

LEAPS INTO RIVER

W. H. Watts, of Denver, Seeks to End Life.

FIGHTS TO ESCAPE RESCUERS

Suffering From Nervous Prostration and Brooding Over Imaginary Business Troubles, He Makes Desperate Attempt.

A sensational attempt at suicide was made yesterday by W. H. Watts, of Denver, Colo. Accompanied by his friend, E. Doff, of Halley, Idaho, he had gone to the Morrison-street boathouse, and while the two were engaged in conversation, jumped into the river. When an attempt was made to rescue him, he fought violently, and said that he wanted to die. Even after he was out of the water he would not give up the idea of taking his life, and tried to escape from his rescuers and get back into the river.

His actions seem to have been prompted by a fit of temporary insanity. He has been under the charge of a physician for two years past, and his adventure yesterday was not the first sign that he was suffering from nervous prostration. Mr. Watts is thought to be a wealthy business man, and is traveling on account of his health. So far as is known there is no other motive than imaginary business troubles for his act of yesterday. He was taken at first to the Good Samaritan Hospital, but was soon removed to a private sanitarium. Both he and his friend were registered at the Hotel Portland, and seem to be men of means.

There was quite a sensation about the Morrison-street bridge yesterday morning when the incident occurred. The two men walked into the boathouse, and for a time stood engaged in quiet conversation. Watts made a motion as if to go toward the river, but was stopped by his companion. In a moment, however, he made another effort, freed himself and rushed madly toward the river. He gave a mighty spring and landed several feet from the wharf in the water. His companion, who was with fear, urged the men at the boathouse to hurry and save him. A boat was immediately lowered by George W. Rhodes and Frank Merrill and an attempt made to rescue the drowning man. This was no easy task, however, for he seemed determined to die.

"Let me loose," he cried, frantically. "Let me die! I have nothing to live for. He fought and struggled with all his energies, trying all the time to make his body sink. He could not, however, and was soon in the grasp of the men in the boat. They held to him, keeping his head above water until they could effect a landing, and pulled him out. After he was on the shore he continued to fight, and tried to free himself and get back into the water.

A carriage was summoned and he was taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital. Mrs. Wakeman, the superintendent, gave him a dry suit of clothes, and he was taken to a private sanitarium. A medical student named Smith and a policeman were with him until he arrived at the sanitarium. Watts seemed to be sane, and regained his senses completely, and continually lamented the fact that he did not succeed in taking his life.

W. H. WATTS, OF IDAHO. Man Who Attempted Suicide a Prominent Democratic Politician. SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 12.—(Special.)—W. H. Watts, who attempted suicide at Portland today, is believed to be W. H. Watts, a prominent hardware dealer of Halley, Idaho. A dispatch from Denver states that W. H. Watts is known there. W. H. Watts, of Halley, Idaho, is one of the most prominent Democrats of Idaho. He has held the office of State Senator, and was prominently mentioned as a candidate for Governor at the last convention.

MEDALS FOR POLICE. Saloonkeeper Whose Place Was Burglarized Is Most Graciously. The saloon of John Rometsch, at 254 Alder street, was broken into and robbed about 2:30 o'clock Sunday morning. The burglars effected an entrance through a side door, upon which they used a sledgehammer. They opened the cash register and secured about \$6 in cash. They also got about \$5 from a slot machine and a gold locket from a drawer. The matter was reported to the police, but no clues have been found as to the whereabouts of the burglar.

tery," said Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Gates in a stern voice. "At this Johnnie became quite alarmed. 'I didn't know I had done so much,' said he, as he wiped his eyes with his coat sleeve. 'Henry Ulrich was the first witness. 'Do you solemnly swear you will speak the truth?' asked the clerk. 'Yes,' he whimpered. 'Do you know what it means to tell the truth?' 'It means not to tell lies.' 'Do you know where little boys go that do not tell the truth when they swear they will?' 'Yes, and I won't swear or I won't lie,' said he, beginning to brighten up, and thinking he was getting the run of court proceedings. 'Were you present at the time that Mrs. Rosler was hit in the eye?' asked the Judge. 'Did you see what happened?' 'No.' 'Did you see him throw a stick and hit her in the eye?' 'No, I don't know who threw the stick. We were throwing at apples in a tree, and one of the sticks hit her. I don't know who threw it.' 'The boys all testified that no one had intended to hit Mrs. Rosler, and that they did not know who threw the stick that hit her. They were warned against throwing sticks where they might hit people and allowed to go their way.'

