

VERMIN OIL PRATT.

PECULIAR LIFE STORY OF AN ALLEGED INSANE MAN.

He Says His Mind is All Right and That All His Troubles Are Caused by a Woman Whom He Ran Away From Massachusetts With—A Sharp Deal With a File Company—Howen Said to Be Pratt's Real Name.

"Seattle destined to be the greatest city west of Chicago, and I have the greatest thing in my eye in the Union and make 5 fortunes."

The speaker was E. Pratt, familiarly known as "Vermin Oil" Pratt, who was taken in charge by the police yesterday afternoon at the request of Mrs. Pratt, who said that he was tearing up the house and removing the furniture. It is the belief of the police that Pratt is a sane man, but Pratt says that he is all right, and that the woman who is known as his wife is the cause of his present trouble. "I have stood by her through thick and thin," says Pratt, "and now she turns against me."

According to Pratt's own story, his real name is Bowen, and he changed his name when he ran away from Lyndon, Mass., with this woman. It is possible that Pratt has made a mistake in the name of the state. There is a Lyndon, Vt., which says Pratt claims as the home of his childhood, but Lyndon, Mass., is a new place.

If Pratt is insane it is one of those cases where a man has gone off his base on one subject. He is sane on a hundred other subjects, but appears to be perfectly rational, except when he comes around to vermin oil and his scheme for a "rent" restaurant.

The history of his life would fill a book as large as Webster's Dictionary, and yet be interesting. He was, according to his own admissions, a wild boy and gave his parents no end of trouble. He was sent to a boarding school, and when he proposed sending him to the reform school, his education was commenced when he was 8 years old. At the age of 15 he entered Newbury academy and immediately commenced to make Rome howl. One Halloween night he and some of his chums followed the usual course of events observed in academies, and he was caught by the principal, who straightway instituted a vigorous investigation to discover the guilty parties. Pratt and his chums conceived the idea that some of the boys were acting as spies, and in order to get even put sharpened blades in the chairs around the dinner table. The result was imagined. This had the effect of bringing a price on the head of Pratt, and in the end Pratt and nine of his boon companions were expelled.

The principal wrote a letter to Pratt's father, but Pratt took the same train home, and by bringing the butter got the letter before it reached his father and destroyed it. "Why are you home?" asked his father. "Oh, we have a vacation of a week," replied the young man. At the end of the week the elder Pratt asked his son if he had any unpaid bills at Newbury. "I owe about \$100 at the school," replied the youngster. The old gentleman gave up the money, and after warning him to get the reform school was the next step if he was a bad boy, sent him back to Newbury. Young Pratt took up his residence at the Newbury hotel and lived high as long as the money lasted. Then he secured the position of runner for the hotel. In the summer his parents started out for a trip to the White mountains, and incidentally took a run up to Newbury to see how they were getting along. The first object that greeted their eyes on stepping off the train was young Mr. Pratt, yelling out, "This way to the Newbury house." They were shocked, but said nothing, and went to the hotel. That evening the elder Pratt went over to the academy and learned that his son had been expelled three months previously. On returning to the hotel Mr. Pratt said to his son: "Get ready, you will go with us to the White mountains." The young man obeyed, and it was not until he was back at home that he heard that his father had died. He was doomed to the reform school. That settled it, and the youngster ran away to Boston. He secured an advertisement for the Whipple File Company for a salesman. Pratt says he went down to the store, and after a long talk, during which his extreme youth was painfully put before him, was engaged at a salary of \$200 a year. Pratt said he could sell the goods and started out. He soon forgot the names of all the files, and had been all over his territory, except Springfield, where he received a telegram to come home. He paid no attention to it, and finally sold the United States army a bill of \$2,000. After the bill was made out Pratt took the train to a systematic round of all the hardware stores, securing good orders. The meantime he received another telegram directing him home, but he ignored it, and he ordered and went to Providence, where he had another phenomenal success. The same luck followed him at Holyoke. On his return to Boston he was met at the door by his "boss," who remarked in a sarcastic tone of voice, "I suppose you sold the Springfield army. Go up stairs and get your money."

