

SAYS NOT GUILTY

Senator Mitchell insists He Is Innocent.

WANTS A SPEEDY TRIAL

Asserts that He Will Prove His Rectitude.

ASKS FOR A FAIR HEARING

Returns to Portland From Washington and Takes His Old Quarters Preparatory to Arranging for His Defense.

Senator Mitchell has returned to his home from Washington and will, between now and the time the Federal Court is called in June, build up that defense which is to make or break before the battering assaults of the Government's prosecution.

Since the day before the inauguration of the President, Senator Mitchell has been journeying to his old home at Portland by slow stages, stopping here and there to visit friends and relatives living in various cities of the Union.

Asks of Trend of Affairs.

Yesterday afternoon the Senator sat in the Pullman, a solitary figure in the midst of the travelers, waiting for the train to take him home.

"Too much has been said now," he said, "and I do not want to, and will not discuss anything for publication. I will not be interviewed."

"The miles sped under the wheels of the coach and at length the Senator was asked another question.

Wants a Speedy Trial.

"I do not want to be interviewed," again repeated the Senator, and then on second thought he added: "No paper has been authorized by me to print any such story, for I have no trial as yet, and I desire, I want to have my trial as soon as possible and the sooner the better for me."

"You can state, if you say anything," continued the speaker, "that I am entirely and absolutely innocent of any wrong; that I have violated no oath or obligation or duty devolving on me as a Senator; that I have done nothing which was not my right to do legally. You may say that, conscious of my innocence, I have nothing to fear from the outcome of the trial of my case, provided I have a fair and honest trial, and that my case is not prejudiced before the people of the state who are to judge me. Further than that I do not desire to be quoted."

Will Not Announce Attorneys.

"Who will defend your interests when the case is called for trial?" the Senator was asked, but he refused to tell.

Will have some one to defend me when the time comes," he said.

"It was suggested in explanation, that the question was prompted by a report that the firm of Dolph, Malory, Simon & Gearty would be retained.

"I don't discuss the matter," insisted the Senator. "I will have attorneys when the case is called, and I do not deem it necessary to announce who they are now."

Other than the statement of his innocence and his desire for an early trial and a fair one, Senator Mitchell would say nothing at all. He has evidently come home to prepare his defense and not to tell of it. The Senator has taken his old quarters at the Hotel Portland and will make that place his home during his stay in the city. It is presumed to begin at once to gather together the strands of his side of the case and will be ready for trial when the Federal Court is called about the first of June.

HAVE UNCOMFORTABLE SEATS

School Board Discusses Much-Needed Change in School Furniture.

Inclined seats in 30 desks in two rooms in the Chapman School were complained of two years ago to the Board of Education, but the school board has not until now compelled the children to be compelled to sit in them.

"They hang down like that," said R. K. Warren at the board meeting last night, and the director sloped his palm at an angle of nearly 45 degrees.

"I saw them today," said Mrs. Sifton, the chairman. "No child should be compelled to sit in them any longer."

The seats are of an old style, with a hinge that weakens and allows the seat to drop. They are even worse than the air benches of country schools, the children are sitting upon an inclined surface constantly, and are never very comfortable.

"I promised the principal to go out there with Superintendent Rigler and see those seats," said Richard Williams. "But Mr. Rigler is sick and out of the city and we have no time to spare."

"They should not be used any longer. They get worse every day," replied Mrs. Sifton. The others will continue to sit on the slanting seats until the Superintendent returns and an official investigation is made.

Robert E. Farrell offered the directors the block bounded by East Stark, East Washington, East Eighteenth and East Nineteenth streets for the new East Side High School. He wrote that the block was now held at \$5000, but that he would cut the price for school purposes.

For the addition to the Sellwood School, rooms and an assembly hall, the following contracts were awarded: Carpenter work, J. Merchant, \$20,000; brick work and wood fiber plaster, W. B. Steele & Co., \$25,000; plumbing, W. P. Fuller & Co., \$25,000; painting, W. E. Fitzhugh, \$12,500.

