



Nurse Confesses and Athlete Is Jailed

RAILWAYMEN VOTE TO ERASE PARTISAN LINES

Great Meeting of Employes Is Moved to United Action by Speakers

Delegates Representing 318,000 Workingmen Will Demand Protective Laws

To Draft Catechism to All Candidates Asking Them How They Stand

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—For the first time in the history of railway unions members and delegates representing 318,000 men of the four great divisions of railway employes in the east voted unanimously at a meeting here today to take concerted action in national and state politics.

"The proper place to settle questions affecting labor is at the ballot box," said Warren S. Stone of Cleveland, O., grand chief of the brotherhood of locomotive engineers.

"Whatever your political affiliations do not let party lines blind you to your true interest or prevent you from doing what you think is best and right. See that the men you vote for stand for the right principles, regardless of party, and support those men who meet the requirements and you will not only be doing the best thing for yourselves, but for the public.

Party Lines Effaced

"This is not a political move at all, as is generally understood, but a move to get away from the old lines of partisan politics."

In pursuance of this plan, the meeting voted to send out a series of eight questions to state and national candidates, particularly to candidates for the legislature and house of representatives asking for a definition of their attitude on the universal adoption of safety appliances and an employers' liability law—where such does not already exist—company pensions for superannuated employes, hours of labor and other matters of kindred interest.

This catechism will be drafted by W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and by A. B. Garretson, president of the Order of Railway Conductors and by them distributed to all executive officers of subordinate unions and locals.

3,000 Delegates Attend

There were 3,000 members and delegates at the meeting today, representing the brotherhood of railway trainmen, the brotherhood of locomotive engineers, the brotherhood of locomotive firemen and engineers and the order of railway conductors.

They met by announcement to define their attitude toward the application of railways now before the interstate commerce commission for permission to increase rates and, as had been expected, they passed resolutions favoring an increase.

It was decided that "this representative meeting of the railway brotherhoods request our chief executives to appear before the interstate commerce commission during the pending rate hearing and state our case and support the proposals reasonably to increase the existing rates."

The legislative board of the brotherhood of engineers of Pennsylvania, representing 10,000 engineers, which recently concluded session in Harrisburg, Pa., attended the meeting in a body and reported resolutions which, it was claimed, typified the attitude on the rate question of railway employes in general, as expressed in many other scattered resolutions.

Favor Rate Increases

They find that "the various railway companies, by whom our members are employed" have recently enormously increased their operating expenses and fixed charges by reason of a general increase in wages and the increased cost of material and the incessant demand of the public for improved facilities and service."

In a letter to M. Flannery, chairman of the executive committee of the engineers at Buffalo, Chief Stone expressed himself in thorough sympathy with the movement.

"One thing is sure," he writes, "if the railroads are to continue to exist, some way must be found to meet the constantly increasing demand on their gross earnings."

LINEMAN ELECTROCUTED WHILE STRINGING WIRES

Arm of Victim Comes in Contact With 2,000 Volts

SAN PEDRO, Sept. 25.—David W. Barr, aged 40, an employe of the Southern California Edison company, was electrocuted at 10 o'clock this morning while stringing wires on Terminal island. He was at the top of a pole when his arm came in contact with a live wire carrying 2,000 volts. The crossarms prevented Barr from falling, but when lowered to the ground life was extinct.

WOMAN BARES THE EVA SWAN TRAGEDY

Paul P. Parker, Stanford graduate, football player and writer, held by police in connection with Eva Swan's death.

Miss Marie Messerschmidt, nurse, who confessed, and Dr. Robert Thompson, alias James Grant, the accused physician, as they appeared in the city prison.



IMPRISONED NURSE TELLS TRAGIC TALE WOMAN DECLARES SHE FEARED "GRANT"

By MARIE MESSERSCHMIDT

I make a complete and full confession of the facts surrounding the death of Eva Swan last April, because I feel I must clear my own conscience. I am innocent of any wrongdoing and my only reason for having kept silent all this time was because of my fear of Dr. James Grant, who had threatened to kill me should I ever expose him. However, it is time for me to tell what I know about this awful affair and his threats have no weight with me now.

My name is Marie Messerschmidt and I am a professional nurse. Last March I entered the employ of Dr. James Grant at 1232 Golden Gate avenue. My experience as a nurse told me the kind of practice which Doctor Grant followed, but I felt it was none of my business. Above his office were about half a dozen rooms, I occupied one, and the others were devoted to patients whose conditions warranted them being taken from home. My duty was to look after these few patients.

Saturday evening, April 15, 1910, Miss Eva Swan of 2940 Scott street, a stenographer, came to Dr. Robert Thompson, known as Doctor Grant and was operated upon by him. She came back the next day, Sunday, for further treatment.

