

CORONER CLEARS SUSPECTED MEN

Undertaker and Doctor Prove Innocence of Complicity in Poison Cases.

WOMAN REVELS IN DEATH

Funeral Director Says She Liked to Be in Presence of Dead—Murdered Man's Sweetheart Believes Jealousy Is Motive.

CHICAGO, Nov. 11.—Suspicion was lifted from C. C. Boyesen, the undertaker, and Dr. L. L. Hertel today by Coroner Hoffman when he examined them as to their knowledge of the death of 19 persons beneath the roof of Mrs. Louise Vermilya, who now lies ill under arrest, charged with the murder of Policeman Blaisette.

The names of the undertaker and doctor were brought in the case by several witnesses because of their evident intimacy with the woman, but their stories to the coroner convinced him that they had no part in the mysteries that would not bear the light.

Boyesen, in particular, denied that he had other than business relations with Mrs. Vermilya, or that he had bought for her a ticket to Europe.

Dr. Hertel, who signed the death certificates of both Conductor Smith and Frank Brinkamp, the latter Mrs. Vermilya's son, said he did not remember that Smith had died of arsenical poisoning instead of acute gastritis, as named in the physician's diagnosis, but that he could not account for poison in the body of Brinkamp, since the boy showed plainly all the symptoms of pneumonia, as was set forth in the death certificate.

Boyesen incidentally added his name to the list of persons who, after dining with Mrs. Vermilya and seasoning their food with pepper from a tin pepper box, became ill with severe pains in the stomach, accompanied by acute nausea. Mrs. Vermilya rested comfortably today, though she was still weak.

Jealousy Possibly Motive. Miss Lydia Rivard, daughter of a wealthy Marshall, Minn., farmer has come to Chicago to aid Blaisette's relatives in prosecuting Mrs. Vermilya. The disappearance of many of the love letters received by Blaisette from Miss Rivard led Peter Blaisette, who swore to the warrant charging Mrs. Vermilya with his brother's murder, to declare that jealousy was the motive for the crime.

E. M. Blocks, an undertaker of Burlington, Ill., who buried her first husband and two of her children, declared that Mrs. Vermilya seemed to "revel in death."

"I have known her to go to bereaved families who were almost strangers to her," said Blocks, "and beg permission to help care for the dead. After the death of her husband in 1894 she acquired a habit of visiting my undertaking shop and sitting around for hours. She seemed to love to be in the presence of the dead."

Three months after the death of her husband her little daughter died. Less than a year later another daughter died in her home. After I buried the second child, she came to my place more frequently than before. She often watched me at work, and, I am quite certain, knew the embalming fluid I used contained a preparation of arsenic. If a person were given arsenic and afterward embalmed, it wouldn't be easy to tell whether the poison had been administered before death or after."

The discovery of the intended marriage of Arthur Blaisette, the policeman who died mysteriously after he had been taken ill in Mrs. Vermilya's home, has brought fresh complications to the case. Blaisette was to have been married to the holidays to Miss Lydia Rivard, daughter of F. A. Rivard, of Marshall, Minn. She was preparing to come to Chicago within a few weeks and had her trousseau ready. When she learned of her fiance's death, she came to town and attended the funeral. She said nothing of her engagement to Blaisette.

Sweetheart's Letters Opened. Blaisette left the greater part of his money, valued at \$1200, to Miss Rivard. Mrs. Vermilya was not mentioned in his will.

Mrs. A. E. Roques, a sister of Miss Rivard's stepmother, went to Blaisette's room a few hours after he had died. "If he was poisoned," she said, "it was done because of jealousy. There were dozens of love letters from Lydia in his trunk. We saw that the trunk was open. The letters were in plain view and had evidently been read a short time before. I do not know by whom. The young man met Lydia at my home some months ago and I am sure he loved her and intended to marry her."

POSTAL EMPLOYE ACCUSED

Prominent Young Man at Baker Is Charged With Shortage.

BAKER, Or., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—Under charges brought against him by a postal inspector, Melvin Alexander, an employee of the Baker Postoffice, is in jail tonight having been arrested on a Federal warrant issued by United States Commissioner Patterson today. His hearing was set for tomorrow. A United States Marshal is expected to arrive here from Portland at noon.

