



POLICE LOOK FOR MOTIVE

Baffled They Seek Reason For Crime.

WILKINS VERY SILENT

Detectives Identify Prisoner as Ex-Convict Known as Bennett.

SERVED TIME FOR ASSAULT

While Serving Sentence at San Quentin Wilkins or Bennett Was Visited by a Woman Whom he Soon Married—Woman Soon Left Him.

OAKLAND, Cal., Nov. 27.—As the police probe deeper into the supposed murder of his pseudo-wife, whose identity is still a mystery, by M. A. Wilkins, in their little cottage in Elmhurst, the gruesome tragedy develops features that not even Gaboreau could have dreamed of. Every element surrounding the affair has few parallels in the criminal annals of California.

Despite the persistent sweating of the prisoner, but one statement bearing on the death of the woman has been wrung from him, and that is that she took her own life by swallowing strychnine. He does not offer to explain how or why a towel was tied around the woman's mouth or why her corpse was buried in quicklime; neither does the man whom the police look upon as an arch fiend explain why he started to dig the hole which later became the woman's grave, before she died.

In the performance of this task the authorities say that Wilkins displayed unprecedented cold bloodedness. That he should have plotted the woman's death and prepared for the covering up of his crime as he did was fiendish enough, but to compel his prospective victim to assist in digging her own grave is considered almost beyond belief.

The motive for the murder, if murder was done, is another baffling feature. Wilkins could not have gained financially by the woman's death, as he was worse off by her demise than if she were alive, as is shown by his attempt to have Mrs. I. M. Anderson, a neighbor, pose as his wife before a notary public for the purpose of having a power of attorney recorded in order that he might sell the cottage in which he and the dead woman lived.

One plausible theory is that he was tired of the woman and decided to get rid of her before he would be called upon to assume an added burden in the support of the child that would have come in October had the woman lived.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 27.—M. A. Wilkins, accused of murder at Oakland, was today identified by Detective Sergeant Gibson as J. C. Bennett, formerly a convict in the state prison at San Quentin.

On February 18, 1899, Bennett, who then resided at 14 McAllister street, in this city, attacked his wife with a razor and nearly killed her. He was tried and convicted of assault with intent to commit murder and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Soon after he was sent to prison his wife disappeared and the police have no records of her whereabouts.

While at San Quentin serving his sentence Bennett was visited by a woman who gave the name of Lena Jackson, to whom he was married soon after his release. They had not lived together for more than five months, however, when

she left him. She then went East and was lost trace of.

According to the police, Wilkins, or Bennett, has lived in many states, in each of which he has had trouble with women. The prison records bear out the opinion that the identification of the prisoner as Bennett is correct. The details agree in all particulars, except that Wilkins now weighs more than the weight given to Bennett.

Another point considered of importance is the fact that when Bennett was arrested he gave his occupation as that of a marine engineer, as also did Wilkins when he was taken into custody.

FIRST TRAIN THROUGH TUNNEL.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—The first train from New York to Brooklyn through the tunnel under the East River will be run today. It is not expected that the road will be operated to the public until January and the train today which will carry only officials and invited guests, will be merely a test. Only one tube is completed, and when the road is first opened to the public a shuttle service will be maintained in this tube until the second one is completed.

SELL WHITES EFFECTS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—Spirited bidding marked the day's sale of objects of art and the curios which belonged to the late Stanford White. A damascus Carpet, 12 feet long by ten wide, brought the highest price of the day, being bid in by Edison Bradley for \$4100. Miss, Elsie De Wolf, who recently left the stage to take up interior decorating, was a large purchaser at the sale as was David Warfield, the actor. The total receipts were \$45,008.

CHINESE GOING HOME.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Nov. 27.—The R. M. S. Empress of India which sailed at 10 o'clock this morning for the Orient is carrying nearly 900 Chinese back to engage in the new year's celebration in the Celestial Empire. Of these 400 are from Vancouver and about 100 from Victoria are residents of Canada which established a new record for Chinese from Canadian points on any one steamer.

FATAL EXPLOSION

Rooming House Burns and Many are Injured.

SEVEN BODIES FROM RUINS

Explosion of Natural Gas Results in Holocaust in House Where 2000 Railroad Men Were Asleep—Many of the Inmates Fatally Burned.

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 28.—Fire caused by an explosion of natural gas in a rooming house here occupied by 2000 railroad laborers this morning resulted in the death and fatal injury to many of the inmates. Seven bodies burned beyond recognition have been taken from the ruins. One man was fatally burned and another fatally injured from jumping from a second story window.

WOULD EXCLUDE CHRIST.

