THREE DWELLINGS ARE BURNED IN MONTAVILLA

John D. Baldwin, Alexander Schwabauer and W. L. Beckner Lose Homes by Fire Which Spreads Quickly Before Firemen Can Arrive From Sunnyside. School Children Endangered.

A destructive fire at Montavilla which destroyed three dwellings and badly scorched two others visited Montavilla this afternoon, and for a time threatened to burn the Montavilla school and sweep through several blocks of the suburb.

The homes of John D. Baldwin, 228 Broad; Alexander Schwabauer, 214 Grave, and W. L. Beckner, 220 Broad, were totally destroyed, while the large residences of J. W. Lundy, 232 Broad, and Francis Roy, 216 Broad, were scorched and damaged by the flames.

Had it not been for the fast run to the scene by the Sunnyside fire department which sent a hose wagon and engine to the scene, the damage would have been much greater as the flames were spreading to adjoining buildings when the firemen reached the place.

Flames Spread Rapidly.

The fire started in the Baldwin cottage a short time after 1 o'clock and spread with great rapidity until the whole house was a mass of flame. Heroic efforts were made by the residents of Montavilla to check the fire, but owing to the meager facilities the flames spread to the homes of Schwabauer and Beckner.

Appeals were made to the Sunnyside department for assistance and an engine and hose wagon was started for the scene, making the long run in a short time, less than 20 minutes. When the apparatus reached the scene the fire was spreading to the Lundy and Roy residences. The firemen quickly stayed the spread of the flames, however, and confined the fire to the ruins of the other three houses.

The Baldwin and Schwabauer houses were newly finished, and were one-story cottages valued at approximately $1,500 each. The Beckner house was a two-story structure worth approximately $2,000.

School Children Prepared.

The Lundy and the Roy houses were two-story houses worth approximately $3,200 each. It is understood that each of the residences were insured, though this could not be ascertained at the time.

As soon as the fire was discovered the pupils of the Montavilla school were lined up by the teachers and held in readiness to march out of the building in case the fire should seriously threaten the building. The arrival of the department averted any such danger, however, and the class work was resumed.

Hands Are Burned.

During the course of the fire John Wiebush was painfully burned about the hands. In his efforts to assist in removing the furniture from one of the burning residences he was caught in the upper story and before he could escape his hands were badly burned.

Charles Hamthorn, 65 years of age, who is helpless and could not assist himself, was carried from the Schwauber house after it was a mass of flames.

The fire is said to have started from an overheated flue in the home of Mrs. Effie Wade in the house of Anton Roy. Mrs. Wade was ironing and it is supposed the fire in the kitchen stove heated the flue to such a degree that it ignited the woodwork.

PUT LIGHTED LAMP UNDER BED TO TAKE CHILL OFF CLOTHING

When a roomer at 691 Second street placed a lighted lamp under the bed last night to take off the chill he did not intend for it to do such a thoroughly good job as to necessitate the calling out of the fire department. But that is what happened. The night was chilly and damp and the bed was cold. It was thought the lamp would bring about the desired temperature. All went well for a few moments but suddenly there was a grand outburst of flame from which the bed occupant made a skyrocket exit.

In response to the alarm engine company No. 5 and the hose and chemical from companies Nos. 4 and 15 answered. The flames were quenched by the use of a chemical extinguisher.

PLATT-WOOD DIVORCE CASE

The Omaha Woman's Suit Against Senator Argued Before New York Court.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

New York, May 18.—Arguments in the divorce suit of Mae C. Wood of Omaha against Senator Platt of New York were begun today before Justice Ogerman, sitting in a special term of the superior court. The woman is suing for absolute divorce.

The plaintiff names as corespondent Mrs. William Janeway Platt, to whom the senator was married in October, 1903. Attorneys representing her introduced a certificate of marriage alleged to have been signed by the clergyman who they claim officiated at the ceremony that made Platt and Mae Wood man and wife. It is further alleged that the marriage took place at the Fifth Avenue hotel on November 4, 1901. Attorney Stanchfield, representing the defendant, denied these contentions.

