

NEW YORK MYSTERY

How Did G. P. Rummell, of Portland, Meet His Death?

FATAL WOUND NOT SELF-INFLICTED

Body Dropped From Ferryboat Between Manhattan and Staten Island—Warm When Found.

NEW YORK, June 16.—One more dark mystery of New York Bay confronts the harbor police, and it possesses a grisly nature. It is the case of George P. Rummell, a wealthy business man of Portland, Ore., whose body was taken from the abbing tide at Stapleton, in the borough of Richmond, formerly known as the "Black Horse" morning, stone dead, with the throat cut from ear to ear, the awful wound almost severing the head from the body.

The shifting tide about this city often brings up from their swirling depths such horrors, and the dread stories that lie behind most of them have never been told, and never will be while time endures. The ghastly features of this case is that according to the narratives of different witnesses, within the hour that Mr. Rummell's mutilated corpse was found adrift, he was seen alive on the deck of the ferry boat Southfield, plying between the boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond, and which passes on frequent trips over the spot where the body was recovered.

Coroner's Physician George Mord declares that the wound in the throat caused death, and not the water, and he says, also, that from its depth and extent it could not have been self-inflicted.

The Southfield is a large paddle steamer, a sister ship of the Westfield, of the same line, which 21 years ago blew up as she was about to start from her landing in New York with a crowd of pleasure seekers, killing nearly 100 of her passengers. The police theory, and the one which, if accepted, will save them from further labor in the case, is that Mr. Rummell leaped from the deck of the steamer, and, falling before one of the fast-turning wheels, was killed by a stroke from their blades.

The first news of the tragedy was given by a woman who was a passenger on the Southfield on her 10:30 A. M. trip from this borough to Richmond. When the boat reached the landing at St. George, one of the terminals of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, she told one of the ferry officers that she had seen a well-dressed, elderly man, with a full dark beard, leap over the rail from the starboard side of the vessel. A peddler then came forward and said that at about the same time he had been gazing upon the wake when he saw the head of a man rise to the surface, and that he saw the body of the man, who was seen to be dead, and fell about him. Others had seen the man upon the boat, but they had not seen him go overboard, and the ferryman, busy at the hour with the rush of the summer travel to Manhattan, would not believe that such a thing could have happened unobserved by others, for on bright days these boats carry many passengers, and in the early morning hours, when the tide is low, the eight-mile sail across the bay and back for the fresh air, and after failing to get an explanation from them as to why they saw the man, the ferryman had not raised a cry, the steamboat men concluded that they were trying to perpetrate some hideous hoax and bade them begone.

Fishing is good on Robbin's Reef, a rocky shoal something more than a mile off the Staten Island shore, and at favorable stages of the tide the waters about the white lighthouse which marks the dangerous passage, are always "littered" with little craft of sportsmen and professional fishermen. And of these latter, Charles Lindsay and John McCaffery, who live in Stapleton, were rowing their boat out of the reef at just about the time that the peddler and the woman were pouring their grisly tale into the deaf ears of the busy harbor authorities, when they observed Mr. Rummell's body. The honest fellows attached a line to it and towed it safe to shore, where it was placed in a wagon and taken to the local morgue.

Coroner George Stanton of Richmond, Dr. Mord, several policemen, and a few privileged citizens gathered about the body while the doors were closed against the morbid throng without. They found it to be that of a man about 55 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches in height, and weighing about 155 pounds. The hair and moustache were gray, the chin was covered with a heavy black beard. It was clad in a black cashmere suit, striped trousers, white shirt, white merino underclothing, turn-down collar, black silk tie, black socks and black, laced gaiters. Then they searched the pockets and mangled, for they found the body still warm, even after its immersion in water which yet retains the winter chill, and when they drew forth a package of papers they found them to be the property of George P. Rummell, of the same city, and the business card of M. E. Phillips, representing E. W. Bodell, a wholesale dealer in machinery at 32 Bleeker street, Manhattan. There was a visiting card of J. D. Williams, 25 Wyckoff street, Brooklyn. These addresses were speedily telephoned to the police stations nearest to them, and from them went detectives to bear the news to the persons named.

