

SURE MRS. MELBER IS SANE

AND THAT SHE JUST WANTED TO BE FREE.

Prosecutor's Idea as to the Woman Who Poisoned Her Boy With Carbolic Acid Arrives in Albany and Dotes a Hostile Crowd—Talks About Crime.

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—Mrs. Edith Melber of Schenectady, who admits that she deliberately murdered her five-year-old boy by getting him dry with chocolates and then giving him carbolic acid to drink when he asked for water, was brought from Rochester to Albany at 4:20 this afternoon. Detective John Reed of the Albany force, who helped to get Mrs. Melber in Rochester last night, said he never saw a more unconcerned prisoner. Not until she arrived in the office of Chief of Police Hyatt, where Coroner Hillson was awaiting her with her dead boy's clothing spread out upon a table, did Mrs. Melber weep. Then she buried her head in her hands and wept.

"Oh, yes, I did it, I did it," cried Mrs. Melber. "I wasn't going to take any chances of having that boy lugged around among relatives who didn't really want him. He was in everybody's way."

Mrs. Melber candidly admitted that she told the Rochester police she had planned the murder of her boy, that she brought him from Schenectady to Albany a week ago yesterday, bought him a bag of chocolates and then got 10 cents worth of carbolic acid and put the bottle in her skirt pocket.

The boy slept with her that night, and on the following day she took him into the kitchen, fed him on chocolate and the chocolates and on reaching the family swamp on the Banker farm, on the Schenectady turnpike, gave the lad the carbolic acid when he asked for water.

Mrs. Melber admitted that she forced the bottle to the child's mouth and it was during his struggle to get away from the deadly fluid that the boy's face and hands were burned. Then Mrs. Melber told how she knelt down, kissed the dying boy, waited until life was extinct and laid the body amid the bushes in the swamp.

While Mrs. Melber was being detained by the Coroner the police had Thompson E. Vrooman, clerk in Lewis A. Madison avenue pharmacy, where Mrs. Melber bought the carbolic acid, come to police headquarters to identify the woman. As soon as Vrooman entered the room Mrs. Melber said:

"Oh, yes, that's the man I bought the carbolic acid from."

After some unimportant questions were asked Mrs. Melber she was committed to jail to await the result of the Coroner's inquest, which was being held today. It will be concluded next week, when Mrs. Melber will be formally charged with murder in the first degree.

District Attorney Rollin B. Sanford said tonight that there never was a more conclusive case of premeditated murder committed by a woman perfectly sane who had a desire to rid herself of her child merely to be free to remarry again as she saw fit. The District Attorney will present the case immediately to the Grand Jury, which has been called for the term of the Supreme Court now on, and Mr. Sanford said he expected to have the woman indicted without delay.

He had two local physicians go up to the jail tonight to talk with Mrs. Melber, and they were inclined to believe without going further into the examination that the woman was of sound mind. The woman's arrival in Albany this afternoon was attended by exciting scenes. The discovery of the lad's body and development showing how the little fellow came to his death have wrought up half a dozen neighboring cities, and the police felt that a demonstration might be made at the station when the train from Rochester bearing the detective and the murderer came in. Men and women crowded into the station, and it was necessary to have a score of policemen on hand to keep the crowd in check.

Chief Hyatt avoided a scene at the Central Station by having the train stopped at West Albany, the chief met the party there and Mrs. Melber was hurried to police headquarters by a roundabout route. It soon became known that the woman was in the chief's office, however, and the police had to lock all the doors in the building to prevent the curious from forcing an entrance. Crowds lined the walks on all sides of the building and Mrs. Melber could plainly see the excitement her crime has caused.

At Schenectady, Mrs. Melber was shown a newspaper containing a picture of her boy and a story of the crime. She read it carefully. When she reached a party again stating that she intended to marry Howard Kirk, the young man in Schenectady who "kissed" company with her, she dropped the paper and said:

"That article is all right, all but that part about my going to marry Howard."

Mrs. Melber told physicians at the jail tonight that she was suffering from tuberculosis, and that it was her intention after leaving Schenectady for Rochester on Thursday night to continue on to Albany.

