

CIGARETTE SPARK BLOWS UP OIL TANK; 2 KILLED, 1 HURT

Twenty Thousand Gallons Burned and Lid of Holder, Weighing Two Tons, Hurlled Into Yard of Catholic Protectory.

THE DEAD. COOPER, JAMES, twenty-six years old, of Middletown road, Unionport. SMITH, RICHARD, thirty, of Van Nest, whose father is Policeman Smith, of the Bronx Bureau.

A spark from a cigarette exploded 20,000 gallons of oil in a tank in the plant of the Bronx Gas and Electric Light Company, Bronx, early to-day, causing the death of James Cooper, of Unionport, and Richard Smith, of Van Nest, the son of Policeman Smith, of the Bronx Park Station.

The gas plant in which the explosion occurred is in Protectory avenue, near Westchester road. The great buildings of the Roman Catholic Protectory, sheltering nearly 3,000 boys and girls, are two blocks away to the west.

There was a lively panic among the children, but the perfect discipline of the institution smothered it. Many of the quick-witted urchins tried to escape, but were met by guards and Christian Brothers and sent back to bed.

Cooper, who was twenty-six years old, and Smith, who was thirty, were employed to sprinckle the Morris Park road, where automobile races are to be held to-night and to-morrow. They used a hose and a pump. They used a hose and a pump. They used a hose and a pump.

One Smoking a Cigarette. Driving into the yard shortly after midnight, Cooper and Smith ranged their hose and went to work at the pump. One of them, the police reports say, was smoking a cigarette.

They had the tank about half full when a cigarette spark blew into the oil and set it off. Cooper was blown seventy-five feet to the north. Smith was blown straight up in the air and dropped down into the blazing oil where his flesh was burned from his bones.

Policeman Arthur Jordan, on his way home to Westchester in an automobile, was passing the gas plant when the explosion occurred. He saw the bodies of Cooper and Smith flying through the air. Noting where Cooper landed, he hurried to him and found him breathing.

Within a minute Jordan had turned in a fire alarm and an ambulance call to Fordham Hospital. When he got back to the gas plant, the employees of the gas plant and persons from the neighborhood were talking steps to fight the flames.

Although Jordan and others searched industriously all around the tank they could find no trace of Smith. The first stream to reach the scene turned in a second alarm, fearing that the gas tanks adjacent to the blazing oil tank would explode. This alarm brought engines from a distance of five miles and also the volunteer department from Van Nest.

Allen Johnson, a volunteer fireman, and a friend of Smith and Cooper, was badly blistered about the hands and arms in putting away the wreckage around the oil tank. Several other men sustained slight injuries. Despite the danger from another explosion, a great crowd assembled as close to the gas plant as the police permitted to allow work at it.

When the explosion occurred its force was upward and northward, away from the sprinkling cart, which took the terrified horses, dragging the blazing cart after them, ran all the way into Westchester Village, where they were stopped on Main street by firemen bound for the blaze.

Died Despite "Charm." Three hours after the explosion Lieut. Woods, of Engine Company No. 64, got to the top of the tank. In the bottom he found the body of a man, so badly burned that recognition was impossible. The body was drawn forth and carried to the roadway, where an aged woman, wringing her hands and weeping, awaited.

"I am Dick Smith's mother," she said, "and if that is my son you will find a coin on him. Fire may kill my son, but it will never injure that coin he carries."

There was not a stitch of clothing on the body, except a part of the trousers about the waist. In the pocket of the trousers a silver coin was found. "Look in that," cried the mother, "and you will find the coin."

"Sure enough, it's the back of the watch was the coin," Dick Smith got it. The mother did not explain. She took it and disappeared home, weeping for her dead son, but comforted in the knowledge that the coin was safe.

COMMANDER BARED OUT. WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Another turn in the affairs of the Army and Navy since in this city occurred last night, when the commandant of the United States Marine Corps, General Wood, was bared out of his uniform by a fire in his quarters.

