

COULD INTEREST TAKEN IN PEPOON MURDER MYSTERY

Since Publication in Journal of Strange Case Announced Attorney General Bell Has Gone to Scene.

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
Mrs. P. W. Wolcott of 111 East
Forty-seventh street, who believes her
27-year-old daughter, Mrs. Edith Pepon,
was murdered near Northport, Wash.,
and who has been endeavoring for five
months to induce Washington state of-
ficials to make an investigation of the
matter in which she died, received
word today that Attorney General W.
Bell has made a personal trip to
Stevens county.

Has Many Letters.

Mrs. Wolcott has a number of letters
from Attorney General Bell and depu-
ties which give evidence of the diffi-
culty she has had in interesting Wash-
ington state officials in her case. Two
of the letters are from Dr. Elmer E.
Hag, commissioner of the Washington
state board of health. He resides in
Seattle. Mrs. Wolcott wrote him and
later visited him, inquiring if he had
received notice of the death of her
daughter from Dr. Roy Wells, health
officer at Northport.

Although the woman died August 29 Dr. Hag's letter, dated October 20, says: "Replying to your favor of October 15, would state we have not received a report of the death of Mrs. Pepon." "We will take this matter up with the proper authorities."

Hag Unsuccessful.

That Dr. Hag made an effort to learn
of the manner in which the woman died
and was unsuccessful, up to the time
the last letter was written, is shown
in a communication received from him
by Mrs. Wolcott, written some weeks
later. He wrote:

"We beg to advise you we have re-
ceived the death certificate of Mrs.
Edith Pepon, cause of death being
given as heart failure. This is not
sufficient and acceptable at this office
and will be returned for further par-
ticulars."

In November a third letter was re-
ceived from Dr. Hag. He said:
"Your favor of November 7 is duly
received and we are at the present time
investigating this matter to see who
is at fault in the failure to furnish the
death certificate."

"I visited Dr. Hag personally some
time later," said Mrs. Wolcott, "and
he told me he had written Dr. Wells,
emphasizing to him the importance of
the case and demanding an investiga-
tion, and declaring it was one which
should have been reported to the cor-
ner of the county at once. As far as
I have been able to learn Dr. Wells
never reported the death to the corner
and did not reply to Dr. Hag's last let-
ter. Since that time Northport has
been given a new health officer."

Official Refuses to Act.

On October 12, 1908, Mrs. Wolcott
and her daughter, Mrs. Earl Pugh also
of Portland, made a trip to Northport
for the purpose of personally investi-
gating the death of Mrs. Pepon. They
called on Prosecuting Attorney Kirk-
patrick of Stevens county, at Colville,
Wash., the county seat, but they
were able to get little satisfaction from
him.

"Mr. Kirkpatrick told me he would
not take up prosecution of the case.
He said he did not consider the evi-
dence sufficient. He said that even if
the body were exhumed and evidences
of strychnine poisoning found, he
doubted if he would do anything. But
if the attorney general orders me to
go ahead with it," he said, "I must do
so."

Kirkpatrick, however, accompanied
Mrs. Wolcott and Mrs. Pugh to Spo-
kane, Wash., where he took them to
call on Assistant Attorney General Lee.
"He was rude to us," she said, "and
take up the case with the attorney
general."

Go to Olympia.

The women then went to Olympia to
interview the attorney general. They
found him absent, but interviewed his
assistants, W. F. Magill and W. V.
Tanner.

"Both Mr. Magill and Mr. Tanner be-
came intensely interested in the case,"
said Mrs. Wolcott, "and were careful
to get every fact known to them."
A letter received from Magill says:

"In reply to your letter, I will say
that the attorney general has returned
to Olympia, and I have talked with
him about the matter which you talked
over with me. He will take the matter
over with him. It seems as though
that after you left Spokane, Mr. Lee
made further investigation upon his
own responsibility and wrote Mr. Kirk-
patrick that he thought by all means
a careful investigation should be made
with a view to prosecution."

Trip Unnecessary.

"He has a copy of the letter which
he wrote to Kirkpatrick, but says Kirk-
patrick never answered him, or even
acknowledged receipt of his letter. Mr.
Lee is of the opinion that the case mer-
its careful investigation. Mr. Bell is
also of the same opinion, but he said he
did not think it would be necessary for
you to go on the expedition and trouble
making a trip to Olympia to see him.
He said he would write to Mr. Kirk-
patrick and suggest an investigation, and
then if it should become necessary that
he should see you, he will let you
know."

