

INGENIOUS REPORTERS.

THOSE OF CHICAGO ARE BOTH DETECTIVES AND JOURNALISTS.

They Have Unearthed Most That Is Known About the Cronin Case and Many Other Murders - Extraordinary Devices Employed - Disguised as Women or Priests.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON, July 18.—The most successful detective in this country are the newspaper reporters. In no other city have they done such good work in this line as in Chicago. The young giant of the west is the headquarters of sensational news in this country. It produces more murder mysteries, great crimes and interesting "cases" than the metropolis and all its surrounding cities combined.

A look back but a few years calls to mind no end of the sensational news. Besides the Anarchist affair, which was international in its bearings, scores of other crimes or mysteries have attracted attention throughout the country. There was the Joe Mackin election fraud case, which involved the election of a United States senator; the Wilson double murder at Winnetka, the trial and sentence to prison of McGargle, McDonald and several county commissioners; the sensational escape of Metairie to Canada, the midnight killing of millionaire Snell, the Eva Mitchell mystery, the Carter divorce case, and last, and perhaps greatest of all, the assassination of Dr. Cronin.

It is a saying among the newspaper men of Chicago that they are no sooner out of one big thing than another is ready for them. And this is true. The Anarchist trials were no sooner over than the unfaithful public officials were brought to the bar of justice. These trials out of the way, the Anarchists were ready for the gallows. Then came the Snell killing and the shooting of millionaire Rawson, and after that the Carter divorce case. The very day the verdict in this case was brought in the body of Dr. Cronin was found in a sewer.

The successful Chicago reporter is more than a newspaper man—he is a detective, a corner, a policeman; he is almost a judge. Sensational wheat corners and speculative panics which sweep up the city are not his easiest tasks. When men or women go to Chicago to commit suicide, as they often do, the Chicago reporter welcomes them with all proper hospitality and attention.

In this Cronin case the reporters have discovered about all the evidence there is in the hands of the authorities. It was Gallagher, of The Tribune, who discovered the nature and extent of the significance of the bogus dispatches sent out from Toronto announcing Dr. Cronin's arrival there. It was another Tribune man, Sullivan, who gave to the public the facts about Alexander Sullivan's losses in the wheat market. It was Lederer, the Herald artist, who, by promptly and skillfully following up an unimportant clue, discovered the scene of the cruel killing at the Carlton cottage. It was another Herald man who hunted among the hundreds of expressmen in the city till he found the one who drove the load of furniture to that bloody little house in the suburbs.

At every stage of this case the reporters have given the police more information than the police have given them, notwithstanding that all the advantages are on the side of the police. When a man has anything to tell he goes straight to the police with it. People are afraid to talk to newspaper men on such matters, because they dislike publicity.

When the police were at their wits' end for a key to the mystery of the murder of millionaire Snell, a bright reporter worked out a clue which the police had overlooked, and found that the young good-for-nothing Tascott, was the guilty person. Though not generally known, it is a fact that the newspapers of Chicago have spent thousands of dollars trying to catch Tascott, and in all probability have been closer to him than the police. A Chicago reporter is now en route for China on a Tascott mission, which may or may not justify the expectations of the newspaper which is paying his expenses.

What may be said to have been the beginning of reportorial enterprise in Chicago was a similar trip abroad, made by a representative of The Daily News. The president of a Chicago savings bank had stolen a large sum of money and disappeared. The News reporter showed him to Europe, found him and interviewed him. The News was then a young and struggling journal, and this feat materially helped it along the highway to success.

Newspapers are more persistent than the police. Another representative of The News visited Europe while the Anarchists were lying in jail, and by shrewd maneuvering managed to interview the relatives of the accused men to ascertain all about their history on the other side of the water, and even to procure copies of letters which they had written home. In this Tascott case, too, the police appear long since to have given up hope of apprehending the culprit. The newspapers are still at work. The woman with whom young Tascott was infatuated is still under newspaper surveillance.

Not many months ago a young woman, employed by a Chicago newspaper, engaged as servant in the family of Tascott's brother. That newspapers are discreet as well as enterprising is also shown in this case. A reporter spent two months investigating a phase of the Snell mystery which had been neglected, and obtained information which would have created a great sensation if published. But as it was information which possibly could not be substantiated in court, the secret is locked in the breasts of a half dozen persons.

