

KILLS MOTHER ACCIDENTALLY

Conductor Shoots Her While Cleaning Revolver.

Authorities Exonerate Him From Blame for the Sad Tragedy.

STOCKTON, Jan. 12.—Amil Bross, a street car conductor, accidentally shot and killed his mother, Mrs. George Bross, at an early hour this evening at their home a mile east of this city. Bross and his mother were alone in the house. He was cleaning a new revolver he had just purchased. He loaded the gun and snapped it shut. It worked hard and he walked over by the window and began working with the gun.

Mrs. Bross sat directly in front of him, reading a newspaper. Bross was opening and shutting the gun with his finger unconsciously on the trigger. He evidently pressed hard enough to discharge the gun.

The bullet struck Mrs. Bross just under the heart and passed entirely through her body. She moaned and pitched forward on the floor. Bross carried her to the bed and telephoned for a physician, but by the time the doctor arrived the woman was dead.

Bross is a young man about 25 years of age. His mother was 55. Bross offered to give himself up to the sheriff. The latter investigated the affair and declined to take the son into custody. Bross' father and sister Rose stated that the young man and his mother were very affectionate and that there could be no possible theory of the shooting except the story told by Bross.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ONLY A SUGGESTION.

But It Has Proven of Interest and Value to Thousands.

Common sense would suggest that if one wishes to become fleshy and plump it can only result from the food we eat and digest, and that food should be albuminous or flesh forming, like eggs, beefsteak and cereals; in other words, the kinds of food that make flesh are the foods which form the greater part of our daily bills of fare.

But the trouble is that while we eat enough, and generally too much, the stomach, from abuse and overwork, does not properly digest, and assimilate it, which is the reason so many people remain thin and under weight. The digestive organs do not completely digest the flesh forming beefsteak and eggs and similar wholesome food.

There are thousands of such who are really confirmed dyspeptics, although they may have no particular pain or inconvenience from their stomachs.

If such persons would lay their prejudices aside and make a regular practice of taking after each meal, one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets the food would be quickly and thoroughly digested, because these tablets contain the natural pepsines and diastase which every weak stomach lacks, and by supplying this want the stomach is soon enabled to retain its natural tone and vigor.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets digest every form of flesh forming food—meat, eggs, bread and potatoes—and this is the reason they so quickly build up, strengthen and invigorate thin, dyspeptic men, women and children.

"Invalids and children, even the most delicate, use them with marked benefit, as they contain no strong, irritating drugs, no cathartic nor any harmful ingredients."

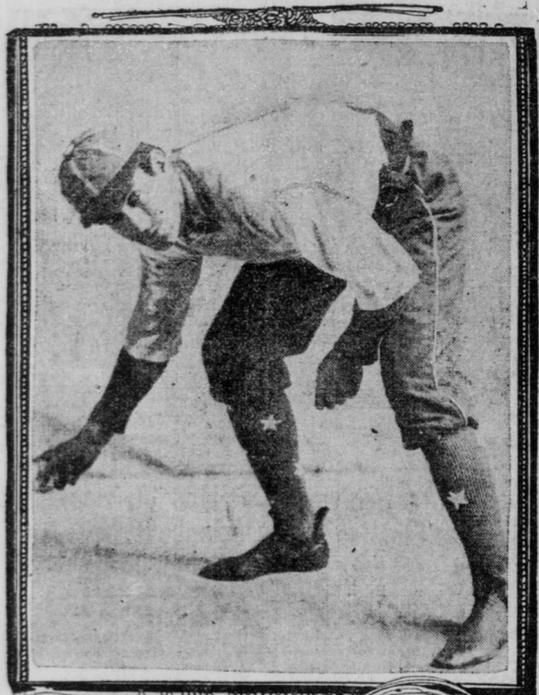
Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is the most successful and most widely known of any remedy for stomach troubles because it is the most reasonable and scientific of modern medicines.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by every druggist in the United States and Canada, as well as in Great Britain, at 50 cents for complete treatment.

Nothing further is required to cure any stomach trouble or to make thin, nervous, dyspeptic people strong, plump and well.

