

READS LIKE FICTION.

James L. Blair's Case Has No Parallel in History.

The Son of an Honored Missourian and a Leader in Business Life, He Is Accused of Secretly Robbing While Openly Posing as Model Citizen.

St. Louis, Dec. 5.—Students of criminal history say the Blair case has no parallel in truth or fiction. The indictment of James L. Blair was the culmination of a long list of most sensational developments. His alleged wrongdoings up to three months ago were known to very few people, and they were making a strong effort to suppress the rumors which began to be circulated. Blair, as general counsel of the world's fair, and because of the prominent part he had played for years in demanding reforms of various kinds, was numbered among the leading citizens of St. Louis. Mrs. Apolline Blair, the accused man's wife, was the president of the board of lady managers of the world's fair, and was the social leader of the exclusive set. Their beautiful country home, Stancote, at Kirkwood, since its purchase in 1888, had been the scene of many elaborate social functions, and had become widely known because of its splendid appointments. Gen. Frank P. Blair, father of James L. Blair, was a national character.

COTTON INDUSTRY DEPRESSED

Owing to the Cost of the Raw Material Mills Will Have to Curtail Production.

Boston, Dec. 5.—That a widespread curtailment of production by cotton mills in the United States will be found necessary during the next few months on account of the great cost of the raw material is the opinion of leading mill men in this city, from which the policy of many cotton mills in the north is directed. The market for finished material has been unsatisfactory for months and prices have not risen correspondingly with those of cotton. The mills in New England employ fully 175,000 hands, 65,000 of whom have had their wages reduced ten per cent. this fall and 15,000 additional will be cut within the next two weeks.

IS CIVIL LAW POWERLESS?

Gov. Peabody Places Cripple Creek Under Martial Law and Suspends Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Denver, Col., Dec. 5.—Gov. Peabody has issued a proclamation declaring Cripple Creek under martial law and suspending the writ of habeas corpus. He declares that the gold camp is in a state of insurrection and rebellion and that the civil authorities are powerless.

Ball Is Almost Prohibitive.

Cripple Creek, Col., Dec. 5.—C. G. Kennison, Sherman Parker and W. F. Davis, the executive committee of the Western Federation of Miners for this district, against whom informations were filed charging them with murder and conspiracy to murder, are now confined in the county jail, but can obtain their freedom on furnishing bonds for \$15,000 each, the sum at which ball was fixed by Judge Seeds.

ASSASSIN HID IN HEDGE.

Miss Ella Green Fatally Shot at Burrton, Kan., by Leslie Ansel While Driving with Her Mother.

Burrton, Kan., Dec. 5.—Leslie Ansel, a rejected lover, aged 18 years, shot and fatally wounded Ella Green. While Miss Green and her mother were riding about a mile from the Green residence young Ansel rushed from a nearby hedge and fired, the full charge taking effect in her abdomen. There was some talk of lynching and the prisoner was taken to Newton. Miss Green is still living, though no hopes are entertained of her recovery. Ansel contends that the shooting was accidental. Both Ansel and his victim are members of prominent families.

TO ENLARGE UNION STATION.

Railroads Entering St. Louis Will Spend \$6,000,000 to Better Care for World's Fair Crowds.

New York, Dec. 5.—The presidents of the roads in the St. Louis Terminal association met here to consider plans connected with the improvement of the union station at St. Louis. These plans involve an outlay of about \$6,000,000, and it is expected that the proposed improvement will be completed in time to handle with greater facility the rush of travel to the exposition.

A BIG FIRE AT SALINA.

The Building Occupied by the Lee Grocery and Hardware Companies Burned—Loss, \$500,000.

Salina, Kan., Dec. 5.—Fire that started here at noon yesterday and which for a time threatened the entire business district destroyed the four-story building occupied by the H. D. Lee Wholesale Grocery company, damaged the building and contents of the H. D. Lee Hardware company and burned several smaller buildings, causing an aggregate loss estimated at \$500,000.

