

ROBBERS RAID N.P. MAIL CAR

Two Masked Men Board North Coast Limited At Seattle And Ransack Mail Before Reaching Kent

MAIL CLERK WOUNDED BY PISTOL BULLET

Registered Letters Taken, But Amount Of Booty Not Yet Known—Bandits Lock Two Clerks In Closet

SEATTLE, Jan. 4.—The mail car of the Northern Pacific station, North coast limited was held up by two masked men soon after the train left Seattle tonight. Mail Clerk Harry O. Clark of Spokane was shot and the registered mail was rifled. Clark was brought to Seattle for treatment.

When Clark arrived here he was unable to talk, but he refused to go to the hospital until he had written a report of the robbery. With blood dripping from his mouth, he sat at a desk in the railway station, prepared a complete description of the robbers and furnished the police with the details of the hold-up.

The two robbers are believed to have boarded the train as it was pulling out of the King street station. They entered the car until the train was near Argo, a suburban station. Clark had stepped to the front of the car to get some registry slips when the doors were thrown open and the two masked men entered, each holding a revolver in his hands. The men ordered Clark to hold up his hands, but before he could do so one of them shot the bullet entering Clark's cheek near the mouth and lodging in the neck. The other clerk, Charles E. Reid, the other clerk, was marched into the closet. Clark was picked up and thrust in with Reid and the door was locked.

The two bandits then went through all the registered mail and first class pouches, stole Clark's valise containing valuable registered matter and dropped off the train as it passed through Kent at reduced speed.

The amount of booty taken cannot be determined until the registry records are checked over. Postal officials say that the mail on the train tonight was not unusually heavy, although there were many valuable registered packages.

Another Report. TACOMA, Jan. 4.—A special to the Ledger from Auburn says: "Two masked men entered the mail car on the North Coast Limited train No. 2 this evening just as the train was leaving the King street depot. Seattle, at 7 p.m. As soon as the first robber got in the door he leveled his gun at Mail Clerk Harry O. Clark and ordered him to throw up his hands and then fired before Clark could obey the command. The bullet struck Clark in the mouth, ripping out the teeth on one side of his mouth. As soon as Clark fell the two robbers turned their attention to the other clerk, C. E. Reid and covered him. Both Clark and Reid were then locked in the closet and the door was closed. The robbers were not discovered until the train reached Auburn.

A large consignment of Tacoma and south mail is transferred to this car at Auburn, where the mail pouches were opened to make the transfer. The mail clerks could not be found, but the blood-stains on the floor led to the closet where the door was broken open and the men found. Doctors Hoye and Brandt were called and the wounded men attended to and sent back to Seattle.

"Train No. 2 does not stop between Seattle and Auburn but the robbers got off at Kent where the train slows up for the city limits.

"According to Reid, the two robbers wore masks over the lower part of their faces, were both smooth-shaven, about five feet, ten inches in height and weighed about 150 pounds. The mail pouches and registered mail were scattered in the car, but it could not be learned what had been taken."

Commits Suicide. NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Alfred M. Judson, a director of the Wood Wright hospital, committed suicide tonight by shooting. Mr. Judson was a member of the brokerage firm of Judson and Judson, which failed about two weeks ago. He was 62 years old.

Farmers Bank Failure. TORONTO, Jan. 4.—G. T. Clarkson, curator of the wrecked Farmers Bank stated today that there would be sufficient assets to redeem the note without drawing upon the bank note guarantee fund deposited with the government. W. A. Tress, vice-president and general manager of the bank, was released from jail tonight upon furnishing an additional \$20,000 bail, making \$40,000 in

all. Following the failure of the bank, Mr. Travers was arrested on a charge of making false returns to the minister of finance. He was re-arrested late last Saturday on a charge of stealing \$40,000 from the bank.

Snow in Italy. ROME, Jan. 4.—A very heavy snow-fall has interrupted railway communication with the north.

RECIPROCITY TALK

Ministers Fielding And Peterson To Negotiate Directly With Secretary Knox And President

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—When Ministers Fielding and Peterson resume at Washington on Saturday the reciprocity negotiations carried on here last November they will deal directly with Mr. Knox, American Secretary of State, and when necessary with President Taft. In the last conference the United States was represented by the late Henry M. Hoyt, counselor of the State Department, and Charles M. Pepper, trade adviser. While eminent authorities, these gentlemen were junior in rank to the Canadian cabinet ministers to whom the Dominion case was entrusted. The Dominion government did not feel that this indicated any lack of appreciation by the American government of the importance of the negotiations, but was rather the result of the Canadian system of negotiating, in which cabinet ministers charged with parliamentary responsibility for negotiations prefer by the personal conduct of exchanges to familiarize themselves with all details.

