

Coos Bay Times

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MONTGOMERY BUILDING GUTTED BY FIRE, CAUSING GREAT LOSS

Damage by Blaze and Water Estimated to be Close to Thirty Thousand Dollars

INSURANCE SLIGHT IN FRAME BUILDING

Five Places of Business Put Out of Commission for Time Being This Morning

FIRE LOSSES R. Lando Dry Goods \$14,000 R. M. Sarter, confectionery 1,000 C. W. Quatermass, photo gallery 2,000 Julius Larson, household goods 1,500 D. Y. Stafford, candy factory 500 Pullman saloon 300 R. R. Montgomery building 2,000 No Insurance The only insurance was \$700 on the Sarter Soda Fountain. NEW LOCATIONS The Lando stock has been removed to the O'Connell building, where it will be re-opened. D. Y. Stafford has removed his candy factory into the Johnson building on Second street. Quatermass has secured the old Riggs gallery for new quarters. Mrs. R. M. Sarter has not been able to secure a suitable location but hopes to re-open in a few days.

Five places of business in the Montgomery building on Front street sustained a loss by fire and water of between \$25,000 and \$30,000 this morning when a fierce blaze broke out in the second story, back of the rooms occupied by Julius Larson and above the store of Solomon Lando.

The blaze was one of the fiercest ever experienced in the waterfront section and it was an hour before the best efforts of the firemen were able to control it. The building was practically gutted above and behind the Lando and Sarter stores before four streams of water from the two fire engines were able to put out the flames, despite the most desperate attempt of the volunteer firemen of Marshfield.

Lando Stock Damaged. The big stock of Solomon Lando, valued at \$27,000, was damaged by water and smoke until only about twenty per cent of the goods escaped some injury. A rough estimate of Lando's loss ranges anywhere between \$12,000 and \$14,000. There was no insurance carried on the stock, as the insurance rates asked in a frame structure were considered prohibitive.

The store and stock of R. M. Sarter was damaged, principally by water, to the extent of about \$1,000, the soft drink fountain being the only thing in the building that was insured, so far as can be learned.

The photograph gallery of Charles W. Quatermass, located above the Sarter store, was a total loss. So far as can be learned nothing was saved and Mr. Quatermass and his family, who lived on the second floor, only got out in time to save themselves. The photograph gallery, with all its paraphernalia and stock, was burned to a charred mass, a few things of minor value being saved in the front room. The loss is estimated at about \$2,000.

Quarters Are Burned. The quarters occupied by Julius Larson, above Lando's store, were also burned badly and the stock of furniture, office fixtures and everything in the living quarters was practically ruined by either the flames or water. His loss is estimated at from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

Dave Stafford's candy making plant, on the ground floor in the rear of Sarter's store, was damaged principally by water, a big stock of candies forming the principal loss, estimated at from \$500 to \$1,000.

The Pullman saloon, operated by Denning & Ireland, was damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars by water, which came through a hole in the roof.

The jewelry store of H. S. Tower, just north of Lando's store, escaped without damage by either fire or water, although the prospects looked gloomy early in the fire that the stock was quickly moved over to the Flanagan & Bennett bank. By 11 o'clock the entire stock had been shipped back to the store and business resumed.

Tower Sees Smoke. The blaze was first seen by H. S. Tower, a few minutes before 8 o'clock. He looked out the door at the rear of his store and was astounded to see a dense cloud of smoke sweep down on him from the roof at the rear of the Montgomery building.

SPANISH CITY IS THREATENED

FIRE SWEEPING THROUGH TENEMENT DISTRICT OF SAN SEBASTIAN IS FANNED BY WINDS—IMMENSE BLOCK DESTROYED.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Dec. 29.—Fire which threatened to wipe out most of the city started at midnight in the tenement district and was still raging at noon today. The flames were fanned by high winds and an immense block of buildings, mostly tenement dwellings, was destroyed before daybreak. Thousands of the inhabitants of the district spent the morning in the streets guarding what household effects they had been able to remove.

to the front of the building. It was ineffective in stopping the flames, however, and in the meantime hose was coupled up as the firemen kept arriving and steam was rushed on to the fire plug at the corner of Front and Commercial streets before it was learned that the plug was out of commission.

