

The Gold Hill News

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GOLD HILL, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1912

NO. 33

MEDFORD WINS OUT ON NEW BEAR CREEK BRIDGE

Slayers of "Curly George" Await Sentence of Death

Brutal Murderers of Greek Must Tread Air

Both Spanos and Seymour, confessed murderers of George Dedaskalous, who afterward repudiated their statements and made a hard fight for life at the present term of court, have been found guilty of murder in the first degree. Sentence will be passed today.

The verdict against Spanos was returned on Saturday afternoon last, and the trial of his accomplice, Frank Seymour, was taken up without delay, the case ending and the verdict being delivered Thursday afternoon.

The defense in both cases constituted a complete repudiation of the former confession, attorneys for the doomed men charging that the documents which told the story of the brutal murder had been secured through the practice of the "third degree" by the sheriff's office. Harry Hicks, star reporter of the Medford Mail Tribune, Sheriff Jones, and Jailor Eaton, were roundly scored by the defense in both cases for the methods alleged to have been used in securing the confession. The crime of which these men were convicted was one of the most brutal in the annals of Oregon. Their victim was "Curly George" Dedaskalous, a Greek section hand—reputed to carry a large sum of money in a belt about his person.

Intent upon robbery, the pair lured Dedaskalous, on the night of September 22, to a lonely warehouse near the S. P. tracks in Medford, and there beat him to death with wrapped gas-pipes, afterward slashing his throat with a pocket knife.

The evidence against both men was damning, even without their own confessions, the repudiation of which lent little strength to the defense in either case.

Heppner.—The first poultry show for Morrow county will be held at Heppner December 24, 25, 26 and 27. The poultry men of this county met here and decided to hold the show on the dates named, and have engaged the services of W. M. Cones, of Vancouver, B. C., to act as judge.

People

Governor-elect Sulzer of New York has resigned as a member of the house of representatives.

General Louis Botha resigned the premiership of the union of South Africa, which he has held since May 31, 1910.

President-elect Woodrow Wilson, with Mrs. Wilson and their daughters, have returned home from their vacation in Bermuda.

The Swiss federal assembly elected as president of the Swiss confederation President Muller, at present chief of the military department.

Because he assaulted a newspaper photographer, Jack Johnson, negro pugilist, was fined \$50 and costs by Municipal Judge Goodnow at Chicago.

What is said to be the world's record for Masonic incumbency is established by the installation of E. P. Kingsbury as treasurer of Union lodge, at Scranton, Pa., for the fiftieth time.

A boom for District Attorney Chas. S. Whitman for mayor of New York is the outgrowth of a banquet to the prosecutor which was attended by 1000 guests, representing nearly all political creeds.

Miss Carol Harriman, daughter of the late E. H. Harriman, will be compelled to carry her right foot incased in a plaster cast for some time as the result of an injury received when rehearsing a Scotch dance in which she was to have appeared at a charity function.

That Colonel George W. Goethals, chief engineer of the Panama canal, may be secretary of war in Wilson's cabinet is the belief of congressmen, who conferred with the president-elect recently at Bermuda. Wilson is known to esteem Colonel Goethals very highly.

HELEN GOULD



Miss Helen Gould, daughter of the late Jay Gould, whose engagement to a prominent railroad man of St. Louis is announced.

Grants Pass Votes to Bond City for Line to Surf

At the election held Wednesday in Grants Pass, a majority of 1130 votes decided in favor of the issuance of \$250,000 bonds for the construction of a railroad from Grants Pass to Crescent City, the project Dr. J. F. Reddy, has been developing. Out of 1192 votes there were but 62 against the plan, and it is stated that these unfavorable votes were due to errors of the hand in marking, and not the heart. There was no opposition to the move, the city presenting a solid front in favor of the move.

Efforts will be made to hasten in the senate conclusion of the impeachment trial of Judge Archbald, but it is expected the jurists' attorneys will not close their case this week.

Hearings before the campaign expenditure investigation committee were resumed Tuesday. William R. Hearst, ex-Senator Foraker, of Ohio, and several other witnesses have been asked to appear.

The interstate commerce commission ruled that under the act making telegraph and telephone companies common carriers, it has jurisdiction over wireless messages from a commercial station in the United States to a ship at sea, whether a United States or a foreign ship.

Railroads Attack Medford Measure

Portland, Ore.—Counsel for the Hill and Harriman lines, at a hearing in the federal court here, joined in a vigorous legal assault on the constitutionality of the Medford rate bill, the initiative measure adopted by the people in the November election. By the railroad lawyers the law was pronounced invalid, because it proposed arbitrary class legislation as to rates, destroyed the authority of the railroad commission to determine the reasonableness of rates and discriminated against the small shipper in favor of the large shipper.

Argument touching on the constitutionality of the bill was heard by United States Judges Gilbert, Wolverton and Bean, sitting en banc. The court announced, following the hearing, that a decision as to the application of the railroad company would be made in two or three days.