Alexander is accused of having failed to turn in money he received for postal orders. He is said to have received from a few dollars to more than \$40, for which he failed to account. He has been under suspicion for several weeks and last week was forced to resign his position. He is a son of the late Melvin Alexander, Sr., a prominent pioneer of Eastern Oregon, himself a Government employe for many years and to whose position the son succeeded on his death.

His arrest caused a sensation here because of the prominence of the young man and his family.

Chehalis County Bonds Sold.

MONTEBANO, Wash., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—The \$200,000 issue of Chehalis County bonds have been sold to the Dexter-Horton National Bank of Seattle. He bid being for par and accrued interest and a bonus of \$2000 for the bonds bearing interest at 5 per cent per annum. Other bidders were William A. Reed & Co., of Chicago; Morris Brothers, of Portland; E. H. Rollins, of San Francisco; W. E. Perchen, of Hoquiam; and George H. Tolson & Co., of Seattle.

NEW PHOTO OF WOMAN SUSPECTED OF WHOLESALE POISONINGS AT CHICAGO.



MRS. LOUISE VERMILYA.

MRS. FRENCH SAYS "NO" TO VAN ALLEN

Rich Widower's Daughter Prevents Match With Widow of Morgan's Partner.

NOBLEMAN NEXT IN LINE

Count Walkenstein, of Austria, Who Owns Castles in Tyrol, Said to Have Won Favor of Prospective Mother-in-Law.

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—(Special.)

Opposition by her prospective stepdaughter has settled all doubt in the mind of Mrs. J. Barton French whether or not she will be married to J. J. Van Allen, according to news received from Paris by members of the smart set here and at Newport. Mrs. French's decision is unfavorable to America's most celebrated widower. It was not reached, however, without due deliberation, Mrs. French having given the subject careful consideration for more than three months. It is said that she took the advice of several intimate friends before arriving at a final conclusion.

This announcement, which is regarded here as authoritative, has revived the hopes of more than one European. Mrs. French is not only beautiful and fascinating and all that, but as the widow of a partner of J. Pierpont Morgan, she has a fortune that would make her attractive as a nobleman's wife even without her personal charm. Count Walkenstein, an attaché of the Austrian embassy in London, seems to be most favored of these suitors, but he does not have the field alone. Among others in the running are mentioned the Duke Richelieu, of France, and an English nobleman, whose name has been connected with a Paris actress.

Mrs. French made a prolonged visit last summer to the Van Alens at Newport, and it was then that it first became the talk of society that she and Mr. Van Allen were to be married. Miss Van Allen, however, was not impressed and is said to have made herself a controlling element in the decision the widow has reached.

Of the suitors who have replaced Mr. Van Allen, Count Walkenstein is said to be favored by Mrs. French's mother, Mrs. Arthur Inkerly. The Count owns a chain of ancient castles and has a system of pensioning widows with children. Dr. Jessica Pelkotte, of the University of California, urged the proposition at a meeting.

The plan is to have the state authorities set aside a fund to be disbursed annually. A state board is suggested to make the appointment.

WIDOW'S PENSION ASKED

Clubwomen Would Have State Help in Raising Children.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 11.—Clubwomen of San Francisco are planning a system of pensioning widows with children. Dr. Jessica Pelkotte, of the University of California, urged the proposition at a meeting.

WOMAN TITLE GRABBER

BOISE PROPERTY OWNERS COMPELLED TO PAY TRIBUTE.

Mysterious Belle S. Smith Heads Gang of Tax Title Speculators Who Reap Harvest.

BOISE, Idaho, Nov. 11.—(Special.)—Tax title speculators, by purchasing titles to valuable city and suburban property for a song, have caused a stampede among property owners. Widows and orphans, churches and other heavy property owners have been forced either to relinquish all claim to their property or meet the demands of the title buyers. Property owners are demanding that the speculators cease their operations, and have called indignation and mass meetings to protest.

