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LUMBER COMBINE NOT ENCOURAGED

Wickersham as Sphinx to Coast Men

CAPITAL MAY TAKE FRIGHT

Piles and Pierce Quit Washington Disappointed.

FINANCIAL AID IS SOUGHT

Attorney-General Withholds Opinion as to Whether Proposed Merger in Oregon and Washington Is Legal.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 27.—Attorney-General Wickersham today declined to give any opinion, officially or privately, as to legal right of tidewater lumber mills of Oregon and Washington to form a great merger, as has recently been proposed, and refused also to indicate whether such a merger, if formed, would be attacked by the Government as being in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Ex-Senator Piles and Mr. Pierce left for New York tonight. They intend to call upon capitalists whose financial aid is sought, and explain to them the attitude of the Attorney-General. They were not in optimistic frame of mind when they left Washington, fearing that capital will be disinclined to go into a merger of this sort which may be attacked and dissolved by the courts on motion of the Government.

Ex-Senator Piles and Mr. Pierce on Friday explained in great detail purposes of proposed merger and said that millmen were desirous of securing financial aid from New York, but feared this would be difficult unless some assurance could be had in advance that the Government would not attack the merger.

The Attorney-General did not give any expression of opinion at that time, but in his letter, which reached ex-Senator Piles today, explained the reason for his refusal to pass upon the question, which, he said, is not properly before his department. Mr. Wickersham, in his letter, said he was not authorized by law to pass upon the legality of any proposed corporation prior to its formation and explained that to do so might embarrass not only this, but following Administrations, as any opinion from him now might rightfully be construed as outlining the attitude of the Government.

Moreover, he said that, until a corporation is actually formed and in operation, it would be difficult to determine whether it was proceeding in accordance with or in violation of the Sherman act.

SAWMILL MEN ARE GLOOMY

Wickersham's Refusal to Give Opinion Blow to Merger Plans.

SEATTLE, Wash., Nov. 27.—The proposed gigantic merger of 60 tidewater sawmills in Oregon and Washington has met with a serious reverse in the refusal of Attorney-General Wickersham to pass upon the articles of incorporation of the Pacific Coast Lumber Company, according to word received here today.

The articles, drawn in the office of Samuel H. Piles, ex-United States Senator, were taken to Washington by Mr. Piles, who asked Mr. Wickersham to examine them and give an opinion whether they conformed to the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law. Mr. Piles said in Washington today: "The Attorney-General took the position that he was not authorized by law to pass on articles of incorporation. He declined to give us an opinion. He feared that if he did take action it might not only embarrass the present but future Administrations, as the plan might not work out as anticipated."

Henry J. Pierce, of Spokane, the originator of the merger plan, and Mr. Piles went to New York tonight to consult the capitalists who had agreed to finance the deal. There is said to be a serious question whether or not the merger can be accomplished in the absence of assurance from Federal authorities that it will be legal. The promoters promised Western mill men that there would be no interference by Federal authorities and it was understood here that similar assurances were given Eastern financiers interested in the scheme.

General W. H. Beck Dead.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—Brigadier-General William H. Beck, retired, is dead at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in this city. He was the father of Captain Paul Beck, one of the Army aviators.

ATTACKS AT SALEM BECOME MYSTERY

MAN WAYLAIN NEAR SCENE OF ONSET OF DR. SMITH.

Assault on Attendant at Feeble-Minded School Makes Escape. Circumstances Suppressed.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 27.—(Special.)—Attacked by a thug at the identical spot where Dr. Frank E. Smith, superintendent of the State School for the Feeble Minded was shot at a week ago, Attendant Wright, of the same school, was the victim of an assault Saturday night, and his story adds to the mystery which surrounds the shooting of a week before. The latter episode was preceded by anonymous threats against the superintendent's life.

Wright had started from the institution to the city when a man climbed the fence and walked toward him, leaning in his face, and suddenly he hit Wright. The attendant hit back with an umbrella he was carrying. After a scuffle Wright's assailant darted across the road, jumped the fence and disappeared in a field. Superintendent Smith now holds the view that a crazed man was the principal of each attack.

Regardless of Governor West's statement just before leaving that news at the state institutions would no longer be suppressed, the attack of Saturday night was as carefully suppressed as the attack of the week previous.

VAGRANT ROBBER POTS 3

Highwayman Shoots Men and Goes on His Way Unmolested.

SEATTLE, Wash., Nov. 27.—(Special.)—With a wanton disregard for the lives of other people, a highwayman yesterday afternoon successfully shot Albert Brown, William Manilla and John Mela, about five miles north-east of Edmonds. All three of the victims, although seriously wounded, are not in imminent danger.

