

NEW CLUE TO MURDER OF PAGE GIRL; ARREST NEAR

Chief Shaw Hurries from Boston to Weston and Hopes to Clear Up the Mystery at Once—Hunt for a Man Who Was Near the Page Home.

(Special to The Evening World.)

BOSTON, Mass., April 8.—In response to an urgent message Chief Shaw, of the State Police, hurried to Weston to-day to take personal charge of a new point in the Mabel Page mystery that will undoubtedly lead to an arrest.

"The clue upon which I am called is of such a delicate nature that it might defeat the ends of justice if I talked about it."

His manner and tone indicated that he was on the way to make an arrest.

MISS COBURN DID NOT KNOW MISS PAGE.

It was thought at first that his sudden visit to the scene of the crime might be connected with the death of Ethel Coburn, of Weston, who was killed by a Boston and Albany train to-day. It was believed by some that she threw herself in front of the train, but her friends say she fell on the tracks while walking in her sleep.

Later inquiries show there could have been no connection between the murder of Miss Page and the death of Miss Coburn. They lived in different parts of the town of Weston and did not know each other. Miss Coburn had been ill for six weeks and was mentally deficient as a result.

William G. Ross, the coachman who applied for a position at the Garrett Schenck place on South avenue, a mile west of the Page house, last Thursday, is still missing. The police want him for certain information he is said to possess. His wife has received a letter stating that he desired to keep quiet and in the dark until the excitement over the murder had subsided.

What makes Ross a particularly desirable person for the police to see is that he is the one man who is known to have passed the Page house between 11:30 and 12 o'clock, the half hour during which it is now believed that the murder was committed. Ross's movements on that Thursday are quite well known, because when he reached home in the afternoon he told his wife that he had been to Weston to apply for the position of coachman at the Garrett Schenck place.

L' AND SURFACE LINES TIED UP FOR HOURS BY BIG FIRE

Six-Story Warehouse Wrecked and Surrounding Property Worth Millions Saved Only by Brave Efforts of Firemen, Some of Whom Were Overcome.

Flames destroyed the six-story building at the southwest corner of West Broadway and Franklin street early to-day, with its entire contents, threatened property worth millions of dollars, and for several hours caused the Sixth and Eighth elevated trains and the Sixth and Eighth avenue surface roads to suspend operations.

The suspension of the elevated and surface roads lasted until the rush hours of the morning began, and the greatest inconvenience was experienced by the hundreds of thousands of persons coming downtown to work.

The fire was discovered by Policeman Lehman, of the Church street station. There was only a small ring of smoke seen coming from the building, but when Engine No. 77—which is located in Franklin street, and which is known as the hooded engine, because so many of its members have met death and injury during the past year—arrived, the smoke had given place to flames.

The breaking in of doors and windows by the firemen created a draught and the flames shot up to the second floor and out of the windows. A second alarm was sounded. Chief Croker and Lieut. Rush responded to this alarm, and the Chief ordered a third alarm sounded.

Roof Fell with Crash. So rapidly did the flames gain headway that the third floor, the fourth, the fifth and then the sixth caught before water could be turned upon them. The roof gave way with a great crash and the flames shot high in the air, far above the roofs of many of the tall buildings.

Then came explosions of cans of benzine from the cellar, where a quantity of it had been stored. The explosions caused the firemen to drop their hose and run, they believing that the walls would fall on them.

Thought Building Would Fall. Several times it appeared to Chief Croker that the walls of the burning building would topple and fall. His men, who had been working under the building from the Franklin street side, but the heat was such and the flames so menacing on the West Broadway side that another water tower could not operate from that location.

Chief Croker said, when the fire was under control, that he estimated the value of the destroyed building at about \$500,000. The damage done by smoke and water to surrounding property has not been estimated.

The origin of the fire is not known.

CORONERS ARE ENDED BY LAW

Bill Legislating the Office Out of Existence is Rushed Through Both Houses of the Legislature.

THOSE IN OFFICE WILL FILL TERMS.

