

THOMAS W. LAWSON IN AT THE DEATH EVEN IF CAUGHT IN THE SYSTEM'S JAM

"I Am Beneath the Jam Where the Weight Is Getting Unbearable," He Wires, Concerning His Present Situation.

AT 'EM AGAIN WHEN FUNERAL'S OVER IF SYSTEM WINS, HE SAYS

Hopes to Stay With the Fight Until the New Year Holiday Gives a Respite—Financier Sends Word to His Oregon Friends.

In answer to a message asking how he had come out of the jam in Wall street, Thomas W. Lawson sent a characteristic reply to The Journal.

Owing to the difference in time it was received too late for publication yesterday. But here it is today, for it is well worth while:

Boston, Mass., Dec. 29.—To the Editor of The Journal—Thanks for your kind telegram. No, I did not come out of the jam safely. I am beneath it where the weight is getting unbearable. I am still alive, but unless the boom breaks soon I am afraid I'll ride the falls a "dead 'un."

Tell my good friends of Oregon while I thank them from the bottom of my heart I need no sympathy. I rode to the jam with my eyes open to demonstrate the principle that the people's torrent cannot be stemmed with the artificial boom logs of frenzied finance. Rogers, Rockefeller and the "System" have done it so far and may continue to long enough to make me look like a last year's pickled salmon, but make no mistake, whether I ride the falls on or under the "System's" logs, when the present boom breaks the American people will know more of how booms are made, how they are held and what the result of the making and holding of them is than ever before.

Frankly, I am sorry that it is necessary for me to pay for getting them this knowledge, but what will be my loss will be their gain. If I had listened to judgment I might have reversed my position and sneaked to safe water, but I would have been a cur had I done so.

Say to my good Oregon friends I hope to stay with the fight over tomorrow and if I do, as New Year's day is a holiday, I shall have a lease of life up to Tuesday, and I have seen the stock world stood on its head in less time than that. Anyway, they may rest assured I will give the "Wall street gang" battle up to the last second, and even then I'll be up and at 'em again as soon as the funeral is over.

Now I have answered your telegram, I will be mean enough to try to get a bit of free advertising, for as things are going it looks as though that will be the only kind I'll get for some time.

Here goes: I have just finished my last chapter on "Frenzied Finance," and I give you my word for it, it is my best. Tell your people not to miss it and that after this chapter comes "The Remedy." THOMAS W. LAWSON.



Thomas W. Lawson.

COILS OF DESPOT ARE GRADUALLY ENCIRCLING THE REVOLUTIONISTS

Moscow Rebels Losing Ground and Government Turning Attention to Quelling Baltic Uprisings—Rojestvensky to Be Tried for Negligence.

London, Dec. 29.—All communication by cable with Russia beyond Nystad and Libau was cut off this morning. Late advices from St. Petersburg state that telegrams received there by the government officials from all parts of the empire show that there has been a general resumption of railway business and that the fires of the revolution, while breaking out intermittently at different places, are being gradually brought under the control of the government in the different provinces. It was announced today that Ayskoff had been appointed minister of justice to succeed Manukhin.

According to a private telegram received in Berlin, the czar has ordered that the minister of marine take immediate steps to prosecute Admiral Rojestvensky on charges of negligence and inefficiency in causing the loss of the Russian fleet. Admiral Rojestvensky asked for a public hearing and the czar has granted his appeal.

(Continued on Page Two.)

Happy New Year From The Sunday Journal

That means from all its staff, the most brilliant that contributes to a Sunday newspaper in the northwest. Frederick Opper, Howard Swinerton, Gus Birks, Bunn and all the rest of the cartoonists smile their merriest for the children whom they have amused for many years. You will find their newest pictures in the only color section issued by a Portland paper on Sunday.

Don't Miss the New Year's Calendar

(Continued on Page Two.)

NO RATE LAWS NEEDED

President Criticized for His Plan of Railroad Legislation as in the Townsend Bill.

ELKINS BILL CLAIMED TO BE SUFFICIENT

R. T. Newcombe, the Corporation Lawyer, Says Statements of Interstate Commerce Commission Are Misleading and All Evils Can Be Corrected Under Present Law.

(Journal Special Service.) New Orleans, Dec. 29.—In an address today before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, R. T. Newcombe, the well-known corporation lawyer of Washington, scathingly arraigned President Roosevelt's plan of railroad legislation as embodied in the Esch-Townsend bill. Mr. Newcombe also criticized the interstate commerce commission, declaring that its statements were misleading, as they had been framed to obscure the public's vision.

ALASKA'S GOLD OUTPUT

Estimated That Shipments Have Increased \$6,000,000 in Past Year.

PRESIDENT TO FITZ

Roosevelt's Letter to Fitzgibbon Was a Christmas Greeting.

CARTER WINS POINT

Secures Pledges of Aid in Irrigating Great Tract in Montana.

