

## GRAVE CHARGES AGAINST WOMAN.

### Mrs. Witwer, of Dayton, Ohio, Suspected of Killing 15 Persons.

#### ALL THE DEATHS WERE SUDDEN.

Her Alleged Victims Includes Four Husbands, Five Children and One Sister.—The Others, Whom She Is Suspected to Have Poisoned, Were Members of Families Where She Was Serving as Housekeeper.

Dayton, Ohio (Special).—Suspected of having committed 15 murders, the police say, Mrs. J. A. Witwer, a widow, living in this city, is under arrest at the instigation of the police. The alleged victims are said to include:

- Four husbands.
- Five children.
- One sister.
- Five members of different families in which she was employed as housekeeper.

The last supposed victim was Mrs. Witwer's sister, Mrs. Anna Pugh, who died a week ago under mysterious circumstances. An autopsy performed at the request of Mrs. Witwer's mother, who came here from Detroit, is said to have disclosed the presence of arsenic and copper in the stomach.

Following closely upon the death of her first husband—Fred Schweger—came, according to the Police Department's information, the death of two children. The second husband died suddenly several years after their marriage and the children of this marriage died in rapid succession. Her last husband—A. J. Witwer—died last April. In each instance, it is said, the deaths were strange and alike.

The prisoner is 47 years of age and formerly lived in Middletown, Ohio. She has two sons in the Philippines and a sister, it is stated, in a New York asylum. No motive for these suspected crimes has been disclosed. Drugs which were found in Keller died suddenly, and the information since gained by Mrs. Witwer are in possession of the police and will be examined.

The third husband of Mrs. Witwer was William Stowe, who died at Middletown with symptoms, it is alleged, of arsenical poisoning. Mr. Stowe's death was investigated by the coroner, but without result. Shortly after Stowe's death Mrs. Witwer came to Dayton and became housekeeper for Charles K. Keller, a widower. Keller died suddenly, and the information since gained by Mrs. Witwer are in possession of the police and will be examined.

The large storage warehouses of A. S. Leach & Co., of Philadelphia, were destroyed by fire.

The grain dealers, at their annual convention in Des Moines, Iowa, elected officers.

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, publishes in the October number of the Federationist a vigorous reply to the charges made by President Shaffer, of the Amalgamated Association, regarding the attitude of Gompers and President Mitchell, of the United Mineworkers, in the recent steel strike.

The Sultan of Jolo refused to receive the Congressional party. A battalion of the Eleventh Infantry, Colonel De Rusey, is on the track of the Filipinos who attacked the American troops at Balangiga, Island of Samar.

Five persons are reported to have been killed by a renegade band of Apaches in the San Carlos Reservation in the Mongolian mountains.

The deficit for the last nine months in the finances of France amounts to 137,000,000 francs. The Temps sounds a note of warning to the government, saying that it must be remembered that a deficit was the immediate cause of the overthrow of the monarchy of Louis XVI.

Pekin advises state that the foreign soldiers continue to ill-treat the natives and commit petty robberies. The legation quarter looks like a fortified city. The court is traveling to Kai Feng Fu in the most expensive manner.

Abdur Rohman Khan, the Ameer of Afghanistan, died at Simla, October 3. His eldest son reported the death to the British agent at Kabul. It will likely result in trouble between England and Russia.

The North German Lloyd steamer Kronprinz Wilhelm arrived at Plymouth from New York, having made the trip in 5 days 9 hours and 48 minutes—a new record for a maiden voyage.

English police authorities say that Laura Horos, in custody in London on the charge of conspiring to defraud women by fortune telling, is the former wife of General Dis Debar. Ann Odelia Dis Debar served a term in a New York prison for swindling Luther C. Marsh.

Miss Helen Morton, daughter of the former vice-president of the United States, was married in London to Count Boson de Perigord, a son of the Duke of Talleyrand-Perigord.

Certain German newspapers demand that the Chinese astronomical instruments taken by the German troops from Peking be returned, as they were taken unlawfully.

