

BANKERS OF NEW YORK IN A FUNK

Are United Against An Investigation.

FEAR BIG PANIC MAY FOLLOW

Strong Influence Brought to Bear on State Senate.

PUBLIC IS VERY SUSPICIOUS

Admissions Made by Superintendent Kilburn Regarding Failures of Big Concerns Have Set People to Wondering.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Will there be an investigation of the banking system of the state, and will the revelations to be made be as sensational as those which developed from the insurance investigation?

The question of whether to have an investigation, or to ignore the demands for it, is easily the most important of the present session of the legislature. Big bankers by the score have visited Albany or else quietly argued with leading Senators, and the powerful financial interests of the state are lined up, in practical solid phalanx, against the proposal.

The Stock Exchange, while not out in the open, has exercised all the influence it could against the resolution, because it saw a disturbance in the methods of business of members that would have been highly embarrassing.

National Banks Also Fearful.

The National banks are also in line, for they fear that the resolutions in a vigorous press investigation, such as has recently been followed by an investigation by Congress into their own methods of doing business. Other financial interests and some commercial ones, closely allied with or dependent on the banking interests, are also up in arms in opposition, and the bugaboo of a financial panic has been worked for all it is worth.

The resolution providing for a joint legislative investigation of the conduct of the banking department was rushed through the Assembly without opposition, and is now in the Senate, where the most extraordinary efforts are being made, both to pass it and to kill it.

The 50 Senators who will decide the fate of the measure are being subjected to remarkable pressure, and at the present time there are not half a dozen of the majority who dare to say where they stand on the subject.

The Governor and the other Republican leaders are figuratively "up a tree." They are afraid to beat it. Just now they are sparring for time, hoping that something else will come up to make the public forget all about it.

Delay Gained by Illness.

A little delay has been gained through the opportune illness of George R. Malby, chairman of the Senate committee on finance, which has the resolution in charge. Malby is reported to be indisposed at his home in Ogdenburg, near the Canadian border, and "out of courtesy" his associates will take no action until he returns.

In the meantime the advocates of an investigation declare that there is nothing the matter with Malby, and unless he puts in an appearance soon, they threaten to make all sorts of trouble for him, and demand of the people for an investigation in raising higher and higher, and the public sentiment is all in favor of immediate action. It has been urged by delegations, in petitions, while the Senators have been bombarded by individual letters from constituents.

At the coming Fall election, successors to every Senator and Assemblyman will be chosen, and that makes the investigation of the lawmakers all the more acute. Which would hurt the least, they ask, to pass the resolution or to ignore it?

There are plenty to whisper that the cause of the astonishing vote received by Hoar in the New York City election was the insurance revelations. Would the effect in the state, they ask, be similar in all probability if peculiar dealings were found in the conduct of banks and trust companies?

Club for the Opposition.

But on the other hand, it is pointed out that to refuse to listen to the public demand would be to put a club in the hands of the opposition, which would be used with great effect at the polls.

The Senators see clearly that they would be called upon to defend themselves of the charge of being subservient to Wall Street influences, and that would certainly hurt them with the rank and file of the voters.

An effort has been made to solve the dilemma by inducing Kilburn to resign, thus allowing the Governor to name promptly a new superintendent who could be relied upon to bring about reforms. The suggestion was made that if this was done, and the trust companies consented to the passage of a bill calling for a reserve fund equal to 10 per cent of their deposits, everything would be lovely.

But Kilburn himself blocked the scheme. He is thoroughly convinced that personally his conduct of the office has been all that could be desired, and declines to be made a martyr of.

"Personally I have no objection to an investigation," he said to one of his old

associates (Kilburn was for many years a State Senator), "but I would advise against it. You will not find anything against me, but the effect upon the business interests and the party will be frightful."

And apparently he really believes it. The little band of Democratic Senators (there are only 13 out of the membership of 59) are urging an immediate investigation, because they believe they are thereby putting their opponents "in a hole."

