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PRICE FIVE CENTS

PUTER IS PARDONED

Land Fraud Chief Granted Clemency.

HENEY RECOMMENDED

Testimony of Puter Will be Utilized to Convict the Others.

WILL BE VALUABLE WITNESS

Served But Eight Months of a Two-Year Sentence and Has His Fine Remitted—Notorious Land Grafter Is Writing Book and Will Expose Frauds.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 31.—The Department of Justice today gave out the following:

"In accordance with the very strong recommendations of Francis J. Heney and United States Attorney Baker, of the District of Columbia, Attorney-General Bonaparte today recommended to the President the pardon of Stephen A. D. Puter in order that the latter's testimony might be utilized in connection with the prosecution of Oregon land frauds."

Puter has been in jail since April of last year, and on July 7, 1906, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$7500. He has already assisted the Government materially in prosecuting land-fraud cases, and in view of his value as a witness and his disposition to assist the Government in every way, the Attorney-General decided to make the recommendation for Executive clemency which was sent to the White House today, and later the President signed the pardon.

PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—S. A. D. Puter tonight received a message from Francis J. Heney telling him that he had been pardoned by the President and urging him hereafter to "Apply his undoubted talents to more honest work." By coincidence Puter's pardon reaches here next Monday, his 51st birthday.

In a statement to the Associated Press, Puter says he knew Heney was endeavoring to secure his pardon but says influential persons were trying to dishonor him by keeping him in jail as long as possible in order to discredit the book which he is writing in collaboration with Horace Stevens, an old San Francisco newspaper man, in which he says he intends to expose a number of people who are deeper "in the mud" than he, but who cannot be punished because the statute of limitations has run against their crimes. Puter will go immediately to Berkeley, returning in time for the land fraud trials which begin in January.

ETHICAL PROBLEM.

Prominent Hebrew Declares Jews Are Persecuted.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Declaring that the persecution of the Jews in the United States make their existence far from comfortable—often burdensome—Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, in the strongest terms at his command, last night, arraigned the boasted civilization of today for its mistreatment of the race.

It was at the closing session of the convention of American Ethical Societies that Dr. Hirsch surprised his hearers with a number of other strong remarks as to the conditions of present day Jews. He was talking upon the general topic of "Ethical Tendencies in the Churches," but he spent much of his time in pointing out the lack of ethical tendencies in present day civilization.

"In Chicago tonight there are Jews who tremble to go out in the streets because they may be stoned by children who believe they do not look like a citi-

zen of Chicago should look," said Dr. Hirsch.

"Why, a Jew is barred from college fraternities. For this, however, he should sing a song of thanks."

"So it is plain that to be a Jew in the United States, with all its boasted democracy and civilization, is not such a comfortable thing. In Europe, the condition of the Jew is worse, and in Russia it is unbearable."

"Why is this so? Here is an ethical problem for the members of the Ethical Society to answer."

PROMINENT LUMBERMAN DEAD.

PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—A message was received here tonight from Green River Junction telling of the death today, on an east-bound train, of C. C. Barker, a millionaire lumberman of this city. The message, which was from W. C. Barker, his son, did not state the cause of death. Barker is returning to Portland with his father's body.

POLICE DOGS.

Belgian Bloodhounds Being Trained to Assist Department.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Two of the imported Belgian bloodhounds which are being trained for work in the police department are in the hands of a veterinary surgeon in disgrace. They were completely defeated by one stray, unknown, mongrel dog, and so badly injured that they had to be sent to a hospital. The dogs are being trained in a large lot in Upper Riverside Drive, where two or three members of the detective department spend their days imposing on the dogs their duty. They are constantly muzzled, while being put through their lessons, but yesterday they were out without their muzzles, when a stray dog of no particular breed attempted to make friends with them, but the hound resented his familiarity and pounced on him. The fight was a long and noisy one, but it ended with the stray mongrel trotting contentedly off the field, leaving the two vicious hounds hors de combat. It will probably be several days before the police dogs will be in condition to resume their studies.

CONVICT MEMBERS

Viborg Manifesto Causes Douma Much Trouble.