ALL GRAVES CARED FOR

Members of the Riverview Cemetery Association Hold Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Riverview Cemetery Association was held at the First National Bank yesterday afternoon. Henry W. Corbett, the president of the association, presiding. Cyrus A. Dolph was elected a trustee in place of the late J. L. Atkinson, and a statement showing the receipts and disbursements for the year 1902 was read. It showed a balance on hand of \$4,079.36. In addition to this, the association had received \$5,000 to this as an irrevocable fund for the perpetual care of all graves.

IN STAR-CHAMBER SESSION

Executive Committee of Board of Trade Keeps Its Secrets. The executive committee of the Board of Trade held an executive meeting yesterday afternoon in the hall of the Oregon Mining Stock Exchange. It was decided that this business was too delicate to intrust to the hands of the regular star-chamber variety.

Howard Gould Reaches Egypt. NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—The arrival of the steam yacht Niagara, owned by Howard Gould, is announced by an Alexandria, Egypt, dispatch to the Herald. The dispatch also states that Mr. and Mrs. Gould have gone to Cairo, where they will go up the Nile in a private dahabiah.



ALLAN A. WRIGHT TO MANAGE LARGE SEATTLE HOTEL

Seattle is to have as good a hotel as Portland, if Allan A. Wright succeeds in the enterprise he has just undertaken. Last week he purchased the large Lincoln apartment-house in Seattle, and architects and contracting builders are now engaged in transforming it into a modern hotel. A large amount of money changed hands in the transaction, which has been the biggest feature in real estate affairs in Seattle for a long time.

TO MAKE ESTIMATES

Board of Education at Work on Annual Statement.

BROOKLYN MAKES PETITION

Citizens Ask for Additional Rooms—Other Sections of the City Demand Better School Facilities.

The Board of Education fully expected to complete the estimates for school expenditures at the meeting last evening, but, though they worked at the boathouse estimates after the regular meeting until a late hour, another meeting today is necessary. The final meeting will be held this afternoon, and the complete estimate will then be made public. Herman Wittenberg was not present at the regular meeting, but he arrived in time to take a hand in the proceedings. Whether or not Mr. Wittenberg will be able to convince the rest of the board of the need of a \$2-million tax for the purpose of erecting more new schoolhouses or additions to those already built is a question. Three residents of Brooklyn—S. F. White, Judge Waldemar Seton and J. A. Stronberg, Jr.—representing the committee appointed at a mass meeting in Brooklyn recently to confer with the board in regard to the much-needed addition to the Brooklyn school, vigorously urged the needs of their community. Stronberg read the resolutions passed at the mass-meeting and his companions told of the crowded condition of their school. Judge Seton reminded J. V. Beach of a promise made some two years ago that Brooklyn school was the next in line for a new building, or at least a new wing.

"I believe, Mr. Beach," said the judge, "that you said if we were good and laid low we were sure to get what we asked for this year." "Well, hardly think that you have laid very low," said Mr. Beach quietly. "I merely promised to do what I could for you and I think I have."

Despite the earnestness of the committee, Chairman Richard Williams quietly asked what should be done with the petition. It was placed on file in the archives of the Board with many others of the same character, for the demands of every part of the city cannot be complied with at the same time. The presentation of the petition seemed to brighten the prospects of Brooklyn residents, however. They asked for an addition of six rooms, if a new building could not be erected, which retiring after the meeting if they would be satisfied with four more, making that school one of 12 rooms. This was readily agreed to by the committee, which retired satisfied that they could report some progress to their fellow-Brooklynites.

A resident of Portland City Homestead appeared before the Board and asked that the boundary between his property and the Marquam school be surveyed, as a dispute had arisen between himself and the janitor as to the line of the school land. "Why don't you have your land surveyed and if it is directly adjacent to the school property we will know our line then," said Chairman Williams with an eye to expense.

The matter was referred to the committee on examination of teachers and the man who lives on the skyline west of the city was promised that the boundary would be attended to.