RAZORS IN NEGRO MEETING.

At Topeka an Effort of the Preacher to Exclude Objectionable Members Started Trouble.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 5.—Nine members of the B street Baptist church, colored, were arrested by the police on the charge of disturbing a religious meeting. The police were summoned to stop what appeared to be a full-fledged riot, and found the congregation of the church engaged in a free-for-all rough and tumble fight. Guns, knives and razors were flourished during the fight, but none of them were used. The combatants contented themselves with employing their fists and such clubs and stovepokers as they could get their hands on so that no lives were lost and no one was dangerously injured. Rev. White was covered with blood when the police arrived and put an end to the affray, and has several scalp wounds and bruises, but none of them are particularly serious. The trouble was caused by the endeavor of Rev. White to put between 35 and 40 members of the flock outside the fold.

A NEW "HARMONY" STORY.

David B. Hill and Tammany Have United to Boost Parker for the Presidency.

New York, Dec. 6.—According to a statement made by a close personal friend and political representative of David B. Hill, ex-United States senator, the latter and Charles F. Murphy have joined hands and the Tammany leader has agreed to pledge the New York city portion of the state delegation to the support of Judge Alton B. Parker for the democratic presidential nomination. Mr. Murphy, it was said, had been led to believe that Wall street interests are prepared to support Judge Parker in preference to President Roosevelt and will offer to contribute enough money, if he is nominated, to make it possible for the democrats to carry on a vigorous campaign in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

WOULDN'T LET HER LIVE.

Frank Dawson Killed Miss Annie Hartman Near Madison, Mo., Because She Refused to Marry Him.

Paris, Mo., Dec. 5.—Enraged because Miss Annie Hartman, whom he had secured a license to wed, would not marry him, Frank Dawson, member of one of Monroe county's pioneer families, shot both his sweetheart and successful rival, Obe Hughes. The crime was committed at the home of George Ownby, near Madison, during the progress of a dance. Dawson entered, and without a word fired two shots, both taking effect. The girl is mortally wounded and the condition of Hughes is serious. Dawson has been brought to Paris.

Oil Highest for 25 Years.

New York, Dec. 5.—Old-timers in Wall street who used to trade in petroleum are interested in advices from Oil City, Pa., that a bid of \$2 a barrel for 10,000 barrels of crude oil had been made on the floor of the exchange there and that a sale of 5,000 barrels was made at \$1.95 a barrel. Except in 1895, when oil certificates sold as high as \$2.65 a barrel, the sale represents the highest quotations for petroleum in 25 years, or since the Bradford oil field was opened.

Wyoming's Oldest Pioneer.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 5.—John Slaughter, probably the oldest Wyoming pioneer, is dead in this city at the age of 94. He came to Wyoming in 1867. Mr. Slaughter was territory and state librarian for 30 years. He survives all his children and leaves seven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

His Plea of No Avail.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 5.—Samuel Freeman, the old farmer who pleaded his own case in court, must pay Mrs. Sarah E. Mason \$1,000. That was the verdict of the jury. The verdict was signed by only nine of the jurors, the other three refusing to agree to it. The verdict is legal because under the law 9 of 12 jurors can return a verdict.

Formal Sentence Passed on Barrett.

St. Louis, Dec. 5.—Thomas E. Barrett, former marshal of the St. Louis circuit court of appeals, was Saturday sentenced by Judge Adams, in the federal court, to five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$1,000.

House Committees Named.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Speaker Cannon named the house committees Saturday. Hemenway, of Indiana, succeeds Cannon as chairman of appropriations. Curtis, of Kansas, is second on Indian affairs, his old place.

Big Fire at Pratt, Kan.

Pratt, Kan., Dec. 5.—The night operator of the Rock Island railroad discovered a fire here, but it was beyond control. Several buildings and stores burned. The loss will be \$25,000.

PANAMA "SIGNS UP."

New Republic Eager to Facilitate Work on Great Canal.

General Jollification Followed the Signature of the Junta to the Treaty—Opposition to Ratification in the Senate.

