

knowledge of the books having been wrongly kept, as Chief Lees said he had, and that he had frequently shown dissatisfaction with the account of the way that the bookkeeper neglected his duties.

HOFFMAN'S CHARACTER.

Portrayed by His Partner as That of a Good, Hard-Working Man. Through Mr. Henry Ach of Rothchild & Ach, attorneys for the firm of Hoffman, Rothchild & Co., E. S. Rothchild made the following statement last night:

"I have been acquainted with Mr. Hoffman in business since about May 19, 1896. In that time I have known Mr. Hoffman and know that he was a man of cheerful disposition, and a man who had as far as I know no extravagant habits of any kind or character, a man who left his home in the morning, came directly to the store remaining there all day long, and in busy occupation. He would return at the lunch hour and would remain at his place of business at work until the close of business hours and then immediately go to his home."

"So far as I am aware he engaged in no outside speculations or enterprises of any character. I knew of no quarrels or dissensions between Mr. Hoffman and myself. Personally, he spent very little money, as little as any man I know in his position. His entire ambition seemed to me to be to get on in business, and to do so in a way that would give him a comfortable living."

"I expected to leave New York on June 10, to arrive home on the 15th, and expected Hoffman to leave a day or two after that. The letter which I received after which I was expected to leave New York, which indicated that he expected any trouble of any kind or character, but on the contrary his letter indicated that he was very busy and was paying the strictest attention to that portion of the business to which he was devoted, namely, directing the money and the attention thereof and the sale of merchandise."

"Hoffman, during my association with him in San Francisco, paid very little attention to his business, and I never whenever he desired to know anything would go to Mr. Fiel and make inquiries, and so would I very frequently, as to Mr. Fiel's business, and I never knew it in my life. I never knew that he played the races but once in my life, and I took him to task for it, and he then said that he made a mistake in doing so."

"Upon learning of Mr. Hoffman's terrible death I was terribly shocked, for I regarded him, as he was, a man in good circumstances, full of vigor, life and ambition."

"Messrs. C. and I. Hoffman had a surplus in the business, and so far as any drafts by Hoffman were concerned, we desired to make any and were in San Francisco, I should not and would not have made the slightest objection, but in any way I could conceive any such thing as Hoffman would have had for any money outside of his own living expenses, and as to those I knew him to be a very economical man."

"Mr. Rothchild brought back a statement showing the condition of the account with the bank in the handwriting of Mr. Fiel, in which he states that the bank is as follows, and which compared with the books of the bank was not made: March 1, \$1500; March 3, \$100; March 4, \$1000; March 5, \$100; March 10, \$100; April 23, \$300; April 7, \$300."

"This is in the handwriting of Mr. Fiel. In a letter written to Mr. Rothchild by Mr. Fiel he expressed his opinion that Hoffman does not tell him what he is doing to Rothchild, and also advises Mr. Rothchild that Hoffman has told him right along that Mr. Rothchild desired balancesheets."

"So far as the statements are concerned for the end of the year about May 15 or 19, Mr. Rothchild has never received any copy to the time of his departure from New York, and the only thing he received was a telegram from Mr. Hoffman advising him of the net profits of the firm for the year."

"I never knew Fiel to have a pistol, or that he was afraid of anything or anybody. I never saw any other pistol ever been made against Hoffman, as stated in some of the newspaper reports, and I never knew of either Fiel or Hoffman carrying a pistol."

"I never had reason to suspect Fiel of any irregularities in connection with his books, but was dissatisfied when I was before with the business matter in which Fiel conducted his business."

"So far as I know Isaac Hoffman did not know of Fiel's betting operations." At this point Mr. Fiel interrupted and said that he had told Hoffman of them, as he had told Hoffman of them. Mr. Rothchild then continued:

"I never saw any other pistol ever in or about the store or offices since we occupied our present quarters, into which we moved on or about the 4th of June, 1896."

"I never knew Hoffman to remain in the store after closing hours, which were usually about five or ten minutes before 6. He would sometimes remain in the store back in the evening, and would sometimes also remain after his supper, but he never returned after that others left."

