

CONFESSION, UNDER FEAR OF DEATH, MAY CLEAR MYSTERY, AND AVENGE MURDER OF LING GUN

After 16 Years, Slayers of Chinaman May Be Brought to Bar of Justice.

THREE IMPLICATED IN BLACK CRIME

Tennessee Man Said to Have Confessed Particulars of Affair, Which Occurred in Madison.

A LITTLE more than 16 years ago a Chinaman, Ling Gun, with limited knowledge of the English language, and dressed in the ancient garb of his race, started from Asheville for Knoxville. He never reached his destination, however. He was put off the train near the state line in Madison county and wandered thinly clad and alone in the mountains of Madison; was beaten, and, it is alleged, murdered and robbed and fed to the hogs.

A searching party from Asheville found the remains of the little old man after several weeks of hardship and toil. The body was being gnawed by hogs, the head was severed and several hundred or several thousand dollars that the Chinaman was supposed to have carried in a money belt was gone. The belt, however, was found.

All this occurred late in November, 1893. After a lapse of 16 years and with the incidents of the affair incidents that became international in scope and which called for an investigation by the government at Washington, grown dim, the story of the murder of the Chinaman has been revived through an alleged confession of one of those having knowledge, possibly guilty knowledge, of the affair and it is now probable that arrests will be made and the grand jury of Madison county asked to probe into the case.

CONFESSION OF A MAN WHO BELIEVED HE WAS ABOUT TO DIE.

The revival of the Madison county affair came a few days ago with the receipt by the authorities of a letter written by Dr. R. A. Green of Cooke county, Tennessee, a preacher and a physician. This letter, containing it is said valuable information, is now in the possession of the solicitor for this judicial district. It purports, it is understood, to contain a confession made by a man in that section who, believing that he was going to die, told of the affair of the Chinaman, to give names of those implicated and to recite how the body of the dead Chinaman was hauled across the state line and left in the mountains in Tennessee, where afterwards it was discovered by the searching party from Asheville which included W. F. Randolph, then connected with the Asheville Citizen. The information relative to the confession has been sent to both Sheriff Cole of Madison county and Sheriff Hunter of this county, and these officers, together with Solicitor Brown, have the matter in hand. No warrants, it is understood, have yet been issued and the names of the persons involved or alleged to be involved are not divulged.

ACTION WILL PROBABLY BE TAKEN AGAINST THE ALLEGED MURDERERS.

The probability of criminal action against persons alleged to have been implicated in the taking off of the Chinaman, Ling Gun, recalls an interesting period in the affairs of Asheville, Madison county and for that matter, western North Carolina. The Asheville-Gazette-News, hearing of the alleged confession, sent a member of its staff to Marshall yesterday afternoon to dig up the facts. He found that the letter from Dr. Green had been returned to Bluncombe county and that it is now in the possession of Solicitor Brown. Another representative of The Asheville-Gazette-News, who, at the time of the affair 16 years ago, was the "office devil" in the Citizen, sought out former Alderman W. F. Randolph and secured from that gentleman an interesting recital of the events leading up to the finding of the dead Chinaman. Mr. Randolph at that time was connected with the Citizen; it was when the late Col. Frank E. Robinson was editor of the paper and directed its staff of correspondents and reporters. The few minutes talk with Col. Robinson in the editorial room was recalled by both Mr. Randolph and The Asheville-Gazette-News reporter, when Col. Robinson told Mr. Randolph that the Chinaman must be found—"Randy, it's up to you to find him." Mr. Randolph went on the search for the missing "chink" and today in most interesting manner he told of their long search through the mountains.

Story of Ling Gun Hunt as Told by a Participant

Former Alderman W. F. Randolph, who bore a roving journalistic commission to find Ling Gun—and who found his remains—when asked by a Gazette-News reporter to let his mind wander back into those days, told the story of the search, in his characteristic style, which has a virility and charm of its own:

"Randy, it's up to you to find the lost Chinaman, Ling Gun," was the dictum from the editorial room, and the search for the missing Chinaman through the mountains high piled up along the line of North Carolina and Tennessee began.

"The memoranda: Ling Gun, an old Chinaman, was put on a train with a ticket for Knoxville by his nephew, Hop Woh, then doing the 'wash' act in Asheville, who stated that Ling Gun had several hundred dollars in coin, when he left Asheville, and that the money was carried in a belt wound around the old man's body.

"After the train left Paint Rock, that afternoon, the conductor called for Ling's ticket. The ticket was not forthcoming, and notwithstanding the rainy night, the November chill, the absence of a station, and the darkness, the old man was given the bounce.

