

LESTER BELDING'S SENSATIONAL LETTER

ACTION OF ASSOCIATED PRESS BILL TO BE DEFERRED A WEEK

WHO IS GOING TO AID THE TRUSTS?

All Eyes Centered on the Vote That
Is to Be Taken in the
Senate.

(Journal Special Service.)
SALEM, Jan. 29.—With an astonishing degree of disregard for the wishes of the people of the state, the workers in the interest of the allied trusts (Portland newspaper and Associated Press) are hooking the buttonholes of the wavering delegates and talking of the common carrier and the common people. Of course, these worthy subjects of the King are not unwitting their Cromwell, but they think they are. The men of strong public inclination, of earnest purpose and of honest character propose, if possible, to remove from the hands of the allied monopolies, the Trusts' control.

The Two Dilemmas.
This morning's issue of the newspaper trust and the evening supplement thereof were expected to have further to say of the Associated Press and its "Gentlemen's Club." Since the yard of platitudes was offered in the trust morning columns, there has been not a sound from the tower. The editorial blunderbuss lies idly by, the keg of rusty political nails and the steel and flint that strikes the fire of genius, rest on the public printing barrel, unused, for trusts.

"Would rather bear those ills we have Than fly to others that we know not of."
The "Gentlemen's Club," or rather, Associated Press, has not been making much of a stir over the matter. There is opportunity for the club to secure a few more members under the Pierce bill, and it is a case of "love me, love me not" with the jolly clubmen. Mr. Scott has a great amount of cold water on the spine, and he is shivering at the thought of another morning newspaper being allowed to offer his daylight issue a few ticklers under the ribs. Then, the twilight supplement, falling back on a reserve fund that has for years been accumulated to stave off competition, could not afford to blow in more money to offset a third evening rival. The Journal is costing the supplement a becoming sum, and its reserve is rapidly becoming exhausted.

Mr. Scott's Disposition.
Mr. Scott hopes to be able to land his literary bludgeon on the pate of others than "Mouthpiece" McGinn and "Rocking" Chairman Rand, both of whom have been subdued with lustrous raps that have brought the tears to their eyes.
It is certainly a very funny situation. The Senators dislike to go on record as trust sympathizers, and they do not wish to have the state platform, in coming national campaigns, named with "Mouthpiece" McGinn and "Rocking" Chairman Rand. The Associated Press has discouraged the associate members of the "Gentlemen's Club" and they are wondering if it is the calm that goes before a storm, or if it is only a still hunt for exposed parties, however, and large numbers of cracks upon the output are due to those who dare to do otherwise than as the "Gentlemen's Club" rules.

Not "Pink Teas."
The pink tea phase of the Associated Press stand, the "Gentlemen's Club" plea and the cry, "I'm not a common carrier, but a very exclusive social organization, formed for the purpose of having a good time with telegraph wires," has created a loud laugh here. No argument could have been offered to better bring forward the ridiculous side of the trust question as the newspaper trusts' recent editorial. No one paid much attention to the article, except to comment on the humorous expressions therein, and now the greeting among the initiated is: "Are you a member of the 'Gentlemen's Club'? If not, why not?"

Labor's Argument.
One reason why the laboring classes favor the Pierce bill is that under new restrictions the press is also restricted. Where the increase in the number of papers published in a state is permissible on account of equal rights in press associations, there is a larger field for organized labor. The newspaper is a naturally union men want to see as many papers published as possible. Then again the monopoly idea does not smother in the nostrils of the American wage earner, and he does not want it in Oregon or more of the men who dare to tread the wishes of the people under foot to gratify the selfish aims of a grasping newspaper trust.

The Pierce Bill.
Here is the Pierce bill in its entirety. Read it and be convinced of its worth: **SENATE BILL NO. 115.**
Introduced by Senator Pierce and Read First Time January 22, 1903.
A BILL—For an Act to Declare the Associated Press and All Other Associations and Corporations of Similar Nature Common Carriers and Provide Penalties for Discrimination Between Patrons Thereof or Persons Desiring to Become Patrons.
Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon; also, Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
Section 1. The Associated Press and all other associations, corporations or similar nature, organized and maintained for the purpose of gathering the world's news, and the distribution thereof, doing business within or gathering or distributing news within the State of Oregon, or elsewhere, to newspapers and periodicals, are hereby declared to be and shall be deemed common carriers.

EDITOR GONZALES' MURDERER BOASTS



Although his bloody act finds strong condemnation all over the Union, Lieutenant Governor Jas. H. Tillman is confident that his sentence for the murder of Editor Gonzales will be light. If he is not altogether acquitted, he boasts that the best legal talent the State of South Carolina has ever possessed will rally to defend him.

WOMAN CONVICT CAUSES SENSATION

Charges Officials With Criminal Intimacy—Governor Chamberlain Investigating Statements.

