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Oregon Historical Society

IS A HUMAN FIEND

Ilber Knapp, Arrested at Hamilton, Ohio, Confesses Having Strangled Five Women.

HAD JUST LATELY MARRIED FOURTH WIFE.

Horrible Story of Human Depravity, Which Compares With the Old Bluebeard Stories—Gloats Over Killing Many Defenseless Women.

Hamilton, O., Feb. 26.—Ilber Knapp, the modern Bluebeard, who confessed last night that he had killed one of his four wives, made a second confession this morning in which he told of five murders, three in Cincinnati, one in Indianapolis and one in Hamilton.

In Cincinnati he killed Emma Lippleman, in a lumber yard, Mary Eckert in a house on Walnut street, and his second wife, Dennie Connor, under the Liberty street bridge and threw her body in the canal.

In Hamilton he killed Hannah Goddard, his third wife. In Indianapolis he killed Ida Gebbard. All were strangled, and lust was the underlying cause of the murders.

Emma Lippleman was with child when Knapp assaulted her. He strangled her when she made an outcry. Mary Eckert was also assaulted and strangled with a towel. The sole reason given by Knapp for killing Jennie Connor, was that he was angry. He cannot tell the manner of Ida Gebbards' murder.

Makes Sworn Statement.

In a signed and sworn statement Knapp says: "I cannot tell what made me kill these people. I couldn't help it. Some kind of a desire to kill took hold of me and I could not resist the temptation. I am sorry for my crimes. But now I hope they'll be easy with me."

Fears Lynching.

After his confession the formal charge of first degree murder was filed. Knapp is afraid of being lynched and does not want to be taken from the county jail.

Indianapolis, Feb. 26.—The murder of Ida Gebberd, confessed by Knapp, was one of the most horrible in the history of the city. A child of 3 years old was assaulted, murdered and horribly mutilated after death.

Cincinnati, Feb. 26.—The three murders which Knapp confesses having committed in this city are well remembered by the police. The Eckert murder was an unsolvable mystery that created a great sensation. The murder of Emma Lippleman was never cleared up. The police decided after an investigation of the death of Jennie Conners that she committed suicide.

STARTS A MOVEMENT TO BOYCOTT "SCAB" COAL.

President of the United Mineworkers Says He Cannot Organize the Miners of Maryland and West Virginia Without Outside Assistance.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—John Mitchell, president of the United Mineworkers, has abandoned all hope of organizing the miners of Maryland and West Virginia without outside assistance that will bring such a strong pressure upon the operators that they will be forced to unionize their own mines in self-defense. To that end a movement was started today in Chicago to protest against the awarding of public contracts to firms handling Maryland and West Virginia coal, and this movement is to spread all over the United States wherever labor is organized.

A LEGAL FENCE.

Law Changes Construction of Fence in Eastern Oregon Counties.

Salem, Feb. 26.—Wire fences east of the Cascade Mountains must, after the middle of next May, be constructed in the following manner: They shall have posts 6½ feet in length and not less than four inches in diameter, set in the ground two feet and shall not be more than 32 feet apart. There shall not be less than three wires, of the ordinary kind, the lower wire to be two feet from the ground, the second 15 inches above the first, and the upper wire 15 inches above the second, making the top wire 4½feet above the ground.

At the distance of every eight feet from the posts, false posts 4½ feet high must be placed, resting on the ground and securely fastened to the wires. A pole two inches in diameter or a six-inch board may take the place of the middle wire and false posts.

Grain Rate Hearing.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—The interstate commerce commission began a hearing today in the matter of recent advances in freight rates on grain and grain products. Protests against this increase have been made by grain growers and shippers throughout the West and Southwest. The advance amounts to about 20 per cent over the old schedules and will mean a tax of millions upon the farmers of the country.

Grand Jury in Baker County.

Baker City, Feb. 26.—Upon request of the taxpayers of Baker county, Judge Robert Eaken called a grand jury to sit during the session of the February term of the circuit court. The extreme need of a thorough investigation on many important questions now before the county seems to warrant the extra cost, attending this action.

Immense Cost of Wars.

Madrid, Feb. 26.—The minister of finance has made a report showing that the cost to Spain of the Cuban and the Philippine war was $470,500,000.

PROTEST AGAINST SMOOT.

