The Roupell Mystery

By Austyn Granville

CHAPTER III.—(Continued.)

The prefect approached the bed and gazed with much earnestness upon the body. Around the neck, a pearl necklace of considerable value yet depended, and on her fingers rich gems still sparkled in their golden settings.

"Come here, Monsieur Revell," he said, quietly to the mayor, in that hushed voice which even men accustomed to such scenes involuntarily adopt in the presence of the dead. The mayor of Villeneuve approached the bedside, and gazed for some moments on the features of the murdered woman.

"Do you notice the direction of the bullet?" inquired the prefect, pointing with his finger.

"I do. It appears to have entered the front of the head, considerably above the temple."

"Just so; but you will notice that its course is downward."

"What does that indicate to you?" inquired the magistrate.

"Come with me, and I will show you," replied the officer. He led the way across the room, and stood before the escretoire. "You say nothing has been disturbed here."

"Positively nothing."

"Then notice how this chair has been tipped over. Now let me place another chair in the position it occupied. So! Now sit down in it. You are taller than Madame Roupell, but you may have noticed that women as a general thing sit higher than men."

"I have noticed that."

"Therefore when you were both seated there would not be so very much difference between the height of your head from the ground and that of Madame Roupell."

"No! It would be approximately the same."

"Exactly so. Now I am going to point my pistol at your head."

The prefect pressed the muzzle of his weapon against the magistrate's temple in the spot corresponding to the wound on the head of Mme. Roupell. M. Revell changed color slightly as he felt the cold rim of the pistol against his forehead, but he sat still.

"You may make this experiment as short as you please, monsieur le prefect," he exclaimed, with a feeble attempt at pleasantry.

"It is concluded," replied the officer, putting up his pistol. "If I had fired then my bullet would have described precisely the same course as the bullet of the assassin has done."

"Through my brain," replied the magistrate, not without a momentary shudder. "Which convinces you——"

"That Madame Roupell was at the escretoire when she was killed. She must have been seated; or how could the course of the bullet have been downward?"

The mayor's admiration for M. Leblanche increased every moment. Though they were alone in the room, the prefect dropped his voice to a whisper, and took M. Revell on one side close to the window when he asked the next few questions:

"You are well acquainted, I suppose, with the Roupell family?"

"Yes, I may say I am. We exchange visits. My wife and daughters frequently walked and rode with the young ladies here. In fact, I may say that we have been quite friendly."

M. Lablanche put the next question in an apparently careless manner.

"And the young ladies? There was nothing between either of them and this young man?"

"Nothing that I know of. He was simply a friend of the family."

"Has he not been particularly attentive to one of the young ladies?"

"I do not think so, and especially not of late. People here seem to think rather that he has been entirely eclipsed by Monsieur Chabot, who, it appears, stood very well with them. I know the gentleman was quite attentive."

"And to whom were those attentions directed, Mademoiselle Harriet or Mademoiselle Emily?"

"I could not really say. There was little to choose between them. Both, as you have seen, are charming, and both, as I have told you, are the acknowledged heiresses of Madame Roupell."

It was M. Lablanche's turn to be astonished.

"Her acknowledged heiresses!" he exclaimed. "Why, you never told me that."

"Did I not?" answered the mayor. "Well, it is the fact, all the same. But you were about to say something."

"Not at all," replies M. Lablanche, "I was only thinking," and he suffered his features to relapse into their accustomed expression of immobility. "Thank you; that is all I wish to know, monsieur le maire. If you will now go downstairs and prepare your report for the tribunal, I will join you in a few minutes, when I have concluded my investigations."

The mayor bowed to the prefect and left the apartment.

CHAPTER IV.

Victor Lablanche owed his unprecedented success largely to the fact that he never permitted anybody to share his discoveries in the field of crime. If ever he found out anything remarkable, he never suffered the slightest hint of it to cross his lips. He reserved it for a grand coup when the crisis of the case should be reached. And these surprises, which invariably enhanced his reputation as a shrewd officer, were generally effected through the exercise of the most searching investigations of the locality where a crime had been committed. No sooner had the door closed than the whole demeanor of the prefect underwent an entire change. From the staid, unconcerned official, quietly engaged in the perfunctory discharge of a duty, he became immediately transformed into an eager enthusiast.

