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CHICAGO OVERRUN BY ARSON GANGS

At the Mercy of the Relentless Firebugs.

Rival Bands in Fierce Competition to Secure "Business," and Stop at Nothing.

Chicago, Jan. 23.—Startling disclosures relative to the existence of not one but several gangs of "fire bugs" in Chicago, the fiercest kind of competition among men who are alleged to have grown wealthy by making arson their daily occupation and leading attempts to bribe State officials investigating incendiary fires were made by A. A. Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, Mr. Bush, yesterday in a talk to the alleged conspirators to defraud insurance companies after burning of the house of Joseph Charles, insurance adjuster, who is alleged to have given money to Edward J. Baber, Assistant State's Attorney, in an effort to bribe him.

An indictment charging Claps with bribery was returned before Judge Burke. The bond bill contained five counts. His bonds were fixed at \$10,000.

"Chicago today, I believe, has the heaviest fire bug force of any city in the country," said Mr. Bush. "They are not banded together as one gang, but there are several gangs at work, and the rivalry among the different bands of conspirators is as bitter and keen as is the competition between any class of tradesmen. There are three men in Chicago known as insurance adjusters who often get to fires before the firemen. They sleep with their heads on, have automobiles in readiness and, receiving tips that a fire is about to be started, are on the way almost before the alarm rings in.

"These insurance adjusters do not actually start fires themselves; they employ men to do that, and they only collect the money by adjusting the losses.

"Ten per cent of the fires in Chicago are of incendiary origin, and our detectives, as well as firemen, generally know the name of the arson firm that is responsible for each fire.

"These 'firebugs' know that they are suspected. They even have the audacity to call at my office, and once one of them insisted on taking me out to dinner. We tell them to their faces that they are 'firebugs' and that we will work night and day to land them. It is nothing uncommon for one of these known firebugs to offer our detectives bribes. They are clever and never talk when there is a possibility of exposure.

"The Clarke incident, in the State's Attorney's office, was unusual. We have set traps after traps in our office, and, although they will offer us \$500, \$100 or \$100 on the street, they will never walk into a trap. It is a part of our man's work against another's.

"We have an index of all the suspected 'fire bugs' in Chicago. We have detectives watching their every move, and still it is impossible to secure convictions. They abuse each other mercilessly and, if opportunity offered, would not hesitate for a second to squeal on each other.

"As evidence of the open way in which these 'firebugs' work, compare with each other for business, race to fires in automobiles to get on the ground before their competitors, and boldly proclaim that they can adjust any suspicious loss. I will say that we are often informed days in advance when and where fires are to be started.

"In that way we are able to prevent many blazes and keep down the total loss from incendiarism.

"Night after night we have had detectives watching buildings that had been marked for the torch. We have had tips that have led us to buildings with the basement filled with gasoline, the floors saturated with oil and the stock packed in combustible material. All that we could do was to notify the insurance companies and have the insurance canceled. In such cases the fires were never started.

"One insurance adjuster, known as a 'firebug,' called at my office and asked if I could suggest a legitimate business that he could engage in. He said that he was tired of paying everyone else a 'firebug.' That man had

grown wealthy on incendiary fires." Mr. Bush added to his sensational charges against the arson rings of Chicago the following sensational statement:

"It is possible for any one to get a building fired in Chicago. There are fixed charges for the work, and the man who desires to burn his property will find men bidding against each other for the job. For small fires there is a regulation charge of 20 per cent of the insurance collected.

"The charge varies according to the magnitude of the fire. For large fires there is a charge of 1 per cent and even at that price the firebugs grow rich. There has not been a single conviction for arson in Chicago during the last year and a half of which I am aware.

"It is practically impossible to secure the actual evidence that will convict. Our office lacks police power that are absolutely necessary. The local loss from incendiary fires is not as great as imagined. We investigate from two to a dozen fires a day. Most of them are small closet fires, where men or women wanting to burn up their old clothes and collect insurance deliberately start fires."

"Fire Marshal Seyferth's corroborated Mr. Bush's assertion that 10 per cent of the fires in Chicago were incendiary and that the firemen know the firebug by sight and name, though unable to secure evidence against them.

Hamlet To Go To Rome.

Sept. Harbottle Hamlet, of Public Instruction, has been elected a delegate to represent Kentucky at the Rural Credit Congress to be held in Rome, Italy, April 25. The appointment was made by the Southern Educational Congress. The appointment carries the expense of the trip and Hamlet will accept the appointment.

WILSON DENIES CABINET TALK

Declares He Has Made No Decision.

Has No Substitute for Inaugural Ball and is Awaiting Suggestions.

