

THE DEATH OF ISAAC HOFFMAN. San Francisco's Police Department Still Unable to Unravel the Mystery.

Chief Lees Holds to His Belief That It Was a Case of Suicide. Although the Autopsy Showed That It Was Almost a Physical Impossibility That the Wounds Could Have Been Self-Inflicted—Evidence Against Bookkeeper Figell Becoming Very Strong.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 2.—The police are avowedly as mystified as ever regarding the manner in which Isaac Hoffman, wholesale clothing dealer, met his death in his Battery-street office last evening. Chief of Police Lees is still inclined to cling to his original theory of suicide, although the autopsy showed that it was almost a physical impossibility that the wounds could have been self-inflicted.

Acting upon the theory that Hoffman was murdered, the suspicion of the police turns most naturally toward Theodore A. Figell, who, so far as is known, last saw the merchant alive. Figell, who is a book-keeper, cashier and confidential clerk for the firm of Hoffman & Rothschild, says he returned to the office last evening about 6.15 o'clock, remained five minutes and then proceeded to the Tiburon Ferry, taking the 6.30 o'clock boat for his home in San Rafael. Figell asserts that he left Hoffman in his usual good spirits, and he discredits the idea of suicide.

The shooting was done with a Smith & Wesson revolver, and Figell admits that the pistol which apparently caused the fatal wounds was formerly his, but he states that he sold the weapon to Hoffman several months ago. It has been reported to the police that Figell's books were about to be investigated, some gossip regarding the book-keeper's free expenditures having come to the ears of his employer. Figell has virtually been under surveillance all day, and instead of going this evening to his suburban home, he has arranged to remain in the city over night.

The authorities do not go to the length of charging Figell with the murder, and are even loth to admit that their suspicions are directed toward him, but so far no one else has come within the range of police investigation in connection with the crime.

The development of the theory implicating Figell is that some discussion between him and Hoffman concerning the book-keeper's accounts occurred in the office in the early evening, that a quarrel ensued, possibly culminating in the shooting of Hoffman. On the other hand, it is urged that Figell has voluntarily acknowledged all of the circumstances which have brought him within the range of inquiry, and has, from the first, refused the suggestion to go to any of his relatives in the city, which the police think, would have supplied a convenient loophole for a guilty man.

As the investigation proceeds, the circumstantial evidence against Figell is apparently becoming stronger. Late this evening he made a statement accounting for his movements after the close of business yesterday. He said that after leaving his office he went to an adjacent gun store and purchased a 28-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver, the 32-caliber pistol which he declares before being to small. He says he placed the new pistol, unloaded, in his satchel bag at the gun store, and went to his safe deposit box to deposit a paper, which, however, was not in his pocket. Then he returned to the office to procure a bottle of ink, spoke a few minutes with Hoffman, returned to the gun store and then went to the ferry to catch a boat for his suburban home.

The police comment on the pistol purchase, his fruitless trip to the safe deposit box, and subsequently to the office for ink in San Rafael later in the evening.

According to Figell's own statement, if he is innocent, Hoffman must have

been wounded almost immediately after the clerk's departure for the ferry. The autopsy shows Hoffman's wounds were caused by a 32-caliber revolver, and this pistol which Figell says he sold Hoffman was found in the office near the body of the dying man by the patrolman who discovered him. Figell is about 26 years old, and is a son of Jos. Fogel, a pioneer clothing merchant, formerly reputed wealthy, but latterly considered only moderately well off. The son Theodore has always been noted for his rather extravagant tastes, which latterly have occasioned comment, especially as the father has been curtailing his family expenses. Young Figell denies that his books are at all astray, and says he courts the investigation of his accounts, which is about to be made. Chief of Police Lees is an old time friend of Figell's father, and says he cannot believe the young man, whom he has known from boyhood, guilty of murder. Theodore Figell has not been arrested, but is spending the night in company with a police detective.

