

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minn.

GIRL IS MURDERED BY SPURNED YOUTH

MAMIE GENSKÉ SHOT DOWN BY MATTHEW LANG IN SLEEPY EYE STREET.

CRIME IS WITNESSED BY FAMILY OF THE UNSUSPECTING VICTIM.

On the principal business street of Sleepy Eye Saturday afternoon, Matthew H. Lang, aged 21, shot and killed Miss Mamie Genske, a few months Lang's junior, because she refused to marry him. The crime, which was committed on Postoffice square, was witnessed by several hundred people including the victim's father, mother and two sisters. The murderer is now in the county jail here.

Daughter of Prominent Farmer.

Miss Genske was the daughter of Fred Genske, one of the most prominent farmers of Home township. The murderer is the son of Gordon Lang, a former resident of Essig, but who a year or so ago moved his family to Nevis, Hubbard county, where they now make their home.

Two of the three bullets that Lang fired at the defenseless young woman took effect and she died before reaching the hospital.

A large number of men rushed to the street to surround Lang. Calmly facing them with his reloaded revolver, he said nothing, but sweeping his gun before them he started to back away. Decoyed into talking with O. N. Ball, Lang was surprised by a couple of men from the rear and disarmed. Chief of Police Maloney brought him to the jail in this city. They were met on the way by Deputy Sheriff Jahnke and County Attorney Adolph Frederickson, who had been notified of the shooting and had started for Sleepy Eye.

Cold Blooded Murder.

The murder is described by eye witnesses as the most coldblooded affair ever committed in this vicinity. Miss Genske went to Sleepy Eye Saturday with her parents to do some shopping. Whether she saw Lang earlier in the day is not known. Coming out of the post-office shortly after 4 o'clock, accompanied by her mother and a younger sister, he approached her from behind. Her father and another sister were crossing the street from another direction, and Miss Genske turned to meet them. As she did so she spied Lang and turned toward her mother, when the assassin began to fire upon her.

About a year and a half ago Lang asked Miss Genske to marry him. She refused. His attentions were so insistent, and his affections so scorned, that it is claimed he threatened her life at that time, and February, 1916, he was arrested, brought before Justice N. Henningsen, and placed under bonds to keep the peace. The bonds were signed by Mathias Ludwig and Lang's father. The bond expired by limitation, however, about a year ago.

Returned From North.

Since then Lang has been in North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, returning to Brown county only about a week ago, since which time he had been in and around Sleepy Eye until the time of the crime.

Since his arrest Lang has made no statement, except that he had been drinking prior to the shooting.

The prisoner will probably be arraigned before Justice Henningsen to-day or tomorrow, charged with murder in the first degree.

Story of Eye Witness.

C. F. Marshall, a traveling salesman, an eye witness to the murder, related the following account of the affair:

"It was about 5:45 p. m., when I was standing near the Northwestern depot at Sleepy Eye that I heard several shots near me. I turned and looked in the direction of the shots and I saw the girl lying on the cement sidewalk. I saw the fellow start to run. Several of the people who were near the depot started to run after him. I followed them and soon caught up with the crowd in a lumber yard, about two blocks to the east of the station. Lang had already been caught.

"I was told that it was a man who worked in the depot restaurant that caught him. This young man joined in the chase with his white apron and his white cap on. I learned that this waiter caught up with Lang in the lumber yard. Lang, dazed and excited, pointed the same gun with which he killed the girl, at the waiter. The waiter coolly walked up to him, talking all the while and say-

ing, 'Now you would not want to shoot me,' and such things as that. Then another fellow seized Lang by the arm and the waiter also grabbed him and took away the gun. Whether the murderer made any kind of a struggle, I did not learn.

Officers Afraid of Lynching.

"The two captors then started to lead the slayer of the girl towards the city lock-up. After they had gone about two blocks they met a policeman who took charge of the prisoner. All this time, the crowd was following, and there was a good deal of talk about lynching. The officers shortly afterwards got an automobile and took the fellow to New Ulm, where he was locked up in the county jail. The officers seemed very much afraid the crowd would carry out the threat of lynching."

