



POLICE SOLVING TRUNK MYSTERY

Looks Dark for Husband of Dead Girl.

SECOND MAN IN THE CASE

Covington's Drinking Companion Can't Be Located.

WOMAN KILLED IN HOTEL

Bed Coverings Body Was Wrapped in Are Identified—Suspected Men Seen at Eagle Point, Where the Trunk Was Placed in Water.

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 23.—(Special.)—The police believe they have solved the trunk murder mystery. George Robinson today identified the body of the woman as that of his niece, Mrs. Agnes True McCombs Covington, 17 years of age, and tonight the police have a theory that Mrs. Covington was murdered in the Keewick Hotel, at Ninth avenue and Stewart street, where the two Covingtons and Charles Burlison, the intimate friend of Covington, lived together in three rooms. The murder, according to this theory, occurred on September 2 and the woman's body was taken out of the hotel, carried to Eagle Harbor and deposited in the bay at that point.

A peculiar current runs from Eagle Harbor across the bay towards Alki Point. An evidence of the power of this current is that barrels of cement lost at Eagle Harbor have washed ashore at Alki. This theory of the murder is based on facts learned tonight. A lodger at the Keewick overheard Covington tell his wife that she must be as loyal to Burlison as she was to him and the woman refused. That was shortly before the police fix the date of the crime.

Absence From Hotel Noted.

From September 2 until the Covingtons and Burlison were found to have left the hotel from Tuesday until Friday—none of the lodgers at the hotel either heard or saw Mrs. Covington. The police theory is that a quarrel occurred on Tuesday, September 2, the woman's body being immediately wrapped in sheets, a blanket and quilt stolen from the bed, and afterward jammed in the trunk. The bedding, identified as having come from the hotel, was found in the trunk with the girl's body.

Covington and Burlison Missing.

Covington was in Seattle on Saturday, September 7, but since that date neither he nor Burlison has been seen. Covington gave out a statement to the hotel people that the trio had gone camping, but when he returned on Saturday he only took two bottles of whiskey he had left. He had left behind him a supply of groceries, but he made no effort to get them.

In Connection with the Theory that the Body was Thrown into the Bay at Eagle Harbor, the Fact was Confirmed Today that the Rocks Found in the Trunk Cannot be Found Along the Beach at Alki Point, but that the Waterfront at Eagle Harbor is Covered with them. The Police's Theory is that the Body was Carried in the Trunk to Eagle Harbor and there the Two Men Piled in what they Believed would be Rocks Enough to Make it Sink. The Fact that the Current has Carried Cement Barrels from Eagle Harbor to Alki Point Indicates a Reason why the Trunk was Washed Ashore Instead of Sinking.

Identify Burlison's Clothing.

The overalls, the cap and a negligee shirt found in the trunk with the girl's body belonged to Burlison. The letter signed by "Edith" and addressed to "My Dear Brother," in which the passage occurs that refers to Covington as "Frank," and the saloon cards of a wholesale liquor firm, together with several miscellaneous pieces of wearing apparel, belong to Covington.

Covington was a Salesman Employed for about Two Years by J. J. Kelly, where he left his Sample Case, without Explanation on September 7. He also worked for the L. Kistner Lumber Company, and this firm's cards were found in the trunk. Burlison was a Stevedore and the Two were Bosom Friends and Drinking Companions.

The Keewick Hotel, in which the trio lived after being forced out of a better rooming-house, is frequented by working people and no attention is paid to the going or coming of roomers, for they arrive and depart at all hours. The trunk was not seen carried out of the hotel, but it could have been carried out at night or early in the morning.

A Variety of Rumors for Alki Point, one of which says a Covington family camped out there, were run down, but at 11 o'clock tonight, after 35 hours on the case, the police believe they have not only identified the woman's body, but have solved the mystery of her murder.

Mrs. Covington, the girl wife, whose

dead body was found yesterday stuffed into a trunk picked up on Alki Point, had been practically cast off by her relatives since the time she married Frank Covington last March.

Covington and his wife left an apartment-house on Ninth avenue and Stewart street ten days ago because their quarreling disturbed other guests, and the owners of the house refused to keep them longer. Since that time trace has been lost of Covington, and an intimate friend of the couple, Charles Burlison, who lived with them at one time.

The police have only this to connect Covington with the crime: That he and his wife had quarreled several times and that some of Covington's clothing, one of his letters, and several business cards of a firm for which he worked up to ten days ago, were found in the dead woman's trunk. The letter to Covington from his sister Edith was found in an unopened envelope among a pile of new envelopes, as though it might have been placed in the pile and forgotten. The bedding was stolen from a boarding-house in which the couple lived.