For the addition to the Highland School, four class rooms, the following contracts

were awarded: Carpenter work, W. B. Steele & Co., \$20,000; brick work and wood fiber plaster, same, \$25,000; plumbing, W. P. Fuller & Co., \$25,000; painting, W. E. Fitzhugh, \$12,500. The public schools will close at 2:30 Friday afternoon and the teachers may attend the lecture on reading given by Marion Craig Wentworth in the High School.

SWIFT PACE LEADS TO JAIL.

Youth Spends Insurance Money Left Him, Then Forges Checks.

His "blow" \$500 since February 17, then started to forge checks on the United States National Bank and last night J. B. Merwin, aged 21 years, was arrested and lodged in the City Jail. The money was spent in stouthe living in various resorts of the city was insurance left him by his father. He was found at the Orpheum Theater by Detectives Reising and Casper.

"Why did you start in the forger business?" asked Detective Reising of young Merwin.

"I had to have money," was the reply. "I couldn't starve, could I?"

"Better starve than take the course you did, and besides you could have had help, if you needed it," was Reising's retort.

Merwin is regarded by the officers as a young sport. Although he declared he passed a forged check for \$50 on Fred Fritz, a saloonkeeper, last Friday because he was hungry, it is claimed by the detectives that he did it to secure money with which to keep up his secret pace in downtown resorts, where he is said to have craved to pose as a "swell" among women.

Merwin first started on his criminal career when he purchased a suit of clothing at Ben Seiling's establishment last Friday. He then presented a check for \$200, but payment was refused. He left the clothes, saying they could keep it up at the bank, and send the goods and the change to him at the Orpheum. It was quickly learned the check was not good.

Merwin was arrested in a new suit of clothing last night, and was enjoying himself, apparently, when arrested. He will have a hearing today before Municipal Judge Hogue.

MOUNT TABOR HAS NO VOTE

Question of Annexation Will Be Determined by Portland.

According to the statement made last night before the Mount Tabor Improvement Association by P. T. Dabney, who drew up the bill for the annexation of a portion of the district of the people of Mount Tabor have no vote on the subject at the June election, and it is simply a matter of extending the boundary lines of the city to take in a certain portion of that territory. The people of Portland will vote yes or no whether more territory will be taken in under the provisions of the bill. Mr. Dabney explained that it was not considered necessary that the people of Mount Tabor should vote on annexation, as it was considered that 50 per cent favored annexation and probably further said that school districts 5 and 11, portions of whose territory are to be taken into the city, will not be affected in the least and their government will remain as it is at present. Mr. Dabney's announcement that the citizens of Mount Tabor have no vote on annexation will be news to a good many people there, who supposed the bill passed by the Legislature provided for a vote both in the territory to be annexed and also in the city. It had been the intention of the people living outside of the territory to be taken in to ask the Council for the privilege of voting on the matter of annexation next June, or the following year, but they will probably wait the outcome of the vote of extending the boundary lines of Portland eastward.

ORDINANCE WILL NOT PASS.

Mayor Not to Get Power to Pardon Convicted Men.

Mayor Williams' ordinance giving him power to pardon prisoners convicted in the Municipal Court and practically authorizing Chief Hunt's present "kangaroo court," will be returned to the Council by the Judiciary committee, with the recommendation that it do not pass. The committee reached that decision yesterday afternoon.

"The Chief is doing it, anyhow, and we have no good for them," said Mr. Zimmerman referring to the practice of the Chief of Police in turning loose a number of men each day before they are taken into the Municipal Court. "I want to see the 'kangaroo court,' and I approve of what he is doing."

"It is contrary to our form of government to delegate judicial powers to an executive officer," declared Mr. Fiegel. Mr. Bentley moved that the recommendation against the ordinance be sent to the Council. Mr. Zimmerman thought no recommendation should be made, but Chairman Fiegel sided with Mr. Bentley and it was two to one.

"The committee should do its duty, if it can arrive at any understanding at all," said Mr. Fiegel.

"Two to one is understanding enough," said the minority.

MAKES ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.

Fugitive Rows Across River to Elude Pursuing Detective.

