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YOUNG BENWELL'S MURDER.

NO ONE DOUBTS THAT BIRCHELL LURED HIM TO HIS DEATH.

Evidence that Birchell Took a Train After the Murder Near the Scene of the Bloody Deed—Mrs. Birchell Still in Custody—A Talk with her Father in London—The Inquest on Benwell's Body to Begin To-day.

NIAGARA FALLS, March 6.—The little court room of Chief Magistrate Hell in Clifton, across the Niagara River, was crowded with people this afternoon at the third session of the examination of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Birchell, charged with the murder of F. C. Benwell at Princeton on Feb. 17. Mrs. Birchell, it will be remembered, is not really charged with murdering Benwell, but with being an accessory before the fact to Benwell's taking off. The general details of the charge against Mr. and Mrs. Birchell have already been printed in THE SUN. Birchell induced F. C. Benwell and Douglas Pelley, young Englishmen, to come to Ontario and take a hand in the management and ownership of a large stock farm which Birchell said he owned there. The stock farm was, of course, imaginary. Birchell, who was a resident of London, found Pelley and Benwell by means of advertisements in the newspapers. On arriving in this country from England, in the middle of February, Birchell and his party at once went to Buffalo. Then Birchell and Benwell went on ahead to the "stock farm" to prepare things for the coming of Mrs. Birchell and Pelley. Birchell came back and said that Benwell was disgusted with the farm and had gone on further west.

A few days later Pelley saw in a newspaper the account of the finding of a body of a man near Princeton, Ont., who had evidently been murdered. Near the body was found a cigar case with Benwell's full name on it. Pelley insisted that Birchell go and see if the body was Benwell's. Birchell very reluctantly identified the body as that of the murdered man. Birchell was arrested and the keys to Benwell's trunks were found in his possession.

The evidence against Birchell is very strong and wholly circumstantial. It has been proved that Birchell's story about his property here, by means of which he induced the young Englishmen to come here, was absolutely untrue; that his statements and conduct since coming to this country with Benwell and Pelley have been one unbroken series of lies and deceptions, and that his almost every statement since his arrest has been a lie.

At the examination to-day George Hay, a brakeman on the Grand Trunk Railroad, testified that on Feb. 17, the day the murder was committed and on the morning of which Birchell and Benwell left Buffalo for the stock farm, the prisoner got on his (Hay's) train a little after 6 o'clock in the evening at Eastwood. Eastwood is a station six miles west of where Benwell's body was found, and Hay's train was coming East when Birchell boarded it. The train arrived at Niagara Falls at 7:10 P. M., and Birchell arrived in Buffalo at 8:30 o'clock that same evening. Hay was positive that Birchell boarded his train at the place named. Birchell had on a peculiar hat of astrakhan fur. Magistrate Hill compelled him to put this hat on in court, and when this was done Hay exclaimed confidently that Birchell was the man who boarded the train.

Pelley, the other dupe of Birchell, and who has luckily escaped with his life, identified the hat which was placed on Birchell as the one which Birchell habitually wore. Brakeman Hay said that when Birchell got on his train his boots were covered with mud, as though he had tramped a long distance. Birchell had on a kind of striped coat and no overcoat at the time. Birchell has asserted all along that it would be utterly impossible for him to leave Buffalo on Feb. 17, when he did go to Princeton, and murder Benwell and get back to Buffalo at the time he did. It is a matter of fact that he would have plenty of time, and Hay's evidence proves that he was coming back from Princeton at the most suspicious of times in the most suspicious manner possible.

The examination of Hay was a very brief one and was conducted for the Government by Chief Detective Murray of the Province of Ontario, and for the defence by Barrister T. C. Helmuth of Hamilton. Birchell sat all the while within a few feet of the witness and looked at him smilingly. Birchell still tries to appear jaunty, but he is unshaven and haggard and his fine clothes are getting soiled. He was removed from court and Mrs. Birchell was brought in.

She wore the same black and red dress and dark sacque that she has worn every day of the examination proceedings. Though the room was very warm, Mrs. Burchall did not remove her heavy fur tippet from her neck. She took her seat with eyes cast down, and with a rather flushed, sad face. She had evidently been crying, but was quite self-possessed. The sympathies of the crowd of rough men in the court room were evidently all with her. Magistrate Hill said to Mrs. Birchell that he had had her brought into court for the purpose of telling her that she was remanded to jail pending the further examination of herself and husband, which was set down for next Wednesday. Mrs. Birchell meekly bowed assent, and her lawyer, Mr. Helmuth, made a vigorous protest. He declared what is of course a fact, and which Magistrate Hill himself admitted, that there was not a particle of evidence connecting Mrs. Birchell with the murder. If, under all the circumstances, however, the magistrate thought it best to hold Mrs. Birchell, it was no more than fair that she be admitted to reasonable bail. There were plenty of people in Clifton who would go bail for Mrs. Birchell.

