

Druce Coffin Opened; Remains of Aged Man Belie Caldwell Story



DUKE OF PORTLAND, Whose Claim to Be Rightful Heir to Great Estates Is Greatly Strengthened.

SHED OVER GRAVE CONCEALS GROUP FROM BIG CROWD

Sworn Statement of Witness Taken and Body Reburied.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Thomas Charles Druce's coffin contains human remains.

It was opened in Highgate Cemetery today, and inside was found the body of an aged, bearded man. The features were unrecognizable, but there is no doubt the corpse was that of Druce himself.

Though George Hollamby Druce, claimant to the title and estates of the dukedom of Portland, says his case is unshaken by the discovery, it is generally considered that the investigation wrecks his hopes.

The perjury charge against Herbert Druce, the elder Druce's son by a second marriage, who says he saw his father in his coffin in 1864, fifteen years before the fifth duke of Portland died, of course falls to the ground.

New Yorker's Story False.

The story by Robert Caldwell, the New Yorker who swore he engineered a bogus funeral for Druce and buried 20 pounds of lead in his coffin, is proved absolutely untrue, Herbert Druce says he will push the case against the latter, who is under arrest in New York, charged by the English authorities with perjury. Similar accusations will probably be preferred against other witnesses who testified in George H. Druce's civil suit and against Herbert Druce in the perjury case.

It was to lay a foundation for such prosecutions that Herbert Druce, much against his will, finally permitted his father's grave to be opened.

Built Shed Over Grave.

The opening of the grave was begun at 8 o'clock in the morning. The diggers and witnesses were gathered in an electric lighted shed built about the Druce lot. The adjoining shed was a small private room provided for Dr. Pepper, the physician chosen to open the coffin and conduct the examination.

The most extraordinary precautions were taken to keep curiosity seekers at a distance. Two hundred men guarded the cemetery, keeping out every one unless provided with permits to enter. Herbert Druce, who was in charge, refused to allow George Druce inside the gate.

An hour and forty-five minutes was

POSTAL TRAMPS BACK FROM "HIKE" OF 77 LONG MILES

Covert Makes Pace and Gambols About Like Frisky Lamb.

The postal pilgrims have returned. Weary of limb, but gay of spirit the three officials who left Washington last Thursday afternoon at 4:35 o'clock for a tramp to Havre de Grace, Md., a distance of seventy-seven miles, reported at their offices today.

The participants in the "hike" are burdened with a fund of interesting reminiscences, and talk entertainingly of the trip. The party consisted of Dr. John A. Holmes, private secretary to Postmaster General Meyer; Richard P. Covert, superintendent of the division of supplies; and Assistant Postmaster Allan of Richmond, Va. Charles A. Conrad, chief clerk in the bureau of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, who holds the postoffice record for long walks, was to go as pacemaker, but was prevented by an attack of the grip.

Covert Gambols Like Lamb.

The position of pacemaker was assumed by Mr. Covert, who is noted as an athlete. It is said that he would leave the party at points along the road, run ahead for half a mile, and then return to see how the boys were getting along. The pilgrims took the Seventh street road to Brightwood, thence to Silver Spring, where the first stop was made, and a supper of potted-ham and sardine sandwiches was eaten. They pushed on to Ashton, Md., which was reached at 10 o'clock Thursday night. After assuring the natives that they were not as bad as they appeared, lodging was finally arranged at the home of a Mr. Abel. Lodging and breakfast for the party of three cost \$1.75, an evidence of the fact that they were not regarded as millionaires in disguise.

Before reaching Ashton the pilgrims were frequently held up by toll-gate keepers and others along the road, and lanterns thrown in their faces. In each instance, however, they succeeded in convincing the confiding natives that they were all right. Ashton was left at 8:30 o'clock Friday morning, and Elliott City, a distance of sixteen miles, reached at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Dinner was had there and the party continued on its way. The town constable, however, who saw the trio as they marched into the town, was not entirely satisfied that they were straight goods, and remained close to the hotel until the postals were well on their way again.

Very, Very Tired Second Night.

Baltimore was reached at 5:15 o'clock, each member of the party being lame, (Continued on Second Page.)

