

WIFE SOAKED IN OIL AND BURNED

Was Bound and Gagged and Then Placed on Stove.

HUSBAND OF WOMEN IS UNDER ARREST.

Mrs. Alice Van Zandt choked into unconsciousness, bound with strips of lace curtain and laid across gas stove in the kitchen of home in Cincinnati—Her slayer poured two jars of coal oil over her—Burned To A Crisp As Children Played Nearby.

Cincinnati, O. (Special).—Bound and gagged, the body of Mrs. Alice Van Zandt, burned to a crisp, was found lying on top of the gas stove in her kitchen. The woman had met her death while her three young children were playing, unconscious of the tragedy, in the adjoining room.

Jesse A. Van Zandt, the murdered woman's husband, is being held as a witness by the police. The man admits that he quarreled with his wife all Friday night and up to the time he left the house next morning, an hour, he claims, before the discovery of the murder.

According to the coroner, Mrs. Van Zandt was first choked into unconsciousness, then bound and gagged with strips of lace curtain and placed across the stove, with her head in the flames of the burner. The horror of the crime is increased by the coroner's statement that the woman must have recovered consciousness before death. When found all the clothes had been burned off the body and the flesh charred to cinders.

The police discovered that Van Zandt had been paying marked attention to a young girl for sometime. The father of this girl had protested strongly against his daughter's conduct, and had finally brought her before a police magistrate, who ordered her committed to the House of Refuge. On her father's recommendation, however, she was sent instead to a convent.

Burned To A Crisp. The crime was discovered when a neighbor smelled smoke and summoned the fire department. The body was burned almost to a crisp, only remnants of the clothing sticking to it.

The police claim that the clothing had been saturated with kerosene. A proof of this was found in two empty fruit jars which had contained coal oil and in an oil-stained flat iron.

Because no outcry was heard, the police believe that the woman was taken unawares and choked into unconsciousness with the curtain.

Mrs. Clara Garner, the neighbor who gave the alarm, told the police that when the smoke had subsided sufficiently for her to enter the kitchen, she found the rear door locked. The front door, she said, was open. When Van Zandt, who had been summoned home by his eight-year-old son, arrived, he was asked: "When did you see your wife last?"

The question was repeated to him several times before he answered: "I saw her at 10 o'clock. When I left she was going to prepare dinner. What has happened?"

He refused to answer further questions and was locked up.

The Van Zandts came here from the East. One neighbor to whom Mrs. Van Zandt had confided her troubles said that Mrs. Van Zandt was preparing to leave her husband.

CHILDREN KILL THEMSELVES.

Boy 16 And Girl 14 Take Strychnine Because They Couldn't Marry.

Des Moines, Iowa (Special).—Because of parental opposition to their marriage on account of their youth, Vernon Barr, aged 16, and Lina Ammer, aged 14, killed themselves. They were found near Monroe, clasped in each other's arms, sitting upright in young Barr's buggy. In which they were riding home from a dance. On the girl's lap rested a cup partly filled with strychnine and water. The horse proceeded on his way and stopped at the gate of the girl's home.

AUTO WITH SIX DROPS 40 FEET.

Three Occupants Killed; Three Expected To Die.

Kansas City, Kan. (Special).—Three persons were killed and three badly injured when a motorcar, owned and driven by John Mahoney, a contractor, of Kansas City, Kan., became unmanageable at Cliff Drive and Agnes Avenue and plunged 40 feet over an embankment into what is known as Cliff Drive Canyon. The machine was demolished and the occupants were badly mutilated. It is feared all of the injured will die.

Needle In Her Toe 15 Years.

York, Pa. (Special).—Mrs. Charles E. Carr, 563 West Princess Street, had removed from her great toe on her right foot half of a needle which had entered the toe 15 years ago. The needle showed no rust spots whatever. Mrs. Carr says she swallowed the needle, and about eight years ago took a piece of it out of the left foot.

Shoots Wife And Her Mother.

Chicago (Special).—Charles Barnes, an actor, shot his wife in the mouth and through the wrist and her mother Mrs. M. Servoss, in the chest at a hotel here. Neither is thought to be fatally injured. The shooting was the outcome of the separation of Barnes and his wife, who has been living with her mother. It is said Barnes concealed himself in the women's room and opened fire when they entered. He escaped after the shooting.

SHOT DOWN BY PRISON GUARDS

One Killed, Two Wounded, in Break for Liberty.