Smoot Cannot Be Prevented From Taking the Oath When the Next Senate Meets, But the Charge Will Have to Be Investigated.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Charges against Smoot, the Utah poligimist, were today formally filed with the senate committee on privileges and elections and state specifically that Smoot was married to a plural wife after the admission of Utah into the Union.

Smoot brands the charges as an infamous lie. This congress can take no action upon the charges nor can Smoot be prevented from taking the oath when the next senate meets, but by filing the document now it constitutes a charge against his eligibility to hold the seat, which will have to be investigated next session.

Democrats Filibuster.

A filibuster against the Butler-Wagoner election contest was inaugurated as soon as the house convened. A yea and nay vote was demanded on every motion. No business is being transacted.

The filibuster lasted three hours, and after five roll calls the republicans succeeded in bringing up for consideration the resolution unseating Butler.

BAKER MURDER CASE.

Great Interest Taken in the Ensminger Case—Gives Promise of Sensational Conditions.

Baker City, Feb. 26.—Attorneys, relatives, friends, witnesses and some money are gathered in this city today in the interest of the Ensminger murder trial which gives promise of disclosing the most sensational and peculiar conditions and facts that the courts of the state of Oregon have been treated to in their history. Ples Armstrong may swing for the crime, but present indications point to the legal fight being a stiff one and the counsel for the accused is equipped to spring new evidence that may serve to turn the tide of feeling and at least forestall the program for the hanging of a Baker county murderer at the penitentiary for the first hanging under the new law.

Quarter of a Million Loss.

New York, Feb. 26.—Fire in an eight story building occupied by Hackett, Carpet & Co., clothiers, and others did a quarted of a million dollars damage this morning.

CAN CURE LEPROSY

HAS COMPLETELY CURED THREE CASES AT CANTON.

United States Consul Wade Reports the Matter to the State Department—Urges Its Adoption in Hawaii and the Philippine Islands.

Washington, Feb. 26.—According to United States Consul McWade, at Canton, it has remained for an American physician, Dr. Adolph Razlag, to discover a means of curing and exterminating leprosy. In a report to the state department, the consul says that wonderful success has attended the efforts of this physician, and his work has attracted the attention of the highest Manchu and Chinese officials. This work began in June, 1902, in a leper village six miles distant from Canton. Of four cases treated, three have been discharged completely cured and the last is making a practical recovery. The physician urges strongly the adoption of his methods for the treatment of lepers in the Philippines and in Hawaii. The main features of the treatment, which are shown in the consul's report, appear to consist of minute and prolonged sanitation and the use of highly antiseptic drugs.

READY FOR IRRIGATION.

Secretary Moore Sends County Reports to Washington.

Portland, Feb. 26.—It is now up to the national government to keep its part of the agreement regarding irrigation matters. The first thing that Secretary Moore, of the Oregon Irrigation Association did yesterday morning was to send to the proper authorities at Washington the reports of Malheur, Harney, Crook and Baker counties on their need of irrigation. Although the state convention on irrigation met last October, this is the first active step taken towards providing for the irrigation of arid Oregon. Various matters had to be attended to preliminary to the sending of these reports.

Umatilla county sent its report straight to Washington through a committee appointed by the Umatilla County Irrigation Association. The report will be examined by Chief Hydrographer Newell, who will then probably make a personal investigation, after which it will be referred to the secretary of agriculture.

Mrs. Fairbanks Re-elected.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Mrs. Cordelia Fairbanks was unanimously re-elected president-general of the Daughters of the American Revolution today.

OREGON'S SENATORS.

List of Statesmen Who Have Served in Upper House.

Following is a list of the senators who have served the state of Oregon since her admission into the Union, on February 14, 1859:

Delazon Smith, 1859; Joseph Lane, 1859-1861; Edward D. Baker, 1861; Benjamin Stark, 1861-1862; Benjamin F. Harding, 1862-1865; James W. Nesmith, 1865-1867; George H. Williams, 1865-1871; Henry W. Corbett, 1867-1873; James K. Kelly, 1871-1877; John H. Mitchell, 1873-1879; John H. Mitchell, 1885-1891; John H. Mitchell, 1891-1897; LaFayette Grover, 1879-1883; James H. Slater, 1879-1885; Joseph N. Dolph, 1889-1895; George W. McBride, 1895-1901; Joseph Simon, 1898-1903; John H. Mitchell, 1901-1907; Charles W. Fulton, 1903.

The volcano of Calima, Mexico, is in violent eruption. Three cities in the vicinity are threatened with destruction.