"A week later Capt. T. W. Patton, then Mayor of Asheville, was in receipt of a letter from a resident of the Paint Rock section, stating that a Chinaman was wandering in that country; that he had been inhumanly treated, and the writer suggested that the man be rescued.

"The city council voted \$50.00 for the emergency, and Mayor Patton asked the Asheville Citizen to help him.

"It was easy until we hit the trail; the trail was cold; so was the weather, and those who were known to have information refused to give down.

Search Through the Settlements.

Numerous citizens aided in the search and days and nights were spent in going over the rounds of the settlements where Ling Gun had been seen. A woman who had started for the barn-yard to do the night's milking was seen to fall suddenly to the ground and her screams accompanied her fall. She was taken to the house in a fainting condition, and sufficiently (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

ALL BRUSSELS MOURNS TODAY

King Leopold Died Last Night, and Flags on Public Buildings Are at Half Mast.

A PEACEFUL EXPRESSION ON MONARCH'S FACE

Surgery Was Successfully Resorted to With a View to Ending His Terrible Suffering.

Brussels, Dec. 17.—As a result of the death last night of King Leopold, all Brussels mourns today. Flags on the public buildings are at half mast, and private houses have been draped. The body of the king, clothed in the uniform of a lieutenant general, remains in the chamber of palms, where death entered last night, surrounded only by those who won and retained the king's close friendship. The expression on the dead monarch's face is peaceful, as though the end had been painless. The body will be placed in a casket tonight, when the period of mourning officially begins.

Dr. Thiriar said the king suffered from a malady of the heart, and it was decided to resort to surgery to prevent this terrible suffering. Numb with pain, the body, and preparations have been made for conveying it to the city proper.

The formation of the regency council, which nominally will hold the reins of the government until the heir to the throne, Prince Albert, has taken the oath of ascension, was announced this morning. Princess Clementine and her sister, Stephanie, with the Countess of Flanders, were at the palace early this morning, followed soon by the king's intimate friend, Baroness Vaughan. Court begins mourning for six months, while the period of mourning for the household continues one year.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Davignon has officially notified the sovereigns of Europe of the death of Leopold II., king of the Belgians. Telegrams of condolence have been received from many monarchs.

Did Not See Dying Parent.

Princess Louise of Belgium, eldest of the three daughters, arrived today. The second daughter of the unfortunate Stephanie was here when her father died, but was refused permission to see her dying parent. After death came she was admitted to the chamber, and she threw herself beside the body in a state of uncontrollable grief. Prince Albert, leader of the destinies of Belgium, moved with pity, seized his cousin's hand, and knelt with her before the body, giving mute expression of sympathy for, and his intended protection of the banished daughter. A group of old servants, who loved all three, broke down and wept at the tragic picture.

King Leopold's funeral will be held Wednesday. Prince Albert will take oath to throne Thursday.

The newspapers devote several pages to the life of the king, whose private life is criticized generally, while his intellectual greatness is extolled. Socialists organs violently attacked the memory of the king, because he repudiated his daughters, and admitted his favorite to his bedside. Others discuss the reported morganatic marriage of the king and Baroness Vaughan. The children of this union will inherit a great part of the king's immense personal fortune. Sensational rumors that Baroness Vaughan has fled from Belgium are believed to be unfounded. It is said that when the king died the baroness threw herself upon the body, weeping bitterly, and herself closed his eyes. Since then she has come and gone between her mansion and "The Palmes," through the private passageway the king built.

If she refuses to leave the country it is said she will be expelled. Baroness Vaughan was born Caroline Lacroix, and was the daughter of a house porter at the French legation in Budapest.

Contest Possible.

A contest over the succession to the throne of Belgium is possible. The Vatican is reported to have confirmed the marriage a year ago of King Leopold and Baroness Vaughan. Two sons are said to have been born from the Union and both survive. The elder is Lucian, five year old. It is reported he will claim the throne. Prince Albert, the heir presumptive, is a nephew of Leopold II.

President Shows Respect.

Washington, Dec. 17.—As a mark of respect to the dead king, President Taft called in person at the Belgium legation this morning and left his card for the minister. The president accompanied (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.)

MANAGUA REJOICING; ZELAYA HAS RESIGNED



Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 17.—General Estrada continues preparations for the attack against the Zelayan forces. Two hundred additional troops were sent to Rama yesterday. A delegate from Zelaya, who came here for the purpose of persuading Estrada to accept Dr. Madriz for president, was not allowed to land. He has been sent back to Costa Rica.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Dec. 17.—Jose Santos Zelaya has resigned from the presidency of Nicaragua and placed his resignation in the hands of congress. Apparently there was no other course for him to take. The people were at last around. The mass of the revolutionists threatened. The warships of the United States lay in Nicaraguan ports. Managua has been seething for days. The spirit of revolt has spread even to the gates of the palace. Zelaya surrounded himself with an armed guard. Unchecked, the populace have marched through the streets crying for the end of the old, proclaiming the new regime.