The affidavit submitted by Platt says, among other things:

"The plaintiff never claimed she married me until December, 1906. I had never heard of her making such a claim until I read about it in an article in a Chicago newspaper accompanied by a photograph of myself attached to an alleged marriage certificate. This document is an absolute forgery."

OBJECTS TO VACATION OF PLAINFIELD STREETS

One owner of property in Plainfield—A. Groner, who lives on East Forty-first street one block beyond the city limits, says that he will ask the courts to prevent the Pioneer Educational society from preempting the streets that they have selected as a site for their school buildings. The Jesuit fathers have a 23-acre tract and want the streets condemned. They have offered Groner $1,800 for his property. He bought it four years ago paying $700, and since then has made repairs. His lot is 50x100 feet.

Groener claims when he bought the property he found the entire addition platted with streets and lots and does not think it right that these streets should be closed. If they are, he says that no sewers and water pipes can be extended through Plainfield to Creston, East Creston and beyond, where thousands of people have their homes.

The Educational society claims that as soon as it completes its buildings the tract will be replatted and that streets will be run through again. It desires to close five streets.

PIPES WILL LEAD DEFENSE FOR MARTIN

Martin L. Pipes will be the senior counsel for Edward H. Martin, accused of the murder of Nathan Wolff, according to the statement made today by City Attorney Kavanaugh, who has acted for Mrs. Martin since her husband was arrested. Kavanaugh this afternoon, before the circuit court, secured an additional week's delay for Martin's pleading. Attorney Pipes has been absent from the city, and has not yet met Martin. Another lawyer will also be engaged. Martin's father is believed to be in Spain, but has not yet been reached by the messages sent to him.

LOGGING COMPANY FILES ITS ARTICLES

W. N. Jones, J. E. Wheeler and T. H. Ward have filed articles of incorporation of the Jones-Wheeler company, which will engage in the logging and timber business. They have incorporated for $250,000.

STEWART WILL LEAVE RHYOLITE

Former Senator Gives Up Fight to Regain Fortune Lost in Mines.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Reno, Nev., May 18.—William Stewart, former United States senator from Nevada, has lost in his fight to repair his fortune and has announced that he intends to wreck his beautiful home in Rhyolite and move from the state. Stewart is still several times a millionaire, but on account of the depression in stocks in the Bullfrog district he has lost a fortune in the past few months that would make any man of moderate means feel that he was immensely wealthy. He retired from politics some time ago to recover the fortune he had lost, but the uphill struggle has been too strenuous for him. The Bullfrog stocks have decreased at such an alarming rate that in some instances they are quoted as low as 10 per cent of their value.

KETCHEL SIGNED TO MEET BILLY PAPKE

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Milwaukee, May 18.—After months of dickering, Stanley Ketchel, the Michigan whirlwind, and Billy Papke, the Spring Valley miner, were today matched to fight 10 rounds in this city on June 4. Under the articles of agreement the men must weigh 154 pounds or less at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the fight.

Although only a 10-round affair, the middleweight championship of the world will be involved. For a time it looked as if the managers of the fighters would be unable to get together. Ketchel's manager insisting upon being treated as generously by the promoters as they were treating the other side.

WISHED VERY MUCH TO BATHE IN CHOP SUEY

"The great architect of the universe" was the description given of himself by E. A. Salisbury when he was examined by Dr. W. T. Williamson at the county jail on the charge of insanity. He is the man picked up at the Portland hotel last Saturday who wanted to rid himself of his clothing and take a bath in chop suey. He was committed to the asylum at Salem.

STREAM DOWN COP'S NECK WHEN HE PHONES

Patrolman Murphy, of the Portland bluecoats, will tell you that the path of the patrolman is not all roses, even in Portland. On Officer Murphy's beat is one of the 50 telephones by which police officers communicate with headquarters from their respective beats. Murphy's phone has been placed immediately under a drain pipe. To date the drain pipe has been busy every time the officer found it necessary to report over the telephone. Consequently, in the language of his report, "every time you stand up to the telephone it rains on you."