MARSHAL EXONERATED.

Coroner's Jury Find That Shoooting of Simonis Was Justifiable.

Baker City, Feb. 25.—The coroner's jury, sitting on the killing of Jim Simonis by Marshal Robertson, of Richland, rendered the following verdict Tuesday:

"We, the undersigned members of the jury, sworn and impannelled to inquire into and investigate the death of James Simonis, find that he died from the effects of gunshot wounds inflicted by a revolver in the hands of Frank Robertson; we also find that the shooting was in self defense and in the death of the said James Simonis, justifiable homicide."

In attempting to hold an inquest over James Simonis, brother of the Eastern Oregon girl poisoner, who is now in state's prison, Coroner Snow learned that public sympathy was with City Marshal Robertson, of Richland, where the shooting took place, and that public sympathy was decidedly against the victim. A number of witnesses were placed upon the stand and all swore substantially the same.

After the inquest Marshal Robertson gave himself up to the magistrate. Nothing further resulted with the exception of going through the formality of arrest, as required by law, as the jury had exonerated the officer. It is now feared that Marshal Robertson is in danger of a clash with a brother, Joe Simonis, who is also regarded as a bad man. The scrape created some excitement at Richland but all stand pat with the marshal.

CURE FOR ST. VITUS DANCE.

Dr. Loeb Says Calcium Salts Will Prevent Muscular Twitching—That All Nervous Diseases Are Caused by the Absence of Calcium—Has Made Many Experiments.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Dr. Jacques Loeb has discovered that muscular and nervous diseases, such as St. Vitus' dance, paralysis, locomotor ataxia and sleeplessness can be cured by administering calcium salts—that is, such salts as are found in well water and many foods.

The announcement of this discovery in scientific research has just been made. In one of the publications just issued by the University of Chicago Dr. Loeb tells of his experiments on lower forms of life and the conclusions suggested in regard to human beings.

Simply stated, the conclusion is that the presence of calcium salts is what prevents muscular twitching; that practically all nervous diseases are caused by the absence of calcium and therefore to restore normal conditions and effect a cure the treatment is to dose the calcium salts.

CANDIDATES GALORE.

Many Aspirants for Place Made Vacant by Death of Mr. Tongue.

Salem, Feb. 25.—Among the republicans prominently mentioned for congressional honors in the first district, are George C. Brownell, L. T. Harris, B. L. Eddy, Frank Davey, Binger Hermann, Claud Gatch, H. H. Hewitt and T. T. Geer. The democrats are well equipped in this matter and the names of these are under consideration: Evan Reames, R. A. Miller, M. A. Miller, J. K. Weatherford, Bernard Daly, W. L. Vawter, O. P. Coshow, J. K. Townsend, P. H. D'Arcy, Jeff Myers and Robert Smith.

RESULT OF BLIZZARD.

Cattlemen Lose a Million Sheep and Cattle in Indian Territory.

Dennison, Texas, Feb. 25.—Cattlemen who have been canvassing the results of the last blizzard, place the loss of cattle and sheep in the Indian Territory alone at 1,000,000.

DAY IN THE SENATE

AGRICULTURAL BILL PASSED WITHOUT STATEHOOD RIDER.

Spooner Defends the Administration, Giving Political Reasons for Forshay's Dismissal—Teller Denounced the President's Interference.

Washington, Feb. 25.—A stir was created in the senate when Dubois, of Idaho, called up his resolution directing the civil service commission to send to the senate the facts bearing on the expulsion of Forshay from the surveyor-general's office of Idaho.

Spooner had a letter read, saying that Forshay had been dismissed because he solicited and received political contributions.

Dubois severely arraigned the commission and declared that while they prohibited office-holders seeking aid of the senators it was guilty of seeking the aid of senators to prevent an investigation of its acts. He declared that such actions were flimsy and dishonorable, and should be investigated.

Teller, of Colorado, denounced the intereference of the executive branch of the government and said, "This applies to president as well as any one else." The matter was dropped when Spooner withdrew his letter.

Agricultural Appropriations.

Washington, Feb. 25.—In the senate today the statehood rider on the agricultural appropriation bill was withdrawn and the bill, relieved of the burden, was passed.

The president sent the nomination to the senate of Lucius Wright of California, to be Indian agent at the mission of Tule River.

James Garfield, Jr., was sworn in today as commissioner of corporations.

