

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT ELEVATOR

William R. Murray, Jr., Meets Frightful Death

This morning C. Lawrence Stull and Fred Heisel had occasion to go to the elevator of W. R. Murray & Co near the M. P. depot, to look after some business matters. On entering the engine room they were shocked and appalled at the horrible sight which met their eyes. The body of William Murray, Jr., was found by them to be lying upon the concrete floor of the engine room, resting upon the knees and face downward while the walls were bespattered by blood from the unfortunate man's head, the back of which had been beaten into a pulp by either the fly-wheel of the gasoline engine or the shaft upon which the wheel revolves. The men at once hurried to the office of Agent Hugh Norton of the M. P. railway some 200 feet south of the elevator and informed him of the terrible tragedy which had taken place. Dr. J. S. Livingston was hastily summoned and hurried to the elevator, arriving there within a few minutes of the discovery of the accident. He was even then too late to do any good and saw at a glance, that Mr. Murray was dead and had been for some time before his arrival. The body was rigid in death and it was apparent the accident had happened not less than an hour before his arrival.

Later in the day the body was conveyed to the undertaking rooms of Streight & Streight where it was dressed for the grave. The funeral will be held on Saturday April 17 at 2 p. m. No inquest will be held on the body, the cause of death being sufficiently evident to satisfy the authorities.

From an examination of the body and the circumstances surrounding the finding of it, the prevailing idea is that Mr. Murray who had left his home at Mynard for the elevator at some time around eight o'clock this morning, had arrived there and had started up the gasoline engine. After doing this he had went into the elevator proper from the engine room and while here the engine had evidently stopped. Returning to the engine room he had started the engine up once more and had turned his back to the revolving fly-wheel. From this wheel runs out a shaft several inches in length. The theory is that in turning about and swinging his back upon the wheel, his coat caught upon this projecting shaft which instantly hurled him over backwards, striking the back of his head upon the concrete floor. The entire back of the skull was crushed in and blood and brains oozed from the terrible injury. The body must have turned over several times by the flying wheel for the blood and brains from the head were scattered about the walls. The coat had evidently torn loose from the shaft and Murray

with a desperate effort had tried to crawl from under the cruel beatings of the wheel and shaft as he was on his hands and knees when found. That he had ever been conscious after the first cruel blow is hardly probable and the crawling action was an instinctive one. As there were no witnesses to the terrible occurrence the manner of its happening is altogether problematical.

The coat of the dead man was torn in the back while the overalls which he had on were also badly torn at the back. All these things indicated that the accident happened as set out above.

Immediately after returning from the scene of the accident Dr. Livingston endeavored to have Sheriff Quinton take charge of the body pending the disposition of it by the relatives who were immediately notified, but the sheriff considered that he had no occasion to move in the matter and nothing was done. Judge A. N. Sullivan who is related to the dead man, was notified and through him arrangements were made to handle the body. Wm. R. Murray, father of the deceased, was notified at Mynard his home and hurried to this city at once.

The funeral of Mr. Murray will be held from his late home at 2 p. m. Saturday, April 17.

Wm. R. Murray, Jr., was born at the Murray farm some four miles south of this city on January 18, 1882, and was therefore 27 years, 2 months and 27 days old. He was a most lovable young man and possessed a great many friends throughout this section, all of whom were shocked and grieved to learn of his untimely end. He was a very bright young man and one universally esteemed as one of the best of the younger men who have grown up here. A native son of Cass County, he came of sturdy stock which has made the county and the state what it is. He was thrifty, generous and upright—a man without one to cherish an ill thought against him. All his life had been spent in these precincts where everyone knew him only for the good that was in him.

He was the son of Wm. R. Murray and wife, two of the most estimable of people and both of whom survive him. In addition he has surviving five sisters and one brother. The sisters are Mrs. Ella Emery of Lincoln, Neb., Mrs. Lorena Parker of this city; Mrs. Alice Fleming of Omaha; Mrs. Hatlie Truelsen of Omaha and Mrs. Ada Longworth of Omaha. Nelson Murray, the surviving brother, is now a resident of Takoma, Wash.

Those who have been called upon to mourn the sad ending of this noble young son and brother, are assured of the profound sympathy of the entire community in their terrible affliction.

Work on New Depot.

Work started this morning on the new freight depot of the Burlington. The structure is to be a frame one 24x60 feet in size and will be modeled after the building destroyed. Master Carpenter Hedengren of Omaha division was in the city over night and this morning was engaged in making arrangements for getting the work under headway. It is his intention to push the construction of the building to an early finish. It will be necessary to obtain permission of the city authorities to erect the building as it is within the fire limits, but no trouble is expected along this line. The building is badly needed just now as the arrival of spring goods is commencing and several cars are being used at present to store them in. The building will occupy the site of

the old structure at the foot of Mair street.