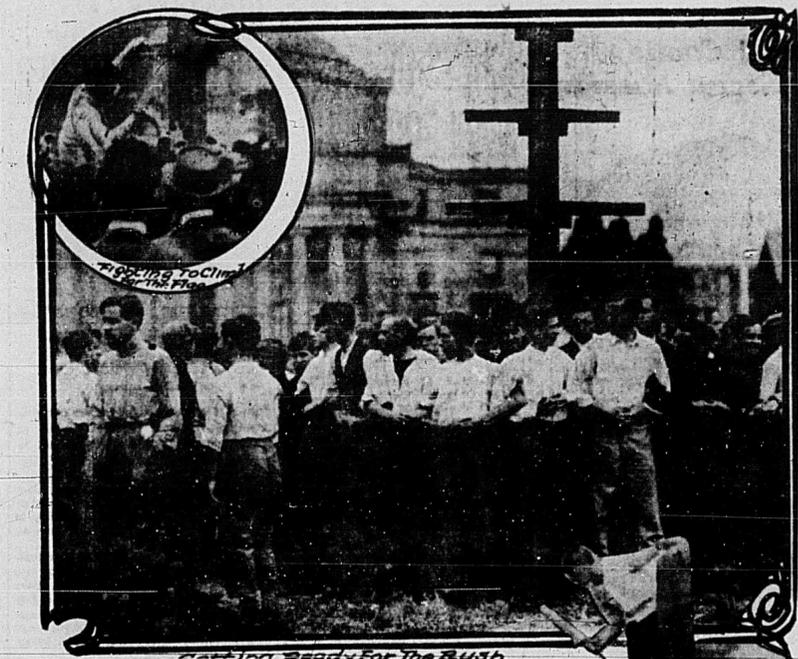
General Wood, who is an ironworker, thirty-three years of age, came here from his home in New York City, where he has been working several days and engaged board with Mrs. Kiser. Last night he broke into her room and stole a kiss, she says, and she shot him.

"I don't mind being shot through the head for a kiss from those pretty cherry lips," he said, according to the report. "I believe I'd take a chance of being shot through the other cheek if I could get another kiss."

Besides being shot, McDonald was arrested and spent the night in a cell.

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Before Columbia's Flag Rush; Sophomores Grouped for Defense



FRESHMEN TAKE COLUMBIA'S FLAG FROM "SOPHS"

George Paulson Hero of Victorious Assault, First Successful One Since 1900.

Either the freshmen at Columbia this year are extremely husky boys, or the sophomores have become mollified by city life, for the freshmen won the annual flag rush on the athletic field of the University to-day.

The college colors were attached to a pole about eight feet high in the middle of the field. Grouped around the pole were a couple of hundred determined sophomores. About 200 feet away some 300 freshmen gathered. The game was for the freshmen to charge the pole, and by the exercise of any form of persuasion, from assault and battery to mayhem, capture the colors.

When the signal was given the freshmen made their rush. The sophos met them with the college yell and a mixed assortment of feet and fists. For ten minutes it was all a blur around the pole. Now and then a boy dropped out, holding his face with both hands as though he feared he would lose it.

Time after time a freshman was thrown by the college boys. Time after time they tried to use the sopho heads as a battering ram, but they were dragged down. Finally George Paulson, of the freshman team, stepped out as a human missile.

A strong hand landed him on top of the struggling mass of sophos. He got it and eventually was chased off the field. Not since 1900 have the freshmen been victorious in the flag rush until to-day.

GARDENER PLANTS HIMSELF AMONG MILLIONAIRES. Hunnick, Whom F. W. Vanderbilt Employed, Buys Land From Pinard at Newport.

NEWPORT, Sept. 27.—Robert Hunnick, who was head gardener on Frederick W. Vanderbilt's place, Rough Point, here, will be a close neighbor of H. A. C. Taylor, Frederick Sheldon, Daniel Fearing, Richard T. Wilson and James Stillman.

Michael Jackson, thirty-eight years old, of Portchester, to-day attempted to dodge a northbound car while crossing Second avenue at Thirty-third street. He stumbled in front of southbound car No. 1381, in charge of Motorman Armstrong. Jackson's head was battered against the dashboard of this car, while one of his heels was sliced by a wheel of the northbound car.

JEROME IN COURT DENIES A DEAL WITH MORGAN

District Attorney a Witness Against Editor Charged with Libel.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Sept. 27.—The case of the people against Frank E. Xavier, editor and proprietor of the Yonkers Herald, who was indicted for alleged libel on Oct. 6, 1906, came on to-day in the county court here.

The alleged libel was contained in an article printed in the Yonkers Herald in which District Attorney Jerome of New York County, was accused of having made a deal with representatives of J. Pierpont Morgan and George D. Perkins, not to prosecute certain insurance officers in return for support of his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Governor.

Mr. Jerome testified that the article was wholly false, and that there was no foundation for the statements made in it. He was asked by Lawyer John H. Brennan, for the accused, whether he had written him a letter saying that the only way to indict was to indict, and he said that he did receive such a letter from the Judge at the time of the insurance troubles.

Mr. Brennan asked the witness whether there had not been ten or twelve charges made against Mr. Perkins for alleged forgery and larceny, and the District Attorney replied that he would like counsel to be more specific.

"Well," said Mr. Brennan, "I will take the case of that check for \$18,000 which was given to the New York Life Insurance Company by a campaign contribution. What record of that payment was made in the company's books?"

