

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1919

HOLD BUTLER IN BOMB PLOT

Former Employee at Wanamaker
Home in New York

CONFESSED, SAY POLICE

Explosive Sent to Merchant's Home
Intended for Maid, According
to His Story—Package Aroused
Mrs. Wanamaker's Suspicion

New York, Oct. 9.—An attempt to injure Mrs. Rodman Wanamaker, wife of a Special Deputy Police Commissioner, by means of a bomb sent through the mail by a discharged butler, Ernest Albert Gustav Kurth, a German subject, the police say, was frustrated by the suspicion and caution exercised by Mrs. Wanamaker in opening the package. Second Deputy Police Commissioner William J. Lahey of the Detective Bureau said Kurth had confessed to mailing the bomb. He had been under arrest as a suspect, but was held on the charge of larceny and had been sent to the medical ward at Bellevue Hospital for observation and treatment.

The bomb was sent from the post office substation at 132 Fourth Avenue, near the Wanamaker store so that suspicion might be directed from himself to some employee of the store. Kurth declared that he had not intended that Mrs. Wanamaker should personally receive or open the package, but had intended the package for Mary O'Brien, a maid, who he believed was responsible for his dismissal from his position as butler in the Wanamaker city home at 37 West Fifty-sixth street.

According to Kurth, the maid had opened all packages sent to the house and he had supposed she would open his bomb package. Mrs. Wanamaker, however, received the package at her country home, Tuxedo Park, N. Y., on Sept. 27. Although she recognized the wrapping paper as similar to that used in the Wanamaker store and noted that her name and address on it were on a printed label kept in the establishment for her



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personal purchases there, and she was suspicious of the box.

Mrs. Wanamaker turned the package bottom upward and pried open a corner

MOTHER!



ANGEVINE & McLAUGHLIN
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St. John and Truro.



of it very carefully. Looking through this tiny opening she saw grains of black powder, a piece of sandpaper with the head of a match resting against it.

Sent Package to Police
Mrs. Wanamaker ceased further investigation and sent the package to Police Headquarters by her husband's valet, George Ellis. There it was found that the bomb, consisting of a piece of blasting, was filled with gunpowder, pieces of brass and glass and packed with cotton, so that when the box was opened from the top the match would be ignited. It was said the bomb would probably not have caused the death of any person opening the box, but would have caused severe injuries to face and hands and perhaps the loss of eyesight.

For several days detectives worked in the store and trailed some of the employees in the search for the sender of the bomb. Then they sought for evidence at the city home of the Wanamakers. Kurth, before he was discharged had a workshop in the basement for making household repairs. The police say they found several matches, whittled like those in the package, which they rescued from rubbish on the workshop floor. They also found a piece of a newspaper, which matched the torn portions packed around the bomb.

Maid in charge of the house told Detectives Cooper and Newman that Kurth had been there several days previously to get mail, and he was expected to call again in a day or two. On Thursday Kurth appeared and was arrested. He said he was living with his wife and child at 249 East Seventieth street. Cooper and Newman asserted they had found some stolen articles from

the Wanamaker home in Kurth's rooms, which included a revolver, several bottles of wine, an electric fixture and linens.

At that time the police did not question Kurth about the bomb, but had him held in \$5,000 bail by Magistrate Dorrans in the Yorkville Court on the charge of grand larceny. After he had been in the Tombs a short time he was sent to Bellevue.

When the police had completed the bomb investigation yesterday and began to question Kurth, he sent for Lahey. It was said, and made a confession. Kurth said, according to Lahey, that he sent the bomb to "revenge himself on the maid, but he was silent when he was asked why he had not addressed the package to Miss O'Brien.

Kurth is 33 years old. He is a native of Germany and has been here thirty years. He has been a butler for the Wanamakers for two years. He said he had since obtained employment as superintendent of the apartment house at

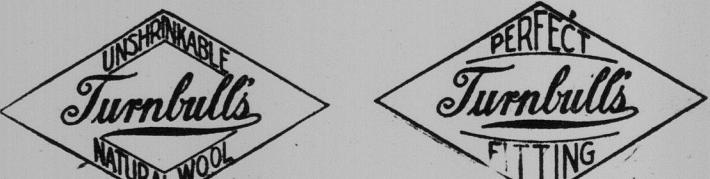


2 West Fifty-eighth street. The charges against him will be presented to the Grand Jury today, and Mrs. Wanamaker and her maid were requested to appear and testify.

District Attorney Swann said he would make an investigation of the antecedence of Kurth. Judge Swann said the prisoner, who would be arraigned and held without bail today, resembled a man who had been charged with a crime some time ago and had been sent to an insane asylum.

Comfortably Fixed.
The tramp was sitting on a seat in the park trying to go to sleep. The closing time bell had been rung, however, at the gate-keeper, noticing that the tramp was not leaving, went up to him and exclaimed: "Hurry up, there! I'm going to close the gate!" "Right-o, old sport!" came the calm rejoinder. "Don't slam it!"—Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph.

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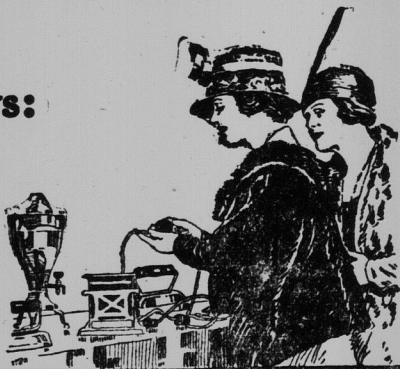
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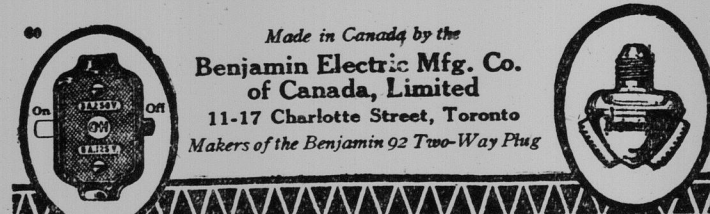


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