

MURDERER HOCH GETS A RESPITE

A Mrs. Wilson and Dr. Montgomery, Influential Chicagoans, Aid Him.

COME AT LAST MOMENT

The Condemned Man Was Within Two Hours of His Execution and Had About Abandoned All Hope After Good Sleep.

Chicago, July 31.—States Attorney Ficaly at noon last Friday said he had been informed over the telephone by Governor Deneen of a reprieve of four weeks in the case of Hoch, to enable Hoch to present a record in the case to one of the justices of the supreme court for examination.

Chicago, July 31.—The alleged pitiless slayer and swindler of unnumbered women, "Bluebeard" Johann Hoch, was today, by woman's pity, given a respite of two hours from the hangman, and before the two hours had been reprieved for four weeks more. The four weeks were secured not by pity but by cold cash. The exact amount of money essential was \$500.

It was a woman with money who effectually intervened today between "Bluebeard" Johann Hoch and the hangman. Almost on the steps of the scaffold the combination of femininity and money was the key that unlocked the door to a reprieve.

After all arrangements were completed and death faced Hoch within two hours, a woman giving the name of Mrs. May Wilson went to his rescue. She earnestly did her best to get Hoch to appeal his case that there was a hurried consultation between officials. The upshot was that the execution planned to take place at noon was postponed until 2 p. m., the last moment allowed by law unless the governor should grant a further reprieve.

Said She Had Money and "Pull." Mrs. Wilson declared herself a friend of Governor Deneen. She said she stood ready to advance a portion of the money necessary to allow Hoch to carry his case to the supreme court and would appeal to the governor personally in Hoch's behalf. She informed the sheriff that these persons had last night agreed to advance part of the money necessary. Mrs. Wilson departed to see these men and to appeal to the governor.

Men who Hoch, who had about given up all hope, passed his cell nervously awaiting the execution. Mrs. Wilson is said to be wealthy and professed to have become interested in the case from a humanitarian motive only. She enlisted in her aid Dr. Montgomery, a prominent physician in this city. Montgomery acted as her intermediary in the negotiations. It was stated that Montgomery, in his effort to shield the woman from publicity, vouched for the production of money and whatever assurance the governor would require. Montgomery and the woman left the jail together. Mrs. Wilson clung tenaciously to her anonymity. Both claimed their interest in the case was actuated solely by humanitarian motives, believing Hoch should have an "equal chance."

He Sleeps Soundly. Hoch slept quite soundly during the night. He awoke only once, when he complained of a feeling of nausea. After he had been relieved he again fell asleep and did not awake until the usual hour of rising. He breakfasted on coffee and rolls and appeared as cheerful as if he were under the circumstances, still having hopes of clemency.

He, however, changed his clothing, donning a plain black suit, packed his few belongings and presented Guard Sullivan with a photograph of himself and wife, Mrs. Emelia Fisher Hoch, sister of the woman for whose murder he was to hang.

Among the few callers admitted to see him were Rev. Auguste Schlichte, his spiritual adviser; Rev. E. F. Haerdt, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and his attorney, Charles Block.

Regrets He Has No Money. To the ministers he spoke of his regret that necessary funds could not be obtained to carry his case to the supreme court. As the time for hanging approached, Hoch grew somewhat less buoyant in spirits and began to show signs of the slight hope he had held out.

He reiterated that he was innocent of murder and that the only charge of bigamy against him. Several bouquets were sent to Hoch today from outsiders, but Jailer Whitman and Sheriff Barrett refused to allow them to reach the woman. Hoch, not wishing to risk the possibility of poison being concealed in them.

Had 27 Wives in All. Chicago, July 31.—Johann Hoch, convicted murderer and confessed bigamist, condemned to die today for killing one of his many wives, was in some respects a most remarkable criminal. The exact number of women he married will probably never be known, but he is reported to have had more than a score of wives in the last 10 years.

