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THE CALL

THE WEATHER
YESTERDAY—Highest temperature, 56; lowest Monday night, 42.
FORECAST FOR TODAY—Fair, with frost in morning; light north wind, changing to west.

VOLUME CIX.—NO. 70.

SAN FRANCISCO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1911.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

\$750,000 BLAZE AT RICHMOND

Explosion Fires Acid Works and Only Bravery of Workmen Saves Plant

MEN WORK AS BURNING ACID FLOWS NEAR THEM

Several Are Injured in Heroic Fight to Stay Spread of Conflagration

GLARE LIGHTS THE SKY MILES FROM SCENE

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—The entire Richmond works of the Standard oil company, valued at many millions of dollars, were threatened with destruction this evening by a fire which followed an explosion at 6 o'clock in the old acid plant, part of the refineries, and which spread over 15 acres of the ground occupied by the works. A loss of \$750,000 is estimated. This damage was in the three buildings known as the old acid refineries and the two comprising the new acid plant, all situated in the very center of the works. Sparks started the blaze.

The three buildings of the old acid plant, where the fire began and the explosion occurred, were burned to the ground. From there the flames reached the new structures and hung for an hour over the adjoining furnace building, which later took fire. The men employed at the works were organized into fire brigades, and, led by their superintendents and foremen, probably saved the works from total destruction. In fighting the fire several were injured. They were:

Carl McPherson, 459 Standard avenue, face and hands burned by sulphuric acid; taken to Abbott's hospital.

Peter Roke, burned by blazing oil; not serious.

Antone E. Bance, burned by blazing oil; injuries not serious.

Elbert Stewart, 18 years old, fell 25 feet from building; badly bruised and shaken.

Burning Oil Spatters Men

The men of the brigades worked heroically in face of death. Burning oil was spattered upon them from the time the explosion occurred. Sulphuric acid, contained in tanks in the refining buildings, ran in streams down the hill-sides, setting fire to everything inflammable.

The fire was a spectacular conflagration. The area covered by the flames, the illumination from the blazing oil, and the streams of flaming acid that flowed over the ground, all added to the spectacle.

The old acid works were situated on a hill. At the north are tanks containing 500,000 gallons of oil, other tanks being at greater distances from the refineries. Over the old acid works towered the smokestacks of the furnace building. From these stacks came the sparks which dropped upon the roof of a building of the old acid works, burned through and sent embers into a tank of sulphuric acid in the building. The acid burst into flames and caused an explosion of the gases from the oil tanks in the building.

Explosion Shakes City

The detonation shook the city. From the force of the explosion the roof of the building was blown away, and burning oil was scattered over the works. This set fire to the four other buildings of the acid works, ignited the tanks of oil in the structures and exploded the vats containing the sulphuric acid. The flying oil was thrown over a radius of 100 feet, followed by a constant rain of blistering drops. From the summit of the hill on which were the old acid buildings ran streams of the sulphuric acid, and jumping and running to avoid this searing liquid, the men of the plant worked to save the property.

It was several minutes before an adequate fire fighting force could be organized. Many of the men had left the works. An alarm brought them back. The forces were divided. E. B. Fredenberg, superintendent of the acid works, took charge in the absence of L. D. Dimm, general superintendent, who arrived while the fire was in progress.

Standing under the rain of hot oil and among the rivulets of sulphuric acid, Fredenberg marshaled his 400 men. They were formed into companies in charge of Mayor J. B. Willis of Richmond, foreman of the pipe line department; John Hartnett, foreman of the storage tanks; E. J. Garrard, councilman of Richmond and foreman of the brick furnace building; and J. B. Brooks, also a foreman.

For their use in fighting the fire the men had the salt water system installed by the company. With this equipment they saved the huge crude oil tanks adjoining the acid works and the gas tanks. The oil tanks contained 500,000 gallons of oil each and the gas tanks a like amount.

POLICEMEN WHITEWASHED BY COMMISSION EIGHT ABSOLVED OF ALLOWING GAMBLING

MEMBERS OF POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO WERE ACQUITTED ON THE VOTE OF COMMISSION.



