

TENTH YEAR.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1893.

SHOT IN THE NECK

John Eckman Shot Dead With His Father's Gun.

IT LOOKS LIKE SELF-DEFENSE

He Attempted to Force His Way Into John Wondragen's Home Armed With a Shotgun and a Shot.

The police force was treated to a morning's shooting last evening, when a man walked in and announced, through an interpreter that he had shot and killed another man. It was John O. Wondragen and the victim in this latest case of homicide was John Eckman.

The scene of the tragedy was in the Holland settlement, at the east end of the city. Wondragen resides in a little house on what is known as Koroloff alley, and claims the shooting, which took place about 7 o'clock last evening, was done in self-defense. He is unable to speak English and when he appeared at police headquarters, he was accompanied by Martin Van Overen, who translated the much excited man's story to Superintendent Carr and the other officers. Wondragen was at once locked up in cell No. 7, and Superintendent Carr accompanied by a squad of police hastened to the scene of the shooting.

The Dead Body Found.

They found the body of young Eckman lying in a pool of blood, just outside of the back door of Wondragen's house. The body lay on its right side, with the face turned downward. Officers who turned the body over, to see if there was a spark of life left. When this was done, a large, ragged hole in the left side of the throat showed that death had been swift and sure. Coroner Locher soon arrived, and after empaneling a jury, adjourned the inquest until Tuesday morning. The body was taken to Eckman's home, No. 32 Custer alley.

Why He Shot Him.

Wondragen, through an interpreter, told the following account of the trouble with Eckman: "I was married in Holland nine years ago, and came to America one year ago. A short time after I came here, I got acquainted with Eckman. We were friends and he came to the house I came to visit. My wife used to go to Eckman's father's bakery and sometimes she would stay a half hour or longer and I got suspicious of her. Perhaps I was wrong. I don't know. Eckman and I often went hunting together and I showed his father's gun to go with him. About three weeks ago my wife told me she was afraid of Eckman and did not want him to come there any more. I told him not to come any more and he became angry and threatened to shoot me. I was afraid of him and did not know what to do. My wife always told me when he had been to the house. Two weeks ago he said he would kill me. Friday night he came to my house with a revolver and said he would kill me, but we talked awhile and smoothed matters up. I was afraid and my wife and I did not sleep all night for fear he would come in and kill us.

Sent Word He Was Coming.

"Tonight my wife went to Eckman's store and got some bread. Young Eckman was there, and told her to look out for her, because he was coming over to settle that matter. When she came home and told me I did not know what to do. On Friday, she told me to go to the police, and I was afraid to stay at home, but I decided to stay at home. We did not light any lamp and looked all the doors, so he could not get in, but he saw the fire burning and tried the front door. My wife saw that he was in, and she called me from the bedroom, where I was lying on the bed, and I got the gun I borrowed from Eckman's father and loaded it. He tried the front door and the kitchen door, and at last began shaking the back door and pushed it open. As he was in, he raised his hands, wheeled half round, and fell upon his face. I shot him because he would have killed me. I had waited. That was all I thought about. I feel better here in prison than I did at home. I do not know if I had not have his gun in his hand when I shot him, but had set it down while he pushed the door open, and I shot before he could reach it."

Eckman's Gun.

The police found Eckman's gun setting by the side of the door as Wondragen had stated. The back door was fastened with a lock, which had the lock key in the middle of the kitchen floor, where it had been thrown by the force used in pushing the door open. From all that could be learned the police believe that Wondragen's story is true. He is about 30 years of age, and has a wife and two children. He is a native of Poland, and has not the appearance of a murderer. The neighbors state that he is a hard working man, a carpenter by trade, while Eckman was not a steady worker and was considered a little tough. He was 25 years old and unmarried.

Mrs. Wondragen's Story.

