

MYSTERY TRIPLE TRAGEDY UNSOLVED

Man Suspected of Father's Murder Commits Suicide With His Wife

THE BODIES IN DEATH EMBRACE

Note Left Declaring Innocence of Blaying Partner, Who Was Killed in Home-Robbery, Was Not the Motive—House Set on Fire by Murderers.

Paris—A mysterious triple tragedy, in which a father was murdered and his son and daughter-in-law were subsequently found hanging from a beam, has taken place at a little village in the Department of the Loire bearing the grim name of La Croix de la Toume.

M. Laval, a rich landed proprietor, the owner of a cafe and a small store, was found lying dead in the kitchen of the house where he lived alone, with his head battered in. His body was wrapped in a blanket which had been burnt, and by his side lay the bodies of his son and daughter-in-law, with which the crime had been committed.

Robbery was not the motive, as nothing had been touched, and the criminals had evidently covered up to cover up the traces of their guilt by attempting to set the house on fire.

M. Laval was a morose man who was on bad terms with his family. His wife had brought an action for separation against him, and though the Judges gave their decision against her she left her husband's house and refused to live with him.

M. Laval had been quarreling with his two sons and was frequently heard threatening to disinherit them. So acute was the resentment felt by Alexis Laval, the eldest son, that he refused to live in a house belonging to his father and took a cottage at the other end of the village.

Alexis Laval was asked by the police to give an account of how he spent his time on Tuesday night, when the crime was committed. His explanation did not tally with the evidence given by his wife, but the evidence was not strong enough to warrant an arrest, although the police decided to keep a close watch on him.

Three days later M. Laval, the widow of the murdered man, went to visit her son. She found the cottage door open, and on the table a short note addressed to her. She read it and Alexis Laval stated that he intended committing suicide with his wife. He affirmed that he was innocent of the grave charge hanging over his head, and asked his mother to look after their 15-month-old child.

The neighbors were attracted by the cries of the despairing mother. They found the frail bodies of Alexis Laval and his wife hanging side by side from a beam in the cellar. The man and his wife had evidently committed suicide at the same moment, for their arms were interlocked and their wrists firmly tied by a cord.

DOG BITE MADE HIM THIEF.

Convict Says Since Experience in Youth He Has Had Mania.

Kansas City, Mo.—Fifty-eight years ago Gustave Armit was bitten by a rabid dog at his home in Germany. He was then 14 years old. He was given whiskey enough to make him drunk and was then rushed to a surgeon, who cauterized the wounds. Since that day, Armit says, he has been unable to resist a temptation to steal horses, and he is now waiting in the county jail to begin serving his tenth penitentiary sentence for that offense.

He has spent the greater part of his time since coming to America in Missouri and in the Kansas and Missouri Penitentiaries. Previous to that he served prison terms in Europe. He always has been a model prisoner and invariably has attracted all the good time allowed convicts to shorten their sentences.

Armit served through the Franco-Prussian War, and was in the battles at Sedan and Strasbourg.

FALLS OUT OF JAIL, RETURNS

Boy Thought Experience Good Joke and Told Sheriff.

Corning, Ark.—Falling out of jail while exploring the interior of the Clay County structure was such a shock to Rich Thompson, a boy who is held on a burglary charge, that he could not leave the jail for laughter and permitted himself to be locked up again.

Persuaded to roam about the corridors of the jail, Thompson pulled the grating of the large pipe which conveys warm air into the building, intending to hide from the jailer and permit him to "sneak" out. To his surprise Thompson, who is built on a beanpole order, slipped and shot through the pipe into the furnace in the basement.

Shaking with laughter, Thompson was crawled to the furnace door which he opened. With freedom before him, Thompson declined to leave the kindly officials. Walking to the office of the Sheriff, he requested the jail keys so he could lock himself up again.

CHINESE EATING WILDCATS

Frisco Highlanders Feel the Need of a Stimulant to Do More Murders.

San Francisco, Cal.—Since the Yee family and their associates have been in Chinatown, the price of wildcat meat has quadrupled and is rising still. All over the State hunters are hunting for wildcats—it is enough to drive the cats wild.

