

HODGE IS FREED BY COURT ORDER OF TAKING BRIBE

Prosecution Rests in Gill Trial and Court Directs Verdict of Acquittal for Sheriff, Against Whom No Evidence Tells of Fettering.

SEATTLE, Wn., March 17.—The prosecution rested in the so-called whiskey graft trial at noon, and the court directed a verdict of acquittal of defendant Robert F. Hodge, former sheriff.

The government's principal witnesses had testified in Hodge's favor, saying that he had granted no favors to the Billingsleys, liquor sellers, although Logan Billingsley had contributed to Hodge's campaign fund while the former sheriff was running for governor, and had loaned money to Hodge.

Matthews a Witness.
Rev. Mark A. Matthews, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Seattle, the largest Presbyterian clergy in the world and former moderator of the Presbyterian general assembly, testified as a witness to the prosecution today in the so-called whiskey graft trial, telling of conversations with Logan Billingsley and Mayor Hiram C. Gill.

Matthews stated that Billingsley had promised him on numerous occasions to reform, on one of which he gave witness \$1000 to be used in "cleaning up the town."

On October 24 the clergyman testified, he summoned Billingsley to his office and told him he had heard he was still selling liquor. Billingsley admitted frankly that he was. Dr. Matthews testified he told Billingsley he had heard rumors that he was paying for protection and that Billingsley admitted he was. The clergyman asked if it was true that Billingsley had paid \$10 a barrel for getting whiskey past the waterfront, and Billingsley admitted it was true.

Refusals to Answer.
"Is it true that you paid \$7500 to the mayor?" the clergyman swore he asked Billingsley. Billingsley replied, according to Dr. Matthews, "I won't tell you, but I won't lie to you. You'll have to see my attorney. I've paid thousands for protection."

On October 26, witness testified, he went to the mayor's office and told him of his conversation with Billingsley, saying: "I'm very much perplexed; I want to know the truth. I have asked Billingsley about the rumor that he paid you \$7500." The mayor replied, according to witness: "I didn't have anything to offer that Billingsley would pay \$7500 for."

BOMB IN MASSACHUSETTS COURT KILLS PLOTTERS

BOSTON, Mar. 17.—A bomb exploded in the Suffolk county court house late today, killing two men and injuring another. One of the dead was Louis A. Zeelinger, a janitor employed in the building. The other unidentified up to a late hour tonight was believed by the police to have been the bearer of the explosive.

The object of the bomb carrier is uncertain, but the fact that Judge William A. Loring's session of the supreme judicial court was sitting only twenty-five feet from the ante-room from which the explosion occurred indicated to the authorities that this may have been the object. It is thought the explosion was premature.

Girl stenographers fainted, a jury that was locked up for deliberation in a room overhead clamored for release, and a court officer collapsed when the bomb exploded, but order was quickly restored. Strong guards were placed over both the court house and the state house.

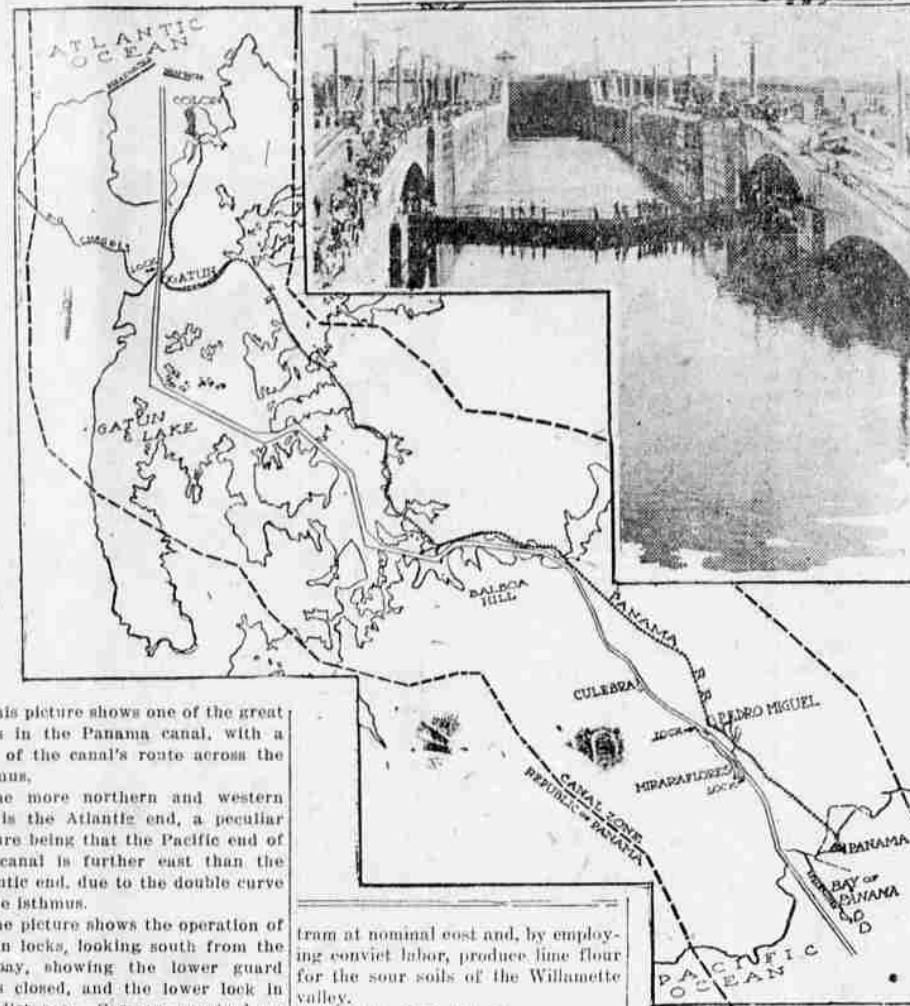
One arrest has been made.

OBREGON SAID TO BE BACK OF MEXICAN REVOLUTION

EL PASO, March 17.—Unusual activities among the group of former Mexican federal generals, coupled with the operations of men known to be close to General Alvaro Obregon, have caused the United States government officials to take seriously the rumors and reports of a new political movement in Mexico, led by Obregon.

The appearance of supposed Obregon agents here and in Juarez following the resignation of Obregon as minister of war and the crossing of a number of former federal generals along the Sonora-Chihuahua line has caused the secret service agents here to become unusually active in shadowing the movements of the men believed to be behind the new revolutionary movement on the border.

GREAT STRATEGIC WATERWAY MENACED BY FOES OF UNITED STATES



This picture shows one of the great locks in the Panama canal, with a map of the canal's route across the isthmus.

The more northern and western end is the Atlantic end, a peculiar feature being that the Pacific end of the canal is further east than the Atlantic end, due to the double curve in the isthmus.

The picture shows the operation of Gatun locks, looking south from the forebay, showing the lower guard gates closed, and the lower lock in the distance. German agents have been reported conspiring in Colombia and in various Central American republics for an attack against the United States through an attempt to wreck the canal and so prevent the United States navy from using the great waterway.

GOLD HILL LIME DEPOSITS AVAILABLE FOR STATE USE

By W. W. WATSON.

By way of suggesting to the world the extraordinarily varied character of the resources of southern Oregon, three native products are being discussed with more than usual interest this week because of the presence here of those interested in their development. These three are lime, oil, and coal. We know that the former and the latter exist here in great abundance. The presence of petroleum in the sub-strata of our foothills is less a certainty, but the indications that it may be found here in commercial quantities are very tempting to those who know something about it and its geological affinities. Hence, a digression from the usual mineral discussion today may be pardonable.

The State Lime Board.

A measure passed by the recent legislature provides for the existence and business conduct of a state lime board, three members of which are to be appointed by the governor, Captain Murphy, warden of the penitentiary, to be an ex-officio member and these four to select the fifth and last member. This board's duty will be to acquire in some manner a limestone quarry and a mill for grinding lime for soil uses and to produce the latter, largely for the sour soils of the Willamette valley. One of the provisions of the measure is a \$20,000 appropriation for that purpose. That can't much money for such an enterprise, but it is enough to get the thing started, if the board shall select a quarry of suitable limestone without what is known as the "overburden." That is, it must stand up above the surface, so it will not be necessary to mine it. The latter would make it too expensive.

Southern Oregon Member.

Mrs. Mattie Hays Beeman, of Gold Hill, one of Jackson county's most active women in practical enterprises, both private and public, was a Medford and Ashland visitor Friday in the interest of the appointment of Benton Bowers, of Ashland, as a member of the state lime board. At the latter place Mrs. Beeman procured the endorsement of her candidate by the Commercial club and she has the promise of co-operation and endorsement of other organizations of the county.

