dead Holy Roller, Creffield, than she did of the members of her own family, the girl replied that Creffield was a holy man, and that her brother George was defiled.

She admitted that she had, as was stated by Mrs. Maud Creffield, volunteered to kill her brother, knowing that Mrs. Creffield would not be able to do it.

The girl during the conversation, evinced no emotion, and stated that she was willing to plead guilty to the crime of murder in the first degree and take her punishment. She said she had no money and knew no one who would lend her any financial assistance if she wanted any, which she says she does not.

Mrs. Creffield is also willing to submit to whatever punishment may be in store for her. She, too, declares that she is perfectly sane, and the only excuse she offers for her share in the killing is that she was as justified in bringing about the death of George Mitchell as he was in killing her husband.

"I would have killed him myself if it had been possible," she said, but I knew it was not, and after we had talked about it Esther Mitchell volunteered to do it for me. After some hesitation I let her do it. I expected to be punished at the time, and expect to now. I have no money, and will not admit that I am crazy, for I am not. I am just as happy here as I have been at any time since my husband was killed, and I don't care what comes now."

The women are kept separated in the jail, Esther Mitchell being confined by hers in a small cell just off the jail office, while Mrs. Creffield is in the woman's ward. They have seen none of their friends.

Mrs. Creffield, while in Seattle, had three revolvers in her possession at different times. After the killing of "Joshua," she took a revolver from her room. This she turned over to the police matron after her arrest as a witness. While in the custody of the police matron and under the closest surveillance, she succeeded in obtaining another weapon. This she gave to the matron Monday night when she was released. Wednesday morning she purchased at Spangenberg's cutlery store the gun with which Esther Mitchell killed her brother. She bought the revolver Wednesday morning at 7:30 o'clock, a few minutes after the store opened. She told the clerk she wanted the weapon to keep around the house.

Tuesday night, when Mrs. Creffield returned to the police matron's house to get some clothes she had left there, she asked for the return of her two revolvers. The police matron refused to give them to her. She then said:

"Why, you might as well give

A RUNAWAY TRAIN

ENGINEER AND BRAKEMAN KILLED AND CREW STICK TO POSTS IN WILD RIDE.

Fireman Badly Injured—Cars Are Piled Up in a Heap—Engine Loses Control of 17 Freight Cars on a Heavy Grade—Other News.

Ashland, Or., July 14.—A freight train on the Southern Pacific, consisting of 17 cars, drawn by one big locomotive, got from under control coming down the Siskiyou soon after noon today, at tunnel No. 16, and made a wild run down the mountain, piling up in a heap at Clawson yards.

Engineer Bob Steiger and Fireman Galbraith were terribly injured. Engineer Steiger and his fireman were scalded and mashed under the engine as it tumbled over. C. D. Lockerman, brakeman, was so badly crushed that he died this afternoon. Passenger train southbound, No. 15, had a narrow escape from colliding with the runaway. The injured were brought to Ashland.

One brakeman was under the remains of four cars, where they were all compressed into the space of one but piled 20 feet high.

Quickly as possible the injured men were removed from the wreckage and brought to Ashland, Conductor Hilty, of the runaway train, coming down the track ahead of them in order to flag and stop the south bound passenger train, which he met about two miles from Ashland.

Brakeman C. D. Lockerman died here this afternoon as a result of his injuries received in the wreck. Engineer Robert Steiger was fearfully scalded and crushed under his engine. Brakeman Sam Wylie was badly bruised, but his injuries are not fatal.

Two hobos riding on a tank car of oil behind the locomotive had every stitch of clothing stripped from them but were otherwise uninjured. The fireman who had rushed on top of the train to set the hand brake, and Conductor Hilty and Brakeman Morris, who were on the rear part of the train, working at the brake, also escaped without injury.

