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CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTS ON WEST UMATILLA PROJECT

GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS MAKING SURVEYS

Big Butter Creek Dam Will Be Scene of First Real Building Operations.

Great Structure Will Be Seventy-five Feet High and More Than One Mile Long—Will Be Built of Earth With Concrete Base—To Cost \$100,000

(Special Correspondence.) Hermiston, Ore., Jan. 13.—Work on the west side extension of the Umatilla project was commenced yesterday by a crew of engineers sent out by the United States government.

Final surveys were commenced for the big dam at the north end of Butter creek and final surveys for the construction of the main canals and laterals of the entire project and contour maps will be made on two foot lines in addition to the already 10-foot contours made by previous preliminary surveys on which \$25,000 has been expended.

The Butter creek dam will be 75 feet high and over a mile long. It will be built with earth with a concrete base and will cost about \$100,000.

In the waters of a lake covering approximately 3000 acres of the Umatilla river valley lands which cost the government another one-half million but the loss of this tract will be the means to the reclamation of 60,000 acres of land.

Hermiston is feeling the stimulus of this new enterprise already. The work of construction of the new project will be tributary to this city and the government headquarters will remain at Hermiston for probably 20 years.

This city is now on the eve of a quiet boom which may develop into a very rapid growth. Citizens in general predict that the population of Hermiston will be 10,000 in ten years' time. The 5000 population mark will be reached soon, at the rate the people are coming in at the present time. Several carloads of people are expected from the eastern states the latter part of this month.

WOMAN MURDERS FOUR-YEAR-OLD SON

INDUCED LITTLE FELLOW TO DRINK CARBOLIC ACID

After Killing Child Unnatural Mother Concealed Body in Swamp—Police Think Boy Was Matrimonial Bar.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 14.—Prostrated by grief and remorse, but not realizing the enormity of her offense, Edith Melber, the confessed murderess of her son George, aged four, was brought today from Rochester where she was arrested and where the police allege she told the story of inducing her little son to drink carbolic acid.

The officials urge that her case be tried speedily and a grand jury was today asked to investigate the boy's death and return an indictment. The body was found in a swamp near Schnectady.

The woman said that after she had spent a long time in hunting him a home she gave him the poison. The lad was thirsty, she said, and she told him the bottle contained water.

"He always trusted me, he believed me, and drank without question," she sobbed.

The police are acting on the theory that she had an accomplice and are searching for the man whom they believe she wanted to marry.

CONNAUGHT IS GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA

Ottawa, Canada, Jan. 14.—All doubt as to whether the Duke of Connaught will be the net governor-general of Canada was dispelled today by the arrival of the English mails bearing formal notice that the King's uncle

has accepted the office. The duke has already decided on a number of appointments to his staff. His military secretary is reported to be Major Cecil Lowther of the Scot Guards. Lowther has been a close companion of the duke for years. He will probably arrive in Canada in September.

WOULD MAKE ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES COMPULSORY

New York, N. Y., Jan. 14.—Resolutions recommending the extension of the Erdman arbitration act to include all public utilities, particularly telegraph and telephone companies, was adopted today at the final session of the national civic federation. The resolutions also recommended state laws giving the state labor departments power to make arbitration compulsory in labor disputes.

CHINESE MERCHANTS ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 14.—Woo Kai, and Mai Tick, prominent Chinese are in custody here today. They are said to be the first two arrested of a series that will be made in the coast cities.

Both are merchants and are held in connection with smuggling Chinese into the United States. It is understood a ring is operating on the Pacific coast and the federal agents intend breaking it up.

PLAN TO SHORTEN WASHINGTON BALLOT

Olympia, Wash., Jan. 14.—Washington will have the shortest ballot of any state if the bill introduced by Representative Wright of Seattle, is enacted. Wright's bill provides that only the governor, and supreme court judges shall be elected, that the governor appoint all other state officials and the governor be subject to a recall.

PLANS COMPLETE FOR NEW CHURCH

It will not be long before Pendleton people will see actual construction work begun upon a new church edifice which will be another testimonial that this city is one of good churches. For the past two years the congregation of the local Catholic church has been working quietly to bring about a realization of their long felt hopes for a new building in which to worship and this morning the complete specifications and details were received from Architect White of Baker so that now all is in readiness for the receiving of bids. Father Durgan stated this morning the contract for the erection of the structure would certainly be let within the next few months.

