

EMILE ZOLA DIES.

Famous French Novelist, Asphyxiated in His Room

WAS NO SUSPICION OF SUICIDE

Poisonous Gases From the Author's Stove Did the Deadly Work—His Wife Was Made Unconscious.

Paris, By Cable.—Emile Zola, the novelist, who gained additional prominence in recent years because of his defense of the Jews and of former Captain Dreyfus, was found dead in his Paris home Tuesday morning. Asphyxiation, resulting from gas from a stove in the bedroom, is given as the cause of death.

Mr. Zola and his wife retired at 10 o'clock Monday night. Madame Zola was seriously ill when the room was broken into this morning. At about noon she was removed to a private hospital, where she recovered consciousness for a short time and was able to explain to a magistrate what had happened. She said that she returned to Paris from their country house at Medan. Owing to a sudden spell of cold weather the heating stove in their bedroom was ordered to be lighted. The stove burned badly and the pipes of the stove, which have been out of order for some time, became hot. She explained that she awoke early this morning with a splitting headache. She awakened her husband and asked him to open a window. She saw him rise and attempt to move toward a window, but he staggered and fell to the floor unconscious. Mme. Zola fainted at the same moment and was, therefore, unable to give the alarm. Mme. Zola does not yet know of her husband's death, and it is feared she may suffer a relapse when informed of it. It is thought tonight, however, that she will recover.

The death of M. Zola, which only became generally known late Monday afternoon, caused a great sensation in Paris and there was a constant stream of callers at the residence. Mr. Zola's body lies upon a table in the center of the spacious drawing room of his home under a canopy of rare and ancient hanging. The body is covered with a sheet and electric lamps throw their vivid light upon the wax-like features of the dead.

The servants of the Zola household, not hearing any movement in their master's apartment this morning, entered the bedroom at half past 9 o'clock and found M. Zola lying with his head and shoulders on the floor and his legs on the bed. Doctors were summoned and they failed to reanimate him. Mme. Zola was unconscious, but after prolonged efforts on the part of the physicians she showed signs of life, but it was some time before she became conscious.

It is reported here during the day that there were witnesses to the death of M. Zola. Nothing has so far developed to substantiate this theory and the statement made by Mme. Zola to the magistrate seems to disprove it. M. Zola retired with a good appetite and the servants of the household ate of the same dishes. No unusual sound was heard from the bedroom during the night. Two little dogs belonging to the Zolas passed the night in their master's bedroom. They were alive this morning. It is believed they once slept on the bed and the other on a chair, thus escaping the heavy carbonic gas, which settled near the floor.

A druggist, who was the first to arrive at the house to attend M. Zola and wife said: "When I entered the bedroom, M. Zola was lying on the floor. No special odor likely to cause asphyxiation was noticeable. M. and Mme. Zola did not present conclusive symptoms of asphyxiation. The faces were contorted and their lips were bloodless but not violently colored. I think the accident was probably caused by the Zola's inhaling heavy carbonic gas which lay mainly below the level of the high bed. This would account for Mme. Zola's escape. They were not suffocated on the bed. Mr. Zola was tried to rise, but he was seized with vomiting, and fainting, fell to the floor, where he was suffocated. Mme. Zola was also overcome by the gas, but to a less degree than her husband."

The commissary of police was summoned to the residence here from his report to the prefect of Paris: "The heating stove was not lighted and there was no odor of gas. It is believed that M. Zola's death was due to accidental poisoning by drugs. Two little dogs found in the bedroom, which were in a second report the commissary of police endorsed the medical opinion that M. Zola's death was accidental and due to asphyxiation."

Two Firemen Scalded to Death.

Roanoke, Va., Special.—Two men were killed and another was seriously injured in a freight wreck on the Norfolk & Western Railway at Alleghany, Va., 30 miles west of Roanoke Monday. The dead: S. D. Jarrett, fireman, Bristol, Tenn.; J. C. Perling, fireman, Roanoke. Injured: T. F. Keiser, engineer, Roanoke, Va. There was a coal train standing in the block at Alleghany and it is alleged the telegraph operator at Houchins misread a train order, and let another coal train go in, and a rear end collision resulted. The engine of the second train was overturned and the caboose and six "bathtub" box cars of the first train were reduced to kindling wood. Firemen Jarrett and Perling were caught under the overturned engine and scalded to death by steam.

