

FAKE-DEAD ROBBER

J. C. La France, Whose Wife Collected \$15,000 Insurance, Is Paroled.

PROSECUTOR AGAINST STEP

District Attorney Evans May Re-arrest Him Under Pending Charge, as Authorities Suspect Murder in Body "Planting."

J. C. La France, who, according to his confession, "faked" his own death and defrauded insurance companies of \$15,000, is again at liberty, after serving a little more than a year for his crime.

The unsolved mystery in the La France case is the identity of the body which had been identified as that of La France. Where did La France get the body on which his wife collected insurance? That is the question that is puzzled by District Attorney Evans and all who investigated the crime.

Two Indictments Yet Out. La France was convicted of obtaining money from an insurance company by false pretenses. Two more indictments against him on the same charge are still pending, and District Attorney Evans may have La France arrested again immediately to stand trial on the other two charges.

In April, 1912, a badly decomposed body was found in the woods near Estacada. A fishing license and letters in the pocket indicated that the body was that of J. C. La France, who was missing. The insurance, \$15,000 in all, was paid to Mrs. La France.

In May, the authorities secretly had investigated rumors that La France had been seen on the streets of Portland, the man was arrested in Tillamook by Sheriff Gage.

La France admitted that he had "planted" the body in the woods near Estacada and had caused his discovery. He waited in hiding until his wife had collected the \$15,000 insurance money. Then he started on a tour of the country. After a few months he came to Bandon, Or., under the name of A. J. Fergar, and with his capital, started the Fergar Tire & Timber Company.

La France had to have machinery, so came to Portland to purchase it. He visited this city several times, and frequently met acquaintances on the streets.

Rumors finally reached District Attorney Evans and La France's arrest followed.

Questioned as to where he got the body used to carry out his scheme, La France told fully eight conflicting stories. Detail in each tale gave it the appearance of plausibility, but each was found to be false. He said that he had purchased the body from medical students that he had connived with undertakers to obtain it, and one of his stories was that he had discovered the body in the woods where he "planted" it.

MURDER IS SUSPECTED.

La France's desire to conceal where he got the body, led to the suspicion that a murder had been committed. District Attorney Evans says it is because of this suspicion that he regrets the liberating of La France by the parole board.

ELKS TO VISIT THE DALLES

Portland Elks to Attend Initiation of 25 Candidates.

Portland Elks will visit The Dalles in force January 1, when an initiation of 25 candidates will take place there. Officers of Portland Lodge 142 will conduct the initiation and they will be accompanied by several members from this city, Vancouver, Oregon City and McMinnville. A special train of Elks will attend the initiation from Pendleton, Heppner and Walla Walla.

SHORT CIRCUIT FIRE CAUSE

Inspector Dunlap Makes Report on Irvington School Blaze.

That a short circuit caused by metallic decorations on the Christmas tree at the Irvington school may have been the cause of the fire there recently during a Christmas celebration is the belief of City Electrical Inspector Dunlap, expressed in a report sent to the Council. Mr. Dunlap says he made a detailed investigation of the fire.

BRIDGE BONDS ARE SIGNED

First Issue of \$250,000 for Vancouver Structure Ready.

The first 250 bonds, worth \$1000 each, for Multnomah County's share in the building of the Interstate bridge, were signed yesterday afternoon by Chairman Rufus C. Holman, and countersigned by County Clerk Coffey.

"JOKER" IS BLAMED FOR SCHOOL BOOKS

Use by Multnomah of One Kind and Up-State Another Laid to Fluke.

DELEGATION IS SURPRISED

Simpler Course of Study Likely to Follow Investigation—Legislators Devote Long Discussion to Class Problems.

Why the up-state counties of Oregon are required to furnish their school-children with one kind of textbooks and why Multnomah County is permitted to prescribe another set for its pupils are questions that the legislative committee on educational affairs wanted a delegation of school teachers and school officials to answer last night.



Multnomah County. Walter F. White, a taxpayer of Portland, sought to enjoin the county officials from issuing the bonds on the ground that the advertisement for bids was not sufficient. The advertisement for bids was published in the Evening Telegram, the Pacific Banker, of Portland, and the Daily Bond Buyer, of New York.

NEW YEAR BILLS READY

PROGRAMMES FOR MIDNIGHT MATINEES ARE ANNOUNCED.

Crowds of Celebrants Expected to Appear on Downtown Streets for Watch-Night Frolic.

While the biggest "swear off" that Portland will ever see will not occur until 1915, when the entire city will help to nail down the "wet" lid, it is probable that the crowd which will assemble on the downtown streets tomorrow night will form the greatest gathering of New Year celebrants that Portland has ever witnessed.

More than usual interest was manifested yesterday in the midnight matinee to be staged as a benefit for the Theatrical Mechanical Association. The sale at the Huntington drug store, Fourth and Washington streets, was lively all day long. H. Crist, the old Orpheum expert ticket manipulator, was showing them out with both hands.

