

# ROSEBURG PLAINDEALER

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## SUICIDE OR MURDER;

### NO EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE APPARENT.

### THE DECEASED DID NOT MAKE EVEN A DEATH STRUGGLE.

On Wednesday morning at 5 o'clock the engineer on the south bound overland, when about one-fourth of a mile south of the dam on the South Umpqua river at Roseburg, saw the body of a woman lying in the sand below the track. The train was stopped and the conductor notified an employee of the S. P. Company who lived near. The news was at once telephoned to the Southern Pacific depot and a young man went immediately to the place where the corpse lay. He told the editor that he found it as though the woman had been laid there in a depression; the hat was on the head and the dress and body indicated peaceful repose, only one of the limbs was slightly drawn up and the hands were folded over the breast. There was not the slightest evidence of struggle in any manner. He said that both sides of the head in front of the ears and also the woman's throat had the appearance of being bruised. A corked bottle containing carbolic acid was found about 25 feet from the body. The acid was red, showing that it had been exposed to the light for at least a month. Dr. Twitchell, on being notified, ordered the body to be taken to Hammitt's undertaking establishment where it was identified as that of Ida Page, 18 years old, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Page, who reside in North Roseburg. Drs. Fisher, Twitchell and DuGas examined the body and upon opening it found the evidence of carbolic acid in the stomach, throat, back part of the mouth and a possible speck on the upper lip and with this investigation the undertaker took charge of the corpse and removed all traces of bruises or blood settling from the face. A coroner's inquest was ordered to be held at the court house at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning.

Such are the facts in the case as they appear on the surface, but these facts only mystify the case and cause a suspicion of murder to come to the surface for the action of carbolic acid when taken into the system always produces paroxysms of intense pain instantly, and the suicide taking carbolic acid to destroy life struggles with the most intense agony until the muscles become intensely rigid. The writer has seen three women who took the carbolic acid route and in each case the intense agony caused the poor dupe to tear off the clothing from the throat, breast and stomach in an effort to relieve the pains of a burning self torturing hell. But here in this girl's case we have nothing but sweet repose and the evidence of a peaceful, painless death, without even the rigor or struggle of death. The finding of the bottle some distance away from the body proves conclusively that instantaneous death did not result through paralysis of the heart. The orderly manner of the body disproves such theory. There is a theory, however, which an Emile

Zola might work out and that is, the body had been placed there and the carbolic acid poured down the throat, as the head was elevated above the body which was in a depression about one foot deep in the sand. There are, however, other difficulties in the way of the theory for it is said that a passenger, at about six o'clock, as the Tuesday evening's train went south, saw a woman's body beside the track and notified the conductor when the train was nearing Grants Pass. Another person says that the dead girl and a companion were seen near the spot where the body was found at 5 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. Another says that he saw the dead girl pass a certain business house in Roseburg at about 8:30 on Tuesday evening. Perhaps the coroner's inquest may help unravel the tangled reports.

The PLAINDEALER does not want to cast any reflections in reviewing this sad affair. The girl was well known and there could have been no excuse for a man assaulting her. The only theory along this line that could be considered would be a married man who was afraid of trouble in his family, and if the girl's body was seen at six o'clock by a south bound passenger, this would disprove the theory that a married man murdered her because he would not be apt to be in such a place at such an hour. The time when married men go walking with young girls is late in the evening or early night. Then again if the body was seen where it was found by a south bound passenger it is passing strange that it was not seen by the number of persons who walk down the track every afternoon and evening, or by the numerous railroad crews running by the corps. Whatever way we look at the case; carbolic acid suicide or murder the case is confronted with difficulties. Whatever may be the verdict a large number of the citizens of Roseburg will believe that it is a case of murder while others will believe it to be suicide.

The coroner's jury, which was empanelled this morning, went over the ground thoroughly and after due deliberation found that the deceased committed suicide by taking carbolic acid.

