

# TO CALL VICTIMS AS BLACKMAIL WITNESSES



**AUSTIN E. GRIFFITHS SAYS:**—"The first thing I shall do as mayor is to fire Chief Lang."  
 "Mr. Gill says there is no great issue between himself and myself."  
 There is a vital difference. I stand for the enforcement of public morality and decency. GILL DOES NOT."  
 "No man can be a good chief of police depending upon a salary under Gill without the danger of yielding to the risk of a penitentiary term."  
 "When I was at the head of the police department, we had the vice and gambling situation under control. Now it is running riot."  
 "Taxes have climbed up when Gill controlled the city council. They have climbed up when he was mayor. He is the original 'high tax' man, and we're still paying for his extravagances and blunders."

## Read How Wyoming Prepares Her Boys

The Star's correspondent tells, in his last article today on the "Wyoming plan," on page 3, how girls cheer volunteer high school cadet corps to greater effort.

# The Seattle Star

THE ONLY PAPER IN SEATTLE THAT DARES TO PRINT THE NEWS

VOLUME 18 SEATTLE, WASH., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1916.

ONE CENT ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS.

## NIGHT EDITION

# PRESIDENT INSISTS HONOR OF NATION IS INVOLVED IN DISPUTE

## Bandits Who Held Up Northern Pacific Train Are Believed to Be in Seattle

### DOGS ARE LOOSED ON THE SCENE

Hurriedly Organized Poses Find No Trace of Robbers

### MAIL POUCHES ROBBED

**DESCRIPTION OF BANDITS**  
 Both men wore long khaki overcoats and masks of the same color. Both had black slouch hats.  
 One, apparently the leader, had a husky voice. Weight, 150 pounds; height, 5 feet, 6 inches.  
 The other weighs 185 pounds and is about 5 feet, 11 inches tall. Blood was running from a long scratch on his left hand when he was last seen.

Two masked bandits who held up and robbed the east-bound North Coast Limited on the Northern Pacific, near Covington, 10 miles east of Auburn, Thursday night, looting registered mail pouches, dynamiting the baggage car safe and firing several shots at the train crew, are thought to have escaped in an automobile to Seattle.

This is indicated Friday in the reports of the train crew, who say that a few minutes after the robbers fled into the forest an automobile was seen scorching away, headed toward this city.

Bloodhounds are being used at the scene of the robbery in an attempt to trace their movements.

Police detectives and sheriff's posse, scouring the city and watching all avenues of escape near the scene of crime, had reported no success up to a late hour Friday.

**Mail Pouches Riffled**  
 Four registered mail pouches, containing valuable matter from the Orient, were slit and rifled.

That may be all the robbers got. They bungled the attempt to crack the baggage car safe. They overlooked considerable currency in the express messenger's stall.

**They Got Rich Loot**  
 More than \$6,000 in negotiable paper and registered mail sent from Tacoma alone was obtained by the bandits. It was learned here today.

Dr. D. H. Bell told the postoffice officials that in one of the sacks of mail taken was \$4,600 worth of negotiable certificates of deposit that he had sent to a bank at Kenmore, N. D.

The exact amount stolen will not be definitely known until government inspectors at Spokane go through the rifled sacks.

According to Engineer H. A. Moore, of 2427 Fifth ave. W., who made a complete report to Supt. J. E. Craver, of the Northern Pacific, the two men boarded the blind baggage at Seattle, at 7:15.

**Kicked Off a Youth**  
 At Auburn the two men kicked off a youth who attempted to steal a ride, and a few miles farther on, climbed over the tender, their masks pulled down over their faces and revolvers in hand.

"One of them covered me," said

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### CITY LINKS READY

Get out the oil' bag and dust off your golf sticks.  
 The municipal links on Beacon hill will be ready for play Saturday morning, after having been closed since the recent snowstorm. The course is reported in good condition.

From one family in France 72 men enlisted.