A meeting between Manager T. R. Condon of the Orpheum, J. A. Johnson of Pantages, H. W. Pierong of the Empress and the Theatrical Mechanical Association committee was held last night and a tentative programme for each theater was made up.



Miss Yale, of Yale and Princeton, Empress Players, who will appear at midnight matinee.

NEW CLUBHOUSE OPEN

LAURELHURST COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL CENTER DEDICATED.

Several Hundred Call During Afternoon and 300 Make Merry at Night Programme and Dance.

The Laurelhurst Clubhouse, located at the northern boundary of the Ladd Park, was last night turned over to the community which it represents, and a reception which started in the afternoon and continued through the evening.

CHURCH UNION INDORSED

THIRD PRESBYTERIANS WOULD JOIN HAWTHORNE PARK.

CONGREGATION'S MEETING ADOPTS RESOLUTION

Committee to Open Way.

At a meeting of the congregation of the Third Presbyterian Church, East Pine and East Thirtieth streets, last night a resolution was adopted favoring consolidation with the Hawthorne Park Presbyterian Church by a vote of 100 to 10.

The officers of the Third Church were instructed to confer with those of the Hawthorne Park Church and to make a report at a later date. The conference between the officials of the two churches will occur every phase of the proposed consolidation.

Elder Charles Cleland presided. Rev. Henry H. Baker, chairman of the church extension committee, addressed the meeting, emphasizing the need of a larger congregation before the step is taken. Rev. Andrew J. Montgomery, ex-pastor of the church, also spoke briefly, pointing out some of the advantages of consolidation, including the elimination of overhead expenses.

Wilson Bidden to City. Commercial Club Invites President to Visit Portland.

Proposals to Send Delegate on Ship to South America to Be Discussed with Chamber of Commerce.

On the authority of the board of governors of the Commercial Club, Horace B. Farnsworth, club president, sent yesterday afternoon a letter to State Senator Chamberlain requesting him to invite President Wilson to visit Portland on his proposed trip to the Pacific Coast.

Management Also Investigated. Investigation of the school management also took up some time. Senator Moser thought that the District Attorney should investigate the matter.

The board decided to take up with the Chamber of Commerce today the suggestion of sending a Portland representative on the Steamship Finland on its tour around South America. The directors propose that the two bodies cooperate with the Massena travel association.

The nominating committee of the Commercial Club, who will name a list of 100 to 200 names from which 25 will be chosen at the annual meeting January 23 to serve as governors of the club for three years, met yesterday to canvass the membership of the club and to suggest names that should be considered. The members of the nominating committee are: A. C. Callan, Sol Hart, A. R. Graham, G. McMicken and F. H. Fogarty. John H. Burgard, G. W. Kleiser, C. S. Jackson, John S. Beall and A. Freeman are the retiring governors.

GRIND ORGAN TO TAKE EXIT. Well-Known Italian, With Monkey and Bear, Given Month to Quit.

For one more month Portland residence districts will hear the chimes of an Italian grind organ and are to see the grind organ monkey dancer, Enrico Bigelow and Mayor Albee yesterday granted Cesare Zenzola 30 days' permission to entertain on condition that Zenzola leave his entourage behind him.

For years Zenzola was a prominent figure on the streets. He had a trained chorus that rustled, bellowed and he had a bear which danced. Some time ago it was decided the animals were not safe and the troupe was put out of business.

DRUGS

WOOD-LARK TEA CO.

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Double Stamps Today on Our First Three Floors, in All Departments



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All Charges Today and Tomorrow Go on Your Jan. Acct.

NO ADVANCE HERE. Meggett's Pure Ceylon Tea - 1/2 lb. packet. Flowery Orange Pekoe 50c Orange Pekoe. 40c

WINE, LIQUORS, CORDIALS

Wines, Liquors, Cordials, without exception, at greatly reduced prices. Our stock of imported and domestic brands is of the highest quality.

EXTRA SPECIAL. Doles' Hawaiian Pineapple Juice, qt. 37c Dozen \$4.00

A KODAK CLEAN-UP. All our discontinued models at reductions of 25 to 50 per cent. Buy a Kodak and join our Photo School, January 7.

BIG REDUCTIONS IN "CROSS" MERCHANDISE. Cross Traveling Bags and Suit Cases. 20% off Cross Ladies' Hand Bags in pigskin, all colors and styles. 25% off

EIDERDOWN SLIPPERS. The crown of foot comfort, pair. 50c Just ask to see the J. B. L. Internal Bath.

FOR AN IRRITATING COUGH. Cold-Well's Balsam, white pine, glycerine and tar. 25c, 50c, \$1.00.

25c and 30c Tooth Brushes. 19c 25c and 35c Hand and Nail Brushes. 17c \$2.50 Hair Brushes, assorted backs, pure bristles. \$1.79

10c Hand Scrubs. 7c 25c 4711 White Rose Soap. 15c 50c Rickecker's Cold Cream. 29c 50c Elcaya Creme. 39c 50c Sempre Givovine. 29c 50c Pebecco. 28c 50c Veda Rose Rouge. 33c

STATIONERY DEPARTMENT. 75c Pencil Set. 47c 35c Pencil Set. 27c 25c Pencil Set. 19c \$2.00 Sealing Wax Set. \$1.37 75c Dennison's Handy Box. 49c \$1.00 Book Cover, leather. 63c \$1.50 Magazine Cover, leather. \$1.05 75c Correspondence Cards. 39c

Lunch in the "WOOD-LARK" Tea Room. Delicious Hot Chocolate. Frozen Dainties.

