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Coos Bay Times

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MYRTLE POINT HAS NEW MYSTERY AND IMPORTANT WITNESS LEAVES

Remarkable Story of Alleged Murder and Perfidy Three Years Ago Told Officials
RANCHER RUSSELL DIED; POISONING NOW ALLEGED

Man Named Penlon Who Revealed Story of Alleged Crime, Disappears
(Special to The Times.)
COQUILLE, Or., Jan. 15.—Myrtle Point and vicinity is greatly aroused over a mystery involving charges of murder in connection with the death of a rancher named Russell near there about three years ago, the alleged perfidy of relatives and the sudden disappearance of a man named Penlon, who made the revelation of the alleged crime.

Penlon, who was employed around Myrtle Point for a considerable length of time, was brought to Coquille, it is learned, to tell his story to the grand jury and later made a sworn statement of the affair before Court Reporter A. B. Loud.

Some time afterwards Russell's wife died and the case dragged along until Penlon came. In a strange way he learned the alleged secrets of the crime but kept them to himself for a long time. A few months ago something occurred that caused Penlon to reveal the story to some friends and they, after an investigation which satisfied them there was some basis for his extraordinary story of perfidy and crime, told parties who laid the matter before the county authorities.

The latter immediately took action and subpoenaed Penlon, with the result that he made the sworn statement of his story. The officials did not suspect that he might leave or disappear and he was simply held under the subpoena. However, within a few days he disappeared, leaving no word as to where he was going.

However, it is stated that Prosecuting Attorney Liljeqvist and Sheriff Johnson have learned that Penlon possibly went to Mapleton or Florence and are endeavoring to get in touch with him there.

There promises to be rapid developments in the case, especially if the decomposition of Russell's body has not been sufficient to make an autopsy uncertain.

EAGLES' NOTICE. All Eagles are requested to meet at the Eagles' Hall at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon for the purpose of attending the funeral of Brother A. B. Johnson.

ATTORNEYS MOVE ON DEPUTY BILL

Coos Bay Lawyers Said to Have Taken it up With Peirce
(Special to The Times.)
COQUILLE, Or., Jan. 15.—District Attorney Liljeqvist has been advised that some Coos Bay lawyers have requested Representative Peirce of Coos and Curry to introduce a bill in the Legislature providing for a Deputy Prosecutor in this county to be paid by the state. The bill would provide that Gov. Withycombe appoint the deputy to serve until the election.

Mr. Liljeqvist feels that the attorneys who are seeking such a thing are taking a direct snip at him. He had about a dozen applications for the appointment as deputy but before they came in, he consulted a number and conferred with the grand jury and it was agreed that Geo. Watkins, a prominent Marshfield attorney, should be named if the County Court provided for it.

CANNOT REMOVE HUNT FROM JURY

Bandon Member of Grand Jury Accused but Cannot be Removed—Perjury Cases
A special session of the Coos county grand jury will probably be called soon to clean up several matters that are pending. There are two or three prisoners in the county jail and District Attorney Liljeqvist wants to have their cases disposed of without waiting for the April session and he also has a few other matters to present to them.

Mr. Liljeqvist has been informed of the protests made against Grand Jurymen Hunt and Bandon. He has looked into it considerable, but says that there is no way in which to have Hunt discharged as a member of that body unless he voluntarily retires or Judge Coke discharges the grand jury for good. The latter seems out of the question as the grand jury has partly investigated a number of cases and it would be bad to have them discharged without finally disposing of these matters. The protests against Hunt are generally based on the claim that he has been too intimate with G. T. Treadgold, the Bandon attorney, who is being investigated on charges made in the Simpson-Coach-Treadgold affair.

Perjury Cases Go Over. Judge Coke has dismissed the jury for the term and it is likely that the trials of Ruby Simpson-Nosler and Mrs. Mortner, on the indictments charging them with perjury, will go over until the April term of court.

Over Sixty Italian Towns And Villages Ruined by Quake

Actual Loss of Life and Property Will Not be Known for Several Days Probably
SOME ESTIMATE NUMBER OF VICTIMS AT 100,000

ITALY'S KING IN RESCUE WORK
Victor Emmanuel Assists at Avezzano—Church Wrecked During Mass—Sensations
WAR COULD NOT STOP KING'S AID
ROME, Jan. 15.—Before leaving in his motor car for Avezzano, King Victor Emmanuel was reminded of the international situation, it being thought this might keep him in Rome. To this the King replied: "The sufferings of my people are nearer to my heart than anything else."