POLICEMAN OLIVER T. COX



POLICEMAN FRANK MC CONNELL



SERGEANT MICHAEL J. GRIFFIN



CAPTAIN HENRY J. O'DAY



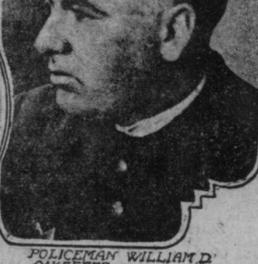
POLICEMAN WALKER W. WILSON



POLICEMAN THOMAS J. CURTIS



SERGEANT PHILIP E. FRAHER



POLICEMAN WILLIAM D. O'KEEFE

SUFFRAGETTES OUTVOTE MEN AND RECALL MAYOR

Twelve Thousand Enfranchised Seattle Women Remove Hiram C. Gill for Misconduct in Office.

SEATTLE, Feb. 7.—Mayor Hiram C. Gill, who was elected mayor of Seattle last March by a plurality of 3,300 votes, was recalled by a plurality of 12,000 women of the state of Washington having been enfranchised in the meantime, and this being the first opportunity offered to express themselves in municipal affairs. George Dilling, who was elected over Mayor Gill, will take office at once and will serve until the finish of Mayor Gill's term.

Mayor Gill's troubles began the moment he announced that he would appoint Charles Wapenstein as chief of police. Wapenstein, who comes of a prominent family, had been dismissed from the office of chief of detectives in Cincinnati and later dismissed as chief of detectives of Seattle after investigation of his office.

He had also been involved in the scandal that led to the shooting of former Chief of Police Meredith in a street duel in this city.

Pressure was brought to bear upon the mayor to remove Wapenstein and Wapenstein himself sought to resign, but was unable to make a graceful exit. As soon as it was announced last November that the woman suffrage amendment to the constitution had been adopted the movement to recall Mayor Gill, under a provision of the city charter, took active form, and the women entered vigorously into the campaign. Half of the women entitled to vote registered and a very large proportion of the 22,000 women so registered voted today. To the women is given all the responsibility for the recall. Mayor Gill today undoubtedly received a majority of the male vote.

ARMED RUNNER MAKES DOCK SPECTATOR BECOME SAILOR

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—Shanghaied aboard the Norwegian tramp Titania at San Francisco September 1, 1910, in daylight and forced to do the bidding of a sailor boarding house runner at the point of a revolver is the experience set forth in an affidavit sworn to by Louis Shapiro of 226 Arthur street, this city, which is made the subject of an inquiry started by officials of the department of commerce and labor. Papers in the case were today received by Collector of Customs Malcolm.

Shapiro avers that he was standing on a San Francisco dock, watching an incoming steamer, when he was approached by the runner and asked if he didn't wish to go to sea. He replied that he harbored no such desire, whereupon the runner drew a revolver and pointed it at him, threatening to kill him if he resisted.

He was marched aboard the Titania, which was cleared for Melbourne, Australia. He reached the latter port October 13. He says he informed the master of his predicament, and the latter said that he would not have shipped him had he been told, that the voyage was against his will.

For his services as a sailor, he sets forth that he was remunerated in the sum of \$20, less \$10 deducted as his "advance" or the fee paid the runner for producing him. The affidavit was sworn to in the presence of E. Verne Richardson, vice consul general of the United States at Sydney, Australia, and forwarded to the state department. It was accompanied here today by a communication from Commissioner Chamberlain of the bureau of navigation of the department of commerce and labor, who stated that efforts made at San Francisco to reach the bottom of the matter had failed.

WASHINGTON SOLONS FACE LIQUOR DEADLOCK

One House Favors Bill and the Other Opposes

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 7.—When the legislature adjourned today it completed half of its 60 day session. The legislature refused to excuse women from jury duty; to repeal the anti-cigarette law, and abolish the death penalty. It has not voted on the recall, initiative and referendum; the employers' liability bill, the bill to establish the eight hour day for women, or any liquor bill. All the labor and women's organizations are working for the eight hour bill, which is opposed by cannerymen and department stores, and it probably will be passed. The employers' liability bill is opposed by the sawmill and logging companies and advocated by the labor unions. There may be an exciting deadlock on the liquor question. The senate is dry, and the house has a majority of members who would rather not vote on any liquor bill.

FEWER OFFICERS FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The national guard organizations of California, Alabama, South Dakota and Hawaii each will be compelled to drop one disbursing officer, and the state of Louisiana will have to drop four, by a decision of the comptroller of the treasury today. The governors of those states probably will revoke the commission of the officials, for which the comptroller decides there is no authority.

