

ENTICED SON TO DRINK ACID

Boy's Body Is Found in Swamp—Lad Believed Her and Drank Fluid Without Question—Wanted to Marry Again

ALBANY N. Y., Jan. 14.—Prostrated with grief and remorse, Mrs. Edith Melber, confessed murderer of her son, George, is in the care of the matron of the jail here. The woman was brought today from Rochester, where she was arrested and where, the police allege, she told of inducing her little son to drink a bottle of carbonic acid. District Attorney Sanford will urge that the case be tried speedily, and the grand jury was asked today to investigate the boy's death at once and return a murder indictment against the woman.

The boy's body was found in a swamp near Schenectady. There Mrs. Melber told the police, after struggle to find a home for the lad she gave him the poison. The boy was tired and thirsty and asked for water. His mother told him the bottle contained water and he drank it. "He always trusted me," sobbed the grief-stricken mother. "He believed me and drank without question."

The police assert that Mr. Melber murdered her boy to get rid of him in order to marry again. George Smith, her brother, they say, told them that she repeatedly declared that the boy was in the way and it were not for him she would go along better in the world.

Acting on the theory that the woman had an accomplice, the authorities are searching for a man left Schenectady at the same time Mrs. Melber did. The man bought a ticket for San Francisco, it is reported, and the Kansas City authorities were asked to intercept him.

Mrs. Melber is said to have to many conflicting stories, concerning herself and her boy to people Schenectady. To some she said it was a widow. To others she said she had no children of her own, but that the boy was an adopted child. To a Schenectady plumber, to whom it was reported she was engaged to be married, she said the boy was her nephew. He was the son of a dead brother and she was unmarried, she is said to have stated.

The police say the woman had a conception of the enormity of the crime of which she is accused. She believed she could escape punishment by brazenly denying all knowledge of the murder, they say, in spite of evidence against her.

When first questioned at Rochester, Mrs. Melber was cool and collected, and held to her original story. After long sweating the police as she exclaimed dramatically:

"My God! I haven't seen my darling since I left him with my cousin. Then she broke down and finally told her story, the officers say."

Mrs. Melber, according to the authorities, said she gave the boy a poison after a long effort to find home for him. The lad had been in a Schenectady children's home, it is said, but he was refused permission to stay there longer because of his inability to pay and she took the boy to the home of her brother, Charles Smith. He remained there until after the holidays, when the woman said she was told she must find a home elsewhere for him. She took him back to the children's home in Albany, but could find no one there with authority to consider her and she was again turned adrift. It was then, according to the police, that the woman decided to end the boy's life.

After her confession, she was overcome with grief and today in the Albany jail has given way to remorse. She refused to make any further statement regarding the case.

WISCONSIN WANTS THE OREGON PLAN

MADISON, Wis., Jan. 14.—Forms of a radical nature were demanded by Governor McGovern in his message to the Wisconsin legislature today. Closer conservation of natural resources, the home rule of cities and the institution of the initiative referendum and recall were advocated.

Lock Step Abandoned

SPOKANE, Jan. 14.—Declaring it utterly useless and worthless, a thing without good, C. S. Reed, warden of the penitentiary at Walla Walla Wash., formally consigned the prison lock step to the oblivion from which it came. Since the beginning the lock step has been the custom at the penitentiary. When the prisoners come in to their meals or march out from their cells they did so in lock step. The lock step, stripes and other relics of a more barbarous age are a thing of the past at Walla Walla.

SUPREME COURT HARD AT WORK

Two of Greatest Corporation Battles Ever Waged in History of World Submitted to Highest Tribunal—Opinion Is Last Resort

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Public opinion may influence the house and senate in the framing of a bill; the voice of the people may make itself felt by the president of the United States, but nothing can penetrate into the chamber of the supreme court of the United States and make that tribunal responsive to popular demand. It is the unalterable, immutable, inscrutable, omniscient part of the three-fold plan of government.

It is this very aloofness of the highest court which is causing the administration a great deal of apprehension just now. Some of the most important legislative acts of the present day are before the court for construction. They were framed in the idea of enabling corporate oppression; most of the people want them enforced. But the supreme court of the United States has the task of dispassionately dissecting them and deciding, irrespective of what the people think, whether they are a proper exercise of legislative power.

The famous tobacco trust case, which has been submitted to the court for the second time, the Standard Oil trust suit is now being argued. Both involve the constitutionality of the Sherman anti-trust law, or what is nearly as important, the scope of that measure. The corporation tax shortly to be argued, the court is asked to decide whether that is constitutional. Two weeks ago the court was asked for a construction of the "commodities clause" of the act to regulate commerce. "Employers' liability is shortly to be argued. There are many other important suits.

In the light of this litigation, persons here are watching the supreme court closely these days. Ever since the beginning of things in the government, the supreme court has gone ahead with its work of interpretation in exactly the same way. Nine teen-looking justices listen to arguments in a case in a stuffy little room. Four hours a day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are devoted to the hearing of arguments; the court meeting in the afternoon. Each justice receives a complete "record" in the case, and a brief of counsel on both sides. A clerk takes them home, looks them over some Saturday, when the court meets in the conference chamber in a capitol, the chief justice asks the eight associate justices what their opinions on the case are. The following conferences are held behind closed doors and not even court employes are admitted.

Wright For Senate

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 14.—General Lake Wright former secretary of war will, it is expected, announce his candidacy for the United States senate some time next week. There is no ballot today.