SUBSTITUTES FOR FRIARS.

Pope Discusses the Church Situation in the Philippine Islands.

Rome, Feb. 24.—The Spanish mission to the pope's jubilee was received at the vatican today with royal honors. It was headed by Duke Almadovar, whom the pope entertained in private conversation for half an hour, discussing the best ways for providing substitutes to the friars now in the Philippines.

COAL MINERS SHOT DOWN

Marshal's Posse Fired Upon Strikers From the Lannock Mines in West Virginia.

TEN MINERS KILLED AND SEVERAL WOUNDED.

Meager Reports Tell of a Battle This Morning Between United States Deputy and Posse and a Crowd of Striking Miners—It Is Said That the Miners Started the Fight.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 25.—Deputy United States Marshal Cunningham and posse were fired upon by rioting miners from the Lannock mines this morning. He returned the fire and a battle ensued. Reports are meagre but say that one of the posse and 10 miners were killed and several were wounded.

Later—Seven Killed.

Full details received state that seven rioters were killed and two fatally wounded. Saturday Cunningham attempted to arrest some strikers under a blanket injunction, and was surrounded by about 100 armed men, who gave him five minutes to leave the place. He left and on the same day the sheriff and his posse were driven away.

Sunday the miners withdrew across the river from the mines and made a camp. Emboldened by their success in repulsing the officers they returned enmasse yesterday to Stanniford and started to rioting.

They destroyed the railway bridges leading to the mines on the Chesepeake & Ohio and threatened to burn other property. They defied the guards at the mines.

Surprised the Miners.

Cunningham came to this city, picked out 35 men and returned to the mine this morning, where he was joined by the sheriff's posse, making the mine where 50 men were on guard.

The miners had secured 150 Winchesters, but were surprised by the posse. A battle ensued and the mine's surrendered, finding the fire of the officers deadly. One hundred and seventy-five were placed under arrest and taken before the United States commissioner this afternoon.

An injunction for disobedience, which caused the battle was issued in August in behalf of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad. The miners had been endeavoring to keep the strike going.

ADMITS HIS GUILT AND PAYS COSTS.

As Result of an "Ad" He Secured Her for Assistant Cashier of Bank of Which He Is President—She Refused His Advances.

Portland, Feb. 25.—Stephen Carver, the president of the bank at Ontario, Or., was arrested this morning on complaint of Ida Gray, of San Francisco. He says he secured her through an Examiner "ad" to come to Oregon as his assistant cashier. On the way up to Portland he made indecent proposals to her. She refused his advances, whereupon he discharged her. Before the city attorney Carver admitted the facts of the case and paid the costs, $80 and was released. The girl returns to her home in San Francisco.

KNAPP ARRESTED AT HOME OF HIS BRIDE.

Was Sentenced to the Indiana State Penitentiary a Number of Years Ago for Assault.

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 25.—Albert Knapp, of Hamilton, O., was arrested early this morning at the home of his bride charged with wholesale murder. He was married only a few days ago. He has had four wives and the police believe he has murdered three. The last one disappeared in the latter part of December. Although his bride believed him very honorable the police say he was sentenced a number of years ago to 10 years in the penitentiary for a criminal assault. He served eight years.

EX-GOVERNOR IN JAIL.

Washington's Well Known Financier Refuses to Answer Questions Put by Seattle Grand Jury.

Seattle, Feb. 25.—Eugene Semple, ex-governor of Washington, and president of the Seattle & Lake Washington Waterway Company, was sent to jail today because he refused to produce the books of the company when demanded by the grand jury, and also refused to answer leading questions concerning an alleged illegal contract of his company with the city. Judge Bell signed an order of committment with instructions that Sample stay in jail until he yields. Sensational developments are expected when Semple gives his testimony.

Artesian Water for Desert.

The Dalles, Feb. 25.—Since the discovery of artesian water in almost unlimited quantities in the well across the river from Castle Rock, a large number of Dalles people have been crowding into the flats between that place and Umatilla to file desert claims on the vacant land. This land is lacking in only one thing, sufficient water to irrigate it and if it can be secured from artesian water that section which was heretofore used for grazing land will be turned into one of the most productive sections in Eastern Oregon. A drill will be put to work in a few days to prospect and as the water along the Columbia basin is ordinarily found means of reclaiming a vast area of what is now almost worthless land, and make it worth as much as the fertile Hood River Valley.

