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ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1909.

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## DETECTIVE'S AT LAST A VICTIM OF THE BLACKHAND

New York Officer, Who for Years Has Fought Italian Criminals, Murdered During a Visit to Italy in the Interests of His Country

NEW YORK, March 12.—Lt. Joseph Petrosino, head of the Italian Bureau of the New York Police Department, was assassinated yesterday in Palermo, Sicily, according to a special cable despatch to the Herald today.

The assassin, the despatch says, are unknown. Lieutenant Petrosino went to Italy on a special mission to investigate the so-called Blackhand with a view to bringing about better protection for police-sending Italians in this country.

Petrosino was a Blackhand expert of the New York Police Department, and a terror to Italian criminals. He is said to have had more convictions for murder than any five policemen connected with the detective bureau. In his work it is only natural that he incurred the enmity of all Italian criminals, and the report of his death in Italy leads to the belief that at last he fell a victim to those whom he had so relentlessly prosecuted.

He went to Italy more than a year ago to work on a plan suggested by Police Commissioner Bingham. The object of which was to be the adoption of means to check the tide of undesirable Italians and Sicilians to this country, and particularly to New York City. A native of Italy and a man of great experience on the local police force, Petrosino was the best all-around man to accomplish the mission. A private subscription was started and \$50,000 was raised. With this he defrayed the expenses of the undertaking. Petrosino left for his native land to establish bureaus through which it was hoped to keep such complete records that the news of the departure from Italy or Sicily of any criminals could be flashed to the country immediately so that the authorities here could be on the alert and prevent their landing or place them under arrest. Petrosino was so accustomed to receiving threatening communications and of hearing threats against his life that he paid little attention to them. It is said that he had been warned against going to Palermo, where he is said to have been assassinated, but he ignored them and scoffed at the idea of being killed. Prominent Italians in the city are of the opinion that the Blackhand's direct result of his untiring efforts to suppress the crime against these criminals which will bring out even a more drastic crusade against them than has hitherto been conducted. Petrosino's young wife was seen at her home, No. 233 Lafayette street, but she said that she had heard nothing from her husband since he received a letter on Thursday last. There was a shade of anxiety in her voice as she stood in the doorway holding her little daughter in her arms.

"But," said she, "I am sure he is all right or I should know."  
ROME, March 12.—A despatch has been received from the American Consul in Palermo, Sicily, confirming the report that Lt. Joseph Petrosino, head of the New York police department, had been assassinated in that city. His Blackhand, fired four shots from a revolver. Petrosino arrived in Sicily only a short time ago and he was engaged in conducting an investigation regarding Italian criminals.

## JUDGE McLEOD, ATTY.-GEN. AND MR. PRICE FURNISHED INTEREST IN TODAY'S HEARING

Frequent Exchanges of Compliments Between the Counsel—Downie's Alleged Confession, Made to Chief Clark in the Cell, Admitted as Evidence—Little Now.

The Downie case was resumed this morning. The proceedings, at times, were interesting, especially when the attorney general and Mr. Price, one of the counsel for the accused, exchanged greetings. It was during Mr. Price's cross-examination of Chief Clark that the interest was at its highest. Mr. Price was not very well pleased with Chief Clark's answers and, jumping back, he grew intensely dramatic when demanding, "Now, sir, on your oath answer me."

Attorney General Hazen here requested Mr. Price to use a more moderate tone. Mr. Price answered that he would have no interjections even from the attorney general. His Honor then interfered and restored quietness. However, there were frequent interruptions from both counsel during the proceedings.

It was brought out in this morning's proceedings that the Simms people were reluctant to press the charge and were practically forced to by the police department. Walter C. Peters was the first witness called this morning and his evidence was practically a reiteration of his testimony at the preliminary examination.

Lewis W. Simms, President of T. S. Simms Co., was the next witness and the only new element of his evidence was, when cross-examined, that the Simms Company was unwilling to lay the charge against Downie and was forced to sign the charge by the police department. Also that witnesses Al Downie were friendly and were adherent of the same church, and had gone snowshoeing together. The question relating to the charge was objected to by the attorney general, but his objection was over-ruled.