PLAYGROUNDS PLAN IS GIVEN HEARING

SUBJECT ELICITS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AMONG THE CITIZENS.

The playgrounds and recreation movement, fostered by the Playgrounds and Recreation Association of America, covers a much larger field than the average layman has conceived. It does more than merely provide playgrounds for the children of the towns in which they are located. They really foster a "Community Spirit" and grow to large proportions when once the movement has taken root in any city. These facts were discovered by the audience which gathered at the High School auditorium Monday evening to listen to an address by Charles F. Weller of Chicago, associate secretary of the association.

Leadership is Needed.

The meeting, which was presided over by Major L. A. Fritsche, was called for the purpose of discussing and if possible, to ascertain how public sentiment of New Ulm stands on the proposition. Mr. Weller, after explaining the various fields of endeavor entered into by the association, laid considerable stress upon the need of leadership for the movement in any town where it is inaugurated. He said the proper way to finance is by private subscription, and the support of the individuals pledged before the help of various City Boards is asked. He spoke of the mobilization of human resources and the conservation in all lines of human activity which is coming to be seen as necessary for the stability of the nation.

Leisure Time is Valuable.

Figuring up the value of leisure time there is, he said, at least \$1,000,000 going to waste each year in New Ulm, figuring such time at 10 cents an hour.

Mr. Weller advised the city folks to cultivate a more sociable relationship with the farmers of the vicinity, and declared the people of the city would find their rural neighbors ready to meet them more than half way, and pointed out what had been accomplished at Northfield, along that line.

Inside of three years, he said, there will be physical training required in the schools for every boy and girl in the land.

Plan Approved.

Following Mr. Weller's address several members of the audience were called upon for remarks. Philip Liesch said the movement was much more extensive and covered a far greater ground, than he had imagined, altho he had followed its course thru the newspapers and other sources for the past several years. He declared that hundreds of dollars could be raised any time for the purpose of almost any kind of a celebration that would be all over in a day, and believed it could be done for a movement that would be of such a lasting nature as would the playgrounds proposition for New Ulm.

H. N. Somsen voiced the sentiments expressed by Mr. Liesch. Mayor Fritsche was of the opinion that the time, owing to war conditions now existing, is not an opportune one to launch a new proposition and advised waiting a little later. Prof. Hess also believed the time is not ripe and advised a little delay.

Urges Conference Attendance.

Mr. Weller urged that New Ulm be represented at one of the coming three state conferences to be held next month, the first in St. Paul, the second in Minneapolis and the third in Duluth.

Charles E. Reed, field secretary of the association, who accompanied Mr. Weller, yesterday interviewed a number of citizens, all of whom expressed themselves in favor of the project, and believed New Ulm would a little later be ready to fall in line with the other thirty or forty cities of Minnesota.

MAY CHECK DELAY IN SUPREME COURT

FAST INCREASING EXPENSE OF PROCEDURE ALSO IS TO BE CURTAILED.

CHIEF JUSTICE BROWN TELLS WHY CHANGES ARE MADE IN RULES.

Changes in the rules of procedure of the Minnesota supreme court will, it is believed, work to the advantage of the people who have occasion to go before that tribunal, in more ways than one. Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown has given out a statement, which will be of interest to laymen as well as to lawyers of the state. Justice Brown says:

"There were two reasons for the changes in the procedure referred to, namely, first a desire to check so far as possible the steadily increasing expense of appeals to the Supreme Court, and second the advisability of overcoming and doing away with certain forms and customs which tended only to delay the hearing and final decision of appeals.