"Of course I sold the army," replied Pratt. The man looked at him in amazement, and continued, "Well, go on and settle your account."

"I am going," replied Pratt, "if you will let me."

When the orders were piled upon the desk, the man asked Pratt why the \$5,000 was so dirty.

"Why I showed it to every man I dealt with," replied Pratt.

Pratt got his money and left the store, but the assistance of his former friend, Mr. Bangs, was called for.

"If I will get you a raise to \$1,000 you give me \$200," said Bangs.

"You bet I will," replied Pratt. Bangs then got out in the country, and arranged the people connected with the store.

"What We Say We Do, We Do Do."

Springtime Carpet and Curtain Sale.

Interesting prices—Stop in STANDARD FURNITURE CO. (Inc.)

1012-10 First Ave. Step above Madison.

What We Say We Do, We Do Do.

5,000 Feet of Garden Hose at 4c per Foot.

5,000 Feet at 7c per Foot.

Z. C. Miles Co.

Yesler Way, Just Below First Ave. A. L. PIPER, Receiver.

Whipple File Company commenced looking around for the younger who had had phenomenal success. They went to Bangs, who said that the American File Company was after his services. This put the Whipple people on their mettle and they agreed to give Pratt \$1,500 a year. Bangs brought Pratt to the city and got \$200 for his services.

Pratt worked for the company several years, finally leaving to work for a tea and coffee firm that had a small store and office in Seattle. He got \$100 from this firm. After while he got a raise to \$2,000 from Zhepps, the tea and coffee dealer. He eventually came to Seattle several years ago and settled down. He says he is the greatest place on earth, and that he would be all right if the woman with whom he ran away had not thrown him down. He insists that he is not insane and that he can make a big fortune out of vermin oil if given a chance. He says he intends to open a restaurant on Pike street. The front window is to be display vermin oil. In the back part he will have a counter where he will serve beetroot, coffee and wine for 5 cents to each purchaser of a bottle of vermin oil.

THE THEATER CASE. Judge Moore Denies a Petition From Mr. Baker.

The case of William M. Russell vs. the Seattle Amusement Company and Charles H. Baker, as receiver of the Merchants' National bank, came before Judge Moore yesterday for hearing on the appointment of a receiver to take charge of the theater property. Mr. Russell was present with his attorneys, and Mr. Baker was present with his, and a big array of lawyers.

Respectively, Baker appeared with a motion to have the case transferred to the United States court for this district, where, as is already known, he has filed a writ of habeas corpus, and is fighting the argument and authorities on both sides. Judge Moore denied Mr. Baker's petition.

All the parties in interest, clients and counsel, then withdrew to a secluded corner in the corridor outside the court room and held a protracted conference, the result of which was an agreement to draw up a stipulation for continuance of the case from day to day. Up to a late hour yesterday evening the stipulation had not been filed; but Judge Moore entered an order to take charge of the theater property for the appointment of a receiver in this cause to be continued from day to day, pursuant to a stipulation of the parties, to be filed.

Thus the only action taken in the case yesterday was negative in character, and the case remains practically where it was, with a pending conflict of jurisdiction between the state and Federal courts.

BRACKETT AND ESTERBROOK. They Plead Not Guilty of Forgery and Larceny.

James Brackett appeared in the criminal department of the superior court in answer to the charge of forgery in connection with the road and bridge fund warrants. It was not expected that the day would bring forth any further proceedings than the simple entering of the defendant's plea. When asked whether he was ready to plead to the charge, after the information presented by Deputy Prosecutor Hart had been read, Brackett's counsel, W. R. Gay, stated that his client was ready to plead, provided the court would allow him the privilege of making a statement. The information was read, and the defendant's plea was entered. One other criminal case was also called, the state against H. C. Esterbrook, charged with grand larceny. The case had been set for Wednesday, but Esterbrook having asked for further time to plead, he was given until yesterday, when he entered a formal plea of not guilty.