I did not see her again until April 20, when she again returned to Doctor Thompson's office and complained of illness. I put Miss Swan to bed and nursed her for 10 days. She grew no better. We knew that she was dying two days before death actually came. Doctor Thompson was so sure that she could not survive that he began preparations to dispose of her body several days before.

During the 10 days that she was under my care at Doctor Thompson's office, Paul Parker came three times to inquire as to her condition. He seemed to be anxious over the serious turn in the situation.

Eva Swan died in the office of Doctor Thompson near midnight of April 30. We knew that she could not live, and when death came the girl was alone. She had been unconscious for two days before.

After the girl died, Doctor Thompson completed the arrangements he had begun to make away with the body. First he obtained a trunk. Then he cut the girl's legs off at the ankle in order that he might crush the body into the trunk.

He lost no time in getting rid of the trunk. It was about 8 o'clock of the night after Miss Swan died that he brought an expressman to the office. He was accompanied by Willie Saack. They put the trunk in the express wagon and sent it out to 327 Eureka street. Doctor Thompson took a car and went out there immediately. He intended to bury the body that night. He stayed at the Eureka street house all night, returning to the office at 11 o'clock next morning.

When he returned he told me that he had not been able to bury it because the neighbors were curious and were watching him. That night he went back a second time to the house, where the body was and remained there all night. He came back again the next morning at 11 o'clock and said that he had been unable to bury the body in the yard because the night was bright and moonlight and that he would have been seen. He said, however, that he had buried it in the basement under the cement floor.

He told me that he thought everything was safe, and that the body would never be discovered. He said the house was an old one and would never be rented and that even if it were rented, there wouldn't be one chance in a thousand of anything being suspected. He said we were safe. Then I asked him what he had done with the trunk and he said he had left it in the basement.

Willie Saack was very much affected. He told me it was a terrible ordeal and said he didn't know how he had stood it. He said it was working on his mind horribly and that he would never take part in another affair of that kind for anybody.

I would have told all of this long ago if I hadn't been afraid that the doctor would murder me. Now I am glad it is all over. He dominated me so completely that I dared not open my mouth to the authorities. Had he been able to kill me when I began making this confession I know he would have done so. Now that I am assured of the protection of the police and of the support of my own family I have no hesitation in telling the truth about the whole horrible affair.

It has been preying upon my mind for months. It was too great a secret for me to bear and now I am thankful that it is all out. My final decision to tell was made after a conference this afternoon with my brother in law, August Borman, who pleaded with me to protect myself and my family.

STORM DRIVEN ROBINS LIGHT ON SHIP AT SEA AND RIDE TO PORT

The passenger list of the Norwegian steamer Thor, Captain Egenes, which arrived in port yesterday from Nainimo, B. C., was chiefly made up of feathered "castaways" that partook of the skipper's hospitality without being made to work their way. The "birds of passage" came into the harbor perched on the masts and rigging of the steamer, occupying the points of vantage with the judgment of experienced globe trotters.

When an investigation was conducted into the species represented it was found that robins, sparrows and snowbirds were among the satisfied

roosters on top of the cabin and on the jury masts. The birds were driven to take refuge on the steamer when miles from land, having been blown out to sea. Captain Egenes showed his visitors every courtesy, with the result that the birds refused to leave him for any of the other ships spoken in passing on the southward trip. Some of them have flown around on sight seeing trips, but have returned to their nautical resting places. The crew has taken a liking to the birds and they have developed into pets. The sailors say that their coming and persistence in staying with the ship is a good augury.

SON OF COLORADO CAPITALIST AND COMPANION STRANDED IN OAKLAND

OAKLAND, Sept. 25.—Edward G. Nicholson, 29 years old, who says he is the son of S. D. Nicholson, general manager of the Guggenheim exploration company at Leadville, Colo., and capitalist, appealed to Captain of Detectives Petersen today for aid in getting back to his home. He was accompanied by Charles Rutter of 142 East Ninth street, Leadville, a youth of the same age.

The boys left their home some weeks ago with money to see the west. They were stranded in Oakland last night after making their way here on a

freight train, and this morning they went to Petersen, hungry and penniless.

Petersen gave the young men money to buy a meal, as they said they had not eaten for a day. He also telegraphed to their parents.

The boys left the police station to seek lodgings until they hear from their parents, the police having advanced them money to buy food and shelter until the telegrams are answered. The boys said that they had left home to see the coast and to get experience.

FRESNO TAILOR LAUGHS HIMSELF TO DEATH AFTER HEARING FUNNY STORY

FRESNO, Sept. 25.—N. G. Shahbazian, a popular member of the Armenian colony here, lies dead at his home at 221 M street as the result of a funny story told several days ago at a housewarming party that he attended. Shahbazian, who was a tailor by trade, had a great reputation for his genial nature. A friend was narrat-

ing his experiences on a hunting trip several days before, when Shahbazian was so tickled with the story that he began to roar with laughter.