Chinamen believe that a man's food affects his disposition. Let him eat rabbit stew and he is as mild mannered as a bunny; feed him on roast wildcat and he absorbs ferocity with the meat.

Six Yees and members of the On Yick Tong have been murdered in the last fortnight. Now all the highest and best of the tong are gorging themselves with wildcat, so as to attain the proper frame of mind to kill a few more of their enemies.

Yee Wan Loo, a bad man naturally, overfed himself today and was sent to the lunatic asylum. Besides having acute indigestion, he was as wild as the wildest wildcat in the State. He was the prominent member of the On Yick Tong, which is a hospital. After a hearty meal of wildcat (catfish), he jumped from a second story window in the Chinatown and scratched out his eyes. But Yee Wan Loo was not the only one who has been overfed. The Yee family has lost eight of its wildcat lives on the pavement; the survivors hope to preserve all at the butchers' stalls in the Chinese quarter. The butchers, wishing to make hay while the sun shines, are living exclusively on wildcat. The wildcat is available. Hardware dealers are profiting too. If a highlander eats as much as a wildcat sandwich he goes to a hardware shop and buys another revolver.

SLID DOWN AVALANCHE TRACK.

Miner Leaped from Precipice Into Deep Snow—To Escape Three Bears.

Victoria, B. C.—F. R. Blochberger, publisher of the Westliche Canada Post of Vancouver, was nearly killed by a life he made with three bears behind him in close pursuit. The adventure took place in the Kootenay Mountains near Roseland, where he was visiting one of these week ago. While laboring through three feet of snow he discovered that three bears were on his trail. To escape them he determined to glide the trees and he was actually killed, and incidentally he went over a precipice.

There was a whirling through space that seemed hours in length and then he found himself in his mouth. He was utterly lost, alive and comparatively unharmed, a thousand feet below his late pursuers. With much difficulty he extricated himself, and after several days in the wilderness he endured considerable hardships through cold and hunger, he finally reached the railroad line and safety.

INSULT TO MADONNA PUNISHED.

Butcher Who Violated Shrine at Potenza Becomes a Maniac.

Rome, Italy.—An anticlerical butcher at Potenza violated a shrine of the Madonna recently and forced the priest to take the blame. The butcher fell senseless and assumed the rigidity of death.

He was conveyed to a hospital, where he recovered, but he was mad. He barks like a dog and howls like a wildcat.

The inhabitants of Potenza are convinced that a miracle was performed and are flocking in pilgrimage to the shrine, where soldiers of the Italian army are being held.

Longer Life in Bay State.

Boston, Mass.—In a document just issued by the Committee of One Hundred on the Life Span, prepared by Professor Irving Fisher, it is shown that life is lengthening fast in Massachusetts.

The gain being fourteen years in a decade. Therefore, if the present rate of improvement could be prevented and fifteen years added to the average human life by preventing disease, it is said.

APPENDICITIS KILLS TURKEYS

New England Scientists Believe English Sparrows Carry Germs Which Attack Fowls.

Boston, Mass.—Science has at last discovered why the turkey is so scarce that its price has become prohibitive for many a Thanksgiving table—the big bird has been literally wiped out in New England by appendicitis. More than this, the disease has spread as far south as Virginia, and is already invading Michigan, which up to the present time has for years been the chief breeding place of turkeys.

So serious is the danger of a virtual extinction of the "national bird" that a thorough investigation of the causes of the disease and its possible prevention is being made by such well-known Dr. E. E. Tyzzer of the Harvard Medical School and by Dr. Philip B. Hadley of the State experiment station of Rhode Island.

The same diseases which have decimated turkeys has of late spread to game birds, such as partridge and quail, and the investigation in this case is being prosecuted by Dr. George W. Field of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission. The findings of all these men have agreed that the disease is "blackhead," which thousands of farmers have bewailed as the bane of the valuable flocks of Thanksgiving birds, is only the outward sign of a disease which starts from a small virus organism, and which produces in the intestines of the turkey or partridge an inflammation similar to that of appendicitis in man.

The organism which infects the diseased birds has been variously identified simply as an amoeba and more specifically termed the "Coccidium avium," but under either name it has done its work, and the experts upon the subject are agreed that the disease has attacked a partridge or a game bird there is no hope. Although the disease is almost exactly the same, and in the same location as appendicitis in man, it has not thought it worth while to perform an operation of appendectomy on birds.

