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VOL. VII. NO. 233.

PORTLAND, OREGON, TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1, 1908.—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

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JOURNAL CIRCULATION  
YESTERDAY WAS  
30,778

# MYSTERY IN DEATH OF SAN FRANCISCO CHIEF OF POLICE UNSOLVED BUT THEORY IS SUICIDE

## BLAMED HIS TROUBLES TO PRESS

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 1.—Chief of Police Biggy, who was lost from the police launch in the bay last night, was in a state of great perturbation as the result of newspaper attacks upon him and complained bitterly of being "hounded to death by the press" shortly before he disappeared, according to the statement made to the police commission today by Commissioner Kiel. Chief Biggy made the trip across the bay to confer with Kiel and he was the last person to talk with him about his affairs before he disappeared.

## EVIDENCE POINTS TO SUICIDE OF W. J. BIGGY



Chief of Police Biggy of San Francisco, who drowned in San Francisco Bay last night—Whether Accidental or Suicide Is Not Yet Determined.

## WAS TO FACE AN INQUIRY TONIGHT

Mayor Taylor of San Francisco Had Sent Message to Chief of Police Relative to Disruption of the Police Department.

Kiel's statement in part follows: "I was called up on the telephone at 7:45 o'clock last night and informed that a gentleman was coming across the bay to see me. I asked who it was and the voice replied: 'Never mind, you know who it is.'"

"It was 8:20 o'clock when I saw the police launch arrive and when I went down to the water's edge, Chief Biggy stepped out."

"He seemed to be greatly perturbed and worried and at once began to complain of the attacks being made upon him in the newspapers. He said he was being hounded by the newspapers and was extremely bitter about it. This was what seemed to be the first thing he spoke of when he landed."

"I told him to pay no attention to what the press said about him and tried to calm him. We then talked about matters pertaining to the police department and at 10 o'clock he started back across the bay."

"The tide was low at the time and I had to go out in a rowboat to meet the launch. I noticed that it was cold and advised him that he better wrap up on the trip back. Biggy said to me: 'Never mind about me; you better take care of yourself.' Those were the last words he spoke to me."

"The statement of Engineer Murphy to the commission is considered to support the theory of suicide. He said: 'Chief Biggy when he came down to the dock, said that he had missed Commissioner Kiel and wanted to go over to Belvedere at once. He seemed worried and nervous.'"

"When we reached Belvedere Commissioner Kiel came out in a rowboat and Chief Biggy went ashore, where he remained for two hours. He told me to be sure to wait as he wanted to get back to the city last night."

"When he came back aboard he complained of being cold. I saw him walking down the dock at the last 10 o'clock. He was then about of Alcatraz island. I think then I didn't notice anything until he ran into the waves of a ferry boat and I called to him to come and help me."

"When he did not answer, I investigated, and found that he was gone."

"Murphy's story of Trip. Murphy then told how he hurried ashore and reported the loss of the chief."

"Other statements were made by Captain J. J. O'Meara, who testified that he saw Biggy yesterday at his office at 4:30 o'clock, and later at 6 o'clock at a restaurant near the Ferry building. Captain James Kelly, head of the detective bureau, also saw him at his office but did not speak to him. James M. Wood of the St. Francis saw him in the police automobile shortly before 9 o'clock."

"Patrolman R. L. Martien testified that he saw the chief at the launch just before the trip to Belvedere. While waiting for Engineer Murphy, he says, he and Biggy smoked a cigar together and the chief seemed cheerful."

"Captain Michael J. Conboy of the harbor station described the search which he had made for the chief's body after the drowning."

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## DISCUSS WOMEN TIPPLING LAWS

Four Speakers Will Talk to White Temple Men's Club—Discussion to Follow.

Four prominent men will present four different phases of the controversy over women in saloons before the Men's club of the White Temple tomorrow evening. After the four, Councilmen Cullins and Rushlight, Rev. E. S. Muckley and F. McKeher, has presented each his side of the case, a general discussion will follow.

Councilman Cullins will explain his ordinance prohibiting women entering saloons. Mr. Rushlight will tell of his ordinance, which was recently defeated in the city council.

Rev. E. S. Muckley, pastor of the First Christian church, will follow with an explanation of the proposed amendment to the Collins ordinance, which will prevent hotels and other places from selling liquor to women. This measure, it is said, has been proposed by retail liquor dealers, but will be discussed nevertheless.

F. McKeher, a well known prohibitionist, will ask if liquor is bad for women, why is it not also equally bad for men?

These speakers will be limited to 10 minutes each, and immediately afterwards a general discussion on this much-discussed subject will be held in which any one present may take part. The meeting will open at 8 o'clock in the White Temple, and is for men only.

## RICH MONTANA MINE SELLS FOR \$7,500

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Butte, Mont., Dec. 1.—The Ophir mine, famous as one of the richest producers of this district, was sold yesterday for \$7,500 to Walter Talent, a banker representing Butte creditors, who demanded the satisfaction of claims aggregating \$140,000. The Ophir was the main asset of the Butte Central and Boston Copper, a \$1,000,000 corporation, embracing Boston and Canadian financiers.

Better Pay at Navy Yard.  
Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Dec. 1.—The clerks and draughtsmen of the navy yard are rejoicing over the receipt of the order authorizing a net 10 per cent increase in their salaries. The increase is the result of a recommendation of local officials. About 65 members of the clerical force are affected.

## LET US PULL TOGETHER

"For a community to be recognized as a manufacturing center is one of the greatest advantages it could possibly have," said H. E. Harris of the Harris Ice Machine Works. "Portland has all the necessary requirements in the way of location, transportation, both water and rail, and the raw material for nearly all manufacturing purposes."

"It is then up to the people of the state of Oregon to pull together for the one great cause, namely: the support of their home factories."

"It seems hard to assert that in a great many instances the local manufacturer is not given the preference by his own people when purchasing goods, but nevertheless it is a cold, hard fact that they do not do so as much as they should."

"The eastern manufacturer, owing to railroad rates and cheap labor, has the whole country for his market and competes with the Pacific coast as well as the south and east. On the other hand, the Pacific coast manufacturer has a limited territory in which he can find a market, due to the absence of rates and cheap labor, which favor the easterner. Owing to these conditions the local houses must find their buyers right here at home and if they do not get the support of the home consumer they cannot exist."

## HILL BROUGHT DETECTIVES INTO ROOT SCANDAL

Leakage of Investigators' Secret Session Includes Gordon's Threat to Tell Corruption Story on Root and Railway King.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Spokane, Wash., Dec. 1.—The state bar commission is today examining L. C. Gilman, western general counsel for the Great Northern, in the Root-Gordon investigation. J. J. Lavin, former secretary to Gordon, was the next witness after Gilman. The closest secrecy is maintained. It is reported that important clues were unearthed in connection with the Gordon shortage scandal. Gordon is said to have threatened to expose corruption complicating J. J. Hill and Root if he was prosecuted. The Gordon shortage is now reported to have been \$100,000.

L. C. Gilman of Seattle, the Great Northern attorney who took charge of Judge Gordon's affairs when the latter resigned, was disclosed with the state bar commission all the forenoon. He spent much time last evening with the members of the commission.

J. J. Lavin of Spokane, an attorney and former secretary to Judge Gordon here, went before the commission after Gilman.

Neither of these nor Frank Post and C. P. Lund, who were examined yesterday, will say a word as to nature of their examination. The Spokane attorneys are quiet as mice, but at least one is known to have stated that Post told him that he (Post) had seen letters alleged to have passed between Gordon and Root, and which the Nuzums are believed to have possession of.

Post was called to testify on this point yesterday. A court official who refused to allow his name used declares that N. E. Nuzum stated to several persons in his hearing that Judge Gordon was charged with a \$100,000 shortage by the Great Northern, and that Gordon immediately went to St. Paul and showed the letters he had implicating Justice Root and James J. Hill.

Threatened Suicide.  
Gordon told the Great Northern legal department that if he prosecuted he would make the evidence public and commit suicide.

The letters are alleged to have shown that Gordon paid Justice Root \$27,000 in connection with railroad litigation. Nuzum denies the possession of such evidence or the making of any statement regarding it.

The state bar commission appointed (Continued on Page Five.)

Telephoned to Kiel.  
When he received this message Biggy at once telephoned to Commissioner Kiel, who had been his friend and supporter on the board. It is understood that he did not get much satisfaction and decided to visit Kiel and see if he could not get some satisfaction when he started in the police launch, but said that he would go unaccompanied, except by Engineer Murphy.

When they reached Belvedere, a small summer resort on the north shore of the bay, Kiel came down from his residence and talked to the chief at the water's edge. Murphy did not hear much of this conversation, and Kiel this morning refused to tell what took place. It is fairly well established, however, (Continued on Page Five.)

Some.  
The initiative and referendum amendment is superior to the city charter, and will override and nullify whatever the charter contains that would defeat or limit the right of referendum, and ordinances subject thereto. It suspends the operation of all ordinances for 30 days that are liable to be referred.

## VEHICLE TAX CANNOT BE ENFORCED

Salem, Or., Dec. 1.—Asserting a strict application of the initiative and referendum enactment in all cases where its framers intended it should be employed, the supreme court today—this time through an opinion written by Justice Eakin—declared the vehicle tax ordinance of the city of Portland unenforceable until the referendum, petitioners a petition involving the referendum was filed with the auditor of the city, and this case was brought into the court.

The decree of Judge Gantenbein was never enforced. In February of this year an ordinance was enacted by Portland's city council which provided a license fee for vehicles, and will override and nullify whatever the ordinance of certain businesses. Within 30 days after the passage of the ordinance a petition involving the referendum was filed with the auditor of the city, and this case was brought into the court.

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## FOES OF GERMANS TRAMPLE FLAG

Vienna (Via Frontier), Dec. 1.—The burning of Emperors William and Franz Josef in flag, the trampling of the German flag under foot and the cheering of Austria's enemies were some of today's scenes in many Austrian cities, where bitter race feeling has been developing for some time.

In many towns the foes of the German people are parading the streets, denouncing the present dynasty, and promising to join the army of insurgents in the event of a civil war.

Disorders are general throughout the empire. The situation is particularly serious at Prague and Trieste, where popular feeling has reached such a pitch that rioting has been narrowly averted.

The government is doing everything possible to suppress the news of the crisis and is rigorously censoring the dispatches which are leaving the country through the regular channels.

## FINCH KEEPS SILENT AS TO PLOT

James A. Finch, the slayer of Ralph B. Fisher, still keeps up the pretense of not remembering anything about killing the young attorney, professing absolute ignorance of having been near the Mohawk building at any time last Saturday afternoon. Yet Finch's mind seems perfectly clear as to all that preceded and all that followed the tragedy.

This morning Finch told in detail of a conversation he held with Frank Grant, another lawyer, a few hours before Fisher was killed; and also described minutely a conversation over the telephone with Fisher about 11:30 o'clock. Finch repeats the conversation word for word with Fisher—then can't recall going to Fisher's office and shooting him down in cold blood.

The cool effrontery of the man is exemplified by his declaration, this morning, that he regretted circumstances were such that he was unable to attend the funeral of the man he murdered. He asserts that Fisher was the last man he would have thought of killing and would have the public believe that he held no enmity toward his victim.

Finch's defense is to be emotional insanity, or temporary mental aberration of the mind, but that 12 men can be found in Multnomah county who can be persuaded that Finch did not know what he was doing when he shot Fisher, seems highly improbable in view of all the circumstances.

No Conspiracy Found.  
The theory of a conspiracy to murder Fisher which was advanced in newspaper stories seems to have fallen absolutely flat. It is probable that some of the other disbarred attorneys felt themselves aggrieved by Fisher's strict interpretation of his duty as prosecutor of the State Bar association, and it seems probable that some of them besides Finch was concerned in the sending of the threatening letters and telephone messages. But there is nothing to indicate that there was any plot for the murder of the attorney.

J. H. Hitchings, a lawyer whose name has been mentioned freely in connection with these letters and messages, denies flatly that he wrote or sent the threatening letters. He says he has never threatened Fisher over the telephone.

"I have no typewriter," he said this morning. "I have never had my fingers on one in my life. My typewriting is done by several young men, one of them a stenographer in the Oregon building and I have no telephone. The attempt to connect me with the Fisher case is due to the fact that I have mentioned my name in connection with several times against such unprofessional conduct. He is just taking this opportunity to get even with me. I think the murder of Mr. Fisher was a calamity to the community."

There is no telephone in Hitchings' office, and no typewriter was visible this morning.

Hitchings protested violently that he was being made the victim of a conspiracy on the part of several persons whom he named, to blacken his reputation.

(Continued on Page Five.)

## ARKANSAS MEN TO CUT LEVEE

Flood in Arkansas River Menaces Pine Bluff—Recession in Oklahoma.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Pine Bluff, Ark., Dec. 1.—Following a mass meeting at which it was decided to defy the United States government, citizens of this place are preparing to cut the government levee on the north side of the Arkansas river.

The river has been caving in here for weeks and several warehouses have already been carried away. Reports of flood waters up the river convinced the citizens that unless the levee was cut the \$300,000 courthouse and the Jefferson hotel, a structure costing \$250,000, would be destroyed. The bank of the river has already been cut away to within a few feet of the rear walls of the threatened buildings.

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 1.—The floods which have been raging in this section are receding today and the rivers are within their banks in most places. It is believed the greatest danger has passed. The number of known dead is eight, and the property damage estimated at \$1,000,000.

Retreats for Curable.  
The National Red Cross society, which is interested in stamping out this terrible pestilence of tuberculosis, is using this means throughout the various states of arousing interest in the work and in raising money for establishing open air retreats where the curable patients may be taken and separated from contact with the members of their families who are not afflicted. In this state the visiting nurses' association has the sale of the stamps and every penny collected in the local work.

The visiting nurses' association has the following officers: Honorary president, Mrs. Stephen B. Wiley of Brooklyn, N. Y.; president, Mrs. Millie R. Trumbull; vice president, Mrs. W. B. Ayer; secretary, Mrs. A. F. Blyden; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. A. Baldwin; directors, Mrs. A. A. Morrison, Mrs. H. S. Gile, Mrs. John Crane, Mrs. Helen Ladd Corbett, Mrs. F. J. Bailey, Mrs. P. J. Cronin, Mrs. R. B. Lamson, Mrs. Hamilton Brooke, Mrs. Adolphe Wolfe, Mrs. Clarence Nichols, Miss Virginia Wilson, Mrs. S. M. Blumatter and Miss Valentine Pritchard.

DADDY JASKULSKI HELPS KIDDO OUT  
(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Seattle, Wash., Dec. 1.—John Jaskulski, who a month ago notified the auditor's office not to grant a marriage license to his 15-year-old son Victor, today appeared at the marriage license window and rescinded his former order by procuring a license authorizing his son to marry Miss Louise Kollmorgen, 17 years old.

My son tells me he went to San Francisco a month ago and wedded Miss Kollmorgen," said the father. "Under these circumstances, I prefer that they be wedded with the consent of the parents and we want a license so they may be married here again."

Mr. Hitchings protested violently that he was being made the victim of a conspiracy on the part of several persons whom he named, to blacken his reputation.

(Continued on Page Five.)

## SELL STAMPS TO DOWN PLAGUE

Visiting Nurses' Association Will Put Holly Stamps on Sale Tomorrow for Benefit of Consumptives—Money All to Be Expended Here.