Mr. Williams, whose place of business is at 234 First street, who was a close personal friend of the dead man, being a customer of his firm, was the first to reach Stapleton. He brought with him Henry H. Griefner, of 33 East Tenth street, Manhattan, and Charles Mullie, of 122 Broadway, in the same boat, where he is in the fur business. All of them had brought goods from Mr. Rummell, and knew him well. After the first shock of horror had passed they declared that beyond peradventure it was he who lay before them. They could throw no light upon his death, nor could they tell how he happened to be in the Southfield at that time of day, for they knew of no business which could have taken him across the bay.

Many of the spectators inclined to the theory that Mr. Rummell was murdered. No steamer's wooden paddle would have made such a clean cut, they say, though the sharp blades of a screw vessel often inflict such wounds. There are on the Southfield two dark passages for teams along the center of the vessel, and it is the custom of the drivers to lead the horses and vehicles standing in them and pass out on the forward decks to enjoy the sail across the bay. Here, they say, would be the place where murder could be quickly done and the body slipped over

THE NEWS IN PORTLAND.

Mr. Rummell's Family Frostrated With Grief.

The news of the mysterious affair spread quickly in Portland, where Mr. Rummell has a host of friends and acquaintances, and much sympathy was expressed for the family of the deceased.

Particulars were anxiously inquired for, and every one expressed wonder as to how he came to be so foully dealt with, as he is known to be familiar with New York City, having made numerous business trips there safely in past years. The only word received by the family was a telegram which came to Frank Rummell, a son of the deceased, from J. D. Williams, Brooklyn, N. Y., saying Mr. Rummell had died. The telegram was evidently worded in this manner for the purpose of breaking the news gently and preparing for what was to follow. The sender was doubtless unaware that the Associated Press had already conveyed intelligence of the awful deed. Mr. Rummell immediately wired A. Franier, New York agent for a London house through

JONATHAN P. DOLLIVER, OF IOWA



ONE OF THE LEADING CANDIDATES FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

which Rummell & Sons did business, asking for additional information.

Mr. Rummell left Portland Sunday last by fast train, and arrived in New York Thursday, his arrival being reported in the hotel list of that date.

He is supposed to have carried not more than \$200 to \$300 on his person, because business with the Eastern coast was done by means of drafts, and it was not necessary for him to carry a large sum of cash with him. He could also draw money readily if he required it for personal or other use, being well known in certain business circles in New York. The financial condition of the firm has always been of the best.

George P. Rummell was born in Germany 36 years ago, and came to the United States when 19 years of age. He arrived in this city in 1870, and soon afterward opened a furrier's establishment with Charles Gutmann, under the firm name of Rummell & Gutmann. This was continued until 1883, when Mr. Rummell became the sole owner of the concern, and continued to operate it until his death. He was a man of considerable property, and was one of Portland's very best citizens. Many friends will mourn his loss to the community. The remains will be returned here for burial.

ITALIAN PARLIAMENT.

Opened in the Presence of King Humbert.

ROME, June 16.—In the Senate today the 21st Legislature was opened in the presence of King Humbert, accompanied by the Duke of Aosta, the Duke of Salaparuta, the Count of Turin and many Senators and Deputies.

King Humbert was warmly applauded during the reading of the speech from the throne. He explained the reasons for the appeal being made to the electors, and the excellent relations between all the powers, he added, assured the country that the National interests would be guaranteed at all times. The new Parliament, King Humbert further asserted, intended to devote its attention to bettering the condition of the working classes, to the protection of manufacturers, agriculturists and emigrants, to the reduction of the tributary taxes within the limits agreed on by the budget, to education and to legal and administrative reforms.

Upon reassembling the chamber elected the Ministerialist, Gallo, president by a vote of 263 to 214.

Mexico Quarantines San Francisco.

CITY OF MEXICO, June 16.—The Mexican Government, following the example set by Texas, has quarantined against San Francisco, and until notice to the contrary is given, all persons who have been in San Francisco within a period of 15 days will not be allowed to pass the border until they have remained in quarantine for a sufficient length of time to make up the 15 days. The Mexican quarantine relates to passengers only. The border authorities have the matter in hand.

London Broker Falls.

LONDON, June 16.—On the Stock Exchange today the failure was announced of Stephen Blood, a brother of Lady Olin Campbell. It is understood he had a large bare commission open in West Australia.