Magistrate Hill said that he did not understand that he could legally take bail, and Mr. Helmuth, in a legal argument of some length, held the contrary. Mr. Hill finally admitted that Mr. Helmuth was right. "But," said the magistrate, "I consider that I have absolutely no discretion in the matter, because I have here a telegram from the Attorney-General directing me to remand Mrs. Birchell without bail."

"What has that got to do with it?" shouted Mr. Helmuth. "Has the Attorney-General a right to dictate to a magistrate?" Would the magistrate lock up in jail any person accused of crime merely because the Attorney-General says so? Is this British justice and fair play?"

The crowd in the court room yelled and stamped applause at this till the room shook, but the magistrate would not relent. However, he did consent to put off the signing of Mrs. Birchell's commitment until to-morrow, to give Mr. Helmuth time to go to Toronto and appeal from the Attorney-General personally not to lock Mr. Birchell up when there was no necessity for it. Mr. Helmutd departed on that errand after the examination, and Mrs. Birchell remains, therefore, at Baldwin's boarding house here in custody of an officer. Birchell was taken back to the county jail at Welland. Chief Detective Murray says that the Clifton jail is not safe enough.

Nobody here has any more doubt that Birchell is guilty of Benwell's murder, but with the evidence so far obtained against him it is difficult to see how a conviction could be obtained. The evidence amounts to strong suspicions that are incompatible with any theory save that of Birchell's guilt. But the actual connection of Birchell with the murder is yet to be proved.

It is said that the Government can prove that Birchell and Benwell were together on the Grand Trunk Railroad on the day of the murder going toward Princeton, but this is what Birchell himself admits.

There is no evidence against Mrs. Birchell at all, and the fact that after the discovery that her husband was probably implicated in the murder she told falsehoods about his actions and tried to deceive others concerning him cannot count against her, according to English law.

The decisions of the English Judges on this point go so far as to hold that a woman should very rarely be convicted as accessory before the fact to a murder committed by her husband, and should almost never be convicted as accessory after the fact. The theory of the law is that it is a legal duty of a wife to render her husband comfort, consolation, and support at all times.

TORONTO, March 6.—Any links missing in the chain of evidence necessary to convict Birchell will possibly be furnished at the inquest on Benwell's body to-morrow at Woodstock. There is in Eastwood a Miss Smith, who knew Birchell as Somerset, by which name he went in Woodstock. Pelly, in his evidence at the examination of Birchell, said the prisoner left him and Mrs. Birchell at Buffalo all one day on Feb. 17, the same day Miss Smith saw Somerset or Birchell at the station at Eastwood, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. His trousers were rolled up and his clothes were dirty, as if he had walked a long distance. Birchell, it is pointed out, had time between the hour he left his wife and Pelly at Buffalo, and the time he rejoined them to go to Princeton by way of Eastwood and back to Buffalo. The road near the swamp where Benwell's body was found was little travelled, and everything was favorable for a daylight murder there. A Government detective working on the case thinks the intention of the murderer was to drag the body through the bush to the lake near by and conceal it in the water, but that the nature of the bush made this impossible. If the murderer had been successful in this, and the body had been concealed, Pelly would probably have found his death in the Niagara whirlpool, and the plot of luring Englishmen to Canada and murdering them for their money would have gone on.

By Dunlap's Cable News Company.

LONDON, March 6.—David Stevenson, father-in-law of the suspected murderer, Burchell, was seen again to-day in reference to the stories that his daughter was not married to Burchell, and also that there was an organized gang in London to lure young Englishmen to this country and murder them. He said:

"It is false that my daughter is not married to Burchell. Some time before their marriage I objected to the courtship, principally because Burchell lost his position, and was unable to show any suitable financial resources. When I decisively refused consent they eloped, and were married by the registrar at Croydon Hall in 1888. My other daughters witnessed the ceremony, and I have the certificate.

"After marrying, Burchell and his wife left immediately for Canada, from whence they returned about a year ago. For several months they were guests at my house. Burchell, as before, professed to have plenty of money and seldom solicited aid from me. He owes me in all considerably inside of £100. During the time he was with me I studied his character and made inquiries about him from responsible persons.

"I found he bore an excellent reputation for morality, was the son of a deceased clergyman, and has two brothers who are church dignitaries in Gloucester and Lancashire. Burchell at that time appeared to be about 25 years of age. He was affectionate, polite, and made a tender husband. I became convinced the marriage was one of love. My daughter received Pelloway and Burchell asked for mine. If he is a murderer we are all terribly deceived."

The reporter asked Mr. Stevenson whether he believed the story that Burchell expected to make money by luring young Englishmen to Canada and then killing them, and whether he thought there was an organized gang to do this.

