

YOUTH SLAYS FATHER

Wealthy Drug Exporter Is Shot Dead in Office.

EXPECTED TO MARRY AGAIN

Son Brooded Over Failure to Have Him Change Mind—Sends Bullet Into His Own Brain—Leaves Note for the Coroner—Laid Plans the Crime—Sees Humorous Side.

New York, May 19.—George Edward Sterry, president of the Weaver and Sterry Company, wholesale druggists, a director of Princeton Theological Seminary, an elder of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and a millionaire, was shot and killed to-day as he sat before his desk in his old-fashioned private office, at 73 Pine street.

His murderer was his second son, George E. Sterry, jr., the secretary of the drug company.

After shooting his father, the son walked to a chair a few feet away, spread a newspaper on his lap, and fired a bullet into his own brain at almost the exact spot where he had shot his father. There were no witnesses to the shooting. The first to reach the private office after the shots were fired found father and son sitting up in the two chairs facing each other, both dead.

The elder Sterry was seventy-two years old. One June 3 he was to have been married to Miss Michael Briggs Blakie, a school-teacher of East Orange, and forty years his junior. It was his son's objection to this marriage, shared in to some extent by his brothers, which led to to-day's tragedy, as was shown conclusively by the following letter, written presumably at his desk in the office adjoining his father's a short time before the crime, and found afterward in his coat pocket by Coroner Harburger:

Son Left a Letter.

"To whom it may concern (the coroner first, I presume):

"I took a solemn oath to myself that my father should never disgrace the memory of my sainted mother. There is not a taint of selfishness in me, and had my father engaged himself to a lady of mature age I would not, and certainly neither of my brothers would not, have done else than bid him good luck, and certainly trust that he would live forever. Always I have been a happy and contented man, and I have lived the life of my old man—a term which I frequently and affectionately used toward him. This is now 11 o'clock, May 19. No one is in my room, but my brothers may draw a conclusion from my double murder.

"There is a point which struck me as particularly interesting while riding down on the Ninth avenue elevated. I passed casual glances at those around me, as they doubtless did at me, and I thought that I desire to convey to you: "How many thousands would have stared me out of countenance had they known of the prominent captions my double crime would warrant in tomorrow's papers?"

Saw Comical Side.

"There is a comical and laughable side in this. I would willingly give \$500 to Rachael B. Blakie to hear the beautiful and touching praises for the salvation of my soul that she will offer up. Of course, I am under a violent strain. Many of my sentences may not be grammatical and may be crude. I am sure that God has held me to do what I am doing. I told me to God no less than twenty times a day to show me some other way out of this trouble, and I truthfully believe He has shown me the proper way to save my family disgrace.

GEORGE E. STERRY, JR.

"Another point I desire to mention. Two seconds after my father's death I will follow, as the poor old man needs a guide and a guardian. Should we run across some of that bunch first at East Orange, we will glide up a side street."

Written on Hotel Paper.

This letter was written on blue note paper belonging to the Manhattan Square Hotel, where the dead son had been living for three years with his wife. He used all four pages, writing in a rather bold and determined hand. After writing it, he put it in his pocket, unsealed, went out and bought a drink of whisky and absinthe and possibly a cigar, and then returning, walked in and shot his father, who, all the time, had been sitting in the next room, unmindful of the fate that was in store for him.

How near was the old man's marriage, which the son's bullet frustrated was shown by a slip of paper found and folded in his wallet. On it was written in the senior Sterry's handwriting, evidently intended for the newspapers: "Married, at Englewood, N. J., on June 2, 1908, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Blakie, by the Rev. and Mrs. Eddy, of East Orange, Rachael Briggs Blakie to George Edward Sterry."

Preparations for Wedding.

Mr. Blakie is a brother of the woman Mr. Sterry was to marry, and he turned over his house for the wedding, preparations for which have been going on for some time. Mr. Sterry had intended to start immediately after the ceremony on a European trip, and had his tickets all bought. Their destination was Italy, and a letter telling of rain at a hotel in Lehigh was found opened on his desk in front of him.

