

# Mortensen in Court Again.

Face the Judge Firmly Though Prisoner Displayed Extreme Nervousness at Times—Must Enter Plea to Murder Charge on Wednesday Next—Haggard and Pale—Accused Handcuffed to Petit Larceny Prisoner.

Peter Mortensen was this morning formally charged, before the court, with the murder of James R. Hay. He appeared rather haggard and at different times displayed nervousness. That he is falling, is extremely noticeable, and was the subject of much comment by those who have taken particular notice of him on the several occasions he has been exposed to the public view. His haggard appearance was particularly observable when he faced the court and listened to the reading of the indictment, during which period he kept his eyes closed most of the time and his face clearly showed evidence of a severe struggle with emotions within. Several times his lips were not to quiver.

The silence prevailed during the arraignment. The majority of spectators were men, but the women had a pretty strong representation, and quite a number of attorneys of the city occupied seats inside the railing.

Mortensen was driven to the courtroom in the patrol wagon in company with five other prisoners and guarded by Sheriff Buxby and Deputy Sheriff Buxby and Deputy Sheriff Buxby. He was not in a conversational mood and only on one occasion during his ride did he converse at all. He said Deputy Sheriff Buxby, who conducted the colored man, was going to be arraigned, and when told that he would be arraigned in the police court, he said: "I thought he was going to be arraigned down here."

He entered the courtroom at 9:55 o'clock and was seated on the prisoner's bench to the left of the judge's chair. He was very neatly attired in a suit of black, derby hat, and black overcoat. Soon after his entrance his father came over to him, and he remained until his son was taken from the room with the other prisoners.

Father and son engaged in earnest conversation, which was interrupted for a moment by Sheriff Buxby, one of Mortensen's attorneys, who conversed with the prisoner for about five minutes when he left them to continue the trial. During the talk with his father, Mortensen showed signs of nervousness by shifting his feet and continually tapping his hat on his knee.

The four prisoners who accompanied Mortensen were arraigned first, and at 10:05 o'clock, District Attorney Echorn arose and said: "If the court please,

Secretary of Interior Has Sent to Senate Committee His Disapproval of Bills Introduced by Senators Rawlins and Kearns Providing for Allotment of Lands

(Special to the "News.")  
Washington, D. C., Feb. 8.—The Senate committee on Indian affairs has received reports from the secretary of the interior disapproving the bills introduced in the Senate by Senators Rawlins and Kearns, which provided for the selection and allotment of certain lands within the Uintah Indian reservation.

The House committee on irrigation met this morning for the purpose of hearing Congressman Lacey of Iowa, describe his bill which provides an appropriation of one million dollars to be expended by the secretary of the interior to locate at some suitable section in the arid region a reservoir as an experiment.

San Pedro Engineer Off.  
McCartney Goes South to Inspect Joint Survey Work—Big Consignment of Steel Rails for Clark Road Over the Gould System—Will be Brought West as Rapidly as Possible.

Engineer H. M. McCartney, accompanied by Col. C. D. Moore, who has been on the ground in charge of the San Pedro force working on the joint survey, left for California on the 7:05 train last evening.

The object of their trip is to pass on the work recently done before it is finally brought before the board of directors of the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake for their approval and adoption.

McCartney will go over the ground in Nevada and possibly make a few very slight changes in the survey line. All the field notes are now in shape and everything is ready for the making and the filing of the final map, just as soon as Mr. McCartney approves the work that has been done.

Mrs. Soffel Improving.  
Receives Many Letters Containing Religious Tracts.  
Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 8.—Mrs. Soffel, who aided in the escape of the Biddies, and who was shot during the battle which resulted in their recapture and death, shows considerable improvement in her condition today. She is suffering more from mental distress than from the wound, and it may be a week from the date when she can be removed from the Butler hospital to the Pittsburg home.

Her husband, ex-Warden Soffel, has retained counsel for her defense, but she does not want to see her or have any communication with her in the future.

Mrs. Soffel is receiving letters from many of the country. Most of them contain religious tracts and advice of religious nature. When she opens a letter and discovers that it is one of this character she turns it over to some of the nurses without reading.

Many letters are also from attorneys, proffering their services free in her defense.

Fears for the Egría.  
Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 8.—A Vancouver special to the Tribune says that fears are entertained for the Egría, the warship, which went to the Pacific coast in the month of January and has been picked up on the west coast belonging to the warship. The section of the coast visited by the Egría, is known as the "grave yard of the Pacific."

