



REAL SLAYER CLEARS PENDER

Asylum Inmate Admits Wehrman Murders.

LOCK OF HAIR IS CLEW

John G. H. Sierks Confesses
Killing Near Scappoose
September 4, 1911.

THACHER FINDS CRIMINAL

Murderer Breaks Down When Closeted With Chaplain and Tells Story in Detail.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 3.—(Special.)—A lock of his own hair, taken from the hand of one of his victims, who had fought desperately for her life, and that of her child, held before his eyes, caused John G. H. Sierks, a feeble-minded inmate of the State Insane Asylum, to confess tonight to the killing of Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and her little boy in their cabin, near Scappoose, the night of September 4, 1911.

Thus, the authorities say, is John Arthur Pender, convicted of the crime and sentenced to be hanged, proved guiltless. He will, it is believed, be freed by executive order in a few days.

Mr. Thacher Solves Case.

Credit for solving this most heinous and most mysterious of Oregon crimes belongs to George A. Thacher, a criminologist of Portland. Once convinced that Pender was innocent he worked almost unceasingly in putting the threads of his evidence together. Finding in the insane asylum a man, who answered the mental description of the one he believed capable of committing the crime, he had little difficulty in bringing about its complete solution.

There seems to be no doubt of the truth of Sierks' confession. While feeble-minded, he is capable of reasoning and seemed to understand thoroughly what was meant when he was asked to stand and take an oath to what he said. He signed the confession with a bold hand and seemed much relieved thereafter.

Chaplain Gets Confession.

The first confession was wrung from the man, who is 25 years old, by Rev. W. G. MacLaren, chaplain of the State Penitentiary, who had been working with Mr. Thacher and Superintendent Steiner, of the Asylum, upon the young man for several days. With a cunning developed highly in most criminals, Sierks evaded answers. Sometimes he appeared upon the verge of confessing and a second later would declare he had nothing to do with the crime.

Mr. MacLaren, at the request of Mr. Thacher, had an interview with the man last Wednesday. He partially admitted his guilt and then, to some extent, retracted what he had said. The minister, however, was certain he was on the right track and another interview was arranged for tonight.

Sight of Hair Startles.

Sierks was taken to the office of Superintendent Steiner. There were present besides Dr. Steiner, Mr. Thacher, Mr. MacLaren and Dr. L. F. Griffith, of the hospital staff. Asked about the crime Sierks refused to talk. Then it was decided that all leave the room but the minister and the suspect. What occurred between the two is told as follows by Mr. MacLaren.

"I told John it was not right for him to keep silent when the freedom of another man was at stake. I explained that he had been the cause of another man's life almost being forfeited. He was cunning; he said he did not do it. I told him it would be better to tell all for it would come out before his maker some day."
(Concluded on Page 3.)

DRAFT DECLARED NEAR IN BRITAIN

ELIGIBLE MEN NOT TO ENJOY EASE, SAYS NAVAL MAN.

Rush to Colors Follows Addresses Delivered in Public by Wounded Soldiers From Front.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—A hint that the British government contemplated the introduction of conscription for increasing the army and navy was dropped by Thomas J. McNamara, Parliamentary Secretary of the Admiralty, while speaking at the Browning Settlement today.

Referring to the fact that there were many thousands of young men in the United Kingdom without dependents who had not answered the call to the colors, Mr. McNamara said: "If they think they are going to enjoy a life of freedom at the other fellow's expense, they won't enjoy it much longer."

The recruiting boom which began after the holidays continues. As the result of six open-air meetings at Cardiff, addressed by wounded soldiers, there was an extraordinary rush to the recruiting offices last night, and the recruiting officers were kept busy until an early hour this morning. At one meeting alone 6000 men bared their heads when the national anthems of the allies were played.

FOE MAKES FRIENDLY VISIT

Instead of Bombs, German Drops Greetings and Captives' Letters.