Mr. Sterry was a particularly hale and vigorous old man. His first wife, the mother of the son who murdered him, died three years ago. Since then he had lived with two of his sons, John and James, at his house at 21 West Seventy-fourth street.

Miss Blakie is about thirty-five years old, and was a friend of Mr. Sterry's first wife. It is said that Mr. Sterry and his wife frequently visited Miss Blakie at her home in East Orange, where she lives with a sister. She was a teacher in the school there, and was spoken of by her friends as a most estimable woman.

The news that he had decided to make Miss Blakie his wife was first broken by the father to his sons last January.

Kentuckians Indorse Bryan.

Frankfort, Ky., May 19.—The Democratic State executive committee to-day voted to hold the State convention at Lexington on June 11. A resolution indorsing Bryan and pledging Kentucky to him was unanimously adopted.

Senator McEnery Re-elected.

Baton Rouge, La., May 19.—United States Senator Samuel Douglas McEnery was elected to succeed himself by both the senate and the house of representatives of the Louisiana legislature to-day.

State Convention Adopts Instruction for Nebraska.

Fresno, Cal., May 19.—The Democratic State convention to-day adopted a long platform, which instructs the delegation to vote for Bryan, and indorses former Congressman Theodore A. Bell for temporary chairman of the national convention at Denver.

The platform opposes monopolies and special privileges; deplores railroad activity in State affairs; favors legislation to strengthen the State railroad commission; and commends Commissioner Lane's effort to enforce the interstate commerce laws; calls for total exclusion of Asiatic laborers; revision of tariff; placing of articles competing with trust products on free list; the repeal of the tariff on lumber, wood, and wood products; the enforcement of the anti-trust laws; exempting labor unions from their operation; the independence of the Philippines; the conservation of the national resources of the country; abolition of child labor, and direct election of President, Vice President, and United States Senators.

The platform is also very pronounced in its approval of prosecution of graft and corruption.

The delegates elected to attend the national convention are: Delegates—George Theodore A. Bell, Napa; Nathan Cole, Jr., Los Angeles; W. N. Conley, Madra, and R. M. Fitzgerald, Alameda.

When you have lost or found anything, telephone an advertisement to The Washington Herald and bill will be sent you at 1 cent a word.

MAYNARD IS ELECTED.

Member of Congress Delegate to Virginia Convention.

Portsmouth, Va., May 19.—Representative Harold L. Maynard was elected to-day as delegate-at-large from this city to the State Democratic convention in Roanoke.

The election took place when the eleven local delegations got together for the purpose of electing a delegation and perfecting the organization of the committee.

Delegate Markham offered a resolution indorsing Capt. Marshall for election as delegate to the Denver national convention from the Second district.

STEVENS WILL RUN.

Former Vice President for Governor of Illinois.

Springfield, Ill., May 19.—A well defined rumor is afloat here that former Vice President A. E. Stevenson will announce his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for governor within a week.

A movement to induce all other candidates to withdraw in favor of Mr. Stevenson was unsuccessful, but it is understood that he is now willing to make the race, regardless of the number of candidates.

SEEK PARTY HARMONY

Taft and Burrows Said to Have Agreed.

THIRD TERM STILL LOOMS UP

La Follette Not Disposed to Yield to It, but Pessimism in Taft Camp Persists—Secretary Again Leaves Capital to Campaign—Plans Being Laid for Roosevelt Stampede.

The remarkable ability of Republican leaders to get together when lack of harmony threatens party disaster has been illustrated again in the past forty-eight hours.

Monday morning President Roosevelt was indicating to callers that the choice of Senator Julius Caesar Burrows, of Michigan, for temporary chairman of the Republican national convention was an intentional blow at the Roosevelt policies and should not be tolerated. Rumors were circulated that the President would see it that Burrows was displaced in the convention itself and a man of the Roosevelt school substituted to make a keynote speech that would extoll all that Mr. Roosevelt stands for.

Monday evening Senator Burrows called on Secretary Taft. Yesterday everybody of party prominence around the Capitol, including Roosevelt men as well as anti-Roosevelt men, was saying that an understanding now existed between Mr. Taft and Mr. Burrows, and the latter would make a keynote speech which would be satisfactory to Mr. Taft, who is Michigan's candidate for the Presidential nomination.

