

DRY GOODS CONCERN HAS GONE TO THE WALL

One of the Greatest Firms of Its Kind in the World is in Financial Difficulties.

MILLIONS ARE INVOLVED

Bankruptcy Petition Follows Friendly Suit for Receiver for H. B. Clafin Co., of New York.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, June 25.—Receivers were appointed today for the H. B. Clafin company, one of the biggest dry goods firms in the world.

The appointment of receivers followed the filing of an equity petition before U. S. Judge Hand. It is said fully \$25,000,000 is involved.

Judge Hand named Joseph B. Martindale and F. A. Julliard to act, putting both under bonds of \$500,000.

It was asserted, apparently with good reason that the retail subsidiaries of the Clafin company will be taken care of. The Associated Merchants, the United Dry Goods company and their controlled companies were said not to be directly involved.

It is stated twenty-five or thirty-five New York banks hold papers of the company and probably 2,000 banks in different parts of the country handle business of the company. A meeting of merchandise creditors of the big concern was arranged for today by the Merchants Protective association.

In involuntary petition in bankruptcy, was filed before Judge Hand, in addition to the proceeding in equity.

The bankruptcy proceeding was brought by John Muller of Richmond Hill, L. I.; Wm. Worth of New York, L. I.; and Albert F. Bergner of New York, L. I. The petition states the company owes Muller \$781; Worth, \$3,131; and Bergner \$28,370.

The same receivers were appointed in the equity and bankruptcy proceedings.

Richard Wellings, attorney for H. B. Clafin company filed an answer consenting to the receivership in the equity suit.

The equity suit was filed first by John C. Eames, acting as a friend for the H. B. Clafin company. This action evidently was taken by prearranged agreement. It was on this petition that Federal Judge Hand appointed the receivers. The bankruptcy action was taken immediately afterward, upon the contention that the company admitted bankruptcy in the equity case.

A third suit was filed by W. P. Odell charging that the subsidiary manufacturing company of the Clafin concern, is indebted to him for \$500,000 and also asking involuntary bankruptcy.

Has Highest Reputation.

NEW YORK, June 25.—A friendly petition in equity for receivers, immediately followed by two involuntary bankruptcy suits against the H. B. Clafin company, probably the largest dry goods concern in the world with big branches in many large cities of the east and middle west, caused a sensation throughout business circles here today.

Federal Judge Hand immediately appointed Joseph B. Martindale and F. A. Julliard as receivers. The company's liabilities are said to be about \$25,000,000.

There was very little effect on the stock market. It went off fractionally but made a quick recovery. The failure had been discounted by rumors yesterday when the stock of the firm dropped fourteen points. It was

BOUGHT AUTO YESTERDAY; FOUR ARE DEAD TODAY

Machine Plunged Over 125 Foot Cliff and Spilled Party Into Ocean.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] SAN PEDRO, Calif., June 25.—An automobile tragedy in which four persons were killed, was disclosed early

stated that fully twenty-five big New York banks held Clafin paper and that numerous banks throughout the country handled business for the subsidiary companies. It was stated that the United Dry Goods company and the Associated Merchants and controlled companies were not directly involved in the receivership.

The claim was made that much of the difficulty confronted by the firm resulted from the competition of retail stores organized by John Clafin, head of the H. B. Clafin company.

The Clafin company has had the highest reputation for solvency and members of the firm pointed out today that while the company stopped payment on its notes in 1893 and in 1898, no holder ever lost a dollar on the firm's paper in the past. The equity petition on which the court appointed the receivers was filed by John C. Eames who is vice president of the H. B. Clafin company.

The company did not borrow heavily on its own paper but by endorsement of notes made by companies in various cities which were practically controlled by the Clafin concern.

These concerns are known as Clafin houses. The smaller concerns were practically dependent on the Clafin name for their credit so that the paper was practically the same as paper directly issued by the H. B. Clafin company.

A statement issued by the firm from John Clafin's office said:

"The unprecedented shifting of trade centers in New York has caused great loss to money interests. In the case of H. B. Clafin company the serious movement of business has seriously curtailed our wholesale profits and has compelled us to rely mainly on the profits from financing retail stores throughout the country."

Their rapidly expanding business has occasioned large capital requirements which we have not been able to meet. A receivership has therefore become necessary, pending a readjustment of the affairs of the company.

A plan of reorganization for the H. B. Clafin company will soon be presented which we hope will prove acceptable to both creditors and stockholders. The Associated Merchants company and the United Dry Goods company are not themselves borrowers of money. They are in exceedingly strong financial position and the success of their retail stores is assured.