FATAL ACCIDENT. Frenchman Meets With Death in San Diego County. SAN DIEGO, June 2.—John Ranuis, a Frenchman about 40 years old, who had been employed by a Mr. Forbut in herding sheep a few miles north of this city, was found dead this morning by his employer near the tent formerly occupied by Ranuis at the mouth of a little canyon, one and a half miles east of the Escondido road, and ten miles from San Diego. An investigation showed a bullet wound in the left side. From the location of the wound in the body and the position of the rifle, it appeared that Ranuis had hidden the rifle in the brush, and upon going after it had pulled it toward him, with fatal result. The deceased came to San Diego County about a month ago from Los Angeles, where he had a sister. Another sister, Mrs. F. Borel, lives at Olive, Orange County.

MOUNT LOWE RAILWAY. Negotiations for Its Sale to the Southern Pacific. PASADENA, June 2.—Negotiations are said to be pending for the sale of the Mount Lowe Railway and the hotels belonging to the company to the Southern Pacific. Should the sale be consummated, it will be of the highest importance, not only because it would finally settle the financial embarrassments which have harassed the enterprise, but because the road would then be backed by resources sufficient to insure its successful and probably profitable operation. As yet the negotiations have not taken definite shape, and it is impossible to say how they will result.

A Young Woman Commits Suicide. SAN FRANCISCO, June 2.—Ethel Gordon, a young woman, committed suicide early this morning after a quarrel with Jerome Lincoln, a wealthy young attorney of this city. She killed herself by taking carbolic acid in a room over Marchand's restaurant, which she and Dolly Haines, her companion, had taken. Miss Gordon came to this city nearly five years ago when but 19 years of age. She was from Ireland, and as she possessed something of a brogue was nicknamed "Irish." She has relatives in Canada, and a married sister lives in Victoria, B. C.

Murderer Ben Hill. OAKLAND, June 2.—Judge Ogden has continued the date for the fixing of a day on which Murderer Ben Hill shall be executed until June 9th, at 9.30 o'clock. Hill himself has lost all hope, but Attorney Thomas Bradley, who is defending him, announces that there are several chances left yet for the defense.

Yosemite Valley Commissioners. YOSEMITE, June 2.—The Yosemite Valley Commissioners met here to-day and adjourned until to-morrow, in order that Governor Budd might preside. The Governor arrived this evening.

What Woman Owes to Society. Woman stands as the sacred guardian of future homes and our nation's prosperity, and to her must be paid the tribute of respect, to her standard must society come. Let her be sure to place it high and keep it pure, and make it apply impartially to all people. Let her keep out of those whom she knows fall short of her standard, and never condone in the stronger sex what she condemns in the weaker. Let her think not to elevate society by hiding or condoning the evils which surround her on every side, but only by shutting out those whom she has found it impossible to raise to her standard. Then future generations will arise who will honor her for her highness, instead of cursing her for their misery.—Dwight L. Moody in Ladies' Home Journal.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION.

Important Meeting of Many Distinguished Army and Naval Men at Detroit, Conferring on Questions Relating to the Order.

The Much-Rooted Question of What the Legion's Membership Shall Consist of When the Present Membership Shall Have Passed Away One of the Principal Subjects Discussed.

DETROIT (Mich.), June 2.—A hundred members of the military order of the Loyalty Legion, all more or less distinguished as army or naval officers, are in conference here discussing important questions relating to that order. General Alger, Secretary of War, is present.

Rear Admiral Gherardi, U. S. N., Commander-in-Chief of the legion, opened the conference by introducing Mayor Maybury, also a companion of the legion, who made an address of welcome. The conference took up the much-mooted question of what the legion's membership shall consist of when its present membership shall have passed away, still preserving the hereditary distinctions which characterize the order. A dozen amendments had been offered, and the opening session was devoted to discussing them.

