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Oregon Daily Journal

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VOL. VII. NO. 142. PORTLAND, OREGON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 19, 1908.—FOURTEEN PAGES. PRICE TWO CENTS. ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS, FIVE CENTS.

"BLACKMAIL PLOT" SAYS MRS. L. M. STEVENS

LOUISE POWELL SAID TO HAVE BROKEN WORD

Alleged Marriage Certificate Which Woman Holds Said to Have Been Forged by Her When Question Was Raised by Relatives—Denied by Her Attorney

Twenty-five thousand dollars was the sum paid by T. M. Stevens, exporter and head of the Rice Milling company, to Louise Powell on promise made by the latter that she, in order to clear herself and permit Stevens to marry his present wife without developing a scandal, would secure a divorce—a divorce from a marriage ceremony which was never performed. The money in the form of cash, negotiable paper and a mortgage on the Williamson home was taken, but the promise broken.

This is the assertion made by Mrs. Lillian Monk Stevens. She declared this morning emphatically that the whole proceeding in which her husband has become involved is a venomous blackmailing effort. The marriage certificate which Louise Powell's attorney holds, she asserts, was filled out by Louise Powell herself in the latter's efforts to convince her relatives that she was really the wife of T. M. Stevens.

The marriage certificate was dated at Victoria, B. C., and a fictitious name inserted as the justice of the peace who performed the ceremony, although Canadian laws do not recognize any authority lesser than that of magistrate in the tying of nuptial knots.

Threats Were Made.

Mrs. Lillian Monk Stevens asserts that before and since publicity broke over the affair, both she and her husband were threatened with unenviable notoriety unless steps were taken to pacify the opposing parties to their marriage. It is her declaration that the threats were made in an effort to effect another compromise, hush up the matter and secure another large sum of money from her husband.

The marriage certificate which Louise Powell's attorney holds, and which it is expected will prove a sensational feature of the liaisons dangereuses fast drawing to a climax in the circuit court, was a measure forced upon Louise Powell, states Mrs. Stevens, by a question raised by her relatives whether she indeed was the lawful wife of Stevens.

A blank certificate was secured, Mrs. Stevens says in explanation of the mysterious document which none in Portland has seen aside from Louise Powell's attorney and the woman herself, and pen and ink soon completed the fictitious paper. This, Mrs. Stevens asserts, was exhibited to the skeptically minded relatives of Louise Powell in corroboration of her statement that she had been married in Canada to Stevens.

Merely "Blood Money."

"It was blood money, pure and simple," declared Mrs. Stevens this morning, "which Louise Powell extracted from my husband.

"She had threatened him repeatedly and finally he told her that he was about to be married. He told her many times before our marriage that the best thing and the only thing she could do to clear herself was to go away and secure a divorce. That would simplify matters and place her at the point of the social scale where she wished to stand.

"After repeated conversations on the subject the woman finally agreed to do this, provided there was the money forthcoming to provide for her wants. Mr. Stevens put the woman on her honor to do as she promised, paid her the $25,000, and—well, you see how well she kept her promise.

"But that is not all. For years Mr. Stevens has rendered financial aid to various members of the family who are now endeavoring to ruin his reputation. It was only a few years ago that he started one of the members of the family in business on the east side. Now, after bleeding him for $25,000, comes this blackmailing attempt to reach into his pockets for more.

"I myself wished my husband to withhold the case rather than risk the threats made him by members of the family referred to, but it has reached the courts and the trial will disclose the facts."

No Animosity.

Mrs. Stevens declared that she feels not the slightest animosity toward Louise Powell notwithstanding the fact

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HOLLAND DETERMINED TO MAKE CASTRO APOLOGIZE TO EUROPE

President Castro of Venezuela, whose contumacy toward Holland has led that nation to a naval demonstration against the South American republic. He is shown on the top at the left. On the right is a picture of Wilhelmina, queen of the Netherlands, who is determined to have it out with Venezuela. At the bottom is shown the port and harbor of Willenstad, in the island of Curacao and the Dutch cruiser Gelderland, at anchor.

ADVANCE IS SHOWN IN SCHOOLS

Biennial Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction of Oregon Is Given Out—Teachers Enjoy Material Salary Increase.