None Care Who Will Succeed Him.

Who will take up the reins as monarch, for the people have demanded it.

Dr. Jose Madriz, judge of the Central American court of justice at Cartago, who has been close to Zelaya and is now his choice for president, will arrive here on Saturday. Madriz has his following strong and influential, even among the revolutionists, but Gen. Estrada, under whose command the great body of fighting insurgents now face Vasquez's troops at Rama, will have none of him. Estrada's word will bear weight in the choice of a president.

Zelaya has known, too, that Madriz is not acceptable to the United States and he has sought to learn who would be looked on with favor by that government as his successor.

Conciliatory Message.

President Zelaya has added a conciliatory message to President Taft, saying he showed his good faith by

resigning, that Nicaragua might resume friendly relations with the United States. He added that he proposed to leave the country, but stood ready to account for his acts as president.

Accompanying his resignation, Zelaya sent the following message to congress:

"The painful circumstances in which the country is plunged call for acts of abnegation and patriotism on the part of good citizens who are the witnesses of the oppression of the republic by the heavy hand of fate. The country is staggering under a shameful revolution which threatens the nation's sovereignty and a foreign nation unjustly intervenes in our affairs, actively provoking the rebels with arms, which has only resulted in their being defeated everywhere."

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Witness would not say that Mr. Brokaw was drinking even then, but simply that he seemed "fuddled by some grief."

Knox said the first serious quarrel occurred in the presence of a large party of guests at a dinner table later that night Brokaw and he went to Mrs. Brokaw's room and found the door locked. After long persuasion she unlocked the door. Another quarrel, Knox said, resulted in Brokaw calling his wife a fool. Knox advised them to separate and Brokaw went away. Mrs. Brokaw left the house the same night, saying she was going to New York. Her father brought her back. Knox declared he had witnessed a number of serious quarrels between the couple but never saw Brokaw become violent towards his wife.

PRESIDENT TAFT GOES TO WATERTOWN, CONN. He Will Attend Funeral of Mrs. Horace D. Taft—To Cancel Social Engagements for Some Time.

Washington, Dec. 17.—President Taft leaves Washington this evening for Watertown, Conn., to attend the funeral of Mrs. Horace D. Taft, wife of his brother. Mrs. Taft died this morning in a hospital at Baltimore. The president probably will return to Washington Sunday. He may cancel all social engagements for the White House for some time to come.

A Negro Electrocuted.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 17.—Clinton Breckenridge, a negro 19 years old, was electrocuted today for a criminal attack on the six years old granddaughter of Staunton's jailer, Breckenridge was a trusty in the jail. He confessed.

Action is Reversed.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 17.—The court of appeals today reversed the action of Judge Benton in appointing a receiver for the 1906 and 1907 pools of the Burley tobacco season.

THE WEATHER: Forecast until 8 p. m., Saturday, for Asheville and vicinity: Partly cloudy weather, with possibly light snow flurries tonight or Saturday.

HER RELATIVES GAVE AID TODAY

Occurrences in the Unhappy Married Life of the Brokaws Are Being Detailed Today.

New York, Dec. 17.—Mary Blair Brokaw's relatives aided today in the legal contest for separation from her husband, W. G. Gould Brokaw. Occurrences in the unhappy married life of the couple were detailed on the witness stand by the plaintiff's witnesses. Miss Elodie Blair, a sister, came to the court room with Mrs. Brokaw. Her story supplemented that which J. Bullard Blair, a brother, told yesterday, when he described Mrs. Brokaw's hysterical manifestations, when warned by Brokaw, at the table, to cease "making eyes" at a certain man, and other disturbing happenings due to disagreements.

J. Bullard Blair, Mrs. Brokaw's brother, testified about an incident that occurred in the Hotel Astoria in Paris. He said he found his sister crying over the discovery that Brokaw had placed a consignment over her mail.

Witnesses for the defense were examined by Attorney Buhse. Mr. Brokaw's personal counsel, Henry Knox, engineer at the Brokaw place at High Point, N. C., in the fall of 1908, said that while he was on the estate the Brokaws were apparently happy and affectionate. Everything was lovely until the new year's celebration party left. Then he noticed a slight estrangement. Brokaw at times was taking sleeping tablets and was not well. What witnesses called "childish spats," became frequent.

"I can't recall in my twenty-five years acquaintance with Billy Brokaw ever seeing him touch a drop of liquor," Knox declared, "until the first break occurred, when Mrs. Brokaw left the lodge."