Successful Business Men Demand the best printing—that's why our clientele is so large. Globe Printing Co., 14th and E sts., n.w.—Adv.

HARDEN WINNER BY TESTIMONY OF PHYSICIAN

Frau von Elbe Is Declared Sane and Competent to Give Evidence.

Witness Says That Von Moltke's Mother-in-Law Accused Wife of Misconduct.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Prof. Schweninger, the late Prince Bismarck's physician, gave the testimony at the Von Moltke-Harden libel trial a tura favorable to the accused editor today.

Concerning Frau Von Elbe, whose testimony against her divorced husband, Von Moltke, has been attacked by several witnesses for the prosecution, Schweninger declared in a deposition read in court that he always considered the woman mentally sound. He did not think she ever suffered from illusions, but believed all the damaging charges she made against Von Moltke.

He related hearing the Kaiser's sister, the Princess of Saxe-Meiningen, express her sorrow that "such degeneracy" as Von Moltke's "should occur in high circles."

Heard Immorality Rumors.

He heard rumors of Prince Zu Eulenberg's alleged immorality, he added, as long ago as the time of Prince Bismarck.

The deposition said the professor was astonished, however, that Harden's writings would have created so great a furor, inasmuch as he understood them to be political rather than personal in significance.

Then a number of witnesses took the stand to attack Frau Von Elbe. Her former companion, Frauella Mal, said Frau Von Elbe was capricious, excitable, and unreasonably quarrelsome. Von Moltke suffered greatly, the witness added, from his wife's conduct.

Guilty of Improprieties.

Frau Von Dem Marwitz said Frau Von Elbe's mother told the former that her daughter was "ill advised and untrustworthy." Baroness Von Swasen asserted that Frau Von Elbe was guilty of various improprieties before her marriage to Von Moltke. Similar accusations were made by Countess Dauckelmann.

Harden was so ill that he was hardly able to hold up his head during today's proceedings, and, either from weakness or discouragement at the piling up of testimony against him, appeared much depressed. Moltke appears to gain strength and cheerfulness constantly as the hearing progresses.

GOAL CONCERN ASKS DISSOLUTION ORDER

Raeburn-Garner Co.'s Officials Apply to Court for Receiver.

A petition in voluntary liquidation, with a request for the appointment of a temporary receiver and a final decree for winding up the business of the Raeburn-Garner Coal Company was filed in the District Supreme Court this morning by officers of that corporation acting under direction of the board of directors.

The petition states that the corporation is solvent; that it is "believed to be to the interest of the stockholders that the corporation be dissolved as the objects of the corporation are impracticable."

It is recited that at a meeting of the board of directors held December 28 voluntary liquidation of the business of the corporation was decided upon and the officers were directed to take the necessary legal action to attain that end.

The capitalization of the corporation is stated to be \$75,000, divided into shares of a par value of \$25 each; that of the capital stock there has been sold and paid for 1,725 shares, or \$43,125 paid in as capital stock. The assets of the concern are stated to be \$50,784.84, which leaves the sum of \$10,559.84 surplus over and above liabilities. The liabilities are all due to stockholders for the face value of the stock held. The accounts receivable as stated are \$12,112, and bills receivable, \$49.70, or a total of \$12,161.70 cash due the corporation.

The petition requests the appointment of Michael G. McCormick, president of the corporation, as temporary receiver pending the final decree of dissolution. The accounts of the corporation are fully shown and the request is made that the same be referred to the auditor of the court, Darr, Poyser & Taylor are the solicitors.

HEINZE BANKRUPT CASE IS POSTPONED FOR WEEK

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The hearing before Federal Judge Hough to dismiss the motion in involuntary bankruptcy proceedings against Otto Heinze & Co., brokers, who suspended several months ago, was adjourned today for one week.

Mystery Shrouds Fatal Fire; Heroic Girl Tells of Battle With Blaze to Save Mother

FIRE VICTIM AND SCENE OF TRAGEDY

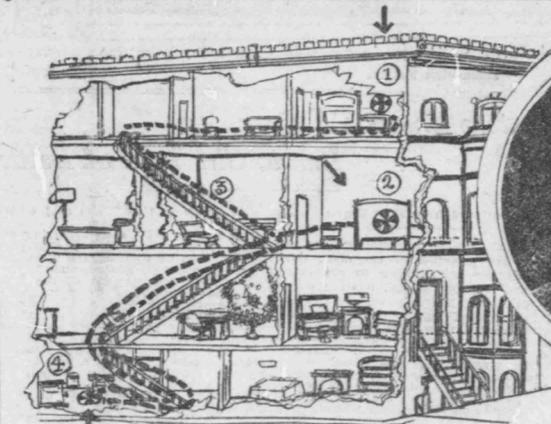


DIAGRAM OF BECKER HOME. 1—Where Miss Becker Was Sleeping. 2—Where Mrs. Becker Slept. 3—Course Taken by Miss Becker in Search for Mother. 4—Kitchen Where Mrs. Becker Perished in Flames.



MRS. PETER M. BECKER, Woman Burned to Death Sunday Morning, and Building Damaged by Fire.

QUAKE RECORDED BY SEISMOGRAPH AT THE BUREAU

Believed Shock Occurred in Alaska Or South America.

A distant earthquake, estimated by bureau officials as being either in Alaska or some South American country, was recorded by the seismograph at the Weather Bureau early this morning.

The seismograph vibrations began at 12:33 a. m. and lasted for more than an hour. The first tremors continued for 4 minutes and 35 seconds. The strongest motion was recorded at 12:45 o'clock, at which time the actual movement of the ground at Washington was about five millimeters.

The announcement was made from the bureau this afternoon that no vibrations had occurred since 2 o'clock this morning, and that the seismograph at the Weather Bureau early this morning. The maximum displacement was sixty-four millimeters.

Earthquake Is Registered By Laibach Instrument

LAIBACH, Austria, Dec. 30.—The seismograph recorded at 6:40 this morning several heavy shocks of earthquake, the center of the disturbance being about 6,200 miles westerly from the observatory.

MOTHER OF POWERS AT PRISONER'S SIDE

GEORGETOWN, Ky., Dec. 30.—When Samuel M. Wilson, of Lexington, counsel for Caleb Powers, began his three hours' address to the jury today, the court room was filled with spectators. E. J. Sherman, of the superior court of Massachusetts, had a seat beside Judge Morris.

Seated with the attorneys for Powers was J. C. Doyle, private secretary of former Governor Yates, of Illinois, who represented Powers in his appeal to the supreme court on a former trial. Powers' aged mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Powers, and his sister, Mrs. Hays Green, arrived here today to cheer their son and brother in the last days of his trial. This is the eighth week of the famous case.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have fresh to brisk southerly, shifting to westerly, winds, and rain to the Grand Banks.

Table with columns for TEMPERATURE, SUN TABLE, and TIDE TABLE, listing various weather and astronomical data.

WARDAMAN RETORTS COPYING PHRASE OF PRESIDENT

Italians are "Undesirable Aliens," Declares Mississippi Governor.

Normal, healthy Italian children are "undesirable aliens," so far as the State of Mississippi is concerned, according to a letter received at the Department of State from Governor Vardaman, of Mississippi.

The governor, in putting into circulation the phrase "undesirable aliens" has come pretty close to the President's "undesirable citizens." Incidentally, he has succeeded in tying up the Department of State in an embarrassing manner, owing to the old question of State rights. He charged the diplomatic machinery with a curious letter.

An Italian, whose grievance has been the subject of diplomatic exchanges between the United States and Italy, will be obliged to resort to the courts to secure redress for what he considers his wrongs.

The case is that of an Italian who recently went to Mississippi from New Orleans. Later on he desired to bring his family up also, but the children were prevented from entering the State. Appeal was taken by the father to the Italian consul, who reported it to the embassy, and representations were made to the State Department. Governor Vardaman was asked to make an investigation.

A short time ago he submitted affidavits and other papers showing that the children of the Italian were normal, healthy, and had attended the public schools in New Orleans, and, moreover, were born in the United States. Accompanying the papers, which clearly demonstrated the right of the children to enter the State, was a note to the department from Governor Vardaman, saying, with the usual formality, that it was evident the children were "undesirable aliens."

The State Department can do nothing further. It has no authority to question the action of the State, and therefore can carry the case no further. The only course to follow was to notify the embassy that the case could be taken to the courts.

