

## The Only Associated Press Newspaper in Western North Carolina

### DEATH HAD NO TERRORS FOR MRS. MABEL ROGERS ON MARCH TO SCAFFOLD

**Woman Shows a Wonderful Nerve and Is Calm to the Very Last.**  
**GOVERNOR REFUSED TO GRANT RESPITE**  
**Last Thought of Condemned Woman Was for Sister—No Mishaps.**

WINDSOR, Vt., Dec. 8.—Without a tremor and without a word, Mrs. Mary Mabel Rogers today marched to her death on the gallows at the state prison here, and paid the penalty of murdering her husband, Marcus Rogers, at Bennington, on August 13, 1902. To all appearances Mrs. Rogers was the calmest person in the chamber of death. She faced her end with the same stoical indifference that had marked her demeanor ever since her arrest more than three years ago. Greatly to the relief of those officers who were assisting in executing the sentence, Mrs. Rogers' last hour was remarkably free from harrowing incidents. It had been feared that the woman's wonderful courage would desert her at the last moment and that she would be carried to the scaffold in a state of collapse. Instead, however, Mrs. Rogers met death bravely. There were no sensational incidents in connection with the hanging. Although the woman was not officially pronounced dead until 14 minutes and 30 seconds after the trap was sprung, she evidently suffered no pain. Her neck was broken at the second cervical vertebra and she lost consciousness immediately after the drop fell. A few feeble convulsive moments of her pinfold hands was the only evidence that vitality had survived the first shock. The drop fell at 1:13 p. m. and Mrs. Rogers was pronounced dead by the attendant physician at 1:27 p. m. The woman's feet barely touched the floor for an instant, but the deputies on the platform of the scaffold immediately tightened the rope and raised the unconscious form a couple of inches. Although Mrs. Rogers remained calm until the end, she ate nothing today. Prison Matron Durkee prepared breakfast, and carried it to Mrs. Rogers' cell, but the prisoner declined it. At noon another meal was sent to Mrs. Rogers and again she refused to eat.

**Ate Heartily.**  
Since the death watch was established about ten days ago Mrs. Rogers had eaten heartily until today, and she had slept soundly. Last night she retired at 11 o'clock and woke this morning at 5 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Loukes, of the prison, with her, ate the death watch, eating and sleeping in the same room with the condemned woman, Margaret, the little child of the Loukes, was a frequent visitor in the cell, and her childish talk evidently eased many weary hours during Mrs. Rogers' last days and helped her to keep her mind off her own fate. During the last few days Mrs. Rogers spent a great deal of time in crocheting tokens for relatives and friends. Every night her crocheting hooks were taken from her for fear that she might do herself some injury, but were returned the next morning. She read the Bible a great deal and received a number of calls from Rev. Mr. Hayes, the prison chaplain, and Rev. Father C. C. Delaney, pastor of the local Roman Catholic parish. Up to within three hours of her death the woman consoled herself with the hope that she would not be executed. It was shortly after 10 o'clock this morning when she was informed that Governor Bell had denied her a third reprieve, the final effort for which was made by Mrs. Rogers' attorneys today.

**Sheriff Had Bad Heart.**  
High Sheriff Harry Peck, who officially was in charge of the execution, but who in reality did not see it, owing to heart trouble, arrived from his home at White River Junction on an early morning train. Most of the deputies had come to Windsor yesterday and at 10 o'clock this morning they proceeded to the prison. All of them had rehearsed their parts in the execution. By 12:30 o'clock the deputies, witnesses, guards and tinsmith newspapermen allowed to witness the hanging, were at the jail. The hour set for the fall of the drop was between 1 and 2 o'clock, and soon after 1 o'clock two deputies were dispatched to Mrs. Rogers' cell to escort her to the death chamber. The guards found Mrs. Rogers receiving spiritual consolation from Father Delaney, her confessor, who the day before, had administered the sacrament of holy communion to her. At 1:05 the death march was begun. Down three flights of stairs from Mrs. Rogers' cell in the central section of the prison, the procession wended its way. Through the great guard room and into the west wing, where the space of brick floor and the foot of the scaffold was reached. Holding her head high, Mrs. Rogers never faltered for an instant as her eyes rested upon the scaffold. Unaided she mounted the steps, walked onto the trap and then seated herself in a chair. A moment

later she arose, having declined an offer by the authorities to make a statement.