#### Japanese Superstition.

A special from Vancouver, B. C., of Tuesday's date says: superstitious Japanese have a peculiar method of locating a corpse of a drowned person by invoking the aid of a rooster. The rooster, when liberated, is supposed to light in the water above the exact spot where the corpse is.

There was a Japanese drowned near Nanaimo. Every attempt was made to find the body, but in vain. Early the next morning, just as dawn was breaking, three Japanese alighted from a buggy, carrying a slatted box, which contained a rooster. They went to the edge of the river, took out a rooster and threw him high in the air. He lit on the water near the shore below the falls. The Japanese hurried across and found the corpse in three feet of water just where the rooster had lit.

#### Sprouting a Fourth Tail.

The astronomers at the Yale observatory have just made photographs of Borelli's comet, showing faint indications of the presence of a fourth tail. Previous observance showed only three.

## NEW POPE ELECTED.

### CARDINAL SARTO OF VENICE THE CHOICE.

### THE NEW POPE TAKES THE TITLE OF POPE PIOUS TENTH.

Cardinal Sarto was on Tuesday morning elected Pope, and assumed the title of Pius X. The new Pope appeared in St. Peter's, where, amidst the greatest excitement, he pronounced his first Papal benediction. Many thousands witnessed the historic scene and signified their approval of the choice of the cardinals by tumultuous cheering.

The usual large crowd assembled before St. Peter's at about 10:30 A. M. to await the rising of the smoke from the Sistine Chapel. Hundreds of carriages stood in the blistering sun, which seemed hotter than ever. The colonnades were blocked with people, but there the anxious watchers could scarcely escape from the severe heat.

#### No Smoke Is Seen.

Minutes passed on, and still no smoke was seen. When the bells sounded half-past eleven the ministers and others left their carriages and joined the watchers on the steps of the Basilica. Inside St. Peter's many also were waiting, and the suspense brought thousands running from nearby streets, the delay on the fourth morning of the conclave being interpreted to mean that a decision had at length been reached. The troops spread themselves across the square, and nervous anticipation possessed them all. Hundreds of surmises passed from mouth to mouth. Minutes seemed like hours. St. Peter's boomed out the three-quarters of the hour, and there was still no sign. A second later the great central window of St. Peter's, facing the piazza, swung open slowly. A loud shout arose and all rushed madly towards the cathedral. At the open window half a dozen Vatican attendants appeared.

Suddenly there broke out into the fierce sunlight a gorgeous banner, bearing the cardinal's arms. Reinforcements of troops crossed the piazza at the double. They closed their ranks and held back many who strained every nerve to get close to the window.

For a minute or more none knew to which cardinal belonged the arms so significantly displayed. Then the rumor arose that they were Sarto's, but few persons were absolutely sure of their identity. Five hundred troops lined up around the top of St. Peter's steps, thus dividing the great crowd, which was increasing every moment, into three sections.

#### Macchi Announces Election.

The tension was soon relieved. Cardinal Macchi, in his cardinal robes, carrying a large red book, and preceded by a glittering cross, appeared at the window. A wild shout went up. Cardinal Macchi waved both hands for silence. In a second a solemn hush fell on the scene, broken only by a sharp word of command from an of-

ficer and the rattle wherewith the troops brought their discs to present. Cardinal Macchi read the preamble, the people below being scarcely able to sustain themselves until he reached the word "Sarto," when a terrific roar went up. Those out of hearing of the cardinal's voice joined in the acclamation, and the whole square became one mass of men and women throwing hats in the air, shouting and cheering at the top of their voices.

Vainly the cardinal waved his hand for silence. The long-pent-up feelings of those who had watched the sumata for four days now found an outlet, and for some minutes they could not be suppressed. Finally it was quiet enough for Cardinal Macchi to proceed and say that the new Pontiff had taken then the name of Pius X. Then with a blessing on the throng, the cardinal disappeared from the window, and the attendants quickly drew up the banner.

#### Mad Scramble for St. Peter's.

Those below made a rush to go into St. Peter's, and a mad scramble resulted for the Basilica. Thousands moved toward the four huge doors, and, in spite of their width, a desperate jam occurred in which the women narrowly escaped injury. Like a roaring wave, the people swept into St. Peter's.

