

The Aim
The aim to be always bright, wholesome and interesting, keeps the contents of The Times up to the high standard of news excellence.

Coos Bay Times

The Armies
of Europe are engaged in a death struggle which may change the map of the world.

SKERRETT'S HEARING ADJOURNED AT NOON UNTIL NEXT MONDAY

Twelve Witnesses Testified Concerning Bunker Hill Arson Charges

TWO NEW WITNESSES FOR STATE DESIRED

Endeavor to Connect Garage Fire With Destruction of Boarding House

After examining 12 witnesses the hearing of Charles Skerrett, charged by the coroner's jury with arson, was postponed until one o'clock on Monday afternoon on motion of Prosecution Attorney Liljeqvist who demanded the state now seeks two witnesses that can not be located.

The court room at the Wilson Undertaking Parlors was filled early this morning and dozens stood during the hearing, most of them remaining until the hearing was concluded.

George W. Craig was the first witness called to the stand. He testified that he had gone through the boarding house shortly after nine o'clock on the evening of the fire and all was well then.

Mr. Craig testified that he knew Skerrett had money. He had seen a bill a few days previous to the fire.

He lived with us as one of the family for four years, said Mr. Craig. A description was given of the building. It was a frame structure about 90 feet in length and about 20 feet wide.

How long have you lived in this building? asked Mr. McKnight. Several times the word "shack" was used by him in referring to the building.

Had Trouble With Fuses
That there had been trouble with electric light fuses in the building during the two weeks previous to the fire was Mr. Craig's statement.

O. Willetts, janitor and later witness, testified the wiring sagged and was in poor condition.

I don't believe any architect could have designed a better fire trap," he volunteered as he left the stand.

Had Warrant for Arrest
Paul Zellie, associate of Charles Skerrett, came to the stand, but the question of the prosecution was interrupted by Mr. McKnight.

The witness told of coming home visiting the room of Skerrett on the lower floor, in the north end of the building, and leaving there for upstairs about 1:30 a. m. There was no trace of smoke.

Skerrett Smelled Smoke
But Skerrett said to me "Paul I don't smell smoke."

Zellie was shown a copy of the complaint that had been drawn up charging him with arson and which had been cancelled before serving.

That the fire was burning in the north end of the building when he

(Continued on Page Four.)

FINAL REPORT ON BUNKER HILL FIRE

Coroner's Jury Finds Boarding House Was Deficient in Fire Escapes

The final report of the coroner's jury on the Bunker Hill Boarding House fire in which seven lives were lost was made today and is as follows:

We, the coroner's jury duly impaneled and sworn to investigate the causes of death of the victims in the burning of the boarding house of the C. A. Smith Lumber and Manufacturing Company on February 17, 1915, make this our supplemental report in the matter of the fire protection of said building and do find and recommend as follows:

That the said building was a three-story, ell-shaped building, the main part of the building being about 100x30 feet in dimension with an all about 40x30 feet in dimension. The first floor contains a dining room, kitchen, and the living apartments of Geo. A. Craig and family, who was the lessee of the building. The first floor of the building contained the lobby, two bath rooms and the room of H. C. Skerrett.

The second floor contained 22 bed rooms, lobby and toilet.

The third floor was similar to the second floor.

The building was built entirely of wood and had been constructed about six years. It appeared that this building was of a temporary character and was built to meet the immediate necessity of caring for the employees in the early construction and operation of the Smith Mill.

The building was equipped with 14 fire extinguishers located as follows: One on the first floor, two in the lobby, two in the dining room and one in the kitchen. On the second and third floors, each, two in the long halls, one in the lobbies, one in the short halls.

The only fire escape, attached to the building, was a wooden ladder structure at the south end of the building extending from the roof to near the ground. Doors opened from the ends of the long halls on the second and third floors to this fire escape. All of the rooms in the main part of the building opened upon these long halls. The short halls were in the ell part of the building and there was a connected passage way from the short halls to the long halls by crossing the open lobbies. To this fire escape there was an unobstructed passage way from the door of every lodging room in the building, in addition to the fire escape constructed at the south end of the building and the stair way through the lobbies on the north were natural fire escapes presented by the roof of the porch, extending across the whole north side of the building, upon which all occupants of rooms on that side of the building on the second floor might step out and thence descend to the ground. Likewise to this porch roof one of the occupants was able to swing down from the third floor window and thence escape.

