BRANTON'S GRIME

Chamberlain Letter Concerns Convict Whose Record Is Full of Misdeeds.

GOVERNOR IS NOT SCARED

Will Turn Threatening Communication Over to Police, but Will Not Take Special Steps to Protect Himself.

Governor Chamberlain will not release John Branton from the penitentiary just because some anonymous person sent him a threatening letter through his son, Dr. Charles Chamberlain, Governor Chamber lain will not hire a corps of special de tectives to guard him, although the missive will be turned over to the proper uthorities and an effort will be made to run to earth the writer of the letter

The letter writing habit seems to be set one with the Branton family. It derwood, a forgery committed by John Branton, that led to his arrest and coneletion for the shooting of his partner, John Fletcher. In this letter there was the same miserable attempt at disguising as In the letter that was sent to Governor Chamberlain. The only difference is that the letter threatening Governor Chamberlain was laboriously printed with a lead pencil white a child, perhaps one of Branton's own children, wrote the address on the envelope

Words Carefully Misspelled.

The person, or persons, who had a hand In composing the threatening letter took particular pains to misspell simple ords, while the more difficult ones were spelled correctly. This was evidently done because John Branton was trapped through the misspelling of the word expense, which in his letter to Marshal 'nderwood he had spelled 'expense." and he similarity of certain characters he used in his letter giving notice of Fletch-r's supposed suicide and in a letter that wrote after being imprisoned, asking hat steps be. Branion, should take in der to be made administer of his third wife's estate. In both of these letters he ot only misspelled the same word, but be peculiarity of making the letter "c"

was plain even to a most casual observer.

The criminal history of the Branton family began with the murder committed y Cland Branton, although there were gly rumors abroad about the sudden and nyeterious death of two of John Bran-on's wives. Claud Branton and a man ton's wives. Claud Stanton and a man named Green murdered an old borseman named Linn. Linn was taking a band of horses to market when he was shot in one of the loniest spots in the Cascade Mountains. The murderers waited until the old man was asleep and shot him from behind, just as John Fietcher was shot. In an effort to hide their crime, the murderers tried to burn Linn's body. Green was captured and confessed, but young Branton fied, from the state and was away for a long time. One day he turned up at Eugene, where he was arrested, tried, convicted and hanged for the crime, about nine years ago.

Bayond the rumors that John Branton had a hand in the sudden Jeath of his two wives; both of whom had carried in-

two wives; both of whom had carried in-surance, nothing was known about him until the shooting of his partner Fletcher. his revived the old stories and car suspicion upon him. Branton and Fletcher had a ranch near Cottage Grove. Fletcher had a ranch near Cottage Grove. Both were members of the Woodmen of the World and both had attended a log rolling held by the Cottage Grove lodge. Branton, it seems, had been a member of the lodge, and his two former wives had been insured in the Women of Woodwaft. Branton persuaded Fletcher to John the lodge and to make him the bendlejary, promising to do the same for promising to do the same for This Branton did not do.

Told of Fletcher's Death.

On the night of the log rolling, Branton and Fletcher drank heavily. They started home after the social, but before leaving Cottage Grove, Branton dropped a letter into the mails addressed to the local marshal It purported to have been written by Fletcher, saying that by the time the marshal received the letter the writer would be dead and that his body could be found on the road he Beauters be found on the road to Branton's ranch, Fletcher was not killed, but he accused Branton of attempting to mur-der bire.

According to the story told by Fletcher, Branton, on the way home, complained of being taken suddenly ill and insisted that Fletcher build a fire. They were at a lonely spot in sight of the Branton ranch. Fletcher said that he built the fire as requested. said that he built the fire as requested. He became drowsy and finally went to sleep. The next thing he remembered was a terrific pain in his head, where the builet had ploughed its way through the cheek bone and destroyed his right eye. Fletcher declared that he saw Branton hiding behind a tree, from where he fired a second shot. Branton endeavored to create the impression that Fletcher had attempted suicide because of a love affair.

Branton's arrest followed the shooting. He was tried and convicted and sentenced to serve a torm of ten years. Since he has been in the penitentiary

Since he has been in the penitentiary several attempts have been made to obtain his release.

Suspected of Wife-Murder.

