

PLANNING A GIGANTIC TRUST BY MERGING INTO ONE SYSTEM THE LEADING EXPRESS COMPANIES OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH HARRIMAN AT THE HEAD

EX-CONVICT JAMES G. BENNETT WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER OF ELEANOR FULLER

Man Who Tried to Cut His Wife's Throat Answers Description of Alleged Murderer.

Police Are Trying to Locate Him With a View to Holding Him for Identification.

THE police are tracing the movements of an ex-convict to determine whether or not he had any connection with the mysterious disappearance and subsequent murder of Nora Fuller.

At an early hour this morning Captain Seymour declared he could conceive of no motive for the fiendish crime. This lack of any known motive makes it doubly necessary to run down every clew, and the suspicion directed against the ex-convict for whom the police are now searching seems peculiarly well founded.

The suspect's name is James G. Bennett, and he was sentenced to San Quentin by Superior Judge Wallace on February 5, 1897, for slashing his divorced wife across the throat with a knife.

Since his release from the penitentiary James Bennett has been in San Francisco at different periods. Neither Captain Seymour nor Chief Wittman will admit that they have discovered any tangible clew tending to implicate Bennett in the Fuller murder, but the facts connected with his attempt to end his divorced wife's life and certain characteristics of the man cause him to be suspected. What is more, the description of the elusive John Bennett, alias C. B. Hawkins, fits the ex-convict exactly.

Bennett made the attack upon his divorced wife for which he was sent to San Quentin in her rooms at 14 McAllister street on the night of October 8, 1897. The woman had been granted a divorce from him shortly before, with permission to resume her former name, Mrs. Villa White. Bennett was extremely annoying to the woman after their legal separation. He hunted her from place to place and she could not evade his persistent attentions. He was a man of peculiarly jealous tendencies, and the woman was in mortal fear of him. She changed her lodgings repeatedly to escape him, but he always succeeded in locating her.

Bennett's wild infatuation for his ex-wife caused the police more or less trouble from time to time, and he was repeatedly warned to cease bothering the woman.

Mrs. White finally moved to 14 McAllister street and kept her place of residence a secret for some time. But Bennett finally found her out and deliberately laid his plans to murder her. He visited the landlady of the house at 14 McAllister street, and without making known his identity engaged lodgings on the same floor with his ex-wife.

BENNETT TRIED TO SLAY HER IN COLD BLOOD.

On the night of October 8 Mrs. White was sitting alone in her room, when Bennett, who had been lying in wait for a good opportunity to murder her in cold blood, entered stealthily and locked the door behind him. He was armed with an ugly looking knife. The woman screamed for help, but before she could make a second outcry he throttled her and drew the sharp blade across her throat.

Then Bennett slashed his own throat. When the police arrived the room was bespattered with blood and both Mrs. White and Bennett were found to be in a serious condition. The woman was treated for her injuries in the room where the struggle took place, but Bennett was taken to the Receiving Hospital.

Bennett remained at the hospital until October 14, when he made a sensational escape. The policeman who had been detailed to guard Bennett was requested by the prisoner to go into the drug department and get some medicine, and while he was gone the prisoner got out of bed and donned a suit of clothing that had been evidently slipped into the hospital by friends, and which he had concealed under his bed.

When the policeman returned to the ward again Bennett was fully dressed and back in bed again. He kept the bed clothes pulled up over him to hide his street clothes, and a little later, when the guard again left the ward for a moment Bennett made his escape through an open window.

A hack was in waiting across City Hall avenue and Bennett lost no time in getting into it. Friends aided him in getting out of town. Later Bennett was captured in Victoria and Policeman Coleman was sent north to bring him back. He was tried for the brutal assault upon his wife and sent to San Quentin.

Upon his release Bennett came to this city. The police received information yesterday that he had been seen a number of times in the neighborhood of Kearny and Geary streets, and as he is a man who is fond of the society of young girls, they sent detectives on his trail to run him down.

DETECTIVES HOT ON THE TRAIL OF SUSPECT.

Detective Coleman, who brought Bennett back from Victoria, was detailed yesterday by Captain Seymour to search the city for the ex-convict. When found he will be taken around to the various tradesmen who had dealings with the stranger who traveled under the names of Bennett, Hawkins and Scott. The police have other information concerning the suspect which they refuse to divulge.

