



# Oregon



# Journal



VOL. II, NO. 135.

PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 14, 1903.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## RECORD OF ROBBERY OF MULTNOMAH TAXPAYERS BY BOGUS CANCELLATIONS AND FORGED ENTRIES

### FRESH EVIDENCE OF FRAUD

Indications that Taxes Were Illegally Compromised and the Sums Paid Pocketed by Boodlers.

Tell-Tale Typewriter Calls Attention to Unindexed Entries of Cancellation of Levies or Property.

Firms and Individuals Affected Add Their Testimony to that of the Clearly Juggled County Records.

Positive proof has at last been obtained that during the terms of H. H. Holmes and L. Q. Swetland as County Clerk of Multnomah County an organized ring of boodlers existed in that department, which systematically robbed taxpayers and the county, concealing its frauds by the most brazen falsification of the records.

Thousands of dollars were collected by the boodlers on pretended compromises of the county's claims for taxes, and the money was pocketed by them.

False entries were made on records of the County Court in order to give an appearance of regularity to the operations of the ring, and the tax records were shamelessly juggled to conceal the stealings.

Petitions for compromise of taxes which the County Court had denied were falsely entered on the journal as allowed, the petitioners were thereby induced to pay the sums named in the pretended compromises, and the money was pocketed by the ring.

W. G. Stimpson, now deceased, was one of the leading spirits in the boodling ring, and conclusive evidence has been discovered that he collected large sums of money from taxpayers by means of these fictitious entries and by means of certificates issued by other deputies in the office based upon those entries.

Fisher, Thorsen & Co. were induced to pay \$250 to Stimpson upon such a certificate issued by L. Q. Swetland, then a deputy in the County Clerk's office, and who is now being sued by the county to recover the amount of a shortage which arose during his subsequent term as County Clerk. Not a dollar of this money paid by Fisher, Thorsen & Co. reached the county treasury.

The Portland Cracker Company paid \$250 to Stimpson on the strength of a similar certificate issued by Cord Sengstake, another deputy in the County Clerk's office, and the payment went to swell the ill-gotten gains of the ring.

By means of false and fraudulent representations, made to him by Cord Sengstake, D. W. Stevens says he was induced to part with valuable property for one-third of its actual value, and a petition for compromise of taxes, which had been denied by the County Judge, was entered upon the records as allowed.

J. F. Boothe, as attorney for Mrs. Mary Phelps Montgomery, paid \$239.09 in settlement of delinquent taxes and a receipt for that amount was issued to him by Cord Sengstake. Subsequently the entry on the stub of the receipt was changed to \$139.09, and that sum was entered on the records as the total amount of the payment. The evident purpose was to conceal a stealing of \$100.

Many similar cases occurred. They are now being investigated by The Journal, but it is impossible now to estimate the full extent of the stealings. The evidence now at hand is sufficient to warrant immediate criminal proceedings against the members of the boodling ring.

When the report of the expert, George Black, into the conduct of the County Clerk's office was filed last April, public amazement was excited by its revelations of waste and extravagance in the management of the county's affairs. The expert's intimations that deputies in the office had been guilty of fraud passed comparatively unnoticed. Facts have now come to light which show that the expert was far within the truth.

Following the lines suggested by Mr. Black's report, The Journal has been making independent investigations and has secured convincing evidence that during the incumbency of H. H. Holmes and L. Q. Swetland an organized gang of boodlers existed in the County Clerk's office, which systematically robbed taxpayers and the county. They resorted to the grossest frauds in order to accomplish their ends, falsifying the books and entering fictitious orders on the records of the County Court.

One member of the ring of boodlers is dead. His death occurred only a short time after the publication of the expert's report. The others who aided him in his rascalities and shared in the spoil are still within the reach of the law.

The task of unearthing the frauds is difficult, and the full extent of the operations of the ring may never be known. Enough, however, has been ascertained to show that the swindling went on for several years, and all the details of many of the boodling transactions have been laid bare.

How the Fraud Was Managed. The case of Fisher, Thorsen & Co. is a conspicuous example of the methods pursued by the boodlers in the County Clerk's office. The personal property tax of this firm for the year 1897 amounted to \$523.30, and as this was considerably in excess of the assessment of the previous year, the firm refused to pay. The tax became delinquent, and so remained until the spring of 1901. W. G. Stimpson, then a deputy under County Clerk Holmes, called several times at the office of Fisher, Thorsen & Co., representing that he was authorized by the County Board to effect a compromise. The firm offered to pay \$225 in settlement of the tax, and finally agreed to pay \$250, Stimpson stating that the County Commissioners would accept that amount.