"I do not care to prejudice Burchell's case, and therefore I must decline to answer this in detail. If he is a murderer let him be punished as he deserves, but don't ask me to help in his conviction. He told me he owned large tracts of land in Canada, and had invited several young Englishmen to visit him there and study farming and invest in the enterprise. I have now very good reason to doubt his claim to any property in Canada.

"It is infamous to connect my daughter with the crimes. She is sweet, tender, and lovable. This will kill her. Yes, I knew Pelley. He visited Burchell while he was at my house. I received a cable from Pelley this morning saying that he is all right."

TESSIE COVERT DEAD.

Said to Have Refused to See Her Mother—Bassett Hears the News in Jail.

Miss Tessie Covert, daughter of Village Trustee Jerome C. Covert of Jamaica, L. I., died at her father's house in Douglass street at 4 o'clock yesterday morning from the effects of a criminal operation, said to have been performed by John Melville Bassett, her alleged betrayer, about two weeks ago. Soon after Miss Covert's condition became serious Coroner Everett took her ante-mortem statement. In it she declared that the operation was performed in the parlor of her home, and it is said that she made charges against her mother quite as serious as those against Bassett. It is also said that she refused to see her mother before she died.

Coroner Everett and a jury viewed the body, and the inquest was set down for next Monday night. An autopsy was made last night, but the result was not announced.

Bassett was arrested in this city, and is now in the Queens county jail. When informed of Miss Covert's death yesterday he clasped his hands together and said in a dejected tone: "I am sorry from the bottom of my heart." He refused to make any statement concerning his relations with Miss Covert. He doubted the truth of the report that Miss Covert had refused to see her mother before she died.

"Mrs. Covert was a good mother to her daughter," he said, "and if the story is true Tess's action was heartless."

Bassett is about 45 years old and unmarried, he says. He used to get his mail at 171 Broadway, and called himself a broker. He met Miss Covert in Canarsie last August. She was a short, plump brunette, 24 years old.

ALLEGED IMMORALITY AT SNAKE HILL.

The Inquiry Reopened After Spier and Mrs. Barry Had Been Exonerated.

The Committee on County Institutions of the Hudson County Board of Freeholders reported to the Board yesterday that it had investigated the charges of immorality against Mrs. Ellen Barry and Harry Spier, attendants at the County Insane Asylum, and had found that they were not true. Freeholder Pfingstein opposed the report, and moved that Attendant Spier be dismissed from the asylum. Mrs. Barry has already been dismissed. Pfingstein's motion was defeated, and the report of the committee was adopted by a vote of 15 to 4.

Later Freeholder Pfingstein moved that the case be reopened. He said he had just received new evidence that would clearly prove that there had been gross immorality at Snake Hill. There was considerable discussion, and when a vote was taken Freeholder Tierney, who had voted for the report before, voted for the motion, and the Director declared the case reopened and referred again to the Committee on County Institutions. The investigation will be continued at the Insane Asylum at Snake Hill on Tuesday. Freeholder Pfingstein refused to tell what new evidence he had discovered.

IT COST HIM HIS LIFE.

He Drank Some Gin, Seven Ponies of Whiskey, and Then Died.

ST. LOUIS, March 6.—Henry Kepp made a bet last night, which he won, but it cost him his life. He and a friend, Jack Stripe, were out painting the town, and as they stood in Mullinger's barroom Kepp began boasting of his capacity for drink. Stripe, to banter him, said he could not drink more than two ponies of whiskey on top of a half beer glass of gin. Kepp maintained that he could, and then Stripe offered to pay for all the whiskey Kepp could encircle after the drink of gin.

Kepp then started out with the express determination of swallowing seven "ponies" on top of his gin. Rather more than a half glass of gin was poured out for him, and he drank it in two swallows. Then he began gulping down "pony" after "pony" of whiskey, until seven had disappeared.

Then Mr. Kepp was carried home, and four hours later was a dead man.

Fears of a Mississippi Flood.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., March 6.—The water in the Mississippi still continues to rise. It is getting dangerously high on the levee at Arkansas City, where it lacks but ten inches of the top. Two weak places have been strengthened by sand bags. Yesterday it was reported that the levee above there was in danger, owing to rains and cattle crossing it to the higher lands. They had cut into it.

The greatest anxiety prevails on the Arkansas side and a repetition of the great overflow of 1882 is feared. Some of the upper rivers emptying into the Mississippi are still rising under continuous rains. Heavy overcast skies add to the general apprehension. The water in the river opposite Arkansas City outside the levees is eight feet higher than the main street of the city.

Sawtelle's Alleged Accomplice.

BOSTON, March 6.—Some facts that may throw a little light on the Sawtelle murder have been learned by Mrs. Hiram Sawtelle in talking with her little girl, Marion. The child was not questioned, but began to talk about the trip to Rochester in the cars with Uncle Isaac and his mother, and the strange-appearing man, who did not sit with them, but who conversed with Isaac on the platform or at the extreme end of the car. At Nashua also, where a long stop was made, the two whispered together. The child says that the man had dark bushy hair and a black moustache, and, although she never saw Dr. Blood but once, she declares that he is the man who was with them on the train. The grandmother cannot remember anything about the stranger, excepting that her son was with him for a long time at Nashua.

