

Read what the people say concerning the death of Charles Gesten, an Omaha man, in a Chicago hotel.

HIS LAST SLEEP.

The Death of Charles Gesten, an Omaha Man, in a Chicago Hotel.

His Death Caused by Suffocation from Gas--The Accident Due to an Imperfect Gas Cook.

Charles E. H. Gesten, of Omaha, a guest at the Palmer house, was discovered about 1 o'clock Friday afternoon, lying dead in his bed in room 606. The Chicago Times contains the following account of the sad affair: "The strong odor of gas, and the half-opened gas cook, from which the fluid was still escaping, explained the cause of the man's death. Little or nothing is known about the dead man, except that he came from Omaha, and was either a civil engineer or journalist by profession. He went to the Palmer house shortly before noon on Thursday, and, registering his address as Omaha, requested the clerk to assign him to a warm, comfortable room, as he intended remaining in the city about a week or ten days. At the same time he informed one of the clerks that he was a civil engineer, and later the same day told another employe that he was a newspaper correspondent. The latter assertion is probably a truthful one, as railroad passes from Omaha to this city and return, and credited to The Omaha Republican, were found on his person. Between 9 and 10 o'clock Thursday night Gesten called at the hotel office for the key of his room, and ordering a pitcher of tea, withdrew for the night. That was the last seen of him alive. Room No. 606 is situated in the sixth floor, and when the chambermaid of that floor tried to enter the room about 11 o'clock Friday morning she found the door securely locked, and her failure to insert the key into the lock indicated that the key of the room was sticking in the lock from the inside. Nothing strange was thought of the circumstance, as many lodgers do not rise until noon. The woman returned to the door of the room in less than one hour, but her efforts to unfasten the lock or arouse the supposed sleeper by her vigorous poundings against the door were unavailing. She then left, but returned a third time about 12:45 o'clock. Finding the same state of affairs, she communicated with the hotel manager, and a bell boy and porter were sent for. A step-ladder was procured and placed against the door. The bell boy mounted the ladder, and peering through the transom, which was fastened on the inside, saw Gesten lying on the bed. Rappings against the transom and door failed to bring a response from the man, who was believed to be sleeping. Finally, not succeeding in opening either the transom or the door, the latter was forced in by the porter. On entering the room, a gust of gas told the porters that all was not right. The porter rushed to the window, which he threw open, and then turning his attention to the gas fixtures found the cock half open. He closed it, and then caught hold of the man lying in bed and shaking him vigorously tried to arouse him, all the while believing him only asleep. A closer inspection convinced him that the man was not sleeping, but dead. The officers of the hotel were notified, and they at once dispatched a messenger for the nearest doctor. A physician arrived soon after, and making an examination declared that the man had died from asphyxiation by coal gas, and had been dead several hours. The coroner was notified and Deputy Coroner McLaughlin impounded a jury. After viewing the remains, the inquest was adjourned until 10 o'clock Saturday morning, and an autopsy was performed. Deputy Coroner McLaughlin took charge of Gesten's effects, which are contained in a large trunk and a valise. On his person besides the railroad passes, was found \$116 in money. There were also several letters, which threw no light on the matter save the fact that the deceased was named Gesten, and had been employed on the Omaha Republican. The remains were ordered sent to the morgue on Third avenue, where they now lie. When Gesten was found his body lay across the bed and was partially uncovered. His head and left arm projected over the edge of the bed, and on the floor just by the bedside his hand was found in an English slipper. His "Miserables" in a complete form. The bed-clothing was considerably disarranged, and the bed itself had been pushed to a position next the center of the room and against the wall, standing beneath the wall gas fixture. On the small center table lay the dead man's gold watch with opened case, and a key. Everything else about the room plainly indicated that nothing had been disturbed. It is believed that Gesten on reaching his room on Thursday night pushed the bed underneath the gas fixture so that he could lie undisturbed and be afforded ample light and his head on the pillow until feeling tired, and throwing the book on the floor, raised up in bed and turned the gas off. It is certain that he turned off the gas, and then accidentally turned the cock around half way. Having read himself tired he soon fell asleep, and the slowly escaping gas gradually filled the room, which was entirely closed, the transom and window both being secured. It is supposed that Gesten was unfamiliar with gas, and, awaking in a half-asphyxiated state, was too drowsy to escape from the room or inspect the gas-cock. An inspection of the gas-cock showed that it had no stop, and, more over, turned to easily. This will readily explain how the unfortunate man may have extinguished the gas by turning the cock once around and then re-opened the tube by forcing the easily turning cock around while in the act of removing his fingers from it. The accident would probably not have occurred if the cock had a stop and was tightened.

FRIGID FETTERS.

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With Rather Disastrous Results in the Way of Overflows.

The Pacific Coast and the Lower Mississippi Suffer Most.

A Variety of Weather East--Heavy Snow in Canada.

A Dozen Persons Meet Death Under the Crushing Avalanche.

SPRING'S SPLURGE.

LOUISIANA'S INTENDANCE.

PIGEONS FOR THE SULTAN.

After a South Carolina Murderer.

WET WEATHER ON THE PACIFIC.

HAIL AND RAIN IN THE EAST.

A CREOLE CHEVREUSE.

STILL RAINING.

SNOW AT QUEBEC.

AN AVALANCHE.

Gagging, Binding and Robbing.

Thrown into Harlem River.

One Successful Strike.

Araid of Fenians.

A Duel With Swords.

Peru and Chile.

TRIPLES BY TELEGRAPH.

TELEGRAPH NOTES.

THE PACIFIC COAST AND THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI SUFFER MOST.

A VARIETY OF WEATHER EAST--HEAVY SNOW IN CANADA.

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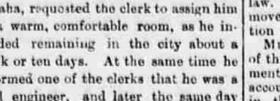
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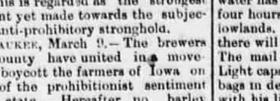
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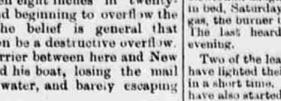
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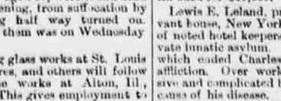
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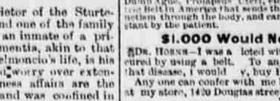
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