"The work of the state lime board will be purely business," said Mrs. Beeman. "There should be not the first suggestion of politics in it. It will find a quarry of good quality of limestone, reasonably accessible and cheaply worked. Owing to the smallness of the appropriation, it will probably lease it, procure a mill and

tram at nominal cost and, by employing convict labor, produce lime flour for the sour soils of the Willamette valley.

The Gold Hill Quarry.

"We propose to make the state an offer of lease on our quarry at Gold Hill that cannot reasonably be passed up. The limestone deposit is located less than a mile across the river from Gold Hill, at an altitude of 700 feet, making it possible to tram the product very cheaply to the mill, which may be located on the Southern Pacific, near the town. We have 60 acres of limestone deposit there in two dikes, each 250 feet in width. Millions of tons are in sight. It will not have to be mined. There is no 'overburden.' It stands up above the surface. It is an ideal quarry proposition.

"Besides, Jackson county deserves to be recognized in this matter. Its limestone deposits are incomparably greater and better in quality than those of any other section in Oregon."

The Oil Prospects.

Three petroleum prospectors are said to be in this valley now, representing San Francisco capitalists. No definite knowledge may be obtained as to their movements or purposes, at this time, although it is known that they have made careful inquiry as to the geology of the situation east of Bear creek, in the valley area under the Sunnyside coal mine. That indications exist there of the presence of "oil sands," at from 300 to 800 feet of depth, is known. No determination prospecting has been done there. Some of the indications are superficial. The latter are, in places, very definite, so far as surface indications may be. It will require capital in considerable sum to determine by boring just what may be beneath these surface evidences. A number of local capitalists have expressed a willingness to help to make up a sum sufficient to provide the necessary equipment and make the effort. No organization has yet been effected, however. What the California parties may do may be known in a week or so.

The Coal Deposits.

The Sunnyside coal mine and the several openings made in deposits about the base of Roxy Ann mountain just east of the city, are proof quite positive of the existence of extensive coal deposits in this immediate region. A gold miner said the other day:

"With coal selling at \$10 to \$12 a ton, it seems to me that somebody ought to have a gold mine in the Sunnyside deposits of coal. It is a tunnel proposition, may be cheaply worked, is only six miles from the railroad at Medford and appears to be in innumerable quantities in that one location. With wood selling at \$8 to \$10 a cord, what greater incentive is needed to work that mine? It is much more costly to mine gold and copper ores and treat them; and yet ores that yield less per ton than \$10 are profitably worked in many localities—from that figure down to \$1.50 per ton. Somebody is wasting a big opportunity here!"

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors for their kindness and sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved wife and mother, Sarah Jane Buchanan. Also for the beautiful floral offerings.

JOHN G. BUCHANAN AND FAMILY.

With Medford trade is Medford made.

ASK INJUNCTION FOR PREVENTION OF RAIL STRIKE

Members of Four Brotherhoods File Bill in Equity at Philadelphia for Restraining Trainmen's Chiefs—Allege Strike Ballot Not in Effect and That a Refusal to Arbitrate is Contrary to Union Rules.

PHILADELPHIA, March 17.—A bill in equity which has for its purpose the prevention of the four railroad brotherhoods from calling a strike within the state of Pennsylvania was filed in the federal district court at noon today by the attorney representing members of the four brotherhoods.

No judge was in the federal building at the time and although the bill is officially on file, it will not have the effect of preventing a walkout unless the papers are signed by a judge and an order issued enjoining the men.

Leighton P. Stradler, attorney for the men who filed the bill, said the action "would take its usual course." He apparently is making no effort to find a judge.

The bill was filed by Leighton P. Stradler of Philadelphia, attorney for members of the four railroad brotherhoods. The action is against the local chairmen and chairmen of their general grievance committee. The action affects the brotherhoods on all railroads throughout Pennsylvania.

According to the trainmen, they believe that not more than ten per cent are in favor of walking out. The bill alleges that the joint ballot upon which the strike was called is not in effect at this time, inasmuch as it was obtained eight months ago when times were not at the critical stage they are today. This strike ballot obtained eight months ago was cancelled last fall when the Adamson law was enacted, the bill asserts.

Complainants in this action allege that a refusal to arbitrate by the grand chiefs is contrary to the constitution and by-laws of the brotherhoods. The ballot was obtained last summer, the bill of complaint says, by arbitrary action of the chief executives of the unions and without complying with the by-laws.

