

BANCROFT FAILS TO ANSWER CHARGES

POSTMASTER INJURES HIMSELF AND GOES TO BED—WIFE DENIES RUMOR OF ATTEMPTED SUICIDE—SENATOR MITCHELL SAID TO BE MUCH CHAGRINED.

Postmaster Bancroft, against whom charges of irregularity have been preferred by postal inspectors in connection with the management of public funds in his keeping, is confined to his bed as the result of an accident which happened late yesterday afternoon. Completed rest and quiet have been prescribed, and accordingly he has been unable to present his version of the charges that have been made.

Among the postoffice and government employees this morning the rumor gained currency that there was an attempt to inflict personal injury upon himself in view of the nature of the charges against him. The rumor was emphatically denied by friends of the postmaster and his family.

Denied by Mrs. Bancroft. "There is absolutely no truth in the rumor," said Mrs. Bancroft this morning. "My husband is in bed as a result of an accident which happened late yesterday afternoon when the accident befel him. I was attracted by groans, and on hastening to the place found him bleeding profusely and in intense pain. The ax had slipped and inflicted a long gash across his foot."

Senator Mitchell Chagrined. Mr. Bancroft's friends are at a loss to understand what led him into his present difficulties. One of the Republican leaders in Multnomah county said this morning that Bancroft had been called to account by Senator Mitchell a week or more before the disclosure at Washington of the results of the last investigation. Senator Mitchell, it was stated, informed Bancroft that the charges were contained in the report of the inspectors, and that he (Mitchell) was very much surprised and chagrined that the man whom he had protected and had sided should again become a subject for departmental censure and perhaps worse. Senator Mitchell, it was stated, informed Bancroft that he desired a speedy explanation. This, according to the politician mentioned, was not forthcoming and Mitchell ceased to shield him from that time.

Resignation May Be Act. Mr. Bancroft's resignation can at any time come into effect, at least temporarily, and install his assistant in charge of the office. This may be done at any moment. Mr. Bancroft's bondsman are not known to any one except to the postmaster, themselves, and perhaps two or three other persons. Republican politicians generally believe that unless Bancroft can make a complete showing in his favor, and that at an early date, he will be allowed to resign or will be removed.

Every officer or other person charged by any act of congress with the safe keeping of public moneys, who fails to safely keep the same, without looting, using, converting to his own use, depositing in banks, or exchanging for other funds as specially provided by law, shall be guilty of embezzlement of the moneys so received, and shall be imprisoned not less than six months nor more than ten years and fined in the sum equal to the amount of money so embezzled.

Postal inspectors are reticent concerning the extent of the investigation that was recently made. From unofficial sources, however, it is stated that the investigation revealed a number of irregularities extending from the time of the appointment of Bancroft to the present. It is stated in the report that even after his promise to refrain from further use of public money, Mr. Bancroft has frequently taken various sums from the safe. The money, it is stated, was replaced before the second investigation was made.

Candidates Enter Field. In connection with the charges that have been preferred against the present incumbent, several candidates for the position have appeared. They are exerting every influence in their behalf to secure the appointment in case of the resignation or removal of Mr. Bancroft. Conspicuous in the race for the federal position is J. E. Hunt, ex-state senator, who is said to have secured a pledge from Senator Mitchell of preference in case of the removal of the present postmaster. C. A. Burkhardt, present assistant to Mr. Bancroft, has also developed ambitions for the position. His friends are claiming that he will get the place if a vacancy is created.

SCHOOL GIRL FLEES FROM DEGENERATE

William Jones, a cripple with but one leg, was arrested yesterday by Mounted Officer Croxford on the charge of improper conduct, preferred by Miss Alice Malcolm, the 14-year-old daughter of C. H. Malcolm, residing at 1013 East Ninth street north. He was arraigned before the municipal court this morning, and the testimony of Miss Malcolm, who is a school girl, was taken, after which the case was continued until next Monday. The defendant is in the city jail. The case has aroused great indignation at Highland.