At a creditors meeting, the following list of subsidiary stores of the Clafin Co. was made public: Bedford Co., Brooklyn; J. Bacon & Sons, Louisville; Casner Knott Dry Goods Co., Nashville; M. J. Connell Co., Butte; Joslyn Dry Goods Co., Denver, Colo.; The Fair Company, Cincinnati; Kline Bros., Altoona, Pa.; Lord & Gage, Reading, Pa.; Lyon Dry Goods Co., Toledo, Ohio; Geo. W. McAlpine Co., Cincinnati; McCreary & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Montgomery Fair, Montgomery, Ala.; Peoples Store Co., Tacoma, Wash.; Root Dry Goods Co., Terre Haute, Ind.; Spring Dry Goods Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.; White House Co., Spokane, Wash.; J. B. White Co., Augusta, Ga.; H. B. Barmen Co., Brooklyn; Watt Retlaw & Clay, Norfolk, Va.; Thos. O. Watkins, Ltd., Hamilton, Ont.; Hennessy Co., Butte, Mont.; Copper City Commercial Co., Anaconda, Mont.; MacDougall & Southwick Co., Seattle, Wash.; Jones Store Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Lassus Bros., Wilkesbarre, Pa.; The Higbee Co., Cleveland, Ohio; Powers Merchandise Co., Minneapolis; Stewart & Co., Baltimore; Hahn & Co., Newark, N. J.; N. Adam Co., Buffalo, N. Y.; Wm. Henger & Co., Buffalo, N. Y.; G. Gunthers Sons, New York City; Lord & Taylor, Fifth Ave., New York City; James McCreary & Co., New York City; O'Neill-Adams Co., New York City.

The above list does not include the Clafin stores in New York City and a number of prominent stores in other cities all connected with the Clafin concern but not listed as subsidiary

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BALLOU FELL DOWN STAIRS

Mrs. Angle Denies Killing Man and Tells Her Story of How He Met Death.

CARRIED THE BODY OUT

Admits Bloody Footprints Were Made by Herself When She Removed the Corpse.

[By Alice Robe, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

STAMFORD, Conn., June 25.—How Waldo R. Ballou, her elderly admirer, met his death in or at the door of her apartment here, was to be fully detailed to a coroner's jury here today by Mrs. Helen M. Angle, if her father and counsel will accede to her wish.

"I want to tell the whole story," Mrs. Angle declared today, as half in hysterics she sat in the jail, held without bail, as material witness in connection with Ballou's death.

Great crowds were expected to attend the resumption of the inquest this afternoon when Coroner J. J. Phelan will give the woman a chance to tell her full story of how Ballou, she says, fell to his death from the door of her apartment and how she, with her bare feet stained with his blood, dragged his mangled body down a flight of stairs and threw it into the street before the door of her home.

To all inquirers into the tragedy, Mrs. Angle, a large powerful woman, refuses to give details of the meeting with Ballou.

"I have been told to say nothing," she declared.

Stories of Mrs. Angle's admirers were flying everywhere today. She flatly denies that any other man was concerned in the case, but the police are working on this line.

Bloody footprints which led from the apartment of Mrs. Helen Angle to where W. R. Ballou, her rich suitor, was found battered to death at her door, were microscopically photographed in the belief that they will show the slayer. Leading from Mrs. Angle's door to the bottom of the stairs where Ballou's body, his skull smashed as though with a bottle, lay where it was found at 10:55 Tuesday night. The bloody footprints which were small, showed heavy on the trip down the stairs.

The police believe the persons making them, bore a load as the imprints of the balls of the feet and of the heels are plain and clear.

On enlargements of these footprints which will show markings of the skin, the police will depend largely to show whose were the feet which bore his maimed and battered body down to the street.

Arrested after the crime was discovered, Mrs. Angle was reported to have been hysterical all through the night and today to be still in the throes of violent emotion. Rumors flew thick and fast through the little city that she had made a statement to the police. This, however, could not be verified as influential friends of the woman have exerted themselves to quiet the case and every avenue of official information was closed until the afternoon when Coroner Phelan of Bridgeport will hold the first public investigation into the tragedy. No trace of a weapon with which the killing was done had been found today as far as the police would admit. It was rumored, however, that Ballou's knife, bloodstained, was discovered on the back porch of the Angle apartment. The dead man's body was found at the foot of the stairs in front. Admission when she was first arrested that Ballou had been in her home until 10 o'clock at night when she said he left, was made by Mrs. Angle. The police assert, she declared she telephoned Ballou to come to see her. The mystery of what happened was deepened by the report of a policeman on the beat that he was in the hallway to the Angle apartment at 10:30 o'clock and that there was certainly no body there then.

