

SEVENTY-THIRD YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 3, 1923

PRICE FIVE CENTS

# LODI MAN ADMITS KILLING

Alex Kels, Wealthy Butcher,  
Confesses to Authorities  
That He Killed Stranger  
and Tried to Make It Appear  
It Was His Body—  
Insurance Object

EUREKA, Cal., Oct. 3.—Alex Kels, wealthy butcher of Lodi, confessed early this morning to authorities that he killed a stranger on his ranch near Lodi, September 12, set fire to a haystack near his automobile and the body and disappeared from sight in order to enable his wife to collect his insurance money.

Announcement of the confession was made by Assistant District Attorney M. G. Woodard of San Joaquin county at 12:45 o'clock after he and Sheriff W. H. Ricks, who arrived here at 8 o'clock had grilled Kels for nearly four hours.

The attempted hoax was carried out, Kels told the officers, because he was in financial distress. Who the man was that he killed he declared he did not know. He picked the stranger up at a Lodi free employment agency, he said, and took him to his ranch. There he shot the stranger twice, killing him. He then put the body in his automobile, covered it with a laprobe and drove about in the vicinity all day. He stopped at Lodi late in the day at an oil filling station and obtained some gasoline, later driving to the ranch where the body was found. Hearing the hay around the machine, he set fire to it and fled the scene, walking to Sacramento, where he began the trip over the southwest which later led him to Ukiah, Cal., and from there to Eureka, where he was arrested Sunday night.

EUREKA, Cal., Oct. 2.—After a restless day during which he was held incommunicado in the city jail here, Alex Kels, wealthy Lodi butcher, supposedly slain and burned September 12, was questioned here tonight by San Joaquin county authorities who are probing what is alleged to have been an "attempted hoax" to collect life insurance.

Kels appeared on the verge of a nervous collapse when he arose this morning and a close guard was kept over him throughout the day by Chief of Police Len Bannister, to prevent an attempt at self-destruction. When he was arrested in a box car yesterday, Kels apparently was trying to commit suicide by discharging a rifle with his toes and authorities are fearful that he may repeat the attempt.

Laborer Employed  
LODI, Cal., Oct. 3.—Alex A. Kels, Lodi butcher, in whose automobile a man, believed for a time to be Kels, was burned to death September 12, had engaged a laborer that morning to work as a stock feeder on the Kels ranch. It was asserted today by Levi Atwood in charge of a local free employment agency, Atwood related a conversation he said he overheard between Kels and the man who apparently died later in the automobile fire.

The fire victim evidently was an itinerant laborer who had come here in the hope of obtaining employment as a grape picker. When he arrived, however, there were no jobs available in the vineyards and he remained in the expectation of taking whatever other work was offered.

Kel's wife, an expectant mother, is in a serious condition. She was delirious today and at intervals cried "Is he alive?"

# SOLOIN SAYS WOODPILE TO BE PROVIDED

Mangus Johnson Visits His  
Office in Senate—Confers  
With President

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—Magnus Johnson, Farmer-Labor senator from Minnesota, came to Washington today to confer with President Coolidge and to familiarize himself with what are to be his future surroundings at "Capitol Hill." He will visit the White House tomorrow and will leave in mid-afternoon for Chicago where he is to speak Friday night.

Senator Johnson, accompanied by George D. Brewer of Minneapolis, a political adviser, slipped quietly into town just before noon, coming from New York and Philadelphia. Boarding a street car, he went to the National hotel, on Pennsylvania avenue, a few blocks from the capitol, which in days gone by was a meeting place of senators and representatives.

Confronted by a maze of corridors in the senate office building, Senator Johnson on his arrival there inquired of a negro attendant as to the location of room 125.

"Why, that's Senator Magnus Johnson's room," exclaimed the attendant.

"Yes; I am Senator Johnson," was the reply.

Beaming with pride, the negro introduced the senator to attached stations nearby and then escorted him to his offices. There the senator found a crowd of newspaper correspondents who had besieged his offices for several hours.

"The Republican party promised three years ago that it was going to assist American agriculture in every way, Senator Johnson said. "They have fallen down on that promise."

Senator Johnson said he did not believe it would do much good now to call an extra session of congress to enact legislation to relieve the present situation.

"It's too late now," he added.

The senator declined to voice any views as to the Republican leadership in congress.

"I'll get along fine with every one of my colleagues," he said. "I did so for eight years in the Minnesota senate and house. Of course, we'll have our little scraps, I had 'em out there, but that's nothing."

Senator Johnson said he would not select a residence on this trip, preferring to leave that to Mrs. Johnson.

"She doesn't like cities, anyhow," he said. "I'll need a wood pile on which to exercise."

