

Arson Octopus Stretches Tentacles Afar



THEY DO IT OVERLEAF IN CHICAGO

HE remarkable death in Jersey City of a "bug" who was killed through his own clumsiness while setting fire to a building which he had been hired to burn down has not often been surpassed as an example of prompt retribution. "Hoist with his own petard" is such a worn old phrase that one hesitates to use it now, but Frank Walsh, burglar and incendiary, must have felt just that way when the can of gasoline which he brought with him to ignite the office of the Long-Dock Milling company suddenly exploded and wrapped him in its deadly flames. "His book," but by accident, helped sufficient to save the building but not to save his life. He had been hired for \$10 to do the job in order to cover up fraudulent entries in the cashing books, but by accident, the gasoline can and "dumped the fat in the fire" with a vengeance.

But however dramatic the fate of clumsy Walsh and the consequent exposure of his accomplices may be by themselves, they have deeper significance when viewed in the light of the recent discovery that there exists a country-wide arson trust, with headquarters in Chicago and representatives in nearly all the large cities, the members of which make a business of setting fire to buildings skillfully, in order to enable the owners to collect large sums of insurance.

Murder as a fine art, the scientific management of arson, together with the proper strategy and conduct of private warfare, are subjects perhaps better understood in Chicago than anywhere else in the world. Last any of her great sister cities should feel envious of Chicago, let it be admitted that Berlin and Vienna also have their fire gangs. Paris exhibits a "pretty taste in Apaches, New York (Foster Paul Kelly) associations, Madrid has its garreros and Canton its high-blinders. Yet the following tale shows that the Chicago savans have applied business principles to crime in a manner far exceeding the coarse efforts of their rivals:

On the fourth floor of No. 232 South Market street, in the Windy City, was situated the goody clothing establishment of L. Dreyfus & Co., wholesalers. It was operated by the brothers, Leopold and Lazar Dreyfus, who had apparently an extensive city trade. The brothers were extremely liberal buyers of clothing stocks, and the store was visited by a swarm of customers. Gossp had it that more goods were carried in than could ever be sold, and that many of the purchases, so called, carried away notorious bills of sale.

In the spring of this year a set of private investigators began to pry into the affairs of Dreyfus & Co., identifying at Detroit and Grand Rapids, the fact that the firm owed its creditors \$35,000. An expert who visited the store in the guise of a retailer judged that goods valued at \$20,000 lay on its shelves and counters. The insurance carried totaled \$25,000, divided among eleven companies, including the United States Fire, of New York. As the reason for turning around around among the clothing trade it was also discovered that Dreyfus & Co. were slow pay, and the manu-

positively on lowest terms. "Take 'em or leave 'em."

"How about the risk?"

"There will be no risk. If an overt suspicion you must take it as an employer. You yourself can get it away from Chicago as you like!"

With that Jacob produced his arrest contract, an extraordinary document which he signed to the satisfaction of \$17,000 of the total insurance on the Dreyfus place. The merchant fell in with the plan. He signed the agreement to pay the saloonkeeper in the event of a fire, and handed Jacob the \$300 earnest money. The ingenious conspirator was put on the employer's roll and entrusted with the door key to lock up the store at night and open it in the morning.

On the Saturday of June 3 Jacob admitted himself to the store after hours and opened six three-gallon cans of gasoline which had been sent there concealed in the innow by the arson trust. The telltale conspirator was put on the employer's roll and entrusted with the door key to lock up the store at night and open it in the morning.

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In all these operations Jacob had applied with his best skill the principles of scientific management adopted by the arson trust. The telltale shaving and give-away were done in the most skillful manner. Not only is the evidence burned up, but the firemen and salvage corps have no chance to save any of the stock of goods, which always would reduce the amount of the insurance paid.

But on this occasion something or other went amiss. The fire fighters, arriving quickly, scented the gas, and his gas line of talk was indicated and an investigation made, an unexploded can of gasoline was found back in a corner. Michael F. Sullivan, the fire attorney of the city, sent for the brothers Dreyfus. Leopold had spent the day of the fire at Gray's Lake, a resort fifty miles distant, but Lazar had worked in the store that same Saturday morning.

After more than six hours of sharp examination by the fire attorney and the police Leopold Dreyfus broke down and confessed that he hired Jacob and the saloonkeeper to destroy the store. He told the story of his submission to the trust, which implicated many others in a wide network of conspiracy that startled even the detectives by the astounding revelation of a systematic, scientific arson trust.