Mr. Bell writes to Mrs. Wolcott, his
letter being dated December 20. He
says:

"Yours of the 11th, addressed to Mr.
Magill, has been handed to me for con-
sideration. You would have heard from
this office before this if there had been
anything that we could have reported
which would have afforded you any satis-
faction."

Says Evidence Lacking.

"From my investigation I am seri-
ously in doubt if a conviction could be
gotten if the suspect and parties were ar-
rested, and placed on trial, and I do not
feel like interfering in the matter
and advising an arrest without going to
Stevens county and investigating the
matter personally."

"When this matter first came to this
office I thought it might be necessary
for me to be in Stevens county on state
business before this, but the case there-
in pending has been postponed from
time to time and it will not be neces-
sary for me to be there for some little
time, so that I may not need to go at
all. I am anxious to see that the laws

COAL MINERS TO GET ADVANCE IN THEIR WAGES

Operators and Workers As- sured That Difficulties Will Be Settled Amicably at Con- ference Next Wednesday.

(United Press Special Wire.)
Peoria, Ill., Feb. 21. Mine operators
and miners of the middle and eastern
states, who have faced the possibility
of a great strike in the coal fields of
that country, are assured today that all
difficulties between employers and em-
ployees will be settled amicably.

President Thomas L. Lewis of the
United Mine Workers of America made
the following statement to the public,
through the United Press exclusively:
"There will be a joint conference
will be held between miners and op-
erators and that every miner in the
districts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michi-
gan and Indiana and possibly Illinois
will get an advance in wages."

"There will be no strike, not even
an interruption of work pending a set-
tlement of the matters at issue."

According to the mine workers' presi-
dent, a preliminary conference will be
held at Cincinnati next Wednesday be-
tween representatives of the leading op-
erators and of the mine workers, for
the purpose of issuing a call for a
joint conference to settle the wage
scale.

The conference will be extensive in
scope and will include a larger repre-
sentation for each side than was pre-
sented at the recent joint conference at
Toledo, which resulted in failure of the
conference to agree on the question of
wages.

Representatives of both sides from
the states mentioned will attend the
joint conference to be held later and
from the statement of President Lewis
it is apparent that both sides are will-
ing to concede somewhat from their
demands to avert a great industrial
struggle.

of the state are enforced and that every
man guilty of a crime is punished, but
if I am convinced from the proof sub-
mitted to me that it will be impossible
to secure a conviction, I would not feel
justified in advising that the authori-
ties cause an arrest to be made and a
large bill of expenses charged against
the county.

"I heartily agree with you that things
do not appear just right and that there
are some very suspicious circumstances
but you realize that a crime must be
proven beyond a reasonable doubt, and
that suspicious circumstances are very
little things in securing a conviction
where the proof must be so absolute
as in the case of murder."

"If the prosecuting attorney refuses
to file an information the only thing
that can be done would be for the
judge to engage a grand jury to in-
vestigate the matter and I doubt if the
judge would be induced to call a grand
jury upon the showing that we could
make."

"However, if you feel like talking this
matter over with me, I would be glad
to take it up with you at any time."
Mrs. Wolcott visited Judge W. P.
Bell in Seattle December 29, and ac-
cording to her statement he promised
an immediate investigation of the case.
"I am a poor woman," she said, "but
if the prosecuting attorney can be
forced to file an information, I will
willingly sell my home and retain
attorneys who know more about pro-
secuting of criminals than do the authori-
ties."

Traffic Tied Up By Broken Beam

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
A broken brake beam falling from
engine 2163 threw two cars off the
track of the Southern Pacific at the
corner of Fourth and Hooker streets
this morning and completely tied up all
traffic over the West Side Division of
the Southern Pacific for over four
hours. One of the derailed cars, an oil
tank, rolled down the bank and landed
in the garden of an Italian gardener,
from which it will take the services of
a powerful derrick to remove it. Lucki-
ly no one was hurt.

Two heavy engines were pulling a
string of empties, four cars loaded with
ashes and an oil car up the Fourth
street grade this morning, she said, "but
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STAMPEDED!



The above cartoon is intended to show the condition of affairs existing in the New York state legislature as the result of the bribery charges brought by Senator Conger against Senator Aldis, president pro tem of the upper house.

CLUB ASKS MORE PAY FOR RURAL MAIL CARRIERS

Spokane Organization Calls Attention of Portland Com- mercial Club to Conditions in Northwest.

