

# ALBANY'S ALLEGED WOMAN INCENDIARY

### Declares She Will Be Vindicated in Her Trial.

### Has Money and Will Fight Hard for Freedom.

(Journal Special Service.)

ALBANY, May 8.—More in anger than in sorrow, Mrs. Minnie Munkers is preparing to refute the statements of those who charge her with the crime of arson. Father an unusual charge to find lodged against a woman, and more particularly against a young widow who has for several years earned a livelihood for herself and child by teaching in the public school.

Mrs. Munkers declares the charge is untrue; that it is without foundation; that it is made by her enemies—perhaps numbering among them the person or persons who actually set fire to her residence.

And yet the people of Albany are carefully considering what is known of the circumstantial evidence against the accused woman and they are not all of one mind by any means. For there is at least some evidence, and on this the widow was arrested, later being released on bonds which she furnished herself. The facts as nearly as they can be ascertained, are substantially as follows:

Mrs. Munkers occupied a house in Albany which was the property of Mrs. Dana Burmeister. Mrs. Munkers' household goods and personal effects were insured for \$600.

On the night of June 29 last a citizen, wending his way homeward, observed that the Munkers residence was apparently on fire. A blaze was visible through the window. The citizen hastened to alarm the occupants. He was met at the door by Mrs. Munkers. The lady had a hat box in one hand and a footstool in the other hand. She had attempted to telephone to the Fire Department, so she said, but had failed to get central on the wire.

In the hall was a quantity of rubbish blazing. In six other places in the house flames were discovered. The fire, in its subdivisions, had gained no headway. It is said that traces of kerosene oil



MINNIE MUNKERS.

were found; that, however, will be a matter for evidence, pro and con. It is declared that Mrs. Munkers said that \$100 which she had hidden under a stairway had been stolen. She was of the opinion that the house had been fired by a robber.

Most of the linen of the household was missing. In the barn were found a basket of chinaware, bric-a-brac, a rug and other articles. Part of the evidence which it is believed that the prosecution will introduce is to the effect that two valuable oil paintings were found leaning against the wall in the hallway of the house when the firemen arrived. Whether or not this is significant remains for the prosecution to show. Having discovered that her house was on fire, it would be perfectly natural for Mrs. Munkers to attempt to save her effects.

Minnie Munkers is said to possess a modest little fortune of \$5,000. She has no intention of meekly submitting to the charges against her. With the aid of the five attorneys she has retained she will endeavor to establish her innocence of the crime of arson and will also attempt to prove that the charges against her were inspired by her enemies.

Mrs. Munkers is a rather attractive woman of 35 years. She has one child, a daughter, aged 14. The woman who is the central figure in one of the most sensational criminal cases ever tried in this county is a native of Oregon. She is a daughter of the well-known Vaughn family of Marion County.

# THE MAN WITH THE IRON MASK

### Peculiar Story of a Famous Chateau.

### Historical Landmark at Marseilles Is Now Leased by Retired Sea Captain.

A lease for two years of the famous Chateau d'If in the harbor of Marseilles has just been given by the city government to a retired sea captain named Coriol. He proposes to turn the Chateau into a museum of wax works, where the figures of famous prisoners will be seen in their cells. Of course the Abbe Faria and Edmond Dantes will figure there.

The Chateau d'If possesses the distinction of being known to the entire world, a distinction that belongs to comparatively few historical landmarks. In all countries the story of Edmond Dantes and the Abbe Faria is more or less known and yet little indeed was known of the history of that rock before it was captured by Alexander Dumas.

The Man with the Iron Mask remained for a long time in the Chateau d'If before he was taken by St. Mars to the island of Sainte Marguerite in 1655. Many other celebrated men were shut up in that prison.

In the cell to the left from the entrance Mirabeau was incarcerated in 1774, and on April 6, 1793, Louis Philippe Egalite entered one of the cells of the ground floor. Then there is a long list of political prisoners, who in the troubled days of 1848, 1851 and 1871, were crowded into the casemates of the fort, upon the wall of which a cynic scratched with a knife the following inscription: "Hotel of the Sovereign People."

Here are pages of history soaked in blood and tears, but they are lost to the general public, who know the Chateau d'If only through the legend of Edmond Dantes and the Abbe Faria. The power of the legend is so great that most of the visitors to the Chateau d'If always ask to see the cell of Edmond Dantes and the hole dug by the Abbe Faria. So the cell is shown to them and the hole, too.

Everybody knows the story of Alexander Dumas' visit to the Chateau d'If a long time after the publication of "Monte Cristo," and of the invitation made by the custodian to visit the celebrated cell of Dantes. The author accepted the invitation gladly and appeared to share the conviction of his clerical

In connection with this subject, is another story which is probably more authentic, although less known. One of the guardians of the Chateau d'If was Pere Grosson. He was as proud as a Gascon and as full of fun as a Provencal. He was the best guide to the place, and, moreover, he knew how to loosen purse strings the most tightly drawn against a poubre.

