

# WHOLE FAMILY MURDERED

## The Tacoma Times

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN TACOMA.

HOME EDITION



WEATHER FORECAST  
For Tacoma: Fair tonight and Tuesday. Cooler tonight.  
For Washington: Fair tonight and Tuesday. Cooler tonight except the coast.

A French investigator has given Julius Caesar the credit for being one of the earliest and most earnest opponents of race suicide.

30c A MONTH

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MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1915.

### DR. BROWN TESTIFIES FOR MRS. DIFFLEY

Four male members of the Diffley jury spent the time between breakfast and court this morning playing seven-up. Seated about a small square table in their bed chamber, the men who are this week to decide the fate of a woman charged with murder, laughed and joked as they slapped the "pasteboards" eagerly against the board. Others read current magazines and still others brushed their clothes.

Could a strong, healthy boy of four-and-a-half years inadvertently in play inflict injuries sufficient to cause the death of a physically weak lad of three-and-a-half years? "Yes. It is quite possible." "If an ax wielded by a strong adult woman struck the head of a small boy, three-and-a-half years old, what would be the result?" "Among other things I should expect to find the skin of the scalp crushed and the skull cracked. If the ax was wielded with any degree of force." Dr. Brown Testifies.

These questions and answers opened the testimony of Dr. E. M. Brown, Tacoma physician and surgeon, for the Bertha Diffley defense this morning. Other testimony given by Dr. Brown tended to discredit that of Drs. James and Stewart for the state. He said the fact that Clarence Hall fell frequently, and always to the left, would indicate that the lad was suffering from a diseased condition of the brain, possibly epilepsy.

He also declared that a fall from a trunk might easily result in death, particularly if the person's head struck some object on the floor.

Blood Impoverished. A general weakened condition of the boy's body would make death come more easily, he said. From reading the coroner's report on the autopsy he added he should judge Clarence was suffering from an impoverished condition of the blood, which would prevent anything other than a slow healing of bruises.

Mrs. Diffley was first on the witness stand this morning. She admitted she had told Hall she was sorry she had whipped Clarence and has asked the father's forgiveness. She declared she was in no fear of trouble until neighbors became agitated and told her they thought she would be arrested and advised her to get out of town.

### ENGLAND HEMS IN KAISER

LONDON, March 15.—By an order in council issued today, Great Britain has declared a blockade of the whole North sea coast of Germany, although the term "blockade" was not specifically used in the declaration.

The order lays certain drastic restrictions on neutral commerce, drawing about Germany the "iron ring of England," which the government planned some weeks ago. This order is designed to prevent the exportation and importation of any commodities to or from Germany through Holland and Scandinavian countries.

Frenchman Rescued. FALMOUTH, Eng., March 15.—The Danish steamer Excellence Ploek has arrived here with the 28 men of the crew from the French steamer Auguste Consell, which was destroyed by the German submarine U-29, near Devon, England, Thursday afternoon.

## PEOPLE WILL USE THEIR RIGHT TO VETO

Maybe, after all, the street car concerns, the downright crooked newspapers and the reactionary legislature will not be able to deliver the state, all its possessions and all its people over to the special interest group and the old political gang.

They have it partly done and will complete the job UNLESS THE PEOPLE USE THE REFERENDUM.

But the people ARE going to use the referendum. They are going to use it on all the vital measures, for which it was intended, and ignore the trivial.

They must use it on the bill "to facilitate" (i. e. destroy) the initiative and referendum. THEY DO NOT NEED TO USE IT ON THE BILL TO "FACILITATE" THE RECALL. THAT LAW ALREADY IS DEAD. KING COUNTY AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES "FACILITATED" IT TO DEATH LAST SUMMER BY READING INTO IT SOME IDEAS UNDREAMED OF BEFORE.

The perfidious jitney bill, of course, will be one of the main ones for the referendum. It aims, not at regulation of the auto buses, but at their complete abolition. Senate bill 301, the "certificate of necessity" pet of Stone & Webster, must be killed. IT AND THE JITNEY MEASURE, IF ALLOWED TO STAND, WOULD FASTEN THE TRACTION

MONOPOLY 20 TIMES TIGHTER ON OUR BACKS THAN AT PRESENT.