Seven of this number he wedded in this city, some of whom are said to have died under suspicious circumstances. Mrs. Marie Walker Hoch, for whose murder Hoch was sentenced to hang today, died of arsenical poisoning after a short illness December 19 of last year. Preceding her death he had obtained from the woman all her money as he had done in most of his previous marriages.

Five days after her death he married his sister, Mrs. Emelia Fisher, his last wife, so far as the record now shows, and the day following the wedding he obtained from her \$750 to be used, he said in paying off a mortgage on the furniture and house where he lived.

A day or two later he disappeared and Mrs. Fisher-Hoch told the police Hoch was arrested in New York January 30 on information given by a woman at whose home he was boarded and to whom he was said to have proposed marriage after an acquaintanceship of scarcely twenty-four hours.

THEY HAVE STRUCK A KNOT. Paris, July 28.—France's relations with Germany are again showing signs of a strain, owing to the inability of Premier Rouvier and Ambassador von Paolain to conclude a definite program for the Moroccan conference.

GIBBONS TALKS GRAFT

Cardinal in Interview Declares Corruption Is Inevitable—Detection Is Only Remedy.

New York, July 31.—Corruption is a fixed evil that we must reckon with just as long as the present condition of society exists in this country, said Cardinal James Gibbons yesterday. "Whenever there is an amalgamation of great capital or a large collection of men interested in one money-making concern, there is sure to be corruption. It is not a new story. It is a story as old as the world's history. The only reason that it comes so much in the fore at present is that the methods of its detection are daily growing stronger.

"Corruption has always existed. Corruption is a much afraid, will always exist as long as human nature yields to the attributes that lead to temptation.

"The bright spot in the whole swamp of present moral degradation is the fact that the degradation is made known. Corruption cannot exist nowadays without being discovered after a while. The greater the evil the greater the possibility of remedy. And that possibility of remedy has now become such an assurance that the counter-balance almost the equal of the present condition of money madness exists.

"The fear, the dread of exposure is the counterbalancing element, and that fear, that dread, that horror of having a name once respected dragged down is due to the efforts of the metropolitan press.

"It may not be good theology, it may not be good ethics, but it is certainly very good common sense and a very good moral element that the fear, the dread of exposure in the public press keeps many a man sticking close to the path of rectitude who otherwise would stray into the byways of personal graft."

SLEEP MURDER DEFENSE

Mueller Says He Was in Sombabulistic State When He Killed Family.

Chicago, July 31.—That he killed his sleeping wife and two children while he was in a somnabulistic state will be a sufficient defense for John Mueller. The case is being tried in Judge Kersten's court and the work of securing a jury is progressing slowly. One hundred and fifty talesmen have been examined and only nine jurors selected.

"I remember nothing of the affair, until I woke up at the German hospital," said Mueller yesterday. "Then all that I could recall was a horrible dream."

Fifty witnesses, many of them physicians and experts on somnambulism and epilepsy, from which Mueller is a sufferer, will be called by the attorneys for this modern Sylvester Sound.

Alexander Nuber, the Austrian consul, and the vice consul, Hugo Sylvester, had also presented themselves in Mueller's behalf.

WON'T HUG HIRED GIRL

Ohio Husband Promises to Be Good If Wife Will Just Forgive Him.

Soshoceton, O., July 31.—Mrs. Catherine Finlay was granted a divorce from her husband, George W. Finlay, yesterday by Judge Donley after an unusual court scene. The husband appeared as his own counsel, and made a tearful plea for his wife to live with him again. He presented her with a signed promise to be good, to be kind, to let her run the household affairs as she saw fit, never again to swear at her or be cross, and never to kiss or hug any hired girl again, the latter being two of the charges in the wife's petition. Judge Donley, however, granted the divorce and ordered the house and lot owned by Finlay to be divided over to their 4-year-old daughter, who remains part of the time in the custody of each.

Mr. Finlay filed a petition yesterday, but withdrew it upon the protestations of her husband.

TALK 1,100 MILES AT SEA

Remarkable Results Are Secured on the Cruiser Brooklyn.