MOTORMAN TOO FAST, THOUGHT PATROLMAN

For running his car in excess of the 12-mile speed limit Motorman John Lewis, of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, must appear before Judge Cameron tomorrow morning. Officer Burke is the complainant. He charges that Lewis exceeded the speed limit on Corbett street between Lane and Pennoyer streets.

PENNOYER BLOCK CENTER OF SHOW

Grandstand Capable of Seating 3,000 Spectators Will Be Constructed.

The entire Pennoyer block, 200 feet square, bounded by Alder and Morrison, West Park and Tenth, has been secured by the Rose Festival for the purpose of converting it into a general reviewing stand for the different parades of the week. The public ceremonies connected with the welcome to King Rex and Queen Flora will also be held at that place.

A temporary grandstand capable of seating 3,000 people will be erected, and a covered reviewing platform for the speakers and those who have charge of the exercises.

Special reserved seats, several hundred in number, will be set aside for guests of honor, dignitaries of state, city officials, and others who are to take conspicuous part in the festivities. The general idea is to make the Pennoyer block the center of the festival attractions, and all four of the parades will be sent around two or more sides of this square. For the day exercises the block will be decorated in the official colors of the festival, and for the evening exercises it will be illuminated by thousands of Japanese and Chinese lanterns.

The Rose City Park Improvement league will enter three floral decorated automobiles in that parade.

A general meeting of the Portland Hunt club will be held either tomorrow night or Wednesday night to arrange further details of the design for the decoration of the saddle horses and ponies which this club will enter in the horse and carriage parade. All owners of saddle horses are invited to attend. The time and place of the meeting will be announced as soon as the directors have met, this afternoon.

Entry blanks for automobiles are now ready for distribution at Festival headquarters. Chairman R. D. Inman urges all motor-car owners to secure them as early as possible.

MRS. WIGGS' KIDS AS STARS IN TEST CASE

Constitutionality of Juvenile Court Act Will Be Attacked by Defense.

Judge Gantenbein in the juvenile court will soon be called upon to construe the juvenile court act as to its application to the employers of children who appear in stage performances after night. A test case is to be made of the children who appeared in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Heilig last week, the manager of the theatre being called to answer on complaint of Mrs. Trumbull, a member of the child labor commission.

An information will be filed in a day or so by Deputy District Attorney H. M. Esterly, and upon this the question will be fought out. Mrs. Trumbull started to proceed against the children under the child labor act and then against the parents and theatre managers under the contributing to delinquency act. But it was discovered that the child labor law does not make the minor guilty of an offense or a delinquent if the law is violated. As the minor commits no offense in this respect, therefore, the person who requires or permits the child to appear in a theatrical performance cannot be charged with contributing to delinquency.

The question now presented is whether the juvenile court act in itself covers the case and its constitutionality also will be attacked. The case will be followed with much interest, as it will seriously interfere with many performances if it is strictly enforced. The small children parts will have to be eliminated from the plays or else older persons of small stature be engaged to take them.

DESERTED WOMAN TRIES TO END LIFE

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Seattle, May 18.—Deserted by her husband in a strange city, and bearing marks of his abuse, Mrs. Alice Wilson, 26 years old, wife of C. D. Wilson of Eagle Harbor, attempted to end her life by swallowing a whole pint of horse liniment at the home of the police matron shortly after 7 o'clock this morning.

A doctor was hurriedly summoned and after an hour's diligent pumping the unfortunate woman was out of danger.

Late yesterday Mrs. Wilson met Policeman Brown and told him that her husband had deserted her, after keeping $400 in cash, the result of hard work for many months at Eagle Harbor.

Mrs. Wilson says her husband and she came to Seattle Saturday and he secured a room for her. He left shortly afterwards and failed to return and she became despondent. Although her eyes show the effects of a brutal beating and her throat bears black and blue finger marks, the woman refuses to make any charge against Wilson other than plain desertion.