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
Believing that the rural mail car-
riers in the Pacific northwest are not
paid sufficiently, the "150,000 club" of
Spokane, Wash., has started a campaign
for better pay. The matter has been
put before the Portland Commercial
club in the shape of a letter which will
be taken up at tomorrow's meeting of
the board of governors.

Conditions existing in and about
Spokane are said to be much like those
existing in and about Portland, and for
that reason the initiative taken by the
Spokane club will be of much interest
in this district and in other places on
the coast where rural mail carriers are
employed.

The letter from the Spokane club,
calling attention to conditions as they
exist follows:

"We wish to call attention of your
organization to the condition of the
western country with regard to the
rural mail service. Conditions in Spo-
kane are such that owing to the small
salaries paid by the government for
this service it is almost impossible to
secure enough men, especially the call-
ing of men that should fill these posi-
tions."

"In detail, conditions in Spokane,
which conditions we believe are com-
mon to all of the western country, are
such that good service cannot be ob-
tained for the reason that the authori-
ties in charge of the local offices are
almost afraid to consure the rural car-
rier for carelessness, fearing he might
resign. In the event of his doing so,
no one could be secured to fill his
place, thus demoralizing the service."

"Take, for instance, the highest
salary—\$75 per month for a 24-mile
route. If a man carries this he is com-
pelled to keep at least two horses and
stand all the loss and other expenses.
The feed and keep of the two horses,
wear and tear of harness and rigs, will
certainly equal \$30 per month. This
would leave a balance of \$45 per month
on which the carrier must support him-
self and family. In order to give the
citizen good service the carrier should
have two good horses and a good cart
and buggy. The cost of this turnout
would be approximately \$100. The annual
cost for maintaining this equipment,
including horses, feed, shoeing, loss of
horses by accident, would average at
least \$26.

"Believing the rural service to be as
good as the average government posi-
tion, a number of those who apply are
bright, intelligent young men, but as
soon as they learn conditions and the
salary attached they usually withdraw
their applications."

"Maximum is \$1200."
"We have already taken this up with
the authorities in Washington, D. C.,
and have learned that no action will
be taken by this session to increase
the salary of these carriers for the
reason chiefly that no organized effort
has been made to bring this matter
properly before congress, and we would
urge that you investigate conditions in
your locality and write your congress-
men and senators calling their atten-
tion to the needs of higher salaries in
the west for this work."

"It should be borne in mind that
while the wages allowed for rural mail
carriers might be sufficient for some
of the thickly populated districts of
the east, where living is cheap, it is
entirely inadequate in any section west
of the Mississippi river."

COLONEL SAM WHITE NOT A CANDIDATE

Colonel Sam White, formerly of Baker
City, stated today that he will not be-
come a candidate for state railroad com-
missioner. "I have come to Portland to
form a partnership with John Manning
to practice law," said Colonel White.
"I have no desire to occupy any polit-
ical office. I shall not seek nor accept
nomination."

FIREMEN START NEW SCHEDULE OF TIME TONIGHT

From Now On Fire Laddies to Be Given 24 Hours Leave of Absence Every Eight Days.

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
The new time schedule of the portland
fire department, which was brought
about mainly through the efforts of The
Journal, will go into effect tonight and
hereafter every fireman in the service
of the city will be allowed a 24 hour
leave of absence every eight days.

In the present, firemen have only
been given 12 hours leave every eight
days. In order to bring about the new
order of things it became necessary for
the city to add 25 men to the payrolls
of the department, but it is believed
that the increased expense will be jus-
tified by the greater efficiency of the
organization that the fire chief will
be able to achieve.

Chief Campbell has always maintained
that the Portland fire department had
fewer firemen to a company than any
department of considerable size in the
United States. With the increased force
he can not only give the men more time
for recreation, but can add to the ef-
fectiveness of the fire fighting force
by making the numerical strength of
each company greater.

"I am greatly pleased to be able to
announce the establishment of the new
schedule," said Chief Campbell, "this
morning, and I am sure it will work
out to the satisfaction of rank and file
as well as the officers of the depart-
ment."

Inheriting some of her father's genius
the young daughter of Thomas A. Ed-
ison has patented a road map for auto-
mobiles and a means for lighting it
with electricity.

CHOICEST ROSES GATHERED FROM WORLD GARDENS

Nine Nations Across Seas Con- tribute Highly Prized Bushes for Place in Portland's City Park.

