

# NEW BECHTEL CLUES

Police Sergeant Expects Solution of Murder Mystery.

## TRACES THE CRIME TO A RESORT.

Mr. Krauss is Next to Certain That the Girl Was Killed at a Resort on the Outskirts of the City—She Was Followed Thither by Her Jealous Admirer, He Says, There the Mortal Wounds Were Inflicted.

Allentown, Pa. (Special).—Disclosure of the name of Mabel Bechtel's murderer and all the details of the mysterious tragedy are promised this week, according to the statement of one of the officers at work on the case under the direction of Capt. Jas. L. Schaadt, counsel for the Bechtel family.

This officer is Sergeant Edwin W. Knass, of the local police, who, from the hour Mabel's body was found in the arway of her home, clung to the theory that the girl was not killed at her home. His views are now supported by more than 90 per cent. of the people here. When the murder was discovered Sergeant Knass was one of the first officers on the ground and it was not long before he left the home of the Bechtels and began to look in other directions for clues. The Sergeant said:

"The Bechtel mystery is nearer solution now than most persons think and, although the man at whom we point suspicion is free from the law, we propose to show the truth. We have established the motive for the crime. We can show that only two days before she was killed Mabel was threatened if she did not marry a certain young man she would not marry anybody else. We can prove by reputable witnesses that the young man demanded a final answer on the Monday night of the tragedy, but that he did not see Mabel then. That night instead of being in bed at 9 o'clock, as members of his family said, he was seen on the street shortly before 11 o'clock, when he gave a trolley car transfer to a friend.

"Thus far there is not a flaw in our theories, but the rest is based upon inferences supported by some strong proof that is becoming stronger every day. The man whom we suspect has given us accounts of his movements after 11 o'clock of the night that preceded the finding of the girl's body in the alley and this is the feature of the case we are now trying to clear up."

Sergeant Knass added that he is next to certain that the girl was killed at a resort on the outskirts of the city. She was followed thither by her jealous admirer, he says, there the mortal wounds were inflicted and later the dying girl was taken home in a hack.

"We have scattering pieces of evidence on these points," added Sergeant Knass, "but in a few days we expect to have the whole story and witness to prove it."

District Attorney Lichtenwalner characterizes the new theories of the friends of the Bechtels as a scheme to create public sentiment in favor of them and he sarcastically remarked: "If those people who say they know Mabel's murderer don't soon reveal it, I will have them indicted as accessories after the fact to the murder for concealing the perpetrators of the crime. In connection with the agitation of the Bechtels there is promise of another scandal."

The story is going the rounds that half a dozen or more prominent business men paid liberally to be excused as witnesses in the case in order to escape exposure.

## TERRIBLE CRIME SHOCKS ROANOKE.

Colored Man Tries to Kill a Mother and Her Child.

Roanoke, Va. (Special).—The wife and three-year-old daughter of George P. Shields are in a dying condition as a result of a murderous assault made upon them by an unknown negro. It was one of the most fearful crimes ever committed in this city.

When Mr. Shields, who is a well-known young business man, reached his residence in the center of the town at noon for luncheon, he discovered his three-year-old daughter Mildred lying on the floor of the reception hall in a pool of blood.

The child was still alive, and the father placed her on a lounge and began a search for his wife. In the dining room he found stains of blood, which led to the second floor. Upstairs Mr. Shields found his wife lying in a clothes closet, with her throat cut from ear to ear and several ghastly wounds in the head. She was unconscious.

Physicians were summoned and, after injections of powerful stimulants, Mrs. Shields managed to gasp that she had been knocked down in the dining room by a negro, who made his entrance through the kitchen door. Further than this, Mrs. Shields has not been able to throw light on the crime. There was every evidence in the dining room of a terrible struggle.

The physicians have but slim hopes for the recovery of either mother or child. The strange negro made a criminal assault on Mrs. Shields, after which he dealt her several blows on the head with a hatchet, fracturing the skull in two places. He then dragged her upstairs to the second floor, where he took a razor from a bureau drawer. With this he cut her throat and threw her into a closet, placing a chair against the outside knob. He then ransacked the house, carrying away a suit of clothes and two watches.