Employing an Indian to row him across the river at Oregon City, that he might escape from Detective Vaughn, was one of the things done by William Fontaine yesterday afternoon, when he fled from the residence of A. Labbe, 515 Nineteenth street. An elk horn carving set was also taken. The police were notified. At the residence of H. B. Taylor, 421 Prescott street, a burglar made a call yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. He kept a revolver pointed at Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, while he searched the room. He secured 50 cents for his trouble.

From O. Walling, 425 Florence street, a burglar took \$15 at an early hour yesterday morning, while the owner slept.

A GUARANTEED CURE FOR PILES.

Residing, 2121, Hissling or Prosser Place, Town of Eugene, who returns money if Piles do not cure 75c in 5 to 14 days, 50c.

The Meier & Frank Store's Great Showing of New Spring Millinery



Our first Millinery showing attracted hundreds yesterday, and the buying exceeded all expectations, but it's not so much the selling we're enthusiastic over as the admiration everyone expressed over the magnificent creations we have gathered. We are sure that every woman who looked here yesterday will remember us when buying time comes—The display will grow better every day—The handsome new fixtures being installed will permit us to make a more satisfactory showing in a day or two. Hats from Paris, London and New York—Every new shape and trimming—Hats that possess style and exclusiveness and are reasonably priced—All that we ask is that you look here before buying elsewhere—Second Floor

New Silk Waists \$6.50, \$7

New lot of handsome silk Waists on sale today below value. Taffeta silks and corded silks in brown, navy, pink and tan. All neat, pretty styles in all sizes; exceptional values at \$6.50 and \$7.00 each.

Don't miss our grand display of white linen and lawn Waists. Magnificent styles in immense variety, at prices ranging from \$1.50 up to \$40 each.

Drug Department Specials

- Dr. Graves' famous Tooth Powder, unequalled for the teeth, bottle 9c
Coke Dandruff Cure, cures dandruff, keeps the scalp clean; great value at 37c
Bernaldo Castile Soap, 2-lb. bars, Regular 25 value, on sale for 16c
La Gloria pure Glycerine Soap, large bar 7c
Pompeian Massage Cream, 50c value 33c
Gold Enamel for decorative work, 25c value, per bottle 18c
Knickerbocker Toilet Paper, fine grade of tissue. Great special value, roll 8c
Ever-ready Electric Pocket Lamps; special 83c

50 Covert Coats, \$14 Each Today



Another lot of 50 of those \$14.00 Covert Jackets, arrived late yesterday afternoon—The best covert coat value in the city—Made of fine quality material, plain or strapped effects in a variety of styles, well made and perfect fitting—A coat other stores would have no hesitancy about asking \$18.00 for—The 50 went last two days, so if you want one better come today—All sizes—Covert Jackets—Greatest variety in the city \$10 to \$35.00.

Silk Shirtwaist Suits

Our silk shirtwaist suit display is second to none in the land—Thousands of them for your choosing—Plain tailored and fancy styles, plain colors, checks, striped and figured silks, made up in all the newest and prettiest styles—We are sure to please you in silk shirtwaist suits this season \$12.50 to \$50.00—Shirtwaist suits in Alapacas, voiles and mixtures—New styles, all prices.

Shamrocks 10c Doz.

In the Millinery Department, second floor, on sale today—1000 dozen Shamrocks, good size and quality, brilliant color. Celebrate the 17th. Dozen 10c
Misses' and children's Spring Hats and Caps. Beautiful new line at all prices.
New stock of infants' muslin Caps.
New stock of flowers and trimmings, roses, violets, forget-me-nots, plumes, foliage, etc.

Sheet Music Special

Albert von Tilzer's dance folio of popular hits, including:
"Teasing." "Tell Me With Your Eyes."
"Bunker Hill." "I Want to Be Loved."
"Lay My Wedding Dress Away."
"You Mustn't Pick Plums From My Plum Tree."
"Murphy." "Lonesome."
And others, \$4.00 worth of music on sale today 23c