As Each One's Term Expires He Will Drop Out and No Successor Will Be Elected—Officials to Succeed Them.

The office of Coroner in Greater New York was abolished to-day at Albany. Under an emergency message from the Governor both houses of the Legislature passed Senator Elsborg's bill.

The coroners now serving are to continue as such until their terms expire, and as each term expires that coroner retires and no successor will be elected. Disposed of by the Legislature.

All personal appointees of such coroners are legislated out of office as he goes out. Civil-Service appointees are to be cared for by the Civil-Service Commission.

The bill provides for the appointment by the Mayor of a chief medical examiner and six medical examiners for Manhattan, four for Brooklyn, two each for the Bronx and Richmond, and three for Queens. They are to be physicians, and taking office on Jan. 1, 1905. They will be under the supervision of the Board of Health. These examiners are to be appointed, as far as practicable, from the present coroners' physicians.

Salaries of the Examiners. Officers are to be established in each borough for the medical examiners. The salary of the chief medical examiner is to be \$5,000 a year and of the medical examiners \$3,500 each.

The examiners will assume all the duties of coroners, with the exception that they will make their reports in all suspicious deaths to Magistrates, and if the examiner is not satisfied with the result of an examination into the cause of the death of a person he is to notify the District Attorney and then to make an autopsy in the presence of the District Attorney and a police official.

Jerome Expresses Pleasure. District Attorney Jerome expressed great satisfaction this afternoon when informed that the coroners had been legislated out of office.

"It is something which should have been done long ago. They are not only a nuisance, but they are a hindrance to the ends of justice. They delay cases. They perform no service except to dole out money to the Board of Health and when the Board can do better, more efficiently, with their own money, than the coroners. Justice Warren W. Foster and other officials around the Court House Building expressed similar sentiments.

EAST RIVER GAS GRAB BILL PASSED

Measure, Which Gives Wide Privileges to Corporation and Was Vigorously Fought Goes Through the Senate.

ALBANY, April 8.—The Remsen East River Gas Grab bill passed the Senate to-day by a vote of 31 to 12.

The bill gives the East River Gas Company sweeping privileges that have been vigorously fought.

Those who went on record as favoring the bill were Senators Ambler, Armstrong, Bailey, Barnes, W. L. Brown, Burton, Cullen, Dodling, Fancher, Fitzgerald, Foley, Foxley, Goodman, Hill, Hawkes, Hill, Keenan, Lovell, L. H. Mohammed, Maple, Martin, McLean, Plunkitt, Plim, Ramsberger, Riordan, Russell, Stewart, Wagner, Whitlock and Wilcox—31.

Those who expected a sensational battle over the gas bill today were disappointed. One Senator Elsborg and several others spoke against it.

Those voting against it were Senators Brackett, C. C. Carpenter, Downing, Elsborg, Gates, Grady, Lewis, Marshall, Raines, Stevens and Warlick.

Those absent or not voting were Senators Aldis, Davis, McCabe, McEwan, Ricewood, Townsend and White.

CAPT. STEPHENSON'S POST.

Reluctant Officer Assigned to East Eighty-eighth Street Station.

Policeman Commissioner McAdoo assigned Capt. John Stephenson, who was re-elected recently by the courts, to the East Eighty-eighth street station.

Capt. Stephenson was dismissed from the force by Commissioner Croker last summer after he had been tried on charges of selling to suppress disorderly persons in his precinct.

He takes the place in the East Eighty-eighth street station of Capt. Michael Gorman, who has been transferred to a sub-station in College Point.

SHIPPING NEWS. ALMANAC FOR TO-DAY. Sun rise, 6:00 AM. sets, 6:50 PM. Moon rise, 1:37 PM. sets, 11:57 PM.

LITTLETON GETS ANGRY, SHAKES FIST AT GROUT.

Lively Encounter Between the Comptroller and Borough President at Board of Estimate, Which Breaks Up After Lie Is Practically Passed.

Comptroller Grout and Borough President Littleton looked horns to-day and the threatened clash came off in spirited style at the meeting of the Board of Estimate.