School Officers Report the Compulsory Education Law Passed by the Last Legislature a Success—More High Schools Shown.

School Progress.

Enrollment, 1907-8	160,042
Enrollment, 1905-6	156,466
Increase	3,576
Average daily attendance, 1907-8	94,333
Average daily attendance, 1905-6	75,489
Increase	18,844
Cost to taxpayers, 1907-8	$3,061,944.04
Cost to taxpayers, 1905-6	2,371,750.04
Increase	690,193.18

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Salem, Or., Aug. 19.—As shown by the biennial report given out today by the superintendent of public instruction, 107,493 school children were educated in Oregon during the school year of 1907-1908 at a total expenditure of $3,061,944.04. The entire enrollment as shown by the school census was 160,042. The average daily attendance was 94,333. The number of children in the state of school age not attending school was 26,296, of which 13,992 are boys and 12,308 are girls.

In the school year of 1905-1906 the enrollment was 156,466, average daily attendance 75,489, cost to taxpayers $2,371,750.04. In the school year of 1898-1899, the school census showed 142,288 children of the school age, between four and 20 years, number enrolled in schools 85,361, average attendance 61,234, cost to taxpayers $1,259,125.28. The average number of school days in 1899 was 111, in 1906 123, and in 1908 127.

Teachers' Salaries.

The average monthly salary of male teachers in the state was $65.64; for female teachers, $50.16. In 1906 the average for male teachers was $60.02; for female, $44.95. In 1899 the average monthly salary for males was $42.96, for females $34.81. At present the average monthly salary for male teachers in one-room buildings of the coun-

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TOOMEY'S PETITION IS REJECTED

Mayor Lane Declares in Message to Council Removal of Objectionable Resorts in North End Would Start Graft.

City Has No Ground Upon Which to Recognize Violation of Law—Change Would Make Conditions Worse, He Declares.

Declaring the city's recognition of the north end district would be unlawful and would result in opening up a source of graft for a job lot of unscrupulous and dishonest persons, Mayor Lane this morning filed his report on the petition of J. M. Toomey and other north end business men, asking for the removal of the district to another part of the city with City Auditor Barbur, and it will come up before the council at its next meeting.

Mayor Lane's communication is one of the strongest he has ever written to the council, and is comprehensive in its scope and treatment of the subject. He declares that with the present small police force that it would be impossible to keep in check the operations of this class of people if the city attempted to stamp out the evil. Furthermore, Mayor Lane declares that such an attempt would do no more than to scatter the evil and force it into hiding in all parts of the city, which would make it impossible for the present police force to keep track of it. His communication to the council follows:

Questions Right to Exist.

"There has been referred to me by your honorable body a petition signed by some 40 persons who are engaged in business in that district asking for the removal of all bawdy houses from the location in which they are now situated. Among other things the petitioners state that they 'do not aim at the abolition of the "social evil," but desire that a location for its habitat be designated which will be more remote from the business center.' In respect to this request I would respectfully state that if the social evil has a right to a place in which to exist it has as much right to such existence in one business district as in another, and if it is to be 'located' anywhere it had much better be 'located' in a business than in a residence district.

"It must be understood, however, and is conceded that the petitioners are quite within their rights when they ask for or demand the removal of such houses from any place where they happen to be located, but it is quite another matter when they request that such places be settled upon the people of some other locality.

"The city cannot designate or consent to the designation of a defined district

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ONE HUNDRED LIVES LOST IN COLLIERY

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Wigan, Lancashire, England, Aug. 19.—After 20 burned and charred bodies had been dragged by the rescuers from the shaft of the Maypole colliery, and when not less than 60 remained, the flames swept up through the only passageway and drove the workers back.

Between 80 and 100 men are known to have perished as the result of an explosion which shattered the mine last night and was followed immediately by the fire, which brought death quickly to many who survived the shock.

All night long the rescuers struggled and worked to gain an entrance to the tomb where their comrades were imprisoned. For hours it was hoped that many could be brought out alive, but after the opening was made, the full horror of the catastrophe was realized.

The only hope of the rescuers was to carry to the wretched crowd of women and children the burned bodies of their fathers and husbands that they might be given decent burial.