Through the further confessions of the elder Dreyfus it was hoped to expose the whole crooked league of dishonest merchants and paid setters of traps, a league in which he said he caused at least a fifth (more than 700) of all the Chicago fires in the last decade, that has extended its operations from New York to Portland, Ore., and that has reaped a yearly profit of \$150,000 for the saloonkeeper who is its head.

Leopold Dreyfus, however, killed himself next morning in his Michigan avenue home, whether a police detective had told him at last he required to see his wife and children before going to the police court. The discovery of his arson and the tangle of his financial affairs had driven him practically insane. The saloonkeeper, and Jacob vanished.

High Cost of Living in Japan.

According to an article in Osaka Asehi, prices have gone up in Japan over twofold in the last twenty years, while the purchasing power of the currency has sensibly declined. Taking the average rate of prices in January, 1887, at 100 and the value of the currency at the same time at 100, the price of goods in 1910 would be 225 and the value of currency at 43, according to a table published by the Bank of Japan.

Another table published by the same bank shows that the average price of imported goods has been comparatively small, while the rise in the price of goods produced for the home market and for export has been greater. Compared with the advance in prices in other countries the Japanese rate of advance has been about 2 per cent. greater than that in London and New York. This may be due to some extent to the influence, such as the enormous expansion in the amount of money in circulation.

His Dignity Intact.

The two footpads had explored the elderly pedestrian's pockets and found nothing but a dollar watch and a few other things of little or no value. "If you will make another search of my right trouser pocket," he said, "you will find a dime, which will pay your fare to a more prosperous part of town. And now, gentlemen, go!"

The two men went back to the man, who was standing on the end of the running board, was hit by the machine.

Good Jokes

None Left.

"I should think, with all your money, you would have a nice yacht."

"I would only I can't think of any outlandish name for a craft that has not already been used."

Another One's Heard From.

Arin Gunda—Meads, this is the smoking car.

Arin Gunda—Why, so it is. Thank you, young man. (Produces pipe.)

MICHIGAN BREVITIES

Union City—The "business" men of this city held a big barbecue with an adjoining 1,500 pounds roasted whole and then cut up and given to the hungry multitude, together with bread and other substantial edibles. Along with it was held a sort of celebration, with athletic sports, band music and other attractions. It was given in recognition of the remodeling and reopening of the Union City Roller mill by the new proprietors, Rander Bros., who reported \$200,000 on the property. One of the new features of the mill is expected to aid in making this a better grain market.

Kalamazoo—Declaring that the church should not expect to keep ministers in the pulpit at salaries usually paid preachers, Rev. C. Clemans of Grand Rapids made an eloquent appeal before the Michigan M. E. conference that more be done for the preachers in the future than in the past. He urged more liberal payments to retired pastors. One of the surprises of the conference was when Mrs. John Reddish of Niles, widow of a Methodist preacher, gave the church \$1,000 to be used in the maintenance of the Clark Memorial Home at Grand Rapids.

Cagwin—John Masline, Nicholas Alfino and Sando Labonio, alleged Black Handers, were bound over to the circuit court, charged with assault with intent to commit highway robbery. They are held under \$5,000 bonds. Masline, who is said to have fired the shot which took effect in Costardo's shoulder, will have his examination for insanity with a view to his confinement in the insane asylum. At present he is held under \$10,000 bonds.

Detroit—An attempt to rescue a pet cat from a bucket of boiling catchup resulted in the death of the cat. Barilla, chief of one-half of the old son of Martelli Baralla. The accident happened while Mrs. Baralla was pouring a quantity of catchup from the globe into a bucket on the floor. A kitten was seen by the little boy was playing fell into the bucket and in trying to pull it out the child was scalded about the head and arms, fatal convulsions developed.

Union City—The agricultural department introduced in the city high school last year is proving so popular as to attract the attention of the state board of agriculture. The Michigan college, and in connection with it there is talk of holding a week or two of regular school for grown-up farmers of this locality, with instructors from the college and regular classes in various agricultural subjects.

Port Huron—After living alone in her house on Union street for the last twenty years and being confined to her bed for over thirty hours without any person knowing of her sickness, Mrs. Mary A. Johnston, aged seventy-two years, was claimed by death within a short while after medical help was finally secured. She was the widow of the late William Johnston, who was a former alderman and prominent merchant of this city.