The crowd swept into St. Peter's, still cheering and waving hats. Pandemonium reigned. Those already standing in a good position to see the gallery window, where Pius X was momentarily expected to appear, were hurled back to the further end of the nave by the irresistible impact of those seeking entrance.

"Pope Pius" and "Sarto" were the cries which could be faintly heard above the din that was raging from end to end of the historic cathedral. The attendants at the gallery window who hung out the same banner as previously displayed from the window in front now hastily drew it up. With every sign of excitement, they motioned the crowd to go back to the steps of St. Peter's. A great cry arose.

#### Blesses Crowd Outside Basilica.

Those who a few moments ago were fighting their way into the cathedral now struggled with redoubled energy to get out. It was the climax of the excitement—the new Pope was going to bless the world from the outside of the Basilica, which had been done for twenty-five years and in a cool, at first trembling, but gradually becoming full and firm, voice, administered the Papal blessing to all the members of the Sacred College. It was received with bowed and uncovered heads.

The fisherman's ring not yet having been found, a new one designed by Camerlingo Oreglia was placed on the Pontiff's finger as a symbol of renewed hope and evidence that the Catholic Church has once more a sovereign head. Sarto bore himself with becoming dignity, and gave no outward sign of exultation in this, the supreme moment of his life.

#### Labor Union Against Negroes.

A race war is feared at Bartlesville, I. T. White union men became angered at the action of George Keeler, a wealthy ranchman, in employing negroes to dig a cellar, and organizing themselves into a vigilance committee, notified all negroes in Bartlesville to vacate the town under pain of death.

## NEW SCHOOL BUILDING.

### CITIZENS WILL HAVE TO VOTE AGAIN.

### THE NEW LAW GOVERNING THE VOTING OF SCHOOL BONDS BY TAXPAYERS.

In our last issue we stated that the taxpayers of Roseburg and vicinity had voted to bond the district for \$20,000 with which to erect a new school building. On Tuesday it was discovered that the law had not been followed in every particular and the voting will have to be done over again.

For the benefit of the school districts of Douglas county, we give a synopsis of the law now governing the issuance of school bonds, which is as follows:

Before the legal voters, present at any legally called school meeting, shall authorize the directors of such school district to make a loan, borrow money, or refund any existing indebtedness created by a vote of the electors, or by the directors, in pursuance of any statute, and to issue bonds therefor, they shall decide by ballot, and by a majority of all legal voters present, whether the bonds, if authorized to be issued, shall be negotiated and sold according to the provisions of subdivision 6 of section 3389 of Bellinger and Cotton's Annotated Codes and Statutes of the State of Oregon, or the provisions of subdivisions 31 of said section, and the same shall be negotiated and sold under the provisions of the subdivision so selected by said legal voters.

(Session Laws 1903, pages 331-332.)

Subdivision 6 of the B. & C. Code referred to, provides that when a school district of this state shall borrow money, the bona fide resident citizens of such district shall have a right to subscribe for such loan, and it shall be the duty of the board of directors to publish the amount of such loan, the number of years the same shall run, and the rate of interest, and each bona fide resident of such district shall have the right to subscribe once for said loan for the entire amount or for any portion of the same, not less than fifty dollars at par value, and in placing the loan the directors shall issue the same, whether it be notes, warrants or bonds of the district, to the smallest subscriber or subscribers first, one note, warrant or bond to each such subscriber, upon payment therefor, until the entire loan has been placed:

Subdivisions 31 of the B. & C. Code provides among other things, that all bonds issued under that act shall be issued to the county treasurer and be registered by him in a book kept for that purpose in his office. The county treasurer shall sell such bonds for the best price obtainable and hold the proceeds subject to the order of the board of directors. Said bonds can not be sold below par. The principal and interest of such bonds shall be payable at the office of the county treasurer in which the district may be situated, or at any such

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