

TRIALS OVER

Henry Meldrum Found Guilty as Charged.

PRISONER VERY NERVOUS

He Winces at Severe Arraignment by Attorney Hall.

GOES ON THE STAND HIMSELF

Attempts to Secure Acquittal by His Own Testimony, but During Cross-Examination Forced to Make Damaging Admissions.

After little more than 30 minutes' deliberation, the jury which heard the evidence against Henry Meldrum, ex-United States Surveyor, who was charged with forgery in the United States Court, returned a verdict of guilty as charged on all of the 21 counts.

The Meldrum trial began Thursday and the speed with which the trial was conducted and the verdict reached marked the first of the convictions in the land-fraud cases now pending before Judge Bellinger.

All of Wednesday and the greater part of yesterday were taken up by the testimony given by the Government witnesses. The testimony was most damaging, while, on the other hand, those who testified in Meldrum's behalf were few, and beyond testifying to the former good character of the prisoner, they helped little to clear away the charges of forgery.

Hall Clears Away the Fog.

Among the important witnesses for the Government to testify yesterday were Government Inspector Greene and United States District Attorney Hall, who took the stand to clear up the fog which J. W. Hamaker had cast about an interview the Government attorney had with Hamaker when Meldrum's case was before the Federal grand jury. Mr. Hall, by his testimony, told of his meeting with Hamaker and swore that Hamaker, on that occasion, had told him that the signature attached to the jurat of the affidavits was not his own and that he had not attached the seal to the papers, giving as his reason that he, Hamaker, was in San Francisco at that time. It was Hamaker's testimony that the seal was attached to the jurat and the seal had been affixed by him that Mr. Hall tore to pieces when he made his address to the jury.

Inspector Greene's testimony was particularly damaging. He testified that he began the Meldrum investigation in 1902, and among the papers seized in Meldrum's desk were a number of application blanks for surveys, partially filled out. In some of these, the name of the land, although the settler's name and the notary's certificate were attached, Inspector Greene stated that he forwarded the defective applications, attached to his report, to the State Surveyor at Portland at Washington, all of which subsequently disappeared.

At that time Representative Herrmann was Land Commissioner, and when the defective applications and City business reports disappeared, so also disappeared telegrams and letters purported to have passed between Representative Herrmann and Mr. Meldrum. Greene explained to the jury how he called on Washington for the reports to be used in the trial and that he had received a telegram from the Secretary of the Interior stating that they had disappeared. The telegrams which passed between Greene and the Secretary Hitchcock were offered in evidence. Greene also described to considerable length the affidavits which he had unearthed in Meldrum's desk.

Movement for Acquittal.

At the conclusion of the taking of Greene's testimony, Attorney George Brownell, for the defendant, moved that the court instruct the jury to bring in a verdict of acquittal, which was promptly overruled by Judge Bellinger. Then Senator Brownell placed on the witness-stand several prominent Oregon City business men, whose testimony went to prove the honest and honorable character of Meldrum.

Meldrum next took the stand. He was handed the 18 forged applications for surveys and was asked by his attorney whether he knew by whom they were written. For several minutes Meldrum scanned the forged affidavits and while he was doing so his face fell over the court room. For the first time the accused showed signs of nervousness, and his hands trembled painfully as he turned over the 18 forged applications. Finally after a careful examination he said:

Denied the Handwriting.

"No, some of the writing resembles mine, but it is not mine. Some of the writing on the first affidavits, that is, the description given of the property, is so much like my handwriting that under other circumstances, I might think I wrote it, but I did not do so. I wrote none of these signatures."

Meldrum also denied having written the signatures of J. W. Hamaker, and also of having attached the seal. He also explained the practice of making out applications for making surveys and admitted having often filled out such applications for settlers, but never for lands in Harney County. On cross-examination Mr. Hall forced some damaging testimony from Meldrum, especially where he admitted before the grand jury that he acknowledged his own handwriting in the body of the first of the affidavits. He explained that his admission at that time was made because he thought the affidavits referred to land in Lake County, and not in Harney County.

Hall Makes Strong Plea.

Mr. Hall saved all of his fireworks before the jury for his closing address. He followed Attorney Brownell, who had made a strong plea from a pitifully weak case. After the last witness for the defense had been sworn, it was pitifully evident that Meldrum's case was hopelessly a weak one, and but for the brilliant and smooth testimony made by his attorney, the defense would have fallen flat. Mr. Hall, after he became warmed to his argument, tore Mr. Brownell's ar-

COUP IN PANAMA

Amador Relegates Army to Police Ranks.