Whether Branton was guilty of disposing of his three wives will never be proven. His first wife was insured for \$1000 and be collected the money. His accord wife was insured for \$2000. He ald not get all of the insurance because did not get all of the insurance because there was a threat made of exhuming lie body and he was forced into a settlement. His third wife died on the ranch near Cottage Grove, but she had refused to have her life insured, as she refused to have her life insured, as she suspected Branton had murdered his other wives. She did own some prop-erty in Cottage Grove. The manner of the death of the third wife again roused suspicion, but because Branton was thoroughly feared, and because Dr. J. E. Capron, the attending physician, sikned a death certificate, no investigation was made. The women died in convulsions, and when Dr. Capron was called to the ranch, the only thing that called to the ranch, the only thing that he took with him was an antidote for

strychnine poisoning.
Since John Branton has been in the penitentiary. Clarence Branton has been under suspicion of having knowl-edge of the disappearance of his father. Both were in the vicinity of Princville at the time and the father was with

Promotion for Y. W. C. A. Official.

two years has been identified with the educational work of the Young Women's Christian Association in this city left on !

branch of the association which has just been opened at Bellingham, Wash. Miss Day has gained the esteem and affection of every member of the association in Portland, for her life and character can be summed up in one word-winsome. On Tuesday evening an informal farewell reception was given at the rooms of the association on Sixth and Oak streets, an interesting feature of which was a handkerchief abover for the benefit of

ABUSE OF POSTAL FRANK

Officials Known to Violate Free Mailing Privilege.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washigion, Feb. 1.-There appears to be no boubt that the free mailing privilege commonly known as the franking privi-ege, is being grossly violated by Gov-rnment officials who are permitted ernment officials who are permitted, under the law, to frank official letters and documents. The law authorizing the of the frank never contemplated that the free postage privilege would be used for the circulation of private let-ters or private publications. Yet that is being done, and the curious thing about it is that Postmaster-General Meyer, who of all men, should observe the law, has been guilty of its violation.

Postmaster-General Meyer is a great believer in the parcels post and postal savings bank, and has made many

Harriman System Will Resume the Construction of New Lines in Oregon.

START BEFORE WEEK'S END

Order Goes Out to Assemble Men and Materials at Once Where the Work Was Left Off-Project

After the suspension of construction work in the state , for the past two

Steunburgand. brown. Wer. we.done wont to Killen Yone bucitis. Ehanilis. to Keep. A. Inosent meninprison away from his helpless. littleehildren. so you. take warningand. severour selves and 181 branconco. Conist children We mean sust

What we say comitson

FACSIMILE PAGE OF LETTER THREATENING LIFE OF GOV-ERNOR CHAMBERLAIN.

specches have been printed in pamphlet form, and have been widely distributed through the mails under the official frank of the Post Office Department. While these speeches were the utterances of a cabinet officer, they were not official documents in any sense of the word, and therefore were not entitled to go through the mails without the paygo through the mails without the pay bitrarily to control the franking matte to a certain extent, and he has granted himself the right to distribute without cost unofficial speeches of his own.

Another abuse of the franking privilege has been sanctioned by the Post Office Department, namely, the free mailing to the Forest Service of newspapers containing to san posters agent out by these containing press notices sent out by that bureau. On every press bulletin now is-sued by the Forest Service is attached a frank, addressed to The Forester, and the newspaper receiving the bulletin is requested to mail a marked copy with the attached frank, thus avoiding the payment of postage. A newspaper con-taining a bulletin issued by a Government bureau is not an official publica-tion, and yet the Postoffice holds that tion, and yet the Postoffice holds that such newspaper can be mailed free of cost provided it is mailed to the Forest Service. On the same theory any news-paper publishing items of news originating in any department could have the right to frank marked copies back to the department from which the news orig-

inated, but up to date the Forest Service is the only bureau that has been so favored with a special order. That the Congressional franking privi-lege is abused has long been known. Only a few years ago a Massachusetta Congressman franked to his home a box containing clothing, shoes, etc., and to his embarrassment the box was broken in transmission and his infamy exposed. Yet he was never punished. Within the past week a Western Congressman has franked through the mails copies of a newspaper containing a speech which he delivered in Congress. The newspaper contained much else that was not said in Congress, and was not entitled to go through the mails free of cost. Nevertheless bundreds of copies were dumped into the malls, and the Government paid

the cost of distribution.

The Postal Service is operated at a loss in this country, and the Department is continually looking for ways to oblit-erate the deficit. But it has never yet react the deficit. But it has never yet occurred to any Postmaster-General to rigidly enforce the law permitting franking. As long as the Government carries through the mails, free of cost, thousands of letters and packages which are unlawfully mailed, so long will the Postal Service show a deficit.

Aberdeen Pioneer.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Feb. 1.-(Special.) -Abner A. Gray, aged 60, a pioneer of the city, died today. He was a native of Maine and came to Gray's Harbor from Promotion for Y. W. C. A. Official.

