

NARROWLY AVERT TRAGEDY BY GAS

Family Escapes Repetition of Bremerman Disaster.

DEADLY FUMES IN ROOM

Stove that Was Experimented With Blows Up.

Heater that Dr. Wiley Used Is Installed Again, and Results Are Nearly as Disastrous as Upon Former Occasion—Letter from Commissioners Forwarded to Chairman of House District Committee.

A repetition of the Bremerman tragedy, in which three persons were killed from inhaling carbon monoxide gas, was narrowly averted yesterday, in the same apartment, at 1309 First street northwest, occupied by Bremerman and his family at that time, when stifling fumes came from the water heater and the pipe connecting it with the gas range burst.

The heater, the same one which caused the death of three persons and which was used by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley and his assistants in experimenting preparatory to making their report on the dangerous quality of the gas, was installed in the apartment yesterday morning. It burned in a peculiar manner when lighted, and a strong odor was noticed. Fumes also came from the oven of the gas range.

Every Light Went Out. When the pipe burst every light in the apartment house went out. Mrs. Reed, wife of O. A. Reed, who now occupies the apartment, was nearly knocked from her feet. The gas fumes faded her.

When told of the accident last night, Commissioner Henry B. F. Macfarland said he would investigate the matter early this morning.

Reed, who is an employe of the Government Printing Office, was present when the heater was attached. He said the slide regulating the amount of oxygen to the burner was closed when the connection was made. It was only when he remonstrated with the plumber that it was opened.

When the heater was lighted it burned with a flickering flame, and sickening fumes came from it. These fumes produced dizziness, and were in every way similar to those which Bremerman smelled when he entered the house and found his family dead.

Load Explosion. Reed advised his wife not to use the heater. She followed his advice and did not light the burner again. Shortly before 5 o'clock she lighted the gas range. It burned with a yellow flame, and she turned it out. A few minutes later she relighted it.

Mrs. Reed was standing near the range, when there was a loud explosion. She was almost thrown to the floor, and all the lights again went out. Almost overcome by the fumes that filled the room, she ran from the kitchen.

A man visiting in the house went to her assistance. He investigated, and learning the trouble came from the gas pipes, shut off the gas. He then went into the kitchen, and found the pipe connecting the heater with the range was blown in half. He plugged up the hole, and, in a measure, stopped the flow of gas.

Mrs. Reed was badly frightened, and it was some minutes before she could be quieted. She said the odor of gas went to her head and produced a dizzy, aching sensation.

Wants Investigation. Mr. Reed said last night he would take steps to have an immediate investigation made.

"If this thing had occurred in the day, when my wife was alone," he said, "she might have shared the fate of Bremerman's family. Had it occurred in the night, it is probable every one in the apartment would have been killed. I have had some experience with gas appliances.

"There is a high pressure in the mains in our vicinity, and it is unsafe to turn the burners on full at any time, for the gas is forced out in such a manner that there is not proper combustion, and much of it escapes into the room."

Reed moved into the apartment in First street on December 14, 1908. There was no water heater in the place. A few days ago he asked that some kind of heater be installed, and Thursday night a heater was delivered at the house.

Yesterday morning a young plumber came to the house to connect it. He said it was the same heater as that used by the Bremermans. Reed protested, and was assured that everything had been fixed in such manner that there was no danger.

Bremerman Tragedy. On December 5 Clarence Bremerman, a stenographer in the Congressional Library, returned to his home and found his wife, Mrs. Hebe Cutts Bremerman, his mother, Mrs. Helen Bremerman, and his infant son, Cutts Bremerman, and investigation showed death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

A letter formally recommending that Congress amend the laws in the District respecting the manufacture and distribution of "water gas" containing a high percentage of deadly carbon monoxide was forwarded to Representative Samuel W. Smith, chairman of the House District Committee, yesterday by the Board of Commissioners of the District.

Chairman Smith said he would urge the adoption of any measure the Commissioners might transmit to him, and, accordingly, the corporation counsel, E. H. Thomas, will be asked to-day to frame a bill.

Will Support Bill. Many members of the House and Senate who have been approached on the subject declare they will support any bill which urges legislation for safer and better gas in the District. The Commission

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WEATHER FORECAST.