Chief Clark was the next witness and his testimony was the same as given in the police. During the examination in chief, Mr. Price informed the attorney general that his method of examination was poor. Mr. Hazen remarked that he did not propose to bow to the superiority of Mr. Price and would conduct the examination as he saw fit. Again, while the attorney general was examining the witness Mr. Price attempted to discredit some of the chief's statements. Mr. Hazen replied rather forcibly that Mr. Price, "had not better try to discredit the witness until the cross-examination."

## SENSATIONAL SUICIDE OF A YOUNG PARISIAN GAMBLER

Twenty Years Old, After Going the Pace, He Was Tired of Life and Shot Himself as a Practical Joke

PARIS, March 12.—Ferdinand Ravenez, a wealthy young Parisian, committed suicide at Monte Carlo last night under remarkable and sensational circumstances.

The young man gave a supper to a number of friends at which the pleasure was fast and furious. Several times during the evening Ravenez cried: "This is nothing; a big surprise is waiting you at the end." At dawn, when the party was separating, Ravenez shouted: "Now for the great surprise!"

At the same time he arose abruptly and walked toward the Gypsy orchestra which was playing a Hungarian rhapsody. His friends, expecting a practical joke, watched him expecting. They were stupified to see him suddenly point a pistol at his temple and fire. He fell dead. The only reason for this act is described as "sheer boredom." Ravenez was only 20 years old, and he had been a familiar figure in Paris Boulevards where his liking for vivid clothing attracted attention.

Three years ago the young man figured in a sensational duel. He challenged a professional swordsman as a swordsman refused to fight on the ground that Ravenez had not yet reached his majority. Undaunted Ravenez issued a challenge dated the date he was 18 years old, and he devoted the intervening time to rigorous training. When he finally did meet his adversary on the field the contest was of the fiercest character, and it ended by Ravenez plunging his sword eight inches into his opponent's body.

One of the most sensational bits of evidence last night was Florence's statement that she uttered a piercing yell while the man was in the house. A minute before the Crown had asked Mrs. William Acres, who lives next door this question: "Would you have heard anyone if they called for help?"

## SEARCHING OUT WEAKNESS IN FLORENCE KINRADE'S STORY

Police Claim They Can Secure Evidence That She Practised With a Revolver—Her Piercing Scream Not Heard by Others.

HAMILTON, Ont., March 12.—The adjournment of the Kinrade murder case for one week will give the provincial officers a chance to investigate immediately some of the things mentioned in the family history told in evidence, particularly Florence's trip around the country, and no time will be lost doing it.

## LAKE LUMBER CARRIERS TO FORM A BIG COMBINE

Fifty of the Largest Vessels Will be Sold to a Company Now Being Formed by the Present Owners—Will Mean Lower Expenses.

DETROIT, Mich., Mar. 12.—The Free Press today says that the owners and managers of fifty of the largest lumber carrying vessels on the Great Lakes have agreed to sell their boats to a corporation now in process of formation which will own and operate fifty to sixty per cent. of the lumber carriers of the lakes.

Many prominent members of the Lumber Carriers' Association have been in Detroit for two weeks and preliminary arrangements for the organization of the corporation were completed at a two days' conference which ended here yesterday. The value of the fifty vessels to be purchased at once has been mutually agreed upon as approximately \$350,000. The new corporation will probably be capitalized at \$1,000,000, but the name of the new concern, its capitalization and the selection of directors will be matters to be brought up at a meeting to be held next week probably in Detroit.

It is said that the Hines and Bloodgett fleets, which figure prominently in the project move 200,000,000 feet of timber in an average season. The consolidation of interests is expected to effect a considerable saving in insurance charges and expenses of management.

The Free Press quotes one of the leaders of the movement as saying: "This is not a pool or a gentlemen's agreement. The shipowners participating will sell their boats to the corporation and receive in return corporation stock according to the value of his vessel."