HEURTAS IS INDIGNANT

Commander-in-Chief Can No Longer Harass President.

WILL APPEAL TO ROOSEVELT

Excitement is Running So High That Minister Barrett Has Decided to Ask That an American Warship Remain on Scene.

SPECIAL CABLE.

PANAMA, Nov. 17.—The discovery by Mr. Lee, the American Charge d'Affaires, of an army plot in which General Huertas, the commander-in-chief, was alleged to have been implicated, today led to the relegation of the Panaman army to the police ranks. This was done in accordance with an order issued by President Amador after an open Cabinet meeting, at which this step was decided upon. The information was conveyed to General Huertas by the President who immediately ordered the palace guards withdrawn. In his order to the General, President Amador says that in view of existing conditions, and the presence of American troops, military forces were no longer necessary for the carrying on of the Panaman government. The indignation of General Huertas and his staff is great, but no threats were made and the officers withdrew with dignity.

The general stated tonight that he would immediately inform President Roosevelt of his version of the occurrence, at the same time demanding a guarantee from the United States for the maintenance and its cost of the military establishment of which he considers himself the legitimate head. The general says he has been misrepresented in the dispatches sent by President Amador and other officials to Washington. He denies Amador's constitutional right to dissolve the army without Congressional sanction. He asserts he is far more friendly to the United States than President Amador, or any member of the present Panaman Cabinet, and more sincere in his avowals of good will. Some trouble is feared in consequence of these happenings, but as outbreaks have occurred immediately after the true state of affairs had become known, and many merchants closed their places of business at an earlier hour than is their wont.

Late tonight Governor-General Davis received a request from President Amador for protection for himself and the members of his Cabinet.

The United States Minister called at the palace shortly afterward, and is now in conference with the President and his advisers. It appears from reliable information that President Amador's action may have been inspired by fear of the army. Ever since the patronage of his friends was denied, General Huertas has been in a sullen mood

and was evidently no longer among the enthusiastic supporters of the government. That there has been rivalry between the two men is well known, and with the army at his beck and call, Huertas would have been more than a match for Amador in the event of a conflict. The reduction of the troops to police duty deprives Huertas of his only power, and in order to take up the contest he would be compelled to stigmatize himself by inciting rebellion.

AMERICAN WARSHIP LEFT.

Minister Barrett Will Be Prepared for Trouble.

PANAMA, Nov. 17.—The rumored coup d'état by the military elements, it seems, was more serious than it was at first thought to be. Minister Barrett, after a consultation with the Panama government and General Davis, commander of the Canal Zone, decided to ask Admiral Goussard to withdraw the warships of the United States Pacific squadron here to prevent any possible disturbance. This morning 200 marines from Empire Camp arrived here.

General Huertas, the Minister of War, has announced his intention to resign, which will clear the political atmosphere. Though disturbances are not feared in the present circumstances, Panama is greatly excited.

UNIVERSITY WILL NOT SUFFER

Catholic Institution at Washington Will Secure Plenty of Funds.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—The board of trustees of the Catholic University, which has been meeting here for two days, adjourned until the second Wednesday after Easter.

At the university tonight it was announced that notwithstanding the Waggaman failure, by which the university will lose at least part of \$250,000, the work of the institution would go on with even greater vigor than ever before. It was positively stated that no action was taken by the trustees regarding the Marquis de Monsi's letter. Neither that nor the Waggaman failure, it was said, would stop the plans for the rebuilding of the university, and it was intimated that offers of financial assistance from Catholics throughout the country had been made. For the present the finances of the institution will be managed by the committee appointed last year. From an authoritative source it is learned that the coming statement will make no reference to the Marquis de Monsi's letter.

TO BRING POWERS CLOSER.

French Deputy Proposes a Way to Gain Favor With Britain.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND PORTLAND OREGONIAN.

PARIS, Nov. 15.—M. Francois Deloncle, Deputy for Cochon, China, who has just successfully pivoted the Anglo-French convention through the Chamber of Deputies, is in favor of still closer relations being established between England and France. In order to realize this, it will be necessary for Great Britain to grant France a free hand in Siam in return for recognition of Franco-British political interests in Abyssinia, Niha and Muscat, in fact, throughout the whole of Arabia.

CONTENTS OF TODAY'S PAPER.

The Weather. YERBENA'S—Maximum temperature, 54; minimum, 43. Precipitation, 0.33 inch. TODAY'S—Partly cloudy, with probably occasional light rain; westerly winds. Russo-Japanese War. PORT ARTHUR.—Sergeant believes he can hold out until Baltic squadron arrives. Page 1. ROSAS.—Although hemmed in, hold all the main forts. Page 4. OTHER WAR TOPICS.—France is expected on the Shakke today. Page 4. France's policy toward Baltic fleet is giving Japan much concern. Page 4. Panama. President Amador steels a march on General Huertas by reorganizing army to police ranks. Page 1. Excitement is so high that Minister Barrett will ask an American ship remain. Page 1. National. Roosevelt offers ex-Governor Black the Attorney-General's job. Page 1. Politics will out little figure in Alaska appointments Roosevelt will announce at once. Page 4. Domestic. Portland gets '05 National Irrigation Congress. Page 1. Mrs. Mary Phelps Montgomery, of Portland, denies the guard at St. Louis Fair and walks on the grass. Page 1. Father Schell, formerly of Oregon, is arrested for forgery, a Wisconsin Indian woman being the complainant. Page 5. Federation of Labor has warm debate on case of suspended Chicago Federation. Page 5. Trolley-car at Toronto, jumping with a freight car; four people are killed, a number injured. Page 5. Foreign. King and Queen of Portugal are guests of London. Page 5. American Parliament has a stormy opening. Page 5. Pacific Coast. Millionaire Sweden's west hotel accommodations at Olympia. Page 6. Falster falls from Snake River bridge at Weiser and is drowned. Page 6. Salmon-packing corporation prosecuted for alleged violation of anti-trust law. Page 6. Dairy products of Oregon show big increase for the year. Page 6. Sports. Stanford University and University of California, divide nearly \$50,000 received from 5000-ball game. Page 7. San Francisco takes another game from the Browns and offers no apology. Page 7. Commercial and Marine. Local hop market quiet but strong. Page 15. Aggressive strength shown by stocks at New York. Page 15. Chicago wheat market closes weak. Page 15. Eastern shipments help San Francisco wheat market. Page 15. Jetty not seriously damaged by storm. Page 14. Another steamer on San Francisco route. Page 14. Portland and Vicinity. Northern Pacific officials arrive to inspect the Lewis and Clark Fair. Page 1. Henry Meldrum found guilty of forgery in the Federal Court. Page 1. Assistant Secretary Dawling sells of the marine growth of the United States Navy. Page 11. Sewer investigation to be made in star-chamber session. Page 15. Four cities in race for National convention of the Grangers in 1905. Page 11. Army of men will advertise Lewis and Clark Fair. Page 14. Judge George dissolves injunction against Portland police in bar-entrance case. Page 10. Jury returns verdict in case of Nathan Schoonover, charged with gambling, discharges. Page 12. Polity show of this year promises to be great in association's history. Page 14.

VIEW THE WEST

Northern Pacific Officials on a Tour.

COME TO SEE THE FAIR

Exposition Grounds Will Be Visited Today.

A. M. CLELAND PLEDGES AID

General Passenger Agent Interested in Lewis and Clark Fair's Success, and Has Brought Assistants to Learn of Wonders.

A. M. CLELAND ON THE 1905 FAIR.

"I personally have much interest in the success of the Lewis and Clark Fair, and I want my Eastern representatives to see what is being done here, and to judge from the early efforts what will be the perfected whole, in order that they may be the better prepared to tell the traveling people of the East of its beauties and its value."

Portland is today the host of every district and general passenger and immigration agent employed by the Northern Pacific east of St. Paul, each and every one of whom is anxious and eager to see the wondrous things to be shown in this part of the Nation; all of whom are enthusiastic over what they have seen and on the tip-toe of expectation waiting for the next sunrise.

One week ago yesterday A. M. Cleland, general passenger agent of the Northern Pacific, assembled his district agents from all of the Eastern districts and started on a tour of exploration over the Northwest lines of the company in order that his employees might be able to do better work by knowing from personal observation of the wonders of the land along the Western Coast and lying at the terminal of their road.

Twenty-six men responded to the invitation to take this pleasure journey and last night the party reached Portland at 5:30. A reception committee composed of men representing the Lewis and Clark Exposition and the Portland Commercial Club, and the visitors were taken in a special car to the Portland Hotel, where quarters had been reserved for them.