For the District of Columbia and Maryland—Partly cloudy and warmer to-day; to-morrow, threatening and warmer, with rain or snow in afternoon or night; moderate northeasterly winds, becoming variable.

HERALD NEWS SUMMARY.

Pages. TELEGRAPHIC. 1—Darrin Punctures Hains' Defense. 1—Judge to Be Severe with Night Riders. 1—Lord Granard Gets License to Wed. 1—Harriman Absorbed the Santa Fe. 1—Tatt Is Silent on Cabinet Make-up. 1—Judge Anderson to Try Oil Trust.

LOCAL.

1—Bremerman Tragedy Almost Repeated. 1—Tillman Correspondence Made Public. 1—House Rebukes Chief Executive. 2—Stringent Laws to Regulate Gas. 2—Aged Women Overcome by Coal Gas. 2—Entertaining Circus at the Y. M. C. A. 2—Earthquake Funds Reach \$30,000. 7—Y. M. C. A. Celebration Plans Made. 14—Rudolph Plans Inaugural Parade.

DEATH SENTENCES FOR NIGHT RIDERS

Six of Convicted Men to Be Severely Dealt With.

LIFE IN JAIL FOR TWO

Judge Jones Quietly Lets His Decision Become Known.

His Reason Was to Avert Any Possible Danger from the Crowds of Sympathizers—Lake People Leave Union City and No Trouble Is Anticipated—Application for a New Trial Will Be Denied.

Union City, Tenn., Jan. 8.—Although formal sentence on the eight recently arraigned night riders, tried for the murder of Capt. Rankin, has not been pronounced, there is no doubt that Judge Jones will go even beyond the trial jury in the severity of his sentence.

Judge Jones will deal death straight to the greater and life terms in prison to the smaller number. He will also deny the petition of the defendants' attorneys to be made Saturday for a new trial, although they will be allowed to make such petition as a matter of form.

This decision has been allowed to become known to-day, because of the judge's desire to avert any possible danger from the crowds of sympathizers that might be gathered in court to hear the sentences and the plea for a new trial.

The lake people have taken the news quietly, and have nearly all left Union City. Hence no trouble is anticipated Saturday. The counsel for the defense profess to feel easy as to the final results being in their client's favor. The night riders still under indictment will be tried at the May term of the Lake County court.

RAISE GOVERNOR'S PAY.

North Carolina Legislature Increases Yearly Stipend to \$6,000. Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 8.—When the new governor of North Carolina begins his four years' term next Tuesday he will receive a salary of \$6,000—\$2,000 more than the present and just double that paid former governors.

The State senate this afternoon passed a bill to that effect, and to-morrow morning the senate bill will be passed by the house by practically a unanimous vote, the leading Republicans heartily supporting it in both houses.

GERMANY AGAIN EXCITED.

Press Thinks Kaiser Is Meddling with Politics. Berlin, Jan. 8.—An extraordinary hubbub has been raised during the past few days by the German press in reference to a report that the Kaiser, privately meeting the staff general on January 2, in accordance with the New Year custom, read to them an article from the Deutsche Revue, with which, it is alleged, he had wholly agreed.

The article, besides technical military passages, contained a review of the political situation in Europe, declaring that Austria and Germany were surrounded by a ring of enemies and that British hostility was the most important factor in the international situation.

In view of the irrepressible stress of comment the Official Gazette to-day announces that the Kaiser did not discuss with the generals the political part of the article, but solely the military passages, which dealt largely with the experiences of the last maneuvers, and the Gazette intimates that as a supreme war lord the Kaiser did not depart from his legitimate sphere.

RAILROAD REWARDS BOY.

Averted Accident, So Pennsylvania Will Educate Him. Warsaw, Ind., Jan. 8.—Jared Baker, aged fifteen, the son of poor parents living east of Larwill, on the Chicago-Fort Wayne division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, is to have a schooling as a present from the big corporation in recognition of his act in notifying proper persons when he discovered that the main track just east of Larwill was blocked by a log at the time when the eighteen-hour Chicago-New York flyer was about due to pass the point.

This paper is asked, on behalf of Senators Elkins and Scott, to state that there was no warrant for the dispatch in question, and that they have given expression to no such sentiment as the dispatch indicated.

SENATORS ENTER DENIAL.

Elkins and Scott Not Eager for Roosevelt's Retirement. A dispatch in The Washington Herald yesterday from Charleston, W. Va., stated that Senators Elkins and Scott would "have a sign of relief when Mr. Roosevelt retires from the White House next March, and for this sign there will be a large chorus from the smaller fry, particularly in the Southern end of the State. Scott is said to have publicly expressed his satisfaction that Mr. Roosevelt is to enter private life, and that Mr. Elkins' echoes this same sentiment in known from the remarks he has let fall from time to time."

Special To-day—Carnations, 50c Doz. Regularly \$1 & \$1.50. Blackstone, 15th & H.

POLICE STATION BURNS.

Commissioner Bingham's Office Destroyed by Flames. New York, Jan. 8.—A stubborn fire, that took more than an hour to subdue, to-night threatened police headquarters and finally managed to burn out Commissioner Bingham's office and that of Deputy Commissioner Burgher on the floor below and put part of the police telephone system out of business for the night.

The fire was discovered shortly after 8 o'clock when a cleaner in the building went into Commissioner Bingham's private office to sweep it out. He gave the alarm and the fire department was soon at work on the flames.

TWO LIVES LOST IN FIRE.

Six-story Tenement House Burns and Kills Woman and Boy. New York, Jan. 8.—Charred bodies of a woman and a boy were found on the top floor of No. 66 Ninth avenue, a six-story tenement house, after it caught fire just before midnight to-night.

There was a rumor that an entire family perished in the ten-family house.

JOCKEYING FOR JUDGESHIP.

Republicans Foisting Adams for Senator to Get Him the Ermine. Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 8.—It was publicly announced here to-day that State Chairman Speffer B. Adams, the head of the Republican machine, and the machine candidate for judge of the United States District Court, the filling of which the President now has under consideration, will be honored with the Republican legislative caucus nomination for United States Senator, to succeed Senator Overman, who will be elected to succeed himself at the present session of the legislature.

It was also pointed out that the State chairman has been picked out for this honor, because, it is believed, it would help Adams in the estimation of the President, and with the hope that it would facilitate his appointment to the judgeship.

TWO AGED WOMEN CLOSE TO DEATH

Escaping Coal Gas Overcomes Them in Dining-room.

ONE ABLE TO CALL PHYSICIAN

Widows, Who Live Together in I Street House, Narrowly Escape Asphyxiation While They Are Preparing for Bed—Attract Attention of Passers-by Who Summon Doctor.

Mrs. Ella Miller, seventy years old, and Mrs. C. W. Brown, eighty-seven years old, narrowly escaped death about 9 o'clock last night, when they were overcome by coal gas escaping from a latrine in the dining-room of the house at 911 I street northwest.

Mrs. Miller, although nearly as weak as her companion, summoned aid, and a physician was called. He revived Mrs. Brown, and after working for half an hour pronounced the women out of danger.

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Brown, both widows, live together in a small frame house. They had gone into the dining-room to replenish the fire in a latrine.

Regulated the Dampers. Coal was put in and the dampers were regulated to prevent the fire burning too briskly.

After attending the fire the women sat down before the latrine. Mrs. Miller suggested preparing tea before going to bed. She had lighted a gas stove and placed a pot of water over the blaze, when she heard a noise in the dining-room.

The kitchen and dining-room are connected by a small hallway, but Mrs. Miller could not see her companion, as she had closed the door between the rooms. She called to Mrs. Brown, but received no response.

After the water on the stove had come to a boil, Mrs. Miller placed the pot on a tray with two cups and saucers, and started to go in the dining-room. Opening the door, Mrs. Miller discovered Mrs. Brown lying unconscious on the floor.

The room was filled with a noxious, suffocating gas. Mrs. Miller bent over her companion and while trying to revive the unconscious woman, fell to the floor. Though nearly unconscious herself, she had sufficient strength to drag herself to a door leading to the front hallway. Mrs. Miller crawled through the hall to the front door and thence to the porch in front of the house.

Passers-by Are Attracted. She attracted the attention of a man and woman walking in the street and asked them to come to her aid. The man, who declined to give his own, or his companion's name, carried Mrs. Brown to her room on the second floor and summoned Dr. R. A. Bennett, of 305 Tenth street northwest. The woman attended Mrs. Miller until the arrival of the physicians.

Dr. Bennett called in friends of the aged women and arrangements were made for their care. Both will recover.

TABLES MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT

House Denounces His Charges Against Members.

BITTER TERMS ARE USED

Attack Declared Ungrounded by Men He Accused.

Heated Discussion by Congressmen Follows Recommendation of Special Committee to Which the Document Was Referred—Loud Applause Greets Speeches—Bennet, Townsend, and Driscoll Defend President.

PRESIDENT'S CRITICISM THAT CAUSED CONGRESS TO SQUIRM

The following excerpt is from President Roosevelt's message to Congress and caused yesterday's attack on the Chief Executive. "Last year an amendment was incorporated in the measure providing for the Secret Service, which provided that there should be no detail from the Secret Service and no transfer therefrom. It is not too much to say that this amendment has been of benefit only, and could be of benefit only, to the criminal classes."

"It deliberately introduced for the purpose of diminishing the effectiveness of war against crime it could not have been better devised to this end. It forbade the practice that had been followed to a greater or less extent by the executive heads of various departments for twenty years."

"In its present form the restriction operates only to the advantage of the criminal or the wrongdoer. The chief argument in favor of the provision was that Congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by Secret Service men. Very little of such investigation has been done in the past, but it is true that the work of the Secret Service agents was partly responsible for the indictment and conviction of a Senator and a Congressman for land frauds in Oregon."

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Emphasizing bitterly its wounded feelings, the House of Representatives yesterday rebuked the President in a manner not heard of in Congress since the times of Andrew Jackson.

Prolonged applause, at times accompanied by fist-claps upon the desks of members, greeted the speeches of the offended Representatives as they bitterly denounced the President for his now famous Secret Service message. Time and time again the speakers were compelled to wait for the noise to cease in order that they might be heard.

After a debate of six and a half hours the House by a vote of 212 to 36 ordered tabled all the offensive paragraphs in the first message of the President and also in his explanation.

Galleries Packed. The galleries were packed to standing room, and lines of waiting persons and would-be spectators jammed the corridors around Representative Perkins, of New York, informed the House that the special committee appointed to recommend action on the message was ready to report.

Mr. Perkins, in the same deliberate manner that marked his address on December 9, called attention to the message of the President and recommending the appointment of a committee to investigate it and decide on what action would be taken, told the House that after careful and conscientious deliberation and investigation his committee was unable to find one instance in which the President was justified in making the attack on Congress. He said the committee was almost unanimous in its belief that the second message, sent by the President in explanation of his charge that Secret Service duties were curtailed because Congressmen themselves were afraid of being investigated, was not responsive and was evasive. Therefore, he said the committee recommended that all parts of both messages offensive to Congress should be tabled.

Representatives Tawney, Smith, Denby, Sherley, and Fitzgerald assailing the President, and Representatives Bennet, of New York; Townsend, and Driscoll then entered into one of the fiercest oratorical battles ever waged on the floor of the House. The attacking forces seemed to be in the majority, and at no time were their lines broken or seriously hampered by the defense of the President.

Scored the President. Chairman Tawney, of the Appropriations Committee, declared the President had deliberately misquoted him and had made misstatements about his action in supporting the Secret Service amendment; Representative Denby asserted the language used by the President in his message was unfit for publication in a national document; Representative Sherley said the document was unfair, untrue, unmanly, and Representative Smith, of Iowa, vehemently stated that no more "packed bills" would get by the Appropriations Committee as long as he was a member of Congress.

The defense of the President by Representatives Bennet, Townsend, and Driscoll was in the form of an appeal for the President's big reforms, and a larger force of detectives, and contained few statements relative to the offense which members of Congress say was so clear in the executive documents.

The day was set aside by previous arrangement for the purpose of making a furniture auction at Stoen's.