Had men can be reckoned with, but when it comes to dealing with an 8-year-old youngster whose parents do not claim him, Chief of Police Walter Birtchet admits that he does not know what to do.

The youngster, giving his name as Forest Martin, was picked up Monday night and brought to headquarters. Here he said his parents, who recently moved to Salem from Montana, had given him permission to go down town and purchase a cream puff. Before the delicacy could be purchased, the boy discovered he was lost. Though he remained under the care of the police department the remainder of the night and through the day, his parents had not called for him early last night.

Oregon Irrigation Men Hold Meetings in Vale

# MOVIE CENSOR IS DANGEROUS SAYS REPORT

Labor Press President Says  
Present Censorship of  
Pictures Approaches European Methods

RELIEF FROM HIGH  
POSTAL RATES SEEN

One Resolution Would Have  
Federation Enter Field as  
Political Party

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 2.—(By Associated Press.)—The censorship of motion pictures is dangerous to freedom of speech and the press guaranteed by the constitution was declared in a report submitted tonight at the tenth annual convention of the International Labor Press of America, submitted by its president, Matthew Wolf.

"We are fast approaching the older European methods of repression," said Wolf. "Slowly but surely freedom of speech and of the press and assemblage are being converted into mere licenses, subject to such condition and restrictions as may be imposed by political board of censorship.

This form of repression and censorship has found a most fertile field in the exhibiting of motion pictures. Many good people are misguided into favoring this form of repression because of their desire to protect the morals of the youth of the land.

Unfortunely, in furthering this form of repression and licensing this method of expression a greater and more dangerous evil is being created. Little attention is given the fact, based on the world's experience, that the regulation of morals by the state has ever been a complete failure.

"The thing to do is to uproot the idea of censorship in any and all forms from our American soil."

"We are not confined to legislative and censorship repression of freedom of speech and of the press. Indeed our judiciary in its equity division and by the issuance of injunctions has torn the first section of America's Bill of rights, enacted into the American constitution, all to pieces. Evidently our courts believe themselves greater and more powerful than the constitution or congress.

Relief Discussed  
Possibilities of relief being afforded from the existing high postal rates on second class matter, said Wolf, are to be found in the plans for an exhaustive investigation of costs of handling the various classes of mail, which is being conducted at present by the postoffice department.

The convention of the American Federation of Labor stood adjourned this afternoon, while committees were working on accumulations of resolutions and recommendations of the executive committee.

Among resolutions under consideration were two urging the federation to amend its settled policy in regard to politics and launch into the political field in a third party in conjunction with the farmers.

Bandits Make Escape  
With \$8,000 in Seattle

SEATTLE, Oct. 2.—Four armed bandits held up the cashier and the timekeeper in the main office of the Western Union Telegraph company here late today, obtaining \$8,000 and making their escape.

The robbery was one of the most deliberately planned and daintly executed daylight robberies in the city's history, according to the police authorities, who have been unable up to a late hour tonight to find a trace of the four men.

# PRINCE BIDS FAREWELL TO COMPANIONS

Lord Renfrew Says He Hopes  
He Can Come Again in Re-  
sponse to Invitation

CALGARY, Alta., Oct. 2.—Lord Renfrew's departure from Calgary this afternoon was featured by the informal manner in which parting exchanges were given.

"Good-bye, we hope to see you next year," were the parting words expressed by the distinguished guests at the station.

"Good-bye, I hope I can," returned Lord Renfrew as his train was leaving the station platform.

On the station platform Lord Renfrew exchanged greetings with everyone. He expressed, previously to his manager, Professor Carlyle, that he had enjoyed the visit and profited both physically and mentally from the trip.

Each time the crowd obtained a glimpse of Lord Renfrew on the station platform they sent up a series of cheers. As the special train started to leave the crowd cheered. Lord Renfrew could be seen remaining on the platform of the last car until out of sight.

# PEO DELEGATES MEET IN SEATTLE

1000 Women Gather for Na-  
tional Convention—60  
From Iowa

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 2.—More than 1000 delegates of the PEA Sisterhood, representing 26 states, the national capital and Canadian provinces arrived here today for the formal opening of the 26th biennial convention.

The Shrine temple was the scene of a large banquet for the visitors and members of the local organization. The actual work of the convention will start at 9 a. m. tomorrow when Mrs. Helen A. Drake will lead the devotional exercises. Business matters will occupy the attention of the delegates until 4 p. m. tomorrow when they will be the guests of the Seattle D. A. A. dinner, followed by a business meeting, will close the convention tomorrow night.

Three hundred members arrived from eastern states at 2:50 p. m. today on a special train. Iowa, the native state of the first PEO chapter headed in the list of visiting members with 60 registered. Missouri was second with a representation of 48 and Kansas third with 31.

