

### New Orleans Has a Mysterious Poisoning Mystery To Solve

#### After Miss Annie Crawford Admitted That Her Sister Had Been Poisoned Police Discover That Other Members of Family Died Strange.

#### Her Parents And Sister Complain of Peculiar Pains Before Death—Investigation is in Progress But Police Will Give Out Nothing.

By Associated Press.

New Orleans, Sept. 28.—Wearing the stigma of deep grief and with the evidences of the drug fiend more prominently depicted in her thin sallow face, Miss Annie Crawford was arraigned at 11 o'clock today in the city criminal court on the charge of murdering her sister, Elsie Crawford, through the administration of morphine poison.

Judge Baker refused to listen to her proffered statement and entered a formal plea of not guilty, remanding her to prison without bail.

#### Wanted to Explain.

The prisoner stood by the side of Inspector Reynolds while Judge Baker read the affidavit. She raised her head and started to speak, but Judge Baker told the clerk to enter a plea of not guilty.

"But, Judge Baker, I want to explain," said the prisoner.

"I can't hear any statement from you now," said the judge.

"Take the prisoner away," said the clerk and the officers escorted her back to her cell.

District Attorney Adams declined to allow the woman to be interviewed. He said she had added nothing to the statement she had made last night.

The prisoner was arraigned in Judge Baker's private office from which even reporters were excluded.

Miss Crawford's mother and a younger sister, Mrs. Agnes, all of whom died within five weeks in the summer of 1910, was strengthened today by evidence obtained by Assistant Chief of Detectives Dan F. Mounsey. This evidence, it is said, concerns the possession of large quantities of morphine by the prisoner about the time the three sudden deaths occurred.

The fact that the prisoner alone nursed each of them and frequently administered medicines.

Statements said to have been made in a class attended by Elsie Crawford to the effect that her father, mother and sister Agnes died under suspicious circumstances may account, the police think, for the bitter enmity which Annie Crawford last night admitted she felt for Elsie.

New Orleans, Sept. 28.—Following the sudden announcement late last night that Miss Annie Crawford had admitted administering morphine by mistake for cologne and soda to her sister Elsie, which resulted in the latter's death last Saturday, interest today centers on what action the police will take concerning the mysterious deaths of Miss Crawford's parents and sister Mary in June and July of 1910. Miss Crawford has been recently charged with murdering her sister Elsie.

Nothing concerning the deaths of the first three members of the family was included in the confession and the police refuse to make any statements concerning probable further investigations. When asked what further action would be taken, district attorney Adams replied that he could not say what would be done.

The detectives say they have discovered that all the insurance policies on the lives of the parents and Mary Crawford were collected by Annie, the proceeds of which were spent for clothes.

It also was discovered that a different physician was called when the different members of the family fell ill, that previous to their death all complained of severe pain in the

lower portion of the hips and extending upward, which are attributed to the effects of morphine. Members of the family furnished the information that the accused had insisted that she alone attend and administer to the wants of her parents and two sisters when they fell ill and that she alone administered all the medicine. It was said that when Elsie would beg her aunt to attend to her wants, Annie would protest. It was stated that Elsie complained that the food given her by Annie was bitter while that given by her aunt, Mrs. Robert Crawford, was not. Mrs. Crawford stated that whatever food others gave to Elsie was given without Annie's knowledge.

In her confession Annie said that she gave Elsie three half grain morphine tablets in capsules, mistaking them for cologne and soda.

"Why did you not call the doctor and tell him about it?" she was asked.

"I thought she would get over it and my aunt would not do anything for me. I was afraid of her. I got the tablets from the sanatorium on either the fifth or sixth of September. After I discovered the mistake I threw the bottle containing one or two dozen tablets into the water closet. The bottle was left open."

In explaining her dislike for her sister Elsie she said:

"After my mother died and we broke up housekeeping my eldest sister took Gertrude, the youngest sister and Elsie and I began boarding. Elsie was not satisfied as Gertrude was out there (with the elder sister) and we were down here. Finally a young man sent a post card to Gertrude to which my elder sister objected. Gertrude finally came here and I was unable to take care of her. Elsie was always interfering because when I would tell Gertrude to do this or that Elsie would always tell me to mind my own business. She would go weeks at a time without speaking to me. But this is not why I gave her the morphine. It was a mistake."

### President Talks Of Population

By Associated Press. Council Bluffs, Sept. 28.—President Taft's special train arrived in Council Bluffs over the Burlington at 6 o'clock this morning and left at 7:52.

