



## ANONYMOUS LETTERS

### Play Important Part in Baxter Trial.

## DEAD MANS BODY FOUND

### Clues That May Lead to Clearing of Baxters and Apprehension of Murders.

## FOSTER MURDER AT WOODLAND

### The Dead Man Found Recently is Suspected of Having Been a Member of the Gang and Was Killed by His Companions.

PORTLAND, April 30.—A special to the Oregonian from Kalama, Wash., says that two anonymous letters and the finding of a dead man's body at the identical spot described in the letters, may play an important part in the trial of Tom and James Baxter, father and son, charged with murder, which will begin at Kalama tomorrow. The Baxters are accused of killing James Foster, a fellow tramp, at Woodland, Wash., on March 31st last. The two anonymous letters were received here, at Kalama, last night. Both of the communications had been written in Spokane and under different dates, by two different men. One dated April 27, and received by District Attorney Hubbell and the other written two days before and addressed to Sheriff Kirby.

The letters contain practically the same information, the writers say, by going to a point about two and one-half miles from Kalama the body of a man would be found hidden in the brush 100 yards from the Northern Pacific track also that the unknown man had been killed with a 32 calibre Winchester, and he was a brother of James Foster. The writers said that each had been told about the crime by a "hobo" and rather than see the Baxters punished for a crime they did not commit the writers said the hobo declared he would report to the authorities and confess to the crime.

The sheriff today went to the designated spot and found the body. The victim had been shot twice in the head apparently while on the railroad track, and the body was dragged into the brush. The dead man was well dressed and about 35 years old. There was nothing on him to reveal his identity and it is supposed that the man was one of the gang implicated in the Woodland affray and he is among those whom it is known that escaped from the posse. It is presumed that for some reason the man was killed by his companions.

## TORNADO IN TENNESSEE.

### Considerable Damage Caused by Severe Electrical Storm.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 30.—A meagre report was received by the Commercial Appeal early today from Covington, Tenn., of a tornado which struck that place last night causing considerable damage but, so far as could be ascertained, no lives were lost. Two compresses owned by the Gulf Compress Company were unroofed and among the other buildings damaged was the Illinois Central depot. An Illinois Central south-bound passenger train was derailed at Covington for several hours by the storm and accumulation of debris along the track. A severe rain and electrical storm is general in his vicinity.

## FRISCO CARMEN.

### Conservative Members.. Advocate Peace.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30.—The conservative element in the carmen's union is engaged in a desperate contest to prevent the midnight meeting which is to be held in the Central Theatre tonight from being stamped by hotheads who may try to force a strike vote. A committee representing the older men in the employ of the company has been making a canvass of the union members on the cars and in the car barns, in the interest of peace. It requires a two-thirds vote to declare a strike, and if a secret ballot be taken there is little question about the result, but the men will vote first on the matter of taking a strike vote—whether by ballot or by a rising vote—and this question will be decided by a majority.

## RUSSIAN POLITICS.

### Minister of War Wants Douma Dissolved Because of Attack on Army

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—Minister of War Rudiger went to Tsarskoe Selo today to report to Emperor Nicholas concerning the incidents in the Douma Monday. A rumor is in circulation that he has persuaded the Emperor to dissolve the chamber because of the attacks on the army. The session of the cabinet tonight, however, was occupied with ordinary business and one of the ministers said there was no doubt but that the Douma would re-assemble on May 13.

## BALLOON FLIGHT

### Efforts Made for the Long Distance Record.

## STARTED BY MOONLIGHT

### Captain Chandler of Signal Corps and Aeronaut McCoy Start From St. Louis in An Endeavor to Win the Lahm Trophy.

ST. LOUIS, April 30.—With a sharp wind blowing and heavy clouds banking the sky, Captain Chandler, U. S. Signal Corps and Aeronaut McCoy, of New York, started tonight on the long distance balloon trip they have been trying to take for three days. They hoped the wind would carry them eastward and that they might land near Washington, D. C., but immediately upon leaving the ground the balloon took a southerly course, veering slightly to the west.

Captain Chandler is making aerial observations for the government and carried instruments to measure the altitude and the speed. McCoy hopes to win the Lahm cup offered for the longest distance of continuous flight. The weather was not favorable for ballooning, the air being heavy with moisture and the temperature almost at freezing, but the flight was made in order to have the benefit of the moonlight without which a flight would not have been attempted. Several carrier pigeons were taken along and messages will be sent back to St. Louis. Captain Chandler said before starting that they expect to be in the air about 48 hours.

The "America," which Chandler and McCoy ascended, is the second largest balloon in America. It has a displacement of 78,000 cubic feet and a lifting power of 3500 pounds.

## MILLIONAIRE TO PRISON.

YONKERS, N. Y., April 30.—William E. Dodge, of New York, son of Philanthropist William E. Dodge and son-in-law of Henry T. Sioane, the millionaire carpet manufacturer was today sentenced to serve 10 days in prison in addition to paying a fine of \$100 for auto speeding.

