

### WEARS TO FACE MURDER CHARGE

Woman's Story of Girl's Death Now Believed.

BODY WILL BE SOUGHT

Formal Complaint to Be Filed Today, Says Deputy District Attorney on Case.

There are few persons, and they are only persons of the highest type of mentality, who could tell a detailed story of such length as is credited to this woman; tell it over and over under such conditions as police investigations impose, and not trip up in some misstatement.

"When persons tell the truth they can repeat the same facts innumerable times without variation. And when a person is suffering from a fixed hallucination that hallucination becomes fact to the person afflicted and is treated by them as the truth. I have only seen newspaper accounts, but I believe that it would be almost impossible for a person to stick to the story as this woman has unless it were the absolute truth or a hallucination."

Another theory, based in part on Dr. Joseph's statement and sub-

(Continued From First Page.)

made them and was afraid to back down for fear that the police would send her to the Cedars.

"As a result of that conversation," said Mr. Mowery, "I am absolutely convinced that the Leary woman is speaking the truth and that a young girl was murdered in old Weir's saw the night of September 23. We will proceed with formal murder charges this morning."

**Official Is Confident.**

"I have no doubt but in a few weeks the full details will be revealed and that when the time for Mr. Leary's trial arrives, he will be able to prove that the charges made by the woman are true."

"It has been suggested that we cannot proceed because of the charge because of the inability to find the body. We will have a surprise in store for Mr. Weir on that score in a few days. Mrs. Leary will be able to show us, within a few hundred yards, the spot pointed to by Earl Weir as the place where the little girl's body was dumped in the river."

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Earl Weir, 26-year-old river captain, who, with his father, Cash Weir, is central figure in alleged crossing river murder mystery.

Established by investigation, in that the story is true up to the point where the woman, peeping through the knot hole, saw the child in the clutches of the aged Weir. Then it is argued, reason left the woman, her imagination, goaded on by fiction and film plots, pictured the father and son loading the body into the launch and disposing of it somewhere in the Columbia or Willamette rivers. The woman talked supporters of this theory argue Weir, fearing punishment for mistreating the child, bundled her into the houseboat and hid her along the deserted shores of Ross Island. No murder was committed, the advocates of this theory claim, the child, on recovering, having been spirited away from the shack.

Weir, the central figure in this engrossing drama of real life, is one of the pioneer boatmen of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, who has fallen from high estate as owner of steamers to the position of a most notorious "river rat" from Youngs bay to Oregon city.

Weir is 61 years of age. He came to the west with his father in 1872. The senior Weir was one of the most respected rivermen of the northwest, operating the Lucy Moore on the Lewis river run. Cash Weir took to the river, at one time owned and operated the Hazel Weir on a run between Portland and St. Helena. He has been pilot and captain of numerous steamers, but has gradually drifted down, until at the time of his arrest, he was considered as one of the most notorious characters of the waterfront. Weir was once accused of robbing all of the local harbor lights of their oil, thereby endangering navigation. He has been arrested, according to police records, on four previous occasions, on charges ranging from theft to drunkenness.

Young Weir, despite his somewhat disreputable air, seems to have struck off on an opposite tack, and last February won master's papers and the distinction of being the youngest river captain on the Columbia or Willamette rivers.

**Woman Relative Arrested.**

(Special.)—Mrs. D. R. Weir, sister-in-law of Cash Weir, accused of a murder in Portland, passed eight months in the Clark county jail for moonshining. She was pardoned last July by Governor Hart and released. Her husband, who is Cash Weir's brother, offered to serve the sentence, but his wife insisted on "laying out" the fine, and Weir did not persist in his attempt to bear the blame. The Weirs live in a houseboat near Ridgefield. Mrs. Weir was arrested November 19 and pleaded guilty to the moonshine charge.

**Station to Be Repaired.**

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The Dearborn-street railroad station, partly destroyed by fire yesterday, will be repaired and will be used again by all eight roads which have made it their terminal for years past, President H. G. Hetzler of the Chicago & Western Indiana railroad, owners of the property announced today. The repair work will be started at once, it was said.

**Hazelwood Orchestra**

J. F. N. COLBURN, Director.  
TODAY'S PROGRAMME  
6 to 8 and 9:30 to 11:30

1. "La Sorella," March....Borels-Clerc
2. "Pierrot et Pierrette," Waltz.....F. Lehar
3. "Songs of Scotland," Selection....J. B. Lampe
4. "Every Day," Fox Trot.....W. Daly
5. "Three Spanish Dances".....M. Moszkowski
6. "Song to the Evening Star".....R. Wagner
7. "The Glad Girl," Idyll...Motzan and Jerome
8. "Troubles," Fox Trot....L. Reynolds

**Washington St. Hazelwood CONFECTIONERY AND RESTAURANT**  
388 Washington Street Near Tenth

7-VARIETIES-7

### RAILROAD RATE CUT MET WITH PROTEST

Lines Said to Be Already Losing Millions.