Washington, July 31.—Lieutenant Kester, who had charge of the wireless apparatus on board the cruiser Brooklyn, flagship of Rear Admiral Sigbee's squadron, on the trip to France and return, has made a report to the bureau of equipment. Tests which were made during the voyage to determine at what distances wireless messages may be received aboard ships from shore stations. The lieutenant reported that the longest distance at which wireless messages were read during the daytime was 540 sea miles, and at night 1,100 sea miles, while a wireless signal was heard at a distance of 1,750 sea miles.

WRECK ON THE "N. P."

Four Men Killed and Two Others Injured East of Billings.

Helena, Mont., July 31.—Four men were killed by the wrecking of an east-bound freight train on the Northern Pacific between Myers and Big Horn. About seventy miles east of Big Horn, Mont. The washing out of a bridge over a small stream caused the engine and four cars to plunge into the stream.

JAMES WILSON, ENGINEER, FORTSYTHE, EDWARD LUGHEIER, BREMAN, FORTSYTHE.

TWO UNKNOWN TRAMPS.

The injured, Frank Campbell, Fortsythe, one unknown tramp.

FALLS IN LOVE; IS IN JAIL

New York Youth in St. Louis Prison Tells Why He Stole Jewelry.

St. Louis, Mo., July 28.—"Love of a woman brought me here," said Charles Melancon, 19 years old, member of a wealthy New York family, in jail here. He is holding the record of his brother, Jules Melancon, of the firm of Melancon & Hoffman, dry goods merchants, from whom he admits taking \$500 in jewelry.

"I fell in love with a woman," he continued, "and although I was getting a good salary as manager of a department in my brother's store, I spent on her more than I made.

"I tried to break away from the woman, but she would not let me go. I was driven away from the woman, and I took the jewelry and came direct to St. Louis."

KENTUCKY FEUDISTS KILL

Fatal Fight in Mountain Region of Kentucky.

Owingsville, Ky., July 21.—In a desperate encounter between the Mullins and Fleming factions of feudists, 80 Mullins was killed, William Mullins wounded and Jeff Fleming fatally hurt. The battle took place in a lonely mountain section, near the border of Letcher and Pike counties.

The sheriff of Mercer county went to the scene with a posse and arrested three of the Mullins faction. Sol Fleming refused to submit to arrest and fled with his men to the mountains.

HYDE FLEES FROM SCANDAL INQUIRY

Former Statistician Connected With Cotton Scandals Eludes Secret Service Men.

WANTED AS A WITNESS

Associate Holmes Also Is Reported to Be Missing—Errors in New Report—Woman in Hyde's Case.

Washington, D. C., July 31.—When former Statistician John Hyde sailed for Europe last Saturday he slipped away from two agents of the secret service who had been detailed to watch him. He got a start of about twelve hours on an ocean steamer before the authorities had any idea that he intended to quit the country. He can remain away indefinitely unless indicted upon some extraditable offense, a step which is not contemplated.

As far as is now known, Hyde's presence was desired only as a witness before the grand jury. While Holmes, the former associate statistician, is said to be in Chicago, there is a report that he also has eluded the vigilance of the secret service agents and now is in Canada. The grand jury investigation therefore starts off with little promise of success, as these two men, above all others, are in a position to give the grand jury light.

A Woman in the Case. Another disclosure today was the statement that a woman who has been mentioned in connection with the scandal has borrowed money from Hyde on notes endorsed by Holmes. The transactions were large ones, altogether out of proportion to those in which a clerk receiving a small salary would be expected to be engaged.

The wife of Mrs. Bertha Burch, confidential stenographer to former Statistician John Hyde, was accepted by Secretary Wilson today. Others in the division of statistics, it is understood, also will walk the plank.

Errors in New Crop Report. The volume of errors that is being played in the department of agriculture. Quite a material error was made in the new cotton report, the first one prepared under direction of the recently created crop estimating board. This paragraph appeared in the report:

"Second—That John Hyde, with Mr. Holmes at his elbow prompting him, made estimates lower than the facts as in his hand from the reports from the seven classes of reporters employed by the bureau warranted." In a subsequent statement the word "higher" was substituted for "lower."

