

CONFESSES AS HE HOLDS THE CROSS

Execution Ceremonies of Pleasant Armstrong Prove Sensational in Manner of Nerve.

Kills His Sweetheart in Mad Fit of Jealousy and on the Scaffold Says He Has Repented and Will Meet Her Again.

(Journal Special Service.) Baker City, Jan. 22.—The first legal execution in Baker county took place at 7 o'clock this morning in the court yard, Sheriff Brown and his deputies being the executioners, Pleasant Armstrong the criminal.

All during the night the condemned man, whose crime is well known to the community, entertained his friends and two brothers in his cell. He did not sleep much because of receiving so much company. He played for some time on his violin and seemed cheerful. Father Olivetti spent most of the night with him and during the latter part, towards morning, they were alone. At 5:30 o'clock this morning, Armstrong washed and dressing himself carefully in a suit of black, ate a hearty breakfast of broiled ham and omelette, potatoes, bread and coffee.

The Throng Gathers. Shortly after 6 o'clock the invited witnesses to the execution began to gather in the court house square and by half past 6 stood in front of the gallows inside the board enclosure. Sheriff Brown and deputies Hemple, Lachner and Snow had all arrangements made to perfection.

Doctors McDaniel and Curry of Baker City, Brock of Sumpter, Grant of Harney and Frank of Haines, were present and officially to judge of the death. The jury to witness the execution, summoned from the crowd, was J. D. Vanderhill, J. S. Kenyon, O. B. Davis, James York, Sr., J. K. Fisher, L. S. Potts, D. A. McMurray, H. E. McCollough, J. T. Parkinson, F. E. Blake, George Hyde, H. A. Mitchell and A. T. Merwin.

The Condemned Man Comes. Newspaper men and reporters representing all the local papers and the Portland and San Francisco papers were given a position inside the wire. A few minutes before 7 o'clock Sheriff Brown led Armstrong from his cell and as he passed through the jail he shook hands with his fellow prisoners and attendants and said: "Good-by boys, I will meet you in another world." The procession formed and marched through the rear of the jail, Sheriff Brown and Deputies Hemple, Lachner and Snow following, and the condemned man with the priest coming next, Deputy Hemple and a number of assistants bringing up the rear.

Alone and unaided, Armstrong stepped lightly up the scaffold stairs and took his position. The crowd, with Father Olivetti at his side. The priest invoked the blessings of the deity upon the repentant criminal, and after reading the death warrant when Sheriff Brown asked Armstrong if he had anything to say, the slayer of Minnie Ensminger, standing erect, facing the light of the breaking day, in a clear voice made quite a lengthy speech, holding in his hand before him a crucifix.

Confesses Before the Cross. "You all see the world. This cross is the other world. It is a symbol of love, love for father, mother, children and friends. I had a sweet girl once named Minnie Ensminger. I took her life, and I stand ready to die for the crime. Minnie Ensminger in the other world knows I was not responsible for the crime. Love proves all matters. I have prayed day and night and I die in peace. I have no regrets. I have done the true thing. I sincerely repent of all my sins, especially of the great crime for which I suffer. I humbly trust in infinite mercy of Christ, my savior, who died for me. Into thy hands, oh Lord, I commend my spirit."

A Brave Man. As the sheriff adjusted the noose and black cap Armstrong cried out: "Did you ever see a brave man? Look at me. I forgive you all." Two minutes before 7 the trap was sprung and Armstrong's spirit shot into eternity with scarcely a quiver of his body. The neck of the executed criminal was broken instantly and the doctors pronounced the body dead in eight minutes. Armstrong was 26 years of age last August. His victim was about 20. The

SPOKANE OFFICER KILLS A BURGLAR

(Journal Special Service.) Spokane, Wash., Jan. 22.—Officer James Logan discovered two men working on a safe in the Station saloon, at Division and Front streets, early this morning, and killed one of them, Charley Mitchell, after a running fight. The other escaped. Logan entered the front door, which the safelowers had unlocked, and cried: "Hold up your hands!" The men dropped their tools and started out the back way and ran into the street, with Logan after them. The man in the lead turned and fired three shots at the officer, and Logan returned the fire as they ran down the street. At the fourth shot the second man reeled and fell to the ground. When Logan reached him he was dead, having been struck by two bullets. The first man crossed the street and disappeared in the Great Northern yards. The safelower is identified by J. C. Patterson as Charley Mitchell, a barber at Texas City, a small station on the O. R. & N. The second man was hit by a bullet in the neck, a faint cap and several pieces of fuse and a revolver. The men had been loitering around the saloon for several days, and are thought to be the men who had been operating in this city for the past month.

THE MURDERER AND HIS VICTIM.



PLEASANT ARMSTRONG AND MINNIE ENSMINGER

RUSSIA PLAYING FOR MORE TIME

Reported That Czar Is Giving Into Japan But She Buys War Materials All the While— Revolts in Korea.

