

THE DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1901. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

NUMBER 25

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR

MORTENSEN SAYS HE IS INNOCENT.

Over One Hundred Men Today Search at Forest Dale for The Revolver, Missing Hat and Bloody Clothes.

During the whole of today and last night the entire police department, all night the deputies at the disposal of Sheriff Taylor, more than one hundred men, have been searching at Forest Dale for the missing hat, bloody clothes, and the revolver which was missing from the body of Peter Mortensen, who was shot and killed last night. The search was made in the situation over that of last night, but there is little change in the situation over that of last night. The search was made in the situation over that of last night, but there is little change in the situation over that of last night. The search was made in the situation over that of last night, but there is little change in the situation over that of last night.

ties and other officers were present. In the preliminary examination the doctor found a small hole in the back of the head, and a long consultation with the police, and later went down to the scene of the tragedy. It is said that several other officers have volunteered their services in behalf of Mortensen. The man says he realizes he is in a "bad box," and that the situation at present is not very bright, but he is confident of being cleared eventually of the dark suspicions that now hover over him.

MORTENSEN MAY PROVE ALIBI.

Story Told by Wife and Sister-in-Law.

Should the charge of murder be preferred against Peter Mortensen the greatest obstacle in proving it will perhaps be encountered in the testimony of his wife and sister-in-law, who declare that Mortensen was in their presence during the period that Hay was being so horribly used. The two ladies were taken to the office of the county attorney yesterday afternoon and although they were both unstrung and distressed, they told a straightforward story. Mrs. Mortensen's narrative agrees for the most part with that of her husband, who she said, was at home with her when Mr. Hay called. She said the two men went into the middle room, where they remained for some time. She did not understand the nature of their transaction, as she was not aware that a sack of gold was in the house. Nor did she hear the click of the gold pieces. She said, when Hay left her husband accompanied him to the south door, and after talking with him a moment bade him "good night." A little later, she said, her husband went home with his sister-in-law, but returned within a short time. As to Hay, she thought all was well with him until his body was found.



PETER MORTENSEN.

quickly notified of the result of the autopsy. The autopsy was concluded. County Attorney Christensen, Sheriff Taylor, Deputy Sheriff Raleigh and Sergeant Burdick made another attempt to get something from Mortensen, but without success. Then it was decided to make another search of Mortensen's home and Sergeant Burdick was detailed for this important work. The officer proceeded at once to the place and searched the place thoroughly. Every room was gone through, furniture was moved and any place that was thought likely to conceal a revolver was examined. The officer was about to abandon the search when he thought of moving a lot of books in the book-case. Behind a lot of books lay a revolver. It was a thirty-two caliber affair and quite rusty on its side. It appears to be old and shows no evidence of having been recently cleaned. The officer's attention was attracted by the fact that the revolver was in a place where it was not likely to be found. The police have little to say regarding the gun. Sergeant Burdick said he was not sure of the identity of the gun, but he was sure of the fact that it was the same gun that was found in the house of Mortensen.

MORTENSEN CONFIDENT.

Says He Will Come Out All Right—Mr. Sharp's View.

There are three things the officers and citizens at the scene of murder today are looking for. They are the revolver from which the murderer shot, the bloody clothes, and the missing hat. The police believe that the revolver is in the house of Mortensen, and that the bloody clothes and the missing hat are in the house of Mortensen. The police believe that the revolver is in the house of Mortensen, and that the bloody clothes and the missing hat are in the house of Mortensen.

BULLET FOUND.

Officers Search the Mortensen's Home and Find Revolver.

Not until 10 o'clock last night was the fact revealed that a bullet had been found in the house of Mortensen. The bullet was found in the house of Mortensen, and it was found in the house of Mortensen. The bullet was found in the house of Mortensen, and it was found in the house of Mortensen.

county attorney permitted her to return to her children. The sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry Mortensen, said that she put her four children to sleep and went to the house of Mortensen. She said that she saw the body of Mortensen, and that she saw the body of Mortensen. She said that she saw the body of Mortensen, and that she saw the body of Mortensen.

PREMISES SEARCHED.

Dust on Rafters Where Money Was Supposed to Be.