Brown and Manilla were walking along a railroad track owned by the Brown's Bay Logging Company when a man appeared and opened fire on them. The first bullet passed through Brown's right hand and found lodgment in William Manilla's leg. Manilla dropped and Brown started to run, the highwayman taking two shots at him as he fled. A short distance further down the track the highwayman met Mela and took a shot at him, the bullet passing through his arm. Mela dropped and the bandit then robbed him of \$3 and a watch. The wounded men were brought to town for medical treatment on the Seattle-Everett interurban.

ACTRESS' DOGS BURNED UP

Ethel Barrymore's Baby's Crib Lost, Too; \$100 Asked for It.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—(Special.)—Russell Griswold Colt, husband of Ethel Barrymore, the actress, today brought suit against the Atlas Insurance Company, of London, to recover \$100, the alleged loss sustained by him in a fire which destroyed a stable connected with his summer home at Mamaroneck last Spring.

Some of the items given in the complaint are: One baby crib, valued at \$100; basket of his little son, \$100; four summer hats of Miss Barrymore, \$40; Scotch terrier, \$175; Highland terrier, \$75; two canoes, valued at \$25 each, and one trunk containing theatrical costumes owned by his wife, \$500.

OREGON HELD BY WIRELESS

Famous Battleship Called at Sea and Ordered Back to Bay City.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 27.—Before the battleship Oregon, which left this harbor late today for the Bremerton Navy-yard on Puget Sound, had proceeded far beyond the Golden Gate, she was recalled by wireless on orders from Washington.

The Oregon put back into the harbor at about dusk tonight. No significance is thought to attach to the Oregon's recall. It is believed that the vessel will remain here for members of a board of inspection that will visit the Sound.

BRIDE "SET" IN HER WAY

Portland Girl Goes 4000 Miles to Wed, and Won't Promise to Obey.

ELGIN, Ill., Nov. 27.—Miss Mabel Walter Hough, of Portland, Or., forced her fiancé, Heinrich Housau, to accompany her on a 4000-mile journey that she might be married by George R. Thompson, Police Magistrate of Elgin, father of the "obeyless wedding ritual."

The bride said that she wouldn't promise to obey any man.

SANTA FE SNOWED UNDER

Damage to Railroad and Stock Is Felt in Southwest.

SANTA FE, N. M., Nov. 27.—The heaviest snowstorm experienced here in years began last night and continued until noon, the drifts being high at some places. The temperature last night dropped to 13 degrees above zero and railroads are hampered, while damage to stock on the ranges is inevitable.

IRISH ACTORS ARE PELTED WITH EGGS

Riot Marks Premier in New York Theater.

TEN IN AUDIENCE ARRESTED

Hot Reception Is Given "Play Boy of the Western World."

"SHAME" DISTURBERS' CRY

Only Thick Head of Hair Saves "Leading Lady" of Dublin Company From Serious Injury When Potato Hits Her.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—Riotous disorders broke out tonight at a performance in which the Irish players, recently arrived from Dublin, attempted to produce "The Play Boy of the Western World," at Maxine El-Hott's theater.

Much refuse was thrown at the actors and police reserves were called out. Ten prisoners were taken.

Potatoes, eggs, vegetables and other missiles were thrown on the stage and several of the actors were struck. Miss Ethel McGee received a particularly hard blow on the head by a potato, but her wealth of hair saved her from serious injury.

Audience Fashionable One.

The audience was mainly a fashionably dressed one. The playlet, "The Jail Gate," preceded the performance of "The Play Boy of the Western World," and met with no disturbance, but promptly on the announcement of the second bill, hisses came from the gallery and spread through the whole house. The rioting broke out when the "Play Boy" came on to announce that he had killed his father and was lauded by the women characters. There were cries of "Shame, shame, that's not Irish," and the like.

Irish Societies Condemn Play.

"The Play Boy of the Western World," as written by Synge, and staged by Lady Gregory, was declared in a resolution recently passed by the United Irish Societies as an insult to the Irish, as it was held to be immoral and made a hero out of a parasite. The uproar started as soon as the curtain rose and the first act and so interrupted the performance that at the end of the act, Alfred O'Donovan, who played the part of the "Play Boy,"

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23 CHINESE ARE CAUGHT

Mongolians Seized at Monterey Making Illegal Landing.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 27.—News was received here today by United States Marshal Elliott of the capture of 23 Chinese for attempting an illegal landing from the little vessel Kamrat at Monterey.