Admiral Reiter for Washington

Reiter, Commanding the Philippines, Has Been Detached and Assigned to Washington for Duty.

CHICAGO SAVED FROM BEING TRIPLETLESS

(Journal Special Service.) Chicago, Dec. 29.—Seventeen pounds of babies, divided in three parts, formed the unique gift, which Mrs. Yonbrand prepared as a present to her husband on Christmas. The individual did not wait around to receive the loving wife's offering. Two sets of twins had already called him papa, and he promptly vanished. The third and last bundle, when opened, displayed a plump colic, its weight four pounds and six ounces. All three were girls. Mrs. Yonbrand, to whom Chicago owes its salvation from falling under the stigma of being tripletless in 1905, has served her country well, according to the standard of Roosevelt. Counting the Christmas eve triplets she now has eight children living.

HAND TO HAND WITH HOLDUP

J. Allen Harrison, Ordered to Throw Up His Hands, Throws Aside Highwayman's Revolver Instead.

IN STRUGGLE THE GUN GOES OFF BUT MISSES

Then Mr. Harrison's Brother Comes Up—Robber Manages to Get Shot at Him, But Misses Again—The Two, With Aid of a Third, Finally Overpower the Thug.

(Journal Special Service.) Meeting with vigorous resistance while attempting to rob J. Allen Harrison, agent of the Vancouver & Lewis River Transportation company, on the dock at the foot of Taylor street, about 6 o'clock last night, Mike Martin tried to murder him with a revolver and also shot at M. E. Harrison, a brother of his intended victim, who rushed to his assistance.

The attempted holdup, as recounted by Harrison, was one of the boldest known to the local police. It is likely

that Martin took a longer chance than would otherwise have been the case on account of taking a number of drinks previously to give him courage. He was held a prisoner after being disarmed and the police notified. Patrolman K. Evans and Patrol Driver Isaacs placed him under arrest and took him to the city prison.

In the police court this morning Harrison swore to a complaint charging Martin with assault with a deadly weapon, with intent to rob. His preliminary examination was set for January 2 and he is held under a bond of \$750. He denies that he intended committing a crime and says he was so drunk at the time the affair occurred he has only a confused recollection of the circumstances.

Asks About Arrival of Boat. "It was dusk when this man approached me and asked me about the time of arrival of certain boats," said Harrison. "I gave him the information he desired and turned to walk into the office. As I did so he started to follow me, when I wheeled and asked him if he wanted to know anything else."

"No," he answered, and then whipping out a revolver pointed it at me and said: "Throw up your hands!" He repeated the order three times, slowly advancing as he did so, until finally the muzzle of the revolver was pressed against my breast. Up to this time I had not moved, being rather dazed by the man's action, though the predominant idea in my mind was that he was playing a practical joke on me. When the gun touched me, however, this and the determination of his tones, and the ugly light flashing from his eyes showed me he was in deadly earnest.

"Before I hardly knew what I was doing I grabbed the wrist of his right hand, in which he held the weapon, and threw it up. As I did so he pulled the trigger."

(Continued on Page Two.)

FATHER TIME'S HEAVY BURDEN NOW CAST ASIDE

(Journal Special Service.) New York, Dec. 30.—When the chimes of Trinity peal forth at midnight tomorrow night Father Time may well hobble out with shoulders stooped and his gait broken, for 1905 has been the heaviest burden he has had to bear in many, many years.

WEEPS AS SHE DENIES

Miss Minerva Montelith Bitterly Scores Oregonian Editorial Which Stealthily Accuses Her of Murder.

ONCE MORE SHE TELLS STORY OF THE TRAGEDY

She and Mrs. Van Dran Went Down Street, Met Kaspar Van Dran, Then Returned Home, Where Mrs. Van Dran Poured Out Ginger Ale and Drank It.

Profound amazement and indignation are expressed by persons familiar with the tragic history of the Van Dran family over an editorial published this morning in the Oregonian, which virtually charges Miss Minerva Montelith with the murder of her sister, Mrs. Minnie B. Van Dran, whose death from poisoning occurred August 12 of this year. Miss Montelith was almost overcome when informed of the accusation thus laid at her door.

"It is horrible—it is cruel," she exclaimed, as the tears welled to her eyes. "How can any one say such a thing? My sister died to me than any one else in the world. Ask any one who knew us and they will tell you that she was everything to me and more like a mother than a sister. And now Mr. Van Dran is dead, too—it is too horrible."

The shock of Kaspar Van Dran's suicide had recalled vividly to the mind of Miss Montelith the terrible circumstances of her sister's death, less than five months previous. She was alone with Mrs. Van Dran when the latter swallowed the fatal draft which caused her almost instant death.