KIDNAPED PRISONER LEAPS FROM TRAIN

Southern Officers Searching for Fugitive

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7.—Edward H. Lecher, alleged forger, who is said to have been kidnaped across the line from Oregon into California by J. C. Packard, deputy sheriff of Phoenix, Ariz., succeeded in eluding his captors today, and is at liberty somewhere in the vicinity of San Francisco. Lecher jumped from the train near San Fernando, the officer being obliged to ride to the next station before he could leave the train. Los Angeles deputies at San Fernando were notified to assist in the recapture of the fugitive.

TACOMA QUIET DURING MCCORMICK OBSEQUIES

TACOMA, Feb. 7.—The funeral of the late R. L. McCormick, secretary of the Weyerhaeuser timber company will be held tomorrow from the First Congregational church, under the auspices of the Masonic bodies. McCormick was president of the Pacific National bank, and all the banks of the city will close for one hour during the funeral. All the mills and works of the Weyerhaeuser company will be closed tomorrow.

RIOTS AT RELIGIOUS PROCESSION—Lisbon, Feb. 7.—A religious procession, held despite the prohibition of the governor, led to a series of street conflicts today. No casualties are reported in the official account, but 20 streets were made.

CORONER'S JURY DISAGREES IN THE POSTLEY INQUEST

Seven for Suicide and Six for Justifiable Homicide Is the Standing After Four Hours of Deliberation.

POSTLEY INQUEST
VERDICT OF CORONER'S JURY IN Favor of suicide theory, 7.

Approved by Coroner William J. Walsh.

In favor of justifiable homicide, 6.

After breaking all records of the local coroner's office for the length of time in remaining out, four hours, the jury sitting to determine the cause of the death of Gustave Postley, whose dead body was found on the floor of the Saratoga club on the afternoon of January 27 following a pistol duel with Ed Kripp, a gambler, failed to reach a unanimous verdict. Seven of the jurymen came to the conclusion that Postley was a suicide, while the six remaining jurors expressed their opinions by their votes, that Postley met death at the hands of Kripp, who was justified in the killing. The jury also recommended a rigid inquiry into the gambling situation.

As a matter of official record the files of the coroner's office always will show that Postley was a suicide, as under the law, Coroner Walsh was entitled to cast his approving vote, with either side in the divided jury, and believing the evidence to warrant his action, Coroner Walsh approved the suicide finding of the majority of jurors.

The taking of testimony and the deliberations of the jury occupied all of yesterday, as the first witness took the stand at 10 o'clock in the morning and it was 10 o'clock in the evening before the verdict had been received and approved by Coroner Walsh.

Twice during the hearing of the testimony Mrs. Postley, wife of the deceased, was overcome with grief and was led, fainting, from the inquest room. The brave little widow bore up under the trying ordeal throughout the better part of the day, but when the clothes worn by her husband at the time of his death were produced in the inquest room the grief-stricken woman covered her face with her hands and begged to have the bloody garments removed.

When Autopsy Surgeon C. A. Glover took the stand, traced on the demonstrative blackboard an outline of a human body and started to indicate to the jury the death wound of Postley, the widow again gave way to her grief, and while friendly hands led her from the room and through the morgue building to the street her cries and moans were borne to the ears of the sympathetic listeners in the inquest room.

SCHWAB TO HAVE \$5,000,000 COKE PLANT IN GERMAN CITY

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

LONDON, Feb. 7.—Charles N. Schwab, who is in London, after a four weeks' visit to Paris, Berlin and the Riviera, tonight said: "My principal business has been in Berlin, where, with German capital, I am having constructed a huge coke plant, costing \$5,000,000, to supply the Bethlehem steel works. I myself have been interested in the plans and designs for the new plant."

"I am in favor of the new tariff arrangement between America and Canada, which are separated only by a thin imaginary line, their labor and other conditions being alike. The senate is bound to ratify the treaty, because it is a proper and common sense proceeding. The bargain seems fair on both sides. This is my honest and unbiased opinion."

"I just missed Saturday's steamer, but will sail on the Mauretania."

NOMINATIONS SENT TO SENATE BY PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—James J. Britt of North Carolina was nominated today by President Taft to be third assistant postmaster general.

The president sent to the senate, also, among others, the following nominations:

William F. Haynes, register of the land office at Waterville, Wash.; John W. Price, register of the land office at Douglas, Wyo.