Among those early on the scene this morning was District Attorney Elchorn and he was very anxious that every bit of ground in the neighborhood be gone over carefully and the distance be measured from various points to the spot where the grave was dug. Mr. Elchorn was of the opinion from the results of the search that the money was in the house of Mortensen, and that the money was in the house of Mortensen.

Almost the first thing the officers did when they arrived on the scene was to search the house of Mortensen. They found the body of Mortensen, and they found the body of Mortensen. They found the body of Mortensen, and they found the body of Mortensen. They found the body of Mortensen, and they found the body of Mortensen.

CHINAMAN SHOWS UP.

Theory that He Was the Murderer Exploded This Morning.

The theory as to the Chinaman was exploded this morning when the officers found the body of Mortensen. They found the body of Mortensen, and they found the body of Mortensen. They found the body of Mortensen, and they found the body of Mortensen.

San Ardo, Dec. 19.—Southern Pacific train No. 9 bound for San Francisco, and No. 10 southbound collided between this place and Uplands about 1 o'clock this morning. The trains were to meet at Uplands, but the air brake on No. 9 failed to hold and crashed into No. 10 before the latter train could be stopped, smashed both engines, two baggage cars and one mail car into kindling wood. The cars took fire immediately and were entirely destroyed. Some mail and express packages were burned.

MORTENSEN'S PAST RECORD.

Important evidence as to the previous record and character of Peter Mortensen, suspected of being involved in the murder of James R. Hay, was brought to light this morning, at the Cullen hotel in a talk by a "News" reporter with Judge Jacob Johnson of Spring City. The judge was speaking of the unusually sad circumstances attending the crime which destroyed this bright young life, when he remarked his readiness to believe that the police had got the right man when they arrested Mortensen. On being asked for his reasons, Judge Johnson replied that he had had dealings back in 1896 with Mortensen and his record at that time was not good. The judge was not at all aggressive in his willingness to revive unavailing memories of the past, but finally consented to state what they were. The judge said: "Mortensen had come down to Spring City in 1896 to build my new house, of which his brother-in-law was the architect. I did not know at the time I let the contract to the architect that Mortensen was to have the building contract, else he might not have got it. "Mortensen had a reputation about town of not paying his bills, and when he came to my house and wanted to board there, my wife declined to take him in. I took good care to get sureties for Mortensen before I signed the contract, and later when he got into trouble the sureties had to make good his deficiencies. He told me distinctly that he always paid cash for all of his material, and in consequence several times asked me for money in advance of the proper time as he said it was on that account. Mortensen was buying lumber and builders' hardware from Ogden parties whom he declared he paid as fast as the goods were delivered. So at the time I let him have \$1,000 and at another time another \$1,000 to pay his bills with, but subsequent events developed that he did nothing of the kind. Then, it was developed that his payments were not paid, and afterwards that a sack of gold was found in the house. Then the Ogden dealers in building material appeared and wanted their money also. To all of these I said, 'Gentlemen, file your items. I am secured in this matter, and will look to the sureties for compensation. So the bills were filed regularly, and the sureties paid up. I lost very little by the man, but there were numerous people around town who said that they were out on Mortensen's account, having trusted in his claims.' "HOW HE WOULD HOLD UP A MAN. Judge Johnson then stated that he remembered very well how one day, Mortensen came to him and asked for an advance of \$100. 'I took the money out of my pocket,' the judge continued, 'and told him I could let him have it—then as I had the cash in my pocket. The man appeared surprised to learn I carried that amount of money about and asked if I was in the habit of doing that sort of thing. I replied that I had carried more than that in my pocket. Mortensen immediately said, 'Well, you wouldn't do it in Ogden.' 'Why not?' I asked. 'Because,' he said, 'you would be held up and robbed.' I laughed at him and said he was off, and that I could go around Ogden with any amount of money in my pocket without danger. Mortensen answered with some emphasis, 'Well, you wouldn't. If it was known in Ogden that you were in town with money in your pocket, you would be held up and robbed. Why, in Ogden men are held up and robbed for \$10.' I laughed and told him he did not know what he was talking about, and that I could defend myself if attacked. But Mortensen warmed up further in declaring he knew what he was talking about, and then said, 'Why, I could hold you up right in this town and you wouldn't know what I said, I don't care if you had your pockets lined with revolvers.' "Well, now, tell us how you would work it?" I asked, for he seemed so positive that I was curious to learn just how he would act under such circumstances. Mortensen then said: "Why, I would just skirt around to one side like anyone passing, and just as I got behind you, I would strike you quick in the back of the head, and you would never know what hurt you." I laughed at the man, and poked-poked his story, but it did not increase my faith in him. The next year he went to live in Salt Lake City."