UNTIMELY DEATH OF "WIN" MERCER ENDS CAREER OF GREAT PROMISE

Brilliant Young Baseball Player and Manager Leaves Many Friends to Mourn His Passing. His Accounts Show He Was True to His Trust



THE tragic suicide of Winfield B. Mercer, told exclusively in The Call yesterday, shocked all who ever came in contact with the clever baseball player. It cast a gloom over his comrades which could not be dispelled and caused them to decide upon ending their season with the present week.

"Win" Mercer's friends can account for his act only on the ground of temporary mental derangement. He was in good spirits up to forty-eight hours before his death, when he seemed gloomy and depressed. On the way to this coast the teams stopped at Las Vegas, N. M. Here Mercer visited a brother who is afflicted with tuberculosis. This visit affected Mercer for a time. He sadly told his friends he was afraid he was afflicted with the disease.

Not a reflection can be cast upon his accounts as treasurer of the baseball teams. No deficit in funds exists to point to a cause for his terrible deed. His honesty in business affairs even exemplified itself in a final summary of unsettled financial accounts which he addressed to Manager Norris O'Neill and left behind him.

Leaving the Langham Hotel where the remainder of the team were located, Mercer registered at the Occidental at 9 o'clock Monday evening under the name of George Murray, Philadelphia avenue. A 1 o'clock in the morning Henry Cassen and W. H. Van, detecting the strong odor of gas from Mercer's room, entered by means of a pass key.

They found the young man lying dead upon his bed. So determined had he been upon making a successful attempt at self-destruction that he had connected a long rubber tube with the gas jet and held the end in his clenched teeth. His clothing was piled about his head to shut in the deadly vapor.

HIS LAST MESSAGES.

Upon the table were found the last messages of the deceased young player. To his mother, Mrs. Maggie Mercer, 225 Fifth street, East Liverpool, O., he had penned the following farewell:

Dearest Darling Mother: I do not want to break your heart, but I am about to commit the act which I am about to commit; so please forgive me. Women have gotten the best of me, but I forgive them; well, dear mother, I must say good-bye forever; please forgive me, dear mother, and brother—love you all and am sorry to leave you.

Again I say good-bye to mother, Howard, Ross, Clifford, Herb, Robert and my dear uncles and aunts and cousins. From WINNIE.

To Miss Martha C. Porter, also of East Liverpool, Ohio, the sweetheart which Mercer had left behind him, the following touching letter was left:

With tears streaming from my eyes I pen these few lines to you, the dearest and sweetest little girl in the whole world.

The act which I am about to commit is simply terrible, but cannot help it, dear Winnie, to blame, nobody else, so I am going to leave it as right as I have many other wrong acts.

Please forgive me, dear Martha, I love you to the last. Oh, if I could only kiss you once more I would be satisfied to go. Good-bye to your father, mother, Iba, John and my dear old pal, Harry. I am sorry to say, but I think it is best that I should go. Your unfortunate WINNIE.

Norris O'Neill, the manager of the All-American team, was the last of Mercer's companions to receive a final word. Thus read his letter:

Dear Norris: Please pardon me for the act I am about to commit. God only knows that I am sorry to do it, but I think it best that I should.

A word to my friends: Beware of women and a game of chance.

Well, my dear old pal, with tears in my eyes I say good-bye forever. I wanted to do right; please forgive me, dear old friend. I will leave my socks on money in the safe; also sixty-three my trousers. WINNIE.

CAREER AS A PLAYER.

Mercer's death will be a shock to Detroit baseball fans as he had signed as manager of that team for the season of 1903 at a big salary. Mercer appeared first as a baseball star when a member of the Washington National League Club in 1898. The next year he joined the New

York team, returning to the Washington team in 1896 and again signing with New York in 1898. With this team he played until the spring of 1902, when he joined the Detroit Americans, remaining with that aggregation until his present trip to the coast.

The members of the All-American and National baseball teams held a meeting last evening in their rooms at the Langham Hotel for the purpose of deciding upon the proper course to be taken following the death of one of their fellow players. A great deal of feeling was shown by the members in the matter. It was unanimously decided a game should be played in this city on next Sunday afternoon in honor of the late player. For the purpose of necessary practice the regular games will be played on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

The remains of Mercer will be embalmed. Richard Harley, who was a fellow player on the Detroit baseball team with Mercer, will accompany the remains to his former home in East Liverpool, Ohio, leaving this city Thursday morning.

Monday morning the teams will disband and the members will return to their respective homes.