The Renick bill prohibiting the city of Tacoma from borrowing idle money in one fund for temporary use in another, and thus requiring the city continually to run to the banks for short time loans at high interest, will also probably be swatted.

Corporation Counsel Bradford, one of Seattle's most alert officials, declares the so-called budget bill is a sister of the Renick measure, and likewise should be vetoed by the people. He says it makes every city fund a "trust fund" and thus prohibits their transfer.

Then, of course, there are the two labor measures, the Kleebe first aid and the state eight-hour law, to be thought of. It is likely that Gov. Lister, who still has a whack coming at them, will veto both. If he doesn't, the voters may decide to use their veto.

As a scrutiny of the legislature's work progresses other ultra-vicious legislation may be disclosed. If so, the list can be extended. But, from what is now known, let's go a little slow on referring. Let's pick just the big ones and wait until the next legislature convenes to worry about the little ones.

BUT BY ALL MEANS, SWAT THE BIG ONES. SWAT THEM HARD. REGISTER, SO TO BE READY TO SIGN THEM. PREPARE TO CIRCULATE PETITIONS. TALK THE SUBJECT UP AMONG YOUR NEIGHBORS. ASSUME YOUR RIGHT OF VETO.

### CYCLE UPSETS; GIRL IS DEAD

Thrown head foremost to the pavement at 24th and Pacific avenue late Sunday afternoon, when the motorcycle on which she was riding with Richard Carlson, 4843 Sixth avenue, overturned, Miss Stella Schiffer, age 17, died today at Tacoma General hospital.

She suffered a concussion of the brain and did not recover consciousness from the time of the accident until she died. The body is at Lynn's.

Miss Schiffer and Carlson were returning from a motorcycle ride to Puyallup. On another machine, accompanying them, were Miss Elizabeth Maynard, 1715 1/2 Sheridan, and Carl Peterson. At 24th and Pacific a repaving job is being done. The motorcycle, striking a piece of timber in the street, lurched and turned upside down. Carlson was thrown 30 feet, but was not seriously hurt. The accident victim lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Schiffer, 2331 Alasworth avenue. Carlson had been attentive to Miss Schiffer for some time.

### ABOARD "EITEL FRITZ" IN HAMPTON ROADS



The German auxiliary cruiser, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, the North German Lloyd liner converted into a commerce destroyer, anchored at Hampton Roads. The sea terror came into this American port after sinking, among others, the American sailing ship William P. Frye. The case is now up before the United States neutrality board. This shows a deck scene taken just after the craft dropped anchor. The rescued members of the Frye's crew with the captain and his wife are seen at the left going down a rope ladder to the boat that is to take them to shore.

### \$10,000 BLAZE LOOKS QUEER

Fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin, caused a \$10,000 loss in the plant of the Local Lumber Co., at 2:41 o'clock this morning.

Flames broke out in the center of the plant, where piles of lumber are stacked. The night watchman was first to discover the fire and made a futile attempt to end it before calling the fire department. He said that the flames broke out simultaneously in various places in the lumber piles.

Rescues Horses. After calling the department, he led the horses from the stables in time to prevent their burning.

The flames spread rapidly and he experienced difficulty in getting the animals from the fire-ridden area.

M. J. Phillips, secretary of the company, declared that it would be practically impossible for a fire to start in the plant unless some one with evil design deliberately set it going. The plant is run by electric motors and greatest care is used to prevent fires.

The firemen succeeded in confining the loss to the lumber piles, sheds and dry kiln. The main mill was not damaged. Residences nearby were in danger.

### POSSES HUNTING AGED MURDERER

BELLINGHAM, March 15.—Samuel Thompson, a 60-year-old rancher, is being sought by posses near Bellingham today, following the fatal shooting at his ranch home, five miles north of Lynden last night, in which he killed his wife, 50, Hugh Boyd, 40, a hired hand, and wounded his 11-year-old adopted son, Darrel Thompson.

