

ROBERTS SAID TO HAVE CONFESSED

Now Believed Murder Suspect Has Admitted Killing Hastings and Stewart.

PRISONER FEARS GALLOWS

Explanation Thought to Be That ex-Convict Meant to Shoot Low When Auto Party Refused to Halt.

Breaking down before the mass of evidence collected by Sheriff Stevens, H. E. Roberts is said to have made a clean breast of the fact that he killed George Hastings and Donald M. Stewart, as the two young men and three associates sped by him in an automobile on the Whitehouse road. No announcement of the confession has been made, but circumstances arising in the case yesterday leave little doubt that the officials have a definite admission of Roberts' guilt.

While admitting that he killed Hastings and Stewart, Roberts, in his confession, is said to have maintained stoutly that he is innocent of deliberate murder. His explanation, it is believed, is that he intended to shoot low and had no intention of wounding or killing the young men who thwarted his attempt to rob them. The explanation of the shooting was made, it is supposed, in the hope of receiving a penitentiary sentence and escaping the death penalty.

Sheriff Stevens, his deputies and others connected with the case, declined last night to discuss the rumored confession.

Stevens Not Talkative.

"I have nothing to announce," was the only answer Sheriff Stevens would give when pressed for an admission that Roberts had confessed his guilt. "You can say for me, however, that I am positive that we have the right man. The evidence is so conclusive that there is no chance for a mistake."

Frederick H. Whitfield, whom Judge Kavanaugh says he probably will appoint attorney in the case, is equally reticent. He refuses either to deny or admit that Roberts has made a confession.

Confession Details Unknown.

Just when and under what conditions Roberts' confession was made are not known. Nor is it known whether those who are in possession of the information will be ready to give it out before Roberts comes up for trial. It is believed, however, that his statement is complete, at least so far as his movements are concerned. He is said to have traced his steps up to the crime after his commission, as his movements corresponding to the theory worked out by the officers. In fact there was little to add to the information that had been gathered, except that an admission by Roberts that he fired the fatal shot.

The report that Roberts had confessed became current following a trip yesterday to the home of another east of Oregon City. Sheriff Stevens and Deputy Sheriff Leonard had Roberts in custody, and with them were Attorney Whitfield, who probably will be Roberts' counsel, Sheriff Mass, of Oregon City, and two friends of the family. The automobiles of Roy King and Henry Jansen, driven by the men, took the party to the Clackamas County farm.

Roberts Shows Anxiety.

Further evidence showing Roberts' anxiety to learn all possible about newspaper accounts of the crime was secured by Sheriff Stevens and Deputy Leonard yesterday. It was learned that he reached Clackamas in the mountains, 28-odd miles from the scene of the attempted hold-up and murder, Saturday night, and on Sunday morning, it was learned, he was in the jail, this time of the rural mail carrier, saying he would "give his interest in the next world" to get a Sunday morning newspaper.

Failing to secure one at that time, he is said to have gone, Tuesday morning at 6 o'clock, to the home of Fred Marshall and asked for the newspaper a third time. He was refused there, Wednesday afternoon paper, but refused this, saying, "No, I don't want to see that paper. What I want to see is in the Sunday paper." Sheriff Stevens pointed out that the paper had gone to press Friday afternoon before the time of the murder.

Attorney Whitfield, Sheriff Stevens, Sheriff Mass and Deputy Leonard had a long conference in the afternoon at the home of Roberts' relatives. The case was discussed pro and con, and Roberts was urged by the officers and his mother to make a clean breast of the whole affair.

The trip to the ranch and back to Portland was made by the party in about six hours.

WHITFIELD MAY BE SELECTED

Roberts' Parents Favor His Appointment as Son's Attorney.

OREGON CITY, Or., April 9.—(Special.)—Following a conference this afternoon at the home of H. E. Roberts' mother and step-father about 13 miles east of this city, it was learned that the parents of the accused man are in favor of the appointment of Frederick H. Whitfield, of Portland, as Roberts' attorney. Sheriff Stevens, asks of his to convey to Presiding Circuit Judge Kavanaugh their wishes, and said he would present the matter to Judge Kavanaugh tomorrow morning.

Judge Kavanaugh, when seen last night, said if Attorney Whitfield is acceptable to Roberts, he will be appointed. "If Mr. Whitfield is not acceptable," said the judge, "I should have to consider the matter. I cannot now say whether I would appoint him or not. It would depend upon circumstances."

T. R. CLAIMS HELD FALSE

Taft Headquarters Makes Light of Charges Made in Kentucky.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—In a detailed statement on the Kentucky situation, given out by the Taft headquarters today, United States Senator Bradley of Kentucky, asserts that the claims of the Roosevelt managers are "utterly unreliable, because they are entirely false in many respects and partly false in others." Senator Dixon announced that he had prepared charges to be filed at once

COMPETING POWER FIRM ASKS GRANT

New Electric Company Seeks Entrance--City Offered Percentage Gross Earnings.