BOLT RIPS OFF SHOES OF MAN IN PARLOR

Millville, N. J., May 18.—During a severe electrical storm a bolt struck the Pettit homestead, in West Millville, crashed through the roof and weatherboarding into the parlor, where Martin Pettit and his brother, Harry, were reading.

Martin sat at the stove with his legs crossed when the bolt landed on him, tore off both his shoes, divided and passed through the opposite side of the house. Martin was knocked to the floor unconscious, and his brothers thought he was dead. The flesh on one of his legs was blackened and scorched as if by fire.

After working for an hour Dr. Miller restored the man to consciousness, and aside from a severe burn Pettit stated that he feels no evil effects from the experience.

THEY TOOK UNIQUE REVENGE ON POLICE

Trenton, May 18.—An endless chain of express wagons circling around the principal business block of the city almost demoralized traffic and set the police department gnashing its teeth in futile rage.

The police this morning began a crusade designed to prevent express wagons from standing along the sidewalks while awaiting customers, and the expressmen retaliated by forming a continuous procession about one block. The police had no authority to stop the parade, and the expressmen kept it up until they were either tired or were called away on business.

One expressman who was slow in falling into line was arrested. His fellows bailed him out, and will defend him in a test case.

Russell at New York.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

New York, May 17.—Minister to Venezuela Russell arrived here today on a leave of absence. He denies that he has had serious differences with President Castro, but admitted that he and Castro did not agree on all things.

NEUMEN'S DEATH LAID TO LA ROSE

Indictment Filed Against Man Who Later Assaulted Chinese.

Deputy District Attorney John Stevenson, acting as a grand jury, this morning filed an indictment against Jack La Rose, charging him with the murder of Neumen, the pawnbroker. He is charged with murder in the first degree. The only evidence on which the indictment is filed is that which has been published in the newspapers. The fact that he attempted to pawn one of Neumen's watches in a saloon, and the striking relationship between the attack on John Chung, the Chinaman, and the two on Max Herman and Neumen are deeply incriminating.

It is in nowise the belief, either of the police or the deputy district attorney, that La Rose is connected in any way with the Wolff murder. Both vehemently deny even any possibility of it. La Rose will be tried on John Chung's charge of assault and battery before being taken to the county jail.

JURY TO HEAR THOMPSON CASE

Slayer of Judge Emory Is Fighting for Freedom From Asylum.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Tacoma, Wash., May 18.—The jury to determine the sanity of Chester Thompson was selected this morning. The 12 men were sworn in at noon, when court adjourned until 2 o'clock, when Attorney Will Thompson, father of the prisoner, outlined his side of the case and the taking of testimony was begun.

Spectators filled the courtroom.

Chester entered the room at 10 o'clock, accompanied by his father and a deputy sheriff. He chatted animatedly with his brother and some friends who pressed forward to speak to him. His glance is clear and steady and he looks like a man in excellent mental and physical condition.

During the examination of the jurymen the prisoner manifested the keenest interest in the proceedings, following every question and answer with close attention, especially when Frank B. Woodruff, one of the veniremen, made the flatfooted statement that he had always held the opinion that Chester was perfectly sane. Woodruff was excused for cause by the state.

The proceedings were otherwise devoid of incident.

SAW WIFE SETTING IN ANOTHER MAN'S LAP

W. O. Stitt Also Complains She Goes Too Much to Vaudeville Shows.

Because he went home unexpectedly one night and saw his wife sitting on the lap of another man, bestowing an occasional kiss upon him, W. O. Stitt is seeking to be separated for aye from Gertie Stitt. This is the story told by Stitt in Judge O'Day's department of the circuit court this morning. The extra man in the case is John Katchner, who is named as corespondent in the complaint.

Stitt also objects to the frequency with which his wife visited the vaudeville shows. He said she went about four times per week, sometimes going with Katchner and sometimes with her three children. Stitt was employed as a watchman at the Willamette iron works and therefore was not able to keep close watch on his wife at night.

Mrs. Stitt, a comely woman who is on the younger side of middle age, also wants a divorce. She has filed a cross-complaint denying the accusations of her husband and coming back with allegations that he has been cruel to her and made false accusations. When her husband told the story of what he saw through the window she smiled broadly. His accusations in that regard were supported by a friend who accompanied him to his house and also took a look through the window.