Attorney-General Crawford, appearing for the state, urged that the enactment of the measure came clearly within the rights of the electors of the state under the initiative.

Yes, We Know Better--You and I

A Christmas Protest By Ben H. Lampman

THEY say Old Santa comes no more,
But we know better, you and I—
His sledge has left the Northern shore,
His reindeer trample down the sky;
Along the Merry Christmas sky
A tinkling happy music swells,
It is his reindeer drawing nigh
With tuneful bells.

Yes, we know better, you and I;
We know the gifts he brought of yore,
The really-truly dolls that cry,
The bug that buzzed across the floor,
The elephant of Hindustan,
The camel of the Arab plain—
They say his reindeer never ran?
He comes again!

We know the mettle of his steeds
That champ the bit and toss the head,
Where Yuletide's star above them leads
To cot and little trundle-bed.
We know, my sages of the knee,
The simple faith that Christmas brings—
The gifts he hangs upon the tree,
And lots of things!

They say Old Santa comes no more? . . .
The town is still, the moon is high;
He cannot fail who came before,
And we know better, you and I.
Their hoofs ring down the stary track,
They rush before the heavy sled;
Hark! 'T is his reindeer racing back—
Be off to bed!

Parcels Post Stamps to Portray Work Day Scenes of Mail Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Winter styles in postage stamps were announced Sunday by the Post Office Department. Art and bulk intermingle in the newest of Uncle Sam's paper squares, which now are being run from the presses in the government's printing offices, so as to be ready to go into service when the new Parcel Post act becomes operative on January 1. There are two color schemes, red stamps for general use of the public, and green, to be known as "due" stamps, designed merely to witness collection of postage on short paid matter of the fourth class.

The stamps with which the parcel mailers among the general public will struggle will be red for all denominations, and will measure one by one and one-half inches between the perforation lines. The stamps now in use for ordinary mailing purposes are only seven-eighths by three-quarters of an inch.

In a curved panel across the top of the new stamps, supported by a paneled perpendicular column at either end, will be engraved the words, "U. S. Parcel Post." The upper corners will be occupied by triangular ornaments. Large numerals in the lower corners will indicate the stamp denominations. The only difference in the "due" stamps will be in the color.

The art work on the stamps will vary according to the price paid for them. The illustrative subject will be as follows: One cent stamp, post office clerk; two cent, city mail carrier; three cent, railway postal clerk; four cent, rural carrier; five cent, mail train; ten cent, steamship and mail tender; fifteen cent, automobile service; twenty cent, aeroplane carrying mail; twenty-five cent, manufacturing; fifty cent, dairying; seventy-five cent, harvesting; \$1, fruit growing.

Landoffice Renders Decision for Contestee in Mining Claim Case

Attorney J. H. Beeman, of this city, representing J. J. Ritter in the defense of a contest brought by the Oregon & California Railroad company against claim patent to certain mining claims, has received notification from the land office at Roseburg that the case has been decided in favor of his client.

Claiming the land to be largely agricultural in character, the company instituted a contest for the mining claims west of this city known as the Prefountain group, and effectually tied up for a time Mr. Ritter's endeavor to secure mineral patent to the property.

Testimony in the case was taken before United States Commissioner W. H. Cannon, at Medford, on October 14, and the decision was rendered by the receiver of the Roseburg land office on December 12. By the testimony adduced it was clearly established that the lands involved were mineral in character, a number of local witnesses being called to substantiate Mr. Ritter's claims.

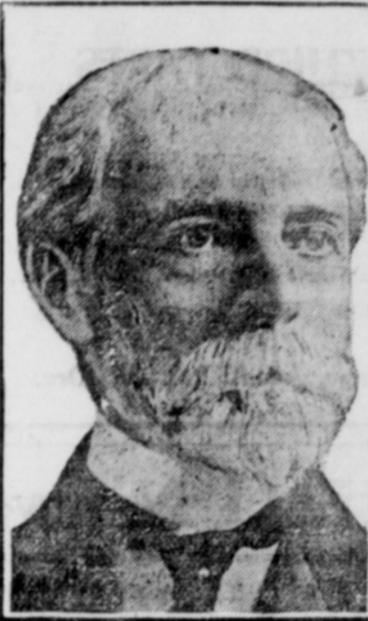
The Prefountain group has been successfully and almost constantly mined since the early '50s, many thousands of dollars having been taken from the rich placer deposits by former operators. The testimony introduced by Attorney Beeman conclusively demonstrated that they may yet be profitably operated, and that the general character of the land unfits it for agricultural purposes.

Under the terms of the original railroad grant the land would have reverted to the O. & C. R. R. if agricultural in character.

Medford will have a cannery. Commercial club and Merchants' association have combined in the venture.

Supreme Court Settles Controversy by Decision

WHITELAW REID



Whitelaw Reid, Ambassador to England, who died in London after a short illness.

