

OFFICIALS AND BANKERS NAMED BY GRAND JURY

District Attorney and Treasurer of San Mateo Accused of Wrong Doing

Two Bankers Indicted for Failure to Pay Interest on the County Funds

Justice Accused of Combining the Work of Judge and Debt Collector

Officials accused of malfeasance in office: District Attorney Joseph J. Bullock. County Treasurer Philander P. Chamberlain.

Indictments returned against: Dr. J. L. Ross, president of the First national bank of Redwood City. L. P. Behrens, cashier of the First national bank of Redwood City.

Secrecy Is Observed [Special Dispatch to The Call]

REDWOOD CITY, Jan. 13.—Although the greatest secrecy has been maintained by members of the grand jury, which was in session here all day yesterday, it was learned today that the inquisitorial body returned accusations of malfeasance in office against three county officials and voted indictments against the president and cashier of the First national bank of San Mateo county.

Upon the advice of Attorney General E. S. Webb, who was consulted by George A. Kertell at San Francisco, nothing was said of the charges yesterday.

The accusations of malfeasance returned against District Attorney Joseph J. Bullock and County Treasurer P. P. Chamberlain result from the graft charges that have stirred San Mateo county for more than a year.

Charge of Favoring Banks The particular accusations are based on the complaint that Treasurer Chamberlain has lent the county's money to three banks in the county without exacting the 2 per cent interest demanded, as a minimum, by law, and that District Attorney Bullock has aided Chamberlain in his improper conduct.

Indictments against Doctor Ross and L. P. Behrens were returned because the two bank officials, by their action in receiving the money, were partners in the crime charged by the grand jury.

Justice as Debt Collector Justice of the Peace Walter G. Loveland is accused on a charge totally different from the one under which the other four men have been placed under the frown of the law. He is charged with having acted in the dual capacity of judge and debt collector, and in particular reference to two suits brought before him, the members of the grand jury believe they have uncovered evidence of improper conduct.

The grand jury has declared for the last three years that County Treasurer Chamberlain kept county funds averaging \$225,000 in the banks of San Mateo county, notably in the vaults of the First National bank of Redwood City, for which the county should have received 2 per cent interest, or about \$12,000.

Refusal to Demand Interest After investigation a resolution was brought before the San Mateo supervisors at their last meeting directing Attorney Bullock to begin suit against the financial institutions for the recovery of the interest due. This resolution, however, the supervisors defeated by a vote of three to two, and the three officials who voted against the measure were summoned before the grand jury to explain their action.

Supervisors D. E. Blackburn, John H. Coleman and Joseph Francis, who had opposed the measure, accordingly appeared before the grand jury yesterday morning and the investigating body was busy with them for several hours. Then in the afternoon County Treasurer Chamberlain and Justice of the Peace Loveland, who had been summoned to testify before the board, were called in.

Judge Defends His Acts Under the leadership of Foreman G. A. Kertell the citizens forming the grand jury wasted no words in making their charges clear to the men before them. Justice of the Peace Loveland was told that he was strongly suspected and had been charged with having acted as a collector of debts allowed by him as a judge. The charges were made in reference to the Early-Eckley collections and the Circaus-Lindsey suit. Loveland defended himself valiantly, but, nevertheless, the accusation of malfeasance issued.

Next County Treasurer Chamberlain was quizzed as to moneys placed in local banks. Chamberlain stated that he could not place the money in any county institution because the vault in the new city hall was not yet completed and, further, that the banks refused to pay interest to the county. So

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MURDER FARM MYSTERY ENDED BY CONFESSION

Ray Lamphere's Story Confirms Theory That Mrs. Gunness Was Cremated

Convict Says Candle Left in House After Robbery Caused Fire

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 13.—In a copyrighted story today the Post-Dispatch publishes what purports to be the confession of Ray Lamphere, who died a few days ago in the Indiana penitentiary at Michigan City when serving a sentence for setting fire to the house of Mrs. Bella Gunness near La Porte, Ind. It is known that the Rev. Dr. E. A. Schell, formerly of La Porte, heard Lamphere's confession.