President Littleton took the initiative in the attack, which he followed up by practically passing the lie. Efforts were made by members of the Board to check the heated controversy, but the Mayor called attention to the fact that the discussion was on by unanimous consent.

When the discussion was at its height and the Mayor was shaking his fist at each other across the table the Mayor whispered to President Forney to move to adjourn. Down came the Mayor's gavel, but the Comptroller and Borough President ignored the signal and continued their combat.

Meeting Broken Up. Bang! bang! bang! bang! went the Mayor's gavel, and the motion to adjourn was put and carried. The incident broke up the meeting of the Board, leaving an unfinished calendar.

The trouble to-day was occasioned by the Comptroller sending a communication to the Board of Estimate severely criticizing President Littleton for "ignoring the presentment" of the Grand Jury of Kings with reference to Raymond Street Jail. The Comptroller's letter was no longer presented than President Littleton, pointing a finger at Comptroller Grout, began:

"Mr. Grout, I want to serve notice on you that under the charter you can hold but one position under this government, and that as Comptroller of this city, you are not and cannot hold the office of Borough President of Brooklyn. I am the President of the borough, and I propose to remain such, and serve notice on you right here that I will not such for the next eighteen months."

"Oh, please!" retorted the Comptroller, getting white in the face. "Your eloquence is better than your ability as a business man. You have ignored the presentment of the Grand Jury and come before this Board and induced me, as well as other members, to vote on a resolution appropriating \$20,000 for repairs to the Raymond Street Jail, on the understanding that a report was to be furnished by you showing the manner in which that money was to be spent."

"You have not furnished an adequate report, and no one can tell from your report what you are doing with the money. I regard that I was imposed upon and induced to vote for money on a promise which you have not kept."

"What you say is a lie, not true," exclaimed President Littleton. "You are constituting yourself a grand jury and handing down a verdict against the Borough President. But I reiterate that what you say is untrue, and, challenge any member of this Board to say to the contrary."

Address the Chair, calmly interposed the Mayor, raising his gavel. "It is downright folly to do with reference to Raymond Street Jail," declared the Comptroller. "He wants to know something in old condemned cells wholly against the idea of the Grand Jury, which demanded radical changes and practically new cells. The Borough President of Brooklyn may be a good lawyer, but he knows nothing of technical engineering, equipments of business, for that matter. He has killed the Grand Jury which is directly opposed to the reports of his own experts. He has not done anything."

"I did not, however, send a round robin to the press or to the members of this Board, indicating that he was primed for a controversy," exclaimed Littleton, shaking his fist at the Comptroller. "I have furnished my report to the Grand Jury and I understand it that it is his fault. There are lots of persons who can be bullied, but no amount of bullying, begging or bamboozling on the part of you, Mr. Grout, can compel me to."

Mr. Grout Objects. "I object to the attitude and language of the Borough President," declared the Comptroller, "and I intend to intimidate any one or bamboozle any one. Certain things should be understood. I am not a politician. I am not doing them. Let us take the matter out of his hands and let the Grand Jury do its duty. I will make an investigation of the jail and make the needed changes."

"You will resist me on building a new jail, and I will resist you on building a new jail," exclaimed Comptroller Grout. "Let me speak without interruption."

"I may and I may not," snapped the Comptroller. "If you were still talking when the Mayor declared an adjournment."

RUSSIA READY FOR ACTIVE WAR

German Newspaper Correspondent Writes from Near Harbin that She Will Begin the Offensive About April 15.

BERLIN, April 8.—The Tagblatt's war correspondent, Major Gaedke, writing on a train while nearing Harbin, Manchuria, March 19, said:

"Only six trains daily pass east on the railroad to Manchuria and only four to Harbin, but these consist of as many as thirty-eight cars. The railroad apparently is able to meet the military demands."

The correspondent added that the Russians will be ready to take the offensive about the middle of this month.