Water System Useless. As the water system was useless to provide a stream to stop the blaze in its early stages, every attention was given to the engines. Gordon Smith, who was sick in bed all night, got up and hurried down town and handled the smaller engine. Another crew worked on the big engine and thirteen minutes after arriving two streams of water were secured from the harbor. The small engine provided two more streams in a short time afterward and the salt water put an immediate check on the fire, which had reached a serious stage by this time.

Salt Water Effective. In half an hour or less after the first stream of water was secured, the fire was practically out, the firemen spending their time in putting out the flames in the odd corners to prevent it starting again.

There was no insurance on the building, which is owned by R. R. Montgomery, father-in-law of Dave Stafford.

The blaze started from some point in a long empty room back of the rooms used by Julius Larson. This room was used as a dumping ground by the occupants of the building. At the rear end there was a toilet. Papers and other inflammable material strewed the floor and there was no light. There were also ash cans kept in this room and refuse from the photograph gallery. Rats were thick in the building, and it is presumed that the fire was caused either by spontaneous combustion, the dropping of a match by some careless person who might have dropped a cigarette among the piles of papers.

The stock of the Lando store, a large portion of which was saved, will be moved into the O'Connell building on Market street, near Second, where the business will be re-opened. The building was only recently inspected and tenants warned to keep this room clean.

Fire Chief Dan Keating, who keeps close time on the fire department service, says that the engines were pumping water in just thirteen minutes after the alarm was turned in.

In appreciation of the efforts of the firemen in preventing the spread of the fire in the Montgomery building this morning, Dave Stafford, the Perry Estate and H. S. Tower and Todd, the tailor, have each donated \$25 to the firemen.

ADJUST LOSS QUICKLY. E. I. Chandler Settles Fire Damage in A Few Hours. Within a couple of hours after the fire this morning was extinguished, E. I. Chandler settled losses in which two of his companies were represented. The property was the J. L. Ferry estate building, occupied by the Pullman bar, which had the roof damaged. The building was insured in the London and Lancashire and the Orient, of which Mr. Chandler is the resident agent. He immediately had contractors appraise the work and settled the loss, giving a check for the amount agreed upon. Mr. Chandler made arrangements with his companies whereby he could promptly adjust small damages immediately and also to promptly settle all other losses.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. During my absence from the city, my (former) G. M. Hinkley, is authorized to act for me and any figures he gives or contracts he makes will be honored by me. C. G. GOBNEY, Contractor.

WATERWORKS VALUE \$109,528; EXTRAS MAKE TOTAL \$140,000

Closer Analysis of Figures of Oregon Railroad Commission Cause Wonder—Council Will Protest Them.

A close examination of the tentative valuation placed upon the plant of the Coos Bay Water Company has made some rather startling revelations and will probably result in the Marshfield City Council making a vigorous protest against a number of items included in the schedule of values, as well as against the high figures on the land.

The appraisal shows that the actual value of the Coos Bay Water Company's property as it stands, according to the expert figures of the Railroad Commission, is \$109,528. The balance of the total valuation of \$139,528 is extras in the way of promotion fees, legal fees, engineering, development fees, interest, etc. The Commission added \$472 to the itemized valuation for some reason or other not stated and made the total in their "tentative valuation" \$140,000.