To be receivers of public moneys: Alfred C. Steinman, at North Yakima, Wash.; John D. Shore, Waterville, Wash.; Lucius B. Cash, Spokane, Wash.; Samuel Slaymaker, Douglas, Wyo.

PIONEER WOMAN OF PETALUMA IS DEAD

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

PETALUMA, Feb. 7.—Mrs. Inka Fredericks, a pioneer of Petaluma, died here today. She was a native of the island of Fohr and was born October 17, 1824. She was the mother of M. H. Fredericks of Petaluma, Ben Fredericks of Oakland and Elwert Fredericks of San Francisco. She leaves a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

TRAINMEN PREDICT DISPATCHERS WILL FAIL

PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—General managers of the western railroads expect to be in position to submit their answer to the demands of the train dispatchers for an increased wage within the next few days. Local officials of both the trainmen and the Hill lines predict that the demands will be refused and that the managers' conference will result in a flat refusal to grant any increase at this time.

O'DAY AND SEVEN MEN GO FREE

Acquitted of Charge of Neglect of Duty and Disobedience to Orders

BOARD IS EQUALLY DIVIDED IN DECISION

Henderson and Spiro Say Guilty, but Sullivan and O'Connell for Acquittal

HEARING DEFERRED ON THE OTHER COMPLAINTS

EIGHT members of the police department, under whose eyes open gambling was conducted within 100 yards of the central police headquarters until the tragic death of Gustav Postley and an aroused public opinion brought it to a sudden end, have been exonerated. The police commission has declared them not guilty of neglect of duty or disobedience of orders.

The whitewash was applied without pain. Two members of the police commission voted for conviction and two for exoneration, the tie amounting to an acquittal. The two who decided that the guardians of the peace could not have been expected to execute the task set for them were Commissioners O'Connell and Sullivan. Commissioners Henderson and Spiro voted for conviction.

The verdict was returned at 11 o'clock last night, following a hearing that had lasted since 2 o'clock in the afternoon and an executive session of two hours and 25 minutes. None of the commissioners would comment upon the result. Chief of Police Seymour said: "I do not want to criticize the decision of the commission, but I will go ahead with the other cases just the same."

The commission announced that the hearing of charges against other policemen would begin at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The eight members of the department charged with neglect of duty and promptly acquitted were Captain Henry J. O'Day, Sergeant Philip Fraher, Sergeant Michael J. Griffin and Policemen William D. O'Keefe, Oliver T. Cox, W. W. Wilson, Thomas J. Curtis and Frank H. McConell.

Donovan Confined to Bed

The trial of Sergeant James T. Donovan was not held with those of the other eight policemen on account of illness which confined him to his bed. A statement was received from his physician, Dr. T. E. Tillman, stating that it would be impossible for him to leave his home, and the commission made an order that he should be examined by the police department physician, Dr. A. G. Meyer, and that a continuance of his case should be granted in conformity with the latter's report.

At the outset of the investigation Attorney Robert Ferral, representing the accused policemen, objected strongly to the admission of testimony which Captain Thomas Duke had prepared, but was promptly overruled by President Henderson, who declared that the widest latitude would be given in order that the commission might have all the facts pertaining to the case before it.

Objection to Testifying

Ferral also objected to putting any of the defendants on the witness stand in their own behalf and refused to do so until warned that the commission would not dismiss the cases unless the testimony against the men was refuted. The deep interest that has developed as a result of the disclosures following the Postley shooting was evidenced by the presence of half a dozen members of the grand jury in the room throughout the entire afternoon hearing and a visit of practically all the grand jurors to the commission rooms after the adjournment of their own meeting last night. Paul Postley, the young son of Gustav Postley, whose tragic death occurred in the rooms of the Saratoga gambling club, attended the afternoon hearing, but was not present in the evening.

CONTRADICTIONS BY O'DAY

The most sensational features of the hearing turned on the trial of Captain O'Day. Although the testimony against all eight defendants was taken at one time, O'Day's case differed slightly from the others because of the responsibilities and duties devolving upon his rank. O'Day's own testimony was in many respects a flat contradiction of that given by other witnesses and opened wide the question of veracity.

O'Day's threatened attack upon Chief of Police Seymour did not materialize. Instead of repeating the charges which he made upon the day of his suspension to the effect that Seymour's interference had prevented him from