

KILLS HIS WIFE

Frank DeFalco Beats Her to Death With Ax.

THEN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

Murderer Is Captured Trying to Leap off Bridge.

HIS MOTIVE WAS JEALOUSY

Innocent Italian Imagines His Wife Loved Another, and Commits Crime While in a Frenzy—Seven Children Left Motherless.

After beating his wife to death with an ax yesterday afternoon, Frank De Falco, an Italian, aged 34, tried to take his own

was the cause of all the trouble. Since their marriage, nearly 20 years ago, 13 children have been born, seven of whom are still living. It is argued that the mother of such a family would not be apt to form frivolous attachments at this late date.

Peter Parent, commonly known as Portland as the "canary bird man," is said by De Falco to be the cause of the jealousy. Parent is a familiar figure about the streets, and has a number of birds that are trained to tell fortunes. When seen last night he refused to talk concerning the affair.

"De Falco told me that he was jealous of his wife several days ago," said Mr. Schermer, who has known the family since they came to Portland, 12 years ago. "I made fun of him and told him that it was all foolishness. I did not think anything of the matter after that until he committed the crime."

Among the neighbors it is generally thought that the man's mind had been falling for some time. He is a habitual drunkard, and has been drinking even harder of late than usual. Several weeks ago at an Italian dance he became very angry because a young man bought a drink for his wife. Later the canary bird man came to live at the same house, and from the start De Falco seemed to imagine that his wife's affections were divided. "I saw Pete (meaning the canary bird man) trying to kiss my wife," said the murderer to ex-Detective John Cordano. "When I went home today he was in the house. I saw him, and he ran out the back way." Although the neighbors are disposed to question this statement, the murderer holds firmly to his assertion.

"As you sure Pete was in the house," asked a reporter later, and the prisoner asserted emphatically that he could not be mistaken.

Italians Are Enraged.

The Italians are highly wrought up over the murder, and say they do not entertain any pity for De Falco. Teresa De Falco was a highly educated woman, and had reared a family of which she was justly proud. Two of the girls were dress-

...Meier & Frank Company... ..Meier & Frank Company...

New Laces and Dress Trimmings—A remarkable assortment. New Dress Fabrics—London Twine, Wire Cloth, Albatross, dozen others. The Wash Fabric Display is the most generous we have ever supplied.

Japanese Linen for Shirtwaists, 36 inches wide, 85c yard, fine as silk. White India and China Silks are popular for Shirtwaists. Plain, dotted and figured Pongees in splendid variety—All prices.

Received by express late yesterday afternoon, an immense shipment of new Spring Neckwear—Ready this morning.

Annual Distribution of Footwear



The Great Annual Spring Distribution of Shoes for men, women and children is the store event for the next ten days. It's the fifth in line, and each year we have aimed to make it broader in its scope, of greater benefit in the matter of littleness of prices without reducing qualities. Special priced lines for next ten days' trading include practically everything in desirable footwear. The best makers in the land are well represented by hundreds of pairs of their very best styles. The reason for this sale is to make room for the thousands of pairs of new Spring goods arriving daily. We've made price concessions that will draw great throngs of economical folk. Don't put off coming until the last day of the sale and expect to find the best "plums." Values like we offer today don't last forever. Sale starts at 9 this morning.

\$3, \$5 Shoes \$1.50 pr.

650 pairs Ladies' Dongola Lace and Button Shoes—All sizes and widths, \$3.00 values at \$1.50 a pair.

250 pairs of Ladies' Fine Shoes in various styles, sizes 2 1/2 to 5, widths AA to B, regular \$3.00 to \$5.00 values, while they last \$1.50 pair.

Best \$3.50 Shoes \$2.45 Pr.

400 pairs ladies' welt Shoes, newest goods, very latest styles, patent colt, dull top, patent colt, kid top, all sizes and widths, an exceptionally rare bargain at \$2.45 a pair.

40 pairs of ladies' Kid Lace Shoes, \$3.50 and \$4.00 values, in good sizes, while they last, pair \$2.65

Ladies' Shoes

Note the Great Bargains

\$3.00 PAIR—For 15 pairs of \$5.00 Velour Calf Shoes for women, high top, good line of sizes, remarkable value at \$3.00 pair.

\$3.00 PAIR—For 75 pairs of women's \$5.00 Shoes in black box calf or vicol tan, heavy sole, all sizes, great value at \$3.00 pair.

\$3.25 PAIR—For 30 pairs of ladies' \$5.00 Shoes in mirror calf, lace style, great value at \$3.25 pair.

\$3.75 PAIR—For 15 pairs of women's \$6.00 Shoes, patent calf, Louis heel—remember, only 15 pairs, \$6.00 value, \$3.75 pair.

