

VOL. L—NO. 15,655.

## HOUSE WON'T LET STENER TALK NOW

### Committee Not to Heed Doctor's Prayer.

## ASYLUM HEAD UPBRAIDS WOOD

### Resolution in to Allow Superintendent to Explain.

## INQUIRY WANTED FIRST

### Refusal of Representatives to Report on Request to Make Defense on Floor Is Likely to Add to Salem Fight.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Failure of the House resolutions committee tomorrow morning to report favorably on Reynolds' resolution inviting Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner, superintendent of the insane asylum, to appear before a joint assembly of both houses next Tuesday to defend himself against charges of extravagance and mismanagement, will serve only to add fuel to the asylum controversy which already is a good-sized wordy conflagration.

Representative Reynolds this afternoon offered a resolution proposing that, in the interest of fair play and for the information of the general public, Superintendent Steiner be asked to appear before the members of the two houses at 10 o'clock, Tuesday morning, and answer the accusations that have been made against him and his administration of affairs at the asylum.

The resolution further proposed that the head of the asylum should submit to all interrogations that might be addressed to him by the members of the House and Senate touching on the affairs of the institution and its management.

This course was suggested by Reynolds in his resolution, which, it is understood, was prepared at Steiner's request, that the controversy might receive the fullest possible publicity.

### Committee to Oppose Plan.

The resolutions committee to which the Reynolds resolution was referred, tonight decided not to report the resolution to the House in the morning. If a report is made, it is expected that it will be a negative one.

Members of the committee are not acquainted with conditions at the asylum, said Chairman Buchanan, of the resolutions committee, tonight. "The report which has been made by the legislative committee appointed two years ago, is only a superficial one and does not deal in specific charges of extravagance or mismanagement. Until we have such a report, a satisfactory conference, including interrogation of the superintendent, should not be held."

### Report Only Meager.

Friends of Superintendent Steiner, however, will make an effort to force a report from the committee even though it be unfavorable and threaten the matter out on the floor. They insist that in view of the general charges made against Steiner by the legislative committee of two years ago and the specific charges preferred against him by Senator Bowerman, he is entitled with further delay to an opportunity to appear before the Legislature, meet the accusations and if possible vindicate himself of the charges.

### Committee Not Named.

Friends of Steiner allege that the resolutions committee, by its action, is seeking to force the appointment by Speaker Rusk of the special House committee of five members to inquire into the management of the asylum. Such a resolution was adopted by the House yesterday but the Speaker failed to make the expected announcement of the committee this morning.

Early this afternoon Superintendent Steiner and Senator Wood, in the presence of E. Hofer, of this city, and Dr. Dr. George S. Wright, of McMinnville, a former member of the Senate, had a warty combat in one of the washrooms in the Capitol over the report of the special legislative committee on Steiner's management of the asylum. It was a chance meeting of the superintendent and the State Senator who was a member of the investigating committee from the Legislature. A personal encounter was only averted by the interference of Wright and Hofer.

"It is not a fact that the first thing the members of your investigating committee did when they reached the asylum was to 'hit the whiskey bottle,'" inquired Steiner of Wood.

Senator Wood denied the accusation. "It is true," shouted Steiner advancing.

## NEW POTATO KING DEPOSES SHIMA

### MAURICE ZUCKERMAN INVADERS FIELD AND RULES MARKET.

### Expecting Shortage, Californian Corners Supply and Bids Fair to Make Fortune.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Maurice Zuckerman, head of a large produce house and formerly Southern California agent for George Shima, the Japanese "potato king," has gone in for the spud monarchy on his own account and apparently has Shima fairly deposed.

Potatoes cost half as much again as they did a year ago, because of last year's general shortage. Zuckerman foresaw, apparently, before Shima, that there would be a consequent shortage this season, and began "cornering" six months ago.

Zuckerman invaded Shima's territory, buying all the river and highland stock he could get and simply holding it. Then he sent agents to Idaho, the next source of supply, tying up practically the whole crop. Other producing sections, including Oregon, were not overlooked. "Now the effect is felt."

The "new king" is holding all his San Joaquin potatoes for the San Francisco market and supplying the South from Idaho. Produce men here find it impossible to get rivers or highlands. Prices are going up almost daily.

Zuckerman, being a wise monarch, is not trying to realize all at once, nor is he trying to squeeze prices to the hilt, but is letting out enough to the demands fairly and keep away Colorado and other distant potatoes. His holdings are known to be enormous, a third greater, indeed, than Shima was ever able to control, and he will make a fortune if nothing interferes.

Jobbers say prices will increase \$1 a hundred pounds before April.

