

FOOLS may rush in where angels fear to tread, but they generally wear the medals.

# The Topeka State Journal

WEATHER FORECAST for Kansas: Partly cloudy and warmer to night and Saturday.

HOME EDITION

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 28, 1916—TWELVE PAGES

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

## BISSELL CRUMLING BEFORE ARDEN'S SWEATING

### Topekan Held For Murder of Edna Dinsmore Weakening After Identification By Drug Clerk

## ON DAY OF HER FUNERAL WILL TRUTH BE KNOWN?

### CLIMAX OF "PEN" MOVE EXPECTED AT ANY MINUTE

Nervously Bissell Asks for Cigarettes and Water.

Grilling Questioning by Officers May Break Him.

TELLS OF CRIME AGAINST BOYS Says He Doesn't Remember Bits of Evidence at Time.

Final Attempt at Learning Truth of Late Events.

Lansing, April 28.—At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon Warden Coddling, Assistant Attorney General Frank P. Lindsay and Officer Miller decided that they would put Bissell through one more sweating and cross-examine him in a new way. In ten minutes Warden Coddling came out of a closed room and told a press representative to announce that the final examination was bringing results.

The officials are using kindness with Bissell and pointing out to him that at present he is a disgrace to his father, mother, sister and the state of Kansas and looked upon as a degenerate of the lowest order. But, should he confess to the crime and it would be found that it is true that he is suffering a mental depression as a result of a kick on his head in his boyhood, the state would pity him and see and desire that he be cured.

Continuing the officers asked him if he thought it possible for a man to commit such a crime without knowing the details.

"Well," replied Bissell, "at the time of the assault on those two boys I don't remember of tying their hands."

This and a series of other questions along an entirely different line is bringing results according to Warden Coddling's announcement. They are permitting him to try his own case in his own way.

He is Nervous. Bissell is continually asking for cigarettes and a demand for water is being made every few minutes. His composure is broken, officials say, and each question in bringing results and indicating that if the man is guilty a confession will be forthcoming shortly.

### JURY IN BISSELL CASE

At 7:30 o'clock Chief Hanlon and Mrs. Eva Cox, Sixth and Prospect streets, had been summoned before the coroner's jury and testified in the Dinsmore murder case. Chief Hanlon testified to the finding of the body in the cellar.

Mrs. Eva Cox, who knows both Bissell and the girl, testified to seeing Bissell, the girl and a dog on West Fifth street, between Madison and Van Buren on the morning of the murder.

Before going before the jury Mrs. Cox went to the undertaking parlors, viewed the body of the girl to assure herself that she had not been mistaken in her identity of the girl seen with Bissell on that morning.

Fully nine other witnesses will be examined before the hearing ends late this afternoon.

Members of the jury are: J. S. Langston, William S. Anderson, F. C. Bowen, J. R. Miller, S. M. Martin and C. P. Hill.

Additional details in later editions of the State Journal, on the streets late this afternoon and early this evening.

### "YOU COOKED IT UP ON ME," SAID BISSELL TO KIENE

Accused Man Didn't Like Result of Souther's Visit.

After Identification He Refused to Make Any Admissions.

Warden Coddling Spirits Prisoner Away to Hiding Place.

(By Staff Correspondent.)

Lansing, Kan., April 28.—Preston Souther, drug clerk at the Oxford drug store at Topeka, positively identified Fred Bissell at noon today as the man who purchased a bottle of iodine, a package of bandages and a bottle of vaseline from him on the morning that 9-year-old Edna Dinsmore was murdered.

Prior to this, Souther had identified a bottle of iodine found at the house at Fifth and Taylor streets as the same bottle filled by him on the morning of the murder.

Bissell, accompanied by five other men, three prisoners and two strangers in citizen's clothes, was lined up before Souther and Sheriff Kiene. Bissell wore citizen's clothes and stood third from the end. Souther studied the six men for several minutes then stepped from the room with Sheriff Kiene.

"Sheriff," he said, "I believe I know the man."

"Now Pres," said the sheriff, "I want you to be sure. You had better go in and look them over again."