## Caught Making Bogus Money.

New York (Special).—Three men were arrested and counterfeiting machinery and dies were seized at a house in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn by United States Secret Service detectives. The men in custody gave their names as James Smith, William Smith and Frank Marshall. It is alleged that they were turning out United States half dollars from Mexican coins of the same denomination.

# VAST SHIPMENTS OF ARMY SUPPLIES.

Millions of Pounds of Meat Bought in this Country by Russia and Japan.

San Francisco, Cal. (Special).—Railroad freight officials have additional advices, relative to Russian and Japanese mess and canned beef shipments from the East by way of this port to their respective depots in the Orient. Japan is ordering for shipment from Kansas City, Omaha and Chicago 2,500,000 pounds of corned beef.

She has already contracted in Cincinnati for 12,000 cases of mess beef. By February 15 next Japan will have taken from this country as food for her war forces about 7,000,000 pounds of mess and corned beef. Russian shipments of mess beef, up to February 15 next, from Chicago, Kansas City and Omaha, will have amounted to an aggregate of about 6,000,000 pounds, inclusive of 3,000,000 pounds now loaded on board ship in this harbor.

## NEWS IN SHORT ORDER

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

### Domestic.

Henry W. Miller, president of the Miami County Savings Bank, died in Morrissett, N. J., aged 65 years. He was a graduate of the Naval Academy and served through the Civil War.

A county judge and officials of the federal court were arrested on the charge of conspiring with Charles Cunningham, the sheep king, of Umattilla county, to defraud the government.

Mrs. Nannie Bryan, sister of William J. Bryan, died in Lincoln, Neb., before the arrival of her brother, who had tried hard to reach her bedside before death intervened.

Anna Reimiers, a New York school-girl who was famous for writing a note to a boy, died from the effects of carbolic acid she drank.

A party of 20 students from the University of Chicago sailed from Boston on the steamer Canopic on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Tom Caruthers, colored, was hanged in Abbeville, Ga., for the murder of H. L. Byrd, a plantation superintendent. As the result of an attempt to start a fire with carbon oil, Mrs. A. F. Gray, of North Sewickly, Pa., is dead and six other members of her family are burned one fatally.

The State of Illinois will erect in the National Military Park at Vicksburg, Miss., a monument to the 35,000 Illinois soldiers who participated in the siege of that city.

The big plant of the Delaware Cotton Company, employing 400 hands, has been closed because of the high price of the raw material.

Mrs. Lulu Prince Kennedy Kramer was acquitted in Kansas City, Mo., of the charge of killing her first husband, Albert M. Fragner, a Brooklyn lawyer pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing \$20,000 from a trust estate.

The American Association of General Passenger Agents decided upon a season excursion rate to the St. Louis Exposition at 80 per cent. of double the one-way fare.

The Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company has sold all its property to the Illinois Tunnel Company, with an authorized capital of \$30,000,000.

A panic was caused on the ferryboat Princeton, which was rammed in New York harbor by the Savannah Line steamer Nacoochee.

President Mitchell, at a meeting of miners at Indianapolis, said he had no intention of accepting a government position.

Oscar T. Crosby, the American explorer, who has completed a tour of Central Asia, including parts of Turkistan and Tibet, declares that China is now threatened by her rear door, and the United States, which is interested in the integrity of China, must keep a watch in that direction.

Two years' imprisonment and perpetual exile was the sentence imposed on a Moscow student who struck a Russian general.

The anniversary of the execution of Charles I. of England was observed in London and Boston.

# FOR PEACE IN FAR EAST

Fussin's Reply to Japan Said to Be Satisfactory.

## GREAT BRITAIN'S GOOD WORK.

Important Information Received by the State Department at Washington—Russia, It is Understood, Has Made Certain Concessions and Great Britain Will Prevail on Japan to Accept Them.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—It is said on the authority of the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg that the Russian reply is satisfactory. Although no further details are obtainable, it is assumed, if the information of the Ambassador is correct, that Russia has made certain concessions and that Great Britain will prevail on Japan to accept them as satisfactory.

The statement of the British Ambassador went from St. Petersburg to the British Legation in Tokio, where Mr. Gristwood heard of it and cabled the news to the State Department, the cablegram arriving overnight.