Women's Shoes and Oxfords TAN OXFORDS INCLUDED

Best \$3.00 Values on Sale at \$1.98



Women's tan lace and Blucher Oxfords, all sizes, Shoes that bring \$3.50 a pair at other stores; sale price, pair \$1.98
\$3.00 vici kid Oxfords, kid or patent tip, ribbon lace, pair \$1.98
\$3.00 vici kid Oxfords, patent leather tip, pair \$1.98
Women's \$3.00 patent leather Oxfords and Bluchers \$1.98
Women's Spring Shoes, in patent leather, vici kid, patent tip, lace and Blucher cut, heavy and light soles, Johnson Bros.' best \$3.00 make; equal to the \$3.50 values offered elsewhere; all sizes and widths, on sale at the low price of, pair \$1.98

Great Bargains in Women's Slippers and Children's Shoes

Women's patent leather lace Slippers, patent leather and kid Colonials. French heel, \$4.00 and \$5.00 values, on sale at, pair \$1.75
Women's \$2.50 strap Slippers, broken lines, pair \$1.15
Misses' and children's box calf and vici kid lace Shoes, best makes, grand bargains at—12 to 2, \$2 values, pair \$1.32
9 to 11, \$1.50 value, pair \$1.17
5 to 8 at this low price \$8c

Women's Shoes 59c Pair

Clean-up of women's Shoes, 500 pairs in sizes 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2 only, tan lace Shoes and Oxfords, vici kid spring-heel shoes, styles and sizes suitable for children 11 to 13 years of age, \$2.50 to \$4.00 values, pair 59c

Children's Shoes 43c Pair

200 pairs of children's Shoes in various leathers, lace or button styles, sizes 2 to 5 and 5 to 8, value from 75c to \$1.50 a pair; to clean up your choice at the remarkably low price of, pair 43c

Beds, Comforters, Curtains, Blankets, Etc.

Continuation of the great sale of white Enameled Beds. Great value.
300 handsome Comforters, full size, lanated cotton filled. Best patterns \$1.09
Full size Comforters, best patterns, great variety. Regular \$2.00 values for \$1.57

BARGAINS IN PILLOWS

White and gray goose feathers, full size Pillows, heavy tick covering, \$1.75 values, great bargains at \$1.39
Duck and goose feather Pillows, full size, best covering, \$1.25 value 92c

COTTON BLANKET SPECIALS

75c gray Cotton Blankets on sale for 59c
75c white Cotton Blankets on sale for 59c
11-4 gray Blankets, great value, pair \$1.07
Special values in Wool Blankets and better grades of Comforters. Third floor.

Springs and "Ostermoor" Mattresses in all sizes; lowest price.

Two Great Curtain Specials Today

Ruffled muslin Curtains, fancy striped effects, hemstitched ruffles, colored border effects, dotted and striped, regular \$1.25 values, for this sale at low price of, pair 79c
300 pairs of cross-stripe Madras Curtains, oceru and colored grounds, handsome styles in a big variety of colors; new \$1.25 Curtains, on sale for, pair 98c
Ruffled Swiss Bed Sets, cover and shams, great value at this low price, set 29c
Custom Shade and Drapery Work our specialty. Best materials and workmanship. Lowest prices guaranteed. All orders promptly executed. Third floor.

The Meier & Frank Store

Butterick Patterns and Publications

Principal Portland agency for the well-known and reliable Butterick Patterns—A complete stock of staple patterns—All the latest Spring styles are included in March and April shipments; Delineator subscriptions taken at \$1.00 per annum; April Delineator 15c a copy—Large metropolitan fashion catalogues on sale—Sheets and quarterly catalogues distributed free. Pattern Department near Alder-street entrance.

Silk Petticoats \$7.00 to \$15.00



Our Silk Petticoat Department and our Silk Petticoat Bargains have a reputation we are envious of—The greatest Silk Petticoat business west of Chicago must always offer the greatest values. People expect it; we never disappoint—The Spring stock is larger and better than ever; includes all the newest ideas in plain colors, plaids and figures, deep flounces, ruffles, pleating, ruching and tucks—All the leading shades—Our petticoats are all made of a superior quality silk and give the wearer satisfactory service—Prices range from \$7 to \$15—Novelty Petticoats \$15 to \$40.