Old Practice Set Aside

"Heretofore the court has for many years held two terms of court annually, and on the first day of each the calendar has been called and the cases set for argument on dates during the succeeding three or four months. The attorneys engaged in the cases have been compelled, under a rule and practice established years ago, to attend on such first day and respond to the cases in which they were interested; for cases not responded to when called in their order would be continued over the term. This requirement of attendance was a source of considerable expense to litigants, for the attorneys would charge their clients with the expense incurred in attending the court, and also for their time. It was believed that this formality of setting the cases could be dispensed with without prejudice to any one, and the litigants relieved of the unnecessary expense of sending their attorneys to St. Paul to attend the call of the calendar, and the old practice is by the new rules wholly abolished. Hereafter the appeals will be set for argument by the court as they come in, and the clerk will notify the attorneys of the date. This will do away with the call of the calendar, an out of date form of procedure, and dispense with the useless extra trip to St. Paul by the attorneys.

Law's Delay Reduced

"The other change reduces the 'law's delay' very materially. To enable the court to make the changes the legislature was requested to amend certain of the statutes upon the subject, and the request was promptly granted. By the amended statute the court was authorized, without calling the attorneys in, to fix a time for the argument of appeals, and to require the parties to conform thereto, or suffer an affirmation or dismissal. A rule of court has been adopted by which all appeals must be proceeded with by the appellant within sixty days, and if the rule be not complied with the court will order an affirmation or dismissal of the appeal and remand the case to the lower court. Under the former practice the attorneys were authorized to postpone the time for serving the briefs and for hearing, from time to time by stipulation, thus often clogging the calendar and delaying final judgment. This right of stipulation has been taken away from the attorneys. The court will no longer recognize it, and the attorneys must proceed under the rules, and promptly bring the appeals on for hearing, otherwise an affirmation or dismissal follows.

"Again cases have under the old practice remained on the calendar term after term, without argument or submission for decision, thus delaying final judgment. This has been brought to an end. One of the new rules provides that where an appeal remains in the court without submission for decision for a longer period than a year the court will of its own motion affirm the judgment, and remand the cause.

"The changes are in matters of procedure, not of substantive law, and will bring about a prompt hearing and decision of all appeals taken to the Supreme Court, and no doubt will meet with general approval. The step, together with the new rules adopted two years ago, is somewhat in advance of the procedure in other states; but the purpose thereof is to prevent unnecessary expense and delay, and to bring about a prompt conclusion in all cases brought to this court, and is commendable progress in the right direction."

SAFETY BOARD IS AN ASSURED FACT

HOUSE AND SENATE MEASURE FOR PROTECTION DURING WARTIME.

GUARDSMEN TO RECEIVE SUM OF 50 CENTS A DAY WHILE IN TEXAS.

Minnesota now has a Public Safety commission endowed with wide powers to handle all war problems, and likewise has \$1,000,000 at its disposal to carry out its desires along those lines.

The bill creating the commission passed both the house and senate the last of the week, going thru the senate Saturday without a dissenting vote. It received the governor's signature Monday morning. Governor Burnquist will make the appointments of the five commissioners without delay.

As finally passed the bill provides that all soldiers who served on the Mexican border be paid 50 cents a day for their services. The original measure stipulated that the commission should determine the amount each soldier should receive.

Empowered for all Needed Steps.

The commission will have the power to provide for the protection of life and property in Minnesota during the state of war, to authorize the organization of a home guard, furnish comforts for the support of dependents of those who enlist and take all other steps necessary.

The commission is to be made up of five members besides the governor and the attorney general, the former to be chairman of the body.

The governor will have no veto power over the acts of the commission. The governor at first requested that he be given the power to approve or disapprove of the commission's acts.

The house inserted an amendment providing for such powers by the chief executive, but it was turned down in the senate, and the lower branch of the legislature and later dropped.

Not a Dissenting Vote.

When the bill was presented to the Senate late yesterday, there was not a dissenting vote against its repassage. In the House, one of the two Socialist members voted against it, the other one being absent.

Thomas J. McGrath of St. Paul at first wanted the bill laid on the table in order to find out just how far the commission could go in making the home guards a state constabulary after the war. When informed that the commission would have no power after the war, Mr. McGrath withdrew all of his objections and voted for the bill.

The bill carries an appropriation of \$1,000,000. If more money is needed, the governor will have to call an extra session of the legislature to make such appropriation.