At the beginning of the trouble Mrs. Thompson called a telephone operator at Custer, three miles away. The operator heard a shot and the message from the woman stopped. She had been severely wounded at the telephone and ran into the yard, where her husband killed her. Boyd was shot at the dining

table. Several bullets entered his head after he was killed.

Thompson fired a volley of shots at his adopted son when the boy pleaded with him to spare Mrs. Thompson's life.

An all night search for Thompson ended fruitfully. Officers believe Thompson has killed himself in the woods.

### Now, Honest, Do YOU Obey All the Laws?

If the city officials really took a notion to enforce some of the ancient ordinances still in force there would be a surprised lot of Tacomans.

And then on the other hand, a lot of foolish things are forbidden, which Tacoma folks, so polite they are, would never dream of doing.

One of the old 'uns, for instance, passed 31 years ago, forbode ill to any Chinese caught engaged at labor on public work. He could be arrested forthwith

and hauled off to the bastille. The ordinance states positively that operators on public work must agreed not to hire Mr. Coolie.

No Hats at Theater. Another made in 1897, provides a punishment for anyone who is impolite enough to wear a "hat, bonnet or other head covering in any theater during any performance from the stage."

The lawmakers were kind enough to exclude from penalty, "skull caps, lace coverings or any other small and closely fitting head dress."

Hack drivers, jit bus operators, runners for hotels and others of the gentry who meets the trains and steamboats, would probably be surprised to learn that they're not supposed to summon their trade in a voice louder than used in ordinary conversation. It's not only bad manners, but it's "agin the law."

Curfew Rings at 8 P. M. And, goodness gracious! Girls and boys under 18 years are forbidden by an old city ordinance to be on "any street, sidewalk or in any public park after 8 o'clock at night, unless accompanied by parent or proper guardian."

If a cop should happen to see any citizen at any time riding or driving any sort of an animal on a sidewalk the cop can be sure of his authority to arrest said citizen. An old law provides a pen-

alty for such a bold deed. Then too, tough as it may seem, no one can legally "discharge a slingshot used for the purpose of propelling stones."

Must have been a bunch of councilmen here once upon a time.

Future of German Terror in Balance. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—The state department is preparing to decide how long the German cruiser Eitel Frederick may remain at Newport News for repairs before she shall be ordered to put to sea or interne. The administration is determined to allow the ship every right guaranteed it by the rules of international law.

### FLATIRON USED IN BLOODY ASSAULT

TERRA HAUTE, Ind., March 15.—Mrs. Lizzie Balding and her entire family were found here early today with their skulls crushed.

Two children and Mrs. Balding are dead and three other children will probably die.

A bloody flatiron was found near the bodies. Evidently the family had been attacked while they slept. The entire police force is at work on the case.

### FAWCETT PREDICTS PEOPLE'S TRIUMPH

Jumping heartily into the fight for a referendum vote on the jitney bus bill and house bill 301, which prevents competition with existing corporations, Mayor Fawcett today predicted an easy victory for the people.

"We'll get a referendum vote, and we will kill those laws," declared the mayor. "The people are frantic over the results of the legislature, and it will be an easy thing to knock out the corporation-bought measures."

Fawcett declared bill 301 was aimed to force municipalities to buy up street car lines and other public utilities.

"The bill eliminates competition, unless proof can be shown that there is necessity for a competing company. If a city doesn't like the service furnished by the corporation, its only recourse is to buy up the corporation, as a going concern."

"The street car trust realizes that street cars are going to become extinct in a few years, and is trying to force the cities to buy up the lines. It's a raw scheme. And while the citizens have a ballot, they will never stand for it. The jitney bill is of the same caliber only more vicious."

### Smyrna Doomed

LONDON, March 15.—The fall of Smyrna before the end of the week is predicted in dispatches from Athens. More British warships have been sent to reinforce the squadron under Admiral Pierce. He now has a formidable force of warships battering away at the forts guarding the greatest port in Asiatic Turkey.

The garrison of Smyrna is reported to have made preparations to evacuate as soon as it is evident that further resistance is useless. A hail of shells is being poured into the forts today.

### WHEN A MAN'S MARRIED