Protests are being received at the department against the publication of reports on speculative crops other than cotton at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on the 10th of each month. It is made that the release of exports at that late hour gives Liverpool an advantage over American markets. The department recognizes the justice of the protest and is probably to have reports will in the future be released at an earlier hour.

Grand Jury and Graft.

Whether the grand jury will succeed in identifying Hyde with the graft is an open question. No proof against him has yet appeared, and the most that may be said is that his unexplained and unannounced departure from the country has attracted attention to him in a way that is adding nothing to his reputation.

The suspicion exists that he probably would not have gone had he been satisfied that he could run the gauntlet of grand jury inquiry without harm. His flight, however, under the circumstances, which is rank cowardice at times, has controlled him in this case, and that his going away is not an evidence of guilt. Meanwhile, however, the investigation is being conducted by Professor Hayes and the grand jury will probe a little deeper into Hyde's personal case than otherwise they would have done.

Oust Another Graft.

Washington, D. C., July 28.—George T. Moore, physiologist and algologist of the department of agriculture, today tendered his resignation to Secretary Wilson, and it was accepted. The action is the culmination of a hearing at the department yesterday at which it was alleged by representatives of an agricultural publication that Moore's wife held stock in a company manufacturing a culture for soil inoculation, while Moore, who had charge of preparation and revision of bulletins regarding enrichment of farms, directed the farmers to buy the culture in question from their supplies of culture.

FOLK CLOSES DELMAR.

Anti-Betting Crusade of Missouri's Governor Has Effect of Wrecking Race Meet.

St. Louis, July 31.—The Delmar jockey club today announced that it would be no racing at Delmar track this afternoon.

Jefferson City, Mo., July 28.—Quo warranto proceedings prepared by Attorney General E. A. Tamm were filed in the supreme court today seeking to annul the charter of the Delmar jockey club, and to confiscate the property for the use of the state.

Judge Marshall of the supreme court issued an order directing the respondent to appear before the court October 10 to show why the charter should not be annulled and the property forfeited to the state.

HAD ROPE AROUND NECK

Citizens Were About to Lynch John Puskus, at Erie, Pa.

Erie, Pa., July 31.—Police officers rescued John Puskus from a mob that had already placed a rope around his neck and appeared ready to lynch him. The crowd was led by John Semple, father of a 2-year-old girl whom Puskus is said to have attempted to assault, but was driven away by the girl's mother and elder sister.

EDITORS' PASSES ILLEGAL

Those Who Hold Office Cannot Ride Free in Wisconsin.

Madison, Wis., July 31.—Attorney General Sturdevant has issued an opinion holding that under the new anti-pass law editors who are also public officials cannot use mileage for advertising, that vast contracts are thereby annulled and that railway employees who are public officials may ride free only while discharging their duties in behalf of their roads.

AKS FOR A RECEIVER.

Policyholders in the Equitable Insurance Company Make Demand for One Alleging Waste and Fraud.

New York, July 31.—In the form of an amended complaint to a bill filed last April suit was begun yesterday in the United States circuit court for the Southern District of New York to throw the entire \$42,000,000 of the assets of the Equitable Life Assurance Society into the hands of receivers, who shall have possession of all the funds, assets and property held by the defendant society of every character and description and administer the same as they shall be directed by the court.

More than forty policyholders in the Equitable representing a dozen different states, are included as complainants in the present suit, which is based, in part, upon the allegation that the society had no funds with which to meet its enormous losses and is insolvent.

With J. Wilcox Brown, of Maryland, the holder of a \$25,000 policy, as complainant, the suit was filed last April to compel a distribution of the \$42,000,000 surplus funds of the society; to compel the management to make an accounting to the policyholders, and for the appointment of receivers for the surplus fund pending judicial ascertainment of the rights of the policyholders thereto. Since the filing of that bill permission was obtained to file an amended bill, which was filed today. The original bill was filed forty-four other policyholders have intervened in the suit.