Of the \$1,000,000, it is estimated that \$460,000 will be spent in paying the state soldiers who went to Texas. That will leave \$540,000 for other purposes. That some of the money will be used in the campaign to increase food production is the confident expectation.

While Governor Burnquist has not intimated who he will name as commissioners, it is known that many suggestions have been made to him and that he has offered places to one or two men. The names of Wallace G. Nye, former mayor of Minneapolis, John F. McGee of Minneapolis, Samuel G. Iverson of St. Paul, former state auditor, and many others, are known to be under consideration by the executive. Just as soon as the commission is appointed, it will take charge of the situation in the state.

"Teeth" of Alien Bill Drawn.

The House of Representatives passed the alien registration act introduced by

Now for Development

The McGarry bill, creating a revolving fund of \$100,000 with which to put in operation the constitutional amendment for the development and settlement of state lands, has passed both houses of the legislature, and has been signed by the Governor. Great things are expected of this measure by the people in Northern Minnesota, who hope for such a showing with the \$100,000 that the remainder of the \$250,000 authorized by the amendment will be appropriated by the next Legislature. The plan is to clear a small part of each forty-acre tract sold at an expense not to exceed \$300.

The settler is to pay 15 per cent down on the land, and is to repay the cost of improvement in four equal annual instalments. The fund accruing from the payments is to be ex-

pendent in the improvement of other tracts. The interest rate is 4 per cent.

Lende for Congress

Senator Olaf A. Lende of Canby who declares that he will not again be a candidate for the Senate, is being touted for Congress by some Seventh district Republicans on the theory that Representative A. J. Volstead will retire.

Senator Lende says the prospect of Representative Volstead's retirement is not sufficiently brilliant to keep him awake nights, but if the unexpected should happen he might make a try, providing Theodore Christianson doesn't see the opening first.

Senator Lende is a leader among the progressive Republicans in the Senate, as Representative Christianson is among those in the House, and a contest between the two would be interesting, but Mr. Lende predicts there will be nothing doing in that line of entertainment.

SCHOOLS HOLD BIG MUSICAL FESTIVAL

GRADE PUPILS ENTERTAIN A LARGE AUDIENCE AT SONG FESTIVAL

More than two hundred grade school children, representing nearly a score of nations, with songs and choruses, delighted an audience that filled Turner theater to capacity Saturday night. The affair was under the direction of Miss Louise Pederson, musical director of the public schools, assisted by the several grade teachers, and with Miss Alta Springer at the piano; Miss Dora Schwirtz and Victor Reim, violinists.

Countries Represented

The program opened with the representation of various countries, and the children dressed in appropriate costumes sang the folk lore of the nations, as follows:

Spain—Grammar grade pupils; Scotland—Intermediate pupils, Emerson school; Germany—Intermediate pupils, East Side school; Norway—Intermediate, Lincoln school; China—Primary pupils, Washington school; Holland—Intermediate pupils, Emerson school; Bohemia—Primary pupils, Lincoln school; Japan—Intermediate pupils, Washington school; United States—Primary pupils, Emerson school.

Sing Folk Songs

The children representing Spain sang the "Carmena Waltz Song." They were followed by little Scotch lassies with "Comin' Thru the Rye," who did a highland dance. As each group left the stage they were followed by the next one, the program. The third was Germany the children singing "Ich bin ein Musikante," and "In Germany." A Norwegian patriotic air, "Land of the Heart's Desire," was the next. The Washington school primary pupils brought down the house with "In China," it being hard to determine whether they were real Chinamen, or just ordinary New Ulm youngsters. "Dutch Lullaby," and "Little Folks From Holland," were the two songs given by the Emerson Intermediate pupils, while the "Cabbage Dance" was done to a turn by the children representing Bohemia. Japan was represented by two groups of the Washington school Intermediate pupils.

The first was that of girls who sang "In the Island of Japan," and they were followed by a group of boys who sang, "The Jolly Japanese Sailor Man." Perhaps the group receiving the greatest applause was that composed of the Emerson primary pupils, dressed in the National colors, each carrying a flag, and sang, "Our Own Red, White and Blue." The march of the nations, when all of those taking part passed in review before the audience closed part one.

