

ROASTS AT THE STAKE

Fred Alexander, Charged with Crimes, Mobbed at Leavenworth.

CHAINED TO RAIL, HE IS BURNED TO DEATH.

Great Piles of Boards Are Heaped About the Victim and Oil Poured Over Body.

WRETCHED MAN PROTESTS HIS INNOCENCE

Crowd Estimated at 8,000 Sees Lynching. Which Takes Place Before Dark.

SHERIFF UNABLE TO PROTECT PRISONER

After Man's Removal from the Leavenworth Penitentiary Crowd Armed with Rans and Stedgers Break Down Doors and Seize Him.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Jan. 15.—Fred Alexander, the negro who Saturday evening attempted to assault Miss Eva Roth, and who was supposed to have assaulted and killed Pearl Forbes in this city in November last, was this afternoon taken from the sheriff's guard and burned to the stake at the scene of his crime, half a dozen blocks from the center of the city. Probably 8,000 persons witnessed the lynching. Alexander was tied to a railroad rail placed upright in the ground.

The negro was taken from his cell at the state penitentiary at Lansing at 3 o'clock this afternoon and loaded into a hack and brought to town. Fifty deputy marshals surrounded him and two deputy sheriffs, Stanchmeyer and Tom Brown, sat in the hack on either side of him. There were fifty bugles and wagons in the procession which followed the hack in, and it was a funeral march indeed, for Fred Alexander. The trip to town was made quietly and there was no attempt to create a disturbance on the road.

When the corner of Fourth and Olive streets was reached the police, who were in the hack following the one in which Alexander was being taken, jumped out and chased several negroes.

This created a diversion which attracted the attention of every one and in the excitement the hack in which Alexander was concealed was driven directly into the county jail, and just as the mob reached the doors he was locked in the first cell on the east side of the cell house. All the doors of the jail were locked and the mob first attempted to gain admission by peaceful means. Sheriff Everhart refused to deliver the negro.

Then the crowd pushed its way to the side door. The door was forced from its hinges. They then surged into the corridor by the narrow doorway. A huge iron bar was secured and the iron door of the cell room attacked. This was finally bent so that it could be forced far enough back for men to climb over it. Several gained entrance in this manner. In the meantime the crowd had pushed down the side gate of the stockade, and in a moment there was a yelling pack in the jail yard.

Sledgehammers and Cold Chisel. The side door, which was made of heavy sheet iron, was first attacked in this manner. Several of the thoughtful ones had provided themselves with sledgehammers and cold chisels and it was the work of only a few moments before the hinges were cut from inside. The door was off its hinges in a moment and the mob surged into the cell room and the iron bar called into play and the doors of the cell room broken down.

Then the cry went up: "He is not here. Search the cell." There is a tunnel between the cell and the back taken out that way.

Then a man with sharp eyes spied a shapeless mass crouched down in one corner of the dark cell.

An exclamation went up: "He is here; we've got him. Get the keys!" Several keys were found lying around the corridors and these were passed into the crowd. They would not work.

Then again a sledgehammer was called into play and in five minutes the heavy lock had been broken off. A yell of terror issued from the cell. Outside the tension was so great that strong men filled the room with hysterical laughter. Outside the crowd was yelling in this manner: "Perhaps never before heard in the city of Leavenworth."

Inside the cell rushed those who were nearest the door. The mob issued forth in a moment, dragging the negro by the coat collar. He had been struck on the head with a hammer, but was still conscious.

Men fought to get at him. These infuriated beings struck savagely at him and hit only his captors, who guarded him well. "Don't hurt him," was the cry. "We'll burn him," was the response.

Declares His Innocence. Outside the stockade the crowd surged toward Alexander and his captors were surrounded by a solid wall of human flesh. Across Third street and up the hill into the court house they dragged him. Then they stopped still.

"Confess before we harm you," said they. "I am innocent. I am dying for what another man did. I see lots of my friends here. They know I didn't do it. If I had been guilty I would have said so at the penitentiary and could have been set free for life. The warden told me so. The policemen told me so. Would not I have told them if I was guilty?"

He said that he did not know that the town was bent on lynching; that the minds of the people were made up that he had committed a crime that could only be atoned with his blood. "You lie!" they cried, and one huge fellow, filled more with the lust for blood than with the feelings of a man, struck him on the forehead with his fist three times. This seemed not to have the slightest effect on the negro. He was turning gray. When he talked his voice was steady. He spoke like a man who sees only before him death, loss, perhaps, but certain, and was prepared to meet it in its most awful form.

When he had finished talking a move was made for a large cottonwood tree in the northeast corner of the court house yard. He was backed up against it and a chain was hunted for. One could not be found and while they waited Alexander was given another chance to confess.

"My God, men!" he cried in his agony. "I have told you that I am innocent. I can't tell you any more. I didn't do it." "He lies; burn him," cried the mob. "Take him where he committed the murder," suggested one.

The suggestion met with instant approval and the crowd, carrying the negro, pushed

RAILROAD RATES ON GRAIN

Minnesota Member of the Farmer Alliance Appears Before the Industrial Commission.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—M. P. Moran of Grand Rapids, a member of the National Farmers' alliance, testified before the industrial commission today upon the subject of transportation of grain. He said that his experience has shown that a reduction of railroad rates for transporting grain benefits the consumers of the surplus crop of the country, which was shipped to Liverpool. By this reduction, he claimed, the Liverpool seller was able to underbid his competitors, thereby causing a general fall in the price of wheat. He further asserted that the Liverpool market sets the price of the domestic crop. As a remedy for this condition he favored the opening of a market in the Orient in order to induce competition. He said that the elevator combination, existing to a considerable extent throughout the wheat-producing belt, operated to the detriment of the farmers. He claimed the elevator combination is assisted by the active support of cars given to it by the railroad companies. The refusal of many roads to grant rates to farmers' elevators and the rebates often given the line elevator on freight.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—The trial of the action brought by Mrs. Margaret J. Plant in the supreme court to upset the will of her husband, Henry Bradley Plant, the railroad and steamship capitalist, was begun today before Justice Leventritt, Mortimer Plant, the son of the plaintiff, joining with her in her efforts to upset the will, although for the purpose of the action he is named as a defendant. Mr. Plant left an estate of \$100,000 and being apparently of the opinion that the great property accumulated by him after he had attained his fiftieth year would be dissipated by his immediate heirs he had a will drawn with the object of keeping his estate intact for at least sixty years.

His widow and son were left an income of \$30,000 a year, for which a special fund was created. The residue and accumulations were left to the eldest son of Mortimer P. Plant, who is now 3 years old, and he is not to receive the fortune until his youngest child is of age. The Plant millions are thus left in reality to a great grandson of the testator. The estate, it is estimated, will be worth \$1,000,000. The will was probated in New Haven, Conn., where the Plants had a summer home and that state was claimed by the testator as his legal residence. The will was drawn by Joseph Lynde Harrison of New Haven, who is named as one of the trustees. Mr. Harrison is named as one of the defendants by Mrs. Plant, as are also the other trustees, her son Mortimer Freeman Plant, George L. Tilley and Robert G. Erwin. Mrs. Plant asks that a receiver be appointed over certain property by the New York courts and that the courts here take entire charge of the estate. She prays that the will and codicils be upheld only as far as they are consistent with the laws of this state and that the defendant be directed to bring back into the jurisdiction of the New York courts all securities and property removed to Connecticut. She further asks that all proceedings taken there, in view of the probate of the will, be declared null and void.

GROUT GETS THE LAST WORD

His Reply to Wadsworth, Author of the Substitute, Concludes the Oleomargarine Hearing.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The senate committee on agriculture today concluded its hearing on the oleomargarine bill by giving Congressman Wadsworth, author of the substitute for the Groust bill, an opportunity to present the merits of his measure and Mr. Groust a chance to reply. Mr. Wadsworth had with him packages illustrating the way in which oleomargarine would be presented to the trade under his bill and he claimed that the requirement for imprinting the word "oleomargarine" in large letters in the oleomargarine rolls and not only upon the paper wrappers, but upon boxes enclosing the packages, would insure the public against fraud. He said the oleomargarine industry was perfectly legitimate so long as purchasers knew what they were getting.

Replying, Mr. Groust conceded that Mr. Wadsworth's device would protect persons who purchased through retail dealers, but that not more than a third of the oleomargarine was sold to persons who did not know its true character. The other two-thirds, he said, went to hotel, restaurant and boarding house managers, who, when they were getting, but palmed it off on their unsuspecting table guests. It was against such a practice as this that he protested. He urged that the only protection was in the enactment of a law to prohibit the coloring of oleomargarine.

REVENUE BILL MAY BE RECAST

Senate Committee on Finance Has It Up, but Reaches No Conclusion.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The senate committee on finance today considered the revenue reduction bill, but did not reach a conclusion upon the measure as a whole, although several changes of detail were tentatively decided upon. These the committee formally decided upon today because of the importunities they think publication would bring upon them. The committee will meet again Thursday and it is the intention to continue the sittings in a momentary time until the work is completed. Senator Aldrich, chairman of the committee, expressed the opinion that the bill would be in shape to be reported to the senate before the close of the present week.

There was considerable discussion of the tax on telegrams, but no decision was reached as to whether there would be a change. Some of the republican members of the committee expressed themselves as favorable to the proposed amendment removing the tax on commercial and custom house brokers and the present indications are that those provisions will be allowed to remain unamended. On the other hand, opposition arose in the senate to removing the tax from banks and the import duties on proprietors of theaters and other places of amusement. General dissatisfaction was expressed with the scope of the bill and it is probable it will be recast.

CONDITION OF IOWA BANKS

Exclusive of Des Moines the Quarterly Statement Shows Increase of Individual Deposits.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 15.—(Special Telegram.)—The report of the condition of national banks of Iowa, exclusive of Des Moines, at the close of business on December 13 last, was today made public. Compared with the previous statement in September the individual deposits had increased \$47,964,557. Loans and discounts have increased \$48,788,917; present holdings of gold aggregated \$17,783,777; deposits of about \$14,900. Average reserve is \$7.80 per cent.

Free Delivery at Fairport.

Rural free delivery will be established at Fairport, Muscatine county, Iowa, on February 1. The service will cover an area of forty square miles, with a population of 529. G. C. Leach was appointed carrier.

H. E. Balve was today appointed postmaster at Ole, Brule county, S. D.

SIMPLY CHINESE RED TAPE

Delay in Securing Imperial Seal on Peace Protocol Was to Be Expected.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Secretary Hay at his desk today, having practically thrown off his recent ailment. He received nothing additional concerning China during the early part of the day.

The report that the imperial seal must now be obtained to give finality to the peace protocol is rather a surprise, as it was supposed the former delays were in part due to the lack of a seal and that the recent authorization to sign carried with it the necessary formalities of sealing and delivering. However, these formal delays are rather to be expected, in view of the ceremonious system of the Chinese, but there are no looked upon as interrupting the essential feature of the agreement.

HAS TWO MORE HEMORRHAGES

Congressman Neville's Illness Becomes More Acute and His Condition Is Now Precarious.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Congressman Neville of Nebraska had two more hemorrhages this morning. He is in a very precarious state.

SUES FOR PLANT MILLIONS

Widow of Multi-Millionaire Trying to Have His Will Set Aside.

ESTATE LEFT TO TESTATOR'S GRANDSON

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Prince Ching Puts Imperial Manual to Joint Note in the Imperial City.

PEKIN, Jan. 15.—Prince Ching and his staff were long time in the Forbidden City. Accompanied by the chief eunuch they saw a woman servant guarding the imperial seal which was being sealed, the papers were sealed in her presence and then the seal was returned. Owing to the lateness of the hour the papers thus sealed will not be presented to the foreign envoys until tomorrow.

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Ten Thousand Fresh Troops to Be Added to the Fighting Force in Africa.

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SHAFT OF LIGHT FROM MARS

Professor Pickering of Harvard Explains Origin of Many Wild Stories.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 15.—Prof. Pickering of the Harvard observatory today said: "Early in December we received from the Lowell observatory in Arizona a telegram that shafts of light were seen to project from Mars (the Lowell observatory makes a specialty of Mars) lasting several minutes. I wired these facts to Europe and sent out through the press a statement that the observer there is a careful and reliable man and there is no reason to doubt that the light existed. It was given up from a world known geographical point of Mars. That was all. Now the story has gone the world over. In Europe it is stated that I have been in communication with Mars and that whatever the light was we have no means of knowing. What is the light? It is not to be had. It is absolutely inexplicable."

NEW NORTH POLE EXPEDITION

Captain Bessier of Quebec Completes Arrangements in London for Exploring Trip.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Captain J. Elmer Bessier of Quebec, who has volunteered to make a voyage of discovery to the North Pole by a new route and by aid of inventions of his own for ice traveling, has practically completed his arrangements in England. The sail for Canada in a few days to submit his ideas to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"My plan," he said, "is to start by way of Behring sea, follow the coast of Siberia and enter the ice between 165 and 170 degrees east longitude and then push as far north as the ice will permit. If the ship attains a better position than the Jeannette I expect to reach the pole and return within three or four years. This will not require a large amount of capital, but because the polar basin now has more openings than formerly. My plans include not only reaching the pole, but sound scientific observations not heretofore completely achieved. The ship will be delivered at Vancouver in ample time. She is an improved Fram and includes all the best and latest devices of the Antarctic vessels now building. Twelve or fourteen men will accompany me. Many have offered themselves from the United States, Canada and elsewhere.

"I attach the greatest value to the Marconi system of communicating with my base. Of course I shall stick to the ship as long as possible," he said, "but I shall be prepared to leave her and make a dash for the pole."

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BOERS DOING GREAT DAMAGE

Casualty List of the British at Murraysburg Indicates Briak Fighting.

DUTCH SAID TO BE JOINING THE INVADERS

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The casualty list shows that there has been a severe encounter with a loss of six killed and seventeen wounded and fifty missing at Murraysburg. Murraysburg is sixteen miles west of Graaf Reinet. The British force, which has been pursuing the Boers, was obliged to retreat at Graaf Reinet to erect a block-house and to cease operations until reinforced by mounted troops.

General Buller has taken his force to Pretoria to rest. Many of the men are suffering from enteric fever. Three hundred Boers captured a small British convoy at Bronkhorstspuit, near Pretoria, but made off after liberating the prisoners.

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