Milo P. Ward, of High Line Fame, Seeks Funds

Milo P. Ward, well known in Gold Hill and vicinity as promoter and general manager of the High Line Ditch company, has brought suit for an accounting in the circuit court at Portland, against I. G. Davidson, ex-treasurer of the concern, claiming that in his official capacity he mismanaged the affairs of the company to the tune of \$30,000.00. Mr. Davidson is also well known in Gold Hill, and is brother of Jay Davidson, road supervisor of this district. The High Line Ditch company flourished five years ago as one of the great projects of Southern Oregon. It was proposed to convey water from upper Rogue river above Prospect, following the course of the hills, to this city, and providing unlimited irrigation facilities for the entire valley. Considerable money was expended in construction work at both ends of the proposed ditch, and the waterway mapped out and slashed along the mountain sides still bears testimony to the splendid dream of its promoters. Although the plan was pronounced by competent authorities to be absolutely feasible, lack of capital and dissension among the stockholders speedily pushed the project to extinction. The survey still remains, however, waiting for some fair prince of finance to convert its possibilities into vast benefits to the Rogue river valley, and transmuting thousands of acres of waste land into fertile green fields and blossoming orchards.

Ambassador Reid Dies at London

London.—Whitelaw Reid, United States ambassador to Great Britain since 1905, died in his London residence, Dorchester house, shortly after noon Sunday, from pulmonary oedema. The end was quiet and peaceful.

While Mr. Reid's condition had been serious only since Thursday and he had been confined to the house only a fortnight, his illness really dates from his return from New York last February. On the voyage he contracted a cold and found great difficulty in shaking it off. When he did, he was for a time quite feeble.

Whitelaw Reid was in his 76th year, having been born October 27, 1837, in Xenia, Ohio. He became a newspaper writer as a young man and never ended his connection with the public press. He was editor in chief of the New York Tribune for many years, and afterward became proprietor of that journal.

The voters of Marshfield, by a vote of three to one expressed themselves at the city election as favoring a municipally owned water works.

County Must Contribute to Greater Medfordtown

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 17.—In an opinion written by Justice Bean the supreme court today in the case of Benton Bowers and S. A. Carlton, respondents against the county court of Jackson county and others, appellants, decided in favor of the appellants, holding that the Medford charter compelled the county court to build the bridge across Bear creek in the city of Medford involved in the suit.

The higher court restrains the issuance of payment of any county warrants on account of the bridge contract, in excess of \$18,000, the amount the county agreed to pay until such time as the city of Medford and the Pacific & Eastern railway company shall have paid into the treasury of Jackson county \$16,000 according to agreement.

The plaintiffs in the suit maintained, first—that the bridge in question being in the incorporated city, is not upon the county road, and that the county has no authority to build such a bridge, and second—that the carrying out of the contract in question would increase the voluntary indebtedness of Jackson county beyond the constitutional limit.

Concerning the first question the opinion says in part:

According to the plain provisions of section 105 of the charter of the city of Medford, it is incumbent upon the county of Jackson to build, maintain and repair all bridges and culverts upon county roads in the city and road district, the cost of which is in excess of \$20. Taking this section together with other sections referred to and in view of the general legislation of the state, we think it was the intention of the legislature that the county of Jackson should retain jurisdiction over the county roads within the limits of the city of Medford to that extent; unless this requirement is clearly within some inhibition of the constitution the mandate should be obeyed.

"The highway upon which the bridge is supposed to be erected is embraced within the provision of section 937, subdivision 4, Lord's Oregon laws, authorizing the county court to construct the bridge, and for such purpose is to all intents and purposes a county road."

News Notes

New York was selected as the permanent headquarters of the executive committee of the progressive party at the recent Chicago conference.

Following the lead set by the women of Philadelphia, the Women's Clean Food League of Chicago is preparing a war for lower prices for eggs.

A handsome monument erected by the state of Illinois in memory of her soldiers who are buried in the national cemetery at Andersonville, Ga., was dedicated Friday.

"Lady Show You," a hen that won the national egg laying contest at the Missouri Poultry Show this year, was sold for \$800 by J. A. Bickerdite, of Millersville, Ill. The hen laid 281 eggs this year.

For the first time in nearly 40 years the Democrats will be in practical control of both branches of the state legislature of Connecticut when that body convenes for its regular session early in the coming year.

The largest force that has ever been engaged at one time on the construction of the Panama canal was working at the end of November when 40,159 men, of whom 5816 were American citizens, were employed.

Grain men all over the Coast are watching with keen interest a battle between the barley bulls and bears at San Francisco. The price is being forced steadily upward and an explosion is likely to occur any day.

Fifty-three vessels carrying cargoes aggregating 15,000,000 bushels of export grain, virtually all of it being wheat, are riding at anchor in the harbor of Buffalo, N. Y. The total cargo value of the fleet is estimated at \$20,000,000.