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
Portland's annual rose planting day,
George Washington's birthday, will be
celebrated tomorrow afternoon at 2
o'clock. The exercises have taken an
unusual turn this year and will attract
international attention through the par-
ticipation of practically every country
represented by a consul in the city of
Portland.

The interest in the rose planting cere-
monies is greater than it has ever been.
It is believed that the City Park will
be thronged with people to witness the
planting of the rose bushes, the impor-
tant part of the ceremony each year.
The Rose Festival association has been
besieged with telephone calls all morn-
ing from people wanting to know the
time at which the ceremony will be
held. If only the people who inquire
by telephone attend the ceremony at 2
o'clock tomorrow afternoon the crowd
will be large.

Choice Roses Contributed.

The ceremony will consist of the ac-
cepting and planting of the rose bushes
sent here by the different countries of
the world. Several months ago the
Rose Festival association sent out in-
vitations to the consuls here asking
them to contribute rose bushes from
their countries for planting on rose
planting day, and the plants to be set
out tomorrow are the result. Each
country is to contribute as many plants
as may be desired and they will be
planted to show the world that no mat-
ter what the bush, the soil and climate
of Portland will make bigger, prettier
and more perfect roses.

Represented tomorrow will be nine
countries. The rose bushes are to be
planted by the consuls in order of
seniority. Following this plan James
Laddlaw, consul for Great Britain, will
plant his rose first with May Back
Hill, the Chinese consul, second. Then
will come Oswald Lohan of Germany,
Yusufur Numan of Japan, Endre M.
Cederburg of Norway, J. W. Mathes of
the Netherlands, Valdemar Lidell of
Sweden, C. Henri Labbe of France, and
Charles E. Candiani of Italy.

Form Japanese Flag of Roses.

The Japanese contribution will make
one of the most beautiful features in
the entire city park when the bushes
are in bloom. The government of
Japan sent over 170 bushes of white
and red colors with which a huge Jap-
anese flag is to be fashioned. It will
be the red rising sun upon a white
field and when in bloom during Rose
Festival week will prove a sight worth
traveling miles to see.

The guests of the Rose society will
gather here at the Oregon hotel tomorrow
at 1:15. From the hotel to the city
park they will be taken in 20 automo-
biles. The first address will be given
by Dr. Emmett Drake, president of the
Rose society, who will give the his-
tory of rose planting day and open the
ceremonials. Following Dr. Drake Gov-
ernor Frank W. Benson will welcome
the consuls and introduce each as the
roses are planted. Mayor Simon will
follow the consuls, thanking them for
their efforts in making a rose planting
day a success. President Hoar, the
members of the park board and sev-
eral other city and county officials will
deliver short talks.

POSTER ON BILL- BOARD OFFENDS REV. MINAKER

Attention of Baptist Ministers' Meeting This Morning Called to Objectionable Pictures Displayed About City.

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
Baptist ministers have the welfare
of their youth constantly in their
minds. The same spirit that last year
actuated them to take action against
the penny-in-the-slot picture machines
in the street railway waiting rooms has
prompted them now to consider the bill-
boards around town.

This morning Rev. A. B. Minaker
called to the attention of his associates
an obscene poster that is an eyerore
to his part of town; a picture which
has by its disgusting subject called out
the worst in the youth of the neighbor-
hood and has caused them to add seri-
ous comments in writing. Mr.
Minaker protested emphatically against
a theater that would make use of such
posters, and said that it poisons the
young minds to have such matters pre-
sented publicly and openly to their
gaze.

Other Ministers Agree.

The other ministers agreed and the
protest while not put into formal
action was the sense of the meeting. Fol-
lowing Mr. Minaker, J. B. Springston,
the new Sunday school missionary for
Oregon, was invited to speak and he
brought his extemporaneous talk on Mr.
Minaker's protest. He held that nothing
is more injurious yet subtle in its
innoculating influences on the young
mind than public display of obscene
texts. In Kansas, where he recently
made his home, there is special legis-
lation against such posters.

Mr. Springston emphasized the im-
portance of the ministers interesting
themselves in practical work for public
and civic righteousness. He mentioned
the present temperance campaign in
Oregon and said that this is the critical
moment when the ministers, besides in-
teresting themselves, should educate
their people to the point of enthusiasm
as well. The juvenile court he termed
a great institution for good where more
of the subjects are the victims of mis-
hap than real criminals and he said
that the ministers could do much in
aiding the corrective work.

