

SUICIDE ENDS FEARFUL STORY

EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD ANNIE WILLFORD IS FOLLOWED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN EFFORT TO RESCUE HER FROM SHAME MOTHER LEARNS DAUGHTER HAD NEGRO PARAMOUR

Tragic Ending Which Confronted Devoted Woman Who Spent a Fortune in Trying to Turn Her Wayward Daughter From the Scarlet Paths of the Fallen—Negro Prizefighter Identifies Degraded Girl

Well—the deepest, blackest torments of a hell rivaling a canto of Dante's Inferno—was the portion yesterday of a mother who sat in the office of Chief of Police Leroy Waller. Anguish unspeakable tore the heartstrings of the suffering woman—an agony of shame and sorrow which rarely falls to the lot of a man or a woman. The horror of the tale told there—the awful burden of grief and woe—borne down even the stoutest of heart, chief who was not ashamed of the manly tears which flowed in unison with those of the mother. It was a tale and scene which gave one woman more punishment than the Almighty Mercy has promised to the suffering—that scene of a negro prizefighter describing to a mother the sacred birthmarks on the body of her daughter—marks which should be known only to the one who listened. The woman whose lot it was to suffer an earthly punishment, besides which the future holds no terrors, is Mrs. A. Willford, whose home has been in Minot, N. D. The negro prizefighter who lewdly pictured the nudeness of the daughter was "Jolly" Rogers, held in jail on a charge of vagrancy and suspected of complicity in a robbery. The girl whose awful fall brought such horror and grief to her mother was Mrs. Edward Rusk, whose body lies in a suicide's grave at Coeur d'Alene. Back of the dreadful scene of yesterday is a story of a mother's devotion and a daughter's waywardness which would read to the pen of a Zola to deplete in searing letters. Three years ago Annie Willford, then barely 15 years of age, was a happy, bright, pretty school girl in the city of Fargo, N. D. To her fond mother she was a joy and a blessing. To her schoolmates and friends she was admirable and delightful. At that early age she was in high school, regarded as one of the most promising pupils. The rosy future of class honors, a brilliant debut and the happy home of a successful marriage, all seemed hers. Six months later the bright young girl fell. She broke the hearts of parents and friends and then ran away from home. To the social circles of her school girl life she became a synonym of blackest shame. All turned from her. But not the mother. Grief stricken as she was, prostrated by her daughter's dishonor, yet Mrs. Willford was a true mother. The world had branded her daughter, but to the mother Annie was still a child—a wayward child who needed more than ever a mother's tender care. Mrs. Willford followed her child. She found her under shocking conditions—an inmate of an immoral house. But the mother's heart still beat for the babe she bore—who had a soul to save. When others turned away in scorn the mother placed her arms about the frail one and talked to her of the hopes of the future. She won her daughter back. To avoid the stain and to save the erring girl from the freely expressed scorn, the mother moved to Minot, N. D. There, a short time later, although not yet 16 years of age, Annie Willford married. Again the perspective of her future took a rosier hue. The past seemed buried. Life to the mother was once more worth living. But cruel fate had not yet done with the suffering woman. A blow 10 times more bitter was to fall. Two months after her wedding Annie ran away from home, husband and mother. She disappeared one night and for more than two years she succeeded in avoiding the mother who sacrificed all that life held for her in another effort to reclaim her wayward one. For two years and three months the mother followed her daughter in a pursuit which led half way across the continent. For 27 long, weary months she followed the girl from city to city, from state to state, and from the frozen north to the sunny south, always seeking, yet never finding. To find her daughter was the one absorbing aim of Mrs. Willford's life. To this she sacrificed home, friends and a small fortune. From the Dakotas to St. Paul, from St. Paul to Chicago, she traced the girl. Each city she reached gave her additional disappointment. In some manner the daughter learned of her mother's coming and left for other places. Following persistently, devotedly,

