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## RAY LAMPHERE DIES, PLEADING INNOCENCE

Alleged Accomplice of Mrs. Belle Guinness, Archmurderer, Succumbs to Consumption.

### HIRED HAND ON MURDER FARM

Passes Away Without Making Confession Hoped for by Indiana Authorities.

Ray Lamphere, who was charged with the murder of Mrs. Belle Guinness and subsequently convicted of arson in connection with the burning of the house on her "murder farm" near Laporte, died at the State penitentiary in Michigan City, Ind., of tuberculosis.

The man, suspected of assisting the supposed arch-murderess in slaying the ten victims whose bodies were found buried about the farm after her disappearance in April, 1908, made no statement to the prison officials.

In the past few weeks State's Attorney Ralph Smith, who prosecuted Lamphere, and officials of the penitentiary have sought to obtain from the prisoner a statement. To all questions, however, Lamphere has steadfastly replied that he knew nothing which might throw further light on the wholesale murders.

Lamphere was 38 years old, and for three years prior to the disappearance of Mrs. Guinness and her three children had been employed as a field hand at the "murder farm."

The crimes, ruthlessly premeditated and diabolically executed, rivaled the famous Holmes Castle murders in Chicago and the Bender murders in Kansas. Whether Mrs. Guinness was a party to these crimes, and whether she escaped or was burned to death in her house in April, 1908, never has been satisfactorily explained. She formerly lived in Chicago and went to Laporte after her first husband had died under circumstances said to have been suspicious.

After establishing herself on the farm, just outside Laporte, the woman is said to have been a frequent correspondent with matrimonial agencies in various parts of the country. She thus formed the acquaintance of a number of men. At least six of them went to Laporte, all of whom disappeared. Later, when the yard back of the farmhouse was excavated, the bodies of some of these admirers were identified among the ten which were found. Lamphere was arrested the day following the burning of the house. He had been seen in the vicinity of the building the night it burned.

### OHIO ICE BOUND; FEAR FLOOD.

River Blocked from Pittsburg to Cincinnati and Coal Shipments Stop.

The Ohio river, from Pittsburg to Cincinnati, is closed to navigation, and according to reports, will be ice-choked probably for several weeks. A rapid rise in the river caused by the ice gorges, it is feared, will result in heavy damage. Rivermen are astounded at the unusually severe ice packs for the present time of year, and predict heavy loss of property before a thaw sets in. At New Martinsville, W. Va., south of Wheeling, the Ohio is in the grip of an ice gorge miles in length which threatens Wheeling and intermediate points, where bridges span the river. Coal operators and shippers are particularly hard hit by the untimely river tie-up, as millions of bushels of coal were waiting for the passing of the holidays to be sent south in coal fleets.

### FINDS CHILDREN'S BODIES.

Five Tragedy Costs Two Lives in the Village of Santa Claus, Ind.

In the village of Santa Claus, Ind., two children were burned to death the other night. Their mother found their blackened little bodies a few minutes before they died, in a room in which she had left them playing an hour before. The mother, Mrs. Fred Keller, wife of a young farmer, went to the barn to help him milk the cows. A thought of her girls, 2½ and 1½ years old, led her to leave her husband and return to the house. As she approached she heard the children screaming. The rooms were filled with smoke. Groping along the floors she came upon the babies and dragged them to a door. The children had played near the stove.

### 80 HURT IN DEPOT EXPLOSION.

Gas Plant in Montreal Train Blows Up and Many May Die.

Over a score of people were injured in an explosion at the Place Viger station of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Montreal. Many of the victims were frightfully mangled, and the death list, it is feared, will be large. The Quebec train, which usually leaves the station at about 11:30 p. m., was on the eve of pulling out. The station platform was crowded with a throng, seeing friends off, when there was a terrific explosion, which ripped up the platform from end to end and buried more than a score of people in the debris. The gas plant on the Quebec train had blown up.

### Barge Sinks Off New Jersey.

Carrying down to death Capt. Joe Wyman and a crew of five men, the coal barge John A. Briggs, which broke away from the wharfbreak steamer Thurmond off Point Pleasant in the blizzard, sank off the coast of New Jersey.