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LET YOUR PURSE OVERFLOW.

THE NEW YORK FREE CIRCULATING LIBRARY NEEDS HELP.

Mr. Howland, Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Low, and Mr. Choate Give It a Boost, Each in His Way—Mr. Cleveland Mentions Consecration—Mr. Choate Appalled by the Sunday Newspaper—Money Enough in Town.

The New York Free Circulating Library, which depends chiefly for support upon private subscriptions, failed to meet its expenses last year. So the institution invited its friends to come to Chickering Hall yesterday afternoon to listen not only to an explanation of its embarrassment, but to learn from three or four prominent men how important a free circulating library is. The people came—the whole hall full—and they were both instructed and amused. President Benjamin H. Field presided, and with him on the platform were Grover Cleveland, President Low of Columbia College, Carl Schurz, Andrew Carnegie, and several of the trustees of the library.

Henry E. Howland, one of the trustees, said that before this library was founded, ten years ago, there was no library in New York from which the people might take books to their homes without charge. Such a condition probably was not true of any other town of importance in the country. There is now a main library at 49 Bond street and branches at 135 Second avenue, 226 West Forty-second street, and 251 West Thirteenth street. These libraries represent an aggregate capital of about $200,000. Last year the number of books circulated was 423,000, or rather the 49,000 volumes in the libraries were taken out in all 423,000 times. The reading rooms were made use of by 170,000 persons. The percentage of works of fiction called for is steadily decreasing, until now it is but 25 at the main library, and rather more at the branches. The book most called for at all the libraries still is and always has been "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The working women's clubs near the libraries use them freely, and the teachers in the public schools send their pupils to the libraries for books appropriate to the line of study they are pursuing. Thus the library has become a part of the public school system. The percentage of loss is remarkably small, only one book out of 95,000 taken from the main library failing to come back. A low saloon and dance garden was next the Bond street library, but it was removed in less than a year. The proprietor said the library ruined his business.

Last year the expenses of the libraries amounted to $23,500, while the receipts were but $22,000. The city is authorized by the Library law to give $5,000 for each 100,000 annual circulation of a free library. This library would be entitled to $20,000 under this law, but the Board of Apportionment allowed it but $10,000. The current year the allowance is to be increased to $12,000. The expenses have been cut to the lowest possible point, but unless the friends of the institution help, it will be necessary to curtail the work. Boston spends $127,000 annually of public funds upon its magnificent central public library and its twelve branches, and it circulates more than a million books yearly. Baltimore devotes $50,000 a year from the public treasury to the same purpose, and other cities in proportion.

SPEECH OF GROVER CLEVELAND.

Mr. Cleveland next made an address of about 1,650 words. First disclaiming any intention of being instructive, he said:

"In every enlightened country the value of popular education is fully recognized, not only as a direct benefit to its recipients, but as an element of strength and safety in organized society. Considered in these aspects it should nowhere be better appreciated than in this land of free institutions CONSECRATED to the welfare and happiness of its citizens, and deriving its sanction and its power from the people. Here the character of the people is inevitably impressed upon the Government, and here our public life can no more be higher and purer than the life of the people, than a stream can rise above its fountain or be purer than the spring in which it has its source.

"That we have not failed to realize these conditions is demonstrated by the establishment of free public schools on every side, where children are not only invited but often obliged to submit themselves to such instruction as will better their situation in life and fit them to take part intelligently in the conduct of the Government. Thus in our schools the young are taught to read, and in this manner the seed is sown from which we expect a profitable return to the State, when its beneficiaries shall repay the educational advances made to them by an intelligent and patriotic performance of their social and political duties. And yet if we are to create good citizenship, which is the object of popular education, and if we are to insure to the country the full benefit of public instruction, we can by no means consider the work as completely done in the school room. Teaching the children of our land to read is but the first step in the scheme of creating good citizens by means of free instruction. We teach the young to read so that both as children and as men and women they may read for their teaching must lead to the habit and the desire of reading to be useful; and only as this result is reached can the work in our free schools be logically supplemented and made valuable.

"Therefore, the same wise policy and intent which open the doors of our free schools to our young, also suggest the completion of the plan thus entered upon, by placing books in the hands of those who in our schools have been taught to read. A man or woman who never reads and is abandoned to unthinking torpor, or who allows the entire mental life to be bounded by the narrow lines of a daily recurring routine of effort for mere existence cannot escape a condition of barrenness of mind which not only causes the decay of individual contentment and happiness, but which fails to yield to the State its justly expected return of usefulness in valuable service and wholesome political action.

