

ARREST THREE AMERICAN REPORTER LEARNS FOR GAMBLING OF NO CRUELTY IN BELGIUM

Constable Johnson of Lakeside Takes First Delegation to Coquille Today.

(Special to The Times.) COQUILLE, Ore., Sept. 24.—Constable Johnson of Lakeside is enroute here today from Lakeside with three Lakeside men who were arrested on grand jury indictments charging gambling. The three arrested were Dr. Wm. Mott, James Cowan and an employe of the Lakeside hotel named Davenport. Other indictments are out against Ten Mile men.

It became known today that District Attorney Liljeqvist has had some detectives in the Ten Mile section for some time, looking into the robberies especially and incidentally gathering information regarding other matters which will cause some surprises.

Dr. Mott was just enroute to Salem when Constable Johnson found him in North Bend. There was more or less joshing as the indictment was made with the initials of his brother L. H. Mott.

GRAND JURY IS AFTER DOCTOR

Physician in Coquille Valley Is Accused of Writing Prescriptions to Furnish Liquor.

Acting on a subpoena received from the grand jury at Coquille, C. McGovern, night clerk at the Blanco Hotel, left this afternoon for the county seat, where he goes as a witness in the Empire saloon robbery, when, on Sept. 7 two masked men held up Tom Edgar's saloon and made away with more than \$800. McGovern was night clerk at the hotel at the time when four men, supposed to be implicated in the robbery, registered there the day previous, September 5. With him went the hotel register, which was taken as evidence. Chief of Police Carter this morning inspected the register and discovered that two pages, those for September and 5, had been cut from the book. Close examination showed where a knife had cut deep into the pages containing the dates immediately before the fourth and fifth of this month.

So far there have been no arrests in the case, although the grand jury is now carrying on extensive investigation and it is thought that several arrests will follow their study of the case.

Though four men are supposed to be implicated in the matter, only two names have been made public and these are Fred Trotter, who, it is claimed, is now at Acme, and Coy Elliston, who is known to have left some time ago on a boat for San Francisco.

It is believed that the four men registered at the hotel and remained there over night just previous to the robbery. That the pages are missing from the book will have little effect on the case, because of the fact that the names were copied off shortly afterward and this evidence is now in the keeping of the officers. It is further claimed that these four men returned to Marshfield on September 8, the day after the Empire holdup and rented a couple of rooms at a private rooming house where they did not have to register.

Elliston, one of these two men named, was supposed to have been robbed of \$130 claiming that he had won \$300 in a poker game a short time previous to the robbery.

ALLEGANY-DRAIN Auto Stage service will resume Friday, Sept. 25 unless rain prevents.

Worst German Trooper Did at Louvain Was to Kiss Pretty Flemish Bar-Maid—No Canards Substantiated.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—An Associated Press staff correspondent of American birth and antecedents, who was sent from the New York office, caught in Brussels at the time of the German invasion and held as a prisoner for several days before escaping to Holland, has sent by mail the following story of his experiences:

"The night before the Germans entered Brussels, when the Belgian civil guards and refugees began pouring into the city from the direction of Louvain, they brought stories of unspeakable German atrocities, maltreatment of old men and children and the violation of women.

"Brussels Was Awestricken
"The Belgian capital reeled with apprehension. Within an hour the gaiety, the vivacity and brilliancy of the city went out like a broken arc light. The radiance of the cafes was exchanged for darkness; whispering groups of residents broke up hurriedly and locked themselves in their homes, where they put up the shutters and drew in their tricolor Belgian flags. The historic Belgian city went through a state of morbid consternation remarkably like that from which it suffered on June 18, 1815, when it trembled with the fear of French victory at Waterloo.

"In less than twenty-four hours the Belgian citizens were chatting comfortably with the German invaders and the allegation of German brutality and demonical tortures dissolved into one of the myths which have accompanied all wars.

"Neither in Brussels nor in its environs was a single offensive act, so far as I know, committed by a German soldier. In a city of over 500,000 people, invaded by a hostile army of perhaps 250,000 soldiers, no act sufficiently flagrant to demand punishment or to awaken protest came to my attention.