Severe Earthquake.

Mobile, Ala., Special.—The steamer *Managua*, which has arrived here from Central America, reports serious earthquakes on September 23, extending from Puerto Barrios to Santo Tomas, Guatemala, and from Little River to Belize, British Honduras. The shocks lasted three minutes and were simultaneous all along the coast. From this seismic movement it is believed Guatemala City was in the center of the disturbance. The wires are down between Guatemala City and the coast.

NORTH CAROLINA CROPS.

Gathering Progressing Rapidly—Conditions Have Been Favorable.

The past week has been a decidedly favorable one in almost every respect; outdoor work was advanced rapidly early in the week, and beneficial rains the latter portion caused much improvement in the condition of late crops. The temperature was continuously above normal during the week, the mean averaging nearly 7 degrees daily in excess; the last few days especially were very warm. Fine rains occurred on the 25th and 26th which appear to have been nearly general over the State, but were heaviest in the central, east portion. The rainfall was very beneficial to turnips, late Irish potatoes, and pastures, and was generally sufficient to place soil in good condition for plowing, though for the latter purpose more rain would not be harmful.

Picking cotton has progressed quite rapidly under favorable conditions; practically about three-fourths of the open cotton has been picked out; the warm weather has caused very rapid opening of the remaining bolls and a few correspondents state that much of the cotton just opening falls out badly. In some localities the yield of cotton is better than anticipated, but under favorable conditions. Rains of a short crop seem amply justified. Gathering old corn is underway; late bottom land corn is about matured, and will give a fine yield. Fodder has all been placed in shock. The cutting of tobacco in northern counties where much remains in the fields is being pushed, and the crop continues to cure well. Turnips are doing nicely. The crop of peas is short, but a fine yield of hay is being cut and cured under favorable conditions. Rains about all out on the lower Cape Fear river and is an exceptionally fine crop. Fall plowing, and sowing winter wheat and oats are under way; some oats have come up nicely.

Diamonds Found at Greensboro.

The Greensboro correspondent of the *Charlotte Observer* says: Mr. Charles Tate has begun the development of a mineral spring of rare medicinal qualities located at the terminus of the car line on Asheboro street, and near this place Mr. Roger Scarborough discovered what he thinks is a diamond deposit, bringing to the city about a quart of very suspicious looking quartz. The chemist who is at work on it cannot be found, as he is hid somewhere to prevent being disturbed by excited and eager inquirers. If it is diamonds, there will be a flash of news from Greensboro pretty soon that will burn the wires, startle Kimberley and make the gold-brick road-builders green with envy, for the alleged diamonds came from near the scene of the gold-brick battle-field. With a tale mine on one of the principal streets, all healing mineral waters spouting from another pure gold on its northern and sparkling diamonds on its southern extremity, Greensboro will truly have a splendid prestige, and if they should all prove true, which it really now seems probable there will be a boom here whose reverberations will reach nearly to the battlements of heaven.

Brutal Assault.

Lincolnton, Special.—Late Saturday evening a negro, afterwards identified as Calvin Elliott, apparently about 20 years old, entered the residence of Caleb Brown, a white man, about three miles southeast of Lincolnton, and knocked Brown and his wife down but did not seriously injure either. He told them if they made a noise he would kill them and proceeded to drag Mrs. Brown into a back room, although she continued to scream, for which she received a lick under the right eye and was choked and bitten on the right lip, where blue spots still can be seen. The brute, hearing help coming, escaped through a barred door, the only one in the house, having come in at the window. He left the woman in a precarious condition. She is a very delicate looking woman, with a child about 3 1/2 weeks old.

Death of Gen. Carter.