President Taft spoke for ten minutes to the crowd of several thousand which had assembled notwithstanding the early hour of his visit. His remarks were largely devoted to the increasing importance of the agricultural states and the need of improved methods to increase production.

The president declared that in 1950 the population of the United States would in all probability be at least two hundred million and that it would be necessary to largely increase production if the people were to be well fed.

### Bought This Railroad For 70 Dollars

By Associated Press. Lawton, Okla., Sept. 28.—Charles Orth, of Walter, Okla., has bought at public auction for \$70 the Kansas, Lawton and Gulf railroad capitalized at \$5,000. The road was chartered to build from Coffeyville, Kansas, to the Red river.

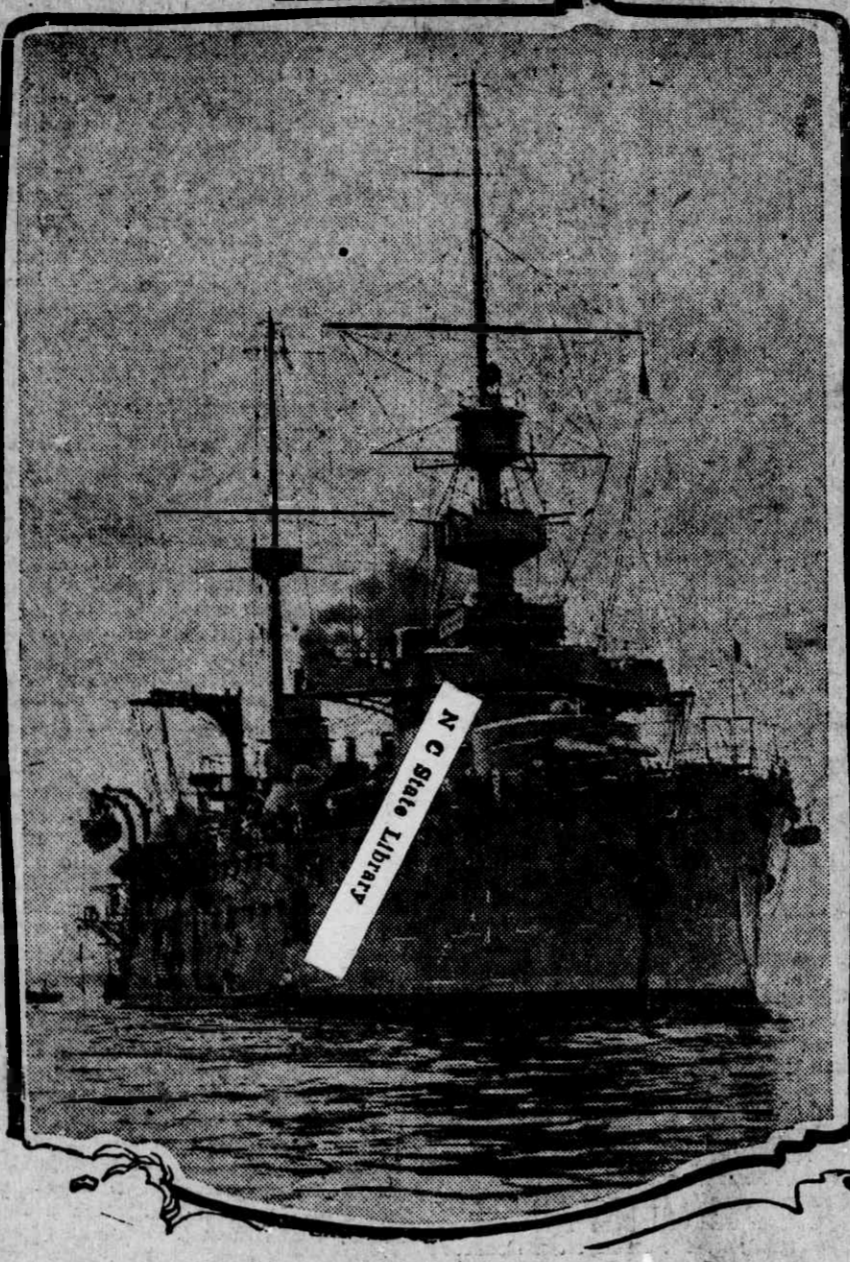
Orth also is the owner of the Gotoban and Southwestern railroad, capitalized at seven million dollars, and the Lawton and Wichita Falls, capitalized at one million. The three cost him less than \$200.

