

# BLODGETT FREED; CRITICISM RESULTS

## Pardoned Man Served Only 4 Years and 10 Months for Murder of Woman.

### GOVERNOR IN LIMELIGHT

#### Cause of Shooting Is Because Victim Refused to Drink With Blodgett, Who Took Her Life Deliberately.

SALEM, Or., June 5.—(Special.)—Governor West's prison again in the limelight, under the operation of which it has been determined that four years and 10 months is sufficient length of time for a saloonkeeper who admitted killing prematurely a woman with whom he lived illegally, to sojourn in and about the penitentiary. The Governor, following the recommendation of the board of pardons, has pardoned, April 26, George L. Blodgett, who, on the morning of March 23, 1906, in Portland, killed Alice Minthorn, also known as Alice Gordon.

Not satisfied with making Blodgett, who was once sentenced to be hanged, a free man, the prison authorities, with the knowledge and approval of the Governor, the day after he was pardoned, gave him a position as superintendent of the poultry farm at the penitentiary at a salary of \$100 a month.

He was considered a good man for the place and was asked to accept it permanently, but after serving during May he pocketed his \$100 and went to his old home in Washington State.

**Pardon Considered Serious Error.**

The pardoning of Blodgett is considered by residents of Salem, who believe that murderers and cut-throats should be behind prison bars, even a more serious disregard of the rights of the people than the recent pardoning of a man who was indicted for the back a prominent physician of Salem, and was accused of having broken into a store two nights before and battered a boy who lay asleep, on the head with a blunt instrument.

More than one year ago when Blodgett had served about three years of a life term he was pardoned and he would take charge of the poultry farm and make a success of it, he would be made a trustee and continued as such during good behavior as long as he remained in the penitentiary. He took much interest in his work, and was complimented by the prison authorities. He had been promised 25 cents a day for his work, but when he was pardoned there was no money with which to pay him. The authorities explain that he was employed after his pardon was granted so he could recover in that way the money that had been promised him. This does not explain, however, his being offered a permanent place.

**Supreme Court Reverses.**

The Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the Multnomah County Circuit Court that Blodgett was guilty of homicide in the first degree on the ground that John Manning, District Attorney, made an improper argument. A motion that the verdict be set aside on the ground that the defendant's confession in which he frankly admitted killing the woman, was overruled by the higher court. At the second trial Blodgett was again found guilty and was sentenced to a life term in the penitentiary.

Blodgett, in his confession, said the woman he killed was 22 years of age and had been the wife of George Minthorn, of Duluth, Minn. He said he was born in Idaho and reared in Montana. He had conducted saloons in various places. He had a wife and children and three brothers and two sisters.

The woman whom he killed he met in Helmsville, Mont. She was then an actress in a variety theater. He was conducting a saloon at Columbia Falls at the time. Blodgett said that the night before the killing he had been drinking heavily. The next morning when he awoke a saloon he said he was suffering from a severe headache. His confession continues: "Where did you go after leaving the saloon?" asked Deputy District Attorney Moser, who questioned the man as he made his confession.

"I came out and stood with this man 'Mule Allen.' We stood there and talked, and walked up and down the sidewalk and to the corner, and walked back, and back, and I drank. I says to him, 'I will be back in about 15 minutes. I am going up to the room and I will be back.' I said, 'I am going to ask Alice to have a drink and if she refuses I am going to kill her. I went up and I guess you know what happened.'"

**Blodgett Admits Shooting.**

"Now what did happen?"

"They say I killed her, and I guess I did."

"Did you ask her to take a drink with you when you went up there?"

"I did."

"And did she take one or refuse?"

"She refused."

"Then what did you do?"

"I don't know; the rest is a dream to me."

"What did she say to you?"

"She says, 'George, don't kill me.'"

"Then after that you had fired another shot?"

"I think I did."

"And you had no reason to shoot her except that she refused to take a drink with you?"

"She refused to drink with me—something was said—I am done with you, and I don't know exactly what it was."

"And for that reason, and for that alone, you shot her?"

"No; not exactly for that reason; it was for the trouble we have had; the trouble this woman has caused me."

**Family Broken Up.**

"You shot her, I suppose, as much because she refused to live with you as for any other reason?"

"Yes; that is about it. She broke me and my wife up and caused me to lose my friends and made a tramp and a bum of me."