Here to Attend Funeral.

B. F. Allen and son Oscar of Wabash, came down Monday to attend the funeral of Mrs. A. C. Beach. Mr. B. F. Allen has been quite poorly of late and while here concluded that it would be taxing himself too much to remain, so returned home on the 11-15 train. He is one of the old neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Beach, had known them since coming to Nebraska. Several of the old neighbors from the vicinity of Wabash were down to attend the funeral.—Weeping Water Republican.

Mrs. Isabel Richey made a flying trip this morning to Lincoln, returning this evening on No. 2.

WILL NOT FAVOR LAW

Fraternal Congress Measure Meets With Disapproval

Head Consul A. R. Talbot of the Modern Woodmen of America, who is chairman of the legislative committee for that order, has announced that the uniform bill governing rates of fraternal beneficiary societies will not be enacted into law in any state this year. The bill, otherwise known as the minimum assessment rate measure, was backed by the National Fraternal Congress, an organization dominated by four or five high rate societies. Its defeat all along the line has caused jubilation in the Modern Woodmen of America, which led the fight against the proposed increase of rates.

Opposition Strong.

So pronounced was the sentiment in Nebraska against the fraternal congress bill that it was not even introduced in the legislature here. Not only the Modern Woodmen but the Woodmen of the World, Royal Highlanders and other societies of this state were lined up in a solid phalanx of opposition. Nearly one-third of the total membership of the legislature was made up of M. W. A. members, and when this fact became known the uselessness of attempting to secure legislation not approved by that order deterred anyone from even offering the uniform bill for consideration.

The purpose of the measure was to compel societies having comparatively low rates to raise them to a certain level fixed by what is known as the fraternal congress table. Its opponents claim that the proposition came primarily from old and non-progressive orders which have lost in membership during the recent years because of inability to compete with the younger and more vigorous ones. The older societies as a rule must charge more for insurance than the others, on account of the average age and death rate among their membership being higher. The adoption of the fraternal congress table would equalize conditions and take away the advantage of the organizations which have been built up in the past decade or two.

Woodmen Out.

Last August the Modern Woodmen of America withdrew from the National Fraternal congress when that body voted to ask the various state legislatures to pass a bill requiring all fraternal societies to charge the same rates. The Modern Woodmen upon withdrawing from that federation publicly announced its policy to be that of opposition to the state legislatures fixing a minimum standard table of assessment rates. It is contended that with a representative form of government each organization is entirely competent to enact the necessary laws and provide for such assessment rates as are deemed essential from time to time, if based upon their own experience, history and conditions.

The rates contemplated in the uniform bill are practically as high as the premiums charged by old line companies. The effect of this bill, it is asserted, would compel the members on one organization to pay more than the cost of insurance in such societies or an excess over its obligations, while the members of another society, charging the same rates would not be collecting actual costs. The M. W. A. held out for the principle of self government, without interference by state legislatures in the matter of rates. Nearly all the fraternal societies in the United States co-operate with it opposing the enactment of this bill and only four or five took opposite ground. The insurance commissioners of Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and various other states publicly announced their antagonism to the measure as being wrong in principle and dangerous in practice.

Head Consul's Work.

It is not generally known that Head Consul Talbot of this city, in behalf of all societies opposed to this minimum rate measure, has had active charge and direction of the campaign against rate legislation in thirty-eight states where legislatures were in session this winter. The bill has been defeated overwhelmingly in the states of South Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Texas, Iowa, West Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Kansas, California, North Dakota and Oklahoma. It is now pending in Illinois and Michigan and Secretary Ray, Mr. Talbot's assistant, received word that the insurance committee of these two states will next week report the bill for indefinite postponement. This will consummate a complete victory for these federal societies that believe in the principle of self government.

The exact situation was placed before each member of the Modern Woodmen by Head Consul Talbot and the head officers of similar orders did likewise with their respective memberships. The result of this public-

ity convinced the various legislatures that the seven million members of fraternal societies objected to higher rates being forced upon them through the creation of what was termed a fraternal insurance trust.

Mr. Potter, the Illinois superintendent of insurance, summed up the situation in an authorized statement which follows:

An Illinois View.

"In the opinion of the department it would be unwise for the state to undertake a regulation of rates. Bills to establish minimum rates which must be charged with the fraternal societies have been circulated among the members of the legislature, but have not been introduced yet.

The insurance department is opposed to them and the state administration will be, but hundreds of members of such organizations have acquired the idea that the state proposes to raise the rates for fraternal insurance and the legislators are hear from their constituents.

"The fraternal asking for such action are unwilling to have themselves restricted by the general insurance legislation and the state administration is unwilling to establish rates for them unless they propose to come under the legal reserve insurance regulations.

