

STRYCHNINE IS CAUSE OF DEATH

Mrs. Pepeon Met Awful End, According to Physicians' Tests.

INQUIRY TO BE CONTINUED

Examination of Stomach of Woman, Believed Slain by Husband, May Develop Drug Enough Administered to Kill Several.

CHRONOLOGY OF PEPEON CASE.

1900—George L. Pepeon, theological student, and Edith Wolcott married at Fergus Falls, Minn.

1906—Pepeons moved to homestead near Northport, Wash.

August 29, 1909—Mrs. Pepeon dies under conditions indicating poisoning. Soon after Morton Crossman, friend of the family, and Mrs. W. D. Wolcott, mother of Mrs. Pepeon, start an investigation. Women of Woodcraft refuse to pay \$1000 life insurance policy made in favor of Pepeon.

November 23, 1909—Pepeon married Maud Keller, who had been employed in household of neighbor before Mrs. Pepeon's death.

February 22, 1910—Body of Mrs. Pepeon exhumed and stomach and other organs sent for analysis to Dr. Ralph C. Matson and Dr. George Cathey in Portland.

March 1, 1910—Pepeon arrested on murder charge and lodged in jail Colville, Wash. Man supposed to be Ray Wilcox, ex-convict, employed by Pepeon, arrested at Spokane for complicity in case.

March 4, 1910—Drs. Matson and Cathey determine that stomach of Mrs. Pepeon contained strychnine. Enough poison to cause death is found in small portion of contents of stomach.

A clinical examination of a small portion of the contents of the stomach from the body of Mrs. Pepeon, completed yesterday by Dr. Ralph C. Matson and Dr. George Cathey, of Portland, resulted in the recovery of more than one grain of strychnine, a dose which is considered fatal.

When the balance of the matter shall have been tested, it is believed that the physicians will discover that the woman was given enough of the drug to have killed several persons.

Mrs. Edith Pepeon, sister-in-law of the woman, lived in a cabin on a homestead situated six miles from Northport, in Stevens County, Wash., and it is charged that the drug was administered in a mixture prepared by her husband, George L. Pepeon and Ray Wilcox, and while she was entertaining a number of callers with oranges and apples.

Within one hour after swallowing the dose, Mrs. Pepeon is alleged to have passed into convulsions, and 15 minutes later was a corpse on the rear porch of the cabin where her husband is said to have illicitly loved the woman whom he married while living in the little Northport cemetery.

Three months after the body was raised at the earnest request of Mrs. W. D. Wolcott, mother of the dead woman, an investigation was begun which is slowly revealing the details of the plot which secured a victim in the woman who was attempting to assist in carving a home from the wilderness.

Pepeons Located North of Spokane.

In 1906 the Pepeons went to Stevens County and located a homestead of 130 miles north of Spokane. They had two children, Margaret, aged 5, and Janet, aged 3. While engaged in constructing a house on the land, the family was invited to share the cabin owned by Morton Crossman, on an adjoining claim. Crossman was an old man 63 years of age and became very fond of little Margaret, her sister and the mother. When the Pepeon home was ready for occupancy the man asked to be taken along as one of the family, promising to make Margaret his heir.

Pepeons took a girl named May Jones into the family, and Crossman charges that Pepeon became very attentive to the young wife, playing some jealousy on the part of his wife.

Close by lived another homesteader named Bleeker, whose housekeeper was Maud Keller. Pepeon is said to have become attracted by her, and to have utilized every opportunity to meet the woman. Crossman is said to have been in the neighborhood. About August 1 of last year Mrs. Edith Pepeon was induced by her husband to make application to join a lodge of the Women of Woodcraft, her application being referred to Dr. Eugene Travis, of Northport.

The medical certificate pronounced the woman to be in perfect health and on that recommendation she received a certificate of insurance in favor of her husband for \$1000.

A few days later Ray Wilcox, an ex-convict at the Washington state penitentiary, came to the Pepeon home. He had been a druggist, and had a thorough knowledge of poisons. Within a week after his advent, Mrs. Pepeon wrote her mother that she was suffering from severe stomach pains, and it has been ascertained that Mrs. Pepeon had been to the Pepeon home to see her ill neighbor.

First Attack Passes.

Mrs. Pepeon apparently recovered from that attack, and on August 29 again received a call from Mrs. Downs. There were present at the time beside the Pepeons, wife and husband, Crossman, May Jones, Ray Wilcox and Mrs. Downs. A dinner was prepared and Mrs. Pepeon ate heartily of the food, afterward going over to the organ, where she sat playing and singing for the amusement of her friends.

