

GOLD HILL NEWS.

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Broke Jail Easily.

How Two Prisoners Gained Freedom at Jacksonville.

JACKSONVILLE, Jan. 31.—J. C. Hopkins and Frank Murphy, held for burglarizing the store of D. D. Minkler, in Ashland, three weeks ago, and who were confined in the county jail awaiting the action of the grand jury, broke jail last night, and have not been recaptured. They were in the corridor, and could go in and out of the cells at pleasure. They succeeded in removing the staple which held the bar in the lockbox, and as the lower bar was not locked, they had only to slide it out of the way and the door was open. The staple was removed, it appears, by reaching the hand through a section of the latticework and sliding a thin piece of wood or iron along beneath the staple and lifting it up, when it would turn over and fall out of the bar, thus relieving it and leaving it free to be drawn out, and the door opened without farther hindrance. Once in the open jail, it was an easy matter, with a heavy piece of iron they had wrenched from the building, to burst open the outer door and gain their liberty. Their work shows them to be experts of a dangerous character. Sheriff Barns and several deputies are in hot pursuit of them.

An adjourned term of the circuit court will begin next Monday, February 8th.

Six car loads of wool, aggregating 133,000 pounds, were shipped from Heppner last Friday to Boston.

Secretary of State Kincaid has refused to furnish stamp, codes or other paraphenalia ordered by the Benson faction.

Cupid seems to be taking a lay-off. Not a marriage license has been issued by the county clerk for two weeks.—Times.

The two oldest native-born sons of Oregon are Cyrus H. Walker of Albany and Capt. J. D. H. Gray of Astoria. The former was born on December 7, 1838, and the latter on March 29, 1839.

Petty thieves are reaping a golden harvest in Myrtle Point. Clothes are being taken from the lines at night; fruit and bacon is disappearing from cellars, and there are chicken thieves galore, says the Enterprise.

Oregonian: The secretary of state will not authorize the printing of bills introduced in what is called the Benson house. This will be a small loss to the people of the state, but it will be a grievous thing for the state printer.

Wednesday the taxpayers of Dufur school district, in Wasco county decided by a vote of 50 to 9 to bond the district for \$2000 for the purpose of building a new school-house. A tax of 7 mills was also voted for school purposes.

Twelve carloads of Eagle valley fed cattle were shipped East by rail from Baker City last week. Iowa buyers purchased these cattle, paying \$3 per hundred-weight, which is regarded as a high price, especially so, as they took the cattle without refusing any of the feeders. The

Union Meet Company, of Portland, bought two or three bunches of cattle recently for \$2.75 and \$2.90 per hundred.

Tomorrow a meeting of the farmers of the valley will take place at the opera house in Medford for the purpose of discussing the sugar-beet question. L. C. Coleman will deliver an address pertaining to the matter.

The Oystermen at Bay Center, Washington, are preparing for the spring run. The oysters of the bay are in fine condition now, and last summer there was the heaviest spawn that has been known for 20 years.

The domestic animal commission is estimated to cost only \$7000 for the ensuing two years. This is quite a come-down from the figures of previous appropriations, viz., 1889, \$12,000; 1891, \$15,000; 1893, \$12,000; 1895, \$8,000

Geo. E. Butler Arrested.

Shipped as a Sailor on a Vessel Bound for San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2.—George Edward Butler, alias Ashe, the murderer, whose arrival on the ship Swanhilda was so long expected, is now in the San Francisco jail.

The Swanhilda was sighted this morning, coming through the heads in tow of the tug Acteve. The tug blew six whistles, the signal agreed upon, if Butler was on board, but the detectives waiting lower down the bay did not hear them, and although the Swanhilda was coming in, they did not know if Butler was on board. Suddenly a red light flashed out through the darkness. This was another signal, and the officers knew their man was there.

The custom-house boat Hartley, and which had been placed at the disposal of the police, was boarded in haste by six detectives, four newspaper men and four revenue officers, and the little vessel steamed rapidly away to the Swanhilda, which was met off Fort Point. The detectives remained concealed in the cabin while the revenue officers went on board the Swanhilda to see if Butler had been put in irons. They reported that he had not, and the detectives then went on the ship.

Butler was pointed out and in a second was handcuffed. He denied that he was Butler, but was positively identified by Detective McHattie and Conroy, who came here from Australia for that purpose. The suspected murderer was taken on board the Hartley, which soon landed him at the wharf. A patrol wagon was in waiting, and he was hustled off to prison.

Although the arrest was a complete surprise to the suspected man, he maintained a remarkable calmness, and calmly puffed a cigarette as he went ashore.

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The Train Robbery.

Five Men Hold up the North-bound Overland Near Roseburg.

ROSEBURG, Jan. 29.—Shortly after 11:35 o'clock last night the S. P. north-bound overland, reached a point two miles south of this city, known as Sheridan's Farm.

The train was in charge of Conductor Veatch, with Rear Brekeman Lohe, Engineer Morris and Fireman Hendricks having charge of the engine.

Reaching Sheridan's Field, Morris noticed ahead on the track a man with a red lantern which was being waved violently. The engineer at once shut off steam, bringing the engine to a stop almost opposite the man flagging.

No sooner had the motion been taken off the train than a man, heavily masked, climbed over the tender, and, leveling two revolvers at the engineer, ordered him, under penalty of his life, to do as told in handling the train.

Hendricks, the fireman, with quick wit, on seeing the masked robber making his way into the cab, dropped down in the shadow of the tender, and from thence crawled to the track. Working his way to the head of the engine, the fireman started on a dead run to Roseburg, two miles being covered in less than 15 minutes. Here he quickly informed the people at the station of what was going on.