### KUSSIAN ADMIRAL'S VIEWS.

Japan's Commercial Loss By Mobilization of Steamers.

St. Petersburg (By Cable).—An Admiral who is influential in the councils of the empire was interviewed as follows:

"The enormous loss which the commerce of Japan is sustaining as a result of the mobilization of steamship for transport service probably accounts for the impatience the Japanese are displaying over the delay in the Russian reply, but this reply will go to Tokio next week. It will be so conciliatory that I do not foresee other than a peaceful settlement, although it is difficult to feel certain in this respect because of the erratic course of the Japanese government during the later stages of the negotiations. Japan has increased her demands while the negotiations were still in progress by insisting upon treaty recognition of the Chinese society in Manchuria. Russia has declared her intention not to annex Manchuria, therefore why comply with a demand that is tantamount to a humiliating recognition of a former voluntary declaration?"

"It is undeniable that the attitude of Japan is causing irritation in St. Petersburg, and that a feeling of impatience is growing throughout Russia. It is hard to account for Japan's persistent aggressiveness, but this must be attributable to the incendiary influence of the Japanese press, which is acting under foreign inspiration. The Japanese government must know it stands no chance of defeating Russia, while Japan has much to lose if Russia is forced back against the wall.

"Should Japan proceed to hostilities her first objective probably would be the cutting of the Siberian Railroad, for which purpose she would land troops in Korea. She could not, however, land more than 100,000 men, and Russia has an equal number of men in Manchuria to meet this attack, which I think would be quickly repulsed. I do not believe in a naval war. The Russian warships would make it impossible for the Japanese to endanger Port Arthur. But, let me repeat, war is improbable."

### COLUMBIA WILL FIGHT PANAMA.

Reported That the Former Government is About to Organize Expedition.

Panama (Special).—News has reached here from Bogota that inasmuch as General Reyes and Caverillo have assured Colombia that the United States will only object to her landing forces in the canal zone, the Colombian government intends to organize and send an expedition against Panama.

The only explanation of this news from Bogota is that the government of Colombia is compelled to take steps to prevent its downfall. This is said to be imminent, as President Marroquin has lost all the prestige he ever had. There is much speculation in Bogota as to the outcome of this move, should it be put through.

Colombian newspapers are complaining that it cost more than \$15,000,000 in paper money (a Colombian dollar is worth about seven-tenths of an American dollar) to move the troops Colombia has at Timauca, on the Gulf of Darien, from Cartegena to that point. These men are estimated at from 2,000 to 4,000, and at one time they were well supplied with provisions.

Joaquin Velez, Perez y Soto and other enemies of Marroquin have been imprisoned for alleged conspiracy.

People arriving here from Colombia declare the situation in that country to be growing worse every day.

### IS SCHOOLMARM THE HIGHWAYMAN?

Miss Hattie Pilcher Accused of Assisting in Holdup That Failed.

Miller, S. D. (Special).—This town is much wrought up over the mystery surrounding the arrest of Miss Hattie Pilcher, a pretty and popular school-teacher, who is charged with having donned men's clothing and assisting in the holding up, drugging and attempted robbery of Wilbur Quirk, a clerk in Collins' drug store, one night about a week ago.

Miss Pilcher the next day, it was learned, had a bullet wound in her shoulder and she was arrested as being the "short man" of the two.

Miss Pilcher's testimony was offered to show that she told the physician who attended her wound that she was shot with a noiseless gun, like that with which the robbers threatened Quirk.

### Reported Firing on Russian Steamer.

London (By Cable).—The Chiefoo correspondent of the Daily Mail says a foreigner who has arrived there reports that the Russian steamer Argon, upon which he was a passenger from Nagasaki to Port Dalny, was fired at by a Japanese warship outside of Chemulpo harbor. Three shots were fired across the Argon's bows, but no further attempt to stop her was made. Viceroy Alexief is better, the correspondent says, but is still confined to his room.

# MRS. MAYBRICK REPORTED FREE.

Powerful Influences Exerted for Her Release—Widespread Sympathy.