The police of Albany and Schenectady said tonight that they had evidence showing Mrs. Melber had planned for two weeks to kill her son. She told her friend Howard Kirk that George was going to be sent away out West to an uncle.

"He will have a good home and he won't have to come back here any more," said Mrs. Melber.

Two weeks ago Mrs. Bartlett, for whom Mrs. Melber worked at the time, gave her a new suit of clothes for George. Mrs. Melber did not put these clothes on the lad until the day of the murder. When Mrs. Melber left Schenectady with the boy she told Mrs. Bartlett that she was taking George to his uncle's home. She had the boy stay outside of the house while she talked with Mrs. Bartlett, and the police say this was for the purpose of preventing Mrs. Bartlett from seeing how the boy was dressed.

Kirk, "I didn't intend to marry him."

Kirk has said that he saw Mrs. Melber to the train when she left Schenectady for Rochester on Thursday night, the day after the discovery of the boy's body.

"All I want to say now about this case," said Mrs. Melber, "is that George Melber (the boy's grandfather) is to blame."

AMES STILL ACCUSES LODGE

SAYS THE SENATOR TRIED TO STICK THE GOVERNMENT.

Quotes Roosevelt as Upholding Mr. Newberry in the Matter of Collars and Telling His Friend Cabot That He Mustn't 'Monkey With These Things.'

BOSTON, Jan. 14.—The pro-Lodge people hastily brought up an attack upon the integrity of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge by Congressman Butler Ames, Col. Ames issued a statement saying that Senator Lodge attempted to force through by an amendment to the appropriation bill a clause which would require the Government to buy two collars for the navy from a Boston banking house for \$500,000 more than their real value and gave former Assistant Secretary of the Navy Newberry as his authority.

Mr. Newberry is quoted as saying there is not a word of truth in the story. Col. Ames said today:

"I cannot believe that Mr. Newberry said in New York last night that there was not a word of truth in the story. It was told to me by Assistant Secretary Newberry himself. Mr. Newberry told the same story to fifty others in Washington, and Norman E. Mack's magazine made it the subject of an extended article last spring."

"I can only reconcile Mr. Newberry's direct denial as a denial not of the story of the transaction as I relate it, but as denying the fact that President Roosevelt called him down."

Assistant Secretary Newberry refused to buy the collars. It was a clear case of extortion upon the part of financial interests in Boston who had these two boats, the Tremont and Suffolk, lying idle on their hands at the Fore River yard in Quincy.

Norman White, who appears to be running Senator Lodge's campaign, gave out a statement this afternoon replying to the Ames statement and quoting from a letter written to Mr. Lodge by Rear Admiral Bowles, head of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company.

"As appears by Admiral Bowles' letter," says Mr. White, "the Government decided to build collars and disregard the plainly expressed intention of Congress that boats should be bought ready built. The result of this was that boats contracted for were not placed in service at all until the following dates: The Mars, August 28, 1909; the Vulcan, October 2, 1909; and the Hector, October 22, 1909."

"If these three collars had been taken as the act of 1907 provided the Government would have got three perfectly new boats at a price less than cost, for the cost \$550,000 each to build. The three

THUMP MAYOR'S CHEST FIRST

Anti-Tuberculosis Fight in Cleveland to Begin at the City Hall.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 14.—Mayor Baehr will submit to a medical examination on Monday to determine if he has any symptoms of tuberculosis. The Mayor doesn't think he has, nor do his physicians, but Health Superintendent Ford wants him to set an example which every one in the city is to be urged to follow.

Dr. Ford wrote the Mayor to-day that every person in the city should be examined by a physician. "The examination should start in the City Hall and begin with the Mayor," Dr. Ford wrote.

"I am going to do it too," Mayor Baehr said. "I'll let them examine me on Monday and every one else should be examined. A person without knowing it might have tuberculosis in an incipient stage and working in the same office with others might give it to them."

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It is to be a start of a big crusade that is going to help stamp out tuberculosis in Cleveland," Dr. Ford said.

New Summer Place for J. A. Farrell.

