WELLS SENTENCED FOR BANK HOLD-UP

Surprises Officials by Making Confession and Is Given Seven Years.

THEIR CAPTURE PROBABLE

Young Member of Gang That Stole $15,400 by Daring Coup Also Gives Affidavit That Will Help in Recovering $2400.

Claud V. Wells, 27 years old, head of a family, former business agent of the Bartenders' Union and amateur bank-robber, was sentenced to the penitentiary late yesterday afternoon, after unexpectedly pleading guilty to a charge of complicity in the daring robbery of the East Side Bank last December.

Wells was immediately sentenced to an indeterminate period of from one to seven years' imprisonment, thus being given an opportunity to redeem himself by good conduct. The chance was given him because of his conduct in pleading guilty and in aiding Sheriff Stevens in recovering portions of the $15,400 stolen from the bank.

Admits Proof Is Positive.

Although Wells has maintained his innocence from the first, he gave in yesterday and confessed to the Sheriff his part in the affair. This unexpected development followed a little talk between Sheriff Stevens, Wells and John H. Stevenson, attorney for the young culprit, in which the officer showed the two conclusively that there was no chance of Wells evading the charge in view of the array of evidence held against him. Wells admitted that the proof was too strong for consistent denial and his counsel then advised him to enter a plea of guilty and throw himself upon the mercy of the court.

Wells did so, first making an affidavit that will enable Sheriff Stevens to recover $2400 of the stolen money, this amount being in the package recovered at Ogden and held up by the postal authorities until it could be formally identified as part of the currency stolen from the East Side Bank.

Denies He Entered Bank.

Wells made a tentative confession of his part of the affair. He persisted to the last that he was not actually one of those who entered the bank, but that he remained behind and received the stolen money as custodian. It is said that he gave the Sheriff valuable information as to the identity of three other men implicated in the affair, although the precise nature of this information is withheld, as other arrests may be made at an early date.

Larceny in a bank is the charge under which Wells was indicted by the grand jury and to which he pleaded guilty. Sheriff Stevens, who ran the fellow to earth after the police had failed to capture the culprits, was able to establish that Wells had some of the money in his possession and that he spent several hundred dollars in Portland before attempting a wild flight eastward.

Definite proof that Wells entered the bank and helped hold up the office force was not available, as H. H. Newhall, president of the bank, and his subordinates were too greatly alarmed at the time of the occurrence to retain any definite impression as to the appearance of the robbers. They could not identify Wells, the prisoner persisted that he was merely custodian of loot, and so the charge of larceny of necessity prevailed.

Calls Attention to Youth.

Wells was taken before Presiding Judge Gantenbein, of the Circuit Court, at 4:40 P. M., after his confession. The state was represented by Deputy District Attorneys Vreeland and Page, who had expected that Wells would fight the charge. Wells, seemingly in light spirits, when asked for his plea, promptly replied, "Guilty!" Mr. Stevenson then arose and asked that lenience be shown, calling the court's attention to the facts of Wells' youth, that his wife and 4-year-old daughter need his support and to the fact that he had given Sheriff Stevens assistance in recovering stolen money.

In passing sentence Judge Gantenbein said he would take those things into consideration, and he then imposed the indeterminate sentence of from one to seven years. Wells was returned at once to his cell in the County Jail. He will be removed this morning to the State Prison at Salem. The fellow's wife and little daughter were not in court when sentence was passed, but they have been at the jail nearly every day to see him, and Mrs. Wells has assured her derelict husband that she will wait for his release from the penitentiary.

Drink was the cause ascribed by Wells for his part in the bank robbery. In his confession to the Sheriff he said he was drinking at the time and couldn't remember all the circumstances clearly. But for drunkenness, he insisted, he never would have had anything to do with the crime.

After the actual robbery, which he would not discuss, he said $5100 was turned over to him for keeping. He passed several $100 bills in the city, and then, fearing the police might get trace of him, left for the East, he said. Going to Salt Lake, he decided that it wasn't safe to have so much stolen money in his pockets, so he shipped $2400 to Ogden, sending it as third-class mail, addressed to "Charles Price."

A few days later Wells called at Ogden for the mail, and suspecting from the conduct of the postal clerk that something was wrong, ran out of the post-office. Catching a train out of Ogden, he got off at Woods Cross, and later doubled back through Ogden to Pocatello, thence north to Butte and west to Seattle. From Seattle he went to Tacoma.

Wells made an affidavit regarding the Ogden money, which by a fortunate mistake was delivered to an actual Charles Price, and is being held pending identification. This affidavit will have the effect of securing return of the money to the East Side Bank.

