

STRONG EVIDENCE TO PROVE MURDER

Two Men Heard Running From Scene of the Death of Dr. Johnson.

WITNESSES ARE RELIABLE

Circumstances of Terrible Tragedy of Ford-Street Bridge Combine to Prove Police Theory of Suicide Untenable.

CHIEF RECOGNIZES OFFER OF REWARD.

The undersigned is authorized by friends and relatives of the late Dr. Philip Edwards Johnson to offer a reward of \$1000 for the arrest and conviction of or \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who murdered Dr. Johnson in this city on the night of January 7, 1907.

Acting Chief of Police.

BY WILL G. MAC RAE.

A week has passed since Dr. Philip Edwards Johnson was strangled, robbed and hurled over the Ford-street bridge, and this is the first recognition that the police of the city have given that Dr. Johnson met his death at the hands of thugs. The notice was put up by Acting Chief Gratzmacher, Saturday night and the more posting must have been a bitter as well as Acting Chief of Detectives Brinn, for he has been working for a grown man with a noon-day coil.

Acting Chief of Detectives! Well the title suits the man! If he were anything more than a detective, he would be known as early as Tuesday morning, instead of hiding behind his false suicide theory, that two men, on the night that Dr. Johnson was murdered, were heard running from the scene of the murder. These witnesses are Conductor J. E. Peak, of the Council Crest carline and Edward T. Honeymann, who was on duty on the Ford-street bridge at the time the doctor was strangled. They were the only witnesses who were present at the scene of the murder. They were the only witnesses who were present at the scene of the murder.

Police Know Peak's Story.

The police have Conductor Peak's story. It is a story that is known to the police because Conductor Peak told it to a man who said he was a detective.

To Brinn, the fact that two different men were heard running from the scene of the murder by two different men and about at the same hour, as nearly as time can be named, by men who had no knowledge that a murder had been committed, will have little significance. The acting chief of detectives made up his mind quick on the night of the murder that Dr. Johnson had committed suicide, and unlike that saying of the wise man, "that a wise man changes his mind, but a fool never," in spite of the accumulative evidence that has come up since the night of the tragedy, he doggedly refused to drop the suicide theory.

Conductor Peak, who told his story Saturday afternoon to W. W. Lewis and insisted, as he did, that he was a detective, or sister notoriety, connect the story of having met this running man on Monday night. He has been in the service of the streetcar company for several years and from all appearances is a man to be believed and trusted. Peak lives on the Canyon road and has walked across the Ford-street bridge to work for many years ever since it was constructed. He is in charge of a car on the Council Crest line, and it is his custom to get his car out at 7 o'clock and after "cashing up," he started home. The power was off about the time he reached Washington and twenty-third streets, and without waiting for a car, he started to walk. He noticed as he passed St. Helen's Hotel that the light was out and near this point he saw a man running across the bridge towards Washington street. Peak is not sure that the light was burning on the bridge at the time, for the wind was blowing a gale and he had been running up the canyon, the force of the wind on the bridge was terrific. He walked along the footpath on the right side of the bridge and at that time he was just against the railing.

Overtaken by Running Man.

Peak says the time that he crossed the bridge was nearly as he can remember, at 7:50 or 7:55. He was in a hurry to get home and never having been met in his many trips across the bridge, he gave no heed to the time. On reaching the south end of the bridge he entered down the Terrace footpath of a man running north and south. He saw a man running north and south. He saw a man running north and south. He saw a man running north and south.

Captain Brinn's Theory.