## WOMEN, WEARING HATS, NOT ALLOWED IN CHURCH

Too Much Attention to Headgear and Not Enough to Religion Provokes New Rule

NEW YORK, March 12.—A Boston despatch to the Times says: The First Baptist church of Somerville has officially barred from public worship all women who refuse to remove their hats before entering the church auditorium. The church is one of the important ones of New England.

## DISPELLING THE FOG BY ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES

French Engineer Meets Success in His Experiments in the English Channel.

PARIS, Mar. 12.—M. Dibot, a French engineer, is at present conducting a series of experiments on the English Channel, which have given rise to the hope that New York harbor may ultimately be kept free from fog. Attracted by the English experiments for dispelling fog by means of electrical discharges, M. Dibot conceived the idea of a combination of hertzian waves. Beneath a powerful Hertzian plant which emits waves of 40,000 volts he has placed four huge blowpipes directed to the four points of the compass. Simultaneously with the discharge of the Hertzian waves the blowpipes, each giving a temperature of 2,000 degrees centigrade, were lighted. In from 24 to 30 minutes a thick fog was dispersed over a zone of 30 yards. Encouraged by this success the experiments will be continued.

## MOROCCO THE SCENE OF ANOTHER INSURRECTION

Rebels Advancing on Fez—Sultan's Troops are in Bad Shape

FEZ, Morocco, March 12.—The forces of Roghi, the Sultan's formidable rebel subject, are close to Fez and advancing on that city. The tribesmen are in good condition, while the opposing government column is in a pitiable state, due to exposure to the cold and the frequent rainfalls. The surrounding tribes are maintaining a neutral attitude, awaiting the success of Roghi's venture before they openly join him.

## ARRANGING CONVENTION TO DISCUSS AGREEMENT

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 12.—Full membership of the executive boards of the three anthracite districts of the United Mine Workers of America, went into session today to receive and act about the report of the sub-committee which had been in conference with the operators for two days, trying to arrange a working agreement to go into effect on April 1.

These boards will fix a time and place for a convention of miners to take up any matters that National President Lewis of the United Mine Workers might propose. The proposition of the operators to continue the existing wage agreement will be laid before that convention, the delegates to which will be elected by the local unions next week.

Despite the "stand pat" attitude of both sides there is still a feeling that there will be no serious interruption in the mining of anthracite coal.

## GEORGE COCHRANE TO BE COLLECTOR AT MONGTON

MONGTON, Mar. 12.—George Cochrane of this city has been officially notified of his appointment to the position of collector of customs and L. V. Binney who has held the position for several years past has also been notified of his superannuation which will go into effect April 1st.

The Maritime Express is four hours late today, the delay being due to derailment of a baggage car four miles above Campbellton.

Russian troops at Baku, which would be the natural base of departure for an expedition into Persia.

## PERSIA AGAIN UPSET; RUSSIA SENDS TROOPS

ST. PETERSBURG, March 12.—The situation in Persia again is attracting attention in St. Petersburg. The Government is sending a division of Cossacks to Teheran and it has ordered the consuls at Resht and Astrabad to summon Caspian warships in the event of outbreaks threatening the interests of Russia. The Novoye Yermya today publishes a Teheran despatch saying the situation is still, that an insurrection is imminent, and that only a strong military detachment can prevent the sacking of Teheran.

It is significant that the Viceroy of the Caucasus has just reviewed the

## START ANOTHER ACTION AGAINST LABOR LEADERS

NEW YORK, March 12.—Papers in an injunction suit brought by the Samuel Mumford Co., were served upon John A. Moffitt, President of the United Hatters of North America, at Orange, N. J., today. Moffitt and sixty other officers of the United Hatters are ordered to show cause on March 23 at Trenton why they should not be restrained from filing and intimidating union members who, it is alleged, desire to return to work at plants where a strike is now in effect.

TOKIO, Mar. 12.—The budget for 1909 was passed today by the House of Peers in the form in which it came from the House of Representatives, in accordance with the policy of retrenchment in all departments of government initiated by Premier Katsura the budget effects a saving of about 115,700,000 in the empire's expenditures by postponing for 11 years work previously undertaken.