

YOUTHFUL MURDERERS IN JAIL

Harvey Van Dine, Gustav Marx, Peter Neidermeyer and Emil Roeski, Who Killed Seven Men in Their Brief Career of Crime, Captured in Indiana After an All-Day Fight.

MURDERS TO WHICH CHICAGO BANDITS HAVE CONFESSED.

Bauder, Otto, murdered in saloon of Ernest Spire, 1820 North Ashland avenue, July 9.

La Gross, B. C., murdered in his saloon, 2130 North Ashland avenue, Aug. 2.

Johnson, Adolph, murdered in saloon of B. C. La Gross, 2120 North Ashland avenue, Aug. 2.

Johnson, James B., motorman, killed in robbery of Chicago City Railway company barns, Aug. 30.

Stewart, Francis W., clerk, killed in robbery of Chicago City Railway company barns, Aug. 30.

Quinn, John, detective, killed while trying to arrest Marx.

Sova, L. J., brakeman on Pennsylvania railroad, killed on freight train at East Tolleston, Ind.

In addition to these murders, the same bandits wounded six men in committing robberies.

Possessed of all the cowardice and the cunning of the sheep-dog, four young men are now in the county jail at Chicago; cowardly because they had murdered chiefly the helpless and unsuspecting, and despite their heading, were all captured alive with loaded weapons in their hands; cunning because they recognized the fact that their very recklessness and audacity in crime would suffice to distract attention from such youths as they; bloodthirsty because they murdered unnecessarily, not even to assure their own safety, but from sheer lust of murder; as the sheep-dog dog tears the throats of the scores of sheep, while he does not even drink the product of his fangs.

Sullen and yet boasting, there they are alike, yet not alike, for they vary in some characteristics. They might perhaps be classified—Harvey Van Dine, the brains; Gustav Marx, the lieutenant and second in intelligence; Peter Neidermeyer, the murderer; and Emil Roeski, the weak, drunken, vicious and unprincipled.

Brained and wounded, the three when captured, yet retained a degree of their bravado, a bravado which is soon to pass away, for as the shadows deepen about them and the skeleton of the gallows develops itself more clearly there will come a new comprehension and a frightened understanding of what it is which they have done.

There have been Claude Duvalis and Dick Turpins and Robert Macaire. There have been James Brothers and Younger brothers, and goodness knows how many other distinguished and fraternal highwaymen.

You may count them all, with all their exploits, and find nothing so intensely dramatic as the story of the battle of Miller's Station Nov. 27.

Truly, it was a great chapter in the long history of crime in Chicago. The mind of the dime novelist never conceived a scene more thrilling than the last stand and final capture of the three remaining authors of the car-barn murders—Van Dine, Neidermeyer and Roeski.

The round-up of this trio was accomplished at hard cost. One man was killed, others were badly wounded, after a desperate man hunt, a dramatic escape and recapture.

For hours these three men fought like caged rats, and when finally caught they were sights for the gods. They were salted with buckshot, their flesh was torn with bullets, they were bleeding from scores of wounds. Yet all will live to join Marx and meet again on a clear road to the gallows.

The capture of the men was very serious business for all concerned, and yet it carried a touch of humor. With two special trains of Chicago policemen armed with Winchester rifles, the final work was done by a little band of rabbit hunters and an armament of shotguns. Charles Hamilton, the village blacksmith of East Tolleston, was the man who brought down the game.

To put it in statistical form, the net results of the day were one man dead, L. J. Sova, a brakeman, shot down remorselessly by the bandits; two men of the posse wounded, Detective Sergeant Matthew Zimmer and Policeman Joseph B. Driscoll, and three captured of the most hardened and remarkable group of criminals ever known in Chicago—Harvey Van Dine, Peter Neidermeyer and Emil Roeski.

For other results within the past six months of a charmed career of crime, these young men may count to their credit five men murdered, eight others wounded and a half dozen places looted of money in various amounts.