Searching for Covington.

On the theory that if Covington is not the murderer he will know something that would lead to the detection of the persons who killed his girl-wife, the police sent a party out in a launch this afternoon to Eagle Harbor and other Bainbridge Island towns from which reports come that Covington has been seen. But neither the husband nor Burlison, his friend, were found.

Covington is a nephew of John Covington, a wealthy hay and grain merchant of St. Paul, a wayward son of the St. Paul man's brother, who also mysteriously disappeared several years ago. Frank Covington is but 23 years of age now and a former resident of Lexington, Ky. His family is well to do and fairly well known. The sister, Edith, happened to be in St. Paul on a visit when she wrote the gossip family letter to Covington. She subsequently returned to Lexington. The police description of Covington is: Age, 23; 5 feet 4 1/2 inches tall; weight, 135; slender; invariably dresses in black and wears a Derby hat; handsome, dark eyes, hair and complexion.

Little Known of the Girl.

After the marriage of Agnes McCombs to Covington, which her relatives here opposed, they saw but little of the girl. She visited her grandmother two or three times, but a coolness had sprung up which prevented further intimate acquaintance with the girl's wife's affairs. What little the police have learned of the relations between Covington and his wife came from fellow-lodgers at the apartment-house or from some of Covington's friends, in whom they are confident.

The girl's aunt, Miss Jennie Robinson, substantiated the identification of her body. The woman's father resides at Vernon, B. C.

EXPLAINS LETTER MYSTERY

St. Paul Man Tells How Stationery May Have Gotten Into Trunk.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 23.—J. B. Covington of this city, whose firm's letter paper was found in the trunk containing the body of a young girl, killed at Eagle Harbor, near Seattle, gave the Associated Press the following explanation of how his firm's paper had come to be in the trunk.

"Edith Covington, aged 25, and her brother, Frank Covington aged 22, were reared by their grandparents in Callettsburg, Ky. After they had grown up, they came to a visit and the boy left here for San Francisco. While he was there, his sister, who was still here, received a letter saying he was going to the Klondike. That was the last we heard of him. What was the last we heard of the young man. Later, Edith married and is now living in Rutherford, Va. A few days ago, a letter came to her here from Seattle, and we forwarded it to her. I presume that while Edith was here, she wrote to her brother on the firm's letter paper and that may explain how the letter got into the trunk. Our theory is that Frank left his trunk behind him when he went to the Klondike and it may have fallen into other hands. The boy always bore an excellent reputation. That is as much light as I can throw upon the matter."

SMALL WRECK TIES TRAFFIC

BROKEN AXLE DELAYS TRAIN MANY HOURS.

Overland Northbound Waits All Night and Then Sent Around Another Way.

ALBANY, Or., Sept. 23.—(Special.)—A wreck, small in size and damage, but great in its consequent delay of traffic on the main line of the Southern Pacific, occurred tonight at 11 o'clock, 1 1/2 miles north of Miller's Station and 5 1/2 miles north of Albany. An axle on a car of a southbound extra freight broke, and two cars were partially derailed. The wreck occurred just before the northbound No. 14 Overland reached this city about 9 o'clock last evening, and this train and also the two sections of this morning's Overland, were held here until 8 o'clock this morning. It was then seen that it would be impossible to get the damaged cars out of the way soon, and these three trains were sent to Portland via the Corvallis & Eastern to Shelburn and then by the Woodburn-Springdale branch to the main line at Woodburn.

The northbound Cottage Grove local was held here until the track was cleared about 11 o'clock this afternoon, and was then started northward to pick up the delayed traffic on the main line. No southbound trains reached the scene of the wreck until the Oregon coasters this noon and it was delayed only a few minutes.

Miller's Station has seen the scene of a number of small wrecks similar in character. About a year ago a northbound freight and a southbound troop train carrying soldiers of the Regular Army from American Lake met in a head-on collision at the exact place of the present breakdown.

Hasten Subj Bay Defenses.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—A fire coast defense system is to be installed in the coast defenses of Subj Bay, the naval base in the Philippines. Conditions in the Far East have rendered it necessary to hasten the completion of this equipment.

OPENS CAMPAIGN UPON HARRIMAN

Fish Says Accounts Have Been Padded.

DIRECT ATTACK ON HARRAHAN

Strange Variation in Illinois Central Profits.