### SPEED! SPEED! Our Middle Name



IT'S speed we want these days. Every day is our busy day. "Action! Action!" is the cry. Man travels in the high gear. "Be brief!" says the sign on the business man's desk.  
 He talks with an associate in New York over the long distance, sends a night letter by cable to an agent in Calcutta, dictates his letters to a non-gum-chewing, non-gossiping, non-flirting dictagraph, and takes his drama in tabloid form at the movies.  
 Ginger up, everybody! Time is money!  
 Time was when folks, who called themselves busy, could buy a \$1.50 novel and read it from cover to cover. That time is gone.

The Star is bound to be in the movement, whatever it is. That's why we are giving our readers Monday-to-Saturday fiction. Are you reading "The Rose Garden Husband"? IF YOU THINK "THE ROSE GARDEN HUSBAND" GOOD, JUST WAIT FOR "THE RED EMERALD," NEXT WEEK.

The fine thing about these Monday-to-Saturday stories is that you can get as much good as you want for you in 15 minutes each evening. You don't have to wait until next week or next month for the next installment. You start a story Monday and finish it Saturday.

Then, too, these stories are a remarkably fine collection—every one a jewel of its kind—every line good, clean, wholesome fiction—fresh from the pen of the world's best writers.

And you get these stories, which would cost \$1.50 in book form, as part and parcel of your daily Star.

So, speed up! Hurry up! Call up Main 9400 and ask for the Circulation Department. A brisk young man will be glad to take your subscription.

**TODAY TIDES AT SEATTLE**  
 High 8:12 a. m., 13.5 ft. 2:34 a. m., 8.2 ft.  
 Low 1:46 p. m., 11.4 ft. 7:35 p. m., 2.3 ft.

## POLICE MAKE A BELATED EFFORT TO CLEAN UP CITY

Five alleged disorderly women were booked at police headquarters Thursday.

Membership in the police "purity squad" has been increased from three officers to 11, and reports are current that a belated effort is being made by the Gill-Lang administration to clean up all outward signs of immorality.

Before the primaries the "purity squad" was under the direction of Sgt. Fred Smart, assisted by Officers Albert Johnson, M. Borshelm and A. McNulty.

The squad was brought up to "war strength" by the sudden addition of Sgt. Frank Melvin, J. R. Cox, F. M. Myers and H. C. Smith about three days ago.

Wednesday another reinforcement was put thru, in which Officers H. D. Kinesey, C. B. Peterson and J. B. Osser are said to have been assigned to the purity squad.

### PICTURES ARE TO BE EVIDENCE

Prosecutor Says He's Going to Introduce Them in Court

### MANY MEN MARRIED

Assurance that all the wealthy alleged victims of the Seattle "badger" gang will be called as witnesses when the case against Louis P. Sichert, Mrs. Isabel Clayburg and Miss Lillian Peterson comes to trial here, was given by Prosecutor Lundin Friday.

A new complaint against the two women and Sichert was to be filed in superior court by the prosecutor Friday, in which the charge is changed to "conspiracy to blackmail Samuel I. Silverman, a wealthy mining promoter, and others, between April 1, 1914, and April 1, 1915."

**Hold Photos as Evidence**  
 "Mrs. Clayburg will be extradited on that charge," said Lundin, "as well as Miss Peterson, if she is apprehended."

The former is under arrest in Los Angeles and Miss Peterson is said to be in hiding in that city.

Photographs of victims, all of whom are wealthy and prominent, will be used as evidence. The pictures show them in compromising situations with the "badger" syndicate's "sirens."

Sheriff Hodge said he has been approached during the last two days, since The Star published the first exclusive story of the syndicate's operations, by many wealthy and influential men who wished to learn if they had been named as victims in the confession of Mrs. Sichert, a former member of the "badgers."

### CONFIRM FLETCHER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The nomination of Henry P. Fletcher to be ambassador to Mexico was confirmed by the senate today.

Led by every business man in town, practically all the residents of Byers, Kan., have signed the pledge for one year.