Attempt To Escape From The Naval Prison Made By Men Serving Short Terms For Minor Offenses—Guards Fire On Them With Riot Guns Loaded With Buckshot When They Disregard Demand For Surrender.

Portsmouth, N. H. (Special).—One man was shot and killed and two others seriously wounded in a daring break for liberty from the naval prison at the navy yard here.

The dead man is Raymond F. Sperling, in Indianapolis, Ind., aged 24 years, a marine private who was serving a two-year sentence.

The wounded men are Harry McGarvey, a coal passer, serving a sentence of two years and 11 months, shot through the right elbow and Albert J. Montgomery, a coal passer, under a year and six months' sentence, shot through the left leg and right arm.

The three men were in a party of five, under a marine guard, who had just left the naval prison after the dinner hour to work about the yard. Sperling, Montgomery and McGarvey made a break for liberty and managed to get to a floating stage, where there were several boats used by navy yard workmen.

The sounding of the jail-break signal on the fire-alarm whistle brought every guard to his post. Nevertheless, the fleeing trio, by dodging around various buildings, managed to reach the banks of the Piscataqua River and jump into a skiff.

Guards followed fast and the fugitives had gotten only a few hundred feet out into the stream when the pursuers, their demands for surrender disregarded, opened fire with riot guns, which are sawed off repeating shotguns loaded with buckshot.

Sperling almost immediately fell into the bottom of the boat with a bullet lodged over his heart. A moment later McGarvey fell shot in the breast, and another bullet went through one of Montgomery's arms.

The boat drifted helplessly with its wounded crew for some time before guards could put out and tow it back.

BATTLESHIPS POWERLESS.

Their Day Has Passed, Says C. B. Harmon, Aeronaut.

Pasadena, Cal. (Special).—Clifford B. Harmon, a New York aeronaut, said in a lecture before the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce that the day of the battleship had passed.

No nation, he said, would dare send a fleet of these to our shores on a hostile mission with so many masters of the air ready to meet it.

"It has already been demonstrated," said Mr. Harmon, "that one balloon or aeroplane can carry enough explosives to annihilate any fleet in the world, while the warships would be powerless to protect themselves. The aeroplane has not yet reached its full stage of efficiency, but now it insures the safety of our coast against hostile invasion."

WOMAN BEATS BURGLAR.

Knocks Him Out And Then Takes Him To Police Station.

New York (Special).—A bantam burglar was no match for Mrs. Clara Lindenauer, a welterweight, in a rough-and-tumble fight in her apartment, where she found him packing up the silverware.

Mrs. Lindenauer returned from a shopping tour, and landed a strong right on the little man's jaw before she took off her hat. A few more well-directed punches, and her query, "Got enough?" brought the ready response, "You bet." With a firm hold on his coat collar she led the culprit to the nearest police station.

PEOPLE OF PARIS IN DESPAIR OVER RUIN

Nine Square Miles of the City Under Water.

CHASMS IN THE MANY BOULEVARDS.

Seine Has Stopped Rising and Tributaries Going Down.

PUBLIC SERVICES BADLY CRIPPLED.

Bursting Sewers Cause Streets To Sink And Buildings To Collapse—Broken Gas Mains Plunge Parts Of City Into Darkness—Converted Into Asylums And Hospitals For The Sick And Homeless—Weird Night Scenes In The French Capital—Women Crying For Bread From Windows.

Utica, N. Y. (Special).—The locomotive of the New York Central Twentieth Century Limited east-bound, turned completely over about a quarter of a mile west of St. Johnsville. It slid 300 feet before it stopped. Under the engine pits fireman Melvin J. Handville, of Syracuse, was crushed beyond recognition. The engineer, John Scanlon, of Fort Hunter, attempted to leap when the engine left the rails, but he was caught between the engine and tender and cut and crushed in a terrible manner. None of the coaches left the track, though the trucks of several of them are derailed. Most of the passengers were thrown from their berths and some were slightly injured.

There is a signal tower about a quarter of a mile west of the St. Johnsville station, and from this the switches and crossovers are controlled. For some reason, not yet explained, it was necessary for the operator to shift the train from track No. 1 to track No. 2, and he had thrown the switch for the crossover and set the signals.

