



PROF. FULTON A WITNESS.

In Albany Case—Man Accused of Poisoning Wife.

A sensational trial is in progress in Albany this week in which a heretofore highly respected carpenter is accused of having attempted to poison his wife. According to published reports the motive is thought to have been the securing of life insurance money.

Prof. Fulton of OAC is an important witness in the case. The story is related in the Telegram Wednesday as follows:

That she plainly saw her husband, Elmer E. Wagstaff, put rat-poison in her cup of tea, and then induced her daughter to watch him the next morning as he repeated the attempt to kill her, was the story Mrs. Rachel Wagstaff calmly related on the witness stand yesterday afternoon before Judge Burnett in the trial of her husband on a charge of attempted poisoning. Her testimony was sensational in the extreme, but the defense maintains that it is only an improbable fiction wrought out in the insane jealousy of a very erratic woman.

Mrs. Wagstaff explained her custom of drinking a cup of cold tea every morning, brewing it the evening before. She said sometime in February the tea "made her lips pucker" when she started to drink it and she threw it away. Then she related how on the evening of March 8 last, she found a package of powdered rat-poison in her husband's pocket when she was placing a clean handkerchief there and, remembering the acid taste of the tea before, grew suspicious. She then told how she watched from a hidden viewpoint the next morning and saw her husband empty a part of this package in a cup of tea which stood on the stove.

"I saw him walk to the center of the room and stop and seem to meditate a few minutes," she said. "Then he took out the package and poured some in the cup and stirred it with his finger. He walked away but again returned and stirred the tea with his finger."

That day, the witness stated, she took the tea to Dr. W. H. Davis to examine and asked her daughter, Pearl LaPorte, to watch Wagstaff the next morning. Vesta Conn, a friend of Miss LaPorte's, stayed with her that night, and the witness said, both girls saw the defendant repeat the attempt the next morning, March 10. This cup was also taken to Dr. Davis and Wagstaff's arrest caused.

Professor John Fulton, of the Oregon Agricultural College, was the first witness and told of analyzing two bottles of tea last March, which contained enormous quantities of poison. He said the fumes of arsenic drove him from the room when he was making the test, and he found pulverized glass and other ingredients of rat poison.

Dr. Davis identified the bottle which Professor Fulton had examined as those brought to him by Mrs. Wagstaff.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagstaff were married twelve years ago. Both had been married before and each had children and this is said to have caused friction. Mrs. Wagstaff testified that they had not spoken to each other for four months previous to the alleged attempt at poisoning, any more than was absolutely necessary in order to live together. She was submitted to a grilling cross-examination yesterday afternoon by Attorney Kelly. It was brought out that she herself had had rat-poison at their home in East Albany and had killed dogs with it.

Wagstaff maintains his innocence. His attorneys claim his wife was insanely jealous and is

very erratic. Wagstaff is a carpenter and has always borne a splendid reputation in Albany.

The trial has attracted great local interest and the courtroom was crowded all afternoon yesterday.

Not guilty was the verdict in the case which was concluded Wednesday. After six hours of deliberation the jury in the case returned a verdict of acquittal.

Professor Fulton, the expert chemist from Corvallis, was recalled. He testified that strychnine was not bitter or "puckery" to the taste.

The defendant was put on the stand in his own behalf. He denied ever having any "rough-on-rats" in his possession, that he had ever seen any in the house, and that he had placed poison or anything else in his wife's cold tea.

Defense called Mrs. Wagstaff to the stand. Upon cross examination she admitted having used strychnine to kill the defendant's dog, but denied ever having any "rough-on-rats" in her possession.

It is the supposition that the woman is not mentally responsible.

MILLIONAIRE VISITS CITY.

To Ship Hardwood Lumber to Frisco.—Is Building Hotel.

W. M. Bradberry, the San Francisco millionaire who was in Corvallis several months ago for the purpose of buying a quantity of hardwood lumber at the local mills for the finishing of a very fine hotel in the devastated city, arrived this week to look after the matter in person. It appears that the Buxton planing mill was to get out the doors and windows and other finishing material for Mr. Bradberry, but owing to the rush at the mill the work has been delayed and up to the time of the purchaser's arrival this week no steps had been taken toward filling the order.

Mr. Bradberry experienced the usual difficulty in securing cars in which to ship the material, but by close watching he finally secured a car Wednesday that had come in filled with salt for the Zierolf grocery, and with a force of men the Frisco buyer proceeded to fill up the car with lumber. He will now take it to East Portland to be put into shape, Mr. Buxton having cut the material into stock sizes for shipping. The order would have been left at the local mill had not the hotel in Frisco been waiting for the lumber, and no further delay could be tolerated.

In Frisco carpenters are receiving \$5 per day. Mr. Bradberry's hotel is to replace one which he lost in the earthquake and fire. It is not as large as the original structure, containing only 82 rooms, but it is to be much finer in finish and appointments.

The shipment of hardwood which goes from Corvallis to figure in the construction of the hotel comprises about 40,000 feet, and one car was to leave yesterday for the East Portland mill. The balance will be shipped as soon as cars can be secured for the purpose.

WANTED—500 live geese before the first of November. Call or address Smith & Boulden, Corvallis, Oregon. 84f

The Knights of Pythias who are noted for their whole-heartedness as hosts, are to have a social at their hall next Monday evening.

Economy Fruit Jars at Zierolf's. 74f

Messrs. Harry Vance and Will Drees of Cottage Grove have been guests this week of Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Fees. 84f

For Sale.—Two lots with seven room house and barn; desirable location. Call on or address Mrs. M. McKinney, Corvallis. 83-f

WILL MAKE TOUR

And Play Many Games—OAC Basket Ball Team.