Indian Lovers. An odd couple stood before the little arch window in the county auditor's office yesterday, whence marriage licenses are issued. They were Indians from the Yakima reservation. The man was 40 years old, and his form and visage had little of the comeliness and vigor that James Fenimore Cooper has portrayed among the Redskins. His bride, on the other hand, was a young girl, whose complexion hardly admitted of a blush, confessed to the maidenly age of 16. Neither of the twain could speak or write a word of English, but they had a friendly interpreter along to make known the object of their visit. When he came to witness the instrument, however, he in turn was compelled to admit that he could not write his name. Nevertheless, he made his mark, and one of the employees in the office accommodately witnessed the signature.

The Kraus Murder Case. The Kraus murder case is set for trial in the superior court on next Monday. Yesterday Capt. P. D. Hughes, counsel for Kraus, was agreeably surprised by a visit from the state's attorney, who in his office and volunteered to testify to Kraus' good character. "All three of the men," said Capt. Hughes, "live up the White river valley, and they all know Kraus well. In fact, he has worked by turns for all three of them. They were not solicited to come, but of their own accord, hearing that the case was set for Monday, they came to my office yesterday and said that they would gladly testify to Kraus' general good character, and to the fact that he was a peaceable and hard-working man. They will be put on the stand."

The Petition Denied. In the case of Eldy & Webster vs. L. A. Treen & Co., involving the receivership for the latter firm, the petition of L. A. Treen & Co. for the removal of Charles G. Scott as receiver was denied yesterday by Judge Benson. The particulars of the case, with the various affidavits filed on each side, have already been reported.

Kelloog-Scheuerman Case. When the testimony for the plaintiff was closed yesterday in the Kelloog-Scheuerman damage suit, the defendant entered a motion for non-suit, which was denied by Judge Benson. The defense started with its long list of twentysix witnesses, and although the court sat late, the case had to go over till today.

Marriage Licenses. Licenses to wed were issued yesterday for John George and Mary Chalmers, both of the Madison Indian reservation; Chauncey E. Beach and Rebie A. Kerr, both of Auburn, Wash.; Matthew Downes and Laura Marguerite Spicer, both of Seattle.

New Suits Filed. The following new suits were filed yesterday in the superior court: Nancy M. Bogart vs. William P. Stanley et al.—Promissory note, \$100,000, and foreclosure. F. H. Hinckley vs. Mary C. Kemp—Promissory notes, \$12,000, interest, \$48.00, and the attorney's fee of 10 per cent, and foreclosure on block 23, Maynard's plat. A. C. Anderson et al. vs. John Martin et al.—Recovery of personal property or \$50 as equivalent. Ira W. Hicks vs. Alexander McAllister—Recovery of personal property, or \$50 as equivalent, and \$50 damages by unlawful detainer.

Court Notes. Dr. W. C. Emmons was yesterday appointed administrator, with will annexed, of the estate of James Conley, the administratorship having been vacated by removal.

The suit of A. V. Gopfert vs. J. Morgan was dismissed from the superior court. Default was taken yesterday in the divorce suit of Louisa Cooke against James T. Cooke. Default was taken yesterday in the case of Nancy M. Bogart vs. William P. Stanley et al. Judge Jacobs yesterday signed default in the divorce suit of Mary Cohen against George Cohen. In the case of F. M. Benjamin vs. Norman A. Briggs, default was taken yesterday against all the defendants. Sheriff Meyer returned yesterday from his trip to Walla, where he went to carry four prisoners to the penitentiary. Sarah M. Lodge has judgment for \$15 and 80 cents attorney's fee against J. Willis Price, on a \$100 promissory note of November 20, 1901. Formal judgment upon verdict was signed by Judge Jacobs yesterday for \$10,000 in favor of Ella Hay against the Oregon Improvement Company. Articles of incorporation were filed yesterday for the Argus Gold Mining Company; capital stock, \$100,000, in 8 shares; trustees, T. Ambrose, Lee DeVries and Harry Payne. Judge Jacobs has returned from his exchange of benches with Judge Ayer, and occupied his usual position in the department of the King county superior court yesterday. Orders concerning sheriff's sale of real estate were signed yesterday in the following cases: Margaret Hollenbeck vs. Louisa Deane and J. B. Digham vs. B. M. Laney et al. The Robbins divorce case took up a good part of the afternoon in the criminal department. Judgment was rendered in the case of Margaret Hollenbeck vs. Louisa Deane and J. B. Digham vs. B. M. Laney et al. The Robbins divorce case took up a good part of the afternoon in the criminal department. Judgment was rendered in the case of Margaret Hollenbeck vs. Louisa Deane and J. B. Digham vs. B. M. Laney et al.