It was a Chicago reporter, Mr. Chapin, then of The Tribune, now of The Times, who performed the unprecedented feat of capturing the sole survivor of a great steamship disaster and of retaining his prisoner away out of the reach of other newspaper men. A passenger steamer was lost near Milwaukee. At that time it was supposed all on board had perished, but after the passage of many days one man was picked up and taken ashore. Chapin chartered a tug and took this man to Milwaukee and thence to Chicago and his own home. It is perhaps superfluous to remark that the man was well cared for and thoroughly interviewed. The same Mr. Chapin was lucky enough to catch Mr. Garlie as he landed on Canadian soil. A dozen reporters were skimming all through Canada, but Chapin alone was lucky enough, or shrewd enough, to be at the right spot. When Mr. Garlie jumped ashore the first man he saw was this Chicago reporter.

When rich old Mr. Wilson and his wife were found beaten into jelly in their home at Winnetka, near Chicago, the police looked for another first and concluded they had another first in their hands. While the police were running around looking for clues a reporter, this Mr. Chapin, found that Neal McKeague, a butcher of the village, had owed Mr. Wilson some money; that he had been the first to discover the bodies but that he had returned to his

AN ARTISTIC EVOLUTION.

THE SUNBEAM HARNESS TO THE PRINTING PRESS.

Waxed Paper Negatives—The Father of Modern Practical Photography—"Veteran" Roche, a Typical Inventor—Photo-Mechanical Printing.

(Special Correspondence.)

NEW YORK, July 18.—The great defect of M. Daguerre's invention was that the images produced by it could not be multiplied except by repeating the operation as many times as copies were desired, of the costly and tedious original process. The fact was clearly apprehended by scientific and practical men that he had opened the way to a field of infinite possibilities. It was not yet enough that the sunbeam should be imprisoned in the camera; it must be harnessed to the printing press. A creditable attempt in this direction was made by Sir W. R. Grove, who, not long after the invention of the daguerotype, discovered a means of etching it in the plate, with acid, to a sufficient depth to enable—with very delicate manipulation—printing from it, but his process was merely an ingenious and expensive curiosity, a failure for all practical purposes. The steps were slow by which the present perfection of the art was reached.

Mungo Paton, in 1830, discovered the sensitiveness of bi-chromate of potash to light. In 1841, Fox-Talbot, of England, did the first real photography by what he denominated the "calotype" process, but in what would now seem a very crude way. He made his negatives upon paper, which was subsequently waxed and rubbed with hot iron to render it semi-transparent. Then he made his positives upon paper over which had been floated albumen charged with iodide of silver. That process, or a very close approximation to it, by the way, is still in use in Paris for the making of magic lantern "slides," an art in which we now excel.

Louise, of Pointe-à-la-Croix, in 1855 made the great improvement of employing waxed paper for negatives of glass coated with gelatin and other organic matter in combination with the bi-chromate of potash or of ammonia. From this point really have sprung all the many ingenious and for their respective uses enormously valuable, processes of producing photo-relief, photo-lithographic and other plates for various sorts of printing. The volume would be required to recapitulate the improvements and variations that have been made since Pointe-à-la-Croix's time—in all civilized countries, but principally in the United States—but all rest directly upon his invention as a base, and Pointe-à-la-Croix as the father of modern photography is hardly less worthy of honor in remembrance than Daguerre. It is true that in 1847 Niepce de St. Victor used iodized albumen on glass sensitized with nitrate of silver with fairly good results; and that Scott Archer, of England, in 1851 brought colodion—which had then recently been invented for surgical uses by Le Gray—into use, but neither of them reached the point of practically attaining by Pointe-à-la-Croix with gelatine. M. Pierre Ignace Alexis Giannini, of France, produced a colodion emulsion the formula of which did not get into general use, but served as the basis for a number of improvements a little later and was employed for several years thereafter. In 1861 he made a gelatin emulsion and called it "photogen."