## BERTHS MUST BE BOUGHT

### Pullman Reservations to Require Cash in Future, Say Officials.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Travelers desirous of securing Pullman accommodations soon will have either to make full prepayment of their Pullman fare at time reservation is made or wait until the time of train departure and take their chances of securing space, if a plan being considered by the Western railroads is put into effect.

At a meeting just held by the heads of the passenger traffic departments of the largest lines in the West, the matter was given consideration, and definite action upon it postponed only because the new Pullman rates are to go into effect on February 1, and the passenger traffic officials decided to defer final consideration until after the new tariffs have been issued.

It is asserted that the railroads now labor under a great inconvenience and unnecessary expense because of lax regulations surrounding the manner in which sleeping car reservations can be made.

## OIL TRUST IN LIBEL SUIT

### Standard Sues Hampton's Publishers for \$250,000 Damages.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—The Standard Oil Company brought suit in the United States Circuit Court today for \$250,000 damages against the Broadway Publishing Company, Inc., publishers of Hampton's Magazine, and Cleveland Moffatt, the magazine's writer.

The current issue of Hampton's contains an article in which it is alleged that subsidiaries of the Standard sell glucose to confectioners.

"The only possible connection between the Standard and the manufacturers of glucose," said counsel for the Standard, "is that two men who make glucose are on the Standard directorate."

So far as is recalled the Standard has never brought suit before against any of the many publications that have attacked it.

## MOB DENOUNCES LEASE

### Ecuadorians Object to Giving Uncle Sam Galapagos Isles.

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Jan. 27.—Immense crowds paraded through the streets last night in protest against the proposal to lease the Galapagos Islands to the United States.

The demonstrators gathered in front of the house occupied by President Alfaro, who is stopping here and who is the government and Archer Harmon, president of the Guayaquil & Quito Railway Company, who is regarded as being responsible for the project of leasing the islands.

Troops summoned to guard the palace dispersed the crowds.

## OSTRICH EGG ON MENU

### Phoenix to Weigh Roosevelt Before and After Eating Omelet.

EL PASO, Tex., Jan. 27.—The Southwest is ablaze with enthusiasm over the impending visit of Theodore Roosevelt. At Phoenix, Ariz., March 18, arrangements are under way to serve the Colonel a unique breakfast of a specially prepared omelet made of an ostrich egg. The omelet will be weighed before and after he tackles it, and Roosevelt will be weighed after he finishes. It is also proposed to have a roasted ostrich in the center of the breakfast table. The breakfast will be given in the open and it is expected 1000 citizens of Phoenix will attend.

## LAW WILL WATCH DANVILLE POLLS

### Grand Jury "Guard" Is Named by Judge.

### Expecting Shortage, Californian Corners Supply and Bids Fair to Make Fortune.

## QUICK PUNISHMENT ASSURED

### Vote Trafficking and Intimidation to Be Sought.

## COURT DELIVERS EDICT

### Action Is Taken Because of Revolt of Inquisitorial Body—Newspaper Men Are Questioned Regarding Close Secrets.

DANVILLE, Ill., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Elections in Speaker Cannon's ballroom are henceforth to be held under the grand jury spotlight. Twenty-three men will be on close guard as the voters march to the polls and "borderline" justice will be meted out to all culprits. Vote-trafficking and intimidation of voters are to be the targets of their efforts.

This ultimatum was delivered this afternoon by Circuit Judge E. R. E. Kimbrough at the close of an eventful day. The "vote fraud" grand jury had all but revolted and 50 witnesses had become possessed of a dementia peculiar to Danville at this time, namely, that of forgetfulness. They could remember nothing of vote-buying and selling in the last 18 months.

The revolt of the grand jury started seriously enough and ended in a comedy.

### Newspaper Men Subpoenaed.

Some one made it known that Chicago newspaper men had some access to grand jury secrets and early this morning the newspapermen were hurried to the grand jury chambers for an investigation. After the writers had been haled before the grand jury, however, no one connected with the case would admit having issued the subpoenas.

More than 100 subpoenas for ward captains and precinct workers of both parties were issued by the grand jury later in the day and a general rounding up of the witnesses was soon begun by a score of deputy sheriffs. All of the summonses were made returnable Monday.

City Attorney Frank W. Jones, who has been under fire on charges of vote buying in Sheriff Shepard's campaign and who has been reported missing, also came back into publicity. His attorney, James Dwyer, appeared at the Courthouse and delivered a letter to the grand jury which stated that he had not been evading service, but had been ill and would appear as a willing witness on next Monday.