Art League Reception Today. From 2 to 6 o'clock this afternoon the studio and art gallery of the Seattle Art League and School of Design will be open to the public, and all are cordially invited to call and see the work of members, including the loan exhibit, to which several new paintings have been added. Spring is full of terrors to all whose constitution is not adapted to the sudden changes of temperature and other insalubrities of the season. To put the system in condition to overcome these evils, nothing is so effective as Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Take it now.

The Northern Pacific time card will change on April 25, and the second train for Spokane, Rosland and the East will leave Seattle daily at 4 p. m., and the Portland train at 9:50 a. m. Dr. Strilbeck has resumed practice. Hinckley building. Elegant offices for rent low. Sullivan building.

OPEN THEIR PURSES.

THE SEATTLE Y. M. C. A. FUND NEARS THE \$1,000 MARK.

An Old Member of the Association, Now Living in Walla Walla, Sends in a Subscription with a Feeling Letter—The First Return From the Contest Between the Blankites and the Calhounites—Total to Date, \$737.

It would be hard to find an institution which better deserves the support of Seattle people than the local Y. M. C. A. The incentive and opportunity it gives to its members in the most practical way alone make it of great value to the business interests of the city, which will soon be depending upon the young men who are working hard every day and spending their evenings in the business college in which the Y. M. C. A. gives to its members free tuition for three months every year.

As most of those who take advantage of this privilege are working hard during the day at small wages, it will be seen that they probably would not prosecute their studies except for the help given them by the Y. M. C. A. The fact that the association is doing such good work in this direction, and in many others outside of athletics, disproves the statement sometimes erroneously made by the Y. M. C. A. is more of an athletic organization than anything else. The directors urge that while the physical branch of the association has done well, it has only been incidental to the legitimate work of the association, and that while they intend to keep that branch of the work up to its present high standard, they will also push every other branch of the work forward and make their building the most congenial and most helpful place for young men that can be found on the Pacific coast.

To those who have watched its advance during the past two years it would seem that it is already pretty near that mark. The first return from the contest between the Calhounites and the Blankites, as to which side shall raise the largest amount in small subscriptions came in yesterday when John Moran, the young son of Robert Moran, turned in a card showing his subscription for \$100, amounting in all to \$2, and asked for a new one. Like his father, he is a worker and will be heard from again. Quite a number of other cards have been received, but no other cards have as yet been turned in filled out entirely.

Moran is a Calhounite, so is Calhoun forever, win the contest or lose it. The Post-Intelligencer has received a letter of which the following is a copy, from J. E. Thomas, of Walla Walla, which shows that young men once members of the Seattle Y. M. C. A. do not forget it when time and distance separate them from it.

Enclosed please find Seattle draft for \$5 for the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. \$2.50 I, I deeply regret to learn of the association's straits and want to add my humble contribution to help dispel the gloom.

During my residence of four years in Seattle the association proved a friend to me more than once. When in health the boys helped me, and when sick they visited me. God bless the Seattle Y. M. C. A. Total previously received.....\$680.00 Received by John Moran.....2.00 William H. Lewis.....1.00 Perry Polson.....1.00 J. E. Thomas.....1.50 Total.....\$737.50

A CHARITABLE VIEW.

Land Office Protects the Rights of an Entryman Who Had Met With Much Misfortune.

In the land office there are many records of poverty and misfortune, stories of miserable lives bound up in legal entanglements. These records bear witness in numerous instances to the humanity of the officers of the land department, and charitable considerations often outweigh those of strict legality.