Panama, Dec. 3.—In the grand salon of the government palace the treaty between the United States and the government of Panama was signed at 11:33 yesterday morning by the members of the junta and by all the ministers of the republic. There was a general jollification in Panama yesterday evening over the signing of the treaty. Bands paraded the streets and fireworks were exploded. A great crowd assembled on the plaza and marched to the government palace, where it gave vent to its great joy in cheers. A reception was held at the palace, where many prominent persons made speeches, while the crowds outside continued to cheer for the junta. The soldiers, who were all given leave from barracks, joined the merry-makers.

Serious Opposition to Ratification.

Washington, Dec. 3.—It is expected by the president that the treaty with Panama providing for the construction of the isthmian canal will be returned to Washington within two weeks. The indications now are that the treaty will be transmitted to the senate before the adjournment of congress for the Christmas holidays. Senator Cullom, chairman of the foreign relations committee, had a conference with the president Wednesday regarding the treaty. He indicated that serious opposition to ratification of the treaty would be developed, but expressed no doubt of its ultimate ratification.

A UNIVERSITY BURNED.

The Institution at Ottawa, Can., Totally Destroyed—Narrow Escapes of Many Students—A Domestic Burned.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 3.—The Ottawa university, one of the largest educational institutions in Canada, was totally destroyed by fire early yesterday. The loss is estimated at \$500,000, with insurance of \$200,000. All of the students escaped, but many had narrow escapes. Three priests were forced to jump from upper windows and were badly injured. They are: Fathers Boyon, Fullham and McGuerty. Father McGuerty probably is fatally hurt. One of the domestics is missing and probably perished in the flames and another was so seriously burned that she probably will die. The missing woman, a Miss Danis, was last seen on the fourth floor.

The fire, it is believed, was caused by a careless smoker throwing a lighted cigar or cigarette into inflammable material.

An Aged Woman Burned to Death.

Elmwood, Neb., Dec. 3.—The cottage occupied by Mrs. Martha Schloatman and her daughter was destroyed by fire yesterday evening and Mrs. Schloatman was burned to death. John Folhurst, who tried to save her, was badly but not fatally burned. Mrs. Schloatman was 90 years old and a helpless invalid. Her daughter tried to rescue her, but owing to the aged woman's great weight, nearly 400 pounds, she was unable to drag her from the room. The daughter was slightly injured.

A "Rain of Blood."

Rome, Dec. 3.—The phenomenon known as the "rain of blood" was noticed near Salerno during the fearful weather of the past few days, the raindrops being so red as to leave a stain resembling blood. This phenomenon is said to come from the Sahara after a severe sandstorm, the sand of the desert being carried by the wind across the sea and mixing with the rain as it falls. Not understanding the reason of it the peasants of the neighborhood were very much frightened.

What Did Mrs. Dowie Take?

Boston, Dec. 3.—When John Alexander Dowie's wife and son sailed from here October 24 on the Cunard line steamer Saxonia for Liverpool, whence they were to go to Australia, a heavy box, said to contain gold and securities valued at \$7,000,000, was carried to Mrs. Dowie's stateroom and carefully guarded until the steamer sailed.

Strubbe Returned Without Formality.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 3.—A telegram received from Macon, Mo., announces that Sheriff Brooker left there with Frederick Strubbe, who killed his sweetheart, Alice Henneger, November 14, near Havana. He will take him direct to the Macon county jail, Strubbe having waived the formality of requisition papers.

Vote for \$100,000 Courthouse.

Oklahoma City, Ok., Dec. 3.—The voters of Oklahoma county at a special election indorsed the proposition to erect a courthouse at Oklahoma City to cost \$100,000.

Stole Ten Miles of Fence.

Redford, I. T., Dec. 3.—Ambrose Miller reports that he has had ten miles of wire fence stolen from his ranch 25 miles west of here. It was valued at \$50 a mile.

JESSE JEWELL SURRENDERS.