It was learned today that Mrs. Angle was not a widow, as was generally supposed in Stamford. She was divorced about five years ago from Frank Angle, who is said to live in Bridgeport. Whether the husband of the woman knew anything of her affair with Ballou or whether he is in any way concerned with the death of his former wife's sixty-seven year old suitor, have not yet been determined. Admission that a "strange man"

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BURLINGTON GIRL'S FLIGHT

Went Away With Agent and Writes That She is Held a Prisoner.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

CHICAGO, June 25.—Chicago detectives today began a search for Pearl Harris, fourteen year old Burlington, Ia. girl, who left her home at 4303 Somers street, Burlington, on June 12, and whose mother believes she may have fallen into the hands of white slavers. The Harris girl, according to her mother, Mrs. J. H. Daniels, wanted to earn enough money to buy a school graduating dress and answered an advertisement in a Burlington paper, calling for the services of two young girls who were to be paid \$3 a day to travel with "a manager and wife." She returned home the following day, packed a grip and announced that she had accepted a position soliciting magazine subscriptions. Mrs. Daniels wrote the local police that she received a letter from the girl who declared she was being held a prisoner in Chicago.

Pulled Legg's Leg.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, June 25.—Answering the call of beauty in apparent distress, cost Geo. Legg \$11 early today.

"Can you show me the way to Fullerton avenue?" asked a dashing blonde, piloting an electric automobile, of Legg who was enroute home shortly after midnight.

Sure Legg could. He climbed in the electric and the blonde beauty piloted the electric to a lonely spot on Lake Shore drive where she stopped. Two men armed with revolvers appeared from the curb and emptied Legg's pockets.

"Good night, you were so accommodating—and so easy," shouted the blonde as her two confederates piled into the car.

One Man Killed.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LORAIN, Ohio, June 25.—One man was killed, another perhaps fatally hurt, and eleven more or less seriously injured when a Lake Shore interurban car jumped the rails here early today.

Elias Hopp, motorman, Norwalk, Ohio, was crushed under the car and instantly killed. Irwin Brooker, Lorain, riding a motorcycle alongside was crushed and is dying.

Died of Sunstroke.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] GALESBURG, Ill., June 25.—Gayous Cortelyou of Bushnell, died today of a sun stroke that prostrated him in a harvest field yesterday.

BODIES IN TRASH PILE

Report of the Discovery of Eight Human Corpses Creates Excitement.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] TULSA, Okla., June 25.—An unconfirmed report that eight human bodies had been found hidden in a trash pile in the Cushing oil field, shocked the police into sudden activity today. While Chief of Police Towne of Cushing denied the finding of any bodies, an attache of his office confirmed the story.

An oil man who came to Tulsa from Cushing said the bodies were found in a manure pile by a party of government officers searching for concealed liquor near a round house on the line between old Indian territory and Oklahoma. Cushing was the scene of a wild oil boom recently and for a time lawlessness reigned in the fields there.

Hanna Nominated.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BISMARCK, N. D., June 25.—Governor Hanna has been nominated on the republican ticket by a majority of about 7,000 and Senator Gronna, republican, has secured his renomination by a comfortable plurality over two opponents, according to incomplete returns today from the state primaries yesterday. Oliver Knudson apparently has won the democratic gubernatorial nomination and Geo. P. Jones is leading W. E. Purcell for the democratic nomination for the senate. H. H. Aaker, progressive candidate for governor was unopposed.

Severe Electrical Storm.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, June 25.—One man was killed and two scores of buildings fired in a severe electrical storm that swept over the city last night and early today.

CHARGED WITH BLACK MAIL WORK

Agents of Building Trade Unions Said to Have Bled Contractors.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION

Union Man Killed Yesterday by Contractor, is Start of the Charges Filed Against Agents.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

CHICAGO, June 25.—Federal investigation of the charge that business agents of building trades unions have used black mail to extort money from contractors and heads of building material concerns, was begun today, following a conference between United States District Attorney Wilkerson and John J. McLaughlin, representative in the Illinois state legislature and head of a big building material company. McLaughlin presented to the district attorney cancelled checks which he said represented payments he had made to two union labor agents to prevent them from calling strikes that would injure his business. He said that he did not wish to accuse any particular labor unions but that business agents had bled him for several months and he proposed to send the crooks to the pen. McLaughlin sought the aid of federal authorities on the grounds that shipments of building material from his company to points in Wisconsin were delayed while he negotiated with the alleged black mailers, constituting illegal restraint of trade. He volunteered to go before a federal grand jury at once and turn over what evidence he has in his possession. Wilkerson assigned Assistant District Attorney Hopkins to start an inquiry.

