

### MAN SEIZED WITH STOLEN GOODS

#### ARREST MADE UNDER PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES

#### REFUSES TO DIVULGE NAME OR IDENTITY

Arrest is Made at Bullock's, and the Prisoner is Held on Suspicion Pending Investigation by Police

Having in his possession a quantity of goods which were identified as stolen from the counters at a Broadway department store, a well dressed man about 27 years old, who refuses to give his name and who the police think is a clever crook, was arrested by S. M. DeLaronde, store detective for Bullock's department store, yesterday afternoon, turned over to the police and booked at the central police station on a charge of suspicion.

The young man when arrested was wearing a green rough fur hat, which corresponded to a similar article which was stolen from a local department store. It was examined by Private Detective Nick Harris, who discovered that all marks inside the band had been cut out. On the way to the police station, despite the fact that he was watched by four officers, the accused got rid of his headgear without the loss being discovered until the police station was reached.

The alleged shoplifter flatly refused to give his name to the detectives and when questioned in the office of Captain of Detectives Flammer, would shake his head in answer to questions and act in a peculiar manner. When

the officers persisted in learning his name the accused declared that two of them might hold his arms and the captain could draw a razor across his throat and then he would not reveal his identity.

Captain Flammer stated that the young man apparently is a professional shoplifter and a clever criminal. The officer also stated that the accused evidently is attempting to create the impression that he is mentally unbalanced.

The articles found on the accused were identified by the store management as having been taken from various counters in different departments. The system of "John Doe," as he is booked at the police station, was to mingle with the customers, approach a counter where the clerks were engaged in waiting on others and remove only the most valuable goods. Not one of the articles taken is of a cheap kind.

The goods taken from the mysterious young man consist of a silk umbrella, three silk ties, a manicule set, a silver mounted nail brush, a silver manicure knife, two silk handkerchiefs, a silk scarf and a heavy gold band ring. On the person of the prisoner was found a ticket to Pasadena and \$1.05 in small change.

The young man is 5 feet 8 or 9 inches in height, weighs about 140 pounds and is attired in tailor-made clothes. He has blue eyes, light hair and is smooth shaven.

The detectives will make every effort to learn the identity of the prisoner, and when they learn his address it is probable a large quantity of goods will be recovered, as he was seen in several stores on Broadway during the last two days.

Papers found in the possession of the alleged shoplifter bear the name of Fosse Croley, said to be a newspaper man who has lived at Pasadena, and who has relatives prominent in Pasadena social circles.

When arrested the accused man asked the police officials to obtain a typewriter he had left in Pasadena, and also remarked that he was used to the newspaper game.

## News of the Courts

### BATTLE OVER RILEY ESTATE ON IN COURT

#### PROPERTY ON TEMPLE STREET BONE OF CONTENTION

Miles A. Long and Wife Accused of Using Undue Influence During the Old Man's Last Illness

What is predicted to be a long legal battle over the estate left by William Riley, the octogenarian who died at his home, 418 Temple street, February 23, 1909, was begun in Judge Conroy's court yesterday. Riley's heirs, including four brothers, a sister and numerous nephews and nieces, seeking to break his will, by the terms of which a large portion of his property was bequeathed to Miles A. Long, a former policeman of Los Angeles, and his wife, Mrs. Julia Long.

The brothers and sister of the deceased, and his principals in the contest of Riley's will, are Charles Riley of Vale, Ore.; James Riley, Mason City, Ia.; George Riley, Montezuma, Ia.; John Riley, Lincoln, Neb.; Mrs. Margaret Riley of Hay City, Mich. They base their attack on the legality of the will on the ground that the old man for a long time before his death was subjected to undue influence by Long and his wife, who they claim, so poisoned his mind against his relatives that he bequeathed the former policeman one-ninth interest in his estate, notes against the estate for \$15,000, and a deed to the Temple street home, said to be worth \$50,000, and which, according to the will, had been left to Riley's niece, Mrs. Jennie Wattenpaugh, living in Oregon.

By a codicil to the will J. M. Elliott is made executor with Harry J. Pinney, and it is claimed by the contestants that the latter's return of the property does not include all the assets of the estate and that Pinney is protected by a contract between himself and Riley by which he was to sell the property at his discretion. Riley suffered from a stroke of paralysis shortly before his death, and it was during this attack, it is alleged, that he was induced by Long and his wife to deed the latter his home on Temple street in consideration of her care of him. It also is claimed by the relatives that they were enticed admittance to Riley's home when he was ill.

William L. Riley, a nephew of the deceased, was the only witness called yesterday. He said he saw his uncle two weeks before he died and that his appearance was that of an imbecile.