BOY IN WHIRLPOOL CLINGS TO SOAPBOX

Whirled About in Hell Gate for an Hour Until Rescued by Captain of Volunteer Life-Saving Station.

Hundreds of persons on both sides of the East River, near Hell Gate, watched a number of steamers vainly endeavor to rescue William Linnbeck, seventeen years old, of No. 33 Taylor street, today from the whirlpools of the race, where he was sufficed about clinging to a soap box, for an hour, being finally rescued by Capt. John Woodman, of the Volunteer Life-Saving Station, who put out to him in a frail skiff.

Linnbeck was collecting driftwood on the Astoria shore opposite Hell Gate, and in reaching for a box lost his balance and fell into the whirlpool. He luckily caught hold of the box and, clinging to it, was whirled out into midstream.

LIBRARY THIEF NEATLY TRAPPED

Superintendent of the Lenox Made a Sketch of Man He Suspected and it Led Detectives to Effect His Capture.

HAD A STOLEN BOOK WHEN CAUGHT.

Denied that He is the Man Who Has Been Despoiling Public Institutions, but the Evidence Found on Him Is Complete.

The clever detective work of C. H. A. Bjerregaard, superintendent of the Lenox Library, resulted to-day in the capture of the most persistent robber of libraries, public and private, that has plagued the custodians of valuable editions for years.

From the Lenox, the Astor, the Brooklyn Library and other libraries many valuable works have been stolen in the past few months. Some thief, who has followed the usual course of procedure in getting books of reference and valuable first editions has been clever enough to circumvent the system of espionage in vogue in the big libraries and get safely out with his plunder.

The Lenox Library was the chief sufferer. It lost through the thieving of a man who made excellent selections of what he would take and was evidently covert with books, old and new.

Seemed Impossible to Catch Him. Mr. Bjerregaard resolved to get the thief one way or another, and finally lighted on a suspect by a process of elimination. This man was the only regular visitor to the library who always wanted rare books and who once in possession seemed anxious to find out whether he was being watched. It was impossible to catch him in the act of a theft, so Mr. Bjerregaard hit upon a scheme of his undoing and which has worked very well, indeed.

The superintendent is a clever sketch artist. So one day when his suspect was in a good position he made a pen-and-ink picture of him which was an almost perfect likeness. Then he wrote under this picture: "This is a pretty fair idea of a man who gives his name as A. Ager and his address as No. 61 West One Hundredth street. Does he look like a student of American first editions?"

This picture Mr. Bjerregaard sent to Inspector McClusky, of the Detective Bureau, together with an account of the thefts which were being made in the libraries all over the city. He asked if the picture would help in finding the man. The inspector had about a dozen of the pictures made from the original and then started his men out to try and run down the thief.

They hunted the libraries for days without finding their man, although by a little cautious inquiry they learned that he had examined books in other libraries under the names of Gomburg and Gropter.

On His Trail at Last. Finally detectives Peppert and Conroy decided to canvass the book store men and find out if any man answering the description had been offering rare volumes for sale of late. Today at the store of Everett & Francis, at No. 134 East Twenty-third street, they learned that a man who was the very image of the picture had been yesterday endeavoring to sell a very valuable book entitled "American Book Price-Current," which was published in 185 by Luther S. Livingston. Ordinary copies of this work are value at \$50, but the volume the stranger had offered was worth much more.

The detectives waited around the store for about an hour and were then rewarded for their vigil by seeing the subject of their sketch come in with a book under his arm. They knew the man in an instant by Mr. Bjerregaard's picture and arrested him.

He protested vehemently against being arrested, but nevertheless was taken over to Police Headquarters. There the look under his arm proved to be the Livingston volume, and although efforts had been made to remove the library marks, it was seen that it had come from the Brooklyn Library, on Nantuxet street, Brooklyn. That institution was notified at once, and the superintendent came over and identified the book as one stolen about ten days ago.

Further search of the prisoner revealed a copy of "The Detective Collector," several autograph letters by well-known writers and book authors, some literary magazines and a catalogue of rare books.