Allegations in the Bill. In the amended bill, which is far more sweeping in its charges and in its appeal for relief than was the original bill of last April, there are incorporated many citations from the Peck and Hendricks' reports, published recently in London. The bill alleges that the society has been guilty of mismanagement in syndicate transactions, that "unreasonable and excessive salaries have been paid, and that 'large sums of money ranging from \$200,000.00 to \$37,000,000, belonging to the said assurance funds of the society were allowed by it to remain uninvested, on deposit in banks and trust companies, without interest, and in many of the banks and trust companies of the said officers and directors of the society, of which many of them were large stockholders, for the purpose of securing necessary credit to such officers and directors individually, and such undue and unreasonable cash balances existed since, at least, the year 1907."

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THE GIRL AT NUMBER 9.

BY W. T. CROSSBIE.

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She was neither picturesque nor romantic, and in the suburban parish where she lived there were probably a hundred girls prettier than she. But a bright, unselfish nature will make even a plain face attractive; and there were times when you would have said that little Nellie Graham was more than comely.

Each week-day morning, punctually at a quarter to 8, you might see her setting off for a two-mile walk to the board school in Hirst street, where as head teacher, she received a salary which enabled her to provide for the wants of the household.

Of a sunny disposition, she always endeavored to look on the bright side of things. But the dark side would persist in haunting her, especially when, as it often happened, her father—a confirmed beer drinker—with foul oaths would demand money from her; while her mother—a confirmed invalid—would signal her from the horse-hair couch, to obey him.

At length, however, the time came when even her darkest days had a gleam of sunshine. Love, entering her life, had glorified it.

Her sweetheart's name was Marston. He was a draughtsman at Cranston's big works, and with a salary of £140 per annum, had dreams for the future.

Most people he was an ordinary young man, with a fair amount of good looks; but to Nellie he was a hero, and well-nigh as handsome as Apollo Belvedere.

Six months had now elapsed since the day that she heard his voice, and she had no reason to doubt his sweethearts fidelity.

But the course of true love, hitherto running smoothly, received a sudden check. In this wise: Having been informed by his clerk that his salary would shortly be substantially increased, Tom on leaving the office went straight to town and there invested eighteen-and-sixpence in a present for his sweetheart, to be given to her on her birthday. And that same evening, well pleased with himself and the world, he set off for 9 Ventnor Road. Nellie was not at home, and the news momentarily damped his spirits.

His delight was deepening, but Tom's eyes were keen, and presently he saw Nellie's trim little figure on the opposite pavement. She was walking quickly, her gaze straight in front of her, and he saw that she had her eyes on him, and was aware of her sweetheart's presence.

His greeting was anything but lover-like—nine women out of ten would assuredly have resented it. "Where have you been?" she said, a note of irritation in her voice.

"I—have been," she began falteringly, and then stopped, her head averted, her eyes on the ground.

Instantly the demon of jealousy awoke within him. "You've been walking with some one," he exclaimed hoarsely. "Who was it? Some man, I suppose?"

With that she raised her head, and looking straight into his eyes, "Yes," she said firmly, almost, it seemed to him, defiantly. "It was a man, and I have been walking with him for an hour or more."

For a moment he was dumfounded, but he did not doubt he had a rival to control his voice. "I—well talk about it later on, perhaps. Good evening!" And off he swung, chin in air, twirling his cane between his fingers.

That evening and the day following Tom, like a spoiled child, Nellie must be taught a lesson: His wounded self-esteem demanded as much. But it was far from his thoughts to allow this parting to be final.

He did not doubt he had a rival. Probably the fellow was good looking and glib tongued; and so Nellie, woman like, was flattered by his attentions. But her heart—ah, that belonged entirely to him, Tom Marston, and he did not intend to lose it. But Nellie he repeated must be taught a lesson. She would be expecting him to call today or tomorrow or the day following, and then she would write, begging him to come and see her.

But as the days went by (the longest four he had ever known) without bringing the looked for letter, Tom became decidedly unhappy.

