



## BANKER WOULD CHEAT LAW WITH DEATH POISON

### Joseph G. Robin Takes Poison as He Leaves House for Arraignment

### Stomach Pump Saves Indicted Financier's Life as He Collapses at Court Door

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—With head erect, shoulders squared and eyes leveled at the battery of cameras trained on him, Joseph G. Robin, the indicted banker, stepped from his sister's home this morning to face arraignment, calm in the knowledge that he had swallowed a dose of hyoscine, the deadly alkaloid with which Doctor Crippen killed his wife, Belle Elmore. He collapsed before he could be taken into court, with the exclamation, "I am a dead man; I have taken poison tablets."

The case was postponed in the greatest excitement, a stomach pump was hurriedly brought into play and the sick man was carried first to the prison hospital and later to Bellevue, where he lies tonight in the prison ward. No charge of attempted suicide is entered against him, and it is thought he will recover, although the action of the hyoscine is slow, and much will depend on his vitality.

### HAD TAKEN IT BEFORE

The time at which Robin took the drug is approximately fixed by the testimony of Dr. Austin Flint, retained for Robin by William Travers Jerome, his counsel, Dr. Louis Robinovitch, his sister, and two detectives who rode with him from his sister's house to the criminal court building.

Dr. Robinovitch said her brother was in the habit of taking medicine in small doses to counteract the effects of morphine, which he used to deaden the stabbing pains by which gallstones made themselves known. She kept the drug in her house, and she thought her brother swallowed 12 tablets. At Bellevue tonight the examining surgeons estimated that Robin had taken about one-tenth of a grain.

Robin seemed in good health this morning. He was in court at any time since his troubles began—and he made no effort to screen his face from the camera as hitherto. The first sign of illness was when he staggered, stepping from his automobile to the criminal court building.

In the elevator he weakened so rapidly that the detectives had to lift him to a couch. There he sank into unconsciousness, and was not revived until the stomach pump had been worked vigorously. His prompt use saved his life.

Outside the corridors of the criminal court building fairly hummed with excitement, but in the court of general sessions itself Judge Crain was transacting business as usual, when Attorney Jerome stepped rapidly down the aisle.

### JEROME INTERRUPTS COURT

"Your honor," he began, hurriedly, "I am here in the Robin case. It appears that the defendant has taken a drug. He cannot be stimulated. An ambulance has been summoned and surgeons are now pumping his stomach. The delay is unavoidable."

Dr. Austin Flint, retained by Jerome, went to an apothecary, where he attempted suicide last Saturday and gave that as one evidence of insanity.

There were no further developments today in connection with either the Bank of Northern New York or the Washington savings bank, both of which are in the hands of the state banking department, but the state department of insurance took over the affairs of the Title and Guarantee company of Rochester, N. Y. A large force of accountants is at work on the ledgers of the many interwoven companies which Robin promoted.

### HOLDUP YOUTH GIVEN THREE YEAR SENTENCE

### George Bidinger Pleads Guilty of Assault to Murder

George Bidinger, who attempted October 2 to hold up the inmates of the saloon of Giovanni Ghiotto in Mission street, pleaded guilty of assault to commit murder and was sentenced to three years in San Quentin by Judge Cabanis yesterday. He fired a number of shots, one of which injured Frank Sullivan. The defendant is only 20 years old, and on account of his youth Prosecutor McNutt suggested that the court deal leniently with him.

### FERRY FIREMEN ENTER UPON A BRIEF STRIKE

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—A strike of the firemen on the municipal ferry boats plying between South Ferry and Staten Island today was short lived, the representatives of the men, after a conference with the city officials, announcing that an agreement had been reached and the firemen would return to work pending investigation of their charges of overwork.

### UNBORN FOR THE PARK—A proposition is to have Alma Kruse sing Sundays during the band concerts at the park. The expense is to be borne by the United Railroads and other parties.

## Wealthy Nobleman Sinks to Poverty And Takes Poison

[Special Cable to The Call]

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—The suicide of Count Percival Douglas was as dramatic as any of the many tragedies enacted in Germany during the Christmas season.

Count Percival was a descendant of the ancient Scottish family. Formerly he was one of the wealthiest men in Berlin and owned large estates in east Prussia. He formed an unfortunate attachment for a young woman for whom he sacrificed his position in society and much of his fortune.

Determined at last to end his infatuation for her, Count Percival married the young woman's sister.

The countess soon learned her husband's affections did not belong to her, sued for divorce and was granted it. Count Percival quickly dissipated what was left of his fortune. Finally he was forced to live in poor lodgings.

Christmas eve the count retired to his bed and swallowed cyanide of potassium. He did not take enough of the deadly drug to kill himself instantly and died only after 12 hours of terrible suffering.