When the flames swept up today and forced the men to flee for their own lives and give up the rescue work, they turned their attention to finding some way of fighting the fire. The most heroic measures were taken.

This afternoon a party of seven sturdy miners volunteered to reenter the mine, believing they could cut off the fire or confine it to certain sections of the works by throwing up walls.

They had hardly disappeared when a second party was dispatched to observe their progress and aid them if possible. The second party had not gone far when they realized that the first seven men had been overcome by the gases. They made a desperate dash and by hard work succeeded in reaching all of the first party.

Overcome at Entrance.

The men were dragged out unconscious and nearly dead. One member of the second party was overcome near the entrance and is at the point of death. The seven members of the first party are all in critical condition, and it is feared most of them will die.

Another party succeeded in getting half way down the shaft and there found that the roof had caved in, blocking the entrance to the chambers where the men are entombed. It will require days to remove the wreckage and the victims will be dead of starvation and bad air, if they already have not succumbed. The mine is filled with noxious gases now, which, it is believed, will make entrance impossible long after the fires burn out.

This city has a population of 90,000 and is maintained mainly by the collieries and foundries.

ZIEGEWEID IS AT WILHOIT

Locomotive Engineer Who Lost Big Check and Disappeared Is Having a Good Time With His Wife at the Springs Resort.

W. L. Ziegeweid, the locomotive engineer who with his wife was thought to have been lost or killed or something, because nothing had been heard of him recently but a little thing like a check for $4,750 which was picked up, has been located. With Mrs. Ziegeweid he is spending his vacation quietly at Wilhoit Springs. His friends have been anxious about him, but Mr. Ziegeweid was unconscious of all the excitement that was being caused simply because he couldn't be located.

Ziegeweid left Portland June 21. He formerly lived in Hood street. Mrs. Lewis, 129 Grover street, Portland, knew Mr. and Mrs. Ziegeweid well and has heard from them regularly since they arrived at the springs some time ago. Mr. Ziegeweid's health has not been of the best of late and on this account he decided upon the extended vacation with his bride of about a year.

From Portland the Ziegeweids went to Silverton. Then he lost the big check. He wrote to the officials of the Merchants National bank in Portland to stop payment on the paper. Mr. Ziegeweid is a man who doesn't worry and he knew the bankers would look after his money to the best of their ability. And they did. And so he went off into the wilds, forgot about losing a mere slip of paper worth $4,750 and began having a good time generally.

Then Mr. Ziegeweid's friends became worried and there was much to do. And now Mr. Ziegeweid and his wife have been located off among the trees and hills where all mankind goes to forget the little incidents of life that go to make existence so troublesome.

TO HEART OF OREGON

That Hill Will Open Rich Treasure House East of Cascades Is Belief of Portland Financiers—Oregon Trunk the Key.

That James J. Hill is the controlling spirit behind the Oregon Trunk railway, which is to penetrate central eastern Oregon by way of the Deschutes valley, is the firm conviction of a number of Portland's leading bankers and capitalists. One of the most prominent men in the commercial life of the city, who is at the head of one of the largest exporting concerns on the coast, and who has been closely connected with the Hill interests since that system just invaded Portland territory, commented on the situation today as follows:

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Oregon Trunk, or Deschutes Valley railroad was projected by the Hill system, and will become an Oregon feeder of the north bank line. I have known for some time that Mr. Hill was seriously considering invading Harriman's eastern Oregon preserves and I believe that the organization of the Oregon Trunk railway is the first move by Hill in the Titanic struggle that is sure to ensue for a division of the eastern Oregon freight traffic. The enormous acreage of arid land soon to be brought under irrigation in eastern Oregon and Washington, and the resulting increase in the volume of freight to be handled in that district is certain to stimulate activity in railroad building throughout the inland empire.

"It will be recalled that just three years ago James J. Hill was in Portland and made the first public announce-

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WILL BLOCKADE DICTATOR'S PORT

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Aug. 19.—Information has been received at the state department that Holland has made preparations to chastise Castro by blockading La Guayra. The United States, it is understood, has agreed to keep hands off. England and Germany are reported to have strengthened Holland's hand in the pending punishment to be inflicted on the dictator of Venezuela. The impression here is that when Castro knows that he is in the corner and must face serious consequences he will weaken and make amends.