The firm refused, however, to pay over the money until assured that it would be accepted in full settlement of the tax, and on April 18, 1901, Stimpson called again and presented the following certificate:

State of Oregon, County of Multnomah, ss: I, H. H. Holmes, clerk of the County Court of Multnomah County, do hereby certify that I am the custodian of the delinquent tax rolls for state and county taxes for 1897, and city taxes for 1898, and do further certify that the personal tax of Fisher, Thorsen & Co. for said year appears satisfied on said roll, by order of the Board of County Commissioners. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 18th day of April, 1901. H. H. HOLMES, Clerk of the County Court. By L. Q. SWETLAND, Deputy.

Attorney Thought It Regular. "We wanted to be sure that the certificate was all right," said Mr. Thorsen, in describing the transaction, "so we submitted the paper to our attorney. He said it was regular, so we paid to Stimpson the amount agreed upon, \$250."

### A REPLY SENT TO EAGLES

Grand Worthy President Del Cary Smith Dodges Demands Made by the Defunct Aerie of This City.

Letter Received This Morning Shows Him to Be Ignorant to True Conditions Existing in Portland.

He Is Censured for Lack of Information—Action Will be Taken at Meeting to Be Held Tonight.

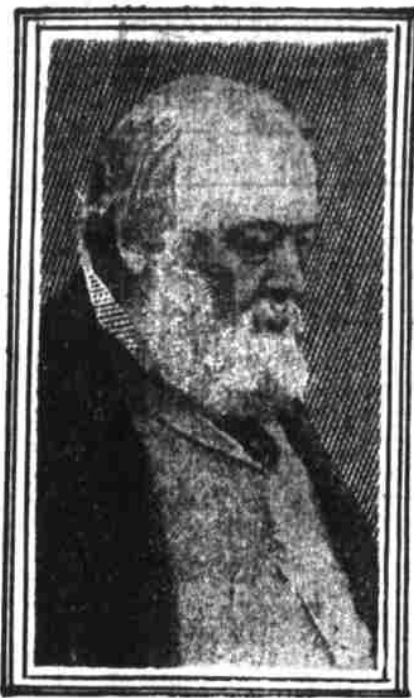
Willful misrepresentation of conditions which existed in Portland Aerie, No. 4, Fraternal Order of Eagles, is claimed to be proven by a letter received this morning from Grand Worthy President Del Cary Smith of Spokane. The communication was in answer to a demand made upon Mr. Smith some time ago for a statement of his authority for expelling certain members of the local lodge, and finally withdrawing the charter altogether. While the reply to these demands is considered evasive and far from establishing the president's position as either right or just, it shows that the head of the fraternity acted wholly without accurate information concerning affairs of the lodge which he so unceremoniously ushered out of existence.

According to the letter, President Smith believes that Thomas B. McDevitt, Jr., who recently resigned the secretaryship of the Portland lodge, after a somewhat sensational investigation of his accounts and records, was removed by order of the Grand Aerie, and was later reinstated by the lodge without consent from the National organization.

A Mistaken Idea. As a matter of fact, nothing could be farther from the truth than this. The Grand Aerie, according to those prominent in the local lodge, was never called upon to act in the matter in any way.

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### LORD SALISBURY IN POOR HEALTH



Ex-Premier of England Exhausted at His Home and Physicians Are in Constant Attendance at Bedside.

Illustrious Patient Never Recovered from Death of Wife, Which Occurred Nearly Four Years Ago.

(Journal Special Service.) LONDON, Aug. 14.—It is reported today that the rumored serious illness of Lord Salisbury is correct, and that great statesman and ex-Premier of England is in a precarious condition of health. At Hatfield House there are three physicians in attendance, and while the family will not give out the exact condition of the illustrious patient, it is said that his illness is of a serious character, which was superinduced by a cold taken a few weeks ago. Lord Salisbury's health was seriously shaken by the death of his wife in November, 1899. The ex-Premier never recovered from the shock. Since that time he has kept himself in great seclusion.