Not long after Pointe-à-la-Croix's discovery Paul Pretsch, of Vienna, found that if he made a plate of glass with bi-chromate gelatin to a thickness three or four times as great as that employed by Pointe-à-la-Croix, and when it was dry exposed it in contact with a photographic negative, the gelatin where the light acted upon it was rendered insoluble and hard, while from the other parts, where the light had not acted, the bi-chromate could readily be washed out, and the gelatin there would absorb water and swell up just in proportion as it had been protected from the light, giving a perfect matrix from which plaster casts or electrotypes could be made. So delicate was the action of the light that half tones were preserved and the reproduction of accurate printed copies of the original seemed to be, theoretically at least, merely a matter of color and impression. In practice, however, it was found that there was a great deal of improvement still necessary before the process could be made commercially valuable. One of the moderately successful methods tried was that of coating metal plates with asphaltum, which hardened under the light and could be removed readily by solvents from the unexposed parts, thus presenting a surface for etching. Lines and stippled work could be well reproduced in this way, but the usefulness of the process was limited. Pointe-à-la-Croix produced some good work by coating his glass plates thinly with gelatin and printing from them as from lithographic stones, the parts exposed to light taking ink, while those not exposed would absorb water and so repel the ink. That method was greatly improved by Albert of Munich, mainly in the ink, and others by the late Mr. J. H. Schlegel and his process—named after him—was still the most perfect for exceedingly fine photo-mechanical work, but with the drawback that it is slow and costly. Obernetter and Edwards also made improvements.

When news of what was doing in this direction abroad reached New York, Mr. T. C. Roche, familiarly, admirably and affectionately known as "the young photographer in the United States and pretty much all over the world as 'the Veteran' and 'Daddy' Roche," set to work experimenting. He tried to get some such ink as was used abroad, and the price demanded for it was \$18 per pound, quite beyond his means. When he recovered his breath he went away and began at the beginning by making his own ink.

After a long series of experiments he settled upon copper plates as the best for the work, and at the next convention of photographers exhibited a pile of photographs printed from such plates, in such perfect reproduction of superb originals produced by sun printing that their character was not recognized until he explained it. Then it made a sensation. He had beaten Europe. His process is still used by the United States government and by commercial houses who own it in Boston and Chicago, but like all his numerous and important inventions, it netted him scarcely anything. The great hearted and liberal firm of ink dealers, who charged him \$18 per pound for the imported ink, offered him \$25 for the formula by which he produced better ink than the imported.

This matter of photo-mechanical printing is, however, leading us away from our historical reminiscences to the present development of photography as a picture making art, into what, though only one of the branches of its application, is nevertheless a very wide field. To return to the main thread. The colodion process held its own for all photographic work as late as 1871 and is still used with better results than any other for the making of such solid black and white negatives as are used by photo-engravers, in types, and certain other specific applications, but in the vast majority of cases Dr. R. L. Maddox brought out in England dry plates coated with gelatin combined with bromide of silver. They were by no means perfect, but their durability was at once manifest and incited many experimenters to seek improvements upon them. Mr. Burgess, of Peckham, in 1839, and Charles Bennett the letter as late as 1870—made the chief improvements in the direction of increasing the sensitiveness of the dry plates, in which such success has been eventually attained that now an exposure for the infinitesimal part of a second is as effective as that of half a minute was less than a decade ago. Now dry plates are universally used for portraits, landscapes, "instantaneous" views, etc.

ABOUT CANOEING.

A Sport Which Is Becoming Popular with Women.

SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR RIGS

Good and Bad Features of the Various Sail Arrangements—The Standing Lug, the Lateen, the Leg of Mutton Sail, Sharpie Rig—Sail Plan of the Notus.

With every year canoeing grows in popularity. Almost every town of any consequence in the country which boasts a stream a foot or two deep has its canoe club now, or at least its group of two or three enthusiasts. The ladies, too, take to it kindly, and women's canoe clubs are by no means unheard of. One writer has given the following as an explanation of this:

The canoe appeals to the aesthetic sensibilities; it is the most beautiful craft afloat. The canoe is adapted to the timid sex; it is the safest boat that ever took water. The canoe is suited to the less muscular half of humanity; paddling is not fatiguing. The canoe gratifies the social instinct; canoeists are always good fellows, and there is not a single "professional" in the ranks of the fraternity. The canoe has regard to feminine coquetry—though this mental virtue is of both sexes, and on the water you call it interest in the scenery—it goes frankly ahead instead of blindly backing up like a rowboat against the point of destination. The canoe, to anybody, man or woman, who cares for the water, gives more enjoyment to the square mile than any steaming or rowing or sailing craft devised.

NOT DANGEROUS AND EASY TO HANDLE. The modern canoe is an entirely practical thing for a woman to handle. To fit it completely to her use requires but few changes, and these readily made. As defined by the Rules of the American Canoe Association, the canoe is a boat sharp at both ends, not more than thirty-six inches wide on deck and propelled by paddle or sails, but capable of being propelled efficiently by a double bladed paddle. The open canoe for still water use is the lightest of cedar shells. The decked canoe may be long and narrow for a paddling race, but for all around cruising use, and the compass for the great majority of all canoes built, it will vary greatly from fourteen feet in length by thirty inches in width. Twenty-four inches and thirty-three inches are in actual use, the extremes of which the width given is the mean.

Such a canoe carries a centerboard or not according to the work for which she is designed. She has a well or cockpit for her solitary passenger, who is skipper and crew in one, which used to be three feet, but is now commonly two feet by eight inches wide. She has steering gear connected with the rudder lines under the fore deck just where the feet manipulate it conveniently, and also for hand use on the deck in cases where the crew is also helmsman by means of a wheel or windward in a breeze. The canoe has two masts and carries a cloud of canvas or none at all, according to the breeze and

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A Sport Which Is Becoming Popular with Women.

SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR RIGS

Good and Bad Features of the Various Sail Arrangements—The Standing Lug, the Lateen, the Leg of Mutton Sail, Sharpie Rig—Sail Plan of the Notus.

With every year canoeing grows in popularity. Almost every town of any consequence in the country which boasts a stream a foot or two deep has its canoe club now, or at least its group of two or three enthusiasts. The ladies, too, take to it kindly, and women's canoe clubs are by no means unheard of. One writer has given the following as an explanation of this:

The canoe appeals to the aesthetic sensibilities; it is the most beautiful craft afloat. The canoe is adapted to the timid sex; it is the safest boat that ever took water. The canoe is suited to the less muscular half of humanity; paddling is not fatiguing. The canoe gratifies the social instinct; canoeists are always good fellows, and there is not a single "professional" in the ranks of the fraternity. The canoe has regard to feminine coquetry—though this mental virtue is of both sexes, and on the water you call it interest in the scenery—it goes frankly ahead instead of blindly backing up like a rowboat against the point of destination. The canoe, to anybody, man or woman, who cares for the water, gives more enjoyment to the square mile than any steaming or rowing or sailing craft devised.

NOT DANGEROUS AND EASY TO HANDLE. The modern canoe is an entirely practical thing for a woman to handle. To fit it completely to her use requires but few changes, and these readily made. As defined by the Rules of the American Canoe Association, the canoe is a boat sharp at both ends, not more than thirty-six inches wide on deck and propelled by paddle or sails, but capable of being propelled efficiently by a double bladed paddle. The open canoe for still water use is the lightest of cedar shells. The decked canoe may be long and narrow for a paddling race, but for all around cruising use, and the compass for the great majority of all canoes built, it will vary greatly from fourteen feet in length by thirty inches in width. Twenty-four inches and thirty-three inches are in actual use, the extremes of which the width given is the mean.

Such a canoe carries a centerboard or not according to the work for which she is designed. She has a well or cockpit for her solitary passenger, who is skipper and crew in one, which used to be three feet, but is now commonly two feet by eight inches wide. She has steering gear connected with the rudder lines under the fore deck just where the feet manipulate it conveniently, and also for hand use on the deck in cases where the crew is also helmsman by means of a wheel or windward in a breeze. The canoe has two masts and carries a cloud of canvas or none at all, according to the breeze and

It is worthy of mention as a remarkable fact that in all the United States and Great Britain not an inch of paper is made in France, and the Swiss gelatin can be used. Not a single ounce of it is suitable for the use of the manufacturer of photographic material. It is produced in the United States. Cannot some of the big barons of slaughter, out in Chicago, take this hint for the utilization in most profitable fashion of material that they have in excess and so start another "infant industry" that will very promptly stand upon its own feet?

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