In an interview, Miss Malcolm, who was accompanied by her father, made the following statement to The Journal: "I go to the Highland school, which is situated about two blocks from my home, and to get there I have been taking a path that leads through the woods. There is no graded street near. Three days ago, as I was going to school, the man who was arrested met me in a thickly wooded glen. He grasped me and acted in a violent manner. I broke away from him and ran. To my horror, the man followed me, and as soon as I looked back and saw him coming I cut through the woods. That was how I got away from him; with his crutches he was unable to follow me through the brush."

The testimony was taken by Judge Hogue in chambers to avoid the large crowd of morbid listeners always present in court. Deputy District Attorney Brann represented the state and A. Walter Wolf the prisoner. When found yesterday afternoon by Patrolman Croxford, Jones was engaged in going about from house to house peddling emery knife sharpeners and other things.

GRESHAM NAMES FAIR COMMITTEE

GROUND TO BE SELECTED AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR STOCK SECURED FOR A COUNTY FAIR—RURAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM TO BE ORGANIZED NEXT MEETING.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Gresham, Or., May 7.—At a meeting held in J. H. Metzger's hall on Friday evening, plans were formulated and a committee appointed for the purpose of securing necessary grounds, funds, etc., for the purpose of holding a county fair at this place.

The meeting was called to order by J. W. Shattuck and by a motion made and carried by H. Hamilton was elected chairman of the meeting, and immediately after E. L. Thorpe was elected for the position of secretary.

The first order of business was the appointing of a committee on grounds, and after a prolonged discussion upon various tracts, the following is the committee as appointed: John Conley, J. W. Shattuck and B. W. Emery. This committee is empowered to obtain the best possible terms upon some suitable ground and to report their action to the grange committee, which meets at this place on the 17th inst., in the Grange hall.

The next step in the interest of the fair was a discussion of the mode by which the necessary funds for the launching of the enterprise were to be obtained. It was partially decided that a joint stock company be organized but this point was not definitely settled, neither the amount of value to be placed upon each share, nor the action to be deferred and will be taken by the grange at their next regular session to be held here, but if all is not finished at that time the conclusive action will be given at Tacoma grange to be held in Fairview.

Nearly all present at the meeting were in favor of having the par value of stock \$1 per share, for by so doing it is more probable that a greater number of subscribers can be listed than at the \$5 rate. A vote for shares was asked. After a discussion of various points of advantage were fully covered, the vote stood 10 to 23 in favor of Gresham. The other point in discussion being Fairview's offer.

At this time in the meeting the many advantages of this community were set forth and it was found that they far outnumbered those of either Fairview or Lewis, in that the location is more central, the community more thickly settled, railroad service much better and other points too numerous to mention at this time. A round-trip rate of 25 cents has been offered by the O. W. P. & Ry. Co., during each day of the fair.

WILL CELEBRATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LONG ESTABLISHED CUSTOM, THE BRITISH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, ASSISTED BY THE ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY, CLAN MACLEAY SOCIETY AND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY IS PREPARING FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA ON MAY 24, WHICH HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AMONG ALL BRITISHERS THE WORLD OVER AS "QUEEN VICTORIA DAY."

The British Benevolent society inaugurated this in Portland and under the auspices of the combined societies last year gave one of the most successful concerts at the armory ever given here. Committees have been appointed for the entertainment this year on somewhat the same lines.

The ladies of the various societies will provide refreshments. The concert is to be held at Armory hall May 24. In addition to the music there will be readings, some speeches and other enjoyable features. The committees are: General committee—James Cormack, Francis Sealey, Mrs. E. T. C. Stevens, George J. Cameron, J. C. Robinson, George Black W. R. Mackenzie, Mrs. Joseph Duncan, A. G. Brown, David Henderson, A. G. Riddell, James Ruddiman, David A. Milne, George Taylor, J. Charters, R. W. Blackwood. Refreshment committee—Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Duncan. Hall and printing committee—A. G. Brown, James Cormack, George Cameron and George Black. Program committee—Mrs. J. C. Robinson, Francis Sealey and K. K. Baxter. Secretary—A. G. Brown.

TACOMA HIGHWAYMAN SENTENCED

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Tacoma, Wash., May 7.—John Burke, highwayman, was today sentenced to serve 14 years in the penitentiary for an assault with intent to commit murder on Siever Larsen, a druggist. The assault was committed in February. Larsen was shot through the abdomen twice, but recovered.

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