The wreck is the worst that ever happened on the Siskiyou mountains. Fourteen of the 17 cars were badly demolished and a number of them smashed into kindling. The engine, one of the largest of the mountain climbers used by the Southern Pacific, was badly demolished. The injured men, Steiger and Wylie, after receiving medical attention here, were hurried to the railroad hospital at Portland in a special train.

Trainmen think it possible other tramps may still be under the pile of wreckage.

Engineer Steiger died on the special train at 8 o'clock, on the way to Portland.

The Southern Pacific has always been very fortunate in its experience in moving trains on the steep grades of the Siskiyou mountains, and in spite of the difficulties in the way, have had very few accidents. Not a little of the credit for this is due to the coolheadedness and bravery of the men who manage their freight and passenger trains with hundreds of lives daily.

Today's occurrence was no exception to the rule, and Engineer Bob Steiger and Fireman Galbraith faced death in a wild ride on a runaway freight train down the north side of the mountain today. With Conductor Hilty and Brakeman C. D. Wylie, they endeavored, until the train no longer held the rails, to stop its tremendous and furious rush towards Ashland, and all went down in the wreck.

Speculation is wide as to what would have happened if, instead of being ditched at Clawson, the runaway train had continued on and smashed into the two sections of the southbound train No. 15, which was just starting from here, loaded with passengers.

Section Foreman Williamson was eating dinner with his gang at Steinman station, half way down the Siskiyou, and 10 miles from Ashland, at 12:20 P. M. today,

when he heard the wild whistling of a freight train whose engineer was calling for brakes. Not knowing there was some car running away he called his men together and they came close to the track.

In a moment they were horrified to see a complete freight train—engine, 17 cars and a caboose, coming like a whirlwind. Scarcely had they glanced at it, however, before it had disappeared from their sight around the curve, and then the gang got out their hand car and started down the rails after the train, as Foreman Williamson says, "just to see where she will pile up."

The crew pumped five miles to Clawson switch and found the wreck—14 cars ground up, track and rails torn and twisted 400 feet, tender stripped and flung against the fence, and the engine itself dismantled and lying on its side, with the engineer crushed in the cab, scalded almost to death and his clothes on fire.

Chicago, July 14.—A Gourdain, who was released from the Cook county jail yesterday on bonds of \$10,000, presented a short time later the unique spectacle of a man trying to break into the penitentiary. Just after he was given his liberty the former banker hurried on an electric car to Joliet and demanded of the chief deputy that he be incarcerated. The deputy denied the strange request and Gourdain started back to Chicago with the avowed intention of instituting mandamus proceedings to compel the authorities to put him in prison at once, that he might begin without delay serving the 4 1-2 years' sentence for operating a lottery.

Gourdain later explained his aversion to the Cook county jail. I propose to serve my sentence every day of it," said he, "but I will not do it in the county jail. My objection is the noise and the close proximity of the street. At Joliet it is quiet and my rest is never disturbed with ribald songs and clanging bells. If I cannot serve my sentence any other way I shall build a penitentiary somewhere on the side of a hill and live in a cell for 4 1-2 years."

At King's Valley.

Hay harvest is under full headway and the crop is the largest for several years. Grain is looking well but some fear is expressed of damage by the extreme heat, but so far there is no apparent injury.

Curtis Miller is getting along much better with his logging since he got married.

J. P. Logan is building a new dam at the grist mill.

Bud Price is now the U. S. mail carrier from Wren.

Ernest Eddy was at home for the Fourth.

Edna Oren has returned home after staying with her parents until they were through with the measles.

John Price has sold his farm to Link Allen and intends to make his home this winter with his father's family.

Some of the Valley people went to Newport on the excursion on the 8th.

M. L. Frantz is selling out his stock of merchandise at cost.

C. A. Rice always raises good crops. This year he has a crop of Vetch hay and it is so heavy that he cannot cut it. He would let it ripen and tramp it out on the ground but he don't know what to do with the straw.

Italian peddlers have been rather common in the Valley lately.

UNO.

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