Count Percival's suicide has stirred society to its foundations. The details of it, which became known today, throw a glaring light on one of the most vicious sides of Berlin life.

## INSURRECTOS IN MEXICO SECURE ARMS ON COAST

### Customs Officers Receive Orders to Seize Vessel and Find Contraband of War

### Steamer Lackme of Seattle Is Suspected of Being Chartered by Filibusters

AN ORDER from Washington that the steamer Lackme of Seattle be seized by the customs authorities and searched for contraband of war destined for the Mexican insurgents has brought to light an organized effort by the American and Mexican governments to break up a ring of filibusters that has been operating from Pacific coast ports.

It also revealed the source of the endless supply of ammunition that has been pouring into Mexico through a secret agency during the last six months. Mexico had been trying to clear up the mystery and using every expedient to learn if the shipments were made across the harbor. In this work the American customs officials had been working with the Mexicans.

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## MARINES WILL PROTECT AMERICANS IN HONDURAS

### One Government Gunboat, Unseaworthy and Armed With Two One-Inch Guns, Relied on to Defend Puerto Cortez

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

PUERTO CORTEZ, Honduras, Dec. 30.—Following rumors that the United States cruiser Tacoma had sighted the revolutionary gunboat Hornet last night, the American consul, at the instance of Commander Davis of the Tacoma, today warned all Americans to remain indoors if trouble began. Notice was given the commandant today that the Tacoma will land marines to protect American interests here tomorrow.

The Honduras gunboat Tatumbla is

in the harbor, but its two one pounders are not expected to be of much use in defending the town against an attack by the Hornet, which is reported as having four 6 inch modern rifles and three machine guns. The Tatumbla is not considered seaworthy. Guatemalan troops arrived at Morales last night. This move is taken here to mean that a land attack by the Honduran revolutionists is expected along the border.

Fighting has already begun at Las-Quadrados, according to reports.

## MAN, AGED 57, SAYS OHIO VOTE BUYING HAS EXISTED SINCE HE WAS A BOY

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

WEST UNION, O., Dec. 30.—The Adams county grand jury today returned 73 more indictments and more than 50 persons appeared and pleaded guilty in connection with the investigation of wholesale vote selling. A majority of them were disfranchised for five years and fined \$5 to \$15. The total indicted now is 1,141.

A man 57 years old, who was fined after pleading guilty, said that vote

buying conditions have existed in Adams county since he was a boy.

Judge Blair expressed the opinion that there was an arrangement for vote buying by republican and democratic managers.

Of the 400 voters who have been before him each one said he had never been approached by more than one or two precinct workers, thus indicating that each one had his own list to look after.

## ALASKANS AT MASS MEETING SCORE HITCHCOCK COAL WITHDRAWAL BILL

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

CORDOVA, Alaska, Dec. 30.—A mass meeting was held by the citizens of Katalla, in the Bering river coal district, today to protest against the bill introduced in congress by Representative Hitchcock of Nebraska providing for the withdrawal of all Alaska coal lands pending investigation. During the meeting Representative Hitchcock was severely criticized for his action on

the ground that he should not attempt to meddle with Alaskan affairs until he becomes familiar with conditions here.

After the mass meeting the following cablegram was sent to Hitchcock: "Three hundred American born citizens each eat sour dough Christmas dinners. How much longer must we continue to endure hardships because of some one who does not know?"

## EXACT VALUE OF HONEYMOON BLISS COURT IS CALLED ON TO DETERMINE

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

CLEVELAND, Dec. 30.—The cash value of honeymoon bliss will be decided in the local courts as the result of a suit for \$507 damages from the proprietor of a hotel filed today by Mrs. Laura Riehl of Washington, D. C. In the list of damages submitted by Mrs. Riehl is one reading: "For time lost from honeymoon, several days, \$50."

A lost trunk caused the suit. Mr. and Mrs. Riehl were in Cleveland August 20 on their honeymoon trip. When they left a porter switched checks, and instead of their trunk they received a case of samples. They hastily postponed their trip and came to Cleveland in search of the trunk, but were unable to find it.

## HEALTH OFFICER FORBIDS DANCES AND CHURCH SERVICES IN SCHOOL

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

FRESNO, Dec. 30.—To protect the health of school children Dr. G. L. Long, health officer, has put a stop to holding church services and dances in country schoolhouses.

The matter came up in connection with the Barstow schoolhouse, near Fresno where nearby residents have been accustomed to holding services

Sunday morning and lodge dances Saturday evening. There have been some cases of diphtheria there.

"It is easy to regulate school children," said Doctor Long, "and the school will be ready to open Tuesday. After having it fumigated I do not propose to expose it to easy infection by admitting a mixed church congregation or by a crowd of dancers."

