

VANCOUVER CITY CLERK ARRESTED

J. E. Harris, Accused of Shortage, Released on \$300 Bail.

WILL REPAY ALL, HE SAYS

Declares if Discrepancy Existed, It Was Unintentional—Accountant Hough Thinks Shortage Will Not Exceed \$100.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 4.—(Special)—J. E. Harris, for 19 years City Clerk of Vancouver, was arrested at 9 o'clock this morning at the St. Charles Hotel, Portland, by Sheriff Sappington, of Clark County, on a warrant charging him with larceny by embezzlement, issued by Judge Scanlon.

The warrant for the arrest of Harris was issued on complaint of James J. Padden, one of Harris' bondsmen as City Clerk. Harris had given an official bond for \$100, his other bondman being J. W. Newcomb. The warrant charging larceny by embezzlement was based on indefinite reports made by two expert accountants, Patrick Hough and E. R. Schofield. They have been examining the books of Harris since Tuesday morning, having been appointed by the City Council. When the warrant for the arrest of Harris was issued late Thursday night, there appeared to be a shortage in the Clerk's accounts of about \$200, but it is now believed that the discrepancy will not exceed \$100.

Had Planned to Go South.

When arrested Harris was on his way to California, having arranged to sail from Portland at 4 o'clock this afternoon. He was to have been accompanied by Mrs. Harris, who left the city last night and joined her husband in Portland this morning. They were bound for Redwood City, Cal., where their son, Leroy Harris, lives. The boys had already shipped their household goods.

At the primary nominating election November 10 last Harris was a candidate for re-election as City Clerk, but was defeated. He appeared to worry considerably over his defeat and on the following Sunday, November 15, took an overdose of laudanum. He immediately notified his family and summoned a physician, and the effects of the poison were counteracted. Following this, experience, Mr. Harris was treated for some time at the hospital here and was discharged from that institution only a few days ago.

Accountants Examining Stubs.

The investigation of Harris' books does not go back farther than the year 1906, as the statute of limitations runs against any offense that may have been committed prior to that time. His accounts for the years 1906 and 1907 were found to be correct, but a discrepancy of \$73 has been discovered in the cemetery and license funds during the last three months. As City Clerk, Harris kept blank receipt books and it is from the stubs that the accountants are checking up the funds of the office. Before the real condition of Harris' accounts can be learned it will be necessary to compare his books with those of the Treasurer, which will be done tomorrow. If there is any shortage in Harris' accounts with the City, it has developed during the last three months.

Patrick Hough, one of the expert accountants who is examining Harris' books, was recently appointed to serve as City Clerk in place of Harris, whose term does not expire until January 1. This action was taken at the request of Harris, who explained that he desired to be relieved of the office in order to remove to California.

Shortage May Not Exceed \$100.

"There probably will not be found much of a shortage in Harris' accounts," said Mr. Hough tonight. "It does not look now that the shortage will exceed \$100. The arrest does not appear to have been warranted on the facts, but was the result largely of street rumor, coupled with the plans of Mr. Harris to remove to California."

"I cannot see how it is possible that a shortage could exist," said Mr. Harris, following his arrest. "If there is a discrepancy in my accounts with the city, it certainly was not intentionally created. I am prepared to make good any shortage that may be found in my accounts with the city as its Clerk."

There is no disposition on the part of either of Harris' bondsmen or of citizens generally to prosecute him if he makes good with the city any shortage that may be disclosed from the examination that is being made. Harris is about 55 years of age and has a wife and two sons.

FINISH GRANGEVILLE LINE

Road to Interior Idaho Ready for Operation.

LEWISTON, Idaho, Dec. 4.—(Special)—A party of Northern Pacific officials, including Vice-President Hamford, General Manager Nutt, General Western Freight Agent Blakely, General Passenger Agent Charlton, Division Superintendent Deamer and General Agent Jordan left Lewiston on special train yesterday for a final inspection of the new Caldwell-Grangeville line before it is turned over to the operating department of the road. This line has been completed into Grangeville and it is expected that it will be opened for regular traffic by December 15.

This is the eastern end of the line which in connection with the Lewiston-Riparia road, opened last June, will form a direct route to Portland. The fact that the final inspection is being made by Northern Pacific officials only suggests that for the present only Northern Pacific trains will be run into Grangeville, and that the joint operation of the line from Grangeville to Riparia by the N. P. and O. R. & N. will be postponed. The printed tariff sheets for the new line were received at the local Northern Pacific office yesterday.

PROTEST AGAINST RATES

Spokane Jobbers Propose to Take Case Into Federal Courts.