Says Football is Injurious. Dr. S. F. Taylor, president of Stephens College, Columbia, Mo., took advantage of the Thanksgiving season to express somewhat heretical opinions about football. "I think," he says, "that any man who will play football is a fool and any college president or professor who encourages such a brutal and degraded sport is encouraging brutality and a spirit of crime. Two-thirds of the work done in the gymnasiums here and in other parts of the country is positively injurious, and I tell you there is not an athlete or gymnast in the United States to-day who will live to the age of 60."

Two Kinds of Hoo Arrived. Mark Twain long ago arrived at the conclusion that it is a very serious thing to be a professional humorist. Recently a society youth of the "Wille-off-the-yacht" sort was introduced to the author. "Aw, I say, Mr. Clemens, I think it would be awfully cozy to be funny, don't you know?" "It is for you—unless you try to be," grimly replied the man who has made millions laugh.

The face of Van Dine marks him easily as the brains, the deviser, of the quartet. It is a long face, with a clear complexion, such as would naturally accompany red hair, and is borne well upon a strong neck suited to the body of the athlete Van Dine is known to be.

Though bruised, and with somewhat of the feverish look resultant from the day's terrific adventures and the presence of a few small shot in the head, his expression was firm and almost placid. The jaw is strong, the forehead a good one, the eyebrows finely arched, and, taken all in all, the man is not unattractive.

But it is the eyes which fascinate. They are of a singular gray blue and have an expression which is puzzling and indefinable. They are not exactly snake-like, but they are mystifying. Had Van Dine escaped alone, unhampered by companions, there might have been a longer story to tell of a man hunt, a story similar to that of the murderer Tracey, who, not so long ago, roused the entire Northwest along the Pacific coast in his pursuit.

The fact and form of Neidermeyer are in sharp contrast with those of Van Dine. Taller and darker than the real leader of the group of killers, there is no redeeming quality to him. His swart features are irregular, his speech harsh, and the expression of his face generally is that of sullen

He was shabbily dressed and in a pitiable state of fright. He seems to be a habitual drunkard, the twitching of his hands indicating a nervous state, even beyond that induced by his present condition.

For six months these four men had killed with as little regard for life as that exhibited by hunger-crazed animals. No fear of the law ever caused them to stay their trigger fingers. If the wiping out of one or more human lives was necessary to their securing a few dollars and cents of essential to their escape from peril, out went the life or lives as rapidly as a candle is snuffed by an expert shot.

Yet, after an all-morning battle with officers of the law, standing at bay on the edge of the frozen Tollestan marsh, with birdshot loaded guns, the farmers pointed at them, they hesitated for just one moment and staid their slaughtering hands.

Earlier in the day they would not have hesitated. They would have shot down the farmers like so many dogs. Their wounds had not impaired their almost supernatural marksmanship. Each carried 100 rounds of ammunition. They stood behind a rude barricade of cornstalks. The frozen marsh, with its tangled reeds, and brambles, and scrub, furnished at least a temporarily safe retreat. The farmers were not dangerous. Their birdshot stung, but it did not seriously wound.

before night, and somehow I didn't want to do any shooting."

Van Dine was the first to throw up his hands and call out that he surrendered. Two magazine revolvers, one blood revolver and one pearl-handled weapon were taken from the pair.

Emil Roeski, their pal, left the two soon after they broke from the dug-out, and despite a severe bullet wound in the hip, walked eight miles across the country to Actna, a station on the Wabash railroad. In the toilet room he washed his hands and cleaned the traces of blood from his clothing. Then he bought a ticket to Chicago, and, exhausted, lay down on a bench to sleep until the train should arrive. He awoke to gaze into the barrel of a revolver aimed at his head by Detective Falkland.

"I guess I'm it," he said quietly.

Not a tone of regret, not a trace of sorrow appeared in the voices or faces of Van Dine and Neidermeyer, as in the gathering twilight, nursing their bullet and shot wounds, they sat in Chief O'Neill's office and confessed every crime of which they had been accused.

Nonchalantly and glibly they admitted the responsibility of the quartet for seven murders and the wounding of seven other men. They told of the money they had secured from the robberies of which the murders—and they were but insignificant and unimportant parts. They laughed over the double killing involved in the Chicago City railway car barn robbery.

The cases against the four young bandits were placed before the grand jury Nov. 28. After hearing the confession of the prisoners true bills for murder were voted against all four.