The probe that has been started as a result of the recent public exposure of the speculators has developed the existence of a chief director, a mysterious Belle S. Smith, said to be rich and ambitious, who has her headquarters in Des Moines, Ia. She has been directing the campaign of the tax sharks to purchase all possible delinquent property when it is put up for auction, as required by the laws of this state. She has been merciless in her operations. Once having secured a piece of property by paying the delinquent

taxes, she has demanded her "pound of flesh" in the payment of a bonus, to release her grip. Not one instance is related where she has not been successful in her demands, regardless of the hardship on the property owner. She has realized thousands of dollars on her scheme.

The plan on which Belle Smith and her agents operated was simple. They watched the City Clerk's and County Assessor's office for the publication of delinquent tax property. Securing a list of the amount of taxes charged up, they inspected the property and when they ascertained that the property was being auctioned off, very often unknown to the property owner, who believed all his taxes were paid, they purchased the listed properties by the payment of the delinquent taxes. Notice was then sent to the property owner that his property was held by the speculators, who had a prior claim by virtue of paying the delinquent taxes. This usually brought a quick call from the property owner. Belle Smith's agents collected their fees, which ranged from \$10 to several hundreds of dollars, whereupon they released their tax receipts.

BIG TUNNEL DRAINS MINES

Sensational Flow Encountered in Roosevelt Bore.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Nov. 11.—A dispatch from Cripple Creek tells of the striking of a sensational flow of water in the bore of the Roosevelt deep drainage tunnel. The flow followed a round of shots and was so heavy that the workmen were carried off their feet down the bore and narrowly escaped with their lives. The water is leaving the bore at a rate of 24,000 gallons a minute, or about four times the usual flow. It is supposed that an underground reservoir or stream has been opened and that a material lowering of the water level in the mines of the district will be noticeable.

GEM THIEVES SENTENCED

International Chase Lands Noted Burglars in Penitentiary.

BOSTON, Nov. 11.—The final chapter of a celebrated international criminal case was written when Judge Raigon, of the Superior Criminal Court, imposed today a state prison sentence of 14 to 15 years on Joseph and Jacob Goldberg, convicted of burglary at the jewelry store of Samuel Ullian here a year ago, the value of the plunder being \$15,000. The Goldbergs were traced to Europe and were finally arrested in Austria and brought back to Boston for trial.

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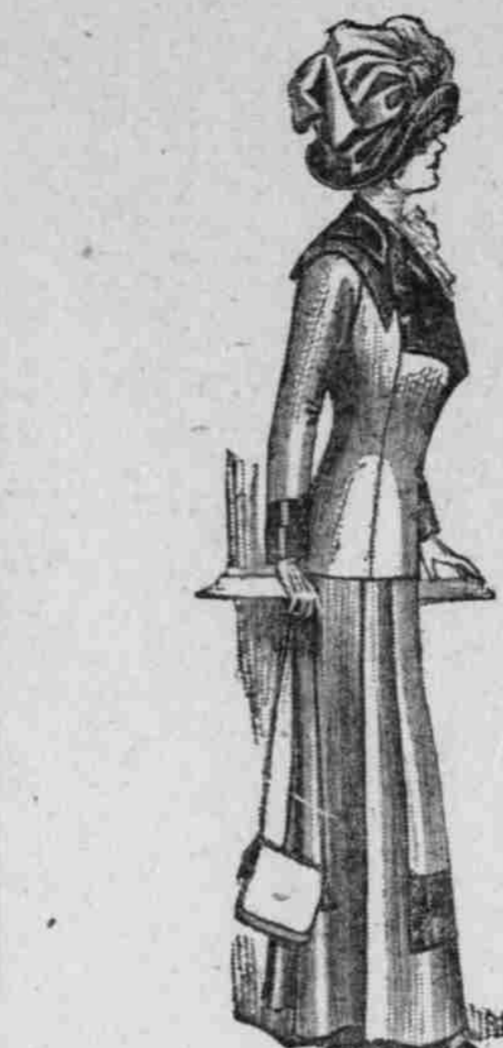
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FANCY MAN-TAILORED WINTER SUITS FOR JUNIORS AND MISSES, ALL REDUCED IN PRICE

Ladies' New Man-Tailored Suits Reduced in Price



DO NOT these fresh, crisp mornings—these light flurries of snow—the occasional glimpses of the kindly sun—make you think instinctively of warm, snug, well-fitting suits—suits of wool, woven into beautiful fabrics, tailored by men who make a life-work of their craft?

Such we offer to ladies of taste—ladies who appreciate all those niceties of cut and finish that go to make up a perfect garment. Added to this is the welcome fact that our usual fair prices have been greatly reduced for this sale. Our showing is large, and it covers a wide range of fabrics—worsted, rough chevots, men's-wear serges, English mixtures, and the finest of American weaves—all tailored into finely-modeled suits of individual character—the authoritative modes of the hour.

Ladies of Portland, we invite your critical inspection of this splendid showing of fashion and fabrics. No other such opportunity exists in Portland today.

- \$40.00 and \$45.00 Suits now only \$29.50
\$35.00 and \$37.50 Suits now only \$26.50
\$30.00 and \$32.50 Suits now only \$22.50
\$25.00 and \$27.50 Suits now only \$19.75

Every reduction genuine. No charge for alterations. Prompt deliveries.

BEN SELLING LEADING CLOTHIER MORRISON AT FOURTH STREET

NAVAL HERO LONELY

Daughter of Admiral Potts Leaves Him to Take Veil.

FATHER'S PLEA UNHEEDED

Two Other Daughters of Retired Sea-Fighter Also in Convents, Wife Is Dead, Son Is Away, and He Is Left Alone.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 11.—(Special.)

Now that his fighting days are over and he had hoped to be able to end his days peacefully with his family about him, Rear-Admiral Robert Potts, retired, finds that he has no family. The gallant old sea warrior admits that he is lonely, very lonely indeed, for Frances, his last and youngest daughter, the best beloved of all his children, has just left him to enter a convent.

Though Admiral Potts pleaded with the girl to reconsider her decision, at least until he was dead, Miss Frances flatly refused to give up her desire to enter the Carmelite Convent in this city.

Miss Potts, who is well known and popular in society, is the third of Admiral Potts' daughters to choose to remain the world for the nun's veil. The eldest daughter, Miss Marie, was the founder of a convent in Manila, and the second daughter is a member of the Carmelite Convent in Philadelphia.

Admiral Potts has just one hope remaining against living the rest of his years in the grim solitude or forgotten in a remote corner of some distant convent life before she has remained a year and taken up the veil beyond renunciation. "Frances has one year after she enters the convent in which, if she becomes dissatisfied for any reason, she may withdraw," said the Admiral, "and I am hoping that before the year is over she will come back to me, as I am very lonely with all three of my daughters away from me, now that I am getting old."

"I cannot tell what it is that seems to draw my daughters so irresistibly to the veil, but from childhood they all seemed to lean toward it. I tried my best to persuade each not to enter a convent, but it did not seem to do any good. I have often thought that it was because my wife was thinking seriously of entering a convent when I began my courtship."

"I have one son, Lewis J. Potts, a lawyer in New York, so that in my declining years am left without any of my children and am all alone, as my wife died some years ago."

RECEIVER'S SALE INVALID

Seaside Lumber Company to Be Re-advertised by Court Order.

ASTORIA, Or., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—As a result of a conference held here this afternoon between Attorneys Gilder, Vesie and Flint, of Portland, representing Bates & Co., H. T. Daniels and J. A. Sayre, respectively, holders of Seaside Lumber & Manufacturing Company bonds; G. C. Fulton, repre-

senting the Bank of Seaside and the receiver of the mill company, and J. Q. A. Bowley, representing the Astoria Savings Bank, to reach an agreement as to what disposition will be made of the mill company's mortgaged property, providing the recent receiver's court order, made an order setting aside the receiver's sale and directing that the property be re-advertised for sale on December 20.

The understanding reached was that there shall be no further postponement of the sale after that date.

NEAR-BEER SALES COSTLY

Springfield Men Plead Guilty to Violating Local Option Law.

EUGENE, Or., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—Clodfelter & Perkins, owners of a near-beer place at Springfield, pleaded guilty yesterday to the charge of violating the local option law and were fined \$200 each, which they paid.

In the case of J. F. Smith, of the firm of Smith & Noble, of Springfield, a special plea for clemency was made by the District Attorney, who said that he believed in this instance that the defendants had been imposed on by the Roseburg Brewery, which sold them stuff much "nearer" than it should have been to be non-intoxicating, and that they stopped the sale as soon as they discovered the real nature of the beverage they were selling. They were fined \$100.

During the past six weeks fines to the amount of \$250 have been assessed and collected in Lane County for violation of the local option law. Of this amount \$150 came from Springfield, \$40 from Cottage Grove, and \$250 from Junction City.

LECTURE SERIES OPENED

E. Hofer Delivers Address on Fiction at Monmouth School.

MONMOUTH, Or., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—The first of the series of popular lectures was given last night at the chapel of the State Normal School before a large audience. After the lecture a reception was held at the home of President and Mrs. J. H. Ackerman, which was attended by the faculty and many prominent citizens of Monmouth.

The Normal School has about 100 students enrolled, and is equipped for special work of training teachers. E. Hofer, of the Board of Regents, was introduced and delivered an interesting address on "Fiction as Related to Life."

He said that Hamilton W. Mabie in the United States, and John Galsworthy of Edinburgh University, were the greatest living critics of the present age and their opinions were worth following in estimating the value of works of fiction.

Man Killed May Be Michigander.

EUGENE, Or., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—An unknown man, in whose pockets was found a book with the name R. B. Micean, 44 Jennette street, Grand Rapids, Mich., written on the flyleaf, was run down and killed today by the Ashland local passenger train just as it was entering the Eugene yards. He was walking down the track and did not hear the approaching train, which hurried him 20 feet and crushed his skull. The coroner was notified and the train was held until his arrival, when the body was taken to the morgue. The man was poorly dressed and appeared to be about 60 years of age.

Amity to Be Host to Association.

SHERIDAN, Or., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—The 20th annual convention of the Yamhill Sunday School Association will convene in Amity, November 24. L. D.

Hopfield, a Yamhill County Judge, who is president of the association, has put out an attractive poster to announce the meeting. Rev. Charles A. Phipps, state secretary and known throughout the state as "Sunny Jim," will be present and will give an address. President Paddock, of the state association, will also give an address at the convention.

Alleged Thief Thinks Self Insane.

OREGON CITY, Or., Nov. 11.—(Special.)—Well, I guess I am crazy

again," said Delman McConnell when arrested today by Chief of Police Shaw on a charge of stealing a suit of clothes. "I was sent to an insane asylum in Ohio several years ago," continued the prisoner, "and I guess the thing has returned." According to the Chief of Police, McConnell stole the clothing and hid it on the river bank. Then he went to a second-hand store and pawned his own coat and waistcoat. When arrested he was wearing the coat which he is said to have stolen.

SUFFERED FOR YEARS OWE HEALTH TO PE-RU-NA

Many a matron has lengthened the days of her comely appearance by taking Peruna. To be beautiful, the body must be kept clean internally as well as externally. Peruna produces clean mucous membranes, the basis of facial symmetry, and a clear, healthy complexion.



MRS. GEO. C. WORSTELL



MISS NETTIE E. BOGARDUS

Internal Catarrh. Mrs. George C. Worstell, 11 River Road, Clarksburg, W. Va., writes: "I can truly say I have been much benefited by the use of Peruna. I feel better than I have for two years. It is the best medicine that I know for internal catarrh. When I began taking Peruna I could see that before I had finished taking the first bottle it was doing me good."

Sick Headache. Miss Nettie E. Bogardus, R. F. D. 21, Westfield, N. Y., writes: "I have been a great sufferer from sick headaches, but am now entirely free from that trouble. I have not felt so well in ten years as I do now."

"I would recommend Peruna and Mannin to all sufferers."

Gained Appetite and Strength. Miss Julia Butler, Appleton, Wis., writes: "My sister advised me to try Peruna. I took your treatment and my appetite returned speedily. I gained strength and flesh and am in perfect health."



MRS. O. D. ROBINSON

Mrs. O. D. Robinson, 36 St. Felix St., Brooklyn, N. Y., writes: "I have taken Peruna and it did me more good than all my two years' treatment by special physicians. I can truly say that I feel like another person. No more swollen feet and limbs. No more bloating of the abdomen. No more shortness of breath. No more stiff and sore joints. You have an idea what your treatment has done for me. It certainly has prolonged my life and made a new woman of me."