But whatever success might have attended his efforts in previous cases, in this one the worthy officer was doomed to meet with nothing but disappointment. But one single ray illumined his darkened horizon of hope. In making a careful survey of all the rooms on that floor of the chateau, he discovered that two beds had not been slept in. Evidently Miss Harriet Weldon and M. Chabot had not retired, and they were the only two persons in the chateau except Mme. Roupell herself who had not done so.

"I will assume for the purpose of argument that M. Jules Chabot is guilty," he began, quietly talking to himself, as if he were some second party. "Let me first see whether there is a sufficient motive for him to have committed this crime which young Van Lith so strenuously denies. In the first place, who knows anything about Monsieur Chabot? I do not, and the mayor does not, for I have asked him. Assume him to be a fortune hunter simply, and the motive grows stronger. But why? Is it because he is paying attention to the Mademoiselles Weldon? Not entirely; but because as long as Madame Roupell is alive, the Mademoiselles Weldon do not succeed to her fortune? Monsieur Chabot may have killed Madame Roupell in order to secure to himself the fortune he was after. And he may have contrived to throw suspicion upon Monsieur Van Lith, not only for the purpose of diverting suspicion from himself, but in order to rid himself of a very dangerous rival. But why a dangerous rival, when there are two young ladies, and Monsieur Van Lith cannot marry both? Because there must be some provision in Madame Roupell's will by which the first of her nieces marrying will have the larger share of the estate. And if such provision exists, it is not unlikely that a sharp, shrewd fellow like this Chabot would have made himself master of its contents, for he is an intimate friend of the family; and his relations must be almost confidential. This is a mere theory, of course," concluded the prefect to himself; "but in pursuance of it, let us see how Monsieur Chabot spent the hour which elapsed between his retiring and the time of the murder."

He again entered the chamber which had been occupied by Chabot, and with his new theory thus in his mind looked around him. He now sought to make each trifling incident reflect some suspicion against the late occupant of the chamber. He examined the bed clothes with greater care this time. It was evident that Chabot had not even lain down outside of them. He looked under the bedstead even, but espying nothing but a bootjack, directed his attention next to the toilette table. He was about to despair, when his eye fell upon a small black object, not over a quarter of an inch in length. He picked it up, and found it was the broken point of a lead pencil. M. Chabot had evidently passed the time in writing. The question was, how much of the time?

According to the mayor's written notes of his examination of the inmates of the chateau, an hour had certainly elapsed between the time of Mme. Roupell's retiring and the sound of the pistol shot. At what precise period of that interval had the pencil point been broken? The accident to the pencil had not occurred at the time of the firing of the shot, for if it had been caused by reason of the writer's starting with surprise, he would not, naturally have taken time to put away his writing materials before going to ascertain the cause of the noise. He must therefore have been thus employed for only a portion of the interval. The question now uppermost in Victor Lablanche's mind was: How did Jules Chabot consume the rest of his time? If he should fail to properly account for the whole hour, there would be strong reasons for holding him in custody.

Having revolved these matters in his mind, the prefect of police arose from the easy chair into which he had thrown himself and approached the door leading from Jules Chabot's room to the chamber of Mme. Roupell. Of course it was fastened, as by again referring to the mayor's notes it transpired that Jules Chabot had entered the chamber by another way. Almost mechanically he seized the handle and turned it. The door was unlocked. When he had made these discoveries he descended with a lighter heart than he would otherwise have done. Much would depend upon the evidence to be elicited by himself and the testimony to be taken before the judge of instruction.

He strolled out on the terrace to complete his official inspection of the premises. He commenced his examination at the back of the chateau. He went into all the outhouses; he visited the servants' offices—even the cellars and dairy. Then he emerged again into the open air and inspected the windows and searched among the flower beds beneath them for the prints of feet. Nothing, however, rewarded this careful scrutiny, until crossing the lawn he went through an ancient ivy-covered archway and gained the front of the building. Then his quick eye detected that a shrub had been brushed aside, and stooping on the graveled walk, he discovered that a weed had been crushed beneath a heavy foot. A little further on he found further signs, and a little later stood looking down upon a footprint in the soft mold.

Following these footprints, he found they led directly beneath the window of the chamber occupied by Harriet Weldon. This puzzled him. He was nonplussed for the moment, when he noticed that the vines on the lattice seemed lately to have been disturbed. There was another window below Miss Weldon's within easy reach. He put up his hand, and it swung open. Looking in he saw that it afforded access to a small pantry, and the door of the room was ajar. He took a rule from his pocket, and carefully measured the footprints. Then, after ruminating for a few moments, he quickly re-entered the house.