## FIRE AT WARRENTON

### Bunkhouse of Kelly Mill Burned.

## INMATES ALL ESCAPE

### Started in Kitchen and in an Hour the Building Collapsed a Smoldering Ruin.

## CALLED TO ASTORIA FOR HELP

### Local Department Had No Apparatus That Would Be Of Use So Refused the Request—Japanese Laborers Escaped But Lost Most All Effects.

A bunkhouse used for sheltering the Japanese laborers of the Kelly Mill at Warrenton was burned to the ground last evening by a fire that originated in the part used as a kitchen.

The fire was discovered at about 10:40 and an hour later the building had collapsed and was practically a smoldering ruin. As far as could be learned there was no loss of life and the damage to the building and contents could not be estimated until the Japanese contractors are heard from. The loss will be principally to the effects of the Japanese laborers who were in the building at the time the fire started, they escaped from the burning building in all stages of dress and undress, but took the whole as a joke and laughed and jested among themselves.

The bunkhouse was a long, low structure estimated to be about 30 by 170 feet and was situated across the Skipanon creek, east of the Kelly Mill. It was fortunate for the mills that the wind was from a favorable direction, else the mill itself would, no doubt, have gone too. Every precaution was taken to see nothing of the kind should occur a general alarm was blown from the whistles of both the Kelly mill and the Old Oregon mill, the hose was laid and the men were on duty ready for any emergency.

A telephone call was received by the Astoria fire department saying that the Kelly mill was on fire and that it was thought the town was doomed. As there was no apparatus available that would be of any use to them the local department was compelled to refuse the request. The ruddy glow on the sky cast by the flames was noticed in the sky by many Astorians and the report that the entire town was burning up spread with great rapidity.

## BUSY JUROR.

### Investigates On Own Responsibility and May Cause Mistrial.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Excessive zeal by a juror in the murder case of Mme. de Massey, now progressing in the criminal branch of the Supreme Court, caused an abrupt adjournment of the trial yesterday, and may result in a mistrial. Mme. de Massey who is reputed in some quarters to be a baroness, is charged with having fatally shot Gustave Simon, a waist manufacturer last November in his office in a Broadway business building. A dispute over the wages paid is said to have led to the man's death.

The juror whose absorption in the case caused summary action by Justice Blanchard, who is presiding over case is George W. Guernsey, a bookkeeper. Without asking the permission of the Court or being accompanied by any fellow jurors, he visited

the scene of the alleged crime and examined a stairway there. Justice Blanchard hurriedly adjourned court to give himself time to consult authorities before deciding whether the trial can go on under these circumstances. Guernsey's actions was learned by the rather startled court from the juror himself. A policeman was on the stand testifying to his finding on a stairway in the Broadway building, the revolver, with which, it is alleged, Mme. de Massey shot him. Guernsey who had questioned other witnesses suddenly put a question to the policeman about the stairway, and before the witnesses could answer volunteered the information that he was familiar with the stairway because he had looked over it.

"You had no business to go there at all," said Justice Blanchard sternly to the juror.

Guernsey asked permission to make a statement but his request was refused.

"No statement will be permitted" said Justice Blanchard, sharply. He then adjourned until today.

## BURNED TO DEATH.

### Woman Loses Life in New Work Tenement Fire.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Miss Sarah Gowan, 32 years of age, was burned to death early today in a fire which damaged the five-story tenement at 239 East Thirty-eighth street. Miss McGowan lived on the top floor and her escape was cut off by the flames. The firemen made several daring rescues of other imperilled tenants.

## ON RACE SUICIDE

### President Takes Exception to Magazine Article.

## EXPLAINS VIEWS TO EDITOR

### "In Average Families of Native Descent in Some States Birth Has Fallen Below the Death Rate Which Means Race Suicide."

NEW YORK, April 30.—In a letter to the editor of the Review of Reviews President Roosevelt takes exception to certain statements made in an article on "The Doctor in the Public School," published in the April number of the periodical and takes occasion to renew his expressions on the subject of race suicide.

"This writer states clearly," says the President, "that it is an erroneous idea to assume that the average family should have a larger number of healthy children than the present birth rate showed. The vital statistics of a state like Massachusetts shows that there the average native American family of native American descent has so few children that the birth rate has fallen below the death rate. This, of course, means race suicide, and it ought to be understood that after a while there are no children to go to school. The question of their health in school would not even be academic."

Continuing Mr. Roosevelt says: "The greatest problem of civilization is to be found in the fact that the well to do families tend to die out; there results in consequence, a tendency to the elimination, instead of the survival, of the fittest, and the moral attitude which helps on this tendency is, of course, strength when it is apologized for and praised in a magazine like yours.

"Our people could still exist under all kinds of iniquities in government; under a debased currency, under official corruption under the rule of a socialistic proletariat, under wealthy oligarchy.

"All these things would be bad for us, but the country would still exist. But it could not continue to exist if it paid heed to the express or implied teachings of such articles as these."