WORK TO START IN YEAR

New Concern Will Furnish Electricity for Light, Heat and Power. Directors Men of Almost Unlimited Financial Worth.

(Continued From First Page.)

hacker and Herbert Fleischhacker are president and vice-president, respectively, operates the electric company in San Francisco. While they have been more prominently identified with this concern than with any other, they have many banking connections in California and are interested in many other enterprises in that state. Both are vice-presidents of the Crown-Columbia Paper Company, operating plants at Camas, Wash., Oregon City and Floriston, Cal.

Work Already Started

The Northwest Electric Company already has started the construction of a 15,000-horsepower hydro-electric plant on the White Salmon River. Part of this energy is to be utilized to operate the Camas paper mills, which now run by steam power from oil-burning boilers.

As soon as the City Council grants

the company the franchise to do business in Portland, active steps will be taken to enter the local field in a competitive way.

In addition to its North Salmon power sites, the company owns sites on the Lewis and Klickitat Rivers, aggregating more than 100,000 horsepower of potential electric energy. These will be developed as rapidly as the needs of the company demand. The power will be transmitted to Portland through a high-tension line of insulated copper wires borne on high steel towers. The required substations and transformer stations will be built in accordance with the most modern plans. So that regular and constant service may be insured the company will equip complete plants of machinery in triplicate. It will be possible to put them into immediate use in the event of the failure of the initial plant.

CONVENTION PLANS MADE

Sunday School Association Arranges for Big Meeting Next Week.

Important business was transacted at a meeting of officers and teachers of the Multnomah County Sunday School Association Monday evening. Final arrangements were perfected for the forthcoming county convention at the Grace Methodist Church Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 13, 14 and 15. Mrs. Mary Foster Bryner, of Chicago, and Professor E. C. Knapp, of Spokane, with a number of other specialists in church work, were in attendance. The Sunday School Association will feature a fine musical program, the Pacific Male Quartet and Ladies' Harmony Chorus will furnish the music.

REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM YOUNG AND PRETTY

On or Off Stage, Youthful Actress Is Unaffected and Lovably—Leone Cass Baer Meets and Chats With Miss St. George.

BY LEONE CASS BAER.

Mother St. George, only it isn't St. George at all. It's Mackarness, is the brake that regulates the incessant chatter of the perfectly charming Rebecca of the Sunnybrook farm estate. Off stage, Rebecca, is the daughter of St. George, the one ewe lamb of the Mackarness family. And she's identical with the little stage character even when she isn't acting.

The average actress looks like anything but the beautiful character she portrays when she's garbed for the street, and it's only by some affected eccentricity of dress or manner that she's picked out from her sisters.

Urula-Rebecca is conspicuous by her avoidance of being conspicuous. She wears simple, demure, unassuming, three-handed interview she wears a dear little black and white bonnet that covered only the crown of her pretty head, and above her great, clear, green eyes that appear to be looking seven miles beyond anything in her vicinity. She's a dreamer, but for all that a very alive young dreamer.

"The first thing interviewers do is to ask me my age," she smiled at me. "Well then, if you've got used to a certain set of rules, we mustn't change." I suggested, "what is it?"

"My age? Oh, why I'm not nearly seventeen yet. So you see she isn't a bromide or she'd have sprung that awful sweet sixteen thing."

"What's the next question?" I asked her, pencil poised to put down the answer. "Why, next they always ask me if I'm ambitious and what sort of roles I want to do."

"I want to play Urula or Urula-Rebecca. It's one and the same, flashed a radiant smile at mother as if to say, "See how nicely I'm conducting my own interview."

"Well give me the answer," I suggested.

"About my plans? Oh, I'm so ambitious. I believe I'm Lady Macbeth in reincarnation. You know, I have more worthy aims than she. Everything I do is done with the thought in mind that constantly I must work hard to have success. The role of Rebecca is easy for me now—I only act myself. I never saw Edith Tallaferrero play it, and now I'm glad I did not, because since this is only my natural 'last year' I was in 'Blue Bird,' you know—I might have unconsciously imitated her as Rebecca. And please put in the paper that it isn't that I'm money-minded like a great many people in my profession." She said this with childish dignity. "But, honestly, the money part is the least of it."

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that far distant from our generating plants as well as those near at hand.

Plant Ready This Fall

"We have made plans for the installation of the highest type of modern machinery in our plant on the White Salmon River. We will take advantage of all the recent practical discoveries in the world of electric science and, therefore, will be able to assure our patrons the best possible service."

"Our preliminary plant will be completed and ready for operation in the early Fall of the present year and if we secure the necessary permission from the local authorities we will be ready to do business here in Portland at that time."

