

CORVALLIS GAZETTE

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

MARCH 5, 1909

BOLD ROBBERY AT COURT HOUSE

Thieves Loot County
Treasurer's Office.

THE SAFE WAS BLOWN OPEN

Several Hundred Dollars and
Valuable Jewellery Secured
by the Burglars.

Burglars broke into the Benton County court house Wednesday night, forced an entrance to the treasurer's office, blew open the vault and got away with several hundred dollars and some valuable jewelry which Treasurer Buchanan had left overnight in the safe.

The robbery, which occurred some time after midnight, was a bold one and the thieves were evidently old hands at the business. They effected an entrance into the court house by breaking the lock on the front door and used a skeleton key to open the door to the treasurer's office. The vault was forced by drilling a hole above the combination lock and then blown open with dynamite,

the explosion having been heard by parties living in the vicinity between one and two o'clock, but no special significance was then attached to the noise.

After gaining an entrance to the vault the robbers overhauled its entire contents, scattering the papers and other effects in every direction in their search for money. They succeeded in getting away with about \$200, belonging to the Woodmen of the World; \$100, which a Mr. Maxfield had left there for safekeeping; some other valuables that various parties had left for the same purpose; some \$15 or \$20 belonging to Mr. Buchanan, and a handsome gold watch and

chain of his wife's. None of the county funds were in the vault nor were there any negotiable papers kept there, so that the loss will fall on private individuals, Mr. Buchanan being the heaviest loser, as he may be required to reimburse the Woodmen.

The burglars succeeded in making good their escape without leaving any clue, though Sheriff Gellatly is making every effort to trace them. The only clue seems to be that the launch belonging to the Occidental mill was stolen during the same night and it is supposed that the robbers took the boat and made their way down the river in it.