

VOL. LIII—NO. 16,357.

## WIFE ADMITS MAN IS J. C. LA FRANCE

### Insurance Fraud May Be Solved Soon.

## BODY FOUND PROVES PUZZLE

### Prisoners Are Expected Here Wednesday.

## SEARCH OF EFFECTS MADE

### Insurance Company Receives Word From Coquille and Is Confident Accused Persons Are Those Long Sought by Detectives.

Admission of her identity and that of her husband has been made by the woman held in jail at Marshfield as Mrs. James C. LaFrance, charged, with LaFrance, of having swindled an insurance company and fraternal orders out of \$15,000 by placing LaFrance's clothing upon another man's dead body, according to advices received last night by Attorney H. R. Adams, representing the Postal Life Insurance Company, one of the victims.

The message is meager, but is to the effect that the woman, who is held closely guarded in jail, has admitted that she is Mrs. LaFrance, and that her fellow prisoner is her husband. Further than that, it appears, the confession did not go, but Attorney Adams says there is now no question that the persons under arrest are the right ones. Their arrival in Portland is not expected before Wednesday.

There was nothing in the circumstances at the time to arouse suspicion, says Coroner W. J. Wilson, of Oregon City, who took charge of the body. Every article on the body, so far as could be determined, was the property of LaFrance, even to a few loose states in the pockets. These, in fact, clinched the identification when the coroner hunted up Mrs. LaFrance and asked her what articles might serve to identify her husband. She mentioned the states, presumably not knowing that the coroner already had found them in the dead man's pockets. Mrs. LaFrance seemed fitfully distressed when the news was conveyed to her, says Coroner Wilson. Many papers belonging to LaFrance remained in his office, he says, having been taken off the body.

### "Planting" Considered Improbable.

That LaFrance found a dead body ready to his hand when, as it is alleged, he dressed it in his own garments, disappears, so far as his wife to collect his life insurance to the amount of \$15,000, is the belief of residents in the vicinity of Estacada, where the body was found last July. They base the conclusion upon the natural difficulties of the country, which, they believe, would render it virtually impossible to "plant" a dead body where this one was found without extreme risk of detection.

Not only is the spot reached only by a rough mountain road, from which a long portage would have to be made, but the sparseness of the settlement around would make any stranger subject to general observation.

### No Suspicion Aroused.

So, if the charges brought against the man under arrest are true, it must be that he stumbled upon the body of some man who had met his death in the woods, and was struck by the idea of substitution.

### La France Home Searched.

At Coquille yesterday the officers and private detectives working on the case, were busy searching the home of the supposed La France, looking for evidence to support the charge. Meanwhile, the man and his wife are being kept closely guarded in jail, at a distance from each other. It is believed in Marshfield that the unknown man who accompanied Mrs. La France in her windings about the country after she was subjected to surveillance, was in the Coos Bay country quite recently. Detectives may implicate him in the case.

### Charges Which Took Form of an Information of Felony Leading to the Arrests Saturday, were not the first that had been brought in this case. Many months ago the Portland detectives and Sheriff Mass, of Clackamas County, collaborated upon a report that an insurance swindle had been committed. The report was made to Detectives Vaughn and Litherland, but it appearing that the crime, if any, had been committed in the adjoining county, they mailed a full report of their information to the Sheriff there and he spent some time in an effort to run it down.

### La France Known to Police.

Patrolman W. C. Epps was the police officer sent to the Coos Bay country some time ago in an effort to identify La France, and in his being selected an interesting sidelight upon the man is brought to the front. In November, 1911, Epps, working partners with Patrolman Taff, out of detective headquarters, was put upon a case in which La France, then posing as a real estate man of Creswell, Or., was the informant. La France had been "steered" by a gang of race track swindlers, who made their approach to him near the Portland Hotel. The intended victim smelled the scheme from the first, but played the "sucker" and led the swind-

## HEN WITH RECORD OF 4500 EGGS DIES

### INCOMPARABLE THEODOSIA IN 25 YEARS NETS \$68.75.

### Mrs. Russell Sage Numbered Among Admirers of Pasadena Biddy Noted for Industry.

PASADENA, Cal., April 27.—Theodosia Roosevelt, so named because of her evident antagonism toward race suicide, said to have been the oldest hen in America, died today at the home of her owner, Mrs. Elizabeth Grinnell, of Pasadena. She was 25 years old.

