

# The Daily Capital Journal

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## \$200,000 FIRE AT OREGON STATE PRISON

### FIRE RAISES PROBLEM AS TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE STATE'S CONVICTS

#### AFFAIRS IN TURKEY

##### FAR FROM BEING UP FOR SETTLEMENT

##### FANATICS BURN ALL CHRISTIAN PROPERTY AND ARE PROVING THE DIVINITY OF MOHAMMAD BY KILLING AS MANY SOCIALISTS AS THEY CAN

(By Byzantium Mochpoulos, Staff Correspondent United Press.)  
Constantinople, May 5.—Plots hatched by leaders of the thousands of civil officials who were dismissed by Sultan Rehad when he ascended the throne were revealed today and the Young Turks government is rapidly doubling its military patrols here and elsewhere to prevent another reactionary outbreak.

Several ringleaders in the plots have been placed under arrest and will be tried for treason. Considerable dissatisfaction has resulted among the friends of the dismissed officials because of the economical policy of the new government. This feeling has been inflamed by agitators who are attempting to work the people up to the pitch where another revolution will be possible.

Every precaution is being taken by the constitutionalists and the sultan believes he will be able to hold the insurrectionists in check.

The situation is complicated by appeals from Asia Minor for more troops. The dispatches say that the troops already stationed there are not sufficient in numbers to police the provinces and prevent wholesale massacres which are still going on in the interior. If the sultan is compelled to send troops away from the capital he will weaken his position and give the insurrectionists the opportunity to strike. For this reason he is retaining the troops until he can be certain that the most powerful leaders of the rebels are captured and the bands of conspirators broken up.

Messages received today confirmed the report of the burning of the French Sisters' school at Mersina and the destruction of the convent at Adana.

#### PRES. TAFT FAVORS INHERITANCE TAX

Washington, May 5.—President Taft told callers today that he favored the tariff bill substantially as it now stands. He said that he favored giving it a fair trial and that if it did not yield enough revenue in its present form changes could be made. The first addition would be a graduated inheritance tax law. If this did not suffice he favored the taxing of the dividends of corporations and an income tax as a final resort.

#### THEY GOT TWO YEARS AND A \$500 FINE

[United Press Leased Wire.]  
Pittsburg, May 5.—Sentences were passed today on W. W. Ramsey, former president of the German National bank, and five other men convicted of implication in the councilmanic graft cases here.

Ramsey, convicted of bribing councilmen to deposit municipal funds in his bank at a low rate of interest, was sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary and fined \$1000. The following sentences were imposed upon Ramsey's associates:

Common Councilman John F. Klein, three years and six months imprisonment and \$1500 fine; Councilman William Brand, two years imprisonment and \$500 fine; Harry Bolger, hotel keeper, two years imprisonment and \$500 fine; James Colbert, two years imprisonment and \$500 fine, and Charles Coubert, two years imprisonment and \$500 fine. The Couberts were convicted of attempted jury tampering.

#### INJURED EMPLOYE MAKES COMPLAINT

[United Press Leased Wire.]  
San Francisco, May 5.—Suffering intensely from a severe fracture of the right arm, sustained during the performance of his duties in the Southern Pacific yards early today, W. J. Maloney, an employe of the company, says he lay for two hours at the Southern Pacific hospital in this city without medical attention. Despairing of securing treatment, Maloney boarded a street car and went to the Central Emergency hospital, where the fracture was dressed. According to Maloney's statement, he was taken to the hospital at 8:30 o'clock. After waiting two hours for a doctor to appear he went to the Emergency hospital despite the protests of the nurse in charge. He claims his accident was due to a defective derrick.

#### SAY SCHMITZ WAS GUEST OF RAILROADS

[United Press Leased Wire.]  
San Francisco, May 5.—The story of a luncheon and a car ride, at which the United Railroads was the host and ex-Mayor Schmitz, Abe Ruef, former Supervisors Gallagher, Wilson and Boxton were the guests, was related by ex-Railroad Commissioner and Supervisor Andrew M. Wilson, when he resumed the stand in the Calhoun trial today.

The entertainment, said Wilson, was provided by the United Railroads, represented personally by Patrick Calhoun and Thorwall Mullally. The party occurred soon after the great fire, and during the period previous to the passage of the trolley franchise.

#### POLICEMAN MADE ROBBER STOP

[United Press Leased Wire.]  
San Francisco, May 5.—Three shots from the revolver of Policeman J. Barnett were effective in stopping the flight of Thomas Murphy, caught in the act of ransacking the rooms of the Hotel Evans early today.

Murphy was discovered delving in a trunk in a room on the first floor of the Evans house. He leaped through a window, almost into the arms of Policeman Barnett. The fleeing robber paid no heed to two shots fired in the air, but when a third sped past his ear he threw up his hands and halted. Several articles of jewelry were found in his pockets. The police are investigating his record.

#### RAILROAD COMMISSION IS KEPT BUSY

More trouble for the Railroad Commission arrived this morning in the mail, in the way of three formal complaints from unsatisfied railroad patrons. J. C. Noy, Mark Crandall, J. B. Schacky and W. L. Harris, all residents of Linton, Ore., allege the United Railroad Company is neglecting them by refusing to stop passenger trains at the town of Linton.

G. N. Mack says the Sheridan & Willamina Railroad Company has been negligent in providing an adequate railroad station at Willamina, and wants the commission to help get one.

Eugene Cummins, et al., vs. Southern Pacific Co., a more suitable provision for loading lumber wanted near Oregon City.

