

WHITE MURDERER MAY BE PARDONED

John P. Warren, in Prison for 50 Years, May Spend Happy Christmas.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 9.—When the state board of pardons meets the first of next week it will consider and act upon an application for the pardon of John P. Warren, who is officially designated as convict No. 1 on the roster of the big Connecticut state prison at Wethersfield. If favorable action is taken by the board, it is generally believed that such will be the case, the coming Christmas will be a happy one indeed for Warren, for it will be his first Christmas outside of prison walls in half a century.

On the day that the board of pardons meets to consider his case Warren will have completed an even 50 years as an inmate of the state prison. He is believed to be the longest imprisoned life convict in the United States, and possibly in the world. When the doors of the big prison first closed behind him the Civil war had not commenced, railroad transportation was in its infancy and such common conveniences of the present day, as the telephone, the electric car, the automobile and the typewriter were unheard of, not to mention the skyscraper buildings, wireless telegraphy, flying machines, submarine boats and a hundred and one things with which the present generation is familiar.

Murders His Wife.
Wife murder was the crime for which Warren was sentenced to life imprisonment. One day in July, 1859, he invited his 15-year-old wife to take a walk with him, and coming to a brook near their farm in Willington, a small town in Tolland county, in northeastern Connecticut, he suggested that they take off their shoes and stockings and bathe their feet in the cool waters of the brook.

She acquiesced, but once near the brook, Warren seized her and held her head under the foot or more of water until life was extinct. Just what was the motive that actuated the man to commit the deliberate, cold-blooded and apparently unprovoked crime on his wife, none knows, and Warren himself has never talked of the crime, since he confessed and pleaded guilty at the time of his arrest.

Warren's plea of guilty and his attorney's earnest plea for a second degree sentence saved his life and he was sentenced to prison for life on the day on which a notable meeting was held in Hartford of famous Connecticut patriots, under a call to save the Union. The war feeling was then beginning to become a factor in national politics, but Warren was taken to Wethersfield before the war commenced, and what has happened in the 50 years that have elapsed since that time, he knows of only indirectly and from what he has been permitted to read.

In Best of Health.
It speaks well for the methods employed at the state prison that the 50-year inmate shows little evidence of failing powers, either mental or physical. Though he looks more like a man of 45 or perhaps 50 years. He is alert mentally and takes an active interest in all that goes on about him. In recent years he has been allowed considerable freedom in the institution, though never permitted to leave the prison grounds.

If the aged life is released through the action of the board of pardons next week he will be well taken care of during his remaining years by his two younger brothers and other members of his family, all people of excellent standing. It is understood that the application for a pardon has been endorsed by many persons of prominence who have interested themselves in his case.

DISSENSION AMONG PROSSER WATER USERS
Prosser, Wash., Dec. 9.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Bunnyside Water Users' association was held Saturday and after a prolonged discussion of the policy of the present board of directors was adjourned to January 8, 1910.

The issue is whether the policy antagonistic to the reclamation service should be continued or whether a board should be elected to act with and cooperate with the service. The present board claims that it does not wish to antagonize the reclamation service, but asks for an appropriation for \$2500 to expert the books of the service.

VALE OIL FIELDS BEING DEVELOPED

J. P. Wilbur, Capitalist of Union, Brings Very Encouraging Report.

Oil of the highest quality and in measurable quantities has been found in the Vale oil fields in Malheur county, declared J. P. Wilbur, capitalist and manufacturer from Union, Or., who is in Portland after a protracted stay in the Vale district.

"Every indication points to the fact that underlying the district south of Vale is an immense lake of oil, continued Mr. Wilbur. Oil experts from Pennsylvania and West Virginia, after an exhaustive examination of the geological formations in northern Malheur, confirm this; while C. W. Washburn, of the United States geological survey, who was sent into the district by the secretary of the interior for the purpose of examining the formation and reporting upon the oil prospect said that the geological formation of the district gave every indication of the presence of oil in commercial quantities."

Five Companies Operating.
Over \$200,000 has already been expended in development work by the five companies operating in the Vale oil field. All of the companies are equipped with standard rigs capable of sinking 5000 feet. These companies have wells down from 700 to 1700 feet, and in the deepest wells oil has been found in measurable quantities.

The product from the wells in the Vale district is what is known as paraffine base oil, which is much more valuable than the asphaltum base oils from California. Oil geologists now in the district predict that the lake will be tapped at a depth of from 800 to 2000 feet, which will be reached by several of the companies operating in the district during the next few days.

The whole state is keenly alive to the importance of the development now in progress in the Vale oil district, as the belief is generally held that at no distant day the drills will reach an immense lake of oil underlying northern Malheur county and that this valuable substance will become one of the most valuable products of a state already rich in the gifts of nature.

Portland Will Profit.
That Portland will profit largely by the development of the Vale oil district is undeniable. The finding of oil in commercial quantities along the eastern border of Oregon will speedily make this city one of the great oil centers of the country. A pipe line from the oil district to Portland will be one of the first necessities to follow the striking of a flow. The heaviest capitalistic interest in the country, the Standard Oil, will lose no time in getting into the district once oil is discovered, it is figured, and ample capital will be immediately forthcoming to carry a pipe line down the Snake and Columbia rivers to bring the product of the wells to tidewater at Portland.

The Vale oil fields cover an area 25 by 35 miles. The field was discovered in northern Malheur county, and since then nearly \$250,000, all of which came from the towns in the surrounding country, has been expended in development work. Over 20 companies have been organized for the purpose of sinking wells, five of which are now drilling and others will begin as soon as the required equipment can be obtained from the east.

That the federal government has confidence in the future of the district is shown from the recent action of Secretary of the Interior Ballinger in withdrawing from entry 75,000 acres in northern Malheur county as a reserve, from which a supply of fuel oil may be secured for the future use of the navy.

ARCHITECT WILLIAMS MEETS WITH REBUFF
Architect D. L. Williams met with rebuff yesterday when the civil service commission refused to heed his letter of complaint aimed at City Building Inspector Dobson. The letter was placed on file.

Williams says in his letter that two carpenters have been appointed as deputy building inspectors and he calls attention to the clause in the city ordinance which makes five years' experience in brick work, masonry and concrete construction a requisite for eligibility as deputies.

FERCE GALE HAS SPENT ITS FORCE

California Hit Hard by Terrible Storm—Telegraph Service Demoralized.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
San Francisco, Dec. 9.—After raging for 14 hours a fierce gale that has swept the coast from San Diego to British Columbia showed no signs of abating early today. According to officials of the local weather station the storm spent its force in the early dawn.

In this city the wind blew at the rate of 50 miles an hour last night, while off the heads it reached a velocity of 60 miles. Reports from the Oregon coast state that the storm assumed almost hurricane velocity there, a 70 mile gale whipping the sea into a succession of mountainous waves.

The storm delayed streetcar traffic here. Several lines were prostrated. Telegraphic communication throughout California was demoralized.

Reports from points in the Sierra Nevada mountains stated that the snowfall that accompanied the storm in the higher districts was unusually heavy. If the rains and snow continue two days it is feared the Sacramento, Yuba and Feather rivers will overflow. There is 24 inches of snow at Summit, in the Sierras.

A landslide on the Santa Cruz branch of the Southern Pacific has tied up traffic. Laborers have been sent to repair the damage.

Because of the warnings issued by the weather bureau yesterday it is believed coastwise shipping escaped serious damage. Vessels scheduled to clear from San Francisco yesterday postponed their departure. Bay vessels were given ample opportunity to prepare for the gale.

THREE DUCK HUNTERS DROWN NEAR RICHMOND
(United Press Leased Wire.)
Oakland, Cal., Dec. 9.—Search was instituted today for the bodies of two of the three duck hunters who lost their lives off Point Richmond last night. The body of Deputy Sheriff J. J. Burrows of Contra Costa county has been recovered. The others who were drowned were Richard C. Casabonne and an unknown companion. The three were hunting yesterday in a small boat. Late in the evening they were overtaken by a squall and capsized.

CARRIE SMASHES WASHINGTON GLASS
(United Press Leased Wire.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—Immediately after she alighted from the train on her arrival here yesterday, Carrie Nation proceeded to the elaborate bar in the new Union station. Before she could be intercepted she had smashed glassware worth \$35. The police were called and she was immediately placed in jail. Mrs. Nation is in Washington in the hope of securing temperance legislation from congress in furtherance of the crusade she has conducted for years.