About forty men turn out nightly for basket ball practice at OAC now, and there is promise of a very lively season for the local team. At a meeting held a few days ago Claude Swann, the champion basket ball man of the state, if not of the entire northwest was elected captain. With the old champions of last year all in line except Grover Cate, whose place is ably filled by Benson and "Shorty" Foster. Captain Swann will undoubtedly turn out a swift and snappy team that will win laurels for the orange.

There is much promising material among the new men. Among those who are showing promise are Jeffreys, late of Nome, Alaska, High School team; Hamilton, of Burns; Watts of Corvallis, and many others whose names were not learned.

The local aggregation expects to play a long schedule of games this season. Events are already booked with the Chicago Crescent Five and the Salt Lake Y. M. C. A., besides which games are practically settled with Eugene, Dallas, Monmouth and Philomath, and contests with Salem and the Portland Y. M. C. A. are almost a certainty.

Besides playing the state schedule, the boys expect to utilize their vacation by making a tour of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah and California, which tour will include about 20 games. About eight players, a manager and Professor Trine will make the trip, which will undoubtedly result in the taking of many a scalp lock by the OAC team, as last year they won over all comers.

The second team is also doing good work this year and expects to play more games this than it had last season.

Have Bought Newspaper.

Walter Lyon and Edgar Stahl have bought the Albany Herald from C. A. Westgate, or, to be more exact, these gentlemen have formed a corporation which will take over the paper. It is the intention of the new owners to give the Associated Press service and add other new features which will put the Herald on a par with any paper in the state.

Mr. Lyons, who recently sold the Independence Enterprise, was formerly private secretary to Governor T. T. Geer, and is a man of large acquaintance and popularity throughout the valley. Mr. Stahl is an expert linotype operator, for sometime on the Statesman, and earlier at the state printing office, Astoria, Baker City, Portland and other places.—Statesman.

"Tongues of Fire" Coming.

Many Corvallis and Benton county people are awaiting with deep interest the outcome of the religious frenzy that has lately been aroused in Salem by one Rev. M. L. Ryan, because of the experiences that befell Benton county through a similar uprising. In regard to the Salem case the Oregonian says:

Several of the religions fanatics who have created such a stir in Los Angeles, where 300 converts were made by those who spoke "with tongues of fire," are expected to arrive in Salem in a day or two to carry on the work here. Their arrival was expected a week ago, but for some reason or other they have been delayed. The Los Angeles workers, it has been announced, will aid in the evangelistic services being conducted by Rev. M. L. Ryan at the Holiness Mission, on Twelfth street, in that city. Ryan is a believer in the "tongues of fire" doctrine, and alleges that he himself is frequently inspired with power to speak

in "many tongues."

Ryan claims that through some of his ministrations demons are cast out of afflicted persons. A few evenings ago a woman who said she suffered so badly from rheumatism that she could not lift her arm applied to Ryan for help. In the presence of his congregation he closed a prayer with a command for the demon to depart, and at once the woman regained power to use her arm with perfect freedom. Ryan does not, however, pose as a "healer."

Though he is extremely zealous and at times very demonstrative in his manner, Ryan has always discouraged and suppressed the sort of religious frenzy which has resulted in unbalancing the minds of followers of other religious leaders. He alleges that his teachings are antagonistic to those of the Holy Rollers, the Dowieites and other sects that have fallen into disrepute.

Ryan was born and raised near Perrydale in Polk county, and has been preaching in Salem for the past ten years. Salem people are waiting with some curiosity the arrival of the Los Angeles evangelists.

"THE HOLY CITY."

To Be Given at the Opera House Next Thursday Night.

The management of the Grand Theatre promised their patrons something out of the ordinary when "The Holy City" should be presented here, and it is safe to say that none of last night's audience were in the least dissatisfied.

From the first rising of the curtain, scenes were enacted that held the soul in a state of reverent interest. So real seemed the whole performance that one could scarcely bring himself to believe that he was not in the heart of the city of David at the time when there lived and died the One of whom it has been said "He was never seen to smile, while thousands saw his weep." There is nothing but reverence throughout the entire performance. No attempt is made to impersonate him around whom the play centers. As in "Ben Hur" in those parts where his presence would be necessary, a halo of light appears, and in the tragic scene of the crucifixion and the glorious presentation of the resurrection, vast pictures are brought into requisition, and the effect is wonderful. Of the players, too much in praise cannot be said, each gave evidence of being an artist far above the average player. The entire cast deserves much credit.—"The Desert News," Salt Lake City, Sept. 18.

To Establish Home.

There has been considerable discussion pro and con through the press relative to the advisability of establishing a home for the feeble minded of Oregon.

When a child or adult is possessed of a weak mentality there should be a place to take them where they could receive the proper attention and care, and the state is making a start in the right direction for providing such a home, as will be seen from an Oregonian item as follows:

The State Board of Public Building Commissioners, Tuesday opened bids for the sale of land for a home for the feeble-minded. The call for bids announced that the state desired to purchase a tract of about 1000 acres within ten miles of Salem, and invited landowners to offer their land either separately or jointly in tracts which would aggregate the required amount.

The bids opened have not been arranged according to locality, and as the character of the land and improvements cannot be readily ascertained, it is impossi-



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Let us yet to say what kind of a purchase the state can make. In general, it may be said that the prices run all the way from \$40 to \$120 per acre, and that values are placed higher than the board expected to find. An average price is about \$65 an acre, which would make the land for a home for the feeble-minded cost the state about \$65,000.

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