

MELEDRUM ON TRIAL

Jury Hears the Evidence in the Land Fraud Case.

JOHN W. ROWLAND IS AN IMPORTANT WITNESS

Defendant is Unmoved by the Testimony Given, But Follows the Case with Closest Attention.

Henry Meldrum, the first to be brought to trial in this state of the long list of men for the huge land frauds perpetrated under the last administration of Oregon, and the specific crime charged against him in the making of forged and fraudulent affidavits which were made the basis of a contract for the survey of public lands. This contract he let to his nephew, Rufus S. Moore.

When the case was called before Judge Bellinger, Meldrum was in court, accompanied by his attorney, George C. Brownell. United States District Attorney John Hall appeared for the government. A jury was quickly impaneled and the introductory addresses of the attorneys were very brief. Unmoved, but with the closest attention, Meldrum followed every step that was taken, and his keen scrutiny of the jurors as they were successively examined upon their qualifications seemed to betray his sense of the gravity of the charges which confront him.

The essence of the government's case is the accusation that Meldrum himself forged the pretended affidavits, perpetrated by means of his nephew, Rufus S. Moore, government lands. The only witness examined during the morning session was John W. Rowland, who is now chief clerk in the surveyor-general's office, and who has been connected with the case since 1885. He positively identified as Meldrum's the handwriting in many of these affidavits, and swore that the fictitious names signed to them were written by the defendant.

Rowland's testimony was given quietly and clearly, and in a manner which seemed to make a strong impression upon the jury. Again and again as the United States district attorney handed him the alleged forgeries and asked him to state in whose handwriting they were, Rowland replied: "I believe that to be the handwriting of Henry Meldrum."

"And the signature?" "That also is in Mr. Meldrum's handwriting."

The proceedings today are largely devoted to laying the groundwork for the government's case. Many papers were introduced this morning and identified for subsequent use. Mr. Hall explained to the jury in his opening address that the service would be testimony by the defendant, not only of employees of the surveyor-general's office, but also by two of the best experts who could be obtained.

"We shall show you," said Mr. Hall, "that these affidavits were forged by Henry Meldrum, and that the names of these pretended settlers were purely fictitious. We shall show you also that the land upon which the affidavits represent them to have settled are an uninhabited desert."

The most important evidence gathered in behalf of the government will probably not be introduced until tomorrow, Mr. Hall is still engaged this afternoon in the preliminary work which is to pave the way for the evidence upon which he relies for conviction.

Procedure Followed by Meldrum. In the survey of public lands a preference is always given to the applications of actual settlers who have squatted on the lands and who naturally are desirous of knowing the boundaries of their possessions before making valuable improvements thereon. Under a rule of the interior department the applications of at least three actual settlers are necessary to secure the survey of a township. When enough settlers have thus applied to make it worth while for a deputy surveyor to take a contract, usually half a dozen townships or so, the surveyor-general may, if the applications appear to be in proper form, let a contract for a survey of public lands. Meldrum is charged with having

LEADING FIGURES AT THE GRANGE MEETING.



AMUCK IN COURT, SHOTS BABY THEN KILLS HIMSELF

Chicago, Nov. 15.—Charles Caeck, a well-known downtown saloon-keeper, this morning shot and wounded his 13-month-old baby, shot at his wife and sister-in-law, Miss Lillia Sanburn, and then committed suicide in the courtroom of Police Justice Donohue. The tragedy was enacted before a large crowd in the courtroom, and a panic ensued. Caeck had been arrested on the charge preferred by Miss Sanburn, of beating her sister. The shooting followed Caeck's failure to get his wife to drop the prosecution.

When he had regained his normal state the love for home, wife and children, reasserted itself, and he begged and pleaded with his wife to disclaim the suit brought by her sister, offering to do anything in his power to make amends for his brutality while under the influence of liquor.

Falling in his attempt to effect a reconciliation, his nerves unstrung and on the verge of insanity, the scene presented to him in the courtroom this morning was more than the half-crazed man could stand.

PATTERSON TRIAL BEGUN IN NEW YORK

Woman Accused of Murder of Bookmaker Young Sits Beside Aged Father.