### EVERYBODY WELCOME

Everybody is interested in the great fight which will be pulled off in Frisco tonight. It involves the heavyweight championship of the world. Who will win—Jeff or Corbett? Everybody wants to know before he goes to bed tonight. The result, by rounds, will be flashed from The Journal office by the Independent Order of Lions' machine. W. W. Naughton, the great authority on sport, will report the fight for The Journal exclusively in Portland. Watch the paper tomorrow.

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### FEARFUL ACT OF A MADMAN

While 5,000 People Were Assembled Enjoying Band Concert a Partially Demented Fellow Fired Into Them.

Discharges a Shot Gun Loaded with Slugs and Deadly Missiles Point Blank at the Gathered Thousands.

Four Persons Dead, Three Dying and Others Seriously and Fatally Injured—Crazy Man Was Shot Dead.

(Journal Special Service.) WINFIELD, Kan., Aug. 14.—Had not several well-meaning but ill-advised people protested against sending Gilbert Twigg to the insane asylum several months ago, a fearful tragedy would not have occurred in this city last night. As matters stand today, there are four persons dead, four more dying and 22 wounded, several of the latter so seriously that physicians express no hopes of their recovery.

All this is due to the act of a half-demented fellow who was recommended for the asylum early this year. Weekly concerts have been given here every Thursday night on Main street, in the center of town, and last evening at 9 o'clock, when fully 5,000 people were assembled about the bandstand, Twigg suddenly stepped from an alleyway half a block from the musicians and deliberately began firing into the crowd the contents of a double-barreled shotgun loaded with slugs and other deadly missiles. At the first shot four persons fell mortally wounded, and a dozen others were seriously injured. The crowd was mystified. The greater number of people did not know what had occurred, but believing that an accident had happened, a thousand citizens ran toward the sound of the shooting.

Fired Full in Its Face. As Twigg was approached by the crowd he again fired full in its face. The result of this shot was that three persons fell fatally wounded and a dozen more were hurt. Then a panic ensued and those nearest the maniac saw him deliberately reloading the weapon he held in his hands. It seemed impossible to stop the carnage until Officer George Nichols ran boldly up to the infuriated man and shot him in the head. On seeing the approach of Nichols, the murderer drew a revolver and fired point blank at him, but the bullet simply grazed the officer's right ear. Before he could fire again Nichols had accomplished his purpose and the lunatic was lying at his feet. The shot administered by the officer, although fatal, did not at once render the man unconscious, for he turned the

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### WISE COUNSEL OF PRESIDENT LYNCH



A Central Figure at the National Typographical Union—Interesting Discussions.

(Journal Special Service.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 14.—The central figure of the International Typographical Union convention, in session here, is President James M. Lynch, of the printers' great organization. Many have been the perplexing questions that have come before the body, and in the disposition of them Mr. Lynch has always led with wise counsel. Probably no more interesting occurrence could have been expected than that which followed the motion yesterday to distribute the pamphlet prepared by the Newspaper Publishers' Association, which was printed without a label, and which pamphlet was a criticism on the printers' actions in regard to the strikes in Seattle and Spokane, Wash. Long and earnest were the discussions over the allowance of the circular to be distributed. Finally President Lynch advised that the distribution be allowed, and by his suggestion an even vote was secured.

### CHRISTIANS ARE SOME TO BLAME

(Journal Special Service.) LONDON, Aug. 14.—In the House of Commons today Balfour said one of the deepest sources of mischief in Macedonia is the dissensions between Christians. The Turk, deep as his guilt undoubtedly is, cannot be blamed entirely for the Macedonians' miserable condition. It will be the policy of Great Britain to support the Austro-Russia move and endeavor to reform matters.

### ROBBERS ACTIVE AT BAKER

Three Masked Highwaymen Holdup Gambling Saloon and Successfully Get Away with Good Amount of Money.

Forty Men in Place at the Time Who Failed to Interrupt the Desperadoes at Their Bad Game.

One Man Has Nerve Enough to Hurl Cracker Jar at Thief While Latter Was Busily Engaged at Work.

BAKER CITY, Aug. 14.—Three masked men robbed the Miner's Cabin saloon and gambling-house last evening at 9 o'clock, and, besides causing all kinds of excitement, they were successful in getting away with \$380 in cash.