The American system, on the other hand, is for the secretary of state to handle all foreign negotiations and personally to negotiate only when the occasion is in Washington. Canadian ministers going to Washington will be practical in the position of special department and as such will have the right to direct negotiations with the president. Chandler Anderson, who has succeeded Mr. Hoyt, and Mr. Pepper, will also participate.

SECURING GOLD FOR ROYAL MINT

Dr. Haanel's Report On Conditions At Vancouver Assay Office—Charges For Assaying May Be Abolished

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—Dr. Haanel has returned from an inspection of the new Vancouver assay office, and reports most favorably on it. Asked whether the refining adjunct to the mint at Ottawa would not deprive the Vancouver establishment of most of the assay work, Dr. Haanel replied that such was not his expectation. He explained that the charges for assaying and melting gold from the mine is one-eighth of one per cent. When gold is sent direct to the mint, this charge is avoided, as the mint assays all gold in the regular process of conversion into coin. But by having the gold assayed in Vancouver the mine would have its currency equivalent in pocket about fourteen days sooner than by awaiting return from Ottawa. Indeed, it is probable that the government may forego the Vancouver assay charge altogether, and thus give additional incentive to miners to dispose of their gold to the Canadian mint.

A small difference in charges cuts little figures in determining the destination of valuable products," he said. "This is especially true of the gold output of the Yukon of today. Now that the individual miner has given place to the hydraulic mining company, with a large investment of capital, even the method of transporting gold has changed. Instead of being shipped out by express, as formerly, it is carried by the less expensive medium of the registered mail."

BELLEVUE INQUEST

Doctors Ascribe Deaths To Poisoning By Monoxide Gas—Matches Found On Bodies

BELLEVUE, Alta., Jan. 4.—The developments of today's proceedings before Coroner Pinkney were not many, but important. Dr. Malcolmson repeated his testimony as to the cause of death, adhering to his opinion that the men died of monoxide gas poison. Doctors Ross and Mackay corroborated Malcolmson.

Also, joint watchman at the mines, had helped to wash the three men who had been brought out of the mine on Saturday night and had found matches, tobacco and a pipe on one and matches upon the body of another. These men had been buried upon the face and hands and the skin roughened up over their injuries when washed. He would not state positively that these injuries had been caused by burns.

Robert Livest, a miner who had worked in the mine had been in the party which found the bodies brought out Saturday night. One of the bodies had a bruise upon the forehead and face, another had an injury upon the back of the hand, which he took to be a burn. Secretary Burke of the local union reported his evidence regarding the search

ing of the telegram on the second of December asking Inspector Striding to have the mine inspected in pursuance of instructions of the local passed on the first of the month.

When Burke was dismissed the coroner adjourned the sitting to 9.30 in the morning.

Quebec Legislature

QUEBEC, Jan. 4.—There was an important meeting of the provincial cabinet today when preparations were made for the opening of the legislature, which opens on the 10th inst. It is said that Antoine Gauthier, member for Bellechasse, will propose the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, which Mr. Hays of Arsenault will be the speaker.

BANKER ROBIN

Lodged in Tombs On Indictment Charging Him With Stealing \$80,000 From Bank

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Joe G. Robin, banker, was lodged in the Tombs today on an indictment charging him with stealing \$80,000 from the Washington Savings Bank, of which he was president. On his plea of not guilty, bail was fixed at \$40,000, which was not furnished. Robin's counsel, former District Attorney Jerome, told the court that his client was without a dollar in the world.

Mr. Jerome made no effort to delay arraignment, but strenuously resisted the raising of bail from \$25,000. He said Robin had attempted suicide without knowing what the indictment against him charged.

Hearing on the petition of Robin's sister, Dr. Louise Robinovitch, to have him adjudged insane is set for tomorrow. Friends of Robin, after his commitment, offered bonds for his release, but the district attorney announced that he would take the full forty-eight hours allowed by law to examine the security offered.

FIGHT WHITE PLAGUE

Belgians Show Practical Appreciation Of Recovery Of Queen Elizabeth

BRUSSELS, Jan. 4.—There is great rejoicing throughout Belgium over the recovery of Queen Elizabeth from a severe attack of typhoid fever. As it is known that the young Queen was herself trained as a nurse and had special interest in the victims of typhoid, special postage stamps, known as charity stamps, have been issued for international sale to double the ordinary price, the surplus money to be paid to the National League for the aid of consumptives. Thousands of these stamps are being purchased and used as to produce, for the benefit of the sick, a large sum, which will at once constitute a national expression of gratitude to the Queen's memory and a delicate recognition of the kindness which prompts Her Majesty to take greater pleasure in the relief of human sufferings than in any other form of personal popularity.

