

MADAME LA BONTA IS SAFE IN THE COUNTY JAIL

Arrives From 'Frisco in the Custody of Sheriff Furey-- And Will See No One.

SAID TO BE CONFIDENT OF PROVING INNOCENCE

Will Stick to Her Story, to the Effect That She Killed Dr. Cayley by Accident While Struggling With Him-- Sheriff Avoids Taking His Prisoner to the Depot, Where a Crowd Awaits Him and Gets Off Down the Line.

Cheerful in mind, but weary in body, from a trip of 2,000 miles from far away San Francisco, Madam Ruth LaBonta arrived in the city yesterday afternoon in the custody of Sheriff Furey and a few minutes later was consulting with her attorneys, Con Kelly and Edwin Booth, in a cell at the county jail.

FEW SAW MRS. LA BONTA ENTER COUNTY BASTILE

The statement in the morning papers that the walk and steps at the courthouse were crowded by spectators when the sheriff alighted from the hack with Madam LaBonta, is wrong. No one knew when the hack would reach the courthouse and with the exception of a half dozen pedestrians, who happened to be near the courthouse at the time, no one saw the woman who states that she alone is responsible for the death of Dr. Henry A. Cayley.

When Madam LaBonta walked into the courthouse she wore a brown veil that partly concealed her features, a black traveling dress, a large hat tilted forward to shadow her face and a light cloak. Her step was elastic and she conversed freely with the sheriff, showing that the trip had not had the effect of putting a damper on her spirits.

She was shown to the most comfortable room in the women's apartment, in the lower portion of the county jail, and taking off her cloak and hat, Madam LaBonta rested well for the first time since leaving 'Frisco. Several newspaper men called and asked for an interview, but to all ques-

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AUTHOR JULIAN RALPH IN SERIOUS CONDITION

St. Louis, Dec. 4.—Julian Ralph, the well-known newspaper man, war correspondent and author, is critically ill at

FOURTEEN BURNED TO DEATH IN A HOTEL HOLOCAUST AT LINCOLN HOUSE, CHICAGO

Penned in Like Sheep, Unable to Find Their Way to the Elevators or the Stairs in the Blinding Smoke, Men, Women and Children Meet Horrible End in Awful Agony--Firemen Are Unable to Get at Many of the Helix Victims, Although Scores Are Carried Down the Ladders, While Others Jump.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS. Chicago, Dec. 4.—Fourteen persons among the scores crowded into the Lincoln hotel at No. 176 Madison street met death shortly before 6 o'clock this morning in a fire which will pass into local history as one of the most horrible Chicago ever had.

Death came suddenly to a few, but with an awful slowness to others, who were penned in the death trap and suffocated or burned to death. Some died in their rooms, some chanced all in jumping and lost, while others were found in the hallways where they had expired with their fingers dug into the cracks of the floor.

All of the bodies were recovered as the hotel was not destroyed. The dead:

- H. M. Wood, Lebanon, Ind.
- Samuel L. Yocum, Davenport, Iowa.
- J. C. Yocum, Davenport, Iowa.
- E. L. Ewing, Marietta, Ohio.
- A. B. Coon, Maringo, Illinois.
- T. V. Slocum, Waco, Illinois.
- Ward Lowe, Minneapolis.
- E. W. Carey, Bucyrus, Ohio.
- Ed. Fomer, Milwaukee.
- B. F. Boswell, who lived at hotel.

ANXIOUS SEARCHERS CROWDED THE MORGUE

The victims were taken to Ralston's morgue and all day the place was filled with anxious people interested in the dead or seeking to assure themselves of the safety of friends or relatives.

The building was a fire-trap of the worst kind, according to experts. There were but two exits, a narrow stairway, leading down the four floors of the building and an uncompleted fire escape in the rear.

The fire started on the second floor, presumably from a lighted cigar dropped on the carpet. Guests occupying upper rooms in the front part of the building, aroused by the screams of a woman, were able to escape down the stairway, and about 30 people reached safety by means of the fire escape. To add to the horror, however, this gave way while others were attempting to escape and three men were dashed to death on the pavement of the alley below.

For the people in the rear there was no escape save by jumping. The stairway was in flames and the fire escape gone. Horror stricken faces appeared at the windows and cried frantically for help. Firemen cried back at them to wait until nets or mattresses could be brought and those

AWFUL SCENE MET GAZE OF RESCUERS

With great difficulty the fire, although comparatively a small one, was subdued, but it was some time before rescuers could penetrate the dense bank of smoke which filled the place. It was an awful scene which met their gaze.