Bold Attempt at Bank Robbery.  
Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 8.—Early today an attempt was made to rob the Gap National bank at Gap, Pa. It is miles east of this city, ending in a lively exchange of shots between the town's watchman, David Stamix, and the burglars. Stamix heard an explosion at the bank and found three or four men standing in front of the building, who ordered him to hold up his hands. Stamix opened fire on the burglars wounding at least one, as there were

blood marks where they had been standing. The robbers returned the fire, Stamix backing away towards the home of the cashier with the view of getting assistance. When the shooting began two or three other men ran out of the bank building, and, joining their comrades, disappeared in the darkness. An examination disclosed the fact that the men had attempted to blow the vault open with dynamite or nitroglycerine but without success. Early this morning a stranger stopped at Glen, a few miles east of Gap, and had a wound in his jaw dressed. He said he had received injury by falling from a freight train and striking a piece of iron. It is believed he was the man wounded by the watchman.

Snowstorms in England.  
London, Feb. 8.—Snowstorms and fog envelop practically the entire United Kingdom. The weather is the most severe known in twenty years. For a time this morning London was enveloped in darkness, traffic was interrupted and navigation on the Thames and Mersey was very dangerous. The unprecedented snowfall necessitated the suspension of outdoor work in many districts, and vehicular and railway traffic was carried on with the greatest difficulty. In parts of Scotland and Wales communication was entirely blocked.

Ruskin Medalion Memorial Unveiled.  
London, Feb. 8.—A bronze medalion memorial of the late John Ruskin was unveiled at noon in Westminster Abbey by Mrs. Arthur Severn. Ruskin's cousin, in the presence of a distinguished gathering. The medalion is in the poet's corner above the Sir Walter Scott memorial and beside the Oliver Goldsmith medalion.

Smallpox at Reno.  
Reno, Nev., Feb. 8.—Several new cases of smallpox are reported in Reno among the whites, and the state board of health has declared smallpox epidemic in Reno and will probably order the public schools closed.

Critics of Great Britain.  
Berlin, Feb. 8.—The critics of Great Britain here are disposed to let Lord Pauncefoot's note of April 14, 1898, drop with the explanation, cable from Washington, but nothing unfriendly to the United States was meant thereby. The fact stands that the United Kingdom did not intend a second proposal for a European renunciation. The explanation that President McKinley was in a position to know the opinion of the German foreign office said: "We are disinclined to discuss the resolutions of the League of Nations. We simply note the fact that Lord Pauncefoot took a step unplesant for the United States and it was Germany's refusal to participate that prevented the matter from being discussed."

Smallpox Insurance Policies.  
London, Feb. 8.—With the increase in the number of cases of smallpox London's population is flocking to insurance offices in order to get insured against the epidemic. In the history of London no such plethora of insurance policies has been seen as has arisen on account of the present scare. All classes are taking advantage of the underwriters' charge of 35 to 40 per cent for vaccinated smallpox, and in fact, insurance rates, though for the East End districts the premiums are as high as 25s. Some financial men have been insured for as much as \$7,000 against the risk of catching smallpox. The average policy is about \$500. Those who have taken out insurance are said to be apocryphally indifferent regarding re-vaccination. Firms usually making out one hundred policies daily are now averaging six hundred and the insurance brokers and clerks are working long after hours.

The Outlook says:  
The medical experts infer that May or June will be the worst. If this is true, it is a serious menace to the success of the coronation festivities."

"Hooligan" Party in the Commons.  
London, Feb. 8.—The so-called "Hooligan party" in the house of commons has, by obstructive tactics towards the hearing of the Commons, caused a storm that is likely to nip in the bud all the political aspirations of its leader, Lord Hugh Cecil. The conservative papers abuse this son of the premier and the Liberal organs, the Spectator, which rarely becomes personal and is a staunch supporter of the government, declares Lord Cecil and his "conservative hooliganism" are a disgrace to the house of commons and have been guilty of conduct which it compares with a kick or a blow below the belt. "They took advantage of the fact that the new flat and the members of the house of commons are gentlemen," says the Spectator, and declares even the obstruction tactics of the Irish parliamentary party are honorable compared with Lord Cecil's rage.

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# Concession to A. W. McCune

Salt Laker and James Haggin Obtain One Year's Time in Which to Perfect Plans for Railroad Building Privilege.

Lima, Peru, Feb. 8.—The Peruvian government has granted to Alfred W. McCune and James Haggin, both Americans, permission to study for one year with the plans of a concession for a railroad from Chancay, department of Lima, or Huacho, on the bay of that name to Cerro de Pasco, in the department of Junin.