The demand for an investigation of the banking department arises from Kilburn's conduct in the case of the Merchants' Trust Company, of New York City, and the German Bank of Buffalo.

In the former case Kilburn admitted in his annual report that he had allowed the trust company to do business for over a year after he had discovered that they had heavily invested in risky loans, although his plain duty under the law was to report at once the matter to the Attorney-General.

Is Law Observed Now?

When the failure came, he alleged it was not as bad as it might have been, had he followed the letter of the law, and added as a defense that he had saved a number of banks by permitting them to keep in business after their capital had been impaired. In this manner, he said, they had done business for thousands of dollars before the legal hour for opening the bank.

In the case of the Buffalo Bank, sworn charges are made that favored depositors were given a "tip" of the impending failure, and drew out several hundreds of thousands of dollars before the legal hour for opening the bank.

A number of them, it is said, were paid in the cellar, and the bank, after opening at 10 A. M., was closed an hour later by Kilburn's order, he being in the city at the time, and it is charged, in the immediate vicinity of the institution when the unauthorized payments were made.

Governor Refused to Investigate.

The Governor held that these charges, although supported by sworn affidavits, were not worthy of credence, and declined to investigate when requested to do so. Now as a result of the action of the Legislature themselves the matter is in their hands, and the Governor has furnished the Senate committee the evidence which he received himself.

There is talk of an immense corruption fund having been raised to defeat action in the Senate, and it may be true, but in justice to the Governor and his close advisers, it must be said that this does not carry any weight with them.

They are simply anxious to follow the course which will be of the greatest benefit, or at least of the slightest loss, to the party, and at the present time they actually do not know what to do. Shall they put a padlock on the banking department, and run the risk of voters taking revenge at the polls next November? Or shall they order an investigation and "take the risk of a scandal, which will upset the financial world and ruin the party in the state?"

The Lady or the Tiger.

It is a prettier problem than that famous one of Frank R. Stockton, "The Lady or the Tiger?"

And Governor Higgins is afraid to open either door.

For he fears that isn't a lady behind either one, and that there are two hungry tigers.

So for the present he is keeping both doors shut.

GIRL ASSASSIN TORTURED

COSSACKS BEAT WITH WHIPS AND RIFLES.

Slayer of Secret Police Chief Is Stripped, Thrown in Cell and Subjected to Awful Cruelty.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 25.—Great wrath has been aroused in Liberal circles by the publication of a letter from Mile Spiridonoff, the 17-year-old girl who shot M. Luzhnevsky, chief of the secret police at Tashkent, in which she describes the indignities and brutalities to which she was subjected. On account of her youth and self-sacrifice in executing the assassin, she was not sent to prison, but was detained on account of his cruelty in suppressing the peasant disorders, she had been made one of the heroines of the revolution and is called a second Charlotte Corday.

The letter says that after the shooting of Luzhnevsky, whose bodyguard of Cossacks did not save him from five well-aimed bullets, Mile Spiridonoff was knocked down and beaten with the whips of the Cossacks and rifle butts. She was then dragged by her hair down stairs to a squalid cell, and punishment of the police station, undressed and thrust into a damp, cold cell, where she was subjected to eleven hours of torment in order to force her to reveal the names of her accomplices.

The girl says that two officers took brutal pleasure in kicking her back and forth across her cell, tearing her hair, burning her flesh with their cigarettes and threatening her with abandonment to the Cossacks unless she confessed.

Mile Spiridonoff is in hospital in a serious condition. Her skull is fractured in two places, one eye is injured, and her body is a mass of bruises from head to foot. The newspapers demand an instant trial and punishment of the two officers, whose names are given, but the vengeance of the revolutionists will probably anticipate official action.

OVERWHELMED IN FLOOD

Three Laborers Drowned in Rising of the Casas Grandes.

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 25.—While fighting to keep back the flood-waters of Lake Guzman, overflowed on account of high water in the Casas Grandes River, the waters threatening the Sierra Madre Railroad, three laborers were drowned today. A big stretch of track is already washed out.