The confession shows that Mrs. Gunness and three children were chloroformed by Lamphere, who was robbing the house with a woman accomplice; that Jennie Olson was not killed by the chloroform; that the chloroform used by Lamphere was part of that he bought for Mrs. Gunness to kill three men, one of whom was Andrew Heiglein, the others probably Ole Budsburg and Tonnes Petersen Lien, and that one of these men, probably Lien, was the third husband of Mrs. Gunness.

Confirmation Withheld According to the paper the confession was obtained from a man of unassailable character and truthfulness, whose standing in the community where he lives is such that his word is accepted without question.

Rev. Doctor Schell, at Burlington, Iowa, said today that he had not divulged any such confession to any person. Rev. Doctor Schell is president of the Iowa Wesleyan university at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Last Sunday he refused to give to the public the confession Lamphere made on the ground that it was pledged by the secrecy of the confessional.

Former Theories Upset The confession is startling in its variance from theories hitherto held.

The confession establishes that Mrs. Gunness is dead. The adult body found in the smoking ruins of the Gunness farmhouse was the body of Mrs. Bella Gunness. She was in the deep sleep that chloroform induces when the smoke crept up through the crevices and smothered her. She died with the head of her little boy pillowed on her breast. He, too, chloroformed as he was, died without waking.

The two little girls, Myrtle and Lucy, not so thoroughly chloroformed, awoke and ran into their mother's room, where they perished.

Woman Trusted Accomplice Jennie Olson, niece and adopted daughter of Mrs. Gunness, who, it has been believed, was murdered by the woman more than a year before the house was burned, and whose body was believed to have been buried in the farmyard, was not murdered by Mrs. Gunness, according to Lamphere's confession, but was burned to death in the fire that destroyed the house. She also had been chloroformed.

Assuming that Lamphere told the truth about Jennie Olson, the identity of the girl buried in the yard adds another mystery to the case.

Mrs. Gunness made the mistake of believing that she could safely break with Lamphere, under the belief that Lamphere's complicity in her crimes would keep him silent.

Lamphere let himself into the house the night of the fire. The chloroform was administered and a search for money was made, but less than \$70 was found.

Flames Seen in Flight Then he and the woman, who, he says, accompanied him, went away, according to Lamphere, and it was when he was hurrying away toward the country, where he was to work that day, that he looked back and saw flames bursting from the house.

The light they used was a candle, and they left the house without knowing they had left behind a spark that soon burst into flames.

Lamphere, according to the confession, had a guilty knowledge of the murder of three men in the Gunness home during the time he lived there, about eight months, in 1907, and he assisted Mrs. Gunness in disposing of the bodies of the three men. He said he thought he had not received as much of the profits of the transaction as he considered himself entitled to.

Three Men Murdered Mrs. Gunness' method of killing her victims, Lamphere said, was first to chloroform them as they slept and then if the drug did not kill to sever their heads with an ax.

Each time a man was to be murdered, according to Lamphere, she sent him to purchase chloroform. Lamphere said he saw one of the men killed and aided in burying all three. These men were Andrew Heiglein and probably Ole Budsburg and Tonnes Petersen Lien.

Heiglein, Lamphere thought, was the third husband of Mrs. Gunness. At the time of the Lamphere trial it was thought Jennie Olson had been

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"Do This For ME," Your City Asks



ONE MAN SURVIVES WRECK OF CZARINA

Six Victims Cling to Icy Rigging All Night, but Finally Sink to Death

MARSHFIELD, Jan. 13.—Another tragedy of the sea has been written into the record of the long list of marine disasters on the Pacific coast through the loss of the stanch iron steamship Czarina on the north spit of the Coos bay bar, and 30 more lives have paid toll to the grim reaper.

Only One Survivor A solitary survivor, Herry Kentzel, first assistant engineer of the wrecked vessel, is the only living testimonial to the heroic efforts which were made by the United States life saving crew and citizens of Marshfield to aid the stricken crew of the ill fated steamer.

That Kentzel is alive is a miracle. With six or seven others he took refuge in the rigging of the foremast. Sea after sea broke over the vessel, the decks were awash and wreckage was floating about. Suddenly a tremendous sea swept over the vessel and Kentzel and his companions were washed from their places.

Gradually Washed Ashore Kentzel was swept toward land, but time and again was carried out to sea. He is a strong man and, after fighting for what seemed to him ages, he managed to get hold of a piece of timber and was gradually washed ashore.