The body of Nora Fuller will be interred this afternoon at Cypress Lawn Cemetery. The funeral will take place from the undertaking parlors of Charles Truman on Mason street, near Geary. The body was removed from the Morgue yesterday afternoon and taken to the undertaking parlors.

The police are running down every clew that might possibly throw light on the mystery of Nora Fuller's murder, but thus far they have made little progress. Clew after clew has been exploded on investigation.

Both Chief Wittman and Chief of Detectives Seymour are besieged with scores of people who profess to know something of the brutal murder and the identity of the man who committed the deed, but when sifted down the information they give either retards the work of the police or lends additional mystery to the brutal crime.

GIRL'S FUNERAL THIS AFTERNOON

Solemn Services to Be Held at Church Which She Attended.

The body of Eleanor Fuller was removed from the Morgue yesterday afternoon and taken to an undertaking parlor on Mason street, near Geary, where it was prepared for burial. A few friends gathered in the parlors last night, and only a few were permitted to gaze upon the remains. It was the desire of the family that the morbidly curious should be kept away.

The size of the girl is given as 15 years and 7 months. She was a native of England, but has resided in this city the greater part of her life.

The funeral of the deceased will take place this afternoon at 1 o'clock from the California-street Methodist Episcopal church, corner of California and Broadway streets. The young girl was a member of the Sunday-school, and her former associates have prepared many appropriate floral emblems. Rev. A. C. Bane, the pastor of the church, will conduct the services, which will be of a particularly impressive character. The interment will be in Cypress Lawn Cemetery.

GROSS GUILTLSS OF THE MURDER

Confesses That He Forged Name to Certificate of Deposit.

Charles Gross, attorney at law and club man, who was wanted for passing a forged certificate of deposit for \$613 95, was arrested last evening at the Sixteenth street station, Oakland, by Detective Ross Whittaker. Gross was in Marysville when he saw the story of his crime in The Call and he wired to Attorney John T. Greany informing him that he would leave for this city at once to "square" himself. On receipt of the telegram Greany went to police headquarters and asked that a detective be sent to head off Gross. Greany was afraid that he would attempt to go into hiding. By telephoning Captain Seymour learned that Gross had left Marysville and was on his way to this city. Detective Whittaker was sent across the bay, with instructions to board the incoming train from Marysville and arrest Gross. On the arrival of the train at the Sixteenth street station Whittaker saw Gross standing on the platform of

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THE above is a picture of Nora Fuller, exactly as she appeared on the day she left her home to meet the mysterious Bennett. It is an exact reproduction of the unfortunate girl, showing her in the clothes she wore when she went to her doom. This picture may be of benefit to the police in apprehending her murderer. Has any one seen this girl, alone or in the company of a man, since January 11?

Important Changes in High Departments of Wells-Fargo Corporation Are Foreshadowed.

Inside Knowledge of the Coming Combine Causes the Stock to Advance Fifteen Points.

COMING events cast their shadows before. An event foreshadowed at this time is a gigantic trust embracing the four leading express companies in the United States. It is noted as a significant fact that the stock of Wells, Fargo & Co. has advanced fifteen points since February 1, going from 190 to 205. An upward tendency too strong to be called purely sympathetic is observed in the stock of the American, Adams and United States Express companies. In a big merger of this character many divisions of interest must be considered and many claims of personal recognition taken into account. It stands to plain reason that a large retinue of high salaried officers representing respectively the four separate managements will not be required to perform the work of general administration under one management. No doubt many of the old-time attaches and agents whose activities in the express business began a third of a century ago will be compelled by the force of events to retire from the service to rest or be forced to seek engagement in some other line of industry.

HARRIMAN FOR PRESIDENT.

Word comes by private message from the East that E. H. Harriman, president of the Southern Pacific Company, will be elected to the presidency of the Wells-Fargo Express Company at the next annual meeting of the stockholders of the last named corporation. The insiders would not be surprised if higher responsibilities were imposed on Harriman. He may be selected as the president or active manager of the great express trust. As to Harriman's election to the presidency of the Wells-Fargo Company there is hardly a question of doubt. It appears that such selection was in contemplation when Dudley C. Evans was recently elected president. It was then announced that Evans was chosen to fill the place temporarily. In the light of subsequent events it is clear that the scheme to consolidate the leading companies was then under advisement. It is said that Evans will be assigned to duty as general manager, to succeed A. Christiansen, in which position he will have a great deal of responsible work to perform and be next to the president in authority.