When the man was arraigned in the Jefferson Market Police Court later he gave his picture as Leon Goldberg, said he was a Russian, twenty-eight years old and that he lives at No. 61 East One Hundredth street.

An additional complaint in the person of Capt. Livingston, of the Astor Library, advised, that he said that three valuable books had recently been stolen from that library: a first edition of "The Book of Browning" by Pauline, Poole's "Purcell" and a volume of George Byron's poems published in 1821.

After hearing the case Magistrate Barlow held the prisoner in \$500 bail for examination to-morrow.

Mr. Bjerregaard is very much pleased with the successful outcome of his scheme for catching the thief, and handed Inspector McClusky admitted that but for the sketch the superintendent would have been hunting for months.

GUARD KILLED ON "L" IN QUEER WAY

Men Passing Under the Structure Saw Blood Dropping and That Led to Finding of the Body.

Daniel McMahon, of No. 597 East One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street, and William H. Rose, of No. 166 East Ninety-third street, were crossing Third avenue at One Hundred and Sixty-ninth street at 1 o'clock this afternoon, when they saw blood dropping into a pool on the pavement from the "L" station above.

Looking up they saw the body of a man lying on the south-bound track. They and Officer Albert went up to the station and out under the track, where they found the body of a man, No. 2,79, in full uniform. The body had been severed from the head and crushed. One arm lay across the third rail, and the other was by the electric current.

In the dead man's pocket was papers which showed that he was John Fadden, about forty-five years old.

It is believed that the man was not a student of the home by the electric current, and how Fadden was killed is unknown.

SKETCH OF LEON GOMBERG THAT LED TO HIS ARREST.



WOMAN WAS NOT HIS WIFE, HE SAID

Arrested for Abandonment, Fitch Declared in Court He Never Had Seen Complainant Before in His Life.

"He's my husband. He married me two years ago in Jersey City. He abandoned me. Punish him, Judge," said Mrs. Rosie Emmerston, of No. 236 East Thirtieth street, to-day in Yorkville Court.

"I never saw the woman before," said the man, who gave his name as Garrett Fitch and insisted that he lived in One Hundred and Fourteenth street with his wife, whom he married six years ago.

"Oh, how can you say such a thing?" Mrs. Rosie continued. "You know I saw you two months ago acting the part of a conductor on a street car. I would have caught you then only I didn't have a warrant. Oh, how can you tell such a story?"

Mr. Fitch nudged in his chair and looked like saying unpermissible things and Magistrate Ommen smiled at the ludicrousness of the situation.

"I don't know the woman from Eve," said the man.

"Ask him, Judge, if he hasn't a tooth out on the right side of his head," pleaded the woman.

"Sally," go to a tooth out of both sides," added Mr. Fitch. And he showed the Magistrate that he knew what he was talking about. "I don't know the woman from Eve," said the man. "I know. He's married to me. He deserted me. Now I want him put in court for and got out a warrant. Punish him, Mr. Judge, please."

Magistrate Ommen sent up to Mr. Fitch's home for the woman he said was his wife. There lay the solution.

"Oh, I don't care what you do," rattled the woman. "I know the man who married me. Isn't the tooth on the right side of his head gone?"

"Then court adjourned."

CANDY COUNTER GOODS—FRUIT AND NUT BUTTERED WAFERS, MOLASSES CREAM, etc. SPECIAL FOR FRIDAY. SPECIAL FOR SATURDAY.

Wines and Liquors ACTUALLY SACRIFICED Besides selling goods below cost we give \$1.00 extra in Green, Blue or Red Trading Stamps or Theatre Ticket Stamps with every purchase over 50c. and SOUVENIRS so expensive that no other house ever attempted to give anything like them FREE OF CHARGE.

Rex Wine and Liquor Stores Co., 2156 THIRD AVENUE, Telephone 1985-Harlem. Est. 117th and 118th Streets. Harlem's Largest, Best and Cheapest Family Wine & Liquor Store.

It's Easy to quit COFFEE when well-made POSTUM is served. Note the change in health.