A desirable collection of general household and office furnishings will be sold at Stoen's, 1467 G st., to-day at 10 a. m.; delivery, etc., at 12 m. A good chance for those furnishing to secure desirable articles at their own prices.

Baltimore and Return, \$1.25. Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Every Saturday and Sunday. All trains, both ways, both days, except Royal Limited. City office, 1417 G st. and 619 Pa. ave.

TARGET FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

DATA IS GIVEN

President Makes Public Tillman Correspondence.

SENDS LETTER TO HALE

South Carolinian Accused of Seeking Western Lands.

SECRET SERVICE DEFENDED

The President, in a Long Letter to Senator Hale, Makes Public a Number of Letters and Telegrams, Which Are Alleged to Have Passed Between Senator Tillman and Western Land Agents, in Which the Former Expressed a Desire to Buy Some Property.



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South Carolina Senator named by Chief Executive in letter to Senator Hale as the one who dealt with Western land agents.

DARRIN PUNCTURES DEFENSE OF HAINS

One of Two Alienists Tangled Up by Prosecutor.

BOTH DAMAGE DEFENDANT

State Takes Up the Case in Rebuttal and Witnesses Are Put on to Refute the Evidence of Each One Who Testified for the Other Side—Insanity Theory Exploded.

New York, Jan. 8.—After an alienist had given it a blow that jarred it all over and another had gone through a cross-examination that did more harm than good, the defense in the case of Thornton Hains, on trial at Flushing for aiding his brother to kill William E. Annis, rested this afternoon.

Following the alienists the State started to further tear down the fabric of the defense with its rebuttal.

Dr. L. Samuel Manson handed Hains a job by saying that on the day of the murder Capt. Hains' mental condition was such as to render him incapable of recognizing the face of his enemy, or even his name, if he heard it spoken, allowing the possible inference that, being incapable of deduction of initiative, it must have been Thornton Hains who practically committed the murder, even though the captain held the automatic gun.

Recalled to patch this rent in the case, Dr. Manson made it more glaring by changing his mind and saying that Peter Hains' mind awakened when he heard the word "Annis" and that he knew what he was doing when he started down the runway to shoot, and that his "impulsive mania" probably recurred while filling his victim with bullets.

Alienist Becomes Mixed. Then came the other witness, Dr. Clark, who, after declaring that Peter Hains was insane in November, whereas Dr. Manson insisted that he had recovered in October, became woefully mixed under cross-examination. Being called upon to give from memory some of the things stated in the hypothetical question, Dr. Clark floundered badly. He couldn't remember any of the statements correctly. He finally figured out that Peter Hains was insane because he had twice overcome an impulse to kill Annis and equally insane because on the third occasion he had succumbed to the impulse and done the killing.

After insisting stoutly for upward of an hour that Peter Hains had "impulsive insanity," Dr. Clark finally decided that it had been wrong all the time, and that it was "compulsive insanity." Then he switched back and forth a few times in a state of high, florid confusion, juggling the words "compulsive" and "impulsive" until the audience was dizzy.

As the first witness in rebuttal, Mr. Darrin called Herbert S. Harvey, the sheriff of Queens County. He stated that he was present at the coroner's inquest, and saw Eugene C. Fallon, the private detective, approach the seat occupied by Thornton Hains and sit beside him.

The Other Witnesses. Fallon gave damaging testimony against the defendant, and the defense held that he had never occupied a seat beside the Hains brothers at the inquest.

Another witness was former Coroner Andrews, of College Point, who held the inquest. He also saw Fallon approach the Hains brothers on the night of the inquest and speak to them.

Robert Collins, a young negro living in Flushing, was next called by Mr. Darrin. He was a waiter at the Bayside Yacht Club on the day of the shooting. He was called to refute testimony given by James Tierney, the garbage man.

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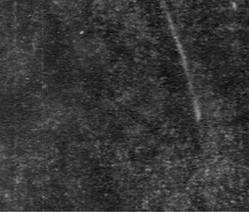
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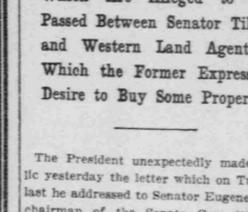
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