McLaughlin's charges grew out of the killing yesterday of George Hammond, business agent for the excavator union, by Peter Dignan, a contractor who is being sought by the police. In a statement today McLaughlin charged that Hammond was one of the men who forced him to pay over money.

At the district attorney's request, McLaughlin will appear at the federal building tomorrow with books and other documentary evidence he says he has in his possession to support his charges.

THE WEATHER

For Keokuk and vicinity: Unsettled tonight and Friday. Probably local showers. Not much change in temperature.

For Iowa: Unsettled tonight and Friday. Probably local showers. Not much change in temperature.

For Missouri: Generally fair tonight and Friday, except possibly local showers in the north portion. Not much change in temperature.

Weather Conditions.

Yesterday was the warmest day of the season from the Mississippi Valley eastward, the temperature exceeding 90 degrees at most stations, and reaching 92 at Boston.

Rain from the Missouri river to the western lakes have been followed by somewhat cooler weather in that region, as the high pressure from Manitoba moved to the upper Mississippi valley.

In the west the weather is unsettled with rising temperature, and conditions indicate unsettled weather for this section tonight and Friday, with probably local showers and little change in temperature.

Daily River Bulletin.

Station Stage Height Change With'r St. Paul 14 94 -0.2 Pt. City La Crosse 12 No report Dubuque 18 No report Rain Davenport 15 9.0 -0.3 Rain Keokuk 14 10.2 -0.2 C'dy St. Louis 30 No report C'dy

River Forecast.

There has been heavy rain at Davenport and Des Moines, and the river will rise somewhat from Davenport to Quincy during the next forty hours. Total rise expected about one foot.

Local Observations.

June. Bar. Ther. Wind With'r 24 7 p. m.—29.89 94 SW Clear 25 7 a. m.—30.08 70 N C'dy

Rainfall past 24 hours—trace. Rain stage 7 a. m. 10 ft. 8 tenths. 24 hours change, fall 2 tenths. Mean temperature 24.88, highest 98, lowest 77, lowest last night 72.

FRED Z. GOSWISCH, Observer.

TWO THOUSAND KILLED BY THE BULLETS OF VILLA

Fall of Zacatecas Did Not Come Until the Streets of City Were Floating in Blood.

VICTORY WAS COMPLETE

Rebel General Reports Dead and Wounded on Both Sides to Reach Total of 6,800.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

JUAREZ, Mexico, June 25.—The remnants of the federal command of Gen. Luis Medina Barron today is fleeing towards Aguas Calientes, leaving 2,000 killed and 4,000 wounded in the streets of Zacatecas, according to a despatch received early today from Gen. Francisco Villa, whose constitutional army Tuesday night captured that city after one of the most sanguinary engagements of the present Mexican revolution.

In a telegram dated at Zacatecas, Villa declared that the victory was a complete one. His troops captured 6,000 prisoners, 6,000 rifles, 12 cannon and nine complete trains, including three car loads of shrapnel and small arms ammunition, he said. In addition, an enormous quantity of provisions and other munitions of war fell into Villa's hands.

Five generals accompany Barron in his precipitate retreat towards Aguas Calientes where it is believed the forces of General Huerta are preparing for another desperate struggle. It is reported without confirmation that the federalists under Gen. Jose Refugio Velasco have evacuated San Luis Potosi and are hurrying towards Aguas Calientes where General Maas is said to be mobilizing his forces.

While only meagre details of the battle have been received, enough is known to indicate the savage character of the fighting. General Villa's despatch gave his own losses as 500 killed and 300 wounded, the latter including Gen. Maclelio Herrera, Gen. Toribio Ortega and Gen. Trinidad Rodriguez.