RALLIES THE OPPOSITION

Calls for Proxies to Wrest Control From Harriman, Lest Union Pacific Milk Road of Legitimate Revenue.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.—Stuyvesant Fish, ex-president of the Illinois Central Railroad, made public today a circular addressed to the stockholders of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, in which he asks for proxies to be used at the annual stockholders meeting to be held in Chicago, Wednesday, October 16 next. At this meeting four directors are to be chosen, three of them to succeed John Jacob Astor, Stuyvesant Fish and E. H. Harriman and to fill a vacancy for a term of one year. Coming down to recent history, Mr. Fish says:

"The methods pursued by those of your board of directors who act in the interest of the Union Pacific have been so high-handed as to become the subject of widespread comment. At a recent meeting of the board I offered a resolution of inquiry into subject matters which should properly be disclosed to every shareholder. While in the act of reading my resolution, Mr. Peabody, representing Union Pacific interests moved to adjourn and J. T. Harahan, who was presiding, summarily closed the session. Later, through the power given by the by-laws, the minority who truly represent the interests of the Illinois Central shareholders called a special meeting, whereat I offered a resolution of inquiry into the evident padding of the accounts.

Says Accounts Are Padded.

"Such inquiry was necessary. The all-important duties so ably discharged by the late J. C. Welling, who for 15 years as vice-president and director had exercised a close supervision over the accounting department, had been on his death, in November last, delegated by J. T. Harahan to his own immediate assistant, to be performed as incidental to his other work. It appears from the annual report of the Illinois Central Company for the year ending June 30, 1907, that there was an extraordinary increase in net receipts of the corporation during the last four months, which increase is wholly inexplicable and obviously inconsistent with the facts upon my proper accounting, and clearly made for the purpose of producing a favorable but fictitious showing.

The first third of the year showed an increase in net receipts of \$665,070. Then came the change in the presidency and in the next third of the year the net receipts decreased by \$572,568. Finally in the last four months they were suddenly increased by \$1,232,880, which increase \$664,711 is reported as made in the single month of June. This is a palpable misstatement, which is further emphasized by the fact that, although neither the

mileage nor the operating conditions had changed in the slightest degree, the succeeding month of July showed a falling off of \$3,038 in net revenue as against the reported gain of \$664,711 in June. Yet my resolution of inquiry was referred for report to the president, the very officer who had brought the accounting directly under his own control, and, of course, its whole purpose was defeated.

Danger in Harriman Rule.

"Up to this time I have not asked for a single proxy, nor would I do so now, were it for the extraordinary efforts the present management are putting forth, with the evident intention of electing E. H. Harriman and such persons as he may select, backed by the holdings of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, which constitute a practical balance of power. It is for you to determine whether their holding of about 30 per cent of the stock is to name the directors of the Illinois Central Railroad Company without the consent and to the detriment of the remaining 70 per cent. Do you wish your property to be managed as heretofore, in the interest of the whole body of stockholders, or to be dominated by the Union Pacific, which, if thus put in control for four years, will in that time cause such permanent traffic contracts and engagements to be made as will deprive the Illinois Central of the proper enlargement of its advantages and prevent its securing its legitimate revenue for all time to come?"

"The repeated requests of large numbers of stockholders that I not only represent their holdings at the meeting, but also address the stockholders at large in advance thereof is a sufficient excuse for this letter, as well as for the enclosure herewith of a form of proxy running to two of my colleagues in the board, Charles M. Beach and James D. Cutting and myself."

JURY ACQUITS THE WOMAN

MRS. HAMBLETON NOT GUILTY OF MURDERING HUSBAND.

After Four and Half Hours, With Three Ballots, Jurors Reach Their Verdict.

BAKER CITY, Or., Sept. 23.—(Special.)—"Not guilty" was the verdict tonight of the jury in the case of Mrs. Dorcas Hambleton, tried for killing her husband. The jury went out at 5 o'clock this afternoon and returned a verdict at 9:30 tonight. Three ballots were taken by the jury. A test ballot indicated that the general sentiment was that the woman was not guilty. After considerable argument another ballot was taken. Though the exact vote cannot be learned it is understood to have stood 10 to 2 for acquittal. Further argument among the jurors ended in agreeing to free the woman.

STRIKEBREAKER IS KILLED

Fatal Fight Between Union and Non-union Boilermakers.

HELENA, Mont., Sept. 23.—(Special.)—News considered absolutely authentic, but not officially confirmed, has reached here to the effect that there has been a fatal quarrel between unionists and strikebreaking boiler-makers on the Great Northern Railroad at Glasgow, Valley County. The report is to the effect that one of the strikebreakers was killed in the melee. He was one of the recent arrivals from the East. No names are obtainable.