FROST IN FLORIDA

Cold Wave Reaches Far South—Low Temperatures And Snow Storms In Northern States

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Florida is in the grip of frost weather and by tonight the cold wave will have swept as far south as Miami. Today the mercury stood at the freezing point in Jacksonville, while in the northwestern portion of the state great damage to the orange crop is believed to have occurred. CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Snow brought on a west wind that reached a velocity of 42 miles an hour and a temperature of 7 degrees above zero caused much suffering here tonight. Today was the coldest of the winter, and tonight the promise is for even colder tomorrow. The thermometer, which stood at 3 degrees above in the morning, rose to 17 degrees at 5 o'clock and then began dropping steadily.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 4.—Lower Michigan is tonight in the grip of the coldest weather of the winter. A heavy snowfall accompanied by high winds is reported throughout this section, and the trains are reported seriously delayed.

Fire in Virden

VirDen, Man., Jan. 4.—During a blinding snowstorm shortly after midnight, the Walwright building, valued at \$10,000, was completely destroyed by fire. The block was occupied by the branch of the Bank of Ottawa, J. P. Hood, jeweller; Coulter & Singer, barbers; and Bank Manager Dunnett and J. Hood occupied suites. Partly insured. Hoods' loss of the law firm's losses are estimated at between three and four thousand dollars each. The bank was fully insured.

Eastern Orchardists Alarmed

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Jan. 4.—How to meet the threats of western apples in markets until now held by eastern orchardists is the main concern of the New York State Fruit Growers' Association, which is holding its tenth annual meeting here and a conference is to be held tomorrow on the subject. The remedy proposed is two-fold in nature; educational in teaching eastern fruit growers how to produce apples that will compare with the western fruit in appearance as well as in quality; and legislative in obtaining laws to regulate standard uniform packing and to prevent fraud in packing.

MANY VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE

Southwestern Provinces of Siberia Suffer Severely From Shocks—Dead And Wounded Counted By Hundreds

TASHKENT, Asiatic Russia, Jan. 4.—An earthquake of extreme violence shook this region early today, killing many of the inhabitants and destroying millions of dollars' worth of property. Turkistan province was the most severely shaken, but the shocks were felt in districts north and south.

THOUSANDS LEFT WITHOUT SHELTER

Much Distress Among Refugees Caused By Intense Cold—Tremors Begin In Morning And Continue Afternoon

Another matter of very special importance in its relation to the development of the destinies of Vancouver city was incidental to the application of Mr. A. E. H. Macfarlane for a deed from the Province of certain foreshore lands at what is known as Spanish Bank, immediately contiguous to Vancouver city, where it is proposed, by the enlistment of large capital, to erect extensive ocean docks, to be connected, as a terminal point, with all the railway systems now or in future radiating from Greater Vancouver. A similar project it will be remembered took form a year or two ago when a company was incorporated with which Mr. Alvin von Arnim was prominently identified, whose programme was to a large extent identical.

Mr. Macfarlane was heard at length in the Executive yesterday as to the details of his proposition and the apparent guarantee of success. The present phase of the matter ends with the promise of the new promoter of this large undertaking to transmit to the Government complete details, which upon receipt will be given further consideration.

EXECUTIVE HOLDS LENGTHY SESSION

North Vancouver Park Controversy Continued—Spanish Bank Foreshore Plans—Timber Exportation

A prolonged sitting of the Executive Council held yesterday engaged the attention of the Premier and his cabinet members. The matter of consideration was of government work for the approaching session consumed considerable time, and in addition there were a number of minor civil service appointments to be made and several important deputations to be heard and their petitions given most careful consideration.

ALLEGES FORGERY

Yip On, Suspended Interpreter, Repudiates Cablegrams Sent To China In His Name

VANCOUVER, Jan. 4.—The defence of Yip On, the suspended interpreter for the customs department, who is giving evidence today before the royal commission on Chinese immigration, will be that there was a deep-laid plot to discredit him with the department and oust him from office. This was hinted at this morning by S. S. Taylor, counsel for Yip On.

Certain mysterious cablegrams sent to the firm of Yung Gam Shing, Hongkong, and signed with the name of Hing Sam, which is one of Yip On's titles, were produced by Mr. McCrossan, counsel for the Dominion government. They were in the code of the Wing Hung On, Yip On's company here, and were translated word by word by Yip On from the on's book.

MCFARLAND-WELSH MATCH NOT SURE

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 4.—Packer McFarland, who is here training for his fight with Johnny McCarthy, of San Francisco, January 9, said tonight arrangements for his proposed battle with Welsh had not been completed. McFarland said he had informed the promoters of the match that he would not fight unless Eugene Corrie referred. The Chicago fighter also wants the date for the battle advanced about two weeks, making it take place during the week beginning February 19.