Bill Gives Sheriff Clew.

It was the $100 bills changed by Wells in Portland that gave Sheriff Stevens his first clew. Taking up one of these bills the Sheriff had it identified at the bank, worked out the problem of Wells' identity and after tracing the fellow in his trip about the Northwest, located him at Tacoma. He was arrested at that place late in February and brought back to Portland by Deputy Sheriff Leonard. The fellow's action in pleading guilty saves the state several thousand dollars, as the trial would have been an expensive one, inasmuch as witnesses would have been required from Ogden, Salt Lake City, Tacoma and other points.

The holding up of the East Side Bank was one of the most desperate coups ever engaged in locally by holdups. Three men walked into the place at 5:50 P. M. on December 7, covered President H. H. Newhall and two office men with revolvers, forced them into Newhall's office, scooped up $15,400 in cash and escaped in the darkness. The bank is in the heart of the East Side business district, may people were on the street at the time and two girls stood in front of the bank and witnessed the affair. The police were on the ground in less than ten minutes, but did not succeed in getting track of the robbers.

WIFE SEEKS DIVORCE ON GROUND OF CRUELTY.

MRS. ELLA G. THOMPSON, WIFE OF R. R. THOMPSON, OREGON MILLIONAIRE.

SAYS LYONS IS PERJURER

Alaskan Causes Appointment of Judge to Be Held Up.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 25.—President Taft today sent to the Senate and later withdrew the nomination of Thomas R. Lyons, of Juneau, as United States District Judge in Alaska.

The nomination had no sooner gone to the Senate than George Nowell, of Skagway, appeared at the Department of Justice and filed an affidavit charging Lyons with perjury in a case recently heard in the courts of Alaska. Details of the charge cannot be learned now. The charge will be investigated before further action is taken.

Lyons formerly lived in Pendleton.

ROSEBURG LAND MEN SCORED

Mineral Entrymen Complain of Rulings Made by Officials.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 25.—Representative Hawley yesterday laid before the Commissioner of the General Land Office a complaint he received relative to rulings that are being made by the Roseburg land officers. These officers, it is alleged, hold that a mine is not a mine unless it is a paying proposition. Whenever mineral entrymen submit proof and seek to obtain patent, the officers require them to show by their books that they are making money on their developments over and above expenses.

The Commissioner says such requirements are not sanctioned by the department, but he can only act when entrymen appeal from the rulings or practices of local land offices.

BILL TO CHANGE COLLECTIONS

Oregon Districts Will Be Altered if New Measure Is Passed.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 25.—Senator Bourne introduced a bill today amending the act prescribing the Oregon collection districts, making four districts, with officers and salaries as follows:

Coos Bay, collector and three deputies; Yaquina, collector with salary of $1000 and fees not exceeding $1500. Astoria, collector, $3000, including fees and commissions. Portland, collector, $6000, including fees, commissions and all perquisites and an appraiser at $3000. Also a bill authorizing the sale of lands in the Siletz Indian reservation.

TAFT MAKES NOMINATIONS

Ambassadors, Envoys, Judges and Attorneys Are Named.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The President made the following nominations today:

Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Italy—John G. Leishman, of Pennsylvania.

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain—Henry Clay Ide, of Vermont.

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic—Charles Sherrill, of New York.

United States Attorneys—William G. Wheeler, Western District of Wisconsin; Cornelius D. Murane, Third Division of Alaska.

OLYMPIA SOLONS IN ERROR

Boundary Line of New County of Grant Badly Out of Plumb.

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 25.—(Special.)—Boundaries of the new county of Grant are incorrect in the bill as signed. Some on the courses are six miles off. For instance, one course running to the northwest corner of section 18, township 31, range 23 east, which is away up in Okanogan County. The next course runs "east one mile to the southeast corner of section 7, townships 21, 29, 23 east," which would indicate the 31 above should have read 21.

There are a number of other errors, but Attorney-General Bell says none is so serious as to invalidate the law creating the county.

Increase your income. Read Gregory's ad, page 13.

NEWS ALL BEARISH

Wheat Falls in Chicago, but Bears Lack Leader.

WAR SCARE FIZZLES OUT

Foreign Markets Weaken and Good Weather Promises Good Crops at Home—Argentine Alone Sends Bull News.

CHICAGO, March 25.—(Special.)—With about the only glint of news on the bull side coming from Argentine, where the week's shipments fell from 5,248,000 bushels a year ago to 3,600,000, wheat values took another tumble today, losing from ½ cent to ⅝ cent net.

