

SEARCH FOR HIM IN MANY LANDS

E. P. Fitch Disappears Abroad and Three Nations Hunt in Vain.

LAST SEEN ON OCTOBER 20

Remarkable Mystery Surrounds Movements of Portland Man's Brother—International Sensation May Develop.

Though more than two months have elapsed since his mysterious disappearance in Europe, and the governments of three nations, together with Scotland Yard, the police of Paris and many other cities, both on the Continent and in America, have instituted official investigations, no trace has been found of Edward Payson Fitch, brother of C. O. Fitch, 694 Holly street, auditor of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company.

Mr. Fitch, brother of the local street railway official, was touring Europe when he suddenly disappeared, October 20. Whether he is alive or dead, or whether he is wandering demented through the world's metropolises, is absolutely unknown.

But his continued absence, and the failure of the officials and numerous detective agencies has finally caused the relatives of the missing man to fear, though reluctantly, that he has been the victim of foul play. Should the theory of foul play be substantiated, there will probably develop one of the biggest international criminal stories in recent years.

Is Traced to London.

The movements of the missing man from the time he left America have been traced until October 20, when, on board a train, he was approaching London. Detectives have traced his journey through Europe, to Paris, thence to Rouen, across the channel to Dover, where he boarded a train for the metropolis. There the trail was lost.

A mysterious stranger, the last person known to have been in the company of the missing man, is beginning to figure prominently in the case. He, also, has been the object of a search, no less rigid and far-reaching than that in behalf of Fitch. But he, too, has disappeared, vanishing as completely from sight as the American and leaving absolutely no trace that may be followed.

Fitch, the missing man, is a resident of Council Bluffs, Ia., with business offices in Omaha. He is secretary of an insurance company in that state, and early in the fall left America to make a brief tour of Europe. Arriving in England, he crossed to the Continent and spent several weeks in various countries. He concluded his tour of the Continent with a week in Paris, where he engaged passage from England to America on the North German liner Kronprinz Wilhelm, scheduled to sail October 21 or November 2.

Became Ill at Paris.

Leaving Paris at the end of the week, he reached Rouen, where he suddenly became ill. With the aid of an interpreter he consulted a physician, who pronounced the ailment an acute and serious case of appendicitis. The physician ordered an immediate operation.

To this the patient demurred, insisting that he would not undergo an operation until he had reached a country where he might understand and be understood. So he crossed the Channel to England and boarded a train for London, fully determined to undergo the operation in that city, where the language was his own and he could understand and make himself understood.

While on the train he suffered excruciating pain. However, he was able to write a letter to his relatives in Iowa and also to Portland, explaining his condition. He told of the advice of the French physician, of his crossing the Channel and of his being in a train bound for London. He also said that he had placed himself in the care of a stranger, with whom he shared the compartment, and to whom he intended intrusting the letters to be mailed.

Letters Were Delayed.

The letter was written October 20 and the train arrived in London at 7 o'clock that evening. But, strangely, the letters were not mailed until two days later.

SLEUTHS OF THREE NATIONS SEEK THIS MAN.



Edward Payson Fitch, who mysteriously disappeared in Europe.

were not mailed until two days later. The envelopes show the postmark, "London, October 22."

The steamship, which sailed from Southampton on the day after the arrival of the train in London, reached this side in due time, but there was no message from Mr. Fitch, though he had cabled that he would return on that vessel. Days went by and still no message from him until the fears of his relatives were aroused. The matter was presented to the officials and finally reached the State Departments of the United States, England and France. Some of the best officers of Scotland Yard have been detailed on the case, in addition to officers of Paris, Rouen and other cities. But utter failure has attended the efforts of both Federal and municipal authorities.

Left Here in August.

"My brother left this country early in August to make a tour of Europe," said C. O. Fitch last night. "His letter, received by us, tells of his sudden illness,

but that is the last we have heard of him. A physician has told me that one of the possible results of appendicitis is to lose all knowledge of one's identity, which might have befallen my brother. But I hardly think that likely, for he had very weak eyes and without his glasses would have been unable to have traveled even if he had lost his identity. He is known to have had a considerable sum of money on his person at the time of his disappearance, and the police of London and other cities, besides authorities of the three governments, have tried to locate him.