Forty men who would have sworn they were brave and nifty at supper time last night are saying today that it all happened because "I didn't have a gun." At the time in the evening when the games were the best patronized, three men with handkerchiefs drawn over their faces entered the back door of the Miner's Cabin saloon, and two of them covered all in the room with a revolver in each hand, while the third passed on into the barroom, which occupies the front of the building and is divided from the gambling-room by swing doors. J. H. Troy, in charge of the gambling-rooms, was the first man to be ordered to throw up his hands.

Val Bidner, the proprietor, and his bartender were in the saloon section at the time, and immediately threw up their hands. J. T. Donnelly, cashier of the First National Bank, and Bela Kadish were eating lunch in the barroom, and both men made a rush for the door. The robber prevented them from leaving, but had too much on his hands, and Mr. Well, who was also eating lunch, was allowed to escape. The thief then ran behind the counter and began robbing the cash register. Mike White, an architect, pulled down his hands while the thief was at work, and, picking up a cracker jar, threw it at him. The heavy piece of crockery struck the robber on the shoulder and interrupted his work, so he quickly ran into the back room and joined his companions, who at that time had finished robbing the games. All three desperadoes escaped into the darkness by the back door. Not a shot was fired, and the men were successful in getting \$300 from the gambling games, and the fellow who did the work in the front room secured about \$80.

YOUTSEY TAKES STRAIGHT. (Journal Special Service.) GEORGETOWN, Ky., Aug. 14.—The cross-examination of Youtsey was continued this morning. So far the defense has failed to elicit any confusing testimony.

### TERRIBLE ACTIONS OF TURKS

Two Thousand Insurgents Scattered After Which Soldiers Begin Ruin to Villages and Death to People.

Fearful Atrocities Committed by Brutal Men—Women and Girls Killed After Being Horrible Ill Treated.

Four Hundred Young Women Led as Captives by Followers of Sultan and Made to March with Troops.

(Journal Special Service.) VIENNA, Aug. 14.—An authentic report reaches Die Zeit today from its correspondent in the turbulent Monastir Province that equals in horror the terrible atrocities perpetrated during the Armenian massacres by the Turks three years ago. Probably not since the Dark Ages have more fiendish characteristics been shown by a people than is laid to the credit of the Turk today in the reports received from the districts stained by the life's blood of his victims during yesterday's and last night's outrages.

At sunrise yesterday morning 2,000 insurgents had assembled near Monastir to await the approach of Turkish troops, against whom the insurgents had determined to make a stand. The soldiers of the Sultan, who had been camping five miles from Monastir, broke upon the insurgents from all sides and soon completed their overthrow. It is not reported the number slain in the carnage, but it is believed that nearly all, with the exception of a few more than a hundred, managed to save their lives. Their forces scattered beyond any chance of reassembling. Then began a series of the greatest atrocities. Village after village fell prey to the rapine of the Turkish soldier. Houses were looted and robbed, not alone of everything of value, but the virtue of the unprotected women, girls and children were confiscated to the savage natures of the vile soldiery. Fourteen villages were destroyed in the districts of Uskub and Veleze. Unspeakable were the deeds done at each of these unfortunate places.

In one small village nearly 100 women and children had gathered in a public hall for safety. Soldiers took them into the streets and killed many after heaping all kinds of indignities upon them. It was after sundown before the carnage subsided. Today it is said that fully 400 young girls are held as prisoners by the soldiers and are made to march with them. During yesterday another body of insurgents robbed a Turkish post near Voden and secured \$12,000. Insurgents also captured 80 wagons loaded with meats as supplies for the Turkish army near Oshrida.

### MOB LAW NOTHING LESS THAN ANARCHY

Chief Justice Lore of Delaware Severely Criticizes Methods of Judge Lynch.

CHAUTAQUA, N. Y., Aug. 14.—The feature of the assembly today was the address by Chief Justice Lore of Delaware, who is charged with having caused the recent lynching at Wilmington by refusing an immediate trial to the slayer of Miss Bishop. His address was on the subject of mob law, which he severely arraigned, characterizing it as anarchy, which sooner or later would overthrow the nation unless stopped.

### DEVASTATION ON MARTINIQUE ISLE

(Journal Special Service.) WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—The State Department received a dispatch from Consul Jewell at Fort De France, Martinique, saying that the cane, cocoa and coffee crops are a total loss. Fruit and vegetables are all positively destroyed. Every town and village is injured and thousands of houses are down but deaths are few. Communication is difficult. Breadstuffs, provisions and organized roofings have nearly sold. All is the result of recent cyclonic storms.