Washington, Special.—Acting Adjutant General Carter is informed that Lieutenant Colonel L. G. Forsyth, retired, died at the Sweet Chalybeate Springs, Va., after a long illness. Colonel Forsyth was born in Michigan and was appointed to the army from the District of Columbia.

Strange Accident.

Newbern, Special.—Bert Stanly, a young colored man met with a peculiar accident Saturday afternoon. He was riding on the handle bars of a bicycle which was propelled by another man. They met a dray to which a cow was fastened. In passing between the wagon and the cow, Stanley became confused and fearing an accident jumped from the bicycle and landed squarely on his stomach on the wheel of the dray. He was put in a transfer and taken to a physician's office, where it was found that he was severely injured, his bladder being ruptured. He died profusely. He lingered in terrible agony until his death, which occurred Sunday morning.

News Briefs.

The advocacy of tariff revision by Eugene M. Foss as a candidate for Congress caused other Massachusetts Republicans to follow his lead.

It is said that the absorption of the Anglo-American Company by Swift & Co., will be completed October 1, consideration being given as \$5,000,000.

Several important changes in the diplomatic service abroad were announced. The President signed the order for the taking of a Philippine census.

MR. WILLIAMS TALKS

President of Seaboard Air Line Issues Statement.

CONCERNING MORGAN'S MERGER.

Mr. Williams Says the Seaboard Has All the Business It Can Handle and Will Not Be Effected.

New York, Special.—President John Skelton Williams of the Seaboard Air Line, railway, in response to inquiries as to the effect which the proposed purchase of the Louisville and Nashville railroad by the Atlantic Coast Line would have on the Southern railway situation and especially on the Seaboard Air Line, said:

"Whether the purchase of a controlling interest in the Louisville and Nashville by the Atlantic Coast Line will prove a profitable and valuable acquisition, or whether it will prove unfortunate for both, will depend entirely upon the new owners. If the lines of the Nashville are held open for the interchange of business on a fair and reciprocal basis with all connections, without unfriendly discriminations, the union of these two important systems may be made advantageous to both, but if an attempt is made to interfere with the free interchange of business between the Louisville and Nashville and its present connections, such a policy will be followed in due course by the construction of new railroads into the Louisville and Nashville territory and the building of such additional mileage throughout the South. Such additional mileage can undoubtedly be built for less than one-third of the cost per mile of the Louisville and Nashville, figuring on the basis which it is stated has been paid for its stocks. I assume, however, that the friendly relations which have heretofore existed between the Louisville and Nashville railroad and the Seaboard Air Line will not be interrupted. It is certainly the desire of the Seaboard Air Line to maintain cordial relations with both allies and competitors. I do not know what arrangements were made on behalf of the Southern railway with the owners of the Atlantic Coast Line in connection with the sale of the Louisville and Nashville to the Coast Line; nor do I know whether there is any truth in the report which has reached me to the effect that a secret offensive and defensive alliance has been entered into between the Southern railway and the Atlantic Coast Line covering a period of years. It is certain, however, that nothing has been done and nothing will be done which will affect adversely the earnings and business of the Seaboard Air Line system. The lines of this system now carry seven Southern States, extending from Baltimore in the North to the Southern limits of Florida in the South and to Montgomery and Birmingham, Ala., in the South-west. The business of the system at the present time is limited only by its capacity to move the freight which is offered to it and these conditions will not be interfered with by any action of connecting lines."

Surprised at Williams.

New York, Special.—A member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Company expressed surprise at the tone of Mr. Williams' statement with regard to the attitude of the Seaboard Air Line in the matter of L. & N. and Atlantic Coast Line negotiations. No action of course hostile to the Seaboard Air Line was contemplated, it was shown. The fact that the Seaboard Air Line is in the present negotiations. Further than this, however, the firm of Morgan & Company was not prepared now to make any statement in the matter. The member of the firm interviewed said he was unable to give any explanation at the time of Mr. Williams' attitude.

Died at the Stake.

