

POISINS SELF AND FAMILY

Unable to Earn Living for Family She Resorts to Cyanide of Potassium.

SALEM, Or., March 2.—Despondent until her reason probably tottered on its throne because of inability to earn enough money to keep her four children from starvation, Mrs. L. F. Jellison, aged about 40, administered a drink of cyanide potassium to each of them today, and then drank a fatal dose herself. All five at noon today were lying cold in the embrace of death at the Lehman & Clough undertaking parlors. An inquest will be held this afternoon.

The tragedy was staged in a tent at 469 Liberty street, almost in the heart of the city, this morning. The police did not discover it, however, until shortly before noon, when a letter was received through the postoffice telling of the deed. The letter reads as follows:

"I know the law requires an investigation. Do as little as possible. The plain fact is I cannot earn enough alone to keep from starving. Someone induced my boy to leave, and now I am too ill to work. I cannot see them (the children) starve. There is a little money in my purse, \$21. Make it bury us all together. Sorry to make so much disturbance, but I am too confused to write."

Immediately after receiving the letter Chief of Police Hamilton and Day Officer Sam Burkhardt went to the house where Mrs. Jellison had been living and found it locked. Going to a tent to the rear their eyes were greeted by the horrible spectacle of the mother and four children, huddled together on the bed, dead. A glance about the tent revealed the route taken by the mother and four children for a bottle of cyanide of potassium was found. The slaying of the four children and herself had evidently been committed only a short time before, as the bodies were yet warm. On a table standing near the bed was the following note:

"Let Mrs. Pratt have my tent and everything else is left to Mrs. Carrie Clair. Sorry to put you to this bother. I hated to lie to get the stuff."

The children who were found dead at the hands of their mother are Espey, a girl, aged 16; Harland, aged 13; Maud, aged 11, and Raymond Swanson, who seems to be a son by a former husband, aged nine years. All evidently had complied with the mother's wish to take the poison, save the youngest, who showed marks of violence, as though he had resisted and finally been forced by the mother.

Mrs. Jellison had been employed in the Royal Cafeteria here at a salary of \$10 a week, but about a week ago quit, saying she was going to Colorado. Russell K. Strong, a boy about 17 years of age, a son by a former husband, having been married three times, ran away a week or so ago. The mother had been dependent on him to assist in supporting the children, and after he left she became despondent. Realizing her destitute condition, the waitress at the cafeteria had lately taken victuals to her, but labored under the impression that she would soon get financial assistance from friends and go to Colorado, until the news of the tragedy came.

Just where the woman's present husband is, no one seems to

know, but he visited the family recently here, it is said. He does not, however, seem to have contributed to her support in any way lately.

Mrs. Jellison was a resident of Monmouth several years ago having moved here from Dundee, Oregon. She attended the Normal school a year and a half, was married to Mr. Swanson and moved from this place to Lebanon. Later we learn that Mr. Swanson went to Salem on learning of the tragedy, had the family buried and paid the expenses.

Teachers' Meeting to be Held at Dallas High School, Saturday, March 9.

The third meeting of the series of teachers' meetings that are being held in Polk County this year, which was to have been held at Monmouth on Saturday, March 9, has been changed to Dallas, on account of a conflict of dates at the Normal school with the Oratorical contest at Forest Grove, and the following program will be given at the Dallas meeting while the program prepared for Monmouth will be given on May 4th at that place.

PROGRAM
Music—Miss M. Harlan—Oregon Normal School.
Primary Work—Miss Ruby Shearer.
History—J. B. V. Butler.
Some Difficult Problems in Eighth Grade Arithmetic—Miss Alice McIntosh.

NOON
Music—Oregon Normal School Glee Club.
Dramatization Work—Miss Olive Davis.
Geography—A Trip to Europe—Miss Blanche Fridd.
Fifth Grade Reading, with class—Miss Grace Davis.
Address—Pedagogical Work of the Normal School—President J. H. Ackerman.

These meetings are doing much for the teachers of Polk County and are being well attended, as at each of the former meetings we have had about 60 or 70 per cent of the teachers of the county present, and we expect to have over 80 per cent present at this meeting. Let every loyal teacher be present.

Yours for a successful meeting,

H. C. SEYMOUR,
School Supt.

Wake Up, Farmer.

Place your order for Burbank seed potatoes, home grown, at Craven's Grocery. 3-15

Buy Wool and Mohair

I Will be in the market for wool and mohair, stronger this year than ever, always paying the highest market price. Mohair sacks on hand.

Allen T. Clark.

Notice to the Public

The two leading magazines of the Pacific coast, the Pacific Monthly and the Sunset, have been consolidated under the title of "Sunset—the Pacific Monthly."

It is the intention of the publishers to spare no money nor effort to make Sunset—the Pacific Monthly a credit to the West and a magazine of national value and importance.

To introduce it to new readers, we will make the following special offer: Send 50c in stamps, and we will put your name on our subscription list for the next four months, and will send you free a copy of the superbly illustrated Mid-Winter number, and also the famous Sunset Indian poster, securely packed in a mailing tube. It will make a beautiful ornament for your front room or den.

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Monmouth, Oregon

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EVANGELICAL CHURCH
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Evening service at 7:30 o'clock
Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. A. Meeting at 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.
W. A. WOOD, Pastor.
Morning Service at 11 a. m.
Evening Service at 7:30 p. m.
Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m.

BAPTIST CHURCH.
Preaching Service, 11:00 a. m.
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.
B. Y. P. Union, at 6:30

W. C. T. U.
Local Union meets every second and fourth Friday in the Evangelical church at 2:30 p. m.

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Monmouth, Oregon

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