"The Modern Woodmen have had the question of increased rates up in their councils several times, and while the officials have wanted to increase the rates the membership has refused.

The state administration takes the position that the question must be left to the societies themselves to handle."—Lincoln News.

'I'd Rather Die, Doctor.

"I'd rather die, doctor," said M. L. Bingham, of Princeville, Ill. "But you'll die from gangrene (which had eaten away eight toes) if you don't" said all the doctors. Instead he used Bucklin's Arnica Salve till wholly cured. Its cures of eczema, fever sores, boils and burns and piles astounded the world. 25c at F. G. Fricke & Co.

It Helps a Little.

There are two ways of booming a town. Now over in Plattsmouth where the interurban is rapidly nearing completion on paper, they have two newspapers, both working hard to build up Plattsmouth, and both snapping and snarling at each other. One says the other is a political trickster, office seeker, ward manipulator and old time ring machine man. The other says his contemporary never upholds decency, and even reflects on his own spotless character, which is as unlike snow as earth mixed with water. And then comes the other with a poetical effusion stating that it is not charitable to throw stones at a glass house. That is another way to boom a town, for people like to live

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WHEN IN THE CITY GIVE US A CALL

The Perkins Hotel

where newspapers scrap.—Weeping Water Republican.

To Rebuild Bridge.

Master Carpenter Hedengren is authority for the statement that the Burlington will shortly commence the rebuilding of the bridge over the drainage ditch between this city and Pacific Junction. The ditch at present is spanned by a steel bridge and it is the intention of the company to replace the present structure with a longer one making the opening over the ditch wider. The track at this point will also be raised some nine inches. During last spring when the river was so high and overflowed the bottoms, the opening at the bridge was found to be too small to handle the water and the company determined to increase it to a size which would permit draining the bottom. The work will take some time and will be expensive.

Make Capture.

An important capture was made last night by Burlington special officers and Omaha detectives, at the old soap works just north of LaPlatte. The men captured were members of a band of freight car thieves who have been plying their vocation for the past several weeks on freights out of Omaha. The men captured included an ex-convict named "Robin" Adair, his brother and two other men who were unknown to either the Burlington officials or the Omaha detectives. The raid was planned by Special Agent Malone of the Burlington, who secured the co-operation of the Omaha authorities and who was last night accompanied by Officers Schmidt, Searle and Davenport and Detectives Ferris and Dunn of Omaha. The party left Omaha on a special train which left Omaha about 8 o'clock and made a run to the old soap rendering works just north of LaPlatte. The four men were caught red-handed by the officers being engaged in picking up goods thrown from a

train which had passed just a short time before. There were five men in the party but one of them took alarm and escaped. The four captured men were returned to Omaha on the special which reached there about midnight.

It is estimated that thousands of dollars worth of goods have been stolen from the trains in the last few weeks, and it is believed that most of them had been secreted in or near the soap works. A great mass of stuff was captured at the works last night and the search of the premises will be continued today.

The ex-convict Adair who was captured is an old offender and has given the officers and prison authorities no end of trouble during his career in this state. Some five years ago he escaped from the penitentiary and the officers had a hard time capturing him again at Aurora. His brother was employed at the soap works for some time past.

Up Before the Bar.

N. H. Brown, an attorney of Pittsburg, Vt., writes: "We have used Dr. King's New Life Pills for years and find them such a good family medicine we wouldn't be without them." For chills, constipation, biliousness or sick headache they work wonders. 25c at F. G. Fricke & Co.

Regret Action.

Gus. Pein of Pender, Neb., came in several days ago for a visit with his wife and family. Mr. Pein who had been employed in a saloon at Pender for the past year is thrown out of employment by the election of a dry board and the adoption of no license at the recent election. He states that a number of people who voted for a dry town have since regretted of their action and now want to sign a petition for a saloon. This petition will be presented to the village board and the saloon men hope to have it granted and a license issued. Mr. Pein returned to Pender this noon on the mail train.



You're going to put you're old head into a new hat one of these days in the near future.

If your head is the least bit irregular, (9 out of every 10 are) you'll get a misfit. Chances are the man that's selling you will stretch the hat with an old out-of-date wooden stretcher, or if its a little large he'll pad it.

That's all nonsense, don't stand for it.

IF YOU COME HERE: First we'll show you by far the largest assortment of hats that has ever been shown in Plattsmouth. Second we'll make the hat fit your head exactly for as long as you can wear it. This we do by means of our new French conformateur, which device takes the exact shape of your head, heats the hat and shapes it permanently.

Another thing we do is to put your name in the hat.

We'll be glad to shape your old hat for you, if you'll bring it in.

Stetsons \$3.50 to \$5.00

Fried's & Albertini's \$2.00 to \$3.00

Others \$1.00 to \$2.00

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