#### SHOPS AT PRISON BURNED IN SMALL HOURS OF NIGHT

##### LOSS \$200,000-- FIRE DID NOT AFFECT MAIN PRISON-- QUESTION NOW IS HOW CONVICTS SHALL BE EMPLOYED

The largest foundry and stove manufacturing establishment in the Pacific Northwest, representing an investment of about \$300,000 was two-thirds destroyed by fire Tuesday night, and only about \$100,000 of the buildings and plant and stock saved. The state owned the buildings and had invested \$40,000 in machinery. The rest of the loss falls upon Lowenberg & Co., or the Northwestern Stove Corporation, of Portland, who have but a small insurance, the rate being almost prohibitive. The state six years ago abandoned the policy of insuring its property. The great industry prostrated by this fire employed 225 convicts, and about 25 free men, and as the patterns were totally destroyed, it will be impossible to resume operations this year. There is a large stock of castings on hand, and possibly \$50,000 worth of stock that can be finished and put on the market. But this is only a reporter's guess. The loss is a serious blow to the state and the corporation, and will be felt in this city and Portland. It cuts off a large revenue from the state and opens up the question of how to employ the convicts. A large force will probably be put to clearing up the wreck.

**Story of Fire.**  
At 10:30 o'clock a fire started in the shops at the state prison from what was supposed to originate from spontaneous combustion, and today the stove foundry and machine shop lay in ruins, as the result of the conflagration.

Guard Croy Branson, who is stationed on the north wall, was the first one to notice the blaze, which was showing red through the windows in the finishing room at first, and gave the alarm. Branson said he heard no noise, but when he turned about on his return to the other end of the wall he noticed smoke and sparks flying from the shop chimney, and a lurid blaze through the windows. The fire in the finishing room quickly spread to the foundry and machine shop, which are located on each side, and in spite of the quick work of the men at the penitentiary, and that of the assistance which arrived within a short time, the fire ate its way through the walls of three buildings, and before it could be got under full control nothing but the bare brick walls remained standing, the many valuable pieces of machinery and tools used in the shops being burned to knotted and twisted useless steel. About the only thing of importance which the firemen succeeded in saving from the ravishing flames was in the neighborhood of \$300 worth of coke lying in the Northwest wing of the foundry, and some of Superintendent R. B. Fleming's valuables in his office, in the finishing rooms. Mr. Fleming had some valuable papers locked up in his safe in the office, and, to protect those, the firemen were compelled to fight this spot continually, in order to save the safe from destruction, as the flames were all around the office, sweeping everything clear in their path.

The prison officials and city and asylum firemen, and hundreds of Salem citizens deserve great credit for their good and willing work during the conflagration. Had it not been for the outside help, it is doubtful if the fire could have been confined to the three burned structures, owing to hundreds of moulding trays, boxes and other wooden devices for the making of castings in the stove foundry. These articles were lying about the foundry proper, and were as dry as tinder, and had they become ablaze, with the strong north wind which swept down over the north wall, fire would have scattered all over the prison grounds and buildings. However, with the assistance

of the few stand pipes and the penitentiary pumping station, the men were furnished with sufficient water to hold the blaze in check until the main fire in the shops died down to the extent where no more danger was realized from that source. The fire engine was set near the creek on the inside of the prison walls, and did excellent work throughout the hard fight against the conflagration, pouring many big streams.

Considerable fear was entertained by the firemen regarding a large gasoline tank, which was lying on the floor in the finishing room, that it would explode, but after the flames had eaten the inside of the structure away the big tank was seen lying in a melted state. The firemen handling the hose attached directly to the engine confined their work principally to the walls between the finishing room and the buildings adjacent, in which other valuable machinery was located. They were compelled to play streams on this spot, but their efforts were rewarded, as no damage was done to any of the other buildings.

There was no danger of the fire being spread to the building in which the prisoners are confined, as the shops are located 300 feet away, to the east.

To attribute the fire to spontaneous combustion is about the only conclusion that can be arrived at. In the finishing room, where many emery wheels are used, and dust from the wheels flying about, and also oil mixed with the emery dust, is where the fire started. Last night a dependable guard went through the shops carefully for the purpose of seeing that everything was in a safe condition for the night, and found nothing amiss, and he stated last night that he was positive the fire could not have been started from an overheated bearing or shafting.

**Officials Not to Blame.**  
There is no evidence that there was any neglect of duty on the part of any of the prison officials. Warden Curtis was the first man notified. He saw no flames at first, but in a few moments the whole shop where it started seemed to burst out in flames. It seemed to start in the molding room and front machine shop. The prison hose team and guards were at their posts and fighting the flames back, but had lost control of the situation when the asylum fire department arrived, and at the same time the city fire department was on the ground. Superintendent James had come up from the club at 10:35 and ordered out a strong force of trustees to fight the fire front and rear. He personally took charge of the pump house, and had a couple of big streams playing on the walls from the rear to keep the flames from spreading south. Governor Benson was early on the ground, and took a hand in directing the fight on the fire. The prison force worked splendidly, but the city and asylum crews came to the rescue and saved at least \$100,000 worth of property.

**Offices Are Ruins.**  
Superintendent Fleming's offices, where the records were kept and the clerical work done, are a mass of ruins. Some of the valuable papers were carried out and saved, but most of the records and valuable papers are lost. Warden Curtis got out a lot of books and papers. Superintendent Fleming has been in charge for nearly 25 years, or ever since the stove foundry was started. He had just brought from the East a new foreman, Mr. Vrooman, and Mr. Uechmann, boss of the pattern shop. For both of these men officers were being fitted up, and these new men and some of the other heads of departments have lost all their tools and

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