EARNINGS SHOW DECLINE

Comments on Public Relations Say Reductions Past Year Average 12 Per Cent.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Reductions of railroad freight rates have averaged 12 per cent within the last year and annually, the western railways committee on public relations said in a statement tonight protesting against further rate reductions.

Additional reductions would constitute a "menace to the reviving prosperity of the country," the statement made public by S. M. Felton, chairman said.

While railway rates and earnings have been reduced, the prices of other commodities have advanced, the statement said. Total freight earnings of the country's roads for September alone declined \$47,733,000 through the rate reductions.

Asserting the people in western territory and particularly farmers were making the loudest clamor for lower rates, the statement said that largest reductions have been made in western territory because rates on grain, grain products and hay were reduced more in proportion.

**Western Lines Reduce.**

On western lines the statement continued, the average rate of reduction from September, 1921, to September, 1922, was 13 per cent, western railways in September earning \$22,950,000 less than they would have if the reductions had not been made. Because of rate reductions earnings of western lines have been reduced at an annual rate of about \$255,000,000, the statement said.

The result of the reduction in railroad freight rates while prices of other commodities advanced, has been such that the average freight rate per ton mile for the country is only 54 per cent higher than in 1913, the statement continued, adding that the average wholesale price of all commodities other than farm products is 66 per cent higher. The average price of farm products as compared with 1913, is now higher than the average rate of western railways, the average per ton mile for western roads in September being 13.4 per cent higher than in 1913, while the average price of farm products for November was 43 per cent higher than for 1913, according to the statement.

**Materials on Increase.**

The railroads are not only suffering from rate reductions, but from increases in the prices of material they must buy, the statement said, explaining metal products increased 20 per cent in the last year, coal raised 40 per cent since the strike and lumber has increased from 43 to more than 80 per cent.

In the four months following the reduction of rates, July 1, for which figures are available, the railroads of the country earned almost \$87,000,000 less than in the same months of 1912, although 1912 was a poor year, said the statement, adding that the western roads had \$23,000,000 less net return for the same period. The reduction was due partly to the shop craft strike, but mostly to rate decreases, the statement said.

**FIRES CHARGED TO ARSON**

Historic Notre Dame Church in Quebec Is Destroyed.

QUEBEC, Dec. 22.—The series of fires, which have swept Catholic institutions on Canada recently, culminating early today in destruction of the historic \$1,000,000 Notre Dame church, was brought to the

**HIPPODROME**  
P. H. ACKERMAN & HARRIS



and of the CHILLS, THRILLS, HEARTACHES and ROMANCE in their lives. Parker Read Jr. has fashioned.

**THE GREAT CHANGING PRINCIPLE OF THE SEASON**

attention of the provincial legislature this afternoon with the suggestion that all might be the work of incendiaries.

A short circuit in the electrical wiring first was held accountable for today's blaze, but later Monsignor La Flamme, cure of Notre Dame, presented to Daniel Lorrain, chief of provincial police, the following letter postmarked in Montreal: "I will burn your church down on December 23."

Suspicious strangers also were reported to have been prowling around the church.

### SAFE FERRY SLIP URGED

Police Captain Advises Installing Islands and Semaphore.

Safety islands and a semaphore at the approaches to the St. Johns ferry slip, in the opinion of Captain Lewis of the police traffic bureau, will reduce accidents at that point and add to the safety factor there. He has suggested, in a letter to officials of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway company, that a block signal, similar to that in use of railroad lines, be installed, which would control both rail and automobile traffic.

### Airplane May Sow Grain.

TULARE, Cal., Dec. 22.—Airplane sowing may be the very latest agricultural "kink." Grain growers in the Tulare lake basin region, unable to reach their lands because of lake waters and wet condition of the soil, are contemplating the innovation, it is declared. The farmers are reported to have grouped together and will send one of their members to San Francisco to determine if it would be feasible to sow the large acreage from a plane.

### ECLIPSE PICTURES SAFE

FILMS TO BE STUDIED BY SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS.

Several Months Expected to Be Required for Test of Einstein Theory.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—Huge photographic plates bearing pictures which may prove or disprove an angle in the Einstein theory of relativity were found unbroken when opened today at the Lick observatory on Mount Hamilton, near here, by members of the W. H. Crocker expedition which took the pictures on a western Australia beach during the September eclipse. Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the observatory and head of the expedition, made the announcement in a luncheon address here.