"My kingdom for a leader" was the song of the bears, not one of whom had the courage, despite the seemingly psychological moment, to twist the tail of the Patten lion.

The European war scare dwindled away as a bull asset, and with it the foreign markets went weak. Trade was dull to the point of dreariness, there being no captain courageous on the firing line. From the Northwest came stories of fine weather and promising outlook for early seeding under the best auspices. Also came from that quarter reports of listlessness in the flour trade. Indeed, bearish sentiment is being rapidly crystallized by the fine crop reports and favorable weather for Winter wheat, prospects of early and heavy seeding of Spring and by absence of the predicted demand for cash wheat.

High prices quoted for red Winter or special fancy grades of wheat failed to bring out the enthusiastic buying that followed the announcement of such quotations a few weeks since. The fact that only very trifling sales were being made at the high quotations is fast making the general speculative trade as skeptical of the stability of such values as individual millers have been almost from the start.

WHEAT SCARCE IN NORTHWEST

Mostly in Millers' and Shippers' Hands.

Wheat trading in the Northwestern markets is now confined to the cleaning-up of odds and ends at terminal points, lots left over from cargoes and the like. For such, buyers are required to pay full prices. No large quantities are being offered on the market.

The latest transactions in club wheat on the local market have been at $1.10 per bushel, and this is the price generally asked by holders. For red Russian, $1.08 is asked and there have been sales at this figure. Bluestem is practically out of the market, only an occasional small lot being offered for sale. The best price reported paid for choice milling bluestem was $1.25. For good shipping bluestem, dealers will pay up to $1.17½.

So far as market purposes are concerned, stocks in farmers' hands in the Northwestern states may be said to be exhausted. Here and there a farmer can be found with a small quantity on hand, but it is difficult to get him to let go of it. Dealers and speculators have about all the available wheat that is left, and they, too, are slow sellers. A considerable part of the supply in the three states is in the hands of the larger millers, who early in the season bought enough to carry them through to the new crop. As for the numerous small mills scattered through the country, the majority of them will have to close down before Summer arrives and a number have already done so. They did not buy their full requirements when wheat was at its lowest and cannot afford to buy wheat now.

The total supply of wheat in all hands in the Pacific Northwest at present probably does not exceed 4,000,000 bushels. There is a continued drain on this reserve that will undoubtedly wipe it out entirely by the time new wheat is ready for market. The heaviest buyers now are the Californians, who are taking the grain out by the shipload. Texas millers and other buyers at distant points are making inquiries about Oregon and Washington grain, and as Fort Worth dealers are buying wheat in the Mississippi Valley at what would be equivalent to $1.35 here, they may soon be placing orders in this market. The entire Southwest is casting about for a source of supply.

All these factors will tend to put wheat prices in the Northwest higher than they are now. Some enthusiastic holders predict that they will yet sell their grain at $1.40 or $1.50 a bushel.

SEVENTEEN YEARS OF ABUSE TO WIFE

Mrs. Thompson Makes Severe Charges Against Oregon Millionaire Husband.

TELLS OF MURDER EFFORT

Southern Girl Relates Pitiful Story of Unhappy Married Life and Says Thompson Showed No Sorrow.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—(Special.)—Mrs. Ella G. Thompson, whose sensational suit for divorce from R. R. Thompson, formerly of Portland, has startled Bay City society, has told the story of her 17 years of married life.

There were intervals of peace, or rather interruptions of abuse during those 17 years, according to Mrs. Thompson.

"He had an idea that a few presents would make up for his abuse—he would ease his conscience by giving me jewels and other things," said the wife yesterday, "but he never showed any contrition for his actions. That was the hardest part of his nature to bear. He never thought he was in the wrong. He never could stand to have any one cross him. He didn't like me to have any opinions of my own."

Attempt to Kill.

According to Mrs. Thompson, the long siege of ill treatment, drunkenness and abuse reached its culmination on the night of March 8 at the St. Francis Hotel. "His whole idea," said Mrs. Thompson yesterday, "was to kill me that night. He announced his determination to Miss Ella Evenson, my niece. He came home terribly intoxicated and I helped to get him to bed.

"Later in the evening he got up and made a rush at me, grabbing me by the throat and starting to choke me. My niece attempted to push him away, but was unable to do so. He then attempted to hit me with a bottle, and I rushed into the corridor and collapsed. Medical aid was summoned and I was lifted back to my room. Part of the assault was witnessed by one of the bellboys, a waiter and the hotel detective. My husband left the hotel that day and has been living at the Union-square Hotel ever since.