The English jury in the inquest over the remains of the 70 victims of the turbine torpedo boat destroyer Cobra, which foundered in the North Sea, gave a verdict that the disaster was caused by the unexplained buckling of the boat, and that it was too lightly built.

Americans in Constantinople have secured evidence of the complicity of members of the Medonian committee at Sofia in the kidnapping of the American missionary, Miss Helen Stone.

Emperor William footed all the bills covering the expenses of Prince Chun and the other members of the Chinese expiatory mission during their stay in Germany.

United States Minister Bowen, at Caracas, Venezuela, persuaded the parties to the asphalt controversy to accept arbitration.

Snow's report gives corn condition 59.8 per cent. Total yield of wheat, 772,000,000 bushels.

The New York Subtreasury statement shows that the banks have gained \$4,012,000 this week.

The Calumet & Hecla Companies have declared a dividend of \$15, payable October 31 to stock of record October 5.

The Comptroller of the Currency has issued a call for the condition of banks in the close of business Monday, September 30.

## SUMMARY OF THE LATEST NEWS.

### Domestic.

The House of Deputies of the Episcopal Convention in San Francisco, after a lengthy debate, adopted an amendment to the constitution that special forms of service may be prescribed by canon for certain congregations not in full communion with the Church. The triennial meeting of the American Church Sunday School Institute was held and officers elected.

As to the question of authority over a military prisoner in the Philippines, Civil Governor Taft contends that the power of the general commanding is limited, and that the only tribunal having jurisdiction over a military prisoner is the federal court.

Richard C. Davis was released on \$25,000 bail in Evansville, Ind., on the charge of embezzling \$100,000 from the national bank of which he was cashier.

A. W. Miller, formerly city clerk of Sandusky, Ohio, who is alleged to have embezzled \$100,000 of the city's funds, has been located in Sandusky, Ohio.

Arrangements have been made to run through trains from Richmond to Washington on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad.

J. Q. Adams & Co., of Minneapolis, Minn., one of the largest grain receiving and exporting houses in the Northwest, assigned. They were caught in the May corner.

Wardman Bissett, convicted in New York of accepting a bribe from the keeper of a disorderly house, secured a stay in the United States Circuit Court.

Charles Broadway Roush, the New York millionaire, sent a thousand-dollar check for the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Society fair.

Several rapid-fire guns were shipped from New York for use of the Colombian government at some of the coast towns.

Three prominent Chicago attorneys and a well-known railroad detective have been arrested on the charge of aiding in the escape of a bailiff who was indicted for attempted jury-bribe.

Henry W. Cramp, vice-president of the Cramp Ship and Engine Building Company, died at his home in Philadelphia.

The body of Prof. W. H. Beardsworth, who was drowned while crossing Naked creek, was found near Winchester, Va.

The city of Portsmouth, Va., will seek to have the charter of the Old Dominion Railway Company revoked.

The Virginia Long-Distance Telephone Company, with headquarters at Staunton, Va., was sold.

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## INSTANTLY KILLED IN RAILROAD WRECK.

### Engineer, Conductor, Fireman and Brakeman Meet Death.

#### TRAIN RAN INTO AN OPEN SWITCH.

Coroner's Jury Decided That Orders to Stop Were Not Obeyed—Bodies Recovered and Sent Home—The Wrecked Train Was the Fast Freight Which Runs Between Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

Reading, Pa. (Special).—Four persons were instantly killed in a freight wreck on the Lebanon Valley division of the Reading Railroad, near Hummelstown, Pa. The killed are:

Thomas T. Dolan, engineer, Philadelphia.

William H. McCombsy, fireman, Philadelphia.

Conductor Patrick Kane, Philadelphia.

Brakeman Charles E. Mays, Philadelphia.

The middle man, Charles Dennis, and the rear brakeman, John Ryan, escaped. A derail switch was open, and the train, which was running at the rate of about 25 miles an hour, plunged into an embankment. The moment the locomotive left the rails the cars in the rear were piled up about the engine, and both tracks were blocked.

During the morning all of the passengers were transferred, a special train having been sent out from Reading.