Miss Mary B. Day, who for the past

Miss Mary B. Day, who for the past

Miss Mary B. Day, who for the past

Miss Mary B. Day, who for the past 19 years. He leaves no relatives.

Spectacles, \$1.00 at Margara

support of both projects. Some of these sume the building of Oregon railroads General Manager O'Brien issued ordere yesterday to assemble men and materials and complete the Riparia-Lewiston line at once. Before the week is out work will have been resumed on this project, which was almost completed when the order withdrawing construction forces throughout this territory was made.

Just as econ as working forces can se organized, men will be put on the job and within the coming three months the new line will be completed. The work is already well along. When the order stopping work was issued, track on the new extension had been laid from Riparis to a point opposite Lewiston, and the bridge crossing the Clearwater lacked but little of completion. The enforced suspension of all railroad work left this partially finished bridge hanging in the air and it was not known when it would be finished.

The Riparia-Lewiston line will be a

part of the O. R. & N. system and will be 72 miles in length when completed. The cost will be about \$3,000,000. The estimates call for more than \$2,500,000 aiready without station buildings and other items of expense which the com-pany must provide for. As most of the work is completed, about \$150,000 remains to be expended to put the line in shape for operation.

Clearwater Bridge Uncompleted. The track must be surfaced and bal-lasted for the entire distance and the bridge completed. This structure is practically finished with the exception of the erection of one span. The bridge being built by the engineering firm of McCreary & Willard, of Spokane. The construction of the remainder of the line is being done on force ac-count or by the O. R. & N. Company

direct.

The time it will take to put up the remaining span of the bridge at Lewiston will depend upon the stage of the Clearwater River, but unless unusually high water is encountered, the completion of the structure should be matter of a few weeks.

a matter of a few weeks.

Just how many men will be set to work on the surfacing and ballasting of the line depends upon the condition of the ground. If cold weather continues for any length of time and the ground is frozen, work will necessarily proceed more slowly than if the ground is in good working condition. At any is in good working condition. At any rate just as many men as can be used on the job will be kept busy and as the surfacing and ballasting will proceed along the whole line simultane-

ously, a small army of several hundred workmen will be needed. The importance to Portland of the completion and early operation of this piece of railroad has been appreciated ever since work was started on the project by the Harriman people. It opens a rich wheat district making a large section of the Idaho country directly tributary to this city, for the new line, in connection with the main | tonight.

the way to tidewater at Portland, Although the Idaho country has been a bone of contention between the Hill a bone of contention between the Hill and Harriman interests for years, it is interesting to know that by the terms of an agreement between the two interests, made in 1995, the Harriman people were to build the line from Riparla to Lewiston and the Northern Pacific, which has a branch from Lewiston to Cuidesac, Idaho, was to build from the latter point southeast to Grangeville, Idaho, in the Camas Prairie country a distance of 15 miles Prairie country, a distance of 55 miles and both lines are to be operate lines are to be operated jointly by both companies There was nothing competitive about

this building perhaps the only instance in the Pacific Northwest where the two warring systems agreed to build and use the same tracks. This feature of the construction is also a decided benefit to Portland, for the completion of the Riparia-Lewiston line means the adding of 127 miles of new rallway to the lines that new radiate from

Portland as a center.

This agreement, made in 1905, is still in force and the Northern Pacific is tow building its Lewiston-Grange-ille line. About 15 miles of the road has been completed and is being operhas been completed and is seeing operated. This road will serve a wheat district that is unexcelled in the Pacific Northwest and will add very largely to the annual grain tonnage andled every year at this port.

Passenger Agents to Meet.

John M. Scott, assistant general pasenger agent for the Harriman lines in his territory, and A. D. Charlton, assistant general passenger agent for the Northern Pacific, left Portland last night for Coronado, Cal. where they will attend the regular quarterly session of the Transcontinental Passenger Association. They will be away from the city about two weeks. Mr. Charl. ton's father, James Charlton, is chair man of the association.

OPEN PRINTING BIDS NEXT

ROSE FESTIVAL PUBLICITY COM-MITTEE'S PLAN.

Contract for Designing and Issuing 250,000 Leaflets and 10,000 Invitations to Be Let.