CONFERENCE ON MISSIONS

Methodists to Hold Meetings for Discussion This Week.

The Home Mission and Church Extension Institute of the Oregon Methodist Conference will hold meetings in the Centenary Methodist Church, East Pine and Ninth streets, beginning Tuesday morning, and continuing, with morning, afternoon and night sessions, until Wednesday night, concluding with the address of Bishop C. W. Smith. Among the speakers will be T. S. McDaniel, P. S. Akin, William H. Warren and Fletcher Homan, president of the Willamette University. Various phases of missionary work will be considered in addresses and in general discussions. The complete programme is as follows:

The Field.

1. The Geography and Topography of the Oregon Conference—R. E. Dunlap, district superintendent, Klamath district.

Reports from Mission Charges—By men on the field.

The Church at Work.

Women's Home Missions—Mrs. C. L. Weaver.

Women's Missionary League—Its Place and Mission in the Oregon Conference, Mrs. C. W. Jones.

The Laymen's Association as a Permanent Factor in Oregon Methodism, Hon. R. A. Booth, president Oregon Laymen's Association.

1:30 P. M.—Sunday School Work—Its Relation to Home Mission and Church Extension, J. T. Abbott, Sunday school missionary, Oregon conference.

How to Interest the Epworth League in Home Missions, W. H. Warren, president Portland District League.

The District Superintendent and Pastor as Leaders of the Forces in Missionary Work, C. T. Wilson, secretary Home Missions and Church Extension, Klamath district.

Publication—The Church Advocate, the Christian Republic.

Women's Home Missions and Tracts—General discussion.

The Difficulties of Securing Pastors for Home Mission Fields—The District Superintendent.

The Problems of the City.

7:30 P. M.—The City Evangelization Union and Its Relation to the Non-English Speaking People, T. S. McDaniel.

Home Mission Work Among Foreign-Speaking People as Related to Foreign Missions and the World's Evangelization—German work, E. E. Hardister, Swedish work, John Ovall; Norwegian-Danish, H. P. Nelson; Chinese, Chang Sing Kii; Japanese, H. B. Whitcomb.

Wednesday, 9:30—How to Create the Missionary Spirit in America, by F. S. Akin.

The Relations Between Our Denominational Schools and Our Church Benevolences, Fletcher Homan, D. D., president Willamette University.

How to Create the Spirit of Revival, E. H. Todd, financial agent Puget Sound University.

Far Shall We Enter Into Competition with Other Denominations, J. D. Gilliland, district superintendent, Klamath district.

Are We Ever Justified in Surrendering a Field? Walton Shipworth, district superintendent, The Dalles district.

What is the Purpose of Giving Missionary Money to the Church? L. F. Rowland, district superintendent Salem district.

When Should a Mission Charge and What Constitutes a Mission Charge and How to Receive Missionary Aid? M. C. Wire, district superintendent Eugene district.

7:30 P. M.—Address, Bishop C. W. Smith, resident bishop, Portland, Or.

GIRL INDICTED FOR ROBBING

Florence Thompson Held to Grand Jury, Accused of Stealing.

Florence Thompson, accused of having robbed Andrew Draffin, a seaman, of a large sum of money at the Kingston rooming-house, Third and Taylor streets, Christmas Eve, was held in Municipal Court yesterday to the grand jury in the sum of \$1000. In default of bail she is a prisoner in the County Jail.

Officers of the deal with which Draffin was connected, assert that he was paid only \$170, and the payment was made several weeks ago. However, the arrest of the woman will lead to several other arrests, according to Deputy District Attorney Hennessey. The landlady of the Kingston has already been indicted, and it is said that several elevator boys and "bell hops" at the Perkins Hotel, who are thought to have steered Draffin, a guest at the Perkins, to the Kingston will also be indicted. It is charged that the boys were paid a percentage of all money secured from victims they lured to the Kingston.

YOU KNOW.

If not you should, Le Palais Royal is the place to buy your hats. 375 Washington street.

Matthews-Powers Wedding.