**Remembered Sister**  
Even at this tragic hour Mrs. Rogers thought of others. Just as the deputies approached to bind her limbs, she removed her eye glasses and tucking them to one of the deputies, she said: "These are for my sister. Please see that she gets them."  
A moment later the straps and noose were arranged and the trap was sprung. The rope was a trifle too long and the woman's toes barely touched the floor beneath. She was beyond suffering, however, her neck having been broken at the drop and she had instantly lost consciousness.  
A little more than fourteen minutes later the physicians pronounced that all signs of life had vanished and soon afterwards the body was cut down and placed in the coffin that had been placed near the execution place. At 2:25 p. m., just an hour and twelve minutes after death was pronounced, the body was taken from the prison to the railroad station and the coffin was placed on board the 2:55 train and sent to Hoosick Falls, N. Y., where Mrs. Rogers' mother lives. Interment will be at St. Mary's cemetery, in that town.

**In Good Spirits.**  
An official account of Mrs. Rogers' last days, given by the prison authorities, says:  
"Mrs. Rogers has been in good spirits all the time, considering, of course, what must have been passing in her mind in anticipation of the awful hour of execution. She has conversed with the death watch, but has talked but little of her case except when Superintendent Lovell was present. She has occupied her time to a great extent in crocheting lace for aprons to be sent to relatives and persons who had sent money to her. At night her crocheting needle was regularly taken away from her, to be given to her again next day. She has read the Bible and has even committed some passages to memory. She has written a few letters to relatives and sympathizers. She has never lost hope that in some way her life might be spared and even this morning appeared to retain some faint idea that at the last moment something might interpose to save her.  
"The gallows was erected, however, but every precaution was taken to muffle the sounds of the hammer and to insulate whatever that the work was in progress reaching Mrs. Rogers' cell.

**Asked About Gallows.**  
"Even the death watch did not know about it. Mrs. Rogers, however, was curious and kept inquiring through the day if the gallows was being made ready. Toward night Matron Durkee told her that it was.  
"Mrs. Rogers asked for the visit of the clergyman yesterday, and appeared to believe that her sins and been forgiven. She had not confessed her sins directly and positively, nor had she explicitly denied it. Indeed, she has said little about it lately. She said she did not consider it brave to go to the scaffold and make a confession and that it would not do her any good to tell what other people had done. When she allowed herself to dwell upon the ordeal of today, she appeared to be making every effort to go to her fate bravely and with firmness. The usual talk has been current about some kind of an opiate being administered to her to dead her sensibilities, but it is unqualifiedly false. Mrs. Rogers did not drink even coffee or tea, but contented herself solely with cold water.  
"Superintendent Lovell visited Mrs. Rogers' cell last night and talked with her a few moments. She was in good spirits and even told a story just before he left. She said her case was not properly managed."

**GOVERNOR TALKS.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt., Dec. 8.—Gov. Charles A. Bell was promptly notified by telephone of the execution of Mrs. Rogers. Afterwards the governor gave out the following statement:  
"I am much relieved to know that the execution of Mrs. Rogers was accomplished promptly, according to law and without a hitch or unnecessary delay. It was a disagreeable duty I have been called upon to perform, but notwithstanding my private views in regard to the matter I have acted on my oath as chief executive and I believe I have acted in the interest of public good and according to the law-abiding sentiment of the people of Vermont."

**DERBY RUN OFF.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 8.—A special to the Observer from Barber Junction, N. C., says:  
The sixth annual field trial Derby of the Pointer Club of America, was run off here in fine weather today. W. R. Lyons' Alfred's King from Piqua, O., won first; George J. Gould's Furlough Duffer, won second, and Gould's Furlough Duffer and Melkham divided the third. The All-Age stake was won by Alfred's King, the second by W. J. Gordon's Top-Notch Lancelot, from Staten Island, New York; George J. Gould's Melkham Boy and Gibson Girl, second, owned by Leonard Tutts, of Pinehurst, N. C. divided third.

### STRIKE SAID TO BE ABOUT TO COLLAPSE

Postal and Telegraph Communications Are Fast Being Straightened Out.