The wrecked train was the fast freight which runs between Philadelphia and Harrisburg. Several days ago the Reading Company posted notices to the effect that trains would be run on a single track over Swatara bridge and directing all trains in both directions to come to a stop before crossing the bridge. An operator had been placed at the east end, and all trains were regulated by signals. Whether the crew had been advised of the change is not known, but it is asserted that the signals were against the train.

Many Lost in Storm.

Tacoma, Wash. (Special).—Syamur advices are that the coast of Kazusa, Northern Japan, has been visited by heavy gales, wrecking 400 fishing boats; 12 boats with total crews of 74 men are missing. Heavy rains caused an overflow of the rivers of Hokaido, washing away 600 houses and submerging many villages.

## AMERICA'S CUP WILL STAY HERE.

### The Last Race Was the Closest in the History of International Contests—Jockeying for the Start.

New York (Special).—The America's Cup is safe for another year, at least. In the closest race in yachting history, Columbia won the third and deciding contest of the series from the challenging boat.

While Shamrock led nearly all the way and actually crossed the finishing line two seconds ahead of Barr's whirling wonder the official measurements compelled her to give the American boat 43 seconds time, and as a result Columbia won by 41 seconds.

The sea was smooth and the sun bright, while the air had a keen nip that made the spectators button their coats when the excursion fleet went down to Sandy Hook. Soon both boats were standing out to sea in tow of their respective tugs. Before the starting gun, both went through the usual tactics of jockeying about the line. Barr was more watchful than ever. Sycamore, grim and silent, swung the brass machine first on one tack and then another, while the minutes slipped by. The wind held at twelve knots.

The excursionists crowded up to see the battle, and silence fell upon the breezy ocean. Shamrock held on to windward and did not set her staysail. Columbia had staysail and jib set and Barr was making a determined effort to go over first on the leeward run. Barr came to the conclusion that he would try it especially as the gun had fired.

It was a little different from the usual trial to get the weather berth. This run off before the wind made the windward boat last and in a position to wind her antagonist.

They were both standing for the line when the handicap gun fired, the Columbia a little in the lead and Shamrock on port quarter. Shamrock broke out her ballroom and Barr held on a few minutes to be able, if necessary, to haul his wind if Sycamore forced him to spring his

luff. Then, seeing that the Englishman was making a straight race, he broke out his ballroom and went across.

Time, Columbia, 11:02; Shamrock, 11:02.

This is official, and not actual, as Columbia went over at least 10 seconds ahead. Shamrock broke out her staysail, going over and Columbia followed. The British boat seemed to have a handicap in not getting over in time, but she pulled up rapidly and soon closed the gap.

Heading for the mark Shamrock turned at 12.48.46 and stood away on starboard tack to keep the weather berth. Columbia swung around much quicker 49 seconds later and threw about on port tack.

The Columbia now began to show her old form in wind-jamming. She stood well up to it and held along for several minutes and then came about on the starboard tack, with the Shamrock to leeward but well ahead. They stood along for some minutes and then came about to port tack, the Shamrock first and Columbia following, having stood well over to windward first.

Then happened the greatest sailing in the history of racing. Columbia flattened in her sheets and jammed her nose right with the falling breeze, which had fallen to less than six knots.

Shamrock could not point up as high and Sycamore held along blanketing the Columbia, feeling sure now of an easy victory. But the Columbia is a faithful and reliable ship. She poked her nose into the last puff, and luffed almost through Shamrock's lee, with that brass boat close enough to jump aboard.

The line was only a few fathoms distant and with falling headway and shaking headsails, both yachts luffed over the line, the Columbia a boom's length behind. Such a race never was sailed before and it was a fitting climax to the series.

## FLEETING ARMY AMBUSHED BY INDIANS.

### Vanguard of the Routed Venezuelans Annihilated—Lost 600 Killed in Recent Battle.

Willemsdam, Curacao (By Cable).—News received up to September 29 indicates that General Davila's first fight at Curogo was an absolute rout. Five Venezuelan battalions of 400 men each were engaged and the Colombians are estimated at the same number. It is now known that General Echeverria was killed on the battlefield, and not shot by the Colombians. The battalion called the "Sacred Battalion," composed of gentlemen volunteers mounted, was the first to break and retreat before the Colombians. After General Echeverria was killed, General Davila, Cledomiro Castillo and Emilio Castro, a brother of President Castro, fled the field. About 600 were killed, including 30 minor officers.