Souther and Kiene stepped back into the room. Souther studied the faces of the six men all dressed in citizen's clothes again, probably for a minute. Then he raised his hand and pointed a finger straight at Fred Bissell.

Bissell Called It a Frameup. "Yes," muttered Bissell, "you go out of the room, cook things up and then point me out."

Sheriff Kiene was standing behind Bissell at the time. He walked around Bissell and said:

"Is there any word you would like to send to your son?" was asked the aged parents of Fred Bissell at their bakery on Monroe street early this morning by a State Journal reporter.

"Tell him"—and here the old father's voice grew husky and he fought to control his feelings—"tell him that we will do all that we can for him in his trouble. I can't believe that, that my boy is guilty, but if he did commit this awful crime, he is no more remorseful than I have been created ever since. Before that, he was just as good a boy as the average boy and there was never anything bad about him."

When his mother was told that a State Journal reporter would see her son today and would gladly carry a message to him from her she hesitated and said: "I don't know what to say. I can't believe Fred is guilty but it was such a dreadful crime."

"Don't you want to send him a message," she was asked.

"I don't know what message to send him, the crime was so terrible," she said.

Strange as it may seem the father shows more emotion when discussing Fred than does the mother, although both are bowed down with the weight of grief and time has played its part with this old couple who are doing their best to make a living at the bakery.

### CAPPER AGAIN SWITCHES AND HOLDS BISSELL

Bitter Sentiment Against Governor Forces Original Action.

Revokes Parole of Man Held for Crime Against Girl.

Does It Mean He Is Guilty?

Capper Held Up Yesterday's Act, Giving This as a Reason.

Practically Places Conviction of State on Bissell's Head.

Thrice in the space of a very few hours Governor Capper changed his mind concerning the rights of Fred Bissell to be a citizen of the state of Kansas with all the rights and privileges of a voter and taxpayer and a respected citizen in a law abiding community. The triple change of mind was made by the governor in view of the fact that Bissell was being held at the state penitentiary under guard against a charge of murder of nine-year-old Edna Dinsmore.

Except for the fact that he was held by the state for one of the most atrocious crimes in the history of Shawnee county, Bissell was vested with the rights and privileges of the average citizen. Despite the fact that he had served a prison sentence for assault on a Washington county girl and another sentence for a crime against nature, Governor Capper's board of corrections had given Bissell a parole. Later Governor Capper had personally revoked Bissell's citizenship. The plan was announced in press dispatches and was used in early editions of afternoon papers by news writers in the state.

His First Action. Thursday morning it was announced from the governor's office that notices had been sent to Lansing state penitentiary. The plan was announced in press dispatches and was used in early editions of afternoon papers by news writers in the state.

Then the governor changed his mind. An hour after the papers revoking Bissell's citizenship had been drawn, it was announced that the papers would not be signed. Such action would return Bissell to prison. It was a decision in advance of the submission of evidence concerning the man's guilt. It was urged. So further action was suspended temporarily. A few hours later the governor passed on Bissell's guilt, revoking his former action and sent the accused man to prison.

His Change of Mind. The action following almost wide criticism of the action of the governor's state board of corrections which gave Bissell a parole in the face of his record of crime. Almost equal criticism was directed against the governor who personally restored Bissell to full citizenship when he told the governor he wanted to join the army.

It is probable that under existing conditions Bissell will be held at the state prison until the expiration of his regular term for a crime in Jackson county. His term will expire in November this year. He will not be required to serve the thirteen months he has been at liberty under a parole and citizenship. Under an interpretation of the law, Bissell is on parole for the same as time behind prison walls. He will merely serve to the natural end of his sentence. Later he will be tried for the crime alleged to have been committed by him while citizen under the governor's authority.

Did He Dite Himself to Death? JURY TO DECIDE

Winnipeg, Man., April 28.—Whether F. T. Morgan bit himself to death is to be determined by a royal commission here today. Morgan, a tyroper, lay in hospital with his mouth open, a soldier near him suddenly sounded a bugle. Morgan jumped, his false teeth fell into his throat, snapped together and severed tissues which later caused his death.