STEAMER SAVES MEN WHEN SCHOONER SINKS

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—The fate of the four-masted schooner Nimbus, which has been missing for two weeks, was revealed when her crew arrived here on board the United Fruit Company's steamer, Admiral Sampson. The Nimbus foundered on Hatteras December 15. But for the timely arrival of the steamer Beatrice every member of the crew would have perished.

The Beatrice landed the men at Port Antonio and they were brought home yesterday by the Admiral Sampson. John R. Stah, of Waldober, Me., was captain of the Nimbus. Among his crew were Rudolph Hassell, of Providence, R. I., first mate; Patrick Monahan, of Newark, N. J.; Albert E. Burette, of Brooklyn; and William C. Steer, of New York.

SUICIDE FOUND IN OFFICE AFTER ALL NIGHT SEARCH

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 30.—After searching for him all night the body of George Werner, a prominent business man, was found in the office of the Werner Carriage Manufacturing Company here early today. Werner had committed suicide by inhaling illuminating gas through a rubber tube attached to a jet.

SLAY MAN THEN BURN HIS CORPSE

Robbers Murder B. & O. Railroad Operator Near Wheeling.

Youth of 20 Alone in Station When Attack Comes.

Bloodhounds on Trail of Three Suspicious Characters.

WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 30.—Robbers this morning murdered Edward Hutchinson, a Baltimore and Ohio railroad telegraph operator at Welcome, 30 miles from here, robbed the safe in the station, and then threw the young man's body into a warehouse of the building, which they set afire.

Bloodhounds are on the trail of three suspicious characters who were seen lurking around the station about midnight, and a posse of armed residents is hot on the trail of the criminals, who may be summarily dealt with in the event of their capture.

Youth Alone in Station.

The crime is supposed to have been committed about 1 o'clock this morning when Hutchinson, who was but twenty years old, was alone in the station. It is believed the young man was asleep, and when suddenly awakened he resisted the efforts of the intruders to ransack the safe containing a small sum of money and many hundreds of tickets.

Attention of residents was first attracted to the little station by flames bursting from the building. Volunteers responded to the cries of fire from those nearby but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to get to the bunk room where the operator was supposed to be asleep.

The station and warehouse were destroyed by the flames, the safe was found open and the absence of the tin box containing the money and tickets proved that it had been robbed.

His Skull Battered In.

Upon examination of the body of the operator it was discovered that he had not only been shot, but his skull was battered in and a gag had been fastened about his mouth to prevent outcry.

Immediately after the body was discovered a request was sent to the Mountsview penitentiary for half a dozen of the famous bloodhounds, and they were at once set upon the trail of the murders, robbers, and incendiaries.

This is the worst crime ever committed in this section of the State, and residents are in a high pitch of excitement.

STRIKERS IN CHILE DRIVEN BACK TO MINES

John Hicks, United States minister to Chile, reported to the State Department today that the uprising at Iquique, where several hundred nitrate miners were killed in a clash with government troops, had been entirely suppressed. According to the Chilean government, all the nitrate workmen have returned to the interior, and there seems little or no likelihood of a recurrence of the strike and turmoil which frightened the entire nation of Chile.

PLAYING WITH PISTOL, GETS SERIOUS WOUND

Shot in the stomach by the accidental discharge of a pistol with which he was playing, Herman A. Tull, nineteen years old, is at the Casualty Hospital today.

Tull, who is employed as a clerk in the freight office of the Pennsylvania railroad, and lives at 311 Seventh street southeast, is said to have borrowed the revolver from one of his relatives and was handling it in a careless manner while sitting on the side of his bed. His relatives were startled by the report of the weapon, and found him lying on the bed bleeding profusely.

Dr. Chester A. Fyles, who was hurriedly summoned, sent the young man to the Casualty Hospital, where physicians believe he will recover.

GRADE DAMAGE AWARDS APPROVED BY MORROW

Engineer Commissioner Morrow has approved the Union Station grades damages commission appraisal of the damages which have been done to the premises 23 to 27, on McCullough street, northwest, by the changes in the grade of the street caused by the new terminal.

The average damage to the nine houses is placed by the commission at \$555.

(Continued on Second Page.)