"I have lived a life of mental and physical torture for a long time," said Mrs. Thompson. "He has never expressed any contrition for what he has done, and that makes matters all the worse. My husband could never stand anyone crossing him in the slightest particular and he did not wish me to have any opinions of my own about anything. My husband has always been a heavy drinker. I have often tried to reform him, but without success. He has twice been in the Livermore Sanatorium. The first time he went willingly, but on the second occasion he did not want to go. Dr. L. W. Stidham, of Alameda, said that he would not live unless he reformed his drinking habits."

In the complaint the wife charges Thompson with habitual intemperance; that he called her vile names about the time of the death of their second child; that at Redondo he beat and abused her in the presence of other persons and that he "beat and struck and kicked and choked" the defendant; called her opprobrious names and attempted to kill her.

Mrs. Thompson declares that she never gave the slightest cause for this cruel treatment; that she always conducted herself in a wifely manner and tried to reform her husband. The reformation proceedings consisted in taking him twice to the Livermore Sanatorium for treatment for the liquor habit.

Mrs. Thompson was Miss Ella Gertrude Roge before her marriage. Her father was in the restaurant business in this city. She was an exceptionally beautiful girl and is still in the prime of life, being only 35 years of age.

MAY BE SWIFT PROJECT

PACKERS SAID TO BE BEHIND POWER COMPANY.

Counsel for New Corporation Makes No Denial and Says Concern Has Strong Backing.

That the Oregon Light & Power Company, which was incorporated Wednesday with a capitalization of $2,000,000, is backed by the Swifts, of Chicago, was not denied yesterday. H. H. Riddell, incorporator and attorney for the company, said he could make no statement as to the names of the Chicago capitalists associated with the concern, but refused to deny that the Swifts were heavily interested.

Mr. Riddell declared that it was by no means the intention of the company to confine its operations to Portland, but that with the water power at its command it would enter the Tacoma and Seattle field. Over $50,000, he said, had already been expended in a sawmill to manufacture wood for flumes and in the purchase of water rights. On the Cowlitz River alone, he declared, the concern could generate 40,000 horsepower.

"At the present," said Mr. Riddell, "we are not thinking so much of competition as of getting our riparian rights protected thoroughly. I think there is no question but that in two years we shall be in a position to enter the electric field in the Pacific Northwest. But for the stringency of a year ago, it is more than possible that we would have been in a condition to bid for the Portland contracts that were recently awarded.

"We have at present several lawsuits on our hands, in one of which Dr. H. W. Coe, of Portland, is interested, and we also have suits on our hands at Tacoma. Before we are in a position to supply electricity we shall have to have our ground clear on this score."

HARVARD DROPS INDIANS

Football Schedule Out, and Now Includes Cornell.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 25.—The schedule for the Harvard football team for next Fall was announced tonight. A place is made for Cornell by dropping the Carlisle Indians. This marks the resumption of football relations between the two universities after a lapse of nearly 20 years. The game with Yale will be played at Cambridge November 20.

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RIVAL KILLS WIFE

Peculiar Crime Startles Village of Vincennes.

WOMAN KILLED WITH ACID

Declares Two Strangers Dragged Her Into Woodshed and Made Her Swallow Deadly Drug After Fierce Struggle.

VINCENNES, Ind., March 25.—Mrs. Jessie Overton Culbertson, the wife of Russell Culbertson, died here today under mysterious circumstances, after being found late last night lying in an unconscious condition in the woodshed of her home, suffering from carbolic acid poisoning. It was at first thought that the woman had committed suicide, but later developments make it seem certain that she was murdered by a woman who was formerly a rival for the hand of the man she married.

When found Mrs. Culbertson was lying bound and gagged, and her head was bruised, as if she had struggled against some assailant. After being carried into the house she revived, and said:

"A man and woman dragged me out of an outhouse into the woodshed and forced me to swallow something."

She then became unconscious, and remained so until her death.

Neighbors Saw Prowlers.

Several neighbors have reported to the police that they saw a man and a woman loitering about the Brasleton home.

Edna Culbertson, asked if she thought there was a possibility of her sister-in-law committing suicide, said:

"My God, how can you suggest that? If you had been with her during the past week as I have you would know as well as I that she was murdered. If you will find the woman I accuse, you will be convinced that it was murder. This woman followed Mrs. Culbertson everywhere she went. In my home one night before Jessie and Russell were married the woman I accuse swore in my presence that unless Russell married her instead of Jessie she would kill her."

The police have the name of the woman, who is said last to have been seen some time ago at Paris, Ky. The husband of the dead woman will not discuss the murder except to say he is certain the woman accused is guilty.