WANT TO KEEP CURIOSITY.

Villagers Would Retain Intact Rock Forming Washington's Profile.

The residents of Mamaroneck, N. Y., led by Father Meister, a Catholic priest, have formed an association to preserve a wonderful phenomenon, which has become known as Washington rock.

The likeness portraying the head and features of the Father of His Country appeared several years ago on a rock near the town. It was supposed at the time that it was produced by a blast, but because it is close to the site of Washington's headquarters, where he fought the battle of Heathcote hill, and within a stone's throw of the old house where Cooper's character, Harvey Green, in "The Spy" lived, some of the superstitious people of the town are inclined to attach a supernatural origin to it.

The head and features of Washington are stamped on the rock in massive size and at certain angles the resemblance is complete. The nose is formed by a projection and the mouth and eyes by the dark coloring of the rock.

Public meetings have been held and the people interested in forming the Washington Rock Association. It is proposed to collect a fund and place a bronze tablet upon the rock and dedicate it Oct. 21, 1904, the 120th anniversary of the battle of Heathcote hill.

Fads of Wealthy New Yorkers.

James Rully, one of New York's little known millionaires, has a curious fad—that of providing for the decent burial of indigent dead. He is in constant communication with a number of undertakers, who keep him posted regarding such cases as he wishes to look after. Another rich New Yorker, Samuel Martin, spends a good deal of time and money in helping important victims of the police force. He is always camping on some officer's trail and many a victim of police tyranny has had reason to thank Sam Martin for timely aid.

Promotion for Gen. Chaffee.

Lieutenant General S. B. M. Young, who was confirmed by the senate a few days ago, will reach the retiring age on Jan. 9 next. This will make a vacancy as chief of the general staff. It has been announced that Major General Adna R. Chaffee will be appointed to the vacancy, and this will make a vacancy on the general staff to be filled by some other major general.

Senator Frye's Cause of Pride.

William P. Frye of Maine boasts of being the only great-grandfather of a man who has served in the senate, a girl baby having arrived at the home of his grandson, William Frye White, in Washington. Mr. Frye is willing to acknowledge that there are great grannies in the senate, but revels in the distinction of being the only great-grandfather.

Need for Montana Gold Mines.

Senator Perkins says he knows why nature located gold mines in Butte, Mont., instead of coal deposits. He was there not long ago and was charged 75 cents for a shave and a shine. In the washroom attached to the barber's shop he wanted the use of a comb for a few moments, and this cost him another quarter. He rinsed his hands after arranging his hair and wiped them on a towel near at hand and once more he gave 25 cents. "And then," he says, "it dawned on me why gold instead of coal mines were to be found in that robbers' roost."

Cockrell a Lover of Whist.

Senator Cockrell of Missouri finds his chief recreation in duplicate whist. His evenings at home, when devoted to this kind of card games, are no one or two hour affairs. A few minutes are grudgingly devoted to luncheon somewhere about midnight and then the game is resumed and fought to a scientific finish. The senator has a half a dozen friends who can always be depended upon to make up a table



Can They Keep it Spinning?

Courtesy of The Commoner.

Commoner Comment.

A SLUMP IN STOCKS.

Since the election of 1900 there has been a slump in the market value of stocks amounting to more than \$7,750,000,000. If the democrats had been successful in the last presidential election the republican papers would have charged this tremendous slump in stocks to the democratic administration. How will they explain it now? When it is referred to at all it is described as a matter of small importance, and often defended as a really desirable thing. We are told that it was a "natural liquidation" an elimination of "speculative values," a "settling down to a solid basis."