J. W. Moore May Get  
Post on City Council

The vacancy in the city council from the fourth ward, caused by the resignation of Arthur H. Moore, will be filled by the council at the next regular meeting.

The name of J. W. Moore, an employee of the secretary of state's office, was recommended for the position by the retiring alderman. They are not related. The resignation of Mr. Moore, while expected by the members of the council, came much sooner than they had anticipated and they were unprepared to elect a successor, it was said.

Mr. Moore has just moved into his new apartments on High street, which were recently completed, and no longer lives within the boundaries of ward 4. His term of office would not have expired until three years from January 1.

Lutherans of Silverton Will Motor to Portland

SILVERTON, Or., Oct. 1.—(Special to The Statesman.)—Many Silverton folk are making plans to motor to Portland Sunday morning to attend the Lutheran Sunday school convocation to be held there. Several carloads are going from Trinity and St. John's Lutheran churches.

# SAN QUENTIN IWW CONVICTS STAGE STRIKE

Solitary Confinement—Bread  
and Water Diet Punishment  
Is Given Prisoners

SAN QUENTIN, Cal., Oct. 2.—Solitary confinement in dungeons and cells and a diet of bread and water is the punishment being meted out to 58 Industrial Workers of the World serving sentences of from one to 14 years in San Quentin prison for violation of the criminal syndicalism law, who staged a new "sympathy strike" today in protest against the imprisonment of a fellow member.

The punishment will be continued until they agree to return to work, "and behave themselves," Warden James A. Johnson announced.

The prisoners quit their jobs in the June mill today after J. B. Childs, a new prisoner, sentenced at Los Angeles early last month, refused to continue at his tasks and was ordered confined to the dungeon. Three other similar strikes have been held by the IWW convicts.

# ARMISTICE DAY TO BE OBSERVED

Date Is November 12—Pa-  
rade, Oratory and Annual  
Football Classic

Armistice day, to be observed on Monday, Nov. 12, will be fittingly celebrated. This was decided upon last night at a meeting of Capitol Post No. 9, American Legion.

Included on the proposed program, plans for which are now being developed, is a parade, participated in by all the patriotic and fraternal organizations of Salem, affiliated auxiliaries and schools.

With the high school football classic of the Willamette valley to be staged in the afternoon between Salem and Eugene, and a big dance under the auspices of the American Legion in the evening, a rousing celebration is contemplated. It was also decided last night that a prominent man be obtained as orator of the day.

Business transacted last night included plans for a big get-together meeting two weeks from last night, at which show call will be heard. The payment of dues soon, to include all of 1924 and a subscription to the Pacific Legion, a membership campaign to bring into the post all eligible members in the district and the ordering of a standard for the post.

Robin Day, delegate to the state convention at Seaside, gave a report of the gathering, while Commander Griffith, who is also a member of the state executive committee, told of plans formulated for the year.

Voyagers in Volture 153, Les Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevreaux, are planning to attend the ceremonial to be staged in Dallas Saturday night. It was announced last night. Included with these are several from Silverton and Woodburn.

Martial Law Extended

Coming quickly upon the heels of the Wilson flurry, martial law was proclaimed in Okmulgee county. The governor announced he was seeking to curb mob violence. Later Tulsa county went under the rule of the military and then the entire state.

It was then that the governor declared he was fighting the Ku Klux Klan. The issue became involved through his alleged abrogation of constitutional rights of citizens of connection with the klan fight.

Judge Personally Hunts  
For Man Who Forged Name

CHICAGO, Oct. 2.—When the signature on a bond was found to be forged, Judge Francis Borelli stepped down from the municipal bench several days ago, donned old clothes and started out to find the man who signed the fictitious name.

# WALTON FIRST HEARD ABOUT WHEN MAYOR

While Head of Oklahoma  
City Unionized Police  
Force Winning Favor Wth  
Organized Labor

LABOR ENDORSED HIM  
FOR GOVERNORSHIP

Great Crowds Attended His  
Inauguration Following a  
Sensational Campaign

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Oct. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—Governor J. C. Walton appeared on the political stage in Oklahoma when, as mayor of Oklahoma City, he unionized the city police force in 1919, thus gaining the active friendship of organized labor in the state.

In the spring of 1921, while mayor, he was endorsed for governor by the State Federation of Labor and by the newly organized Oklahoma Farmers' labor reconstruction league.

Campaign Made  
With the support of these organizations, he made a sensational campaign for nomination on the Democratic ticket, involving the services of an automobile caravan carrying a singer, a jazz band and an advance agent. He was nominated by a substantial majority.

With his victory in the general November election, he retired to Cuba for rest while preparations were made for a monster barbecue and inaugural celebration that attracted the attention of the nation.

Approximately 100,000 persons thronged the state fair grounds, ate barbecue from pits more than a mile in length and drank coffees from vats holding thousands of gallons and heated by steam engines.