## Burke Hears Strong Evidence Witnesses Forge Stout Links

### Chain Draws Tighter As Explosion Story Is Retold

### Doctor's Nervousness Was Noticed by Attaches of Sanatorium

By HARRY DAVIDS

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

SANTA ROSA, Dec. 30.—The links of evidence connecting Doctor Burke with the dynamiting of the tent of Lu Etta Smith were forged stronger today than at any time during the time of the trial by the testimony produced at the trial today by Earl Edmunds, a nurse at the sanatorium. The defense in vain tried to discredit his evidence, but he held to his statements. And the conclusion saw Doctor Burke deeper in the throes of the charges against him than ever before. The witness stated that he was in the diet kitchen prior to the explosion.

"Is it not a fact that you were not in the diet kitchen at 5:11 when the explosion occurred?" asked Attorney Leppo.

"It is not," shouted back the witness. The defense endeavored to show that Earl Edmunds was not there and that Ada Clark, a nurse, was likewise absent. Edmunds protested they were there. She was washing dishes part of the time and the remainder of the 20 minutes or half an hour the two spent in unraveling a puzzle.

### Leppo Brings Up Conspiracy

Leppo interjected the much hinted at conspiracy in this case on the part of Dillard, Hitt, Edmunds, Abbie Smith and Ada Clark into his questioning. He sought to draw from the witness an admission that he and Ada Clark had been frequently in conference as to the nature of their testimony and that it was a fact they were not in the diet kitchen at the time of the explosion.

Edmunds testified that he and Miss Clark had talked over the case casually two or three times, but there had been no agreement as to what they would testify.

"Are you friendly to Doctor Burke now?" asked Doctor Burke's lawyer. "I am in a way," was the reply.

"What do you mean by qualifying in a way?" demanded Leppo. "Well, I mean that I have no personal grievance against him," said Edmunds.

### Juror Questions Witness

Juror George Trickman asked permission to ask the witness a question. He wanted to know where an aisle in the sanatorium building had its exit or entrance on the porch. He desired to be sure as to where Edmunds saw Doctor Burke in the aisle. The witness said he saw Doctor Burke coming toward the closed door that opened on the north of the porch. He explained, with the aid of the chart, the location of the doors.

Asked why his evidence regarding Doctor Burke's being nervous a short time before the explosion differed from that given before the grand jury, when he then said Doctor Burke was cool. He explained that when Doctor Burke was nervous he did not display as much agitation as other people, but took it more quietly.

Miss Ada Clark was the next witness and she corroborated Earl Edmunds' testimony as being with him in the diet kitchen at the time of the explosion. She said she also saw Doctor Burke and Jean Maxwell, the night watchman, a short time before the explosion.

She said she saw Doctor Burke at the tent after the explosion and he remarked that Lu Smith had blown herself up and that she might have had the dynamite for two years.

Miss Clark testified as to her having seen a note written by Doctor Burke to Lu Smith, in which the doctor said in substance:

"Dear Lu—if the means do not come for you to go with your trunks tomorrow, I will go to Oroville and get, and you remain until I get back."

### "DR. W. P. BURKE"

This letter has been lost, and neither side has it. There was some objection as to the testimony regarding the nurse, but the objection was overruled.

### Burke Laughs at Witticism

"I would ask you to look at counsel and at the jury," said Leppo, addressing the witness.

"I would suggest that you allow the court to direct the conduct," replied Lea.

"Well, gentlemen, I can't see which way the young lady is looking," remarked Judge Sewell.

"Counsel on both sides are handsome, you know." The court's rejoinder provoked laughter, in which both Doctor and Mrs. Burke joined.

"Of course, I can not expect the witness to look at me," said William Finley Cowan of counsel for Doctor Burke. The witness was asked if it was not a fact that she repeated the note to other people. She replied that she had

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Ada Clark, who was witness in Doctor Burke trial at Santa Rosa yesterday.

## SENSATIONS PROMISED IN KING'S LIBEL CASE

### Attorney for Arrested Magazine Representative Intimates Royal Secrets Must Be Aired

[Special Cable to The Call]

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The case of Edward F. Mylius, arrested in connection with the attack in the Liberator on King George of England, will, if it comes to trial, undoubtedly cause a tremendous international sensation, said Solicitor Newton tonight. Newton, who was counsel for Doctor Crippen, has been retained to defend Mylius.

"If the case is tried, many serious statements undoubtedly will be made, as the prosecution can not hope to get a conviction without going deeply into the matters which all of us will regret to see aired," said Newton.

Proof that the British government regards the Liberator's attacks on the

king as dangerous is seen in these facts:

First—The unusual procedure (the first of its kind in England) in having Mylius arrested on a warrant issued by a judge in chamber, charging him with publishing and uttering false and malicious libels concerning his majesty, the king.

Second—The seizure of all copies of the Liberator.