Upon the evidence and the summary up the jury found the defendant guilty and he was sentenced to die. The reversal was not upon the ground that the evidence did not show guilt, for it had been admitted by the defendant in his confession, but upon the ground that the District Attorney had injected matter in his argument which was not in the record of testimony.

**COMMITTEE APPROVES RAID**

Organization of The Dalles Issues Statement Accusing Official.

THE DALLES, Or., June 5.—(Special.)—A statement declaring that the committee of one hundred of The Dalles approves the raid recently made by agents of Governor West on disreputable resorts of this city has been issued by the executive committee of that organization. The committee of one hundred is an organization whose

purpose is to better social conditions. Its statement follows:

The executive committee of the committee of 100 wishes to express itself as very much disappointed with the one-sided report given in the news columns and editorial of last night's Chronicle (The Dalles paper) concerning the "raid on the disreputable houses last Saturday night. We are also greatly chagrined to know that those who have taken oath of office are not only ready to wink at open violation of law, but willing to go on record declaring the town to be in excellent moral condition.

Such statements as "it is the broadest consensus of opinion that there was not the slightest reason or excuse for Governor West's interference here," and "his action being uncalculated for and without the slightest provocation," and other insinuations of a general nature that the entire city is indignant and resentful at the Governor's appearance here, are misleading and actually misrepresent the attitude of the city toward the Governor's action. We note that those who were willing to publish statements against the Governor's action are from among those responsible for the present moral conditions of the city and some of those in town who are the boldest in their declarations that the Governor's action was unwarranted were among those who backed down three years ago when a purely local clean-up was attempted. We are glad, however, to note the omission of the names of some of our city officials.

It is safe to say that at least 1500 Dalles church people, and a large majority of the best citizens of the city, are heartily

### WOMAN IS NOMINATED FOR POSTMASTER AT BURNS.

MISS MAMIE WINTERS.

BURNS, Or., June 5.—(Special.)—The name of Miss Mamie Winters was sent to the Senate a few days ago by President Wilson to succeed John E. Logan as postmaster in Burns. Miss Winters is a native of Burns and has made an excellent record for intelligent industry and business ability. She has conducted a confectionery store and ice cream parlor here the past several years, supporting an energetic mother and recently an invalid sister. Last March she was elected city treasurer almost unanimously.

Mr. Logan, the retiring postmaster, has been one of the most efficient officers in the state.

**Baritone in Recital Wins Plaudits**

George Hotchkiss Street Appears at Christensen's Hall Before Large Audience.

BY JOSEPH M. QUENTIN.

GEORGE HOTCHKISS STREET, baritone, once soloist at Calvary, Presbyterian and Grace Methodist Episcopal churches, and who as a singer is probably better known in Berlin and Paris than this city, appeared in recital last night in Christensen's hall and gave pleasure to the audience that comfortably filled the hall and applauded every number that he sang on a long and varied programme.

The night was warm and one heard the merry "toot toot" of autos outside, as vibrant reminders that the season now is when the call for the open is upon us. Yet, so great was the curiosity to hear Mr. Street sing that the crowd came doubtless from cool lawns, heavy with the perfume of growing roses, to the city. And the trip was worth the trouble.

Mr. Street stamps his singing with beautiful finish and shading, and he has had good vocal lessons in Europe, as his voice now shows. He is especially successful in his German lieder, and his French songs were delightful, particularly the two Hahn and the Holmes selections. Some of the songs, however, Schumann's "Die Belden Grenadieren" and Homer's "The Paupers' Drive" and "Prospect," were a tax on his vocal strength, and he was three times out of tune. This was not the fault of the piano accompanist, or the piano, but the fault of Mr. Street. His explanations of the songs were interesting—when they could be heard—but he dropped his voice and his talk then became indistinct. Talking to an audience is a special gift, and few singers succeed in this department. All of which is written with kindness to my friend, Mr. Street. It is to be hoped that he is not yet above taking advice. He is young.

Miss Frances Batchelor was accom-

panied and piano soloist, and was a distinguished success. She is clearly a pianist of commanding merit and talent, and she is quiet and pleasing in her platform presence.

**BAR EXAMINER IS HONORED**

University of Oregon Students Present J. C. Moreland With Gift.