Designs for and bids for printing 250,000 advertising leaflets to be distributed through the business district of the city are to be received up to Friday night by the publicity committee of the Rose Festival Association, and the successful de-signer and bidder will be selected at the meeting of the committee to be held next Saturday afternoon. The competition is

Tender of bids for the 10,000 special in-vitations to the Festival, which are to be will also be received at this meeting and

the contract awarded.
One of the most important schemes of ocal exploitation of the Festival is the plan to illuminate the windows of all es-ablishments in the business district with Japanese balloon lanterns, over which there will be attached the official trademark of the Festival. These balloons are designed to be hung in the windows of stores with electric lights fixed within them, the purpose being to make them an attractive advertisement for the big celebration.

The meeting yesterday afternoon re-sulted in a plan for entertaining the 325 business men from the Inland Empire who are to be here for a whole day next Saturday, but the committee will not di-

vulge the plan just at present. Bast Side "boosting" clubs have come to the front within the past week and conferences with special committees from half a dozen of these organizations have been held during the past few days. Each of these organizations promised to is to pass. This is only a part of the movement to enlist the support of all of the 20 push clubs on the East Side on behalf of the Pestival, and within the next few weeks it is believed that all of them will have active committees at work assisting the Festival management. Conversion of the old-time garbage crematory site into a garden of blooming

roses is a project which Superintendent Daggett has taken upon himself to carry As soon as the executive comof the Festival Association learned that Mr. Daggett contemplated making a two-acre garden of roses out of the abandoned crematory site, action was taken to do all it could to assist in securing the necessary number of rose bushes for setting out the entire two acres, which will be used as a public park and play-ground.

ground.

In case the Park Board and the Executive Board approve of Mr. Daggett's suggestion in time, it is protable that the setting out of roses on this large tract will be made a part of the general rose-planting campaign, which in all probability will culminate on Washington's birthday, February 22.

This date meets the approval of the majority of the committee, and little re-

majority of the committee, and little re-mains to be done. The children of the public schools will be asked to partici-

pate in the rose planting.

Bids and designs for the 20-sheet posters which are to be distributed in the 77 leading cities and towns of the North-west will be received at Saturday's session of the publicity committee and final

KEEP BANK OPEN AT NIGHT Merchants National Offers Oppor-

tunity for Depositors to Come In.

For the benefit of depositors in the Merchants National Bank who cannot come to the bank during the day, offi-cials of the bank will keep the institution open at night this week, commencing to-morrow, from 7 till 10 P. M., thus giving depositors a chance to come to the bunk in pereon and talk over the method of reorganization. It is desired to have a large number of depositors sign for time certificates of deposit in exchange for arge number of depositors sign for time certificates of deposit in exchange for demand deposits, and until a great majority of depositors do so there is no hope of reopening the bank. By leaving the bank open at night it is expected to attract a great many depositors who are unable to come to the bank to talk the subject over in the daytime.

President Watson said last nigh, that the campaign is progressing satisfactorily

the campaign is progressing satisfactorily and all that is needed is for depositors to come in generally and accept time cer-tificates. As soon as this is accomplished the bank will reopen, but if they do not come in and take time certificates, a recelverahip is certain

Four Years Pastor of White Temple

Today marks the fourth anniversary of Dr. Brougher's pastorate of the White Temple. At the services this morning he will review his work in this city. A reby the members of the congregation next Priday night, February 7. Dr. Brougher will preach this morning the fourth sermon of the series based on the "Some Last Words From the Croes," the sub-ject being "Heartbreaking Loneliness." "Heads I Win Tails You Lose" will be the subject of the sermon at the services



Yes, It's Chilly," Is the Printed Motto With Which John M. Scott Anticipates Questions About the Temperature.

THE "Is-it-warm - enough-for - you?" that the "Cold-day,-isn't-it?" bore who greets you on the streetcar, in your office or elsewhere on your dally rounds. How to head off discussion of the weather has racked the mind of many a busy man. But to John M. Scott, assistant general passenger agent for the Harriman lines in this territory, a reward should be given for devising a way to rid himself of the man who insists on talking of

For two days Mr. Scott suffered in silence. Every man who came in the office opened his conversation with some inane remark about it being a cold day. These gratuitous tenders of stale information became trying to Mr. Scott, who already knew it was cold, and he grew weary of being informed of it every 10 minutes throughout the day. If he performed any feats in mental arithmetic on the proposition, as it is likely he did, he found that this innocuous conversa-

he found that this innocuous conversa-tion took up a considerable portion of his time during the day.

Then he hit upon an idea. He placed in a motto frame that perches conspicuous-ly on the corner of his desk, this legend in prominent black letters:

"Yes, it's chilip."