Another branch of this question should not be overlooked. It is not only of great importance that our youth and our men and women should have the ability, the desire, and the opportunity to read, but the kind of books they read is no less important. The boy who greedily devours the vicious tales of imaginary daring and blood-curdling adventure which in these days are far too accessible to the young, will have his brain filled with notions of life and standards of manliness which, if they do not make him a menace to peace and good order, will certainly not tend to make him a useful member of society. The man who devotes himself to the flash literature now much too common will, instead of increasing his value as a citizen, almost surely degenerate in his ideas of public duty and growth in his appreciation of the obligations he owes his country. In both these cases there will be a loss to the State. There is danger also that a positive and aggressive injury to the community will result; and such readers will certainly suffer deprivation of the happiness and contentment which are the fruits of improving study and well-regulated thought. So, too, the young woman who seeks recreation and entertainment in ready silly and frivolous books, often of doubtful moral tendency, is herself in the way of becoming frivolous and silly, if not of weak morality. If she escapes this latter condition she is almost certain to become utterly unfitted to bear patiently the burden of self-support or to assume the sacred duties of wife and mother. Contemplating these truths, no one can doubt the importance of securing for those who read, as far as it is in our power, facilities for the study and reading of such books as will instruct and innocently entertain, and which will at the same time improve and correct the tastes and desires.

Then, Mr. Cleveland, and several others Mr. Cleveland concluded, justified the existence of a free circulating library.

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT LOW.

President Low said he was glad that the first cause for which he spoke as a New Yorker should be a free circulating library. The libraries of the specialists were like the headlight of a locomotive, throwing a piercing gleam straight ahead, but not breaking the surrounding gloom. A circulating library was like the sun, diffusing light everywhere. In the statement made by Judge Howland it appeared that the proportion of circulation to numbers of libraries was greater in New York than in Boston. He didn't know whether it would be fair to argue from this that New York was the more cultured city. Having married a Boston lady, he felt he must be cautious about making such an assertion. Another point in the report was that the city authorities had increased the allowance for the support of the library, showing that its value was appreciated. But, on the other hand the private contributions had decreased. Mr. Low believed it was necessary only to reach the ear and the heart of New York to reverse this situation.

"New York is not a great city simply because it is a large city. It is not great because it has a great commerce, but because it has the men who can carry on a great commerce. It is not great because great wealth is here, but because the financial kings are here whose master minds direct the monetary machinery of the country. Now, what can we say of the attitude of New York toward its masses? The Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History it has provided for popular culture in two directions. This library is the means at hand for cultivating the intellect of the multitude. Am I wrong in saying that the imperial city will send the books into the homes of the men who make it great?"

MR. CHOATE ON SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. Choate announced facetiously that he proposed to discuss the financial feature of the problem before the meeting. "I don't think," he said, "that there should be any difficulty about money. Just think of all we have saved lately. Now that the World's Fair is over we have actually got $5,000,000 to distribute. That money has all been saved and all this society has to do is to levy on the subscribers who don't know what to do with it."

Branching off in a new direction Mr. Choate discussed Sunday newspapers in this lively fashion:

"Books in the average New York home have become almost an unknown quantity. This generation is fast becoming in danger of being raised and nurtured on newspapers. The daily papers are practically rooting out books altogether. Now there is one feature of this library which I admire. It is one of the few wholesome influences to which the people are allowed access upon Sunday. [Great applause.] Without it they are tied up to two alternatives—going to church and reading the Sunday papers. Think of that latter alternative! Because to my mind there is no more pernicious and demoralizing mental habit than that jerky and scrappy habit of attempting to read a Sunday newspaper. Just think of what they are—all alike, and the same Sunday after Sunday. Fifteen pages of advertisements and twenty-five pages of reading matter, and such reading matter! Two or three columns of foreign correspondence containing all the scandal of Europe, as if we had not enough in this country; three or four columns of interviews and descriptions of great men; how Chauncey Depew gets up his fascinating speeches; how our chief magistrates, past and present, spend their time; how Mr. Harrison gets up in the night and tosses the baby, with flattering likenesses of Harrison and the baby; what Mr. Cleveland eats for breakfast; how Carl Schurz takes his exercise, and what is his favorite brand of cigars; Talmage's last sermon, detailing what will finally happen to almost everybody if they don't look out; last, but not least, Judge Howland's last story. No, I don't mean that, because his last story will be the end of him; I mean his latest story. Now, what good can come to the people of this city, who spend 500,000 to a million hours every Sunday reading such stuff? The other alternative is to go to church, and I advise you all to go. But for me, give me a book from a circulating library. The principal craving is for fiction, and that is really the best reading for tired people, and all the people in New York are tired. Instead of four such libraries there should be thirty or forty, and in all parts of the city. Are you ready to help it? If you are, bring your Fair money and put this institution on its feet."