"That is an American boot heel, if ever I saw one in my life," muttered the prefect. "The open door and the footprints! I wonder which of those men did it, for it lies between the two. And just at present the odds are against the American. Yet, still, something tells me Monsieur Jules Chabot will bear watching."

CHAPTER V.

The village of Villeneuve was within the jurisdiction of the tribunal of the department of the Seine. The judge of instruction of this department was a man of unusual ability. In addition to possessing a profound knowledge of the law, M. Joseph Bertrand was a deep and interested student of human nature. Of all the cases which during his term of office had come before him, none, perhaps, had excited such widespread attention as this mysterious murder of the unfortunate Mme. Roupell. The horrible nature of the crime, the heartlessness of the assassin, and the age and rank of his victim, all tended to invest the case with unusual interest.

At ten o'clock precisely M. Bertrand took his seat. The diagram which Lablanche, the prefect of police, had prepared, the notes of the mayor's examination and those of the justice of the peace, lay on the desk before him. There, too, lay the pistol found on the floor of Mme. Roupell's chamber. In an adjoining chamber were gathered the witnesses who were prepared to testify in the case.

"You may bring in the prisoner," said M. Bertrand, when all was in readiness; and Charles Van Lith was led in.

The judge of instruction eyed him keenly. His face was of a deathly pallor; his eyes were hollow and sunken. Altogether, he appeared to disadvantage, and he was conscious that he did so. His youth, however, and the fearless manner in which he glanced around him, did not fail to impress M. Bertrand favorably. Notwithstanding his official habit of sternness, the judge of instruction was possessed of many humane qualities. It was with a voice, therefore, rather mild and encouraging than harsh, that he addressed the young man before him.

"I wish, monsieur," he said, "to afford you every opportunity of clearing yourself. Now state, as briefly as possible, for there are many witnesses to be examined, how you came to be in the chateau Villeneuve last night. I see by the report of the prefect that you have refused to explain that point. Perhaps you had good reasons for your silence then; but you can have none now, here before me. How did you happen to be in the chateau, I repeat, at the time this crime was committed, and even in Madame Roupell's chamber?"

A fearful struggle was taking place in the breast of the American. To state the true reason of his presence in the chamber would be to forever compromise Harriet Weldon, and yet it was the only course which could possibly clear him. The same sense of honor, however, which had bound him to silence when interrogated by the prefect of police, operated to close his lips before the judge of instruction. So, instead of flatly refusing to give the desired information, he sought to modify the bad effect of his refusal by saying:

"I cannot answer the question—as yet, monsieur. It may appear an easy one to which to reply; but I ask you to believe that at present there is an insurmountable obstacle to my doing so."

An expression of vexation seemed to pass over the face of the judge. He had been favorably predisposed toward the prisoner, and would have liked to see him go free.

"I warn you that your persistent refusal to answer is liable to be construed as evidence of guilt. Would the explanation you decline to give involve the party guilty of the crime—perhaps some friend of yours whom you desire to screen?"

Van Lith hesitated but a moment, and then, to the evident surprise of M. Bertrand, replied:

"It would not."

"Would the explanation you refuse to give clear you?"

Again, to M. Bertrand's growing astonishment, the young American replied:

"I don't think it would."

(To be continued.)

What Red Tape Leads To.

Clerk (at poor relief office to applicant)—Are you applying for relief?

Applicant (in rags and looking famished)—Yes.

Clerk—Where do you live?

Applicant gives an address.

Clerk—Well, we shall inquire into your case and the result will be made known to you as soon as possible. By the way, have you a telephone?—Bon Vivant.

In Bostonese.

"Come in, Waldonia," said her mother. "You have been in that swing long enough."

"Presently, mamma," answered the little Boston girl. "I am permitting the carnivorous quadruped of the genus Felis to slacken its physical activities and pass by imperceptible gradations into a condition of total extinct vitality."—Chicago Tribune.

Doing Good.

The woman crowded into the seat reserved for smokers and sniffed ominously, contemptuously.

"Tobacco," she remarked, "is a vile poison. Nicotine would kill a cat."

