

STATE FIRE LAW TO BE ENFORCED TO THE LETTER

H. H. Pomeroy, chief state deputy fire marshal and chief investigator of the department, left Salem last night for this city to take charge of the investigation into the causes of the Houston hotel fire, according to Gilbert W. Allen, deputy fire marshal and special representative of Governor Olcott who arrived yesterday.

Mr. Allen's duties in the department are educational and deal with fire prevention. Mr. Pomeroy is one of the foremost experts of the country and deals with causes and conditions generally. When he arrives tonight he will take full charge, said Mr. Allen, who will remain to assist. The investigation will start from the time when the fire was first reported and go into every detail that may have a bearing upon it.

Yesterday's probe revealed conditions that demand the fullest investigation, said Mr. Allen, and he so notified the governor's office by wire with the result that the expert was ordered to leave at once for this city.

Last year's report of the fire marshal on fire hazards that existed here and the methods of bettering conditions was utterly disregarded, said Mr. Allen. Now the state will take control, superseding the council in at least two matters—hotel protection and gasoline storage. These matters will be remedied at once.

"We will act without personal prejudice," said the state's representative, "but when we are through the matter will have been thoroughly sifted and the blame will be placed where it belongs. I am not prepared to say at this time where it belongs but we certainly will hew to the line, regardless of who is hurt."

"The state law will be enforced to the letter. Fire escapes and proper exits must go on every rooming house in town. It will cost the owners of the property money, of course, but when the order goes out it must be complied with within a reasonable time, which will be fixed later."

Mr. Allen said that every bit of gasoline stored in the city would be in underground containers before the state finished its regulatory campaign here.

He indicated that the city council had had its opportunity to pass protective ordinances and abate the hazards that exist. A year ago, at considerable cost in money and time, a fire survey was made here by the state marshal and a report made to the council recommending changes in ordinances and the steps that should be taken for protection.

One of the steps was the increase of the fire department to four paid members. On the night of the fire Chief Ambrose was the only paid—and trained—man in the engine house. His assistant, Mark Howard, was absent on leave by the council. The mayor was supposed to have

MOTION PICTURE STAR DIES IN PARIS HOSPITAL

PARIS, Sept. 10.—Olive Thomas, motion picture star, died in the American hospital last Sunday suffering from slow poisoning. Her physician said that she took the poison by mistake.

She came here recently with her husband, Jack Pickford, and had been suffering with nervous prostration.

secured a substitute but says that no trained man was to be found. Three other firemen, who are not on salary, but who receive lodging free for sleeping in the engine house, were at their posts. Seven beds are provided for this class of firemen.

None of the ordinances recommended were adopted. The ordinance governing gasoline storage was debated for a time but finally pigeonholed, for political reasons too long to discuss here. (This is the Herald's statement, not Mr. Allen's.) As far as the Herald is informed the purchase of about 1000 feet of hose and some repairs for the fire truck was as far as the council's action extended.

One truck is not enough for the city's needs, says Mr. Allen, and the department is lacking in much essential equipment. In other words both men and apparatus are needed. One is useless without the other and the department must be built from the ground up.

Last year the fire marshal made a comprehensive survey of the cities of the state and made a report on local conditions in each, with remedial recommendations.

Mr. Allen says that Klamath Falls alone let the report and its recommendations go unheeded. Towns half the size of Klamath Falls, with only a portion of its resources, listened to the warning and purchased fire fighting apparatus to cope with conditions outlined in the report.

With the exception of the White Pelican hotel, every place of lodging in the city will be effected in greater or less degree by orders for remodeling to comply with the state fire law.

The local tragedy, coming close on the heels of the Elton apartments fire in Portland, where four lives were lost, will bring about a change in the state fire law, Mr. Allen believes. Legislative sentiment had nearly reached the point where a law providing for enclosed stairways and areaways that would shut off draft in a burning building and prevent the sucking of the flames from a lower floor upward and throughout the building was a possibility. These latest tragedies will make it overwhelmingly possible to pass the law, he believes. Portland at present is working upon a city ordinance containing these provisions.

And if this comes to pass, said Mr. Allen, the loss of life will have its compensation in the salvation of other lives in the future, dreadful and without consolation as it must appear to those who are bereaved of friends and relatives.

"No grander monument could be erected to the victims of the Houston hotel fire than this," he said, "and I can think of no more noble epitaph than this:

"They died as martyrs for better fire prevention laws and methods."