Such a record is that received yesterday at the local land office. It is a declaration from Acting Commissioner Best, that the contest against William Smith against Charles W. Weston. Weston made a homestead entry of eighty acres and three lots on the Skagit river, in November, 1901. In the fall of that year Weston lost by fire everything he possessed. He was encumbered with a sick wife, who was for a great part of the time confined to her bed. Her condition was such that she could not go to live on the land entered by her husband. In January, 1902, Weston went to the land to make the improvements required by an acre for a garden, in which he planted potatoes. In July he returned once more, Weston was a laboring man, depending on his daily wages to support himself and wife. He was trying to make a home for himself and family.

It was in July, 1902, that William Smith filed a corroborated affidavit of contest, alleging that Weston had never made settlements on the land, but had never made his residence thereon for more than six months; that the tract was not settled upon and cultivated by Weston as required by law; that Weston was a married man, and that neither he nor his family had ever resided on the land.

The local land officers recommended, after a hearing of the case, that the contest be dismissed, saying: "Weston has acted in good faith so far, and his misfortunes of poverty and his wife's sickness have prevented his full compliance with the law."

The general land office has sustained this decision. The acting commissioner says in his decision: "I think that in this case the adverse party sticks to his wife and his losses by fire after making his entry may be received as an excuse for Weston's failure to establish his residence on the tract; that he has made improvements thereon, and his apparent good faith in making the entry for a home."

Papers were also received yesterday from the acting commissioner canceling the homestead entry of R. Paul Griebel on the Great Northern for Washington.

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair, Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair, DR. CREAM. Most Perfect Made. 25 Years the Standard.

ington. At St. Paul the party, which also includes two guards, will take the Northwestern to Chicago, and from Chicago will travel over the Pennsylvania lines to Washington.

WANTS JORDAN TO GO.

The Government Asks Him to Again Visit the Seal Islands. Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford university, will probably make another trip to Alaska this season to report on the fur seals of the Pribilof islands for the government. A recent issue of the San Francisco Chronicle said: "The government is now looking with anxious eyes upon the fur seals of the Pribilof islands. It wants Dr. David Starr Jordan to make another trip to the islands, and so earnest is its desire that one of its big men, Charles S. Hamlin, secretary of the treasury under the Cleveland administration, came last week to Washington to ask Dr. Jordan to repeat his excursion of last year. Mr. Hamlin arrived last evening, and Dr. Jordan came from Palo Alto to meet him.

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"I shall be in San Francisco for a few days on the business of my journey hither, Mr. Hamlin said last evening. "I shall be in San Francisco for a few days on the business of my journey hither, Mr. Hamlin said last evening. "I shall be in San Francisco for a few days on the business of my journey hither, Mr. Hamlin said last evening.

Arbor Day in Seattle. Arbor day will be observed in Seattle by the closing of the schools and by a general holiday in the city hall and banks. There will be exercises in the various schools throughout the city, and at the Central Park, where a number of private families will also observe the day by planting trees and otherwise beautifying their homes. The holiday, though, is essentially for the young, and such as is usually given over to them.

Arbor Day at St. Mark's Church. Arbor day will be celebrated this afternoon by the planting of trees and shrubs on the grounds of the new St. Mark's church, nearly the intersection of Madison and Broadway. Different members of the parish will plant favorite trees, while others will bring ivy and vines. The ceremonies will close with a service at 4:30. All friends are invited.

University Notes. The work of the university, by order of President Hamilton, will be suspended for today on account of Arbor day exercises. Most of the classes at the university have finished their texts and are awaiting the final examinations.

The bar oratorical contest, which is soon to take place, will have as speakers from the university the intersection of Madison and Broadway. Different members of the parish will plant favorite trees, while others will bring ivy and vines. The ceremonies will close with a service at 4:30. All friends are invited.

The freshmen class held a meeting Wednesday. This was a kind of indignation meeting, since they had no representation in the meeting of the committee who had determined the standing of those students who enter the class during the week.

