

SAV'S WITNESSES TAMPERED WITH

Finch Declares Prosecution Is Trying to Railroad Him to the Gallows.

CHARGES UNFAIR TACTICS

Murderer of Ralph B. Fisher Still Maintains He Expects to Be Acquitted—Repeats His Story of the Killing.

Averring that unfair tactics are being used in the effort to send him to the gallows, James A. Finch, murderer of Ralph B. Fisher, said he would rather be branded as a cold-blooded murderer than to know in his own heart that he had connived to bring about the execution of a fellow man.

"My witnesses have been tampered with. One of them fell down and the other disappeared," he said bitterly. The witnesses he had in mind were C. M. Kinsinger and E. J. Watts, Eugene men who were reputed to have seen a struggle in Fisher's office at the time of the murder.

"They cannot convict me," said Finch. "My story of the affair was given truthfully and fully. They cross-examined me for two hours on Thursday. They can cross-examine me for a week and it will not alter the effect of what I have said one bit."

"No, I do not believe that Miss Vera Burkhardt intended to tell anything but the truth when she told of having seen the shooting," he said. "She was mistaken as to the facts. Some of the other witnesses are doing me an injustice, though B. N. Rounds, who says he met me on the train before the killing is wrong when he says I presented my card to him and then proceeded to threaten Fisher. Now, on the face of it, that doesn't sound very likely, does it?"

"When I went into Mr. Fisher's office," continued Finch again, going over the story of the murder. "I went there for the sole purpose of getting his signature to a petition for my reinstatement as a practicing lawyer. As I passed Miss Burkhardt and her office I closed the door behind me. In no time Fisher took hold of the seal and struck me and I was afraid for my life when I shot him for he was reaching into a drawer of his desk and I was sure he was after a revolver."

"No, I do not believe the jury will return a second degree verdict or even hold me for manslaughter. My story is too clear as to the real facts of the case. The story that I went into Mr. Fisher's office in my right mind and shot him down deliberately and with a malicious intent is a lie. I was trying to get reinstated as a member of the bar, is altogether too ridiculous for an intelligent jury to believe. They won't believe it either. They will believe that I fired in self-defense. You wait and see now if I'm not right."

Says Fisher "Double Crossed" Him. "It is positively true that Mr. Fisher gave me the double cross. I have a great many political friends throughout the state and I knew I could beget the disbarment proceedings. But Fisher came to me and said if I would plead guilty to being drunk in court and recommend to the Supreme Court that sentence be suspended, he would recommend to the Supreme Court that sentence be suspended. This looked like an easy way out of the difficulty, so I consented rather than go to the trouble and expense of hearing the case."

"But when I saw how I had been tricked, I didn't lose my senses or decide on revenge. I knew I could be reinstated on a petition which many prominent men would readily sign. I wanted Mr. Sifer's signature, but that wasn't absolutely necessary as I could have been reinstated without it. I never took Mr. Fisher seriously enough to want revenge. I regarded him as small fry—as a young lawyer who was after notoriety as a prosecutor, as a second Henny. He attacked me with a notary's seal when I went into his office on a friendly mission and I killed him in the defense of my own life."

THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

Oregon National Guard Association to Meet Next Monday.

At the third annual convention of the Oregon National Guard Association, to be held Monday morning at 10 o'clock, in the Armory, the following officers will be elected: Major Harry L. Hawthorne, Coast Artillery Corps, department artillery officer, U. S. A., "Coast Artillery Reserves"; Major R. N. Noble, First Infantry, U. S. A., "The Relation of the Organized Militia to the Regular Army"; Colonel James Jackson, Inspector-General, O. N. G., "The Future of the National Guard"; Colonel George O. Moran, Fourth Infantry, O. N. G., "The Test of Time"; Major F. B. Hamlin, Fourth Infantry, O. N. G., "The Oregon Rifle Team"; Captain Samuel White,

"YELLOW PERIL" IS SIMPLY BOGMY

Bishop Harris Says Misconception Prevails About Awakening of China.

PEOPLE ARE FOR PEACE

Declares Country Will Have Constitution and Parliament in Ten Years—Japan Aiding Greatly in Development of Corea.



Bishop M. C. Harris, D. D.