Mr. Allen addressed the chamber of commerce membership forum at the noon luncheon at the White Pelican today, asking co-operation of the chamber in the campaign for fire protection. He told of his visit here a year ago and its negligible results but said this time there would be results.

The co-operation of the chamber was promised.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE PREDICTED CONFLAGRATION

SALEM, Ore., Sept. 10.—Monday's fire at Klamath Falls, it is pointed out by officials here, was practically forecast by members of the state fire marshal's office in a report following a survey of fire hazards in that city in September, 1919.

In that report it was pointed out that no ordinance regulating the and that unless this condition was corrected immediately "Klamath

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IDENTIFICATION CERTAIN OF TWO HOTEL VICTIMS

What seems to be invulnerable evidence of the true name of the 16 or 17 year old girl whose life was snuffed out in the Houston hotel fire was given to Deputy Coroner C. C. McCoppen yesterday by F. E. Wilson, of Medford. Mr. Wilson has also positively identified the remains. His identification bears out the deductions of the deputy coroner who, immediately after the fire, stated that the remains in question were those of the girl known here as Grace Hall.

According to Mr. Wilson, who came here from Medford to help solve the mystery of the missing girl, he had been intimately acquainted with her in Medford, and had definite knowledge of her departure for this city last week. While in Medford she confided to Mr. Wilson, and perhaps to others, that her married name was Daisy Parker. This name conflicts but slightly with the name Dolly Parker, as she was known by some people here. Her maiden name, said Mr. Wilson, was Grace Hall, and her husband, a man 47 years of age, is living somewhere in the vicinity of Albany. As Mr. Wilson's story goes, the girl was practically forced into a marriage with Parker, but incompatibility in their domestic lives prompted her to leave him. As stated before the girl's father resides in Portland. Identification was made possible by the recovery of articles which Mr. Wilson avers were the property of the girl. Her remains, however, have not been claimed, and will be buried with the rest of the unidentified or unclaimed bodies tomorrow morning.

Identities Not Sufficient
The remains of Mrs. G. Bilderback and daughter, Leona, or what are confidently believed to be their remains, are still numbered among the unidentified. Mr. Bilderback evidently not considering that sufficient evidence has been disclosed to justify him in claiming them.

Dallas Man Claims Body
The remains of Robert Blodgett, known here as Robert Dawson, have been identified by Leon E. Sullivan of this city. Mr. Sullivan, among other evidences, pointed out that the suspensory found on the body was used to support an artificial limb, such as Dawson or Blodgett had. J. L. Blodgett, of Dallas, Ore., father of the unfortunate man, instructed the coroner to ship the remains there, and the instructions were complied with this morning.

The remains of Robert Harmon were shipped to Redding, California, where he will be buried by the Eagles' lodge.

Burial Tomorrow; Services Sunday
Deputy Coroner C. C. McCoppen has announced definitely that the unidentified and unclaimed bodies will be buried tomorrow morning.

Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, memorial services will be held in the Whitlock chapel. An effort will be made to have all the churches in the city represented at this service, and the public will be welcome to attend. Persons who desire to place flowers upon the graves of the victims may leave them at the undertaking parlors.

PORTLAND, Sept. 10.—The Mrs. Dolly Parker, whose maiden name is given in Klamath Falls dispatches as Miss Grace Hall, and who is reported to be one of those burned to death in Monday morning's disastrous fire, is believed to be Mrs. Dolly Florence Parker of Portland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otho A. Hall, 2155 Sacramento street.

Mr. Hall says he is certain the victim is his daughter. Mrs. Parker is but 16 years of age, according to her father, but looks 19. She weighed 135 pounds, was 5 feet 3 inches tall, dark eyes and hair, and had the appearance of being heavy set. She is said to have been exceptionally bright for her age, and to have been handy at nearly any kind of work.

The girl and Joe Parker were married in March. They lived together for about two months. Since that

SAYS CHAMBER SHOULD DIG INTO DISPUTE

"The Klamath county chamber of commerce will do a great service for the community if it carries out its proposed plan of appointing a commission to investigate carefully the entire question relating to the building of a regulating dam in Link river by the California-Oregon Power company and formulate a statement of facts covering the matter."