LOSE ALL POLITICAL RIGHTS

One Hundred and Sixty-seven Members of First Douma Sentenced to Three Months' Imprisonment—Were Foremost Leaders in Liberal Politics.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 31.—The trial of 100 members of the first Douma, who signed the Viborg manifesto was concluded today. One hundred and sixty-seven were convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, while two were acquitted on the ground they had signed under a misapprehension. The sentence carries the loss of all political rights. The sentence withdraws from Russian politics the foremost liberal leaders in the constitutional movement including Ivan Petrunkevitch, who drafted the first demand on the Emperor for a constitution.

ADAMS IN COLORADO.

Will be Tried at Telluride for Murder of Collins.

TELLURIDE, Colo., Dec. 31.—In custody of Sheriff Fitzpatrick and Deputy C. C. Hicks, Steve Adams arrived here at 9 o'clock tonight to stand trial for the murder of Arthur L. Collins, manager of the Smuggler Union Mine who was killed November 19, 1902. Although it was known Adams would arrive tonight only a few people were at the depot and no demonstration was made. Adams was taken to county jail and no one was permitted to talk with him.

FIGHTERS ARE READY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—Abe Attel and Owen Moran are both ready to fight for the world's featherweight championship at Colma tomorrow. The fight will take place at 11:45 in the open air. Jeffries is the referee. Attel is a 6 to 10 favorite.

ASTORIANS MAKE MERRY

The New Year is Lustily Welcomed.

CITIZENS GREET 1908

Clamor of the Whistles and the Bells Speeds Parting Year.

PLEASANT MASQUERADE BALL

"Five Orphans" Entertain Large Gathering of Masked Merry Makers—The Churches Hold Watch Night Services—Finnish Brotherhood Holds Exercises.

Ring out the old, ring in the new. With all its sorrows, joys or fears, Let coming months their fortunes make Bright marks to keep through all the years.

With clanging bells, hooting whistles, firing of pistols, and tooting of horns, Astoria's residents saw the old year out and the new year in. Promptly at the midnight hour a bell on one of the churches started the ball rolling and a din and clamor of many minutes' duration gave a lusty welcome to the bowing year. A party of young people took possession of Commercial street and marched back and forth to the music of their tooting horns. The steamers in the harbor lent aid to the general din and at its close Astoria was cognizant of the fact that 1908 had placed his infant feet in the path where run the race of years.

Astoria's residents indulged in merry making as a fitting farewell to the parting year and the pleasures were extended to cheer Master 1908 as he made his initial bow before the footlights of the coming theatre of time.

Many forms of pleasure were programmed to pass the declining hours of 1907 and in home, the pulpit, the stage and the wiles of Terpsichore, Astoria's citizens enjoyed themselves to the fullest bounds.

Watch night services were held at the various churches and songs of praise and prayers of thanks were offered to the Bountiful Greatness whose kindness had permitted of the enjoyment of another year of life. Entertainments of various kinds were indulged in and together with delicious repasts served to wile away the parting year.

Early in the evening those of our citizens who were inclined toward pleasures theatrical passed pleasant hours at Astoria's houses of amusement. At the Star Theatre they were entertained by a good bill of vaudeville. The Automatic drew its share of the patronage, and at the Astoria Theatre the Young Musical Company held forth in the "Pride of New York," a musical comedy with snap and go in its every line. Pretty girls, good scenery and costumes and pleasing music helped to pass two pleasant hours.

One of the most pleasant functions that Astoria has yet enjoyed was that of the "Five Orphans" masquerade ball, given at Logan's Hall, last night. The hall was crowded to its utmost, with the flower of the youth and middle age of Astoria. The Pacific Orchestra furnished the music that enlivened the gathering and everyone attending, both dancers and spectators, enjoyed themselves until an early hour this morning. The variety of costumes was bewildering and the care taken by the masqueraders in preparing their characters, and impersonating them was the subject of many favorable comments on the part of the spectators. When the time came for the distribution of prizes the committee were somewhat at a loss to determine the winners, so well were the characters dressed and sustained. After considerable discussion it was decided that the following were the fortunate ones: Best sustained lady's character, Mrs. Walter Howard; best dressed char-

acter, Agnes Waldron, "Cowboy Girl"; best dressed gentleman, Ed Harris, of Pullman, Wash., as Indian chief; best sustained character, gentleman, E. A. Blue, of Portland, a "millionaire tramp." After the announcement of the winners, dancing was resumed and it was a noticeable fact that few of the maskers retired, many of the spectators still remaining. The "Five Orphans," which is composed of Wm. Houghton, Clarence Gaffney, Arthur Berry, "Happy" Sieverson and James W. Lovell, have every reason to congratulate themselves on the wonderful success of their last venture of 1907. A pleasant feature of the affair was the presentation to the "orphans," from Fort Stevens, of a box of candy. The poor boys enjoyed it.