LOCAL LABOR TO PROTEST

WILL TAKE ACTION ON IMPRISONMENT OF LEADERS.

Demonstration Will Be Held Soon by Allied Trades, but Date Is Not Definitely Fixed.

Members of organized labor in Portland will protest formally against the recent court decision which decrees that Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison, labor leaders, shall serve jail sentences for contempt of court. A general meeting of the labor organizations of this city is being planned to take such action. It was proposed yesterday that the demonstration take place Sunday in conjunction with a general movement of the kind among trades unions throughout the United States. However, the time for the meeting will not be fixed until today. Owing to the lack of time to advertise such a gathering, the promoters of the movement probably will consent to some date later in the week.

"Members of organized labor in this city are strongly in favor of holding a mass meeting and presenting a formal protest against the court's decision," said J. P. Cassidy, secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor. "While the time for holding such a meeting has not been decided, there is no doubt but that a general meeting of trades unions and their friends will be arranged within a few days. Sunday is near at hand and for that reason it is probable no attempt will be made to call the meeting until later in the week."

C. H. Gram, president of the State Federation of Labor, returned yesterday from an extended absence in Southern Oregon. He is expected to discuss the decision in the Gompers case aside from saying that while the findings of the court might be according to law, he was inclined to consider the law a poor one. Mr. Gram explained that he had not had an opportunity to read the decision rendered by the court and until he had he did not wish to express himself on the subject.

The Building Trades Council at its meeting Monday night may take some action respecting the Gompers case by the disbarment proceedings. The unions affiliated with this central organization will appoint a committee to meet with similar delegations from the other central labor bodies next Wednesday night. This conference of representatives of the various labor unions in the city may be substituted for the proposed mass meeting.

VANCOUVER GETS BUILDING

American Life Insurance Company to Erect \$100,000 Structure.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—A building five or six stories high, to cost from \$75,000 to \$100,000, is to be built at the corner of Main and Sixth streets, by the American Life and Accident Insurance Company of this state. Vancouver is to be the home office of the company, which is capitalized at \$500,000. The first floors of the building are to be the offices of the company, the upper floors for office rooms, and for lodge halls. The structure is to be modern in every way and will be the largest building in the city when completed. It is said by Robert R. Boyer, manager of the company, that construction will begin early in the spring. The company now has offices in the Beck-building in Portland.

A Dangerous Operation is the removal of the appendix by a surgeon. No one who takes Dr. King's New Life Pills is ever subjected to the painful ordeal. They work so quietly you don't feel them. They cure constipation, headache, biliousness and malaria, 25c at all drugstores.

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BY ARTHUR A. GREENE. "The 'yellow peril' bogie grows out of a profound misconception of the facts. The resurrection of China is the greatest movement in the history of humanity but it bodes good rather than evil to Christendom." Such an expression, coming from a man who has lived in the Orient 35 years and who has been during his entire official career in close touch with the people of China in all walks of life, is more than significant. It is positively convincing.

Merriman Colbert Harris, missionary bishop of China and Corea for the Methodist Episcopal Church, knew what he was talking about when he made the statements quoted in the sunparlor of the Portland Hotel yesterday afternoon. Bishop Harris has been for many years recognized as an authority on matters Mongolian. He has lived among them for more than a third of a century, has the confidence of the lower classes and cordial friendship of the ruling class. He is one of the big figures in Methodism, in fact, in the whole realm of Protestantism.

Constitution in Ten Years.

"The coming to consciousness of this mighty people has been long delayed," said the bishop, "but it is at hand. In fact, it is already accomplished. Inside of ten years I believe China will have a constitution and a parliament. The new China will not be belligerent. She will seek peace rather than war and conquest. It is ingrained in the character of the Chinese people. She will work out her destiny along peaceful lines and has quite enough development work ahead to keep her busy for generations without coveting her neighbor's lands. No, don't let them tell you that either China or Japan will menace the peace of the world."

Japan Becoming Christianized.

Referring to the work of Christianizing Japan, the distinguished prelate said: "There are approximately 30,000 Christians among the Japanese, divided about equally between Protestants and Catholics. The Methodist church, for instance, is presided over by a native bishop and is self-governing and financially self-supporting. In Corea there are, roughly speaking, 200,000 native Christians. In the recent parliamentary elections in Japan 15 Christians were chosen out of a total membership of something less than 300."