GLASSES

made to correct the optical defect peculiar to each eye at a price consistent with the necessary requirements of the case.

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LITTLE CROWN PRINCE OF RUSSIA REPORTED DEAD

Autocracy Which Has Held Russia in Its Grip for 400 Years Comes to An End—Republic or Constitutional Monarchy Probable—Abdication a Surprise to People.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—A dispatch from American Minister Morris at Stockholm today informed the state department that the czar of Russia had abdicated, but he had not been arrested. Mr. Morris has been instructed to send all available information.

LONDON, March 17.—Reuter's Petrograd correspondent, telegraphing under Friday's date, says: "The city is now controlled by committees formed of garrison and civilian representatives under the presidency of the commandant of the Fourth Guard corps."

Death of Prince Rumored.

PETROGRAD, March 17.—The autoeracy which has held Russia in its grip since the beginning of history, fell today. The house of Romanoff, which has ruled the empire for 400 years, came to an end with the abdication of Nicholas II, perhaps the weakest representative of his line. Tonight the death of the little son of the emperor, whose abdication was included in that of his father, was rumored.

Although apparent from the beginning of the revolution that the removal of the monarch was the inevitable end, the actual fact came as an overwhelming surprise to the population.

Just what form the new government will assume is indefinite. For the moment entire authority rests with the twelve members of the duma executive committee and the cabinet headed by Prince Lvoff who, according to some forecasts, will be president of a new republic. It is believed that in the interim and until the convocation of a constitutional assembly, power will slowly pass into the hands of the new cabinet.

As early as two months ago rumors became current that the emperor would be forced to surrender his throne. Until that time the chief dissatisfaction at the economic disorganization of the country and the criminal mismanagement of affairs was vented against the cabinet and the influence of the court was only vaguely alluded to without touching the person of the emperor. It became definitely known that all irresponsible and evil influences, symbolized by such figures as Sturmer, Protopopoff and Rasputin, had a deeper and more powerful source than the government itself. The prevalence of startling rumors of court scandals and intrigues and the existence of mysterious channels, which seemed to run from court circles into the camp of the enemy, contributed to bring the imperial family into complete disfavor.

R. R. STRIKE POSTPONED

(Continued From Page One.)

Mr. Lane, when asked his opinion of the situation. "We will meet here at ten o'clock tomorrow and then will take up the situation and go on as we have been going."

Secretary Wilson said: "I concur with everything Secretary Lane has said and I would add that there is undoubtedly a more pacific feeling. I think the men in both sides now feel better towards each other than they did."

Secretary Lane announced that a concrete proposition had been submitted to both sides but that its terms would not be disclosed at this time.

Except for the postponement of the strike the situation "remains unchanged," it was declared by Warren S. Stone, head of the brotherhood of engineers.

"Unless something intervenes it will be the same Monday night," he said. "As reasonable men we do not intend to fly in the face of the president's advisers and when they requested the 48 hour postponement we made the concession to enable them to work out their plan."

JAIL FOR FOES OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

PETROGRAD, Mar. 17.—Arrests of individuals out of tune with the new order of affairs continue from day to day. Among the latest arrested was the Countess Kleinmichael, well known in court circles and who for a long time had been conspicuous as an intriguer and the tool for the

dissemination of pro-German propaganda. Hitherto she had enjoyed immunity because of influential connections. The countess was taken under guard to the duma building.

M. Soukhomlinoff, former minister of war, narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of angry soldiers when his identity became known as he was being conducted before the duma committee.

Yesterday more than sixty trains were despatched over various lines for the purpose of bringing foodstuffs and other necessities to the capital. While it is too early to observe any marked change in the prices of food, it is significant that notices of greatly reduced prices have been posted in several shops.

OBITUARY.

Died—At his home at Central Point, Friday evening, May 16, 1917, Edwin Franklin Raimey, age 50 years, 11 months and three days. He was a native of Jackson county, a resident thereof all his life. Death was due to a fracture of the skull, sustained 40 years ago. He leaves a wife, Rachel, one son, Ren, and one daughter, Martha, of Red Bluff, Cal. The funeral services will be held at the Baptist church, Central Point, 2 o'clock next Sunday, the Rev. C. J. C. officiating. Interment in Central Point cemetery.

Arthur Klinehammer, a student at the Applegate, spent Saturday at Medford visiting friends and attending to business matters.

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