(Journal Special Service.) London, Jan. 22.—A statement published in London this morning with an air of authority is to the effect that the question of the neutral zone has disappeared from the Russo-Japanese negotiations. Although it is impossible to confirm this, it agrees with other inspired statements that Russia has acquiesced in Japan's views regarding the integrity of Korea and that the only trouble now remaining relates to Manchuria. It is thought that Russia may be making a play for time as she is placing heavy war material orders and is not inclined to give in to Japan in the matter of removing part of her Asiatic squadron. Japan continues active as a purchaser of food stuffs and has drawn the censorship so close that it is difficult to get accurate information about her ships and troops.

SIMON SAYS HE IS OUT OF SENATORIAL RACE

As stated in The Journal several days ago Joseph Simon has emphatically declared that he has no desire to return to the United States senate and will not be a candidate to succeed Senator Mitchell when the latter's term expires in 1907. This declaration has robbed the Mitchell Republicans of one of their favorite arguments against the Simon faction. Simon has repeatedly declared, in conversation with his friends, that he is not and will not be a senatorial candidate. In discussing the subject this morning he said: "Under no circumstances shall I seek to succeed Senator Mitchell in 1907, nor have I any expectation of becoming a candidate for the office at any subsequent time. Any statements that I have engaged in the present campaign with a view to paving the way for my own return to the senate are utterly untrue." This unqualified statement seems to eliminate from the campaign any discussion as to the ex-senator's personal ambition to represent the state of Oregon again in the United States senate. As both the Mitchell and the Simon factions are virtually committed to the support of President Roosevelt, the issue between them narrows to questions of local interest and to the merits of the candidates whom they will respectively put forward for the county offices.

DAWSON SUFFERS A \$120,000 FIRE

(Journal Special Service.) Dawson, Jan. 22.—Fire yesterday morning did damage to property to the amount of \$120,000. The Ladue warehouse and the Ames building burned to the ground. Other buildings were damaged. The thermometer was 42 degrees below zero. Firemen fought the flames and their clothes froze stiff as soon as the water touched them. They had to change several times during the excitement. Spectators who stood close to the fire were nevertheless nearly frozen. A large amount of merchandise and nearly all the city's supply of hams were destroyed.

NO HARD TIMES SAYS JOHN GATES

(Journal Special Service.) New York, Jan. 22.—John Gates ar-

SUGGESTS CLOSING GAMBLING HOUSES TO HELP PAY MRS. FISHBECK

Gambler Wants Other Houses to Help Pay Mrs. Fishbeck.

At the meeting yesterday afternoon between Henry Griffin and District Attorney Manning to settle the Fishbeck case, a stormy scene took place. Mr. Griffin insisted that Manning refrain from further discrimination against the Erickson club and arrest all of the gamblers and keep them closed until they formed a purse and paid the woman. Manning would not listen to the proposal and said that Erickson's gambling house would not be allowed to reopen until the woman received her money. Griffin replied that they would not put him in jail if the house opened, and he did not care one way or the other, as his only interest was to "square" the trouble for others. On leaving he said to Mr. Manning: "I may come up and see you sometime when I am going past here." Mr. Manning replied: "You need not come back to this office until you are prepared to return to this poor woman the money she has lost." An appointment had been made at the office of Mr. Manning for Mrs. Fishbeck and Manager Griffin to meet there at 1 p. m. yesterday. The time arrived and Mrs. Fishbeck and Mr. Manning were present. Henry Griffin was called up by telephone and asked why he had not kept his appointment, and told that unless he appeared within 20 minutes another complaint would be issued and the house again closed. Griffin replied that he would consult his attorney, W. T. Hume, and would then make a reply. Nothing was heard from him and complaint was drawn up. Before a warrant could be served Henry Griffin appeared at the office of the district attorney and a wordy war occurred between the two. Griffin told Mrs. Fishbeck that he would not pay her a cent. He said he was acting under instructions from Mr. Erickson and Attorney Hume. Mr. Manning told him that he would have another warrant issued and would keep the house closed until justice had been done by the woman who had lost her money. Griffin went to Erickson's, and in a few minutes the locks were again on the gambling-room doors. The name of August Erickson did not appear on the police court transcript this morning following the issuance of a third warrant for gambling for which District Attorney Manning was sponsor yesterday. After Mrs. Minnie Fishbeck, who demanded the return of \$165, which she says her husband lost in Erickson's, learned that the gambling house was again open yesterday she swore to a third complaint. Shortly before 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon it was handed to Chief of Police Hunt by the district attorney. It was first intended to have it served by Constable Jackson of Justice Reed's court, but that official was not in at the time. A few minutes later Henry Griffin, manager for Erickson, appeared at police headquarters and had a conference with Chief Hunt lasting about 10 minutes. No bail was required from Griffin. The warrant was not served. August Erickson and George Fuller are named as the defendants in the case. As Erickson is ill it was not served on him. Chief Hunt says that the paper was given to Patrolman Griff Roberts to be executed, but the officer reported that he could not find Fuller.