### Children Sing in Burning Church.

While firemen fought a stubborn blaze in the basement of the People's Methodist church in Kansas City, fifty children sang Christmas hymns on the floor above.

## THE BIG ONES ALWAYS GO FREE.



### FRISCO TO RUN CARS.

City Approves Municipal Ownership Scheme at Special Election.

San Francisco the other day took the first step toward municipal ownership of its street railway lines when by a vote of 31,000 to 11,000 the people carried a bond issue to the amount of \$2,020,000. The funds raised by the sale of these bonds are to be used in the construction of a municipal electric line along Geary street and other thoroughfares from the heart of the business district to the ocean beach, a distance of about nine miles. This proposition has been submitted to the voters of the city four times, the other three polls being against the bonds.

The present Geary street car line is an obsolete cable system. It is operated under a special permit granted to a private company by the supervisors after the franchise of the original company had expired. The causes leading to the voting of these bonds by a decisive majority after the same proposition had been three times defeated are numerous and complex. Possibly more than anything else the vote represents an expression of dissatisfaction with the methods and service of the United Railroads. The car system of the city under the present private monopoly admittedly is not good.



The Harmon presidential boom is said to have hit Washington hard. The recent two-day visit of Ohio's Governor to the United States capital has installed him in popular favor and placed him in a new light regarding the coming presidential candidacy.

It leaked out how Andrew Carnegie and Secretary of State Knox had a sharp, wordy encounter during the dinner given at Washington by John Barrett, director of the Bureau of American Republics, to the diplomatic representatives of the Latin countries to the south of us. Carnegie was eulogizing the peace work of Secretary Root, and began to compare it with the "what-run policy" of the present administration, when Knox jumped up and told the lady he was butting into affairs that he knew nothing about. Again, later, when Carnegie deprecated the present handling of the Nicaraguan affair, Knox angrily demanded that Carnegie stop.

That Congress will take official notice of the Buenos Aires riot, however, by ordering a sweeping investigation of the Interior Department and the Forest Service was assured, when Senator Flint of California submitted to the Senate a resolution calling for all the papers in the case of Glavis against Hallinger. This was passed, and then Senator Jones of Washington announced that he would move an investigation after the holidays if no one else did, and read a letter he had received from Secretary Ballinger, in which that official insisted that if Congress were to investigate the riot, the fullest inquiry should also include the Forest Service, since he had "reason to believe that the pernicious activity of certain of its officers has been the source of inspiration of these charges." Mr. Hallinger goes on to say: "I therefore court the widest and fullest inquiry by Congress."

Senator Jones would have the Senate at once order an investigation, but on objection from Aldrich the matter went over until documents should be in possession of Congress.

Leslie M. Shaw, former Secretary of the Treasury, who addressed about 400 business men at the board of trade in Indianapolis, throughout his address opposed the idea of the central bank. He claims that such a bank would be sure to be owned, or at least controlled, by the Standard Oil combine.

In a speech denouncing his conception of a Christmas cheer, Senator Depew evaded the compliments of the season, even to La Follette, who had sharply criticized the New Yorker in the Christmas number of La Follette's magazine. Depew praised the President and referred to the new tariff law as an unmitigated blessing.

### MOB HANGS VIRGINIA SLAYER.

Ruse Halts Murderer's Flight, but Attempts at Vengeance Fails.

Following the killing at Murley, Va., of Samuel Baker and the serious wounding of his widow and two children by Henry Pennington, a mob of 100 took Pennington from jail and hanged him to a steam pipe. Pennington, who had been drinking, picked a quarrel with Baker, his enemy, and shot him while the latter was on his way to a Sunday school celebration with his wife, two children, and a friend, Wyatt Meadows. Seeing that he had killed Baker, Pennington started to run away. Mrs. Baker called after Pennington and implored him to help her take the body home. The ruse worked and Pennington went back to the spot where his victim lay dead. Bent upon vengeance, Mrs. Baker grabbed Pennington's pistol from his pocket and shot twice at him. Her aim was bad, but she succeeded in wounding him in the hand and thigh. Pennington recovered possession of the pistol and then shot the woman and attempted to kill Meadows and the two children. Pennington then fled, but was surrounded and captured by a posse on the outskirts of the town.

### BOYCOTT AS A FOOD-PRICE CURE.

Movement of Nation-Wide Scope Started at Washington Meeting.