The Stitts were married in Portland in 1893 and have three children. Both sides ask for the custody of these children. When the testimony was started one of the attorneys suggested to the court that there were several women in the courtroom who might not want to hear some of the evidence. Judge O'Day replied that he would make no order excluding them, and they might judge for themselves whether or not they desired to remain and listen. All of them remained.

UNIVERSITY PARK DEMOCRATIC RALLY

A Democratic rally will be held tonight at University Park at which a number of well-known Democratic speakers will be heard. The meeting has been arranged under the auspices of the county central committee and will be attended by a number of the candidates for office running on the Democratic ticket.

Among the speakers who have been scheduled to speak are Deputy District Attorney Bert E. Haney, Oglesby Young, candidate for railroad commissioner; John E. Jeffrey, candidate for congress from the second district; Tom Reed and Professor Lonergan.

WOMAN LONG AGO BANISHED, RETURNS

Helena, Ark., May 17.—After an absence of more than forty years, Mrs. Emma Morris has returned here, whence she was forced to leave in her girlhood because she dared to wear the confederate colors upon her hat after the capture of Helena by the Federal soldiers. Her name then was Miss Emma Rightor.

Miss Rightor was organist at the Baptist church on a Sunday following the fall of the city, and she showed her spirit by donning a hat bearing the colors of the Confederacy.

A Yankee lieutenant was at the church, and after service he notified the young woman that she might consider herself under arrest, and later she was compelled to leave the city.

She went from Arkansas to Kentucky, where she afterward met the young man whom she married—Benjamin Morris—and in Kentucky she has lived ever since.

PERSONAL.

Theodore B. Wilcox has returned from a trip through the eastern states and to New York. Mr. Wilcox has been gone from Portland for the past month.

SECURE PLAYGROUNDS IN CITIES, IS HIS AIM

Secretary Hanmer of Playground Association Is in Portland Today—Tells What Influence Well Conducted Play Has Upon Girls and Boys in the Cities.

"We want to see every important city in America show enough interest in the welfare of its boys and girls and in sociology generally to provide a playground within half a mile of every child in its limits," said Lee F. Hanmer, field secretary of the Playground Association of America.

Mr. Hanmer is interested in playgrounds. He was physical director of the public schools of New York city for four years and is now secretary of the Playground Association of America. He is making a tour of the United States, trying to interest people of the larger cities in the matter of providing playgrounds for the children.

The playground movement took shape in a national society two years ago. Slum workers in the larger cities first became interested in the work and from them the idea spread until now 66 cities in America have already made some provisions for playgrounds and more than 70 more are planning to take up the work this year. Portland comes in the former class.

Time for City to Act.

Mr. Hanmer reached Portland this morning and is stopping at the Oregon hotel. He didn't have much chance to see what Portland had done in the way of parks, but he had been given a general idea of affairs here and thinks that the present is the time for this city to begin looking about for vacant property near its school buildings.

"President Roosevelt expressed the thing simply last spring," said he, "when he told the Mothers' congress that 'No school is a good school without good playgrounds.' What we wish to do is to interest people in the matter and make them realize the importance of playgrounds. It used to be thought that playgrounds were of importance only from the physical standpoint. People thought the playgrounds would make the children healthy. That is true, but there is a more important side. If the children cannot play in the grounds they will play in the streets. They must play somewhere. The city streets are not the right place. And yet in many schools the pupils are not allowed to play on the grounds for fear of injuring them. As soon as school is out they are warned to keep away from the premises. They have to go to the streets, and the streets are not the right place for them.

Character Molding.

"Playgrounds, we find, play an important part in character building. In the forming of good habits, in teaching the fundamentals of fair play, loyalty and health. Play can be bad or good. There are just two kinds of it. The gang spirit is born into children, and it is an influence either for bad or for good."