His friends were terrified when he broke a blood vessel at the base of the brain and fell over unconscious.

Shahbazian lingered for two days without recovering consciousness.

VERA FITCH HOPES TO BE REINCARNATED

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—Miss Vera Fitch, the young woman who came here from San Francisco to pursue a literary career and who attempted to commit suicide by shooting herself at the Hotel Astor on August 29, is still in Flower hospital propped up with pillows. She is in a critical condition following an unsuccessful operation to locate and remove the bullet. She said today that when she attempted to take her own life she knew she would be punished for it, but believed she would awaken, reincarnated, in a better world, one in which the moral standard of man and woman was higher and purer.

TEN CARS WHISKY BURNED IN WRECK

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

PEORIA, Ill., Sept. 25.—Three members of a Chicago and Alton freight crew were seriously injured at 2:30 o'clock this morning when freight train No. 150 ran into an open switch at Washburn, Ill. The engine turned turtle and 10 cars loaded with whisky were ditched. The wreckage took fire and before help could arrive from Peoria the whole train was consumed. Seven buildings near the right of way took fire and for a time the entire business district of Washburn was threatened.

SOCIETY WOMAN CAUGHT SMUGGLING

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—Mrs. Philip N. Aranson, well known in Philadelphia society, is the latest victim of the customs officials. She arrived here today on the White Star liner Baltic with her husband. Inspector Clavery looked at her declaration, which called for just enough to come to the \$100 limit, but he had not gone far in the examination of her four trunks before he came across an empty jewel box. As a result Mrs. Aranson was searched by the matrons and several thousand dollars' worth of jewelry found in her stockings and other parts of her clothing. These were sent to the appraisers' store and she was ordered to appear tomorrow before Deputy Collector Smith at the custom house.

POLICE HOLD FOOTBALL STAR AND WRITER

Paul P. Parker, Stanford Graduate, Involved in Death of School Teacher by the Nurse's Confession

DR. THOMPSON COLLAPSES WHEN ACCUSED BY WOMAN

Marie Messerschmidt Declares Physician Prepared Before Girl Died to Hide Her Body

ATHLETE ADMITS VISITING VICTIM WHILE DYING

Yesterday's Developments In Case of Eva Swan

Marie Messerschmidt, the nurse, makes complete confession, accusing Dr. Robert Thompson, alias Dr. James Grant, of the death of Eva Swan.

Dr. Robert Thompson, known as Dr. James T. Grant, collapses when confronted and accused by nurse in jail.

Paul P. Parker, friend of Eva Swan, placed in detinue after being identified by Miss Messerschmidt.

Parker admits visiting girl while she was at Doctor Thompson's hospital, but denies all responsibility for her being there.

Confession of nurse declares that physician prepared to bury Eva Swan a number of days before she died.

Detectives announce that the search for persons responsible for Eva Swan's death is ended. Last link of evidence against physician secured at office in suitcase and hatcase, in which cement was carried to Eureka street house.

Witnesses secured who positively identify Thompson as man who occupied Eureka street house.

Marie Messerschmidt explains silence by declaration that Doctor Thompson threatened to kill her if she betrayed him. She collapsed after confronting Thompson.

Coroner William Walsh fixes Tuesday as date of inquest into the death of Eva Swan.

District Attorney Charles M. Fickert gathers evidence to present against the accused physician.

UNPARALLELED for dramatic intensity in the history of crime in this city, the denouement in the Eva Swan murder mystery came with precipitate force yesterday afternoon in the city prison when the nurse, Marie Messerschmidt, who was taken into custody with the accused physician, pointing a trembling finger at the towering form of Dr. Robert Thompson, alias James T. Grant, accused him of killing the beautiful girl stenographer and school teacher, and then swooned in the arms of Detective Ed Wren. The woman's act followed a lengthy confession made immediately before she confronted the prisoner, who, the woman declared, had sealed her lips with the threat of death.

Thompson Collapses

When the charge fell from the lips of his only confidant and companion, Thompson, realizing the full force of the tragic situation, reeled against the iron bars of the jail and turned his eyes away from the limp and unconscious form of the woman whose brain burned with his horrible secret. Stunned by the sudden turn, Thompson, livid and perspiring, leaned heavily on the arm of the jail attendant and was taken into the solitude of his own cell.

Within 20 minutes of the time the nurse made her statement Detective M. Y. Burke, speeding to the boarding house of Mrs. Carrie A. Ware at 2040 Scott street, the last residence of Eva Swan, placed under arrest Paul P. Parker, the former Stanford student and friend of the dead girl. On arriving at the city prison he was im-