The Indians ambushed General Davila's retreating vanguard, composed of 200 men, and annihilated it.

Cledomiro Castillo, who is a Colombian, now commands the Venezuelan forces at the front on Guajira Peninsula, and Emilio Castro now commands the "Sacred Battalion."

## FEUD ENDS IN FOUR MORE DEATHS.

### Mortal Battle at the Big Springs Baptist Church, Tennessee.

Knoxville, Tenn. (Special).—A bloody fight occurred at the Union Baptist Church, at Big Springs, Tenn., 10 miles from Tazewell, Tenn.

Services were being held at the church and 600 persons had gathered. Just before the services began "Tip" Chadwell went to the spring, 50 yards from the church. Rush Morgan was at the spring and began firing at Chadwell. Both factions immediately gathered and the fight lasted half an hour. The killed are: "Tip" Chadwell, John F. Chadwell, Rush Morgan, Henry Morgan. Mortally wounded: John Morgan, Asa Chadwell.

Hanged Herself Publicly.

Victoria, B. C. (Special).—The steamer Duke of Fife, which sailed from Yokohama September 21, brings a strange story of the public suicide of a Chinese woman at Foo Chow. She resolved on the deed after the death of her husband and informed the public of her intention. The taotai tried to prevent her, and on account of typhoon floods the suicide was twice postponed, but all efforts failed to divert the woman from her purpose. Bedecked in her finest clothes, she publicly hanged herself on a platform before which stood several hundred spectators.

Suicide Carried Diamonds.

Chicago (Special).—With \$15,000 worth of diamonds in his possession, D. W. Dickie, a jeweler, who lived at the Kimball Hotel, committed suicide near the Grant Monument in Lincoln Park. A park policeman heard a pistol shot in the direction of the monument and after searching 20 minutes in the darkness came upon the body of Dickie lying on a bench just south of the statue. Dickie was about 55 years old. It is thought he had not been long in Chicago. The directory only states that he is a jeweler, but does not tell his place of business.

## TRYING HARD TO SAVE MISS STONE.

### News of the Kidnapping Has Aroused the Whole Country.

#### WILL PROBABLY SOON BE FREE.

The Officials Consistent With Their Preceding Conduct, Decline Absolutely to Discuss Miss Stone's Case for Publication, Yet It Is Evident From Their Manner That They Are Feeling More Hopeful.

Boston, Mass. (Special).—From the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Maine to Florida, this country has been aroused in sympathy for the captive of the American missionary, Miss Helen H. Stone, by brigands in Southern Europe and by the appeal for funds with which to pay the ransom. Thousands of dollars are being received here as a result of the appeal of the American Board of Missions, and it is known that mails from the Far West are bringing additional thousands.

The firm of Peabody, Kidder & Co., which is caring for the contributions as they are received, reported that over \$50,000 had been received. This is nearly half of the amount, \$100,000, necessary to pay the ransom demanded for the release of the American woman.

Three Governments, Bulgaria, Turkey and the United States, are putting forth every effort in behalf of the unfortunate missionary. Bulgarian and Turkish troops are in pursuit of the brigands, and if the latter are captured they will be killed without the formality of a trial.

The United States Government has also been aroused by the news of the kidnapping, and President Roosevelt is urging the State Department to do everything in its power to secure Miss Stone's release. The President has been in consultation with the delegates of the Missionary Board at the Capital, and whatever can be done will be done, but this is not a case for fleets or armies—at least, not now. The Government must move with extreme caution, however, lest it cause the loss of the life it would save. It is the practice of these brigands in the Balkans to kill their captives immediately on the advent of any government in the negotiations. After Miss Stone is restored to her friends the campaign of punishment may be prosecuted, but such a course is now deemed inadvisable.

KRUGER SAID TO BE FAILING.