LACK OF MONEY SENDS MEN BACK TO OFFICES

Leaders Decide to Save Their Strength for Final Fight in January.

(By Associated Press.)  
ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 7 (Evening), via Eyckhunen, East Prussia, Dec. 8.—A much more optimistic feeling prevails in government circles at the prospect of a complete collapse of the postal telegraph strike and the definite passage of the danger that it might be complicated by an immediate general strike throughout the empire. The workmen's council and the railroad men's affiliated organizations this afternoon came to a final decision that it would not be wise to employ the supreme fighting tool except to achieve the highest political aims and to reserve all their strength for the great struggle perfected for the middle of January.

In the meantime they will devote their energies to perfecting and extending their organization and to the accumulation of their resources. Without the support of allies, with their meagre fund of \$10,000 exhausted and with many reluctant and poverty-stricken members returning to work, the leaders of the strikers' unions realize that they cannot hold out any longer. At the same time it is reported that even in defeat they have won a partial victory in the promise that their salaries, which are on a very low scale, will be increased by the addition of \$2,500,000 for salaries to the budget.

Not any of their political demands, however, have been granted.

**DIDN'T RESIGN.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 7 (Evening)—Via Eyckhunen, East Prussia, Dec. 8.—The Russo today printed a rumor that Count Witte had tendered his resignation to the emperor and that he would be succeeded by General Count Alexis Ignatieff. This rumor is untrue.

**OFFICERS KILLED.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
HARBIN, Manchuria, via Warsaw, Russian Poland, Dec. 8.—Many officers are being killed by rebellious troops. Reserve officers are not permitted to return home. All messages from Manchuria are censored.

### Americans Who Are to Be Shot in Mexico for Insurance Frauds



The trial of Dr. C. S. Harle, Leslie B. Hulbert and William Mitchell, in Chihuahua, Mexico, charged with murdering two men for insurance money, has come to an end after three years and the trio have been condemned to be shot. There is no further ground for appeal, it is said, and the three will be executed beside their coffins, blindfolded, with a file of soldiers as their executioners, before the first of the year. Two of the men, Mitchell and Hulbert, are New York men. Hulbert is a graduate of Cornell. He was an attorney in Rochester and was so an assistant in the district attorney's office in Monroe county. He got into trouble through obtaining divorce illegally and fled the country. He took the name of C. T. Richardson.

### COOK BOYS CAUGHT BY PURSUING POSSE

(By Associated Press.)  
HAMPTON, S. C., Dec. 8.—"Boss" Cook, Vincent Cook, Dan Cook and Henry Cook, brothers, were captured by a posse tonight. "Boss" and Vincent are charged with the murder of Hamp Smith.

### RIDERS PREPARE FOR LAST DAY'S SPRINT

(By Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Nine teams this morning are still in the six-day bicycle race at Madison Square Gardens. The finish of the race was but twenty-four hours away when the 1 o'clock score was announced, showing two teams tied for first place. The score of the leaders at 1 a. m. was 1,331 miles 4 laps, 465 miles and 3 laps behind the record.

### SCANDANAVIAN COLONISTS TO SETTLE HERE

Movement on Foot to Turn the Immigrants Towards This City.

DR. LILJA WILL COME TO LOOK OVER GROUND

Officer of Immigration Society Will Arrive Tuesday For Conference.

A large Scandinavian colony for Asheville is the latest plan of the local board of trade and other gentlemen interested in the city's welfare that seems likely to be consummated. The city will next Tuesday be visited by Dr. Lilia, a prominent member of the Swedish Immigration Society of New York and, if he is satisfied that Western North Carolina offers inducements that should be satisfactory to Swedish colonists he will use his influence and that of the immigration society to turn a portion of the annual Swedish immigration to Asheville and the surrounding country. That Mr. Lilia will be pleased with conditions here seems almost an assured fact.

The move for more Swedish immigrants is due in part to Hans Rees & Sons, the operators of the big tannery on the French Broad river. This company has for some time had a number of Swedish laborers in its employ and found them so valuable as compared with ordinary laborers they had been in the habit of employing that, through them the value of Swedish laborers became known to business men of the city generally. Dr. Jacobson, pastor of the First Lutheran church of Brooklyn and a Swede of prominence in this country, was in the city yesterday and talked with members of the board of trade and others about the opportunities offered to immigrants in this part of North Carolina. He was much struck with the possibilities of sheep raising in western North Carolina and thought that the climatic conditions would appeal strongly to his countrymen. He said he would see if the efforts of Dr. Lilia, in New York, and hoped that many of the Scandinavian immigrants could be induced to come to Asheville.