Superintendent Field fortunately happened to be in Roseburg, and hurriedly gathered a posse of armed men, took an engine from the round-house and hurried back to the point where the robbed train lay.

As the relief engine pulled out of Roseburg several heavy shots were heard and as it approached the scene a bright glare was seen in the sky. This proved to be the express car, the stove of which had been shattered by the successive shots of dynamite, the coals setting fire to the car. Train hands were vigorously fighting the flames, but their efforts proved for nought, the car with safe, express packages and contents being completely destroyed.

Following Fireman Hendrick's escape, the desperadoes ordered Engineer Morris to "kick" the train back. This done, the mail and express cars were cut off and hauled ahead some 50 yards, chased by Conductor Veatch and Brakeman Lohe, who shouted to the engineer, inquiring the trouble.

Their answer was a fusillade of shots, and the command to get back to the train. Neither seeming to obey quickly enough, another volley was fired at them from the engine. The whistling of the bullets left no mistake as to the intent of the people handling the weapons, and Veatch and his brakeman beat a retreat to the train.

The express car was the first objective point of the robbers, after they had hauled that and the mail car ahead of the train. Receiving no reply to their second command for Messenger Butler to come out—he having slipped through the opposite door—a charge of dynamite was placed under the car and fired. The effect was ruinous. Doors were

blown apart and the heavy timbers of the car shivered into splinters.

The car was at once entered and the two small safes of the expree company attacked with giant powder. Both of these were blown open; in fact, demolished, so heavy were the charges used. The last load of dynamite discharged, however, went beyond its usefulness, the force in some manner being exerted toward the car stove and sending the burning coals flying in every direction. These alighting among the paper-wrapped packages at once set the interior of the car in a blaze.

The robbers finding their work becoming hot made for the mail car and entered it. Little disturbance was made, however, the desperadoes evidently being fearful of occupying too much time, inasmuch as the dynamite explosion and the blaze of the burning express car

(Continued on last page.)

The Capitol Burned.

Both Bodies of the Legislature in Session at the Time.

The Pennsylvania state capitol was destroyed by fire Monday afternoon. The legislative halls are in ruins and a new structure will rise from the ashes of the structure that has served as a meeting place of the state legislature since 1822. The flames, within the short space of an hour, ate up \$1,500,000 worth of property.

The house was in session and the senate was about to convene after a few minutes recess at about 1 o'clock, when flames were discovered. Instantly there was a motion to adjourn and all was consternation. In the senate the members were lolling about in their seats. The place began to smell of smoke and soon clouds of smoke came down the elevator shaft. Fire alarms were sent in and the senate became a mass of howling men. Desks were being jerked loose and carried out; the same work going on in the house chamber.

The fire department was slow in arriving, and men about the capitol were doing their best to check the blaze.

Although there was a heavy rain and snow fall, the woodwork burned up like tinder. Soon there was fire in every portion of the building and there was no hope for the historic structure. During the fire several persons were slightly injured by falling timbers. For a time it looked as though the adjoining department buildings would be destroyed, but the shifting wind saved them. At 2 o'clock the flames were under control, the fire having been confined to the capitol building.

Six Chinamen—Wong Chung, Wong Ah Lin, Mark Lai, Gee Chong Line Gon and Qwen La—were deported from Tacoma on the steamer Tacoma, Friday. They had been in this country for years and could speak good English. They failed to register under the Geary law, claiming ignorance as to its existence, they being in the mountains mining at the time of its passage.

A Cruiser Disabled.

Serious Accident to the Brooklyn in the Delaware River.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 31.—The United States steamship Brooklyn, the latest pride of a peerless navy, calculated to withstand the fiercest onslaughts of shot and shell, today lies almost entirely helpless because of a narrow ledge of sunken rocks in the Delaware river, above Marcus Hook, Pa., on which she struck heavily yesterday afternoon. Her lower double compartments forward were stove in, and it was only by the merest good fortune that the big vessel did not sink. This would undoubtedly have been the result had not her inner compartments fully withstood the shock. As it was she was pulled clear of the rocks and is now tied to the big stone icebreakers at Marcus Hook, protected from the heavy ice gorges in midriver.

The vessel is seriously damaged, and it is impossible to say when she will be able to go into active service. At present, she is in no danger of further damage, being protected in the safe anchorage afforded by the icebreakers. How the accident occurred can only be established by a court of inquiry, and this, Captain Cook, of the Brooklyn, has already asked for.

The exact place where the vessel struck was on Schooner ledge rock, between Chester and Marcus Hook, and the time about 1:45 o'clock.

J. H. Whitman of Medford was commissioned notary public and his credentials forwarded him last Monday.

The plant, real estate and liquor belonging to the Medford Distilling and Refining Co., which was put up at public auction a second time brought a considerably better price on Saturday. About \$1500 more was realized. It is quite probable that the sale will be confirmed this time. Most of the property was bid in by B. P. Theiss, who expects to conduct the distillery.—Times.

Representative Langell has introduced a bill to make Ashland college and normal school a state institution, to be known as the "Southern Oregon normal school." A board of 12 regents is appointed, and the general policy of government is the same as for other normal schools. The bill carries a \$15,000 appropriation.

The largest single item in the general appropriation bill is the aggregate estimate for the insane asylum, amounting to \$430,490. This is certainly an enormous sum, and one whose every item of detail should be scrutinized by the members of the legislature. It is fair to suppose that a considerable portion of this amount represents expenditures which it has been planned to avoid in the event of the construction of the Eastern Oregon asylum. The abandonment of that enterprise will not work a saving of the whole amount of its proposed appropriation. The patients, as their number increases, must be taken care of somewhere.

The News is the newest paper in Jackson county.