On the west side of the building was a small porch roof over the kitchen which aided several of the occupants of the building in making their escape. Likewise on the east side of the main building was a water tank in the fork of the building, with a ladder on the side thereof and running southerly from said water tank was a narrow porch roof connecting with the roof of a storage leanto all of which material aided many of the occupants in making their escape from the burning building.

The building was not provided with any knotted ropes as fire escapes, or with any other similar device for fire escape purposes.

There were fourteen occupants of rooms on the third floor on the night of the fire and they three

(Continued on Page Four.)

England to Soon Reply to U. S. Proposal About Shipping

WILSON FIRM AGAINST ANY SHIP DELAYS

Some British Cabinet Members Insistent on Reprisals For German Acts
FRANCE OPPOSED TO ENGLISH CONCESSIONS
Declare That Great Britain Must Not Remove Food Embargo From Germany

PORTLAND HAS GREAT SWINDLE

A million-dollar swindle is charged against the officers and salesmen of the now defunct Cashier Company of this city in an indictment returned against them by the Federal grand jury today.

HUGH M'LAIN IS POSTMASTER HERE

Appointment Made by President Wilson Today—McLain III in Eugene Now

Hugh P. McLain was nominated today by President Wilson for Postmaster at Marshfield.

The above message simply confirms the report published in The Times some time ago that Senators Lane and Chamberlain had decided to appoint Mr. McLain. They took the stand as there was hot competition between Thomas Coke, F. A. Golden, W. J. Rust, F. L. Sumner, Geo. N. Bolt and others for the place that to appoint any of them would start political trouble.

It is expected that Mr. McLain will accept the appointment.

Mr. McLain will arrive home tomorrow from San Francisco. He telephoned from Eugene to Mrs. McLain saying that he had been sick, but would be able to come home tomorrow via Florence.

W. B. Curtis, who holds the office now, has served several terms to retire March 1, but as the change can hardly be arranged that quickly, he will probably serve until about April 1 when Mr. McLain will assume the post.

Mr. McLain has his contracting and fuel business in such a way that he can continue it, his son Leo, and partner, Fred McLean, being in charge of it.

Whom he will appoint deputy is a question, but it would not be a surprise if he continued F. L. Sumner, the present deputy, in that capacity.

CLAIM RUSSIANS CHECKED AUSTRIANS

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Austrian advance in Eastern Galicia has been checked and the Russians have recaptured Stanislau and Kolomea, says a newspaper dispatch from Romania.

MRS. A. G. AIKEN WILL OPEN HER SPRING MILLINERY, WED., MARCH 3RD.

TURKS DENY DARDANELLES VICTORIES

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 27.—An official announcement today says "After being subjected for seven hours last Wednesday to a bombardment by heavy guns, the outer forts of the Dardanelles were damaged at some points, but we had only five killed and fourteen wounded. The enemy's fleet resumed the bombardment today, but in the afternoon retreated out of range of our batteries at Sedd El Bahr. Some hundreds of soldiers who landed from the French cruisers on the coast at Akabab, Arabia, were compelled to flee after a two hours' battle. Despite the severity of the cannonading and machine gun fire, we had only three killed and three wounded.

ROBBER IS SLAIN IN SALEM STORE

SALEM, Or., Feb. 27.—Discovering three burglars robbing the stores of Joseph Gooding at St. Paul early today, Daniel Girdle opened fire with a rifle and killed an unidentified member of the trio. James Grady and Frank Undermyer were later arrested. The former had plunder on him, it is alleged.

SENATE SPECIAL SESSION GIVEN UP

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27.—President Wilson has practically decided not to call a special session of the Senate to consider the Colombian and Nicaraguan treaty. At the White House today it was said that while the question was still under consideration there was little prospect of a special session being called.