Mrs. Willford went to New Orleans. From there she followed to Texas and thence to Tucson, Ariz., and then to Los Angeles. At Los Angeles she was but a day behind her cherished object. From Los Angeles the girl fled to Bakerfield, Cal. But the mother followed her. In San Francisco, a few months later, the trail was lost. It was a weary, heart-breaking search then. In each town or city the daughter took a different name and the fearful months passed to the mother in one long inquiry for a girl answering the description given. It was solely by this that the mother performed a feat of detective work which surpasses any man hunt in the police annals. After the disappearance in Frisco of Annie, Mrs. Willford spent months thoroughly overhauling the coast cities, but it was not until a few weeks ago that she again secured a trace of her daughter. Her son, who lives in New Jersey, was able at the last to give the information that Annie was living in Spokane and that she was stopping at the Wilber house on Main avenue. When that news was received another difficulty confronted the almost exhausted mother. Her funds had given out. In the two years and more in which she had been traveling about the country Mrs. Willford had expended several thousand dollars—all of her small fortune. In Seattle she was almost destitute. But at last she received money from the son in New Jersey with which to pay her expenses to Spokane. She took the first train and arrived here Thursday, January 26. Probably the disappointment she met with in Spokane was the most distressing of any of her experiences up to then. She was confident of at last enfolding her loved one in her arms, rescuing her from the fearful life of shame and giving her that protection which only a mother can give. But Annie had again disappeared. Again no trace was left behind. Another attempt at tracing the girl began. By this time the mother had learned so much that her detective ability had grown abnormal. Two days later she had succeeded in learning that a girl resembling her daughter had been seen in Coeur d'Alene City. Mrs. Willford went to Coeur d'Alene Saturday. Sunday she learned that the young wife had committed suicide in Coeur d'Alene by hanging herself. In some strange manner the belief grew to the mother that she was at last to find her daughter. The suicide's body was already in the grave. But the long pursuit had fortified the mother. She asked that the body be exhumed. When the coffin was drawn from the grave and the covering removed there came a fearful shock. There lay a young woman, still showing evidences of past beauty. But the haggard, worn countenance was purple hued, the cruel stretch of the rope had disfigured the face—and the mother could not recognize her child. Two years of dissipation and shame had fearfully changed her. Sobbing in her awful misery the mother turned from the coffin. Her inability to positively identify the body was the cruellest blow. Kind people of Coeur d'Alene surrounded the stricken woman. They helped her with hands trembling with sympathy and charity. The dead girl had come to the city with Edward Rusk. To the people of Coeur d'Alene they stated they had been married in Wallace, Idaho, and had lived for a short time in Coulee City. In Coeur d'Alene they furnished a cottage handsomely and appeared to be happy. It was when Rusk was away at his work that the young wife hanged herself. Evidently she felt her mother was near and that the end of the long search had come. The authorities had the trunk of the dead girl searched. To the mother there appeared to be articles of toilet which had belonged to her daughter. Yet it was not enough. A letter was found in the trunk signed by a man named H. Rogers and addressed to the girl at Boise, Idaho. In the letter the man demanded that she send him \$25 immediately. The address given was a Spokane address. To fully settle the question of the identity the mother returned to Spokane. Here she called on Chief of

Police Waller and asked him to help her find the man Rogers. To the chief she told the distressing story. Her plaintive tale, her utter unconsciousness of the fact that she had accomplished a marvelous work, stirred the chief. "Be it said in his honor that his tears followed those of the poor, suffering mother. "Help me, chief. Help me to find my daughter or the man who knows her." No man ever faced a more distressing condition. Pale, sick, weakened from the long pursuit, her nerves racked, her heart broken by the terrible agony attendant upon her inability to identify her daughter in a suicide's grave, the mother presented a spectacle that shook strong men. To the chief it was the bitterest moment of his life. He will never lose that memory. But the pleadings of the woman made it impossible to refuse to give her the longed for news—the news that she had crossed the continent to find her daughter dead. Terrible as the information would be, Chief Waller knew that it must come. He told Mrs. Willford that Rogers was a negro. The good God above must have lain a hand upon that poor mother. Yet she did not die. White faced, gasping, choking at the terrible news—trembling as a stricken animal trembles when the bullet of the hunter strikes—as the sinner trembles when he faces the last judgment—Mrs. Willford sank down. Merciful unconsciousness came to relieve the frightful strain. Wandrons as had been her endurance, the mightily strained cords had snapped at last. But it could not last. There was more to add to that terrific load of sorrow. When Mrs. Willford recovered she asked that the negro be brought to her. Chief Waller could not refuse. It was a tragic, never-to-be-forgotten scene. Before the mother stood the vile, filthy negro who had sunk the woman's daughter to the last, lowest depths of shame and degradation. Before her was the negro whose relations with her daughter were such that he could order her to send him money. To that creature every feature or mark of her daughter's person was known. But the mother had gone too far to stop now. To her the one great cry was for the knowledge that the dead girl at Coeur d'Alene was her daughter. The negro told her the truth. He described birthmarks on the girl's person which could not be mistaken.

Easier for him to read was that unweaving of nude lewdness than to read the commitment which sent him to prison. Pretty Annie Willford was identified. The lovable high school girl, the darling of a happy home, was proved to be a consort of negroes, an occupant of a suicide's grave. Her story is told. To the ministers of the Supreme Comforter must that mother go to find the relief which has been denied her in the terrestrial life. Mrs. Willford is being made the object of Chief Waller's solicitude. She will be cared for and everything done to help her bear the awful burden. The fact that she is a reformed, college-bred woman, a consistent church woman and a lady, socially beloved, adds to that burden.

TO MOVE CAPITAL

(Scripps News Association.) OLYMPIA, Feb. 2.—The senate passed the capitol removal bill by a vote of 26 to 12. Ruth of Olympia voted aye in order to move for a reconsideration. He blocked the suspension of rules and immediate transmission to the house by a notice of a motion to reconsider. Bratt and Henry of Spokane voted no on the bill.

DEMOCRATS WANT THEIR WAY

(Scripps News Association.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—In the house today Williams, the democratic floor leader, asked unanimous consent that the democrats be allowed to add their substitute for the Esch-Townsend freight rate bill, the section declaring private freight cars and refrigerator lines common carriers being different. Representative Esch entered an objection.

RUSSIAN MINISTERS NOT TO HAVE SO MUCH POWER

she had not had a fair trial and that the evidence presented against her was false. He said he gave no consideration to the complaints that the laws of Vermont were cruel and barbarous.

BILL TO PROTECT CREDIT HOUSES

(Special to The Press.) OLYMPIA, Feb. 2.—At the request of a number of men engaged in the instalment sale of goods, especially those interested in the implement business, Senator Rasher has introduced into the senate a bill the object of which is to punish persons who sell or dispose of goods which are not wholly paid for. The bill of Senator Rasher has been referred to the judiciary committee and there is little doubt that it will become a law. The bill is as follows: "That any purchaser or lessee of personal property, obtaining the possession of such property under a contract providing that the title thereto shall not vest in the purchaser until the purchase price thereof has been paid in full, who shall intentionally destroy such property or any part thereof, or shall remove such property or any part thereof from the county where it was situated at the date upon which he obtained possession thereof, before the same is fully paid for without the consent in writing of the vendor or owner thereof, or shall sell, mortgage, encumber or dispose of the same or any part thereof or any interest therein, whereby he parts with the possession thereof, without the consent in writing of the vendor or owner thereof, shall be adjudged guilty of larceny and shall be punished in all cases where the value of the property so removed, sold, disposed of, mortgaged, encumbered or destroyed is less than \$30 by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and where the value of the property so removed, sold, disposed of, mortgaged, encumbered or destroyed is more than \$30 by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than six months and not more than 14 years."

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 2.—It is stated on good authority that the report of the committee of ministers appointed to give effect to the emperor's ukase of Dec. 25 urges the enlargement of the powers of the senate over the ministers and favors the establishment of a lower administrative tribunal connected with the senate.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 2.—It is impossible to confirm the report that the czar intends to give the people a constitution. Well informed persons say the report is entirely without foundation. They assert the czar is simply urging haste in drawing up of reforms outlined in the imperial ukase of December 25. It is the general opinion that some reforms will shortly be inaugurated, but that they will take the form of extension in self government and more educational facilities and less rigid press censorship.

WARSAW, Feb. 2.—The strikers are expected to resume work Monday. Funds are being raised to alleviate the sufferings of the strikers' families, to which the employes have largely subscribed through sympathy with the strikers' political demands. The situation in other parts of Poland is more peaceful today.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 2.—Maxim Gorky, the author who was arrested at Riga last week for connection with the revolutionary movement, was released today.

ODESSA, Feb. 2.—M. Galovani, the chief of police, who was shot yesterday by the revolutionists, will recover. The assailant, who refuses to tell anything about himself, declares all the police officials are doomed. The city is quiet today.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 2.—While a battery of artillery was crossing the Egyptian bridge over the Fontanka canal this afternoon the bridge collapsed. Forty soldiers were injured, none fatally.

WARSAW, Feb. 2.—Fifty-two persons, killed in strike rioting, were buried today. Twenty-one bodies are still unidentified. Relatives are permitted to bury the bodies. In a conflict yesterday between the strikers and the criminal element, which is largely responsible for looting, many criminals were killed and 100 wounded. The strikers are enraged because the disreputable element has brought discredit upon the strike movement.