### LAW HAS BEEN IN EFFECT HERE THREE YEARS

Sterilization Provisions Are Now on Statute Books.

No One Seemed to Know It in Case of Fred Bissell.

Responsibility Well Placed

Heads of Institutions Will Be Punished if They Neglect.

Judge Schoch Discovers Law That Is Mysteriously Lost.

For three years Kansas has had a sterilization law on the statute books. It is mandatory. It places on heads of state institutions the responsibility of its enforcement. Yet in three years Kansas has been busy counting her bank deposits, estimating wheat crops and preaching reform and humanity to man. Possibly that was the reason the law was forgotten. During that time Fred Bissell was in state prison, his record was before the warden, the board of corrections and the governor. But the law was not enforced. Instead Bissell was paroled and subsequently made a citizen by the governor's personal official act.

Frequently discussion in Topeka this week concerning the need of an adequate law to meet situations such as were confronted in the Bissell case, has brought to light the law now on the statute books. The law was passed today by Judge W. F. Schoch of Topeka, former probate judge. The measure was enacted by the 1913 legislature. It became a law without the signature of Governor Hodges, who was in office at that time, and has been in force ever since. It is known as the law for the treatment of degenerates and habitual criminals. It is mandatory. It provides in strong terms that the state treat inmates of institutions who record points to a public need for the prevention of procreation. The law requires prompt reports on inmates of state institutions who are deemed to be "improper and inadvisable."

Law Is Mandatory. The law for the treatment of degenerates and habitual criminals is mandatory. It provides in strong terms that the state treat inmates of institutions who record points to a public need for the prevention of procreation. The law requires prompt reports on inmates of state institutions who are deemed to be "improper and inadvisable."

U. S. STANDS FIRST Leads World in Output of Many Products.

Has Largest Showing in Metals and Grain Crops.

Washington, April 28.—Tables soon to be issued by the bureau of agricultural and domestic commerce in its 1915 "statistical abstract of the United States" will show this country leads the world in the production of many basic articles of commerce. America stands first among the nations in its output of coal, iron and copper, petroleum and silver. It leads too in these agricultural productions:

Cotton, corn, wheat, oats, apples, hay and rice. Holland has lost 24 and the United States seven. British losses amount to four per cent of the total number in service and six per cent of the tonnage.

736 SHIPS DOWN War Toll More Than Two Million Tonnage.

Neutrals Lost 198, Norway Alone Losing 81 Vessels.

Washington, April 28.—British estimates of the European war toll of merchant ships given in figures today by the department of commerce put the number at 736 with a tonnage of more than two million.

Allied vessels lost number 638 and neutral 198. The estimates give British losses as 410, French 53, Russian 45, Italian 27, Belgian 10, and Japanese 3. This does not include the loss of 237 trawlers by the British, seven by the French and two by the Belgians.

Norway with 51 vessels destroyed leads the neutral nations in losses. Sweden with 46 is second and Denmark with 28, third. Holland has lost 24 and the United States seven. British losses amount to four per cent of the total number in service and six per cent of the tonnage.

NEW ENGLAND GETS LATEST SPRING SNOW IN 27 YRS.

Boston, April 28.—Snow fell over eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island today, the latest date for an appreciable fall in more than 27 years. The fall here was estimated at two inches. It melted rapidly.

### Wood and Won In 30 Minutes --In Boston, Too

Boston, April 28.—C. Copetas, Pittsburg restaurant man, arrived here today to wed Angelica Stathatos of this city, whom he met, wooed and won in 30 minutes, a year ago today. They met here through a mutual acquaintance last year and thirty minutes after the introduction, were engaged. And this in Boston, too.

### TALK ABOUT T. R. Newspaper Publishers Discuss Politics and Preparedness

At Annual Meeting Being Held in New York.

New York, April 28.—About the corridors near the meeting place of the American Newspaper Publishers' association in session here this week was a decided inclination to talk politics and preparedness. In its reports the New York Sun says this morning.