DUNKIRK, France, Dec. 26.—A German airplane paid a visit to Dunkirk during Christmas week, but he dropped no bombs, only peaceful Christmas greetings. The hazardous trip from the German lines was undertaken at the request of a Prussian colonel, who wanted to know where his son, killed at sea, was buried and the parcel of letters and cards which the aviator dropped into the principal square of the city contained a letter asking for this information, together with letters from several French airmen, prisoners in the hands of the Germans.

GET BUSY, EDISON SAYS

Inventor Says It Is Time for United States to Go Ahead.

WEST ORANGE, N. J., Jan. 3.—(Special.)—Thomas A. Edison, the inventor, predicted today that 1915 will be a most prosperous year. He said: "Now is the time for the United States to go ahead. We can manufacture cheaper today than in many years to come. However, many of our best business men seem to be penny wise and pound foolish. I am surprised that commercial and industrial America has been affected with a form of paralysis, evidently as the result of the war in Europe. This is all due, however, to unnecessary alarm of the continent of the European war, Edison said.

ENGLISH PRAY FOR VICTORY

Irish, However, Take No Part in British Services in Rome.

ROME, Jan. 3.—Special prayers were said today in all the English churches in Italy for the ultimate victory of the Triple Entente nations. In the chapel of the English college, Cardinal Gasquet and the new British Minister to the Vatican, Sir Henry Howard were among those who participated in the communion service. Their action was in striking contrast to that of the members of the British Embassy to the Quirinal, none of whom was present at any service. It also was remarked that the rector and the vice-rector of the Irish college did not participate in the service or attend the reception given by Cardinal Gasquet in honor of Sir Henry Howard.

NEW BOOK BY HOFER OUT

"Jesus and the Unemployed" Is Title Taken by Salem Writer.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 3.—(Special.)—"Jesus and the Unemployed" is the subject of a booklet by Colonel E. Hofer, of this city, which has just been published. The writer foresees a revolution of the unemployed if something is not done to avert it and suggests, as a remedy, adherence to the teachings of the Savior.

Calling attention to the work of Jesus among the poor, Colonel Hofer says he reread the New Testament in order that he might be better prepared to present the only remedy for the revolution that threatened. The booklet is dedicated to "All ye that labor and are heavy laden."

AUSTRIA EXECUTES EDITOR

Seditious Speech Leads to Condemnation, Says Report.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent transmitted a dispatch received there from Vienna, which says that a newspaper editor, Joseph Yotel, of Prossnitz, Moravia, was condemned to death by court-martial for a seditious speech. He was executed two hours after sentence was passed.

GERMANS WILL WIN, SAYS CHANCELLOR

Nation's Confidence Declared Unabated.

SORROW FELT FOR BELGIANS

British Policy Held Chiefly to Hamper Neutrals.

FATHERLAND IS PREPARED

Von Bethmann-Hollweg Tells Correspondent His People Cherish No Hatred for France—British Blamed for War.

BERLIN, Dec. 14.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The imperial chancellor Herr Von Bethmann-Hollweg, received a correspondent of the Associated Press today and discussed the Belgian relief situation, the question of contraband, the way in which industrial Germany has adapted herself to war conditions, the sentiment of Germany toward her enemies and toward America, and the responsibility for the war, which he attributed to Great Britain.

Hatred of French Denied.

"I did not want this war," was one of his phrases, given with striking emphasis. "We Germans do not cherish hate," was another, occurring in a discussion of the attitude of the Germans toward the French soldiers and people. Four months and a half of war have not passed lightly over the chancellor. In his uniform of Lieutenant-General, with grizzled, close-cropped beard, and iron crosses of the first and second class, he seemed much older than the scholarly, frock coated statesman of rechristening debates. Face and eyes showed signs of the strain of the past few months.

Confidence in Victory Felt.