**WEATHER FORECAST**  
 Fair tonight and Saturday.

## A MOTHER VISITS 'BELOW THE LINE'

She Tells Other Seattle Mothers What She Found; Denizens of "District" Say They Don't Want Griffiths for Mayor; Men and Women Buy Liquor Freely; Policemen, She Says, Admit Conditions Are "Rotten"

ONE little woman, prompted by mother-love and an exceptional sense of civic responsibility, has thrown herself into the whirl of Seattle's political fight.



Mrs. Remington Charter

—and not simply for one man.

"I put on my coat and hat and started out. Years of experience as a newspaper writer gave me confidence.

"I went up dim stairways.

"I knocked at doors that were opened slightly, while tired-looking women looked out, amazed to see me there.

"I stepped into dozens of rooms, and talked simply and directly to the victims of the system.

"THE OPPOSITION TO GRIFFITHS THAT I FOUND DOWN THERE WAS WHAT TURNED ME TOWARD HIM.

"I FOUND THAT THE WOMEN IN THE HOUSES OF SHAME, AND THE SLUGGISH MEN ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, HAD BEEN WARNED THAT IF GRIFFITHS WAS ELECTED HE WOULD CLAMP THE LID DOWN ON THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

"TIGHTER THAN HELL," WAS THE WAY THOSE WOMEN EXPRESSED IT."

Mrs. Charter leaned forward.

"It is silly for any one to say that vice is not a disease in Seattle today. There are dozens of houses filled with girls and women. There is suffering and disease as a result of it. And there is gambling.

"AFTER I HAD GATHERED PAGE AFTER PAGE OF NOTES, I WENT TO TWO POLICE OFFICERS AND TALKED THE SITUATION OVER WITH THEM. BOTH OFFICERS WERE SYMPATHETIC WITH MR. GRIFFITHS' IDEAS. BOTH OF THEM OPENLY ADMITTED THE SITUATION IS ROTTEN.

"I had found out, and these officers admitted it, that the 'district' is widely distributed. I found out that both women and men can get liquor almost anywhere.

"One of them said to me: 'The old Wapenstein chain has never been broken. It has been altered here and there, mostly for the purpose of strengthening it. We have added one commandment—and only one. It is, DON'T GET CAUGHT.'

"That man was perfectly sincere and clean. He didn't know then that I was interested in the Griffiths ideas."

Mrs. Charter has a keen, broad viewpoint toward the pending struggle between Griffiths and Gill.

"This fight, to me," she says, "is more than a conflict between two men. It is the struggle between two conflicting ideas that have a lot to do with the women of the community that I am interested in.

"I don't believe that Hi Gill and Austin E. Griffiths could ever look at the same problem in the same way. And I believe that the big, broad, advanced Griffiths viewpoint is the better for woman-kind.

Alone, she started out a month ago to learn at first hand conditions as they existed in the city under Hi Gill. Now she is using every bit of energy and brains at her command to help elect Austin E. Griffiths as mayor.

Mrs. Remington Charter, magazine writer, traveler, lecturer, was not content to sit smugly back and believe what the women in her neighborhood thought about politics.

She had come to Seattle from New York a year ago, with her two daughters, in search of health and happiness.

She had heard much of Hi Gill.

She had heard of Austin E. Griffiths.

She believed a mother was partly responsible for any existing system as long as she failed to inform herself and failed to vote accordingly.

She believed that she owed it to her two daughters, in Broadway high school, to take part in the fight.

"I have been convinced all my life that the welfare of women is only safe in a clean city," she said. So, you see, I am fighting for women

### GERMAN REPLY WILL ASK U. S. TO DEFINE SIZE OF GUNS FOR MERCHANTMEN DEFENSE, REPORT

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Germany's reply to the American message, Foreign Secretary Jagow asks what size gun merchantman decree, now en route to Washington, asks the United States to define defensive armaments, according to an unconfirmed Amsterdam message today.