"Hoffman never to my knowledge had any individual bank account." "Has anything definite been decided upon as to the arrest of Fiel?" asked THE CALL reporter.

"That is a matter that is entirely in the hands of the attorneys of the firm," interrupted Mr. Ach. "So far as this is concerned," he continued, "nothing has this time been determined upon, or will be until full opportunity has been given the police to take up the matter. We shall wait at least until we know what develops at the coroner's inquest."

Addressing his question to E. S. Rothchild, the reporter asked if there was anything in the partnership agreement that would permit Mr. Hoffman to draw a large sum of money—say \$5000 or \$10,000—without the consent of the other partners. It was the astonishing statement which places Mr. Fiel in an awkward position, to put it mildly.

were aware of these false entries in the books. So far as I am concerned in the books, I never saw a new of such in the case, nor did I even at any time suspect such a thing. I am also convinced that Charles Hoffman, the member of the firm who is now in New York, has no knowledge of anything being wrong with the books. His first knowledge came after the death of his brother. He also fully satisfied from conversations that I had with Charles Hoffman that he does not believe that his brother committed suicide. He is of the firm belief that he was murdered."

FIGEL ACCUSES GELLERT.

He Says the Errors Were Made by the Assistant Book-keeper. Theodore Figel said last night at the temporary residence: "I am not going to see Mr. Rothchild to-night, but will wait until he sends for me."

"The books cannot be properly nor correctly explicated without my assistance, and if allowed to make the necessary closing entries the alleged discrepancies and shortage cases will be quickly cleared up. I am surprised that I was not allowed to bring the books up to date, instead of having them placed in the hands of Mr. Rothchild to understand them. Up to April 1 those books will be found correct, and will agree with the statements of the year's business sent by me to New York to Mr. Rothchild, which I hear he has brought with him."

"Since April 1st there are entries made in the books which do not seem correct, and wrong, but the truth in regard to them will be made clear. Especially in regard to the \$5000 item, the receipt for which I obtained from Mr. Hoffman. Mr. Ach says great stress on my account to a First National Bank showing such a small balance and being closed so quickly. As I told you I had during the last month of my account there comparatively little dealings with the bank, but kept my money in a box in the safe deposit office of the bank. My reason was that the bank did not have currency enough on hand in bills of large denominations to meet my requirements and those of Mr. Hoffman's, instead of depositing gold, I would exchange it for currency, there or elsewhere, and place the same in my box, where it would be handy for me. Mr. Ach, however, knows about this and will corroborate my statement."

"I used this money to play the races with. Mr. Hoffman did not to my knowledge play the races, nor did I ever act as his agent in disbursing the \$5000 and other moneys he drew from the firm. I admit that the circumstances look bad for me, but whatever course is taken by Messrs. Rothchild and Ach I will be fully prepared to meet and establish my innocence. If you meet E. S. Rothchild to-night tell him I say that, if permitted, I can explain every apparent discrepancy on the books that may be shown him."

"Another thing in regard to those cash entries. Mr. Gellert was responsible for a great many omissions, that in checking up, I detected, and was necessarily compelled to enter them on dates subsequent to their actual payment."

"It is untrue, except in one particular, that I owed money to any of the employees of the stores—on the contrary, I was constantly loaning money to them."

WANTED LARGE BILLS.

Teller Maxwell Explains Figel's Transactions at the Bank. George R. E. Maxwell, the teller of the First National Bank, to whom Figel referred THE CALL reporter, when seen at his residence on Baker street last night, said that Figel's statement in regard to the large bills desired by Figel, was untrue, except in one particular, that he had cashed bills of large amount on call with bills large enough to suit him."

From this statement it would appear that the bank statement does not show the full amount of Figel's transactions, and that the money he handled was far in excess of that shown by the bank account."

WILL MAKE NO ARRESTS.

Chief Lees Will Await the Verdict of the Jury Before Taking Action. Said Chief Lees at his office last night: "I have no idea of making any arrests at the present time, nor will I at anybody's instigation give my opinion as to the manner of Hoffman's death. Attorney General Parsons has his own opinion, and from me, but neither he nor any one else can do so. Before he has finished with this case I am under the impression that he will find that he is not the criminal lawyer he thinks he is, nor an expert bookkeeper."