The Great Northern has sent a carload of strikebreakers to Havre, the main division point on that line in this state, and they are closely guarded. No one is allowed to approach within 200 feet of the shops and strangers are kept off the right-of-way. The machinists do not relish the presence of the strikebreakers, and it is said they purpose holding a meeting to consider the advisability of joining the boiler-makers on strike. There are 500 men employed in the Havre shops.

FLEET COMES TO PROTECT CHINA

Roosevelt Cognizant of Japan's Game.

COREA ONLY STEPPING-STONE

Little Empire Only Appetizer to Greedy Nippon.

NAVAL OFFICERS' VIEWS

Japan Blasted About California Schools to Get Free Hand in Corea—Roosevelt Is Determined China Shall Be Independent.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23.—(Special.)—That the Japanese question has not been settled but is merely in its infancy is the belief of a large number of naval officers who have arrived at San Francisco with the advance guard of the fleet that is to be mobilized in Pacific waters. According to these authorities, the fleet has been ordered to the Pacific not so much as a warning to Japan for her past actions as for a floating protest against her contemplated seizure of China. In fact, these naval men interpret that presence of the fleet on this side of the continent as a message to Japan clearly saying: "Thou shalt not steal China."

These authorities bring forward a number of interesting facts to support their contention. In the first place they point out that a treaty existed between the United States and Korea which was the nearest thing to an alliance that the United States has undertaken. This treaty under a possible construction pledged the American Government to protect Korea against just such a coup as Japan has carried to successful conclusion. It is stated that immediately after the Portsmouth treaty was signed, in which by the way Japan guaranteed the independence of Korea, the island empire busied herself trying the hands of all the big European powers by means of treaties and alliances. The United States Government was the only big power with the exception of Germany not included in this arrangement. The alliance with Great Britain, naturally made a close understanding with Germany out of the question and the traditions of America's foreign policy forbade anything approaching an alliance. From Germany there was nothing to fear. It therefore devolved upon the Japanese statesmen to deal with the United States, before taking full possession of Korea.

Japan's Cunning Intrigue.

The naval officers are prepared to refer to give it as their opinion that the ill-feeling stirred up between the United States and Japan was the work of the Japanese government. While Japan was belligerently protesting against the attitude of the Californians toward the Japanese, it was doing nothing more nor less, according to the authorities cited, than holding America at a distance with one hand while with the other it was choking the life out of Korea. Not so much as a protest was raised in this country, while a strict construction of the treaty with Korea called for an active interference by the United States.

All this time, it is stated, the Califor-

nians were not aware of the real issues involved. This state was merely a buffer between Japan and her ambitions. It is stated, and ample corroboration is at hand, that President Roosevelt was aware that Japan was playing a deeper game. The President never intended interference in the Korean muddle, but it is stated that he predicted that Korea was but a stepping-stone to China.

In regard to the attitude of the President, the writer was told at the very outbreak of the school question in San Francisco by no less an authority than Frederick Palmer, who had conferred on the subject with the President, that the one man in Washington who thoroughly understood the Japanese was Mr. Roosevelt himself. Mr. Palmer had studied Japanese character at close range during the war, and he found himself in agreement with the Chief Executive on the plans and purposes of the men of the island empire. All this is noteworthy inasmuch as it shows that at the very outset the President understood the Japanese question and that his blustering rage was a whirl of the big stick in a cycle of diplomacy.

Roosevelt Watches Over China.

To go back to the naval officers and their views. They hold that as soon as Japan took possession of Corea Mr. Roosevelt was convinced that the next move would involve China, and accordingly began preparations for active interference. The United States sat quietly by while Japan put Corea in its back pocket. It will not sit quietly by if Japan makes the effort to deal in the same manner with China.

To substantiate their theory that the President foresaw a move upon China, the naval men point out that for the last year the American Government has been counting the good will of China more assiduously than ever. In the first place, the return of a large part of the indemnity to China was more than a gesture. Furthermore, Sir Chen Tung Liang Cheng, ex-Chinese Ambassador to the United States, has recently returned to China with a comprehensive scheme for a representative government, worked out by the Chinese statesmen in conjunction with the statesmen at Washington.

Dispute About Kwanto.