In conjunction with the announcement of the early consummation of the plans of the church, announcement was also made that the general public is to be given an opportunity to assist in the building of the church by giving support to a local talent en-

tertainment which is to be given at the Oregon theatre on Friday evening, January 27. Walter C. Farnum and his wife, Marion Ward Farnum, well known to the Pacific coast theater world, are now in the city and will have complete direction of the entertainment which will take the form of three short one-act plays with specialties between the acts. Mrs. Farnum has a reputation throughout the entire west as a dramatic reader and exponent of elocutionary art and she has been identified with church benefits in many cities. The Catholic church believes it is very fortunate in being able to secure the services of these people, for under their direction and with the great amount of first class amateur talent available, it is believed beyond a doubt that the best entertainment of its kind ever given in the city can be developed. Announcement of the different features of the attraction will be made later in these columns.

PLAMONDON CASE STIRS

Senator Bowerman Said to Be Considering Retaliatory Measures.

EX-GOVERNOR REPORTED STRUCK IN TENDER SPOT

Rumored That Friends of Defeated Candidate for President of Senate Will Assist Him in Getting Revenge for Dismissal of Recently Appointed Head of Branch Asylum.

Gossip over the summary removal of Dr. J. D. Plamondon, Bowerman appointee, as superintendent of the new eastern Oregon insane asylum, by Governor West and State Treasurer Kay has turned to the effect that it may have in legislative circles, says the Journal. It is known that Bowerman has been hit in a sore spot by the removal of Plamondon, and he is expected to retaliate at the earliest opportunity.

During the three day session of the legislature this week Bowerman, usually prominent, did not once address the chair, even to introduce a bill. This quietude of the man from Gilliam, who so recently held the reins as governor and was deposed as president of the state senate, is thought to be the forerunner of a storm.

The removal of Plamondon may not become a subject of early debate, since it is not the purpose of Governor West to name any one in his place until the asylum buildings are erected, perhaps two years hence. But no one doubts that Plamondon will remain in the Bowerman mind, and it may likewise add fire to the rhetoric of Senator Barrett of Umatilla, father-in-law of Plamondon. Bowerman's appointment of Plamondon was generally regarded as clinching the vote of Barrett in the fight for president of the senate, and Bowerman received the vote of both Umatilla senators when the roll was called last Monday.

Bowerman has a compact body of supporters in the senate, who may be expected to stand behind him in any policy he may adopt. If he gives the word his followers will try to ambush the progressives at every turn. Bowerman is expected to seize an early occasion in which to hand out the compliments of the old guard to the controlling wing.

GAVE LEGISLATURE HINT

In his message to the legislature Bowerman suggested that the lawmakers would do well to confer with Dr. Plamondon as to the needs of the new asylum. At that time he knew the removal of Plamondon was coming, although he may not have expected the ax to fall so quickly. The message is now thought to be significant in laying the groundwork for some pointed remarks when the recommendations of the new state board are received in the senate.

In addition to other tribulations, (Continued on page five.)

MRS. SHENK HIRED NURSE TO MURDER

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 14.—A Mrs. Klein testified today that Mrs. Schenk offered her a thousand dollars to kill her husband.

She said after gaining her confidence she asked Mrs. Schenk why she didn't kill her husband if she hated him so. Then Mrs. Schenk offered her \$1000. The nurse demanded five and the nurse said she agreed to pay that sum.

Mrs. Klein is the "detective nurse." Her real name is Elnora Zorekier and she said when she was employed to work on the Schenk case that Mrs. Schenk told her to secure the keys to her husband's safety deposit box in the event of his death.

Mrs. Klein said Mrs. Schenk was reticent on the first day they met but the next day she began to worm her way into her confidence by telling her that Albert, brother of Schenk, had called with a paper which resembled a receipt for John to sign. Mrs. Schenk thereupon is alleged to have said that Albert was trying to get John to sign his will and to her out of the estate and she intimated she would stop his efforts in this direction.

WAR SCARE LOOMS AGAIN

Military Critic of International Fame Says United States is Defenseless.

CRITICISM PRESENTED TO CONGRESS TODAY

Says Army is in Lamentable State, Infantry Has Ammunition for Only One Battle, Militia of no Force and That We Have Neither a Good nor Large Army.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—Congressman McLachlan of California, today presented to the house a criticism of the present state of the national defense. The criticism was written for the United Press by Frederick Huidekoper and declares the country is practically defenseless and at the mercy of Japan, Germany or any first class power.

