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COMMISSIONER REED EXPLAINS WHY IT WAS DEFERRED.

Will Be Built and Operated the Coming Season—Two Years' License Money Sufficient.

ASTORIA, Feb. 1.—Relative to the establishment of a salmon hatchery on the Umpqua river, State Fish Commissioner Reed today said:

"I noticed an article in the Oregonian of January 29, in which Mr. Zornwalt, of Gardiner, Or., in conversation with a reporter, makes complaint because there has not been a hatchery established on the Umpqua river, at or near the mouth of Elk creek, and says that if Mr. McGuire and Senator Reed had not lost their lives, the hatchery would have been built before this. In justice to all interested in this matter, a few words by way of explanation will not be out of place.

"There would have been many great undertakings finished before this time if nothing had occurred to defer them. I am well aware that if nothing had happened to Mr. McGuire and Senator Reed, a hatchery would have been built somewhere on the Umpqua river last season; but the unluckiest of things happened, and the hatchery was not built. Not so much, however, on account of the death of Mr. McGuire, who we all know would have done all he could in the matter, as on account of Senator Reed being taken away.

"At that time his was the only cannery on the Umpqua, and he the only one to operate it. If there had been no cannery in operation, there would have been but little or no fishing done, and, consequently, but a small amount of license money collected in that district.

"Every one who has read the law knows that the only money available for the operation of hatcheries is that collected for license, and that must be expended in the district where collected. Owing to the uncertainty of any cannery being operated on the Umpqua, and of the amount of money that would be available with which to operate a hatchery, the board of fish commissioners decided to postpone the construction thereof for one year, a decision which proved to be a wise one, as there was not money enough collected in the district to operate a hatchery the fall season.

"The board of fish commissioners will examine the different places on the Umpqua in the near future, and if a suitable site can be found a hatchery will be constructed and operated the coming summer. With the two years' license money we hope to be able to run the hatchery during the whole season."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Fish, Railway, Labor and Other Important Commissions Under a New Cabinet Officer.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The question of establishing a department of the government to be known as the department of commerce, with a cabinet officer at its head, has been discussed at considerable length by the senate committee on commerce. The discussion was based upon a very complete report on the subject prepared by Senator Nelson.

It is proposed to include in the new department the following: lighthouse, marine hospital and steamboat inspection service, the bureau of navigation, immigration statistics and coast and geodetic surveys; to transfer from the interior department the commission of railway, the census office and the geodetic survey and from the state department the bureau of foreign commerce. The department of labor and the fish commission are also placed under this supervision.

W. G. MAGERS HANGED.

Expiated His Crime On the Gibbet at Dallas.

DALLAS, Or., Feb. 2.—William G. Magers, who murdered Andrew Raymond Sisk, a wealthy Sherman county rancher, near Salem, on the Polk county side of the Willamette river, on September 13, 1898, was hanged at 10:15 this morning. He displayed good nerve while on the gallows, and beyond a slight quivering of the chin displayed no noticeable agitation.

Magers spent the early part of last night writing letters, and retired shortly after midnight. He slept well until 4:30 this morning, when he got up and resumed his writing. He parted heartily of the breakfast brought him at 7 o'clock. A brother and brother-in-law of the condemned man were admitted to the jail at an early hour, and talked with him for a few minutes. At 10 o'clock Sheriff Van Ordel went into his cell and read the death warrant.

After the sheriff had finished reading Magers seemed filled with rage and in a moment of frenzy proceeded to demolish every loose article of furniture in his cell, threatening to kill any one who molested him. He soon grew calmer, and when the officers went into his cell to lead him out he offered no resistance.

At 10:14 he was led upon the scaffold. Sheriff Van Ordel and Elder Barton Riggs, of the Christian church, leading the way. He was supported by Deputy Sheriff J. T. Ford and W. E. Williams, of Astoria. The death watch brought up the rear.

He walked up on the scaffold without aid and stood calmly looking down on the crowd below. He was neatly attired in a black suit, white collar and black tie. Prayer was offered by Elder Riggs, after which Magers was asked if he had anything to say. He replied in a voice shaken with emotion: "Gentlemen, you are looking upon an innocent man. I pray that those who testified against me will be forgiven and that I will meet them in heaven. I forgive those who have done me wrong."

When he ceased speaking the sheriff pinioned his arms and legs and quickly stepping to the lever, sprung the trap. The body shot downward and in 12 minutes life was pronounced extinct by the physicians, Dr. R. E. L. Steiner, of Dallas, and Dr. O. D. Butler, of Independence.

