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COUNTING THE BALLOTS THIS AFTERNOON

Will Decide Ownership of Automobile and 13 Other Prizes in Contest

LONDON HAS A BIG BLAZE

Five Persons Dead, Fifty in the Hospitals and Many More Are Missing.

ARDING & HOBBS STORE BURNS AT NOON HOUR

Three Hundred Persons in the Store at the Time—Scene Bordering on Panic Ensued—Clerks and Patrons Madly Jump From Fourth Story Windows to Pavement Below.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] London, Dec. 20.—Five persons are known to be dead; 50 are in hospitals, suffering from injuries, and many are missing as the result of a

great fire that destroyed the great Arding & Hobbs store, in Clapham suburbs at noon today. Three hundred persons were in the store when the fire started. A scene of confusion, bordering on a panic, ensued when the scores of shoppers and clerks rushed for the lifts and stairs. Several clerks and patrons leaped from third and fourth-story windows to the pavement. Others jumped from an interior balcony to the main floor, which already was burning fiercely.

Within an hour after the fire was discovered, the great dome collapsed, covering adjoining stores with a mass of burning debris. The entire block in which the store was located was soon a mass of uncontrolled flames. It is feared that many of those who leaped from the balcony into the burning court lost their lives. When the dome collapsed, this section of the store was buried in the blazing ruins. The firemen believe that many of the missing lie beneath this debris.

The fire is said to have started from a defective electric light wire. The extent of the damage has not yet been estimated.

Call to a Sunday Morning Fire—The fire department was called yesterday morning to a residence on North Fifteenth street, where a small blaze had been started on the roof from a burning chimney, and the shingles were smoking vigorously. The chemical engine soon put out the blaze with very little damage to the building.

VOTING CONTEST BALLOTS ARE BEING COUNTED AT LIBERTY THEATRE

The great Capital Journal voting contest to determine the ownership of the Ford automobile, three \$425 pianos, three diamond rings, three gold watches, and three scholarships, and the \$85 bedroom set as a special prize, is being determined this afternoon at Ye Liberty theatre, which has been engaged for the purpose, the regular theater program being cancelled for the occasion by the courtesy of Manager Waters.

The contestants are there, their friends are there, and the five judges are there. At 1:15 the autocar called at the offices of the United States National Bank and the Railway, Light & Power Company and took in their expert accountants—David Eyre and E. J. Lally—with their counting machines, and took them to the theatre, where they were assisted by C. L. Starr of the State Tax Board, Joe H. Albert of the Capital National Bank, and P. H. D'Arcy, proprietor of Ye Liberty theater building.

The count will probably take several hours to complete and will be

candidates in the Capital Journal Tuesday. The count is being supervised by C. B. Hollister, the manager of the Capital Journal voting contest, and the prizes are ready to be handed over to the winner. The capital prize carries insurance of \$900, and the state license will be issued to the lucky person who gets the capital prize.

WANT POWDER RIVER WATER

A writ of review was filed with the clerk of the circuit court today in the case of R. S. Cockingham and W. A. Thatcher against John H. Lewis, H. L. Holgate and F. M. Saxton, comprising the board of control of the state of Oregon, and also O. C. Finkelburg, trustee.

The petition sets forth that on April 12, 1909, a document was filed with the board by the state engineer, setting forth that certain applications for the appropriation of the water of the Powder river, in Baker county—the applications consisting of those of the petitioners and O. C. Finkelburg—had been referred to the board for their consideration; also stating that the use of the water in each case proposed would be a menace to the public safety and welfare. It then sets forth that prior to the examination of these applications that the unappropriated lands embraced in the application had been withdrawn from entry under the public land laws for irrigation by the state, and that the withdrawal was made at the request of the land board. It is alleged further that the land board, looking to the reclamation of these lands, under the Carey act, entered into a preliminary contract with O. C. Finkelburg, trustee. A date was then named by the board, it is alleged, for a hearing of the application, and the board, in its decision held that the public interest demanded that the permit be issued to parties having a contract with the Desert Land Board; that the petitioners had no such contract, but that O. C. Finkelburg had entered into a contract along these lines, and directing the engineer to approve the application of the parties succeeding in making a final contract with the Desert Land board.