### RECONCILED TO HUSBAND ON EVE OF LONG SENTENCE

Mrs. Hattie Brent Visits County Jail a Few Hours Before Spouse Leaves to Serve Ten-Year Term

A reconciliation on the eve of Sanford Brent's departure from the county jail for a term of ten years in San Quentin penitentiary occurred between the prisoner and his wife, Hattie Brent, in the visitors' room at the jail yesterday. Brent has been in jail more than a year, being taken to the institution on a charge of assaulting his wife with a deadly weapon, and remaining during the trial of his case and while it was being considered by the appellate court. Until yesterday his wife and little daughter had not called to see him, Mrs. Brent, it is claimed, repelling every effort looking to a reconciliation. Brent will be taken to San Quentin today, and sent a final message to his wife yesterday asking her to come with their daughter to the jail to say good-by.

Charles W. McCrossan, the pre-empting stock seller who was sentenced by Judge Willis Tuesday to pay a fine of \$4000 or serve one year in the county jail after his conviction on a charge of issuing a false prospectus regarding the Cordillera Mining company's property, failed yesterday to carry out his promise to pay his fine and is still confined in the county institution. No statement was made yesterday as to whether McCrossan would pay the money in the near future.

### Pleads Guilty to Check Charge

Ben Egery, member of a well known family of Vallejo who was arrested in that city several days ago and brought to Los Angeles to answer to a charge of passing a fictitious check November 22, pleaded guilty to the charge in Judge Willis' court yesterday and applied for probation. The matter was continued until January 3. The check was for \$1250 and drawn on the First National bank, where Egery had no funds.

### New Citizens Admitted

The following persons were admitted to citizenship in the naturalization court yesterday:

A. Costamongo, Fred Knight, Peter Siders, B. Ginsberg, Harold E. Hutchison, N. Gillis, E. Mooradian, Pons Leon, George Henry, Herman Goetz, Axel Anderson, Edwin Kolberg, Spirito Enorgan, Gustav Schalk, George H. Stone, Julius Knopper and H. Cleary.

### Tunnel Bond Approved

The bond of F. E. Shafer, who secured the contract for the construction of the Newhall tunnel, one of the largest contracts so far let in connection with the new highway system, was approved by the board of supervisors yesterday. Shafer's bid was \$63,364. Work in the tunnel, it was stated yesterday, will be begun immediately.

### New Incorporations

The following articles of incorporation were filed in the county clerk's office yesterday:

### MURDER OF SALTER DENIED BY ACCUSED

#### ERNSTING TELLS OWN STORY ON WITNESS STAND

Says Old Man Made Insulting Proposal and He Put Him Out and Helped Him Down Stairs

Deputy District Attorney Ford, conducting the prosecution in the trial of Willis Ernsting, charged with killing William Salter August 15, delivered his opening argument to the jury yesterday, concluding his remarks shortly before Judge Willis ordered an adjournment until today.

The defense closed its case about 4 o'clock. H. H. Dehm, Ernsting's attorney, calling to the stand as the last witness the defendant himself. Ernsting was not in the least nervous, detailing lucidly his meeting with Salter the night of August 15, his alleged advances made by the old man, and the incidents attending their second meeting in the Osgood rooming house later in the night.

"I did not hit the old man and never injured nor rubbed his head," Ernsting firmly asserted in concluding his story. Ernsting said he was talking with Robert Marcos regarding a business matter, when an old man he did not know entered the room about 10:30 o'clock the night of August 15. "I had never seen Salter before and was surprised when he came up to us and asked us to drink with him," said Ernsting. "He was intoxicated and the bartender refused to give him a drink. He made some sort of a proposition, which I resented. I pushed him from me and told him he should be ashamed of himself."

Ernsting said he left the saloon shortly afterward, going to his room in the Osgood house. When he left his room a few minutes later he got some water he saw the old man in the hallway.

"He grasped me about the neck again, and I told him he would have to get out, said Ernsting. "I took some water he saw the old man in the hallway, and I helped him to get up and assisted him down the back stairs, took him to Sixth street through Center alley, and we shook hands and said good night."

He denied Mrs. Osgood's statement that he fell on Salter as they reached the bottom of the stairs, and, referring to the testimony of other witnesses who said they saw a man resembling Ernsting in the alley leaning over Salter's body, he declared he did not again enter the alley that night.

F. H. Topham, 229 South Figueroa street, a juror at the coroner's inquest, said he saw two marks resembling the imprints of a horse's hoofs on Salter's chest when he viewed the remains at the morgue. He also noted an injury near the left knee, where the flesh had been torn.