Richard M. Matthews, a business man of Spokane, Wash., was married to Miss Hattie B. Powers, of Portland, last Wednesday night. The ceremony was performed by Elder W. F. Martin, and occurred at the home of the bride's mother at Wichita, a suburb of Portland on the Mount Scott line. Only the immediate friends and relatives of the contracting parties were present. The newly married pair will make their home at Spokane.

Fay Quit Quickly.

Eddie Fay, who is "some up in the air," as Link Hart put it, as far as stature is

KNIGHTS OF GRIP HOLD CONVENTION

Annual Gathering of T. P. A. Rare Combination of Fun and Business.

OFFICERS ARE RE-ELECTED

Speakers at Banquet Made Victims of All Sorts of Merry Quips by Crowd—Governor and Mayor Present—Indorse Festival.

The annual meeting and banquet of the Travelers' Protective Association, the organization of knights of the grip, took place yesterday afternoon and last night at the Commercial Club. At the business meeting in the afternoon the annual election of officers was held. President Willis Fisher and Secretary Joseph C. Gibson being unanimously chosen to succeed themselves, and David M. Dunne, J. W.

concerned, was next on the bill, but before he had delivered one phrase, he was presented with a tray of decidedly ancient cheese, and desisted. C. W. Hodson, and C. D. Fraxer, who were also down for short talks, were the next victims.

W. B. Glafke, Colonel David M. Dunne, Charles L. Dick, O. G. Huggison and F. A. Ford were listened to attentively, and each spoke on a subject of considerable interest to the guests.

At the conclusion of the short talk, a regulation traveling man's trunk was carried in by the attendants, and placed on a large round table on which a spotlight was thrown. At a signal the other lights were turned out and a very charming dancing girl leaped from the trunk and gave a pretty dance, which was liberally applauded. The big show ended with a moving-picture film.

BOSTON WANTS BROUGHER

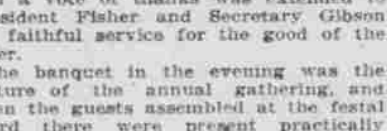
WHITE TEMPLE PASTOR HAS NEW OFFER.

Historic Tremont Temple Baptist Church Trustees Said to Be Anxious to Get Him.

Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougher, D. D., pastor of the White Temple, has been invited by the Tremont Temple Baptist Church of Boston to supply the pulpit of that great church for the first two Sundays in January. Tremont Temple is generally recognized as the greatest Baptist Church in America. It probably has no superior in the world, owns property in the heart of Boston worth \$100,000, and has an auditorium seating 200 people. It has had some of the most famous preachers in the world as pastors.

Recently Dr. P. S. Henson resigned from the pastorate. The church is now looking for someone to succeed him, and it is understood that the trustees are anxious to secure the services of Dr. Brougher. He is believed, however, that the pastor of the White Temple cannot be moved. He has made a place for himself in Portland that could hardly be surpassed in influence even as pastor of the great historic church in Boston. While

BOSTON CHURCH WANTS PASTOR OF WHITE TEMPLE.



Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougher.

Dr. Brougher considers it an honor to be invited to occupy the pulpit of Tremont Temple he nevertheless has no desire to leave Portland and sees no reason why he should.

In accepting the invitation to preach for Tremont Temple, Dr. Brougher proposes to take advantage of his trip East to give addresses upon "Baptists and the Northwest," with the view of interesting the Baptists of the East and Central West in coming to Portland next June to the Northern Baptist convention. With this idea in mind he will address the preachers' conferences of Boston, New York, Cleveland and Chicago. He will organize committees at these centers to handle the literature to be issued by the local committee, advertising Portland and the Northwest. He will interview President Harry Pratt Judson, of Chicago University, in regard to the arrangements for the convention, Mr. Judson being president of the northern Baptist convention.

Dr. Brougher will also preach for the Euclid-Avenue Baptist Church, of Cleve-

Glad Hand for Governor.

The Governor and the Mayor were received with demonstrations of applause as they were introduced by Toastmaster Willis Fisher, and each spoke briefly because of the number and variety of things on the programme.