Besides the 23 Chinese, the two officers engaged in the smuggling attempt were also arrested.

JAPANESE MOVE IS EXPLAINED

Troops' Orders Given With Full Knowledge of All Powers.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The action of the Japanese government in ordering 700 Japanese troops to Tien Tsin and Pekin is explained by a statement issued today by the Department of State, showing the movement is strictly in conformity with authority conferred upon them.

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IMPERIALS DEFEAT CHINESE REBELS

Manchus Capture Han Yan After Fight.

ABDICATION IS DEMANDED

Mutiny of Emperor's Soldiers Follows Cry.

NANKING STILL HOTBED

Revolutionists Capture Gate and Defenses and Fall of City Is Expected Soon—Water Attack Aids Land Forces.

PEKIN, Nov. 27.—A dispatch received at the legations here says the imperial troops have captured Han Yang, and that the rebels are fleeing, mostly to Wu Chang.

Further Consular dispatches from Hankow of today's date say the imperialists captured Han Yang, after prolonged and desperate fighting. The rebels suffered severely and fled in confusion. The imperialist losses were heavy.

Abdication Is Demanded.

The Assembly of the province of Chi Li has resolved to summon the throne to abdicate and also to participate in the Republican government which is now being formed.

Consul-General Roger S. Greene telegraphed yesterday from Hankow that the imperial troops had established themselves across the Han River.

Chinese Troops Mutiny.

The Chinese troops in Tibet have mutinied, declaring their sympathy for the revolutionists.

Pierce fighting continues at Nanking, where the rebels have captured the Tabingmen Gate, and hold all the defenses in that part of the city. They are now bombarding Petchikiao Fort from both land and water.

It is expected that the whole city will soon be in their hands.

WOMAN TAKES ACID AS VICTIM OF JOKE

DINERS MAKE GIRL BELIEVE CARBOLIC IS VERMOUTH.

Daughter of Canon Tristram, of Dublin, Dies in New York After Swallowing Fatal Draught.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—The miscarriage of a "crude practical joke" caused the death of Mrs. Alice Tristram Shanks, said to be the daughter of Canon Tristram, of Trinity Church, Dublin, in the opinion of Coroner Shonquist, who announced today that several men present when the young woman took poison would be summoned to tell what they knew of the case.

Mrs. Shanks died Saturday night in a hospital ambulance from effects of carbolic acid which she drank in the restaurant of the Golf clubhouse in Van Cortlandt Park. It was thought then that she had deliberately taken her own life.

The bottle containing this acid, the Coroner now believes, was labeled "Vermouth," and placed beside Mrs. Shanks' plate in a spirit of "fun."

Subenas will be issued, the Coroner declares, requiring her companions to testify at the inquest tomorrow.

RAIL CHIEF MAKES SHIFT

Julius Kruttschnitt Quits Chicago to Live in New York.

CHICAGO, Nov. 27.—(Special.)—Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation of the Harriman lines, and one of the best-known railroad officials in the country, has moved his residence from Chicago to New York, where he will continue his duties as one of the chief officers of these roads.

About 40 employees in the offices of the Harriman roads in Chicago, including several officials, also will move to New York within the next few weeks. Among them will be F. W. Moll and W. A. Worthington, assistants to Kruttschnitt; W. F. Bull, his chief clerk, and J. D. Isaacs, a member of Kruttschnitt's staff of consulting engineers.

METER'S TALE IS COSTLY

Walla Walla Schools Charged \$281 in Month Instead of \$23.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Nov. 27.—(Special.)—Instead of \$23, as usual, the city schools were billed \$281 water rent for the first 24 days of November, as the result of the installing of meters, as recently ordered by the City Commissioners.

Until November 1, when meters were installed in all city schools, a flat rate of \$23 a month for the water used in all six city schools was charged and no record of consumption kept. Under the meter system during the first 24 days in November the six schools consumed 3,387,000 gallons of water.

The bill, which was brought before the Board of Education Friday night, was held over and no definite action taken on it.

500 ARE KILLED IN BATTLE

Italians Mow Down Enemy at Tripoli, Taking 300 Prisoners as Well.

ROME, Nov. 27.—Special news dispatches from Tripoli say the Italians found 500 dead and wounded in houses on the oasis after yesterday's battle at Henni. They also found 72 dead at other places.

The Italians captured 300 Turks and Arab prisoners, including several Turkish officers.

The battle was very severe, especially in the vicinity of Henni, where a series of bayonet encounters occurred. The Italian loss was "relatively light."

General Caneva's plan of battle was carried out to the letter and the Italian troops are now in possession of Henni and Fort Meerl.