The first named gentleman in the above dispatch is A. W. McCune, of this city, and the second is Mr. Haggin, one of the best known mining men in the West. The statement that they have been given permission to "study" for one year, the plans of a concession for the building of a railroad is interpreted to mean that they have been granted that time in which to "develop" or "perfect" their plans in such manner as will be perfectly clear to the Peruvian government as to what is wanted by them.

As is well known Mr. McCune is interested in a copper property of such dimensions in Peru that he and his associates have found it necessary to build a railroad with which to haul, and a big smelter with which to refine the rich ores that are hidden in the mines. It is stated that this mine is, in some respects, one of the most wonderful in all the world, and that untold millions are in sight. It has been worked for centuries by the natives whom it is claimed have worn grooves into the solid rock in carrying out the precious metals, 60 or 70 pounds at a time upon their backs.

Mr. McCune had the wealth producing possibilities of the great property laid before him two or three years ago and promptly concluded that it was worth investigating. Accordingly he set sail for Peru. The result was the formation, on his return, of a syndicate with sufficient capital to install modern machinery, build railroads and smelters and obtain such concessions as are necessary for the complete and successful development of the property.

Mr. McCune has made two or three visits there and has been there for several months. It will be remembered that he took several enterprising young Utah men with him on the occasion of his last visit. They are making their homes there at present and incidentally considerable money besides. A portion of Mr. McCune's family left Lima was last night. It was stated at his office today that he would be home himself in about a month.

# PERSONAL BAGGAGE LAW

Merchants and Manufacturers' Board of Trade of New York Committee Call on President Roosevelt—While Favoring the Law They Protest Against the Manner of Its Enforcement.

Washington, Feb. 8.—A committee representing the Merchants and Manufacturers' board of trade of New York, composed of C. C. Shayne, president; Linton G. Ketchum and Alexander R. Smith, called on President Roosevelt today and presented resolutions passed by that body on the 14th inst. regarding the personal baggage law. After reading the resolutions the president said that his organization was instrumental in securing the personal baggage law and that its object was to protect merchants dealing in imported commodities, the resolutions state that "Whereas, in addition to the injury done such law adding merchants, the practices in vogue before the enactment of this law resulted in the loss of a considerable amount of revenue legitimately due the government, and, "Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of the members of this association that unreasonable and obnoxious practices have been employed by inspectors of the docks in executing this law, resulting, as it has in some instances to the great discomfort of tourists, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Merchants and Manufacturers' board of trade, while fully approving the spirit and purpose of this law, do most emphatically protest against the conduct of the inspectors, complained of at the docks, in so far as they are obnoxious and unnecessarily harsh, and we urge upon the officials charged with the administration of this law the abatement of those obnoxious practices, and we declare ourselves most heartily co-operative with any and every body joining in this protest."

The committee also presented a letter from the board of trade of New York, which was read by the president. The letter stated that the board of trade of New York, while fully approving the spirit and purpose of this law, do most emphatically protest against the conduct of the inspectors, complained of at the docks, in so far as they are obnoxious and unnecessarily harsh, and we urge upon the officials charged with the administration of this law the abatement of those obnoxious practices, and we declare ourselves most heartily co-operative with any and every body joining in this protest."

# THEODORE ROOSEVELT JR.

President Receives Telegram Saying His Son's Condition is Unchanged—Presidential Trip to Charleston Abandoned—Mrs. Roosevelt Arrived at Groton This Afternoon.

Washington, Feb. 8.—President Roosevelt received a telegram this morning from the physician at the Groton school informing him that the condition of his son, Theodore, Jr., was unchanged since last night.

The following statement was issued at the White House at noon today: "The condition of the President's son is favorable. The doctors say the President should not go to Charleston as at any time within six days the disease may take a sudden turn for the worse. The President also is asked not to go to Groton as his visit might excite the boy who is not in immediate danger."

Owing to the request of the doctors the President has abandoned his trip to Charleston. Should a turn for the worse occur the President is prepared to leave at a moment's notice on a special train.

Boston, Feb. 8.—Mrs. Roosevelt, wife of the President, reached this city at 7 o'clock this morning, breakfasted at an uptown hotel, and at 8 o'clock was on board the train at the Northern Union station, which was to take her to Ayer, the nearest railway station to Groton.