SENATOR PIERCE INTERVIEWED

Gives a Resume of Some of the Bills Passed by the Last Legislature.

SPEAKS OF MEASURES OF BENEFIT TO UMATILLA.

Dalles-Celilo Portage Road Will Cut Freight Rates in Two—New School Law Gives $1.50 Extra to Every Pupil in This County Which Means Another Month of School.

State Senator Pierce, when interviewed by an East Oregonian reporter concerning the results of the labors of the legislature just closed, was asked what, in his opinion, were the measures passed of especial moment to the people of Umatilla county and adjoining counties. Senator Pierce said:

"One of the most important measures must be conceded to be the passage of the Celilo portage bill, which appropriates $165,000 for the portage railway. It is hoped and expected that it will reduce freight charges on wheat from 9 cents to 5 or 6 cents. There will be a proportionate reduction or perhaps more, on freight into this country from the west, and it is expected to reduce freight charges generally about one-third. The intention of the promoters of the scheme is to have the portage completed in time for it to be used in the transportation of the next crop. Some think the portage will injure The Dalles by building up a rival town farther up the river. On the other hand, it is conceded by everybody who has studied the question closely, and by The Dalles people themselves, that the railway will actually be the making of that place—it will lead to an influx of both people and capital to that point. The Umatilla delegation was a unit in the support of the portage bill.

Inheritance Tax Bill.

"The inheritance tax bill, which was passed, was introduced by Representative Blakley. It was indorsed by the entire Umatilla county delegation before its introduction and was supported by them as a unit after its introduction, and until its final passage. I say the bill passed was our measure; it is such in effect, although, as passed, the bill differs slightly from the original, but not enough to vitiate its purpose at all. It was only slightly modified. It will tax all inherited estates that assess more than $10,000, by a sliding scale of from 6 to 1 per cent. It is expected that this law will raise $100,000 per annum for the support of the state government.

"The corporation license tax law was another measure that met with the unanimous indorsement of the Umatilla county delegation. It is an occupation tax pure and simple, on corporations organized after the passage of the law. It is expected to contribute about $150,000 to the state's exchequer per year.

"From the last two measures named—the corporation license tax and the inheritance tax—it is expected that enough income to the state will be realized in two years' time to defray the expense of the Lewis and Clark Exposition."

"The provisions of the school bill introduced by you and which passed, and which is understood to have been your personal measure, are, are not generally understood. What will the law as passed accomplish? In what essentials does it differ from the old law?"

New School Law.

"The new law will give directly to each child of school age $6 per capita, besides about $2 which will be derived from an irreducable school fund. The total fund for school purposes that will be raised thus being about $8 per capita for the school population, the state over. So far as Umatilla county is concerned, it means $1.50 more for each child of school age in this county than heretofore, and another month of school each year. It is really the most revolutionary measure passed by this legislature. I am greatly pleased to be able to say that the Umatilla county delegation was a unit in its support. This law will be of at least equal benefit to other parts of the state. It more than doubles the allowance per capita in some counties of the state. It should be remembered that the bill abolishes the present 5 mill school tax.

Tax Paying Time.

"Another measure which I feel sure the people will heartily favor, was the joint product of myself and Representative Phelps. In its support Umatilla and Morrow counties were a unit. It is in relation to the time for paying taxes. Under this law the next payment of taxes—I mean following the payment now in progress—will take place in November and December, 1904. The essential difference which it will make to the taxpayers will be that it will be easier for them to pay during that time of year when there is the most money in the country—in the fall, after the marketing of the principal crops.

"Perhaps the only fault that can be found with the law is that the assessment will begin January 1 instead of March 1, as its authors hoped for. The amendment was crowded upon us as a compromise, and was accepted in order to secure the passage of the measure in any acceptable shape."

"Were you individually the author of any other measure that became law?"

Four Years for Assessor.

"Yes. The law which was passed making the tenure of the county assessor in office four years instead of two. Of course this law is subject to the objection of continuing a man in office perhaps longer than the people want him. But on the other hand, the purposes of the law I think in every way justify it.

"It gives the assessor longer in which to familiarize himself with the values in his county. This is an intricate subject, this of equitable, well-balanced, just taxation, and the assessor should be given a better chance than he has under the old law, to thoroughly qualify himself. That is all there is to it. I think there is enough.

No Boundary Settlement.