### BLACKSMITHS WILL MEET IN ATLANTA.

By Associated Press. Atlanta, Sept. 28.—The thirteenth biennial convention of the international brotherhood of blacksmiths will be held in Atlanta beginning next Monday morning and continuing for 12 days. Active preparations for the convention are expected to be in attendance and representing every state in the union and Canada are being made.

### DRANK PINT OF HAIR TONIC BY MISTAKE.

By Associated Press. St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 28.—James Finnegan, 65 years old, mistook hair tonic made from peach seeds for whiskey last night and drank a pint of it. He died in great agony a short time afterwards.



FRENCH BATTLESHIP LIBERTE.

Photograph of the French battleship Liberté, taken in the North River during the Hudson-Fulton Celebration, which was blown to pieces by its own destructives in the harbor at Toulon, France.

## Southern Power Co. Files Answers to Complaints of Consumers

In the matter of the complaint of Thomas W. Alexander vs. the Charlotte Power Company, the company filed answer late yesterday afternoon as follows.

To the Honorable C. A. Bland, mayor, and the Executive Board of the City of Charlotte.

The Charlotte Power Company, answering the complaint of Thomas W. Alexander, respectfully shows to your honorable board and alleges:

I. This company admits that Thomas W. Alexander is a user of electric lights.

II. It admits that during the summer of 1911 it caused a representative to call upon Mr. Alexander and request him to enter into its unit form lighting contract, a copy of which is attached to this complaint, but at the time of requesting the signature to such contract, this company did not request a deposit of \$3 from Mr. Alexander, but in this connection it states that this company at times requires applicants for electric service to make a deposit to guarantee the payment for such electricity, for the reason that under the laws of this state this company is required to furnish electricity to all who may desire to accept such service, and unless their financial standing, and unless this company is allowed to require a deposit it would greatly increase the cost of furnishing electricity to its patrons. This deposit is only required by the company when it deems it to be necessary for its protection.

III. It admits that Mr. Alexander has refused to sign the contract attached to his complaint but no means of knowing for what reason Mr. Alexander refused to sign this contract, other than for his complaint.

IV. This company provides in its uniform contract that the consumer will pay to the company the sum of \$1 whether an amount of power equal in value to such sum shall be consumed or not. This minimum charge is intended to reimburse the company for the expense that it is put to in connecting and maintaining service at the premises is little or nothing. In order to maintain the service connection it is necessary for the company to install and maintain lines, meters, transformers and other apparatus and appliances with or without any consumption and that it maintain and keep at all times a competent office force for the purpose of inspecting and reading same, and keeping in repair all of its property necessary for maintaining service. There is also at all times, whether amount of leakage, or loss, which takes place along the lines and in the meters and transformers. This company alleges that it cannot, nor has it ever been able to, supply current to any customer so as to maintain a service connection in a proper and up-to-date manner whether the power is consumed or not for the sum of \$1 per month. And in this connection this contract alleges that by virtue of its contract it must hold itself in constant readiness in order to meet instantaneous demands for light which any consumer is entitled to have at the

moment that he wishes it, but this payment is not in addition to the charge for actual consumption. This charge, however, is not to be paid by the company to furnish electricity on the demand of the customer is an item of expense to be considered in determining the reasonableness of this \$1 deposit required. Where a light is consumed which entitles the company to payment a meter measurement of a sum per month equal to or in excess of the minimum charge, and customer pay only for the light he has actually had, so that the light charge becomes operative where his consumption falls below the said amount of \$1. It is not a penalty for a failure to use electricity but it is in compensation for that part of the service which is at all times being rendered in the maintenance of the apparatus and connections through which the electric current is made available to the customer for the production of light at his pleasure.

V. As to the minimum charge on elevators, et cetera, this company maintains a regular minimum rate of \$1 per horse power per month on the rated capacity of such motors. This charge is made necessary by the fact that this class of service is accompanied by what is known as a "high peak," that is, the load at times is the full capacity of the motor, while at other times there may be no consumption, but the power is company stands at all times ready to operate the motor at its full capacity and keep in reserve for such purposes, together with the necessary transformer line and metering capacity. That it is the custom of all electric lighting, gas and power companies and waterworks companies to maintain a minimum rate and the right to maintain these rates has been sustained by every court in which the same has been presented, so far as this company has been able to ascertain.

VI. And in this connection this company alleges that its minimum rate is as low, if not lower, than the minimum rates maintained by any company conducting a similar business under similar conditions.

VII. Answering that part of the complaint contained in paragraph two with reference to stipulations protecting the company in the stipulation, it alleges that it could not be referred to does not and could not be referred to from the company from its own neglect. But the stipulation is to protect the company from the effect of the negligence of the consumer or any other person or persons.