The petitioners in the writ contend that the board is without jurisdiction to say what the public interest demands; also without jurisdiction to say whether the appropriation of the waters would be a menace to the public, and that the state engineer had no authority to refer the petitioners' application to the board. The case will be heard by Judge Galloway.

Taken Under Advisement.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—A final appeal of John R. Walsh, the convicted Chicago banker, was presented to the United States supreme court today in the form of a petition for a writ of review. It was taken under advisement. This is the last thread of legal action between Walsh and the five-year term in the penitentiary.

thought differently, and that's all there is to it.

"It is my honest belief that Jeffries and Johnson will fight in Salt Lake. 'Tex' Rickard declared to me with all positiveness the day before that I started west that the Mormon metropolis will get the battle. He really believes that more people can be drawn from the great centers of population to Salt Lake than to San Francisco and to prove his contention he simply hauls out the geography. Salt Lake, he points out, is only 24 hours from Los Angeles, 24 hours from Denver, two days from Chicago, 17 hours from Butte, 24 hours from the big Nevada cities, and about 30 hours from San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane. He is not sore at San Francisco, as some of the interviews coming out of the east have made him say he was. It's simply a matter of business with him, as he believes the fight will draw more money in Salt Lake than it would here.

"I saw both Jeffries and Johnson shortly before I started for home and both were looking well. Johnson is having a good time in a mild way, but he is not misbehaving."

DRANK SUGAR OF LEAD

Mistaking a mineral water bottle full of sugar of lead for the original liquid, and drinking nearly half of the poisonous formula was the experience of J. A. Cooper, a prominent auctioneer salesman of Salem last night.

Mr. Cooper had just returned from a business trip to Springfield, Oregon, when, upon entering the home of his brother, Ross Cooper, on State street, he noticed the bottle labeled "White Rock Mineral Water," standing upon a sideboard. Mr. Cooper, thinking it was really mineral water, proceeded to sample it. After taking the first swallow he came to the conclusion that it must be soda water, owing to the sweet taste, and continued to quaff the sugar of lead, until it began to feel queer on its downward course. Discovering his mistake, through his knowledge of the fact that his brother frequently kept on hand a bottle of sugar of lead as a medicine for poison oak, Mr. Cooper immediately began a serpentine dance about the room, with the usual vocal accompaniments.

His brother, Ross, called up Dr. Byrd, and requested his attendance at the Cooper home at once, and the doctor instructed that the poisoned man be given salt water to make him disgorge the unsavory drink. After drinking three pints of lukewarm salt water, and choking down a quart of milk, without results, a pint of "fire water" was swallowed by Mr. Cooper when the physician arrived, to find his patient resting easily, although badly frightened.

A few encouraging words on the part of the doctor and an extra supply of nerve mustered up by Mr. Cooper, soon put him out of danger, notwithstanding the deadly effect the sugar of lead generally has upon the human system. Today Mr. Cooper is in fine spirits, although he is somewhat suspicious of the final results of the poison cake killer.

GIBSON WILL HAVE NO TRIAL

So Says Committee Appointed to Investigate Charges of Law Development League

WILL ORDER POLICE TO CLOSE THE LID DOWN

The Enforcement of All City Laws Concerning the Charges Set Forth in the Complaint Against Chief of Police Gibson to Be Carried Out to the Letter.

News has leaked out today regarding the star-chamber investigation, made during the past few days, by a special committee, appointed by the mayor, on the complaint presented to the city council by the Law Development League against Chief of Police Gibson, to the effect that Chief of Police Gibson will be exonerated from a trial, but the charges preferred against him were found to be substantial, to a certain extent.

It was charged in the complaint introduced by the Law Development League, which is headed by several of Salem's leading ministers and other religious people, that Chief Gibson was not performing his duty, and requested that he be removed from office. The allegations charged him with permitting gambling to be carried on, in violation of the city laws; the selling of liquor unlawfully by both saloons and bawdy houses. The committee, composed of Councilmen Millard, Lowe and Berger, will complete their investigation this evening and a full report will be handed to the city council.

It is reported that the committee will not recommend a trial to the council, owing to the charges being insufficient, but the investigation brought out facts that lead to negligence on the part of the chief in small matters which have been in evidence for years, and which have not been taken particular notice of, owing to their insignificance.