Tickets will be sold for the benefit game at Harry Corbett's and a number of prominent hotels and cigar stores in the city.

RECKLESS THIEF SEEN BREAKING INTO HOUSE

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Welch was seen breaking into the house by Con McCauliff and Henry Boom of 232 1/2 Beach street, and they notified the police.

When Welch was searched at the prison the lace and ribbon were found on his person, but the money was missing.

Seabury Would Not Prosecute.

When the case of H. Rolfs, bartender at the Grand Opera-house bar, charged with battery upon Forrest Seabury, actor and long-distance diver, last Monday at 217 Leavenworth street, was called before Police Judge Cabanis yesterday Seabury refused to prosecute and the case was dismissed. Seabury and Rolfs had a consultation in the courtroom a few minutes before the case was called.

Fancy Dress Ball.

Excelsior Circle of the Companions of the Forest of America will entertain its members and friends in the social hall of the Alcazar building to-morrow night with a fancy dress masked ball. The committee in charge will award prizes to the best dressed lady and gentleman and for the most original costumes.

DAY WILL BE ELEVATED TO THE SUPREME BENCH

Former Secretary of State to Succeed Associate Justice Shiras.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Former Secretary of State William R. Day of Canton, Ohio, at present Judge of the Sixth United States Judicial Circuit, will be appointed Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court to succeed George Shiras Jr. of Pennsylvania, who will retire in a few weeks. In selecting Judge Day for this honor, President Roosevelt had in mind the well known intention of President McKinley to give Judge Day's promotion when an opportunity should occur.

LIEUTENANT OF GERMAN CRUISER KILLS HIMSELF

Commits Suicide While Returning Home From a Lengthy Sojourn in the Tropics.

BERLIN, Jan. 12.—First Lieutenant von Lengkerke of the German cruiser Vineta, whose death on board the passenger steamer Hispania, before her arrival at Bremerhaven, was reported last Saturday, committed suicide. According to the official report, he shot himself. It is said he was returning home after being seriously ill in the tropics. A rumor is current that he lost official favor because he sank the Venezuelan vessels captured at La Guaira and that he was ordered home on that account.

ONE HUNDRED WIDOWS TO HELP HIM CELEBRATE

Syracuse Octogenarian Bars the Male Persuasion From His Birthday Party.

SYRACUSE, Jan. 12.—A. Howlett, a veteran bank president and business man, has issued invitations to about 100 widows, who are to help him celebrate his eighty-second birthday, which falls on February 17. No man will be there. Every widow whose husband Howlett had known has been asked. Howlett says: "Widows are too often left out of society. There'll be widows from New York, Chicago, Duluth, Oswego and other places at the celebration, and they'll all be prominent people. We won't have a man in the house. I am going to have a ladies' orchestra, a woman caterer, women waitresses, and I am looking after a woman to take care of the furnace."

Howlett will banish his son and grandson from the house.

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VENTURAS STRIKE FOR THE CHILD

Divorced Wife's Application Comes Up in Des Moines.

Evidence Includes Affidavits From Many Persons of Note.

Professor Renews Allegations of Indiscreet Conduct on the Part of His Former Spouse.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 13.—A stack of affidavits nearly a foot high was deposited on the desk of Judge McVey in the District Court to-day and arguments were begun for and against the application of Mrs. Jeannette Conrad for the possession of Lillian Ventura, a pretty Miss of 3 years, technically in the custody of her father, Professor Louis D. Ventura of San Francisco, but actually in that of Mrs. Conrad, formerly Mrs. Ventura. The affidavits submitted to Judge McVey include the signatures and sworn statements of Governor Cummins of Iowa, William Dean Howells, the novelist; Tennessee Salvin, the tragedian; Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, the California philanthropist, and David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford Jr. University, and the Mount Tamalpais Military Academy of San Rafael, Cal. He and Mrs. Ventura have always traveled in the most exclusive society and hence have been chosen to obtain the affidavits mentioned relative to the merits of the controversy.

ALLEGATIONS OF VENTURA.