He spoke with confidence of ultimate German victory, although a weary, expressive shrug of the shoulders was his answer to a query as to the possible duration of the war. The chancellor had only that day received word that his son, a young cavalry lieutenant, had been badly wounded and captured in Poland by the Russians, but of this he made no mention when declaring that the situation on the eastern front appeared to be favorable.

Full Reports to Be Issued.

The conversation turned first to news conditions and the difficulty of presenting the German side of the situation.
(Concluded on Page 2.)

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 46 degrees; minimum, 39 degrees. TODAY'S—Light rain; winds mostly south-westerly.

War. Von Bethmann-Hollweg says Germany is confident of winning. Page 1. Germans again fall with heavy losses on Meuse in Russia. Page 1. Early conscription in Great Britain is hinted by Admiralty official. Page 1. Polish forest burned by daring volunteers to save Germans. Page 1. Henry James makes appeal for aid for American Motor Ambulance Corps in France. Page 2. General Von Buelow consented to massacre Belgian civilians, says investigator. Page 2. Allies' offensive movement stayed by incessant rains. Page 2. National. American position toward contraband similar to that of Great Britain in Russo-Japanese war. Page 2. Domestic. Mystic experiments with psychology of death in committing suicide. Page 2. Secretary McAdoo says investigation of commercial prosperity is dawdling. Page 1. Sports. Melief Jones predicts failure of Salt Lake Coast League Club in year. Page 8. Jess Willard is listed as only real white hope with chance to defeat Johnson. Page 8. Coast League heads will solve problems today. Page 8. Portland bowlers defeat Corvallis team. Page 8. Pacific Northwest. Four votes deadlock Idaho Republican caucus on Speakership. Page 5. Insane Asylum inmate confesses murder of Mrs. Wehrman and child, of which Pender was convicted. Page 1. Miss Ethel Moser, Vancouver nurse, praises supposed leader of auto thieves killed in San Francisco. Page 3. Woman selected for Senate vacancy by Governor West. Page 5. Portland and Vicinity. Mrs. A. C. Cook blames temporary derangement for husband's suicide at Ford-street bridge. Page 16. Glee abounds in new films at moving-picture parlors. Page 16. Demand for vessels brisk and business profitable. Page 2. Symphony orchestra concert wins plaudits of music-lovers. Page 7. "The Blindness of Virtue" proves to be sensation at Baker Theater. Page 16. Company plans big warehouse to handle Pacific Northwest wool clip. Page 5. George A. Tischer, analyzes Sierks, confessed murderer of Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and child. Page 4. Bishop Cooke's order prevents announced funeral for Dr. Clarence True Wilson. Page 9. Youthful automobile robbers held up girl and escape with purses. Page 1. New county officials in office today name deputies. Page 4. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 16.

GOLTZ PRAISES OTTOMANS

German Commander Confident of Turkish Empire's Future.

BERLIN, Jan. 3.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—The Official Press Bureau says that the Taninif, a Constantinople newspaper, publishes an interview with the German field marshal, Kolmar von der Goltz, military commander of Constantinople and acting Turkish Minister of War, who expresses confidence over the outlook for Turkey.

Raiders Hit, Say Germans.

BERLIN, Jan. 3.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—The newspapers here profess to have received information that the English in their recent raid on Cuxhaven did absolutely no damage. It is believed that four of the English aeroplanes were lost; that the cruiser Arethusa was badly damaged and another cruiser somewhat damaged by German bombs.

M'ADOO SAYS GOOD TIMES ARE AT DOOR

Money Situation Best Since 1907.

ENHANCED CAPITAL WAITING

Secretary Says Financial Independence Is Assured.

NEW EXPANSION PROBABLE

Greatest Commercial Prosperity Nation Ever Has Known De- clared to Be Imminent as Confidence Is Restored.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 3.—(Special.)—Secretary McAdoo, who arrived here tonight from San Diego, declared that money conditions throughout the country were more favorable than they had been at any time since 1907.