The dead or unconscious lay stretched on the floors and in some cases on their beds. Some had attempted to slip on a garment before making for the street, but had been overcome, but most of them were in their night clothes.

Every store and other hotels in the vicinity were filled with men and women who had escaped with only their night gowns.

An investigation will be made. A fire wall around the freight elevator and other precautionary alterations had been ordered some time ago, but the matter had been neglected.

Little damage was done to the hotel, but the smoke was so dense that the persons who met their death were overcome and died before assistance could reach them. Many jumped from the fourth story windows, or tried to save themselves, only to lose their grasp on the cold iron bars and fall to the street. The persons sleeping in the rear of the building on the top floors had no chance for their lives. A narrow stairway leading to all floors of the structure was afire and the escape of the lodgers in the rear of the building was cut off.

Firemen and policemen concerned the building as a "fire-trap." Ambulances and patrol wagons from all parts of the city were called to the place and the dead and injured were quickly attended to. All but 14 of the guests at the hotel were out of town persons. Most of them came to Chicago to attend the International Livestock show. In every room or place in which a cot could be erected, it is said, guests were accommodated.

MEN, WOMEN AND TOTS CARRIED DOWN LADDERS

Shortly after the fire broke out the firemen rushed up the stairway into the place and began the work of rescue. Men, women and children were carried down ladders and fire escapes and smoke filled the halls. In one instance a fireman of Engine Company No. 2 saved a woman from running to the rear of the building to cer-

tain death on the fourth floor, only to be forced to drop her from the third floor to the roof of the building at No. 178 Madison street. The woman held her 2-year-old son in her arms. She was Mrs. J. Sheppard. They were then carried from the roof of the building to the Brevoort house, where a physician was summoned. It was found that their injuries were slight.

The building is constructed of brick, with but one stairway leading to the upper floors and a fire escape in the front of the building. E. C. Weber, the night clerk, was one of the first persons to discover smoke on the second floor. It is believed the fire began in this section of the building. Weber refused to make any statement, and after he had secured possession of the hotel register he was taken to the central station, where he is detained.

PANIC REIGNED ON THE UPPER FLOORS

A short time after the fire was discovered consternation reigned on the upper floors. Mrs. Sheppard's son was one of the first to be awakened by the presence of smoke. He awakened his mother and both began screaming. Many persons were thus warned of the danger and made their escape.

J. E. Herbert of Salineville, O., jumped from the fourth floor where he had been sleeping. He struck on the roof of No. 178 Madison street, near where Mrs. Sheppard fell. His right leg was broken and he suffered internal injuries. He was taken to the county hospital. W. J. Thomas, a mail clerk of Cedar Rapids, jumped through a window on the fourth floor and in his blind haste narrowly escaped falling to the street. He managed to make his way to the fire escape and climbed to the ground.

Previous to Thomas' escape 25 or 30 persons had climbed down the fire escape to the street. All were in their night clothing.

From what could be learned from persons who escaped from the building it appeared that the fire was accidentally started, probably by dropping a lighted cigar on the carpet in the hallway on the second floor. The smoldering fire filled the building with heavy smoke and several were suffocated.

SCALED THE WALL BY MEANS OF IRON SHUTTERS

Allen Oldorf of Milwaukee made a perilous descent from the fourth floor by

sealing the shutters. Oldorf stated that he had seen at least a dozen persons on the top floor vainly endeavoring to make their way from the building. Many of the bodies were found in the beds in positions of slumber. Others were found in the hallway lying face downward in positions that showed they had vainly endeavored to save their lives. Some were half-clad and others wore nothing but night clothing.

F. A. Smith, proprietor of the hotel, said: "I am certainly not to blame for this awful catastrophe. Three weeks ago the agents of this building were notified to place a stairway in the rear of the building and also to build a fire wall around the freight elevator shaft in the rear. The contractors came and looked the building over, but nothing was done. Last night our seventy rooms were all filled and I should judge that we had from 125 to 150 guests. From what I can learn the fire started in the rear of the building, on the second floor. This probably accounts for the escape of the guests who occupied front rooms on the upper floors. They had an opportunity to reach the stairway before the flames reached that part of the building, but the occupants of the rear rooms were cut off by the flames. Most of the guests last night were persons who came to Chicago to visit the stock show and knew little of the building."