Andrew Carnegie spoke briefly and forcibly in endorsement of the claims of the library upon both public and private purses, and the meeting adjourned.

HEAVY FALL OF SNOW.

The Storm Almost a Blizzard Up the Hudson and in the Mohawk Valley.

ELMIRA, March 6.—Over six inches of snow fell here last night, and this morning a brisk northwest wind, laden with small flakes of snow that are almost ice, is blowing. It is the most wintry day of the season, and the storm passes for a blizzard.

AMSTERDAM, March 6.—Since midnight last night snow has been falling in the Mohawk valley. At 10 o'clock this morning eight inches had fallen, and it was still snowing hard. Railroad traffic is greatly interrupted, and snow ploughs are being run on both the New York Central and Hudson River and West Shore railroads.

NYACK, March 6.—A terrific snow storm prevails along the lower Hudson, with high, cold winds. The snow drifts are very deep in Rockland county, and travelling is very difficult.

ALBANY, March 6.—A storm having all the elements of a blizzard except high wind has prevailed here since last night. The wind blew from sixteen to twenty miles an hour, and the mercury fell from 24 last night to 12° at 2 o'clock. At that time six inches of snow had fallen. Trains from all directions excepting Boston and the East are from thirty minutes to an hour late. The snow is light and drifting badly. A freshet prevails in the Hudson, but it is subsiding. The water is filled with slush from the storm, and, as colder weather is predicted for to-night, it is thought the river will be frozen over by to-morrow.

LOCK HAVEN, Pa., March 6.—The first deep snow of the season fell here last night. Advices from the lumber regions are to the effect that the snow is a foot deep there, and that the delayed lumbering operations will be pushed day and night while the snow lasts. The weather is cold and stormy.

SUED BY A SERVANT.

Mrs. Lawrence's French Maid Accuses Her Mistress of Libel.

Mrs. Isaac Lawrence of Sorrento, Mount Deseret, Me., came to this city to visit friends about New Year's time, and was served with a summons in a $10,000 libel suit, brought by a French maid formerly in her employ. The French maid is Rose Westpiser, and the case came up yesterday in the Superior Court before Judge O'Gorman on a motion made by Louis F. Post, her attorney, to amend the summons so as to include Mr. Lawrence as a party to the suit. Lawyer I. N. Thayer, for the defence, opposed the motion, and Judge O'Gorman took the case under advisement.

The complaint alleges that these libellous words were uttered at Bar Harbor last summer, in the presence of Mrs. Ellen S. Sedley, for whom she was working at the time: "How could you leave such a fine room, your house? I missed many things from my house when she left, and am sure she took them." The things referred to were silverware and linen. Miss Westpiser left Mrs. Lawrence's service last summer, she says, because she was asked to do work that was beneath her.

LETTER CARRIER CROSS ARRESTED.

A Decoy Letter Found in the Possession of One of Talmage's Flock.

Postmaster Hendrix of Brooklyn recently received numerous complaints about the disappearance of letters containing money passing through the Brevoort station. Inspector B. H. Camp made an investigation, which resulted yesterday in the arrest of Letter Carrier Samuel R. Cross, who had in his possession a decoy letter containing $1.35. The letter had been opened and was wrapped up in the prisoner's handkerchief. Cross was the last man in the office whom the Postmaster would have suspected. He is a member of Talmage's flock, a devout teacher in the Tabernacle Sunday school, and an usher in the church, and was formerly secretary of the Young People's Association.

Cross was taken before United States District Attorney Johnson and released on $500 bail. Trustee John Wood of the Tabernacle becoming his bondsman. Cross is 30 years old, has a wife and children, and has been in the postal service several years.

FELL DEAD IN THE COURT ROOM.

Thierman had Failed to Get Excused from Jury Duty on his Plea of Ill Health.

Henry Thierman, a German, 55 years old, fell dead yesterday morning in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn while awaiting his turn to be called as a juror. He had been summoned to jury duty on Monday, and, failing to get excused on the plea of ill health, had attended the court each day since and left the advice of his family. A couple of months ago he fell a victim to the "grip," and had never recovered from its effects. He was a wholesale dealer in vinegar, sweet oils, and mustard, and lived with his married son over his factory at 301 Hudson avenue.

Gen. John M. Palmer for Senator.

CHICAGO, March 6.—The Democratic State Central Committee to-day decided to hold the State Convention at Springfield on June 4. Francis A. Hoffman made a speech eulogizing Gen. Palmer as a candidate for Senator, and elicited applause. Chairman Campbell then read Gen. Palmer's letter, in which he gives the exact conditions under which he will accept the Democratic leadership in the coming campaign for United States Senator. This letter is intended as a response to Democratic inquiries from all parts of the State.

No direct action was taken on Gen. Palmer's letter, but Springfield, the city selected for the Convention, is Gen. Palmer's home, and the month, June, was suggested in his letter.