Last Monday, when Mrs. Culbertson went to the railroad station to buy a ticket for Lawrenceville, where she visited her husband, she discovered she was being watched by a short heavy man of middle age, who hurried to the telephone as soon as he learned her destination.

Members of the Brasleton family say they knew the house was being watched and that they notified the police and took every precaution not to leave Mrs. Culbertson alone. Her husband's parents supposed she was in the kitchen while the tragedy was being enacted in the shed.

The entire police force is investigating the case, but so far no trace of the murderers has been found.

AID FOR LOCAL DEALERS

Army Quartermasters May Now Buy 90 Per Cent of Stores Locally.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 25.—At the instance of Senator Bourne, an order has been issued by the Quartermaster-General which will result in enlarging the supply of Army stores purchased in local markets.

This order permits local Quartermasters to purchase, at their discretion, supplies approximating 90 per cent of the total purchases.

In the opinion of the Quartermaster-General the order will greatly enlarge Portland dealings.

Plan Summer Home for President.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Because Colorado is the "Nation's playground," according to ex-President Roosevelt, Representative Taylor of that state has introduced a bill appropriating $250,000 for the erection of an executive mansion at Glenwood Springs, Colo. This building will be for the use of the President and his family during the Summer months. Glenwood is near the scene of Mr. Roosevelt's hunting in 1907.

ex-presidents.

Chamberlain Brings Bills.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 25.—Senator Chamberlain introduced his first bills today. They are: To grant increases in pensions to George W. Peters, George Pierce, Cook Gamble and George W. Haylen, and to grant increases in pension to $16 to survivors of the Indian War.

Sutherland for Marshal.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—D. A. Sutherland, of Nome, is slated for appointment as United States Marshal at Juneau to succeed Marshal Shoup, resigned. Shoup's term would have expired in June, 1912. The salary is $4000 a year.

RACING MEN SUSPENDED

THREE ACCUSED OF BRIBING JOCKEY TO PULL HORSE.

In Order to Secure Rey Hindoo Cheap, Pelter Said to Have Corrupted Others.

LOS ANGELES, March 25.—The Santa Anita stewards suspended tonight three of the most prominent racing men at the track—P. J. Williams, trainer of the Pasadena stables; J. M. Stokes and John Pelter. The charges are that they were implicated in the alleged pulling of Rey Hindoo on March 18, when the horse ran what was considered a disgraceful race.

It was alleged at the hearing that Shriner, who rode Rey Hindoo, was given $350 to pull the horse. The object of the pulling, as alleged, was that after the race other owners might claim the horse without bidding for it. After the race the horse was claimed by Pelter.

Stokes, it was said, was given $1000 to give to Shriner to leave the country. The officials got wind of the transfer of the money to Shriner and prevented him from leaving the city.

The charge against Williams was that he, as trainer of Rey Hindoo, was cognizant from the first. His object, it is alleged, was to get control of the horse for his brother, owner of the Pasadena stables.

MRS. ANDERSON GIVES FUND

Daughter of Railroad Builder Aids Crippled Children.

NEW YORK, March 25.—It was learned today that the donor of the $500,000 fund to the Children's Aid Society of this city for the establishment of a sanitarium for crippled children is Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, wife of A. A. Anderson, the artist, and daughter of the late Jeremiah Milbank, founder of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad.

Pythians to Raise Funds.

CHICAGO, March 25.—At a meeting of representatives of 152 lodges of the Knights of Pythias tonight it was decided to levy a per capita tax upon the members of the order to increase the capacity of the National Pythians' Home, at Las Vegas, N. M. More cottages will be erected.

Major Richardson Goes North.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—Major W. P. Richardson, U. S. A., who is president of the military board in charge of the construction of highways in Alaska, arrived from Washington, D. C., today, en route north.

MORNINGSTAR IS VICTOR

Sutton Also Wins in Championship Billiard Contest.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Ora C. Morningstar, of this city, won from Louis Cure tonight, 500 to 322, in the 18.2 balkline billiard championship contest. George Sutton, of Chicago, easily defeated Harry P. Cline, of Philadelphia in the afternoon.

Abstract Company Sues Smith.

Alleging that O. M. Smith agreed not to go into the abstracting business for 20 years when he went to work for the Security Abstract & Trust Company, that company is suing him before Circuit Judge Gatens and asking that he be enjoined. The Title Insurance & Trust Company is also named as defendant.

Chamberlain to Speak.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 25.—Senator Chamberlain has accepted an invitation to attend a dinner of the Civil Service League, at Orange, N. J., Monday next, and speak on the subject of "Progressive Legislation."

Money for reading Gregory's ad. Page 13.

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