Theodosia numbered among her friends many of the notables who have passed their winters in Pasadena in the last quarter of a century, among them Mrs. Russell Sage, who, on her last visit to this city made three calls at the Grinnell home to pet Theodosia. The aged hen laid approximately 4500 eggs in her long and useful life besides mothering many broods of incubator-hatched chickens. Statisticians figure that the eggs laid by Theodosia, at the average price of only 25 cents a dozen, were worth \$93.75. The accepted cost of keeping a hen in these parts is \$1 a year, making Theodosia's net earnings \$68.75. At a capitalized value of \$1.25, she has made 3000 per cent on her valuation for her owners.

Poultry experts admit their accepted theories of the extreme egg possibilities of a hen have been shattered by the exceptional Theodosia, who in her lifetime laid several times the number of eggs that naturalists and poultry college experts would have said any hen could attain to.

## AMERICA IS "INELEGANT"

### Paris Dancer Says Any Charm or Style We Have Is Imported.

PARIS, April 27.—(Special.)—Nanterkowska, the Paris dancer who has just returned to America, made some plain remarks today on the subject of Americans.

"Really, I have not brought away a single pleasant memory from a single American city," she says. "What a narrow-minded people they are, how utterly impractical they are, how utterly ignorant I cannot understand how any one can sincerely admire them or their customs, or their towns without monuments or trees and hardly any museums.

"They are hardly civilized. They jostle you in the street without apology. Any charming or stylish object one sees over there invariably comes from Europe. They have not the slightest feeling of elegance of any sort. In fact, I am completely disillusioned about them."

La Nanterkowska complains bitterly of her prosecution on a charge of indecency, saying that the dance for which she was marched off to the courts like any ordinary criminal in New York, had previously been given by her in several smaller cities without the slightest objection. The judge who had the "intelligence" to release her, she says, is the only exception which proves the rule of general barbarism in the United States.

## MRS. ADAMS BADLY HURT

### Portland Woman Run Down by Motorcycle and Skull Fractured.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 27.—(Special.)—While crossing the street late last night Mrs. A. H. Adams, of Portland, who is visiting friends in this city, was run down and severely hurt by a motorcycle ridden by John Strange, of Long Beach.

Beside many bruises Mrs. Adams sustained a fracture of the skull. While the doctors do not believe the accident will prove fatal, the fact that she is 60 years of age makes her friends feel uneasy.

Mrs. Adams had been calling and was on her way home. As she neared the house of her friend whom she was staying with, she came to a crossing that had no street light, and as she stepped from the curb the motorcycle struck her, knocking her unconscious. While the motorcycle had a headlight, she failed to see it, and Strange, who was riding at a fast clip, also did not see Mrs. Adams until he hit her.

## OFFICERS NOT DEBARRED

### Activity in Politics Permitted After Retirement.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Retired Naval officers are not debarred from taking part in politics, Secretary Daniels believes. The same rule will apply to Army officers.

Sometime ago Senator Johnson, of Alabama, complained that Rear-Admiral Wadsworth, retired, had been lecturing in Alabama on the need of a big Navy. Indirectly the Senator thought this was calculated to help along Representative Hobson in his campaign for the Senator's seat. He thereupon protested.

It is expected, now that Secretary Daniels has declined to interfere, that an effort will be made to secure legislation prohibiting retired officers from engaging in political work.

## LUMBER RATE HEARING SET

### Special Examiner to Open Case in Portland on May 9.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 27.—A hearing will be held at Portland May 9 by Special Examiner Carmalt, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, on the complaint against the proposed advance in lumber rates from Oregon and Washington to Eastern destinations.

A hearing was held May 5 at Minneapolis by Carmalt on proposed advances in class and commodity rates between points in Minnesota and Iowa and Pacific Coast territory.

The commission has suspended these proposed advances until November 1.

## REPUBLICANS WILL PROFIT BY EVENTS

### Party in Position of Strong Leadership.

## OUTLOOK FOR T. R. HOPELESS

### Ex-Secretary for McKinley Analyzes Situation.

## GOVERNORS FALLING AWAY

### Only Three Progressives Now Executives of States, and in Various Legislatures They Are in Small Minority.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—(Special.)—James M. Boyle, who was private secretary to William McKinley when McKinley was Governor of Ohio, and a political and economic writer of considerable note, has written a pamphlet entitled, "Will the Republican Party Come Back?" which is being circulated widely by Harry M. Daugherty, Republican National committeeman from Ohio. Mr. Boyle in the course of his argument says:

"Taking political conditions as they are and giving due consideration to the trend of the times—whether from a radical or conservative standpoint—the conclusion seems irresistible:

"1. That there must be a reunion of the two divisions of the historic Republican party, in order to beat the Democrats.