A Pastor Sues One of His Deacons.

LYNN, MASS., March 6.—Another slander suit, in which a minister and his deacon are involved, was announced to-day. The Rev. A. H. Hanscomb of the High Street Free Baptist Church has sued Deacon Evan R. Golden for $2,000 on account of alleged untrue remarks concerning the pastor of the church. Some of the charges were very serious ones.

Ern. Stein's Tokay Wines. Unexcelled in taste. E. C. Hazard & Co., wholesale agents. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

POSTSCRIPT.

SUN OFFICE, MARCH 7—3 A. M.

TEN PERSONS KILLED!

Frightful Accident on the Lake Shore Road.

A TRAIN BREAKS IN TWO.

Heavy Pullmans Crash into the Day Coaches.

The Front Part of the Train Comes to a Standstill, and the Rear Half Crashes into It—One Day Coach Lifted into the Air by a Pullman, and Both Telescope the First Day Coach—All the Cars Full of Passengers—Ten Persons Reported Killed and Twenty-five Injured.

BUFFALO, March 6.—Train 12 on the Lake Shore from the West, due here at 9:10 this evening, and running very fast to make up lost time, broke in two near Hamburg at about 8:50 P. M. The front part of the train, consisting of engine, tender, smoker, and two day coaches, was quickly brought to a standstill. The rear half, composed of five heavy Pullmans, came on down the grade and crashed into the second day coach.

The Pullman, being the heavier, lifted the day coach into the air, and they now lie one on top of the other, both having telescoped the day coach. Both the day coaches and the Pullman were full of passengers, and the number of killed and injured is probably very large. Ten are reported killed outright.

A wrecking train, with a relief party of surgeons, soon left for the scene of the accident. The railroad authorities and employees refused any information whatever to the press. The Associated Press reporter went on the train as a surgeon's assistant. No reporters were allowed to go if known to be such.

Information from the train dispatcher's office is that the south track was clear at 12:10 A. M., so that trains could pass.

The wreck is one mile west of Hamburg.

As near as can be ascertained, ten were killed and twenty-five injured. Train 12 had eleven coaches—three baggage, four day coaches, and four Pullmans. The train parted some miles west of Hamburg, at the coupling between the last day coach and the first sleeper. The first section went on ahead, and was stopped by Conductor Houghtaling pulling the bell rope. Most of those in the last day coach were warned in time to leave, but those in the first Pullman had no warning, and the cars met and telescoped with terrific force. The Pullman was completely buried beneath the other car.

Engine 34 was despatched to Buffalo for aid J. E. Minnie, who had his arm cut off, being taken along. It was two and one-half hours before the physicians arrived. A wrecking train preceded the relief train, and work was begun extricating the imprisoned sufferers.

The bodies already taken out are stretched in a baggage car. J. Sevan, a colored porter, is among the number. The list of injured, near as can be ascertained are:

H. T. Jaeger, Rochester.

Charles J. Rice, Newton Falls, Mass.

L. H. Fisher, Boston, leg sprained and chin badly cut.

The Rev. Thomas A. Hall, Buffalo, leg badly cut.

F. A. Coombs, New York, head and chin cut and both legs sprained.

Julia Haley, Boston, cut in breast, over left eye, and head.

George E. Allen, Buffalo, ankle sprained.

Joseph D. Barnes and wife, Boston. The man not much; the woman fatally.

A great bonfire on the side of the track throws a lurid light upon the terrible scene. A passenger says the coupling was defective. It broke in the same place as the train was leaving Cleveland. At 12:30 o'clock a relief train was made up, and ten of the most seriously injured were brought to the Fitch Hospital, Buffalo.

A REPORT THAT TWENTY-FIVE ARE KILLED.

CLEVELAND, March 7.—The Lake Shore office in this city received news of the wreck at Hamburg, near Buffalo, late to-night.

They say that they have no wire near the wreck, and cannot give definite information.

They admit that they have learned that the loss of life will exceed twenty-five, but absolutely refuse to give further information.

Many Cleveland people are supposed to be on the train.

No. 12 is the night express, and was due in New York at 9:42 this morning. It leaves Chicago at 11:30 P. M., Toledo at 10 A. M., and Cleveland at 3 P. M.

SOLE HEIR TO $1,000,000.

A Poor Man in Fall River Heir to the Estate of Sir Henry Blake of England.

FALL RIVER, March 6.—Daniel D. Blake of this city says that he has received word that he is heir to 200,000 pounds, personal and real estate, belonging to Sir Henry Blake of Norfolk, England, who died in 1876. He left a will bequeathing his property to the only male blood heir on the Blake side who resided in an unknown city in the States. The old Baronet allowed twenty-one years to prove heirship. All these years the heir to the vast estates has been toiling along in Fall River, first as a mill hand, later as a book agent, and now he is almost helpless from neuralgia. His wife has been obliged to support her husband and two-year old daughter by working in the mill. London attorneys inquired some years ago about Blake's family connections, and within a few weeks have assured him that he is the only heir to Sir Henry's estate, and desire him to come to England to prove his claim. Blake is poor, but hopes to be able to sail in May for England.