## BOMBARDED PORTLAND

### Costa Rica Hurls Solid Shot Over City.

## STRUCK EMPTY HOUSE

### Frightened Women and Children and Was Cause of Mystery Until Explained.

## LIFE SAVING APPARATUS

### Complying With Government Regulations, Fired Cannon and Guy Rope Broke Allowing the Muzzle to Swing Around and Send Ball Over City.

PORTLAND, April 30.—A six-inch solid shot, three inches in diameter, buried itself in the side of an empty house on the corner of Fifteenth and Pettygrove streets this afternoon, after narrowly missing the planing mill, and frightening into consternation the men, women and children in the neighborhood.

The source of the shot which was one such as is used in the life-saving apparatus on shipboard, was a mystery until tonight when it was ascertained that it was fired from a cannon on board the San Francisco and Portland steamer Costa Rica. The government regulations require the firing of this cannon once every three months; the officers were complying with the regulations when one of the guy ropes broke allowing the muzzle of the gun to veer around into line with the city.

## CABRERA HAS NARROW ESCAPE.

### While On Drive, Accompanied by Staff, Mine Explodes Under Roadway.

GUATEMALA, April 29.—President Cabrera narrowly escaped assassination today. While on his customary drive early this morning, accompanied by his staff, an explosion at first supposed to be a bomb, occurred, killing the horses attached to the presidential carriage, and wounding the coachman and injuring several of the staff officers. Careful inspection showed the explosion was caused by a mine. Conspirators dug tunnels from one of the group of houses rented by a man named Rafael Robil, placed explosives under roadway and connected them by battery to Robil's house, and from there discharged the mine. Many suspects have been arrested.

## ROOSEVELT AND TAFT.

### They Are Great Friends But President Goes To Root For Advice.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—A good story concerning the relations existing between President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft and the President and Secretary Root is told by one who is familiar with the goings on among those who comprise the first tier of the administration. It runs as follows: Mr. Taft's personal relations with Mr. Roosevelt are close and cordial. They are more like chums than mere fellow-officials. But the President is the elder and the dominating brother. This is not merely true because he is the superior officer. He is the more forceful and determined, and it is likely he would dominate Taft if their official positions were reversed.

The President and Secretary Taft are much alike in habit of thought. Taft rarely acts as an adviser to the president. It is seldom he induces the

president to take his view of a matter when it happens the president has views of his own. Mr. Roosevelt said recently that he and Secretary Taft almost invariably looked at things in the same way. He could usually tell how Taft would view a question before he opened his mouth to discuss it. Hence, the president is said to have declared, when puzzling problems came to him, he usually sought the advice of Secretary Root rather than that of Secretary Taft as to the best way of solving them.

Root when called upon for advice, gives it to the president as he would to a client. A proposition is stated to him and he tells what he thinks about it. There is a warm friendship existing between the two men, dating back to their youth, and Root knows Roosevelt like a book. He does not always convince—as a rule he does not—for in these latter days the president has come to act on his own initiative without consulting the members of his cabinet.

## COLONIST FIGURES.

### Nearly 40,000 People Took Advantage of Spring Colonist Rates.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30.—Low spring colonist rates from the east go out of existence today. The Southern Pacific reports this class of travel to California very large. For the 55 days beginning March 1 and ending April 27, it aggregated 39,918 people, or a daily average of 658.2. For the same period of last year this travel amounted to 33,452, or a daily average of 443.3. The net increase for this spring is therefore 6466 or 19.3 per cent.

## MINERS RELEASED

### Cut off by Sudden Rush of Water Friday.

## REACHED BY COMPANIONS

### Men Were in An Exhausted Condition and Were Left in Mine Until It Can Be Drained, Being Too Weak To Swim.

PITTSBURG, April 28.—After being imprisoned since last Friday noon in the Berwind White coal mine at Foustwell, the seven miners shut off from the world by a sudden rush of water, caused by the breaking of a wall in an abandoned mine were rescued at 10 o'clock tonight. The men were greatly exhausted. Owing to their weakened condition it was decided not to bring them out until after the mine had been drained. The men were reached at 10 o'clock by Stiney Rodon and Charles Ream who made a dash through 50 feet of water-filled headings. Early in the day a brother of one of the imprisoned men in company with three others made a futile effort at rescue. They came back and said that much more pumping would have to be done. The efforts at pumping were redoubled and at 10 o'clock the water had gone down far enough to permit another attempt, and Rodon and Ream volunteered.

Our hour elapsed before they were heard from and then Ream came swimming back, reporting the seven men alive and in good condition, but until more pumping was done it would be impossible to bring them out as they could not swim. It was then resolved to allow them to remain there until the heading had been pumped out.

## TODAY'S BASEBALL SCORES.

Coast League.  
At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 6, Oakland 2.  
At San Francisco—San Francisco 5, Portland 4.  
Northwest League.  
At Aberdeen—Aberdeen 4, Tacoma 11.  
At Seattle—Seattle 0, Spokane 2.  
At Vancouver—Vancouver 3, Butte 2.