Corinth, Miss., Special.—Writing in the flames of fagots piled high by hundreds of citizens, Tom Clark, alias Will Clark, a young negro, was burned at the stake here at a late hour Sunday. Clark had confessed to one of the most atrocious assaults and murders in the history of Mississippi, and said that he deserved his awful fate. On August 19th last Mrs. Carrie Whitfield, the wife of a well-known citizen, was found dead in her home. Investigation showed that the lady had been assaulted. Her head was practically severed from her body. Both Whitfield and his wife were related to several of the most prominent families in the South and the indignation of the people knew no bounds.

Woman Murdered.

Mobile, Ala., Special.—While defending her fifteen-year-old niece, Helen Robertson, from an attempted criminal assault, Mrs. Helen Dickson, who lives in a suburb south of this city, was murdered in her home early Sunday by some unknown assailant. Miss Robertson, Miss Dickson and a three-year-old son of Mrs. Dickson were in the room when the murder was committed. Mrs. Dickson's niece was aroused by some unknown person who had entered the room and who attempted to assault her. Her cries for help aroused Mrs. Dickson, who was sleeping by her, and in the struggle that followed Mrs. Dickson was choked to death. There is no clue to the murderer.

News Briefs.

From 100 to 400 persons are believed to have been killed by a cyclone in Sicily.

Pietro Mascagni, the noted musician, will sail from Cherbourg for New York today.

Turkish troops have been sent into the interior of Macedonia.

Commandant Leroy Laderie was dismissed from the French Army for refusing to obey orders in closing religious schools.

LIVE ITEMS OF NEWS.

Many Matters of General Interest in Short Paragraphs.

The Sunny South.

The Democratic executive committee of the first congressional district of Tennessee has nominated Cy. Lyle to oppose Congressman Brownlow (Republican) for re-election. Robert Burrow, who was nominated in convention recently, declined to make the race.

Capt. J. M. Falkner, chairman of the building committee of Camp Falkner, United Confederate Veterans, of Montgomery, has received from Uzal Dodge Post, G. A. R., of Orange, N. J., a contribution of \$100 for the building fund of the home for indigent Confederate soldiers, at public. Accompanying the gift from the Henry E. Day, of the Florida railroad.

A detail of 31 marines from the Pensacola navy yard, under command of Sergeant Burke, is under orders to proceed to Norfolk, where they will join other marines and sail on the cruiser *Prairie*, for Colon, Panama, to protect American interests. The combined forces will be under command of a colonel of the marines.

A State convention of pension commissioners has been called to meet at Jackson, Miss., February 10, to see what can be done to settle the pension problem. Confederate pensions in Mississippi are paid pro rata, a gross sum being voted by the Legislature. Last year the pro rata became so small that most of the veterans got only a fraction more than \$2 a month. The Legislature, at its meeting in January, increased the appropriation 33 per cent, but the new roll of pensioners shows a similar increase, and the veterans will again get only \$2 apiece.

Washington, N. C., Special.—Those in a position to know say they never saw the beds are being rapidly thinned out along the coast and well informed persons say it will be only a few years until the luscious bivalve will be a luxury to be enjoyed only by the wealthy. Packers also say they never saw a season when "September mullets" were scarcer. The few that are coming to market however are commanding the highest prices.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Special.—At Tuesday morning's session of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, C. A. Wilson was elected first vice grand master and T. Shea, of New Jersey, second vice grand master. Grand Secretary and Treasurer Wernold stated today that the convention will probably be in session all day, but that on Thursday morning it will adjourn and the delegates will leave for home. The place of the next meeting may not be decided until tomorrow. The principal cities bidding for it are Birmingham, Milwaukee, Buffalo, St. Louis and Washington.

At The National Capital.

President Roosevelt, in a speech in Cincinnati, said that changes in the tariff would not remedy the trust evil.

Secretary Shaw, in a speech at Chicago, offered reciprocity as the remedy for tariff troubles.

Senator W. E. Mason has a bill to end the coal strike, and wants the President to call Congress in special session to pass it.

Representative Joseph W. Babcock, of Wisconsin, chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, will be a candidate for the Speakership of the next House of Representatives.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has ordered an investigation into the discrepancies between the department's crop reports and commercial estimates. Ten experts will be sent to the South to gather data regarding the cotton crop.

