

### WITNESS SAW BOMB PLANTED UPON SIDEWALK

Oxman Declares He Witnessed Billings, Mooney, Mrs. Mooney, Weinberg and Another Drive Up in Auto and Place Bomb Which Cost Ten Lives at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—F. C. Oxman of Durkee, Or., testified in the murder trial of Thomas J. Mooney here today that he actually saw planted the bomb that cost ten lives and injured forty persons during a preparedness parade here July 22, 1916. He identified Mooney, Warren K. Billings and Israel Weinberg as the men who laid the bomb.

Oxman is the first witness the state has produced, either in the trial of Billings, sentenced to prison for life, or Mooney, to testify he saw the bomb set. He identified Billings in the courtroom as the man who actually placed a suitcase containing the bomb on the sidewalk. Mooney, Weinberg, Mrs. Mooney and a man "with a black mustache" not in the courtroom, arrived with the bomb in an automobile, Oxman testified, and fled after it was placed.

Oxman is a stock-raiser. Up to the time he was placed on the stand he and his story were held with the greatest secrecy.

Oxman's story created consternation in the courtroom. Oxman said he knew none of the men in the automobile, but he readily picked Mooney, Weinberg, Billings and Mrs. Mooney. Edward D. Nolan, the fifth of the accused, was not "the man with the black mustache," Oxman said, nor was Nolan in the machine. All five are charged with murder. Billings was convicted and sentenced to life for the explosion. Oxman's appearance on the stand was a bomb itself to the defense, which has been contending that the suitcase theory of the explosion was false and that the bomb was hurled from a roof top.

W. Bourke Cockran, chief counsel for the defense, failed to shake Oxman's identifications or testimony in a rigid cross-examination.

"Could you not be mistaken in your identification of these four defendants?" Cockran asked.

A.—No.

Q.—But you only saw them once; your memory isn't as good as that, is it?

A.—Yes, but their actions were peculiar. I thought they were a set of thieves who had stolen a suitcase. Besides, Billings brushed me out of the way in his hurry, and I took close notice. Therefore I am positive.

"I put down the number of the automobile on this telegram envelope."

He handed the envelope to Cockran and on it was written, "No. 5187, Suspect, July 22, 1916. Stole suitcase."

Police traffic records showed "No. 5187" to be Weinberg's license, the police said. Weinberg admitted privately in court that it was his number.

"Why didn't you report this to the police immediately?" asked Cockran.

A.—Well, I had 5000 cattle on my head, and that's enough to have on my mind. I didn't want to get mixed up with a bunch who would plant a bomb on a sidewalk. I have come here reluctantly, even now.

### FACTORY OWNER SENT TO PRISON

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—Asserting that a sentence in prison should teach a far-reaching lesson to factory owners and tenants who fail to provide proper fire exits, Supreme Court Justice Kapper today sent Samuel Barkin to Sing Sing for 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years. Barkin is a partner in a shirt-making company housed in a Brooklyn building where nine women and four men operators lost their lives in a fire because the trap doors between their place of work and Barkin's floor was locked.

Barkin was convicted by a jury earlier this week. His partner, Samuel Simon, and the building's owners, Mr. and Mrs. Edward I. Diamond, proprietors of a candy company in the structure, are still to be tried on similar charges.

### GERMAN DRIVE RENEWED ALONG VERDUN FRONT

Important Offensive Along a Three-Mile Front—Teutons Penetrate the Trenches on Dead Man's Hill—Fighting Along Riga Front Continues, Germans Having Advantage.

In what appears to have been the most important offensive movement undertaken on the Franco-Belgian front in several weeks, French trenches on a front of approximately a mile in the region of Hill 304, northwest of Verdun, were stormed by German troops yesterday, the Berlin war office announced. A counter-attack delivered at night by the French failed to drive out the Germans, who during the operation captured about 500 prisoners and ten machine guns.