"I have not shadowed Mr. Figel at any time, and if there are any detectives watching his movements they are not from my department, but may be from Morse's agency."

"I am endeavoring to get all the evidence in, and to have the request next Tuesday, and if then submitted to the jury pronounce the verdict. This is another case of the newspapers trying a case in advance, and I for one will not contribute any evidence I may have before the proper time."

"Mr. Ach has never submitted to me the books of the firm of Hoffman, Rothchild & Co., but when Mr. Figel brought the books to me that her husband had taken to San Rafael on the night of the 4th of June I sent them to Mr. Ach, and this information as he might derive from them, since which time I have not seen them."

"I will not see Mr. E. S. Rothchild to-night, but will possibly to-morrow, when I can talk with him alone and free from any interference."

"I would like to assure if I will submit to him all the evidence in this case I have in my possession, which he can use as he may deem best. I had photographs taken today of the carpet, of the chair, of the partition and other articles that were in Hoffman's office at the time of the shooting, and will have more taken to-morrow for use at the inquest."

LEES DOES SOME WORK.

Had Photographs Taken of the Carpet and of the Various Blood-Stains. Chief Lees had photographs taken yesterday afternoon of the office carpet and lining underneath, showing the blood-stains and corroborating the trail of blood as shown on the diagram prepared by Corporal Russell, the draughtsman of the department, which was published in THE CALL a few days ago.

The glass door of the telephone-room and the partition, or at least a portion of it showing the blood-finger-marks, were also photographed, as well as the desk and office chair.

On the desk there are between twenty and thirty drops of blood, and it is evidently showing that Hoffman's head had been leaning in that direction while seated in his chair. The side of the desk next to the one on which the desk was set are drops of blood on the arms and leather cushion of the chair.

These bloody marks would lead to the presumption that after shooting himself or being shot near the telephone office is tenable. He is very desirous of examining witnesses at the inquest to be held next week and to that end wrote a strong letter to the coroner, asking the privilege of assisting him in examining witnesses. This request was denied by the coroner, who construes paragraph 429, section 2 of the Political Code, defining his duties, to mean that he should go no further for assistance than to request the services of the District Attorney.

Late yesterday afternoon Attorney Ach stated that he had no new information to give out further than that a letter had been found that was written by Hoffman on June 1, which showed that he was negotiating with the Washington and Oregon for the extension of the firm's business."

Attorney Naphaly is positive that Hoffman was murdered, and is backed up on this theory by the fact that the dead merchant left no will, and a most careful search made by him personally utterly failed in disclosing any will or any appraisal made of the estate and that Mrs. Hoffman would be guided in her actions very much according to Mr. Rothchild's advice. He is also positive in the matter as far as endeavoring to solve the mystery or advance any theory, being utterly prostrated by her bereavement and those of Mr. Hoffman's issues, instead of more or less spattered with blood. The soles showed that the deceased merchant had stood in blood, and near the toes gave evidence of having been taken to the morgue, as there were scratches beginning at a point two inches from the toes and running to the extreme point. Whether these scratches were made at the time of the removal of the body or at the time of the shooting is an interesting point Attorney Ach made diligent inquiries about, but failed to get any satisfactory reply.

The right knee of the trousers was soaked with blood, as was the right knee of the drawers, and the left knee was entirely free from stains. This would seem to indicate that when Hoffman fell near the telephone door upon which the bloody finger marks were found he sank on one knee only.

MADE NO WILL.

Evidence Gathered by Mr. Ach Tending to Show Murder. Attorney Ach is still indefatigable in his efforts to solve the mystery of the death of Isaac Hoffman and will not in any manner admit that the suicide theory is tenable. He is very desirous of examining witnesses at the inquest to be held next week and to that end wrote a strong letter to the coroner, asking the privilege of assisting him in examining witnesses. This request was denied by the coroner, who construes paragraph 429, section 2 of the Political Code, defining his duties, to mean that he should go no further for assistance than to request the services of the District Attorney.

