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MURDER AND SUICIDE

Minnie Powers Shot to Death in Her Sleep.

Her Slayer, William Belcher, Alias "the Cockney," Blows a Hole Through His Own Head.

Minnie Powers was murdered while sleeping yesterday by William Belcher, otherwise known as "the Cockney." He crowned his bloody performance by shooting himself and falling across the body of his victim.

The tragedy occurred at a resort kept by the woman at the corner of Seventh and Jackson streets. The time is not definitely known, but persons in that neighborhood heard shots about 10 o'clock and supposed that they constituted a part of the flag end of the Mexican independence celebration. Near 1 o'clock two women, Cora Wilson and Leo Dubois, went to the Powers place, curious to know why so long silence reigned there where was wont to be so much revelry and confusion. They passed through the saloon fronting on Seventh street and entered an adjoining room occupied by the proprietress as a sleeping room. They were at first bewildered and then horrified at what they saw. The woman lay on the bed on her right side covered. There was a hole in her temple and the side of her face as the pillow was blackened by powder. "The Cockney" reclined against her knees, his head thrown back. His mouth was mutilated and a hole two inches in diameter had been blown in the back of his head. Both bodies were rigid and cold.

A telephone message was sent to the sheriff's office and Deputy Boyd went down to the place of the tragedy. Justice Johnstone and Dr. Wylie went sent for later. Though there had been no witnesses of the bloody performance it was easy to trace the motions of the murderer. He had entered the room while the woman slept. He had placed the muzzle of the revolver against her temple and fired. Death was instantaneous and painless, for the eyes had not opened. Not satisfied, he had put the revolver against the bed covering and fired through a comforter and sheet into the dead woman's stomach. A hole three inches in diameter had been burned around the hole in the bed clothing. Whether he extinguished it or whether it had gone out is a matter of conjecture. After firing this shot he walked around the bed and sat down on the other side, with his back toward his victim. He put the muzzle of the pistol in his mouth and fired. The explosion tore two great rents an inch in length from either corner of the mouth toward the chin. A section of the skull had been blown out in the rear and the blood of murderer and victim had mingled, percolated through a heavy mattress, two thicknesses of a comforter and had run down to the floor.

After a coroner's jury was impaneled and the bodies viewed, they were taken to Davis' undertaking rooms. The house of death was searched for whatever might light up the tragedy. Then it was locked and put in charge of a keeper. The real motive of "the Cockney" may never be known. He may have been jealous and was likely crazy from drink. He was arrested on Friday night by Officer Molloy for drunkenness, but having sobered up yesterday morning he was released on his own recognizance. He was about town early in the morning and wherever he went was seen carrying a bundle which no doubt contained the Colt's 45 which a little later wrought so much destruction.

The last place he was noticed was at McNamara's saloon, where he wrote two letters and put them in the mail box at the corner of Washington street and First avenue. Coroner Johnstone has made an arrangement with the postoffice authorities for an examination of these letters, which may contain a reference to what he intended to do.

He had for more than a year been living at the Powers house, but he had lately grown so quarrelsome that less than a week ago the proprietress visited the sheriff's office to have him removed for the reason that he was driving trade away. It is likely that immediately after writing his letters he went to the house and did what he had been threatening to do for more than a month, but which no one was afraid he would do.

This is all that is known of the murder, though one witness relates a story which may fix a more direct motive for the crime. He said that at the time

the shot was fired he saw a man whom he would know leaving the Powers house by a rear door. A woman in the neighborhood said that a man became a guest of the proprietress about half past three in the morning, but she did not see him go away. It is possible that Belcher went home directly after being released from jail and finding the man there went out to write his letters and make other preparation for the death of himself and his mistress. The inquest, which will be resumed at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon may throw some light on this point.

The murderer was a native of London, Eng., and an expert watchmaker and jeweler. He came to America ten years ago and to Phoenix about four years ago. His relatives in London had some property and early last year his mother having recently died, he came into an inheritance of which his share was \$5,570. He received the money, but it did not last long. He had then formed an intimacy with the woman whom he has murdered. When his money was nearly all gone he entered into an arrangement with her by which she was to become his guardian and have charge of the money he had left and his share of an English estate, in which he represented that he was interested. She was to keep him and care for him and at last at the end of his life to come into possession of what was left of his estate. It was subsequently learned that he had no other interest in England than a one-fifth share in a note for \$150 owing to his father's estate, but not yet due. "The Cockney" was about 50 years old.

It is doubtful if there was another man in Arizona so well known as the murdered woman. She was nearly 40 and had resided in Phoenix nineteen years. All this time she was a proprietress of houses of ill-fame. She came to the territory from Utah, where her husband had been killed a short time before she had a little girl of 10, who was sent to San Francisco, was carefully educated there and resides here yet. She has only twice been visited by her mother since that separation. A sister of the dead woman, Mrs. G. J. Johnson, resides at North Tempe, Cal. The real name of the murdered woman was not Minnie Powers, but Rose Gregory. During her residence in Phoenix she has made fortunes and has been wealthy. Her earlier palaces of joy were distinguished for their sumptuousness. The one in which she died was distinguished for its dirt and squalor. Her descent was due entirely to a disposition which led her to give to the needy, the worthy and the unworthy, with a lavish hand. She had saved many from starving and had robbed the potter's field of many an unfortunate. She has left nothing, so that unless those who knew her in her better days come forward, she will be buried tomorrow among the outcast dead.

BRIEF AUTHORITY.

Spain's Mimic Rule at San Juan de Porto Rico.

San Juan, Sept. 17.—Pending our assumption of possession here the daily progress of this highly interesting old Spanish town goes on. Every one appreciates the fact that the curtain is about to rise upon a new era, but nothing yet is changed. General Otego, who is in active command of the Spanish troops, makes his daily tour of inspection of the forts, batteries and barracks as if Spain was to continue in control forever. The sentries at the forts still decline to allow Americans or others entrance just as they have for years. Even the censorship of the cable is still vigorously enforced and correspondents must take all their dispatches to the palace for endorsement by the secretary of the captain-general before they will be accepted by the cable company.

Admiral Sampson's bombardment of San Juan early in the war, although it dismounted no guns at Morro, against which the principal fire was directed and killed and wounded less than fifty people, bears testimony to the remarkable gunning of our Jackies. Morro and buildings on high ground in its rear and the high scarp which is built from the sea are simply riddled. Great craters are blown out in places by twelve and thirteen-inch shells, and walls are pitted by the hail of maller shells. One entire building was blown to pieces and a whole section of the cuartel lies in ruins. The fact that many of the shells were wasted against the sea walls is not to be wondered at because the parapet was embrasures for guns and from the place where our ships lay would naturally be mistaken for a sea battery.

MILES ON DUTY.

Washington, Sept. 17.—General Miles turned to duty today looking a little worse for a touch of fever.

MARKET REPORTS.

LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

Wholesale Prices Current.

EGGS BUTTER AND CHEESE. EGGS—Ranch, per doz. 30. BUTTER—Lanc, per lb. 30.25; Mari-copa creamery, 22. CHEESE—Case, full cream, per lb. 16.18; home, 16.41.

LEANS.

BEANS—Per cwt., small white, 3.75; 4.00; Lady Washington, 3.75; 4.00; pink, 3.75; 4.00; Lima, 3.00; 3.25.

POTATOES, ONIONS AND VEGETABLES.

POTATOES—1.00; 1.50; red sweet potatoes, 1.50; 2.00 per cwt.; yellow sweet potatoes, 1.50; 2.00 per cwt.

ONIONS—Per cwt., California, 2.00.

VEGETABLES—Beets, per cwt., 1.40; egg plant, per lb. 5c; green chili, per lb. 5c; carrots, per cwt., 1.40; evaporated chilis, per lb. 25; green onions, per doz bunches, 25; radishes, per doz bunches 25; summer squash, per box, 65; asparagus, per lb. 17.50; tomatoes, per lb. 5c; Lima and string beans, 12.50; Hubbard squash, per lb. 1.50; Prescott cabbage per cwt., 3.00; green peas, 12.50.

DRIED FRUITS, NUTS, RAISINS.

RAISINS—London layers, per box, 1.75; loose, per lb. 40.50; seedless Sultanias, 6.40.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, evaporated, fancy, per lb. 11; peaches, fancy, 7.50; 8; choice, 6.50; pears, fancy evaporated, 7.50; plums, pitted, choice, 8; prunes, choice, 7.50; fancy, 9.50.

NUTS—Walnuts, paper shells, 11.12; fancy softshells, 12.12; hard shells, 8.50; almonds, soft shells, 10.12; paper shells, 9.10; pecans, 8.10; filberts, 8.10; Brazilia, 10.12; pinones, 11.12; peanuts, eastern roasted, 11.12; raw, 8.10; home raw, 7.00; roasted, 10.12.

FRESH FRUIT AND BERRIES.

Lemons, per case, 6.00; 7.00; late Valencia oranges, 4.25 per case; peaches, 4.50 per lb.; watermelons, 15.00 per doz; extra charge for crate and barrel; canteloupes and muskmelons, 5.00 per doz.; California apples, per box, 2.00; 2.50.

Strawberries, Arizona Everbearing, per lb. basket, 15; blackberries, per basket, 15; Kelsey Japan plums, 5.

FRESH MEATS.

Beef, per lb. 7.50; veal, per lb. 8; mutton, per lb. 7c.

GRAIN AND HAY.

WHEAT—Per cental for shipping, 1.10; 1.20.

HAY—Per ton, alfalfa, 7.50; 8.00. BARLEY—1.40 per cwt.

ROLLED BARLEY—1.50.

FLOUR AND FEED STUFFS.

FLOUR—Per bbl. local extra roller process, 4.50; graham, 2.50 per cwt; whole wheat flour, 2.50 per cwt.

CORN MEAL—White, 2.25 per cwt; yellow, 2.50 per cwt.

FEED STUFFS—Bran, per ton 15.00; rolled barley, 1.15 per sack.

POULTRY AND GAME.

POULTRY—Hens, good heavy, per doz. 4.50; 5.00; spring chickens, 3.75; 4.25; fancy Pekin ducks, 5.50; 6.00; turkeys, live, per lb. 15.

HIDES, WOOL AND TALLOW.

HIDES—Dry, 1.50; per lb. kip, 10; 14; bull, 5.

WOOL—Nominal.

TALLOW—Per lb. No. 1, 7c.

BACON—Breakfast bacon, per lb. 10.00; 10.50.

HAMS—10.00; 10.50 for medium 10.00; 10.50 for large.

DRY SALT PORK—Per lb. 5c.

LARD—Kettle rendered, 5.00; 5.50; 10.50; 5.40; 5.45; 5.50.

HONEY AND BEESWAX.

HONEY—Clover, 1.00; 1.25; alfalfa, 1.00; 1.25; strained, per case, 5.00.

BEE SWAX—Per lb. 22.25.

LIVESTOCK.

HOGS—Per cwt. 7.50.

CATTLE—Prime steers, per cwt. 4.00; 4.50; cows and heifers, 2.25; sheep, wethers, per lb. 4; ewes, 3.50; lambs, 5.

COFFEES AND SUGARS.

COFFEES—Rios, 13.15; Central American, 12.25; Peaberry, 20.25; Mocha and Java, 20.25; Arabica, 12.50; 12.50 a case.

SUGARS—Granulated cane, per cwt. 7.50; 7.75; cube, 7.50; 7.75; powdered, 7.50; 7.75 per lb.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Los Angeles, Sept. 17.—Livestock per lb. beefs, 30.50; lambs, per head, \$1.50; 2.25; sheep, per cwt., \$3.00; 4.00; calves, per lb. 2.50; 3.00.

Kansas City, Sept. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 170; market unchanged.

Sheep—Receipts, 2000; market steady; lambs, \$4.00; 5.00.

Chicago, Sept. 17.—Choice steers, \$3.25; 3.75; medium, \$4.80; 5.00; beef steers, \$4.10; 4.75; stockers and feeders, \$3.00; 4.65; bulls, \$3.25; 4.25; cows and heifers, \$2.75; 4.25; cows, \$4.00; 5.70; western range, \$3.75; 4.50; feed western steers, \$1.10; 3.50; Texas, \$3.25; 5.15.

Sheep were slightly lower. Native sheep, \$3.00; 4.50; western range, \$3.75; 4.25; poor to prime lambs, \$3.50; 6.15; feeding lambs, \$4.00; 5.50.

Receipts—Cattle, 400; sheep, 2000.

SALT LAKE CITY AND RETURN.

On account of the Mormon conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 6, the S. F. P. & P. railway will sell tickets to Salt Lake and return at the low rate of \$63.90 for the round trip. Selling dates, September 23, 30 and October 1. Tickets to be limited sixty days. Continuous passage in each direction. Further information can be had by writing or calling at the S. F. P. & P. office.

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nervous prostration, etc., etc. If you are afflicted with any of the above ailments do not put off having your eyes attended to. Prof. Paul Ramser, with George H. Cook, the jeweler, is strictly up-to-date in his scientific manner of treating the eyes by the use of correctly fitted spectacles. Have your eyes tested by him and be convinced. Examination free of charge. First door west of postoffice.

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- Irish Potatoes, per lb. 10c
Valley Cheese, per lb. 15c
1 lb Sugar 15c
1 lb Arbuckle Coffee 15c
1 lb Mocha or Java Coffee 15c
3 lbs Leaf Lard 25c
5 lbs Leaf Lard 50c
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Bacon, per lb. 12.5c
Tomatoes, per can 10c
Ham, per lb. 12.5c
A good Broom for 25c

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