London (By Cable).—Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper says that Mrs. Florence Maybrick, the American woman who was serving a life sentence on the charge of having poisoned her husband, was released from the Aylesbury female convict prison at 6.45 o'clock on the morning of January 23 on special license. Her mother, the paper says, had visited her Saturday, January 23, and evidently was the bearer of important news. The governor of the prison on Sunday conferred with the prison officials with a view to arranging for the departure of the prisoner, which was carried out very quietly.

Mrs. Maybrick, the paper concludes, during the last few months in prison, was employed in the lightest work as a reward for good conduct.

## LIVE WASHINGTON AFFAIRS

Significant Action of Dr. Herran Colombian Charge.

### To Kill Germans on Money.

Dr. Thomas Darlington, president of the New York Board of Health, appeared before the House Committee on Banking and Currency and heartily endorsed pending legislation for "clean money."

Dr. Darlington had begun an investigation to ascertain scientifically that old bills transmit disease germs. Should these experiments show money in use in New York city is loaded with disease germs, Dr. Darlington said, he will formulate a plan for its daily or weekly sterilization. He believes that good will result to the health of the city by getting the money from the great arteries of trade, such as the street-car companies and the great retail stores, and putting it through a germ-killing process. In this plan it is contemplated to treat not only the paper money, but also the metal coins.

### Bucknahan's Successor.

It is now thought probable that W. W. Russell, a Marylander, but by residence a citizen of the District of Columbia, will succeed William I. Buchanan as United States Minister to Panama.

Mr. Russell, who at present is secretary of legation at Caracas, Venezuela, has been appointed Charge of the United States Legation at Panama, where he will represent this country after Minister Buchanan sails from Colon for home on next Tuesday.

Mr. Buchanan will resign as soon as he reaches Washington, in accordance with the understanding he had when he accepted the mission to Panama.

### No Gold in the Vaults.

For the first time in many years the Treasury finds itself without any gold coin in its vaults. It is explained that this condition is the result of an unprecedented demand for gold certificates during the time when the mints have been fully employed in coining Philippine silver and subsidiary silver for the United States. The increased demand for gold certificates, which could only be issued for gold coin in the Treasury, came about through the needs of the larger banking institutions in the great commercial centers, which had large amounts of notes of small denominations on hand which they wished to exchange for gold certificates of larger denominations. The Secretary has given instructions for the mints at Philadelphia and San Francisco to begin the coining of double eagles on February 1, and to work overtime until a sufficient supply has been coined to meet all demands.

### Postmaster Gets His Livery.

Postmaster General Payne answered the inquiry of the House as to the "livery" of his department. He says there are no horses or carriages provided for his department except those for himself. He has four horses and three carriages maintained at government expense. Two men are paid to care for the "livery," one at the rate of \$720 a year, on the rolls as a "watchman," and one at a salary of \$260 as a "laborer." The total cost of horses, carriages and harness was \$3005.

### Charges Against Army Lieutenant.

Second Lieutenant Frank Pratt, on duty at Fort Wayne, Mich., has been detained in this country, after having been ordered to the Philippines, because of more serious charges than those preferred against him in Manila, which he was returning to face. He is charged with gambling in Manila and with being short in his funds to the amount of \$7500. He has explained that the missing money was placed in an envelope and left at the place where the mail was collected.

### Canteen in the Navy.

Rear Admiral R. D. Evans, commander-in-chief of the Asiatic fleet, writes to the Navy Department that desertions in his command have been reduced to a minimum. He says the worst drawback to discipline has been the excessive use of alcoholic drinks. Admiral Evans recommends the establishment of canteens in the navy, where beer and light wines may be sold to the men, to be taken with their meals or when coaling ship.

### In the Departments.

The House struck out the mileage appropriations for both House and Senate from the Urgency Deficiency Appropriation Bill, which was then adopted. The sentiment in the caucus of the Democratic Senators was more favorable than hitherto to the Panama Canal Treaty.

Minister Thompson has secured from Brazil preferential rates on a number of American staple products.

The Senate adopted a resolution calling on President Roosevelt for any additional facts bearing on the Panama matter that have not yet been communicated.