"Mr. Brennan," said the witness, "all corporations do not always specify in their books for what their money is used."

"Well," retorted Mr. Brennan, "we are up in the country here and our corporations don't have much money. This is a record of a single check from the District Attorney and caused a general laugh in the court-room."

It was here sought to introduce a press clipping of certain data and documentary evidence secured by agents of the Attorney-General at a recent investigation into the business of the American Ice Company. However, the District Attorney says that some of the papers seem to be missing.

JEROME ACCEPTS JACKSON'S AID IN ICE TRUST FIGHT

Glad to Get It, He Says, as His Office Is Choked with Business.

ALBANY, Sept. 27.—Attorney-General Jackson to-day received a letter from District Attorney Jerome accepting his offer of assistance in any criminal proceedings the District Attorney may bring against the American Ice Company. The District Attorney acknowledges receipt of certain data and documentary evidence secured by agents of the Attorney-General at a recent investigation into the business of the American Ice Company. However, the District Attorney says that some of the papers seem to be missing.

"You very kindly say 'Any assistance in my power will be gladly furnished,'" says Mr. Jerome in his letter. "I shall be very glad to avail myself of this offer as at the present time the volume of business in this office is very great."

"The matter is one of so large importance that I feel that I should like to give considerable personal attention to it, as you know the papers transmitted to me are extremely voluminous, and will require careful study and examination. The very gathering of such a mass of data shows that some one in your office has worked very diligently on the subject, I presume one of your assistants."

"I trust it would not be asking too much to request that you instruct whichever of your assistants has had charge of this matter to come and see me and confer with me in regard to the facts and the view of the law taken by your office."

"Assuring you that at all times I shall be glad to co-operate most heartily with you, I shall await your decision as to assisting me in this matter before proceeding any further."

FATAL HURRICANE ON MEXICAN COAST Several Towns Are Destroyed and Shipping Suffers Great Damage.

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 27.—The Pacific coast from Atlanta to Mazatlan, has been devastated by a hurricane, according to private despatches received here.

In addition to great damage done to shipping, several small towns were destroyed. In one of these towns named Vastitos, three persons were killed by falling walls.

VICE CRUSADERS ARE ACCUSED OF MAKING THREAT

District-Attorney Clarke, of Kings County, Takes Two to Court.

ONE IS J. DE Q. TULLY. Rev. Taylor Tries to Tell Why Affidavits Were Not Forthcoming.

District-Attorney John D. Clarke, of Kings County, to-day called two officers of the Brooklyn Law Enforcement League to account for what he calls threats against him. They are the Rev. Charles Taylor, president, and J. De Q. Tully, secretary and only salaried officer. Rev. Taylor and Mr. Tully jumped into the spot-light Tuesday, when they attacked the Police Department at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen. For some time a vigorous correspondence has been going on between these officers and Mr. Clarke.

The prosecutor says that, after sending him demands to take action in cases, the two league officers sent him a letter in which occurred the significant paragraph: "Unless there is something effective and definite done the attention of the Governor will be called to the case."

Mr. Clarke construed this as a threat and to-day haled the two reformers before Magistrate Tighe in John De Harold N. Finley and one John Finegan, concerning a number of alleged excise violations. No address accompanied them. I wrote to Mr. Tully, asking for the affidavits and for Finley and Finegan to call. I was told I might find Finley at the Federation Church Society rooms. I forwarded subpoenas, asking that they be served. I wrote to Mr. Tully, saying the people wanted something done at once. He held the affidavits.

"I wrote to the Rev. Charles Morse of the Church Federation, asking him to get the original affidavits. Letters passed, but no affidavits came to me. Then came this threat and I decided to explode it. I brought these gentlemen here to explain in just what they wanted."

After putting Mr. Taylor on the stand Mr. Clarke asked why the affidavits were not sent to the District Attorney's office.

"I learned that they would be turned over to the Parkhurst Society," said the Rev. Taylor. "We didn't want another society to get hold of the work we started."

The proceedings were then adjourned to allow Mr. Tully to prepare his case. Mr. Tully is quite well known to Brooklyn officials. He was in charge of the frequent inquests. Ten years ago his society gained quite a reputation for spotting disorderly houses. A list of alleged disorderly houses was sent to the police, who investigated. One of the addresses was the Brooklyn Post-Office. Tully is the same man who made charges against First Deputy Police Commissioner O'Keefe, on which he failed to get Gen. Bingham to bring his aide to trial.

MONEY TO FIGHT GAS TRUST ALL GONE. ALBANY, Sept. 27.—The \$47,834 which the last Legislature appropriated for assistance to the Attorney-General's department in fighting the Gas Trust in the eighty-cent gas case before the Circuit Court of the Southern District was all gone. The remainder went for other legal work and for stenographers' service.