REFORMERS OF CIVIL SERVICE IN SESSION
New York, Dec. 8.—Leaders of national reputation in the movement for the betterment of the civil service were on hand today at the opening of the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the National Civil Service Reform association of which Dr. Charles W. Elliot, president emeritus of Harvard university, is president. The convention will last two days and the program includes several meetings and a banquet tomorrow evening. Among the subjects slated for

discussion are civil pensions, consular reform and the application of the merit system to the higher municipal offices.

At the first general session this afternoon the chairman, Richard Henry Dana, submitted the report of the council. The report dealt with the progress of civil service reform in both federal and state administrations and pointed out faults in the present application of the civil service laws in the opinion of the council, and made suggestions for further activity in protecting the cause.

The speakers to be heard tomorrow include United States Civil Service Commissioner William C. Washburn, E. Dana Durand, Frank L. Folk and F. E. Doty. Honorable Joseph H. Choate will preside at the annual banquet tomorrow evening and among the speakers will be Dr. Charles W. Elliot and Edward H. Shepard.

Officers Relected at La Center.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
La Center, Wash., Dec. 9.—All city officers were relected today as follows: Mayor, N. E. Bashford; police chief, W. H. McCann; treasurer, P. Kane; councilmen, J. E. Kane, F. Brainer, W. Maco, A. A. Harrison, G. L. Spencer.

Alleged Bank Wrecker Arrested.
(United Press Leased Wire.)
Mineral Point, Wis., Dec. 8.—Calvert Spensley, former president of the First National bank of Mineral Point, was arrested today and taken to Madison, where he will be arraigned on the charge of complicity in wrecking the institution.

COAL CLAIMANTS WERE IN COMBINE

Witness Burbridge Alleges They Were Moving Guggenheim's Way.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 8.—The government inquiry into the Cunningham coal claims case today developed the fact that some interest, believed to be the Guggenheims, has been buying up coal claims, operating through H. V. Winchell of Minneapolis, who has purchased six claims, taking the titles in his own and other names.

Frederick Burbridge, a Spokane mining man, an entryman in the Cunningham group, said he had used his efforts to block the Guggenheim deal in 1907, because the price agreed on was not so good as that offered by Charles Sweeney, the Spokane capitalist, who was trying to secure 10 claims. Burbridge later sold his claim to Winchell for \$18,000.

Burbridge was one of the best witnesses for the government that has yet been called. He is not involved in the case at present and made a complete

statement of facts concerning efforts to consolidate the Cunningham coal claims and form a company, and of the later negotiations with the Guggenheims. He denied any combination at the time of entry, but admitted it would come some day.

Orville D. Jones, of Wallace, Idaho, an entryman who was on the stand yesterday, proved to be a most forceful claimant. From Jones and from F. F. Johnson, of Wallace, L. R. Glavis, the deposed special agent of the land department, gleaned information of alleged collusion on the part of entrymen, also of an effort to dispose of claims to the Guggenheim syndicate.

Jones said he had forgotten a great many things that are attested by his sworn affidavits in the government's possession. He admitted, however, that he had made a trust deed with a view of conveying his claim to a holding company in the event that a majority endorsed the Guggenheim proposition. Jones said he had signed Glavis' affidavit too hastily, but remarked that Glavis had made no undue effort or promise to secure his statement, which was witnessed by another government agent, Tilford Jones.

Great Educators to Meet.
Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 8.—The local committee in charge of arrangements has practically completed all preparations for the entertainment of the Southern Educational association convention to be held in this city during the Christmas holidays. All signs point to the largest and most notable

gathering in the history of the association. The convention will be especially notable for the large number of educators and others of national prominence who will take part in the proceedings. Scheduled among the noted speakers are former President Eliot of Harvard university, President Dabney of the University of Cincinnati, Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt university, President Messer of the University of Texas, President Venable of the University of North Carolina, President Kincaid of the University of Mississippi, President Jordan of Leland Stanford university and President Judson of the University of Chicago.

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Toms and Tabbies on the Bench.
San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 5.—The putting-crierocracy of the Pacific coast met today in Lyric hall in a friendly competition for several thousand dollars' worth of prizes. The event is the second annual exhibition of the Pacific Cat club. The show will last three days, and the prospects are that it will be an interesting and successful as the predecessor was a year ago. The show is held under the rules of the American Cat association, and the prize blooded felines are being judged by Mrs. E. E. Deane of Chicago.

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