Groton, Mass., Feb. 8.—Mrs. Roosevelt and maids reached here just after 2 o'clock today.

The Rev. Sherrard Billings, assistant to President Peabody of the Groton school, met her at the station and Ayer when the train arrived. Quite a crowd had gathered at the station to see Mrs. Roosevelt, but there was no demonstration of any sort as the lady passed to the carriage. The drive of three miles to the school took about an hour, as the roads were hilly and rough from freezing.

At the school Mrs. Roosevelt was received by President Peabody and a few moments later was at her boy's bedside. Subsequently an attempt was made to obtain a statement regarding the illness of young Theodore, but President Peabody declined to depart from the course approved by the President. According to this plan all necessary information concerning the lad's condition will be transmitted to President Roosevelt, who will decide the matter. No news shall be given the public.

Groton, Mass., Feb. 8.—It was learned late this afternoon that Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was a little better today than yesterday. His temperature this morning was 105 but during the afternoon it dropped to 103. The presence of Mrs. Roosevelt is said to have had a beneficial effect on the lad and he has brightened considerably since her coming.

# A WOMAN'S CONFESSION.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 8.—Rhoda Taylor made a written confession to the police of Argentine, Kan., across the river from here today, that Noah Long, the aged stone mason who disappeared mysteriously from his home there a week ago, had been robbed and his body thrown into the Kaw river. Long was an old soldier and had drawn \$210 pension money from the bank on Thursday last. He visited a saloon in Argentine that night which was the last time he had been seen. Today the police are searching for the body in the river, which, except at the place it is alleged he was thrown in, is covered with thick ice.

According to the woman's confession, which was signed in the presence of a reporter, Henry Donohue and James Goff were with her and Long at Donohue's house on the Thursday night Long disappeared. Donohue, who was infatuated with the woman, had, she asserts, taunted her with not being able to secure the money from Long, who it

aged 63, a farmer, was found dead in his home where he had lived alone six miles west of Argentine. The body was frozen. The coroner, however, decided that Zimmerman's death was due to heart disease.

Schley Back in Washington.  
Washington, Feb. 8.—Rear Admiral and Mrs. Schley arrived in Washington this morning from their western and southern trip and went at once to their apartments in the Richmond. The severe cold with which the admiral has been suffering was greatly improved.

Not Guilty But Must Pay Costs.  
Clearfield, Pa., Feb. 8.—"Not guilty but pay the costs" is the finding of the jury on the libel case brought by Frank G. Harris, state treasurer-elect against P. Gray Meek, editor of the Beaver County Democratic Watchman.

The charge made by Harris against Mr. Meek was criminal libel. The suit was based on a publication in Mr. Meek's paper reflecting on Mr. Harris during the recent state campaign. The costs amount to about \$1,000. The case attracted widespread interest in political circles throughout the state and almost every prominent politician and officeholder in the state was subpoenaed as witnesses.

Rawlins Questions Taft.  
Washington, Feb. 8.—Continuing his narrative before the Senate committee on the Philippines, Gov. Taft today reverted to his testimony of yesterday for the purpose of introducing a cablegram he had received from Acting-Governor Wright urging a reduction in the tariff on Philippine articles imported into the United States from the Philippines.

Senator Rawlins questioned Gov. Taft concerning the holdings of the friars. The governor said he thought the general opinion as to the wealth and holdings of the friars had been greatly exaggerated by the fact that they had three-fourths of the property owned in the cities. That, however, the religious orders have ready cash was true, as was evidenced by the fact that they had three-fourths of the property owned in the cities. That, however, the religious orders have ready cash was true, as was evidenced by the fact that they had three-fourths of the property owned in the cities.

Gov. Taft said the Philippine government is desirous of purchasing the Manila property held by the friars and that it would also be desirable to secure their holdings of agricultural lands.

In connection with the loaning of money by the friars, Senator Lodge asked about the necessity for a banking law and the witness replied that such a law is badly needed.

An Old Woman's Money Stolen.  
Odell, Neb., Feb. 8.—The sum of \$2,700 has been stolen from Mrs. Scramble, a Bohemian widow, who lives north of this town. Several days ago she received the money in payment for a farm that she had sold. Being distrustful of banks, she put the money in a tin can which she placed beneath the floor of her chicken house. When Mrs. Scramble went to get it it was gone. Search is being made for the treasure but no clue has been found.