Pepeon and Wilcox went to an adjoining room and returned bearing a case containing a dark mixture, into which Pepeon is said to have emptied a white powder. The glass was handed to Mrs. Pepeon. After drinking it Wilcox gave her a raw egg to swallow. She turned to the organ and continued her music for some time.

Within an hour she began to complain of stomach pains, and went into convulsions. She was taken to the back porch of the cabin and placed in a chair. Within a few moments Mrs. Pepeon died, her lips covered with a white foam.

The body was taken to Northport for burial. Within an hour after the funeral Pepeon made application for the insurance money due from the Women of Woodcraft, but the physician who gave the death certificate balked at making out the insurance proofs.

Crossman, the old man, who loved

the little child, became suspicious of the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Pepeon, and communicated with the mother of the woman and told of a bottle of strychnine which he and Pepeon had purchased to poison animals and rodents. It had been hidden by them so that the children might not get it. Going to the secret receptacle, Crossman and Mrs. Wolcott found the place empty. Only Crossman and Pepeon knew of the place.

Wilcox left the Northport district immediately following the funeral of Mrs. Pepeon, and was only recently arrested in Spokane, where he is held for identification.

Pepeon Annoyed Engagement.

Pepeon remained in the Northport country, and six weeks after the death of his wife announced his engagement to Maud Keller. It was necessary for the Keller woman to procure a divorce, but in three months that difficulty was overcome and the wedding celebrated.

Pepeon is said to have been a former divinity student, and it was while filling itinerant pulpits, engagements in Minnesota that he met Edith Wolcott. Their two children are now in possession of the grandmother, at 111 East Forty-seventh street.

FORESTS FEED CAPITAL

LOGIC OF EVENTS EXCLUDES SMALL OPERATIONS.

Size of Required Investment Necessitates Correspondingly Large Timber Holdings.

The following article was written by a surveyor of distinction, who also is a timberman, and whose lifetime has been spent in the North Pacific States, and whose knowledge of the subject treated is not excelled by any.

BAKER CITY, Or., March 4.—(To the Editor.)—In respect to the term, "Conservation of Natural Resources," a study of the history of the development of the Pacific Coast states of Washington, Oregon and the northern part of California is well worth the time expended. These states have supplied nearly all the lumber, spars and piles used in the countries and islands in and around the Pacific Ocean. As early as 1850 there was an imperative demand for lumber in California that had to be met immediately, as well as a long and urgent demand for finished lumber products in Oregon and Washington. As a result small mills were established at Humboldt, Coos Bay, Portland and Puget Sound to supply the necessities of the occasion.

Day of Small Operator First.

It must be remembered that at this time the government surveys had not been extended over any part of these territories. Of course, the timber was taken from government land—a most heinous offense, a modern conservationist would say—but our Congress and the Department were preoccupied by the main, common sense men who knew the conditions that confronted the people and they were not pestered by a lot of special agents until after surveys were made and legal title could be obtained, when the Government took just measures for its protection. After the surveys were made and the lands were offered for sale any one could buy "offered" lands in any amount he wished and where he wished, except school sections and Government reserves, at the price of \$100 per acre. This was the day of the small operator. With a cash outlay of \$1000 he could get title to a tract of land containing from 20,000,000 feet to 40,000,000 feet of merchantable timber. With another thousand dollars he could secure the necessary equipment for logging operations.

More Capital Now Needed.

These conditions lagged until the available timber along the banks of the bays and rivers became exhausted and it was necessary to move further back to get timber, with long and expensive roads, after this another move back and here is where he was compelled to part with his vagaries and railroad locomotive. The small operator is now eliminated entirely, not because any one wished to, but by the inexorable logic of events. The lumberman now must be possessed of capital to build a road costing from \$10,000 to \$50,000 or more, and it is necessary to have a large amount of timber large enough to justify this great preliminary outlay. If he does not own or control timber enough he will not build a road. Those further up the road he is at the mercy of scores of forest rangers or small holders of the land, who are in possession of opinions and combinations to get the better of him.

This brings the subject squarely up against the logic of the Government acquiring any man or association of men to acquire large holdings of natural resources, and timber is one of them. The world needs the timber in all the various ways to which it is put, but in a very short time it will need the land and timber much more than it will need the timber.

Logged Off Land Valuable.

This fact is already becoming evident from the fact that logged off lands are now being sold for actual use, not to speak of speculative prices near towns and cities. There are thousands of acres of timber on the one soil that should be given over to actual settlers instead of being sequestered from the best of practical uses to all eternity by the Government, that a few faddists may have glory and emolument therefrom. It is not desirable that all the forest reserves be restored to settlement, provided that the state and county in which it is situated gets its just share of the revenues derived from it, but every acre that is susceptible of cultivation should be restored and only that portion which by reason of its rough, broken character or altitude, renders it unfit for agricultural purposes should be retained in the reserve. The East has had the free use of its natural resources in the development of that part of the country and it is not just to the West that it should be hampered and hindered in its development by the withdrawal of its lands by Eastern indoor theorists.