The United States is prepared to go to great lengths to preserve the entity of China. Already a question has arisen which may involve the United States. The claim of the Japanese that the Island of Kwanto belongs to Corea and not to China will be investigated by this country. Japan gives it out that she is interested in the Island of Kwanto as a friend of Corea, and pledged to see that the interests of Corea are preserved. It is not a far step from the Island of Kwanto to the plains of China itself. In fact, the evacuation of Manchuria and the opening of the treaty ports are yet to be accomplished. Again, rumors have been floating across the Pacific of plots to unseat the Empress Dowager and to place on the throne in her stead a princeling as subservient to Japan as the weakling who was placed on the throne in Corea.

The big fleet of warships to be gathered on the Pacific Coast will serve to remind Japan that the entity of China is one of the cardinal foreign policies of the American Government. To just what lengths the country will go to preserve the Chinese Empire from Japan is yet to be determined. It is not expected that a military invasion of China is contemplated by Japan, but Naval men are inclined to believe that Japan plans a campaign of diplomacy such as recently deprived Corea of its independence.

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ACCUSED BRIBERS MUST HAVE TRIAL

Indictments Upheld by Supreme Court.

LAST TECHNICALITY FAILS

United Railroad and Gas Magnates to Face Jury.

HENEY OPENS FORD TRIAL

Undertakes to Prove United Railroads' Lawyer Bought Ruef, Schmitz and Supervisors, and Names Price Each Received.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23.—The State Supreme Court late today rendered a decision upholding the validity of the so-called Oliver grand jury. On this decision depended the fate of the indictments found subsequent to March last.

The attack was made on the grand jury by William M. Abbott, of the United Railroads; Frank G. Drum, John Martin and Eugene De Sable, of the San Francisco Gas Company, and other defendants to test the validity of the indictments charging them with bribery. They contended that in February last the names for a new grand jury were drawn and that, while the Oliver jury had not been discharged, its powers lapsed with the first step taken to impanel its successor.

Justice McFarland filed a dissenting opinion.

HENEY OPENS FORD'S TRIAL

Tells Price Paid by United Railroads for Franchise.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23.—Francis J. Henny today, in a 45-minute statement, outlined to the jury which is to pass upon the guilt or innocence of Chief Counsel T. J. Ford, of the United Railroads, the evidence the prosecution proposes to submit in proof of the charge that he bribed Supervisor Thomas F. Longergan in the sum of \$400 to vote for the trolley franchise.

It is the assertion of the prosecution that Mr. Ford, with the active help of his assistant, William M. Abbott, and by the orders of President Patrick Calhoun, of the defendant corporation, paid Abe Ruef, then then political boss, \$300,000; that Ruef kept \$85,000 as his share and through the medium of Supervisors "Jim" Gallagher and Andrew M. Wilson (now Railroad Commissioner) bribed 17 of the 18 members of the Board of Supervisors, Gallagher receiving \$15,000, Wilson \$10,000 and the other 15 getting \$400 each; also that the share of the \$200,000 delivered by Ruef to Mayor Schitz was \$50,000. The only Supervisor who got nothing, according to the prosecution, was Ruef.

Only one witness was examined today, the assistant clerk of the Board of Supervisors, who established by his testimony the passage of the trolley franchise. It has been announced that the first witness tomorrow morning will be ex-Supervisor Longergan.

APPLIES OSLERS' IDEAS

OLD WOMAN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE, TOO OLD TO WORK.

Discharged From Store, Unable to Find Employment, She Ignores Son's Pleadings to Live.

CHICAGO, Sept. 23.—(Special.)—Mrs. Henrietta Tabbert leaped into the lake this afternoon because too old to earn a livelihood and unwilling to burden her son, 19 years old. Rescued and taken to the Harrison-street police annex, she turned a deaf ear to her son's pleadings that she return home with him, declaring she must "think it out first."

The woman, who is 63 years old, recently was discharged from a department store as too old. She tried in vain to find other employment.

"Then I began to think how I could end it all," she said. "I concluded I would be helping my boy by getting out of the way. It was too hard for him to support us both. Living, I am only a burden to him. He is working in the Postoffice and trying to educate himself."

While the woman was explaining her motive, her son, Frederick Tabbert, entered the room in which she lay. "Won't you come home with me, mother, dear?" he pleaded. "I cannot, son," she replied. "At least let me stay here tonight and think it over. I am sorry I was saved. They should have let me die. If I am too old to work, I am too old to live."

Graves Transferred to Portland.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23.—L. R. Graves, who has charge of the special land agents in California in connection with the land fraud cases, has been transferred to Portland to take charge there. The Interior Department has decided to clear up the pending cases in Oregon, and T. B. Neuhausen, who has been in charge of the investigating agents, has been ordered to assist District Attorney Bristol in the prosecution.