In itemizing the value of the property, they do not specify it is the value of the Coos Bay Water Company's property but list it as "the cost of reproduction of the Coos Bay plant." The initial cost of all the various items that go to make up the cost of the system are given and then the present day value, which is arrived at by making allowances for depreciation from usage on various parts, is given. This is listed as follows:

- A—Lands, rights of way, etc., \$59,014 B—Transmission and distribution 40,847 C—Structures 3,079 D—Power plant equipment, 5,990 E—General office equipment 458 F—Material and supplies, 1,090 Total present value of plant, \$109,528

- Extras Included G—Working capital \$ 2,000 H—Overhead expenses Engineering and superintendence, 4 per cent, 2,023 Contingencies, (interest during construction), 2,969 Preliminary organization and legal expenses (6 per cent) 6,874 Interest at 8 per cent one year on preliminary expenses 5,433 Six months on items B, C, D, and contingencies 2,080 Total 131,028 Expense during development stage 8,500 Total \$139,528

Land Values High. While the values on the land in the watershed and pumping plants are high and will be protested, they have not stirred up near the feeling that the including of "overhead items" has among those who have gone over the itemized statement.

In the overhead expenses the Commission takes into consideration "high finance" or "frenzied finance" allowances, such as promotion fees,

etc., to the tune of over \$6,000.

The Commission does not explain why they made these allowances or why they should allow \$8,500 for "expenses during the development stage." Just what they would figure the "development stage" is hard to imagine, as the business is here and in the reproduction of a plant would be available as soon as the water pipes would reach the various houses which would be up to the people putting in the plant.

Extra Item Unexplained. Even after the Commission in detail has figured out what it would cost to reproduce the Coos Bay Water Plant and find the total to be \$139,528, they add on \$472 for something unexplained and give \$140,000 as the value of the property.

Whether this \$472 could have been allowed for the trip to Ten Mile after the hearing of the water case is an inquiry that some have made. On this trip were J. N. Teal, attorney for the water company, J. W. Bennett and Railroad Commissioners Altelson and Campbell and others.

Close to Others. The total of \$109,528 as the present actual value of the water company's plant is close to the figures that experts who have gone over it for private parties are to have allowed.

It is known to be in excess of the figures that an expert which P. A. Lovers, formerly of Marshfield, brought in here a few years ago from Spokane, but some improvements were made after it which probably made up some of the difference.

It is also close to figures that some others secured on it. It is slightly below the tentative valuation that A. B. Gidley made on it when he was City Engineer and he appraised it with E. G. Peckham and Arno Meehan.

No Raise Likely. The Council will protest the valuation figures for the reason that unless they are reduced, they might give a basis for a slight increase in water rates. It is believed that a number of reductions can be secured and City Attorney Goss will go over the matter in detail with them tonight.

However, since the commission has gone into the vague past of the water company and made allowances for expenses of organization, it is expected that they will go back to the similar date on the company's contract with the city in its franchise in which the maximum rates are fixed for water service.

So far as the additional extensions and mains ordered are concerned, they will improve the water service and pressure, the principal contention of the City Council. The expense of these extensions will be more than covered by the additional patrons served, especially in North Bend, where many have been using well water on account of inability to get water service.

PROBE STARTS IN FIRE PANIC

Coroner's Inquest and Grand Jury Investigation Begins at Calumet, Michigan.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) CALUMET, Dec. 29.—With most of the dead buried, Calumet turned its attention to the coroner's inquest of the Christmas Eve panic which cost the lives of seventy-two, and to the Houghton county grand jury investigation of the forcible election from Copper county of Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners.

The coroner's inquest began today and the grand jury investigation is expected to begin tomorrow at Hancock, where Moyer was assaulted and put aboard the train for Chicago.

John Denmore, solicitor for the Department of Labor, was expected here today to make an investigation for the Government of the strike of the copper miners. Before reaching here he will consult with Governor Ferris at Big Rapids.

BUYS SACRAMENTO RANCH. M. George Belloni of the Fishtrap country has purchased land in the Sacramento Valley in California, and is considering the advisability of moving his family there.—Coquille Sentinel.

REBEKAH NOTICE! There will be a special business meeting of the REBEKAH LODGE next Wednesday evening, December 31. MRS. JENNIE BENNETT, Secretary.