New York, Nov. 15.—The work of selecting a jury in the trial of Kate Patterson, charged with the murder of "Cash" Young in a cab in this city last June, was begun this morning in Justice Vernon Davis' court. A squad of 48 patrolmen kept back the crowd which sought to gain admission. Miss Patterson was dressed in black, and wore a picture hat. She sat beside her aged father.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PHILIPPINES IS ISSUED

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15.—The annual report of Clarence H. Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, says the work of establishing civil government in the Philippines is now practically accomplished, and as a whole is most satisfactory. A material reduction in tariff rates on Philippine sugar and tobacco has been made without injury to any American industry, and the change from a silver to a gold basis in the islands was accomplished without any disturbance to business.

MISS COLEMAN GETS VERDICT FOR \$750

New York, Nov. 15.—Lillian Coleman, the actress, has secured a verdict for \$750 damages in a supreme court suit against the publishers of Albee's magazine, libeling her by printing her portrait, without her authority, in the magazine in connection with an advertisement. The advertisement offered for sale a typewritten manuscript entitled "The New York."

AFGHAN ATTACK MAY INVOLVE ENGLAND

Firing of Magazine Kills Many Russians and Czar May Exact Satisfaction.

Moscow, Nov. 15.—A message has been received here reporting trouble between Russians and Afghans in the border land between Russia and Afghanistan at Kushk, which is the Russian railway terminus on the line from Nerv. The Afghans fired and exploded a magazine, killing many Russian soldiers, who were stationed near it.

SAN JOSE MAN IS NOW UNDER A NEW CHARGE

San Jose, Cal., Nov. 15.—George Letcher, the wealthy business man who is charged with complicity in numerous incendiary fires in Ohio and other eastern states, was arraigned this morning. On motion of the district attorney the complaint against Letcher was dismissed, but the accused was immediately taken into custody on a warrant sworn out in San Francisco charging him with being a fugitive from justice.

WREATH FOR MURDER

Lewiston, Idaho, Nov. 15.—The trial of J. O. Patton, charged with the murder of Charles Lewis, was begun yesterday. There was much difficulty in securing a jury. There are many witnesses to be examined.

VEHICLE WOULD JOE

Rome, Nov. 15.—The vehicle it is learned, intends to sojourn Washington, and if agreeable, a papal delegate will be sent to the proposed international peace conference.

DESERT LUXURIOUS HOME TO AID POOR

Millionaire Hunter and His Wife Will Preach as They

New York, Nov. 15.—Robert Hunter and his wife, the beautiful daughter of Anson Phelps Stokes, whose fortune will reach \$10,000,000, have removed from their luxurious country home at Noroton to No. 83 Grove street, into a two-story brick building in the heart of the Minetta lane district.

CODY BANDITS CUT THE WIRES AND MAKE ESCAPE

Cheyenne, Nov. 15.—The Cody bank robbers, who held up a gambling house at Thermopolis yesterday, eluded the pursuing posse in the Owl mountains and have probably reached their rendezvous safely.

PRESIDENT SHAKES UP THE ALASKAN COURTS

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15.—Attorney-General Moody announced this morning that he has begun the reorganization of the Alaskan courts by Assistant Attorney-General Day. President Roosevelt has decided to remove District Attorney Frank H. Richards of Nome and to ask for the resignation of Judges Alfred S. Moore of Nome and Melville C. Brown of Juneau.

SOLDIERS REPULSE STRIKERS

Havre, Nov. 15.—Striking carters attacked the docks of the Company Trans-Atlantic this morning. Soldiers were guarding the docks and the strikers were repulsed. The mayor issued a proclamation forbidding any process in the streets.

GRANGERS IN SESSION

Many Committees Appointed to Facilitate the Work.

STIRRING ADDRESS BY MASTER GRANGER JONES

Numerous Recommendations of Value Made, All of Which Will Have Full Discussion by Patrons of Husbandry.

Plans and hopes of the National Grange, Patron of Husbandry, were revealed in the annual address of Worthy Master Granger Aaron Jones, which was delivered this afternoon. He told of the needs of the order, its desires and achievements.

The opening of the morning session of the thirty-eighth annual convention was delayed today because the huge hall at the armory was not in readiness. Shortly after 11 o'clock, however, the session was opened. Workmen continued their labors meanwhile, preparing exhibits and erecting platforms. There was a roll call, and the credentials committee was organized.

The session was resumed at 1:30 this afternoon. Standing committees were appointed and other routine business transacted before the annual address of the master granger was delivered.

In his address Mr. Jones recited what the order had accomplished and what it hopes to accomplish. He congratulated the order on its growth and stability, and enumerated the specific forms of legislation that are demanded by the grange.