FIRE CHIEF SAYS IT IS THE WORST HE HAS SEEN

Chief Mushman of the fire department said that it was the worst fire he had ever attended during his career as a fireman and that so dense was the smoke that it was impossible to reach the imprisoned guests, who died like rats in a cage.

When the firemen finally managed to make their way into the rooms the sight that met their gaze was appalling. Men and boys lay about the floors of the rooms and hallways, where they had fallen in their eagerness to escape.

"The building," said the chief, "was one of the worst firetraps I have ever seen. The floors in places had cracks in them large enough to drop a penny through and the smoke just sifted through and suffocated the inmates of the rooms before they had time too make their way into the hallways."

SHERIFF IS STILL HARD AFTER THE ROBBERS

Scene of Chase Shifts to the Northward, With the Yellowstone as a Base of Operations--Three Men Seen at Big Timber and Thought to Be the Desperadoes Turn Out to Be a Portion of the Pursuing Posse--Worst Storm in Years Subjects the Sheriff and His Men to Hardship.

SPECIAL TO THE INTER MOUNTAIN. Big Timber, Dec. 4.—Today the chase after the Bridger bank robbers has shifted to the north, with the valley of the Yellowstone river as the center.

It is evident that the robbers doubled on their trail after being seen at the Arthur ranch, six miles south of Absarokee, at 10 o'clock Tuesday night. They were seen in the Butcher creek country yesterday morning. Though countless wild reports are coming in every hour, this is known to be a fact.

Sheriff Potter of Carbon county with his posse became aware of the change of course yesterday afternoon, so he also doubled on his track. He first sent word to Sheriff Failing of this county to meet with a posse in the vicinity of Battle Flat. Failing went out at once with a strong posse, but he has not yet succeeded in forming a junction with Potter.

In the meantime every ford, crossing and bridge on the Yellowstone for miles up and down the river is being closely guarded. Sheriff Failing has sent out parties for the purpose in the belief that the robbers are coming this way, intending to cross the Yellowstone and head for the hiding places in the breaks of the Missouri or in the badlands in Northeastern Montana.

The state of excitement which exists here is well illustrated by the wild story which went out from here last night to

the morning newspapers of the state to the effect that three bad looking men, answering the description of the robbers had been seen at the Big Timber depot at 8:30 last night. The men were graphically described and it was said that they had the appearance of having ridden hard.

Investigation of this report, which was current here late last night, shows that the men are three respectable residents of Livingston who came up to join one of Sheriff Failing's posses.

The theory held yesterday was that the robbers were heading south to get down east of the National park. Later developments show that they turned "ack" somewhere south of Absarokee and headed to the north and west. This brought them to Butcher Creek, where, as related in the foregoing, they were reported yesterday.

Battle Flat lies in the natural course northward from there. That is a hat between 16 and 18 miles from Big Timber. The robbers, it is supposed, have friends here and spent the night at that place. To continue their journey and reach the Yellowstone river they would be compelled to travel by way of the Lodge Pole trail. Sheriff Failing has this trail carefully and closely guarded.

Much snow has fallen since last even-

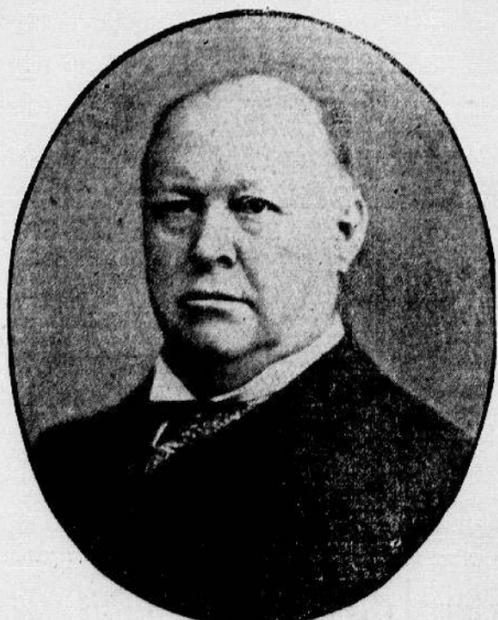
ing. A sort of a blizzard prevailed last night, and the members of the posse who were out suffered severely, though no one was frozen. The men report the storm to be the worst experienced in this county in years. Snow is still falling obliterating trails and making traveling difficult. For all that all the guards are remaining on watch.