There is a difference of opinion among the scientists as to how the germ is spread. Some declare that the birds are infected without being affected by it, while another view is that the common English sparrow is full of amoebae. It should be proved beyond question that the sparrow carries the germ, and the advocates of this theory declare that another crusade against the sparrows must be begun.

AIRSHIP AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF CRIME.

New Haven, Conn.—Chief Justice Simon E. Baldwin addressed the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on "The Law of the Airship." He said:

"It will be one of the greatest instruments of smuggling, crime and even murder ever known, because of the comparative ease with which it can be used by revenue officers. The meetings held to consider airship matters have up to the present time been held by persons themselves greatly interested in airships, aeronauts, so the rules laid down have been entirely for their interests, and the public has been entirely ignored."

"It is for us to look out for the interests of the public and to see that in our desire for advance we do not ignore the rights which necessarily accrue to ourselves."

"Tresspass we must consider, for we can no longer consider as settled Lord Coke's rule that we own up to the sky whatever we own on the earth."

"A question which in years to come will cause much trouble is that regarding the injuries from objects falling from airships and how far the right of self-preservation will extend."

LICKED WIFE TO A STICK.

Told Her Also, She Was "Unsanitary." Not Soul Mates.

Portland, Ore.—Asserting that her husband, W. H. Satterlee, in his moment of anger calls her names, Mr. Satterlee is asking for a divorce. She gives "Your obnoxious weed" as an example. Not content with comparing her to an obnoxious weed, she accuses that he presumed to call her a "stick" and informed her that she was "unsanitary." He further informed her that he could dispense with her presence in his household after having found fault with the meals which she cooked for him.

She asks the Court how he could expect to receive "sumptuous repasts" when he presumes to find fault with the meals which she prepared for him. Altogether, she states that they are not congenial, soul mates, and asks for divorce, a substantial alimony and one-third of all his property.

Club for Old Men Only.

Lewes, Del.—Lewes has an Old Men's Club, composed only of men who are seventy years of age or over, and, despite their years, its members have as much fun as any club. In this section, banquets are frequent, and songs, speeches and even dances form part of the programme.

KILLS BLACKSNAKE THAT ATE MONEY

Sonstrom Not Only Gets Back His Two Quarters, But \$4.92 for Short Time Loan

THE YEAR'S CHAMPION YARN

Man Found Inside Snake His Own Quarters and One Half Dollar, Nine Other Quarters, Nine Dimes, Fifteen Nickels and Two Cents.

Montclair, N. J.—Edward Sonstrom, a truthful, sober and industrious person, killed a blacksnake five feet long, near the bridge over Toney's Brook at Bay Street. The location is fixed with particularity because it will there be an enduring proof of the remarkable facts that follow.

The Sonstroms live near the bridge. Mrs. Sonstrom sent her two little girls to a distant grocery store to buy things for the Sunday dinner. The children had just returned from Sunday school. Mary is seven years old, Alice, five. Her mamma gave Mary two silver coins when she crossed the brook when they came upon the blacksnake, called an "it" to spring at them. To their terrified eyes it looked as big as an anaconda. In her fright, it dropped the quarters and with Alice fled, screaming.

Mary dared to look over her shoulder to see if the snake was chasing them. To her amazement, she saw the snake swallow the coins, then coil up in the sun as if to digest them at leisure.

The girls went home and told their papa and mamma. Sonstrom, seizing the club, ran to the bridge. The snake was still there and showed fight, but Sonstrom killed it. He took the reptile home with the hope of recovering the two quarters. It did so with interest. In fact, before he got through with the snake he felt like a usurer, a mine discovered or a bank robber.

In the president, and thirty snake's teeth were one half dollar, eleven quarters, nine dimes, fifteen nickels and two cents.

More remarkable still, the coins were stacked so as to be counted by the date of the diminishing calibre of the snake's fangs. That is, the half dollar was nearest to the mouth of the snake, then the quarters and so on, the dimes last, although a dime is nearly as large in circumference as a cent.