The supposition is that the signal cautioning Engineer Scanlon to slow down was not seen by him in time to bring his train under full control, and when the locomotive struck the crossover the ponderous machine bounded in to the air turned upon its side in a twinkling and then, as it struck one of the rails, rolled upon its back and plowed ahead through the rails, ties and ballast at least 300 feet. The sudden twist wrenched loose the coupling between the engine and baggage and mail car, and this saved the train from the ditch. The heavy coaches bounded off the track in front, but they fell back right side up and remained in an upright position. The passengers were mostly all asleep, and some of them were scarcely disturbed.

No blame appears to be attached to the tower man, Joseph Battle, for the accident, as he had set the signals in proper time. The engineer, who apparently mistimed the speed of his train, is dead. The passengers were mostly all asleep, and some of them were scarcely disturbed.

All the coaches were derailed and they stood at an angle, reaching from track 1 to track 4.

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THE 20TH CENTURY FLYER IS WRECKED

Train Was Running a Mile a Minute.

Former Falls To See Signal To Slow Down And Dashes Onto A Crossover Between The Tracks At Full Speed—Locomotive Topples Over And Slides 300 Feet—The Train "Smeared" Over Four Tracks—No Passengers Hurt.

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CHICAGO HAS A BIG GRAFT SCANDAL

Eleven Officials Indicted By The Grand Jury.

AMOUNT INVOLVED IS OVER \$250,000.

Paul Redieske, Resigned Deputy Commissioner Of Public Works; Michael McGovern, A Wealthy Contractor, And Nine City Officials Charged With Conspiracy To Defraud City In Connection With Tunnel Construction.

Chicago (Special).—Paul Redieske, resigned deputy commissioner of public works; Michael McGovern, a wealthy contractor, who has had many big city contracts, and nine city officials and employees of McGovern, were indicted by the grand jury. The men are charged with conspiracy to defraud the city of \$254,000, according to the sum mentioned in the true bill.

The indictment on this charge came as a complete surprise, as it was believed the alleged frauds involved only about \$45,000 in the so-called "shale rock" scandal.

The men indicted besides Redieske and McGovern are: Otto Niehoff, secretary to McGovern; Max Landruth, former superintendent for McGovern; George Moore, a foreman for McGovern; Ralph Bonnell, resigned assistant city engineer; John C. Parks, assistant city engineer; Robert Green, a foreman for McGovern; Richard Burke, John McNichols and Joseph Maher, city inspectors in the engineer's department.

Did Not Fill Contract. The indicted men are superficially accused of conspiring to defraud the city by laying only one-sixth of the concrete and brick work called for in the contract for the construction of the Lawrence Avenue tunnel.

The Merriam Commission, which has been investigating municipal expenditures, brought out the fact that the city had been charged about \$45,000 for the cutting out of shale rock in section D, of the tunnel. The "shale rock" proved to be only hard clay. Evidence concerning the alleged \$254,000 fraud upon which the indictment was based were not brought out by the commission.

In the indictment the men are charged with trying to obtain nine warrants for payment of \$254,000 by the city of Chicago. The last payment on the quarter-million dollar contract for the Lawrence Avenue tunnel or sewer was made by the city on July 19, 1909.

The witnesses upon whose testimony the men are believed to have been indicted were: John J. Hanberg, commissioner of public works; John Ericson, city engineer; E. J. Miller, voucher clerk in the city controller's office, and five employees of McGovern.

Redieske Unemotional. Redieske displayed little emotion when he was told he had been indicted and shortly after furnished the \$20,000 bail required of him. McGovern was also held in \$20,000 bonds, while the others were placed in \$5,000 each. McGovern announced that he would furnish the bonds tomorrow.

The following statement was made by Redieske: "The only thing that I can say is that no report of any irregularities of shortage of material in the construction of the sewer was ever made to me. I had reports that the work was progressing very favorably; in fact, the city engineer reported to me that the job was one of the finest pieces of sewer-building he had ever seen. Mayor Busse refused to make any statement when he was told of the indictments having been returned."

TRAIN WRECK KILLS FOUR. Three Others Injured When Freight Engine Jumps Track.

Titusville, Pa. (Special).—Four men were killed and three others were seriously injured when a freight train on the Chautauqua Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad jumped the track about a mile north of this city.

Three southbound freight trains had been coupled together, with one engine ahead, one in the middle of the train and the other near the rear. The train was traveling very fast, when the leading engine left the rails and plunged across the track. The cars behind piled upon the engine. All the victims were in the cab of the buried engine. The road was blocked for many hours.