Mrs. Wondragen, who is a rather comely Polish woman, talks but little English, but told her version of the story freely in her native language to her neighbors. Young Koroloff, the son of a storekeeper who lives near the scene of the tragedy, says she told him that Eckman was in the habit of visiting her house and compelling her to do his bidding at the point of a revolver. "He frequently made me make him a particular kind of cake he liked," said she, "and sometimes would make me cook him a good supper. I saw him coming tonight before my husband did, and told my husband to get his gun, for Eckman had his. I told my husband to shoot him or he would kill us. I did not see the shot fired for I was in the parlor when I saw he was forcing the back door open."

Convinced Eckman, Father of the Dead Man, Had Not Heard of Any Trouble Between the Two Men.

Convinced Eckman, father of the dead man, said he had never heard of any trouble between the two men. He supposed they were friends and could not understand why his son had been shot.

SCOTT NOT GUILTY.

He Was Not Responsible for the Battle Creek Disaster.

MARSHALL, Mich., Dec. 23.—The trial of Conductor Scott of train No. 6, on the charge of manslaughter in connection with the terrible railroad accident at Battle Creek, Michigan, ended today. The jury was out a little over an hour and brought in a verdict of not guilty.

DEAL OF BIG FOUR.

The Vanderbilt Got Control of Toledo & Ohio Central.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 23.—It is said in railroad circles here that the Vanderbilts have made the necessary arrangements to acquire the Toledo & Ohio Central railroad, running from Kenton to Toledo, and that by May 1 the "Big Four" trains will be running over that line to Toledo and into Detroit over the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern road. This will give the Vanderbilts a through line to Columbus and Indianapolis, to Cincinnati and St. Louis. It will enable them to be independent of the combined roads of Ohio, make them rivals of the Washakie St. Louis on their Michigan business and make them a competitor of all southern roads.

Oregon House Burned.

PORT HURON, Mich., Dec. 21.—The Port Huron opera house block was gutted by fire early this morning. The building was entirely destroyed. The loss on the building is \$20,000; insurance, \$10,000. R. J. Clark's hardware store, in the block, was badly damaged by water, and his loss will approach \$5,000. The Port Huron Savings bank and St. Clair County Savings bank, located in the left and right wings of the building, were also somewhat damaged. J. L. Paid's abstract office was damaged to the extent of \$3,000.

The Trestle Gave Way.

TOLEDO, Mich., Dec. 23.—Engineer William Carter was killed in a DuPont, South Shore & Atlantic freight wreck near this village. The whole train, with the exception of the engine and one car, fell through a weak trestle. Turner jumped, was caught in the wreck, and died in forty-five minutes. The rest of the crew were saved.

Mrs. Calhoun in Land Business.

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Margaret Custer Calhoun, state librarian under Governor Wines and a sister of General Custer, has opened a real estate office in New York city.

Governor Rich has Deposited the Key of the Michigan Building in the Museum.

It is all the state has to show for its pride at the world's fair.

Dancing Card Canceled Trouble.

MACKINAC, Dec. 23.—S. W. King, a prominent young druggist, who was arrested for sending a dueling letter on a postal card to a customer, was brought before United States Commissioner MacDonald yesterday and gave bonds for appearance next Wednesday.

Wages to Be Restored.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 23.—The Union association has issued a circular to their employes notifying them of the restoration to old figures in January of their wages, which were cut 10 per cent last August.

State News in Brief.

The Flint heirs of the late Robert Johnson of Flint will each receive the following amount as bequeathed them by Mrs. Johnson: J. Brush, \$7,000; Miss Adelaide Birdsall and Ben Birdsall, \$12,500 each; Miss Adelaide and Katherine McCreery, \$10,000 each; Fenton R. McCreery, \$5,000, and Judge William Norton, \$1,000.

More fish are being speared in Van Buren county lakes this winter than last.

The Ladies Aid society of the Baptist church at Paw Paw shipped to the relief committee at Ironwood, on Friday, nine large boxes of clothing, shoes, etc., 1,820 pounds of flour and \$54 in money.

Frank Dennison, the ex-right policeman of Flint, who is in jail on a charge of bribe-taking, was on Friday bound over to the circuit court for trial.