(Journal Special Service.)
SALEM, Jan. 29.—Mrs. Carlisle, sentenced to nine years for arson from Jackson County, has informed the officers of the state prison that she charges Second Warden Billy with assault.
The Governor made a personal investigation of the matter this morning and Billy and Prison Druggist Hull have been relieved from duty, pending final determination of the facts.
The latter's connection with the case is believed to be that he knew of the woman's condition for weeks and did not report it.
There is also a rumor that Convict White, who recently escaped, was guilty of criminal relations with the woman. "It is not yet proven that the woman

FORTY THIEVES ARE CREMATED

Entire Russian Gang Is Wiped Out.

Raided Village and Were Beaten to Death and Then Burned Publicly.

MOSCOW, Russia, Jan. 29.—The story of an extraordinary raid by thieves and of an awful vengeance wreaked by infuriated villagers, has just reached here from Belgradka, near Kiev.
For some time past the depredations of thieves have caused the people of the villages much annoyance. A few days ago, emboldened by past immunity from punishment, the robbers made an organized raid on the town.
The plunderers were met by peasants and villagers, armed with clubs and stones. A pitched battle ensued, the robbers being defeated and literally beaten to death. Forty of them were killed.
After the fight the villagers burned the bodies of the thieves in the market place.

GEER'S FRIENDS ROAST FARRAR

His Desertion of Ex-Governor's Cause
Produces Much Bitter Criticism
—No Change in Vote.

(Journal Special Service.)
SALEM, Jan. 29.—Farrar's change from Geer to Fulton was heralded yesterday by some of the latter's more enthusiastic friends as a forerunner of a general break from the ex-Governor. But Farrar has been subjected to so much savage criticism by Geer's friends that it seems likely others who have been wavering will fear to follow.

In commenting on Farrar's defection from Geer, The Statesman says this morning: "It is evident that the man who seduced Squire Farrar led him to believe that if he would change his vote in a spectacular manner, as he did, after all other votes had been cast, his action would be the means of causing a stampede to the Astoria candidate, and he (Mr. Farrar) would be the hero of the hour. Think of the arguments, the blandishments and promises that must have been made to bring about this result, and what must have been the mortification of Mr. Farrar, who has thus been deluded into a violation of his campaign pledges, and a breaking away from his colleagues and supporters, landing in a strange camp, when the effort fell flat as a flapjack."

"Mr. Farrar must have felt that he had been led to make a jackass of himself." The denunciation of Farrar in private conversation is even more severe and the Geer men declare that all deserters from their ranks may as well abandon all future political ambitions.
And yet there are weak spots in the Geer column.

No Change in Vote.
Fulton failed to make any gains in today's battle for Senator. The only feature of interest was that 10 votes from the Multnomah delegation were cast for George H. Williams.

This is the first time that there has been so much of unity of choice among the members of the delegation, and without special significance.
It is well known that Williams is not the real choice of some of those who voted for him today. He came up from Portland today, and the vote was merely complimentary.

The vote was as follows: Fulton 33, Geer 18, Wood 17, Williams 10, Fenton 3, Mills 3, Pittcock 2, Wolverson, George and Hermann one each, absent 3.
It looks like a very protracted fight. Fulton may make some slight gains any time, but he has not yet enough reserve strength to win. The continued absence of Hume excites comment, as he was to have left for Portland on Monday. Fulton says he does not know the reason for his non-appearance, but expects to have his vote when he does come.

Scott is still actively carrying on his dark-lantern campaign for the Senatorship. All his efforts now is to hold the Multnomah members away from Fulton.

Federal Officers Work for Fulton

(Journal Special Service.)
SALEM, Jan. 29.—The outcome of the Senatorial struggle is practically as much of an uncertainty now as it was when the Legislature convened. Fulton's occasional gains have not yet brought his strength up to the mark predicted by his supporters, and though he still has a few votes in reserve they will not make enough to elect Fulton as friends among those voting for other candidates, but they are exceedingly reluctant to come over to him until satisfied that he will win.

Every possible influence has been enlisted by the Clatsop candidate and he has a small army of workers at the capital. There is a brigade of Federal and state officers who are working like beavers in his behalf. John H. Hall, United States District Attorney, is here in behalf of the Clatsop candidate. Walter Robb, Collector of Customs at Astoria, has been here since the session opened, together with his deputy, Parker Harrison Allen, District Attorney in Clatsop County and E. R. Tongue his deputy, are busily buttonholing members in the hope of winning them over to Fulton. Judge Thomas McBride and Fish Commissioner Van Dusen are also here for the purpose, it is said, of aiding Fulton.

The defection of Senator Farrar from the Geer ranks has not been met with much comment, and he has been mercifully criticized by the friends of the ex-Governor. If it was expected by Fulton and his friends that it would be the signal for others to come over to their standard, they may be disappointed. Farrar has been so severely for his action that others may hesitate to follow his example.