Fire in Portland, Me.

PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 25.—A three-story brick block on Federal street, occupied by J. E. Gould & Co., was wrecked by fire early today. Loss, \$120,000.

SMASHES FLUME OF LAPE PENCE

Mayor Lane Takes Police Force and Sledge-Hammers for the Work.

TWENTY FEET DESTROYED

It Is Alleged That Property Wrecked Lies Without Macleay Park and That Mayor and City Are Liable for Damages.

DESTROYS THE FLUME.

Mayor Lane and members of the Police Department yesterday afternoon destroyed 20 feet of flume belonging to Lape Pence in Balch Canyon, thinking they were in Macleay Park, in which it was said Mr. Pence was a trespasser. Mr. Pence says Mayor Lane made a mistake, and that the portion of the flume destroyed lies wholly outside of city ground, and serious legal complications may arise. Members of the Police Department patrolled the flume last night to prevent the flume being repaired.

Mr. Pence will appear before the Park Board this morning at 11 o'clock. He alleges that a member of the Park Board has attempted to interfere with his work because of alleged relations with the "Red Land" Company, which, it is said, wanted to sell his land. It is thought Mr. Pence will make sensational charges at the meeting of the Board this morning.

Unable to apprehend the murderers, out-throats and highwaymen who infest Portland, Mayor Lane has mapped out a new line of work for the members of the police department. Evidently believing they are more capable of yielding sledge-hammers than capturing the transgressors of the law, his Honor yesterday afternoon assembled a coterie of his braves and descended upon one of the flumes of Lape Pence in Balch Canyon. By the time their work of destruction was completed 20 feet of the flume had been destroyed and the waters which had been employed in washing down the hill back of Willamette Heights were turned back into the creek.

May Have Lost Bearings.

But now it is said that his Honor lost his bearings while wandering about the wilds of Balch Canyon and instead of destroying the flume in Macleay Park, as was his original intention, he became lost and attacked the flume outside of the boundaries of the park. Surveyors employed by Lape Pence made a survey late yesterday afternoon and report that the part of the flume destroyed lies outside of the jurisdiction of the city officials, but the latter refused to withdraw the patrol and left it to the Park Board, which meets this morning at 11 o'clock. It is said that the action of the Mayor in destroying the flume outside of the limits of Macleay Park makes him or the city liable to a big damage suit should Mr. Pence desire to retaliate.

Set Out on Their Mission.

Yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock Mayor Lane called at the police station and held a consultation with Chief Gritzmacher. Within a few moments a force was organized and the party set out on its mission of destruction. Mayor Lane and Captain Bruin would not condescend to ride in the patrol wagon with the "common" policemen and detectives and took the street-car. The others, Patrol Driver

DONALD MACLEAY'S REQUEST.

Extract from the copy of deed from Donald Macleay to the city of Portland as furnished The Oregonian by Attorney C. M. McManis: "I, the said grantor, do request that any word removed in clearing said premises be divided equally between St. Vincent's and Good Samaritan Hospitals, and that after said park shall have been improved and beautified a conveyance be kept and used by the city during the Summer months for the purpose of giving outings in said park to the patients in the hospitals."

Price, Patrolman Circle and Detective

Vaughn, rode in the patrol wagon. Sledge-hammers had been provided for the occasion and were put in the patrol wagon at the police station. Mayor Lane was approached and asked regarding the intentions of the party before it set out, but he refused to throw any light on the mysterious actions of himself and his associates.

"Nothing doing," he said, with that ever-present smile which he still carries as one of the mementoes of his campaign for Mayor when he beamed benevolently upon all.

Mayor Lane and Captain Bruin took the Willamette Heights car and walked up Balch Canyon on the flume. The officers in the wagon rode as far as Lovejoy street, where the horses balked on a hill, compelling them to walk the rest of the distance.

Men Placed at Work.

Arriving at their destination about 3 o'clock, Mayor Lane ordered the men to

EVENTS OF THE COMING WEEK.