A WORDY WAR FOLLOWS MANNING MAINTAINED THAT ERICKSON WOULD NOT OPEN HIS HOUSE UNTIL JUSTICE HAD BEEN DONE TO THE POOR WOMAN

(Journal Special Service.) Pittsburg, Jan. 22.—Intense excitement prevails here today. Telegraphic warnings have been sent as a weather forecast that breaking ice has formed an immense gorge in the Allegheny river. The police department has notified all business houses and residents in the threatened districts that the worst flood in 40 years is expected. Reports from the entire state show an unprecedented rush of mad waters. The Ohio river is a raging torrent and all along its course the inhabitants have been warned.

PITTSBURG THREATENED BY ICE GORGES WHICH HAVE FORMED ABOVE CITY.

(Journal Special Service.) Cincinnati, Jan. 22.—Twenty miles of ice is coming down the Ohio in the flood and a big gorge reported at Coney island let go this morning. Several barges were destroyed and people along the banks are terror-stricken.

OHIO VALLEY IN TERROR THROUGH THE EAST MISSISSIPPI VALLEY WRECK AND RUIN IS THE RESULT OF THE FIERCE TORNADES THAT ARE RAGING.

(Journal Special Service.) Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 22.—Conterstation and intense excitement prevails here today over the reports of the terrible cyclones that are swooping over portions of the state. Great loss of life is reported and the full particulars are not known at this hour. Last reports show a heavy loss of life at Moundville, 70 miles north of here, in last night's cyclone. Conductor Capehart of the Queen & Crescent railway wired from Akron that he could not pass Moundville owing to the wreckage on the tracks. He declares that all inhabitants of that town are killed. Capehart has backed his train to Akron and sent a message in a roundabout way. A special wrecking train left here with doctors and nurses for the scene. Cyclones are reported in several places in Alabama this morning. At North Birmingham five stores and several residences were blown down and a number of persons killed. Moundville is also wrecked by the storm. At Memphis wires south of there are down owing to cyclonic conditions. In the Meacham suburb of Memphis five houses were destroyed, but the inhabitants escaped.

ENTIRE TOWN IN ALABAMA REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED

(Journal Special Service.) Tuscaloosa, Jan. 22.—A dispatch from Tuscaloosa, 16 miles from Moundville, at noon says Moundville was totally destroyed and a negro section laborer brought the news by a hand-car. He says the country is laid bare for many miles. Many bodies are lying around. Every doctor in Tuscaloosa has gone to the scene. Another report received here by telephone says 30 persons were killed. Tuscaloosa merchants are preparing to send relief to the destitute.

DEFALTING CASHIER CAUSES BANK'S RUIN

(Journal Special Service.) Cleveland, Jan. 22.—The Produce Exchange bank at noon made an assignment to the Cleveland Trust company, who put a man in charge and closed the doors. The cause of the failure is the defaulting of Cashier George Rose of \$170,000. The bank's liabilities exceed \$1,500,000, but the officials say the depositors will not suffer any loss.

CLEVELAND IN THE MIDST OF FLOODS

(Journal Special Service.) Cleveland, Jan. 22.—Three big steel trust boats, the Moore, Eades and Reis, the latter heavily loaded, broke from their moorings this morning under the view of thousands of people on the Cuyahoga. The boats were swept down together into the Superior street viaduct and completely blocked the east passage, badly damaged the viaduct and greatly damaged the east abutment. The Moore was badly crushed and the Reis had a big hole torn in her bow above the water line. On the way down stream she struck the fireboat Cleveland, damaging it so badly that the latter was beached to keep from sinking. The ice then piled up against the lodged steamers. The viaduct, which is the largest drawbridge in the world is completely closed to traffic and the damage will be heavy. At 7 o'clock this morning the Cuyahoga is seven feet above the normal and rising two inches an hour. Flats are being flooded where there is much lumber.

MILLION YEARLY FOR STRIKERS' SUPPORT

(Journal Special Service.) Indianapolis, Jan. 22.—Another socialistic resolution of the miner's convention was this morning voted down. The executive committee before leaving Indianapolis will levy on the entire membership an increased per capita assessment, bringing the amount to 25 cents each month. It will thus raise nearly \$1,000,000 yearly, sufficient to support all the striking miners of Colorado, West Virginia, Pennsylvania,

WATERS IN MAD RUSH

Pittsburg Threatened by Ice Gorges Which Have Formed Above City.

(Journal Special Service.) Indianapolis, Jan. 22.—The first casualties from the flood were at 5:30 o'clock this morning when John Shobe and his wife were drowned trying to escape from a houseboat. The entire west part of Indianapolis is practically cut off this noon. The White river bridge is tottering. Dispatches from Terre Haute and Vincennes on the Wabash this morning say that they are dynamiting the ice under the bridges in order to save the structures.

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