\$4.00 PAIR—For 15 pairs of women's Patent Leather Lace Shoes, heavy sole, the regular \$6.00 styles, at \$4.00 pair.

\$4.50 PAIR—For 20 pairs of Norman & Bennett's high-top Tan Boots, very best made, regular \$6.00 styles at \$4.50 pair.

Men's Shoes \$2.15 Pair

300 pairs of men's black and tan Shoes, broken lots, regular \$3.50 to \$5.00 values, while they last \$2.15 pair.

75 pairs of men's medium heavy Shoes, high tops, sizes 6 and 6 1/2, 10 to 11, regular \$3.50 and \$4.00 values, to clean up at \$2.15 pair.

Slippers

Entire stock of Men's Slippers at these reductions:

\$5.00 Slippers for \$3.65 a pair

\$4.00 Slippers for \$3.25 a pair

\$3.00 Slippers for \$2.25 a pair

\$2.00 Slippers for \$1.60 a pair

Slippers

Ladies' Slippers greatly reduced

\$5.00 Patent Leathers \$3.60

\$5.00 Patent Leather and Kid Colonial at \$3.25

\$3.00 to \$4.00 Fancy Slippers \$1.60. Odd lot.

Men's Top Coats

\$6.58, \$8.98

Two great values in men's Spring Overcoats for today, tomorrow and Saturday—Best styles and materials, unusual value.

Men's Tan Covert Topcoat, neatly made, best trimmings, correct style, special for 3 days

\$6.58 Each

Men's Gray Cheviot Spring-weight Overcoat, very best style, desirable material

\$8.98 Each



696th Friday Surprise Sale

Tomorrow the 696th Friday Surprise Sale—A great offering of 300 Bed Spreads at one-third less than regular value—Half the lot are white spreads of full size and fringed—The other half are colored spreads, blue, pink and blue, also fringed—Best patterns and quality—Not one in the lot worth less than \$1.75—Your choice tomorrow

\$1.30 Each

See Fifth Street Window Display.



New Laces of every description—Very large variety. New Dress Trimmings—Drop in all styles and sizes. New White Dress Materials—Hopsacking, Wirecloth, etc.

The great Kitchen Goods Sale continues through this week—Housekeepers take note. Last three days of the Homefurnishing Goods Sale—Surprising values in all lines.

Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company Meier & Frank Company



FRANK DE FALCO, WHOSE MURDER OF HIS WIFE LEAVES SEVEN CHILDREN MOTHERLESS.

life by jumping from the Fourth-street bridge in the Marquam Gulch, 100 feet below. That he lives to bear the punishment for his crime is due to H. J. Schermer, who seized him by the coat as he was about to make the fatal leap and held him until assistance could be summoned. The prisoner does not attempt to deny that he killed his wife, and says that he did it because he was jealous of another man. Left motherless by his deed are seven children, from 6 to 25 years of age. Their mother was dead when they found her in the house, and for the father they can see no future but the gallows. The deed committed yesterday by De Falco is one of the most brutal in the history of Portland. So far as is known, no one witnessed it, but evidence indicates that the husband struck down his wife as she was sitting by a table sewing. From the position of her body it seems that she was given no warning until the fatal blow fell. The weapon used was a heavy hatchet with a handle about 18 inches long. Not content with striking a blow which instantly knocked the life from his helpless victim, the infuriated murderer continued to beat her over the head until her scalp was covered with wounds and the bones of her skull broken into splinters. Her neck and arms were also badly cut up where the blows had fallen wide of their mark.

makers and had a shop in Portland for some time. The mother had always insisted upon giving the children an education, and had worked hard all of her life with this end in view. The younger ones were at school at the time the murder occurred. Among the Italians Mrs. De Falco was held in high esteem and was regarded as a leader. Her education and her understanding of the English language made her advice valuable to those who were not so well equipped. The husband, on the other hand, is a very illiterate man. He can hardly understand the English language, although he has been in Portland for 12 years. When he is drinking he is said to be very rough with his family.

Had No Reason for Jealousy.

Pasco De Falco, the oldest girl at home, insists that her father had no reason for being jealous of her mother. "Heavy drink," said she to a reporter, "is what brought my father to this. He has been very quarrelsome of late. Although he never has much to say when any one is around, he was very abusive when he was alone with my mother. Often after I have gone to bed at night I have heard him quarreling with her until late. He always makes up, and says that he will not quarrel any more, but at the first opportunity he is at it again."

TRADE WITH ARGENTINA.

Engineer Cortell Urges the Advantages of Reciprocity.

"Two years in Argentina as the Consulting Engineer of National Public Works," was the title of a lecture delivered last night by Dr. Elmer G. Cortell, the eminent civil engineer, at the Board of Trade rooms. He explained that he was in Portland, not as a professional lecturer, but as special agent of the Argentine government to try to foster better trade relations between this country and Argentina. He rapidly sketched the map of South America, told of the La Plata River, which in ancient times had a maximum discharge of 4,000,000 cubic feet per second, portrayed the more important South American revolutions growing into the birth of nations, referring especially to the development of Argentina.

"The population of that country is now about 5,000,000," he went on. "Its present rate of growth per decade is about 40 per cent, that of the United States being 20 per cent, and Germany 15 per cent. The Province of State of Buenos Ayres is as large as Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Connecticut and Massachusetts combined. It has 1,200,000 people, 10,000,000 cattle, 50,000,000 sheep and 2,500,000 horses. In 1901 it raised 72,000 tons of wheat and 1,200,000 tons of corn. In the whole republic there are over 30,000,000 head of cattle. One of the important industries of the country is the 'saladeros,' which is salted or jerked beef and extract of beef, etc. Nearly \$40,000,000 is invested in this industry. Brazil is the principal market. 'Argentina is a protectionist country, and its resources for conducting the government are largely raised from customs dues. The United States imports \$200,000,000 per annum of sugar, hides, linseed, hemp, jute, wool and fruit, and \$25,000,000 of wool and woolen goods. All these are produced by Argentina yearly, yet only \$2,000,000 of the \$200,000,000 comes from Argentina, or 1 per cent. Reciprocal trade would open the United States

to Argentina wool and treble the production in a few years," he went on. "Dr. Cortell talked about the home and business life of the people of Argentina, and in closing said: 'During two years of close relation with the people of Argentina and especially with government officials, I have formed a favorable idea of the people and of the possibilities of business and profitable enterprise for our own people there. The high government officials and the leading men of the country desire to have the 'Norte Americanos,' as we are called, come to Argentina, with their business energy, ability, and capital, to help build up and move forward to its high destiny that great country of South America, so close to our own in climate, soil, rivers, coast line, and other general features.'"

Trust President Arrested.

ASSBURY Park, N. J. Feb. 25.—President Twining and Treasurer Cornell, of the failed Monmouth Trust Company, were arrested here today. The officials are accused of falsifying the reports of the conditions of the trust company, the charges being made by Bank Examiner Vredenburg. Prosecutor Foster had a

conference with Judge Healey, and it was decided to place Twining under \$500 bail and Cornell under \$400 bail. There are three charges against President Twining and two against Treasurer Cornell. After some delay Twining secured five bondsmen, and he was released on \$500 bail.

DESERT THEIR HOMES.

Kalamas Man Elopes With a Married Woman.

Two homes, one in which six children are left fatherless, and in the other four children are left motherless, were broken up by the elopement of Wilson R. Hepler and Mrs. Woodard, from near Kalama, Cowlitz County, Wash. Sheriff Huntington, of Cowlitz County, was in Portland yesterday, and is hot on the trail of the fugitives. They came from Kalama to Portland, but before they were found by the officers left for Tacoma. The Tacoma police have been notified to stop them, and Sheriff Huntington will start for Tacoma at once.

This elopement of two married people has caused a small sensation in Cowlitz County. Hepler is 26 years old, and has six children, while Mrs. Woodard is the mother of four children that she is willing to leave in the care of her husband. Hepler is a singleweaver. Mrs. Woodard's husband is a well-known farmer near Kalama, and Mrs. Woodard has been held in high esteem in the neighborhood.

The two elopers became acquainted last winter. Hepler came to the Woodard home frequently, but people are hospitable in the community, and nothing was thought of the visits. Although no one suspected it from their actions, the two formed an attachment for each other and planned to leave their families. Last Monday was the time set, and instead of taking a boat at Kalama they went to a small landing further down the river. On the boat they came to Portland and stayed a day, but, knowing that they would be followed, did not tarry for any length of time.

Sheriff Huntington, hearing they had come to Portland, hurried after them, but was too late. He arrived yesterday morning, but his birds had flown. By making inquiries at the depot, he found that a trunk, on which was the name of Wilson R. Hepler, had been sent on to Tacoma.

W. G. SMITH & CO.

Third Floor Washington Building, Are the Leading

Wedding and Visiting Card Engravers

AND STATIONERS

Immigrants Pouring In. NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The Immigration officials report today that their books show yesterday (Tuesday) to have been one of the busiest days Ellis Island has known in some time. Owing to the holiday Monday following on the heels of Sunday, there was an unusually large number of steerage passengers arriving in port who had to be taken care of at

the island. Six ships arrived Monday, bringing altogether 375 steerage passengers. They were not landed until yesterday.

To Cure a Cold in One Day Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. This signature is on every box, 25c.