Thus far in the preparation of estimates, no attempt has been made for that of any particular school, for the Board has had its hands more than full in making a lump sum of the needed expenditures. The numerous petitions have been presented simply to keep certain schools before the Board when the time came for individual estimates. The directors have made a canvass of the city and they find an increase of nearly 800 pupils over the enrollment of last year. Highland, Brooklyn, Stephens, Atkinson and half a dozen other sections are all urging their needs upon the Board and the directors must decide to expend the greater part of the appropriation.

Will Complete Bridge February 1. VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—The contractors on the Lewis River bridge, at the Washington & Oregon Railway have given notice that they expect to complete the bridge by February 1. It is the intention of the railroad company to put on one train a day, which will probably consist of a passenger coach and what freight there is.

BABY EAGLE IS DEAD

Escapes From Its Prison, Kills a Tom Cat and Is Shot. The baby eagle, measuring 9 feet 8 inches from tip to tip of its outstretched wings, and which was to earn undying fame, had he known it in time, by being chloroformed, stuffed and dressed up as an attraction No. 1 at Aerie No. 4 of the Portland Order of Eagles, is dead, but not according to programme. After a desperate attempt Sunday morning to escape, in which he killed a cat, he was shot through the head, the fate of a soldier on the field of battle.

The baby eagle was brought to Portland from the John Day country, and was given in charge of President John A. Watson, of Aerie No. 4, and at the end of last week the eagle was sent to F. J. Cresswell, taxidermist at 308 Third street. Orders were given to have the bird chloroformed and otherwise prepared as a stuffed fowl. Now, the eagle missed the crowd at Third and Alder streets, where he had been the particular center of attraction and admiration for several days. He had snarped at everybody that came near him, and once he actually chewed at a policeman's bill, but the policeman didn't dare to arrest him. Now, kept a prisoner behind bars in a lonely yard was not to his liking, and he vented his displeasure by shrill cries. In his spare moments in the John Day country he had read one of Seton Thompson's animal talk books, and he endeavored to explain his woe to a man who came and attentively gazed at him. But he was not understood.

"Let me out," pleaded the eagle. The man remembered that the cage wasn't safe, and so he transferred the animal to a chicken coop provided with strong bars. That added insult to injury.

"I'm no chicken—I'm the great American," yelled the eagle, working himself into a rage and he bit himself so much insulted that he tore the bars to pieces with his strong claws and bill. The man ran for his gun, and the eagle proudly flew to the roof of an adjoining house. Had he had any sense, he would have spread his wings and swiftly flown away to safety. But he wanted to stay a few minutes and gloat over the chicken coop which had been his prison.

Just at that moment a large tom cat lazily crossed the yard. The eagle saw him with one corner of his eye, and he said to himself: "Begorra, for I'm an Indian, eagle, I'll have that cat mate!" And down he swooped and fixed his claws in the startled cat.

"Mow! M-e-o-o-w!" spluttered the cat, horror-stricken to find himself ascending into the air. But here is where the man with the gun came in. Seeing that the eagle was about to get away, the man with the gun fired and Mr. Eagle dropped, shot through the head. The cat was also dead.

TWO-MILL TAX LEVY

Made Last Night at School Meeting in Mount Tabor District No. 5. On recommendation of the Directors a 2-mill tax was levied last night by the taxpayers of school district No. 5, Mount Tabor, at the annual special meeting held in the schoolhouse. L. S. Normandin, chairman, presided. Directors Adams and Gable were present. Clerk D. R. Young read the report of the Directors. The report showed that the total bonded indebtedness of the district is \$16,150, \$1000 having been paid off last year. These bonds are as follows: Four thousand dollars—180-7 per cent interest, costing \$161.25 per annum; \$6000—180-4 per cent, costing \$300 per annum; \$3000—180-4 per cent, costing \$150 per annum; total interest \$1012.50. The Directors recommended that the tax levy be 2 mills for all purposes. The question was raised whether this would be sufficient to pay the debt. It was explained that the board had made careful estimates of all expenses incident to running the schools, and it was decided that 2 mills would be sufficient. This tax levied on \$75,750 taxable property would be sufficient to pay the debt. The lowest made in this district since it was organized.

It was moved and carried that the thanks of the meeting be extended to the Board of Directors for their careful and economical administration of the affairs of the district. The meeting then adjourned.

Principal Hall said last night that the enrollment in the two schoolhouses of the district was 490. The attendance was better than ever before. The district has abolished the graduation of pupils from the eighth grade, as the pupils take the state examination under the present arrangement.