Corea and Japan Friendly.

"Corea is in a very interesting stage of its progress from isolation to an important factor in the affairs of the Orient. The feeling against Japan is being overcome through the diplomacy, honesty and fairness of statesmen of both countries. Why, the Crown Princes of the two courts recently paid formal visits to each other's capital and each was received in the friendliest manner. "The principal credit for Corea's splendid forward movement is due to Prince Ho, one of the great men of the Far East. He is Japan's representative in Corea and through his enlightened and liberal policy has already wrought wonders. He has worked out an extensive plan for the development of the country, employing the finest agricultural and other experts. He has instituted agricultural schools and is educating the Coreans to make the most of that splendid agricultural country. He has established medical colleges and hospitals, the courts have been reorganized and the government is highly efficient. In fact, I do not believe there are any countries in the world so well governed as Japan and Corea. I have been 40 years in the ministry and, 35 in the Orient, and I cannot tell you the vast difference in conditions now and when I went there. It is the most wonderful and blessed thing in the world to look upon this advance movement of the oldest civilization in the world."

SANTA CLAUS VISITS JAIL

Sheriff Sappington Prepares Christmas Tree and Turkey Dinner.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Sheriff Sappington made glad the hearts of 13 prisoners in the County Jail with a Christmas tree and turkey dinner. The presents from the tree were cigars, tobacco, candies, nuts and reading matter. At 6 o'clock a turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served. At the head of the table sat Patrick Cahill, the flute player, who acted as toastmaster. When the meal was over Cahill dispensed music. "The prisoners all agreed that the Sheriff is the most kind-hearted man they have ever met, and several said they will appropriately remember him when they are restored to liberty."

PLUM FOR PILES' PARTNER

To Be Federal Judge if Washington District Is Divided.

Portland Agents for "Nemo" Corsets, Butterick Patterns, "Trefousse" Gloves

The Meier & Frank Store's Great Sale of Women's Suits, Coats, Wraps, Waists, Petticoats, Furs, Etc., Etc.

Today in Portland's Leading Cloak and Suit Store a Sensational Midwinter Sale of Women's Cloaks, Suits, Coats, Evening Apparel, Skirts, Waists, Petticoats and Furs—Most wonderful values in all the newest and most fashionable garments—

- \$16.50 Tailored Suits at \$ 8.65
- \$22.50 Tailored Suits at \$12.45
- \$28.00 Tailored Suits at \$14.85
- \$32.00 Tailored Suits at \$16.85
- \$40.00 Tailored Suits at \$22.45
- \$55.00 Tailored Suits at \$27.45

Women's and Misses' Tailored Suits on sale at marvelously low prices—This season's handsomest garments in all the latest fashions and materials, marked at figures that are of the greatest importance to economical buyers—Both fancy and strictly tailored styles—The fancy coats are made in Empire, Directoire and vest effects and trimmed with satin, braid and buttons—Plain coats are tailor-stitched—Medium and long length coats—Skirts plain gore with flare or trimmed with folds—Broadcloths, chevots and serge—Navy, black, catawba, taupe, wistaria, green and brown, also a large assortment of fancy stripes and mixtures—All sizes—A large and grand assortment to select from—Eight immense lots—These extraordinary values at the above very low prices

Condensed List of Specials

See yesterday's papers for details of this List of Specials

- \$40.00 Opera Coats at \$19.85
- \$25.00 Fancy Dresses at \$12.85
- Regular \$40 Fur Coats at \$29.50
- Regular \$35 Pony Coats \$22.50
- \$7.50 Walking Skirts at \$3.55
- \$8.50 Walking Skirts at \$4.85
- \$45.00 Fancy Costumes at \$19.85
- \$9.00 Silk Petticoats at \$4.85
- Women's \$16.50 Coats at \$ 7.85
- Women's \$20.00 Coats at \$12.85
- Women's \$30.00 Coats at \$16.95
- Women's \$40.00 Coats at \$22.65
- \$8.50 Silk and Wool Waists \$3.45
- \$35 Long Covert Coats \$26.25
- Reg. \$4.50 Bath Robes at \$1.98



- Reg. \$40.00 Fur Sets at \$33.00
- Reg. \$1.75 Flannel Kimonos 98c
- \$2.25 Heatherbl'm Pettic' ts \$1.38
- \$1.75 Blk. Sateen Petticoats \$1.08

ber of judges had been proposed. One to name a second judge for this district and permit him to alternate with Judge C. H. Hanford in any city where business requires it. The other plan is to create a separate judicial district of Pierce and Southwestern Washington counties.