VIII. In so far as the complaint alleges that the contract submitted by the company tends to monopolize the business, this company answers by saying that as it is not alleged in the complaint in what manner such monopoly would be caused by virtue of the contract, it is unable to answer it.

Wherefore, This company respectfully requests this honorable board that the complaint of the complainant be found without merit and dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,  
CHARLOTTE POWER CO.  
By A. W. HARRILL, vice-president.

Answer to Rev. R. L. Patterson in the Matter of Gas Consumption.  
In the Matter of the complaint of (Continued on Page Two.)

### WEATHER FORECAST.

By Associated Press. Washington, Sept. 28.—Forecast: North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi: Generally fair tonight and Friday; light variable winds.

## STRIKE ON HARRIMAN LINES IS THREATENED

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Sept. 28.—A strike on all the Harriman lines, including the Illinois Central will be called as soon as the presidents of the International Shopmen's Unions involved can fix upon the day and hour, according to J. W. Kline, president of the international blacksmiths and helpers unions today.

### A Day of Grace.

This is a day of grace in the threatened strike of 35,000 mechanical employes of the Harriman railroads, including the Illinois Central road, several hundred of whose clerks are already on strike. It had been intended to call the men out at noon today unless a conciliatory reply to the latest demands were received from Vice-President Julius Kruttschnitt, who is in New York city but the time for final action was put off till tomorrow following a conference last night of officers of the international unions concerned.

The ultimatum sent to Mr. Kruttschnitt yesterday was not made public and no reply was received from him yesterday or last night. The demand in substance is that the Harriman lines recognize the federation of various unions of railroad employes in the same way that the railroads now deal with the individual unions. J. W. Kline today said for the first time since the agitation began that a strike would be called unless the demands were complied with by the railroads. He said that he did not expect any reply from Kruttschnitt.

"A strike is inevitable now," said Kline. "Kruttschnitt replied unfavorably to our final request for a conference and after a talk this morning with other union presidents, we have decided that the strike must be called."

"Some favor next Monday as the proper time to begin the actual struggle; others want to begin Saturday. As soon as we decide which question the word to strike will be sent to all unions."

### Strike is Inevitable.

The strike order is said to be already in the hands of the local union heads and all that will be needed is the flash making it effective. Thirty-five thousand men, including machinists, boiler-makers, car repairers and manufacturers, sheet metal workers and blacksmiths will be affected.

New York, Sept. 28.—Announcement was made by officials of the union and Southern Pacific railroads at noon today that they had rejected the demands of the federation of railway employes on their lines. An official statement giving the position of the railroads in the matter is expected shortly.

## CHARGE THAT LUMBER TRUST CONTROLS TRADE

Denver, Colo., Sept. 28.—Sensational charges that the so-called lumber trust completely dominates the lumber trade of at least twenty states by maintaining a spy system, black lists, divisions of territory and other alleged illegal methods conducted through a central agency in Chicago called the lumber secretaries bureau of information, are made in an anti-trust suit filed in the United States court here by the department of justice.

This is the government's fourth move in a nationwide fight against the lumber trust in addition to the criminal allegations already pending against the secretaries of fourteen lumber men's associations. Anti-trust suits under the Sherman law are now pending against the Michigan Retail Lumber Dealers' Association and the Eastern States Retail Lumber Dealers' Association.

### ADJUSTING TERMINAL NEEDS OF RAILROAD.

Special to The News. Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 28.—The matter of adjusting the terminal needs of Matamoras railway, at Washington, as preliminary to the arrangement for equipment and operation of this railroad property, controlled by the state, is being threshed out by the council of state and a party of citizens of the Washington section today.

It is expected that the matters will be adjusted so that the road may be gotten ready for operation speedily.

### JOHNSON-WELLS FIGHT OFF.

By Associated Press. London, Sept. 28.—The Johnson-Wells championship fight scheduled for October second has been abandoned by the principals and promoters owing to the opposition of the authorities and a large element of the public.

## Mother And Four Children Were Burned To Death in Home

## ATTORNEYS WRANGLE IN LABELS CASE

By Associated Press.

Columbia, S. C., Sept. 28.—Progress of the labels case trial was again marked today by the stubborn fight of defendants attorneys against introduction of evidence sought to be put in by the state. The first witness, who was subjected to a rigid cross-examination, was W. H. Cogswell, of the Charleston printing house of Walker, Evans & Cogswell, who at the request of the legislative investigating committee in 1906 had obtained from the Brandon Printing Company of Nashville, bids on 21 million labels upon samples which were taken from the lot purchased by the state dispensary board from Nivisson-Weiskopf Company of Cincinnati for \$35,000 for the 21 million labels. The price quoted for the Charleston concern by the Nashville company was 7.185 for the same amount of like quality.