The start of the programme seemed to promise a most solemn and momentous occasion, but no sooner had Toastmaster Fisher proposed a toast "to the absent ones" than the merriment commenced. Lincoln Hart gravely announced that a flashlight photograph of the banqueters was to be taken. When all was ready the lights went out and at the crack of a toy pistol a slide was flashed on a white curtain at the end of the hall bearing the legend "Stung." This stunt was a "scream."

Democratic Mascot There.

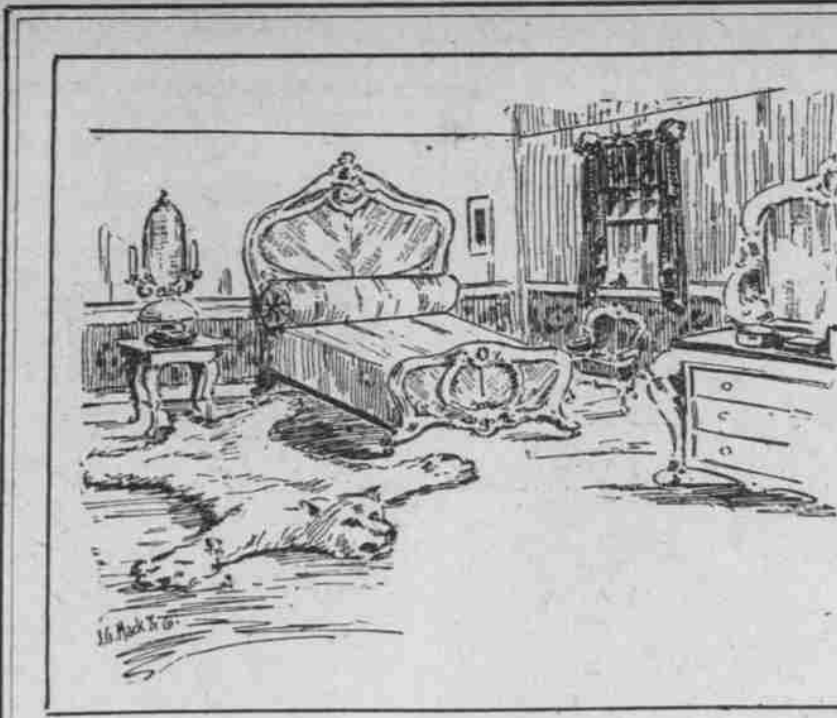
After listening to Governor Chamberlain and Mayor Lane, both of whom were cautioned by the lantern slides that they would have five minutes and that no politics must be discussed, the guests were started by the entrance of a diminutive, jockey, who climbed unobtrusively up to one of the tables and commenced munching celery and other greens in sight. Mayor Lane was about to remark that he was under the impression that the gathering was nonpolitical but that he was pleased at the invitation extended the Democratic party. However, Toastmaster Fisher introduced the animal as the mascot of the order.

Harry McAllister was then announced as the next speaker of the evening. Harry had gone to the extreme trouble of having a newspaper friend of his write him up a neat little speech, dealing with the subject of clean streets, and as he had rehearsed the theme at his home with Mrs. McAllister as the audience, and it had met with her approval, he expected to make a decided hit. Unfortunately, for Harry's good intentions, the guests, at a preconcerted signal, all stood up, and maintained it (with the assistance of a brass band, hidden behind the speakers) for the allotted period. Five minutes, that his speech is still unuttered.

Chester A. Whitmore was listed on the programme for a solo, and when called had fallen to intimate to him just what kind of a solo was wanted, and while he was familiar with "heart solos," (sometimes to his sorrow) he had not practiced anything else for some time. His explanation was received satisfactorily and he was allowed to resume his seat.

Fay Quit Quickly.

Eddie Fay, who is "some up in the air," as Link Hart put it, as far as stature is



BEDROOM FURNISHINGS

Our showing of bedroom furniture includes Suites and Single Pieces, in mahogany, in golden and Austrian oak, in maple and white enamel. All grades are represented, from the least to the most expensive. Designs throughout are notable for their individuality, style and beauty.

Large stocks of Carpets, Rugs, Draperies and Lace Curtains enable us to suggest and carry out original bedroom treatments, complete from floor to ceiling.