MISSING LADS ENJOY LARK

Logger Entertains Lads While Parents Believe Them Lost.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Wesley Jones, aged 8, son of F. E. Jones, prominent in real estate circles, caused a lot of worry to parents and friends by disappearing yesterday afternoon when he went into the woods to cut down a Christmas tree. Instead of Patrick Cahill, the flute player, who acted as toastmaster. When the meal was over Cahill dispensed music. "The prisoners all agreed that the Sheriff is the most kind-hearted man they have ever met, and several said they will appropriately remember him when they are restored to liberty."

WEYERHAEUSERS GET BANK

Secure Control of Financial Institution at Montesano.

has been purchased by R. L. McCormick of Tacoma. Mr. McCormick is secretary of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and one of the principal stockholders. The Weyerhaeuser Company's holdings around Montesano are very large and the connection of Mr. McCormick with a local institution is significant. It means much to this section.

Mr. Ninemire, ex-vice-president of the bank, has decided to devote his entire time and means to the lumber business, he being the principal owner of the Montesano Lumber & Manufacturing Company. He is at present improving and enlarging the capacity of the plant so as to be able to compete with the larger Harbor mills.

The Montesano State Bank is one of the strongest financial institutions in Chehalis County. At its last statement it showed deposits of nearly \$500,000 and has long handled the local business of the Weyerhaeuser Company.

AT HALF PRICE.

Balance of our stock of dolls, toys, games, books, neckwear, and fancy Christmas goods of all kinds, on sale at half marked prices—McAllen & McDonnell, Third and Morrison.

Chicago—Four hundred and twenty-seven stockholders out of 600 of A. Booth & Co., the fish concern, have agreed to a reorganization. Almost all of the \$200,000 needed as capital has been raised.

SATURDAY SPECIALS AT SMITH'S

You will have to come to a Smith Market for these excellent meats and poultry. Be careful when you come to our Alder-street Market and see that you get into the right place. The markets on both sides of us belong to our opponents. See that Smith's name and "Fighting the Beef Trust" are over the door, and then come in.

- Fancy fattened Geese, all absolutely fresh and choice Oregon stock 18c
- Several hundred Hens and Spring Chickens to select from; likewise absolutely fresh, choice, fat, Oregon birds 15c to 18c
- Smith's sugar-cured, pure, non-adulterated Hams, made from fine Oregon pig pork, select any size you want 15c
- Smith's sugar-cured Breakfast Bacon 16c and 17c
- Smith's kettle-rendered pure Lard, guaranteed to be what we say it is FIVE-LB. PAIL 65c
- Smith's pure Pig Pork Sausage, per pound 12c
- Veal Sausage, such as can be found only at Smith's, per pound 12c
- Holiday Beef, 5c for ordinary cuts, up to 15c for the choicest and prime cuts.
- Genuine Spring Lamb, 8c for plain cuts, up to 15c for fancy chops and roasts.
- Oregon Pig Pork, from 5c for Pigs' Feet, up to 15c for delicious roasts and cutlets.
- Willamette Valley Veal, 6c for broth meat, up to 15c for fancy cuts and cutlets.
- All kinds of Fish can be had at their freshest at Smith's.
- Good Creamery Butter, 70c per square—Fresh Eggs, 35c per dozen

FRANK L. SMITH MEAT CO.

"FIGHTING THE BEEF TRUST." Six Markets 226 Alder Street, Between First and Second Streets, 512 Williams Avenue, 791 Mississippi Avenue, Corner Fifth and Main Streets, Oregon City, Twelfth Street, Between Bond and Commercial, Astoria, 253 Taylor Street (Uniontown), Astoria.