Children in Chorus

When the curtain was lifted for the second part of the program, the 230 children taking part were seen on the big stage of the Turner theater, on seats graduated in height so that every child was in view. It was a pretty sight and brought forth much applause.

The songs were now in chorus, under the direction of Miss Pederson, accompanied by piano and violins. There were two Occupation Songs, Songs of the Season, Lullaby Songs, Birds and Flowers, and Miscellaneous Numbers, all showing suitable selection, and sung by the little folks with vigor and enthusiasm. The program closed by the singing of America in which the audience joined.

It was an evening's entertainment which would be creditable to schools much larger than those of New Ulm, and especially when it is considered that the schools have had but two years of special instruction in music.

CITY ENGINEER IS ENGAGED FOR YEAR

NORELIUS APPOINTED AFTER CONSIDERING MATTER FOR A WEEK

ONE SALOON LICENSE ACCEPTED AND ANOTHER IS TURNED DOWN

After having decided at its first meeting that it did not want a regularly appointed city engineer, the new city council, at an adjourned meeting, Friday afternoon, reconsidered the question, and L. M. Norelius, was elected to hold that office for the ensuing year. While the matter had not been fully decided at Tuesday evening's meeting, when most of the appointments were made, there seemed to be a pretty thorough understanding that a regular engineer would not be employed unless one could be secured for a term of six months. On that evening, when the question was brought up, Alderman Hamann said he had been informed that a man could be employed by the day or hour, and save the city considerable money. At that time the subject was left over until the adjourned meeting, to be held Friday.

Norelius is Appointed

At the latter meeting Mr. Norelius made a proposition to the council, whereby he would contract to do the city's engineering at a stated amount per day, except that on street, water, sewer and similar contracts he should be paid the usual 5 per cent. Some of the council members, however, were of the opinion that the city needed a regularly salaried engineer, and on motion of Alderman Auferheide Mr. Norelius was employed for the year. An effort was made, however, to make it a six months' contract which the engineer promptly declined, and he also stated that he would not accept the appointment unless provided with a suitable office room. After this had been arranged Alderman Auferheide's motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting Friday, altho a short session was productive of a considerable business.

One Saloon License Defeated.

Two saloon licenses, which had been held up for further consideration at the regular meeting, were acted on, one of them being allowed and the other denied. These were those of Schuler & Schleif and of Henry Fast. The former with one negative vote, that of Alderman Krook, passed the gauntlet, while the Fast license was defeated, there being only two votes in its favor, Auferheide and Filzen voting in the affirmative.

When the licenses came up for consideration the committee to which they had been referred reported that so far as the evidence filed against the owners of the two saloons was concerned the alleged acts had taken place more than a year ago, prior to the granting of their licenses of last year and could have no bearing on the present applications. Alderman Krook said that he should vote against both of them, considering it his duty to do so, as he did not consider any of the parties involved proper men to conduct the saloon business.

The salaries of Adolph Klaus, chief of police, and Alwin Harming, second night policeman, were advanced \$10 a month each, Mr. Klaus to receive a salary of \$90 a month, and Mr. Harming \$65. The pay of the first night policeman John Herzog, remains as before, at \$65 a month. John Girk, the other night policeman, appointed at the regular meeting, had sent word to the council that he would not accept the appointment.

Joseph A. Koehler was reappointed city weigher and janitor.

Alderman Krook was authorized to wire Lague & Banler, of Memphis, Tenn., to send an expert here to determine the best and most inexpensive manner in which to secure an adequate water supply.

Herman Vogtel was granted a permit to build a garage at 101 North State street.

Mayor's Appointees

The following is the list of appointees of Mayor Fritsche and of the council as they stood at the close of the adjourned meeting:

- City Attorney.—Albert Pfeander; \$50 a month.
- Chief of Police.—Adolph Klaus; \$90 a month bond \$1,000.
- First Night Policeman.—John Herzog; \$65 a month.
- Second Night Policeman.—Alwin Harming; \$65 a month.

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