Mr. Hanmer said that the Playground association preferred to have some already existing body commence the work of securing playgrounds. It has been found that when a Y. M. C. A. or Woman's club, for example, starts the work that by the second year the school board or park commission is almost always willing to carry it on and assume charge of it. The best way is for the school board to take the work into its hands. In that way teachers can be appointed to look after the play of the younger children. The parks in the larger cities have been divided into three kinds—the kindergarten park, where the smaller boys and girls can play under the guidance of a teacher, the intermediate playground, where children up to 10 or 11 years old play, also under the guidance of some teacher, and the third division for the older boys—practically an athletic field, where they can exercise under a physical director, this division to be more properly located in one of the public parks.

The question of teachers raises the bugaboo of expense, says Mr. Hanmer, but this is not necessarily so. For the younger children two or three teachers who are naturally fitted for the work would gladly remain through the afternoon for additional pay. And most cities have physical directors who could oversee the playing of the older boys. In the summer time the playgrounds are usually open from 12 to 6 in the afternoons, giving the children the mornings in which to do their work around their homes.

What New York Is Doing.

In New York the school board is spending $300,000 yearly for that portion of the work under its control, while in St. Paul and Minneapolis the park boards are doing the work and have established many playgrounds, buying early while property can still be procured at reasonable prices. Field houses are established in many of the playgrounds, and these become the centers for not only the children, but the men and women in the evenings, and are rapidly taking the place of the saloon dancehalls as the social centers of the crowded districts.

Mr. Hanmer is an interesting talker and well informed in his work. He speaks tonight at the Unitarian chapel and leaves tomorrow for California to visit the larger cities in the interests of his association.

BID UNMARKED; SO ALL REJECTED

Water Board Does Not Wish to Establish Precedent, So Readvertises.

Because of a technical error in one of ten bids received by the city water board for gate valves the members at a special meeting this morning decided to reject all of the bids and advertise for new ones.

When the bids were opened last Friday the members discovered that the bid of Caldwell Brothers' company was contained in an envelope which was not marked indicating that it was a bid for gate valves. In every other respect the bid was all right, but rather than establish a precedent in breaking the rule of the board, the members decided to reject the bid.

At the same time the members did not wish to work an injustice on Caldwell Brothers for a clerical mistake, and ordered all bids rejected and new ones advertised for.

The board members are also particularly anxious to obtain a bid from Caldwell Brothers because they handle the Rensalleer valves which have given satisfaction in service in the department.

Preceding the action of the board there was a long discussion by the members as to the advisability of accepting the bid which caused all the trouble. The error was purely technical and made in a clear manner. The argument was put forth that the bid was accompanied by a certified check, was correct in every other way and came up to the specifications of the city advertisement. The members, however, refused to accept it because of the fear of establishing a precedent which might cause trouble in the future.

AT EMERYVILLE TRACK TODAY

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Emeryville Race Track, Cal., May 18.—Today's results:

First race, six furlongs, selling, four-year-olds and up—George Kilborn (194), 20 to 1, 8 to 1, 4 to 1, won; Calla, (112), 9 to 5, 9 to 10, second; Dr. Crook (114), 11 to 5, third. Time 1:16.

SEES OTHERS UNDER KNIFE; DIES OF FRIGHT

Creston, Ia., May 17.—Fear of an approaching operation and the sight of surgeons working over patients who went before him into the operating room caused the death of Walter Wykoff in a local hospital.

The physicians declare he died of heart failure, but admitted the sights and excitement were indirectly responsible.

Wykoff, who was an old man, dreaded the ordeal which he was soon to face. He was lying in bed in the ward, and, through a door left partly open by error, could see into the tile-lined chamber where the surgeons were working. Three patients were taken from the ward into the chamber, where the physicians performed operations for various disorders.

Unknown to the nurses, Wykoff watched as the knives were wielded upon the helpless and insensate victims. Then he saw them brought back and placed on the beds, until the nurses could bring them from under the influence of the anaesthetics.

FINAL ARGUMENTS IN TRIAL OF RUEF

(United Press Leased Wire.)

San Francisco, May 18.—Summing up for the people in the Ruef case was begun today by Special Prosecutor Heney. He opened with a brief review of the evidence adduced.

