

BARREL MYSTERY GANG FLOODS CITY WITH \$5 COUNTERFEIT BILLS

Banker Warns Business Men to be on Guard For Poor Imitations

Secret Service Men Declare Spurious Money Comes from Sicilian Outlaws Whose Career Has Been Written in Sacrifice of Human Lives Throughout Two Continents

Secret service men who have been scouring Bridgeport for several weeks declare that the counterfeit \$5 bills, many of which have gained circulation in this city, are products of the same gang that committed the murder known in New York police annals as "the barrel mystery" and recorded as one of the most brutal crimes in the police records of that metropolis. The counterfeit bills, of alleged counterfeiters in New York the middle of last month has led to new clues as to the manufacture of the recent spurious bank notes, and it may lead to the unearthing of the instigators of the series of murders that have followed and have become known throughout the country as the crimes of the barrel mystery feud.

F. W. Hall, cashier of the Pequot bank, National bank, through the attention of the public, through the Business Men's association, to the counterfeit bills. Several of them have been presented at his bank and have been detected at the window, so defective is the work. That there are dozens of the bills in the city there is little doubt, those finding their way to the one bank probably representing only a small percentage of the total number set in circulation here.

Mr. Hall has addressed the following note to the Business Men's association:

Bridgeport Business Men's Association, City.

Gentlemen: It having come to my notice that a number of \$5.00 counterfeit bills are circulating in this city, I thought it wise to notify your Association that you might take some means to notify the business public.

The record we have of this counterfeit taken from our October number of the Nation Counterfeit Detector reads as follows:

"New Counterfeit \$5 United States Note, Series 1907, chameleon, but looks like 217; W. T. Vernon Register of the Treasury; Charles H. Treat, Treasurer; portrait of a poor photomechanical production upon a single piece of paper with no attempt to imitate silk threads. The watermark, front and back, and in fact all of the fine work on the note, is so blurred that it should attract immediate attention and should deceive the ordinary careful handler of money."

Very truly yours,
F. W. HALL, Cashier.

The secret service men lay the issuance of this latest product of counterfeiting to the doors of the Sicilian counterfeiters. It is generally believed that most of the counterfeit bills now circulating in the United States originates in Sicily. It is shipped in barrels and boxes of fruit, the secret service men say, into this country and while it is ridiculously poor in its attempt to follow the original it is still enough like real money to pass readily in quarters where no heat of detection is made of every bill.

With the arrest of a gang of counterfeiters in New York last month, a quantity of new bills were seized, the former identical with those in circulation here, was seized. The secret service men, on looking up the histories of their prisoners, who are now awaiting trial in the Federal courts, declared them to be allied with the barrel mystery counterfeiters.

In April 1903, Benedetto Madonno, a small merchant of Buffalo, N. Y., went to New York city to meet a gang of counterfeiters, carrying \$1,000 in cash. He was refused to deal with the men after several meetings, and was about to start home. Then he was murdered and robbed, and his body discarded almost before the heart stopped beating, was thrust into a barrel. The crime took place in the market of one Giovanni Zarcone, a butcher near 11th street and Avenue D. The headquarters of the gang.

Oaths of vengeance followed the slaying of Madonno. Two years later Thomas Pette, one of the alleged counterfeiters, was shot to death in Wilkesbarre. The same year, Vito Loddica was murdered in Sicily. A third member, Antonio Genova, was slain in Dayton, O., and last July, Giovanni Zarcone, who had given up his market and begun a retired life as a fruit farmer in Danbury, Conn., was killed just outside his home. Indirectly a victim of the same gang was Inspector Petrosini of the New York detective bureau, who was wounded in Italy because he knew too much about the doings of the Italian criminal classes. Petrosini had warned the Danbury police that Zarcone would either "kill or be killed" because of the barrel mystery feud.

Three men survive the barrel mystery, Giuseppe Morello, Pietro Inzerillo, and Antonio Lobo, alleged members of the gang that slew Madonno. They have vanished from their former haunts, and are believed to have fled to the earth had swallowed them. The police had never been able to convict the gang, although the secret service men never had their doubts as to where the guilt belonged.

ZELAYA OUTGENERALS ESTRADA AGAINST BLUEFIELDS

Revolutionary Commander Bitterly Assailed for Failing to Press on Government Troops, and It Is Now Very Likely that United States Will Be Called Upon to Send Warships to His Assistance.

(Special from United Press.)

Port Limon (via Wireless to Column)—Dec. 11.—President Zelaya, commander of the government troops in the war now being waged with the Nicaraguan revolutionists, has abandoned his previous line of action, which was the capture of the revolutionary position at Rama and is now conducting a flank movement against Bluefields, the headquarters of the provisional government, according to despatches received here today. General Estrada, provisional president, who has been in command at Rama, is said to have been thrown off his guard by incorrect reports as to Zelaya's strength.

Zelaya, by seeking an armistice with Estrada's representatives, gave the latter the impression that the government troops were on the point of surrender and at the same time covered up his movement against Bluefields. It is now believed that less than 500 government troops are before Rama and that the remainder of Zelaya's army, estimated at from 1,000 to 3,000 in number, is marching against Bluefields.

Sympathizers with the Nicaraguan revolutionists are presently assailing General Estrada for failing to take offensive measures against Zelaya and for assuming, it is charged, that his position at Rama was secure and that the revolutionary strongholds elsewhere were in no danger. Instead, it is known, he thought that Bluefields was safe from a land advance by Zelaya, as he believed he had effectually blocked the roads.

Here is where Zelaya outgeneralized Estrada, despatches say, is being made over the roads Estrada pronounced impassable.

Zelaya's attempt to capture Bluefields is considered here of doubtful military expedience, and likely to result in the intervention of the United States which has several war vessels either at or in close proximity to Bluefields.

New Orleans, Dec. 11.—A despatch from Bluefields, received here today,

says the Zelayan army, which has taken the vicinity of Rama, is marching on Bluefields. The city is terror-stricken and the only hope of the Estrada sympathizers here, according to the despatch, is that the American warships will land a force of marines. The Zelayan army is reported to be within 10 miles of Bluefields.

The despatch further says that United States Consul Moffat at Bluefields has given assurances to the revolutionists that the United States will step in and control the situation should it become serious.

The Des Moines is in the harbor at Bluefields.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Another enigmatical phase of the Nicaraguan situation is foreshadowed by the coming of Enrique Creel, former ambassador of Mexico, to the United States, who will arrive in Washington tomorrow to lay before the state department certain proposals on the part of his government looking toward the restoration of order in Central America.

The object of Senor Creel's visit is as yet unknown to state department officials, but there are reports that he will step in and control the situation should it become serious.

It is believed that the mission of the former ambassador will have less to do with the immediate situation than it will with laying down a general scheme for preventing similar situations in the future. The despatches received at the state department today indicate that there is no material change in the Nicaraguan situation, although the reports from Bluefields are quiet and that the revolutionists will win in Rama. There is some danger of the Zelayan forces making a detour. There are also further rumors of an uprising in Leon in favor of Irías. There seems to be much doubt at present whether Zelaya will risk a conflict with Estrada or not. It is much more likely that he will refrain from an open engagement preferring to maneuver and depend upon his lieutenants to gain the president's chair.

BUCKINGHAM DEMANDS ADEQUATE TROLLEY SERVICE OF CONN. CO.

Clean and Well Heated Cars, Frequently Run, With a Seat for Every Person is the Minimum That Will be Accepted.

Ample Accommodations for Workers Going and Coming From Factories Specifically Required—City's Committee Meets Superintendent Chapman, Who Explains That the Company Has Not Provided Enough Cars—Promises Reform.

Promptly the committee of five appointed by the Mayor met at the City Hall with Superintendent Chapman of the Connecticut Co., yesterday. Mayor Buckingham promptly called the meeting to order and proceeded with the election of the clerk, H. H. Jackson was elected. The committee comprised Alderman McMurray, Clappett, Bullard and Jackson. The mayor then took up the various complaints and conditions that prevailed in the trolley service in Bridgeport for the past two or three years.

The first question he took up with Supt. Chapman was the heating of the cars, stating that the complaint had reached him that there was no heat from day to night in the cars. The people coming from Paradise Green and such points of distance find it pretty cold. He then took up the complaint of the heating from five to seven. Mr. Chapman explained this as being due to the lack of power. An accident to one of the generators on Tuesday has deprived them, he said, of sufficient power to heat all of the cars during these busy hours.

At the present time there are 108 cars in operation, comprising both large and small. Eighteen of these are borrowed from cities outside of Bridgeport. He frankly admitted that the equipment they do not have cars enough to carry the passengers. He further explained that every two and one-half days the entire population of the city of Bridgeport rode in the cars. He furthermore stated much of the increased trolley traffic is due to the industrial revival in Bridgeport.

He explained that there is no city in the state. The repairs on the generators he stated would probably be finished by Sunday, Dec. 13, then he would restore the cars to normal.

He furthermore stated that at the present time the company is having vestibules put on 15 cars to be in compliance with the law.

When the question of capacity was taken up during the rush hours he said this would be studied and the cars from the city and the factories would receive the utmost consideration and would be remedied just as soon as they had cars sufficient to carry the entire load. The cars being built in Worcester and are to be ready at about the rate of one a day, beginning January 1. During January, 1910, the entire lot of cars, with the 15 cars now being vestibuled, will give 35 extra cars for conveying the public. The 20 new cars now being ordered, \$8,000 each, will be the most recent type large double truck cars.

The congested condition of traffic on the Fairfield avenue was talked over and he made a suggestion to the Mayor and asked his co-operation and that something be done to remedy the condition.

The Mayor was rather insistent in knowing if the cars would be properly cleaned and Mr. Chapman said, in explanation that in the cars on Stratford avenue there is not room to permit a man to get between the cars to clean the windows on the outside. He stated they employ six cleaners at night and they are instructed to clean the windows on the inside, clean the cars out thoroughly. He stated that he had been over the cars and during this week he had contracted to discharge four men who he found had not been doing their work properly. He expressed willingness to see that the cars were kept clean and furthermore stated that the unsightly and unclean "coupling and turtle back" for throwing the car on the track is a nuisance and would be removed, as they can be carried under the car and away from sight.

The question of men smoking on the rear of the platform was taken up and he stated that this was where the public most help, if the men would refrain from smoking this would be easily corrected. He furthermore stated that he was against the rule for men to congregate on the rear platform when there was room inside in the car. If they would get off the car and stand on the platform, he would save a lot of criticism, annoyance to ladies getting off and on the car and be of assistance to those in charge of the car. In the course of conversation it developed that the company are having more open cars made which will be ready for the summer. He stated that there has been an order placed for cars for a year from this time, but it would receive attention and that probably additional large cars would be ready for next winter if needed.

In the discussion Mr. Chapman expressed friendly interest in affairs and stated since the company had taken over the Connecticut Railway Co. in this city over \$1,000,000 had been expended. But the committee impressed him with the fact that having exclusive franchise of 110,000 people, there is only one thing to do and that is provide transportation for the people of Bridgeport and adjacent territory at all hours.

While Mr. Chapman showed the desire to meet the requirements of the committee and willing to apply a remedy for the conditions that exist still the committee, if these remedies are

not applied, will insist that the present conditions shall be remedied and have decided to go to any extreme that may be necessary to alleviate the conditions that exist in the city.

The express service to Stratford has called forth a lot of criticism, because of the inadequate service between the city and the cut bars on Stratford avenue. Passengers complain that they have to wait 20 to 30 minutes and to have these cars go by with room for passengers and then be obliged to wait is entirely unnecessary, and ask that something be done to remove these conditions, either to stop the cars or supply extra cars.

The statement was made to Mr. Chapman that conditions had reached such an acute state that factories were beginning to discriminate in hiring help who lived far away as they are put to great inconvenience by their arriving not on time, which means additional work responsibility. In the city 25,000 people are employed in the factories and it is absolutely necessary that they have ample conveyance to and from work by the Connecticut Company without exiting an unreasonable time and suffering the loss of wages from inadequate trolley service.