Frederic Louis Huidekoper is the author of numerous military works, and is one of three foreigners who have been granted access to the secret military archives of Paris, Vienna, and St. Petersburg. His book, "Military Studies," is the only work by a non-military man included in the International Military Series. It has been placed by the war department in the war college and at West Point.

The deep study he has given the general subject, coupled with the fact that he is not connected with the army or politics in any way, gives special weight to his opinion as that of a qualified expert.

His article entitled "Is the United States Prepared for War?" attracted widespread attention, and William Howard Taft, then Secretary of War, wrote an introduction to it, in which he endorsed its statements and urged "every American who has the defense of the country seriously at heart" to read it.

Excerpts from Huidekoper's statement. "The American people should know that their army is in a lamentable state, and that our means of defense, except for the navy, are virtually nil. The American army today has only enough infantry ammunition for one single engagement. The field artillery does not possess enough manufactured ammunition to fight as much as one battle.

How long would our 30 regiments of infantry stand against the 200,000 troops which Germany could land on the Atlantic coast, or Japan on the Pacific coast, within five weeks after the declaration of war?

We Americans think our militia a wonderful force. Nothing could be further from the truth from a military standpoint. The location of army posts is most defective. The war department has tried to abandon posts worthless from a military standpoint, but has been compelled to countermand the order, owing to political influence.

Washington declared that we "ought to have a good army rather than a large one." Today we have neither.

STRIKING OFFICER PROVES EXPENSIVE

It cost Charles Heater, the young Milton telephone lineman, just \$153.40 to strike Marshal Anderson of that town over the head with a pair of pliers. Yesterday afternoon the grand jury returned an indictment against him charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon and at 1:45 this afternoon he had a plea of guilty before Circuit Judge G. W. Phelps, after Attorney J. A. Fee had made a plea showing that the assault was made under great provocation. The judge imposed upon him a fine of \$100 and assessed the costs to him, which amounted to \$53.40.

Two other indictments were returned yesterday afternoon, one against Steve Solner and John Wilson, charging them with burglary not in a dwelling and one against Dorothy Clayton, charging her with receiving stolen goods. Solner and Wilson are the two men who broke into the cellar of W. B. Nuckals near Helix some time ago and stole several articles. The Clayton woman is a habitue of the local tenderloin district and was implicated in the recent O. R. & N. boxcar robbery.

CHINESE REBEL IS FOUND GUILTY

Oakland, Calif., Jan. 14.—George Fong, a member of the young China party, was found guilty of assault on Prince Tsai Hsun, uncle of the Chinese emperor, in Judge Wells court today. He will be sentenced on January 17. Fong was arrested when he pulled a pistol from his pocket while the re-

SNOWBOUND TRAINS AND PASSENGERS SAFELY RESCUED

INTENSE COLD STILL PREVAILS IN CANADA

Mercury Goes to 52 Degrees Below Zero in Edmonton—Coldest in More Than 30 Years.

Storm Continues Unabated in Crows Nest Country—Rescuing Parties Take Aid to Suffering—Weather Moderating in Montana—Railroad Traffic Being Resumed—Trains Stalled in Sierra Nevada are Released—Abatement of Strong Winds Makes Work With Snow Plows Possible—Pendleton Has Coldest of Season.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 14.—Great Northern trains numbers three and twenty-seven stalled with over eighty passengers since Monday in Montana, were reached early today by snow plows. The trains will reach Spokane this afternoon, according to Supt. Brown. The railroad officials say the passengers did not suffer.

Fifty-Two Below Zero. Winnepeg, Jan. 14.—Intense cold from the great lakes to the Rocky mountains still prevails. At Edmonton, Alberta, last night it was fifty-two below zero, the coldest since 1879. At Prince Albert the thermometer registered fifty below. A bitter snow storm continues in the Crow's Nest pass where trains are tied up. Parties are leaving Fernie to carry assistance to any who may need it.

Moderating in Montana. Helena, Mont., Jan. 14.—Weather

in Montana is moderating and snow plows are clearing the tracks rapidly now that the wind has abated. Stock is suffering heavily.

Stalled Trains Released. San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 14.—Trans Continental trains stalled in the Sierra Nevada's by storms during the past few days have been released and the officials say they will reach the coast tomorrow. The snowsheds that were wrecked have been cleared away and the tracks are now open.