The demands of the national grange are 12, and include many for which the grange has for years contended. Among the demands are the enactment of pure food laws by the government; the provisions for postal saving banks; an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people; the speedy construction of a ship canal connecting the Mississippi river with the great lakes and the greatest lakes with the Atlantic ocean; the revision of the fees and salaries of all federal officers and placing them on a basis of similar service in private business.

Tonight there will be an informal public reception at the armory. Governor Chamberlain will deliver an address of welcome to the visitors in behalf of the state. Master Granger Aaron Jones will respond to the governor's remarks. Mayor Williams will extend the welcome of the city and Governor Bacheelder of New Hampshire will respond in behalf of the delegates. B. G. Leedy will welcome the delegates in behalf of the Pacific Coast Patrons and R. B. Norris, of New York, will respond.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Immediately after calling the grange to order the following standing committees were appointed: Credentials—J. A. Newcomb, C. O. Raine, Mrs. Anna G. Gaunt, Mrs. H. E. Wing and Mrs. Cordelia Atkeson.

Order of Business—George E. Horton, chairman; George W. Baird, A. C. Powers, Mrs. Pauline S. Raine, Mrs. Martha M. Wilson and Mrs. Corinna A. Gardner. Publication—N. J. Bacheelder, chairman; George R. Ladd, B. G. Leedy, Mrs. Amanda M. Horton, Mrs. P. Marchant and Mrs. M. Louise Bell.

Finance—George W. F. Gaunt, chairman; W. K. Thompson, W. F. Hill, Mrs. Pearl M. Derrick, Mrs. Nettie C. Hadley and Mrs. Mary K. Powers. Digest—W. K. Thompson, chairman; T. C. Atkeson, George W. Baird, Mrs. S. B. Wolcott, Mrs. M. W. Jones and Mrs. Amanda M. Horton.

Ritual—G. Gardner, chairman; Samuel E. Derby, Grace S. Wood, Mrs. Pauline S. Raine, Mrs. Marie A. Hill, Mrs. S. W. Thompson.

FLEET MAY BE AT SEA

Unconfirmed Report Says Russian Ships Escaped Port Arthur.

ONE DESTROYER SAFE IN HARBOR AT CHEFOO

Commander Sends Messages to the Czar—Declares that the Russians Can Hold Out.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) London, Nov. 15.—(Reuters.)—A dispatch from Chefoo this afternoon states that the Russians have blown up the torpedo destroyer Ratoropotny to prevent the Japanese raising her. The report is unconfirmed.

UNCLE SAM MAY FIGHT REVOLUTION

Orders Sent Captain Merriam to Stand by Panama's Ruler.

MOVEMENT IS AFOOT TO DEPOSE AMADOR

American Warships and Marines to Fight His Battles in the New Republic.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Washington, Nov. 15.—In fear of a riot or a revolution in the Republic of Panama, the government has ordered the Pacific squadron to halt at Panama.

The statement was given out at the state department that there had been an incipient revolution against President Amador of Panama by persons who wanted to get hold of the balance of the \$10,000,000 paid by this government to the Republic of Panama in 1903.

The orders called last evening indicate that the state department later got important dispatches which changed the situation. The Pacific squadron is composed of the New York, Boston, Marblehead and Bennington, a fleet powerful enough to not only protect the seacoast cities but also to land marines in sufficient numbers to meet almost any army of revolutionaries or even Colombian troops that might be sent against the republic.

No details of what the reports to the state department contained have been given out but in view of the immediate and later orders issued to Captain Merriam and Admiral Goodrich it cannot be doubted that the revolt is of greater magnitude than is generally known.

It can be doubted that the United States proposes not only to protect the Republic of Panama from within but from without if need be. Two theories are advanced by well informed circles in the capital, one to the effect that Colombia is in reality encouraging an attack on the new republic and the other that there is such dissatisfaction among the residents of the little republic that a revolution is threatening to erupt.

The right of advisability of the United States to act as the defender of the Panama government against any aggression or revolt which does not directly affect the canal zone is a question for much debate between adherents and opponents of the administration.

ALTON B. PARKER OPENS LAW OFFICE

New York, Nov. 15.—Ex-Judge Parker opened a law office in the building at 32 Liberty street today and announced that he would establish his residence in this city. He will practice alone.

PRESIDENT EXPOSED TO THE SMALLPOX

Washington, Nov. 15.—Sensational reports are in circulation that President Roosevelt has been brought in contact with a malignant case of smallpox. The story started from the discovery that Burr V. Kammag, attorney for the bureau of corporations of the department of commerce and labor, had been stricken.

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