To aid in fighting tuberculosis in Oregon, the Visiting Nurses' association is placing on sale beginning tomorrow, the Red Cross seals, to be used as stickers on Christmas packages, letters and cards.

These stamps will be sold at one cent each, and the entire proceeds will be used to aid this work in this state. Wherever the stamps are sold throughout the state, the money will be spent in that locality, thus making the effort in each part of the state depend upon the support of the movement in each locality.

A. L. Mills, president of the First National bank, said this morning: "The work of the Visiting Nurses' association is deserving of the support of everyone, and the sale of these stamps is about the easiest way in which the entire public can give its support."

"The nurses endeavor to reach the penniless and friendless in the last stages of consumption, and there is no organization in the state except this one that is doing this work. The Open Air sanatorium is unable to take charity patients in the last stages of the disease, and the money collected by the sale of these stamps will be used to help the penniless who are consumptives."

"There is at present no place in the city where a woman dying of consumption can find a room or a bed whereon to die, and anyone who has any charity, even if he has none but who for selfish reasons wishes to protect himself and his family from this disease—should support this effort of the Visiting Nurses' association."

The seals will be for sale at many of the leading stores about town. They will also be for sale at the business office of The Journal.

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The National Red Cross society, which is interested in stamping out this terrible pestilence of tuberculosis, is using this means throughout the various states of arousing interest in the work and in raising money for establishing open air retreats where the curable patients may be taken and separated from contact with the members of their families who are not afflicted. In this state the visiting nurses' association has the sale of the stamps and every penny collected in the local work.

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OREGON REPUBLICANISM SHOULD NOT BE OREGON SCOUNDRELISM

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

The state of Oregon enacted that the people should vote at the polls on the choice of United States senator. At the election last appointed for that purpose in 1907, the order and preference of the people that George E. Chamberlain, a Democrat, be chosen such United States senator was recorded unmistakably.

Since then a Republican legislature has been chosen, and, as Mr. Chamberlain is a Democrat, the suggestion has been made that the Republican legislature should disregard the mandate of the people and choose one of its own party faith, instead of Mr. Chamberlain, as United States senator. Had the last state primary preferred a Republican for United States senator, and had the recent election resulted in the choice of a Democratic legislature, the proposition of nullification or of violation of the voted order of the state, proceeding from Democrats to such a legislature, would be roundly and universally denounced by Republicans in Oregon and elsewhere.

The contention that Republicans do right, when they do wrong, simply because they are Republicans and have the chance to do wrong, is an abomination in morals and should be nauseous to Republicanism itself. We think it will be nauseous to them, but we shall wait and see.

The Oregon Journal, published at Portland, is proceeding upon the principle that honesty and Republicanism in that state can and should be regarded as synonymous, and we shall continue to believe that Oregon Republicanism is not political scoundrelism, until we are forced to conclude to the contrary.

## FEUDISTS MAKE WOMAN A VICTIM

Mrs. Ellen Taylor Killed and Famous Kentucky Vendetta Reopened.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
London, Ky., Dec. 1.—The Whitaker-Barnes feud is reopened today following the killing of Will Merritt Barnes, 50 years old, and his stepdaughter, Mrs. Ellen Taylor, 39, last Sunday. Members of the opposing clans are heavily armed and more tragedies are expected.

Nearly a dozen men have been killed in the feud during the past 15 or 20 years, all related by blood or marriage. Three years ago two of the Whitakers were killed and the Barnes brothers were charged with the murder. A year ago a son of Will Merritt Barnes killed a Whitaker in Pulaski county but was acquitted Sunday morning. Tyree and Barnes went to the home of Mrs. Ellen Taylor, where Barnes, her father, was being shaved. When he arose, Tyree shot him with a 45-50 Winchester. Mrs. Taylor ran for a shotgun, and Barnes filled her breast with buckshot. Both men escaped. Barnes died at 6 o'clock and Mrs. Taylor a little later.

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