Supposed Suicide from the Prins Willem III.

The Dutch steamship Prins Willem III., Capt. Sluiter, from Surinam Feb. 9, arrived yesterday with six passengers. On Feb. 28 a Mr. Petersen, a cabin passenger, a native of Denmark, disappeared. Capt. Sluiter said:

"Petersen came on board at Port au Prince with several friends an hour or two before we sailed, on Feb. 27, didn't know who he was until to-day, when Capt. Dean, a Nova Scotia sea Captain, told me in New York that Petersen was a business caper for a well known firm in Port au Prince. He had had considerable trouble with his wife. He left her and their seven children to come to New York for his health. That was the impression he gave me. He said very little, however, and was assigned to the second cabin, on the starboard side. The evening of Feb. 27 Dr. Meller, the ship's Doctor, thought that Petersen had been drinking, and the Doctor saw him safely put to bed. That was the last seen of Petersen. It was not difficult for him to get up in the night and jump overboard."

A BELGIAN STEAMSHIP STRANDED.

Run Ashore in a Thick Snow Storm Near North Scituate, Mass.

SCITUATE, Mass., March 6.—The Belgian steamer De Ruyter, Capt Arfsten, from Antwerp for Boston, ran ashore at Lighthouse Point at 7 o'clock to-night in a thick snow storm.

The crew of 27 men came ashore safely. The vessel has a general cargo consigned to Gill & Lootz of Boston.

The Captain says that this morning at about 9 A. M. it began to rain, and continued raining until noon, when a very thick snow storm set in, accompanied by a heavy gale. Passed Thatcher's Island light, at about 3 P. M., heard the fog whistle on the light, and supposed he was about four miles from shore. He then shaped his course for Boston light, went well, and was steaming very slowly, picking his way through the blinding snow at about three knots per hour, when the vessel, without a moment's warning, struck, and almost instantly was high and fast on the sandy bottom.

He immediately gave signals of distress. He sounded and found no rocks, and then sounded the pumps and found that water was making in the engine room at the rate of about three feet an hour. This put the fires out in a very short time.

As soon as possible one of the vessel's boats was lowered, and seventeen men out of the crew of twenty-seven entered and put off for the shore. The sea was running very high at the time, and the trip was accomplished with great difficulty, but in safety.

The vessel was found to be on Gunning Point, about a quarter of a mile north of Scituate lighthouse.

The vessel struck at 6:45 o'clock, and afterward citizens of Scituate Harbor village, about a mile and a quarter distant, saw her signals and heard the blowing of her whistle. A crew of nine men was immediately collected, which quickly made their way to the light house point, where the Massachusett's Humane Society's house is located, and, securing a pair of horses, hauled the lifeboat to Sandhill Cove, where it was manned, launched, and put off to the vessel just as her boat and men, before mentioned, were coming ashore. The lifeboat reached the vessel and took off the Captain, chief engineer, assistant engineer, and steward.

The remaining eight men of the crew were afterward taken off by the Government life savers. The vessel lies head on to the beach, about 1,000 yards from shore, stern under water, and is rolling badly. It is thought improbable that she can be got off, as she is already filled, and very deep in the sand. The vessel is a barkentine-rigged, iron steamer of 1,754 tons register, built at Glasgow in 1873 by Stephenson and is owned by T. C. Englalls & Co. of Antwerp. She is valued at $250,000 and is insured. The cargo, valued at $250,000, is also insured. The sea is running high at present but gradually abating. Lighters have been sent for from Boston, and if the weather permits will try and take out her cargo to-morrow.

NO MORE TROUBLE AT COLLEGE POINT.

But Mr. Sulzbach Reports a Rather Lively Experience in This City.

Sulzbach, Wenige & Rolker's silk mills, at College Point were running yesterday under the protection of the twenty-five deputies who were sent there by Sheriff Goldner the day before, and fifteen more who arrived yesterday. Of the firm's 215 employees 105 are on strike. About fifty new men have been taken on since the strike began.

Mr. Jacob Sulzbach, the senior member of the firm, came to New York yesterday in search of more weavers. He got together about twenty-five, and was taking them through Forty-second street to the ferry when, according to his story, a gang of men set upon him a little east of the Grand Central Depot and knocked him down. Then they rushed in among the men he had hired and scattered them. Sulzbach says he got up and ran for his life, pursued by some of the men who had assaulted him. When out of harm's way he telegraphed to College Point, and Capt. Kavanagh, who is in command of the deputies, sent James Lester and Joseph Droll to escort him home.

The strikers have pickets stationed at