Next week the committee will meet with Mr. Chapman and take up a number of matters such as the use of the Broad street loop and lack of accommodation between this city and the city of Stratford, Groceries company, Ansonia, and which prevents a number from trading with our merchants on account of delay in getting to and from the city. There has been a great deal of criticism regarding the stopping of cars from the east under the railroad viaduct, because of the dirt and noise. It is suggested that at that particular point which is occasioned by the road being very low and the water settles and remains for days on the ground. In many cases the placing of a placard on the front of the house is an injustice to a neighbor. For instance, he said, a grocer complained to him that he had a placard had been posted next to his store he had lost 25 per cent. of his business. Dr. McLellan said he considered this an injustice and unnecessary.

The health officer said he was giving discretion about placing the signs by former boards. In many cases the placing of a placard on the front of the house is an injustice to a neighbor. For instance, he said, a grocer complained to him that he had a placard had been posted next to his store he had lost 25 per cent. of his business. Dr. McLellan said he considered this an injustice and unnecessary.

PITY FOR AGED SINNERS MOVES JUDGE WILDER

He Frees Female Proprietor of Checker Board with Admonition to Live Elsewhere.

Out of sheer pity for their condition Judge Wilder discharged two old colored women, Emma Upperson and Emma Freeman, from the clutches of the law, this morning. They were charged with keeping an immoral place on Middle street, known as "The Checker Board." This place was raided last Saturday and several frequenters were arrested. Mrs. Upperson claimed that Mrs. Freeman owned the house. Mrs. Freeman declared with tears in her eyes that she had seen nothing wrong in her house and that she had lived there since "six years before the blizzard." She is almost helpless from rheumatism. She was taken to another house and the charge against her was niled. Mrs. Upperson was sentenced to 30 days in jail and judgment was suspended.

HEALTH OFFICER PLACES CARDS WITHOUT FAVOR

Health Officer E. A. McLellan denied this morning that he had ever neglected to place a card where a case of yellow fever, or diphtheria existed. He also said that he did not play favorites, meaning that he had a card posted when necessary on every man's house, rich or poor. He said that the law requires the card to be placed where it can be seen by those entering the building where the contagious disease is. It is not posted for the purpose of informing the public or merely to passersby that there is a case of sickness in the house.

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GET YOUR NEW AUTO MARKERS

Birmingham Informed By Secretary of State that They Will Be Required After January 1.

Superintendent Birmingham received a communication from the secretary of state this morning that new auto markers on automobiles after January 1. For private owners markers will have a red background and white figures. The cars of manufacturers, dealers and livermen will have a white background and red figures. The operators' markers on the manufacturers', dealers' or livermen's cars will have a black background and yellow figures.

JAIL FOR AGED MAN AND WIFE

Martin and Lena Colitz, an aged couple, were arraigned in the city court this morning charged with drunkenness, breach of the peace and vagrancy. He was sent to jail for 30 minutes and fined \$1 and costs. She was sent to jail for 15 days. They spend much of their time wandering about the city.

WALL STREET TO-DAY

(Special from United Press.)

New York, Dec. 11.—The stock market opened irregular. Some issues showed gains, the leading railroads ranging above yesterday's close. American Ice declined 4 points on the report that the company, at the end of 15 minutes the tone was generally strong.

11 a. m.—With the development of a generally strong tone at the opening of the market continued to make some gains through the first hour. Part of the early loss in American Ice was regained.

Government bonds unchanged; other bonds firm.

LOST.—Collie, answers to name of Ted. License number 681. Reward. T. Lavin, 299 Gregory St. T 11 s * o

PECK & SNYDER'S club sacks 50 cents to \$5.00 a pair at Challenger's News Room, 5 Crescent Ave. T 11 d * o

TO RENT—Store and four rooms Corner Railroad and Hancock ave. Enquire 198 West ave. T 10 b * o

WANTED—A competent girl for general housework in family of two. Call 29 Sherwood ave. a *

LOST.—Account book, Rewards of \$25.00 if returned to 275 Coleman St. a *

LOST.—An account book on or near Stratford Ave. Return to 645 Warren St. for reward. T 11 b * p o

WIFE GETS JUDGMENT FOR INSURANCE ON HER HUSBAND'S LIFE.

Benefit Society Urges Suicide of Beneficiary as Reason For Not Paying.