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One seam on the overlapping tail of the frock coat is heavily outlined with what appears to be the blood of the murderer, and the cloth to such an extent that brushing and rubbing failed to remove it, and furnishes further indications that the dead merchant was taken to the morgue. The text of the letter addressed by Henry Ach to the coroner was as follows:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., June 10, 1897. Dr. W. J. Hawkins, Coroner of the City and County of San Francisco, 633-641, Mechanic street, City—MY DEAR SIR: As one of the attorneys connected with the estate of Isaac Hoffman, deceased, I beg leave to advise you that I have devoted considerable time to an investigation of the death of Mr. Hoffman, and in so doing have endeavored to determine whether the violent death of Mr. Hoffman was a suicide or murder. As a result of my investigations I am satisfied that Mr. Hoffman was murdered, and that the murderer was one of the employees of the Hoffman, Rothchild & Co., and to other matters. I have in my possession sufficient facts to warrant me in stating that various important and concealed by Theodore A. Figel are not true."

Relative to the \$5000 receipt which Mr. Figel produced, which is a receipt for a certain amount, which, if true, might furnish a motive for suicide by Isaac Hoffman, I have secured the receipt, and will submit it to you at an early date. Respectfully yours, W. J. HAWKINS, Coroner.

Mr. Ach denied the statement credited to the Chief that he had been denied access to the books and samples of Figel's and Hoffman's handwriting.

"The books," said he, "have always been at the disposal of the Chief, and he is entitled to examine them as many specimens of handwriting as he desires. This is the Chief Lees makes me the object of such and similar remarks is more than I can understand, and I do desire to bring out the facts in this case, and to that end I will work in conjunction with the Chief as far as submitting to him every detail of evidence that has come into my possession."

A further bit of evidence as to the time of Figel's arrival at the ferry on the evening of June 4, was furnished yesterday by Figel's ticket, which was dated June 4, and proves beyond doubt that he did not leave a monthly commutation ticket not later than 6:30 o'clock. The number of Figel's ticket is 243, and the date on the back of the stub shows that it was purchased on June 1. Mr. Johnson, one of the clerks at the ferry office, sold the ticket to Figel, and he is positive that he delivered it not less than five minutes before the departure of the boat."

As the boat, according to the official record left at 6:24, this fixes the time of Figel's arrival at not later than 6:30 o'clock."

Mr. Johnson, who knows Figel by sight, said that he had noticed nothing about Figel's appearance or manner that would indicate that he was laboring under any excitement, and that there was nothing unusual about his appearance or demeanor to attract his attention."

White inquired suggestively as to the effect inquis action has on the price of sugar stock on Wall street. He was told that the effect of the proposed legislation on sugar, and stock had gone up five points in thirty minutes on the action of the Republican caucus."

Caery spoke of the sugar trust as a consolidated monopoly, and read extracts from Havemeyer's testimony before the Senate investigating committee stating that the object of the trust was to control all sugar in the United States. He said the profits under all tariffs had been enormous. At the close of his speech the bill went over and the Senate adjourned."

COMMERCIAL AGENCY SERVICE.

How to Increase Efficiency Pointed Out on the Last Day. KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 10.—The second day's proceedings of the annual convention of the National Association of Credit Men were opened by an invocation,

TILLMAN TALKS FOR FARMERS.

Their Needs a Tariff Which Would Not Rob Them. Sugar Schedule Again Becomes the Daily Bone of Senate Contention. Caffery Reverts to Havemeyer's Testimony to Prove the Object of a Trust.

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NEW TO-DAY.

followed by the report of the committee on mercantile agencies, presented by A. L. Reagan of New York.

The reading of this paper was followed by an animated discussion, the tenor of which indicated that the members of the association believed in a more hearty cooperation with these institutions.

G. H. Hovey of Chicago then presented a paper on "Business Literature," and S. C. Conover of New York spoke upon "Credit Department Methods." The proceedings closed with addresses by representatives of the leading mercantile agencies, who pointed out to the delegates the various ways in which they could add to the efficiency of the commercial agency service.