WILEY FOR PURE FOOD FOREVER

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Aug. 19.—"I have enlisted for the war and do not intend to lay down my arms until victory for complete and permanent pure food is won," was the announcement with which Dr. Harvey W. Wiley took up his work today in the bureau of chemistry after his protracted absence to attend pure food conferences in the west.

Dr. Wiley, who is chief of the pure food commission, declares the interests now arrayed against him will soon recognize the worth of his proposed reforms and will frankly confess they were in the wrong. He says the interests that have thus far failed to acknowledge the truth are the dried fruit dealers of California, certain molasses manufacturers of Louisiana and the Wholesale Liquor Dealers' association.

MEYERS GETS HIS BRIDE

Salem Merchant Charged by His Sons With Insanity Married at Courthouse This Morning While Detectives Are Thrown Off.

Having completely outwitted private detectives employed by the sons of Joseph Meyers to watch him, the wealthy Salem merchant whom his sons have sought to have declared insane, was married at 11:30 o'clock this morning to Zenaide Du Bette. The ceremony was performed by Circuit Judge Morrow in his chambers at the courthouse while the detectives were scurrying around the Portland hotel, where they supposed Meyers to be.

Unless some new move is executed by the sons, their father has apparently completely triumphed. The object of the insanity complaint was to prevent the marriage, and the Meyers boys supposed that they had at least postponed the affair until after the alienists report and a hearing is given on evidence that they desire to present to show that their father is insane. This hearing is set for Friday before Judge Webster, but nearly everyone except the sons and their attorneys have looked on the proceedings as a joke, and neither of the principals to the marriage were worried by the fact that the bridegroom's insanity has not yet been officially determined.

Take Breakfast Together.

Early this morning Meyers and his bride-to-be left the hotel unobserved after taking breakfast together. They left separately, their movements having been marked out by Deputy Sher-

(Continued on Page Two.)

OREGON PASTOR IS MURDERED AT HIS HOME IN AUSTRALIA

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Estacada, Or., Aug. 19.—The news has just been received from Melbourne, Australia, of the death of the Rev. Harold Robinson, who was shot on the veranda of his home by a man named [illegible], a settler, who is believed to be demented and to nurse a bitter hatred for all who teach religion. The minister occupied a house next to his [illegible].

Shortly after dinner, while Mr. Robinson was walking on the veranda reading a book, the assassin fired the fatal bullet. It passed through his heart, causing almost instant death. His wife rushed to his side only in time to hear him murmur her name. He never regained consciousness.

The murderer had threatened and showed continual dislike to many people. He was commonly feared.

Mr. Robinson was a brother to Rev. Albert Robinson, Presbyterian minister at Hillsboro, Or. Five years ago he left Australia and came to Oregon, and for several months resided with his brother at Hillsboro. During this time he became a member of the Tualatin Plains Presbyterian church and resolved to enter the ministry. He several times filled appointments for his brother.

In 1904 he returned to Australia with his wife. At the time of his death he was pastor of the church at Blackwood, a town near Melbourne.

When the murderer was arrested his house was searched. It was found to be a regular arsenal. Three rifles, two loaded revolvers and a large quantity of ammunition were found.

The funeral of the murdered pastor took place in the quiet little town of Blackwood. The church was crowded with mourners.

PLUME STOLEN AT SWELL BALL FOUND IN GUEST'S HOSE

(United Press Leased Wire.)

San Francisco, Aug. 19.—Nearly 100 members of San Francisco's high society set underwent the indignity of being searched at a military ball at Alcatraz island, when Mrs. Mabel Bates announced that she had been robbed of an ostrich plume valued at $36. The story was told in the police court today when the case of Miss Ethel Price of 1077 Twenty-fourth street, charged with petty larceny, was called. It is claimed that the plume was found in Miss Price's stocking.

When Mrs. Bates announced at the fashionable officers' ball last night that she had been robbed, the doors were locked. A committee of three women was appointed to search the women guests, who were lined up for that purpose. The men also were searched. No one objected until Miss Price was reached. She refused to permit the committee to search her. Thereupon she was taken to a cloakroom, where the plume is said to have been found in her stocking. Miss Price was registered at police headquarters late last night and was immediately released on bail. The case was postponed today.