

# The Morning Astorian.

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## URGES REPEAL OF PRESENT LANDLAWS

**Federal Grand Jury Writes Strong Letter to Secretary of Interior Denouncing Existing Conditions.**

**Last Work of Body Is to Return Six Indictments and Frame Stern Document.**

**SESSION LASTS TWO WEEKS**

**Hot After Lieu Land Laws and Points to Corruption and Graft That Result Because of Their Recognition.**

Portland, April 2.—The federal grand jury, which has been in session for two weeks, completed its work today and was discharged after returning six indictments and drafting a strong letter to the secretary of the interior denouncing the present land laws and urging their repeal. The document calls attention to some of the existing laws, especially the lieu land law and to the evidences of corruption among land officials and others as the direct result. Attention is especially directed to the frauds in Oregon and a strong appeal is made for a change in the laws to prevent further corruption.

During its term the grand jury has returned 15 indictments.

### SALESMAN ENDS HIS LIFE.

**Frank P. Powell, Traveling For Liquor House, Dead.**

Oakland, April 2.—Much mystery surrounds the case of Frank P. Powell who committed suicide Monday night at the Albany hotel by drinking carbolic acid. Powell has been identified as a traveling salesman in the employ of Sherwood & Sherwood, wholesale liquor dealers of San Francisco. The dead man had been in their employ for three years and the firm's representatives said today they were at a loss to explain Powell's deed.

So far as was learned today Powell was unmarried. His headquarters in San Francisco were at the New Western hotel, Kearny and Washington streets. His effects were found intact at his rooms. Powell arrived there

Sunday from a long trip through New Mexico, Arizona and Mexico. The hotel people noticed that he was not in his usual good spirits. Monday he left the hotel and was not seen again there. At 4 o'clock Monday afternoon Powell registered at the Albany in this city. Besides being a member of Eureka (Cal.) Aerie of Eagles, Powell was affiliated with the Traveling Men's Association. He leaves parents and a brother residing in New York state, where his father is a farmer. Coroner Mehrmann has held an inquest. One or the other of the organizations of which Powell was a member will take charge of the funeral.

### RAILROAD WAR DECLARED.

**Harriman Files Petition Looking to Return of Northern Pacific Stock.**

St. Paul, April 2.—E. H. Harriman, as trustee of the Oregon Short Line, today filed a petition in the federal court asking to be allowed to intervene in the case of the United States against the Northern Securities Company with the object of compelling the Northern Securities Company to turn over to him the Northern Pacific Railway stock originally exchanged for the Northern Securities stock, instead of the proposed division of Northern Pacific and Great Northern stock. The Harriman interests, prior to the formation of the Northern Securities Company, held a controlling interest in the Northern Pacific stock, the struggle for which culminated in the panic of May 9 on the New York stock exchange.

This action is taken as the beginning of a contest for the control of the Northern Pacific railway between the Hill-Morgan faction of the Northern Securities Company, and E. H. Harriman.

### Macey Admits Crimes.

North Yakima, Wash., April 2.—Leon Macey, who is held on the charge of being implicated in the holdups of the Gingles gang of robbers and highwaymen, waived a hearing today before Justice J. A. Taggard and was bound over to court for trial in the sum of \$2500 bail. Macey made a confession a short time ago, in which he implicated the dead bandit, Jack Gingles, and his brother in several holdups and horsestealing affairs.

At the preliminary hearing of Jim Gingles on the charge of horsestealing he admitted the crime, telling how they went to the ranch of Wm. Buchholz and stole a fine driving team of horses. He told the officers that before the horsestealing they went to Arlington, Ore., during the day of September 17 last. They camped outside the city and at night held up the Arlington saloon.