Charles Leach of Oscoda, who fractured both legs in the saw mill of Emory Brock, has recovered a verdict for \$2,000.

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Cobbs & Mitchell of Cadillac have two camps in operation at Acme, on East Bay, and expect to get out 5,000,000 feet of pine.

The Eureka Manufacturing company has been organized at Northville to manufacture patent auto protectors.

The Stockbridge farmers' institute will be held in that town Tuesday and Wednesday, January 2 and 3.

Sam Bettes, the "cowboy evangelist," is credited with 150 conversions during his stay at Oxford.

An attempt was made by incendiaries to burn the union school building at Decatur Friday night.

Street fakirs at Owosso will have to pay \$10 a day hereafter if they wish to do business in that city.

The Rev. W. H. Osburn of Pontiac is one of the richest ministers in Michigan. He is rated at \$150,000.

Peach trees at Saugatuck are heavily budded and in prime condition for the season of the year.

Berry County Agricultural society will hold its annual meeting at Hastings December 26.

The annual meeting of the State Millers' association will be held at Lansing January 9.

Mayor Torrey of Muskegon wants the police force of that city reduced one-half.

During the past month E. Sorter of Dundee has had thirty-nine sheep killed by dogs.

The commission of Postmaster Van Duren of Holland does not expire until 1905.

Fifty citizens have sent \$1,000 worth of provisions to the starving miners.

Hungarian Minister Resigned.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Buda Pest to the Central News says that Baron Gyula Fejervary, minister of national defense in the Woberly cabinet, has resigned because he disapproved of the premier's ecclesiastical policy, which has been accepted by Emperor Franz Joseph.

Coal Baron Dead.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Sir George Elliott, a member of parliament for eighteen years and a coal baron, died today, aged 68.

Of the 400 nominations sent to the senate by the president during the time the senate has been in regular session, 105 were passed upon when the senate met a recess for the Christmas holidays.

LOST THEIR NERVE

Four Bandits Who Held Up a Mobile & Ohio Train

FRIGHTENED OFF BY TRAINMEN

They Were Held at Bay by the Messenger and Fled When Assistance Arrived.

St. Louis, Dec. 23.—South-bound passenger train of the Mobile & Ohio road, which left the relay depot at East St. Louis at 9:15 tonight, had a close call with train robbers. As the train approached Pittsburg crossing a stop was made, as usual, when eight masked men boarded the cars, four on the engine and four on the blind end of the Southern express car. The engineer was told to run to Forest Lawn, eight miles from St. Louis, and stop, which he did. Four of the bandits ordered the express messenger to open his door, which was complied with. Then they got into the car and began operations on the safe. Finally they ordered the messenger to open the strong box, but this he refused to do. The robbers were amateurs and lost their nerve at the stand made by the messenger. By this time the train crew and passengers began to show up and the robbers jumped off and fled. Forest Lawn is the scene of the attempted hold-up of the same train last May by three men who have not yet been identified. It is thought that the same highwaymen were engaged in tonight's attempt. The robbers were all heavily armed.

MAHONEY'S BAD MEMORY.

Forgot What He Swore to in the Chicago Trial.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—There was only one session of the court in the Coughlin trial today. In the line of testimony, it was chiefly notable for what one of the witnesses, Police Justice Mahoney, did not say. He suffered from a strange lapse of memory regarding a vital point, which connects the late Patrick O'Sullivan with the murder, who presented the ice-man's business card when he called to drive the doctor to the Carlson cottage. At the former trial, Mahoney testified that when O'Sullivan handed one of his business cards to Dr. Cronin at the latter's office, the comparator remarked that he might be sick or out of the city some time, but that the doctor would know it was all right if the man who called for the doctor to attend a case of injury under the contract entered into, presented one of O'Sullivan's cards. Today the police justice, when asked if he remembered the doctor's remark, testified that he did not remember the doctor's remark, but that he did not know if the doctor would know it was all right if the man who called for the doctor to attend a case of injury under the contract entered into, presented one of O'Sullivan's cards.