When the business men in Astoria again look at their places of business they will, no doubt, find that the young element have got in their beautiful hands. The aforesaid business men will find, if late signs last night do not fail, on their windows, the inscription, "1908." This is not done with malice but to remind them that they should not date their letters and bills "1907." Leave it to the "kids."

The National Hall, in Uppertown, was the scene of as great a gathering as has ever appeared on a New Year's Eve, in cities even larger than Astoria. The Astoria Lodge of the Finnish Brotherhood of the World, held their twenty-first annual social. The hall was crowded to its utmost to participate in a program of music, literary exercises, a banquet and dancing. We regret that space precludes the publishing of the entire program which was excellently carried out, but justice demands the mention of Miss Sundquist who played very beautiful violin solos. Miss Sundquist has recently arrived from Chicago, and will be a very valuable acquisition to the musical talent now so strong in Astoria. The solo of Hanne Rintala was excellently rendered. The male choir of 35 voices was a very great attraction and the choir of mixed voices was really excellent.

After the conclusion of the exercises a fine banquet followed which was done justice to by all. Dancing then followed and was in progress as we go to press.

CAUSES SENSATION

Military Circles Startled by Confession of Officer.

KILLED VON SCHOOREBECK

Christmas Day Tragedy in German Army Circles Explained by Distinguished Officer—Madame Von Schoorebeck Arrested on Suspicion of Being Implicated

ALLENSTEIN, East Prussia, Dec. 31.—Captain Von Boeben, a distinguished officer in the Germany army caused a sensation in military circles by confessing that he shot and killed Major Von Schoorebeck, who was slain on Christmas day. Von Schoorebeck discovered a man coming down stairs from his wife's room as he returned home on Christmas night. He drew a revolver and fired. Von Goeben then shot the major and fled without leaving a trace behind him. The major's wife was arrested on suspicion of being implicated.

STILL IN BAY CITY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—Rev. Jere Knobe Cooke, and Florette Whaley with their two-months-old babe are believed to still be in the city. After leaving the Green-street flat they were given refuge by Eugene Martin, of 1205 O'Farrell street, who took pity on their helpless condition. When an attempt to see them at the Martin residence today was made it was stated they had left there.

DEAF MUTES DANCE.

SEATTLE, Dec. 31.—Deaf mutes from all over Puget Sound are gathered here tonight at the first annual ball of the Association of Deaf Mutes. Although there is neither piano nor fiddle, nor music of any kind, waltzes, two steps and even the time honored Virginia reel is executed in almost perfect time. Contrasted with this celebration of the exit of the old and the advent of the new year was the noisy celebration indulged in on the streets outside the dance hall.

TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION

Roman Stock Exchange Is Destroyed.

MANY PERSONS HURT

Roof Collapses and Injured are Caught in the Mass of Wreckage.

CROWDS RUSH TO THE SCENE

Historic Temple of Neptune, Built by the Emperor Hadrian the Scene of a Tremendous Explosion Said to Have Been Caused by Gas.

ROME, Dec. 31.—The Temple of Neptune, built by Hadrian and standing in the center of the Forum of Agrippa, now occupied by the Stock Exchange was the scene this afternoon of a tremendous explosion causing a sensation almost as great as the explosion of the bomb in St. Peter's last year. The concussion was so great many throughout the city were terrified and great crowds rushed to the scene. Within the building there were many people, but fortunately a great majority of the brokers had left. No one was killed, but 20 persons, chiefly clerks, were injured. The explosion resulted in the collapse of the roof of the exchange and a number of the injured were caught in the wreckage, but were later released by firemen. Although the first impressions were that the explosion had been caused by a bomb, it was generally accepted later that the disaster came from the explosion of gas. Officials who made an investigation do not admit the explosion was due to gas but as there is no evidence of a bomb being thrown the probability of the gas theory is given out by the police. Half an hour before the explosion took place hundreds of brokers were gathered in the exchange when the transfer of money and of securities amounting to several millions of dollars took place. The detonation was terrific and when the roof fell clouds of dust were thrown high into the air. The police, firemen and troops rushed to the scene and had much difficulty in calming the excitement of the thousands who rushed to the temple. Later when another explosion was feared, the crowd again became panic stricken and many persons received minor injuries in the crush.