"The boundary settlement question again went glimmering, the delegations of Union and Umatilla counties being unable to agree on a section line or arbitrary boundary in place of the present summit of the Blue Mountains law. The result was the defeat of the bill which was introduced to establish a definite, arbitrary line."

Senate Bill No. 192.

"The relation of the bill called senate bill No. 192 (and which became a law) to the question of the amount of state taxes to be raised by the individual counties is not generally understood. As a matter of fact a really comprehensive argument in favor of senate bill No. 192, of which, by the way, I was author, would necessarily be long, and to the average person, complicated. A synopsis of its effects will probably be satisfactory.

"The present law, see page 1053 of the last revised statutes, provides that each county shall raise such per cent of taxes for state purposes as may be determined by the average amount of expenditures in each county during a period of five years, such computations to be made by the state officers in January, 1905, and in January of each fifth year thereafter. The law further goes on to say that until the January 1905 computation the proportion of the state taxes to be paid by the several counties shall be set out in table, which is based on the assessments of the several counties for the past five years. Then follows a percentage table based upon the assessed valuation, which is quite equitable and just, whereas the clause of the old law first quoted—providing for assessing the counties for the state fund on the basis of their expenditures is grotesquely unjust."

On Assessment Basis.

"What senate bill No. 192 does is to virtually nullify (its actual repeal could not be compassed) the 'expenditure' clause and it makes the table referred to (based upon the assessed valuation) the basis for assessing the counties for the sate fund until 1910. So that for eight years hence, provided some intervening legislature does not upset the thing, we will pay taxes to the state on an assessment basis, which is the only reasonable basis for tax paying. Now please note the following, which shows what the passage of my bill actually does: Before its passage made the assessed valuation basis possible, Morrow county would have paid $12,000 to $15,000 more taxes to the state than now; Union county would have paid $20,000 more state tax than now; Umatilla county would have paid, under the 'expenditure' basis, from $5,000 to $6000 more state tax than she will now pay, under the assessed valuation basis."

"Who will pay the difference?"

"Well, Multnomah county will help pay the difference. The 'expenditure' basis which my bill annuls did not impose upon Multnomah her share, because the larger part of the enormous expense of running that county is borne, indirectly, but certainly just the same, by the city of Portland. Thus, Multnomah county, in spite of her enormous wealth, but because her 'expenditures' were light, would not pay anything like an equitable share of the state tax. My bill will compel Multnomah to pay her state taxes on the same basis as Umatilla—a basis of assessed valuation."

ALASKA WILL EXHIBIT

BUT CONGRESS MUST APPROPRIATE NECESSARY FUNDS.

Citizen of Juneau Says Residents of the Northland Are Not Able to Help Themselves.

"Alaska people would be glad to aid the Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition; and the only way it can be done is for the directors of the fair to draw up a bill asking congress to appropriate $50,000 as was done for the St. Louis exposition."

This is the expression of Edward C. Russell, Jr., proprietor of the Juneau Daily Dispatch, who is in Portland for a few days, says the Oregonian. "To call Alaska a territory is a misnomer," said Mr. Russell, "for it is as much a district as the District of Columbia. We have no means of making an appropriation except through congress, and the bill should be introduced by the Oregon delegation. The Alaska people would be even more willing to help the Lewis and Clak fair than that at St. Louis, for all the mining men of the West will attend the exposition here, while only a part of them will go to St. Louis. Before the bill is introduced it should be sent to the various commercial organizations of Alaska for endorsement. Nearly every town of any size in Alaska has either a board of trade or a chamber of commerce.

"We believe the election of Senator Fulton will be a good thing for Alaska, especially for the salmon packing interests. He comes from a town where the industry is extensively carried on, and should be conversant with the conditions of salmon canning. The packers of Alaska may have a good deal of trouble this spring on account of the new ruling of the treasury department making it necessary to turn loose ten fry for every salmon packed. The fry must be 'reds,' the salmon next to the chinooks in quality.

"This rule is all very well for the canneries on the 'red' streams, but the majority of the smaller canneries are packing pink salmon, as the valuable reds are found only in certain streams. These men on the other streams cannot get red fry, except at exhorbitant prices from the favored hatcherymen, so consequently if the ruling is enforced many of the canneries must go out of business this year. There are comparatively few hatchery streams in Alaska, but in each one many millions of fry can be found. We are trying now to have the collection of the tax put upon packed and salted salmon put under the internal revenue department, so that revenue stamps, like those on cigars, might be placed upon the cases, and the government maintain and operate the hatcheries.

