

Roseburg



Plaindealer.

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Tried To Restrain Japan.
PARIS, March 5. To the gratification of France better relations between Russia and Great Britain are promised as the result of the visit of Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador to Great Britain, to St. Petersburg. From authoritative sources it is learned that Count Benckendorff not only carried verbal assurances of the absolute neutrality of Great Britain in the war, but that he was the bearer of documents establishing the facts that the London government did not want war, and had used determined efforts to prevent it, urging on Japan that facts that the British press did not represent the attitude or wishes of the British government.
Official advices from St. Petersburg show that Count Benckendorff's representations cleared away many suspicions entertained by the Russian authorities. Russia does not desire unfriendly relations with Great Britain. She therefore met the British government half way and it is understood that Count Benckendorff was charged with most conciliatory measures by the Czar.

This new phase of the situation which has been the subject of conversation by Foreign Minister Delcasse and the Ambassadors accredited to France, has given rise to a feeling in official and diplomatic circles that it will be possible after all to confine the Far Eastern war to Russia and Japan. The regretted action of various European countries in arming is not considered as having any other bearing than preparing for eventualities, which in the present optimistic frame of mind of the authorities are not likely to come to pass.
There is doubt in official circles regarding the policy of Germany toward Russia. Advices received here indicate that Germany assured Russia that France inspired the recent note of Secretary Hay regarding Chinese neutrality, while France claims and Russia is satisfied that Germany made the first suggestion to the United States.

Muchly Married.
WASHINGTON, March 4.—In the Smoot case today attorneys for the protestants in the investigation said they intended to prove that defendant is associated with the organization which practices polygamy and connives at violations of law and that his very vote as Senator of the United States is subject to the wish and command of the Mormon church. President Joseph F. Smith confessed that he himself had continued to cohabit with plural family since the manifesto of 1890, and that he realized fully that he was violating the state laws. President Smith also testified that Reed Smoot had to get the consent of his associate apostles before he could become a candidate for Senator.

President Smith Confesses.
The confession of President Smith was the sensation of the proceedings today before the Senate committee on privileges and elections. Mr. Smith said that the manifesto of 1890 had left him and others with plural families in the unfortunate situation of being compelled to defy the law or desert their families. For himself he had preferred to "take chances with the law," rather than disgrace himself and degrade his families by abandoning wives and children they had borne him. He admitted that he had children by all his five wives since the manifesto, and said he had acknowledged them openly without interference or disturbance from the people of Utah, whom he spoke of as liberal and broad minded. The defendant will take the witness stand tomorrow.

Chicken Stealing and Jail Breaking.
On Friday morning a bricklayer by the name of Miller, who has been lying around the saloons for the past week, stole a lot of chickens from somebody and sold them to Kohlhaugen's meat market. On Friday night he made a haul on D. P. Fisher's hen-roost and stole a sackful of his Indian game chickens and took them to Kohlhaugen's and sold them. When Fisher's chautauque did not make any music around the house, Fisher sought for him in vain around the premises, but in the morning he found the chickens at the place indicated. Mr. Kohlhaugen had questioned the man closely when he bought the chickens, and was satisfied that everything was right, but when Mr. Fisher told him of his loss, he gave all the information necessary to catch the man, which was done at about ten o'clock, by Marshal Jarvis, who confined him in the city jail, but not in a cell. The hearing of the case was set for one o'clock, but Miller wanted no hearing, so he climbed to the top of the cage and in a few minutes dug a hole in the wall and escaped to liberty.

THE DRAKE CASE IS MYSTERIOUS

IT LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE MURDER

FOREMAN PATTON OF THE S. P. R. R. MAKES A STATEMENT WHICH GREATLY COMPLIMENTS THE SITUATION

Monday's issue of the Roseburg Plaindealer contains a long article on the Drake case, the writer of which makes a cowardly and dastardly attempt to throw suspicion upon a neighbor, B. W. S. Folk, the goat raiser, as having been responsible for the disappearance of A. N. Drake, who was lost in the mountains near his home on Dadds creek on Jan. 18th.

A peculiar feature about it is the fact that there is not one word of truth in the entire article, according to the opinion of those who know the facts in the case.

The people of Glendale and Southern Douglas county, who assisted in the search and know all the circumstances, are very much incensed at the ridiculous assertions made by the Plaindealer, whose editor has evidently been shamefully imposed upon by lying and malicious informants. These informants no doubt have an object in trying to throw suspicion upon an innocent party—supposing there had been foul play, as the Plaindealer infers. But as the scores of honorable men who assisted in the search for the body, not one of them believes that Drake was foully dealt with, but all feel confident that when the snow goes off, the body will be found in some secluded spot in the mountains, where doubtless the unfortunate man died from exhaustion or heart disease, with which he had been troubled for a number of years.

Mr. Folk was in Glendale yesterday and from him we learn the following facts in the case, which are fully corroborated by our business men and citizens who were on the ground and know the facts.

Last June when Mr. and Mrs. Drake came here from Mankato, Minn., Gilbert Gilbertson agreed to locate the new corner. He learned from Mr. Folk that there was an excellent vacant claim adjoining his (Folk's) place on Dadds creek, and as Mr. Folk was anxious to have neighbors, he persuaded Drake to take this claim as a homestead, which he did.

A good log cabin was built on the place, but no fencing whatever had been done yet, although the Plaindealer says the 100 acres had been fenced. Mr. and Mrs. Folk, assisted the new settlers in many ways, and both families could not have been more neighborly or on more friendly terms. Not a word had ever been said concerning any desire to induce Drake to move away. On the contrary every inducement was made to encourage them to stay.