Ludington—Samuel Barker, a chauffeur aged twenty-four years, was electrocuted in a local garage by contact with a power wire. Barker was working on his machine, into which was led an extension electric cord. When he stepped into the car the circuit grounded through his body and in half an hour he was dead. A defective transformer is supposed to have been the cause of the accident.

Albion—Prof. Harlan J. Corne, head of the musical department of Albion college, was perhaps fatally injured in a fall at the Huntington furniture store in this city. He walked into an open trap doorway and fell nine feet to the cement floor in the basement. Physicians in attendance report little hope for his recovery.

Battle Creek—To save the life of the four-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Robinson, of this city, Dr. A. S. Kimball decided to try an operation to which end he summoned Dr. C. C. Darling and his assistant, Doctor Washburn of the University of Michigan. The operation was performed at the baby's lives with every hope for recovery. Doctors say it was one case in a thousand.

Alumet—The first hunting accident of the season resulted in the death of Edward Augé, the six-year-old son of Adolph Augé of Pellé, near Baraga. Augé accidentally discharged a shotgun on a hunting trip, according himself fatally in the breast.

Port Huron—Several persons narrowly escaped being killed, one man's leg was fractured and another man slightly injured when a automobile returning from the Thumb district fell to avoid running into a crowd of people, crash-burned cars. The street car at the time was crowded with people, and returning from the fair. The auto was driven by Homer Harmon of H. Menow, who was standing on the rear end of the running board, was hit by the machine.

WILEY UPHELD BY TAFT

Pure Food Expert Will Not Be Asked to Quit' Place.

The resignation of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry in the department of agriculture and probably the best known pure food expert in the government service, will not be asked for by President Taft, despite recommendations that it be requested, made by the personnel board of the department and issued by Atty. Gen. Wickofoff. The "congratulatory" for Dr. Wiley, which Mr. Wickofoff holds to be necessary will not be asked for by the chief executive. The president's opinion, carrying no word of words of praise, was made public. There is no indication in it that the president feels that he "turned down" Mr. Wickofoff, by not accepting his resignation. The president's attitude that the attorney general's findings in the case were made with less complete data than was before him when he took it up. The president admits that there is trouble in the department of agriculture.

THE MARKETS

LIVE STOCK.

DETROIT—Cattle—Market steady at last week's prices; best steers and heifers \$17.50 to \$18.00; medium steers and heifers \$16.00 to \$17.00; grass steers and heifers \$15.00 to \$16.00; fat cows \$14.00 to \$15.00; milk cows \$13.00 to \$14.00; calves \$12.00 to \$13.00; pigs \$10.00 to \$11.00; hogs \$11.00 to \$12.00; sheep \$12.00 to \$13.00; goats \$10.00 to \$11.00.

WOMAN ESCAPES OPERATION

Was Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound



Why will women take chances with an operation or drag out a sickly, half-hearted existence, mistaking three-fourths of the joy of living when they can find health in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I was sick three months and could not walk. I suffered all the time. The doctors said I could not get well without an operation, but I had only one bottle of Compound, but kept on it as I was afraid to stop too soon. Mrs. S. L. H. W. L. E. S. 2723 N. B. St., Elwood, Ind.

For thirty years it has been the standard remedy for female ill, and has cured thousands of women who have been troubled with such ailments as displacements, inflammation, ulceration, fibroid tumors, irregularities, nervous prostration.

If you have the slightest doubt that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will help you, write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., for advice, or order. Her letters will be absolutely confidential, and the advice free.

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In Growing Smaller Every Day.

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It's the Will Quality End Weak, Sore Eyes

Bottle Eye Salve

W. N. U. DETROIT, NO. 38-1911.

LOT WAS IMPROVED.



Fred—I love you, whole lot.

Fred—Frank told me yesterday that he loved me a whole house and lot.

Practical Illustration.

To shorten a long Sunday afternoon for Fred, aged eight, his mother told him that he might illustrate the twenty-four Psalm in any way he chose. Fred, busy with pencil and pad, drew "shepherd" and "green pasture," "rod and staff." Then a silence ensued, followed by a noisy clatter which brought his mother to the room. Fred was busily arranging a train of cars, a toy gun, marbles, etc. on the table. "What are you doing, Fred?" "Why," he answered, "these are the presents of my enemies."

The Flavour of Post Toasties

Is so distinctly pleasing that it has won the liking of both young and old who never before cared much for cereal food of any kind.

Served direct from the package—crisp and fresh, and—

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