"Portland does more business with Alaska than any other city on the coast, not excepting Seattle. If your men had gained the mail contracts, the business would be doubled. Some day San Francisco will come in with a line of fast steamers and take the whole trade. Business follows the mails every time.

"The Canadian government is willing to concede to the United States practically everything regarding our fisheries, commercial matters and all other things in dispute, provided the government of the United States will give the Canadian government a port of entry in Alaska.

"They are willing to take Dyea, an abandoned town on the Lynn canal, where all the houses stand empty today, mute witnesses of its desertion, as a port of entry—anything, in fact, so long as they can get a port on the Pacific Alaska. When the Yukon & White Pass railroad was built, Skagway became the western terminal, and the port of entry to the Yukon, and Dyea, just across the canal, was abandoned and deserted.

"The Canadian scheme pushing through United States territory to an outlet on the Pacific Ocean may lead some day to serious results. Fifty-four forty or fight, is not yet dead. It may be a shibboleth of another great political campaign, and no backdown.

"The Lynn canal is a great body of water—a magnificent arm of the Pacific Ocean—almost as large, and for strategical and commercial purposes as important as Long Island Sound. If the Canadian Indians could once get a port of entry there they could take in all their goods and merchandise to the vast Yukon territory without let or hindrance. They could fortify it and bid us defiance at some critical time, when we least expect it. They would then have a port of entry on the Pacific Ocean in the great Northwest, a port that would bring them hundreds and hundreds of miles nearer the Orient than they are today. That is what they want, that is what they are after, and that is about the whole question involved in this boundary dispute."

STATE LAND AGENT

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATES LAND DEALS.

L. B. Geer Did Not Comply With the State Laws—Land Worth $2.50 Per Acre Disposed of at 75 Cents.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 25.—The joint committee of the senate and house, composed of Senators Myers and Mulkey and Representatives Hermann, LaFollet and Hale, to investigate the selection and sale of the school lands, known as lieu and base lands, pursuant to charges of fraud in the state land department as made by William Bushey to the legislature as follows:

Did Not Comply With Law.

"The evidence shows that L. B. Geer, as state land agent, did not comply with the law in selecting lieu lands in place of lands lost to the state in sections 16 and 36, and neglected his duty in selecting all such lands, and neglected to prepare and make a public record of the same for public inspection, as required by law.

"The laws of 1899 made the governor land commissioner and required him to ascertain all losses of school lands to the state, and to select from the best timber and other lands to make good all losses and perfect title to them to the state, and make record thereof for public inspection, and that such lands should not be sold for less than $2.50 per acre to the highest bidder; the laws of 1899 provide further that the governor shall be allowed all necessary expenses in curred in performing such duties and authorized him to appoint agent or agents to fully perform the duties required by these laws. L. B. Geer justifies his failure to comply with these laws on the ground that there was no appropriation therefor, and that no order was made by the governor or the state land board requiring him to comply with the requirements of the law, neither of which justified his neglect of duty.

Sold Lieu Lands for 75 Cents an Acre.

"It is an admitted fact, found in the evidence of W. H. Odell that he sold base for lieu land selections to private parties during the term of L. B. Geer in office, 50,000 or 60,000 acres at from 75 cents to $1.75 per acre. That he made such sales while occupying the office of L. B. Geer, State Land Agent.

"There is no evidence submitted to the effect that had available timber lands been selected by the state as required by law, such lands could now be sold for $800,000 or more.

Declined to Produce His Books.

"The evidence shows that Odell was clerk of the state land board from August 1, 1895, until January 1, 1899.

"Te testifies that he was appointed land agent of the state in 1900 by ex-Governor Geer to select swamp lands within the Klamath Indian reservation, and that his appointment continued during the term of office of the governor. That during much of this time he occupied the office with the state land agent, L. B. Geer; that while occupying this office he prepared a book of descriptions of lands lost to the state in sections 16 and 36, which he offered to produce, but afterwards declined to do so; that he sold base lands while occupying the office with L. B. Geer in the state house to the extent of 50,000 or 60,000 acres, and promised to furnish a list of same to the committee, with names of purchasers and amount received, with amount of land, but has since declined to do so.

"The evidence of Odell at page 80 shows that he was not appointed to select swamp lands, but that he was commissioned an agent of the state to adjudicate mineral school lands lost to the state.