"That being the case, madam," replied an unembarrassed smoker, "if I were you I'd make the cat cut it out."—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Village Pest.

"Well, so long, old man. I must sneak. Here comes Tompkins, and he always persists in telling me his troubles."

"That leaves me up against it."

"In what way?"

"He always tells me his jokes."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

The Countersign.

Time, 11 p. m.: Private Brown (on bridge guard for first time)—Ha'alt! 'Oo-goes-thur?

Country woman (returning late from market)—There, there, my dear, don't 'ee be afraid, 'tis only me.—Ally Sloper's Half Holiday.

What He Went By.

Club Man (rather full)—I wish you'd take me home. Do you know where I live?

Policeman—What's the name of your cook?

So There.

A little fellow of 3 years was asked by a gentleman how old he was.

"I'm not old!" he exclaimed indignantly; "I'm almost new."

MONEY FOR CELILO

Effort to Have Canal Put Under Continuing Contract.

JETTY IS GOOD OBJECT LESSON

Construction Under Spasmodic Appropriations Expensive, Wasteful and Uncertain.

Washington, Nov. 23.—The recommendation of General Mackenzie, chief of engineers, that an appropriation of half a million dollars be made this winter to continue the construction of the Celilo canal, opens up an opportunity for placing this work under continuing contract system.

In the river and harbor bill passed last session was an item authorizing the appropriation now recommended; that means congress sanctions the appropriation, and will make the money available when asked for. The appropriation will come as a matter of form in the sundry civil bill, which will be passed toward the close of the approaching session, unless it turns out that the available money is exhausted before spring, in which event the appropriation may be made in the urgency deficiency bill, which will be passed in January or February.

It is most desirable that the canal should be brought under a continuing contract, for unless this is done the work must progress spasmodically, as congress appropriates money from time to time. Inasmuch as there is yet to be appropriated upwards of $3,000,000 to complete the canal, it is doubly important that it should be made a continuing contract. Otherwise, the money is likely to be made available in quarter or half-million lots, and construction will be strung out over a long period of years. This is undesirable, for experience has demonstrated that all large works of this character, built under spasmodic appropriations, cost much more in the end than those which are built under continuing contracts, the money being made available as rapidly as needed.

PEAT FOR FUEL.

Canada Attempting to Solve Problem by New Process.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Canada, like the United States, is confronted with a fuel problem that is causing no little concern. There is a much smaller supply of coal in Canada than in this country, hence the greater need for the development of some new fuel. Attention centers on the vast peat beds

Over top of the bog has been placed a series of railway tracks about five yards apart, and over them run what are called collectors. The collector can be compared to a large electric can equipped with a suction pan. From the side of the car protrudes a long pipe perhaps two feet in diameter, at the end of which is a shoe with a "lip," through which the dry peat dust on the surface of the bog is drawn into the pipe by suction and deposited in the car.

As the car moves along the rail the amount of peat which is drawn up is scarcely perceptible to the naked eye, and yet one collector will pick up 50 tons of dust a day. The sun quickly dries the exposed surface which has been uncovered by the collector, and the same process is then repeated.

The dust is taken from the collector into the factory, and run through a large pipe, or covered trough, through which runs a screw similar in shape to an auger. Around the outside of the pipe or trough is a steam jacket placed several inches from the pipe to allow the steam to pass through the space between, in order to dry out the dust passing through the inside of the pipe. The dust is ground fine to pass through 100 mesh—or in other words, finer than flour. The dried out dust is then placed in a unique press and at a temperature of 200 degrees and pressure of 80 tons formed into bricklets. In two days after going through the press the bricks are harder than coal and nearly the same color.

Hawaii is After Hindus.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 23.—Hindu laborers on Puget Sound, who have been driven from town to town by anti-Asiatic societies, will be shipped to the Hawaiian islands for work on sugar plantations. Arrangements are now being made for chartering a special steamer to carry away all the Hindus gathered in the Puget Sound country, and it is believed by agents of the Hawaiian planters that several thousand Hindus in Washington and British Columbia can be induced to go back to the tropics.

Boston Wants Certificates.

Boston, Nov. 23.—The subscriptions at the Subtreasury today to the issue of Government certificates of indebtedness amounted to $5,607,650. These subscriptions were all made by individuals, and the amount is greatly in excess of the total of the past two days. On Wednesday, the first day of the sale, the total receipts were only $15,900. On the two days National bank subscriptions to the issue amounted to $301,800, from individuals only $17,150 in all.