The Paris account of the German offensive reports it launched along a rather wide front, the attacks being delivered at four points between Avocourt wood, on the extreme left of the French lines about Verdun and Dead Man hill, a distance of more than three and one-half miles. The attacks were repulsed, the French statement declares, except that the Germans penetrated advanced trenches near Hill 304. The German statement mentions the fighting in the other sectors of this attack as enterprises on Dead Man hill—which brought the desired results.

In Riga Sector. Fighting in the Riga region, the northernmost sector of the Russian front, continues to show advances for the Germans, according to Berlin, which reports additional Russian positions gained on both sides of the river Da, southwest of Riga, bordering the great Tiral marsh.

The fighting in this marshy region is made possible at this season by the freezing of the swamps. A Russian offensive early this month was taken to be aimed at Mitau, the German base south of Riga, but it failed of decisive results. The Germans now apparently have not only regained such ground as they lost, but are striking northward across the swampy ground in the direction of Riga.

On Other Front. The Russians are offering strong resistance and delivered counter-attacks on the east side of the An river. They failed, however, according to Berlin, which reports the capture of 500 prisoners during the day's fighting.

Operations in the other war areas have been of comparative unimportance. Minor attacks by the Rumanians in western Moldavia have failed, Berlin says, as did also a Serbian attack in the Maglenica mountain region on the Macedonian front.

### GORE INTRODUCES BLUE SUNDAY LAW

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 26.—"Blue Sundays" for Oregon were prescribed in a bill introduced into the house of representatives here today by Representative W. H. Gore of Medford. The measure would close all lines of business except drug stores, hotels, restaurants, ice cream parlors, garages and movie supply houses. Under the act, baseball games, theaters and other forms of amusement would be prohibited from operating. Gore said he introduced the measure at the request of the Oregon Retail Grocers' association. Any person of faith not observing Sunday would be exempt.

### COURT OF JUSTICE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

SAN SALVADOR, Jan. 26.—The governments of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador have prepared a statement to be transmitted to the American institute of international law, now in session in Havana, approving the action of the institute in recommending maintenance of the Central American court of justice as a guardian of peace among the republics of Central America.

### WOMAN OF MYSTERY IN LEAK SCANDAL PROBE HOTEL MEN OF CAPITAL GRILLED FOR EXTORTIONS



MRS. RUTH THOMASON VISCONTI

### MRS. VISCONTI, FIGURE OF ROMANCE HAS CAPITOL GUESSING--LATEST OF STRING OF PETTICOAT DIPLOMATS

By CHAS. EDWARD RUSSELL. WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26.—Mrs. Ruth Thomason Visconti, who made such a dramatic entry in the great American farce comedy entitled "The Lady or, Quick, Watson! The Needle," would be worth untold gold to a romance writer of the good old school of intrigue and mystery. She is small, attractive, quiet, silent, mysterious and elusive. She arrives and departs and none knows whence nor whither. She baffles detectives, subpoena servers and reporters, and when you feel sure she is here she glides for a moment into view somewhere else.

This is not to great stuff on the stage and in fiction, and may be again. Some of it isn't so much fiction at that. Everybody that knows government as it really is knows that it is largely a puppet play for the delight and diversion of a large and undiscriminating audience. It is performed by a variety of pleasing and well-dressed figures that move about the stage in a series of most lifelike and refreshing stunts as if they did everything of their own will, but all the time they are pulled around with strings, cords and wires not exhibited to the entranced spectators.

Sometimes the hands that pull these strings are a woman's small hands that make history and pass away and are forgotten. But the results of their manipulation, maneuvers and secret designs last always thereafter. Madame de Maintenon, the duchess of Marlborough, Bess of Harwick, the fair Gabrielle, and all that sort of thing, I mean. They show still in a fashionable avenue in Paris the house where a red-haired woman in the days of the second empire used to settle treaties and determine the policies of Europe, and all the time she no better than she ought to be.

It's more of a European plot than an American, but there have been some women in our own history. President Arthur was a widower, but General Adam Badeau charged that it was a petticoat administration, although the woman he said dominated everything was never brought before the public. Baden lost his job in that administration and charged his troubles to the same fair lady of Washington.