As he neared the beach he could see the people running up and down. Finally his senses left him and he knew nothing more until he was revived on the beach alongside a big fire. He had been taken from the water by watchers and was brought back to life only after several hours' vigorous treatment.

Men Cling to Rigging When darkness fell last night it was believed that all were lost. The waters, lashed into a boiling foam, dashed over the vessel, and it was thought that none could live through such a terrible night, but today when the first gleam of dawn came out of the east those on the beach described six persons in the rigging of the only remaining mast, and hope was renewed that the day would witness their rescue, but the fates were opposed, and as the minutes grew into hours with no sign of the tempest abating despair was once more written on the faces of the anxious people ashore. Suddenly one of the six men, weakened by exposure and hunger and too numb from cold to longer retain his meager grasp on life, dropped into the sea.

There was not long to wait before another victim of the disaster surrendered his life, and then a third was seen to fall into the sea.

Men Leap Into Sea The condition of the lonely trio still left on the wreck by this time must have been pitiful. None realized better than they that life was slowly ebbing

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MILLIONAIRE AND NEPHEW POISONED

Attorneys Assert Relative Plotted Murder of Family to Inherit Millions

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 13.—Doubtful that Thomas H. Swope, millionaire philanthropist, who died here October 3, came to his death by natural causes, relatives have started an investigation. It developed today that Swope's body was taken Wednesday from a vault in Forest Hill cemetery to an undertaking establishment in Independence, Mo., where a medical examination was made.

Attorneys representing the Swope estate say they were convinced a deep laid plot existed to kill, first, Colonel Swope, and then other members of his family. A person who hoped to become sole beneficiary of the Swope millions plotted the deaths, they assert.

Suspicion was aroused when Christian Swope, a nephew of the millionaire, died December 2. He was believed to have died from typhoid fever. But his attorneys assert both he and his wealthy uncle were poisoned. An arrest in the case probably will be made in a few days.

The man under suspicion is said to have attempted to inoculate the entire Swope family with typhoid bacteria, hoping to bring death by this means so he would not be suspected. This failing, however, he resorted to poison in the case of the two men.

Swope was perhaps the richest man here.

SOCIETY GIRL ELOPES WITH YOUNG COLLEGIAN

Army Man's Daughter Becomes Bride at Secret Wedding

TROY, N. Y., Jan. 13.—Society circles in this city are deeply stirred over the elopement yesterday afternoon of Edmund Fitzgerald Jr., son of former Mayor Fitzgerald, and Miss Dorothy Young Smith, daughter of Major and Mrs. Ernest V. Smith.

Major Smith is an officer of the regular army stationed at San Francisco. His wife and daughter since early fall have been living at the Rensselaer Inn and had decided to make Troy their permanent home.

Young Fitzgerald was graduated from Georgetown university last June, but intended to return to the institution this fall. He was prominent in athletics. Since the young people first met they have been constantly together and Fitzgerald ardently wooed his young bride with the aid of a big touring car. So far as is known their parents did not object to the match.

The news of the elopement reached the mother of the bride this afternoon in the form of a telegram that informed her that the young couple had been married by Rev. Father Charles Macksey, S. J., of St. Francis Xavier church, New York.

ALMA BELL DENIES RUMORS OF INSANITY

Says Reports Were Absurdly Exaggerated and That She Tried to Kill No One

[Special Dispatch to The Call] WILLOWS, January 13.—Alma Bell, who was acquitted of the murder of her lover, Joe Armes, denied today to a Call representative that she was insane. She also denied having attempted to kill the Bolton family or herself, and said that no man had been to the Bolton home last Sunday or Monday to see her.

"I don't see why the papers and the public do not let me alone," she said. "I came to Willows to get honest work and help my mother pay off the \$800 mortgage which was placed on our home during my trial. I was invited to come to Willows by the Boltons and Mrs. Denny, and intend to make it my home."

"These stories have hurt me very much and are not true. No man visited me last Sunday or Monday. I am done with men. The report of my being insane came about on Monday, when I was thinking of Joe Armes. I became worried and lay down to rest. Mr. Bolton entered my room. I said to him, 'I wish I were with Joe.' He remarked that I was crazy and said he was going to telephone to my mother and brother. My brother, Fred Bell, is here as a result of the message."