French Court Lenient.

Paris, Nov. 23.—The court which has been hearing the case against Charles P. Baird, of Philadelphia, who on October 10 ran down and killed a boy at Neuilly, while driving an automobile, condemned him to a month's imprisonment and $10 fine. In addition Baird must pay $2,000 damages.

LUMBER CASES CONSOLIDATED

Oregon and Washington Complaints Will Be Heard Together.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The Interstate Commerce Commission will hold but one hearing to dispose of the complaints of Oregon and Washington lumber manufacturers against the new rates on lumber shipped to Missouri river points and the Middle West and from points in Oregon to points in California. The Oregon and Washington Lumber Manufacturers' Association and the Pacific Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association have filed separate complaints with the Interstate Commerce Commission but in effect their complaints are identical, as the rates complained of are the same from Oregon as from Washington, the defendant railroads are the same in each case.

The complaint of the Western Oregon Lumber Manufacturers' Association is somewhat different, as it applies only to rates from Oregon to California established by the Southern Pacific and the Oregon & California Railroad companies. At the hearing, which will begin December 11, the railroads will be represented by their attorneys and the lumbermen by Teal & Minor, of Portland; A. E. Griffiths, of Seattle; W. H. Abel, of Montesano, Wash., and by Wimbish, Watkins & Ellis, of Atlanta, Ga.

In its complaint, recently filed with the Commission, the Oregon and Washington Lumber Manufacturers' Association, allege that the Hill and Harriman railroads, by concert of action absolutely fix and maintain rates on lumber from Oregon and Washington to points in the Mississippi Valley, Rocky Mountain and Plains states, said rate being formulated through the trans-continental freight bureau at Chicago, said bureau being dominated and controlled by these two systems.

After setting forth the difference between the old rates and those which were to have gone into effect November 1, the complainants allege that this raise in rates is the result of a conspiracy to destroy all competition among the railroads operating in the Northwest, and to exact an unreasonable compensation for the transportation of lumber, and that the railroads, by increasing their rates, propose to absorb all or nearly all of the profits of the lumbermen.

HEARST HELD FOR LIBEL.

Bound Over to Grand Jury—Political Game Charged.

New York, Nov. 22.—Justice Wyatt, in the Court of Special Sessions today, held William R. Hearst for the grand jury on the charge of criminal libel, preferred by William Astor Chanler. S. S. Carvalho appeared for Mr. Hearst. The amount of bond was fixed at $500, the usual sum required in misdemeanor cases. Mr. Carvalho is the general manager of Mr. Hearst's New York newspaper.

Both Mr. Hearst and his bondsmen were in court when Justice Wyatt handed down his decision. They repaired to the office of District Attorney Jerome while the bail bond was being prepared. It was later approved by Justice Wyatt and Mr. Hearst and his attorneys drove away in the big red automobile that had brought them to the criminal courts building.

The charge against Mr. Hearst grew out of a publication in the New York Evening Journal concerning the case of Raymond Hitchcock, the actor. Mr. Chanler's name was mentioned in connection with the article. Several hearings were had before Justice Wyatt, and Mr. Chanler positively denied that he had ever been at Hitchcock's house when little girls were there.

His counsel contended that the publication had been made for the purpose of injuring politically Lieutenant-Governor Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler, a brother of the complainant, against Mr. Hearst. This was denied by Mr. Hearst's attorneys, who made the counter assertion in court that Mr. Chanler's proceedings against Mr. Hearst were taken in the hope of hurting the chances of the Independence League ticket in the last country election.

Combined to Down Opposition.

Salt Lake, Nov. 22. — The Federal grand jury returned indictments against the Union Pacific Railroad company, the Oregon Short Line, the Union Pacific Coal company, J. M. Moore, general agent of the Union Pacific Coal company and Everett Buckingham, assistant general superintendent of the Oregon Short Line. The technical charge is a combination in restraint of trade by forcing a Salt Lake City coal dealer out of business because he had lowered the price of coal below that fixed by the combination.

They Assassinated Picture.

Odessa, Nov. 22.—The trial by a special military court of 25 men of the Eleventh Nicholas I. regiment, on charges of mutiny and insubordination, came to an end here today. Two sergeants and one private who had destroyed a picture of Emperor Nicholas were sentenced to death and at once shot. Nine other men were sent out to the mines for life, 12 were sent to the mines for 10 years and the others were acquitted.