"It was hard to find any decided opinions about Colonel Roosevelt. Most of the publishers from the south are already lined up to fight for Wilson, as every phase of the situation was discussed yesterday, but in the west and the middle west, judging from yesterday's conversation, nobody stands much chance yet.

"Two men who spoke emphatically about Colonel Roosevelt were Frank P. MacLennan, publisher of the Topeka State Journal, and Harry Chandler of the Los Angeles Times. Mr. Chandler said:

"We certainly won't say anything for Roosevelt, and it is our opinion that if he is nominated by the Republican convention the old standpatters will draw with him and decline to vote."

"But not so Mr. MacLennan, in spite of the fact that he and the Topeka State Journal routed for Taft in 1912. [Continued on Page Twelve.]

### "DOC" IN THE BOX Denver Uses Reynolds, Ex-Topekan, in Today's Game.

Today's Line Up. Topeka—Miller, rf; Kelleher, ss; Spink, lf; Butcher, 2b; Dyer, 3b; Sikes, cf; Cochran, ss; Stevens, 1b; Reynolds, p.

Denver—Agler, 1b; Goodwin, 3b; Schweitzer, cf; Hanson, rf; Krauer, cf; Lattimore, 2b; Cochran, ss; Monroe, c; Grover, p.

### Democrat Tells Senate Nation Is Menaced by Land Aristocracy.

Washington, April 28.—Senator Sheppard, Democrat of Texas, told the senate today the United States was menaced by rapidly increasing aristocracy. He introduced and proposed a constitutional amendment to authorize congress to purchase land anywhere in the country, hold, improve, subdivide and sell it and make loans for the people, encouraging farm home ownership. The amendment, he said, was similar to the one adopted in the state of Massachusetts, and approved by a popular vote exceeding 3 to 1.

Special Rule to Speed Bills. Washington, April 28.—Threats of Democratic house leaders to invoke special measures to force speedy consideration of the administration legislation program took concrete form today in a special rule adopted by a vote of 184 to 56 for consideration of three far-reaching amendments embodied in a rider on the agricultural appropriation bill.

It would allow a little more than five hours debate on the grain grading, federal warehouse and cotton futures bills. The amendments would order raised by Republicans. Still more drastic rules for consideration of other administration measures are being considered.

### BASEBALL TODAY

National League. New York at Boston—game postponed; snow.

### WAR HEADS OF MEX AND U. S. CONFER TODAY

Oregon Discusses Situation Freely With Reporters.

Positive De Facto Now Have Situation Well in Hand.

40,000 SOLDIERS BACK HIM UP

Never Had Any Quarrel With Carranza, He Says.

Generals Funston and Scott Reach El Paso Tonight.

El Paso, April 28.—Generals Scott and Funston are due to reach here tonight when it is said arrangements will be made for the first conference to be held in Juarez tomorrow.

The Mexican minister of war held several conferences today with the military and civil authorities of the de facto government of Chihuahua in every phase of the situation was discussed so that the presentation of the Mexican proposals could be made to General Scott and Funston. Gen. Oregon made it clear that the Carranza government was prepared to police thoroughly northern Chihuahua and that the American troops having fulfilled their announced purpose of breaking up the Villa bands, should withdraw.

The 40,000 Carranza soldiers stretching across northern Mexico from Sonora to eastern Chihuahua, is General Oregon's most potent argument that he could meet the situation without aid from the United States.

Meets Newspaper Men. After a conference with the military and civil authorities in the customs house, General Oregon arranged the newspaper men, but added little to the reports already given out. Asked what he would do in case the American troops were ordered to leave Chihuahua through an interpreter, said:

"That is a matter we hope to arrange in conference."

Oregon in reply to a question said he thought the de facto government had sufficient troops to take care of Villa and his bands without aid from the United States.

"Do you think Villa is dead?" he was asked.

"I do not believe Villa is dead," was his reply. [Continued on Page Six.]