"2. The growth of the Progressive party based on the personality of Colonel Roosevelt is hopeless.

"3. 'Progressive' Governors scarce.

"There are now only three state Governors who class themselves as members of the Progressive party—Governor Johnson, of California; Governor Byrne, of South Dakota—and the two former were elected in 1910, long before the Progressive party was thought of. It will be remembered that seven Governors endorsed the candidacy of Roosevelt for the Republican nomination for President.

"There are now 15 Governors who are listed as Republicans. Governor Byrne, of South Dakota, was the only state officer elected by the Progressives last November outside of Judge Wanamaker, of the Ohio Supreme Court, who was nominated by petition as an Independent, although it is fair to say that he had been active in the formation of the Progressive party and received its endorsement as a candidate. As to Governor Byrne, there was no Republican opposition to him.

"Legislative strength compared.

"The Progressives have representatives in only 16 State Legislatures, the combined representation being only

## STRIKERS FAIL IN BOAST

### Pacific Shipping Not Tied Up by Wireless Operators.

SEATTLE, Wash., April 27.—(Special.)—Although the strikers assert that 50 wireless operators have left their vessels at San Francisco, 14 have quit at Seattle and the shore operator on Friday Harbor and one of the land operators here have come out in obedience to the call issued Tuesday by the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, all steamships called on schedule time from Seattle today.

So far the strikers have failed to carry out their boast that they would tie up all shipping on the Pacific Coast unless their demands for increased wages were complied with by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company.

## BABY DROWNS IN CISTERN

### Child's Body Recovered Within Six Minutes, but Life Is Extinct.

LEWISTON, Idaho, April 26.—(Special.)—The two-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Alchelmayer, of Clarkston, met death today by drowning in a cistern. The parents are almost prostrated with grief.

The mother had noticed the child a few minutes before near the cistern. Becoming alarmed at his absence, she ran to the cistern and peering below saw the child's form. He was taken from the cistern within six minutes, but life had become extinct.

## MRS. WILSON TO ENTERTAIN

### Garden Parties Will Be Given at White House Beginning May 9.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The President and Mrs. Wilson intend to continue the usual custom of holding garden parties weekly on the south lawn of the White House during the Spring and early Summer.

Announcement was made today that the first garden party would be given on May 9. Others will follow on May 16 and 23.

Vegetable Coloring Order Stands.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The Pure Food Board has denied an application of importers and distributors for a postponement beyond May 1 of the order forbidding the interstate shipment of vegetables greened with copper salts. Enforcement of the order previously had been deferred from January 1.

## INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.  
YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 55 degrees; minimum, 40 degrees.  
TODAY'S—Fair, with frost in early morning. Rising temperature. Westerly winds.

Foreign.  
European courts disturbed over approaching marriage of Duke of Crois to comtesse.  
National.  
State Department officials deny Japan is threatening.  
Portland and vicinity.  
Crazed woman poisons children and self, then shoots.  
Practical prizes are offered for Colfax and Pendleton corn shows.

Domestic.  
Republican party, not Progressive, in position to profit by political events.  
Actress, suing hotel man, admits she found it easy to love two men at once.  
Kansas farmers perturbed by wives' demands for reform in night dress.  
Hen dies at 25 years old, after having laid 4500 eggs.  
Rector half hour late to church because he stops to fish and forgets service.  
Official California awaiting Bryan's arrival in Sacramento today.  
Pretender lover who answers tender letter intended for another sues for false arrest.  
New revelations indicated in San Francisco bunco case.  
Threat made to extend wireless strike to East.

## NEW WITNESSES IN POLICE CASE FOUND

### Activities of "Bunco Ring" Extended.

## REVELATIONS ARE AMAZING

### Dual Detective Department Immersed in Politics.

## TWO MURDERS INVOLVED

### Accused San Francisco Officers Adhere to Defense That They Are Victims of Plot Because They Did Their Duty.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 27.—(Special.)—When the grand jury resumes tomorrow its investigation into the alleged collusion of members of the San Francisco Police Department with the Italian bunco ring, new witnesses in corroboration of the charges against eight men now under suspension will be called. That both District Attorney Fickert and Police Commissioner Kuhl have discovered new and amazing circumstances was whispered around police headquarters, where the absence of the heads of departments caused a temporary lull in the inquiry.

The initial expose of the alleged connivance of the Italian bunco ring, which fleeced victims of \$300,000 in two years was made more than seven months ago and the failure of the head of the department to probe the allegations is being investigated by members of the Police Board.