That immigration of the sort mentioned would be most welcome seems assured for it is well known that the rapid development of the great Northwest was due principally to the efforts of the Scandinavians, who flocked there by the thousands several decades ago. The Norwegian and Swedes are considered as being the most desirable of immigrants by many authorities and would prove an important factor in the agricultural development of this portion of the state.

### JOHN H. MITCHELL BLEEDS TO DEATH

United States Senator Dies as Result of Having Four Teeth Extracted Thursday.

(By Associated Press.)  
PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 8.—United States Senator John H. Mitchell, died at the Good Samaritan hospital, in this city at 11:40 o'clock this morning, death resulting from complications which followed the removal of four teeth at a dental office yesterday morning. A hemorrhage of unusual severity followed the removal of the teeth and despite the application of the most powerful styptics known to dental science, the flow of blood could not be stayed.

Senator Mitchell had long been a sufferer from diabetes and other vitiating diseases and this morning he succumbed to weakness following such hemorrhage and lapsed into a state of a mi-consciousness from which he never rallied. Saline injections and powerful stimulants were administered but without effect and the senator sank rapidly until the end.

### RYAN WILL BE PUNISHED FOR HIS REFUSALS

Head of the Equitable Refuses to Answer Questions of Committee.

TESTIMONY TO BE SENT TO JEROME FOR ACTION

Sensational Developments Occur In the Insurance Investigation.

(By Associated Press.)  
NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The legislative committee, which is investigating life insurance conditions, today determined to send to District Attorney William T. Jerome, a request that he institute proceedings against Thomas F. Ryan, financier and owner of the majority of the stock of the Equitable Life Assurance society, to punish Mr. Ryan for refusing to answer when asked what E. H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific, and Southern Pacific railroads, had said to him when Mr. Harriman tried to induce him to share control of the Equitable society with Mr. Harriman.

Mr. Ryan was asked whether Mr. Harriman had threatened that results disastrous to Mr. Ryan's interests would ensue or if Mr. Harriman had told him that some action would be taken by the state legislature or an officer of the government, unless Mr. Ryan consented to share his stock with him.

Refused to Answer.  
Acting on the advice of his attorney, Paul DeYoung, Mr. Ryan declined to answer those questions, although Senator William W. Armstrong, chairman of the committee, directed him to do so. Mr. Ryan, however, did answer one question by saying that Mr. Harriman did not tell him at that time there would be a legislative investigation of the life insurance business unless he gave up part of the Hyde stock.

Mr. Ryan had already testified that he secured control of the Equitable society by paying James H. Hyde \$2,500 for 502 shares of the total 1,000 shares of the society.  
"After you had bought that stock was there any proposition to share it with you?" asked Charles E. Hughes, counsel for the committee.  
"Mr. H. E. Harriman desired to share the purchase with me and I refused to permit that," replied Mr. Ryan.

Mr. Ryan said that he thought Mr. Harriman made his request on the day Mr. Ryan bought the stock and before the purchase was publicly announced.  
"What did Mr. Harriman say to you to influence you to make the sale?"  
"I do not think, Mr. Hughes, I ought to be called upon to answer a question like that—to characterize or state a conversation I had in private with Mr. Harriman," said Mr. Ryan.

To this Mr. Hughes said: "I deem the matter important in two aspects. In the first place the committee may understand the motive which actuate those who desire to obtain control of the stock of the insurance company, and the proceedings which may be taken to acquire it, and secondly that we may know whether there is any truth in the report that there was any suggestion that life insurance conditions in this state would be investigated if Mr. Ryan did not accede to Mr. Harriman's request. I think that we should have full light upon the transaction, and I hope that Mr. Ryan will feel that he can do another public service by advising the committee fully."  
Mr. Cravath said that Mr. Ryan would testify freely as to facts, but that he was not required to state what Mr. Harriman said to him in private conversation. Mr. Ryan refused to answer.



From now on until the 24th this old gentleman's mail will be very large.