### GREECE RESTLESS Political Cataclysm Inevitable, Says Neutral Observer.

Athens, April 28.—An impartial observer, who has just returned from a tour of all the mainland of Greece, reports an amazing spread of sentiment in favor of Venizelos, the former premier.

The Associated Press learns from an authoritative source that several leaders of the opposition in 1909 actively engaged in planning a similar attack, although Venizelos deprecates this and instead of the practice of patience and the present national methods. On the other hand, the recent plot against him failed only by a hair's breadth, owing to the extraordinary devotion and watchfulness of his followers.

The King's Attitude. Frequent talks with King Constantine have convinced the Associated Press that the king has been taken honestly is persuaded that a policy of inaction is approved by a majority of the Greek people. The king persists in regarding the recent demonstrations of the growing popularity of Venizelos as mere political maneuvers.

The weakness of the opponents of the former premier lies in the discontent among the rank and file of the army who largely attend the meetings of the Venizelos party and who are openly dissatisfied and declare that the present mobilization is depriving their families of their support.

It is stated in well informed quarters that so many soldiers have returned to their homes without permission that the general staff is unable to class them as deserters, and is obliged to grant them leave which they already have taken.

Officers Discontented. Even the officers of the army with the exception of those in higher command are discontented, notwithstanding that an increase of pay has been granted to them by royal decree. Neutral observers who are in a position to judge declare that the present situation cannot last sixty days longer, and that unless an allied offensive against Bulgaria relieves the tension by sweeping the Greeks into war with their ancient enemies, a political cataclysm in Greece is inevitable.

### THOSE CARELESS NEIGHBORS! How careless of the neighbors of the Bissell family not to inform public authority of the habits of mind of Fred Bissell!

In an editorial discussion of his case, a Topeka newspaper, to whom the state as it is constituted at present can do no wrong, says:

"The true lesson of the Bissell case is that Bissell is a man unfit to be a citizen, and the authorities had known what the neighbors knew of his habits of mind, they would have recognized in him a dangerous and perverted and placed him in safe keeping."

And it may be that if the neighbors of Bissell had gone to "the authorities" with their impression of the habits of his mind, these same authorities would have given them short hearings and labeled them busybodies. They even might have replied: "Please do not take our time with telling us something that we already know." And this would have been a reasonable reply because "the authorities" had a full and complete record of the criminal career of Fred Bissell, a record that stamped him undeniably as a sexual pervert and a menace to society.

Perhaps the neighbors of Fred Bissell deemed it unnecessary to provide "the authorities" with information already in their possession.

### VISITS THE KAISER Ambassador Gerard Reaches Headquarters Tonight.

Regard Conference Called by Germany as Good Omen.

Berlin, April 28.—James Gerard, the American ambassador and Joseph C. Grew, secretary of the department of state, left Berlin last night for German army headquarters for an audience with Emperor William. Although the main subject of the conference was the purpose of Ambassador Gerard's journey, it is evident that Emperor William wishes a thorough personal talk with him in order to obtain a clearer view of the American position on the submarine issue.

The invitation to visit the German headquarters was brought to the ambassador personally by Foreign Minister von Jagow. The invitation is regarded as a good omen.

Nevertheless, experienced observers consider the situation still very serious and believe that the mere fact of the ambassador's meeting with the emperor and his advisers is of less importance than what was done at the conference at German headquarters.

The ultimate decision at Washington is held to be quite incalculable until it is known how far Germany meets the American wishes.

The news that Ambassador Gerard was going to the headquarters was already known at noon yesterday but the censors for some mysterious reason refused to allow cablegrams to be sent announcing that fact until last night. It was said to be a wise precaution to pass dispatches with news that the American note had been handed to the foreign office, until the next day.

### 3 FIGHT WARSHIP Trio of Aviators Drop 31 Bombs on Russian Battleship.

Bring Down Three French Planes and Attack Barracks.

Berlin, April 28.—An official report issued today by the German navy announces that three German aeroplanes yesterday dropped 31 bombs on the Russian battleship Slava. Several French aeroplanes have taken effect and fire on the battleship was distinctly observed.