Some 200 special invitations to the hanging had been issued, and most of them were accepted. The inclosure around the scaffold was crowded to overflowing long before the fatal hour. A doctor of excitement thrilled the spectators when the 12 jurors who found Magers guilty filed in and took up their stand within the railing. Newspaper correspondents were well represented, and the following sheriffs were present: Holden, of Sherman county; Blakeley, of Umatilla; Dearing, of Union; Alderman, of Tillamook; Munken, of Linn; Darbin, of Marion; and Henderson of Yamhill.

Roberts Wants 90,000 Men—England Will Resort to Drafting.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Sensational rumors are current that the militia ballot act will be put in force February 14, and that General Roberts, commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, has called for 90,000 additional men, which, it is added, the government has promised to give him, sending 50,000 militia and volunteers and 50,000 reserves.

It is also said the volunteers will mobilize forthwith. It is even asserted today that the cabinet has especially dealt with these matters. The militia ballot act makes every unmarried man between 18 and 30 years of age liable to service for five years.

John F. Boyle, a photographer, died at Burns last Friday, from inflammation of the bowels. He is said to have no relatives except a brother somewhere in California.

THE BURBONIC PLAGUE.

History of the Scourge by Surgeon General Wyman.

For Over 2000 Years It Has Been the Terror of the Far East—Has Invaded Europe at Times.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 28.—In view of the prevalence of the bubonic plague in Hawaii and the great efforts which the marine hospital corps is making to keep it out of this country, a history of the plague prepared by Surgeon General Wyman is interesting. In a booklet issued on the subject, Dr. Wyman says:

Manetho, an Egyptian historian, who lived at the beginning of the third century B. C., described pestilences supposed to have been the plague as having occurred in the reign of the most ancient Egyptian Kings. It prevailed in Athens 432-429 B. C., and reappeared in eighteen months after the last-named date. Thucydides has described it, and had the disease, and Hippocrates noted it. It is said that Athens lost more than one-third of its population by the epidemic. According to Rufus of Ephesus, plague prevailed in Lydia in the third century B. C., and its home was considered to be in Northern Africa. The great plague reported by Livy, who died 221 B. C., is said to have destroyed 1,000,000 persons in Africa, but it is not mentioned that it passed into Europe. Plague is also alluded to in the Bible, Zachariah xiv., 18, as peculiarly Egyptian, of which country this disease has been a great scourge.

In the Christian era it is not until the sixth century that we find bubonic plague in Europe. In 542 it spread over Egypt, and passed to Constantinople, where it carried off 10,000 persons in one day, and in the same century appeared in Italy, and extended also along the northern coast of Africa. It prevailed in England in the seventh century.

In the fourteenth century it was introduced from the East and prevailed throughout Armenia, Asia Minor, Egypt, Northern Africa, and nearly the whole of Europe. Hecker calculates that one-fourth the population of Europe, or 25,000,000 persons, died in all of the epidemics in the fourteenth century. It was in this century that the first measures were taken to check the spread of the plague. Venice appointing, in 1348, three guardians of the public health for this purpose.

In the fifteenth century it recurred frequently in nearly all parts of Europe, in one year, 1496, the mortality reaching 40,000. The first quarantine establishment was founded in this century, namely, at Venice, in 1483, on a small island adjoining the city.

The sixteenth century was not more free from plague than the fifteenth. In 1572 50,000 died at Lyons. In 1576 Venice lost 70,000.

In the seventeenth century it still prevailed in Europe, though less widely than in the middle ages. In 1656 one of the most destructive of all recorded epidemics raged in Naples. It is said to have carried off 300,000 in a period of five months. The great plague of London was in 1664 and 1665. The total number of deaths in 1665, according to the bill of mortality, was 68,500 in an estimated population of 460,000, out of whom two-thirds are supposed to have died to escape contagion.

In the eighteenth century it prevailed extensively in Europe, the most notable epidemics being in Marseilles (1720) when from 40,000 to 60,000 persons were carried off.

In 1721 it appeared in Toulon and spread over Provence, and out of a population of 250,000 persons 87,650 are said to have died.

Sicily was visited in 1734, namely at Messina, where the mortality was between 40,000 and 50,000.

In 1771 it broke out in Moscow, and more than 50,000 persons, nearly one quarter of the population, were carried off.

The nineteenth century has been marked by a recession of the plague toward the East, although in 1815 it appeared on the eastern coast of Italy, confined to a small district—its last appearance in the country.

An isolated epidemic appeared in Greece in 1828. It appeared in Egypt between 1833 and 1845, the last year witnessing the last plague epidemic observed in that country and marking its great eastward recession.