Theresa Biro, 551 Bostwick avenue, gets judgment of \$198.25 in her suit against the Bridgeport Rocozi Hungarian Sick Benefit society, for \$500 insurance. The judgment was by default the defendant not appearing. Attorney Abe S. Geduldig, of Geduldig & Merva appeared for Mrs. Biro.

Mrs. Biro's husband committed suicide before the society refused to pay the insurance. The undertaker, John Lesko, presented a bill for \$151.75.

FRIENDS WILL PAY YOUNG CABLE'S BILLS

It was said today by Attorney C. H. Shapiro who holds claim against the estate of the late John Cable, of which William A. Cable, Sylvester A. Miller and John P. Moulton were incorporators, that friends of Mr. Cable will pay his bills.

The company was incorporated about a month ago and had offices in the Lincoln building, Cannon street. They contracted with a small firm, Esposito to the barber, furnished a cash bond of \$25,000. Mr. Shapiro and Shapiro, Cable and Moulton then disappeared.

NEGRO SWELL SEES SIGHTS; LOSES \$22

Wednesday, a very small colored man, John Carter from Boston, drifted to town Monday. He started in to "see the sights" before he had gone a few blocks he was arrested for stealing \$22 from him. Later he said \$15 more had been stolen from him. The police were unable to help him or learn his reason for being in Bridgeport.

FEED DEALER LEAVES CITY AND BILLS.

Morris Mellitz, who conducted a feed store at Ogden and Hallett streets, left the city a few days ago, leaving a bill behind him to the amount of \$500. Two of the firms involved are the Bertha Mills Co. and the L. Neuberger Co. Shapiro & Shapiro have several claims against him.

L. H. KLEBAN BUYS GERSON ZIFF STOCK.

The sale of the stock and business of Gerson Ziff, the pawn broker, at 609 Water street, who was declared bankrupt, was completed today, when the deed was made out to Israel H. Kleban and Geiman. The sale was made at public auction for \$2,000. The goods were appraised at \$1,000. The creditors will get good dividends. J. Harry Crossley is trustee.

FRANK L. RODGERS SIED BY SWAN ESTATE FOR SUM OF \$35,000 DUE ON NOTES

Frank L. Rodgers of Fairfield, former member of the Fairfield County Bar Association, who was connected with the Trippe-Rodgers alleged conspiracy to defraud aged Henry Wheeler of Stratford of about \$20,000, by securing his endorsement to notes which they had negotiated through various banks, is again in trouble.

This time Fred S. Small of Hartford, administrator of the estate of the late Swan, formerly a member of the firm of Swan & Bushnell, this city, has brought suit against Rodgers through the estate for \$35,000.

The estate is the holder of eighteen different notes from various parties to Rodgers, who in turn sold them to Swan for a valuable consideration. The notes amount to \$30,000. This morning Deputy Sheriff Peter Doolan

served the papers in the case, which is returnable to the Superior court, on Rodgers at his home in Fairfield. Rodgers has no property in his own name. Mrs. Rodgers holds the title to the property.

Rodgers was once associated with Attorney Daniel Davenport and W. H. O'Hara, lawyers, under the name of Davenport, Rodgers & O'Hara. Mr. Davenport is now counsel for the Anti-Slavery League, having his office in Washington, while Mr. O'Hara is still practicing in this city. Members of the firm were interested in the "Chaquette Power Co." project, in which they lost heavily, especially Mr. Davenport. Rodgers resigned from the bar association following a discussion of his methods as a lawyer.

SWINDLER VICTIMIZES DEALERS BY FORGING PASTOR RICHARDSON'S NAME

A young man calling himself George Grant, fleeing the Grant Paint Co. on State street, of 111; the Baer Brothers Cigar Co. on State street of 111, and Rogevno, the fruit dealer on State street, of 116. It happened Monday, Dec. 6. Detective Edward Cronan is working on the case. The young man was well dressed and of very respectable appearance.

In the paint store he bought \$1 worth of paint and handed the clerk a check for \$11, payable to George Grant and signed by the Rev. John MacLaren Richardson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church. He received \$10 change.

The same evening he went to the fruit dealer's and bought some grape fruit, which cost \$1. Again he presented a \$11 check signed by the Rev. Mr. Richardson, and received his fruit and walked away. The latter check was signed by Charles S. Cole.