Board of Education Says Law Prohibits Sectarian Songs.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—What promises to be a strenuous session of the Board of Education will occur when that body holds its regular meeting late this afternoon. More than 50 ministers have declared their intention to attend the meeting for the purpose of protesting against the recent order of the board barring all sectarian songs from the schools and decreeing that the word Christ shall be excluded, even from the Christmas exercises. The board claims that its order only carries out the positive instructions of the law, but the opponents of the order deny this and threaten to take the matter into the courts unless the board rescinds its action.

DAMAGING TESTIMONY

Witnesses Tell of Rational Conduct.

BROWN DENIED CHILD

Admitted However He Was Father of Mrs. Bradley's Two Children.

MRS. BROWN FOUGHT WOMAN

Sensational Testimony of Eye Witness to Stormy Scene at Pocatello Hotel—Testimony Will be Conducted on Friday to Which Day Court Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 27.—Throughout the day testimony was offered in the trial of Mrs. Bradley that was most damaging to the defendant. Many witnesses who talked with her after the shooting and others who attended her while in jail here testified that not at any time had they any doubt as to her sanity and declared their belief that her conduct was rational and that her language was coherent. Several witnesses who talked with her in Salt Lake City prior to the shooting have evidence similar to offer. The dramatic feature of the day was the description by Soren Christensen of Salt Lake City of the encounter between Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Brown in a hotel at Pocatello in the summer of 1906. On that occasion Mrs. Brown discovered Mrs. Bradley in the hotel with Senator Brown and attacked her and attempted to choke her and asked to be allowed to kill her. The cries of Mrs. Bradley brought the Senator to the rescue and then the whole party, including the witness had an all night discussion of the difficulty, during which Brown, turning fiercely upon his wife, denied he was the father of her son, Max, and at the same time admitted he was the father of Mrs. Bradley's two children. An outburst of denunciation by Mrs. Brown, of her husband and Mrs. Bradley, followed, after which the Senator and the defendant went into another hotel where they called for drinks. Archibald Livingston, the Senator's

stenographer testified he had often told Mrs. Bradley a falsehood in order to quiet her and to avert trouble for the Senator or himself. Judge Stafford stopped the trial today long enough to dismiss from the court room a couple who had with them a 11-year-old girl. The testimony today and every day has been sometimes unfit for a child to hear. It was expected the testimony would be all in today but at the last minute the district attorney subpoenaed several additional witnesses.

SEVEN JURORS IN BOX.

Examination of Talesmen Proceeding With Dispatch.

BOISE, Nov. 27.—After the first day's examination of talesmen in the Pettibone case seven men are in the jury box having answered questions as to their qualifications satisfactory to the state. Much better progress than was expected was made. The regular venire of men expired before adjournment this afternoon and 70 or 100 will report tomorrow when the work of securing a jury will be continued. Judge Wood said he would not let the latitude of examination of witnesses be permitted as in the Haywood case. He also announced that longer sessions would be held in order to conclude the trial as quickly as possible.

TAMMANY NOT FOR BRYAN

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, today declared that James J. Hagan had no authority to pledge Tammany's support to Bryan for the Democratic presidential nomination at Washington last night. He added: "Hagan spoke for Hagan, not for Tammany Hall." He said that if Bryan was the Democratic nominee Tammany would support him. But was not pledging support of any candidate at the present time.

DON'T WANT LABORERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 27.—According to a message received from Chief Engineer B. Goethels of the Panama Commission today there is no room for additional laborers on the Isthmus. He states that unemployed men without funds are a source of embarrassment. Because of the recent curtailment in the industries in this country applications for work on the Isthmus are being received at the rate of several hundred per day.

NO JAPANESE EXCLUSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 27.—It is improbable any legislation looking to exclusion of the Japanese will receive the approval of the executive until an opportunity has been given to test the efficiency of the new regulations of the Japanese government, but the state department of Japan is acting in perfect harmony with the wishes of this government.

WITNESSES SUBPENAED

Grand Jury Will Hear Testimony.

MISS KERFOOT TO TALK

Will Obey Summons to Appear and Tell of Bellows Death.

HURRYING TO DEFEND SON

Kleinschmidt Cheered by Thought That His Father Will Spend Fortune to Clear Him of Charge of Murdering Frank Bellows—Prisoner Not Well.

OAKLAND, Cal., Nov. 27.—A subpoena commanding Miss Blanche Kerfoot, of Sutter Creek Mill, to attend the session of the grand jury which will be held in the court house in Oakland Monday, which is expected to result in the indictment of Harry G. Kleinschmidt for murder, was issued by District Attorney Brown today. Subpoenas for 37 other witnesses were also issued today for the grand jury each being expected to supply some link in the chain of circumstantial evidence against Kleinschmidt. The accused student is showing the effects of his imprisonment in the county jail and of the seriousness of his situation. He had been listless and even despondent since yesterday. He is said to be suffering from nervous dyspepsia.