The readers of The Commoner are asked to remember that two things: If the slump means that the water is being squeezed out of the stocks, that fictitious values are being destroyed, and that the industries are simply settling down to an honest basis, how will republicans defend an administration that permits the inflation of values and the watering of stocks? It cannot be denied that many have suffered by the slump. Those innocent purchasers, of whom we hear so much when remedial legislation is suggested, have been suffering. It is said that the steel trust has lost \$100,000,000, and all of these have suffered by the fall in prices. Why should they be exposed to this loss? Many of the holders of this stock are employees who take the stock more to encourage the idea of co-operation in industry than to make a profit out of it. They wanted to show their appreciation of what they regarded as a generous offer on the part of the president. What is it not a little cruel to thus reward their confidence? When will "confidence" be restored among these people? What about the widow who put her scanty savings in preference to the common stock? We always hear of the widow when we discuss the money question or attempt to curb corporate rapacity, why is she kept in the background now? The Kansas City platform proposed a remedy that, if adopted, would have made it impossible for an interstate commerce corporation to have watered its stock. This remedy would have been adopted before the steel trust was organized. What remedy have the republican leaders for the situation which now confronts them? What is the president doing to protect the public from watered stock?

If to escape this dilemma the republicans insist that the shrinkage in stocks does not indicate a squeezing out of water, but a loss in actual and honest values, what will they say about an administration that results in such a blow to industry? Can the country be said to be prosperous if honest stocks have suffered a shrinkage of nearly two billions of dollars in three years? Is the industrial condition a satisfactory one?

PAYNE CALLED IT "HOT AIR."

The New York Commercial is very much opposed to congressional inquiry into the postoffice scandal. The Commercial says: "Let the department itself run to cover the scandals who have been mismanaging the country's postal business. It will be time enough for congress to take a hand when it has been disclosed that the postmaster general is not doing his full duty in the most effective way possible." Will the Commercial undertake seriously to say that the postmaster general's attitude from the beginning of these scandals was such as to justify the impression that he is willing to do his full duty in the most effective way possible?

The Durbin Vice-presidential Boom is Calculated to Make Cold Chills Play Tag up and down the Spine of one William S. Taylor.

Anything calculated to remove Durbin from the Indiana state house is exceedingly dangerous to Mr. Taylor's well-being.

The Territories Will Knock Separately for Admission this Time.

And despite its platform promises the g. o. p. will do a little "knocking" on its own account.

Emperor William has had a Polypus removed from his throat.

The crushing sound merely indicates that the trusts have been quick to avail themselves of the invitation to apply the screws to the people with a little more vigor.

Colombia's protests must be addressed to ears that refused to hearken to the appeal from South Africa.

COMMONER—THREE
"The next fight begins tomorrow." The present fight is on today.

A CHANGING POLICY.

It will be remembered that when Miss Hubbard Todd, postmistress at Greenwood, Del., was removed, it was announced by the administration that she was removed because she was "personally distasteful" to Senator Allee, who represents the Addicks faction of the republican party in Delaware. With but few exceptions, the patrons of that postoffice protested against Miss Todd's removal, but the administration would not relent—its representatives insisting that the removal of this postmistress was necessary because one senator had stated that she was "personally distasteful" to him.

On November 19, Mr. Roosevelt reappointed Joshua E. Wilson, a negro, to the office of postmaster at Florence, S. C. The white residents of that town unanimously protested against the reappointment of one in a position that the Addicks republicans is sufficient, while the protest of two senators in South Carolina is of no avail.

THE LAW'S DELAYS.

Writing in the Independent on the law's delay, Justice David J. Brewer says: "I was assured by one in a position to know that in a single state one of the great railroad corporations by appealing every judgment against it to the supreme court of the state—that it having a crowded docket—made enough in compromising the judgments against it in the trial courts to pay the entire cost of its legal department. Justice Brewer has devoted considerable thought to the subject, and while few will, we think, be inclined to agree with him concerning the denial of the right of appeal in criminal cases, it cannot be doubted that marked improvement must be made with respect to the delays in all cases.

PERRY HEATH'S GOOD LUCK.

It is reported that the only penalty that will be required of Perry S. Heath for his part in the postoffice scandal will be his resignation as secretary of the republican national committee. Mr. Heath will be permitted to retire, not however, necessarily as a punishment, but because it is thought to be bad politics to permit him to remain. It would seem, however, that inasmuch as Mr. Roosevelt has had so much to say about honesty and fidelity to duty, he would be able to devise some plan whereby Mr. Heath could be called to account for his official misconduct.