State Senator from Kansas City Gives Bond for His Appearance on Charge of Soliciting a Bribe.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 4.—Jesse L. Jewell, the state senator from Kansas City, was arraigned in the criminal court upon a charge of soliciting a bribe from a representative of a company that manufactured alum baking powders. The information charges that he offered to sell his vote and the votes of two other senators for \$9,000, the votes to be cast for a bill that would permit the making and sale of alum baking powders. Jewell was accompanied into court by his attorney, L. H. Waters, and his bondsman, Samuel F. Scott, former postmaster of Kansas City. Jewell pleaded not guilty, his trial was set for February 9, and he was released upon bond of \$1,000.

FOR "DIVINE GUIDANCE."

Oklahoma Man Prayed and Then Whipped His Adopted Daughter Until Her Life Is Despaired of.

Arapahoe, Ok., Dec. 4.—A warrant was issued for the arrest of C. E. Beneley, of Gyp, charged with whipping his adopted daughter, Mamie Pierce, aged eight, until life is despaired of. To escape his alleged treatment the girl ran away from home, hiding in the hills, and slept on the ground until exhausted from exposure and lack of food. She was discovered by Beneley, who, it is alleged, took her home and again unmercifully beat her. He is an elder in a church, and before whipping the child the last time, is said to have dropped on his knees in the presence of neighbors and prayed for divine guidance.

WAS IT THE MOTHER?

Adopted Girl Kidnaped on the School Grounds at Hartford, Kan., by an Unknown Woman.

Emporia, Kan., Dec. 4.—Word was received here of the kidnaping of Mabel Perkins, an 11-year-old girl at Hartford, 15 miles south of here. Mabel was two years ago taken out of an asylum at Kansas City by C. S. Perkins, a merchant, and he and his wife were raising her as their own daughter. While the child was on the school grounds at recess a woman drove up in a buggy, picked up the girl and drove away without attempting to get other clothing than that on her. Some think the girl's mother is the abductor as no objection was made by the child.

BISHOP LEONARD IS DEAD.

Head of the Episcopal Church in Utah and Nevada—Well Known in Kansas and Missouri.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 4.—Bishop Abiel Leonard, head of the Episcopal church in Utah and Nevada, is dead of typhoid fever. Bishop Leonard was born in Lafayette, Mo., June 26, 1848. He was graduated from Dartmouth college in 1870 and from the General Theological seminary, New York city, in 1873. Bishop Leonard was particularly well-known throughout Missouri and Kansas, beginning his ministerial career in Missouri and holding several important positions in that diocese. Going to Kansas he became one of the leading members of his church.

ARRESTED AS A SPY.

Member of Nebraska National Guard May Suffer Death for Acting as Private Detective for Miners' Union.

Denver, Col., Dec. 4.—Fred Wakeman, a private in company F, at Camp Goldfield, Cripple Creek, has been arrested as a spy. He is now in the military prison awaiting trial by a court martial. Adj. Gen. Bell said Wakeman was employed as a detective by the miners' union. Under the Forty-sixth article of war a spy found guilty of giving intelligence to the enemy can be punished by death. Gen. Bell says Wakeman may suffer the extreme penalty should he be adjudged guilty of the charge.

Want Teachers to Stay.

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 4.—County Superintendent Gilman has discovered that in the past 20 years the average time spent by a teacher in actual school work is four years. This means that the county has to train a new set of teachers every four years, which is to the detriment of the scholars. A strong effort is being made to pay such wages for teachers that they will be induced to keep at the profession indefinitely.

New Orleans Wants Convention.

New Orleans, Dec. 4.—Frank B. Williams, a sugar planter, chairman of the republican state central committee of Louisiana, announces that the Louisiana republicans offer \$300,000 for the next national republican convention and want it held here. He offered \$25,000 himself and promised to raise the balance from 11 Louisianians, each giving a similar amount.

James L. Blair Indicted.

St. Louis, Dec. 4.—It has been learned from a source that cannot be questioned that the grand jury has voted to indict James L. Blair. The indictment grew out of one of the forged deeds which Blair used as collateral to secure loans, as was told by James T. Roberts in his disclosure.

WILLIAM M. SPRINGER DEAD.

For Many Years He Represented the Springfield (Ill.) District in Congress and Was a Prominent Democrat.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Former Representative William M. Springer, of Illinois, a democratic leader conspicuous in the house of representatives during the Forty-fourth to Fifty-third congress, inclusive, and once chairman of the ways and means committee of the house, died at his residence in this city yesterday, aged 64 years. His death was due to pneumonia contracted in Chicago Thanksgiving day. He was attending a dinner there and was suddenly taken with a violent chill. He left Chicago and arrived last Sunday afternoon very ill.

Mr. Springer has been a resident of this city during the past few years following his retirement from congress and has followed the practice of law begun at Springfield, Ill., before his congressional career began. He has represented many of the Indian claims before the interior department and before the federal and local courts here. The funeral arrangements have been placed in the hands of a local undertaker.

REPORT ON THE NAVY.

Over \$7,000 Men Are in Uncle Sam's Service on the High Seas—13 Per Cent. Desert.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Secretary of the Navy Moody, in his annual report, refers at length to the organization of the navy department. As the naval establishment grows in importance, he says, and the amount of public money devoted to its maintenance is increased, its proper administration justly becomes an object of solicitude. It is gratifying to note that the percentage of citizenship in the enlisted force of the navy is steadily growing. The number of enlisted men in the service June 30, 1903, including petty officers, seamen and other ratings, landsmen for training and apprentices was 27,245. Of this number 79.8 per cent. were native-born and 10.9 per cent. naturalized citizens, the total percentage of citizenship being therefore 90.7 per cent., as compared with 89 per cent. at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The maximum percentage of desertions under peace conditions is a little less than 17 per cent., the minimum a little more than 9 per cent. and the normal between 11 and 12 per cent.

THE LEAVENWORTH HOME.

The National Board of Soldiers' Homes Tenders the Appointment of Governor of the Institution to Col. Cooke.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The board of managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers yesterday tendered the appointment of governor of the home at Leavenworth, Kan., to Col. Sydney G. Cooke, of Herington, Kan., to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Col. J. G. Rowland. Col. Cooke is a member of the board and it is said will accept the appointment. Approximately 32,000 men are now under the jurisdiction of the national home.

TROUBLE WITH WIFE NO. 2.

George D. Wood, a Wealthy Banker of Colfax, Ia., Killed Himself Because of Domestic Infelicity.

Colfax, Ia., Dec. 5.—George D. Wood, president of the Bank of Colfax and director of Ira, Mingo and Baxter banks, committed suicide at his home here. Wood was 43 years of age. He was married a year ago to a nurse who attended a former wife during her last illness. Domestic trouble is supposed to have caused the suicide. Wood was worth over \$250,000 and his accounts were straight.

SPEAKER CANNON WAS MAD.

Ordered a Knights of Labor Leader from His Room with the Injunction to Not Return.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Speaker Cannon, resenting what he deemed an insult from John Herman J. Schulteis, chairman of the national executive committee of the Knights of Labor, summarily ordered Mr. Schulteis from the speaker's room at the capitol with the parting injunction to the labor leader never to darken his door again.

Even Poorhouse Roll Was Padded.

St. Louis, Dec. 5.—The investigation that is being pursued by the health department officials into alleged stealing in the management of city institutions has revealed, it was made known yesterday, that over 80 names are carried on the books of the poorhouse of persons who are not inmates of the institution. It is claimed that food and clothing have been regularly drawn for the names and constituted booty for somebody.

Paid \$1,300 to Get a Pension.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—Mrs. John H. Howard, widow of a police sergeant, testified yesterday before the commission of aldermen investigating municipal "graft" that she paid \$1,300 to secure what she is entitled to under the law—a pension of \$50 a month—the sole means of support for herself and children.