HIS CAREER IN OGDEN.

Mixed Up in Two Fire Episodes in Junction City Five Years Ago—Judgment Outstanding Against Him.

[Special to the "News."] Ogden, Dec. 19.—Peter Mortensen, the man who is under arrest in Salt Lake on suspicion of having been concerned in the Salt Lake tragedy, is well known in this city, having resided here for some time after he married Miss Ruth Watkins, daughter of Charles H. Watkins, one of Ogden's most valued citizens. The many friends of the accused man here are emphatic today in their expressions of disbelief that Mortensen is guilty of the crime charged, and they state that while he lived in this community that he always conducted himself as a straight forward and honest man. Some of the men here who say that Mortensen bore an unimpeachable record among those who were conversant with his methods. In 1894 he was a partner in the firm of Whitaker and Mortensen, builders and contractors here. This firm secured the contract for the erection of the First ward meeting house. Shortly before the building was completed it was burned to the ground under mysterious circumstances. Upon the firm endeavoring to collect the insurance allegations of arson were rife with the result that when the case was brought into court Mortensen testified under oath that Whitaker had told him that he set fire to the building. The charge of arson against Whitaker was eventually dismissed on account of some legal technicalities in the complaint. The next case of alleged arson in which Mortensen figured was the burning down during the next year of the planning mill here. Mortensen undertook to lease the premises from William Meyer, giving as security a chattel mortgage for ninety days. The mill lay idle for the first thirty days the mortgage was running and then he took Henry Krumpertman into partnership. Krumpertman put up \$1,000 with which money some material was bought and the mill opened. A few weeks later a fire was discovered in a pile of shavings in the mill after it had been closed for the night. This was put out early in the evening, but at 3 a. m. the next morning the mill was discovered to be in flames, the fire having broken out in a different part of the building to that in which the first blaze was discovered. There was no insurance on the place, but Mortensen's enemies were not backward in stating that the place had been set on fire in order to escape payment of the chattel mortgage. Mortensen, however, has many friends here who believe that he was not guilty of any such crime. At the end of the ninety days William Meyer endeavored to collect the mortgage and succeeded in attaching some of the machinery at the mill, which had not been injured in the fire. Finally suit for \$3,500 was instituted and judgment given against Mortensen. To this day the balance of \$1,500 is still outstanding against Mortensen. Attorney M. D. Messenger, who prosecuted the case of Meyer this morning, stated to a "News" representative that he was of the opinion that the suspected man was as honest as the average business man and that he would pay all bills, provided he had the money.

BIG COLLISION ON SOUTHERN PACIFIC

San Ardo, Dec. 19.—Southern Pacific train No. 9 bound for San Francisco, and No. 10 southbound collided between this place and Uplands about 1 o'clock this morning. The trains were to meet at Uplands, but the air brake on No. 9 failed to hold and crashed into No. 10 before the latter train could be stopped, smashed both engines, two baggage cars and one mail car into kindling wood. The cars took fire immediately and were entirely destroyed. Some mail and express packages were burned.

THAT KILLED.

Fireman Will Garland, San Francisco, jumped and caught under his engine.

Assistant Express Messenger, name unknown.

INJURED.

Four Italians, names unknown; badly burned and cut about face and body. Two brakemen, names not known; badly cut and bruised.

Fireman C. E. Dameron and Engineer Jack Coffey, jumped and escaped with slight injury.

Engineer Knold of train No. 10, also jumped and escaped injury.

Several passengers were slightly injured in the chair and smoking cars. Considerable cash was shipped on Wells, Fargo car. A safe containing bullion being still in the flames. The loss to the railroad company is said to be about \$40,000. General Manager Agler and several other officials of the road were on board the train at the time of the accident. A relief train with two or three physicians arrived about 6 o'clock and dressed the wounds. The track is being built around the wreckage for trains to pass. The Sunset Limited will remain here until the track can be cleared. A wrecking train and force of about fifty section men are at work.