The three checks when presented at the bank were marked "fake" and the police were notified. Neither the Richardson nor Mr. Cole have any idea who the young swindler is.

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FOR SALE—Beautiful upright mahogany piano. Will sacrifice \$100 if sold at once. F. Fitch Piano Co., 844 Noble Ave. T 10 t * o

FOR SALE—Square piano \$10, tuned and moved free. Violin \$5, cost \$12. Call 115. F. Fitch Piano Co., 844 Noble Ave. T 10 t * o

DON'T Buy land anywhere till you get our literature about South Georgia. It tells you things you never heard of before. Write today. It will come next mail. Fruit land Colony Co., 167 Adams St., Chicago, Ill. a *

AUTO PAINTING—Pratt, Stratford Ave., Stratford. H 27 d * 542 p o

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TO RENT—A flat of 5 rooms, all improvements, newly done, 100 Atlantic St. T 10 b * p o

FOR SALE—Low down milk wagon, good as new bargain. Fitch Piano Co., Milford. Tel. 92-3. T 10 b * p o

FOR SALE CHEAP—Oldsmobile touring car with magneto in A1 condition, fully equipped. Address P. O. Box 124, Bridgeport, Conn. T 10 u * o

AGENTS can make big money handling our household necessities. Easy to sell. Easy to handle. Write today. Lincoln Specialty Co., Dept. D., Olneyville, Providence, R. I. T 10 b * p o

COMFORT CORN PLASTERS—You've tried the rest, now try the best. J. N. McNamara's, East Main St. H 29 * t f o

LOST—A gold pocketbook on Wednesday, the 8th, marked in A1 condition, fully equipped. Address P. O. Box 124, Bridgeport, Conn. T 9 s * o

TO RENT—6 rooms all improvements \$22. 1633 Iranistan ave. T 7 r * p o

CORNET LESSONS—The course embraces single, doubling, and all the popular music. Address L. Adrian Vernon, cornet soloist, Wheeler & Wilson Band. Address 65 Ann street. T 5 d * p o

DON'T RUN the risk of Fire and Tragedy at the Glad Christmas time. Have your trees lighted by electricity. Drop me a postcard I will call and give you estimates on installation. C. W. Phillips, 909 Hancock Ave. T 9 u * p o

PIANOS FOR SALE—25 will be sold at a saving of \$125.00. Chickering Bros. (Steinway), 333 Broad St., Boston, Mass., and piano players. We have pianos as low as \$90.00. Easy payments if desired. F. Fitch Piano Co., 844 Noble Ave. T 10 t * o

FOR SALE—Large new chicker house, new material, well built; also dining parlor stove, one standard power sewing machine, one-quarter horse Gen. Electric motor, parlor and hall hanging lamps, all the above as good as new. Call 2993 Fairfield Ave. T 10 s * p o

FOR SALE—At a bargain, two family house and conservatory in perfect order, gas, three toilets, bath, eleven rooms and basement, furnace in cellar. Fine location. Always rented. Good investment. Price \$4,000; \$1,000 cash, balance on mortgage. Address J. Lessen, 29 Leo St., Stamford, Ct. T 11 s * p o

NOTICE.

Bartenders' Union, Local 256. There will be a regular meeting tomorrow at 8:30 p. m. at which you are particularly requested to be present, as there will be nominations for officers for the ensuing six months and other business of importance that requires your attention. J. N. SEARS, Sec.

Card of Thanks.

We, the undersigned, desire to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Eucharistic League of the Sacred Heart and Third Order of St. Francis societies and to our friends and neighbors for their kind tokens of sympathy, and floral pieces in our late bereavement.

MR. & MRS. PATRICK COUGHLIN AND FAMILY.

LIVE AGENTS Wanted to sell high grade specialty. Easy to sell. Easy to handle. Liberal commission. Write today. The Fremont Co., Concord, N. H.

FOR SALE CHEAP—Household furniture of four rooms including range, carpets, chairs, tables, etc. Must be sold at once. Sunday 8 till noon. Monday 7 to 8 p. m. Call 322 Lexington avenue. a * p

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UNCLASSIFIED

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