CAUGHT ROBBING STORE

Special Policeman Beyers Nabs a Midnight Burglar. An attempt to rob Baron's shoe store about 12 o'clock last night failed as the result of Special Officer J. H. Beyers' quick and decisive work. The thief, Joe Leberge, was caught and is now locked up in the City Jail. When arrested he had upon his person a large number of skeleton keys, some burglar tools and a revolver. Beyers caught him in the act of robbing the store so that there can be no hope of his escaping punishment.

The robber seemed to have entered through the front door by means of his skeleton key. The officer's attention was first attracted to the fact that the lights were out. He had been in the habit of turning the lights out himself late in the afternoon. Thinking something was wrong he slipped up to the door and tried it. It was not locked and he quietly slipped inside. Knowing where the button was which would light the large arched entrance he turned it on. In a moment he saw the astonished man crouching behind some boxes. He had evidently heard the policeman's steps and was trying to slip out. He said that the door had been open and that he had no place to sleep so had dropped in there. There was evidence, however, that he had been searching for something that he wanted and the burglar tools made his case look too suspicious to believe. He was marched to the station and locked up.

Leberge is a young fellow, who gives his age as 25 years. He does not look to be more than 18, however. He says he has been working for the Honeyman Hardware Company.

WINTER WEIGHT SUITS

Made Too Late for the Holiday Trade—Must Be Closed Out. The Washington Woolen Mill store, on Washington street, between First and Second, have just placed on sale the finest lot of men's suits ever made by this well-known mill. Every effort was made to get them ready for the holiday trade, but the tailors were too slow, and as they were not ready for the holiday trade, they were out before Spring goods are shown. The prices are only half what is asked for similar goods in other stores. See the sample suits in our show windows. Clearances on wool underwear, socks and blankets.

Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company Men's and boys' Suits, Overcoats, Pants, etc.—Entire stock at great reductions. Blankets, Comforters, Pillows—Choice of our entire stock at clearance prices. Ladies', men's and children's heavy Underwear—Best styles—All reduced.

Clearance Sale Doings What a store does is proof of what it can do. It doesn't take half an eye to see what the Meier & Frank store is doing these days. Remember, every article is reduced.

Ribbons Glove Clean-Up Two splendid values now on sale in addition to the great clearance sale bargains. Lot 1—3000 yards of Satin Taffeta Ribbons, 4 and 5-inch, dots and stripes in the leading shades, magnificent value at 19c yard. Lot 2—Plain taffeta Ribbons in light shades, 4 inches wide, best colors, regular 25c value at 15c yard. All Velvet Ribbons at greatly reduced prices. Bargains in Veilings—plain and fancy.

The Cloak Store Offerings are the greatest the town has ever known. Handsome, reasonable, stylish garments of every description at a fraction of their real values.

Fur Scarfs Fur Coats Silk Waists Jackets Ladies' Suits Children's Coats The entire stock of Ladies' Jackets in all this season's leading styles and fabrics. Fur Scarfs—Best qualities—Entire stock included. Fur Coats—Entire stock of fine silk Waists, taffeta, crepe silk, peau de cygne, in this season's handsomest styles. Silk Waists—Entire stock of fine silk Waists, taffeta, crepe silk, peau de cygne, in this season's handsomest styles.

"Willamette" Sewing Machines and "Peninsular" Stoves and Ranges at Clearance Sale Prices. Meier & Frank Company

SEVEN-FOOTER FINED. A Kinnell Incurs Judicial Wrath for Keeping Late Hours. "You were out after hours," said Judge Hogue yesterday, as A. Kinnell was brought before him. Kinnell is a man of unusual stature. He looks to be nearly 7 feet tall. He had to stoop noticeably to pass through the door of the courtroom. "Guess he had to stay up because there were no beds long enough for him to sleep in," said a spectator. "Ten dollars," said the Judge, and again the man stooped and passed back into the cell to serve the term.

WEDDING AND VISITING CARD ENGRAVERS W.G. SMITH & CO. Third Floor Washington Bldg., over Litt's Increase Capital Stock. The Portland Baseball Club, of the Pacific Coast League, yesterday filed supplementary articles of incorporation, increasing its capital stock from \$5000 to \$10,000.