"Our standard is efficiency. Our service and our rates are based entirely upon that platform. Whenever we can improve our service or reduce our rates without lowering our standard of efficiency, we expect to take such action."

Positive announcement is made by Mr. Fleischhacker that the capital stock of the company all has been subscribed and paid for to the treasurer. It is not a stock jobbing scheme as not one share will be offered to the general public. The Anglo & London-Paris National Bank, of San Francisco, is the principal depository of the company.

Stone & Bennett, of Boston, the well-known engineering firm that has operated extensively in Portland and other parts of the Northwest in recent years, has charge of all construction work. Mr. Lawrence will be the resident engineer for the company and expects to establish headquarters in Portland within the next few days.

Mayor Favors Plan

Mayor Rushlight is understood to be favorable to allowing any company to do business here that will provide fair, legitimate and reasonable competition. Members of the City Council last night expressed themselves in favor of competition in the lighting, heating and power business. Not having read the ordinance they could not declare definitely whether they will be ready to vote for it when it comes up for passage.

However, most of them say that if the measure contains provision for the city to collect a percentage of the company's gross earnings and imposes reasonable restrictions they will be ready to consider it favorably.

Directors Approved by Bankers

Portland bankers who have had business relations with the San Francisco men connected with the enterprise, expressed in the highest terms of their financial responsibility and their ability to carry out the terms of the franchise which they seek.

All the members of the company are well known in financial circles in all parts of the country. They have been negotiating for an invasion of the Portland field for several months. On his recent trip to San Francisco, Mayor Rushlight, who had learned of their desire, visited the Fleischhacker and others and discussed the situation with them.

Articles of Incorporation Filed

VANCOUVER, Wash., April 9.—(Special.)—The Independent Electric Company, capital stock \$50,000, has filed articles of incorporation. The incorporators are H. G. Fleischhacker and M. E. Brady, of Portland, and H. K. Luger, of Vancouver. The principal place of business is Vancouver, though an office may be retained in Portland.

FAMINE LETTER DEFENDED

A. W. Lawrence Insists Labor Council Is Essentially Right in Position.

Following an informal reply to a letter sent from the office of the State Immigration Commission, calling attention to a second "famine letter" which had been issued from the Portland Labor Council and published in Eastern papers, A. W. Lawrence has sent to State Immigration Agent C. C. Chapman a formal letter in which he

Reduction to the Tire User GOODRICH TIRES New and Lower Prices Effective April 10th Dealers everywhere will quote on request There has never been a season when the direct unforced demand for Goodrich Tires did not exceed by thousands the utmost capacity of our factories. The issue has been met this year by a Tremendously Increased Capacity which will enable us to care for dealers and users to the fullest extent.

reiterates his declaration that the Labor Council has not broken faith with the immigration authorities, since the letter was mailed prior to the conference called by Governor West. Mr. Lawrence, however, defends the Labor Council in its action in having sent out the letter and asserts that the essentials stated in it are true. He implies that the immigration agent is trying "to inject a two-month-old affair into a political campaign."

On Deck Crossetts in snappy styles. Your choice of buttons or laces. And there's a swing to the lines—a dash to the stitching—a dash to the perforations—giving unmistakable style distinction. Look them over. CROSSETT SHOE "MAKES LIFE'S WALK EASY" \$4 to \$6 everywhere

EASTERN EXCURSION TICKETS APRIL 25, 26, 27. ST. PAUL OR MINNEAPOLIS ONLY AND RETURN \$99. May 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. June 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29. July 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30, 31. August 1, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, 31. September 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 30. October 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 30. Tickets allow 15 days for going passage, good for return to October 31st.

A SAFE BANK Capital and Surplus, \$600,000.00 with a service you'll find both profitable and efficient Merchants National Bank Founded in 1888. Washington at Second Street.

ATTENTION LAUNDRIES! Before You Buy Oxalic Acid, Japan Wax, Chloride Lime, Caustic Acid or Acetic Acid, Get Our Quotations.

Clarke, Woodward Drug Co. Wholesale and Manufacturing Chemists Portland, Or.

SPECIAL TRAIN EXCURSION 2 P. M. SATURDAY APRIL 13 TO CLATSOP BEACH GEARHART, SEASIDE, ASTORIA \$3 Round Trip Good Returning Sunday or Monday This special train will leave the North Bank station, Eleventh and Hoyt streets, at 2 P. M., Saturday, stopping only at Astoria, Gearhart and Seaside, arriving before dinner. It is the first of the season's fast Clatsop Beach train—announcement of others will be made later. Enjoy the week-end at the Ocean. Surf and plunge bathing. GO TO THE BEACH NOW AND MAKE HOTEL AND COTTAGE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VACATION SEASON.