Attorney Dehm will begin his argument to the jury this morning and will be followed by Deputy Ford. The case probably will go to the jury about noon.

### WEALTHY WINNIPEG SHOE MERCHANT WANTS DIVORCE

Contested Case Between Harry C. Chapman and Wife Now on Trial Before Judge Houser

Trial of the contested divorce suit of Harry C. Chapman, formerly a wealthy shoe merchant of Winnipeg, against his wife, Laura Frances Chapman, was begun before Judge Houser in the county court yesterday. Chapman is seeking a decree of legal separation on the ground of infidelity, while Mrs. Chapman declares any misconduct attributed to her by her husband was induced by him by his living with her after the occurrences of which he complains, and on this ground demands \$500 on account of expenses incurred in coming to Los Angeles, \$200 attorney's fees and permanent alimony of \$75 a month.

The co-respondent named by Chapman in his testimony yesterday is Leonard Phillips, a clerk employed by the Canadian Pacific railway at Winnipeg. The Chappmans were married February 14, 1906, and three years later, February 11 last, Chapman said he employed Phillips to watch the movements of his wife and Phillips, a servant in the Chapman home, Anna Stannard, signaled with an electric light the fact that Phillips was with her mistress, and Chapman, accompanied by the detectives, forced open a rear door to find, he said, his wife sitting on Phillips' lap. The trial was not ended when court adjourned.

### Day's Divorce Record

Judge Houser in the divorce court yesterday granted a decree of legal separation to Karen M. Anderson from B. S. Anderson.

Two suits were filed. William C. Fisher against Florence M. Fisher and Mary Frances Bell against Chester A. Bell.

### Mining Man Arraigned

I. R. Landers, a mining man arrested Tuesday on a charge of obtaining money by false representations, was arraigned in Justice Ling's court yesterday. He was returned to the county jail to await his preliminary examination, which will be held Friday.

### REALTY MAN ACCUSED OF FLEEING SWISS

James Ward of the Ward Investment Company in County Jail Waiting on Decision by Justice

Alfred Sidler, a young Swiss, who came to Los Angeles early in November and placed \$300 in the keeping of James Ward of the James Ward Investment company as a bond for the faithful performance of duties as a ranchman, told his story in Justice Summerfield's court yesterday during the preliminary examination of Ward on a charge of embezzling the money. Justice Summerfield will decide Friday whether or not Ward is to be held to the criminal court for trial on the charge, and in the meanwhile the investment man will remain in the county jail.

Ward came to California to make a study of the cactus industry, but gave up his intentions when he saw an advertisement in a local paper stating a man was wanted for ranch work at a wage of \$65 a month. When he called at Ward's office, 438 Copp building, he was told, he said, that the position was taken, but another was offered requiring a bond of \$300, which, with the exception of about \$2, was the amount Sidler carried in his pockets. He gave the money to Ward and was sent to Fullerton to real estate.

While in Fullerton, he said, he lived on 25 cents a day, and Sidler to Ward asking for his salary remaining unanswered. He returned to Los Angeles and demanded receipts from Ward for his money.

"He gave me two papers," said Sidler, "but when I showed them to Ben S. Lemmon, a friend, I learned they were promissory notes, payable in one year."

Then he appealed to the district attorney, where a complaint was issued against Ward. The latter in his defense yesterday stated Sidler had not only been willing to let him have the money, but insisted on making the loan.

### Demands \$100,000 for Libel

Suit alleging libel and demanding damages of \$100,000 was filed in the superior court yesterday by Nathan Newby, a well known attorney, against the Times-Mirror company. The action is the outgrowth of the publication in the Los Angeles Times September 22 last of an article in which it was stated the attorney had wrongfully erased a judgment on the judgment docket in the county clerk's office, an accusation that was later brought to the attention of the superior court, resulting in Mr. Newby's exoneration.

### Fraud Guilty of Hitting Mother

Andrew Booth, accused by his mother, Mrs. James Booth of Highland Park, of striking her in the face and knocking her down, was found guilty after a trial before Justice Summerfield yesterday on a charge of assault and battery. The trouble, she said, occurred more than two months ago, when she protested because her son threw her effects out of his home into the place, telling her she must find another place to live.

### CLOTHING IGNITED; BURNS PROVE FATAL

Dress Catches Fire While She is Preparing Evening Meal and She is Burned from Head to Foot

Mrs. Henry Elliott, 55 years old, of 945 Orange street, died at the county hospital shortly after 8 o'clock yesterday morning as the result of burns sustained Tuesday night, when her clothing caught fire from a gasoline stove which she just had lighted. The body was taken to the undertaking establishment of John R. Paul and Coroner Hartwig, who will sign a certificate of accidental death.