Hospital Feeling at Algiers.

The feeling of unrest which has been so apparent in the deliberations of the Executive committee on Morocco affairs during the past week seems to have been at least temporarily supplanted by a more hopeful and conciliatory attitude on the present delegates. The formal debates and the discussion of the special committee on the question of the Moroccan bank will continue this week and dispatches tend to create the impression that with the adjustment of this point the all-important problem of the pooling of Miranov will come to the front again, with better chances of an amicable settlement.

Advice from the European capitals show that none of the more important powers directly affected by the conference have given up hope that the Moroccan question will be ultimately adjusted.

Wedding at Berlin.

The wedding of Prince Ernst Wilhelm, second son of Emperor William of Germany, to the Duchess Sophie Charlotte, eldest daughter of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, will take place in Berlin on February 27.

Coal Strike Situation.

This week promises developments in the Detroit coal strike. A meeting of the joint committee of seven operators and seven miners to discuss the demands of the miners is expected to occur Tuesday. The scale committee of the anthracite mine-workers, raised the schedule of demands. Their demands are believed to be, in brief, a full recognition of the union, a general eight-hour workday, an advance in wages to be brought about by a readjustment of the present scale, and a recognition of the rules governing the conciliation board.

Student Volunteer Movement.

The International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement will be held in Nashville, Tenn., February 25 to March 4. Many prominent speakers will attend.

Revision of Football Tactics.

The American intercollegiate rules committee, which will meet in New York on March 2, will discuss the revision in football tactics which are to go into effect next season.

Fate Rests With Speaker.

Whether the Speaker knowingly backed the committee or not he can say, for he never discusses his motives in making committee changes. It would have been consistent for him to do so, because he has taken the position that this Congress must observe the most rigid economy, and the enactment of a ship subsidy bill would be anything but economy. If the Speaker had this in mind, it may be taken for granted that a majority of the committee will stand out against reporting the Senate bill, and no opportunity will be afforded for its consideration in the House.

Once the bill is reported, there is every probability that a special rule will be put through as a strict party measure, regardless of the fact that many Republicans oppose the subsidy idea. With the big Republican majority in the House, it would be possible to get enough votes to pass the bill. It would then be merely a question of adjusting the differences between the Senate and House bills, which could probably be accomplished in a week or 10 days.

Chances for Bill's Passage.

If the Speaker and the House leaders determine to pass the bill (that is, assuming the Speaker does not care to suppress it in the interest of economy), the chances are decidedly favorable to its enactment this session. It is too soon to ascertain the attitude of the Speakers and his advisers, and until that becomes known it will be impossible to say what fate is in store for the Gallinger bill. It is practically

PENALTY FOR DAMAGING FLUME.

Extract from an act of the Twenty-third Legislature: "If any person shall maliciously, wantonly or wilfully cut, break down, injure, destroy or remove any water, ditch, canal, flume, trench, pipe or reservoir, said person, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$500."

Mayor Lane's Threat.

"The only manly thing for you to do is to grant me permission to repair the flume," said Mr. Pence. "If you do I will have you placed under arrest," said his Honor with a dramatic swing of his arms.

Protestations were of no avail, and Mr. Pence soon left the Mayor to pursue his way in peace. Mr. Pence ordered his men to leave the flume alone, as he said he had no wish to stir up further trouble. Mayor Lane and Captain Bruin seemed greatly pleased with the efficiency of their work and their faces were wreathed in smiles when Mr. Pence protested. They walked complacently down the flume talking and laughing like two schoolboys on a holiday. The seriousness of their action rested lightly on their minds. Once they stopped and Captain Bruin produced his determination, which he had strapped to his side and the two tried their marksmanship at a near-by tree.

Working for Weeks.

It seems that Mr. Pence built the flume across Macleay Park under the impression that the Park Board would enter no objections. Last Summer he appeared before the board and his petition was refused, but he says when the deed made by Mr. Macleay in giving the tract of land to the city was investigated, he was given to understand that no objections would be thrown in his way. He says the work of constructing the flume across Macleay Park has been going on for several weeks.