The discussion turned chiefly on a report of the New York Commandery, by which it is proposed to eliminate collateral eligibility for membership instead of permitting soldiers who had been conspicuous by their loyalty, but who had not served as officers, to become members. It is said that the sons of the latter class are seeking to join the legion, and the hereditary distinction which membership in this order confers, the matter was referred to a committee.

The number of companions present was largely increased this afternoon by incoming delegations. Although the congress itself is limited to three members from each State, a total of thirty that number had arrived. The ladies of members present, escorted by an unequal number of Detroit ladies, were given a long drive about the city during the afternoon. Several amendments to the constitution of the legion were offered at the afternoon session. Out of nearly all of them failed to receive the vote of three-fourths of the State Commandery necessary for adoption.

Amendments regarding forfeiture of membership, which were offered by the New York and California Commanderies, were rejected. An amendment submitted by the companions of Massachusetts, California, Kansas and Washington, by which uniform rosettes would be worn by all classes in the order instead of the present provision for rosettes for non-original companions of the first class, and for companions of the second and third classes of the different design of those worn by original companions of the first class. All these amendments were rejected by the congress, after more or less debating of the questions.

The congress also declined to adopt amendments to alter the rules under which amendments to the constitution may be adopted. A new section was added, providing for the reference to the Commander-in-Chief of elections of officers, in which there has been any suppression of facts in reference to the candidates for membership. An amendment submitted by the Illinois Commandery was adopted, providing that boards of officers, instead of commanders, shall have authority in cases of dismissal for arrears of members.

A resolution was adopted declaring that the constitution as amended shall take effect July 4th. A general reception was held at the Hotel Cadillac this evening, at which the veterans and their ladies met many of their old and new acquaintances.

NIPPED IN THE BUD. A Threatened Revolt in a Reform School in Kansas. TOPEKA, June 2.—A threatened revolt at the State Reform School was nipped in the bud to-day, when the officers of the institution seized and carried away rifles which the 110 inmates have been allowed to drill for several years past.

The recently appointed officers are to assume control of the reformatory at the end of the present week. The boys had plotted to make a dash for liberty the day after the new officers took charge, believing that the new guards would be green hands and easy to overcome. Their plan was to make the break in the evening and at the close of the drill in the militia company, in which all the boys are enrolled. It was discovered upon investigation that some of the inmates had secured ammunition for the rifles and that they proposed to use them on the guards if necessary. Hereafter the militia company will be drilled with broomsticks.

STEAMER VALENCIA Fired Upon by a Spanish Cruiser Off the Cuban Coast. HAVANA (via Key West), June 2.—The Ward Line steamer Valencia, which has arrived at Cienfuegos, reports an exciting experience while off Guanatanamo Bay. The Spanish cruiser Reina Mercedes signaled to the Valencia to display her colors. As the Valencia did not immediately comply, the Reina Mercedes fired a blank shot, which was followed almost immediately by a solid shot, falling out of range. The Valencia then displayed her colors. It is understood that the United States Vice-Consul at Santiago de Cuba has entered a formal protest against the act of the cruiser. Captain Quesada left yesterday by the steamer Mexico to investigate the affair, which has assumed serious aspects.

THE RUZ MURDER. Commissioner Calhoun Maintains a Strict Reserve Relative to It. HAVANA, May 2.—Mr. Calhoun, the American Special Commissioner to conduct the Ruz investigation, maintains a strict reserve as to his own opinion of the case, and says that the nature of his report to the Government cannot

be made known except through the Government. Mr. Calhoun says it is very difficult for him to form an opinion as to the real conditions in the island, owing to the contradictory reports made by both sides.

Near Captain-General Weyler's western trocha two Spanish battalions, the Fevilla and the Garroloano, mistaking each other for insurgents, fell about near the Begin ranch and had a hot engagement lasting ten minutes, and resulting in a loss of nine killed and thirteen wounded.