The secrets of the whisky ring scandal, which clouded the closing years of Grant's second administration were understood to have been betrayed first by a woman, the discarded friend of one of the ringsters.

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### ALASKA STEAMER GOES ASHORE ON WRANGELL ISLE

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 26.—The Grand Trunk Pacific liner Prince John, bound from Prince Rupert, B. C., to Skagway, Alaska, struck on Rocky Point, Wrangell narrows, Alaska, at one o'clock this morning and began to leak rapidly. Captain Davies, of the Prince John, steamed for Slinger Point, a few miles north of Rocky Point, and beached his ship on a soft bottom. Local craft which gathered around took the passengers, between 15 and 20, to Petersburg, Alaska, whence they will continue their voyage. None was injured.

The Grand Trunk Pacific liner Prince John, and the salvage steamer Salvor left Vancouver this afternoon to assist the stranded ship. The Prince John carries a crew of 28.

Wrangell Island is one of the many islands bordering the inside passage to Alaska and has been the scene of several wrecks in its past. Deep riding vessels sometimes ground in the shallow Wrangell narrows, between the island and the mainland when they attempt to make the passage at low tide. Several graves of wreck victims dot one corner of the island. The Prince John is a steel vessel of 92,000 tons, built in England in 1910.

### FAMOUS BISHOP FAVORS UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Universal military training in the United States will not make for militarism, Bishop Samuel Fallows of Chicago, chaplain of the famous Iron Brigade of the civil war, told the senate committee considering universal training legislation.

"We never can be and never will be a military nation," said Bishop Fallows. "The test of that came at the close of the civil war, when two million men were mustered out, flushed with victory and under the command of a man who became president of the United States. There were predictions that Grant would become a dictator. Instead of becoming a dictator, he could not be nominated for a third term, and that great army melted like snowflakes in the stream of American life."

"Universal training," he continued, "is perfectly reasonable and imperatively demanded. It is the solemn duty of the American nation to meet any war conditions that may arise."

Frank Lewis of Eagle Point was in Medford on business Friday.

### SENATE VOTES \$25,000 FOR INAUGURAL EXPENSES, BUT MEMBERS DECLARE INKKEEPERS ROB VISITORS—WORKS OBJECTS TO POMP AND PAGEANTRY OF OCCASION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—The senate voted favorably today on the \$25,000 appropriation to pay for the inauguration expenses at the capitol, but not until there had been some lively talk about how Washington hotel keepers "rob" visitors and some observations that the inaugural ceremonies have come to resemble a coronation pageant.

When Senator Overman brought up the resolution from the appropriations committee, Senator McCumber, republican, suggested that it should include provisions to prevent hotel keepers from raising their rates. He said he had been informed by one hotel that a room for inauguration week would cost \$200.

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"I'm not going to object to this resolution," said Senator Works, republican. "But I would like to see one president inaugurated with appropriate ceremonies, suitable in a democracy. We are having a coronation every four years and it is undemocratic and un-American and I would like to see it abolished. There is no reason that such a ceremony as this should be conducted and every reason that it should not. I should like to see the president himself declare against that sort of thing and protest against his inaugural being made a show of this kind. There is no objection for the government of the United States to spend \$25,000 to provide a place for the inaugural. I should like to see the senate raise its voice against it; it violates every principle of our government."

Senator Thomas, democrat, expressed himself in accord with Senators McCumber and Works and declared:

"Old Spanish buccanniers who sailed the Spanish main, flying the black flag of piracy and taking their lives in their hands to rob merchant ships must turn over in their graves when they see the lavish successes of modern hotel proprietors on occasions of the kind and the immunity from punishment they enjoy in prosecuting their business of plunder."

Senator Borah, republican, observed that people who come to inaugurations do so with eyes open and pockets full for a good time.

Senator Sherman, republican, said he hoped that "this matter will be given wide publicity so that certain of my constituents who may come here won't have to borrow money from me to get home."