As nearly as can be learned, the only thing that Brinn has to base his deduction of suicide on is the manner in which Mrs. Johnson was strangled. The death of her husband, to a man of Brinn's mental makeup this was unimpeachable evidence that the unhappy woman did not wish to die. The fact that she was strangled in vain for some evidence such shocking news could deaden all evidence of emotion and tears. Had Mrs. Johnson fainted at the news, what would have become of Brinn's theory? Another thing which to which this death has attached great significance was the anxiety of the widow to get possession of the keys. To hold to a theory of suicide, Brinn would have to believe that the doctor had been strangled in the middle of a bridge, where a "get away" was not easy. It is true that no matter who the thief is, the first thought is that of a safe escape. Ford-street bridge on Monday night was dark and it was as easy to commit the crime there as at either approach. With the wind blowing as it was on that night, it would be an easy task for the murderers to have slipped up behind Dr. Johnson and strangled him. Conductor Peak says it would have been extremely easy for a man to walk up behind him and he does not know it, for the wind would have deadened all sound.

Johnson's Domestic Relations.

A careful inquiry has been made among the close personal friends and acquaintances of the murdered man, in an effort to find out if there were a bit of truth in the gossip that all was not pleasant and happy between Dr. and Mrs. Johnson. The inquiry has been fruitless. If ever a man had no motive for seeking destruction, that man was Dr. Johnson. At the Nortonia, where the couple lived, not a person can be found that will say other than that their relationship was of the happiest. In fact there was comment among the guests that Dr. and Mrs. Johnson were the happiest of married people. They were always together. On the night of the murder they were in the dining room together and laughed and talked happily through their dinner.

There was some gossip that they had quarreled over the plans of the new home which they were building on the east side of the city, but this, like much other babble, could not be verified.

Inquiries among Dr. Johnson's close friends and acquaintances failed to lead to a search for eccentricities. He was not a man of impulse and not one among his many friends could remember ever having seen him in a fit of rage or in a mood of gloom. He was full of life and a person whose companionship was sought. This from men who went through college with him and who were intimate with him for years. Of the friends he made during his brief two months stay in Portland, the same story of his jovial, light-hearted nature is told. So if he committed suicide, it must have been from impulse and without a motive. Then, too, if he had made up his mind to destroy himself, as a physician he would have placed a note in his pocket, or a note in his pocket, or a note in his pocket.

A theory that some have indulged in is that Dr. Johnson climbed to the roof and threw a bucket of kerosene on the scene at this juncture and started to investigate. No one was occupying the premises, and when the officer returned he discovered the fire was plainly incendiary. A large pile of kindling wood, half burned, was found near the front of the building. This wood had been soaked with kerosene and was discovered in an old broom, which had also been soaked with oil and thrown into the kindling as a torch, was discovered by the police. The broom was found in a broom half full of oil and this with the broom handle turned over to Captain of Police Moore as evidence of the incendiary.

The evident purpose of the person who started the blaze was to destroy the large building known as the Paris House, which was recently discovered by the police. This house adjoins the Midway. The closing of the two places has been the cause of more or less litigation during the past few weeks. The former proprietor of the Midway, F. Miesel, recently swore out warrants against several inmates of North End who were charged with the destruction of the building. The warrants were taken into custody. The building was taken into custody. The building was taken into custody.

Later Constable Wagner was called upon to arrest the inmates of the building, who were charged with the destruction of the building. The warrants were taken into custody. The building was taken into custody. The building was taken into custody.

Excited over the incendiary fire, and have commenced organizing a committee of safety. They are in the middle of this organization. He announces that he proposes to hire a watchman to guard the Paris House and the adjoining buildings after 10 o'clock in the morning, when most of the places are deserted.

An alarm from box 22 called the fire department to Thirteenth and Colum-

TOUCH IS APPLIED

Attempt Made to Burn Notorious North-End Resorts.

KEROSENE FREELY USED

Blaze Started in Midway Saloon Building, Adjoining Paris House of Unsavory Fame—Other Rookeries Damaged.

Two fires, one of which was of incendiary origin, threatened several blocks of frame buildings in the red light district on North Fourth street, with destruction yesterday. The first fire destroyed the frame building at 84 Fourth street, while the house at 86 had the roof badly damaged, and

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TOUCH IS APPLIED

Attempt Made to Burn Notorious North-End Resorts.

KEROSENE FREELY USED

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