Plans for a national boycott of those combinations that increase the cost of living were laid in Washington the other night, when the National Anti-Trust League was launched. Members of Congress are interested in the new movement and immediate steps will be taken toward perfecting State organizations. Then, when prices soar, the league members by stopping the use of such articles or commodities as have gone above legal level will put them back again by refusing to furnish a market. The plan was one that was tried in Germany a few years ago and which, according to a report, broke up a combine in coffee that had raised the price of the bean to almost prohibitive prices.

### STEEL MAN COMMITS MURDER.

Ends Day of Drinking by Revolver Fusillade in Own Home.

Winfield Gibson, aged 48 years, resident of Munnhall, a Pittsburg suburb, shot and killed his wife, seriously wounding a son, fired three shots at his fleeing daughter, and then sent a bullet crashing through his brain, dying instantly. Gibson, who is a former officer of the Carnegie Steel Company, came home late after a day of drinking with friends, according to the statement of the police. Meeting his wife as she awaited his coming at the top of a flight of stairs Gibson fired at her with his revolver. His wife's dead body fell down the stairway. Howard, a 15-year-old son, hearing the shots, ran from a room, and was seriously wounded by a bullet from the revolver in the hands of his enraged father. Grace, a 14-year-old daughter, coming to the stairway, was shot at three times, the bullets missing her by a fraction of an inch. A 3-year-old child was playing within ten feet of where the shooting took place, but was unharmed by the father.

### GIRL SLAIN; SUITOR SOUGHT.

Toledo Maiden Alleged Victim of Rejected Lover—Parents Shot.

Carol Hunt, 18 years old, was instantly killed in Toledo, O., and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hunt, were wounded, though not seriously. Joseph Mackley, aged 33, who is charged with having shot the three, is being sought by the police. The shooting occurred at the Hunt home. According to the police, Mackley, a railroad worker, who is said to have a wife and child in Mansfield, O., attempted to pay attentions to the girl and became enraged when he was repulsed. He entered the Hunt home, and declaring his intention of killing the family, drew a revolver and began shooting. It is alleged. After exhausting all the cartridges in his revolver Mackley is said to have reloaded, fired four more shots and fled.

### CHILDREN DIE IN FIRE.

Mother Visiting Neighbor When Home Gets Alibane.

Mrs. Henry Blanton left her home in Pratt, Kas., and went across the alley to talk with a neighbor. When she next looked at the house it was a mass of flames and her three children, whom she had left in bed, were being burned to death. The dead are Roseby, a boy 5 years old; Myrtle, 3 years old; and Margaret, 2 years old. The house was in the outskirts of town, and with the exception of Mrs. Blanton and the neighbor no one was near. Mrs. Blanton ran for help. While she was gone the house fell, burying the children.

### FIVE TRAINMEN DIE IN WRECK.

Engines and Cars Smashed by Head-On Collision Roundabout Curve.

Five trainmen were killed and two fatally injured in a collision on the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railroad between freight trains Nos. 51 and 88, twenty miles west of Seymour, Ind., near Fort Riner. On a sharp curve the trains met head-on, apparently because of a misunderstanding of orders. Engines and cars were smashed and their wreckage piled high. A relief train was sent as soon as word of the wreck was received, but the injured suffered terribly from the cold before help came.

### Refused Fortune, Fearing Evil.

Patrick M. Smith, aged 57, the janitor who was found dead in Seattle recently, was informed that he had fallen heir to \$30,000 in Ireland. He refused to claim it, being dependent over his appetite for drink and feeling that the money would do him no good.

### Sixty Dead in Yule Blizzard.

Eleven Newfoundland schooners and their crews of sixty men are believed to have been lost in the Christmas blizzard, while great destruction has resulted to property.

## CUMMINS TALKS DEFIANTLY.

Iowa Senator Points to Line of Battle Between Republican Factions.

In a notable address delivered before his political friends in Des Moines the other evening, Senator Cummins of Iowa sounded the battle cry of the progressive wing of the Republican party. Not only were Senator Aldrich, Speaker Cannon and the rest of the standpat group reviewed and condemned by the Iowa Senator, but war was declared upon the remaining standpatters and Cannon adherents in the Iowa delegation in the national House of Representatives. Senator Cummins specifically expressed approval of the efforts to prevent the renomination of Capt. Hull as a member of Congress from the Des Moines district. He also indicated that the group of which he is the leader will strive to control the State convention of the Republican party and to nominate progressives for the offices that are to be filled.