Mrs. Elliott had lighted the stove and was making preparations for the evening meal when, in some manner, her clothing caught fire as she passed the stove and before she noticed it her dress was ablaze. She screamed for help, and her husband who had just returned home from the Pacific Electric building, where he is employed as janitor, rushed to her assistance and threw a blanket around her. He finally succeeded in smothering the blaze, but not before Mrs. Elliott was burned terribly from head to foot.

The unfortunate woman was taken to the county hospital, where she died. The body was later removed from the John R. Paul morgue to the undertaking establishment of W. H. Sutch and the funeral arrangements will be made later.

### YOUNG BOYS ACCUSED OF STEALING MANY BOOKS

Accused of stealing eighty-five books, valued at \$187, from the apartments of E. Brockway at 227 South Bunker Hill avenue, Lester Pembroke, a juvenile, was arrested by Detectives Hawley and McKenzie yesterday afternoon and was locked up in the county jail, where youthful prisoners are kept, on a charge of petty larceny.

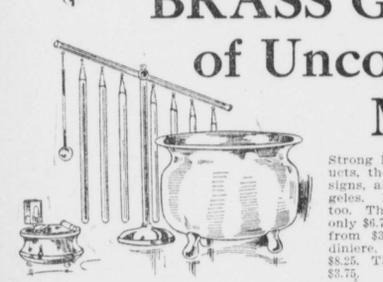
According to the police, Brockway, who has a valuable library, left a young friend in charge of the apartments. A brother of the accused occupies rooms at the same place and frequently visited the young man in Brockway's rooms and borrowed books to read. Lester learned of this and visited his brother, stopping at the apartment of Brockway and purloining books, it is alleged.

He is said to have stolen eighty-five books which, it is alleged, he disposed of at secondhand book stores.

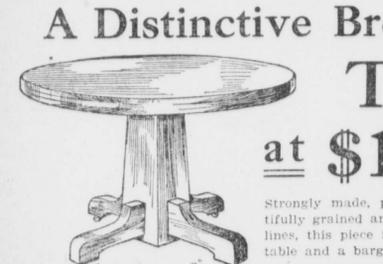
## Some Specially- Priced Items for Today and Tomorrow



### Desks A Delayed Shipment Offered at Cost.



Ordered to reach here early in December, these desks were delayed en route and arrived too late for the bulk of the Christmas buying. The manufacturers have offered us a special concession on account of the delay and we are eliminating our profit entirely. See these today; they will not last long.



### BRASS GOODS of Uncommon Merit

Strong lined, well finished products, these, and most of the designs, are quite new to Los Angeles. Moderately priced bits, too. The 7-gong chime shown is only \$6.75, and other styles range from \$2.50 to \$8.50. The Jardiniere, 13 inches in diameter, \$8.25. The Smoker's Set, 4 pieces, \$3.75.



### A Distinctive Breakfast Table at \$14.75

Strongly made, perfectly finished, beautifully grained and designed on clean-cut lines, this piece is a singularly beautiful table and a bargain.



### Footstools in Fumed Oak \$1.35

Stout little stools, covered with real Spanish leather, top 8x10 inches. 10x12-inch top ..... \$1.65 12x18-inch top ..... \$4.25

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Broadway Department Store An Opportunity of Christmas Vases and Bric-a-Brac at Half Price. Few Christmases of the past have offered such advantages in buying fine vases and bric-a-brac pieces for Christmas. Mind you, half price for such fine pieces as these is certainly worth while. These are the marked prices. Pay just half of them today. \$1.25, \$1.75, \$2.50, \$2.98, \$3.75, \$4.98. Aluminum Ware. Steins 35c to \$5. Alfred Dolge Felt Juliets for Women 95c. Bed Slippers Men's Slippers 69c.

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\$1 DOWN China closets—Our china closets were especially bought for holiday gifts, and we have made the prices so they will be within the means of most anyone. All it takes is \$1 to open an account. No extra charge for credit. Special Floor Covering Values \$1 Down. We will give absolutely free a fine French sleeping doll with all goods sold this week. Buggy like cut \$6.95; regularly \$11. NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR CREDIT.

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SALT LAKE ROUTE

### MERRY CHRISTMAS EXCURSION FARES

One and one-third fare for round trip between all stations on Salt Lake Route in California and Nevada. On sale Dec. 23, 24, 25. Good returning until Jan. 3, 1910. Good time to visit your friends or spend a few days in the Orange Grove district, seeing Pomona, Ontario, Riverside, Colton, San Bernardino and Redlands. Full particulars at 601 So. Spring St. and First St. station, Los Angeles, and other offices of the SALT LAKE ROUTE.

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