WORKING MEN NINE FULL HOURS A DAY

Rumors have been heard at the city hall for several days that Costello has not been keeping his promises made to the city commissioners to obey the eight-hour law. A man made the statement to Commissioner Omo today that the men on Costello's job were working nine hours per day. "If complaint is made and verified before us that any man claiming he is not paid \$2.25 for a day's work of eight hours we will stop Costello at once," said Commissioner Omo this morning. "But we can not take cognizance of idle rumors. If any man has been compelled to work more hours or for less pay than the law specifies he ought to have the courage to appear and give the facts." The case in the supreme court upon which Costello relies to reverse the law as now interpreted by the courts has just been argued and a decision may not be handed down for several months. Corporation Counsel Dudley intimated today that it was very doubtful whether the decision of the case now before the court at Olympia would change the law as it now stands.

WATER COMMISSION REPORT MAY BE UNANIMOUS

The members of the water commission are still busily engaged at the city hall and stated this morning that their investigations are nearly ended. They expect to have their report ready before Saturday night. City Engineer Scott of Seattle, who is a member of the commission, has fully recovered and with his colleagues is putting in long hours on the work before the three engineers. It was stated this morning that the report of the commission will not be as long as the mass of documents produced would indicate. The harmony which seems to exist in the commission would indicate that the report will have the unanimous endorsement of the three engineers.

JAPANESE DRIVEN BACK

MUKDEN, Feb. 2.—The indications are that the Japanese have abandoned Sandipu. Ten Japanese battalions which attacked the Russian left were repulsed with heavy loss. An artillery duel is proceeding at the center. A strong force of Russians are between Sandipu and Shakepu with a view to checking the Japanese turning movement. Later returns of recent fighting show the Russians lost 13,000 killed and wounded.

ROJESTVENSKY GAVE THE ORDER TO FIRE

PARIS, Feb. 2.—Before the North sea commission today Captain Claudio explained Admiral Rojestvensky's failure to render aid to the fishing vessels after the attack by saying that the admiral did not consider the injuries to the trawlers serious and since the Russian squadron had just escaped an attack from torpedo boats it was desirable to withdraw from the scene as soon as possible. In response to a question, Claudio said it was Rojestvensky himself who gave the order to fire.

POOR PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING IN CHICAGO

(Scripps News Association.) CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—With a temperature of 14 degrees below zero this morning Chicago is suffering hardships keenly felt by the poor. The bodies of five victims of the intense cold were found in the streets this morning. Numerous fires today brought distress to many. The whole northwest is experiencing zero weather, varying from 30 below in the Dakotas to 10 and 15 below far south of the Ohio river. No relief is predicted for 24 hours.

MRS. ROGERS MAY LIVE UNTIL JUNE 2

MONTPELIER, Vt., Feb. 2.—Governor Bell made a statement this morning which foreshadows the fate of Mrs. Mary Rogers, under sentence to die on the gallows at Windsor tomorrow for the murder of her husband. Governor Bell said: "I do not believe the people of Vermont desire Mary Rogers to be granted a reprieve. I am greatly surprised that the sheriff of Windsor came before me with a petition for reprieve." Governor Bell this afternoon announced he would grant a reprieve to Mrs. Rogers until June 2. Governor Bell granted the reprieve on the ground that the woman claims

GROUN'HOG SAW HIS SHADOW



RAILROADS MUST PAY TAXES

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 2.—Governor LaFollette's back tax measure passed the senate today, having already passed the house. It gives the state power to collect taxes from the railroads for the last six years instead of two. The state expects to net \$1,500,000 from the railroads.

DARLING GETS A NEW JOB

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Assistant Secretary of the Navy Charles A. Darling of Vermont has resigned, to take effect next fall. He will be appointed collector of the port of Burlington.

AMBASSADOR TO ROME

(Scripps News Association.) ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 2.—The czar today signed the appointment of M. Murawiewoff, minister of justice, to be ambassador to Rome. M. Murawiewoff, Murawiewoff's assistant, is promoted to be minister of justice.

MINERS KILLED

(Scripps News Association.) BUTTE, Mont., Feb. 2.—The cable in the Rarus mine broke last night and the cage dropped to the bottom, killing William McAndrews and Thomas Greely.