Appointment Opposed  
The inauguration over, Governor Walton plunged into a whirl of activity that has kept him before the public eye virtually without interruption.

Charged by his opponents with radical tendencies, he stoutly defended the Reconstruction league against its enemies who branded it an offspring of the Non-partisan league of North Dakota and named as head of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college George Wilson, an organizer of the league in Oklahoma.

The appointment drew the fire of the American Legion which opposed Wilson. The state was a political turmoil for weeks. Then Walton removed Wilson and broke with the Reconstruction league.

He maintained throughout that he was still fighting the battle of the farmer and laborer, but that the league did not have authority to represent these groups.

Verdict in Favor of Salem  
Man Returned at Dallas  
Last Night

In the circuit court at Dallas last night shortly before 9 o'clock a verdict of not guilty was returned by a jury in the case of the state against Floyd McQuinn of Salem. McQuinn was accused of a statutory offense against a 5-year-old girl.

It was said that evidence against McQuinn was lacking and that he apparently proved several alibis.

The jury retired shortly after 5 o'clock, but went out for lunch before beginning its deliberations. The offense was alleged to have taken place in West Salem.

# OKLAHOMA SOLONS WINNERS IN STATE ELECTION BATTLE

Amendment Which Permits Legislators To  
Assemble At Own Call To Consider Im-  
peachment Of State Officials Carries By  
Large Majority—Soldier Bonus Measure  
Fails To Pass.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oct. 2.—(By Associated Press.)—Returns late today from the state-wide election showed that a constitutional amendment authorizing the state legislature to convene itself to consider impeachment charges against state officials had been carried by a tremendous majority, despite a proclamation issued by Governor J. C. Walton that no election should be held.

A \$30,000,000 soldiers' bonus measure was defeated, and were also two other constitutional amendments, one authorizing the state to refund deposits lost in failures of state banks and another providing death compensation under the state industrial laws.

Two measures that apparently carried on the face of returns from approximately one fourth of the state legalised a minimum levy of fifteen mills for every school district in the state and removed political limitations from women, making them eligible for all offices.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Oct. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—With virtually one fourth of the state heard from at 9:30 o'clock, it was indicated that a constitutional amendment to open the way for the state legislature to consider the official record of Governor J. C. Walton had swept to victory with the greatest majority ever recorded in an election in Oklahoma.

On the basis of returns up to that hour compiled by four newspapers of the state, it was indicated that the measure would carry by approximately 280,000.

Six hundred and fifty precincts out of 2,327 in the state on the proposition gave: Yes, 76,311; no, 17,511.

It is estimated that the total vote will be approximately 450,000.

Partial returns from 58 out of 77 counties in the state indicated that the measure had won in each. In two counties, no votes were cast because election supplies did not arrive from Oklahoma City, the state election having been delayed by last minute litigation over the election.

Returns from 475 precincts compiled by four Oklahoma newspapers for the legislative amendment gave: Yes, 62,658; no, 13,442.

One hundred and five of the precincts were in Oklahoma county.

If the ratio of voting continued, it is estimated that 450,000 votes have been cast, which is unprecedented in Oklahoma special elections.

If this estimate proves correct, the total will be within approximately 50,000 votes of the highest number ever cast in any election in the state.

Eight hundred and sixty eight precincts out of 2,327 in the state tabulated from returns gathered by four Oklahoma newspapers for the legislative amendment gave: Yes, 94,164; no, 23,867.

One hundred and twelve precincts are in Oklahoma county.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Oct. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—Representative W. D. McRee of Stephens county, said in a statement tonight that such an overwhelming majority has repudiated Governor Walton's administration, that it no longer can be representative of a small portion of the people. Representative McRee is a leader in the impeachment movement against the executive.

Governor Walton's despotic methods and high handed system of handling affairs during the few months he has been governor has become so disgusting to the people that they have risen up at the first opportunity at the polls and by a possible five to one majority have given him such a rebuke that an ordinary man would recover in years," Representative McRee asserted.

# Walla Walla Ku Klux Klan Initiates Two Classes

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Oct. 2.—A crowd estimated at nearly 3,000 assembled at the public grounds tonight to witness the initiation of two classes, one of women and one of men, in the Ku Klux Klan. The grounds were lit up by searchlights and the fiery crosses were in evidence.

No announcement was made of the number in the class. About 100 Klansmen took part in the ceremonies.

# THE WEATHER

OREGON. Rain west, increasing cloudiness east portion Wednesday, cooler except near the coast.

LOCAL WEATHER  
(Salem)  
Temperature maximum, 72.  
Temperature minimum, 59.  
Wind, variable.  
Rainfall, none.  
Atmosphere, clear.  
Wind, southwest.