

BOY SHOT DEAD

Thirteen-Year-Old John Darling Killed While at Halloween Pranks Play by H. M. Wilcox, Secretary of Aeolian Company.

WILCOX, IN PRISON, SAYS HE FIRED TO SCARE BOYS.

He is Greatly Grieved Over Tragedy, Which He Insists Was Due to Accident—Victim's Father on Way to Africa

The little village of Westfield, N. J., which is inhabited almost entirely by well-to-do business men of this city, is plunged in grief to-day as the result of the Halloween tragedy of last night which resulted in the death of thirteen-year-old John Darling.

The boy was killed by a bullet from a pistol in the hands of H. M. Wilcox, Secretary of the Aeolian Company, of this city, but it was clearly a case of accident, although at the time of the shooting Mr. Wilcox had been exasperated to a point where he had lost his temper by the pranks of the lead boy and a score or more of his companions.

Firing at the ground to frighten the boys away, Mr. Wilcox sent his bullet into the brain of the Darling boy, who was hiding behind a clump of bushes on the lawn.

Mr. Wilcox has been a prisoner since the shooting, although no one believes for a moment that he meant to hurt the boy when he fired in his direction. He is a completely broken man.

Story Told by Mr. Wilcox. In the station-house at Westfield Mr. Wilcox gave the following statement to an Evening World reporter to-day:

"It was a deplorable accident and no one can feel the regret that I do. A great many lies have already been told about it, one being that I was behind a tree hiding when I fired the shot, and that I aimed at the boy. It is not so. I was on my veranda, and when I fired at the clump of bushes I did it because I thought it was the safest place to fire, my idea being to frighten the lads. I did not know he was behind it. As soon as I found I had hit the boy I did all in my power to aid him. I called Dr. R. I. Sinclair in and I hurriedly notified his mother. My grief is more than I can express. I am simply beside myself with sorrow."

Carroll Godding, a schoolmate of the dead boy and one of the party of merry-makers, tells a story which conflicts somewhat with that told by Mr. Wilcox. In the presence of Principal J. J. Seditz, of the Westfield High School, Godding said to-day:

"We did fool around the house, but we did not do the things we are charged with doing. There was Jack Darling, myself and my sister Harriet, by Sinclair, Eliza Phillips, Edith Larowe and Dudley Green. A half hour before the shooting we had been at the house, because they were having a party there and we had been invited. We wanted to see who was there, but we were driven away, and went to some other house to see the fun."

"When we returned we ring the bell several times and knocked on the window, but we didn't ring up any tink-tacks, and we didn't throw any water on the girls. Finally the girls asked Jack and me to go up and peek in and see who was at the party. We started toward the house, but didn't get far when Mr. Wilcox jumped up from behind some bushes, where he had been hiding. He fired a shot which struck me, and then as I ran I heard a shot and heard Jack scream. Mr. Wilcox was hiding on the lawn, for I saw him come out from behind the bushes myself."

Sympathy for Wilcox. The sympathy of the people of the village in Wilcox for Wilcox, although every one is sorry for the death of the dead boy, no one believes for a moment that he deliberately fired at the fleeing boys. He was in the act of protesting to his brother, James M. Brown, a banker here, who was standing in front of the house, for whom Mr. Wilcox had just returned, when he fired the shot.

Pranks of Boys Kill Little Girl. Little Clara Hardick, six years old, was shot dead at her home, No. 170 Stuyvesant avenue, Brooklyn, as a result of Halloween pranks played by the boys of the neighborhood. The girl was killed by a Gates avenue trolley car as she was on her way home with a bag of apples and her little friends were in the "bob" for a bob.

Pranks of Boys Kill Little Girl. The motorman had no time to stop, the car bounded up and the little girl fell under it, being rolled over and over in front of the wheels.

With One A Shot in One Day. The little village of Westfield, N. J., which is inhabited almost entirely by well-to-do business men of this city, is plunged in grief to-day as the result of the Halloween tragedy of last night which resulted in the death of thirteen-year-old John Darling.

JOHN DARLING, WHO WAS SHOT DEAD WHILE PLAYING HALLOWE'EN PRANKS AND HOUSE WHERE KILLED:



ENGLISH FLEET AWAITS RUSSIANS

(Continued from First Page.)

diffusion of British public and official opinion and with a full knowledge of the situation it would create.