SPOKANE, Dec. 4.—The Spokane Jobbers' Association, representing about 100 of the principal shippers, met this morning to protest against the

increase in freight rates announced by the transcontinental roads to go in effect January 1.

The Spokane advance is approximately 10 cents a hundred. A committee was appointed to draft a formal protest, which will state that the transcontinental railroads will be enjoined in the Federal Courts against putting the rate into effect. The foundation was laid for a new rate case. This case is not to interfere in any way with the Spokane case now pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Copies of the protest are to be sent to the members of the Commission and to each of the transcontinental roads.

VALE READY FOR CONGRESS

List of Speakers Arranged for Development League Session.

VALE, Or., Dec. 4.—(Special)—Arrangements for the Oregon-Idaho Development Congress, which convenes here December 17, are now well advanced, and while many of those invited to address the congress are unable to attend, a very interesting programme is assured.

Among the speakers secured are Governor Chamberlain, who will speak on the possibilities of state-aided railroads; Colonel E. Hofer, who will read a paper on "The Battle for a Greater Oregon"; C. E. S. Wood, of Portland, "The De-

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velopment of Oregon." Judge Lionel R. Webster, of Portland, who will speak on the subject of "The Oregon Good Roads Programme"; W. R. King, "The Law of Water Conservation"; Walter Griffith, of Caldwell, on "The Malheur Project"; and others.

The Coos Bay railroad project, the Malheur oil field and other propositions affecting the development of the coast-class accommodations will be discussed. The committee on arrangements is making provision for the entertainment of the delegates to the congress and the delegates will be entertained at the evening of the 15th, and other entertainments are being provided.

HARNESS HARNEY RIVERS

Nevada Capitalists Plan Power Plants in Southeastern Oregon.

BURNS, Or., Dec. 4.—(Special)—There is good prospect of important development of electric power in Harney Valley in the near future that will set things humming. George S. Nickerson, a well-known civil engineer, whose headquarters at present are in Winnemucca, Nev., has been taking measurements for several months along the Boulder and Blitzen River in the northern slopes of Stearn Mountains, the result of his investigation and calculations being that a man representing heavy capital has filed in the County Clerk's office a claim to a water right on that stream of 4800 cubic inches, or 120 cubic feet per second, the intention being to build dams, flumes, etc., and develop an immense power for generating electricity to supply the entire Harney Valley with light and operating force.

The real parties behind the deal are the Winfield interests, the wealthiest mining people operating in Northern Nevada. They are men of unlimited means and their advent in this section is hailed with pleasure. They have taken an option on a large ranch in the neighborhood of their proposed power site and they have men on the ground making ready for active operations.

TACOMA AFTER BUSINESS

Hopes to Divert Shipping Trade Which Now Comes to Portland.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 4.—(Special)—Action that was taken to do away with the boarding-house method of shipping sailors in this port will be discussed at a banquet to be given by Foreign Consuls in the near future, and a plan similar to the one now in use in Portland will probably be adopted. Measures for diverting shipping to this port, which is now going to Portland, will be discussed, and recommendations will be made for the improvement of local shipping conditions.

An attempt will be made by the Consuls to do away with the "blood money" now required by the boarding-house master for signing sailors, and the enlisting of sailors from the ships and "shanghaing," which is said on the water front and the shipping arms to be incident to this system.

The means employed will be either the formation of an employment bureau or the direct hiring of the sailors by the Consuls without regard to the boarding-house masters.

OIL WELL SPOUTING GAS

Operations at Ontario Interrupted Until Fire Is Put Out.

ONTARIO, Or., Dec. 4.—(Special)—Oil drilling operations were interrupted here today by explosions of gas. Water from the 100-foot wells shot 100 feet into the air. The gas in one of the wells caught fire and it was with difficulty that a huge boiler was lowered over the flame and the fire smothered.

The operators are determined to continue sinking the wells until a flow of oil is encountered. There is intense excitement in the city, and many visitors have been attracted here.

WITNESS IS THREATENED

Man Who Can Clear Prisoner Notified to Hold His Tongue.

SEATTLE, Dec. 4.—Threatened with death at the hands of the officers of the whaler Bowhead because of his intention to testify that Joseph P. Gardner, who is under arrest at San Francisco for the murder of Joseph Cardo near Point Barrow, committed the act in self-defense, John Griffith, who is held prisoner here as a witness with F. K. Aldenbach, declared this morning that he ran away from the ship at Dutch Harbor and boarded the Thekla. He characterized the whaler as a hell ship, saying the sailing, but death, starvation and tyranny were encountered on her from the time she left San Francisco last March until her return.

According to Griffith, two men escaped at East Cape on the coast of Siberia, losing almost certain death in

CONTEST WARMS UP

Exciting City Election Campaign in Ashland.