CARPETS

New Spring Wilton Carpets arriving last week include handsome and stylish patterns in self-toned browns and greens, Oriental effects and plain wide Carpets with border. Exclusive designs and colorings; large stock for immediate delivery.

BRASS BEDS

We sell good Brass Beds. Large stock of all grades, both polished and satin finish, but every piece is well made and reliable. Prices down to \$25.00

FIFTH AND STARK STS. J. G. MACK & CO. FIFTH AND STARK STS.

concerned, was next on the bill, but before he had delivered one phrase, he was presented with a tray of decidedly ancient cheese, and desisted. C. W. Hodson, and C. D. Fraxer, who were also down for short talks, were the next victims.

W. B. Glafke, Colonel David M. Dunne, Charles L. Dick, O. G. Huggison and F. A. Ford were listened to attentively, and each spoke on a subject of considerable interest to the guests.

Longshoremen Arrested for Assault.

Constable Wagner and Deputy Kierman arrested six longshoremen yesterday afternoon on warrants sworn to by John Anderson, of the firm of Anderson & Crowe, shippers, alleging assault upon men in his employ. The trouble occurred Thursday night, when a discharged crew of longshoremen are accused of having assaulted the crew

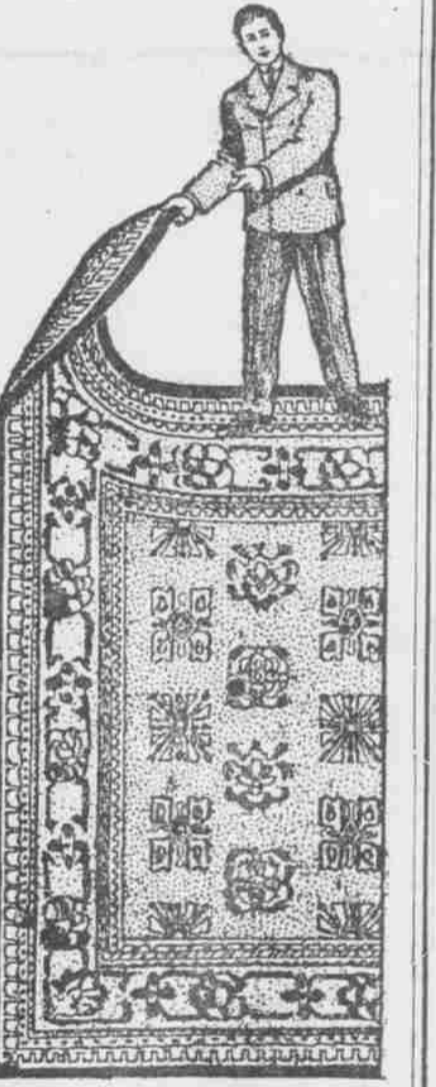
Deckhand Is Drowned.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 26.—(Special).—Barney Dougherty, a deckhand on the steamer Raymond, fell overboard while attempting to cross the gangplank early this morning and was drowned before assistance could be given him.

Greatest Axminster Rug Sale

\$33.50 9x12 Rugs \$18.75

In filling a rooming-house contract we recently contracted for several hundred fine rugs—more than was required for our immediate needs—thereby obtaining unusual and extraordinary price concessions. That is "the Gevurtz way"—save as much cost as possible in the buying, then save in the freight rates by shipping in quantities—taking advantage of carload rates at all times. We are therefore able, at this time, to offer the public an unusually snappy rug bargain. They arrived too late for Christmas selling, but there'll be an eager throng of purchasers here tomorrow morning nevertheless. It is not often you'll be able to obtain



Smith's High-Grade \$18.75 \$33.50 Axminster Rugs

Rugs in many color combinations, for parlor, den, dining-room, bed chamber, etc. These extraordinary prices are for cash only. No phone or C. O. D. orders taken. Mail orders accompanied by draft or Money Order will be honored. Such orders should state purpose for which rug is desired, whether parlor, dining-room or bed chamber.

\$18 Brussels Rugs Only \$9.85



Included in this great special purchase were 200 fine Brussels rugs in many patterns and colors. You can surely find a color combination to suit your fancy in this grand assortment. Room-size. The owest prices ever offered.

Visit Our Ladies' Suit and Cloak Department

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