Rainfall Not Affected.

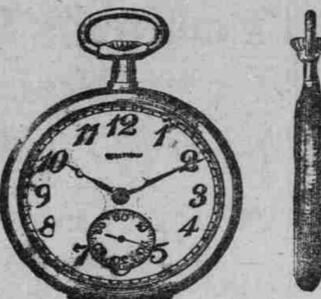
The state of Texas owns her own lands and should take no detrimental interest in the disposal of the lands of the West. The writer has had actual personal knowledge and experience of the conditions and development of the Pacific Coast for over 60 years and has naturally drawn conclusions on the subject. One conclusion is that the timber is the result of climatic conditions and not the cause of it as some assert. The rainfall would be the same whether the timber is removed or not. The moisture laden atmosphere from the Pacific Ocean, or elsewhere, on reaching the hills and mountain ranges is cooled and precipitation occurs whether there is timber or not. Provide the seed and forests result.

The other natural resources, coal, iron and water power, each would demand attention beyond the scope of this article. But attention will be paid to them in due time.

J. D. W. SHELTON.

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MAN FLIES AGAIN

Swoops Down in Front of Auto Going Full Speed.

FLIES ACROSS COUNTRY

Reaches Altitude of 500 Feet, but Today Will Make Ten Flights and Will Try to Go Higher—Donnelly Will Try Again.

(Continued From First Page.)

Third to Front were able to board the cars at all. Commencing at Front street the aviation man through commenced climbing on the cars as they crossed the river. Those further up the street realizing that unless they, too, drew nearer to the river they would be unable to get on the cars, pressed down until a great mass of probably 4000 persons had crowded into the street.

The rush for the cars was terrific. Portland has never seen anything like it before. Women sprang onto the steps of moving cars and clung there until a way could be forced inside. Boys, hardly out of dresses, crawled between the legs of men on the rear steps until a place could be found to straighten up.

Others, unable to get inside, clamored on top. One conductor, who had the nerve to tackle his upper-deck passengers, collected fares from 31 persons. Dozens of small boys, seeing the opportunity to beat their way to the

A LETTER AND IT'S SEQUEL

Bethlehem, N. Y., July 30, 1909. John J. Fulton Company—Gentlemen: I have a case of Bright's Disease here that it will be worth your while to follow up. If cured it will be the greatest ad you could have. She stands on the Renal Compound about a week ago. An examination shows very bad kidneys, about thirty years old, the child, the wife of Arthur Bowles.

Respectfully, SMITH'S PHARMACY. We wrote as requested.

We now have the following: John J. Fulton Co.—Gentlemen: Mrs. Bowles has taken five bottles of the Renal Compound and am thankful to say that there is a decided change. We had about given up hope. Your agent desired to have her take it about a year ago, but we had tried so many doctors and medicines that we did not have any more faith. It is a great mystery to us that the physicians do not all use a medicine that has such curative power in Bright's Disease.

Please send circulars to Mr. George Brown, who also has kidney disease. Yours truly, ARTHUR E. BOWLES. It is possible that letters like these do not carry a message to the poor unfortunate who is down with kidney disease and has been told he cannot recover. Physicians are more and more coming to this treatment and have already saved all over the country. For Bright's Disease and kidney trouble get Fulton's Renal Compound. If patients do not begin to note improvement by the third bottle we desire to have them write us for advice and instruction. Literature mailed free. Address the John J. Fulton Company, 645 Battery St., San Francisco, Cal.

grounds, being penniless, climbed to the tops of the cars.

Streetcar Company Censured.

The streetcar system was incapable of meeting the situation, because the crowd was far greater than anybody had anticipated. Thousands unable to reach the grounds, went elsewhere. Complaints about inadequate car service were many, although officials of the company declared they were using all equipment. At the close of the exhibition thousands of persons walked as far as a mile and even further down the East Ankeny street line toward the city, boarding outbound cars. Although filled to capacity the cars were run to the end of the line, making an unnecessary distance of as far as three miles.

Though the day's exhibition closed at 4:30 o'clock and thousands had previously taken the cars, it was 7 o'clock before all had been taken to the city. The O. R. & N. came in for its share of complaints. After a ten-minute service had been advertised it was charged that the company operated only one of its four specials every hour, starting at noon. This is probably accounted for by the fact that a misunderstanding existed as to what was meant by a "ten-minute service." What the company meant, they said, in connection with the "ten-minute service" was the time consumed by the cars between the Union Depot and the grounds and not that a train would leave every ten minutes.