St. Louis Bids for $12,000,000.

St Louis, Nov 22.—At a meeting of all St. Louis bankers today, it was decided to take $12,000,000 of the government's treasury certificates, providing the money paid for this circulating medium be re-deposited in the banks taking the scrip. This the Treasury department has already signified its intention of doing.

Deposits Rushing Back.

New York, Nov. 22.—The Terminal Bank, one of the Brooklyn institutions which closed their doors several weeks ago, reopened for business today. More than 100 depositors were in line and $45,000 was deposited during the first hour.

STATE FUND TIED UP

Cannot Recover School Money In Defunct Bank.

NO GROUNDS TO SUE BONDSMEN

Treasurer Does Not Have to Account Except to His Successor, Three Years Hence.

Salem, Or., Nov 21.—No steps have yet been taken to recover the $395,000 deposited by the state treasurer in the Title Guarantee & Trut company bank, or to find out whether the state has any recourse against the surety company which was surety upon the bond of the state treasurer and the trust company. Demand was made for repayment of the money, but there the matter rests, and seems likely to rest, for some time to come. The surety company has acknowledged liability for $100,000 of the amount, but no more. So far as known, no arrangements have been made for the payment of even this amount.

Governor Chamberlain has been earnestly seeking some means of enforcing payment of the money into the treasury but has been unable to find any way of bringing to a legal test the question of the liability of Steel and his bondsmen. Though it is publicly known, and admitted, that the money is gone, not only from the treasury, but also from the control of the treasurer, there is no way of bringing a suit until the treasurer has been called upon to turn the money over to some one else and he fails or refuses to do so. It was this situation that first brought the suggestion that the state treasurer should resign, thus making it necessary that he turn over the funds to his successor, in default of which a suit would lie against his bondsmen. But the treasurer has said that he will not resign, and there the matter rests. His term will expire in a little over three years, and then a suit can be brought unless the money has been paid into the treasury sooner.

INVESTIGATE BANKING LAWS.

California Legislature Takes Steps to Protect Depositors.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 21.—Resolutions were introduced yesterday in both houses of the legislature, convened in extraordinary session, for the appointment by the governor of a special executive committee to investigate the banking laws of California and the banks of the state. Amendments are to be drafted and the committee will draw up more stringent measures for the better protection of depositors and will report its findings and recommendation to the next regular session of the legislature.

The senate unanimously adopted the concurrent resolution approving four of the 20 amendments to the San Francisco charter, adopted at the recent election.

State of Lincoln Resurrected.

Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 21. — Delegates from the Northwest to the Trans-Missi-sippi congress are today working on a proposition of a new state to be called Lincoln, composed of parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, with Spokane as the capital. The proposition is fathered by N. W. Durham, of Spokane. Resolutions were introduced for the establishment by the government of a bureau of mining and agricultural colleges, experimental stations and postal savings banks in every congressional district.

Cannot Rescue Canadians.

Winnipeg, Man., Nov. 21.—Despite the Ottawa reports that the Dominion government would at once distribute $10,000,000 in currency to help the movement of grain of Western Canada, it was announced today that the government has no cash to loan and has failed so far in getting a supply from the bank to help the farmers. In the meantime the frozen grain must be moved. The congestion at the head of the lakes is becoming serious.

Must Call Session Again.

Sacramento, Nov. 21.—After an extra session for two days it has developed that the proper financial relief legislation and the rehabilitation of the courts on special holidays cannot be enacted by the legislature under the present call of Governor Gillett, and that a supplementary proclamation must be issued. Such was the conclusion arrived at late last night by a subcommittee of the senate judiciary committee.

New Death Test.

Paris, Nov. 21.—A new *death test* which absolutely precludes the possibility of burial alive has been discovered at the Lariboisierre hospital in this city. Experiments have shown that radiographs of bodies taken even a few minutes after death reveal clearly the outlines of all the organs, whereas if the radiographs are taken during life the organs are not revealed.

Improve Rivers in Montana.

Helena, Mont., Nov. 21.—A call was today issued by the Helena Commercial club for a meeting of citizens of this state, to be held here November 26, for the purpose of forming a state association to bring about the securing from congress of a just share of the river and harbor appropriations for the betterment of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers.