

SERIES OF TRAGEDIES ENDS IN VAN DRAN'S SUICIDE

Kaspar Van Dran's death by his own hand last night is the concluding chapter of a story extraordinary in its accumulated tragedies.

USES IDENTICAL POISON THAT KILLED HIS WIFE

Leaves Curse on Joe Young, His Bitter Enemy, Whom He Blamed for All His Troubles, Including His Wife's Death last August, the Mystery of Which Has Never Been Explained.

WENT TO BATHROOM, MIXED AND DRAINED THE POISON, WALKED BACK TO BED, AND DIED ALMOST INSTANTLY

Letter to Assistant District Attorney Moser Gives News of Suicide --Hotel People Did Not Know of Anything Wrong--Body Found on Bed Fully Dressed With Exception of Coat.

Burdened with sorrow and weary of mental torture, Kaspar Van Dran, whose allotment of trouble was heavier than is usually given to men, sought death in the Oregon hotel last night by swallowing cyanide of potassium.

Van Dran's suicide was terrible and swift. It was carefully planned and deliberately executed. The body was found at 10 o'clock this morning in a room at the hotel Oregon, Seventh and Stark streets.

Yesterday forenoon Van Dran went to the Oregon hotel and engaged a room for a specified period, but he had frequently talked of living there, and it was thought by clerks that the engagement would be permanent.

He was about the city during the day and was seen by a number of his friends and acquaintances. To none of them did he confide the ghastly thought that was coursing through his brain.

Mr. Moser was surprised. He noticed one with the handwriting of Van Dran, with which he was familiar, and kept it till the last. It was 10 o'clock before he opened it. He read it quickly, then paused to read it again.

Mr. Moser hurried to the Oregon hotel. He asked if Mr. Van Dran was living there. A clerk replied that he was not. Mr. Moser insisted that he look at the books and finally learned the number of room Van Dran had taken.

He did not turn on the lights, but carefully removed his coat and topcoat, hanging them with his cane in the closet. In the bathroom adjoining he turned on two electric lights. They were left burning.

It was in the bathroom, it is believed that he took the fatal dose. He prepared the decoction with the aid of a glass and water and it is believed destroyed all evidence of what he took by throwing the parcel into the sink.

There was no struggle, so far as appearances indicate. When found Van Dran lay quietly upon the bed, his right arm stretched under his head and his left hand extended by his side. His head rested on the pillow and he had laid himself in such a position that his feet stretched over the side of the bed.

Mr. Moser went slowly through his mail this morning. He noticed one with the handwriting of Van Dran, with which he was familiar, and kept it till the last.

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until funeral arrangements are completed. A search of the room was then begun. But there were no telltale bottles or vials or even a scrap of paper indicating where or how Van Dran had procured the deadly drug.

Stychnine Tablets Found. In one of his pockets was found a small parcel containing a number of thirtieth grain stychnine tablets. The coroner, however, does not believe that they were used to cause death.

"I have known Van Dran for several years," said Mr. Moser, "and I have never known a man who was so badly educated. In Pendleton and in other places where he was known he bore the best of reputations and every one who knew him will always condemn Joe Young for starting the slander about Van Dran's intimacy with his wife."

Gov. Chamberlain knew him and had implicit confidence in him. He talked with me freely during the progress of Young's trial and always expressed belief that Young was in some way implicated in the murder of his wife.

"I think he must have made a mistake when he wrote the name Marshall in his letter. I don't know the man and have never heard his name mentioned in connection with the crime. I know who Chase and the others are, but Van Dran must have been thinking so deeply that he made a mistake and inserted the name Marshall for the one he wanted to mention."

Marshall is the man who wrote letters to the police giving what purported to be direct clues to the alleged murder of Mrs. Van Dran.

Van Dran sold his saloon two weeks ago to Scott Morrell. The saloon under his management was called the Washington cafe, and it was there that the attempt upon Van Dran's life was made.

After leaving the hotel, Mr. Moser and Mr. Finley visited the saloon, where they met Watt Monteth, a brother of Mrs. Van Dran, who was murdered. Mr. Monteth declared that he was with Van Dran for several hours yesterday, but did not even suspect that such a deed was being planned.

Joe Young was lying on his cot at the county jail this morning when he was called on by a Journal reporter and told of Van Dran's death. Young jumped like a shot when he heard the word "suicide." The convicted man nervously placed his hands on his head and for several minutes stood silent.

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Kaspar Van Dran, who killed himself today, and his wife, who died mysteriously by the same poison he used. Joseph Young is in prison for wounding Van Dran some time ago.

ISELIN AND MUNN TELL COMMITTEE ABOUT SYNDICATE OPERATIONS

President of United States Company Produces Statement of the Company's Real Estate Holdings and Says He Never Received Rebates.

New York, Dec. 29.—When the Armstrong legislative insurance investigating committee resumed its work "this morning Adrian Iselin, banker, and director in the Mutual, was called to the stand. Iselin this morning presented a statement to the committee showing the syndicate operations in which he participated with the Mutual.

It was brought out that President McCurdy was very angry when he found that he received none of the shares in the Lawyers' Title Insurance & Trust company when the allotment was made.

LOCOMOTIVE BOILER EXPLODES, KILLING FOUR

Judson, Ind., Dec. 29.—The boiler of a locomotive of a freight train on the Erie railroad, en route from Chicago to New York, exploded here this morning with terrible results. Four trainmen were killed and \$100,000 worth of fancy dressed meat was ruined.

President Hill Chasing Rabbits. Charlottesville, Va., Dec. 29.—No word was received from the president this morning. The stenographer here says he has received no messages from Washington necessary to transmit to the plantation.

stock, but refused to accept it, and intimated that neither of the companies could look for any consideration from the Mutual in the matter of future loans being asked.

The next witness after Mr. Iselin was John P. Munn, president of the United States Life Insurance company, who told of the operation of his company. A number of statements of syndicate operations were submitted by Munn and read, as well as statements as to the cost of insurance to his company.

Munn produced a statement of the company's real estate holdings, which showed a total book value of \$75,403, but which were appraised at \$870,250. The net income from this property was shown to be \$25,476.09.

Bernhardt in Baltimore. Baltimore, Md., Dec. 29.—Madame Sarah Bernhardt and her company arrived in Baltimore today to give a series of three performances at the Lyric theatre, appearing in "Camille," "La Sorciere" and "Ruyblou."

HOLD-UP FOR STANDARD OIL BREAKFAST

Five Men, in Next Room, Watch Two Highwaymen Rob Lake Charles Saloon and Make No Protest.

ANOTHER CALMLY CHEWS TOBACCO BY THE STOVE

A Waitress, However, Is Agitated Sufficiently to Drop a Tray of Dishes—Robbers Get Twelve Dollars From Till, Search Proprietor Hurriedly, Then Walk Out.

Five men calmly ate their breakfasts and looked on in an adjoining room, while another chewed tobacco by the stove in the same room, and watched two masked men hold up and rob August Sterling, proprietor of the Lake Charles saloon, 31 Fifth street, shortly after 6 o'clock this morning when the hold-up occurred.

Highwaymen Rob In. Two men, their faces masked with blue polka-dot handkerchiefs, suddenly burst through the front door from the street. Each carried a revolver in his hand and leveled it at the proprietor.

He raised his hands and held them up while one of the bandits hurriedly pushed him from behind the bar and opened the cash register. The other bandit meanwhile kept Sterling covered with a revolver.

Grant, who was chewing tobacco, roused himself from his startled surprise enough to expectorate and the highwaymen and Sterling complied without protest.

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STANDARD OIL PARAMOUNT

Great Secret Service Machinery Extends to Every State and Blocks Government Agents.

INDEPENDENT COMPANIES PART OF THE SYSTEM

'Rockefeller a Bigger Man Than Roosevelt,' Is the Cry—Has a Code for the Punishment of Offenders—Government Has Secured Important Evidence.

(Journal Special Service.) Chicago, Dec. 29.—The Tribune's staff correspondent telegraphs from Philadelphia:

"We are bigger than the government. Standard Oil is stronger than the states. We own the senate and the house of representatives. If you pursue your investigations beyond the point necessary to fool the public we will have you removed. We can secure the instant deposition of the secretary of commerce and the commissioner of corporations. If you persecute us in the slightest degree you will be out of your job, and if you keep at your business you will find out that what we say is absolutely true."

The government agents have reported to the secretary of commerce that whoever sells a shade of the market price is invariably caught and punished according to the code of the "system." This secret service is said to be more complete, unscrupulous and far-reaching than anything that has ever been known in this country.

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PRIEST WITH CLOTHES ABLAZE PUTS ARMS AROUND FIREMAN'S NECK

Latter Walks With Him to Edge of Porch and Slides With Him Down Post to Safety, While Flames Rage in the Burning Building.

It was the presence of mind and courage of William J. Taggart, driver of fire truck No. 2, that saved the life of Rev. Alexander Costelli of St. Michael's Italian Roman Catholic church, Fourth and Mill streets, early this morning. Father Costelli was badly burned and blistered about the hands and breast and is receiving medical treatment at St. Vincent's hospital.

The fire in which the priest nearly lost his life occurred in the pastorate in the rear of the brick and stone building he saw a man whose garments were in flames.

Running across the street, Taggart quickly climbed over the stone wall of the church and Blanchard Institute grounds on Fourth street, sped over the intervening playground and called to the man he saw standing on the top of the porch that he would rescue him.

Taggart did not wait for the arrival of the truck, but hastily climbed one of the posts supporting the roof of the porch and quickly reached the side of the priest. At that time the flames were roaring out of the window behind the two men, great tongues of fire leaping high into the air through clouds of smoke.

W. J. Taggart, Who Rescued Father Costelli.

Taggart quickly climbed over the stone wall of the church and Blanchard Institute grounds on Fourth street, sped over the intervening playground and called to the man he saw standing on the top of the porch that he would rescue him.

He ran out of the front door of the truck side of the house and was surprised to see flames leaping from several windows of the rooms in the rear section of the church, which is across the street. Standing on the roof of the porch covering the north entrance to the building he saw a man whose garments were in flames.

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VAN DRAN'S LAST LETTER

My Dear Friend Moser—This will be the last message to you from me, as the pressure of my trouble came so hard I could not stand it any longer. You will find my body in the Hotel Oregon. I took a dose of this horrible poison, cyanide of potassium, because it is a quick death without suffering. Joe Young is the cause of all this trouble and I am sorry he is the instigator of the poisoning of my wife, which was intended for me, and I have been very sorry he is not me instead of my dear wife. Chase and Kinney, I am sure, got money to leave town and the chances are they know something in regard to the poisoning. I ask you to make an examination of Young and Marshall and, if possible, locate the two men, Chase and Kinney. Since I lost my dear wife I had all kinds of trouble, which causes me today to do this terrible deed. Try and locate the murderer. My brother will help you. Good-bye forever. (Signed.) KASPAR VAN DRAN.