Princeton, N. J., Jan. 18.—President-elect Wilson celebrated tonight that he had made absolutely no decision as to the personnel of his Cabinet and added that, thus far, he had not consciously conferred with any prospective candidates.

"I wouldn't do that," he said, "until I had finally made up my mind to pick a man. I haven't consciously consulted with any future Cabinet members"—and added as an afterthought, "though I might have consulted with some men whom I might subsequently choose."

Mr. Wilson again expressed his belief that it was unlikely any of the men whom he selects for his Cabinet will decline to accept the position offered them. It had been suggested to him that many men were loath to give their business to enter the Cabinet. He said he realized the advantage that was sometimes necessary.

"A Cabinet position, too," he remarked, "is a very responsible one where you don't get very much credit for your successes and catch it hard for your failures." He anticipated little delay, however, he said, in getting acceptances from such men as he might choose for the various portfolios, and said that not until he had made up a complete slate would he begin to consult whom he had picked out.

When Mr. Wilson was informed tonight that people in Washington were taking it for granted that a popular reception will be substituted for the inaugural ball, he said he had expected to receive suggestions along that line.

"I assumed," he said, "that something would be substituted. I rather hoped that Mr. Eustis would lay some plan before me."

William Goodwin Eustis, the inaugural chairman, was reported to have mailed his reply today to the Governor's letter recommending the elimination of the ball from the inaugural festivities. The Governor said he had not yet received it and probably would not until he reached his office in the State House at Trenton, Monday.

KENTUCKY BOY CHAMPION DEAD

Best Corn Grower Dies in Washington.

Was Guest of Agricultural Department Along With Other Prize Winners.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Lester Bryant, of Rockfield, Warren county, Kentucky's star boy corn grower, was found dead of asphyxiation in his room at 201 DeSales avenue this afternoon. The boy had evidently blown out the gas by mistake. He had undoubtedly attempted to reach the door when the gas was overpowering him, for his body was found on the floor near the door. Bryant was one of the many Southern boys who came here on invitation of the Department of Agriculture for a prize for his prowess as a corn grower. He was a typical country boy and knew little of the modern appliances of the city.

Before he left Louisville young Bryant told with pride of his expectations of pleasure in seeing the capital. He went to his rooming house on his arrival in Washington at midnight Sunday, and it was not until after noon today that his body was found. The Bryant family at Rockfield has been notified and will be asked to decide as to the disposition of the body.

PASSED THROUGH LOUISVILLE.
Louisville, Ky., Jan. 23.—Lester Bryant, the boy champion corn grower of Kentucky, who met a tragic death in Washington this afternoon, passed through Louisville Saturday from his home at Rockfield on his way to Washington, where boy champions of all the States will gather for a five days' educational tour of the capital before attending the National Corn Exposition at Columbia, S. C., January 27.

Bryant was fifteen years old, and had won \$300 in prizes on his corn products. The championship was awarded on an acre of corn that produced 140 bushels, netting \$70.33. Some of the stalks were fifteen feet high and grew so close to the hill, his closest competitor was Edward Gallatin, aged fifteen, of Jefferson county, whose corn ran 140 1/2 bushels to his prize acre at a net profit of \$33.50. Bryant was accompanied to Louisville by Fred Mather, who is in charge of the Boys and Girls' Club work of the Western Normal School, John M. Atherton, of Louisville, paid the expenses of his trip out of general interest in the development of agriculture in Kentucky. Department of the State and Government and the Normal School are co-operating in encouraging crop development through the award of prizes.

While in Washington, Bryant intended to visit the White House, the National Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Capitol and other places of interest.

NATIVE OF WARREN.
Bowling Green, Ky., Jan. 23.—Lester Bryant, Kentucky champion corn grower, who was asphyxiated in Washington was a son of William A. Bryant, a well-known farmer of the Rockfield neighborhood. He was but fifteen years old and was born and reared in Warren county.

Young Bryant had always been a close student and was in his seventh grade. Last year he was second in Warren county in the Boy's Corn Growing contest, making ninety-seven bushels on his acre. This year he collected all boys in the State with 148 bushels, fifty-five pounds. He made his record with Boone county white, which made his record all the more remarkable.

Archbald Goes Back Home.

Philadelphia, Pa., January 16.—Former Judge Robert W. Archbald, who was yesterday stripped of his office as a judge of the Common Pleas by the United States Senate, spent last night at the residence of one of his sons in this city and today left for his home in Sonanton, Pa. The former judge declined to be interviewed, but his son, who spoke for him, said:

"My father's conscience is clear. He is going home to practice law. He will start all over again. My father has been a courteous, diligent and good judge. Perhaps his kindness if just accounts for many of his difficulties."

TURKEY TROT KILLED BALL

Gov. Wilson Feared It Would be Danced.