"Stories Fall to Hold Water
"The frightful reports that had preceded the German army into Brussels included the disemboweling of old men and the impaling of children on lances just outside Louvain. Investigation not only failed to substantiate these rumors, but could not even discover anyone in the immediate vicinity who credited them. An eye witness of unimpeachable integrity told me that the worst behavior he had observed during the first German entry into Louvain (August 19) was that of a German soldier who leaned from his horse and kissed a pretty Flemish girl who brought him a glass of beer.

"I marched for days with the German columns, often only one day behind the fighting, with the houses that had been burned still smoldering, the ground freshly broken by shell and trampled by horses and men, and the memory of the German advance vivid in the minds of the inhabitants. I interviewed an average of twenty persons in each of a dozen towns and found only one instance of a non-combatant who had been killed without a justifiable provocation.

"Wantonness Not Proven
"In this case the evidence did not clearly prove that the man had been wantonly murdered. He lived in one of the typical small Belgian countryside houses which combine the comforts of home with the lure of a small public bar. This house was at the north end of Merbes-le-Chateau, a town through which a large part of the German army passed on the road to Maubeuge. A son of the murdered man, whose name was Arthur Nicodem, showed me blood clots on the floor marking the place where Nicodem fell, his throat cut by a saw-edged German sabre.

"It was said by some inhabitants that the murdered man showed a pair of binoculars, but a more probable explanation was that English outposts had concealed themselves in the house, from which they poured a rain of fire upon the first German invaders. The inference that the shooting was done by Belgian civilians may have inflamed the Germans to reprisals. In that neighborhood four houses had been burned and one still was ablaze as I passed on Wednesday, August 26.

"English Fired First
"This town of Merbes-le-Chateau, which had been the scene of an important skirmish between the Germans and English on the previous Sunday, was riddled with rifle shots. The small number of windows intact showed that the Germans had made a deliberate assault upon the residents of the town. But the inhab-

itants themselves admitted that all of the shooting had been done by a comparatively small number of Germans, and that the firing had not been begun until English soldiers, who had concealed themselves in the houses, had fired first upon the Germans.

"I have emphasized the one fatality of the non-combatant, because the news of it traveled up and down the Sambre and across to Hantes-Welherie and Solre-sur-Sambre, multiplying as it went, and developing ghastly and inhuman details until it seemed an unanswerable reproach to the whole German empire. With this one possible exception I did not encounter in Nivelles, in Blanche, Buisserie or Solre-sur-Sambre, or any of the other towns I visited, a single accident of mistreatment of any sort by German officers or soldiers.

"Not a Single Complaint
"Buisserie—particularly the lower part of the city—had been virtually destroyed by a cross-fire from French and German artillery. Tops of breweries had been hurled bodily to the ground and walls had either disappeared or become grotesquely dislodged. The whole city lay in smoking ruins, with only its drawbridge across the Sambre and a few marble stations and boat-houses towering above the debris. But here, two days after the battle, women and children were moving comfortably about the town, and not a single complaint was uttered against German conduct.

"The town of Solre-sur-Sambre is a small village about five miles south of Buisserie and is important not as a battlefield, but as a center about which French and German conflict waged steadily for two days—August 23 and 24—the French line, after making sporadic stands, being forced back steadily over the French border until the movement became a flight.

"In this town 130 French killed and more than a hundred wounded were brought in in a single day. Auguste Biariaux, burgomaster, said that he knew of no cases of German cruelties save distant rumors which he had learned to discredit. It ought to be said to the credit of the Belgians that they have not allowed their bitterness toward the Germans to carry them into unfair recrimination.

"No Outrage at Liege
"Robert J. Thompson, American consul at Aachen, visited Liege during and after the capture of the city. It is the opinion of Mr. Thompson that no outrage was committed by Germans during the several days' fighting there. There are, of course, reported outrages beyond investigation, either on account of their vagueness or because it is impossible to weight the provocation. It is known, for instance, that 112 natives were killed in Penouchamp, not far from Ardennes. German soldiers say that they were killed because they fired upon them from the roofs and windows of the houses.

"Destruction of Louvain
"The history of the absolute destruction of the historic city of Louvain, with its cathedral and its university, is by this time well known.