RUSSIAN MOVE WAS NOT EXPECTED. Many believe that the move is the result of a hitch in the negotiations, but the only hitch that there could have been up to date is the failure of the Russians to inform England what officers she has detached from the Baltic fleet as proof of her willingness to hold the proper persons responsible for the North Sea outrage.

There can be no doubt that the movement of the fleet was unexpected. Only yesterday it was announced that the Russians would remain at Vigo at least eight days longer, and that such officers as might be needed as witnesses in the inquiry would be detached. It is possible that the Russians simply mean to go to Tangier in order to keep the fleet together, but what mystifies everybody is that they should have done this without a word of warning to England.

One thing seems certain—the Russians may proceed to Tangier without interruption, but they will never be allowed at this stage of the negotiations to pass Gibraltar and enter the Mediterranean. Any attempt on their part to do this now would surely, it is believed, precipitate a sea action, and the Russians would also have the shore batteries at Gibraltar to cope with.

The latest despatches from Gibraltar are that the quick-firing batteries have been manned and that the forces at the searchlight stations have been increased.

CZAR'S ENVOY HAS AUDIENCE WITH KING. Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, was received in audience by King Edward at Buckingham Palace this afternoon. It is assumed he was the bearer of a message from Emperor Nicholas.

Up to the time he saw the King Count Benckendorff had received no notification that a detachment of officers from the Russian squadron at Vigo would attend the sessions of the International Commission, nor had he heard of the sailing of the squadron from Vigo.

The Ambassador informed the Associated Press that the departure of the squadron would naturally follow the detachment of these officers in accordance with the understanding reached between himself and Foreign Secretary Lansdowne last week.

Nothing definite has yet been decided regarding the details of the International Commission. Another Cabinet meeting has been summoned for Wednesday to consider the matter.

A statement issued by the Press Association late to-day expresses the belief that the action of the Russian Admiral has again brought the Anglo-Russian crisis dangerously close to an acute stage.

Count Benckendorff went to the Foreign Office late this afternoon to see Lord Lansdowne, who had already seen Premier Balfour, Lord Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Admiral Sir John Fisher.

A despatch to a news agency from Aldershot Camp says orders have been issued for strong drafts of all branches of the Royal Engineers to be in readiness to leave for Gibraltar at short notice.

The departure of a company of the Royal Garrison Artillery, which had been ordered to start for Sierra Leone Nov. 9, has been countermanded, according to a despatch from Gibraltar to-night.

The Foreign Office late to-night answered the alarmist rumors by issuing the following: "Before the Russian fleet left Vigo instructions were given to the Russian Admiral with the view of preventing injury or inconvenience to neutral shipping during the passage of the Russian fleet to the Far East."

"In compliance with Russia's engagement four Russian officers have been left behind at Vigo. "The two governments are now discussing terms with reference to the International Commission which will be entrusted with the proposed inquiry."

Azide from this all departments decline to give out anything bearing on the situation.

FATHER IS DYING, GEORGE. WOUNDED BY ODD ACCIDENT. Aged Mr. David Long to See His Missing Son. If George Daviero, a farmer, of Geneva, N. J., who disappeared mysteriously from his home almost a year ago, communicates with his wife he will be just in time to send a last word to his dying father in Trevelin, in Northern Italy.

DAVIDERIO AND HIS WIFE LEFT Italy several years ago and by theft amassed a snug little fortune out of their truck farm. They kept in communication with the old home and soon were able to send for some of their relatives. One of them, Mrs. Louisa Lagermann, of No. 60 West Twenty-fifth street, visited The Evening World to-day and told of the pitiful plight of Daviero's father. The old man is more than eighty and near death. The one wish of his heart is to see his son, whose strange disappearance has broken him after down completely.

Since bidding his wife good-by and starting for market, a year ago, Daviero has dropped no sign of his whereabouts. "He has dropped out of sight," said Mrs. Lagermann, "and the money he and his wife had saved is all spent in a fruitless search for him. If only he will communicate with us it will ease his father's last hours."

M'ADOO HAS BAD COLD. Police Commissioner Is Confined to His Home. Commissioner McAdoo is confined at his home suffering from a cold. He escorted Judge Parker at Madison Square Garden last night.

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