NEW YORK'S CLAIMS

Wants the Vice-President, but Cannot Decide on a Man.

TEMPORARY OFFICERS SELECTED

The National Committee Settled All the Contests Except That of Delaware.

PHILADELPHIA, June 16.—The feature of the situation which confronts the Republican hosts at the close of the week preceding the assembling of the National Convention is the absolutely unanimous disposition to carry out fully the wishes of the President in everything relating to the coming convention. As the claims from every quarter of the country gather, the overwhelming sentiment is that, having served one good term, McKinley deserves

still several other districts and the state at large receive attention. The fourth and seventh districts were reconsidered on the assurance that the factions had themselves reached a compromise agreement, the understanding being that the delegates representing the Vaughan faction should be seated in one case and those of the Wickham faction in the other. Accordingly, the committee decided to place on the temporary roll Aldrich and Smith, Vaughanites, from the fourth district, and Lathrop and Ewell, Wickhamites, from the seventh district. The contest in the second district was withdrawn, and the Vaughan men were seated.

Other contests disposed of during the week were those covering the Green state, as well as the Norfolk, Va., district, and Committeeman Jim Hill's old district in Mississippi, in Hill's district one delegate of each faction was seated, while in the Virginia district, ex-Congressman Bowden carried off the honors in opposition to John S. Wise.

In this district, Congressman Bowden and William S. Holland claimed to be the regular delegates, while this honor was contested by W. H. Libbey and A. H. Martin. John S. Wise, however, was elected, and Martin. He contended for the regularity of the convention which selected his clients, and attacked in bitter terms the persistence of the opposition in quiet persons in his reference to Mr. Bowden, whom he charged with a desire only to control the patronage without reference to party success, saying that Bowden had himself voted the Democratic ticket.

Mr. Bowden contradicted in vigorous language Mr. Wise's claim to regularity, saying that he and Mr. Holland had been elected almost two months before they heard of the pretensions of Libbey and Martin. He claimed that the convention at which they were nominated was called by the regularly appointed district chairman, and that it was fully indorsed by the state committee.

During the hearing, Senator Quay came into the committee-room and received quite an ovation.

Congressman Hawley won the fight for delegate-at-large from Texas in opposition to E. H. R. Green. Some of the district delegations were given to the Green faction, but the Hawley people claim that, taking the delegation as it stands, they have a majority. This probably means that Mr. Hawley will be chosen to represent Texas on the National committee.

The Delaware controversy between the Addicks and Dupont factions was temporarily shelved by the committee. Mr. Dupont's followers were found to be unwilling to make such concessions as the committee could accept, and the committee decided that there was no course open to it which would insure the state to the Republican party at the Fall election except to exclude both factions from participation in the early proceedings of the convention. This disposition will have the effect of throwing the advantage of the case upon the National committee of credentials.

Just before adjournment today the committee disposed of Mr. Payne's resolution regarding the participation of Fall election officers in the selection of delegates by referring them all to Chairman Hanna. It is believed by Mr. Payne that the effect of this disposition of the resolution will be to hold it over the heads of offenders in the future, and that it would thus have a beneficial influence, even though it was not acted upon by the committee.

Mr. Tiepke, of Rhode Island, offered a resolution during the afternoon for a reduction of representation in Congress of elective franchise, to prevent the election of a majority of the delegates to the convention, but the subject was not for the action of the National committee, and the committee decided to refer it to the convention.

A resolution looking to the reduction of the representation of non-Republican states in Republican conventions was also presented, but was withdrawn after the adverse action taken on the Tiepke proposition.

Officers of the Convention.

The National committee today made official announcement of the selection of temporary officers of the National convention, as follows:

Temporary chairman—Charles W. Johnson, Minnesota.

Assistant secretaries—John R. Malloy, Ohio; John R. Bean, New Jersey; Lucien Gray, Illinois; Gardner P. Stickney, Wisconsin; James P. Burke, Pennsylvania; the same number as a number of other states were reported killed.

The attitude of the Chinese troops toward the Boxers was uncertain.