Zelaya Going To Belgium. Mexico City (Special).—Jose Santos Zelaya, formerly President of Nicaragua, announced that he intended to leave Mexico City this week for Vera Cruz, whence he will sail for Belgium. Zelaya will call on President Diaz before he takes his departure.

NEW YORK WORLD WINS LIBEL SUIT

Action Started By Roosevelt Is Thrown Out of Court.

Indictment Against Joseph Pulitzer For Attacks On Former President Quashed By Judge House On The Ground That Federal Statute Applied Is Not Sufficient In Authority And That The United States Court Lacks Jurisdiction.

New York (Special).—The indictment against the Press Publishing Company, publishers of the New York World, charging Joseph Pulitzer and others with criminal libel against Theodore Roosevelt, President Taft and others, was quashed in the United States District Court. Judge Hough ruled that the statute upon which the indictment rested was not sufficient in authority, or, in other words, that the court had no jurisdiction.

Delancey Nicolai, counsel for the defendants, interpreted the decision as a signal victory for the freedom of the press. "The curious and ingenious mind," he said, "that brought to life, for the first time in 85 years, the law under which this prosecution was begun has retired to private life but has left this legacy behind him: that the statute which was brought to life by this prosecution was not sufficient in authority, or, in other words, that the court had no jurisdiction."

"The statute under which this suit was brought was drafted to punish offenses not covered by the laws of the section in which they were committed. In construing the statute it is not for us to consider what a fair-minded attorney general might do under it; it is for us to consider what can be done with it. We had better have the session law, or even the star chamber, again than such a monstrous practice as the government advocated in this proceeding."

Roosevelt's Scathing Words. President Roosevelt, in his message of December 15, 1908, to Congress, thus characterized the publications of which he complained: "It is idle to say that the known character of Mr. Pulitzer and his newspaper are such that the statements in that paper will be believed by nobody; unfortunately, thousands of persons are ill-informed in this respect and believe the statements they see in print, even though they appear in a newspaper published by Mr. Pulitzer."

"These statements are false in every particular from beginning to end. The wickedness of the slanders is only surpassed by their fatality. So utterly baseless are the stories that, apparently, they represent, in part, merely material collected for campaign purposes, and, in part, stories originally concocted with a view of possible blackmail."

"I do not believe we should concern ourselves with the particular individuals who wrote the lying and libelous articles. The real offender is Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, editor and proprietor of the World. It should not be left to a private citizen to sue Mr. Pulitzer for libel. He should be prosecuted for libel by the governmental authorities. There is nothing to choose between a public servant who betrays his trust, a public servant who is guilty of the real crime, or financial dishonesty of any kind. Mr. Pulitzer has been guilty in this instance. It is, therefore, a high national duty to bring to justice this villain of the American people."

Belongs In State Courts. Judge Hough in rendering his decision said, in part: "It is charged here that the crime of sending libelous matter through the mails is punishable at the place of destination of the libelous matter. It is so held that the offense of libel on federal territory is a crime cognizable in the federal courts, the question is a broad one. In this case we have an alleged libel that was published in New York City and sent out into Orange County. But we find that in the distribution made in Orange County it happened to be disseminated at West Point, a territory ceded to the government, and, therefore, the action comes up in this court."

"It cannot be denied that by the same act a crime may be committed cognizable by the State and the nation, but this affords no reason to confine the punishment of the offender to one jurisdiction. The law which has been invoked here, I take it, simply a territorial convenience, and, therefore, in this case, if any crime has been committed, it is to be regarded rather as an offense against the State of New York, which happened to be committed on government land, than as an offense against the government under the statute."

"The burden of proof rests upon the prosecution to show that it was the intent of Congress to intrust to the courts of the United States the punishment of offenses other than those primarily committed on United States territory."

Lightning Brings Wealth. Dalhart, Texas (Special).—Mrs. Josie Pettis declared that a bolt of lightning struck the ground on the mountainside near her farmhouse recently and uncovered a spring of crude oil, which is now producing 200 barrels daily. The land, before the uncovering of the spring, had barely yielded enough to support her.

For A National Cotton Association. Atlanta, Ga. (Special).—A meeting to organize the National Cotton Products Association has been called for Atlanta for February 10. The call says the purpose of the new association will be: "To concentrate the heretofore scattered efforts of helping the government to improve agriculture by means of states, press, colleges, railroads, experiment stations, industries and individuals into one great cooperative movement through which alone we can hope to achieve the highest results and secure advance prosperity."

WASHINGTON BY TELEGRAPH

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