

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1908.

Triumphant Ruff. Mr. Abram Ruff is gay. And jubilant. He is light-hearted as "Young Abram Cupid, he that shot so true."

For which you may consult your "Romance and Juliet." Ruff now is in position to defy the prosecution.

More than 1200 vessels, of approximately 3,500,000 tons carrying capacity, entered and cleared at Portland during 1907, the increase over that of 1906 being nearly 800,000 tons carrying capacity.

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assumed at the outset. Affirmation by judicial decision is accepted by them and by all grantees as their complete vindication. No wonder Ruff and Schmitz are serene.

But if a license to keep restaurant and sell liquor is not a property, why should franchise to operate a street railway, and the officials of a city through their attorney therefore may force a street railway to pay them money—any sum they may name—to get its franchise. So if Calhoun and his associates have bought from Ruff, from Schmitz and the gang, the railroad franchise under which they are doing business, there is no legal offense, and there can be no penalty. Whatever Calhoun may have done, he is immune. His attorney can read to the trial judge a decision from the higher court, and move for acquittal. Which it would appear must be granted.

Ruff gets immunity and which will tell all he knows; but all he knows will be unimportant, because under the rulings of the higher court no offense has been committed against the law, and no legal penalties have been incurred. These valuable precedents will doubtless pass into general use. But after all there isn't much that's new in this old world. "Large-handed robbers your grave masters are," says Shakespeare's Timon, "and pill by law."

The Jam at the Door. The country theater or entertainment hall lighted by coal oil lamps has added another panic and tragedy to its account. Man, when controlled by sudden fright, is the most unreasoning of animals. The stampede of the buffalo of the plains was more or less a nervous tic than that of a company of human beings when terror takes possession of them. The tragedy at Boyertown, Pa., which cost a hundred lives Monday night, was but a sad repetition of many that have gone before. Under the menace of sudden and horrible death, caused by the explosion of a lamp, the entire audience in the village theater made a rush for the exits, trampling into unrecognizable pulp the weak who were unable to stand against the strong. Humanity run mad shrieked and fought and fell in the effort to escape through entrances barricaded by fallen human beings.

There was a counterpart on a larger scale of this scene when the Troquois Theater was burned in Chicago during the holiday festivities of 1903, the casualties, including dead, injured and missing, reaching nearly 1000, mainly women and children. On a smaller scale, but replete with all of the horrors of such a scene, was the burning of a flimsy wooden hall in which Christmas tree festivities were being held in the little town of Silver Lake, in Southeastern Oregon, twelve years ago. In this latter instance, like that of the Troquois theater, the cause was the immediate cause of the loss of life, while the frantic efforts of the surging crowd toward the exit were responsible for a majority of the deaths that resulted. The horrors of such a scene beggar description and go far to excuse the unreason with which the crowd sought to escape by cutting off in their fright and terror the only possible means of escape by creating "a jam at the door."

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of which might be inferior. In the elevator the receipt would call for a specified number of bushels of No. 1 wheat, and in the delivery the identity of a particularly choice lot of No. 1 wheat, when it is stored in the sack, the elevator can sell his own crop of wheat on its individual merits.

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Both of Good Family, but Are Led Astray by Soldiers. VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 14.—(Special.)—The story of two girls of tender age running away from their homes, coming to Vancouver, falling in with a gang of soldiers from the fort, sinking lower and lower till they were arrested by the police in a rald on a disreputable lodging-house, was revealed in this city last night.

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