### Jones Alleged Paymaster.

Jones was accused a few days ago by R. T. Frankenberg and other witnesses of having been paymaster in the (Concluded on Page 5.)

## PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS NUMEROUS.

So many improvements of a public or semi-public nature are under way in Portland that a complete review of them can be presented only in a large special number, such as the Fiftieth Anniversary Edition of The Oregonian, to be published February 4. At that time The Oregonian will cover the field thoroughly, and the showing will reflect much credit on the city.

Dr. J. R. Wetherbee, of the Park Board, will tell of the purchase and improvement of parks; J. C. Ainsworth, of the Water Board, will describe the new pipe line that will double the city's water supply; Lionel R. Webster, of the Oregon Good Roads Association, will call attention to what is being done for better highways throughout the state; President Foster will write on the Reed Institute and what it means to Portland, and E. H. Bennett will outline the "city beautiful" plan that he has prepared.

These are only a few of the contributed articles which will cover some phase of Portland's progress. There are other contributions along the same line, from well-known citizens, in addition to much material prepared by writers on The Oregonian staff.

## TEN WANT WHIPPING-POST

### House, However, Aids in Wiping Out "Blur on Statute-Books."

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—With only ten dissenting votes, the House today passed Buchanan's bill abolishing the whipping post. By the provisions of the bill wife beating is made punishable in the same manner as other aggravated cases of assault and battery.

The debate on the bill, which was defeated in the Legislature two years ago, was brief. Buchanan argued that the law was a blur on the statute books of the state, while its enforcement did not deter any man from beating his wife.

Eaton insisted that the law was a measure of prevention and should be retained on the statute books. Peterson and Smith concurred in this view, the Josephine County man pointing out that the public whipping of a man for beating his wife was less barbarous than to send him to the penitentiary.

Those voting against the bill were: Chambers, Derby, Eaton, Gill, Graves, Neuner, Pierce, Peterson, Rackliff, Shaw, Smith, Sutton and Speaker Rusk. The absentees were: Bonebrake, Bryant, Carter, Eggleston, Lelienweber, Magone, Mann and Rushlight.

## DEATH WINS RACE O'ER SEA

### St. Louisian Dies When Son Reaches New York From Europe.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Through the fog that held John M. Switzer a prisoner on board the steamship Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm and checked his race from Europe to the bedside of his dying father in St. Louis, a wireless message came today apprising him of his father's death last night.

A tug held in readiness to convey Switzer to Jersey City, and a special train awaiting there to rush him to St. Louis were dismissed upon the receipt of the message.

## RECIPROCITY HAS STORMY OUTLOOK

### Doomed in Senate, Even if It Wins in House.

### But Taft Will Stand Firm

### If Republicans Reject Deal, He May Try Democrats.

## NEVER MORE IN EARNEST

### President Intends to Stay With It This Session and if Necessary Call Extra Session—He Wants Cost of Living Cut.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Snags began to loom up in the pathway of the Canadian reciprocity agreement today before it had been in the hands of Congress 24 hours and confident predictions of its failure were made by pillars of the protective tariff faith.

It was said that, even should the House accept the terms of the arrangement (which Republican high tariff advocates did not concede for a moment) it could not pass the Senate.

These prospects were carried to the White House today by members who visited the President, ostensibly on other business, but instead of their creating a pessimistic feeling there, Mr. Taft, it is said, received them with smiles, which indicated that one defeat would not turn him from his purpose.

### Taft May "Put It Up" to Democrats.

If his own party, before surrendering control of the House of Representatives, fails to seize the opportunity of putting in this reciprocity agreement, the President, it is believed, will not hesitate to submit his programme to the Democrats, perhaps even in an extra session of Congress.

One man in the confidence of the President, who has been the Administration mouthpiece on more than one occasion, came from the White House today with the declaration that the proposed Canadian arrangement would not die an easy death while Taft was in the White House.

"The President was never more in earnest in his life," said he. "He intends to stay with it through this session and to carry it to the next, if necessary. He would not hesitate to call an extra session if he thought such a course necessary."

### Cost of Living Would Fall.

Mr. Taft believes the mutual concessions arranged by the United States and Canada, especially the large number of articles of foodstuffs which would be put on the free list, propose a great humanitarian movement that ultimately would mean a material reduction in the cost of living. He believes that, if the promised reductions are not at once apparent, the very presence of this document in Congress will prove

## BALLPLAYER MAY SUCCEED NORTON

### Taft's New Secretary Likely to Be Leroy Vernon.

### Graduate of Everett High School in Line for Confidential Position With President.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Word has been received by Postmaster Vernon, of Everett, from Washington, D. C., that his son, Leroy Vernon, correspondent for the Chicago News at the National Capital, is in line for appointment as secretary to President Taft. Secretary Norton will resign in March.