Taft on Speaking Tour.

Mr. Taft lost no time in picking up the loose ends of his political campaign when he arrived here from Panama Monday. He was up again yesterday afternoon to keep speaking engagements in Nashville and Cleveland. But in the day he spent in the Capital he did a pile of work and showed an inclination to his political fortunes, as instance the satisfactory arrangements of the temporary chairmanship mix-up.

From all accounts, Mr. Taft does not share the pessimistic views of some of his followers in regard to the dangers of a Roosevelt stampede in the convention itself. There is less talk of that sort heard lately, but there are occasional circumstantial accounts of plans and plots of the reformers.

La Follette Not to Withdraw.

One of the most recent rumors was that Senator La Follette would withdraw his candidacy when Wisconsin was reached in the call of States and intended to make a soul-stirring third-term speech which would set the delegates wild. The only trouble with this story is that Mr. La Follette, according to his own statement, does not intend to go to the convention, and he insists that his name will be presented by the Wisconsin delegation as a candidate for first place.

Another story is that the third-termers are trying to make arrangements with delegates whose States are well toward the beginning of the alphabetical list to propose Mr. Roosevelt's name. California, where there is a strong Roosevelt sentiment, is mentioned particularly in this connection. The idea is that when the call for nominations is begun, California, well up on the list, will nominate the President.

Third Termers Working Hard.

This story, too, while backed by circumstances that appear suspicious, must be considered in the light of the practice in national conventions for the first States, Territories on the list—Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, and Arkansas—to yield to States which have voters ready to present the names of candidates.

However, the report is widespread that the third-termers are working under the surface and are encouraged by the outlook.

CALIFORNIA FOR BRYAN.

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GUFFEY HOLDS TRUMP

Democrats Name Evans Temporary Chairman.

BRYAN MEN ARE HOPEFUL

Control of 190 Delegates. Convention Opens To-day—Bitter Fight Waged Against Indorsement of Nebraska—Johnson and Gray Promoters Busy at Harrisburg.

Harrisburg, May 19.—Col. Guffey and his friends announced to-night that their program will prevail in the Pennsylvania Democratic State convention to-morrow.

If their prediction is well founded the convention will refuse to instruct the four national delegates-at-large to vote for William J. Bryan at Denver, and Mr. Bryan's name will not be mentioned in the platform.

Lined up with Guffey are nearly all the men who have been conspicuously active in the party organization in recent years, with the single exception of James Kerr, former clerk of the national House of Representatives, and who is leading the Bryan League movement for the indorsement of the Nebraska and the overthrow of Guffey as State leader. Kerr is said to be candidate for Guffey's place as national committee man.

Bryan Men Claim Control.

The Bryan people to-night claim to control 190 of the 315 delegates to the State convention, but the Guffey men declare there will not be eighty votes for the Bryan indorsement, which is to be offered as an amendment to the platform, which is otherwise likely to be entirely acceptable to the Bryan men.

Guffey insists that he is not against other, yet to be chosen. The Pennsylvania Bryan, but believes the Pennsylvania delegation should go to Denver untruncated so as to align itself with the wishes of the majority of the party representatives from States that can do something for the Democratic candidate in November.

The State executive committee selected Robert W. Erwin, of Washington County, a pronounced Guffey supporter, for temporary chairman. This gives Guffey control of the resolutions committee, which will probably bury the Bryan resolution without ceremony.

Bryan Headquarters Open.

Headquarters are open for both the Johnson and Gray booms and the men in charge of these are working with Guffey against instructions.

The delegates at large will be Col. Guffey, former State Chairman J. K. P. Hall, of Elk County; State Senator Arthur J. Dewalt, of Lehigh, and one night decided upon for permanent chairman. Senator Webster Grinn, of Bucks County, is in conference with the leaders, who are trying to persuade him to accept the nomination for Superior Court Judge. William H. Berry is originally on the slate, but he has been flirting with the Bryan League and will not be named unless he abandons his affiliations with the Bryan League.

John Caldwell, formerly collector of the port of Philadelphia, and Albert J. Barr, publisher of the Pittsburgh Post, will be the electors at large.