The report of the Commissioner of Patents for the calendar year 1903 shows that the patent business transacted exceeded all previous records.

Evidence for the defense was continued in the postoffice trial in the Criminal Court.

Secretary Root and Governor Taft, his successor as Secretary of War, took luncheon with the President at the White House.

# DEAD TAKEN FROM MINE

Burial Processions and Rescuers Pass Each Other on Road.

## THE FUNERALS OF MANY VICTIMS.

Of the 106 Bodies Recovered and Taken to the Schoolhouse Morgue Fifty-Six Have Been Identified and Eighteen Have Been Buried—The Work of Recovering the Bodies Will Be Kept Up Until All Are Found.

Pittsburg, Pa. (Special).—Burial processions and rescue parties in charge of newly recovered bodies pass each other frequently on the road that leads from the Harwick mine to the morgue and many are the pathetic scenes.

Of the 106 bodies recovered and taken to the schoolhouse morgue fifty-six have been identified and eighteen have been buried.

The first funerals of the victims were held at 3.30 o'clock. Rev. E. O. Graham, of the Lutheran Church, and the Rev. Vincent Manelli, of the Italian Catholic Church, of New Kensington, were in charge. Out in the open air in front of the blacksmith shop where the coffined bodies of the men have been placed, were gathered the friends and relatives of those that have been identified.

The caskets were placed in a group along one side of the building with the miners who were to perform the last rites standing by them. The bodies of those miners who belonged to the Catholic Church were placed in a group by themselves and over them the priest stood until all were ready to be moved to the cemetery.

It was a short and simple service, only a few words and a prayer and then the journey to the cemetery began. There a short service was held, the caskets were lowered into the grave, and for the friends and surviving relatives the last incident of the great disaster was over.

The foreign miners at Harwick allowed a man refuse to enter the mine to assist in the rescue work, yet the volunteers from outside points are doing such good work that they are bringing out bodies faster than the corps of undertakers can handle, and the remains of the victims are being arranged in tiers outside the schoolhouse. The work of recovering the bodies will be kept up continuously until all are found.

The following appeal was issued by the relief committee by telegraph: "One hundred and eighty-four miners killed. Families destitute. The committee urges immediate and generous aid."

Among those to whom the telegram was addressed are: Andrew Carnegie, New York; President Roosevelt, Washington, D. C.; Senator Hanna, Cleveland, O.; John D. Rockefeller, New York.

The message was also sent out by telegraph to the mayor of every important city in the country.

The relief fund now exceeds \$10,000 and contributions continue to come in liberally.

Speaking of the disaster, James E. Soderick, chief State mine inspector, said: "Laws could be framed that would prevent just such an accident, but the trouble lies at Harrisburg. The present bituminous mining laws seem to be a compromise arrangement between the miners and the operators."

"Nothing of our investigation will be given out," he said, "until the day of the inquest."

Brownsville, Pa. (Special).—Four men, all foreigners, were crushed to death in a new air shaft of the Briar Hill Coal Company, near here. The shaft was 685 feet deep and the men were being lowered in a bucket when a 400-pound pilot weight broke, precipitating the bucket and men to the bottom. The heavy weight falling on them crushed the men beyond recognition.

The men were in the employ of Contractor Samuel Henry, who was sinking the shaft. The Briar Hill Company is owned by the Republic Iron and Steel Company. It is claimed by the officials that the accident was due to the failure of the men to remove the weight from the lever before starting down.

### TWO KILLED AND SIX HURT.

Terrible Result of a Gas Explosion—Caused By a Leak.

Pittsburg, Pa. (Special).—An explosion of natural gas in the cellar of the home of Henry Magel, in West Liberty, was the cause of the deaths of two persons and the severe injury of six others.

The dead are: Henry Magel, aged 55 years; burned to death in the cellar.

Charles Magel, his son, aged 20; both legs burned off and caught under falling walls.

# EIGHT PERSONS INJURED IN COLLISION

Passenger Train Plows in Branch Which Had Stopped to Coal.