"With all its superb vitality the democratic party cannot survive constant defeat," declares the Indianapolis News. But the democratic party has survived constant defeat. The trouble seems to have been that the democratic party could not endure some of its latter day "victories."

The administration action in the Panama case is hardly square with Mr. Roosevelt's announced determination to carry out the McKinley policies. The McKinley name is good to confute with, but the McKinley policies are obstacles that are not allowed to deter our strenuous executive.

The Durbin vice-presidential boom is calculated to make cold chills play tag up and down the spine of one William S. Taylor. Anything calculated to remove Durbin from the Indiana state house is exceedingly dangerous to Mr. Taylor's well-being.

The Territories Will Knock Separately for Admission this Time.

And despite its platform promises the g. o. p. will do a little "knocking" on its own account.

Emperor William has had a Polypus removed from his throat.

The crushing sound merely indicates that the trusts have been quick to avail themselves of the invitation to apply the screws to the people with a little more vigor.

Colombia's protests must be addressed to ears that refused to hearken to the appeal from South Africa.

COMMONER—THREE
"The next fight begins tomorrow." The present fight is on today.

The daily newspapers print the names of the few men who occasionally "clean out the heating ring." Owing to the fact that even the daily newspapers are confined to certain limits as regards size, the names of those who are cleaned out are never printed.

Should the democratic party fall under the control of men who always vote the republican ticket when they fail to make the democratic party so nearly like the republican party that an expert cannot detect any difference? That is a question that every loyal democrat should ponder over.

A few years ago Great Britain laughed with glee at the suggestion that she might be compelled to pay damages for allowing the Alabama to put forth from her shores. This is a hint to the prominent administration leaders who laughed with glee at mention of the Panama affair.

Those deluded persons who point to the casting of Congressman Roberts as a precedent for ousting Senator Smoot overlook one very vital point. Roberts was a democrat in a republican congress, and Smoot is a republican in a republican congress.

Having promised all kinds of reforms, the sultan of Turkey insists that he has done all that may be fairly required of him. This reminds us that Mr. Philander Knox occupies a very similar position as regards attacking the trusts.

The attention of the governor of Indiana is respectfully called to the fact that Governor Beckwith is to hold office for another term and that he is now ready to accept ex-Governor Taylor and insure him a fair trial.

General Wood is now called upon to step to the front and tell where he got it. This growing ineptness of the administration is becoming quite wearisome to a large contingent of administration favorites.

Has the president ever thought of trying the injunction on recalcitrant republicans? Some of his warmest friends and admirers have found it very useful in dealing with obstreperous workmen.

It is reported that Addicks is to retire from politics, but it would be just as well to discount the report. Mr. Addicks has a little matter of delivering a few delegates to attend to before he can gracefully retire.

Nebraska republicans love to talk about the "redemption" of Nebraska from "democratic rule." Recent grand jury indictments in the federal court at Omaha indicate the extent of the "redemption."

Republican sneers at the "solid south" would be in better taste if "solid New England" did not cling to its idols with a tenacity never equalled by the states south of the old Mason and Dixon line.

The steel trust is preparing to create a \$15,000,000 vacuum in the dinner pail. But this will not prevent the chief bunglers from making the grand appeal when campaign time comes again.

Mr. Hanna is on every street so far as his senatorial place concerns, but he must watch those gentlemen who are inclined to seduce Mr. Herrick into taking second place on the Roosevelt ticket.

The people who wink at the buying of senatorial seats have very little grounds for complaint when senators sell their political patronage.

The Philadelphia Ledger is talking about "the passing of Perry Heath." The Ledger is mistaken. It is not Perry who has passed—is merely the time embraced in the statute of limitations.

The amount the government pays for carrying the mails and for rent of postal cars comes very near paying the entire cost of running the passenger trains which carry United States mail.

The Nebraska senatorial scandal is another argument in favor of popular election of United States senators.

Has it come to pass that appeals to national honor and to justice are to be denounced as impertinent by congress and cabinet?

The president is determined that Crum shall have one more try at the "door of opportunity."

The indications are that corruption will run its before water runs through the isthmian canal.

Mr. Hanna says there is nothing to discuss. But can he tell us how old Ann is?