James A. Farrell, who was recently elected president of the United States Steel Corporation, has bought Hickory Bluff, one of the best known estates on the Sound. It is on the north shore and not far from the city limits of South Norwalk. It comprises about seven and a half acres of ground, an old fashioned frame dwelling built on a bluff that commands a view of the Sound and surrounding country for twenty miles.

THIEF CUTS AND BITES WOMEN.

Showed Them His Loot and Then Fought His Way Out of the House.

A sneak thief who showed his loot to those who had taxed him with taking it ran amuck yesterday in the basement of a three story brick house at 162 Bergen street, Brooklyn, when a youth suggested calling the police. He stabbed and bit two women and escaped. The elder of the women, Mrs. Mary A. Irwin, 68 years old, followed him for nearly a block in spite of her wounds. Her daughter Dorothy, who is 35 years old, was slashed and bitten.

Mrs. Irwin and her daughter keep a boarding house at the Bergen street address. At about 9 o'clock yesterday a clean shaven dark young man with a prominent nose applied for a furnished room. He said that his name was De Temple. He left the house after looking his room over. It was nearly 3 o'clock in the afternoon when he returned with a package about the size of a shoe box under his arm. He went upstairs, but came down again thirty minutes later with a larger box. Mrs. Irwin saw him with a package about the size of a shoe box under his arm. He went upstairs, but came down again thirty minutes later with a larger box. Mrs. Irwin saw him with a package about the size of a shoe box under his arm. He went upstairs, but came down again thirty minutes later with a larger box. Mrs. Irwin saw him with a package about the size of a shoe box under his arm.

When Ambulance Surgeon Horowitz arrived he found Mrs. Irwin suffering from twelve wounds which evidently had been made by the knife. Her daughter had been cut and stabbed several times and had been bitten six times on the hands, arms and breast. Neither of the women is dangerously out, but it is feared that blood poisoning may result from the bites.

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IMPORTED LACE CURTAINS

AT LARGE REDUCTIONS IN PRICES, WILL BE ON SALE MONDAY, AMONG THEM BEING LACET ARABE, MARIE ANTOINETTE, RENAISSANCE AND IRISH POINT LACE CURTAINS, FORMERLY \$4.75 TO 15.00 AT \$3.25, 4.50, 5.75, 7.25 & 8.75 PER PAIR

A SALE OF WOMEN'S WAISTS HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR MONDAY, WHEN A NUMBER OF ESPECIALLY PREPARED MODELS WILL BE OFFERED AT UNUSUALLY LOW PRICES:

CHIFFON WAISTS . . . AT \$5.00, 6.75 & 11.50

REAL CLUNY LACE WAISTS . . . AT 7.50

COLORED DRESS GOODS FOR SPRING ARE NOW BEING SHOWN, COMPRISING SCOTCH AND ENGLISH MIXTURES, HOMESPUNS, TWEEDS AND HAIR-LINE STRIPES IN VARIOUS SHADES, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS MATERIALS IN WEIGHTS SUITABLE FOR WEAR AT THE WINTER RESORTS.

A SPECIAL SALE WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY OF IMPORTED HENRIETTA CLOTH AT 78c. YARD IN THE DESIRABLE SHADES FOR SPRING.

FINE CORSETS AT LESS THAN ONE-HALF THE USUAL PRICES WILL BE ON SALE MONDAY, WHEN THREE NEW MODELS OF CORSETS MADE IN WORKROOMS ON THE PREMISES WILL BE OFFERED AS FOLLOWS:

CORSETS IN SIZES FOR SLENDER OR MEDIUM FIGURES, AT \$3.00 & \$4.25

CORSETS IN SIZES FOR LARGE FIGURES AT \$5.00

WOMEN'S TAILOR-MADE SUITS IN MANY STYLES AND MATERIALS, SUITABLE FOR PRESENT AND EARLY SPRING WEAR, WILL BE REDUCED ON TUESDAY TO THE REMARKABLY LOW PRICES OF