Miss Montelith commented with bitter indignation on the Oregonian's editorial. "Whoever wrote that either did not know the facts or else he purposely misstated them," she declared. "It is cowardly and cruel to charge me with my sister's death. I would gladly have died for her."

In a voice choked with emotion Miss Montelith told once more the story of the last hours of her sister's life. It was precisely the same story, even to the minutest details, told by her at the time of the tragedy and repeatedly since. It was the same story which convinced the detectives, the district attorney's office and every one else who intelligently endeavored to solve the mystery of the death, that Miss Montelith was the only person with her when the poison was swallowed.

While disclaiming any intention to charge Miss Montelith with the murder of her sister, the article cunningly masses the alleged facts in such a manner as to leave the impression that she and she only could have committed the crime. According to the Oregonian, the ginger ale which Mrs. Van Dran drank could not have been poisoned before it was brought to the house; the poison could not have been placed in the bottle by any person who gained access to the house in Mrs. Van Dran's absence; the poison could not even have been put in the ginger ale until the liquid was actually poured into the glasses, when no one was present but Mrs. Van Dran and her sister, Miss Montelith.

What Editorial Means. "Taking this and many other small circumstances into account, it is much more probable that the ale was poisoned after Mrs. Van Dran opened the bottle than before," says the Oregonian. In plain English, the Oregonian's charge is that Miss Montelith, standing beside her sister, dropped into the glasses the deadly poison and then stood by in cold blood while Mrs. Van Dran drank the fatal draft.

The editorial then proceeds with an attempt to reconcile the known facts with the theory of Miss Montelith's guilt, and, in conclusion, as if to escape the consequences of its own charges, the Oregonian says that in the absence of any known motive for such a crime the circumstantial evidence cannot overcome her story.

Miss Montelith's story, told again this morning, and the same in particulars as her statement to the detectives and the district attorney immediately after the death of Mrs. Van Dran, is as follows:

Miss Montelith's Story. "My sister and I had been for a walk downtown. We had called for Mr. Van Dran at the Washington cafe, and he walked a few blocks with us and then when we started back we left him at the cafe, where he had some work to do. He did not go with us in the flat, as the Oregonian says. When we were downtown Mrs. Van Dran complained of being very thirsty, but said that she had some ginger ale at home and asked me to go home with her. "I did not care for the ginger ale, but she said she had a bottle of it at home and would give me half of it."

WORST STORM OF INSURANCE PROBE YEAR RAGING

Wild Gale on Oregon Coast and Reports of Wrecks Are Expected Hourly.

Storm warnings were displayed last night all along the coast in this district and soon afterward one of the worst gales of the year began to howl. The North Head station is out of commission and it is impossible to learn the exact velocity of the wind. But from the movements of the storm at other points along the coast the weather bureau men are convinced that it is of unusual severity.

The storm is moving eastward and has made the river at Portland so rough that it is impossible to move any of the ships in the harbor. The barkentine John Palmer, which arrived this morning from San Pedro, had to drop both anchors to keep her from drifting. It was even feared for a time that these would prove insufficient to hold her in place. She is rocking back and forth on the choppy waves off the Banfield dock.

Tugboats went down in the lower harbor this morning to move the British ships Eskason, Milnturn and Vanduara to other docks, where arrangements had been made to load them with grain. At the request of the captains of the square-riggers the plan was abandoned, however, on account of the strong wind and rough water.

At intervals during the day strong gusts of wind came sweeping down the valley and made it dangerous for even the river steamers to venture out from their docks. These blows were usually accompanied by heavy rain which

(Continued on Page Two.)

INSURANCE PROBE IDELE AT LAST

Committee Ends Four Months' Session and Will Make Report to Legislature.

(Journal Special Service.) New York, Dec. 30.—The Armstrong legislative investigating committee that has been probing into the affairs of the big life insurance companies of New York ended its sessions this afternoon. The committee has been in session four months, and the volume of testimony taken aggregates more than two million words. The report of the committee will be put in shape and presented to the legislature after the holidays.

Little was done in the way of taking testimony today. Joel G. Vance, attorney of the Equitable, was on the witness stand this morning. He testified that once Henry R. Hyde wanted to make the dividends on deferred dividend policies larger than he thought they ought to be, so he went to Alexander Frederick Opper, Howard Swinerton and Fred Hyde, who were the cartoonists of the Sunday Journal, and asked them to draw pictures of him as a man who had risen to success in business.

Two Big Banks Consolidate. (Journal Special Service.) New York, Dec. 30.—The Metropolitan bank will within a short time absorb the National Ship & Leather bank, the latter becoming a branch of the former. This will give the Metropolitan a capital and surplus of \$2,750,000.

Bomb Exploded in Church. (Journal Special Service.) Rome, Dec. 29.—A bomb was exploded in the church of St. Agatha at Foglia this morning and several persons slightly injured. A secret society is supposed to be responsible for the outrage.