He was an accomplished ventriloquist. After the stranger's visit to all the various cells, he managed in one way or another to get somebody to ask him the question:

"Are there any prisoners now in Chateau d'If?"

Then Pere Grosson used to assume a mysterious and dramatic air.

"My dear sir, there is one still here," he would say. "He has been here for a long, long time. But how can we help him? He is so old that nobody knows him; and he prefers to remain here now rather than to be set at liberty when it is too late. At all events he is not so wretched as he was in former days. I see that he gets his meals regularly, and I do what I can for him."

Then somebody was sure to ask, "Can we see him?"

"See him? No; that is forbidden."

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# WHO WILL DRIVE PATROL WAGON?

### Rumor That Special Examination May Be Given for Position.

Speculation is rife in police circles as to who will be the official patrol drivers under the Civil Service regime. There are two drivers, E. Riser and John H. Price being the present incumbents. Both have been "let out" on account of physical disqualifications. Riser has a crippled foot, while Price is about one inch short of the required height.

There has been considerable talk of late that a special examination may be given for those aspiring to the position of patrol driver. Many hold that as long as a driver's work is confined exclusively to handling the team and wagon, that the regular examination should not apply.

Patrol Driver Price is accounted the crack driver of Portland. He drove in

the Fire Department for five years, and never met with an accident. He is a great admirer of horses and takes pride in grooming the faithful steeds who are on duty both day and night in the police patrol service. There is a general feeling that it is a most stringent regulation that requires the discharge of Driver Price merely because he lacks one inch in stature.

There are said to be a number of aspirants for the position of driver, but the matter may not be settled for some time.

### LOW RATE OCEAN TRIP.

O. R. & N. Makes Big Inducement to Attend the Presbyterian Assembly.

Those who expect to attend the Presbyterian General Assembly at Los Angeles, May 23 to June 2, will be interested in the announcement by the O. R. & N. of the low round trip rate from Portland by steamship of \$28, cabin passage. Tickets will be sold for the steamship Elder, sailing May 12, and for the steamship Columbia, sailing May 17, limited for steamships sailing from San Francisco not later than July 15. For particulars ask at R. & N. city ticket office, Third and Washington, Portland.

The Coast-Yukon is the name of a proposed railway from Kitamaat Inlet, B. C. to the Yukon and Dawson.

### HE DROVE OVER THE SIDEWALK

### Teamster Arrested for Alleged Violation of a City Ordinance.

With the arrest of E. E. Barber, a teamster in the employ of the Banfield-Veysey Company, a crusade has begun against reckless drivers who have been running sidewalks in the vicinity of Twenty-seventh and Savier streets. This movement will be continued, it is said, with vigor until the practice entirely discontinued.

Councilman Rumelin instigated the crusade, and he stated to The Journal this morning that for many months teamsters have been using the sidewalks of the neighborhood named above, until hundreds of feet of walk have been destroyed. "It is nothing but simply carelessness on the part of teamsters," said Mr. Rumelin. "They have been so long in the habit of driving where they please, that they have come to think they own the city and everything in it. But it must stop."

It is claimed the action of the police and of Councilman Rumelin was brought about by many complaints of taxpayers. The city charter provides for first-class sidewalks in certain limits, and the residents in the vicinity named have complained vigorously about being compelled to build expensive walks only to have them ruined by careless teamsters.

Patrolman Joe Resing effected the arrest of Barber after an hour of patient waiting. Barber drove over the bicycle track and a sidewalk at the corner of Twenty-seventh and Savier streets. He informed the officer that he thought there was no harm in it. He was released on bail furnished by his employers.

Very stringent laws have been enacted in Japan in regard to secret proprietary medicines.

### THE MAN WITH THE IRON MASK

### Historical Landmark at Marseilles Is Now Leased by Retired Sea Captain.

Grosson would reply. "But I will speak to him. Now listen."

Then going to the door of the darkest cell of all, Grosson would hold the following little conversation with the "prisoner":

"Hello there, Mr. Stephen! How are you today?"

From the depths of the sombre cell a broken and cavernous voice would answer:

"Pretty well, M. Grosson. Pretty well. And how are you?"

The visitors were always astounded, and some of them were moved to tears. "Do you want anything?" Grosson would again ask.

And the answer would come back: "Well, no; but have you got a little tobacco?"

Then the guardian used to turn to his visitors and say: "Tobacco is his only pleasure."

Turning again to the door, he would shout: "No, my poor friend, unfortunately, I have not."

Then to the visitors he would add: "Is it not sad that I cannot procure the poor man his only pleasure? But how can I help it? The State pays us so miserably!"

And he varied so well his lamentation that the visitors never failed to give him a few pieces of silver to enable him to get tobacco for the old prisoner of the Chateau d'If.

And when they were all gone Grosson would light his pipe, thank Providence for the gift accorded him, and ponder like a true philosopher over the gullibility of humanity.

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