NOTICE.

The demand for space in the CHRISTMAS NEWS has been so great that it has been found necessary to enlarge the issue to EIGHTY-FOUR PAGES. No large advertisements can be accepted later than 12 o'clock tomorrow. Last advertising forms will close at 11 o'clock Saturday morning, after which no advertisements, large or small, can be accepted. The paper will be for sale at the office, the Cannon Book store and on the streets at 3 o'clock p. m., Saturday.

REPORT OF CASUALTIES.

San Jose, Cal. Dec. 19.—The following report of killed and injured at Uplands has been received at the railroad office here.

KILLED.

Mr. Garland, fireman, Wells, Fargo messenger (name unknown).

INJURED.

John Carrola, Mr. Sander, Salvador Bena Boro, Christian Jensen, Mr. Saberno, Joe Rindler, John Jordan, George Meeker, Chris Hendrickson, H. C. Martin, Emmet Boyer, John G. Williams, A. E. Wakefield, Mr. Holcomb, Charles Wason, Mrs. Holbridge, Mrs. Naughton, Mrs. Gerardo, Mrs. Mary J. Fand, Mrs. G. Fand, Two cars of No. 10, and three of No. 4 were destroyed. None of the passengers were seriously injured as far as known. The responsibility for the wreck is not yet fixed.

SAN FRANCISCO'S ACCOUNT.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—News of the collision between Southern Pacific passenger train at Uplands on the coast line between San Ardo and San Jose was very much conflicting. At first it was reported that at least ten passengers were killed and thirty injured. A passenger on one of the trains telephoned the Associated Press from San Francisco that only three were killed, a fireman and a baggage man were killed, and that four Italian laborers were injured, none of them fatally. Later another passenger wired that three were killed and thirty injured, many of them fatally. This dispatch is authentic. A message from Salinas to the Associated Press says that the coroner has been notified that two were killed and thirty injured. The railway officials in San Francisco say their reports show three killed and no others seriously injured. General Manager Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific was a passenger on the northbound train. There was no telegraph office at Uplands, where the wreck occurred and reports came from Salinas and San Ardo, small villages several miles away. The two trains in collision were the north and southbound Sunset Limited trains, one from Los Angeles and the other from San Francisco. Both were heavily loaded with passengers. Four Italians, who were in the smoking car of the northbound train, were badly scalded but not fatally. Both engines were demolished and the baggage, smoking and chair cars of the northbound train were burned. The cars of the southbound train were injured and none of the passengers were hurt.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT.

The cause of the accident was the failure of the northbound train to wait at Uplands. Instead of waiting the train went past the siding at the rate of thirty miles an hour. Half a mile beyond the siding the train from Los Angeles, which was going at an equal rate of speed, just as the crash came both engine crews jumped for their lives. All escaped except Fireman Garland, who was crushed to death. Both engines were completely wrecked and the baggage car piled up on the northbound train, in which there were a half dozen Italian laborers, was also smashed and four of the Italians were badly bruised and one was killed. None of them were believed to be fatally hurt. In the chair car were a number of first-class passengers. Sheriff Foss, of Santa Clara county, was on the train. A mail car named Kelslow of San Luis Obispo, was crushed but not seriously. Immediately after the collision the baggage car of the northbound train caught fire and baggage man Garland, who was crushed in the wreck, was burned with his car. The chair car was also destroyed by fire, but all the passengers in it managed to get out in safety. The first reports of the wreck were greatly exaggerated. There is no telegraph station at Uplands and messages had to be sent from San Ardo, four miles away. Wrecking crews were sent from Salinas and San Luis Obispo and the train was being worked up from Salinas. Fortunately there were not much for them to do when they arrived. The track is completely blocked, but a temporary track is being built around the wreck and traffic will be resumed today.