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"It is a massacre," says the Spectator, "and the palace is reduced to obedience, the great difficulty will be to decide on the next step. The powers can neither encamp permanently in Peking nor leave until it is established that the government is prepared to respect international obligations. If anarchy breaks out in China, the object of the powers is defeated. Failure or success of the present effort may evolve a series of wars of which no man can say the end."

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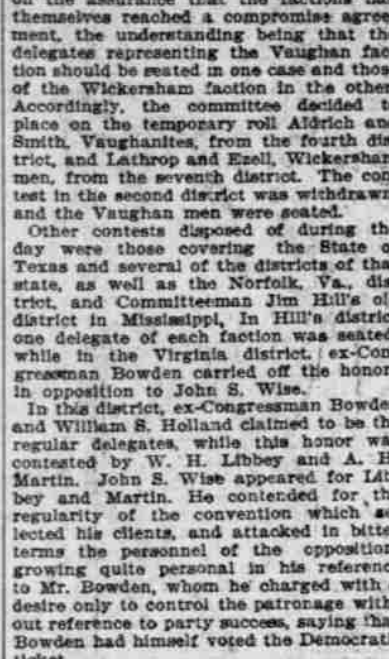
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According to a dispatch from Vienna, it is stated in diplomatic circles there that the question of intervention is under discussion by the powers. It is proposed that Japan shall act as mandatory of the powers and re-establish order in Peking and elsewhere. This, it is said, emanates from England, and it is supported by Germany and Austria, but it is doubtful if Russia and France will agree to the proposition.

St. Petersburg reports that communication between Kalgan and Peking has been interrupted. There is great excitement at Kalgan, where a missionary has been attacked.

Dispatches from Tien Tsin received in Berlin say that the Boxers entered Peking the evening of June 12, destroyed several missions and attacked the legations, but were repulsed with the aid of Maxim guns. No Europeans were reported killed. The attitude of the Chinese troops toward the Boxers was uncertain.

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AN EXTRA SESSION

Congress May Be Convened Owing to Chinese War.

ADMINISTRATION IS APPREHENSIVE

The United States' Rights Cannot Be Ignored, Either by China or by the Powers.

WASHINGTON, June 16.—The Administration and department officials generally, while not saying much in public, are deeply aroused tonight over the Chinese situation, not so much because of the present horrible conditions, but over the possible outcome. Much apprehension is felt also that the relief expedition may be overpowered and annihilated, but the greatest fear is of international complications that may arise if the great powers do not act uniformly in suppressing the uprising. Should Russia go in and take the lead or act independently, there is danger that they will contend thereafter for supremacy in China. Or, if the European powers act in concert without giving the Americans a fair show, it is feared they may later combine to suppress American advancement in China. This fear is, of course, premature, but some people here think the worst results are confirmed, it may be necessary to call an extra session of Congress definitely to outline a course to be pursued.

Chinese Minister Yun Kwang-shan, the reports of massacres from Peking, his says: "The fact that the story comes from Hong Kong is an evidence that it may be untrue. Eighty per cent of the news from Shanghai and Hong Kong, as far as news is concerned, is untrue. I have proved groundless, and I have strong hope that this belongs to the same class. The news is supposed to come by the way of Tientsin, and then Tientsin is cut off from Peking. As the railway is destroyed, I do not see how the news could have gotten through."

Oregonians at the White House.

Commissioner Hermann today called on President McKinley and introduced Wallace McCumby, of Portland, and Rufus S. Moore and H. E. Ankeny, all Oregon delegates to the Philadelphia convention. They were cordially received by the President, who expressed his gratification at the handsome showing made by the Oregon Republicans. Questions asked the visitors developed that, while they had not finally made up their minds on the question, they were inclined to support Bartlett Trippe for the Vice-Presidential nomination.

FIGHT TO A FINISH.

St. Louis Transit Company Rejects Strikers' Offer.

ST. LOUIS, June 16.—War to the knife was the slogan adopted by the striking employees of the St. Louis Transit Company today. This extreme action was decided upon this afternoon when the proposition adopted by the striking street-car men yesterday looking to a settlement of the strike was turned down by the Transit Company.

President Gompers, of the Federation of Labor, called on President Whitaker, of the Transit Company, today in the interests of the strikers and remained in conference with him and the Board of Directors for some time. The conference broke up at 1:30 P. M. Gompers announced that all negotiations between the strikers and the Transit Company were again off.