"Now all I ask is for the papers and the public to let me alone and I will seek employment in some good family and try to forget my past and live a good life."

Fred Bell, Alma's brother, is in Willows and is trying to persuade her to return to Auburn with him. With Bell is a miner who took a prominent part in the murder trial. He also has had several talks with Alma.

The girl seems to be perfectly rational today and characterizes the many and conflicting stories about violent actions on her part as absurd.

MENDOCINO CITY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IS OUSTED

Teacher's Friends Allege That Politics Caused Dismissal

[Special Dispatch to The Call] MENDOCINO CITY, Jan. 13.—The community is all in arms over the abrupt dismissal of George F. Finley, principal of the grammar school, by the board of trustees by a vote of 2 to 1 without assigning any cause despite the petition of 95 per cent of the patrons of the school asking his retention.

It is openly charged by the friends of the deposed principal that his dismissal is due to the liquor interests, which took exception to the active interest Mr. Finley took in the Good Government league which is working to secure better moral conditions for the town.

The trustees admit freely that no complaint is made against the principal, but declare they are running the school and the patrons have nothing to say.

NEW WATER SUPPLY UP TO VOTERS

Spring Valley Purchase and the Lake Eleanor Plan in the People's Hands

Bonds for Dual System Are Urged by Business and Professional Men

Plant Would Pay for Itself From the Earnings, Declare Experts

Increase in Rates and Taxation Is Denied by Friends of the Plan

THE Spring Valley water system will pay for itself. There will be no raise in rates. The revenue will be sufficient to meet the interest on the bonds and eventually to pay off the principal. Its purchase will not mean extra taxes nor higher rates.

These are the facts that the citizens' water committee desires to impress with special force upon the voters. Convinced that the Sierra system will find no real opposition, the committee makes its final appeal for the purchase of Spring Valley. The two projects, combined and unified, will give to San Francisco an ample immediate supply, with the certainty in the near future of a system unexcelled in any modern city.

Students of the public welfare have declared the issue more closely intertwined with the city's future than any question that has presented itself for decision during the half century. It is the big opportunity for which the public has struggled. They will seize or reject it at the polls today.

Foundation for Homes A city owned water works, pumping a clear and healthful fluid into the outermost districts, is the first step toward that destiny which has been sketched for San Francisco. It will be the foundation stone for a thousand homes and thousands more to follow that will rise upon the areas that have too long served no useful purpose. It will bring to commerce the needed impetus. The lake shores will provide the arena for San Francisco's reception to the world in 1915.

Arguments in support of the dual project have been piled high during the days of debate. Against them have been placed two contentions—that the law forbids the bond issue and that the price is too high. From the highest legal authority—from Dillon & Hubbard—comes the assurance that the city is safely within its legal rights.

Earnings Pay Expenses The price is admittedly high. Nevertheless, engineers have expressed their conviction that the earnings of the system will be sufficient to pay all expenses leaving a balance to meet the interest charges and in due time to retire the principal.

Speculation as to the size of today's vote has varied from 35,000 to 45,000. Registrar Zemansky estimates that close to 40,000 ballots will be cast.

"In November, 1908," said Zemansky yesterday, "41,137 votes were cast at the Hetch Hetchy election. At that time the total registration was 75,487. Our registration at the present time is approximately 91,000. I do not look, however, for a bigger vote than we had on Hetch Hetchy with the smaller registration. I think about 40,000 votes will be cast at this election. In the 1907 street election we had some 42,000 votes. There was organization on both sides on that issue and the campaign was carried on in a way to excite popular interest. The water question appeals very strongly to the public, but I shall be surprised, nevertheless, if the vote goes very far above 40,000."

Gather Returns Quickly The polls for today will be identical with those used in the last November election. There will be 200 booths with 1,200 officers in charge. Zemansky has made arrangements to gather the returns with unusual speed. Adding machines have been installed in his office and the figures will be checked up as quickly as they can be telephoned in.

When the Hetch Hetchy was the issue in November, 1908, it was approved by 24,950 votes. The opposition could muster only 5,708.

The question will be placed before the electors today in the form of two propositions, as follows: LAKE ELEANOR-TUOLUMNE SYSTEM Proposition 1. To incur a bonded debt of the city and county of San Francisco to the amount of \$15,000,000 for the purpose of the acquisition, construction and comple-

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