Leroy Vernon is well known, both in Everett and Seattle, as a baseball player. Before his graduation from the University of Chicago in 1909, he played four years on the varsity team and often appeared on the local diamonds in vacations. He was one of the first graduates of the Everett High School.

For eight years he has been Washington correspondent for the Chicago News. He is a member of the executive committee of the Gridiron Club and chairman of the committee on programme and arrangements of that club.

## NOTED SCIENTIST DEAD

### Professor Frederick G. Hesse Was Member of Parallel Commission.

OAKLAND, Jan. 27.—Professor Frederick G. Hesse, of the University of California, died at his home here today at the age of 86 years. Old age is given as the cause.

Professor Hesse was connected with the departments of mathematics and mechanical engineering for 23 years. At the beginning of the Civil War, Hesse was one of the defenders of the National Capitol, at Washington, and in 1869 was appointed a member of the United States Naval astronomical expedition to the Southern Hemisphere. He served as consulting engineer and was also a member of the commission appointed by Congress to establish the 46th parallel, which is located between Oregon and Washington.

### TRUCK RACE RUINS ROADS

### Voters Must Pay \$10,000 to Repair Damages of Test.

Ten thousand dollars' worth of county roads by the line of auto trucks which were used in the test of the Portland Automobile Show. A report to this effect was made to the County Court and Commissioners yesterday by County Road Supervisors.

As a result of making the test following heavy rains which softened the roads, repair work will have to be undertaken at an early date, the supervisors report. The loss falls upon taxpayers.

It is the intention of the County Court and Commissioners to communicate with those responsible and prevent a repetition of the test. The damage is on Vancouver Avenue and the Sandy Bass Lane and Foster roads.

## PROFIT IN WEEK \$1000

### Lot at Eleventh and Mill Shows Gain on Quick Turn.

One thousand dollars in one week was the profit realized by I. R. Johnson, who bought the northeast corner of Eleventh and Mill for \$11,000 ago from Morris Marks for \$10,000. The property is 60 by 75 feet. It was turned again yesterday through the agency of M. E. Lee, the purchaser being Minnie M. Lee. She probably will erect a four-story brick apartment-house, possibly with stores on the ground floor, in the near future.

### CHICAGO CARS MAY STOP

### Strike of 8000 Railway Men Over Wages Is Imminent.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Chicago is threatened today with one of the greatest labor disturbances in its history. A strike of 8000 streetcar men, meaning a stop of all surface lines in the city, is possible, on account of differences between the scale of wages paid by the Chicago Railways Company and the Chicago City Railroad Company.

So serious has the situation become that today Mayor Busse intervened in an effort to prevent a possible repetition of the scenes of violence and bloodshed which marked the last streetcar strike in Chicago and have accompanied these labor struggles in other cities.

## CREW PRAYS FOR SAFETY

### Kneeling on Deck of Speranza Men Petition for Prosperous Voyage.

ASTORIA, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Kneeling on the deck, with heads bared, officers and crew of the Italian ship Speranza this afternoon offered prayers for a safe voyage. For more than five minutes, in accordance with an ancient Italian naval custom, the men, led by Captain Luddanza, continued their invocations despite a drizzling rain that fell.

The Speranza left out immediately following the religious rites, bound for Sydney, Australia. She carries 2,000,000 feet of lumber.

## RUINED GAMESTER IS SLAIN IN DUEL

### Forcing Return of Cash, He Is Shot Dead.

### ANTAGONIST SAYS IT'S SUICIDE

## SAN FRANCISCO IS SCENE OF CLIMAX TO TRAGEDY.

### BOY TRIES TO SAVE HIM

### Rendered Desperate by Losses, Gustave Postler Holds Up Gambling-House—Owner Borrows Policeman's Gun and Fights.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—Bankrupted by his losses in gambling resorts, which his wife and young son had vainly begged the police to stop, Gustave Postler, a contracting painter, held up the bank at the Saratoga Social Club today and was shot dead in the revolver duel which followed with Ed Krupp, proprietor of the resort, his 14-year-old son witnessing his death.

The lad had rushed in to prevent bloodshed when he saw Krupp get a gun from a policeman and run back to the room where Postler was holding the attaches of the place at bay while backing from the room with \$1000 in coin, taken from the dealer in charge.

Krupp is in jail, charged with murder. He told the detectives that the last shot of the interchange was fired by Postler into his own breast, when he found himself trapped and sorely wounded. The result of the autopsy, held this evening, tends to confirm this (Concluded on Page 4.)

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