The part of the flume destroyed in Balch Canyon is about a mile and a half from the Willamette Heights car line at the extreme upper end of Macleay Park. Yesterday afternoon the stakes marking the boundary of the city ground were uncovered. To the naked eye it is apparent that the greater part of the flume destroyed is outside of the Park, but the surveyors say all of it is out of the boundary line. At the most not more than a foot intervenes between the flume destroyed and the ground which belongs to the city.

Believe Flume Within Park.

Mayor Lane when seen stated that not until last night did he learn that the flume had been built across Macleay

CANNON MAY KILL SHIP SUBSIDY BILL

Personnel of the Committee in Charge of Measure Has Been Changed.

SPEAKER IS FOR ECONOMY

Should the House Have a Chance to Vote, It Is Not Improbable That Enough Votes Could Be Secured to Make It Law.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash-

ington, Feb. 25.—The future of the ship subsidy bill, recently passed by the Senate, is very much in doubt. Its friends are divided; some, like Senator Lodge, predict its passage by the House before the close of the present session, others entertain grave fears that it will not become a law.

The truth of the matter is there is a considerable doubt whether this bill can even be reported by the House committee on merchant marine and fisheries, to which it has been referred. Had that committee remained the same as it was in the last Congress, a report might confidently be expected, but Speaker Cannon removed one very staunch advocate of subsidy legislation, another is not a member of this Congress, and there is doubt as to the position that will be taken by the two new Republican members, Watson of Indiana and Hinshaw of Nebraska.

The last merchant marine committee had a bare majority of one in favor of subsidy legislation; if the two new members are opposed to the bill, it will be killed in committee.

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CONTENTS TODAY'S PAPER

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TODAY—RAIN; set to south winds. YESTERDAY—Maximum temperature, 50 deg.; minimum, 40 deg.; precipitation, 0.11 inch. Domestic.

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Kentucky feud breaks out at candy pull; three men would die. Special 1.

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United Mine-workers, granted concessions, will not strike, says Vice-President Lawrence. Page 2.

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Cannon may kill ship subsidy bill in House. Page 1.

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Cossacks torture young girl who shoots secret service police chief. Page 1.

ORCHARD TELLS OF 26 MURDERS

Implicates All the Men Under Arrest.

NO IMMUNITY IS PROMISED

Steunenberg Assassin Forced by Conscience to Confess.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR

ASTOUNDING STORY OF THE INFORMER IS OBTAINED IN A NARRATIVE THAT EXTENDED OVER FIVE DAYS IN THE TELLING.

BY W. G. MACRAE.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 25.—(Staff correspondence.)—Governor Gooding tonight gave out a statement concerning the confession of Harry Orchard, in which he took occasion to eulogize the work of the detectives who have worked up the case against the assassin of ex-Governor Steunenberg. The statement, beyond affirming for the first time, beyond Orchard's confession, is without any details as to things that he actually confessed to.

According to Detective McFarland, it took Orchard five days in which to make his confession. He began January 27 and finished January 31, and Governor Gooding said it would take an entire day to read this confession.

In his statement Governor Gooding says that Orchard has told the history of his life from the beginning to the end. If Orchard in his confession tells what is true, he is the champion murderer of this or any other century. He has made admission of having committed 26 murders, all of which were the result of conspiracies, and in which the officers of the Western Federation of Miners, through its famous "Inner Circle," are implicated.

No Promise of Immunity.

Governor Gooding states positively that Orchard's confession was the result of the workings of conscience. He said that the confessed murderer of ex-Governor Steunenberg had not been promised immunity from the law, and that Orchard must pay the penalty of his long list of crimes of murder upon the gallows.

This statement, coming from the Governor, will set at rest the uneasiness which has prevailed in Idaho and elsewhere since it became known that Orchard had confessed, in many quarters it was believed that, in spite of denial, Orchard had been promised immunity from paying the extreme penalty for his crime by the legal authorities. Had this been done, it would have raised a tempest.