When the Berkeley police first informed young Kleinschmidt of the suspicions that they had against him and finally placed him under surveillance, it was decided to keep the news away from the head of the family, who had extensive mining interests, but when a formal charge was placed against the young man a wire was hurriedly sent to Helena and Kleinschmidt replied that he would close his business affairs as quickly as possible and come to Berkeley.

According to the friends of the Kleinschmidts, the elder Kleinschmidt is very wealthy, and will use his entire fortune if need be to clear his son.

This morning there were numerous callers at the Kleinschmidt home, and they all volunteered any aid they might be able to afford. Miss Hazel Hotchkiss, who lives across the street from the Kleinschmidts, was among the callers. She has been mentioned as a possible witness in the case on account of her intimate acquaintance with the family. Thus far the members of the Kleinschmidt family have been refusing to see anyone except their personal friends. Even tradesmen are refused admission. With acquaintances they freely discuss the case, but in all instances they have stoutly denied any possible evidence of young Kleinschmidt's guilt.

WOULD KILL THIELE.

Reported Attempt to Assassinate Pinkerton Detective.

SPOKANE, Wash., Nov. 27.—It is reported here today that an attempt was made last night to assassinate S. C. Thiele, assistant superintendent of the Pinkerton detective agency in this city at his room in the Auditorium building. A man had been in waiting for Thiele for some time. A suspicious looking character was seen with a gun watching the rooms of Thiele for a long time last night. When a call was sent to the police and officers appeared on the street, the man vanished. Thiele was prominent in the investigation of the Steunenberg case.

WONDERFUL VOICE.

Ten-Year-Old Boy Sings and Earns Way Long Distance.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—Although lost in New York, George Herman Alridge, ten years old, demonstrated last night to the police that he was well able to take care of himself. The boy left Detroit a week ago to visit an aunt living here, he said. He had lost the address and when he was picked up by the police, was turned over to the children's society. When he left Detroit, he said, he had \$5, a statement which came as a surprise to the police who had found \$70 in his pockets. The boy explained that he had sung in a choir in Detroit, and that he sang for people between Detroit and New York, and had received the money for his music.

And to satisfy the police that his story was true he sang for them, after informing the officers that he would expect to be paid for it.

"The Holy City," came first and then "The Palms" and then a number of secular songs, until the boy, whom the police say possesses a wonderful voice, was in the possession of all the officers' small change.

Late last night the police said they had received word from Detroit that George Herman Alridge's father had started from Detroit to take his boy home.

REBUKES TACTICS.

CHICAGO, Nov. 27.—Interstate Commerce Commissioner E. E. Clark sharply rebuked dilatory tactics of shippers making complaints against railroads yesterday during the hearing on freight rates rates to the South Mississippi river points.

The occasion of Mr. Clark's remarks was furnished when a number of complainants in the case before him failed to appear.

"The time will come when the Commission will not tolerate such indifference," said Mr. Clark. "We are continually confronted with just such a situation. Hundreds of cases have been filed which the Commission has only wasted its time on and as the complainants have failed to produce evidence. Only a few weeks ago we had a case in which there was apparently a lack of any effort to prepare for it. In this present case some of the witnesses were not ready to testify at Kansas City and it is now the same way here."

BRILLIANT WEDDING

Miss Root Becomes Bride of Lieut. Grant.

COMPANY IS DISTINGUISHED

Bride is Daughter of Secretary of State and Groom is Grandson of General U. S. Grant—One of the Notable Weddings of the Capital.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—One of the most notable and brilliant weddings that the national capital has seen in a long time took place this afternoon, when Miss Edith Root, daughter of Secretary of State and Mrs. Root, became the bride of Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant, third, engineer corps, U. S. A., son of Major-General Frederick D. Grant, U. S. A., and grandson of General U. S. Grant. The ceremony was performed at the Root family residence in Rhode Island avenue in the presence of a distinguished company, which included the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, members of the cabinet, justices of the supreme court, senators and representatives and members of the foreign diplomatic corps. Among the family guests were General and Mrs. Frederick D. Grant, Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartorius and Mrs. Potter Palmer.

The drawing room in which the ceremony was performed, was profusely adorned with white azaleas, bride roses and white lilies, with masses of delicate ferns and the choicest of tropical greens arranged in the corners and window recesses. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Herbert Chipman of the Church of the Heavenly Rest of New York.



Uncle Sam—Here, you! Put that money in circulation and quit hoarding it up so.