TWO BANKERS CANDIDATES

Voters Lining Up as Supporters of Business Men's and Citizens' Tickets—City Improvements Is the Chief Issue.

ASHLAND, Or., Dec. 4.—(Special)—Interest in Ashland's annual city election December 15 has become intense, and promises to be the liveliest affair of its kind here for several years.

There are two tickets in the field, the Business Men's ticket, headed by Charles W. Root for Mayor, and E. V. Carter, C. E. S. Wood, of Portland, "The De-

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velopment of Oregon." Judge Lionel R. Webster, of Portland, who will speak on the subject of "The Oregon Good Roads Programme"; W. R. King, "The Law of Water Conservation"; Walter Griffith, of Caldwell, on "The Malheur Project"; and others.

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the Czar's domains rather than endure the miseries sustained on shipboard. Griffith declares that two men died at Nome as a result of abuse, overwork and starvation and that one man was handed over to the revenue cutter Thetis in a dying condition.

He said the killing of Cardo was the culmination of a long series of persecution and abuse heaped upon Gardner by the dead man, who was a petty officer, and that the killing was necessary to save his own life.

OBJECT TO FREIGHT RATE

OREGON PRUNE PACKERS PROTEST AGAINST ADVANCE.

Freights to East Have Been Constantly Increased, Asserts Willamette Valley Association.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 4.—(Special)—The Southern Pacific Company having announced an increase of 10 per cent in the freight rate on prunes to Eastern markets, the Willamette Valley Prune Association today applied to the Railroad Commission for aid in fighting the advance. The rate heretofore has been \$1 per hundred, but has been increased to \$1.10.

In discussing the increase the association says in its letter to the Commission: "This will mean an unreasonable and unjust discrimination against the prune business, and one which will give the industry a decided setback at a period when it is just beginning to feel that it has a right to exist. During the writer's recollection we were permitted to ship prunes anywhere to the East in carloads of 20,000 pounds, making a minimum carload cost of \$20; a little later this was advanced to 24,000, then to 30,000, and finally to 40,000 pounds, which is the present minimum load, making a minimum carload cost of \$40. . . . Business was eagerly sought for when \$20 was charged and we see no earthly reason why the rate should be advanced at this time."

As this rate applies to interstate traffic, the Oregon Commission has no jurisdiction, but will aid the association in presenting the matter before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

TREASURER MAKES REPORT

November Receipts \$258,173 and Expenditures \$413,923.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 4.—(Special)—The State Treasurer received \$258,173 in November, of which \$141,501 was general fund, according to a statement just issued by State Auditor C. W. Clauson. Of the general fund receipts, but \$25,900 came in taxes from the counties. The largest other amounts were \$70,189 turned over by Land Commissioner E. W. Ross from sales of tide lands and fees, \$185 collected by the Secretary of State from corporations, \$14,728 state liquor license, \$5756 inheritance tax and \$2386 for grain inspection.

The disbursements for the month aggregated \$413,923. Of this \$131,794 went to the support of state institutions, the State College getting \$40,530 and the university \$13,750. Toward the expense of the state offices about \$34,000 was spent and \$27,457 went to pay interest on state bonds. For the A.-Y.-P. Exposition there went \$61,368.

PRICK OF BRIAR IS FATAL

Scratch on Thumb Starts Blood-Poisoning, Causing Death.

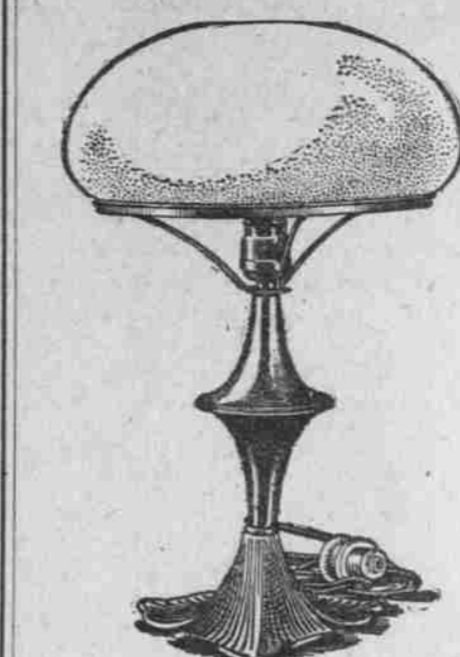
SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 4.—(Special)—Pricked in the ball of the right thumb by a sharp briar while working among berry bushes in her garden last July, Mrs. Mary Kerns died from the effects of the trifling accident yesterday at her home, 325 Post avenue.

Little attention was paid to the minute

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