The insurgents have attacked and raided the town of Vuelitas, province of Santa Clara. The Spanish authorities have arrested and confined in the City Jail Joaquin Vargas, proprietor of the Elijos farm. Vargas has filed petition to be tried by the civil court of his own town, United States Vice-Consul James Springer of Cienfuegos, who went to investigate the case, was arrested on returning to his hotel and was taken into the presence of the military command, or, the latter ordered his immediate release.

The steamer Salmestuet has sailed for Spain with 533 sick and disabled soldiers. THE LEAGUE IN ENGLAND MEETS IN ANNUAL SESSION. A Large Attendance, Including Many Delegates From Labor Organizations.

MANCHESTER (England), June 2.—The annual meeting of the Bimetallic League opened here to-day. There was a large attendance, including over fifty delegates from labor associations. The Lord Mayor of Manchester presided and welcomed the delegates. Letters of regret were read from Lord Ardernhead, head of the firm of Anthony, Gibbs & Sons, a director of the Bank of England; the First Lord of the Treasury, A. J. Balfour; the President of the local Government Board, Henry Chaplin; the Duke of Pife, the Marquis of Lorne and others.

The annual report of the league expressed the deepest regret at the death of General Francis A. Walker of Boston, who was classed as "one of the greatest economic authorities of the century." Continuing the report said the most important event of the year was the election of the President in the United States when Bryan polled 6,500,000 votes on the platform of national bimetalism, and McKinley polled 7,000,000 votes on a platform pledging him to promote international bimetalism.

The report then referred to the support alleged to have been given to international bimetalism by M. MeLine, the French Premier, in the Chamber of Deputies, and touched upon the mission to Europe of Senator Edward O. Wolcott of Colorado, which "was so successful that it led to the appointment of the special mission now in France to which it is earnestly hoped through co-operation will be accorded by the leading nations so that an international agreement will be concluded at an early date."

The report concludes: "While the necessity for international bimetalism was never greater than at present, the council can with confidence affirm that never since 1873 have the prospects been so hopeful. In view of the serious attempt of making secure a settlement on an international basis, it earnestly calls on all our friends of monetary reform to redouble their efforts during the coming year."

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS. SYLLABI. (L. A., No. 159—Department One—Filed May 29, 1897.)

Joe P. Tassart, respondent; John D. Bosch, appellant. Promissory note. Reversed. A cross-examination cannot go beyond the chief subject matter of the evidence in chief, but should be allowed a very free range within it. Where the defendant on cross-examination simply aims to disprove the witness's story, the cause the witness himself has made, the rule excluding such evidence until defendant opens his case has no application.

A witness may be asked any question upon cross-examination which tends to test his accuracy, veracity or credibility, and the court should be especially liberal where the witness is a party to the suit.

Every error is prima facie an injury to the party against whom it is made, and it rests with that party clearly to show, not that probably no harm was done, but that none could have been or was done by the error.

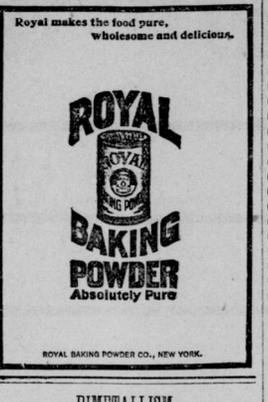
(Sac., No. 218—Department One—Filed May 29, 1897.) W. J. Carlisle, respondent; county of Tulare, appellant. Recovery of fees as City Marshal. Affirmed. By Section 790 of the Act of March 3, 1882, as amended in 1893 (Stats., 1893, p. 290), the City Marshal of a city of the fifth class is entitled to the same fees as Constable for service of any process. He is not entitled to pay from the city for services of process from the State courts for the service of process from courts other than those of the city is a matter which does not concern the city. It is eminently proper that he should be paid by the county. The services rendered in criminal cases, other than for violations of city ordinances, are county charges.

(S. F., No. 507—Department One—Filed May 29, 1897.) Bradford Investment Company, respondent; Behrend Joost et al., appellants. Foreclosure of suit. Reversed. If the rule is that, when an agreement to be valid must be in writing, it may yet be pleaded without alleging it to be in writing, then certainly a like agreement may be pleaded in defense without an allegation as to whether it is in writing or not.