He did not doubt his pride was perilously near capitulation. Yes, he would see Nellie—perhaps this very evening—and if her explanation of her conduct should prove satisfactory, all might yet be well.

He had changed his collar, and was adjusting a brand new necktie, when he heard the whirring of the electric bell. The postman! His heart beat faster at the thought, and full of eager expectancy, he hurried to the front door.

"Chromie, sir?"

With a sense of keen disappointment Tom took the local weekly newspaper from the newsboy, and re-entering his sitting room, sat down, and mechanically opened the sheet.

For a moment or two he glanced indifferently across the columns, and then suddenly his eye caught the following paragraph:

HEROISM OF A HANDSOMER LADY.

During Times' St. Charles Wyndham, dinner in America tour, said at a dinner in New York:

"Dash as a manager has been a failure, but he doesn't think himself to blame. He lays the blame on the times, on bad actors, poor plays, an inappreciative public, and so on. Like too many of us, he doesn't know when he goes wrong."

"Too many of us," continued the veteran actor, "resemble the boy at the wheel."

"This boy stood on the bridge of a schooner beside the captain on a starry night. It suddenly became necessary for the captain to go below, and he said to the boy:

"Here, take the wheel, I'll be back in a few minutes. Steer by that star and you will be all right."

"The boy soon began to steer the boat, and soon he got her out of her course. The star now appeared astern instead of ahead. He shouted down to the captain:

"Hi, skipper, come up and find us another star. I've passed that one."

Chip of the Old Block.

Detroit Tribune: "Let me see what you have got, boy." The boy stopped and Dr. Berkeley ran his eye over one popular novel after another. He took in his hand a volume more soberly bound than the rest—a volume of Balzac.

"That's just out," said the boy.

"Pere Goriot," by H. de Balzac. It's his latest and best novel," Dr. Berkeley smiled.

"Just out," he said. "Why, don't you know that Balzac has been dead for years?"

The boy frowned impatiently. "Oh, this ain't the old man," he said. "This is his son."

Cruel.

Philadelphia Press: Mrs. Nixdore—I tell you a plan a nice thing to have. My daughter finds it so easy to kill time on hers.

Mrs. Pepprey—Yes, but why torture it so?

ALASKA AND NORWAY.

How They Compare and Possibilities of the Former.

Portland Oregonian: A country similar to Norway, though of far greater extent, is Alaska. The climate, resources and physical features of the two countries are much the same. Alaska has more resources in minerals, timber and fisheries, and perhaps equal or greater resources in agriculture. But Alaska is a new country. Its development has but just begun. Norway, on the other hand, has been inhabited by the ancestors of the present population from time immemorial. Its population is one of the hardest and best raised among the sons of men.

The climate of Alaska on its southern coasts is, on the whole, milder than that of Norway. And the inhabitable area of Alaska is far greater. Norway has an area of 124,000 square miles, the four-fifths unproductive. Alaska has an area of more than 500,000 square miles and an inhabitable area of perhaps 120,000 square miles.

Norway has a population of 2,292,000. This population occupies a territory scarcely exceeding 30,000 square miles. Almost the whole population is on or near the coast line. A lofty mountain chain, a little back from the coast, as in Alaska, cut off the shore line from the interior. There is some agriculture, but, measured by our standards, not much. The principal industries are fishing, navigation, cattle raising, dairying and lumbering. In southern Norway agriculture is an important interest, but breadstuffs are still imported.

In all the particulars above enumerated Alaska has resources greater than those of Norway, and mineral resources of immensely greater extent. The climates are similar, but that of Alaska is milder. Taking Norway for judgment and for comparison, we believe that the time will come when Alaska will have 3,000,000 inhabitants and be one of the most important states of the American union.

Both countries are crowded down by mountain chains to narrow strips on the ocean, but Alaska has much more available space than Norway, and natural resources far greater. Undoubtedly many years must elapse before the development of Alaska will equal that of Norway, but it will come. It is a country, like Norway, for a hardy, strong, energetic, stable and progressive population. By the end of the present century there will be a population of 2,000,000 to