### TACOMA GAS CO. IN RECEIVERS HANDS

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 26.—The Tacoma Gas company went into the hands of a receiver today when Elmer Dover, president of this city was appointed by Federal Judge Cushman, on a plea of Matthew A. Morrison of Chicago, on a claim of \$40,000 in behalf of the creditors.

The Tacoma Gas company supplies artificial gas to Tacoma, Ruston, DuPont and Puyallup. It is capitalized for \$7,500,000, of which \$5,000,000 is common and the remainder preferred stock.

### DEWEY'S PROPERTY LEFT TO FAMILY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Admiral Dewey's will, dated December 17, 1915, was filed today for probate. It bequeaths a life annuity of \$500 to his sister, Mrs. Mary P. Greeley, and directs that a suitable stone be placed over his grave in Arlington national cemetery. The remaining estate, of which no estimate is made, is left for the widow and his son George Dewey, Jr., who are named as executors without bond.

### HOW LAWSON MADE MONEY IN STOCK SLUMP

Noted Financial Authority Tells How Fortunes Can Be Piled Up on a Breaking Market as Well as on a Rising One—Process of Stock Margin Deals Explained.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—How did Thomas W. Lawson and the "bear" crowd make money when stocks went down with a bang—that is, if he did make money? Can money be made when stocks are dropping on the exchange?

"You mean, how are short sales made?" said John Moody, financial writer and expert, and one of the best informed men on Wall street.

Very Simple Transaction. "That is very simple. Suppose you sell 100 shares of United States Steel at 125, going on the theory that Steel stock will be worth less money shortly. The customer goes to a broker, deposits a margin of 10, 20, 30 percent of the price of the stock (which at 125 is \$12,500 for 100 shares), and instructs the broker to sell 100 shares at 125. The broker executes the order. That customer's account stands short 100 shares of stock. Now, according to the rules of the stock exchange, the broker must deliver 100 shares of stock to the buyer tomorrow. The broker goes into the 'loan crowd' and borrows a certificate for 100 shares of steel stock. That certificate, at the market price, is worth \$12,500, and the broker must put up that amount of money as security for the loan of the stock. The broker uses his borrowed certificate to deliver to the man to whom he sold it the first instance.

Covering the Stock. "That is the way the transaction stands until the stock is 'covered.' To cover is to buy enough stock to cover a sale. The broker, for the customer, has sold 100 shares of steel at 125. But the customer does not own any steel stock; he has merely borrowed 100 shares, putting up for it \$12,500. He stands short until he has secured 100 shares of stock to deliver to the person who loaned the certificate.

"Suppose the transaction stands for a week or so. In ordinary times he has no premium to pay because the man who loans the certificate has the \$12,500 to use. Of course, if the market should go up, instead of down, as he expects and hopes it will, he will have to 'cover' by buying Steel stock at a higher price than he sold for, and in that case he will lose; or if he continues to stand 'short' he will have to keep putting up additional margin as long as the stock goes up.

Process is Reversed. "But he made the sale in the first instance on the theory that the market is going to break. Suppose it does break ten points, and he decides that it is about as far as it is going. He decides to 'cover.' He gives his broker an order to buy 100 shares of Steel at 115. That takes \$11,500, and the certificate for the 100 shares, which he got by purchase, goes to replace the one he has borrowed. The certificate returned, the broker gets the \$12,500 back, and the customer has made \$1000 on the deal, less commissions, and so on.

"That is how short trading is accomplished. On the other hand, the process is reversed and money is made or lost on a rising market. The two groups of traders interested in seeing the markets go up or down are known as bulls and bears."

Moody asserts that he doubts whether the famous break in the market last month was due to the peace note.

"Whether there had been any note or not, there would have been a

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### HEAVY BLANKET OF SNOW IN MINNESOTA

WINONA, Minn., Jan. 26.—The heavy blanket of snow over southern Minnesota has covered the food of the birds and thousands are dying of starvation. Feed will be distributed free to any person who will assist in feeding quail during the present severe weather.