## BELIEVE THAT MIKADO WAS ACTUATED BY DESIRE TO PRESERVE PEACE

**Imperial Declaration of War Was Last Resort of Ruler and Statesmen Resolve That Subjects Should Stand by Emperor.**

**House of Representatives Stands Ready to Grant All Funds Necessary to Carry On War—England Depressed by Trouble in Thibet and Believe Massacre Could Have Been Averted—May Embarrass Relations.**

Washington, April 2.—The Japanese minister has received a telegram from Tokio announcing that just before the adjournment of the diet house of representatives passed a resolution in part as follows:

"The imperial declaration of war against Russia shows his majesty has been actuated solely by a desire to preserve peace, and every subject of his majesty should exert himself to the utmost to obey the imperial will. This house has provided revenues desired by the government and will always be ready cordially to co-operate in measures necessary to bring about the desired result and will be prepared to grant all funds necessary for prosecuting war."

London, April 2.—The slaughter of the Thibetans kills such waning interest as still exists in London on the Japanese and Russian struggles. News of the wholesale bloodshed excites, as a general rule a feeling of depression, because the average Englishman scarcely sees it was necessary and because there is general apprehension that it may lead to complications with Russia.

The last thing the British public wants at present is another war, and what is more dreaded is a rise in the income tax.

### RUSSIAN STRATEGY.

**Kuropatkin Seeks to Lure Japs to Harbor and Defeat.**

Paris, April 2.—A military attache to one of the embassies says that it is

clearly the part of General Kuropatkin's strategy to permit the Japanese to have a small number of victories in northern Korea so as to draw them northward toward Harbin. He adds: "These were Russia's tactics during the Turkish war. Several victories in northern Korea will so stimulate the Japanese ambition that they will adopt the cry, 'On to Harbin,' which is exactly the point to which General Kuropatkin seeks to lure them."

### EXPLAINS VICKSBURG INCIDENT.

**Russian Officer Exonerates American Captain of all Blame.**

Odessa, April 2.—Captain Stepanoff, of the Russian cruiser Variag, made this statement to the Associated Press regarding the Vicksburg incident at Chemulpo. He said:

"All the time the Vicksburg was stationed at Chemulpo her captain held aloof. He took no part in the conference to protest against the preceding fight, for the simple reason that he was not invited to do so. After the fight, like others, he sent a surgeon with a boat to the rescue. As regards his not taking Russian seamen aboard the Vicksburg, this was unnecessary and it is more than probable that Captain Rudeniff, commanding the Variag, did not ask it."

At the conclusion of the celebration in honor of the survivors of the Viriag and Koreitz today, the guests were escorted by bands and cheering multitudes to the steamer Nicholas, which sailed this afternoon for Sebastopol.

### REPEAL BILL ATTACKED.

**Senator Warren Contends That Land Laws Are Important.**

Washington, April 2.—Warren occupied the greater part of the senate's time today with a speech attacking the Gibson bill to repeal most of the existing land laws. He contended that land laws were of benefit and in the main honestly administered and urged that there was no demand for a repeal.

Mallory concluded his speech on the old age disability pension order of the secretary of the interior.

The postoffice appropriation bill was sidetracked for the day.

### RAPID FIRE LEGISLATION.

**House Passes Three Hundred Seven Pension Bills in Two Hours.**

Washington, April 2.—Three hundred and seven pension bills were passed by the house today in two hours. Another hour was devoted to rapid fire legislation by the unanimous consent in which a large number of bridge bills and other matters of minor importance were disposed of. At the expiration of this time Maddox, of Georgia, who had threatened to stop proceedings by the point of no quorum, when pension legislation was finished, insisted on his point, and, as there were but few members present, the house adjourned.

### Young Corbett Gets Decision.

Chicago, April 2.—Young Corbett was given the decision over Tommy Mowatt, the "fighting streetcar conductor," after six rounds of fast fighting tonight.

### CLEW TO MISSING WOMAN.

**Negro Wears Pin That May Lead to Finding of Mrs. Burns.**

Chicago, April 2.—The first trace of Mrs. John C. Burns since her disappearance from a Chicago hotel two years ago was found today, when Jas. Taylor, a negro was arrested at Cin-

known as Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Puter, was traced here from the Pacific coast. It is charged that she was aided in her efforts to elude capture by S. A. D. Puter, an alleged member of the gang who was indicted by the federal grand jury at Portland along with Mrs. Watson, Marie L. Ware and Horace G. McKinley.