International Sugar Conference.  
London, Feb. 8.—The delegates to the international sugar conference are now more hopeful of a successful outcome of their labors than at any previous stage of the proceedings. It appears that Great Britain's threat of imposing countervailing duties, backed up by similar representations from France, has worked so well that various delegates have found it necessary to reconsider their position. The present delay is chiefly due to Austria, whose delegates were compelled to return to Vienna for further instructions. That all the bounties and the tariff reduction which is now under consideration is scarcely expected, but the British authorities believe that the condition of the industry may be greatly improved if the committee's arrangement which is now under consideration is accepted by the government.

NORDICA CONCERT IS CALLED OFF.  
A brief dispatch received by the "News" from Prof. Evan Stephens in San Francisco this morning states that the Nordica concert in this city has been abandoned. This is foreshadowed in the musical department of the paper, the forms of which went to press before Prof. Stephens' dispatch was received. He merely says that she is too ill to sing.

Mr. Stephens adds that the details for the choir excursion are going on entirely to his satisfaction. He has arranged for a steamer ride on the bay for the party, and has secured the Metropolitan Hotel for Sunday services, both day and night. The hotel del Monte at Monterey will also be visited and a concert rendered there.

RETURNS FROM WOOL MEETING.  
Secretary C. F. Martin of the National Livestock association arrived last evening from Helena, Mont., where he has been in attendance on the annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Wool Growers association. Mr. Martin is in good spirits over the success of the action of the association in passing resolutions in support of the fight in congress against the attempts there to suppress the oleomargarine industry and stave off the move to compel manufacturers and dealers in cloth goods to label the same as or not.

Mr. Martin states that the dairymen members of the convention were at first strongly in favor of the proposed legislation to do away with oleomargarine, but when it was shown them that 30 per cent of oleomargarine is butter and cream, and that the suppression of this great industry would greatly injure the livestock and Western dairy industries the opposition weakened, and the resolution sought for passed. Mr. Martin, in referring to shoddy, stated that the amount used in this country in the course of a year if all wool, would represent the secured product of 29,000,000 sheep—about one half the number in this country, and a wool value of \$35,000,000. He also stated the necessity of the western interests to be affected by adverse legislation, taking some vigorous action in self defense. He said the national dairy association had levied a tax of \$5 on every dairyman in the country and two bits per month besides to meet the expense of pushing the Groat bill through congress. So it is rather necessary that the Western livestock men and the wool men put up some of the wherewithal to help in the fight against the determined attack being made against western interests by the eastern manufacturers.

Following this George Zimmerman, aged 63, a farmer, was found dead in his home where he had lived alone six miles west of Argentine. The body was frozen. The coroner, however, decided that Zimmerman's death was due to heart disease.

# Rottenness in British Army.

Revelations Concerning Purchasing Department Cause Great Public Agitation—Speculating Contractors Make Hundreds of Thousands of Pounds by Reselling Contracts—Will Probably Hurt the War Office.

London, Feb. 8.—The apparent incompetency and, it is claimed, possible dishonesty, which permeates the purchasing departments of the British army as revealed this week in parliament, has caused a public agitation that augurs badly for the war office. Judging from recent disclosures, scarcely any of the supplies for the army in South Africa were secured on business principles. Speculating contractors are now known to have made hundreds of thousands of pounds by reselling contracts. The opposition vainly endeavored to get details regarding the new contracts for the new supply of meat announced by the government in the house of commons, with the view of ascertaining if a saving over the former methods will really be effected. The government successfully avoided answering, but the Associated Press understands that the contract in question was first re-sold at £10,000 premium and then at £40,000, while Cecil Rhodes and the DeBears group handled a dozen or more contracts of the kind. These figures are expected to be published soon and when known will add fuel to the fire of public indignation which threatens to center around the secretary of war, Mr. Brodrick, as vigorously as it did around Lord Lansdowne, when the latter was sponsor for the early blunders of the war. A dozen or more committees of investigation are now sitting or are in progress of formation, but as the Saturday Review says, "These are only too often synonyms of oblivion."

"The fact remains," adds the Saturday Review, "that we have been swindled on a very large scale."

While those stringent criticisms of the war office are being publicly made, there is proceeding beneath the surface a revolt which threatens to be of even greater importance. The leading authorities of the volunteers, including many of the commanders of the best known regiments, recently met in a meeting called persons and nearly all wealthy, are holding frequent meetings to decide on the best method of defeating Mr. Brodrick's new volunteer regulations. The committee which Mr. Brodrick appointed to hear the grievances only aggravated matters. The commanders of the leading regiments formed themselves into a deputation to wait on Mr.