

FATAL FALL OR FOUL PLAY

Body of W. S. Follis of Sioux City Found in Perry Creek.

VERDICT OF THE CORONER RESERVED

Two Theories Advanced as to the Cause of Death—Fragments of the Victim Inclined to Think It is Murder.

SIoux CITY, Ia., Nov. 20.—(Special to The Bee.)—At about 10 o'clock yesterday afternoon the body of W. S. Follis was found floating in the shallow water of Perry creek, under the west end of the Riverside company's bridge.

There was a deep gash about three inches long in the forehead and the skull was crushed. The body lay with the head in the stream and the feet toward the bank. It had the appearance of a man who had been in the water for some hours, and inquiry soon developed the fact that he had not been seen since Friday evening.

The police were promptly notified and the body was removed to a local undertaking rooms, where a crowd of friends with blanched faces soon gathered. Among those who were present were the mother and brother of the deceased, and the police. An investigation was immediately begun by the police and sheriff's officers, but the facts at first reached were meagre.

There are three theories as to the way Mr. Follis met his death. The simplest is that he was walking home after dark Friday night and stepped off the bridge. It is also possible that he was being pushed against one of the iron timbers. Mr. Follis was a heavy man and any considerable obstacle in such a fall would be sufficient to cause such a wound. It is well known among his acquaintances that he was badly afflicted with asthma and sometimes in the violent paroxysms of the disease almost lost consciousness. It is suggested that in one of these violent attacks he may have fallen off the bridge.

Murder was also suggested. The bridge is not lighted and it offers a convenient spot for crime. The theory is also advanced that Mr. Follis might have been struck by one of the Riverside cars Friday night and thrown into the creek. The employees of the lines say that they have had no such case on record.

There were no evidences of robbery when the body was examined. In the pockets, besides books, papers, keys and other small articles, were found two gold watches, one containing \$140 in silver and the other being empty. The gold watch and chain were in place and the watch had stopped at 10:20.

Mr. Follis, the business partner of Edward Bernard, the business partner of Fred Munchbach, Jr., said he saw him at about 8 o'clock Friday morning. He was seen by a reporter, stated that the last seen of him by his family was on Friday morning. He had not seen Mr. Follis for two days.

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HE WAS RICH FOR A DAY

George I. Bagley's Experience in Getting Away with \$100,000

SINGULAR STORY OF A DARING CRIME

Well Laid Plans to Steal a Fortune Decried by a Lack of Nerve and Stupidity on the Part of the Thief.

Probably no more peculiar express robbery than that perpetrated by Messenger George I. Bagley ever occurred. As published in The Sunday Bee, Bagley was employed by the United States Express company, and his run was over the Rock Island, between Omaha and Chicago. When the Rock Island train No. 6 left Omaha Thursday afternoon Bagley was in charge of the express car, and had in his care several very valuable packages, among them two containing \$50,000 each, sent by the Omaha National bank and consigned to the First National bank of Chicago. When the train reached Chicago on Friday morning both packages and Bagley were missing.

Immediately the express people began the first kind of hunt, and so successful were they that within twenty-four hours they were in possession of all the money, and Bagley was in jail in Chicago.

The story of the crime is a strange mixture of almost humorous blundering and startling blunders on the part of the thief. His daring in deliberately taking the money and leaving the train, and his consequent stupidity in walking into the outstretched hands of the Chicago police, and the childlike frankness with which he confessed his actions and related the way to where he had concealed the money in a hay mow, form the inharmonious details of a story that has few counterparts in the annals of crime.

George I. Bagley worked for the United States Express company over twelve years as station agent at Davenport, Ia. By years of service there he became a trusted man, and a year ago last January he was promoted to the position of express messenger and given a run from Chicago to Omaha on the fast train that runs over the Chicago and North Western road from Chicago to Davenport. This is one of the most important runs in the service, and up to the present time nothing has ever failed to make the company's confidence in Bagley.

The first intimation the express company had of something wrong was when the books were checked up Friday morning and a shortage of \$100,000 was found. It was not known on what run the shortage had taken place, but as Bagley had been the only man on the train, it was his name that was first mentioned.