When a plaintiff moves for judgment upon the pleadings he admits that all the accounts of the answer are true. (S. F., No. 532—Department One—Filed May 29, 1897.) William C. Wiestler, appellant; William H. Wiestler, respondent. Annulment of conveyance. Affirmed. There was no fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation, no errors of law of the trial, and the evidence justified the findings.

Where the evidence is largely documentary, being contained in the depositions of witnesses, the opportunities of the Appellate Court to judge of its value are as good as those of the court below, and the general doctrine that the appellate court will not interfere in a case of substantial conflict of evidence has no application.

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WASSERMAN, DAVIS & CO. Agents for Butterick Patterns. Big New Store, K, Between Sixth and Seventh.



A LIGHTHOUSE GIRL. Abby Burgess Flakes a Brave Rescue of Her Imperiled Chickens. Gustav Kober writes a paper on "Heroism in the Lighthouse Service" for the "Century." Mr. Kober says: Several of the lights on the Maine coast have whirled over Matineus Rock have tried the fortitude of the little band of faithful watchers upon it. One of these watchers, Abby Burgess, has become famous in our lighthouse annals, not only for long service, but also for bravery displayed on various occasions.

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Gauntlet Driving Gloves. Ladies' Kid Gauntlet Driving or Cycling Gloves protect the wrist from the sun's rays. They come in English red, brown and tan, any size you desire, 50c per pair.

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Misses' Shirt Waists. Misses' Shirt Waists of fine French percale, neat patterns and colorings, detachable collars, for misses aged 8 to 14 years. Price, 50c each.

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D. M. BISHOPP, Optician, 806 J STREET. Full line of Optical Goods, Spectacles and Eyeglasses, from 25 upward. Better quality than you can buy them anywhere else. Lenses ground to order for all refraction defects and warranted to fit correctly. Moderate prices. No misrepresentation.

Bacilli Thrives in Milk. Hesse found that cholera-bacilli underwent deterioration in raw milk; that when kept in it at a temperature of 88 degrees Fahrenheit they were entirely destroyed in twenty hours. Care of Naples states that anthrax bacilli flourish in abundance in milk. Professor Schottelius confirms him and has extended his investigations to the behavior of diphtheria bacilli in milk. In fresh milk it seems that diphtheria bacilli find an exceptionally satisfactory material for growth and multiplication. In sterilized milk, however, their growth was less abundant. Schottelius concludes in his paper in the "Centralblatt fur Bakteriologie" with a warning of the danger attending the consumption of milk in its raw, unsterilized condition.

Progress in Seismology. Seismology is now so far developed that seismologists are able not only to study earthquakes which no one feels, but have begun to investigate their relations, of which there are many, with most promising results as far as geology is concerned. There are thousands of earthquakes or earth tremors every year, and half of them come from deep water. The ocean is really the home of earthquakes. Twenty years ago their study was commenced in Japan, with the result that the seismology of that country has revolutionized the seismology of the whole world. As a consequence the methods of building in Japan have entirely altered, so that houses erected on new principles stand, while their neighbors are shattered.

"Say, I'd like to barrel up some of that Colorado air and ship it to Cleveland." "What for?" "For an ailment, of course."—Cleveland Plain Dealer. Opera Singer (to the railroad porter)—I'd like to give you a dime, but I'm sorry to say I haven't any change with me. Porter—Oh, just sing me quick 10 cents' worth!—Fliegende Blatter.

It is said that the Esquimaux have a queer custom in regard to doctors. At each visit the doctor is paid. If the patient recovers the physician keeps the money; if the patient dies the money is returned to the family of the deceased.

Advertisement for Rumors, BUT ONLY Rumors, featuring Boys' Confirmation Suits and The Has. S. Nathan & Co.