The committee, upon which were I. N. Fletscher, Jefferson Myers and Okar Huber, of the Lewis and Clark Corporation; W. H. Wyman, George W. Hazen, W. E. Glaske and W. A. Cleland, of the Commercial Club, escorted the railroad men from the hotel to the Commercial Club, where dinner was served to them at 6:30 o'clock. In addition to the members of the committee, Dr. Geringer, Dr. Sanford Whitting, John H. Thatcher, Edward Ehrman, Robert Kennedy, Colonel James Jackson, Paul Wessinger, Charles E. Ladd, L. A. Lewis, H. E. Reed and W. E. Thomas were seated at the table and assisted in the entertainment of the guests.

Reception at Commercial Club. An informal reception was held in the parlors of the club from 8 o'clock until 10:30, to which were invited a number of the men representative of the business in-

PORTLAND GOT IT

Irrigation Congress in '05 Captured.

BOISE IS ONLY COMPETITOR

Vote Is Two to One in Favor of Oregon Metropolis.

COMMITTEE SELECTS OFFICER

Governor Pardee, of California, is Nominated for President, and E. L. Smith, of Hood River, for Third Vice-President.

EL PASO, Tex., Nov. 17.—(Special.)—Portland secured the next National Irrigation Congress by a vote of 2 to 1.

Jefferson Myers addressed the party briefly on the 1905 Fair. He stated his opinion that Portland perhaps would not have so large a Fair as St. Louis, but a better one in every detail and part. It would have an Exposition showing the cream of all that had been done in the Northwest, and a Fair which would not have a dollar of debt over it when the gates opened in June.

Mr. Cleland Pledges His Aid. At the conclusion of the addresses and before the meeting was dismissed Mr. Cleland asked to be allowed to speak his thanks for the reception that had been accorded him and his party.

"I want to express my candid and sincere appreciation of the entertainment that has been shown us since our arrival here," he said. "I personally have much interest in the success of the Lewis and Clark Fair, and I want my Eastern representatives to see what is being done here and to judge from the early efforts what will be the perfected whole, in order that they may be the better prepared to tell the traveling people of the East of its beauties and its value."

He has brought all of the passenger representatives from the territory of the Northern Pacific lying east of St. Paul and to the Atlantic Coast in order to teach them the wonders of the West. Two weeks ago already the territory of the company in the competitive districts of the East has been without a single Northern Pacific passenger man. This action was long debated and considered and it means much to the company now, but I think that it will mean much good not only for the company but for this country in the future.

"At no time since starting on the trip has a single man grown tired of the journey; on the other hand, each succeeding day has opened new wonders to all and charmed their interest and led them forward. Coming down from the north this evening the men were sorry and ruffled because they had to prepare for this reception when they wished to watch the scenery on the run into Portland. The journey has been a great success in every way, and I am sure it will redound to the good of the state and the Fair."

Today's Programme. At 9:30 this morning the members of Mr. Cleland's party will meet at the

WILL BE NEXT PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL IRRIGATION CONGRESS



GOVERNOR PARDEE OF CALIFORNIA.

HENRY MELDRUM, CONVICTED OF FORGERY ON 21 COUNTS



HENRY MELDRUM

AT TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

Prince Fushima Plants a Tree on Estate of First President.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Prince Fushima today visited Tomb-Vernon, placed a wreath on the tomb of Washington and planted a tree on the old estate of the first President. The trip was made on the President's yacht. The Prince took luncheon on board on the return trip.

As he entered and left the navy-yard he was given the royal salute of 21 guns and 100 bluejackets on the Hartford stood in the rigging.

The wreath placed on the tomb was of large size and made of chrysanthemum, the national flower of Japan. As four orifices from the marine barracks placed the wreath between the tombs of George and Martha Washington, the Prince and his party remained outside with heads uncovered. The Prince did not enter the tomb. The planting of the tree was then begun, the Prince himself throwing several spadefuls of earth on the Japanese maple which will mark his visit.

The Prince was the guest tonight at an elaborate dinner at the Arlington, given him by Mr. Holsa, the Charge d'Affaires of the Japanese Legation. The Prince and his party will leave here tomorrow for St. Louis, accompanied by Colonel Reynolds and Third Assistant Secretary of State Peiro.

BRECKINRIDGE IS IMPROVING.

Physicians State That the Noted Kentuckian Can Recover.

LLEXINGTON, Ky., Nov. 17.—The physicians attending Colonel Breckinridge said tonight that their patient had continued to improve during the day, and that with prudence and quiet he could be expected to recover.

High Price Paid for Pony.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—What is said to be the highest price ever paid for a pony was \$30,000 paid at the New York Horse Show today for Berkeley, Esq., the champion bar pony, owned by William Carr, of London, England, by Judge William H. Moore, of Chicago.