"Scientific men do not care one way or the other regarding the findings," Dr. Campbell said. "We only want to know the truth. It will be several months before we will be able to complete our measurements and comparisons and arrive at a conclusion regarding the Einstein theory."

Pictures taken by the Crocker expedition are to be exchanged and compared with pictures taken during the eclipse by the Adelaide observatory, which sent an expedition to central Australia. Both expeditions, it is believed, obtained excellent photographs for weather conditions were perfect.

The pictures taken were of stars near the sun and they will be compared with photographs of the same stars taken at night from Tahiti, in an effort to prove the correctness of the Einstein theory that the sun's gravity attracts or "bends" rays of light traveling toward the earth from stars millions of miles beyond the sun. If the stars do not appear in the same positions on the night

### RAIL HEARING TO RESUME

Arguments on Merger to Be Given January 19 and 20.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22.—Arguments before the interstate commerce commission on the application of the Southern Pacific railroad to retain control of the Central Pacific will be heard, it was announced today, on January 19 and 20.

Hearings of evidence was concluded ten days ago.

The Central Pacific, which has been operated as a part of the Southern Pacific system for many years, was ordered separated by the supreme court. The Southern Pacific has sought to have the interstate commerce commission use its power under the transportation act for general railroad consolidation to keep the two lines together, notwithstanding the court decree, while the Union Pacific has asked the commission to support the supreme court's decision and require the separation to proceed.

### Radio Aids in Operation.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 22.—Radio as an aid to surgical operations was employed yesterday when a radio-collaring set was attached to the ears of a woman patient who underwent a Caesarian operation at a hospital here. The operation, which was performed at St. Barabaras hospital, was a complete success, according to Miss Harriet T. Hartly, superintendent.

### Fog Nearly Halts Traffic.

ASHLAND, Or., Dec. 22.—(Special.)—Traffic on the Pacific highway was almost paralyzed last night by a dense fog, the heaviest ever seen in this vicinity. The fog was particularly heavy between here and Medford. Machines on the highway moved at a slow speed, nearly stopping when meeting. With a spotlight and headlights on bright a driver was unable to see more than

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ORPHEUM CIRCUIT VAUDEVILLE

**EDDIE LEONARD**  
IN "THE MINSTREL'S DELIGHT"  
ASSISTED BY STEWART & OLIVE

**WILLIAM HALLEN AND MABLE RUSSELL**  
"THE SERVICE STATION"

**THE QUIXY FOUR**  
"QUICK-SEE?"

**TUSCANS BROS.**  
SKILLFUL WELDERS OF ROMAN AXES

**MALLIA-BART COMPANY**  
DELIVERING A CARLOAD OF LAUGHS  
ENTERING "THE KISSING CHAIRS"

**AGES'S FABLES—TOPICS OF THE DAY—PATHE NEWS**  
WITH DOBBY AUSTIN AND WALTER KANE IN "IT HAPPENED IN PARIS"

**BILLY DALE & CO.**  
BY BILLY DALE

**MIDNIGHT MATINEE, SUN. DEC. 31**  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER REGULAR NIGHT SHOW. NOW ON SALE.

a few feet ahead of him. No accidents were reported today, though several were narrowly averted.

**Contraband Arms Found.**

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 22.—Government agents here, who yesterday seized 50 rifles and 15,000 cartridges on the steamship Proteus, today took a shipment of 25 pistols from China from the shipping board liner President McKinley. Federal investigators assert that a ring exists to smuggle munitions from the United States to Chinese revolutionaries.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

**COLUMBIA**  
I. A. M. to I. P. M.  
DIRECTION OF JENSEN & VON HERBERG

### STARTS TODAY

A brilliant screen production of the play in which Alice Brady scored her greatest stage triumph. The stirring story of a pretty Syrian girl's rise through exciting adventures and temptations to happiness and love. With New York's picturesque underworld and gilded society cabarets as the setting. In every way Miss Brady's most brilliant performance. The supporting cast includes Nita Naldi, David Powell and Robert Ellis.



**Alice Brady**  
in  
**"Anna Ascends"**  
A Paramount Picture

DIRECTOR KNOWLES OF THE COLUMBIA PICTURE PLAYERS has arranged one of the best programmes ever heard in the city as an accompaniment to "Anna Ascends," which includes for the first time "Don't Say Good-bye," by Friedland. The second theme is "Musterioso Infernale," by Borsch. During the picture the following numbers are cued gracefully into the action of the play: "Neapolitan Nights," by Zamecnik; "After Every Party," by Freed; "Petit Bijouterie," by Bohm; "Love and Laughter," by Cobb; "La Lisonjera," by Victor Herbert; "Poem," by Fibich; "Mood Pensive," by Applefield.

Intermission Number, "I'm Through".....Norman

**SPECIAL ATTRACTION—University Male Quartette**

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