Hotel Named as Rendezvous.

The original expose named Lello Pellegrini's Exposition Hotel, 17 Pinckney Place, as the rendezvous of the bunco men. It was said then by August Joannou, who notified District Attorney Fickert of the fleeing of Joseph Marchand of \$1000, that members of the detective bureau were seen in the hotel with Pellegrini and that he bribed Loggiano Rovigo, alias Chitto, was arrested here on March 11, 1912, under the name of John Munso and that his photograph never was taken for the police records was learned today. Pellegrini later boasted to members of the bunco ring that a small sum of money had insured the release of Chitto without having his picture taken.

This will be brought out by one of the witnesses before the grand jury.

New \$5000 Deal Charged.

Besides the numerous charges already made against Paulino Nicol, real director of the bunco ring, a complaint from Riverside charging the buncoing of J. Ferrari of \$5000, of which \$500 is said to have gone for police protection, has been unearthed. Paulino worked with Volpi, Golgi and Gori, it is alleged.

## "NIGHTIE" EDICT ANGERS FARMERS

### 'BILED' SHIRT AND TUXEDO DEMAND DREADED.

### Tillers of Soil in Kansas Object to Wives' Requirements as Sacrifice of Comfort.

TOPEKA, Kan., April 27.—(Special.)—Kansas farmers are much perturbed, astounded and discouraged. They see ahead the finish of one of the sacred privileges of the horny-handed son of toil and the introduction of an innovation which will put the farmer on the same basis as the city man. The women folks on the Kansas farms wear nightgowns or pajamas. The next thing will be putting on a "biled" shirt for supper and the wearing of a tuxedo while farmer sits about the house at night reading the daily papers.

Of course, it really doesn't seem right for the women folk to insist that the men of the soil wear night-shirts if they don't want to. Most of the farmers assert vehemently that it is a waste of time putting one on and taking it off, especially in the cold mornings when it behooves one to make haste into warm clothing and get out and start the fires.

## CARNIVAL IDEA ORGANIZED

### Pacific Coast Cities Urged to Cooperate in Civic Gayety.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., April 27.—With the development of the carnival spirit and the making of the entire West into a gigantic playground as its objects, the California Celebrations Committee has been organized here.

The meeting was attended by prominent California officials of several railroads and representatives from civic bodies. A committee to formulate the general plans of the new organization and to invite representatives of other cities to attend another meeting to be held here as soon as possible was appointed.

The committee expressed the hope that Portland, Seattle, Honolulu and other cities would cooperate with the organization in a plan to have the various cities in the various states follow one another instead of being held simultaneously, and to have features typical of the cities as well as historical.

## HIGH COLUMBIA FORECAST

### Wenatchee's "Shacktown" Might Be Swept Away, Say Pioneers.

WENATCHEE, Wash., April 27.—(Special.)—High water records for 15 years will be broken by the Columbia this Spring, say old river men. B. W. Jones, official forecaster for the Columbia & Okanogan Steamboat Company, who has accurately gauged the rise of the stream for two decades, says that the 45-foot record of 1899 will be exceeded by 10 feet at least.

Such a rise would bring the waters of the river far up into Wenatchee and would undoubtedly sweep away "shacktown." The Columbia is now rising at the rate of two feet a day and is now more than 20 feet above low water.

## HUNGER RANKS WAVERING

### "Insurgent" Prisoners Would Gladly Work for Regular Prison Fare.

COLORADO SPRINGS, April 27.—Four of the 17 members of the Industrial Workers of the World, now on a hunger strike in the City Jail, notified the chief of police Burns last night that they were ready to work out the remaining seven days of their jail sentence provided they received the regular prison fare.

The decision came at the conclusion of a stormy "star chamber" session this afternoon, at which those firing of the bread and water which they had subsisted for 48 hours were called "insurgents" by their companions, while the others are referred to as "standpatters."

## STORE ACCUSED OF FRAUD

### Association of Advertisers Aids in Minneapolis Prosecution.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 27.—The first case under the advertising law recently passed here, has been brought to prosecution. The store is accused of having advertised a certain line of shoes and the inducement held out to prospective purchasers is declared fraudulent. An association of advertisers furnished the evidence on which the prosecution is based.

## FUNERAL CARGO PLANNED

### Single Vessel to Carry Bodies of Thousands of Chinese.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 27.—It is reported that arrangements are being made here by the great Chinese mercantile concern, the Six Companies, to send from California to China, at a date yet to be fixed, the mortal remains of between 5000 and 6000 Chinese, the skeletons of nearly all of the Chinese who have died in the state within the past 50 years.

The transfer, it is said, will be made in a single shipload.

## OPERA RECORDS BROKEN

### Atlanta Pays \$91,000 in Week, and 6420 Attend One Performance.

ATLANTA, April 27.—Previous attendance records were broken at the 315 Grand Opera season, which was concluded here last night. During the week 28,428 persons paid a total sum for admission of \$91,000. At the concluding performance, when "La Tosca" was sung, the audience numbered 6420. This is said to be the largest attendance in this country at a single performance of grand opera.

## MOTHER POISONS BABES AND SHOOT

### Four in Hospital, Two May Recover.

## EARLY REPENTANCE EVIDENT

### Father Returning Home Finds Family in Throes.

## TRAGEDY RECALLS THREAT

### Mrs. Lillian Strang, After Attempting to Take Her Own and Children's Lives, Administers Emetics to Victims.

In a moment of emotional insanity Mrs. Lillian Strang, 26, living at 1483 Macrum street, administered bichloride of mercury to two of her three small children and herself and then shot herself and two of the children in the heads with a small rifle. Recovering her senses, probably at the shock of the bullet wound, she set about administering emetics to the children and was found at this occupation by her husband, returning home.

In one room at the Good Samaritan Hospital the woman, with a terrible wound in her brain and her condition further imperiled by the corrosive poison, lies surrounded by her moaning children, slowly sinking, but rational and languidly remorseful for her mad deed.

Mother Shows Interest.

The casualty list arising from her aberration is:

Mrs. Lillian Strang, 26, poisoned and shot; small chance of recovery.

Edwin Strang, 7, poisoned and suffering from a scalp wound, expected to recover.

Marcia Strang, 5, poisoned, condition critical.

Oakley Strang, 2, shot in the brain, may recover.

"I'm feeling much better," said young Edwin, in answer to a question at the hospital yesterday.

"It's a good thing someone is feeling better," sighed the apparently dying mother, catching the remark of her son. As much as her condition permits, she displays interest in their condition.

Time Not Known Definitely.

The attempt at quadruple homicide occurred Saturday night, when the mother and children were alone in their cottage home in the Peninsular district. The time is fixed between 7 and 9:30 o'clock, but on account of the distance and the delay in reaching the hospital the case did not come to the attention of the authorities for several hours. Then Detectives Moloney and Swennes were assigned to make an investigation, as the result of which the facts are comparatively well established.

Hysterical threats, made to neighbors, are said to have preceded the act at intervals in several months recently. Saturday night, the father, Earl O. Strang, a salesman for Rasmussen & Co., was out returning home about 10:30 P. M. Mrs. Strang's mother had been at the house about 7 o'clock, and at that time all seemed normal in the little home.

Rifle Shots Heard.

At 9:15, S. E. Combs, who lives in the adjoining house, only a few feet away, heard three rifle reports, as he afterward knew them to be, but paid no attention until he was summoned, over an hour later, by Mr. Strang. Prior to the firing of the rifle, from her statement, Mrs. Strang had given each of the children a potion of mercury tablets and had taken the same dose herself.

When neighbors arrived Mrs. Strang was sitting in a chair in the living room, the little girl, at whom she had fired but missed, lay on a couch near her, and the two wounded boys lay in separate bedrooms behind. All around the place broken eggs attested the efforts of the mother to undo her work. The rifle used was a small .22 caliber, single-shot weapon, charged with BB shot. Mrs. Strang had a powder-burned wound in the top of her head. The older boy's scalp was laid open for two inches. The baby was shot directly in the forehead. The shot which missed the girl was found by Detective Swennes in the plaster wall.

Interest in Children Shown.

First-aid measures occupied a long time before the trip to the hospital was attempted. Then the suffering four were placed in two ambulances and carried to the city.

"Why did you do it?" Dr. Christmas asked, as he was attending Mrs. Strang. "I don't know; I don't know," she moaned in reply. "I realized what I had done just after I shot them, and I did all I could to save them. I didn't give the baby any poison."

"How are the children?" was her first question at the hospital yesterday morning.

The full horror of the situation was not realized by the father at first, for he telephoned to Dr. Christmas, mentioning only the poisoning. Later he called again, urging haste, as he thought Mrs. Strang had cut herself, because her face was bloody. Only later did he learn that the two boys were shot.

The Strangs had been married close to ten years and the impression in the neighborhood prevailed that their do-