Clean City Campaign.

The clean city campaign, he declared,
should receive their constant support
and they should devise means for in-
forming themselves when and where
there is an effort to clean the city.
The anti-cigarette league is an-
other movement which should be con-
stantly supported by the ministers, ac-
cording to Mr. Springston. He be-
lieves that the cigarette habit does more
direct harm to the youth than the liquor
habit, and that the harm shows
most in the schools. He suggested,
incidentally, that the ministers should
be constantly in touch with the school
board that they might know where their
help is needed in directing erring youth.

Laymen's Missionary Rally.

Dr. Wooddy launched the suggestion
that the Baptist ministers have a one
day conference immediately preceding
the laymen's missionary rally the last
of March, in the same manner as they
had followed preceding the Chapman
meetings some years ago. This he said
would interest and gather Baptists from
all over the state. Rev. Mr. Parker
was made chairman of a committee to
arrange this conference and Rev. L. N.
Monroe of a committee on entertain-
ment.

Extended discussion brought them to
the realization that ministers through-
out the state are hampered financially
and find it difficult to attend all the
meetings their Portland brethren ar-
range for them. By motion it was de-
cided to arrange entertainments, includ-
ing lodging and three meals for the
visiting ministers and lodging and
breakfast for visiting laymen. Next
Monday the entire hour of the Baptist
meeting will be given up to discussion
of the laymen's missionary movement.

CITY ASKED TO PAY LARGE SUM

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
Damages aggregating \$210,000 for a
tract of waterfront lots 76x240 feet are
asked by Marie L. Flanders, and the
Albers Milling company in an answer
in the circuit court to the condemnation
suit filed by the city of Portland to ac-
quire a right of way over the Flanders'
property for the Broadway bridge.

Last week Judges Bronaugh, Ganten-
bein and Morrow overruled the demur-
er of the defendants to the condemnation
suit. The answer includes the objec-
tions argued on demurrer and says that
if these objections are not allowed Mrs.
Flanders should be allowed \$110,000,
and the Albers Milling company \$100,000.

Mrs. Flanders is the owner of the
lots over which the proposed approach
for the bridge is planned, and on these
lots are Greenwich docks, 1 and 2. Some-
time ago she leased the property to the
Albers company for 25 years, the rental
being raised from \$12,500 the first year
to \$17,500 the twenty-fifth year. The
bridge right of way leaves 49x240 feet
of the Flanders' property on the south
of the bridge, and it is declared that
this 40 foot lot will practically be ren-
dered unavailable for shipping pur-
poses.

Mrs. Flanders says the land itself
is worth \$50,000 and adds \$50,000 more
for damage to the rest of her property.
The Albers people place the damage to
their leasehold interest at \$50,000 and
add \$50,000 more for damage to their
business.

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DALLES COMPANY OUT OF SERVICE

Organization Failed to Main- tain Number of Men Re- quired by Rules.

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)
Company D, Third infantry, Oregon
National Guard, stationed at The Dalles,
was mustered out of the service to-
day by order of Adjutant General W. E.
Finzer. The adjutant general assigned
the reasons for disbanding the or-
ganization an unfavorable report by the
inspector general of the guard, together
with the fact that the company has
less than the minimum number of en-
listed men on its rolls and has failed
to maintain a proper standard of ef-
ficiency.

Captain J. W. Huntington, who com-
manded The Dalles company, advised
the mustering out of the organization
on account of the poor armory facilities
and the consequent difficulty he had
in taking care of company property.

Adjutant General Finzer said this
morning that Hood River would prob-
ably get the place in the national guard
of The Dalles company. However, the
Hood River company will not be or-
ganized until after the summer en-
campment and maneuvers, as the policy
of the war department is opposed to
taking a company into a joint en-
campment until it has gone through one
national guard encampment.

SANTA CRUZ ON WAY TO RAISE YUCATAN

(United Press Special Wire.)
Seattle, Wash., Feb. 21.—The wreck-
ing steamer Santa Cruz, which sailed
from Seattle yesterday morning to
raise the sunken steamer Yucatan, was
reported by the island of Hawaii, Ind-
ia. The masts of the Yucatan are now en-
cased in ice. The Cortage City sailed
from Juneau at 8 o'clock yesterday
morning for Seattle, with the passengers
of the Yucatan.

Journal want ads bring results.

RHYMO THE MONK

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