"The first intimation Mr. Folk had of Drake's disappearance was about 7 o'clock on the evening of Jan. 18th, when Mrs. Drake informed him. He started out immediately in a blinding snow storm, alone, and kept up the search until 11 o'clock that night, firing off his shotgun every few minutes in order to attract the attention of the lost man, should he be alive and within hearing distance. Next day he was joined by several other men, and for fourteen days he spent nearly all his time in the search, along with a number of other men. This does not look much like he had been coaxed for several days to go out, and gave all manner of excuses for not going, as the Plaindealer states.

John Patton, the section foreman at Tunnel No. 5, is the man who shot the deer on Jan. 17th and hung it on a tree about five miles distant, and which Drake started out next morning to get. Mr. Patton having told him he could have it if he went after it, as he had shot two deer and brought one in himself. The Plaindealer states that it was Mr. Folk who had shot the deer, which that paper terms a "deception."

It appears that the searchers were unable to find the tree where Mr. Patton had hung the deer. Upon a report that this tree had been found, the hunters believed they might be able to find some evidence that Drake had been there, and in that event find the body. Acting upon this belief, Geo. Wood, of the Victor mine, took with him two gunny sacks, so that if the body were found, a stretcher could be made with them, on which to carry it out. No stretcher was made, and this is all there is to the sensational stretcher story in the Plaindealer.

Mr. Folk is a very honorable gentleman of excellent character, and naturally resents this uncalculated stigma on himself and family. His many friends also feel justly indignant over the Plaindealer's cowardly attack upon him.

The large number of searchers who left here the first of last week to search for the lost man were obliged to return home again, owing to a heavy fall of snow in the mountains at that time. They left their tents, etc., and just as soon as the snow goes off they will renew the search.—Glendale News.

any statement published in these columns will be cheerfully corrected if erroneous and brought to our attention by the aggrieved party or parties. Our intention is that every article published of a personal or political nature shall be news matter of general interest and for the welfare of the state at large.

It is possible that all the suspicious and ugly circumstances believed by Mrs. Drake are only the work of imagination. It is possible that the men who were found with the stretcher were not the men who acknowledged that they were found hunting the body carrying gunny sacks. It is possible that the gunny sacks had not been converted into a stretcher by running too poles through them, and that two different sets of men were encountered, one with a stretcher and the other with gunny sacks. It is possible that there are two neighbors and different people altogether and that the one outfit is perfectly innocent and the other mixed up in the affair. It is possible that when the Roseburg parties went to one of the homes and accompanied by the wife of one of the neighbors that she did not take a gun with her when urged by the Roseburg men to show them the way, and that she did not fire off the gun and that two men came to her and the Roseburg men, and the Roseburg men may have been deceived about the stretcher. It is even possible that the above may be absolutely true or false or that entirely different parties may have been engaged in the transaction, and we only mention the above to show how the case is or may be mixed up. And right here with better information about the matter, we state: In our last issue it was stated that it was the trackwalker who after killing the deer and hanging it up, was found in company with another man with a stretcher in the neighborhood of the place where Drake was supposed to have been. It was not the trackwalker but a man whose name is well known. The trackwalker on the S. P. Railroad was at first mixed up in an ugly manner by the various reports, but by running down the rumors and getting to the bottom of the affair has been the means of giving him a thorough vindication, the same as we heartily desire will be given to all parties concerned. That part of Douglas county is sparsely settled and is very wild by nature, and reports coming from there colored with rainbow hues should be accepted with moderation; but one thing is certain, there can be no multiple colored rainbow without a shining sun and falling moisture, and there cannot be so many reports and counter reports without there being some truth even though there is a vast preponderance of fiction. If Drake came to his death by accident or in a natural manner, and that fact was established, the PLAINDEALER would rejoice to publish the fact, not that we have any object in Drake's death, but to remove the onus now resting on that part of the county and to vindicate innocent parties. If Drake came to his death at the hands of assassins we hope the proof will be produced by the finding of the body and would then like to know that the assassins had their necks broken in the penitentiary. Personally the above is all the interest the editor has in the mysterious Drake case.

Since the preceding was in type, Mr. Patton, the foreman of the Southern Pacific railroad construction force in Cow Creek Canyon called at this office accompanied by three other gentlemen. Mr. Patton stated that he killed the deer and hung it on the limb of a tree; that he told Mr. Drake and also his neighbor the same Sunday evening. After Drake had disappeared he stated that he went to the tree and found that the deer had been lifted up and taken down from the limb and that no animal could have taken it from the tree and that no evidence of a struggle was to be found at the tree. He also stated that Mr. Drake knew the country well and only a few days before that Mr. Drake had killed a deer with peculiar horns, and as it was near nightfall Mr. Drake did not find it. That he, Patton, when he was hunting Drake found the deer killed by Drake near to the place where he, Patton, hung up the deer he killed on the tree. This fact was mentioned to show how well Drake knew the country. He stated that the neighbor did make an effort to find Drake after he was lost but that he does not know the truth or falsity of many reports connected with the case.

With all the light before the PLAINDEALER it states: There are two suppositions which may be considered in Drake's disappearance. The first is: Drake may have taken down

R. W. FENN,
CIVIL ENGINEER
(Lately with the government's geographical and geological survey of Brazil, South America.)
United States Deputy Mineral Surveyor.
Office over Postoffice. ROSEBURG, OREGON. Correspondence solicited

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the deer and started home and afterwards have been attacked by wild animals and dragged with the deer to a place of concealment. This would account for the entire disappearance. The second is: Upon notification of Drake's disappearance it may be that neighbors feeling intuitively that suspicion would point to them acted unwisely and said and did things, although innocent, which cannot now be explained away and never can be unless the body of Drake is found and in that event explanations would be unnecessary.
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