SUICIDAL MANIA IS THEIR DEFENSE

The Three Women Arrested in Bath-Tub Murder Mystery Insist That They Are Innocent.

New York, Dec. 17.—The "suicidal mania" of Cecy Sneed is apparently the defense relied upon by the three Wardlaw sisters arrested in connection with the girl's death. Despite the fact that prison bars hold all the women members of the family in which the bath tub victim lived, when she either slowly grievous herself to death or the disappearance of her husband, or was systematically starved, and mentally influenced into a state of helplessness, the mystery seemed today little nearer actual solution than when the first discoveries were made.

Mrs. Martin, the mother, insists that the suicide notes were written by Cecy while grieving over the disappearance of Fletcher Sneed, her husband, and that thought of suicide because a mania with the girl. Mrs. Mary Sneed maintained her reticent attitude today in her cell in the Tombs prison. Fletcher Sneed, who has been located at St. Catherine's, Ontario, expressed the opinion that his wife committed suicide. The prosecutor does not seek Sneed's apprehension. Handwriting experts are giving careful scrutiny to the mass of documentary matter unearthed during the investigation.

Four Killed in Wreck on Central of Georgia.

Columbus, Ga., Dec. 17.—Four persons were killed and a number of others injured this morning when a Central of Georgia passenger train collided with a passenger train on the Macon and Birmingham road, at Harris City, Ga.

Looks Gloomy for Cook.

Copenhagen, Dec. 17.—The report on Dr. Cook's polar records probably will be presented tomorrow. The prospect of such an early termination is not regarded as a good omen by the public friendly to Cook.

TAR HEELS ARE COMING HOME

Senator Overman Has Introduced a Bill for a Public Building at Waynesville.

ACTIVITY OF THE NEW MINORITY LEADERSHIP

Money Is Undoubtedly the Chief End in Life of Money, Now Guiding Democratic Destinies.

Special to the Asheville-Gazette-News.

Washington, Dec. 17.—North Carolina members are leaving for home for the holidays, to remain until after the new year. Senator Overman has introduced a bill appropriating \$50,000 for a public building at Waynesville.

Democrats around the capital are putting in much spare time discussing the activity of the new minority leadership. Senator Money, the new party leader, who was chosen as the spokesman of the democratic party in the senate, something like ten days ago, has gathered many members of the Money family around him. As minority clerk he has appointed his son, Fernando Money, jr., at a salary of \$2220. The position of assistant minority clerk, which pays a salary of \$1,800, is given Mrs. Fernando Money, jr., a daughter-in-law. Then there is another position attached to the minority conference committee. It is that of messenger. Senator Money has given that to his daughter, Miss Loretta Money. The salary is \$1440. The democratic steering committee is discussing the advisability of placing at the disposal of the minority leader another position. Senator Money will make the appointment.

The decision to postpone confirmation of the nomination of Judge Lorton to be an associated justice of the Supreme court of the United States, until after the holidays, means that the Tennessee jurist will not sit in the hearing of the argument in the tobacco trust case which is scheduled for January third. It has been asserted by critics of Judge Lorton that his whole line of decisions as a circuit judge forced the conclusion that he would decide the Standard Oil case adversely to the contentions of the government, which came out victorious in the Circuit Court of Appeals. The Standard Oil case will not be reached by the Supreme court of the United States for more than a year, but the pleadings are exactly the same as in the tobacco trust case. Both of these governmental suits put to a test the Sherman anti-trust law.

The failure of the senate to confirm the nomination of Judge Lorton prior to the holidays means that he will not sit in the most important suit for the destruction of the trusts that has ever reached the court. It is likely that there will be a decision in this case before the much talked of Standard Oil case reaches the court.

SIXTEEN CARS WERE DERAILED BUT NO ONE WAS INJURED—EXTRA NO. 11 MADE UP HERE.

The first section of freight train No. 65, running between Asheville and Salisbury, was wrecked at 10:25 this morning near Bridgewater. According to reports received here sixteen cars were derailed and two or three of them turned over an embankment. No one was reported injured. The train was in charge of Engineer George Brown and Conductor J. M. Hoyle. The wrecking crew from Asheville was rushed to the scene. It is estimated that it will take four hours to clear the track after the derrick gets into action.

Passenger train No. 36 had passed, an hour or more before the wreck, while train No. 22 had only passed a short while before. Passenger train No. 11, bound for Asheville, was caught on the other side of the wreck.

An extra No. 11 was made up at Asheville and run down to Knoxville. Train No. 11, from Salisbury and train No. 12 were run to the scene of the wreck and a transfer will be effected.

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