Mr. Sonstrom has the snake, \$4.92 in change and the bridge remains in its place.

MANY ALBINO WILD ANIMALS.

Game Warden Fears This Means Game Is Disappearing.

South Norwalk, Conn.—Wild birds and animals are being hunted so closely in this State that they are turning white from the constant fear under which they labor. White deer, white foxes, white squirrels, white rabbits and even white jays have been shot this season. Most of them also had pink eyes and were weak. Wilbur F. Smith, a game warden, who is an authority on animals and birds, says he never received so many authentic reports of the killing of albino animals as he has received this season.

"I think it is a sign of the decadence of wild animals and birds in Connecticut," Smith said. "The roads of civilization on their haunts and the continual harassing by the hunters shortly will bring about extermination unless the game laws be made more stringent. Of course, it is not unusual to hear of Albino birds and animals. They have been reported from all the States. I never have known, however, so many freaks of nature as we have here now."

Albino squirrels have been shot by John Shaughnessy of Weston and Frederick Jones of Reading. Other hunters report that they not only have killed albinos, but that they also have seen many more than they succeeded in killing.

ATHLETICS THE LOVE CURE.

Makes Girls Level-Headed About Men, Miss May Sutton Observes.

Los Angeles, Cal.—"Athletics are the best antidote for love," was May Sutton's reply to an inquiry on her views of matrimony. Miss Sutton, who is the woman tennis champion, has just returned from a long Eastern trip.

"I still think that no girl should marry before she is twenty-five. I said twenty-five because it is directly by the nearly universal happiness of the English wives, and they don't marry young. Do you hear much of divorce in England? No; and here it is growing to be a direct result of this country. I have often thought that perhaps the English girls' tendency to sports has something to do with their levelheadedness concerning men. Athletics don't especially conduce to sentiment."

"Any athletic girl, American or English, is not as apt to marry as young as the typical social lady. The society girl lives in the atmosphere of the music of soft lights and of flattery. I don't say that society isn't necessary to a girl's development, but I do mean that athletics are the best antidote for the poison of romantic love affairs."

LIFE OF THE EARTH.

Habitable Tens of Millions of Years, Says Prof. Chamberlin.

Washington, D. C.—The earth will remain habitable for tens of millions of years, is the opinion expressed by Professor Thomas C. Chamberlin in a paper contained in the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution.

Professor Chamberlin cautions, however, that the close approach of a celestial body to the sun would probably result in the disruption of the solar system and bring disaster to the earth.

"The true era of humanity will have begun," he says, "when mortal purpose and research come to be the predominant characteristics of our race by voluntary action and by the selective action of the survival of the fittest, and when these attributes join in an unflagging endeavor to compass the highest development and the greatest perpetuity of the race."

Bailey Willis, of the Geological Survey, in an article on "What is Terra Firma?" advances the theory that the foundation of all the continents is composed of solid rock, which is self-strained to a depth of about 120 kilometers, but rendered its form in prolonged geologic periods with slight changes of level.

Ranging in variety from papers on the sacred car plan of the Aztecs and recent investigations in cave dwellings to articles on the future habitability of the earth to the modern report contains much of interest to the general reader as well as to the scientist.

MAYOR GIVES GOOD ADVICE.

City Stenographer Who Objects to "Office Boy Work" Told to Do It.

All He's Asked.

New York City.—Joseph Donahoe of No. 545 West Fourteenth street is a stenographer in the city employ under the civil service. He wrote to Mayor Gaynor, stating that he was a perfectly good stenographer, got down to the office on time every day, as all good stenographers do, and didn't object to working overtime.

"All this I am glad to do willingly and cheerfully," he wrote, "but the chief clerk has been requesting me to do office-boy work, which I do not think should be classed among my duties as stenographer. I have never refused to do this, but I would like to know if he has a right to assign such work to me."

To which the Mayor replied, kindly but firmly:

"If I were you I would do everything I was asked to do. That is the way to get on in life. Did you ever hear it said that he who takes care to do no more than he is paid for will never be paid for more than he does?"

He is right in asking for something from sunrise to sunset and you will get right up all the time. What do you think of that?"

POLICE CAT GUARDS SLEEPERS.