Third—The order issued to the English press to refrain from any mention of the arrest of Mylius.

Fourth—The unprecedented bail of \$100,000.

Fifth—The probability that Mylius will be liberated if he will apologize and furnish a heavy bond not to repeat the offense.

## MORMON PICTURES ON BATTLESHIP PLATE DOESN'T PERTURB UNGLE SAM

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—If pictures of Brigham Young and the Mormon temple are engraved upon the silver service presented to the battleship Utah by the citizens of that state the United States government is not perturbed over the fact.

Formal protest against the decoration of the service was lodged with President Taft some time ago by Hugh C. Miller of this city, acting for the woman's republican clubs.

Miller received a letter today from Assistant Secretary Beekman Winthrop of the navy department saying that the department did not feel it could supervise such matters.

## IRKSOME TIES OF DOMESTICITY NO LONGER BIND AFFINITY WIFE OF EARLE

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Mrs. Julia Kuttner Earle has obtained in the appellate division of the supreme court an annulment of her marriage to Ferdinand Pinney Earle at Venice, Italy, March 17, 1908. Earle was divorced from Marie Emilie Gishbacher in Paris in 1908 on her suit for desertion. Her fall-

ure to transcribe a portion of the decree in the register where the marriage was recorded until three months after Earle's marriage to his second wife suspended the divorce for that period and gave the second Mrs. Earle grounds to contest the validity of her marriage.

## BLOODHOUNDS TEAR SUSPECT TO PIECES

### Ferocious Dogs Break Lash and Destroy Quarry

MOUNT VERNON, Ill., Dec. 30.—A pack of bloodhounds, crazed by the excitement of a long chase, broke loose from their keeper today while trailing a man suspected of burglary at Carrier Mills, cornered their victim, and tore him to pieces. The man's body was so terribly mutilated by the hounds that when the owner caught up with the dogs it bore only a slight resemblance to a human being. The authorities have no clue to his identity. John Roberts, who had charge of the dogs, was exonerated by a coroner's jury.

## BROTHERS MURDERED AND BURNED IN HOME

### Shot Extricated From Charred Skulls of Couple

PORTSMOUTH, O., Dec. 29.—That Minor and Oliver Platt, wealthy bachelor brothers, were murdered before their bodies were burned in the destruction of their home yesterday, was made apparent at the sheriff's investigation today.

Fifteen shots were extricated from the skull of one and several smaller shot from the skull of the other. Blood spots on the ruins of a front door step, a bloody butcherknife found on the door sill and empty shells found nearby are among the evidences of a double murder.

It is probable that arrests will be made within the next 24 hours.

## UTILITIES OF BAY CITIES WILL BE UNITED

### Company Formed to Operate All the Public Service Systems of Oakland and Berkeley

### KEY ROUTE INCLUDED IN PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION

### Water, Traction and Electric Power Concerns to Be Merged Into One Giant Body

### INCORPORATION PAPERS FILED IN NEW JERSEY

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 30.—The United Properties Company of California, with a capital of \$200,000,000, filed articles of incorporation at Dover, Delaware, tonight. It was organized for the purpose of effecting a merger of public utility companies of Oakland and Berkeley, California. In the combination will be the water, traction and electric power companies and the ferry system known as the Key Route.

The charter of the new corporation was secured through the agency of the Delaware trust company of Wilmington at the direction of Christian B. Zabriskie of 100 William street, New York. It is the largest concern ever organized under the Delaware incorporation laws. The directors are: F. M. Smith, W. S. Tevis, R. G. Hanford, all well known millionaires of California; Gavin McNab, the San Francisco attorney; C. B. Zabriskie, the New York representative of F. M. Smith; Dennis Seales, manager of Smith's railroad interests in Nevada; W. R. Alberger, Smith's personal representative in the Key Route company, and Harry W. Davis of Delaware. Davis is named as a director merely to conform with the Delaware laws, requiring that one member of the directorate be from this state.

As set forth in its charter, the new corporation proposes to engage in the construction and operation of railroads, steamship lines, electric light and power systems, water plants for domestic purposes and irrigation, wharves, docks and warehouses.

It is stated that a new steamship line will be established, but details are withheld.

The operating offices of the new company will be in San Francisco and Oakland.

There was evidently some desire for haste in the incorporation of the company, as Zabriskie made a hurried trip to Dover and back by auto tonight for the purpose, covering a distance of 100 miles. He will leave for San Francisco Tuesday.

The company paid a filing fee of \$10,100 to the state of Delaware.

## STRONG UNION OF FINANCIERS

### Alliance Means New Water Company, Terminals and Docks for Oakland

The formation of the United States Properties company, as outlined in the foregoing dispatch, brings definite announcement of a new and powerful alliance in the field of California finance. It brings together F. M. Smith and William S. Tevis, two of the strongest