Cornelius Hotel Opens.

The Cornelius hotel opened for business this morning. C. A. Walker of Salt Lake City was the first guest to sign the register.

MAY BE VICTIM OF GANG OF THUGS

A. Roed, Who Had Much Money and Gold Watch Has Disappeared.

The police are making search for A. Roed, who put up at the Union house, 81 North Sixth street, May 16, and mysteriously disappeared after staying there two days. Roed left all his belongings at the hotel and the proprietor believes there has been foul play. Roed was known to have a large sum of money on him besides a gold watch. When he came to the Union house he stated his intention to remain some weeks. Roed was a bridge carpenter and it was his practice to come to the city and recreate for a period after doing a piece of work. He always stopped at the Union house.

Because of this and similar cases recently it is the belief that an organized gang of thugs is operating in the city whose methods are to destroy all possible chance of arrest by disposing of their victims. The case of Roed was not reported to the police until this morning, and they are thus handicapped to certain extent in their search.

BATTLE WAXES HOT AT SPOKANE

Local Option Has Turner and Free Booze to Fight —Delegate Slate.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Spokane, Wash., May 18.—The Democratic state convention was called to order at 11:30 today in the Armory with about 550 of the 708 delegates present and the rest represented by proxy. Turner of Spokane was unanimously elected temporary chairman, which election was made permanent. The liquor interests are freely giving liquor to delegates in the reception rooms at the hotel in the effort to get the convention to declare against local option. There is difference of opinion as to action on this question. Some favor an initiative and referendum plank. Committees are working and it is thought these will report for local option and the initiative and referendum.

All delegates are enthusiastically for Bryan.

The slate agreed upon this morning was as follows:

National committeeman—W. H. Dumphy, Walla Walla.

Delegates-at-large to the national convention—Fred Baldwin, Spokane; Charles G. Helfner, Seattle; A. R. Titlow, Tacoma; George F. Christensen, Ritzville.

Delegates from the third district—Jerome Drumheller, Spokane; T. A. White, St. John, Whitman county.

Alternates—Third district, Dan Paul, Douglas; A. G. Mitchen, Lincoln, and M. A. Smalley, Okonogan.

For presidential electors—G. W. Hamilton, Benton; J. M. McKernan, Garfield.

Candidates for delegates, second district—Frank Spinning, Pierce; L. H. Hidden, Clarke; W. W. Cannon, Lewis; J. F. Conine, Thurston; L. B. Bignold, Chehalis.

Candidates in the first district—F. A. McDonald and I. P. Calhoun, King; W. W. Black, Snohomish, and several others.

Turner as permanent chairman declared against the local option plank as adopted by the Republicans in state convention. He said the proposition of saying what one's neighbors shall eat or drink is un-American and unfair.

Steamship Line to Alaska.

To organize a steamship line between Columbia river points, especially between Portland and Astoria, and Alaska, is the hope expressed in a letter from the Astoria chamber of commerce to the chamber of commerce, board of trade and Commercial club of this city. Secretary Glitner is asked to have a committee of three appointed from the chamber to join with like committees from other business bodies to see if such a line cannot be established.

WOMAN PROPOSES HUBBY IS SORRY

Quinlan Tells Court He Was Drunk When Housekeeper Asked Him to Wed.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

San Francisco, May 18.—A record-breaking courtship, proposal and marriage, with the woman exercising the prerogatives that leap year grants, was revealed in the superior court today when the maintenance suit of Frances Quinlan against James Quinlan was heard.

According to Mrs. Quinlan, she called at Quinlan's home on October 3 last in quest of a position as housekeeper.

"When I learned that Mr. Quinlan was unmarried and lived alone I felt sorry for him. I asked him why it was that a man with the property he possessed did not find a wife."

The witness blushed as she proceeded, hesitatingly admitting that she suggested to Quinlan that she too was lonesome and would not object to marriage. Quinlan accepted the proposal and two days later they were wed.

Quinlan, in his own behalf, declared that he was intoxicated at the time of the marriage and that he knew nothing about it until he had sobered up.