TRIED TO SHOOT HIMSELF BEFORE CROWD IN SALOON. John Hesse, of No. 330 River street, Hoboken, was to-day held by Recorder

HEARST LEAGUE MEETS TO FORM NATIONAL PARTY

Delegates Representing Twenty-three States Hold a Convention at Carnegie Hall.

CHEER THEIR LEADER. New Organization Hopes to Dictate to the Next National Democratic Convention.

Delegates from twenty-three States registered at the Independence League headquarters in the Gilsey House to-day. They are in New York to confer over the proposition to make the Independence League a national political party and to attend the New York State Convention of the Independence League, which will nominate two candidates for the Court of Appeals, at Carnegie Hall to-morrow night.

The conference to determine whether or not the various State organizations of the Independence League shall be merged into a national body to take part in next year's Presidential campaign was called at Carnegie Hall this afternoon. The sentiment among the visiting delegates appeared to be in favor of forming a national organization.

Want to Influence Party. Mr. Hearst has declared that he will never again be a candidate for any office. His followers are of the opinion that the Independence League, by becoming national in scope this early in the political game, will be able to dictate to the next National Democratic convention. Mr. Hearst is out of the question of candidacy, the visiting politicians are of the opinion that it would be the part of wisdom to try to influence the Democratic party rather than run an independent Presidential ticket.

There are about 300 delegates present from outside States and New York State outside of Greater New York. Twice as many Independent Leaguers from this city will take part in the deliberations. Mr. Hearst appeared at the Gilsey House shortly before noon and was enthusiastically greeted.

Leaguers Who Are Here. The most prominent Independent Leaguers from the country in general in attendance at the meeting are: J. G. Tracy, of Chicago; J. J. Dewey, of San Francisco; James Hourigan, of St. Paul; Charles G. Kiser, of Norfolk, Va.; L. R. Vil, of Parkersburg, W. Va.; Robert Payne, of Hartford, Conn.; J. Buchanan, of New York; N. J. Charles S. Hampton, of Detroit; Reuben Hobbs Lyons, of Albany, N. Y.; Cornelius L. Hayes, of Utica, and George H. Sears, of Syracuse.

There are also delegates from Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Dakota, Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, Maryland and Mississippi.

To-morrow night's convention to nominate candidates for the Court of Appeals bench promises to develop some lively balloting. There are any number of candidates for the honor. Among them are Clarence J. Shearn, of this city; W. H. Cuddeback, former Corporation Counsel of New York; Henry A. Powell, of Kings, and Reuben Lyons of Steuben.

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Stanton on a charge of carrying concealed weapons. He went into a River street saloon last night and started the patrons of the place by drawing a revolver. He had the muzzle of the gun at his head and was about to shoot when several men seized and disarmed him. When Hesse was taken before the Recorder he said he was out of work.

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Sir Thomas Lipton's Challenge

for America's Cup was carefully worded, so as not to apply to boats of certain size and class. Can it be he has heard about and fears some of the "fast ones" that are always advertised as "sacrifice" prices at this season of the year through the Sunday World's "Yachts, Vessels, &c." columns?

LOOK SUNDAY AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF. No Extra Charge for It. Advertisement for The World may be had at any American District Messenger Office in the city until 9 P. M.

Great Clothing Sale Special for 2 Days Friday and Saturday Men's Suits, Overcoats, Cravenettes, Prince Alberts, Full Dress and Tuxedo Suits. \$15.00 Men's Suits—Black Thibet, Scotch Tweed; Venetian lined. This \$5.98. \$20.00 Men's Suits—Wool Worsted; latest models 1907; black, brown, plaid, fancy stripe up-to-date Fall clothing; hand tailored; silk Venetian lined. This sale. \$10.00. \$25.00 and \$30.00 Men's Suits—Imported Vicuna, French Worsted; the latest novelties of high grade tailoring; browns, plaids and stripes; green tints; also Black Unfinished Worsted; all silk and satin lined. This sale, \$12.50 and \$15.00. \$45.00 Men's Fall Overcoats—Form fitting, gray stripe, Venetian lined. This \$7.50. \$20.00 Men's Fall and Winter Overcoats—gray, tan and black Vicuna; satin lined; also Winter Black Kersey; Melton and Irish Frieze; silk Venetian lined. This \$10.00. \$15.00 and \$20.00 English Cravenette Coats. \$7.50 and \$10. \$35.00 Prince Albert Full Dress and Tuxedo Suits, silk lined. \$15 and \$20. And We Guarantee You a Perfect Fit. The Harris Store 235 Broadway, Opposite Post Office. OPEN SATURDAY EVENING UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK.