

STARLING RUMORS MURDER CASE

Strange Man Said to Have Bought Horse in Neighborhood for Seven \$20 Gold Pieces On the Night of the Tragedy.

Official probing of the Hay murder case has gone on without cessation to-day, and many rumors have been traced to their origin without throwing further light on the deplorable affair. The report this afternoon came to the "News" in an unusually positive manner and may mean much or little as developments progress. It was stated on authority which on its face bears evidence of reliability, but which may prove on complete investigation to be as groundless as a number of others that have been run down and exploded during the effort to clear up the mystery.

The "News" is disinclined to publish mere rumors in an affair of such gravity, but as the report in this instance comes from a very conservative and reliable citizen, and as there is not sufficient time to verify it before going to press, the story is given for what it is worth and in the hope that it may afford a clue to the officers in the work of unraveling the tangled threads of the mystery.

The claim is that a young woman who resides with her parents in Farmers ward has confided to a friend the statement that a stranger appeared at her father's home on Monday night at 10:30 o'clock and asked if he had a horse that he would sell. The stranger received a satisfactory reply and soon a bargain was under way. The owner was asked what he would take for the animal and responded in a tone indicating that the sum would have to be in excess of \$100, whereupon the would-be purchaser offered him \$140. It is said the offer was accepted and that the amount was paid in seven \$20 gold pieces and that the stranger mounted the animal and rode away.

As stated above, this report lacks verification, but, as also stated, it is asserted with unusual positiveness and in the interest of justice demands a thorough and speedy investigation which the "News" will immediately institute. Should it prove to be true, it will be a strong factor in favor of Mortensen, as the coincidence of an unknown man coming into the neighborhood, buying a horse, and paying for it in \$20 gold pieces and riding off at the identical time that the perpetrator of the deed would have been making his escape, is sure to appeal with extraordinary force to the minds of all those who have followed the case through the windings and turns that it has taken thus far.

DID NOT HAVE THE MONEY.

Mortensen's Accounts Show He Has Been Running Behind.

Peter Mortensen declared the other day that he had three books containing his accounts, and that he could get possession of them if he could get the money he claims to have paid Hay on Monday night last.

Detective Sheets secured the books and there were four of them. They were turned over to Assistant County Attorney Leobourne, and Saturday and yesterday that official has been going over those accounts, comparing them with Mortensen's bank book. The latter is from the Utah National bank. Instead of revealing what Mortensen says and has claimed all along—that he has been accumulating and saving money, they reveal exactly the contrary.

It has been clearly established by the examination that, instead of making money, the man has been running behind, and that he has made many statements in relation to his accounts which are obviously untrue.

This discovery is regarded as important because it adds to the weight of that already in possession of the county attorney, that Mortensen never had the \$200 and therefore he could not have paid it to Hay.

Every effort has been made that could be made by the authorities, to prove that Mortensen had the money for the proof is forthcoming. In fact, it is all to the contrary, and bears out the theory of Mortensen's most intimate friends, who, although they profess to believe in his innocence, say they are satisfied beyond all questions that he never had the money.

If it can be proved that his statements are false, it will greatly strengthen the net of circumstantial evidence which is being slowly drawn around the man.

"If he did not have the money it is certain that he had the receipt and the note for \$250 which was in Hay's possession," said an officer this morning. "It was necessary for him to secure both the receipt and note to save himself the obligation which was staring him in the face. He got possession of both by murdering Hay, and when his accounts are thoroughly examined, the fact will very likely crop out that Mortensen had more at stake than \$250."

MORTENSEN WEEPS.

Accused Man Breaks Down and Expresses Sorrow for Victim's Family.

For the first time since his incarceration, Mortensen broke down and gave vent to some of the worry and grief that has been gnawing at his heart. He wept but tears trickled through his fingers and he sat for some time with bowed head and with his hands over his face. The cause of his grief is known only to himself. It was the cause of considerable surprise and satisfaction on the part of the officers because heretofore Mortensen has tried to maintain an indifferent air. Several times he has started to weep but he checked himself.

Yesterday morning James Sharp confronted the accused man. As is customary with Mortensen when anyone enters the room, he arose quickly, looked Mr. Sharp in the eye and extended his hand. But the proffered hand was not accepted.

"No," said Mr. Sharp, "I cannot take your hand. When last seen alive, your son was in your company. I cannot touch your hand until this mystery is cleared up. I think you can see that I have been weeping? Do you know what for?"

"I suppose it is about Jimmy and his family," replied the prisoner.

"Yes," replied Mr. Sharp, "and I have been weeping about another little woman—your wife and her children."

Mortensen made no answer but sat with bowed head while tears fell silently. The officers tried to induce Mr. Sharp to try to get a confession from the man but he would not say a word and did not want Mortensen to confess to him.

DESERTED BY WIFE.

Police Attach Importance to Fact Mrs. Mortensen Keeps Away.

The police attach some importance to the fact that Mrs. Mortensen and two of her children left for Provo while the other two children went to Ogden and none of them went to see the man who paces his prison chamber struggling silently against the strain that is slowly breaking down his nerve of iron. Detective Sheets says that Mrs. Mortensen's contradictory statements regarding the time her husband was away from home on Monday night, and in reference to the money coupled with the fact that when she first saw her husband after he was arrested by the police, she stared at him for a full minute with a look of terror on her face and would not touch him, indicate she is cognizant of something which they would give much to know.

Although she would not go near him, he walked over to her, placed his arm around her neck and said something to her in a low tone which the officers were unable to hear. Does Mrs. Mortensen believe her husband guilty of the most atrocious crime in the annals of the Salt Lake police? It has been reported to the officers that a young woman said Mrs. Mortensen told her she believed "Pete killed young Mr. Hay."

Whether it is true or not, the officers have not been able to determine yet and they are looking for the young woman who she credited with making the statement.

SHERIFF AT PROVO.

Sheriff Naylor went down to Provo this morning to see Mrs. Mortensen in relation to certain matters connected with the case. He will return this evening and may have a story of interest to tell when he gets back.

SEARCH FOR GUN.

Father-in-Law's Indefatigable Efforts to Find Weapon.

Overtaxed almost to the snapping point James Sharp, the morning father-in-law of the accused man, Hay, this morning turned the first spadeful of dirt in an effort to find, in the gruesome field where Hay's body was found, the revolver which he says he fired the murderous shot a week ago tonight. Mr. Sharp says that a strong impression had forced itself upon him that the murderer had thrown the weapon into the soil. He was not to be deterred by the fact that the ground was so hard and frozen that it was impossible to dig. He was not to be deterred by the fact that the ground was so hard and frozen that it was impossible to dig. He was not to be deterred by the fact that the ground was so hard and frozen that it was impossible to dig.

ABOUT THAT CLUB.

County Attorney Attaches Little or No Importance to the "Find."

The blood-stained stick which was "discovered" yesterday near Mortensen's place, does not seem in the least to throw any light on the murder mystery. The stick is not heavy and is not of a size which would be used in a fight. It is not of a size which would be used in a fight. It is not of a size which would be used in a fight.

THAT BULLET STORY.

Contrary to Assertions Slug Which Killed Hay Does Not Fit Gun.

A rumor gained circulation yesterday that Chief Hilton had established the fact that the bullet which killed Hay was not the same as the one which was found in Mortensen's house. This is not so. The chief is just as positive on that point now as he was last Thursday. He is just as positive on that point now as he was last Thursday. He is just as positive on that point now as he was last Thursday.

BARN UNFLOORED.

Boards Taken Up and a Search Underneath Made.

This morning Deputy Sheriff Busby, who was yesterday tipped off by the flooring in the small barn behind Mortensen's house to make a search underneath, there was nothing found. It was the boards which were removed and it was found that possibly something was hidden below them that would add another link to the circumstantial chain that is being slowly drawn around the guilty party, whoever that may be.

ANOTHER DISCOVERY.

Mute Testimony of the Tracks of a Pair of Rubbers.

More damaging evidence against Mortensen came out yesterday afternoon. On Saturday afternoon two officers took Mortensen's rubbers down to Forest Dale and fitted them in the tracks along the railroad track just west of the cattle guard. The rubbers fitted the tracks perfectly. The officers are confident that when the fatal shot was fired to the wire fence, the man's feet were in the tracks and Mortensen's rubbers fit all the tracks.

ONE OF MANY.

Rumor of a Witness Run Down—Then Its Utter Ending.

On Saturday evening a rumor was rife that a man named Tom White was a passenger on the car which Hay and Mortensen rode to Simpson avenue last Monday evening, and that he heard the conversation which was had between the two men with reference to the arrangement for Hay to call for the money on Monday night. A "News" man went down to No. 1445 street, Thirtieth East street, to find White, but he was not there.

TO PROMOTE RECIPROCITY.

Topoka, Kan., Dec. 23.—About fifty representatives of the agricultural, livestock and commercial interests of the West are in session here today at the call of Gov. Stanley to organize an association to promote reciprocity with Mexico and other Latin-American countries with special reference to the products of the West.

POPE RECEIVES CARDINALS.

Rome, Dec. 23.—The pope today received the two Italian cardinals who arrived here yesterday for his Christmas greetings. The pontiff made a lengthy address, in which he condemned what he characterized as the "party of thoughtless indulgence" at the present time. He sharply criticized socialism, agitation for divorce and hostility between different sects of the church and urged a union of the Christian churches.

HILL'S LETTER WILL NOT INFLUENCE STATE.

St. Paul, Dec. 23.—Atty.-Gen. W. B. Douglas, in an interview, states that the first in the "Champion" case paper works, which started late at night, was not under control until after 1 o'clock this morning. The loss is placed at from \$70,000 to \$100,000. The largest plant of the kind in the United States, and employed over 40 persons. A stock of \$250,000 worth of machinery and tools were destroyed. There was also a loss of a great quantity of valuable machinery. The fire was caused by the explosion of a gas lamp in the machinery room. Kepp was severely burned. The plant is being repaired and will be ready to start work in a few days.

GEN. ALGER IN GOOD CONDITION.

Detroit, Dec. 23.—Gen. R. A. Alger, formerly secretary of war, who was operated on yesterday, was reported in condition this morning by Dr. Longyear.

At 10 a. m. the following hints were issued on Gen. Alger's condition:

"Gen. Alger passed a good night's sleep. He is now in good condition. He is bright and the conditions are satisfactory."

PLAN TO SECURE MISS STONE'S RELEASE.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Sen. U. S. charge at Constantinople, has adopted a new and ingenious plan for securing the release of Miss Stone. Naturally the official, of Miss Stone, has been making every effort to make public any details of the case, but public cause is a failure. Mr. Dickinson, our consul general at Constantinople, who has been seeking hard in Miss Stone's behalf, again complained bitterly to the state department that the effect upon the press of the free newspaper circulation in his case.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA HAS A GIG.

London, Dec. 23.—The Associated Press hears that the queen, Queen Alexandra is more serious as has been given out and that it can be seen by doctors are in constant attendance upon her majesty.

A bulletin issued at noon today says the queen is progressing favorably, but for Christmas festivities at Sandringham, including large shooting parties, have all been upset and the queen will spend Christmas at Marlborough House.

It was announced later in the day that the queen was suffering from a chill but that her condition is not considered to be dangerous. It is expected that her majesty will be able to leave her room in a few days.

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Washington, Dec. 23.—The state department confirms the report that Mr. Eddy, our charge at Constantinople, is in correspondence with the porte relative to the proposed expulsion of naturalized American citizens from Turkey unless the citizens abandon their allegiance to the United States. Owing to the absence of a naturalization treaty between the United States and Turkey our government has no special authority to interfere in behalf of these naturalized citizens against an edict of expulsion. The reliance upon broad principles of international law is not strong, for the principle that a nation may refuse to allow its citizens to change their nationality has been pretty well established. But admitting the right of expulsion, the United States government has itself a right to insist that this shall not be extended to hardship, such as might result from the allowance of a very limited period of time for leaving Turkey. It is probable that while Cardinal Gibbons lives, he may compromise the matter by creating Archbishop Ireland or Archbishop Corrigan cardinal of the curia, entailing living in Rome.

POPE WANTS UNCLE SAM REPRESENTED.

London, Dec. 22.—The Pall Mall Gazette publishes the following dispatch from Rome today: "The Vatican is becoming decidedly more hopeful that the United States will yield to the pope's great desire and appoint a diplomatic representative to the Vatican. So anxious is the pope for the success of his project that he would be satisfied at present with a semi-official representative in the hope that he would be eventually turned into a minister or ambassador. It seems that Washington is not unwilling to discuss the matter and the Vatican has intimated on many hands its desire to meet with the pope and discuss the matter. It is possible that the pope will appoint a cardinal in the United States. The pope is somewhat opposed to the latter idea, but Cardinal Gibbons lives, he may compromise the matter by creating Archbishop Ireland or Archbishop Corrigan cardinal of the curia, entailing living in Rome."

\$553,150 FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Directors of the Bell Telephone Company Appropriate Moneys for Coming Year—Central Building to be Enlarged—New Switch Boards and Toll Lines.

The directors of the Bell Telephone company held their regular quarterly meeting this morning in President Wallace's office, and appropriated moneys for the work of the coming year that made Mr. Wallace and General Manager Murray happy men, for it gave them \$553,150 with which to make most valuable improvements.

There were present at the meeting Messrs Wallace, W. S. McCordick, Major Downey and Major H. C. Hill. James Ivers was absent, being out of town. The directors agreed to do, in fact, everything the management of the company asked for, and President Wallace says it was a great Christmas present. The money will be expended to cover the following improvements:

The long needed addition to the central building of the company on State street, will be built as soon now as arrangements can be made, giving an enlarged structure of 51 feet front, and doubling the office room. In this new building will be placed the new switch board which has long been contemplated and which will be equipped with the latest and most valuable improvements to facilitate business and sales factory service. This board, with the necessary changes in connections and subscribers' instruments will cost about \$150,000 and be installed some time next year. The addition to the present building will cost about \$55,000. Then, the new toll lines will involve an outlay of \$191,675, with an additional outlay for new circuits on present poles of \$26,775. For new exchanges about \$490,000 was appropriated. The extensions contemplate the building of a line from Blackfoot to Halley, thus giving Salt Lake City its long desired and much needed telephone outlet to For projected and probable lines beyond those actually provided for, there was appropriated \$38,750. There will be new lines through Wyoming also an extension of the central Idaho system to Thander Mountain and in general lines and exchanges where ever called for by the demands of business.

When asked if the company would be likely to extend to Grand Junction the line from Panguitch, Mr. Wallace said there would be no building that way until business in western Colorado grew to be much larger than it is now. For the present, the line will not be extended, but will be run up via Denver from this city. As to the talked-of extension to St. George, Mr. Wallace said that would be determined on the basis of the demand on the system, whether money might go into improvements up there, had better be diverted to extend the line to the southern parts of the system. There are now 10,000 miles in the entire system, and the contemplated mileage for next year aggregates 4,000 miles. The number of employees will be increased about 40 per cent.

GRAND THEATER CHANGE.

Pretty Little Playhouse Once More Under New Management.

The grand theater is once more in new hands, or will be during the course of the present week. By the transfer of M. E. Mulvey retires from the field of public entertainment and Paul Hammer, Jr., and W. S. Jones, his partner in the advertising business, succeed to the control with Mr. Hammer as manager and his brother "Tolly" as treasurer.

The announcement of the conclusion of negotiations was made on Saturday evening and caused no little surprise in amusement circles, as it was generally supposed that Mr. Mulvey was entrenched as business manager of the house for an indefinite period. The property, as is well known, belongs to the Salt Lake Amusement Association. It owned 2,500 shares of stock and it is a majority of this that Messrs. Hammer and Jones have bought. The directors of the association are Mr. Mulvey, Lindsay Rogers, Jay Rogers, Ed. Caruthers and Frank Higginbottom. A new board of directors and a new set of officers will be chosen within the next 10 or 15 days.

Mr. Hammer has been in theatrical life for a long time, starting in at the bottom of the ladder at the Salt Lake

CRANE DECLINES THE TREASURERSHIP.

Could Not Accept Because of Illness in Family—Myron T. Herrick or Gov. Shaw of Iowa May be Named.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Gov. Crane, of Massachusetts, has declined the treasury portfolio tendered to him by President Roosevelt last Friday.

It was officially announced at the White House today that he had declined for business and domestic reasons.

The announcement of Gov. Crane's declination followed a conference between the President and Senator Lodge after the latter had talked with Gov. Crane over the long distance telephone. The only name after it was known that Gov. Crane would not accept was that of Mr. Myron T. Herrick, of Cleveland, who is at the head of one of the country and has had wide experience in financial affairs. He was a warm personal friend of the late President McKinley and it is understood was promised a foreign mission.

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