Blizzards Abating. Kallispell, Mont., Jan. 14.—After nearly a week of blizzards, Montana weather shows signs of moderating today. Snow has ceased falling and the temperature is rising while the winds have lessened. It is predicted that stalled train service will be resumed by nightfall.

ception of the prince was in progress. Fong wanted to rid the country of the Manchu dynasty and assist in the establishment of a republic.

TRYING TO REMATCH JEFFRIES AND JOHNSON

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 14.—Tex Rickard today said he would try to rematch Jeffries and Johnson. For the past several weeks Barney Oldfield has been attempting to get the Jeffries fight again. It is believed Rickard and Oldfield are working together.

Kipper Says Nay.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 14.—Jack Kipper, Jeffries' partner said Jeff would not return to the ring under any circumstances. Jeffries was asleep and could not be disturbed.

Jeffries Won't Fight.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 14.—Jeffries stated this afternoon that under no circumstances would he re-enter the ring. He said no offers of Rickard could make him change his mind.

DO NOT DISCRIMINATE IS JAPAN'S REQUEST

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 14.—Japan won't object to an anti-alien law if aliens from all nationalities are included, according to a statement made today by leading progressives in the lower house, who say they got their information from federal authorities close to the Japanese legation in Washington. It is understood the Japs don't like the idea of being singled out. They want to be classed with Germans, French, etc. If a law including all is passed, Japan as a nation will look upon it as a fair law.

One Drunk in Court.

One drunk, William Higgins, appeared in police court this morning and he was given the customary sentence. Frank Doyle, a shepherd, was fined \$10 yesterday for carrying a concealed weapon.

George Done, the village blacksmith of Pilot Rock, was in the city yesterday and returned to his home this morning.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS CONVENTION TONIGHT

DISTINGUISHED OFFICERS TO ATTEND MEETING

Representatives from Lodges of County to Attend—Local Men Will Entertain Outside Brethren—Good Program and Continuous Lunch.

With the grand chancellor of Oregon and other distinguished officials present the seventh annual district convention of the Knights of Pythias lodges of this city, will be held here this evening. The convention will be held in the Odd Fellows hall and will be called to order at 8 o'clock. No regular delegates are chosen for the convention but instead all Knights are eligible to attendance. Many will be here from other towns in the county and the local members of the order will be present to welcome them and assist them to enjoy the evening.

Grand Chancellor Yoran of Eugene, L. R. Stinson, G. K. R. S., and Frank T. Wrightman, grand vice chancellor, arrived here yesterday morning from Hermiston, where they assisted in instituting a lodge the evening before. Aside from these three it is probable that others will also be in attendance. However, owing to the severe weather in other sections of the state it was not known here this afternoon just how many will come. Among those who have been invited are W. M. Calk, Judge R. G. Morrow and Frank Grant of Portland; Marion F. Davis of Union and Judge W. L. Bradshaw of The Dalles.

The convention will be called to order this evening by D. B. Waffle, chancellor of commander of Damon lodge of this city. The formal address of welcome will be by Colonel J. H. Raley. The response will be by a spokesman of Hermiston lodge, the newest Knights of Pythias organization.

(Continued on page eight.)

LAUNCH LARGEST WARSHIP AFLOAT

Camden, N. J., Jan. 14.—Slipping easily down the ways, the battleship Arkansas, the largest dreadnaught afloat, was launched by the New York Shipbuilding company at noon today. Secretary of the Navy Meyer, Assistant Secretary Winthrop and a delegation of Arkansas congressmen attended.

The Arkansas is a 26,000 ton battleship, 582 feet long and will travel 20 1-2 knots an hour.

The vessel is the first of her size authorized by congress. She excels in size any other battleship ever built. She will be surpassed, however, by other dreadnaughts now being built by other nations. The battleship Wyoming, a sister ship, will be launched soon.

The ship will carry an armament of 12 twelve-inch guns mounted in six turrets. This will complete the entire armament save 20 one-inch rifles for repelling torpedo attacks and torpedo tubes.

Miss Mary Macon, daughter of Representative Macon of Arkansas, acted as sponsor and broke a bottle of wine over the prow of the giant vessel, as she said: "I christen thee Arkansas."

As the legislature had made no appropriation for the purpose, the state of Arkansas was not officially represented, but a number of distinguished citizens of the state witnessed the launching of the vessel.

The keel of the Arkansas was laid a year ago and the construction has been remarkably rapid.