At The North.

A note received by the New York police states that William Hooper Young, who is suspected of murdering Mrs. Pulitzer, is a suicide.

For the first time since 1899 the New York Clearing House banks show a deficit, amounting to \$1,642,050.

Because her skirt was wet and made a contact with the electric trolley rail at the Curtis street crossing in New Britain, Conn., 2,500 volts of electricity passed through the body of Mrs. Frank Brown, aged 35, burning her badly, but not fatally. Her two-year-old son, John, carried in her arms, was killed instantly.

Cutting his son off with \$50,000, W. S. Stratton, of Colorado, left most of his fortune of \$14,000,000 to found a home for the poor.

From Across The Sea.

United States marines guarded the arms of Colombian soldiers permitted to travel on a Panama train.

President Castro is advancing with 6,000 men to attack the Venezuelan rebels.

Israel Zangwill applauds Secretary Hay for his defense of the Roumanian Jews.

There are many signs of mourning in Belgium for Queen Marie Henriette.

Miscellaneous Matters.

The announcement that the Rev. Dr. Francis L. Patten will accept the presidency of the Princeton Theological Seminary marks the beginning, so it is thought, of an era of extraordinary prosperity for that institution. The attendance, until this fall has been decreasing, but with the opening of the new year there has been an increase of more than 50 in the enrollment. A bequest which will probably amount to more than \$500,000 has been received.

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

He Gets Communication From a Fan Away Admirer

WHO ENJOYS HIS PHILOSOPHY

Bill Then Proceeds to Moralize on a Number of Things That Strike His Fancy.

"Keokuk, Iowa, Special.—Major Charles H. Smith, Cartersville, Ga.—Dear Sir: For several years past I have been reading your letters. I like very much your writings about the home life, the everyday events and the many little incidents of your experience, looking backward over a long and busy career.

"Although a stranger, of opposite politics and with many different views of life, still your words have interested me and have so many times touched my heart that I want to write to you my appreciation. I wish you could visit Iowa—go over it from the Mississippi to the Missouri river and meet the people of a republican state. You would, no doubt, soften your writings about the 'northerners.' You would find as warmhearted and generous a people as you have in Georgia.

"You would find a people that average in intelligence with any people on earth. If you could interview the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters or wives of those who had fallen in the war of the rebellion, you would find bitter resentment; you would not find that these men, who had given their lives, had done so with any hatred toward their southern brethren, but you would find that the great reason for their sacrifice was in the cause of the union of all parts of this great country and liberty for all humanity. This is northern sentiment, and God, who rules wisely, ordered that the result should be as it is.

"It is certainly a great curse to have so many illiterate, low-literate negroes in your state; but how true it says 'the sins of the fathers shall be visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generations.' To my mind, the forefathers of Georgia aimed in purchasing and owning slaves, and now their children's children suffer the consequences.

"I trust you will receive these words as they are meant, with the greatest kindness and good will, and I wish you many more years of happiness with your good wife, children and grandchildren, and further hope that 'Bill Arp's Letter' will continue to visit us for very many years to come."

That is a good letter. A good man wrote it. I could neighbor with him and his folks and never give them a word to give them offense. But I would teach them something they do not know—teach them gently line upon line, precept upon precept—here a little and there a little. Now, here is a gentleman with your good wife, children and grandchildren, and further hope that 'Bill Arp's Letter' will continue to visit us for very many years to come.

Washington, Special.—Chief Postoffice Inspector C. C. ... a dispatch announcing that Postmaster S. Nutty, of Timber Ridge, Va., has absconded. Timber Ridge is a fourth-class office. The disappearance of the postmaster followed a visit of the postoffice inspector, who writes that the stamp collectors have been manipulated. N. S. Wood has been designated acting postmaster.

Items of Interest.