From the information that could be gleaned today, the committee on investigation consider themselves as much to blame for the action taken as the chief himself, due to the fact that their attention has not been directed strictly to the actual conditions of the city affairs under police restriction.

In all probability, the public will be assured that in the future the enforcement of the city laws concerning the charges set forth in the complaint against Chief Gibson will be enforced to the letter hereafter, and the chief will be given the hearty support of the council putting a stop to the violation.

The smoke of the fall elections over, there is much of promise for better things revealed. Despite a setback here and there, the workers for the Uplift may take courage.

We Are Now Offering

The choicest lines of Xmas Goods at Sale Prices to insure quick selling. Don't wait until next week to do your Xmas shopping, for there is sure to be a scramble. Here you will find quality and prices to suit everyone.



Half Price on Ladies' COATS and SUITS

At the Chicago Store you will find the greatest stock of up-to-date coats and suits in Salem. REMEMBER we are not looking for profits now. It is a matter of disposing of the stock before Xmas. Right after the holidays we begin taking stock, consequently we want all our cloaks and suits closed out, at Half Price and less. Here is a chance to buy this season's newest coats and suits at prices that were never quoted before in Salem.

\$10.00, \$12.50 and \$15 Coats, now \$4.50, \$6.50, \$7.50
\$15, \$18 and \$20 Suits, Now \$7.50, \$8.90, \$9.90

Silk Underskirts and Furs at Reduced Prices.



5000 Yards of FINE DRESS GOODS and SILKS Now on Sale

We realize that the Holidays is a good time for selling Dress goods and Dress Silks. We have marked them at prices that will induce quick selling. We show the most complete lines of these goods in Salem; all spick and span new goods. Dress Goods, yard ... 25c, 35c, 49c, 75c and up. Dress Silks, yard ... 25c, 35c, 49c, 69 and up.

WONDERFUL BARGAINS IN HOLIDAY GOODS

Dolls, Toys, Games, Drums, Airships, Books, Guns, Wagons, Mechanical Toys and hundreds of others.

Ladies' Shopping Bags, Kid Gloves and Silk Umbrellas now on sale at very low prices.

\$7.50 Dress Silk Waists, now \$3.90
\$7.50 Silk Underskirts, now \$3.90
\$1.25 Leather Shopping Bags, now 60c
\$6.90 Dress Skirts, now only \$3.90

Smoking Men's Jackets \$5.00 values now for \$3.90

CHICAGO STORE
SALEM, OREGON
"The Store That Saves You Money"

Men's 45c All Silk NECKTIES now only 25c

SAN FRANCISCO LOSES THE BIG FIGHT

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Expressing his belief that the Jeffries-Johnson fight will be held in Salt Lake City, Promoter Eddie Graessy arrived here today from New York. "I didn't get what I went after," said the "honest blacksmith," "but I have no kick coming. I put in what I could, but the other fellows

GASOLINE MOTOR SERVICE SALEM TO INDEPENDENCE

Service direct between Independence and Salem is the latest. The first train was run over today, reaching West Salem at 11 a. m. It was in charge of Jos. Hirschberg, president of the Independence & Monmouth motorline.

This new motorline service which is to be operated daily will connect Salem with Independence, Monmouth, Simpson, Luckiamute, Cochran, and Atrile. He will connect via Independence for points as far south as Corvallis.

A Journal representative met the first train and escorted the party to Salem. The first motorcar over the Falls City & Salem railroad pulled into

West Salem at 11 a. m. today, and among the passengers were H. Hirschberg, the owner of the new line; Hon. B. F. Jones, register of the land office at Roseburg; Mrs. Cora Hubbard, president of the Rebekahs of Oregon, and Mr. Fischer, of the Silvertown flouring mills, and a number of other passengers.

Following is the time table of the Independence-Salem motorline for the present, daily service: Leave Independence ... 9:30 a. m. Arrive at West Salem ... 10:30 a. m. Leave Salem ... 1:00 p. m. Arrive Independence ... 2:00 p. m. Connects at Independence with west side train for Portland and intermediate points, and for Monmouth and Atrile.