SHANGHAI'S POPULATION

SHANGHAI, Jan. 4.—The census of the foreign settlement at Shanghai, exclusive of the French, shows that there are 438,005 natives, as against 462,718 in 1905, and 15,538 foreigners, as against 11,487. The British number 44,465, as compared with 13,713 five years ago; the British Indians, 804, as against 598; the Japanese, 3,861, as compared with 2,157; the Portuguese 1,495, as against 1,331, and the American 946, as compared with 981, while the total of the German population, which was 568 in 1905, has increased to 831.

Supernatural Shot

CORNING, N.Y., Jan. 4.—Superintendent Dan W. Dignan of the Pennsylvania division of the New York Central Railroad, was shot in the throat and the shoulder this evening by a telegraph operator named Nicholas H. Hennes, who then shot himself in the back of the head and died in a few minutes. Hennes, who was

about 60 years old, was a former Erie and New York Central operator. This afternoon he insisted that Dignan should re-employ him, but the latter refused and the shooting followed.

Boosting for Canada

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Sir F. Young, the veteran advocate of imperial unity, tells the Morning Post that some people believe that Canada will soon develop so as to eventually become the centre of the Empire. If that belief is realized he sees no objection to the removal of the controlling government to the Dominion, and he would be as content under Sir Wilfrid Laurier as under Mr. Asquith or Mr. Balfour.

LIVES ENDANGERED

Explosion And Fire In Building Used By Inland Revenue Department—Narrow Escapes

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—Sixteen employees of the analysis and machinery departments of the department of inland revenue including two women, made wild dashes for safety about noon today, when a barrel out of which was being pumped wood alcohol exploded with a terrific noise. The impact overturned an electric motor, causing a dangerous fire to break out in the building used by these two government departments on Queen street. The building was practically destroyed with heavy loss.

James Hagan, warehouseman in charge of the pumping operations, was hurled across the room in which he was working, but was not seriously injured. All other employees made a safe escape, although some of them got out minus their overcoats and hats.

The flames jumped to the ceiling, and soon burst through to the floor above, where the office of the Dominion analyst, Mr. McGill, was located. Here much valuable testing machinery, tubes and acids were located, and these were totally destroyed. The loss on the building is estimated at ten thousand dollars and on apparatus in the two government offices at over thirty thousand dollars.

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No statement has yet been made as to the possibility for local traffic from Port Mann eastward on the new line, but the general expectation is that by the end of the year trains other than the Democratic legislative caucus tonight. The nomination was made at the first ballot, which resulted: C. F. Johnson, 53; Obadiah Gardner, 21; William M. Fennell, 17.

MAINE SENATORSHIP

AUGUSTA, Maine, Jan. 4.—Charles F. Johnson, of Waterville, was nominated for the United States Senate to succeed Senator Eugene Hale, at the Democratic legislative caucus tonight. The nomination was made at the first ballot, which resulted: C. F. Johnson, 53; Obadiah Gardner, 21; William M. Fennell, 17.

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ACTION AGAINST STEAMER LINES

Washington Government Bring Suit Under Sherman Law To Enjoin Members Of Alleged Transatlantic Combine

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The federal government brought suit today in the United States circuit court under the Sherman anti-trust law against thirteen of the principal trans-Atlantic carriers, which are estimated to control ninety per cent of the steerage traffic north to them \$50,000,000 a year.

WOULD EXCLUDE FROM U. S. COMMERCE

Practically All Companies Engaged In Atlantic Traffic Involved—Are Accused Of Unlawful Combination

Twelve officers of the defendant companies, all residents in America, are named as co-defendants. These companies, the government charges, entered into an illegal contract February 5, 1903, at London, England, by which they constituted themselves, the Atlantic conference, with power to apportion all traffic pro rata, impose heavy fines on members of the conference for violation of any article of agreement and wage competition against all lines outside the conference. As a result, it is alleged, the Russian volunteer fleet, plying between New York and Lihau, was driven out of business and the Russian-American line was formed to make terms with the conference and enter its membership.

Suit was brought by Henry A. Wise, United States district attorney, acting under instructions from Attorney General Wickersham. In its petition the government prays the court to "enjoin the defendants from further agreeing, combining and conspiring to injure or destroy the business of any person or corporation engaged in the business of carrying steerage passengers between points in the United States and Europe."

"Further, that each, every and all of the defendant steamship lines be forbidden to clear any of their vessels from or at the port of New York or any other port of entry in the United States or any of its possessions, so long as they shall continue to operate under the aforesaid alleged unlawful combination or conspiracy."

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