Rogers "1847" Towel Specials

At special low prices for one week—Bismarck.
Berry Spoons, fancy patterns .92c
Cream Ladles, fancy patterns .62c
Gravy Ladles, gold bowl .81c
Sugar Shells, fancy patterns .38c
Butter Knives, fancy patterns .38c
Teaspoons, fancy patterns, set of six at the low price of, set .92c
7-pin Hat Racks .12c
Japanese Pot Brushes, each .25c
Clothes Pins, dozen .10c
5-inch Bowl Strainers .10c
4-quart covered Aluminum Sauce-pans, for .88c
14-quart Tin Dishpans for .25c

Kitchen Goods Specials

4-pint all copper, nickel plated Teapots, great value .50c
8-arm Clothes Racks .62c
7-pin Hat Racks .12c
Japanese Pot Brushes, each .25c
Clothes Pins, dozen .10c
5-inch Bowl Strainers .10c
4-quart covered Aluminum Sauce-pans, for .88c
14-quart Tin Dishpans for .25c

A Great Sale of Go-Carts

Adjustable, reclining and folding Go-Carts, in desirable models, at prices far below value. Lines carried over from last year are being sacrificed to make room for the immense 1905 line. If you've need for a baby carriage, here's your opportunity to save money.



Handsome Reclining Go-Caretta, with cushion and parasol, attractive body and gear; two models—
\$10.00 model, 3/4-inch rubber tires, at \$8.40
\$15.00 model, 1/2-inch rubber tires, at \$12.25

Reclining Go-Carts, automobile gear, handsome reed body, cushions and parasol included—
\$12.00 value, 3/4-inch tires, for \$9.65
\$16.00 value, 1/2-inch tires, for \$13.00
\$18.00 value, 3/4-inch tires, for \$15.25
\$15.50 Reclining Go-Cart, 14-inch front wheels, 22-inch rear wheels, half-inch rubber tires, heavy ruffled-edge cushions, parasol, etc.; great special value at \$10.25
Folding Go-Carts, with rear back, automobile gear, best \$5.00 model, on sale for \$3.95
Reclining Folding Go-Cart, perforated back, wood arms and seat, best \$5.00 value for \$4.00
Reclining Folding Go-Cart, reed back, wood seat and arms, our best \$5.50 model, on sale for \$4.25
Reclining Folding Go-Cart, reed back, flat reed arms, cane seat, reed dash, \$7.00 value \$5.45

Undermuslins

French hand-made Chemise, beautifully hand-embroidered, lace and ribbon trimmed, regular \$8.99 values, on sale for \$4.77
French embroidered Skirts, wide flounce, with scalloped edge, regular \$2.00 value, on sale for \$2.59
French hand-made Gowns, beautifully embroidered, high neck with turn-down collar and long sleeves, 14 values at this low price, each \$2.57

Lace Specials

Three special lots of Embroidered Bands for shirtwaists; self-cut, French and drawwork effects, from 2 to 5 inches wide; great bargains at these prices—
50c values for 27c
85c values for 63c
\$2.00 values for \$1.19
Imitation Torchon Laces, 10,000 yards, best patterns, value 10c a yard; sale price, yard 6c
White and cream dotted and figured Waist Nets, great special value for two days at, yd. 63c
White, cream and oceru Net Top Laces, handsome styles, wonderful values at, yard 19c
New Laces and Dress Trimmings—New Embroideries, in grand variety.

Trunk and Bag Specials

32-inch canvas-covered Trunk, waterproof painted, leather bound, hardwood strips, solid Gem corners, cloth-lined shirtwaist tray; top tray has hat compartment; best \$11.25 value, today at low price of \$9.83
32-inch canvas-covered Trunk, waterproof painted, all-steel clasps, "Victor" brass lock; set up tray with hat box; great special value today \$3.68
24-inch sheepskin Suit Case, canvas-lined, 4 inside leather straps; great bargain at \$2.74
13-inch genuine alligator Club Bag, leather lined, Vienna handle, a \$5.00 bag for \$3.77
Largest line of Trunks and Traveling Bags on the Pacific Coast—Every good style and size in every grade.
Hammocks and Croquet Sets on third floor, children's garden sets, velocipedes, wagons, automobiles, hand cars, tricycles, etc., third floor.