Peter A. O'Boyle, of Luzerne, was to-night decided upon for permanent chairman. Senator Webster Grinn, of Bucks County, is in conference with the leaders, who are trying to persuade him to accept the nomination for Superior Court Judge. William H. Berry is originally on the slate, but he has been flirting with the Bryan League and will not be named unless he abandons his affiliations with the Bryan League.

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DEMOCRATS SWEEP CLEAN.

Republicans Get but One Member of Cumberland Council.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Cumberland, Md., May 19.—The Democratic city victory was complete, the Republicans electing but one candidate, George G. Young, for council.

It has been many years since the Democrats have been in control of the council.

Keen is elected mayor by 621.

A surprise was the defeat of the proposition for a public library by 754. The city authorities would not have been required to establish a library even had the project carried. Among the causes of Mr. Miller's defeat, according to a statement of a health Democratic brewer, was the lining up of the liquor interest solidly against Miller.

Among the prisoners sentenced to-day was John Labor, of Midland, convicted of perjury in testimony before the grand jury to one year in jail.

DENVER RESULT IN DOUBT.

Democratic Mayor Has Slight Lead Over Republican Opponent.

Denver, Colo., May 19.—Returns from the city election up to 10 p. m. show it to be one of the closest in the history of Denver. Mayor Speer at that hour was only 182 votes ahead of A. C. Phelps, Republican.

The campaign has been one of the hottest ever known. Speer is backed by the entire city patronage and a powerful organization of leading business men, in addition to the Democracy. Phelps had, in addition to the Republican and his party organization, the active support of former United States Senator Patterson, with his morning and evening papers.

FLETCHER MAY BE SENATOR.

Florida Primary Returns Slow—Result in Doubt.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 19.—The returns from the primary for United States Senator held to-day, are coming in slowly, and at this hour there is nothing definite as to the result.

There are three candidates—Gov. Broward, Representative Lamar, and D. U. Fletcher, the latter a leading lawyer of Jacksonville.

The returns so far received show Fletcher in the lead. It is probable that he will win. The official result will not be known until to-morrow. The ticket is very long, as both State and county officials are being voted for, as well as Senator.

SMYTHE COUNTY BRYAN'S.

Virginia Convention Instructs Its Delegates for Nebraska.

Marion, Va., May 19.—The Smythe County Democratic convention elected twenty delegates and twenty alternates to the Democratic State convention at Roanoke. The following resolution was adopted:

"That the delegates be instructed to vote for no man as delegate to the national convention who does not favor the nomination of W. J. Bryan for President."

GUN EXPLODES; ONE DEAD.

Salute to Battle-ship Fleet Results Fatally.

Eureka, Cal., May 19.—As the battle-ship fleet passed Centerville Beach near here to-day, a salute was fired from an old ketch cannon, which exploded, killing six children.

Miss Church was struck by a fragment and had an arm and leg broken.

Miss McDonough and Mrs. Frank Stinsby were painfully injured and Eugene Stone, a boy, had a leg broken.

BRYAN'S MARGIN FOUR TO ONE

Only Eight Alabama Counties Show Johnson Majority.

Almost Complete Returns Give Peersless Leader 75,000 Out of 100,000.

Birmingham, May 19.—Returns from a majority of the counties throughout Alabama show that Democrats Monday at primaries instructed their delegates to the national convention in Denver in July to vote for William J. Bryan for the Presidential nomination.

Less than eight counties returned majorities for Gov. Johnson. The campaign made by the followers of Bryan began at least four to eight weeks before the Johnson movement got started, and was too great to be overcome.

Jefferson County, the mining and manufacturing county of the State, the section where the great steel trust plants are, gave Bryan a majority, to the surprise of many. Montgomery and Mobile counties, two of the largest counties in the State, returned Johnson majorities. The State will be canvassed Saturday. J. W. Tomlinson, Bryan's State leader, reiterates his estimate of four to one majority for the Nebraska.

Returns received from 51 of the 67 counties in the State show that out of a total vote polled of 100,000, Mr. Bryan has received 75,000.