DIDN'T OBEY ORDERS.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—G. F. Richardson, manager of transportation of the Southern Pacific company, said to the Associated Press: "The accident was due to the failure of the engineer on the southbound train to obey orders sent him to stop at Uplands. This train was behind time or late and the northbound train was ahead of time. The engineer on the southbound train was aware of the engineer's error and turned on the air brakes but it was too late and the two trains met. So far as our reports indicate the news of the accident has been exaggerated. The loss to the railroad company is said to be about \$40,000. General Manager Agler and several other officials of the road were on board the train at the time of the accident. A relief train with two or three physicians arrived about 6 o'clock and dressed the wounds. The track is being built around the wreckage for trains to pass. The Sunset Limited will remain here until the track can be cleared. A wrecking train and force of about fifty section men are at work.

FURNACE EXPLODES, KILLING NINE MEN.

Were at Work on Top When Accident Occurred—Bodies Burned to Cinders—Were Slaves and Poles.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 19.—By an explosion of gas in the Soho furnace of Jones & Laughlin, near Brady street, this city, at 6:25 o'clock this morning, nine men were burned to death and five badly injured. The damage to the plant will amount to \$25,000. The bodies of the victims were all removed to the morgue. They were terribly mangled and burned. The dead identified thus far are as follows: Joseph Frankovitch, Joseph Sinal, Michael Gasdovitch, 25 years old, leaves a wife and child in Hungary. Michael Moxo, aged 35, married and leaves widow in Hungary. John Kocanich, George Szanko, John Sabo, George Wellco, The others injured are at their homes and have not yet been located. Three at the morgue hospital are so badly burned that they cannot talk and are not expected to survive. Five persons unaccounted for and it is not known whether they have perished. The explosion occurred in one of the big blast furnaces. The men were at work at the top of the furnace over 120 feet from the ground when the gas, which had accumulated in the furnace, exploded and tons of molten metal, cinders and slag, were thrown over them. They made a rush for the elevator but it had gone down and there was no escape. The cries of the injured broke the stillness which had reigned over the place when the fury of the explosion and fire had abated. Firemen carried the burned, charred and mis-shapen masses of humanity to the morgue wagon. Thomas Jones and Arthur Young, managers of the plant, said that ordinarily only three men work on top of the furnace but this morning one of the heavy iron wagons used in taking up ore got stuck and the three men were on top of the furnace. More men were sent to learn why the three men reached fourteen. It was while they were trying to get the wagon loaded that the fatal explosion took place. Eye witnesses at the scene of the accident and the murky heavens were illuminated with a great sheet of flame, showing the men on top of the furnace running about, gesticulating wildly. The flames and hot metal looked like a volcano in action. Five of the men were blown off the top of the furnace and these are the ones that are still living. The others hung on the rail, some on the outside and some on the inside, until their clothing was burned off, and their fingers were burned off. They then fell to the roof of the mill dead. Seven of the victims were found dead on the platform of the cupola. These were completely denuded of clothes by the flames and their bodies were burned almost to a crisp. Two of the dead were found in the stockyard of the plant, 250 yards from the furnace. Every man in their bodies seemed to have been broken. All of those killed and injured were Slaves and Poles. The management was unable to give their names, but sent for George Pitoli, an interpreter, who went to the morgue and identified some of the victims. Over two tons of ore, coke and hot cinders, some pieces weighing almost three pounds, rained down on Second avenue and many pedestrians ran into houses and stores for protection. A car was passing just at the time the gas let go. The coke and other material falling on the car, which had twenty-five passengers aboard, caused a panic and many jumped out. None of the passengers was in the least injured, but all were badly scared. When the explosion occurred the men in the plant became panic stricken and rushed into the street. The men thought the entire plant was doomed. As soon as the smoke had died away, the company's surgeon, Dr. J. W. McKean, and three physicians, were summoned and they attended the injured, three of whom were hurried to the Mercy hospital as soon as ambulances arrived. The people standing about the furnace and for blocks on either side, were badly scared. They rushed from their homes and a few minutes later the report had sounded throughout Soho, thousands of people gathered about the furnaces. Women, whose husbands were employed in the plant, mothers whose sons worked there, and others whose brothers were in the plant, formed part of the crowd. With tears in their eyes they wept with bated breath to learn why their loved ones had perished in the catastrophe. Some were fated to hear sad news, for among the crowd were wives or relatives of some of the dead. When they learned of the deaths of their loved ones, they burst into tears and some of them are on the verge of mental collapse. It is reported that the explosion was caused by a "slip" in the furnace.