If Senator Cummins succeeds in his fight to make Iowa entirely progressive in its representation in Washington another thing naturally will follow which was not directly discussed at the Des Moines meeting. The Iowa Senator will probably become the leader of the progressive forces of the nation and presumably will be the choice of that group for the Republican nomination for the presidency.

In his Marquette Club address in Chicago Senator Cummins pointed out the line of cleavage between the progressives and the reactionaries of the Republican party. In his Des Moines talk he went further and pointed out the line of battle. The fights in the Iowa districts still represented in Congress by friends of Cannon doubtless will be duplicated in many other districts in the West.

The present contest between Cummins and the progressive group on one side and the Cannon-Aldrich clique on the other for supremacy in the Republican party is likely to be one of the memorable episodes in American politics, is the opinion of a prominent Western paper.

### SLAYS GIRL HE LOVES.

Hold-Up Man Follows Sweetheart and Shoots Her and Himself.

Roy McKinney at noon the other day shot and killed Miss Dora Chapell, 21 years old, a waitress in the dining-room of the Bears Hotel in Peru, Ind., and then ended his own life with his revolver. It was learned later that McKinney was wanted in Indianapolis for a daring hold-up in the business section of the city. According to advices from Indianapolis, McKinney entered a lunchroom there at 1 o'clock the previous morning, commanded the lone man in charge to hold up his hands, and rifled the cash register with one hand while he covered the attendant with a revolver.

Letters found in the dead man's pockets indicate that to-day's double crime was carefully planned. The letters were addressed to the coroner, the girl's father, Frank Chapell, a sign painter of this city, and to McKinney's wife at East Germantown, Ind.

The letter to the girl's father censured him for preventing McKinney's marriage with the girl. McKinney came to the hotel and registered as L. B. Lennhart of Chicago. He entered the dining-room at noon and went to the table on which Miss Chapell was waiting. The waitress bent over McKinney to take his dinner order, according to those in the room, and the man put his arm round her as if in jocular affection, and drew her close to him. Suddenly, with his other hand he drew a revolver from his pocket and shot the young woman in the left breast. As Sumner Hart, the son of the proprietor of the hotel, ran into the room, McKinney shot himself in the heart and fell from his chair.

### OHIO LEGISLATURE OPENS.

First Session of the 78th General Assembly Begins at Columbus.

The first regular session of the Seventy-eighth General Assembly of Ohio was called to order by Speaker Granville Moorey in the House and Lieut. Gov. Francis W. Teadway in the Senate. The Senate consists of twenty Republicans and fourteen Democrats. There are forty-five Democrats in the House and sixty-three Republicans, two members having died. The speech of speaker Moorey advocated a public utilities commission on the line of the New York body, and also declares for an ample appropriation for a thorough and open probe of all the offices in the State House. He also recommends an amendment of the laws regarding the taxation of corporations. This program is understood to have been sanctioned by President Taft during a recent conference with Speaker Moorey at the White House. The first annual message of Gov. Harjun was received, and there was great interest in its contents. According to the talk of the leading Republicans, the majority is ready to carry out many of the recommendations made by the Governor.

### Banker's Aim Is Bad.

Robbers blew open the safe of the State bank of Centerville, Kan., and escaped with \$1,500. One of the robbers, the last to leave the building, was fired upon by C. B. Brown, president of the bank. The robber returned the fire and after a lively fusillade of shots, drove Brown to cover and escaped. Neither was wounded. The interior of the bank was wrecked.

### Taken From Sheriff; Killed.

Orville Snyder, who killed Arthur Green Dec. 24, was taken from Deputy Sheriff J. H. Cassidy while on his way to the county jail in Canyon City, Ora., by five masked men, who shot him to death.

### Mine Explosion Kills Four.

Four shot-drivers were killed in a dust explosion caused by a "windy" shot in mine No. 5, two miles south of Centerville. The explosion took place 200 feet from the cage landing at the 700-foot level.