Real Reason Big Inaugural Is Pulled Off—Reception Planned.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The real reason why President-elect Wilson asked that there be no inaugural ball was given by the Inaugural Committee here today by Thomas Nelson Page, chairman of the Inauguration Committee. Mr. Page said the President-elect being a strict Presbyterian and opposed to anything but the most decorous dancing, feared that the "turkey trot" and kindred miscellaneous dances would be in full swing on the floor, and he did not want Mrs. Wilson and his daughters to attend a function where such dances were in progress.

The committee, after hearing Dr. Page, pulled off the inaugural ball and put up in Congress the question whether there shall be a public reception at the Capitol or elsewhere on the night of March 4.

The "patriotic" business men of the national capital, finding that their subscriptions to the inaugural ball will not be withdrawn by ball receipts as in three past years, have looked up their pocketbooks, and will not sign their names to checks as freely as they did when they expected all contributions to be returned with interest.

Meanwhile, those who heard of Dr. Page's remarks today are wondering whether the next Administration will be especially straitlaced. The fact's permit their guess to dance the "Turkey Trot" if they choose, and thus far the dance has been graceful or amusing, but never rampant in the slightest particular. It is understood that if a public reception is held the women folk of the Wilson family will not attend.

The committee decided a public reception was not within its jurisdiction, and if one is held Congress must appropriate and make the necessary arrangements for it. The committee took the position that the proposed reception under the control of the Joint Congressional Inaugural Committee. In a resolution the committee announced that it would do whatever in every way possible with all arrangements for the successful inauguration of the President-elect.

The members of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Inauguration are Senators Crane, of Massachusetts; Bacon, of Georgia, and Overman, of North Carolina, and Representatives McKinley, of Illinois; Rucker, of Missouri, and Garrett, of Tennessee. Senator Crane declined today to express an opinion regarding the proposed reception, stating that the matter had not officially been placed before the committee. The suggested reception met with the hearty approval of Representative McKinley.

Gov. Wilson's wish, in the event of there being a public reception on March 4, is that Mrs. Wilson and the Misses Wilson should not be expected to attend. This information was conveyed to the Inaugural Committee having in charge the inaugural ceremonies.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 23.—President-elect Wilson today suggested that a popular reception in the Capitol building at Washington be substituted for the inaugural ball.

Mr. Wilson this morning had received a telegram from Mr. William Conover Eustis, chairman of the Inaugural Committee, inviting him that the Inaugural Committee would comply with his wishes with respect to the abandonment of the ball. A letter also came asking the President-elect for suggestions.

"I suggested for their consideration," said Mr. Wilson, "a general reception in the rotunda of the Capitol."

Mr. Wilson said he expected the details to be worked out by the committee, but reiterated the wish that the entire ceremony of the inauguration be made as simple as is consistent with dignity and order."

Hundreds Ask "Per Capita."

Washington, January 23.—A newspaper story discussing in a humorous vein the per capita circulation of money in the United States has flooded the Treasury Department with applications for the \$2.75 which, if the nation's wealth were divided equally, would be

the portion of every man, woman and child in the country.

The story facetiously told those who needed the money to draw upon the government, and letters being answered by George S. Roberts, director of the mint. One woman wrote: "Kindly send me by postal note my dividend of the \$1,500,000,000, which is \$1.72 in regular bills and seventy-two pennies." Another applicant said he was a married man with a family, and he hoped the government would not be offended by his request for his own.

Mr. Roberts has drawn up a circular letter in which he says he must disappoint the applicants with the information that the Treasury Department computes monthly the per capita circulation on a theoretical basis, and has no control over its distribution.

Surprises Husband.

Hickman, Ky., Jan. 23.—W. F. Edmund, a fisherman of this city, also a member of the City Council, has an agreeable surprise a few days ago when he went home and told his wife of a new home he had just purchased of Mrs. John Wright. He had only been able to make payment of \$100 cash, he said, but the balance of \$1,500 he would pay out on time. Then his wife furnished the surprise by going to a bank room and coming back with a big wallet. She counted out \$1,600 and handed it to him, telling him to go and pay cash for the new home. Mrs. Edmund said she had been saving little amounts for the past twenty years or more, and in this manner had saved this \$1,600.

Tobacco Sold.

A telephone message from Owensboro last Tuesday from Secretary Robertson informed us that almost all the Equity tobacco had been sold at from \$7 to \$8 for leaf and \$3 for trash, and that the Ohio county police are called to meet at Hartford next Monday to ratify the sale.

PROUD OF CAREER AS HOLD-UP MAN

Gentleman Bandit Never Stole From Poor.

In Pittsburg He Gave Pack \$7 to Man Who Said It Was All He Had.