Mentally and Physically, It Is Declared, He Is Weaker.

London (By Cable).—A dispatch from The Hague says:

"A. D. W. Wolmarans, one of the Boer envoys, who has been visiting President Kruger at Hliversum, Holland, found the mental condition of the Transvaal President by no means satisfactory. Mr. Kruger is slowly growing weaker, physically and mentally. His slowness in reaching a decision on important questions is found to be a serious hindrance to those working in Europe in behalf of the Boer cause. At the slightest question regarding his health Mr. Kruger exhibits intense irritation and vehemently denies that anything is wrong. The approach of winter causes anxiety, as he refuses to leave Holland."

Brussels (By Cable).—Le Petit Bleu states that Mr. Kruger has sent to President Roosevelt a protest against the exportation of horses and mules to South Africa. It also declares that he never contemplated sending a mission to the United States Government to solicit mediation.

MISS HELEN LONG DEAD.

Daughter of Secretary of the Navy Succumbs to Consumption.

Hingham, Mass. (Special).—Miss Helen Long, youngest daughter of Secretary of the Navy John D. Long, died at her home, in Cottage street, Hingham, of consumption.

Miss Long had been suffering with a pulmonary trouble since the winter of 1898. During her father's first year as Secretary of the Navy Miss Long was obliged to enter somewhat into the social functions of the capital, owing to the delicate health of Mrs. Long, and her own health became impaired.

In November, 1898, eminent physicians advised her to seek the climate of Colorado, which she did. She remained there for three years, and her health improved so much that Secretary Long erected a permanent residence for her at Colorado Springs about a year ago.

Three weeks ago she desired to visit the Secretary, with her sister, Margaret, and her grandmother, Mrs. Glover. The physicians at Colorado said the change of climate might be of benefit to her. She arrived at Hingham last week suffering with nervousness, and rapidly went into decline.

FOUR MINE ACCIDENTS.

One Man Killed and Three Others Injured Near Mahanoy City.

Mahanoy City, Pa. (Special).—Four accidents—one of them fatal—occurred in and about the mines in this district.

John Counihan, of Frackville, was instantly killed by a fall of coal at the Draper Colliery while he and a companion named Hay were taking measurements.

Joseph Molinoski had his back and both arms broken by a fall of coal in the same mine.

Martin Kirby attempted to make a short cut to the Lawrence Colliery by crawling under a trip of railroad cars at Mahanoy Plane and was caught and crushed. The hospital surgeons say he cannot recover.

Frank Kopogape is also dying at the Miners' Hospital, sightless, and with his skull fractured, the result of a fall of coal at Gilberton Colliery.

Wireless Telegraphy for Lloyds.

London (By Cable).—The Marconi Company and Lloyds' Shipping Agency have made an agreement by which the stations of the agency throughout the world are to be equipped with wireless telegraphy.

Help Arrived Too Late.

Atlanta, Ga. (Special).—John Wyatt Turner, of Rock Mill, Ala., assistant instructor in the carding and spinning branches of the textile department of the Georgia School of Technology, committed suicide by taking morphine.

## NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS.

### Nation's Vast Postal Business.

Washington (Special).—Auditor Henry A. Castle, for the Postoffice Department, closed the books of the postal service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, something over three months being required to balance the ledger accounts with the 77,000 postmasters and make all the other settlements required with the numerous branches of the system. The result of the year's business was as follows: Receipts, \$111,631,193; expenditures, \$115,554,020; net deficit (including loss by fire, etc.), \$3,922,827. The deficit for the fiscal year was less than \$4,000,000, and about \$1,500,000 smaller than for the preceding year. Owing to the extension of the rural free delivery and other improvements in every department the expenses of the service were \$8,200,000 greater than for the preceding year, but the continued prosperity of the nation increased the receipts by \$9,250,000.

There has been a steady decrease in the postal deficits during the few years. In round figures there were \$11,500,000 in 1897, \$9,000,000 in 1898, \$6,500,000 in 1899, \$5,500,000 in 1900 and \$4,000,000 in 1901. If this percentage of shrinkage in the deficit should continue it would be entirely wiped out within three years.