Besides Dr. Hamilton's interesting lecture on Tuesday, there was another address delivered yesterday by Rev. E. M. Randall, of the First M. E. church. Dr. Randall talked during the noon hour and the afternoon, and his address was well received by the audience.

Rev. Percy Webber Coming. After a series of very successful missions in California the noted "missionary" of the Episcopal church, Rev. Percy Webber, is returning East via Puget sound. He will stop two days in Everett, Wednesday and Thursday, May 5 and 6, and hold special services in the new St. Mark's church.

Archdeacon Webber is well known throughout the country as a preacher of remarkable power, and his work as a missionary has resulted in much good for the church where he has gone. During his recent mission in the large churches in San Francisco, the attendance taxing the capacity of the churches. His services at St. Mark's will attract people of all denominations, and the public is cordially invited. The chief services of interest to the public will be at 10:30 and 4 o'clock, with celebration of the Communion Thursday at 7:30 o'clock.

The Leading Malt Extract. Multi-Nutritive is the only really great Extract of Malt offered on the market, all other so-called extracts being nothing better than strong black beer with a large percentage of Alcohol and a very small one of extractive matter. Such extracts cannot be given or recommended to convalescents or strength-seeking people, since their merits are all on the label and not in the bottle.

To Water Consumers. The superintendent of lighting and water works desires to call the attention of all water consumers to the official notices now being published in the Post-Intelligencer under "City Notices." Read the notice carefully and give special attention to the boundaries of districts, and the hours allowed for sprinkling, that you may be assured your water supply will not be turned off. L. B. Youngs, Superintendent.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 29.—Claus Spreckels says he believes the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty will be abrogated.

One Enjoys SYRUP OF FIGS To get its beneficial effects, buy the genuine. Manufactured by CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.

DEARBORN PRINTER COLUNS BUILDING

The Argonaut. In consideration of the fact that the Argonaut is the only newspaper published west of New York, and that it is the only one of its kind, it is hereby notified that the Argonaut is the only newspaper published west of New York, and that it is the only one of its kind.

THE RAINIER-GRAND HOTEL. Del. HARRAUGH, Prop. The Only Strictly First-Class Hotel in Seattle. Located on First Ave., Between Madison and Marion.



Beautiful eyes grow dull and dim As the swift years steal away. Beautiful, willowy forms so slim Lose fairness with every day. But she still is queen and bath charms to spare Who wears youth's coronal—beautiful hair.

Preserve Your Hair and you preserve your youth. "A woman is as old as she looks," says the world. No woman looks as old as she is if her hair has preserved its normal beauty. You can keep hair from falling out, restoring its normal color, or restore the normal color to gray or faded hair, by the use of

Ayer's Hair Vigor.

SPokane Falls & Northern, Nelson & Fort Sheppard, Red Mountain Railways.

The only all rail route without change of cars between Spokane, Rosland and Nelson. Also between Nelson and Rosland. DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.

NEW SHORT LINE TO OMAHA

New Whatcom Morning Train

DAULTON, CARLE & CO., 1123 First Avenue.

CARPETS

Special Sale on Baby Carriages for Thirty Days. INSTALLMENTS.

CITY OF PARIS

Dimities and Organdies.

GREAT SPECIAL SALE TODAY.

Prices on These Popular Fabrics For Today Only.

A cheap Dimity Lawn, worth 6c, today 3c a yard.

35 pieces Fancy Dimities, all new and pretty designs, worth 10c, today 5c a yard.

20 pieces Fine Large Figured Dimities, in all new colorings, worth 12 1/2c, today 9c a yard.

13 pieces Light Organdies, large and small designs, sold by us for 20c a yard, today 12 1/2c a yard.

25 pieces new Lappet Mulls, fancy designs, in dark and light colors, regular price 25c, for today only 12 1/2c a yard.



If you expect to pay your merchant tailor \$30 or \$40 for your Spring Suit, come here and let us show you how easy you can save just one-half the purchase price.

We don't make to order, but we make to fit.

Best Suits \$18 to \$25—good suits as low as \$8.50.

If not satisfactory you get your money back.

The MacDougall & Southwick Co.

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