Attendance Estimated 50,000.

It was impossible last night to secure definite figures on the attendance yesterday. From reports made by the street railway company, the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Co. and the meat management, it was estimated at between 50,000 and 60,000. The former figures, however, were agreed upon as conservative.

The estimate, classified, is as follows: East Ankeny-street carline, 7000. O. R. & N., four special trains, 2000. Mount Tabor carline, 5000. Montavilla carline, 2000.

Automobile, livery and private, 500. Those walking from surrounding districts, 7000.

Many Hundreds Kept Away.

These estimates are thought to be conservative. They total 35,000. That named in the last classification is thought to be even ultra-conservative as it was well nigh impossible after 1 o'clock to get a car east of Grand avenue. Had the car service been better, a rough estimate has been made that 500 more would have attended. Hundreds gave up the task of getting a car in disgust after waiting for two or three hours.

On the cars the crowd was not well behaved. It certainly was not the kind intent on seeing a ball game. A feverish desire to get there and witness the wonderful performance of this new conqueror of the air seemed to predominate.

The splendor of the day's weather conditions, the clear sky, the brilliantly shining sun, with just enough tinge in the atmosphere to make one appreciate the joy of living, all had a part in drawing out the great attendance. In this respect, at least, the gods smiled on the meet. In some other they frowned.

Price of Admission Cut.

After reaching the vicinity of the grounds about one in every ten persons planked down his dollar and went inside. The others remained out and from every available point where a view might be obtained there was presented to those from the field below a black mass of excited humanity.

As a result of this situation, the committee responsible for this latest opportunity in the amusement line in Portland, will be personally losing about \$4000. This estimate includes an optimistic view of today's attendance. The price of admission was changed yesterday from \$2 for entrance and grandstand to a general \$1 admission. For today this will be cut in half, the general admission and grandstand tickets being 50 cents. This is apparently in the realization that too much has been charged.

As an extra inducement it is promised that today will be the feature day of the meet. Each of the two

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All Kinds of Lamps, Cooking and Heating Devices, Flat Irons and Other Electric Material

Portland Railway, Light & Power Co.

other days Hamilton has made six ascents. Today he will make 10 flights, and the weather permitting, will attempt several spectacular feats not yet performed here.

Hamilton Flies Cross Country. For the first time since his flight at San Diego, Cal., soon after the Los Angeles meet, Hamilton yesterday made a short, though extremely interesting cross-country flight. After flying around the course for two minutes he struck out for Stony Butte, less than two miles distant. The butte is more of a ridge than a mountain, though about 200 feet high. He passed over the top and started back, having reached an altitude of slightly over 500 feet. For some time it was almost impossible for the naked eye to tell whether he was returning or still continuing eastward. Soon, however, the thin planes of the machine became more clearly visible and what had been a tiny cross against the blue sky, almost directly in line with the summit of Mount Hood, broadened out until the lines were more distinct. While yet a considerable distance away Hamilton shut off his motor and accomplished what has come to be known as the "Hamilton glide" in the most beautiful and daring manner yet seen here. It appeared that he would surely light in the midst of the great throng of gaping spectators on the field, but instead, though only about 100 feet from the earth, he swerved his machine gracefully to the right and alighted with indescribable ease and grace at the spot from which he had started.

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No other dentists in this city have the plant adapted to this work, while we have spent enormous sums of money rebuilding our quarters, for the express purpose of carrying on the PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY according to the WYTHE SYSTEM, and the WYTHE SYSTEM will not be used in any other office in this city.

Hundreds of people are taking advantage of this great opportunity to have their teeth put in order by DR. WYTHE'S DENTISTS, with his SCIENTIFIC, PAINLESS METHODS.

We are giving away THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS' worth of dental work now, and all that is necessary for you to do is to come and have your teeth examined by Dr. Wythe's Dentists in order to receive the benefit of our FREE offer, as each patient will receive a certain amount of dental work without charge to introduce our system and encourage the public to visit and inspect our beautiful and elaborately equipped office.

DR. WYTHE'S DENTISTS, Inc., 148 Fifth St., Opposite Meier & Frank's Fifth-Street Entrance. Hours, 8:30 to 6; Sundays, 8:30 to 2. Lady assistant always in attendance.

A New Departure

The cost of interments have been greatly reduced by the Holman Undertaking Company. Heretofore it has been the custom of funeral directors to make charges for a incidental connected with a funeral. The Edward Holman Undertaking Company, the leading funeral directors of Portland, have departed from that custom. When a casket is furnished by us we charge no extra for embalming, hearse to cemetery, outside box or any services that may be required, except clothing, caskets and carriages, thus effecting a saving of \$25 to \$75 on each funeral.

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