"The German version of this is that the inhabitants, under the direction of the burgomaster, established themselves in the church, on which they also installed a machine gun. They proceeded to greet the Germans with a deadly fire.

"The Belgians say on the other hand that part of the German army, mistaking one of their own retreating divisions for the enemy, opened fire upon them, whereupon, deluded into thinking this an assault by Belgian civilians, the Germans razed the whole city.

"I have not been able to acquire any direct evidence in regard to these last two instances, but the explanation generally credited by disinterested persons is that the Belgians, who laid down their arms according to the burgomaster's proclamation on the entrance of the enemy, took them up again when it looked as if the Germans were retreating from the town and opened fire from their windows upon a retreating German train.

"Fired on by Belgians
"The most authoritative German denial of German offenses comes from Major General Thaddeus von Jarotzsky, military governor of Brussels, who informed me that in numerous cases he had been received with a pretense of friendliness by Belgian citizens, who later fired upon the German soldiers. This was done, he said, after a declaration of surrender by the burgomaster and a proclamation warning the citizens against any show of resistance.

"In such violations of the rules of war, the general said, he punished the offenders by burning the houses from which the shots were fired.

"This explanation of the burning of villages is given with such perfect unanimity by all German officers and men that to go into separate instances is unnecessary. It seems to serve as a sort of blanket extenuation for all German severities. I can only say that in every case of reported outrage of investigation which was susceptible of investigation I have found either that the outrage was figment of the Belgian mind or that it was more than half excused by circumstances.

"I have actual knowledge of the sniping by Belgian civilians at Manze and other towns, and even the Belgians admit that in a few instances they have been guilty of this. This furnishes a provocation

for the only German severity which I have had an opportunity to observe—the burning of houses.

"A Belgian fugitive from a suburb of Charleroi brought to Nivelles a story of the Germans marching his priest and several of the inhabitants before the army as a protection against fire from the houses. This has received ample verification, but hardly comes under the heading of atrocities."

"Not a Brief for Germans
"The prevalence of the Belgian practice of sniping from the houses was, perhaps, indicated by the warning of the German officer who acted as guard for five American correspondents, including myself, who were being taken as prisoners from Beaumont to Aachen in an army train. We were advised to lie down on the floor of the car, as the Belgian snipers would shoot at us from the houses. But there was no firing.

"This, of course, is not a brief for the German army; it is an account of German conduct as it appeared to an impartial observer who had the rather extraordinary opportunity of traveling for days with the German columns over a distance of more than 100 miles through a dozen important cities and towns.

"Sometimes I was near enough the front to see the white artillery smoke spurt into clouds along the horizon and hear the double detonations which came from artillery at short range. At other times I trailed behind through the desolate waste which a victorious army leaves behind it. But the waste was the inevitable footprint of war, marking the most utter dreariness, misery and despair, but not with a hint of savagery, of wanton butchery or of excess.

"Cases of Courtesy
"On the contrary, I witnessed numerous cases of the most careful courtesy on the part of the German soldiers. In Brussels they not only paid their cafe bills but tipped generously. Along the road when a German officer or soldier entered a Belgian house for food or shelter it was not a demand but a request. In spite of the confusion and errors which arose from a strange tongue there was almost no friction of any sort.

"The German soldiers were punctiliously considerate and polite to women and children, apologizing for the discomfort they were causing. Upon leaving a house where they have been given shelter I have seen them shake hands with the concierge, or peasant women, or in some cases with the gentlewoman of a Belgian villa, as pleasantly as

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ALLEGANY-DRAIN Auto Stage
service will resume Friday, Sept. 25 unless rain prevents.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP

We, the undersigned, heretofore doing business as co-partners under the firm name of LeMieux & Miller hereby give notice to the public that we have this day, by mutual agreement dissolved partnership and that the business of said firm will be continued by E. F. LeMieux who will pay all debts contracted by the firm and to whom all accounts due the firm should be paid.

Dated this 21st day of September, 1914.

E. F. LEMIEUX
A. J. MILLER.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

By agreement of all the barbers shops in Marshfield on and after October first, all shops will close promptly at 7 o'clock in the evening, except on Smith, mill and nights and Saturday nights.