Immediately the police were given an accurate description of the thief, and a watch was set for him. Bagley was seen at Chicago at 310 Michigan avenue. This fact was learned by the detectives, and a posse went to the house. A search was made, but nothing was found. The express messenger was seen at Chicago at 10 o'clock on Friday afternoon. When the detectives were leaving the house, one of them went out the back way into a hay mow, and there he saw a man trying to sneak in by the rear entrance. The detective brought his revolver to bear, expecting a desperate fight, but the man gave up without resistance, and on being hauled into the light proved to be the missing Bagley.

He was taken to a well concealed room, and demanded to know why he was arrested. Superintendent Delong of the express company called on Bagley, and when he was checked up \$100,000 short, and wanted to know what had become of the money. Bagley insisted that he knew nothing of it, and that he had been robbed. But the man gave up without resistance, and on being hauled into the light proved to be the missing Bagley.

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ALMOST A SEA OF FLAMES

Several Nebraska Counties Swept by a Damaging Prairie Fire.

SETTLERS FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES

Lakes, Caves and Wells Occupied by Those in the Path to Avoid Destruction—Little Idea of the Damage Can Be Secured.

Newport, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special Telegram to The Bee.)—One of the worst prairie fires Rock county ever witnessed started today while the wind was blowing a hurricane. The fire is supposed to have started from a spark from a farm house on the east of Davenport, spreading about three or four miles in width, sweeping over the prairie before it. The damage at 10 o'clock tonight will be hard to estimate, but will probably be from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The farmers, with the help of about 200 people from Newport and Bassett, by hard fighting, saved thousands of dollars worth of property which otherwise would have been destroyed.

It seemed to be a fight for life as well as property. Several families were compelled to seek cover in lakes, wells and caves to save their lives. The losses in this vicinity are: J. W. King, 200 tons of hay and about 100 tons in stock; Dick Baitinger, 300 tons of hay and about 200 tons in stock and one hay press owned by Thomas Haw. Four or five farm houses with barns and granaries belonging to others here were burned.

As a matter of fact, no lives were lost. Several large ranches filled with hay were burned. People in this valley depend on their hay for their living have lost all and will probably suffer this winter. The fire is still burning at this writing, going in a southeast direction. It will be impossible to estimate the damage outside of Rock county.

TO ENTERTAIN THE FARMERS. How Lincoln Will Receive the Delegates to the National Congress. LINCOLN, Neb., Nov. 20.—(Special to The Bee.)—The city of Lincoln proposes to entertain the several hundred delegates to the National Farmers congress in a manner well calculated to sustain her reputation for hospitality. The daily sessions will commence on Monday morning at 10 o'clock in the senate chamber of the state capitol building, and the other part of the building will be an exhibit especially designed to illustrate Nebraska's manifold agricultural and industrial interests. Under direction of Governor Furnas, about 300 square feet of tables space has been arranged, and upon the products of Nebraska are set the various products of the manufactured article. For instance, the best sugar industry in all its details will be represented by a fine exhibit by the Oxards, under the supervision of M. A. Lunn. The Fremont tannery, the Holt County tannery company, the Woodruff tannery, the Lincoln tannery, the Nebraska City Cereal company will all be represented. The Kearney cotton mill will have an exhibit and the Lincoln mill association will have a special fine display.

In addition to this display in the senate chamber there will be a general program for the entertainment of the delegates. The program is in the hands of a competent committee and has not yet been decided. The list of committees at work is as follows: Executive—M. L. Troster, O. J. King, E. L. Sizer, Robert W. Furnas, C. A. Alderson. Finance—J. H. McElroy, Louis Meyer, W. M. Shinnick, J. Butler, A. Hatter. Carriage—H. H. Oakes, A. N. Wood, E. L. Sizer, O. J. King, J. H. McElroy, Joseph Burns, A. D. Kitcher, J. H. McElroy, O. J. King and W. W. Moseley. Judges—H. S. Hotchkiss, H. M. Bushnell, M. A. Lunn. Music—A. Hatter, H. E. Heath, J. M. Thompson. Reception—M. L. Troster, S. D. Cox, R. H. Keck, O. J. King, Alexander Hatter, W. O. Jones, O. J. King, W. Morton Smith, H. E. Heath, M. A. Lunn, Prof. Jager, W. W. Moseley, J. H. McElroy, J. C. Creighton, Overton Bent, J. Z. Briscoe, C. E. Johnson, Overton Bent, O. B. Howell, C. M. Branson, J. H. Wescor, Hon. A. H. Sizer, J. H. McElroy, Major Klouson, H. A. R. Humphrey. Decoration—L. J. Hyers, W. E. Churchill, S. Bishop, L. B. Ferguson, L. E. Stearns, S. J. Daniels, A. C. Coole, Louis Otto, Brad Cook.