CLARK TO SUCCEED TITUS.

G. G. Clark, head of the forwarding department and at present acting general agent, will be promoted to the general agency as the successor of H. W. Titus. The latter, whose service with the company dates back to the sixties, was appointed general agent twelve years ago. His health is so badly impaired that he may request assignment to a field of employment where the work is not exacting. Clark is an old-timer in the service of the express company. He began his work for the corporation in 1868 and has steadily advanced in favor and worth ever since that time.

A. Christiansen, whose place as manager will be filled by D. C. Evans, may be assigned to a subordinate place in San Francisco or be transferred to the East. There will be other changes along the line, such as promotion, transfer and retirement. It is believed that the Wells-Fargo people will obtain ample recognition in the great trust.

ANGLO-JAPANESE TREATY MAY SOON CAUSE CLASH

Agreement Is Regarded as an Ultimatum to Russia to Evacuate Manchuria.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CALL BUREAU, 1406 G STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Besides creating the most profound sensation and occasioning the greatest surprise, the publication of the Anglo-Japanese treaty is looked upon in official circles here as in itself an ultimatum to Russia to evacuate Manchuria. The convention between Russia and China for the gradual evacuation of Northern China was to have been signed two weeks hence. In view of the alliance of Great Britain and Japan, China may now refuse to sign the convention.

Such refusal, it is stated on high authority, will be followed by the retention of Russian troops in Manchuria. But, if this be done, then Great Britain and Japan must act under the treaty signed by them to expel Russia. Certainly Russia will resist expulsion, and France, whose interests necessitate her acting with her ally, will be drawn into the conflict. To officials and diplomats here the danger of the Manchurian situation has been intensified by the publication of the Anglo-Japanese treaty. This statement may be regarded as setting forth the views of this Government:

ATTITUDE OF UNCLE SAM.

In his circular note of July 8, 1900, to the powers, Secretary Hay announced as the fundamental principles of the policy of the United States the preservation of the territorial integrity of China and the maintenance of the "open door." The Anglo-Japanese treaty supports these principles. Consequently it meets with the full approval of the United States. This Government has not been invited to become a signatory to the arrangement, nor could it and its historic policy adhere to it.

Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, declined to-night to discuss the treaty or its effect upon the policy of this Government. From the Japanese Minister The Call correspondent obtained this statement:

"The treaty is not intended as a menace to any power whatever. It is fully in accord with the avowed policies of all the powers, without exception, which have interests in the Far East. It is certainly in accord with the policy of the United States. It has no reference to the present convention being negotiated by Russia with China regarding the evacuation of Manchuria, whatever the effect, direct or indirect, may be. It is not aimed at any particular part of China, or any particular power, but is intended to do just what it says—maintain the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea and preserve equal opportunity for the trade of all nations in those countries."

The refusal of Count Cassini to discuss the treaty makes it difficult to obtain Russian views, but officials here understand that the St. Petersburg authorities will not permit the treaty to hasten their action in China.

RUSSIA'S POLICY IN CHINA.

Russia holds that she has observed the most correct policy in China. At the beginning of the Boxer outbreak an attack by the Chinese troops upon her territory necessitated the subjugation and occupation of Manchuria. To prevent a recurrence of this attack and to adequately protect her railroad Russia must obtain safeguards from China. The United States fully recognizes this fact, but has, however, protested against the conclusion of an arrangement between China and the Russo-Chinese Bank, under which that institution is given exclusive concessions in Manchuria. Germany is a factor in the Manchurian question, and her attitude with respect to the treaty is of the utmost importance. That she will not adhere to the treaty is at once apparent. Her relations with Great Britain would not permit such action. Besides, Germany's interests in Shantung are identical with those of Russia in Manchuria. It is possible, therefore, that in case of trouble she would line up with Russia and France as against Great Britain and Japan.

Diplomats in Washington have not failed to calculate the benefits which the signatory nations obtain from the treaty. Great Britain's prestige in China has been considerably affected by her ill success in Southern Africa. In case of trouble she could spare but few troops for the Manchurian campaign. Her entire navy could take part in the conflict, but its participation would be unimportant unless France were to be drawn into the conflict, as Russia has only a small merchant marine and her coast line is short. Japan would thus have

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