There was an epidemic of extreme severity in Cairo in 1835, during which there died a number of the inhabitants equal to the whole admittable population. In 1840, Dalmatia; in 1841, Constantinople, and in 1843 and 1844, the eastern part of Egypt, were its western boundaries.

Since 1850 the western limit of the plague is the Canary Islands, 1852, while its eastern limit is the Island of Formosa, off the coast of China, where it now prevails.

Since 1850 the disease has oscillated, now east and now west, between the Red Sea and the Pacific in China, India, Arabia, Persia, Mesopotamia, Russia, Caspian Sea, Afghanistan, Turkestan. There have been since 1850 but nineteen years when it has not been recorded in one or the other of these countries. The last outbreak of plague on European soil was in 1878 and 1879 on the banks of the Volga.

As to the "plague belt," it may be said that since 1850 the disease has never traveled farther north than Astrakhan, about 45 degrees north, although within the present century it has visited Moscow, Norway, Sweden and latitudes as far as 60 degrees north. During the nineteenth century the belt of the plague according to Cantlie, may be roughly de-

REMAINS OF OREGON DEAD.

Caskets of the Volunteers Decorated at the Presidio.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 29.—Friends and relatives of the Second Oregon volunteers visited the Presidio this afternoon and decorated with violets, ferns and roses the caskets of the dead soldiers of that regiment who were brought here from Manila on the transport a few days ago. The bodies are in hermetically sealed caskets under guard near the tenting ground where their comrades lately shivered in the fog and wind of the Presidio. If the remains are not called for they will be buried in the national cemetery here with military honors.

These are the names of the dead patriots who answered to their last roll-call in the Philippines:

Lewis E. Miller, Company A, spinal meningitis, November 8, 1898.

Frank E. Bono, Company G, September 27, 1898.

Walter Hawthorn, Company C, paralysis, January 15, 1899.

Charles E. Minor, Company M, fever, September 13, 1898.

John H. Fenton, Company B, malarial fever, November 10, 1898.

Edwin W. Hampton, Company H, killed in action, February 22, 1899.

Corporal Harry G. Hibbard, Company K, typhoid, December 9, 1898.

Charles P. Oliver, Company H, typhoid, November 2, 1898.

Charles H. Kuhl, Company H, diarrhoea, February 6, 1899.

John Spiering, Company H, dysentery, March 15, 1899.

Frank E. Hibbe, Company A, other data obliterated.

R. E. Perry, Company A, typhoid, August 25, 1898.

Charles A. Horn, Company C, dysentery, October 11, 1898.

Fred J. Norton, Company F, acute dysentery, December 8, 1898.

Royal E. Fletcher, Company B, typhoid, January 28, 1899.

THE BURBONIC PLAGUE.

scribed as the basis of the Mediterranean and the strip of country in Asia from Turkey to China, running parallel to that sea, but the Mediterranean part of the belt has disappeared almost wholly within the present generation.

Formerly it was asserted that the plague never appeared east of the Indus in India; nevertheless it has been observed during the present century in more than one distinct center in India. Of late years, since 1871, it has been heard from, particularly in China.

It should be remarked in this connection that, according to Lawson, the history of the disease in the far East is, with the exception of Kocher's papers, a perfect blank. Chinese history makes no reference to any epidemic which has left a permanent record.

While comparatively isolated outbreaks of plague have occurred in Asiatic countries from time to time, it seemed improbable that there would be any more extensive epidemics of the disease. This hope was rudely dashed by the appearance of the disease in 1893 in epidemic form in Tonkin and Hong Kong, and within a short time after in Bombay, Karachi and Poona, in British India.

There is no doubt that the plague was conveyed by sea from Hong Kong to Bombay, and in that city it broke out in the Mandvi quarter, which is in close proximity to the docks, and which contains many and large warehouses for the storage of merchandise from Chinese ports. Karachi and Poona were either infected from the same source or, more probably, from Bombay, as the infecting focus. Through the channels, as detailed above, it reached an epidemic outbreak, which in Bombay (residency) alone has resulted in 230,007 cases, with the enormous mortality of 164,083; in Hong Kong, 1600 cases, with 1541 deaths; Amoy, within a limited period, 540 deaths; Calcutta, approximately 500 deaths, and in Formosa, 2465 cases, with 1866 deaths.

The death rate varies in different epidemics, and is estimated at from 50 to 90 per cent. It varies, however, apparently according to nationalities. From the official reports of the epidemic in Hong Kong in 1894 the following table shows the death rate of the several nationalities: Chinese, 93.4 per cent.; Indians, 77; Japanese, 60; Europeans, 100; Eurasians, 18.2. The small relative percentage of deaths among Europeans is attributed to the European blood and stamina, and to the early treatment and confidence in the European medical attendant.

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