This was the opinion expressed today by Ottamar Hamels, of Washington, D. C., chief council of the United States reclamation service. Mr. Hamels succeeds Judge Will R. King of Oregon, and took up the duties of the office June 15. He is making a tour of western projects to familiarize himself with their physical characteristics, climatic conditions and peculiarities of local problems. He remained here for a day looking over the Klamath project.

"Few of the people of Klamath county understand the issues involved in this controversy or the great importance of the question to this project," continued Mr. Hamels. "Many not only do not understand the case, but have opinions wholly unsupported by the facts. It would certainly be a great public service for the commercial club to look into the whole matter and then give the people what they are entitled to—an unbiased story of the facts. The important point for folks on this project to keep in mind is that the project cannot safely be expanded further without a regulating dam at the outlet of Upper Klamath lake."

Chief Counsel Hamels was asked to give his opinion as to the merits of the controversy, but declined.

"I have looked into the matter with considerable care," he said, "and have some definite ideas on the subject, but their statement at this time would probably serve no useful purpose."

"Secretary Payne is investigating and will undoubtedly analyze the whole situation carefully. I am certain he will come to a speedy and clear-cut decision, and it will rest upon the merits of the case entirely."

Mr. Hamels looked over the uncovered land of Lower Klamath lake, also the Tule lake lands, now showing such abundant crops. He also visited the partly constructed dam in Link river.

He expressed confidence in the ability and integrity of H. D. Newell, local project manager in very high terms.

His next stop in his tour of projects will be at the Orland project, California.

H. V. CALLOWAY'S WIFE WANTS TO HEAR OF HIS SAFETY

Mrs. H. V. Calloway of Kallapel, Mont., has asked the local Red Cross to locate her husband, H. V. Calloway, and allay her anxiety that he might have perished in the Houston hotel fire. Anyone knowing Mr. Calloway's whereabouts is asked to notify the Red Cross, chamber of commerce rooms.

HUMORIST IS VISITING CRATER LAKE THIS WEEK

Irvin S. Cobb, noted author and humorist, arrived at Crater Lake Wednesday and was still sightseeing there yesterday, according to reports brought back by local visitors at the lake.

Whether Mr. Cobb will visit Klamath Falls on his way out was not learned.

time she has earned her own living, the father says. She has never written home, the parents keeping track of her through a girl friend in the neighborhood with whom she corresponded regularly.

Shortly after leaving her husband Mrs. Parker went to the home of an uncle, Daniel Maxfield of Salem, where she worked.

Hall said that his daughter had been trying to keep away from her husband. The reason for their separation he could not give. Parker is said to have written to Hall several times asking for the address of his

SAYS DONATIONS WERE LIMITED TO \$1,000 EACH

CHICAGO, Sept. 10.—Fred W. Upham, national treasurer, today told the senate investigating committee that he took full responsibility for the proposal to raise the limit of individual Republican campaign contributions from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

"I was voted down by a large majority at a meeting in New York," he said.

"I hoped the lid would be raised and I did recommend \$10,000 as the limit," Upham said. "I presented the proposition at a meeting in New York but was voted down and as I stepped from the room I told Mr. Blair to telegraph his men in Chicago not to send out form No. 101."

FALLACY OF LOW INTEREST BILL BARED

"The business man, the farmer and the home owner will be practically ruined through the enactment of the proposed 5 per cent Interest Rate bill, unless a far-reaching campaign of education is carried on in every county in the state and the people be made to understand the real truth of this vicious measure," said Lloyd Riches, secretary of the Oregon State Editorial Association, speaking before the weekly forum of Klamath Falls business men this noon at the White Pelican hotel.

"I have been over a great part of the state and everywhere I find a great many people who do not understand the measure and are in favor of it. Those who do realize what the proposed measure means are generally in a state of apathy and I tell you honestly that unless the people of this state wake up, a few radicals will foist upon the state the most ruinous measure of ultra-radical legislation ever proposed in this state."

Briefly stated, the 5 per cent Interest Rate bill is a constitutional amendment. It will appear on the ballot at the November election and, if passed, will reduce the legal rate of interest from 6 per cent to 4 per cent and the maximum contract rate from 10 per cent to 5 per cent, and provides that the contract rate shall be inclusive of any and all brokerage and commissions.

"Without thought this bill will appeal to those who want to borrow cheap money, and that is a large percentage of the people. But a little careful thought shows that it will defeat its own ends by forcing both foreign and local capital to seek investments outside of the state."