Reading of "Blindness of Virtue" Given at Baker.

DRAMA TO BE PRESENTED. Announcement Causes Protests and Expressions of Approval to Be Made by Many and Brings About Wide Discussion.

For many weeks Manager George L. Baker has been planning to give a production of "The Blindness of Virtue," Cosmo Hamilton's startling drama. No play of his character has ever been put on in stock in Portland, and Mr. Baker has been hesitating only because he wanted to get opinions of the play, its appropriateness, its lesson and its purpose from Portland folk who are in a position to acquaint themselves with the need for such a presentation.

With the idea in mind of putting the play in its original form before leads and members of various organizations, Mr. Baker yesterday afternoon sent them to make up an audience to hear Miss Josephine Hammond, of Reed College, professor of English, give a reading of the play yesterday afternoon at the Baker Theater. A representative audience listened in delight to Miss Hammond's beautiful reading. She has the faculty of making a reading take on the value of a well-acted drama and held her listeners enthralled through the three acts.

"The Blindness of Virtue" has been written around a theme that has been widely discussed. Wherever it has been produced as a play it has been a dramatic sensation. It is a strong, gripping and vital drama, founded on a delicate subject, but one that is discussed in every home where parents hold at heart the interests of their growing sons and daughters. It is a strong indictment directed against the modern habit so many unthinking parents have of bringing up their boys and girls in blind ignorance of existing conditions to safeguard them from the vice and evil of the world.

Father's Eyes Opened. The father has his eyes opened to what might have been the result of his daughter's ignorance and realizes that the fault rests with himself and ever since Mr. Baker announced the "Blindness of Virtue" as next week's play at his theater.

Max Cohen to Appeal Habeas Writ. Thomas Mannix, attorney for Max G. Cohen, in Portland, attorney, under sentence of two years on McNeill's island for subornation of perjury in a white slave case, notified United States District Attorney

Reames yesterday that he would appeal the writ of habeas corpus, denied directly at Tacoma by Judge Cushman, to the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Mannix said he would present the matter before the court at Tacoma next Monday.

PIONEER MILLER IS DEAD. A. S. Marble Passes Away at Age of 85 Years.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—A. S. Marble, 85, who operated a flour mill on Salmon Creek for more than 30 years, died today at his home on the St. Johns road, five miles east of this city. He was a Portland pioneer of 1852 and a veteran of the Indian war of 1855-56.

The funeral will be held tomorrow from the Knapp chapel, at 1 o'clock. He is survived by his wife and eight children; F. S. Marble, of Salmon Creek; O. H. Marble, of Condon, Or., and A. G. Marble, of Vancouver; Mrs. J. W. Weeks, of Vancouver; Mrs. J. W. Mannix, of Northwold; Mrs. O. R. Chamberlain, of this city; Mrs. Jefferson Wilson, of Goldendale; Mrs. J. W. Snover, of East Mill Plain; and Mrs. Iva Stanley, of Helson. There are also 23 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Missionary Conference Tonight. The missionary conference of the Nazarene churches of Portland and vicinity will begin tonight in the First Church of the Nazarene, East Couch and East Seventh streets, continuing through Thursday and Friday with services at 10:30 A. M., 3 and 7:30 P. M. Watch night services will be held.

Mrs. Laura R. Slocum to Be Buried. VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—The body of Mrs. Laura Riggs Slocum, widow of the late O. W. Slocum, both pioneers of Vancouver, arrived here tonight from Long Beach, Cal., and will be at the Knapp chapel until Thursday afternoon. The funeral will be held from her home at Twelfth and King streets at 2 o'clock Thursday. Rev. D. C. Kellems officiating. Interment will be in the city cemetery.

Miss Dorothy Dickson, of Chicago, is out to break the world's large record of 25,000 miles in a year. She has traveled, according to her meter, almost 25,000 miles since the beginning of this year.

SEE THAT CURVE. "Are You Near Sighted?" Can you see best when your book is held closer than 14 inches from your eye? Can you see better when your eyes half closed than when they are wide open? If your answer to either of these questions is yes, then you need glasses. If you are in doubt, our system of scientific eye examination will determine without question whether glasses will benefit you.

THOMPSON OPTICAL INSTITUTE. 209-10-11 Corbett Bldg., 5th and Morrison.

Imperial Hotel Grill. Special Table d'Hote Supper 10 P. M. to 1 A. M., \$2.50. New Year's Eve. Cabaret, Balloons and other entertainment of the best sort scheduled. New Year's Day. Table d'Hote Dinner, \$1.50 5:30 to 9 P. M. Music.