The exact whereabouts of Sheriff Potter and his men are unknown. He has not been heard from since yesterday, but it is supposed he is riding in this direction.

FORMER SPEAKER REED NOT IN GREAT DANGER

Washington, Dec. 4.—Former Speaker Thomas E. Reed, who is ill at the Arlington hotel in this city, passed a good night.

a liquid diet, largely champagne. The effect of this would be to induce a little kidney trouble, so the present complications are not regarded as serious. Mrs.



FORMER SPEAKER REED.

When his physicians called this morning they found that the symptoms of appendicitis which developed yesterday had abated somewhat, but on the contrary there were indications of kidney complications.

These complications are due, they say, to the fact that for two or three days Mr. Reed has been subsisting upon practically

Reed and her daughter, Miss Kittie, who arrived last evening, are assured that the present condition of Mr. Reed is not alarming. The following bulletin was issued today by Mr. Reed's physicians: "Mr. Reed's temperature at 8 a. m. was 100; pulse, 84; respiration, 36. Symptoms of appendicitis abating. Some kidney complications threatening."



JULIAN RALPH.

the Southern hotel from the effects of a sudden and violent hemorrhage.

His physician states that a repetition of the attack would probably prove fatal. The attack occurred Tuesday night and Mr. Ralph was resting easier last night, awaiting the coming of his wife, who has been summoned from New York and is expected to arrive today.

Mr. Ralph was Tuesday appointed manager of the Eastern headquarters of the Louisiana Purchase exposition in New York, and Tuesday night a number of

at the Southern after the dinner and say that while conversing, about midnight, he was attacked with a violent hemorrhage which came without premonition. He sank into unconsciousness and was hurriedly placed in bed. Before a physician could be summoned the patient regained consciousness and forbade that a physician be sent for. He remained in a state of stupor all night, but rallied somewhat yesterday and consented to have medical attention, and also asked that his wife be summoned.

The complaint further states that Rosegrantz agreed to pay 75 cents per box for the fruit, and as there were 518 boxes in all, the bill amounted to \$388.50; that the sum of \$388.50 was never paid and that it is still due.

The case occupied the entire morning and is still being heard.

FLOATING DEBT OF CITY IS WIPED OUT

City Treasurer Calkins today sent out notices calling in outstanding warrants issued by the city prior to July 1. The warrants amount in the aggregate to \$250,000 and wipe out the floating in-

debtedness up to July 1. The city treasurer will also call in \$15,000 in sewerage bonds of the issue of 1901. The cancellation of these bonds reduces the bonded indebtedness of the city to \$95,000.

OVER APPLES THIS LITIGATION IS ON

G. D. GORUS IS SUING E. M. ROSEGRANTZ AND OTHERS IN JUDGE CLANCY'S DEPARTMENT.

The only case before Judge Clancy this morning was a civil action brought by G. D. Gorus against E. M. Rosegrantz and others, in which the plaintiff sues for \$388.50 he claims to be due him.

The complaint alleges that on the 25th day of October, 1901, he agreed to deliver to the defendants, who are a firm of commission merchants, a carload of Bitter Root apples; that the apples were shipped and delivered to the defendants on the second day of November, 1901, and placed by the plaintiff in their warehouse.

The complaint further states that Rosegrantz agreed to pay 75 cents per box for the fruit, and as there were 518 boxes in all, the bill amounted to \$388.50; that the sum of \$388.50 was never paid and that it is still due.

DOWN EMBANKMENT ONE HUNDRED FEET

TEN CARS OF A WESTBOUND N. P. FREIGHT TRAIN GO BOUNDING AT HOMESTAKE.

SPECIAL TO THE INTER MOUNTAIN. Homestake, Dec. 4.—Ten cars of the Westbound Northern Pacific freight train jumped the track a short distance west of Homestake yesterday afternoon and bounded 100 feet down an embankment. How the cars parted from the main train is a mystery. Brakeman C. E. Hackney was on the cars when they left the track, but he jumped in time to save his life. His back, however, was injured, but not seriously. Later in the day he was removed to the company hospital at Missoula.

The track was blocked by the wreck for about six hours, causing the Westbound Burlington to be sent around by way of Helena, while the passengers on the Logan stubs were transferred around the wreck. The track was clear in time for No. 1 Westbound to pass last night. The 10 cars and their contents are smashed to bits.