WILSON GETS HEAVY MAIL

Hundreds from All Parts of Country Pursue Him by Letters During His Rest

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) PASS CHRISTIAN, Dec. 29.—Although President Wilson is courteously left unmolested by residents of this vicinity, yet hundreds from all parts of the country are pursuing him through the mails. The President is devoting much more time than he expected to his correspondence.

It was announced that hereafter he will refrain from attempting to answer communication, except those of unusual importance.

COLVIG IS NAMED. Medford Man to Succeed Col. Eddy as S. P. Tax Agent. MEDFORD, Or., Dec. 29.—William M. Colvig, of Medford, local attorney for the Southern Pacific, has been appointed head of the tax and right of way department of the road, to succeed the late Col. J. B. Eddy. Formal announcement of the selection, which takes effect January 1, will be made by William F. Herron, chief counsel for the system, and E. C. Calvin, vice-president in charge of operations, from San Francisco. The office carries a salary of \$3,600 a year and traveling expenses.

PROSPEROUS PORTLAND. PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—Merchants of this city claim that their sales for the last thirty days have been 50 per cent over the corresponding period last year. The postal receipts for the month amounted to \$122,000.

"SLIM" SPENCER, FUGITIVE IS CAPTURED AT LOON LAKE

MURDER CHARGE "FLAW" FOUND

Bandit Who Murdered Traveling Passenger Agent Lays Hope in Technical Error

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29.—The alleged failure of the District Attorney and Judge Cavin Craig, of the Superior Court, to express the "degree" of murder of Horace Montague, traveling passenger agent of the Southern Pacific, is a technical error by which the father of Ralph Farris and his attorney hope to invalidate the death sentence imposed upon the confessed train robber and murderer.

Because the District Attorney omitted this point in his "information" presented in court, and because the judge is declared to have neglected to state it when imposing sentence on the youth who held up an overland train near El Monte on December 1, his father and attorney hope to secure a new trial.

JAP PREACHER HAS NEW PLAN

To Solve California Land Question in Appeal to U. S. Christianity

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) TOKIO, Dec. 29.—Enthusiasm and faith in the success of his mission fill the Reverend Kakichi Tsunashima, a Japanese pastor in the Congregational church, who has been commissioned by his church to go to the United States and endeavor to help solve the California land question. His chief activity will be in making an appeal to Americans as Christians. He expects to sail for America December 31 on the steamer Chiyu Maru.

Mr. Tsunashima reasons that true righteousness and civilization will in due course of time be appreciated. He thinks that the question of Japanese land ownership in California is too big a problem to be settled in a short time, and that it does not admit of a temporary solution. He will try to solve it on the broad basis of universal love and Christian brotherhood.

In fulfilling his mission Mr. Tsunashima expects to visit churches, pastors' associations, and other Christian organizations and to write and preach his thoughts and ideals as opportunity offers. He says there may be faults and shortcomings on the part of the Japanese, but by his proposed undertaking he believes he can persuade his countrymen to a better mode of life.

CHINESE ARMY IS IN REVOLT

THREE REGIMENTS SHOOT DOWN OFFICERS AND PROCLAIM INDEPENDENCE OF PROVINCE IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) PEKING, Dec. 29.—The revolt of three regiments of the Chinese army under the leadership of General Yang Hu Pin was reported today from Luli Fu, in the southern province of Yunan, 100 miles from the frontier of Burma. The soldiers on December 8 shot down their officers, raided the armory, killed a professor and several students of a Chinese college, as well as a number of citizens and then proclaimed the independence of the province in the name of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the former provisional president of China.