St. Louis, Mo. (Special).—A south-bound passenger train on the St. Louis and Iron Mountain road ran into the White River branch passenger at Diaz, near Newport, Ark., injuring eight persons, several of them fatally. The branch train had just pulled onto the main line and stopped for coal when the fast train struck it and plowed entirely through the two coaches. That there was not great loss of life was due to the fact that Joe Pennington, the news agent, saw the approach of the St. Louis train and ran through the coaches warning the passengers to jump for their lives.

## 15 MEN KILLED IN MINE

Hurled Fifteen Hundred Feet and Dashed to Pieces.

Victor, Col. (Special).—By the falling of a cage in the Stratton Independence Mine, located near the center of this city fifteen men are dead and one other severely injured.

In the main shaft sixteen men were being hoisted in a cage from the sixth seventh and eighth levels. When the cage reached the surface the engineer for some unexplained reason, was unable to stop the engine, and the cage, with its load of human freight, where it became lodged temporarily. The strain on the cable finally caused it to part, and the cage, released, shot down the shaft with terrific speed.

Two of the occupants, L. P. Jackson and James Bullbeck, had become entangled in the timber rods near the top of the gallow's frame.

Jackson was crushed to death by the sheave wheel falling upon him while Bullbeck had a marvelous escape from death, but received painful injuries before he was rescued from his perilous position.

The other fourteen men were hurled to death down the 1500-foot shaft. As soon as possible the shaft boss and a number of miners went down into the mine through another compartment of the shaft. They found all fifteen dead, the bodies scattered at different points.

Arms and bodies had been torn, head-crushed and clothing stripped from the victims. From the 700-foot level to the bottom the shaft was splattered with blood, while here and there were found pieces of flesh clinging to the projections. At the bottom of the shaft stands twenty-five feet of water, and into this the cage plunged, carrying some of the men into the water with it.

One of those killed, W. B. Collins, was a Baptist minister, who preached on Sundays at Gold Field and during the week worked in the mines. He was 38 years old and came from Cromwell, England, a few months ago. Most of the victims had come here from the Coeur d'Alene, Lake Superior and other districts to take the place of the strikers.

Harry Geogen, one of the victims, leaves a widow and three children in Michigan. Frank Gelles, engineer in charge, surrendered himself to the military officers in the district and was locked up. He would not talk. The militia has taken charge of the mine and a rigid examination will be made.

### Hospitals Under Ban.

Chicago (Special).—Building Commissioner Williams has notified those in charge of eight prominent hospitals that they must receive no new patients in their institutions until certain specified changes are made. The hospitals involved are the Englewood, the Post Graduate, the West Side, the Chicago Woman's, the Homeopathic, the Emergency, the Baptist and the Hering Medical College. "In issuing orders that no new patients be admitted into these hospitals I feel that I am giving a reasonable time for the alteration work which in some cases is not heavy," Commissioner Williams said.

### Engineer Killed.

Toronto, Ont. (Special).—The Chicago express on the Grand Trunk Railroad crashed into two light engines near London East, killing the engineer of one of the light engines and probably fatally injuring the fireman. The people in the passenger train were badly shaken, but none were seriously injured. The accident occurred in a blinding snowstorm.

### King Sends Liens.

Port Said, Egypt (By Cable).—United States Consul General Steiner sailed for his post at Marseilles, France, on his return from his expedition to Abyssinia. The United States gunboat Macchia is expected here from Jibuti, French Somaliland, with two lions and other gifts which Emperor Menelik is sending to President Roosevelt.

### High Price of Cotton.

Raleigh, N. C. (Special).—A special from Burlington says: "At a meeting of the representatives of the cotton mills of Alamance county held at Burlington it was unanimously resolved to curtail the production one-fourth on account of present high prices of cotton and the inability to sell goods at a profit. There are twenty cotton mills in this county, comprising about 103,000 spindles and 5000 looms, employing thousands of hands."

### Egg Flamingo Threatened.

Chicago (Special).—Unless the cold spell which burdens Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and other great egg producing States lessens its grip an egg famine is probable. The present supply in the hands of Chicago merchants is entirely insufficient to meet demands. Receipts have been reduced almost to the vanishing point. The effect has been to place eggs temporarily among the luxuries. Eggs of the quality which could be purchased last week at wholesale for twenty-eight cents are now considered a bargain at thirty-three cents.