The Secretary said he saw no obstacle to the further expansion of the Nation's industrial and commercial interests this year and in the years following the European war. He expressed the conviction that the near future would witness the greatest commercial prosperity the country had ever known. He believed, he said, that the tendency that had been noted on the part of business men generally to economize and act with extreme prudence in new ventures was rapidly passing.

Insurance Given Against Panic.

In this greater confidence of business the Secretary sees the immediate effect of the Federal reserve banks and the new currency system. He expressed the view that entirely aside from the function of the new reserve banks in discounting commercial paper, they had already accomplished a fundamental change for the better in the assurance they had brought to business confidence, which he considered an "insurance" against the possibility of recurring panics.

Gold Reserves Liberated.

While he deprecated the idea that the Federal reserve banks were to accomplish great constructive development immediately, such as the sudden transformation of arid land into bearing orchards, and similar development along industrial lines, and while he insisted that the chief function of the new system had been rather to remove the artificial restrictions and give freedom for the continued normal expansion of trade, he said he considered that the Nation was entering
(Concluded on Page 3.)

BOY AUTO ROBBERS TAKE GIRL'S PURSE

VICTIM HELD UP AT TWENTY- SECOND AND OVERTON.

Youth Jumps From Car, Snatches Bag Holding \$10, Gets Aboard Again and Car Races Off.

Two youthful automobile robbers held up Miss Rose Paulkner last night near Twenty-second and Overton streets and escaped with a silver mesh purse containing \$10. The robbery took place just after Miss Paulkner had left a streetcar to go to her home at Twenty-first and Overton streets.

Miss Paulkner got off a Twenty-third street car at Overton street about 11 o'clock and walked along Overton street to Twenty-second street.

As she neared the corner, a small automobile approached in Twenty-second street. It stopped at the curb. A well-dressed boy was driving the machine and another, about 15 years old, jumped from it and accosted Miss Paulkner.

"I'll shoot if you scream," he said. Miss Paulkner screamed, anyway.

The boy snatched her purse and jumped back into the car, which sped off down Twenty-second street. Miss Paulkner ran to a nearby house. From there she telephoned the police. Detectives Hellyer and Tackberry a short time later arrested two boys riding in a small car after an exciting chase for several miles, but Miss Paulkner failed to identify them, and they explained their flight satisfactorily. They were released.

700 MEN TO RESUME WORK

Sawmills Reopen at Everett to Fill Foreign Orders.

EVERETT, Wash., Jan. 3.—Two lumber mills, employing a total of 700 men, will resume work tomorrow, and a third, employing 200 more, will start up January 15, it was announced today.

Large foreign orders and improvement in the Eastern market are given as the reason.

Sunday's War Moves

FROM Petrograd it is announced that the Russians have successfully repulsed the Germans on the Budra and Rawka rivers, while military experts say the invaders have definitely failed in the campaign against Warsaw and consider that the prolonged battle of the four rivers (Buzza, Rawka, Nida, and Pilica) has ended with the Russian lines intact, necessitating a complete change in the plans of Field Marshal von Hindenburg.

The Germans have captured the important Russian position of Borimov, but elsewhere they have been unable to make headway against the Russians, who, as defenders of well fortified positions, are aided by the wet weather and muddy roads, which hinder the German movements.

The Austrians say they have checked the Russian advance near Gorlice, on the South Galician Railway, west of Jaslo, but apparently the battle here has not yet been concluded. The Russians, on the other hand, have taken the Austrian positions near Uszok Pass, which should open another entrance for them through the Carpathians into Hungary, while the Austrian retreat in Bukovina is described by the Russians as a rout.

The Turks have crossed the Russian border in the Caucasus, and according to their own account have defeated the Russian garrison at Ardahan. They are, however, displaying anxiety for their remaining possessions in Europe by feverishly fortifying the whole coast line. What they fear is not disclosed, for it is considered hardly possible for the allies to land a sufficient force to prove a menace to them. It is possible that they anticipate an invasion from another source.