A CARD OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. To all who so kindly and efficiently assisted us during the fire this morning, both by personal effort and words of sympathy and assurances of any necessary aid, we desire to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks. Especially to the members of the fire department who were indefatigable in their efforts to suppress the flames, we feel grateful and assure them of our deep appreciation, which we desire to thus publicly acknowledge. MR. AND MRS. S. LANDO

Marshal Jack Carter and Deputy Sheriff Gage Trail Him Forty Miles

GEORGE TERRY GIVES CLUE SATURDAY NIGHT

Attempted Escape of Man Charged With Five Forgeries in Marshfield Fails

C. W. Spencer was brought before Justice of the Peace Penock this morning and arraigned on the charge of forgery. His hearing was set for tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock in Justice Penock's court, and District Attorney Lilleqvist will be in attendance.

Charles ("Slim") Spencer, charged with passing five forged checks on Marshfield merchants, who escaped from Nightwatchman Emery, of North Bend, on Christmas Eve, was captured early Sunday morning at 1:30 o'clock by Marshal Jack Carter of Marshfield and Deputy Sheriff Fred Gage, of Allegany, at Loon Lake, and was brought back to this city yesterday afternoon about 5:30 o'clock and jailed.

The arrest was made in Douglas county by Coos county men, but it is not believed that there will be any difficulty in holding Spencer on that score, as there is more than one warrant out for his detention, one being held by Constable Cox and the other by Marshal Carter.

"Tip" Is Secured. The first news of Spencer's whereabouts since he escaped from the North Bend officer was brought to Marshfield by George Terry, who had been visiting his mother, Mrs. Kantline, at the head of Kentuck Inlet. He arrived in the city on Saturday and met Mrs. Dyer, of Daniels Creek, on the street.

Terry had not learned of the forgeries and the escape of Spencer. Mrs. Dyer began discussing the forgeries with Terry and the escape of the man charged with the frauds, and Terry then told of a stranger who had called at Mrs. Kantline's to find the way over to Allegany. Mrs. Dyer suggested that Terry see Albert Matson, of Magnies & Matson, where one of the checks had been passed, and Terry hurried to the store.

Terry's description of the man to Mr. Matson tallied with the appearance of Spencer and Marshal Carter was notified. This was about 4:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Marshal Carter tried to telephone to Deputy Sheriff Fred Gage, of Allegany, to head Spencer off, but the telephone was out of order.

Inquiry of Mrs. Kantline elicited the information that Spencer, who had stopped at Otto Steven's place on Kentuck Slough overnight, had resumed the attempt to get to Allegany. On hearing this Marshal Carter got in touch with Captain John Lapp, owner of the fast launch "Kid" and headed for Allegany with all speed.

On reaching Allegany Marshal Carter learned that Spencer had reached that town and had engaged G. A. Gould to drive him to Loon Lake, stating that he had a job at Eugene and was anxious to get there as soon as possible or he would lose it.

Chase Is Warm. Carter and Deputy Sheriff Fred Gage secured horses and set out in hot chase, although Spencer had nearly eight hours of a start. After going about seven miles one of the horses gave out and another animal was secured from Fred Noyes. The men pushed the horses for all that was in them and reached Loon Lake shortly after midnight.

As Gould is a brother-in-law of Jack Baker at Loon Lake, the pursuers figured that Spencer and his guide would stop there for the night, and when they knocked quietly at the door and aroused Baker they found that their conjectures were correct.

Fugitive Is Surprised. They entered the room occupied by Spencer with their guns ready for business and found the fugitive lying on the bed with his eyes wide open. The order of "hands up" took him by surprise, but seeing he had no chance at resistance he submitted quietly and the irons were put on his wrists. Carter and Gage stayed in the room until daylight and then brought the prisoner back to Allegany, where Gage remained at his ranch. Carter and George Terry came down to Marshfield late yesterday afternoon in the launch with their prisoner.

Considering that the fugitive was caught more than forty miles away about nine hours after the officers had received the tip of his whereabouts, and that he was lodged in jail less than twenty-four hours afterward, Marshal Carter and those aiding him are receiving congratulations today for the excellent work done.

Helped Across Bay. As far as can be learned, Spencer, on breaking away from Nightwatchman Emery, was heading for the bay. Continued on Page Two