It is generally admitted on all sides that Lincoln is to have a new democratic daily newspaper, such a one seems to be in the air. It is claimed by those who affect to know that the project contemplates a state-wide newspaper, at a capital of \$50,000 over and above the cost of equipment and a morning daily with complete news service. The project is in the hands of a committee and has not yet been decided. The list of committees at work is as follows: Executive—M. L. Troster, O. J. King, E. L. Sizer, Robert W. Furnas, C. A. Alderson. Finance—J. H. McElroy, Louis Meyer, W. M. Shinnick, J. Butler, A. Hatter. Carriage—H. H. Oakes, A. N. Wood, E. L. Sizer, O. J. King, J. H. McElroy, Joseph Burns, A. D. Kitcher, J. H. McElroy, O. J. King and W. W. Moseley. Judges—H. S. Hotchkiss, H. M. Bushnell, M. A. Lunn. Music—A. Hatter, H. E. Heath, J. M. Thompson. Reception—M. L. Troster, S. D. Cox, R. H. Keck, O. J. King, Alexander Hatter, W. O. Jones, O. J. King, W. Morton Smith, H. E. Heath, M. A. Lunn, Prof. Jager, W. W. Moseley, J. C. Creighton, Overton Bent, J. Z. Briscoe, C. E. Johnson, Overton Bent, O. B. Howell, C. M. Branson, J. H. Wescor, Hon. A. H. Sizer, J. H. McElroy, Major Klouson, H. A. R. Humphrey. Decoration—L. J. Hyers, W. E. Churchill, S. Bishop, L. B. Ferguson, L. E. Stearns, S. J. Daniels, A. C. Coole, Louis Otto, Brad Cook.

Baron Jacques de Reineck Driven to Self Destruction by Panama Agitation. PARIS, Nov. 20.—(New York Herald Special to The Bee.)—A new scandal has arisen to set the tongues of the gossips going. A great sensation was created today when Baron Jacques de Reineck was found dead in his bed. The discovery was made in the morning. Baron de Reineck was completely sane and in the full possession of his faculties. He was a Frenchman, a Turkish tailor named Soudani, who had the acquaintance of a young dressmaker, Louise Biefnot. Friendship soon ripened into love, and the two were married. The Greek soon conceived a passion for the mistress of his employer, but was at first repulsed by her. He then turned his eyes to Soudani, on business. In his absence he confided the care of his house to Soudani and the two were soon together. The Greek at once renounced his love for Louise, and went to do with him but went to live in the Rue St. Joseph.

What the French call a drama de jealousy has just taken place in the Place des Victoires. Three men, a Greek, a Turkish tailor named Soudani, who had the acquaintance of a young dressmaker, Louise Biefnot. Friendship soon ripened into love, and the two were married. The Greek soon conceived a passion for the mistress of his employer, but was at first repulsed by her. He then turned his eyes to Soudani, on business. In his absence he confided the care of his house to Soudani and the two were soon together. The Greek at once renounced his love for Louise, and went to do with him but went to live in the Rue St. Joseph.

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STUBBORN FIRE TO FIGHT

Hullinger & Baley's Drug Store Cleaned Out and Misfit Clothing Parlors Damaged.

TWO HOURS HARD LABOR FOR FIREMEN

Flames Started in the Top Story of a Frame Street Block, and Proved Very Difficult to Extinguish—The Estimated Loss.

A fire last night in the block on the south side of Furnam street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, proved one of the hardest to handle which the Omaha department has attended for some time. The block consists of a solid row of three-story brick buildings, each one occupied by firms carrying valuable stocks. Three of the stores buildings, 1307, 1309 and 1311, were more or less damaged and only hard and effective work by the firemen prevented the destruction of the entire block, for the buildings are all constructed on the best plan to make a good fire.

About 12:20 Detrimental Savage and Dempsey saw flames issuing from the rear of the third story of 1307, occupied by Hullinger & Baley the druggists, and turned in the alarm. The officer on the beat at the same time noticed flames issuing from the front windows of the third floor of the same building.

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WEST POINT NEWS NOTES

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DAVID CITY LITIGATION

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