ROME, Jan. 15.—News from the earthquake-stricken districts of Italy still comes in slowly, but enough is known to show that the disaster closely approached that which befell Messina six years ago. It probably will be days before the exact figures are available.

Avezzano and Sora are the worst sufferers as far as the loss of life is concerned, but about sixty towns and villages suffered either total demolition or serious damage. The Italian government and people quickly responded to a call for help from the stricken people. Thousands of troops were sent to the scene and the work of rescue and relief is going on night and day.

FRENCH GAIN IN SEVERAL ATTACKS

Paris Statement Tells of Advances Against Germans at Different Points
PARIS, Jan. 15.—The official statement this afternoon says: "From the sea to the Lys there were spirited artillery engagements yesterday. We made progress near Lombaertzyde and Becelaere. North of Arras a brilliant attack by the Zouaves resulted in the capture of the German positions near the road between Arras and Lille. A mile and a quarter northeast of Soissons the Germans yesterday attacked the village of St. Paul. They entered the village but we recaptured it. In the Vosges and south of Senones we repulsed the Germans. We broke through their barbed wire entanglements and occupied their trenches."

REV. GREGG RESIGNS HERE

REV. SAMUEL GREGG, OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, TO BELONG A STATE EVANGELIST.
The resignation of Rev. Samuel Gregg, of the First Christian Church has been placed in the hands of the official board and will take effect in the near future.

BIG DANCE BY PASTIME CLUB, FINNISH HALL, SATURDAY EVE.

JAN. 16, '15. FINE MUSIC. NO RAGGING. Gentlemen \$1.00; Ladies Free.

THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS OF QUAKE ARE BURIED IN RUINS

Estimates of Death Toll in Italian Disaster Vary From 30,000 to 50,000 Today
ALMOST ALL IN TWO TOWNS WERE KILLED

AVEZZANO AND SORA CASUALTIES WILL NUMBER OVER 15,000—WORSE THAN MESSINA
ROME, Jan. 15.—Constantly shifting estimates based on the reports that continue to trickle in now place the death toll of Wednesday's earthquake at 30,000 and the injured in excess of 45,000. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of victims are still buried alive in the wreckage of their homes while rescuers from every walk of life struggle desperately to dig them out.

TEHRAN, Persia, Jan. 15.—The Turkish ambassador here notified the Persian government that the Porte is ready to evacuate Azerbaijan province as soon as the Russians definitely move out of this territory and after the heir to the throne reaches Tabriz to assume control. The heir to the throne is to leave Teheran for Tabriz in a few days.

ENGLISH TROOPS WIN AT LABASSEE

Reported to Have Captured Important Strategic Point and Many Prisoners
PARIS, Jan. 15.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency says the British stormed a German position near Labassee January 10 after vigorous preliminary shelling. They occupied an important strategic point after an advance of one mile. Many Germans were taken prisoners.

FRENCH TELL OF THE DAY'S FIGHT

Report Belgians Blew up German Ammunition Depot—Lost in Vregny Battle
PARIS, Jan. 15.—The official statement yesterday said: "Certain detachments of the Belgian troops blew up, southeast of Stuyvekeskerke, buildings on farms serving as an ammunition depot for the enemy. North of Soissons there was determined fighting yesterday. The engagement was localized to a section of the ground north of Crouy. We hold the first slopes of these hills. 'On our left in this field our counter attack made slight progress. On the center we maintained our positions around Crouy in spite of the repeated efforts of the Germans to dislodge us, but on the east, in front of Vregny, we were obliged to yield. The continued flood stage of the river Aisne carried away several bridges and the line of communication for our troops is uncertain. Under these conditions we established ourselves on the south bank of the river in the region between Crouy and Missay, with the bridge heads on the north bank in our possession."

REPLY TO ENGLAND.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 15.—Secretary Bryan has addressed a brief note to the British government acknowledging the British preliminary reply to the American protest on the detention of cargoes. He expressed the intention of the United States to await the supplementary British note.

WHEAT \$2.05 PER HUNDRED, HAINES.