A DISASTROUS FIRE

Visits Cincinnati and Wipes Out Some of the Old Landmarks of That City.

THE OLD PIKE OPERA HOUSE IS DESTROYED.

Actress Loses Costumes and Plays Valued at $2,000—Loss of Property Destroyed May Exceed $1,000,000 Several Narrow Escapes.

Cincinnati, Feb. 26.—The most disastrous fire that has visited this city in a long time was discovered early this morning in the basement of the Pike opera house and in a short while the whole building was in flames. The Pike building, including the Pike opera house, was soon destroyed, also the Sesson-Good building adjoining. The loss may exceed $1,000,000.

The Pike building contained almost 100 offices occupied by lawyers, artists and others. Their losses are irreparable.

While the firemen were at work in the street they saw a pair of cuffs dropped from a room. When picked up they found this inscription: "For God's sake, save me, W. J. Jones." The firemen rushed up stairs and saved Jones, who was almost suffocated. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Were Old Landmarks.

It is not believed that any lives were lost, though there are reports of persons missing. Burning embers were carried for miles, the suburbs being covered with them. Pike and the other buildings destroyed with it are among the city's landmarks. When the fire was discovered many persons were asleep in the buildings and had narrow escapes.

There was great alarm among the guests of a number of hotels in the vicinity and many prepared to leave for safer quarters, but the hotels at no time were in danger. It was noon before the fire was extinguished.

Actress Loses Thousands.

Henrietta Crosman, who was playing at the Pike, lost several costumes and four plays valued at $25,000. Her receipts for the week amounted to several thousand dollars and was in a small safe which can't be found.

RED BOY SHUTS DOWN.

Valuable Property Is Idle While Extensive Improvements Are Being Made.

Bourne, Feb. 24.—The force of 50 men at the famous Red Boy mine has been cut down to barely enough to watch the property and carry on some extensive repairs and development work now in progress.

The main shaft will be sunk 500 feet deeper which will take until April 1. In carrying on this work it is impossible to operate the hoist in bringing ore from the lower levels. A station tank will be put in at the 200-foot level, the hoist machinery will be thoroughly overhauled and two new pumps of large capacity will be installed.

Work on the extensive electric power plant at the mines will begin about June 1.

TRUSTEES OF COLLEGE.

Large Attendance at Meeting of Board—Faculty to Be Chosen.

Walla Walla, Feb. 24.—The board of trustees of Walla Walla College, at College Place, have been in session for the past four or five days discussing the interests of the college, but up to date, so far as has been given out, no important action has been taken. However, today it is expected that the board will select the faculty for the next year.

The following are in attendance from outside points: W. B. White, Helena, Mont.; F. M. Burg, Portland, Or.; S. W. Nellis, Seattle; H. W. Decker, Portland; S. A. Miller, Milton, Or. Resident members of the board are T. L. Ragsdale, C. D. Hobbs, C. P. Lewis and H. J. Breed.

COLUMBIA MINE CAVE-IN.

Management Was Prepared and Had Removed All Its Men.

Baker City, Feb. 24.—Fred R. Mellis returned last evening from an extended visit to the Columbia mine. While there as a guest of Manager F. S. Baillie he made an inspection of the shaft which recently caved in. Mr. Mellis says that newspaper reports of the catastrophe were greatly exaggerated; that the damage can be repaired for $3000 and that the management knew the cave-in was coming and was prepared for it, having withdrawn all men from underground before it occurred.

MET A SAD FATE.

Student of Indian School Eloped and Was Killed at Gold Hill.

Willie Hayes and Joe LaPlumboise, two youths who ran away from the Indian school last Wednesday night, came to grief at Gold Hill yesterday morning, according to a dispatch received in this city, says the Salem Statesman. After leaving the school the boys, who were but 16 years of age, started south without any particular place in view, and got as far as Gold Hill yesterday morning. They attempted to bound a southbound train when the Hayes boy slipped and was thrown under the wheels, meeting a frightful death. The news of the lad's sad end was sent at once to Superintendent Potter, of the Chemawa school, and W. P. Campbell went to Gold Hill on the 11 o'clock train to take charge of the remains and bring the other boy back to the school. The boy was a native of Alaska and had been at Chemawa about four years.

Seattle gamblers have raised the sum of $60,000 with which to fight the bill now pending in the Washington legislature, making gambling a felony.