THREATEN TO KILL SLEUTHS

Men Probing Gunness Mystery Receive Warning Letters.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

La Porte, Ind., May 18.—Interest in the Gunness mystery centered in two features today—the convening of the La Porte grand jury to take testimony and the receipt by Prosecutor Smith and Chief of Police Cochrane of letters threatening them with death if they do not stop the investigation.

In spite of these threats, Prosecutor Smith questioned witnesses before the inquisitorial body and Cochrane continued his probe today in an effort to learn how the 14 persons found dead on the Gunness farm met their death.

One missive received by Smith bore the postmark of Brooklyn, N. Y., and another was mailed in Washington, D. C. The one received by Cochrane, sent from New York city, told him that he would be killed unless he ceases his activity.

It is probable that Abraham Phillips, of Bellington, W. Va., may be another Gunness victim. In February, 1907, he left his farm in West Virginia to marry a rich widow in La Porte. He has never been seen by friends or relatives since.

Digging in the ruins of the Gunness home has been resumed, as the authorities have suddenly come to the conclusion that more skeletons will be found there. In addition to this work the little pond near the private burying grounds will be dragged and the barn on the Gunness farm will be moved, so that diggers can turn up the earth under it.

PERKINS A BANKRUPT IN SPITE OF DEVLIN

Partner of W. Cooper Morris in Pullman Auto Car Company.

A. D. Perkins was today granted his petition in bankruptcy in the federal court by Judge Wolverton. The case has been hanging fire for some months, as the petition was opposed by Receiver Devlin of the Oregon Trust & Savings bank. It appears from the papers on file that Cashier W. C. Morris of the defunct bank and Perkins entered into business together in the automobile business under the general name of the Pullman Auto Car company, Morris to put up $2,500 and Perkins $1,800 and an automobile. It is alleged that Morris failed for some reason to put up his $2,500, and an overdraft resulted in the bank of about $2,000.

The matter was fixed up for the time being, and the bank advanced $10,000 more to the concern. When this gave out $900 was secured, making a total of nearly $13,000 advanced by the bank directly and indirectly secured by Perkins' notes. Perkins then applied to be released from these obligations and others under the bankruptcy act, and Receiver Devlin opposed the petition in the interests of the institution under his charge, because it held Perkins' notes as security for $13,000 advanced through overdrafts.

Devlin's contention was based on two grounds, that the Pullman Auto Car company and Perkins had kept no suitable set of books, and that certain valuable property was being kept concealed. Judge Wolverton found that these two charges were not well founded, so granted Perkins' discharge in bankruptcy.

HARRIMAN PLANNING IRRIGATION SYSTEM

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Los Angeles, Cal., May 18.—E. H. Harriman is planning the greatest irrigation system in the world in the Imperial valley. The constructive work alone will cost $5,000,000 and a part of the project is the reclaiming of 1,500,000 acres of desert land.

The plans that have been discussed so far call for a high line canal from a point on the Alamo river, 20 miles east of Sharp's Heading, which will be 100 feet above sea level. The canal will follow a contour on the other beach line on the east and north sides of the desert basin around the eastern side of Imperial valley and thence down the Coachela valley to Indio. It will be 125 miles long and will cover 2,500 square miles.

It is figures that this land will be made the most fertile in America and that if the irrigation scheme works it will be worth $1,500 an acre.

ARRAIGNED ON CHARGE OF HOLD UP

In Judge Gantenbein's court this morning Finis Brown, alias Bonaparte, and C. H. Smith were arraigned on the charge of having held up Julius Miller and robbing him of $600. They were allowed until Wednesday to plead.

Eimes Jennings was arraigned on the charge of attempting to extort money. He and Carl Jennings are charged with threatening to do bodily harm to William Beckett unless they were given $250. Carl Jennings was not in court today.

Asks for Portland Pictures.

The Atlantic News Service has written to the chamber of commerce asking for pictures and descriptive matter showing the best points of Portland. The matter will be used in various publications throughout the country free of cost to this city.