ADVERTISED LETTER LIST

The following letters remain unclaimed for at the postoffice at Medford, Oregon, Wednesday, January 11, 1911:

- Hazel James (3), Clarence James, Rev. E. B. Jones, Robert Jones, G. H. Johnson, A. J. Kreckler, A. Vander (2), John N. Mann, Jennie Moore, Dall McCarty, Will McDonald, Fred Miller, C. D. Morris, Rev. A. T. Morga, Artie Morey, Mabel Terren, M. G. McKenzie, Walter E. Nevill, Gus Nichols, Mrs. Harry Noe, Charlie Noe, Georgia Painter, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Parsons, Charles Pierce, John G. Pierce, Edna Poole, Carl H. Pomroy, Bert Randall, A. J. Reeder, Geo. Reed, F. W. Revitt, Master L. J. Reinhardt, Anna Rooney, Mrs. Nina Rubel, Mrs. M. H. Roberts, Mrs. E. M. Salder, Eugenio Senninger (2), Gene Senninger (2), Philip Sargent, Don Stradman, Geo. Stabell, Wm. Hyde Stalker, Lester Stacey, Selmer H. Swan, Mrs. Samuel A. Svudt, Claude Schoek, Mrs. B. L. Short, Arthur Stabilefield, Howard B. Sloves, Jerome Smith, Eugene Smith, John R. Smith, Mrs. Millie Franks, Ed Thompson, E. H. Taylor, Waldron & Dietrich, Mrs. A. D. Warner, Scott Wright, Dottie Wilson, C. F. Wilson, Mrs. A. A. Wilson, T. P. Wells, Mrs. Chester Westerdahl, W. S. Wells, Mrs. W. A. West, Mrs. Lulu Wetzel, Clarence Weaver, Will Whitsett, Dabay Whelpley, Henry Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. W. Whitaker, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zimmer, Harrison Zunker.

Parties calling for the above letters will please say "advertised." A charge of one cent will be made upon delivery.

A. M. WOODFORD, P. M.

SOLONS FIGHT; MAY CALL GUARD

Republicans Refuse to Enter Joint Caucus in West Virginia and Democrats Threaten to Cause Their Arrest

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 14.—Trouble which may result in the calling out of the state militia is threatened in the West Virginia legislature. The republicans and democrats are deadlocked over the organization of the senate. The republicans refuse to enter a joint caucus. The democrats threaten to cause the arrest of the republicans. They plan to unseat Henry of Wheeling, giving the democrats a majority in the senate. Governor Glasscock says he will protect the republicans, if arrests are attempted, even if he has to call out the state militia.

Use Old License to Wed

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Jan. 14.—After obtaining a marriage license 19 years ago, Philip Ciano and Miss Teresa Laviere of Lattimer, this county, have just been married, according to a return made this week in the office of the marriage register of this city. The groom is 55 years old and the bride is 51. They got a license to marry on March 7, 1891, but for some reason or other which the return does not explain were not married until November 25, 1910, the officiating clergyman being Rev. A. Capino.

LOS ANGELES EXCURSION

Two Pullman sleepers have already been engaged for the Los Angeles excursion and indications are that two more will be required. If you are attending taking this trip, notify the local office at once. Call, write or phone. This will ensure you a berth. Remember the date, January 19. Remember the low rate round trip, \$31.55. Limit, 30 days. Stop off when and where you please. Go and return via either route. Further information, phone Pacific States 341; Home 31.

ORDINANCE NO. 419

An ordinance amending ordinance No. 152 of the city of Medford, Oregon.

The city of Medford doth ordain as follows: Section 1. That section 1 of ordinance No. 152 of the city of Medford be amended by adding thereto after the words "Central avenue" the words "or North D'Anjou street."

The foregoing ordinance was passed by the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, on the 18th day of November, 1910, by the following vote:

Welch absent, Merrick absent, Erickson aye, Wortman aye, Eibert aye, and Demmer aye.

Approved November 19th, 1910. W. H. CANON, Mayor. Attest: ROBT. W. TELFER, City Recorder.



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Also 34 acres, 1 mile from Talent, 12 acres of fruit, family orchard in bearing; apples, Newtowns, 12 acres, peach filled; 7 acres timber, irrigated, dwelling house shaded by large laurel trees, plenty of water, fertile soil, garden spot, pumping plant; terms, \$13,000, \$7000 cash, the balance in payments of \$1000 yearly at 6 per cent.

Also 20 acres alfalfa and fruit land with timber, 1 mile from Talent; \$6500 cash down; just think what a snap, a little over \$300 an acre. Where can you find near the depot and railroad a cheaper place?

Town lots in the newly incorporated town of Talent, Or., on the installment plan.

Also 17 acres, 14 acres commercial fruit bearing orchard, 2 miles from Talent; \$10,000, one-half down.

Also 80 acres fine timber, \$2000, one-half down.

Also 34 acres, half mile from Talent, fine house, fruit trees, alfalfa, all under cultivation; price \$8750, balance to suit purchaser.

Also for sale, home in Talent Jackson county, Oregon (a newly incorporated town), a fine home of 15 acres; level, fertile alfalfa and fruit land, irrigated; one block from post-office, on the main road and extends to Bear creek; has two acres bearing Newtowns, 11 years old; 12 acres Bartlett and D'Anjou pears; 2 acres alfalfa; all is fine garden land; six-room house; climate very mild pure water from the mountains; very healthy; churches, schools and literary societies; no saloons or drunkenness—it is a dry town; it is midway between the thriving cities of Medford and Ashland; price \$10,000—\$4500 down, the remainder of time at 6 per cent.

Also lands, alfalfa and fruit, from 20 to 800 acres. Write, inclosing stamps, or come and see me.

L. N. JUDD, Talent, Or.

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