EXORBITANT RATES.

Mine Owners Protesting Against Smelter Charges.

HELENA, Dec. 31.—Mine owners of Central Montana are protesting against the alleged exorbitant rates for smelting and refining ores charged by the Great Falls and East Helena plants and will meet in this city January 16 and 17 to perfect an organization to fight the rates. They claim the present schedule is prohibitive and in restraint of trade. In the event the company refuses to lower the schedule, the mine owners propose to establish independent smelters and to ask state aid as was done in Kansas in connection with oil refineries.

ATHLETIC CONTROVERSY.

Charges Made by Halpin Make Situation More Serious.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The charges made by Matthew P. Halpin in his statement giving his side of his controversy with a number of athletes who took part in the Olympic games at Athens, have made the situation more serious than ever. It is said that Ray C. Ewry, the jumper, who is accused by Halpin of professionalism, will be called before the registration committee of the Amateur Athletic Union to show cause why he should not be disqualified on

Halpin's charges and that Halpin will be called upon to substantiate his charges. Halpin states that Ewry has taken part in contests in circuses and at meets not sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union. The controversy is the main topic of conversation around the athletic clubs and there seems to be a disposition on the part of many to attempt to bring the controversy to an end without further publicity, as it is recognized that the trouble already has reflected seriously on American athletics and athletes. Until the controversy is amicably settled it is not improbable that the general committee of the London Olympic games will take the matter up. So far, it is stated, only \$100 has been contributed to the fund to pay the expenses of an American team at the games next summer and the arguments among the athletes, dozens of whom are seeking the newspapers with their troubles, will not aid in the collection of money for the team. In the meantime college men are watching the controversy closely and it is said that preparations are now under way to raise a fund and offer to the American committee a team composed of the strongest college athletes in the country for the London competition.

"GOVERNOR'S ROOM."

Mrs. Russell Sage Offers to Restore the Noted Landmark.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The governor's room in which probably there is more historic interest than in any other room in New York, is to be again "restored."

Six months ago it was opened to the public after being closed for a long time for repairs, but the criticisms made regarding the method of "restoring" it, were so frequent that it was decided that the work should be done over. But there was no money for the work and the necessary appropriation could not be secured. Now Mrs. Russell Sage has offered the city \$25,000 for the restoration of the room and the offer has been accepted. The work will be done under the direction of the city art committee of which Robert R. De Forest is president. The room was the office of New York's governors for many years after 1803 when the building was erected.

A FATAL EXPLOSION

Coal Miners Blown to Eternity in New Mexico.

NINE BODIES RECOVERED

Explosion of Coal Dust and Gas Hurts Men to Death in Bernal Mine at Carthage—Victims Killed Instantly and the Bodies Horribly Mangled.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Dec. 31.—At least nine miners were killed and three fatally injured in an explosion of coal dust and gas at noon today in the Bernal mine at Carthage, New Mexico. None of the bodies have been taken out and although the mine is still filled with gas it is believed no more victims remain in the workings. All the victims were apparently killed instantly and some bodies are mangled beyond recognition. The explosion occurring at noon accounts for the few casualties. The explosion shook the country for miles around and several bodies were thrown clear out of the main entrance of the mine, two of them one hundred yards away.

DAN CUPID BUSY.

Many Couples Securing Licenses to Wed in New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The law requiring licenses to marry goes into effect tomorrow and already the offices of the city clerk is being besieged by couples who desire to obtain the document which will be necessary to their happiness after today. Yesterday 161 licenses were issued. Members of the City Hall Reporters Association were busy interviewing the prospective brides and grooms all day and from 133 out of 135 couples interviewed was secured a promise that their first boy should be called Theodore Roosevelt. The Association then telegraphed this information to President Roosevelt, assuring him that there was no present danger of a suicide. —New York.