SULTAN'S SISTER DEAD

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 27.—A Constantinople dispatch relates the death of Djemile Sultans, the eldest sister of the Sultan of Turkey. She was born in 1843.

RECEIVER FOR WESTERN PACIFIC

DENVER & RIO GRANDE CLAIMS LINE HAS DEFAULTED ON INTEREST PAYMENTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Application for a receiver for the Western Pacific Railroad will be made after the railway defaults interest on its first mortgage bonds March 1, according to an announcement of the directors of the Denver & Rio Grande, which controls the Western Pacific. The proceedings are of a friendly nature.

RAISE PAPER PRICE

SEATTLE, Feb. 26.—The Post-Intelligencer, now sold at a cent a copy, announces an increase of its price to two cents, beginning March 1. This paper has been sold for a penny for about three years.

WHITE CEDAR MOTH PROOF CLOTHES HANGERS FOR SALE AT JAY DOYLE'S PLACE

SHERIDAN TO RETURN
T. R. Sheridan, who was called here as a witness in the several cases filed against the First National Bank, expects to leave for his home at Marshfield late this week.—Roseburg Review.

ALLIES FLEETS DESTROY FORTS AT ENTRANCE TO DARDANELLES

RUSSIAN RALLY TO CHECK ONSLAUGHTS

Petrograd and Berlin Reports Indicate German Advance Stopped Again
LONDON, Feb. 27.—The efforts of the German and Austrian armies to crumple both ends of the long Russian front, it is reported today, have been checked. Petrograd states the German drive at Warsaw from the North has been countered. Berlin says new Russian forces have appeared in Northern Poland and begun attacks. In East Galicia, at the other end of the front, the Russians claim the recapture of Stanislau.

ENGLISH VESSEL TORPEDOED TODAY

French Torpedo Destroyer Sent to Assist Damaged Ship in Channel
DIEPPE, France, Feb. 27.—It is reported here that a British merchant ship has been torpedoed in the English channel off Saint Valery Sur Somme. A French torpedo boat destroyer left here to assist.

PUT BURNING OIL IN FRENCH TRENCH

Germans Cause Allies to Retreat After Burning Many Soldiers—French Report
PARIS, Feb. 27.—The official statement this afternoon says: "Our artillery in the Argonne exploded an ammunition depot near St. Hubert. In a wood near Mellencourt, between the Argonne and the Meuse, the enemy again sprayed one of our advanced trenches with a burning liquid, necessitating the abandonment of the trench, the occupants of which were seriously burned. A counter attack immediately checked the Germans.

NEW ATTACKS BY GERMAN FORCES

Berlin Tells of Gains—Fighting in France—New Russian Attacks
BERLIN, Feb. 27.—(Wireless to Sayville.)—The official statement today says: "In Champagne yesterday and last night were renewed strong French attacks. The fighting in some places still continues. Otherwise the attacks were repulsed. North of Verdun, the Germans attacked a portion of the French position. The fighting still continues.

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FRENCH AND ENGLISH BATTLESHIPS PENETRATE ENTRANCE FOURTEEN MILES

BEGIN SHELLING INNER FORTS OF WATERWAY
Forts at Entrance to Straits Crumpled—Opens Way to Constantinople

KAISER HONORS VON HINDENBURG

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—Emperor William has conferred the decoration of the Pour le Merite order upon Field Marshal Von Hindenburg in recognition of his overwhelming victories over the Russians in the East.

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ITALY IN THROES OF WAR DISCUSSION

Vehement Protests Made Against Order to Prohibit Public Meetings
ROME, Feb. 27.—Vehement attacks on the government were made in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday by extremists because of the instructions given to prefects to prohibit meetings if there is a reason to believe they would result in disorders.

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AVIATORS RENEW ATTACKS IN EAST

FRENCH AND GERMAN AERONAUTS BUSY ALONG BATTLE LINE—RESCUE AVIATORS
PARIS, Feb. 27.—A squadron of German aeroplanes bombarded the district behind Neuport. Only two casualties were reported. French aviators dropped three bombs on the German barracks at Metz.