It is a significant measure of the increased business activity of the country that while, owing to the enormous extension of the postal service, the expenditures have increased \$21,500,000 or 22 per cent. in five years, its revenues have increased \$29,000,000, equivalent to 35 per cent. during the same period.

The auditor's report also shows the transactions of the postal money order business for the same period. The aggregate amount of money orders issued during the fiscal year was \$294,618,680.92. The amount paid out was \$281,554,711.72. The difference between these two amounts represents principal money orders issued in this country and paid in foreign countries.

The sum total of the monetary transactions of the Post Office Department, including postal receipts and revenues and money orders issued and paid, foots up for the fiscal year 1901 \$803,350,576. This total was less than \$715,000,000 for the preceding year, showing an increase of nearly \$89,000,000. The Post Office Department is thus shown to be easily the leading financial branch of the Government, as it is the most extensive business institution in the world.

The Beet Sugar Industry.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, after careful consideration of the reports and estimates of leading beet sugar producers, estimated the beet sugar production for 1901 at 108,500 tons. The cane sugar production is estimated as follows: Southern States, 300,000 tons; Porto Rico, 100,000 tons; Hawaii, 300,000 tons; total, 700,000 tons.

Capital News in General.

The annual report of Thomas Fitchie, commissioner of immigration at New York, shows that 453,496 aliens arrived at that port during the past fiscal year.

Former Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn was the winner before the Senate committee investigating the Heistand Manila hemp scandal.

Col. Wm. H. Bisbee's promotion to be a brigadier general resulted in a number of promotions among officers in the Philippines.

Word was received in Washington that Ambassador Pauncefote will start from London about the first of November for his post.

Walter H. Davidge, one of the leaders of the District of Columbia bar, died at the age of 78 years.

Brigadier General Randall, commanding the troops in Alaska, submitted his annual report.

President Roosevelt appointed Chas. Hartzell, of Colorado, secretary of Porto Rico.

Bulgarian authorities deny that the abductors of Miss Helen Stone and her companion, Madame Tsilka, are in that country. President Roosevelt and Acting Secretary Adee, of the State Department, assured Dr. Samuel Capen, president of the American Board of Missions, that no effort would be spared to secure the release of Miss Stone.

Chairman Shattuck, of the committee of immigration, informed President Roosevelt that he would introduce in Congress a drastic bill for the suppression of anarchistic literature.

President Gompers and Secretary Easley, of the Federation of Labor, suggested legislation of interest to labor men to President Roosevelt.

President Roosevelt has declared himself opposed to plans to improve or enlarge the White House.

The Secretary of War set apart \$100,000 for preparing barracks at Washington for army officers.

Mrs. Roosevelt will occupy the President's pew in St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church.

General Chaffee, in a detailed report to the War Department in the disastrous attack upon Co. C, Ninth Regiment, on September 20, states that a large number of the attacking force was led by the president, and that the ringing of the convent bells was the signal for the attack. The officers' quarters were in the convent, the Filipinos entering through the church. The bodies of some of the soldiers were burned. The other dead were buried by Captain Bookmiller and his men, of the Ninth, who also burned the town.

Firemen Crushed by Falling Walls.

Pittsburg, Pa. (Special).—Fire in the Pittsburg clay pot works, in Allegheny, damaged the plant to the extent of \$280,000, injured six men and enforced an idleness of several months upon a force of 165 workmen. The injured men were firemen, who were on the roof of the boiler house when the wall fell and they were carried with it. None of them will die. The fire originated in the boiler room from an unknown cause, and quickly burned its way through into the upper floors.

May Consolidate Cotton Mills.

Raleigh, N. C. (Special).—A special dispatch from Charlotte, which is the center of the cotton mill industry in North and South Carolina, says there is a strong movement to consolidate the cotton mills of that section, including mills in both North and South Carolina into a single corporation, the consolidation to be after the manner of the Steel Trust. The feasibility of the scheme is being seriously considered by an well-known mill man.

It is officially denied that a pool of the rail manufacturers is to be formed.