According to statements by constitutionalist officials, Villa ordered a general assault on Zacatecas Tuesday morning and 19,000 rebels responded to the call. All day long the battle raged before the constitutionalists stormed the heights of Sierra La Buja, the strategic point in the city's defense. There had been planted the principal artillery of the garrison and it was the guns which had hurled back, shattered the attack delivered ten days ago by Gen. Pano Pinatira. Constitutionalists say the attack on Sierra La Buja was an exhibition of courage never before excelled in Mexican annals. The federalists had the advantage of abandoned mine workings on the slope as entrenchments. Repeated charges were led by Generals Ortega, Herrera and Rodriguez, all being wounded. When the artillery on La Buja was silenced, the federalists attempted to hold the city proper but, failing, fled southward.

Before evacuating, Villa's despatch says, the federalists dynamited the embassy office, federal stamp office, La Caja and the principal bank building. The explosions destroyed other buildings and are supposed to have killed a number of constitutionalist soldiers engaged in street fighting. The commands of Barron, Maas and Valesco effect a junction at Aguas Calientes, they will have a combined force of nearly 25,000. They have 100 cannon and many rapid fire guns.

Villa has 19,000 men under his direct command and General Gonzales and other constitutionalists in the vicinity have 12,000 more.

Agua Calientes is situated on a high hill 100 miles directly south of Zacatecas. The retreating federalists are destroying the railroads and it will undoubtedly take two or three weeks for Villa to repair the lines and move his army within striking distance.

Two hundred miles below Aguas Calientes is Queretaro where the final battle outside Mexico City itself probably will be staged.

Juarez today continued to celebrate the fall of Zacatecas. Bands are playing in the streets and the whole city is in gala attire.

The wounding of General Ortega, Rodriguez and Herrera has cast a damper over the constitutionalist president as they were among the most brilliant and loyal fighting men Villa has. The comparatively quick victory achieved by Villa caused great surprise here, despite the fact that his force greatly outnumbered the federalists. General Barron has such an enormous advantage in position and was so well supplied with artillery and ammunition that Huertistas in El Paso profess to wonder at his quick retreat. Villa's hospital service did splendid work during the battle, according to dispatches and has been caring for friend and foe alike since the fighting ended. Burial of the dead has proved a stupendous task but has proceeded rapidly and danger of disease is believed to have passed.

Villa's plans for the immediate future are not known. If General Valesco's federalists have not evacuated San Luis Potosi as reported, Villa will probably leave that city to be taken by General Gonzales and will lead his own forces against Aguas Calientes. Many military men here doubt whether the federalists will defend either one of these cities, believing they will prefer to concentrate at Queretaro for a last stand.

Playing Lawn Tennis.

NIAGARA FALLS, June 25.—"If the rebels come," said Ambassador Dagama today, "mediation will be a big success. He shrugged his shoulders however, in pointing out that the actual invitation to them was extended several days ago and that no answer was yet at hand.

The protocol signed late last night provided:

That the provisional government should be constituted by agreement between rebels and Huertistas.

That this new government should be immediately thereafter recognized by the United States, Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

That the United States shall not claim any war indemnity.

That amnesty for political offenses shall be provided for foreigners and that a claims commission shall be established.

The mediation colony with nothing definite in the work line today, turned to tennis and the Canadian "war game" for diversion. Ambassador Suarez found amusement with the younger members of the colony in trying out amateur photography.

Peace Is Far Away.

NIAGARA FALLS, June 25.—Peace in Mexico is still far from assured. Hailed at first as the successful outcome of mediation, it was apparent today from the feeling of the group of men here trying to solve the Mexican problem that the A. B. C. mediators have merely shifted their burden. Agreement so far reached provides for a "get together" session of Huertistas and Carranzistas for settlement of Mexico's internal problems.

Notwithstanding persistent reports that Carranzista delegates were enroute here, the feeling grew today that the constitutionalist first chief would probably stick at the last moment to his oft-repeated declaration that Mexico's internal affairs were not a subject for mediation of any kind and that he would refuse peace

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COMBING LITTLE ITALY FOR SAWED OFF SHOTGUN OWNERS

Desperate Effort Being Made by Police to Break up Blackhand Murders.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

CHICAGO, June 25.—Under instructions to arrest every man found with a sawed off shot gun and to search every hangar-on in the district for weapons, a special "black hand mur-

der squad" of a dozen detectives combed "Little Italy" today in the hunt for the assassin who killed Frank De Maria, investigator for the police department yesterday.

Threats that Detective Anselo Longobardi, in charge of the crusade against the Mafia, would "get him" in the same manner that De Maria was shot, caused the police to take extra precautions.

Two men arrested on suspicion that they know something of the De Maria assassination, promptly furnished \$40,000 bond.