Indications point to the possibility that the Balkan states, which are now neutral, may take a hand in the war.

The Greek Minister of Finance has declared that Greece is making preparations to maintain the new territories which she gained in the Balkan wars from Turkey and Bulgaria, but that she has more to fear from Bulgaria than from Turkey. It is not thought that Roumania can look on calmly while the Russians are advancing toward Transylvania, and it is expected that she will join with Russia and try to secure the much coveted eastern province of Austria-Hungary.

The extremely rainy winter, the worst Europe has experienced in years, causing floods in the rivers and valleys of the Continent, as well as those of England, has prevented any operations on a large scale on the western battle front and has seriously interfered with those in the east.

There have been heavy artillery engagements from the sea to the Swiss border and occasional attacks by the infantry of the opposing armies, which, when not repulsed, have added a few yards to the territory in the possession of the attacking force but have always proved costly adventures.

The French have gained a little ground between Albert and Roye, just north of the point where the line turns eastward, and to the east of Rheims and southwest of Verdun, where the attempts to make the German positions at St. Mihiel, on the Meuse, untenable, are proceeding slowly.

Throughout the British Empire and in the English churches in foreign countries intercession services were held yesterday for the success of the allied arms. Many of the sermons embodied exhortations to the young men to join the army. King George attended services in the village church at Sandringham.

GERMANS AGAIN FAIL WITH HEAVY LOSSES

Long Battle of Rivers Is Believed Ended.

CZAR'S LINES ARE UNBROKEN

Austrians Evacuate Bukovina and Inhabitants Flee.

BERLIN PLANS ALL UPSET

New Movements Under Way Are Be- lieved Designed to Take Ivan- gorod and Novo Georgievsk, and Not Warsaw.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Complete failure of the German campaign of the Four Rivers which has constituted a long series of battles on the Budra, Rawka, Pilica and Nida, with heavy losses, is reported in dispatches received late Sunday night from Petrograd. They contradict the Berlin contention, received early Sunday, that the German advance is progressing.

Austrian reports of a repulse of the Russians in Galicia are also contradicted by the Petrograd dispatches.

Battle Believed Ended.

A Petrograd dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company says: "In the opinion of experts here, the battle of the four rivers, as the long series of engagements on the Budra, Rawka, Pilica and Nida is popularly known, may be considered ended. "Not only have the Germans and Austrians failed to advance on the Russian north and south line, roughly lying from the Vistula to Warsaw, Kielec and Pincow, but everywhere have been repulsed with heavy losses and the attacks now proceeding may be construed as an effort to gain time, pending new operations."

"By the occupation of Kremenz, Zoliten, Sereth and Ladawa, in Bukovina on the Roumanian frontier, Russia not only holds the strategic railway line connecting Bukovina with Western Galicia and Hungary, but is within 100 miles of Hungary over easy passes of the wooded Carpathians."

30,000 Inhabitants Flee.

"The Bourne Gazette Moscow correspondent asserts that the Austrians are evacuating Bukovina and that more than 30,000 panic-stricken inhabitants of Bukovina and Transylvania have fled into Roumania."

"Three Austrian aeroplanes have dropped ten bombs on Kielec. The damage is not known."

The Petrograd War Office announced last night that the attempted surprise attacks of the Germans failed completely. Their infantry charged a shower of bombs, but the Russians stood their ground unshaken in the trenches.

A strong Austro-German force had made an even more furious attack on the Russians holding the road to Kielec. They succeeded in holding some of the Russian trenches for a few hours, but in the afternoon Russian infantry rushed at them with the bayonet and the enemy was driven far back along the southwest road. Nine guns
(Concluded on Page 3.)

WHEN IT COMES TO WATER WAGONS, THE RUSSIANS CAN GO SOME.