Two Murderers at Large.

ROSELLEVILLE, Ala., Dec. 23.—Doc and Lee Siles, two notorious murderers on the loose, were finally released and allowed to go to their friends last night. In attempting to rescue them a few days ago one of the gang was killed and several were wounded.

Lynch a Negro.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 23.—Leon Allen, a negro, was lynched by a mob in Holmes county last night for the murder of Ben Nabors, a farmer. Allen confessed having burned Nabors in his house, the motive being robbery.

Kick Against the Wilson Bill.

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 23.—A non-political mass meeting has been called for Wednesday, December 28, by prominent democrats in Duluth to protest against the iron ore tariff of the proposed Wilson bill.

Large Factory Burned.

SENECA, Pa., Dec. 23.—The large factory of the Susquehanna Steam Heater company, situated on the Oakland side of the river, was burned tonight, together with its contents. The loss is heavy.

Proved Himself Innocent.

WINCHESTER, Ohio, Dec. 23.—Sam Johnson, whom Roscoe Parker, in his confession of the Ryan murders, implicated as an accomplice, has proven himself innocent and was released from jail.

Lynch for Stealing Stock.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 23.—The body of a negro was found today by hunters in Pelahatchie swamp, Rankin county, Miss. He had been lynched for stealing stock.

Closed by the Sheriff.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 23.—Fishman & Co.'s large notion store on Market street was closed by the sheriff today on judgments aggregating \$115,000.

Rocketeer's Gift.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, gave his Christmas present to the Chicago university three weeks ago. It was not \$1,000,000, as reported last night, but \$500,000.

Creditors Will Be Paid.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The statement of the assignment of Banker Lazarus Silverman shows assets of about \$1,500,000, with \$1,200,000 liabilities. A dividend to creditors is expected soon.

Watch Out for Aluminum Dimes.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—United States Secret Service Agent Hazen is searching for a gang of counterfeiters, who are flooding the city with aluminum dimes of the date of 1893.

Magazine in Trouble.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—The Peterson Magazine company today went into the hands of a receiver. Assets, \$15,000; liabilities, \$30,000.

Forged Tickets Issued.

The officials of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Michigan railway, who have discovered that forged tickets are being used on the road. The police of Columbus, Ohio, have found that a printer in that city has copied tickets and an order for 1,000 coupon tickets. The officials are finding out the scheme.

Telegrams Condensed.

Edward Tewksbury was found guilty of murder at Tucson yesterday for killing Thomas Graham August 2, 1902.

An elevator in the new stock exchange in Chicago yesterday, seriously injuring four men.

Four children were badly burned by exploding firecrackers in Columbus, Georgia, last night.

Some persons were drowned in the Bay of Mexico yesterday by the wrecking of a vessel.

THEY MEAN TO FIGHT

Mitchell and His Backer Talk of the Coming Mill.

CONFIDENT MITCHELL WINS

Corbett is in Active Training and is Equally Confident—Work on the Arena Being Pushed.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 21.—In spite of Governor Mitchell's expressed determination to prevent the Corbett-Mitchell fight, the men who are trying to bring about the contest are going ahead with their preparations. Work on the arena is being pushed and everything will soon be in readiness for the contest.

United Press correspondent visited Mayport today and inspected Corbett after he had undergone his first week's training. Corbett's muscles stood out in magnificent relief and his skin glowed with the hue of perfect health. He had just finished wrestling with McVey, and his knees, elbows and collar bones showed the abrasions received in the struggle. Corbett's first work was a bout with a man with a bomb-belt; then came breakfast and a four-mile spin up the beach and back. After a rub-down, he punched the bag for half an hour and then put on the gloves for a bout with Donaldson. Then came dinner, and during the afternoon he practiced boxing in pool and hand ball. Corbett seems to be getting fit for the fight rapidly and, if no mischance occurs, will enter the ring in a few days.

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BALL TOSSERS SIGNED.

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