SALEM, Or., June 5.—(Special.)—Appreciating the encouragement and advice given them by J. C. Moreland, clerk of the Supreme Court and bar examiner, the students of the law department of the University of Oregon upon the conclusion of the bar examination here today, presented him with a handsome traveling bag, decorated in the colors of the institution.

C. W. Robison, who while a student of the Portland Academy won the prize in an oratorical contest by reason of the vote of Judge Moreland, he being one of the judges, made the presentation speech on behalf of the students. Judge Moreland responded with an address of appreciation.

Accompanying the gift was a document setting out in a few words the appreciation of the students.

**UNITED BRETHREN MEET**

DR. BONEBRAKE PRESIDES AT TILLAMOOK CONFERENCE.

The Rev. H. Schuknicht, of Portland, Speaks—Bishop Bell Discusses Social-Economic Problems.

TILLAMOOK, Or., June 5.—(Special.)—Dr. P. O. Bonebrake presided over the United Brethren Conference last night when a hearty welcome to Tillamook was accorded by representatives of various interests of the city.

T. H. Goyno spoke for the Christian layman; H. T. Botts in behalf of the legal profession and D. L. Shrode for the business man. The good-natured addresses of welcome were responded to by the Rev. George E. McDonald, of Seattle, Wash. This was followed by an address by Bishop Bell on "Economic Conditions."

There was a large attendance at the conference today. Reports of pastors and committees have furnished the humor, pathos and oratory. The report of the committee on finance drew the keenest interest.

The Rev. H. Schuknicht, of Portland, representing the Evangelical Association, read an able paper bearing on paternal greeting and having reference to the contemplated educational federation. Bishop Bell read a carefully prepared paper on the far-reaching import of the committee on social service and community work, after which H. L. Shrode, of Portland, superintendent of the Oregon Anti-Saloon League, made an address outlining the plans of the league to make Oregon "dry" in 1916.

Chinese merchants in Hongkong are establishing department stores modeled on the American plan.

**ROSE FESTIVAL WEEK**

SEVEN ISSUES, INCLUDING POSTAGE, 20 CENTS.

Mail to your friends in the State The Oregonian during Rose Festival week, beginning Monday, June 9, and ending with the great Sunday edition, June 16. Complete and exhaustive reports with numerous high-class half-toned illustrations will be featured daily.

The Portland Annual Rose Festival has been widely advertised throughout the United States, and no more attractive testimonial to your friends could be given than a subscription to Oregon's great daily during the event.

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**PRIEST TURNS DETECTIVE**

Father Brady Catches Woman Pick-pocket Operating in Church.

LOS ANGELES, June 5.—Turning detective in an effort to discover the mysterious woman pickpocket who has been operating successfully for weeks at St. Vibiana's Cathedral, Rev. Father Brady arrested Miss Annie Murphy as she was about to purloin the pocketbook of a worshipper kneeling at evening vespers tonight.

**Wind River Bridge Nearly Completed**

STEVENSON, Wash., June 5.—(Special.)—The new suspension bridge across Wind River, four miles back of Carson, will be completed June 14 and

**Farmer and Sons Suffer.**

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., June 5.—(Special.)—It has been learned that Mr. Johnson and two sons, while attempting to cross the divide between Row River and Morby Creek lost their way and suffered severely in spending the night in the open without food or fire. The night was wet and stormy and when they reached home the youngsters were in a serious condition.

**22 Jackson Widows Apply for Aid.**

ASHLAND, Or., June 5.—(Special.)—Twenty-two dependent widows with children have applied to Jackson County for pensions under the new law. The amounts asked for range from \$8 to \$22.50 a month, and if these claims are allowed the aggregate will amount to over \$500 a month. The largest claim filed is by the widow of the late Sheriff Singler. Claimants reside in the following precincts: Ashland, 5; Medford, 7; Butte Falls, 2; Jacksonville, 2; Talent, 2; Gold Hill, 1; Central Point, 1; Applegate, 1.

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**SOUTHERN PACIFIC**

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Leave Portland Union Depot, via Fourth street.....1:00 P. M.  
Leave Fourth and Yamhill streets.....1:10 P. M.  
Arriving beach points in time for dinner.

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**ROUND TRIP FARES**  
Week End (Saturday or Sunday).....\$3.00  
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