Washington, April 2.—The interior department has been trying to find Mrs. Watson for months and the secret service followed numerous clues in making the search that ended successfully today. It is alleged that she took persons to Oregon to settle on lands in contravention of the laws; that she represented a number of persons in these transactions and that she figured conspicuously in numerous land deals.

Portland, Ore., April 2.—The part alleged to have been played by Mrs. Watson for which she was indicted was that of being receiver of falsely secured claims. After securing property by deeds from dummy claimants her practice is said to have been to sell them to bona fide purchasers, the "ring" it is alleged receiving the proceeds. As soon as the announcement of the indictment was made Mrs. Watson disappeared and the officers have been hunting her ever since without success until secret service officers located here in Chicago.

### Killing in Kentucky.

Jackson, Ky., April 2.—James Johnson, the nephew of J. B. Macrum, who was assassinated a year ago, was shot and killed today by Bummer Spicer. Spicer is a cousin of Sheriff Ed. Callahan, the leader of the faction charged with bringing about Macrum's death. Johnson is the son of Mrs. Mary Johnson, sister of Macrum, who was an important witness in the case against Curtis Jett and Thomas White.

### Mrs. Gould is Ill.

New York, April 2.—It was learned tonight that Mrs. George J. Gould is ill at her home in this city, recovering from the effects of an operation for appendicitis which was performed Wednesday. Her condition is said to be favorable.

### Receiver is Appointed.

Mankato, Minn., April 2.—The federal court has appointed Horace Cummins receiver of the Alaska Fish and Lumber Company. The liabilities are \$25,000 unsecured, and \$50,000 secured. The company's plant is at Shakan, Alaska. The assets are unknown.

## SUSPECTS NOT THE TRAIN ROBBERS

**Officers Satisfied That Guilty Parties Are Not the Ones That Were Spotted by Their Informants.**

**Think Same Bandits Held Up Saloon at Kennet Some Weeks Ago.**

### PROCEEDING WITH THE CASE

**Rifle Left by One of the Outlaws in Hurry to Escape May Lead to Identity of Owner Being Disclosed.**

Redding, Cal., April 2.—The trip of the officers north this afternoon resulted in the clearing of the skies of some of the suspects and proving to the satisfaction of the detectives that the bandits who held up the Oregon express at Copley Thursday night and killed Messenger O'Neill, were the same men who held up 15 men in Dave Endicott's saloon at Kennet, 20 miles north of here on March 20. The officers say that a dozen different informants had told that the circumstance seemed to point strongly to three men living near Kennet as the train robbers, but investigation today showed conclusively that the suspects could not have been the robbers.

A point not heretofore made public is that the officers have one of the guns of the bandits. It is a rifle, and was left by a robber who took Guard Frank Rockwell's by mistake. The bandit's gun survived the explosion and is in the hands of the officers. It is said to be an ordinary rifle, but its possession may lead to the identity of the owner.

### Private Secretary's Rise.

San Francisco, April 2.—A circular was issued today announcing the appointment of B. A. Worthington as assistant director of maintenance and operations of the Harriman railways with headquarters in Chicago. Mr. Worthington a few years ago was vibrate secretary to H. P. Huntington.

**It's Plain as Print**

That the place to purchase **CLOTHING** is at Stokes; Reason, superior goods and lowest prices.



Remember our **Dunlap Hats** Finest on earth.

Hart Schaffner & Marx Hand Tailored

**P. A. STOKES**

**AT The Bee Hive**

We have to show you for **EASTER** Three Dozen Gage's Fine Tailor-made Hats just received. Also a new line of **SHIRT WAISTS**. You are invited to call and see them and you can

**Buy Them Cheaper AT THE BEE HIVE**

**EASTER BIBLE SALE**

Sunday next is Easter, and we prepared for it with a magnificent line of Bibles, Testaments, Psalm Books and Hymnals. All we ask is that you see them. We feel certain you will then be anxious to pay 10 per cent. less than the very low price they are marked.

**J. N. GRIFFIN.**