Boston, Jan. 23.—William J. Monague, who deserted the routine of army life for the career of a "hold-up" man, was brought into court today and held in \$5,000 bail for the grand jury.

Messages from Pittsburg and Philadelphia tend to confirm the young man's boasts that he operated successfully in those cities. In his diary he had credited himself also with robberies in New York, Buffalo and Cleveland. He visited only express and railroad ticket offices.

Monague came to town on Tuesday, and registered at a first class hotel as William J. Clayton. He spent two days looking over the town before deciding to attempt the robbery of an uptown ticket office. His selection was an unfortunate one, for when he entered the place last evening and demanded the contents of the safe there were half a dozen persons present, one of whom slipped out a rear door and gave the alarm.

In describing his exploits to the press today, Monague was particularly anxious that they should understand that he was a "gentleman" bandit. He nabbed only those who could afford to lose.

"I never took from the poor," he said, proudly; "my game was those who had more than they needed. For instance, in Pittsburg, when I held up an office there, an employ told me that the \$7 I had taken from him was all he had. I promptly handed it back to him."

Monague said that in holding an office in Cleveland, he could find no hope with which to tie the clerk.

"I told him to cut out the window card," he continued, "and after he had handed it to me, I bound him securely." In Philadelphia, where I obtained \$127, I sent back \$127 as they would be able to make change in the morning." Monague is only twenty-two years of age.

REV. JOINER DIES SUDDENLY

After Paralytic Stroke Wednesday Morning.

Esteemed Pastor of Hartford Methodist Church Passes Away—Funeral Thursday.

People of all walks of life in our little city were greatly shocked early Wednesday morning when the news was flashed over the town that the Reverend T. V. Joiner, the popular pastor of the Methodist church, had been stricken with paralysis. He had spent the greater part of the day before calling on his friends, as was his daily custom, among the business houses and offices, and had also made a talk to the school children on Tuesday morning, besides making a number of pastoral calls and visiting the sick. He came down to breakfast about 7 o'clock and made no unusual complaint, but before he could take his place at the table he was stricken while sitting in his chair by the fireplace, and when found by his wife, to whom it had been reported she refused to speak when approached by some other member of the family, he was unconscious, and unable to assist himself in any way. Drs. Bly, Ford and Pendleton were all summoned and every means known to medical skill resorted to to rally him, but he sank steadily and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, about seven hours after the stroke, he passed away, surrounded by loved ones, members of his church, neighbors and friends who had all flocked to the parsonage as soon as the news was spread, many of them lingering in deepest sorrow to the end.

Reverend Joiner was serving his second year as pastor of the Hartford church, having been sent here from Cross Hill, Louisville, in the fall of 1911. He was a man of most winning disposition and by his friendliness, courtesy and dignified bearing soon won his way into the hearts of all of our people. His manner of preaching was plain, but forceful and while there may have been more eloquent pastors here none have ever held a higher place in the estimation of the people as a man and as a thorough Christian gentleman. His life was clean and his exemplary Christianity in his every act.

Reverend Joiner was born in Drigg county, Kentucky, September 28, 1851. Entered the ministry about thirty years ago and has been continuously preaching in the Louisville conference ever since. His first charge was Livermore, Meigs county. He was married September 1, 1880 to Miss Estelle Harris, of Davies county and he is survived by his loving companion and the following children: Eugene Harris, Mary Ray, Margaret Allen, Samuel Edward, Robert Marion, Emma Franklin, and James Clinton. He had no near relatives other than his immediate family. Dr. S. J. Harris, of Paducah, Ky., a brother of Mrs. Joiner, arrived early Thursday morning and is with the family.

Impressive funeral services were conducted at the Baptist church yesterday afternoon at 2:30 by Reverend S. J. Thompson, presiding Elder of the Owensboro district, assisted by Reverend C. F. Wimberly, of Madisonville, Reverend A. L. Mall, of Braver Dam, Reverend R. D. Bennett, Reverend E. B. English, of the Hartford Baptist church and Elder W. B. Wright, of the Hartford Christian church. After the services the remains were interred at Oakwood cemetery. Among the beautiful floral offerings was one from Hartford First Knights of the Maccoches, of which Reverend Joiner was a member, and one from the Hartford Methodist Sunday School.

The sudden death of Reverend Joiner has cast a gloom over the members of his church throughout his charge, as well as people of all other denominations, and even among those who are not members of any church. Nothing but kind words are spoken concerning the dear pastor, and he will be greatly missed in our midst. Peace to his ashes.

Ready to Grind Corn.

I have just received a new corn mill and am now prepared to do your grinding. Give me a call.
JEFF WATTERSON, the Blacksmith,
Hartford, Ky.