The text of the admiralty statement follows:

"Three German aeroplanes on April 27 dropped 31 bombs upon the Russian battleship Slava. Several hits and a conflagration were distinctly observed. All the raiders, in spite of the heavy shelling, returned unharmed."

The Russian battleship Slava displaced 13,516 tons and was built in 1903. She is 270 feet long and carries a complement of 825. Three of her sister ships were sunk in 1905 in the battle of the Sea of Japan and a fourth was captured by the Japanese.

Other aerial fighting mentioned in the official report follows. "After an aerial fight an enemy aeroplane crashed to the earth west of the Messovor Betelainville, another near Very, and a third was brought down by our anti-aircraft guns near Frappele, east of St. Die.

### 124 MEN LOST AS WARSHIP IS SUNK

Big British Battleship, Russell, Strikes a Mine.

Of 750 in Crew, 626 Are Rescued From Sea.

ELEVENTH BATTLESHIP LOST Was 405 Feet Long; Had 12 In. Guns; Cost 5 Million.

German Submarine Sunk Off East Coast of England.

London, April 28.—The British battleship Russell struck a mine and sank in the Mediterranean yesterday, the admiralty announced this afternoon. Of the crew of about 750, 124 officers and men are missing and believed to have perished.

The Russell was one of the old British battleships, having been constructed in 1901. She displaced 14,000 tons and was 405 feet long with a beam of 75 feet. She was built at a cost of about \$5,000,000.

The Russell normally carried a crew of 750 men. Her armament included four 12-inch guns, twelve 6-inch and twenty guns of lesser caliber. She carried also four torpedo tubes. The battleship Montagu, a sister ship of the Russell, was wrecked on Lundy in 1905.

The Russell is the eleventh British battleship lost during the war. The others are the Audacious, Bulwark, Formidable, Irresistible, Ocean, GoIiath, Triumph, Majestic, Natal and King Edward VII. In addition about 25 other British warships of various classes have been destroyed.

U-Boat Is Lost. London, April 28.—A German submarine was sunk off the east coast yesterday. It was announced officially today. Eighteen men on the submarine were captured.

U-Boat Sinks Steamer; Crew Saved. London, April 28.—The British steamer Indus, a naval force steamer in the Atlantic, the admiralty announced this afternoon.

The crew was left in open boats, but was rescued by the steamer Finland. Destroy British Coast Guard.

Berlin, April 28.—The admiralty announced yesterday that on the night of April 26-27 German naval forces destroyed a large British guard vessel on Dogger bank and brought in a fishing steamer as a prize.

Danish Steamer Down; Captain Dead. London, April 28.—The captain of the Danish steamer Johanne was killed when the vessel struck a mine in the North Sea.

Spring Has Returned Once More the Wind Is Blowing From the South.

Hourly temperature readings for day furnished by the weather bureau: 7 o'clock...46 11 o'clock...52 8 o'clock...52 12 o'clock...54 3 o'clock...53 1 o'clock...55 10 o'clock...60 2 o'clock...64

Temperature averaged 6 degrees below normal. The wind is blowing at the rate of 14 miles an hour from the south.

A heavy frost occurred last night but it is not thought to have done much damage. Temperatures in all the northern part of Kansas were close to freezing. Potatoes, corn and garden truck are not up enough to be hurt much by frost and it takes a freeze to kill the fruit buds. With the wind in the south the weather was much improved this morning. The sun was shining and the mercury climbed rapidly. Higher temperatures are expected tonight by the weather bureau.

The forecast calls for partly cloudy and warmer weather tonight and Saturday. The lowest temperature this morning was 46 degrees at the weather bureau, but the reading closer to (Continued on Page Six.)

### EDISON QUALIFIES AS A REGULAR FISHERMAN

West Orange, N. J., April 28.—Thomas A. Edison is back from Florida, mourning the success of his latest invention, a patent "mud" fish bait. "The bait was too good," said Mr. Edison. "Its magic attracted every fish within a mile and in the struggle of the thousands of fish to get a piece of the bait, they all missed it and I got no fish."