This stares in the face everyone who enters the office, as soon as the visitor opens the door. The man who likes to talk about the weather has to agree with the concise statement of fact, and as he sees no chance for an argument, he rarely says anything about it. If any one remarks that it is a cold day, Mr. Scott waves the eye of the speaker to the sign and goes on signing letters. It saves his time and keeps his nerves from

New Books in Library

THE list of additions to the library follows: BIOGRAPHY.

Martin-Helena Faucit, Lady Martin; by Sir Theodore Martin, EM 2, 1909. DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL. Cruickshank & . Cruickshank - Christian

Rome, 1906. Christian Martin-Mexico of the twentieth century, 2 v. 1907. Saville-Antiquities of Manabi, Ecuador, 1907. FICTION:

Campbell—Isn of the Orendes; or, The arm ource of Girnigoe. Frensen—The tores comrades. Merwin & Websier—Comrade John. Ray—Ackroyd of the faculty. Rod—Le sens de In vie. Sage—By right divine.

FINE ARTS. Berenson-North Italian painters of the renalmance, 1807.

Fenalloss-Manters of Ukloye; a complete historical description of Japanese paintings and color prints of the genre school. 1896.

Foote-Album of selected mongs 1807.

HISTORY Chancellor-A text book of American his Shackburgh—A short bistory of the Greeks, from the earliest times to B. C. 146, 1991, Woodburn & Moran—American history, and government; a text-book for grammar schools. LITERATURE

Festival recitations and exercises, 1907. PHILOSOPHY.

Hobbouse—Morals in evolution; a study in comparative chies. 2v. 1906.
Smith, ed.—Aspects of child life and education; by G. S. Hall and some of his pupils. 1907.

RELIGION. Carr-The church and the Roman empire

SCIENCE. Ball—A popular guide to the heavens, 1904 Davis & Snyder—Physical geography, 1808, Galton—Probability, the foundation of out-enics, 1907. genics, 1967.

Massee-Text-book of fungi, 1966.

Meyer-The kinetic theory of gases; elementary treatise with mathematical appendices, 1899.

Peschei-The races of man and their geographical distribution. Ed. 2, 1966.

Chicago, Statistics, Bureau of Statistics, 6, No. 1-4, 1996.
Pauschethusch—Christianity and the social risis. 1907.

USEFUL ARTS.

Allen, cd.—Sanitation in the modern home; a suggestive guide to the architect and house-owner in designing and building a residence, 1907. residence. 1897.

Bowher-Dynamo, motor and switchhoard circuits for electrical engineers; a practical book dealing with the subject of direct, alternating and polyphase currents. 1894.

Brokes-Tbe automobile hand-book; a work of practical information for the use of owners, operators and autombile mechanics. Rev. and enl. ed. 1897.

Hodgson & Brown-Builders' and contrac-

most and maintenance. 1987.

Meintosh—Industrial alcohol: the production and use of alcohol for industrial purposes and for use as a source of motive power. 1997.

National association of master plumbers—Proceedings of the 25th annual convention.

Poultry houses and fixinges, the plans and details for countracting closed front, arratching shed and cuitain front poultry houses and appliances for house and yerd. Ed. 6, rev. and cnl. 1906.

Roper—The young engineer's own book. Ed. 3, rev. 1897.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN. Barbour-Four affeat. Boys-Soap-bubbles and the forces which

Gillie Story of stories.

Heath—Primer.
Howe—On the birds' highway.
Lane and Hill—American history in liter-

Burglars Active in South Bend.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., Feb. L-(Special.)-The Northern Pacific depot (Special.)—The Northern Pacific depot was again broken into last night by hargiars, but they were unsuccessful in blowing open the safe. The cash drawer was pried open, but finding nothing but 60 cents in pennies, the robbers passed them up. From there they went to Nettleton's greeery store, where they had better luck. By the use of a heavy sledge and chiest they managed to get the safe door open and then broke into all the various drawers, but disturbed nothing but \$60 in ers, but disturbed nothing but \$60 in cash. They left their tools on the safe. A number of hard-looking char-

acters have been seen hanging around the town of late.

60 Years

We thoroughly believe in our remedies. We want you to believe in them, too. Suppose you let your doctor decide.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

Sixty years of experience with Ayer's Cherry Pectoral make us have great confidence in it for coughs, colds on the chest, bronchitis, hoarseness, weak throats, weak lungs. Ask your doctor to tell you his experience with it. If satisfactory, then you will certainly have every confidence in it.

> We have no secrets! We publish the formulas of all our medicines.

J. C. AYER CO., Manufacturing Chemists, Lowell, Mass.