Hawley Shuts Off Information.

An attempt to obtain from Governor Gooding tonight a few of the minor details in regard to the Orchard confession was blocked by J. H. Hawley, special prosecutor. In addition to refusing to permit the Governor to talk, Hawley threatened the newspaper men with dire consequences, should any of them attempt to get information from any witness called to testify before the grand jury against the miners.

In an interview given out tonight Hawley attempted to explain his reason for keeping Moyer, Hayward, Pettibone and St. John in close confinement. He was interrogated upon the alleged conspiracy which the defendant's attorney charged against himself, Governor Gooding and Governor McDonald, but refused to offer an explanation on this point.

So far little explanation has been given for the arrest of Steve Adams. It is not believed, however, that he is wanted very badly in connection with the Steunenberg assassination. If Adams is not connected with this murder, he will be taken to Colorado, where there are charges against him. This much was admitted tonight by Floyd R. Thompson, secretary of the Miners' Association, from Cripple Creek, Colo.

Governor's Official Statement.

Governor Gooding's statement follows: "I want to state officially that Harry Orchard has made a full confession as to the manner and motive of the assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg, telling of the plans made and giving the names of those making them. The assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg, which occurred at his own gate, on the evening of December 30, 1905, was the third attempt that Orchard made against his life. This confession was made to Captain James McFarland. It included a history of his life from his early boyhood up to the time of his arrest. "In that confession Orchard implicated all those now under arrest and others, including J. L. Simpkins. It is the story of 26 murders, the result of conspiracies in which all the accused parties were interested. When this story is given to the public, I believe it will be the greatest narrative of crime which the world knows.

No Doubt of Truth.

"There has never been any doubt as to the truth of Orchard's confession among those who are familiar with the crimes committed in Idaho and Colorado and charged to the inner circle of the Western Federation of Miners. I attribute Orchard's confession to the great brain of James McFarland, who has been em-

(Continued on Page 2.)

STABBING AT CANDY PULL

TEN-YEAR FEUD BREAKS OUT AFRESH IN KENTUCKY.

Richard Johnson Shoots Two Men, but Somebody Cuts His Throat.

WOODSBURY, Tenn., Feb. 25.—The

Johnson-Motley feud in this (Cannon) county broke out afresh last night, and as a result the following are fatally wounded:

Sam Blair, who for times is stomach.

Richard Johnson, shot twice in groin.

Richard Johnson, throat cut.

The trouble between the Motleys and the Johnsons originated ten years ago, over the operation of an illicit distillery, when blood was shed, and has broken out intermittently since.

Last night's renewal came on a young people's "candy pulling." Both Motley and Blair were shot by Johnson, but who cut the latter's throat is unknown.

MISTAKE OF SWINDLERS

Wrong Word Used in Railroad Certificate Forgeries.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—With the rear-

rest of Samuel J. Humphreys and the arrest of Douglas E. Smith, on the eve of the day when Charles A. Seaton is to be sentenced for swindling a Texas railway, the notorious Norfolk & Western Railroad forgeries are believed to have been cleared up.

Mystery was thrown around the case by the detectives. Humphreys himself said he had been ordered to go to the Tombs and "keep his mouth shut." Smith has not appeared in the case before, but there was a mysterious "E. L. Green," for whom the police have been searching. Humphreys was sent back to the Tombs on a charge of breaking his parole, while Smith was held on a short affidavit charging him with complicity in the swindles.

The sharp eye of a clerk of the trust company prevented perhaps the largest swindle by forgery ever attempted in this country. The swindlers through an alleged letter, purporting to come from the president of the Norfolk & Western Railway, obtained from a reputable engraving company a facsimile of the Norfolk & Western certificate, except that they used "railroad" for "railway." They contemplated selling some and hypothecating others for loans. They could have netted nearly \$100,000 if