Four per cent of \$1,000,000 is the sum Charles M. Schwab, the steel king, is to pay annually for an unfurnished apartment of 17 rooms on the sixteenth floor of the Ansonia, Broadway and 72d street, New York, with private elevator service. Only a few years ago this would have been a startling rental for anyone to pay.

The Chinese are a very thrifty people. The Rev. M. Sears, a Baptist missionary to China, in a letter to friends in Mexico, Mo., relates that the body of the head of a family of his acquaintance was kept by his economical children until their mother died, so that both could be buried together. In this way the needless expense of providing two graves was avoided.

S. A. L. Freight Wrecked.

Raleigh, N. C., Special.—Sixteen freight cars were derailed near Merry Oaks, on the Raleigh & Augusta division of the Seaboard Air Line. The wreck blocked traffic nearly 24 hours. Nobody was injured by the accident. The cause of the wreck was the breaking of the front axle of a loaded coal car. Great quantities of merchandise were damaged or destroyed, and the loss of cars and goods is heavy.

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TRouble Expected FROM MOUNT ETNA

A Reign of Terror Through Sicily. The Country Swept BY A DISASTROUS CYCLONE.

Followed by a Tidal Wave—Violent Marine Agitations Noted—A Hundred Dead Bodies Found at Modica. The Disaster Believed to Have Been Due to a Waterspout at Sea.

London, By Cable.—A dispatch from Rome announces that a severe cyclone has swept over Catania, a city on the coast of Sicily. The railroads have suffered seriously. The cyclone also was severe at other places and many were killed. Mount Etna shows further signs of activity and the volcano of Stromboli is still active.

Syracuse, Sicily, By Cable.—For 24 hours before the cyclone burst over the island, a violent storm raged on the eastern coast of Sicily. The path of the cyclone was 124 miles long, and everything in the line of the storm was destroyed. The sea swept inland for several kilometers, doing enormous damage, while there were violent submarine agitations between Sicily and the mainland. Along the railroad from Catania to Palermo, the force of the cyclone was such that rails were torn up and hauled to great distance. It is reported from Modica 32 miles southwest from Syracuse, that a hundred bodies have already been found, but that the number of dead bodies swept away by the torrent is unknown.

The newspaper *Fraccasua* expresses the belief that some 400 people have been killed. The torrent destroyed everything on the ground floors in houses of the lower portions of Modica. Bridges and roads have disappeared and damage amounting to many millions has been done. (A lire is worth about twenty cents.) The survivors of the catastrophe have taken refuge in the hills. A relief committee and search parties have been organized at Modica. The disaster is supposed to have been due to a marine waterspout. The German steamer *Capra* was wrecked at Catania after a terrible struggle with the waves.

500 Japanese Drowned.

Yokohama, Japan, Special.—During a typhoon a tidal wave swept the Odawara district, near here, and overwhelmed many houses. Five hundred persons are reported to have been drowned. The Japanese battleship *Shikishima* is ashore at Yokohama, 15 miles from Yokohama. It is expected that she will be refloated with slight damage. Several steamers were driven ashore here. Some of them have been refloated. It is feared that there have been many fatalities among the fishermen.

Well Digger Strikes Gold.

Greensboro, Special.—A well-digger found a suspicious-looking chunk of metal on the farm of Mrs. Harlan Fields, three miles north of Greensboro, and bringing it to the city, had a chemist to examine it, who pronounced it a nugget of pure gold, 18 karats fine. The lump is about the size of one's thumb and the gold runs entirely through it. The man who found it will not tell exactly at what place on the farm he found it. He seems to think he has a good thing and wants to share in it.

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CAUSE. For that Millionaire Feeling wear garments made-to-order by Strauss Bros. Chicago. "America's Leading Tailors." Good clothes contribute much to happiness. You gain the point in Strauss Bros. made garments. They are made scientifically to your exact measure by highly skilled tailors in clean, sanitary shops. Every detail from first to last given the minutest attention, the result being garments distinctly above the ordinary and absolutely satisfactory. You will wonder how it can be done at the low prices quoted. Call and see our line of 500 samples of choicest new wools.

EFFECT. C. D. TOWNSEND & CO., Agents.