"You can, by law, regulate the rates of interest, but you cannot, by law, force anyone to loan money, if they do not want to do so. Rates of interest are regulated by the law of supply and demand and today the demand is so great that you or I can loan our money, on gilt-edge security, for from 8 to 9 per cent. Would you loan your money in Oregon at 5 per cent when you can secure 9 per cent somewhere else?"

"Under the operation of this law business men and farmers will be unable to borrow money when they need it to tide them over a few weeks. Farmers and home-owners who have mortgages on their places will be unable to renew these mortgages and naturally forced into foreclosure court. Industries would be handicapped in expansion and necessary improvements and laborers would suffer as a result."

"The evident effect of such a law appears so clear to those who understand it that it seems that no one would be foolish enough to favor such a bill. But the fact remains that many well-meaning and intelligent people in the state do favor it, through a misunderstanding, and I urge you men to carry the message I give you into every corner of your county."

Mr. Riches also called attention to the menace of the Non-partisan

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OFFICIAL INDIFFERENCE IS CHARGED

Acting Coroner C. C. McCoppen is up in arms over what he terms the shabby treatment meted out to him by the county court and by the city council while he is earnestly and assiduously endeavoring to carry out the duties which the Houston hotel fire has placed upon him.

First of all, said Mr. McCoppen, he applied to the county court for assistance in the work of removing bodies, valuables, and other articles which might be valuable in tracing identities of the victims. Judge Bunnell, so he says, told him to hire all the men he needed, but when he went out into the highways and by-ways and tried to hire men he found that it would be impossible to secure enough help, and that it was extremely hard to get even the three or four men who have been helping him, because in these pay-as-you-go days people do not care to wait a month for their remuneration. He was vouchsafed no other assistance, and the work, according to Mr. McCoppen, has been shamefully delayed. What is needed, says the deputy coroner, is more concrete evidence of the early production of the necessary wherewithal to pay for the labor, and unless this is forthcoming, the work will be protracted long after the time in which any county court, with the slightest vestige of pride and knowledge of its duties, would ever think of permitting it to lag. And so, the deputy coroner is wrathful and believes the public should know the facts.

Mayor and Police Criticized
Mr. McCoppen believes in taking all the territory available, and has included the city council and the police department in his criticisms. He states that it is customary, and necessary too, for the police to extend adequate protection to the coroner in the discharge of his duties, and in the event of a fire such as occurred here the police department should rope off the burned area, and prevent people from digging and exploring indiscriminately in the debris. The coroner, declares Mr. McCoppen, should not be impeded in his work of recovery and identification, and must not be deprived of even the slightest clue that might be of service to him. But the mayor has not given him any evidence of the slightest inclination to assist in this most important work, and prefers to place the city in a position where discredit may be attached to it with not a chance in the wide, wide world to refute it.

Chief Wilson of the police department is scored heartily also. Mr. McCoppen says that it appears to be the chief's sole aim and duty to sit in a swivel chair in his office and let things take their own course. He doesn't know a great deal, he says, about the mechanisms of police departments, but regardless of local customs he thinks that if the chief cannot find a patrolman to detail for duty at the scene of the fire, he might smash a precedent or two and patrol the place himself. The least the police department could do, continued the acting coroner, is to rope off the place and keep people who have no business in the burned area where they belong. As far as he has been able to learn, the only times a patrolman has been near the fire site lately, are at odd intervals when he forgot himself and strayed inadvertently into the district where, if the chief did his duty, he would be stationed permanently.

STANDARD OIL MANAGER TRANSFERRED TO CALIFORNIA

T. J. Mortell, agent for the Standard Oil company here for the past year, has been transferred to Folsom, Cal. He left today for Sacramento, accompanied by Mrs. Mortell and son and daughter.

Mr. Mortell did not know who his successor will be, the appointment having not yet been announced.

WEATHER REPORT

Oregon—Tonight and Saturday, probably rain; fresh winds.

MICKIE SAYS

IF YA DON'T LIKE T' BE BOTHERED
RENEWIN' YER SUBSCRIPTION
EVEN NEAR, THEN AIN'T
NOTHIN' T' PREVENT YA FROM
PAYIN' TWO OR THREE YEARS
AT A TIME, LIKE SOME OF
OUR SUBSCRIBERS DO

