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SMOOTH CROOK LOOTS OSWEGO POSTOFFICE

Trick Is Turned Just Before the Closing Time of the Office.

INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS POSTAL INSPECTOR

Postmaster Opens Safes Without Asking Any Questions and While Absent From the Room Stranger Departs, Taking Between \$200 and \$300 in Money and Stamps.

Oregon City, Ore., Dec. 30.—The police today are combing the country for a man who late yesterday looted the Oswego postoffice of a sum estimated at between \$200 and \$300.

According to G. W. Prosser, postmaster at Oswego, a well dressed stranger entered the office shortly before closing time yesterday and introduced himself as a United States postal inspector. Instead of demanding to see the stranger's credentials Prosser let him inside and opened the safe for the purpose of examining the books.

A few minutes later Prosser had occasion to step into an adjoining

room and when he returned the stranger was gone, also money and stamps to the value of \$200 or \$300.

COUNTY COURT WILL CONVESE JANUARY 5

When county court convenes next Wednesday, special taxes upon 18 school districts will be levied, in accordance to the new law providing that to make up a deficiency in school funds the county may levy a special tax, all districts being required to have at least \$300 on hand before opening its school.

School districts Nos. 12, 13, 15, 27, 29, 27, 75, 86, 87, 89, 90, 97, 100, 114, 124, 120, 121 and 103 will come under the special levy law. The court will have several special levies to approve, which have been levied by the road districts. The special taxes levied by the road districts to date are: District 37, 5 mills; No. 38, 5 mills; No. 28 1/2, 3 mills; No. 27 1/4, 4 mills; No. 24, 3 mills; No. 23, 2 1/2 mills, and No. 44, 3 mills.

SAN FRANCISCO VOTES ON BONDING THE CITY

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—The fate of a proposed bond issue of \$2,020,000 for the construction of a municipal street car line, assumed by many to be the entering wedge for municipal ownership of public utilities in San Francisco, is being decided at the polls today. For weeks a campaign has been waged around the proposed issue. Bill boards throughout the city have been covered with flaring red and black posters condemning the bonds. The responsibility for the posters is attributed by advocates of the issue to Patrick Cahoun's United Railroads.

EX-EMBASSADOR HANDS PRESIDENT TAFT BOQUET

Expresses His Gratification On the Results of His Recent Mission to Washington.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Washington, Dec. 20.—Enrique Creel, former ambassador to the United States, on the eve of his return to Mexico today, issued the following: "It is due to the press and the public that I make the following: "I have completed my mission in Washington with gratifying and satisfactory results. The resignation of Zelaya was the proper way for him to end his administration. "This action avoided many difficulties. The asylum granted by Mexico to the former president was in full accordance with the law of nations. The election of Madriz by congress was a happy event, because

it prevented anarchy, a second revolution, and further complications with the United States.

"The elements of peace and the patriotism of the Nicaraguans are finding their way into both sides of the present dispute, and it is to be desired that successful negotiations for a settlement of all trouble may follow.

"The policy of Mexico has always been understood by President Taft and Secretary of State Knox. Both officials have been kind enough to congratulate me, and I can assure the press and the public, that the United States and Mexico will continue to co-operate in promoting Central American peace."

collected by the commission from the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, against which a complaint has been filed by Will G. Steel for running open and unheated cars on the St. Johns route. The company, in its communication, says that it has run no open cars on this route for four weeks, and that then a trailer was run, as their new equipment had not arrived from the East. It states that it has ordered heaters from the East, but that the orders had to be manufactured, and that, in addition to the time required for this, that they had been delayed en route by the present poor railroad freight service.

Company Will Contest Action.
An action has been filed by the Northern Pacific and Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Companies with the commission to the complaint preferred against its service by Henry Larsen. Larsen complained because the company did not maintain a station at Warren, and the company answering this charge says that it maintains a platform and warehouse at this point ample for the passenger and freight business, and that the business does not warrant the establishment of a station.

WORKED EMPLOYEES OVER 10 HOURS A DAY

State Labor Commissioner O. P. Hoff will leave Monday for Portland, to be in attendance at the trial in that city of S. Silverfield and the Steeler Paper Manufacturing Company, charged with the violation of the labor law by working their employees over 10 hours.

Mr. Hoff is just recently back from Portland, where he has been engaged in the gathering of evidence in the cases, and also engaged in the prosecution of the Meier-Frank Company, which were also charged with working their employees beyond the 10 hours allowed by law. The firm pleaded guilty to the violation, and was fined the sum of \$50, which it promptly paid.

Either Attorney-General Crawford or a deputy from his office will accompany Mr. Hoff on his return Monday, and take charge and conduct the cases for the state.

ENGLISH EARL SAID TO HAVE FOUGHT DUEL

Rival Englishmen Settle Their Differences With Deadly Weapons.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Paris, Dec. 30.—While denied by the authorities, it was reported that Earl Percy, former English under-secretary of state, who died at the Northern Railway hotel here today, succumbed to wounds received in a duel with another Englishman, near here, Monday.

Pleurisy was announced as the cause of his death, the police denying that any duel was fought.

The earl arrived here December 22. His full name was Henry Alperson George Percy, bearing the title of earl through the courtesy of the English government.

He was the eldest son and heir of the seventh Duke of Northumberland and was 38 years of age.

It was the evident desire on the part of the authorities to conceal the news of the earl's death. The report from London that he was sick when he left England and that he went immediately to the Northern Railway hotel on his arrival here was denied by several. Among the Parisians who make it a practice of keeping in touch with duels fought in France the story of Percy's combat near Paris is accepted.

A woman, high socially in England, is reported to be the cause of the earl's enmity against his fellow duelist. It was understood, and openly stated by many, that the Englishmen agreed to settle their rivalry with weapons and came to France to evade the English law against duelling.

ESTRADA SENDS TWO ULTIMATUMS

If President Madriz Assents Either Will Abandon Further Hostilities.

THEY DON'T LOOK GOOD TO MADRIZ

Wants a President Selected by the Revolutionists or a General Election Called to Choose a Chief Executive for the Central American Country of Nicaragua.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 30.—General Estrada today sent an ultimatum to President Madriz, according to a rumor current here, stating that he will agree to suspend hostilities and abandon his march against Managua upon either of two conditions.

Estrada demands that Madriz consent to the selection of a president by the revolutionists or call a general election to choose a chief executive.

Should the latter alternative be accepted the revolutionists would retain their arms during the election. It is not considered possible here that Madriz will accept either proposition. It is certain that if the insurgents should select a president the mantle would fall upon Madriz and it appears to be equally certain that if they retained their arms they would control the election.

Madriz has appointed three commissioners to confer with the revolutionary leaders in an attempt to secure peace. They are Col. Jose Estrada, brother of the insurgent leader; Benjamin Vidaurre and Gilberto Saballos.

This commission will make every effort to persuade Estrada to abandon the distasteful policy he is following, but the Madriz party entertains little hope of its success despite the president's clever move in appointing Estrada's brother as a member.

KICKED IN THE HEAD; FRACTURES SKULL

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 30.—Basil Sawyers, the star fullback of the victorious Vancouver Rugby team, who sustained a fractured skull in the match with Berkeley for the Keith cup and the championship of the Pacific coast yesterday, is progressing well today, following an operation, in the general hospital. It is expected that he will recover. It is reported that he was struck by a shyn on the Canadian game which is now attracting so much attention in the United States, for the second half of the struggle was for all the world like the American game, both sets of forwards forming flying wedges with which they tried to pierce the defense. The tackling was hard and deadly, and it was in an endeavor to stop one of these concerted rushes by the college boys that Sawyers was kicked in the head and back and rendered unconscious.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, HAS A \$225,000 FIRE LOSS

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Galveston, Tex., Dec. 30.—After destroying 300 bales of cotton and causing damage aggregating \$225,000, a fire that threatened to consume many of the warehouses and wharves on the Galveston waterfront was controlled late this afternoon.

Several buildings directly in the path of the flames were blown up with dynamite by the firemen. The entire fire department of the city was called into service.

GRAND JURY WILL REPORT TO-MORROW

The grand jury completed its labors last night—that is so far as the consideration of matters to come before it is concerned, and, while in contemplation of law, it is presumed to have been in session today no business has been transacted, and most of the members have spent the day at their homes. The jury will assemble again at the jury room tomorrow morning, and at 9 o'clock, the convening hour of the circuit court, will submit to Judge Burnett a report of the matters considered and acted upon by it.

Cases Considered.

The cases that the jury has considered and taken action upon during the session, that is all the cases save the bawdy house cases, upon which it made an unfavorable report yesterday, will then be reported on. As the proceedings of the jury are in secret it cannot be learned whether it took any action upon matters of its own initiative, but it is understood that it did not, and that it will have no report to submit along this line. It will, however, make a report, but, whether favorable or unfavorable is another matter, with relation to which secrecy is demanded by the law on the cases bound over to it from the various justice courts for consideration and determination. These cases are as follows: James Pearson, charged with larceny by baillee; D. M. Knisley, charged with practicing dentistry without a license; W. H. Miller, charged with larceny, alleged to consist in the stealing of a bicycle; Anton Seifer, charged with assault with a deadly weapon, and the cases of Sam Morgan, Charles Pellette, Emery James, W. Stutesman and J. Johnson, all charged with violating the state gambling law.

Busy Drawing Indictments.

In preparing for the report to be made by the jury, Deputy District Attorney Winslow, who has been in charge of the grand jury investigation, has been busy throughout the day in the framing of indictments to cover the cases upon which the jury will submit reports, and everything will be in readiness for the jury in the morning. While the work to be considered by the jury has been light, it has been disposed of with dispatch, and the district attorney's office is well pleased with the progress made.

Just as to what disposition, or what report will be made by the jury with relation to the above cases cannot be learned, as has been said, until it makes its formal report, but in view of the action taken with relation to the bawdy houses yesterday, the belief prevails today that the jury will also make an unfavorable report on the gambling cases

TWO STRIKE BREAKERS BEATEN

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 30.—Two strike-breakers in the employ of the Northern Pacific, in the yards here, are nursing bruises today, as the result of being set upon and beaten last night by men whom the railroad officials assert were striking switchmen.

One of the strike-breakers was J. L. Kay, who was set upon and roughly handled while tending the switches near the Fifteenth street tower. He was knocked down and kicked and received so many bruises that it was necessary to send him to a local hospital for treatment. Kay declares that he can identify his assailants. Another man was set upon in the Bay yards, but escaped with a few minor bruises. Division Superintendent Albee today called upon the mayor for police protection for the strike-breakers.

OLD OREGONIANS FEEL MUCH BETTER

Old J. Pluvius brought gladness to the hearts of the Salemites this morning by allowing the ever-welcome rain to descend, chasing Jack Frost entirely out of the community.

Last evening, about 5 o'clock, freezing weather still continued, but by 10 o'clock the white frost began to disappear, and the mercury went gambling up the glass to a more agreeable mark, and stayed there. Chinook winds and warm rain then prevailed, and today a general feeling of relief could be noticed about town. The faithful horses appeared to appreciate the rains, and their trips over the city were not so nerve-racking as when the freeze was visiting.

PNEUMONA CARS ARE NOT OPERATED

The Oregon Railroad Commission is in receipt of a communication from J. P. O'Brien, general manager of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad, against which a complaint has been filed with relation to the passenger service, asking that the log train which formed a part of the passenger train, and which it was claimed was a menace to the welfare of the passengers, be abolished, and that a straight passenger train service be installed.

The general manager states that the company for some time has had in mind this improvement in the service; that a service will be installed at an early date between Albany and Mills City, and that this will give them a straight passenger service from Hoover to Albany, the part of the route complained of.

Company Explains.
A communication was also re-

Our Annual CLEARANCE SALE

Is now in full blast and will be continued until further notice. There will be no mercy shown to prices

The entire stock must be closed out to make room for our spring goods. It is not profits we are looking for now; it is the matter of disposing of the stock. Just think of it—this magnificent stock of this season's newest and best goods offered at less than manufacturer's cost. Now is a good time to buy up-to-date merchandise at prices that no competition can touch. Come and get our prices and save good money on each purchase.

Chicago Store

SALEM, OREGON.

"The Store that Saves You Money."