\$28.00, \$38.00 & \$45.00

WOMEN'S PETTICOATS AT UNUSUALLY LOW PRICES FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 17TH, WILL CONSIST OF

IMPORTED PETTICOATS OF POLKA-DOT BATISTE AT \$2.75

WOOL JERSEY-TOP PETTICOATS, MESSALINE FLOUNCE 5.50

PETTICOATS OF BLACK OR COLORED MESSALINE AT 5.85

12,000 YDS. OF WHITE MUSLIN EMBROIDERIES IN LENGTHS OF ABOUT 4 1/2 YARDS WILL BE MARKED

TUESDAY AT THE ATTRACTIVELY LOW PRICES OF

55c., 68c., \$1.00, \$1.35 TO \$4.25 PER LENGTH WHICH ARE 33 1/2% TO 50% LESS THAN USUAL PRICES. SOLD IN LENGTHS ONLY

Grande Maison de Blanc Annual Discount Sale of Housekeeping Linens. Offers exceptional advantages in replenishing of linen closets or the selection of trousseaux. Our stock is more varied than any previous sale, and there will also be found a larger selection of moderate priced linens. Table Cloths, Dinner Napkins, Tea Cloths, Tea Napkins, Centerpieces, Blankets, Comfortables, Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towels. French Underwear. Discounts from 30 to 50%. Attractive Bridal Sets at Very Low Prices. Lingerie Waists and Linen Dresses for wear at the Southern resorts are now being shown in exclusive models. 308 FIFTH AVENUE Between 31st and 32d Sts.

L. P. Hollander & Co. will place on sale Monday A. M. the balance of their Winter stock of Women's Hats \$3.00 \$5.00 FIFTH AV. at 46th St.

J. B. Giffing & Co. 564-66-68 Fifth Avenue Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Streets With real Winter just beginning, we offer all of our remaining Fur Coats and Matched Sets At Clean-up Prices

Determined to sell now, rather than store any Furs at the end of the Winter season, we have reduced prices regardless of actual values. The reductions are the more important because all our Women's Fur Coats and Sets are new and of carefully selected qualities—and in every detail of style and workmanship equal those produced by the best furriers.

- Caracul Coats, in plain and trimmed effects—that were \$175 to \$900—ARE NOW \$100 to \$500. Persian Lamb Coats (plain)—that were \$475 to \$775—ARE NOW \$325 to \$450. Baltic and Hudson Seal Coats—that were \$200 to \$850—ARE NOW \$95 to \$400. Broadtail Russian Pony Coats in plain and trimmed effects—that were \$125 to \$300—ARE NOW \$65 to \$150. Skunk Sets—that were \$135 to \$350—ARE NOW \$85 to \$250. Pointed Fox Sets of beautifully matched skins—that were \$235 to \$475—ARE NOW \$150 to \$275. Novelty Sets in a wide variety of fine Furs—ARE NOW REDUCED TO About One-half Former Prices.

Tailored and Semi-Tailored Suits At Less Than Half Former Prices

These decisive reductions affect all of our importations—exclusive models by Bernard, Drecol, Paquin, Martial-Armand, Beer and Francis—as well as late designs of our own adaptation; both plain-tailored and fur-trimmed. The materials include the finest imported broadcloth, velvet and corduroy.

Suits that were \$85 to \$310—ARE NOW \$40 to \$150.

20% Discount Semi-Annual Shoe Sale. The perfection of Shoe construction is attained in these exclusive Winter models. This sale offers unusual opportunity to obtain them economically. Button and Lace Boots Styles for Men and Women. FRANK BROTHERS Fifth Avenue Boot Shop, Fifth Avenue, Between 26th and 27th Sts.

B. Altman & Co. 5TH AVENUE, 34TH AND 35TH STREETS, NEW YORK

AMERICAN MADE WILTON RUGS A SPECIAL SALE IS ANNOUNCED FOR MONDAY OF CHOICE QUALITIES IN A LARGE VARIETY OF DESIRABLE SIZES AND DESIGNS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: WILTON RUGS IN SIZES 8.3 x 10.6 AND 9 x 12; USUALLY \$36.00 & 40.00 AT \$25.00 WILTON RUGS IN SIZES 8.3 x 10.6 AND 9 x 12, USUALLY \$50.00 & 55.00 AT \$35.00 AND SMALL SIZES AT \$3.00, 4.00, 4.75 & 5.75

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