The strike has been declared off, but he could do if the strike were declared off would be to place the strikers at the bottom of the list, and give them work as they are able.

President Mahon, of the International Association of Amalgamated Street Railway Employees, made this statement this afternoon:

"This is now a fight to a finish. President Gompers told me this afternoon that he proposed to turn the entire power of the American Federation of Labor into the membership of 2,000,000, against the Transit Company and fight the issue out if it takes five years to do it. The boycott to be declared will apply not only to the Transit Company, but to every person, every business man, every corporation or individual favoring them in any way."

NAVAL STATION.

One of the Second Class Will Be Established at San Diego.

WASHINGTON, June 16.—The Navy Department has decided to establish a coaling station of the second class at San Diego, Cal. This decision has been reached upon a report from Captain Field, of the Ranger, announcing the results of a survey of the harbor at that place recently made by him. The report states that the minimum depth of water over the bar at low tide is 21 feet, and the tidal rise amounts to about five feet, so there is sufficient water for naval vessels of the smaller type.

Colwell Disobeyed Orders.

NEW YORK, June 16.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Lieutenant-Commander C. C. Colwell, just relieved as American Naval Attaché in London, is under investigation for failure to obey orders of the Navy Department. A court of inquiry, of which Captain F. A. Cook and Medical Director White are members, is sitting for this purpose at Washington navy-yard.

Lieutenant-Commander Colwell received orders to report on a certain date to the United States, preliminary to going to the Philippines. He failed to report, and sent an explanation that his condition was such, in consequence of operation, that it was inadvisable for him to travel. It is alleged that he subsequently placed himself under medical treatment in order to justify his conduct. The court is expected to submit its findings in a few days.

SENATOR T. C. PLATT SICK

Fractured a Rib Friday, and Now Has a Fever.

NEW YORK, June 16.—A special to the Press from Philadelphia says: Senator Thomas C. Platt is in a serious condition, and his friends are worried about him. The Senator sustained a fracture of one of his ribs in his New York office yesterday by falling against a chair. Senator Platt made the journey from New York this afternoon, accompanied by his physician. It is said that his exertion to prevent his real condition from being known has weakened him perceptibly, and thrown him into a fever.

Francis of Orleans Dead.

PARIS, June 16.—Francis, of Orleans, Prince of Joinville, son of the late Louis Philippe, King of the French, is dead of pneumonia, aged 32 years.

BRITISH MARINES AND CHINESE FOUGHT.

LONDON, June 16.—British marines and sailors fought the troops of General Jung Fuh Shing several hours. Many Chinese were killed.

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Latest Chinese reports state that the Empress has ordered Li Kung Yin, Chang Chi Tung and Li Hung Chang to hasten to Peking. They will probably find excuses for declining. The latest edict against the Boxers especially also mentions the Boxers.

Berlin and St. Petersburg dispatches assert that Russia and Germany have combined for common action in China. It is reported that a high Russian personage is going to Berlin to arrange the details.

It is generally recognized now that the position of foreigners at Peking is perilous, as there is but a short step from the massacre of servants of foreigners to the killing of the foreigners themselves.

"It is a massacre," says the Spectator, "and the palace is reduced to obedience, the great difficulty will be to decide on the next step. The powers can neither encamp permanently in Peking nor leave until it is established that the government is prepared to respect international obligations. If anarchy breaks out in China, the object of the powers is defeated. Failure or success of the present effort may evolve a series of wars of which no man can say the end."

Commenting on the part the United States will take in the present crisis in China, the Statist today says:

"Unless the British Ministers muddle the matter, Great Britain can reckon on assistance from the United States and Japan upon the maintaining, even by force, of the policy of the open door in China."

The Cabinet meeting held today, under the presidency of Lord Salisbury, was concerned almost entirely with the situation in China.

FROM BAD TO WORSE

Situation in China Becomes Alarming.

RUMORED MASSACRES IN PEKIN

Foreign Relief Column in Danger of Annihilation—Communication With Capital Severed.

LONDON, June 16.—A special dispatch from Hong Kong says all the Peking legations have been destroyed, and the German Minister, Baron von Kotteler, killed. There is no confirmation of the report, nor the later report of fighting between the British and the Chinese.