

on the evening of Dec. 15, 1909, as usual, and the passengers fled through the gates surrendering their tickets to the collectors as is the fashion in Europe.

No one knew that there were two red-handed murderers among them—the blood of their victim almost still warm on their clothes.

But, in the midst of all this rush, these two slayers left a tiny trail there in the depot which finally led the police to their goal.

A depot workman found a shred of cloth and a bunch of human hair on the step outside the door of one of the first-class private compartments. He also noted that the door of the compartment had been partly broken. It is not an uncommon occurrence for a passenger to fall from a compartment of a speeding train and for the open door to be slammed closed again, when it hits the side of a tunnel.

There was every indication that such an accident had occurred in this case.

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Lepine's men took charge of the case. They found that the dead woman was Madame Jules Gouin, widow of a late official of the Bank of France. Her body, with the legs cut off by a passing train on the other track, was found the same night. Her purse containing \$30 was found nearby.

There was no sign of murder; it seemed plainly an accident—so far as the big and obvious signs were concerned!

But there were tiny hidden signs that were fairly screaming murder to such a detective as Lepine!

One of these was the position of the safety lock on the car door. This was turned to lock the door.

Only a Lepine detective might have noted this.

This lock could be turned only from the outside. No slamming of a car-door in colliding with the side of

a tunnel could have done it!

Monsieur Lepine has always believed in using the aid of the public in solving mysteries, and to secure this aid he has always used the newspapers. The small fact of the locked door was published; it was a small fact, from the viewpoint of the public, but a tremendous fact to Lepine.

It spelled murder.

The body of Madame Gouin had passed through the doorway.

And afterward some human hand had turned the lock!

It could not have been the woman's hand.

Whose hand then?

A track walker who had read of the mystery of the locked door, passing about a mile from where the body was found, discovered a piece of window curtain, on which there was blood. The curtain was of the kind used in first-class compartments of the railroad.

Then another workman, several days thereafter, found Madame Gouin's handbag, beside the track, slashed, as if a robber had hurriedly tried to remove the contents.

Then the family suddenly remembered that Madame Gouin had carried three valuable rings, either in the bag or on her fingers.

The police looked again at the mysterious car. This time, on the inner handle of the door, they discovered faint marks of bloody hands. Three weeks had passed, but the great Bertillon was able to prove from the marks that the hands were those of a large man.

Someone, it was established, had been in the compartment after Madame Gouin's body had fallen out.

These were the minute clues that told the tremendous story of what had happened.

Now Lepine's men began to seek clues leading to the criminals.

The first one came from the man who had been in the compartment next to Madame Gouin. This man