On the State ticket Charles Henderson, of Troy, was nominated for president of the railroad commission, and J. A. Wallace, of Huntsville, for State game and fish commissioner.

James J. Mayfield, of Tuscaloosa, leads the list of candidates for the two vacancies on the Supreme bench, but the result for the other place is still in doubt.

Reports received by the Birmingham Age-Herald up to 1 o'clock indicate that Alabama's delegates-at-large to the Democratic national convention will be John W. Tomlinson, Representative J. Thomas Heffl, Representative H. D. Clayton, and Capt. F. W. Booker. Emmet O'Neal and John C. Pugh have been elected Presidential electors.

ALL DOUBT REMOVED

Finding of Gold Teeth Proves Mrs. Guinness' Death.

DENTIST SURE OF HIS WORK

Identifies Crown as Those Made by Himself—All Corresponds to Diagram Made for Sheriff—Identification Found by Placer Mining Operations—More Light on Methods.

Laporte, Ind., May 19.—Again, and finally, Mrs. Guinness is dead.

The gold teeth, unmistakable marks of identification, were found this morning in the ruins of the house of murder. Dr. I. P. Norton, the dentist, who built the bridges in the mouth of the most noted murderer of the age, positively identified the plates.

This porcelain teeth, set in a gold plate, were anchored in the upper jaw to the cusps—the only teeth on the jaw. The gold which held the plate to the cusps is intact, but the teeth have fallen out, or have been burned completely from the fierce fire to which the head of the murderer must have been submitted. Sheriff Smulzer was at the place digging, when Louis Schultze, the western placer miner, made the find just two weeks, almost to the hour, from the time the bodies of Mrs. Guinness and her three children were dug from the ruins.

The sheriff threw up his cap and shouted: "They are found."

"Sheriff Smulzer in his automobile, speeded to notify State's Attorney Ralph Smith of the news, and to take the teeth to Dr. Norton for identification. Word spread quickly all over town that the teeth had been found and the fate of Mrs. Guinness had been solved, even to the satisfaction of the attorney defending Lamphere.

Sure of Identification.

"Yes, these are, undoubtedly, Mrs. Guinness' teeth," Dr. Norton, to The Washington Herald reporter, said: "The upper jaw was probably bridged in Chicago, but later work on the lower jaw I can positively identify as that done by me about a year ago."

"At that time I made a lower bridge for Mrs. Guinness consisting of six dummies and two crowns for the two remaining teeth, making a total of eight teeth, and saving from the lower teeth eight teeth. This work is exactly the same as that on the teeth found this morning in fact, but half an hour before the finding of the teeth, I had a diagram for Sheriff Smulzer of just what he would find. I showed him the diagram, and he said it checked—marked by the action of the fire. The teeth found are exactly the ones designated. The gold in the rear of the crown was of solid eight carat and bears my private style of workmanship, thus eliminating any belief that the teeth are those of any one else."

More Light on Methods.

More light was thrown upon the method of Mrs. Guinness, and the identity of another probable victim was revealed in a letter received yesterday morning by the sheriff from David Hicken, a farmer living on a rural route out of Milwaukee. Mr. Hicken says that the missing man, Riedinger, or Riedinger, left Deland, a village twenty-five miles west of Milwaukee, in the fall of 1906 with \$1,000, proceeds of the sale of his crops. The man said he was going to marry a widow near Chicago.

"Mrs. Guinness' writer continues, 'was out here to see him at least the neighbors think the woman resembled the picture in the papers. He (Riedinger) left the care of the farm to a hired man named Heintzman. About a month after he left, a letter came to the hired man that he wasn't going to marry the widow; to sell all the live stock and implements; that he was going West. The auction took place, and \$90 was placed in the bank before coming here. Reports heard from us yet. The letter was not in his own handwriting, and there was no signature to it."

Writes for Watch Number.

Here is believed to be another example of the woman's daring operations in writing the unsigned letter instructing her victim's hired man to sell the live stock and implements, and writing that he was going West, thus allaying suspicion.

"Upon receipt of the letter, Deputy Sheriff Antasia wrote to Hicken for further particulars and for the number of Riedinger's watch. It is possible that it may be counted among the six unidentified bodies.