It will be no surprise if the contest should continue to drag along until the close of the session.
Good Roads Delegation.
SALEM, Jan. 29.—Governor Chamberlain has announced the following appointment of delegates to attend the National Good Roads Association meeting to be held in Detroit, Mich., February 13 and 14: J. J. Whitney of Albany, W. E. Grace of Baker City, P. H. Lacey of Salem, J. R. Nell of Sumpter, Ira Campbell of Eugene, E. L. Smith of Hood River, John H. Scott of Seaside, G. W. Briedwell of Bridwell Station, H. V. Gates of Hillsboro, J. H. Settlemeir of Woodburn.

That Health Bill.
SALEM, Jan. 29.—To prepare Oregon for the great fair and secure her protection while that fair is in progress is the way Senator Smith of Multnomah designated Senate bill No. 27, which he carried through the upper house. It provides for a state board of health to consist of six competent physicians appointed by the Governor, with the con-

THINKS HEAVEN CERTAIN

Feels No Remorse for the
Fearful Crimes He
Committed.

Tells of the Murder Mania Which
Possessed Him on the
Fatal Night.

Lester A. Belding, triple murderer, has written a letter in the very shadow of the gallows, in which he says he is a Christian and expects to go to heaven, but that he feels no remorse for his crimes. He wrote a long paragraph about his awful deed, but it has never caused him any remorse. This is very probably his crude manner of saying that he feels justified in having taken three lives. He says he has never shed a tear over the crime. He writes in a long paragraph about his conversion, telling how happy he is in the thought, and loudly exhorting his brother and sister to repent before it is too late.
The letter is addressed to Belding's brother and sister, and covers five sheets of letter paper. He used stationery from the sheriff's office. As Belding has ever since his awful crime persistently waved back the long stream of religious workers who have proffered him spiritual aid and comfort, his open confession to his relatives bears a striking significance, and demonstrates that beneath the rough exterior of his frame there beats a human heart with some of the finer qualities of the noble aspirations of humanity. It may be a sham, this statement of Belding as to his conversion, but it becomes any one to make the charge.

Life Not Happy.
In the letter, Belding states that his life has not been a happy one. He says the trial and the sorrows of life more than balance the happiness and the pleasure. That he is not absolutely void of human sensibilities and love is shown in that part of his letter which speaks with parental pride of his son. Belding remarks that the boy would make a smart man, if he had the right training. Then again, he speaks of his son coming to see him at the jail, as though he felt very proud of the visit.

Belding claims that he was to be subject to fits of passion, in which he was possessed of an inordinate desire to kill. He says that he was always desirous of committing just such a deed as he did at last, when one of those fits came over him. Boredom on the pathetic of his statement that his wife was going to leave the city within two days, and he points out to his brother and sister how very nearly the tragedy was averted. The letter is the murderer's last statement. Boredom on the pathetic of his statement that his wife was going to leave the city within two days, and he points out to his brother and sister how very nearly the tragedy was averted. The letter is the murderer's last statement. Boredom on the pathetic of his statement that his wife was going to leave the city within two days, and he points out to his brother and sister how very nearly the tragedy was averted.

Makes Full Confession.
"Dear Sister and Brother: This is the last statement I will make to you, and consequently I will make it short, as naturally you will be more effectual than any other, and I do not care to cause you to feel more remorse than necessary."
"It seems hard to say good-bye to you, for the last time, but such is the way of the world, and it is my lot to go first, which I may feel thankful for, as my life has not been a happy one. The trials and sorrows of my life more than balance the pleasures and happiness."
"Brother and sister, you should know the truth, and shall, from my own heart. I will tell you that I did not know what I was doing when I committed the deed—I was drove temporary insane, and did not realize that I was doing it. Even after I was at the house anything more would have prevented me from doing what I did."

Aroused Murderous Frenzy.
"But to see 'Jip' sitting there at the house where my boy was making it his home, and me being compelled to beg for my life, it was a terrible thing, flashing through my mind drove me to desperation, or, in fact, would have any one."
"I had been subject to them fits of despondency for some time, such as overcome me that night, and always the thought came to me to do as I did finally. Two days later it would have been impossible, as she was going to leave for the coast. So we can see how near a tragedy came to being averted."

"And since that night, never have I shed a tear in remorse for the awful deed I committed—not that I have not regretted it, but it has never come into the light to cause me to feel any regret."
"You know the truth, and it is not necessary for the quessing public to know, so let them form their own opinions, and keep them."

Seeks Salvation.
"Brother and sister, there is one more subject I wish to dwell on, and it is the most important of all. It is your souls' salvation. I am saved, and through the same blessed Saviour you can be saved the same as I was. (Read John 3-16.) It is easy to give ourselves to God, and I hope you will not put it off until it is too late, for I expect to meet you there, and there will be no parting and no sorrow. It is not worth more than all there is in this world! Just think how short this life is at its longest! So prepare yourselves for the life that is everlasting, regardless of the pleasures of this one."
"What a consolation, brother and sister, to know that there is salvation for a sinner like me! And to think that