Ventura alleges that shortly after his marriage to the plaintiff, Miss Milford of Minneapolis, he discovered that she had been guilty of indiscreet conduct with Olin Colburn, a Milwaukee editor, and William Arlander, a prominent Minneapolis insurance man. He alleges other incidents subsequent to their marriage and mentions A. E. Conrad, her present husband. He said, however, that Conrad wife denied these charges, but said they were used to intimidate her into consenting to give up the custody of her child when the divorce was granted to her. Last summer she fled to California and kidnaped little Lillian and to prevent her former husband recovering possession she brought the present suit.

Ventura, in to-day's testimony, alleged that Mrs. Conrad went to California as a delegate to the National Federation of Women's Clubs and sought to effect a reconciliation with him, representing to him that she had been divorced from Conrad. He said, however, that Conrad wrote to him warning him that she merely sought to kidnap the child and was still Conrad's wife.

MOTHER GETS THE CHILD.

Ventura finally relented sufficiently to assist her to obtain a position as nurse and governess and to permit her to see the child occasionally. This culminated after a few weeks in the abduction, after he had finally rejected all overtures at a reconciliation, resulting in her circulating disparaging stories concerning him. He says that following the kidnaping of the child he sought to obtain a requisition upon the Governor of Minnesota for Mrs. Conrad's arrest, but failed.

The affidavits by President Jordan, Mrs. Hearst, William Dean Howells and Salvin certify to the charming disposition and good conduct of Ventura; also to his ability to provide for the child and to the fact that he was giving her a good education.

Governor Cummins, Rev. J. E. Cathel and other prominent men of Des Moines and Minneapolis testify similarly of Mrs. Ventura and allege that her husband was of a cruel disposition.

The little girl makes an affidavit in which she says she prefers to live with her mother.

NOTED BASEBALL PLAYER WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE IN THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL.

YORK team, returning to the Washington team in 1896 and again signing with New York in 1898. With this team he played until the spring of 1902, when he joined the Detroit Americans, remaining with that aggregation until his present trip to the coast.

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Jack Welch, a former soldier employed as a teamster at the Presidio Reservation, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detectives Ryan and Taylor and charged at the City Prison with burglary.

On Monday afternoon, it is alleged, Welch broke into the residence of Miss Dora Davis at 223 Beach street, and, using an ax, opened a trunk, stealing from it \$10 in cash and a lot of lace and ribbon.

Welch was seen breaking into the house by Con McCauliff and Henry Boom of 232 1/2 Beach street, and they notified the police.

When Welch was searched at the prison the lace and ribbon were found on his person, but the money was missing.

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RECEIVES EVERY REPUBLICAN VOTE

Judge Heyburn Elected Senator From Idaho.

James H. Hawley of Boise Is Honored by Democratic Minority.

Members of Utah Legislature Still Stand by Apostle Smoot.

SALT LAKE, Utah, Jan. 13.—Thirty-five members of the Legislature who are supporting Apostle Reed Smoot in his candidacy for the United States Senatorship met in this city to-night and agreed to sign a call for a caucus to be held to-morrow evening. After the meeting it was said that additional signatures will be secured for the call to bring the total up to forty-four. A majority of the entire Legislature is thirty-two. The general belief is that Smoot will be nominated on the first ballot.

SENATOR MASON WITHDRAWS.

Realizes That There Is No Possibility of His Re-election.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 13.—Senator Mason formally announced to-day his withdrawal from the contest to be his own successor, admitting the impossibility of his re-election.

French Parliament Resumes Session.

PARIS, Jan. 13.—Both branches of Parliament resumed their sessions to-day after the extended holiday recess. The session of the Chamber of Deputies was calm and uneventful, in marked contrast to the turbulent scenes which were witnessed on the eve of the recess. M. Burgeois was re-elected President by 35 out of 414 votes cast, the other candidates withdrawing.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Representative Jones of Virginia introduced a bill in the House to-day extending the customs system of the United States to the Philippine Islands.

SIR BACHE CUNARD GETS JUDGMENT FOR \$1,657,709

Suit Commenced Fifteen Years Ago in London Is Finally Settled by Default.

LONDON, Jan. 13.—Sir Bache Cunard, president of the Cunard line of steamers, recovered a judgment to-day in the Supreme Court for \$1,657,709 against his first cousin, Charles G. Franchlyn. Franchlyn, fifteen years ago, was in charge of the property in this country belonging to Sir

SALT LAKE, Utah, Jan. 13.—The Oregon Short Line Railroad Company has completed its plan for a pension system for its employes.

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