AMBASSADOR DUDLEY DIES

United States Representative to Brazil Known in West.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 27.—Irving Bedell Dudley, United States Ambassador to Brazil, died at the Johns Hopkins Hospital here today of heart disease, while convalescing from another complaint.

He was a lawyer and former police judge of San Diego, Cal. He was socially prominent there when he first entered the diplomatic service about 14 years ago.

President McKinley, early in his first term, appointed him Minister to Peru. Since that time he had gone to San Diego several times for brief visits. It is believed that he has no relatives in San Diego.

BOURNE DENIES ALLIANCE

Oregon Senator Says He Is Not One Referred to as Pledged to T. R.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 27.—The Washington Herald today prints the following: "Senator Jonathan Bourne denies that he was the man referred to by Colonel Roosevelt in a recent interview, as a well-known United States Senator who had pledged his support of his state if he would only become a candidate against Taft."

In the interview, Colonel Roosevelt was quoted as refusing to divulge the Senator's name. Political wisecracks began to look suspiciously at Senator Bourne. The Senator from Oregon says he is committed to no candidate."

After Seeing Shooting, Man Says He Went to Tacoma.

DEFENDANT HIDES FACE

Woman Accused of Murder Covers Eyes When Mother of Dead Husband Testifies Son Was Too Ill to Strike Wife.

DENVER, Nov. 27.—The defense in the Patterson murder case placed on the stand today the mysterious eye witness to the shooting of Charles A. Patterson by his wife, Gertrude Gibson Patterson, announcement of whose existence by Attorney O. N. Hilton in his opening statement created something of a sensation.

He was Francis J. Easton, 52 years old, who testified that he had come from Minneapolis, to appear in Mrs. Patterson's behalf. He came to Denver the day before the shooting, he testified from Laraby, Wyo., and left Denver two days after the shooting.

Francis J. Easton, Wash., where he visited his son, who lived in Thirty-second street. The number of the house he had forgotten.

Woman's Story Upheld.

Easton corroborated the story told by Mrs. Patterson that she shot her husband after he had struck her twice and knocked her down and was standing over her with his arm raised to strike again. He explained his presence in the vicinity by saying that he had gone to the sanitarium at which Patterson was a patient, and after a inspection of the grounds had set out for a walk in the neighborhood.

On cross-examination he said he had seen A. B. Shugart, the eye witness placed on the stand by Wyo., and run up to the spot, but had not gone over to the body himself, having turned down a street and taken a streetcar back to the city, because, as he told the jury, he did not want to get mixed up in the affair.

Witness Is Sere.

The witness was questioned closely in regard to his life history, but Prosecutor Merson failed to shake his composure. His wife, he said, had died in Miles City, Mont., two years ago.

"Do you know Emil W. Strauss?" prosecutor suddenly asked him. "I do not."

"You did not come here from Chicago?" "I did not."

"Have you been back to the scene of the shooting for the purpose of testifying here?" "I have."

"How many times?" "Once."

Defendant Hides Face.

Easton was the last witness for the defense and after his cross-examination the state commenced its testimony in rebuttal, its most important witness being Mrs. Mary K. Patterson, mother of the dead man. When the elder woman took the stand the prisoner covered her eyes with her hand and did not look up while the examination of the witness was in progress.

The elder Mrs. Patterson, the purpose of whose testimony was to impeach the defendant's testimony on a number of points, told of a family conference just prior to her daughter-in-law's trip to Europe regarding the advisability of investing \$1000 in a printing establishment in Chicago for young Patterson. The prisoner had denied that such a conference took place.

Son Too Ill to Strike. The witness also declared that when her son was ill at her home, at a time when the defendant had declared Patterson made an attack upon her, the boy was so weak that he had to be lifted in bed to be fed and that he had been taken to the sanitarium on a stretcher. Whenever the witness referred to her daughter-in-law, she called her, "the defendant." She contradicted the prisoner on a number of lesser points.

When court adjourned today there was a prospect of the case going to the jury by tomorrow night, with practically a certainty that this would take place by Wednesday in any event.

Jury May Visit Scene.

The defense will ask tomorrow that the jury be taken to the scene of the shooting to investigate the contention of Attorney Hilton that the state's eye witness, Shugart, could not have witnessed the affair from where he said he was. Affairs thus far remain but the examinations of the court and the closing arguments of counsel.

Just after the opening of court today Rose Gard and Ida Kelley, two women prisoners, were called by the defense and said they saw a bruise on Mrs. Patterson's cheek, where the latter says her husband struck her on the day

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