The reply should reach Washington within a few days. Officials here take the reported German query as indicating that Germany does not want a break with America, and is preparing to yield.

According to the Amsterdam message, Foreign Secretary Jagow asks what size gun merchantman decree, now en route to Washington, asks the United States to define defensive armaments, according to an unconfirmed Amsterdam message today.

It is believed the query is intended to prolong negotiations between the two nations until the excitement in Germany and America over the decree subsides. Then, it is presumed, Germany will find a graceful way to extricate herself from an awkward position.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Arguments of house conferees on the German situation failed to swerve President Wilson today from his stand that the German armed merchantman decree transgresses international law, and Americans ought not to be warned from such vessels.

After nearly an hour's session with Speaker Clark, Majority Leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the house foreign committee, there was still a disagreement between the president and congress as to the decree.

The upshot of the session, however, was no action to be taken by congress today, at least.

President Wilson emphatically told the conferees that he would not budge from his plan of insisting that Germany recognize every American right.

Just as positively, Speaker Clark replied that the house is overwhelmingly in favor of issuing a warning to Americans to stay off threatened vessels.

Following the conference, session of the cabinet was scheduled to consider the German problem.

Senator Stone's letter to Wilson announcing his view that a warning should be issued to Americans not to travel on armed merchantmen elicited another letter from the president, in which he adhered to the decision that, while he would try to maintain peace, he would do so only if the honor of America was upheld.

The Stone letter followed a reported disagreement between him and the president in their Monday night conference.

Speaker Clark said, after the conference: "There is a rumor that the Germans will postpone operation of

The president's and Senator Stone's letters are to be found under a separate heading today on page 6.

their decree until the middle of March or the first of April. I am just guessing at this, but if it is true, it will give more time for consideration. If they postpone it, I think the whole matter, as far as the house is concerned, will remain in statu quo.

"The sum and substance of the conference, outside of explaining the temper of the house, and much arguing on both sides, is that the situation is fully set out in the two letters of President Wilson and Senator Stone. We explained how the house feels. We told the president that a warning would carry in the house by two to one, if it came to a vote. Some say it would carry by three to one."

Stone disposed of discussion of either the Jones or Gore measures

by insisting upon tabling them for a day.

Tension marked the senate proceedings and Stone twice refused to allow unanimous consent to discussion of Bridge bills, fearing the talk might veer to the international situation.

Jones Introduces Bill  
 Immediately upon the convening of the senate today, Senator Gore introduced his bill making it illegal for Americans to travel upon armed vessels during the war, and a resolution providing for a warning to them to refrain from such travel.

### WORKERS WANTED IN GRIFFITHS CAMPAIGN

Volunteers are wanted to aid the campaign of Austin E. Griffiths for mayor. If you can spare any time to do work in your own neighborhood, call up the Griffiths headquarters, 362 Empire building, Second ave., and Madison st., telephone Elliott 2319.

Women as well as men are wanted.

The women's campaign committee meets every day at noon at the Good Eats cafeteria, and invites all women to be present.

## RIVAL CANDIDATES BOTH PLAN SATURDAY MEETINGS

Mrs. Remington Charter, magazine writer, who made a personal investigation of the underworld district now in existence in Seattle, will be the chief speaker Saturday at the Hippodrome theatre from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m.

She will make two speeches, the first beginning at 11 o'clock, the second at noon.

As soon as the plans for this meeting became known, the campaign committee for Hi Gill got busy, and an opposition meeting was arranged at the Liberty theatre, to be addressed by Mayor Gill Saturday at 12:15.

Gill also will speak before

the German-American Republican club in the evening with other candidates. Several meetings are being arranged for Griffiths by his committee.

Gill headquarters have been secured in the Mutual Life building, Second ave., and Madison st., telephone Elliott 70.

Griffiths headquarters have been opened at 362 Empire building. The telephone number is Elliott 2319.

On page 4 of The Star today, the leading editorial is entitled: "That's Gratitude." It's well worth your while to read it.