Keeps His Tribesmen From Giving Feline Opera Nightly.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—Tarrytown's police force, consists of twelve able-bodied men and a big Tom cat. Tom has his regular beat every night, and since he has been patrolling the back fences life has been worth living and the residents have been enjoying a genuine Sleepy Hollow time. Tom's district is both sides of Washington street, between Main and Franklin. He patrols it faithfully and every hour he keeps watch on the corner for Sergeant Delaney and with him goes to police headquarters and reports to the police clerk.

Before Tom went on his beat the cats of the neighborhood gave grand opera performances nightly and sleep was impossible. Tom, who has a fine Caruso voice, took a strong dislike to the musical offerings of his tribe and, after he rough-housed with two or three of the biggest ones and proved himself boss, they have been so quiet that they would moan in whispers.

Dog Mothers Guinea Brood.

Nevinsville, Pa.—On the farm of Jones DeWitt, many persons gather to the curiosity of a large shepherd dog mothering a brood of 14 young guinea chickens. The young fowls resemble partridges and are often mistaken for them. The dog allows the guineas to walk all over him, and it is a common sight to see several perched on his back as he slowly walks along.

Countries Unite to Promote Protection of Wild Animals

An international congress for the protection of wild animals met at Bern, Switzerland, recently at the initiative of the Swiss government, and 17 countries were represented, including the United States. After lengthy discussion the congress appointed an international commission with headquarters at Basel, which will promote protective legislation and organize propaganda in favor of the object of the congress.

It was pointed out that there are now in Africa only 400,000 elephants and they are being killed at the rate of 40,000 a year. The movement is faced with the strenuous opposition of strong business interests for the capital engaged in the whaling, fur, feather and ivory trades may be counted in hundreds of millions. The feather industry alone declares that if the birds of paradise were preserved 50,000 workers would be thrown out.

May Have Penny Postage

Among the many bills providing for cheaper postage to be introduced in the coming session of congress will be one by Senator Burton of Ohio providing a rate of 1 cent per ounce for first class postage. The large increase in postal revenue through parcel post makes cheaper postage probable.

Ireland to Exhibit at Exhibition

The Irish section of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition has been allotted 15,000 square feet and it is intended to have a representative exhibition of Irish linens, woollens, silks, flannels, poplins, and textiles generally. The section will have the fancy title "Shamrock Isle," and the wonderful products of the Irish handicrafts will be earnestly displayed. A serious and elaborate attempt to show what Ireland produces for sale will be made. Specimens of the wonderful old bog oak furniture will be shown.

Coast to Coast Phone

Telephone Between New York and "Prisco to Be in Use Soon."

New York.—Theodore N. Vail, President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company states that he believes the telephone will be in use for commercial purposes between this city and San Francisco by the time the Panama Exposition is held. "We already have had experiments," said Mr. Vail, "where the voice was as distinct as it is in this room."

Pardons Come Easy in South Carolina

Governor Cole Blaise of South Carolina, whose candidacy for the United States senate is attracting attention, pardoned 100 convicts in order that they might eat Thanksgiving dinner at home. Among them were twenty-eight serving life terms for murder and an equal number for manslaughter. Since he became governor in 1911 Blaise has pardoned 882 prisoners. He says he will make it an even 1000 for Christmas.

No Reception at White House Jan. 1

Announcement is made that there will be no New Year reception at the White House during the holiday recess of congress. President Wilson issues a statement saying that as congress has been in continuous session he has had no vacation and he will rest for a few days during the Christmas holidays and will depart from the unusual custom of holding a reception on New Year's Day.

A Profitable Visit

When Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the British militant suffragette, sailed for home she carried with her \$20,000, which she says will be used in furthering the campaign in England, for "votes for women."

Umbrellas Make A Most Acceptable Gift Our Christmas Removal Sale

At this time of the year places us in a position to sell umbrellas of the very best make, at prices that prohibit competition.

Our large stock must be closed out immediately as we are going to move into a new location.

Teipel's umbrella store enjoys the distinction of being one of the oldest established firms in Detroit.

Come early and take advantage of the best choice of this unusual holiday sale of umbrellas.

HENRY TEIPEL

62 Monroe Ave. DETROIT, MICH.