REPORT ON THE NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Representative Hepburn, of Iowa, chairman of the House committee on commerce, today made the report of the committee in favor of the Nicaragua canal bill. After stating the terms of the bill, the report said in part: "The purpose of this bill is to concentrate authority and responsibility for the construction of this great work in the hands of the President. It has been believed by your committee that this course would be a safer one to be pursued in carrying out the purposes of the bill, involving the expenditure of so large a sum of money, all the work and all the expenditure to be made at a distance so far from the capital, than any other method that could be devised. We have tried to concentrate authority and responsibility to the creation of an American people." The report refers to the "exhaustive" report made by the isthmian commission, of which Admiral Walker is the head, in which every feature of this enterprise is fully and at length discussed, and adds: "No doubt is expressed by the commission as to the practicability of the enterprise; on the contrary, they join with us in the belief that the work can be carried to a successful termination, within the limits of reasonable cost and time. The report also states that the political parties are committed to the policy of the construction of this canal."

The report then quotes the declarations of the various party platforms and Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt, favoring the canal. In conclusion it says: "The view of the many thousands of pages written and spoken in advocacy of the immediate undertaking and completion of this work, in view of the fact that the canal is a national enterprise, and that the people of the United States should be kept in view of the almost universal demand of the American people that Congress should take prompt action in the inauguration and speedy completion of the isthmian canal, your committee content themselves with this brief report, embodying their earnest recommendation that the bill pass."

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

After Transacting Some Business, Adjourns Until January 6, 1902.

Washington, Dec. 19.—When the House met today there was a waste of vacant seats, owing to the holiday exodus. The session was brief. The message of the President relating to the creation of an Australian forest reserve was laid before the House. Mr. De Armond, of Missouri, at this point rose to a question of personal privilege. He said that while he was in the Philippines a rumor was circulated in his state to the effect that the rural free delivery service was being held up in his district until his return. "I desire," said Mr. De Armond, "to present some testimony to disabuse the minds of those who may have been misled, to convert those who may have been hypocritical and to confute those who may have lied." He thereupon sent to the clerk's desk and had read a letter sent by him to the first assistant postmaster-general asking that official what his status was in regard to appointments in the rural free delivery service in his district. Mr. Payne, of New York, made the point of order that the letter did not constitute a question of personal privilege. Speaker Henderson held that a controversy with the department about patronage did not constitute a matter of privilege, however, the speaker allowed him to proceed. A second letter from Mr. De Armond to the postmaster-general was sent to the desk, but as soon as it was read by Mr. Grosvonts a member of the House in his legislative capacity chose to invade an executive department for the purpose of patronage unless it was charged with such action involved a moral turpitude. It presented no question of personal privilege. The speaker seemed inclined to think that both points of order were well taken. But Mr. De Armond insisted that reports circulated in his district were false and injurious to him in his legislative capacity. Mr. DeArmond then obtained consent to make a personal statement. He stated that he had been in the Philippines, that he had taken action upon rural free delivery routes held up while he was in the Philippines, but that those who had made such statements had lied. He declared that the postoffice department had not treated him in a manly way. Mr. DeArmond charged that his letter to the postmaster-general had been held up. In the course of his remarks he said he wondered if the postmaster-general, who was leaving the department, was weary of trying to solve the rural free delivery delivery patronage problem. He asserted that the conduct of the department was in the interest of certain bosses in Missouri. No action was taken on his statement.

Suicide of a London Merchant.

London, Dec. 19.—Hugh Kekewich, of the firm of Morrison, Kekewich & Company, a leading member of the metal exchange, died suddenly this morning. It is said he committed suicide. The belief prevails that Mr. Kekewich recently suffered heavy losses in copper. The metal exchange has classed as a mark of sympathy.

Abseconer Fleischmann Not Caught.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—J. M. Hellman, president of the Nevada bank of this city and also of the Farmers & Merchants' bank of Los Angeles, states that there is no truth in the report that he had been captured in Mexico. Mr. Hellman states that Fleischmann has several relatives in Mexico and that if any arrests have been made it is probable that one of the relatives has been placed behind the bars by mistake.