The trial will probably take up the rest of the week. The defendants in the case on trial are L. W. Boykin, of Kershaw county, and John Bell Towill, of Lexington county, former directors of the state dispensary, and W. O. Tatum, of Orangeburg, former commissioner of the dispensary, which was abolished in 1907.

### Aviator Rogers Resumes Flight.

By Associated Press. Salamanac, N. Y., Sept. 28.—C. P. Rogers, the aviator, resumed his attempted flight from coast to coast at 10:35 this morning. He ascended from a field two miles east of Red House where he met with an accident last Sunday. He planned to follow the route of the Erie Railroad today and said before starting that he hoped to be in the state of Ohio before night.

## BOY KILLS HIS FATHER NEAR ANDERSON

By Associated Press.

Anderson, S. C., Sept. 28.—Oscar Hall, a well to do farmer living near here was shot and killed by his 16-year-old son, Walter, at their home late last night, the boy, it is declared was protecting his mother.

The elder Hall returned home intoxicated and tried to force whiskey upon the boy who was ill in bed. He struck her over the head with a broom handle. She fled from the house followed by her husband, who had a rifle.

The boy staggered out of bed, secured a 22 calibre revolver and shot his father three times. The latter fell dead in the yard.

## Italian Warships Lying Just Outside Tripoli Now-- No Interference From Turkey

By Associated Press.

Constantinople, Sept. 28.—It is officially stated that several small Italian warships are cruising eight miles off Tripoli. They examined by search lights the Turkish transport Derna which arrived at Tripoli on Tuesday, having on board heavy artillery and ammunition of war.

The Italian cruisers did not interfere with the passage of the Derna which is now discharging her cargo at Tripoli.

The cabinet this morning renewed its consideration of the situation. Scarcely was observed as to the deliberations. It was evident, however, that the replies of the powers to Turkey's appeal for intervention had produced the bitterest disappointment.

Although the precise nature of these replies has not been made public, the powers apparently expressed inability to interfere in the action of the Italian government.

There was no developments reported in the situation this morning. Italy, not having communicated her final demands to the port as yet, but in official circles the belief was expressed that a conflict would be avoided in as much as Turkey was prepared to make concessions to Italy provided her dignity was preserved and her territorial integrity unimpaired.

## Can of Kerosene Oil Explodes With Disastrous Results—Five Members of Mitchell, Illinois Family Dead as Result.

By Associated Press. Mitchell, Ill., Sept. 28.—Mrs. Virgil Vandever, 34 years old and four of her children, were burned to death early today when a can of kerosene used by Mr. Vandever in starting the kitchen fire exploded.

## Brave Mother's Last Act Was to Snatch Her Baby Boy And Drop Him to Safety—Father And One Son Were Spared.

The children were Gertrude, 13 years old; Bessie, 10; Earl, 6, and Wanda, 3.

Virgil Vandever was burned on the face and hands and Thelma Vandever, 7 years old, suffered burns of the face and legs.

The husband and Arthur Langford, Mrs. Vandever's 18-year-old son by a former marriage, saved themselves by jumping from a second story window after their efforts to rescue other members of the family were futile.

Mrs. Vandever's last act was to snatch up her seven year old boy Thelma and drop him to safety from a window. The onlookers saw the woman throw up her hands and sink backward into the flames.

## Eucharistic Congress Opens

By Associated Press. Cincinnati, O., Sept. 28.—The fifth annual national Eucharistic congress opened here today with hundreds of priests and many great dignitaries of the Roman Catholic church in America present.

The congress opened with a procession of acolytes, priests and prelates which formed at the pastoral residence in the rear of St. Peter's cathedral and filed into the edifice.

A solemn pontifical high mass was sung by Archbishop Henry Moeller of the Cincinnati diocese, Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, delivered the sermon. After the mass various sessions were to be held.

### Moroccan Affair Some More.

By Associated Press. Paris, Sept. 28.—A semi-official note issued today says that the observation presented by the German government upon the last French proposals for a settlement of the Moroccan affair reached Paris this morning and that the reply includes new questions and maintains reservations which require serious examination.

## Great Cotton Conference Opens In Columbia With Hundreds In Attendance

By Associated Press. Columbia, S. C., Sept. 28.—Farmers, bankers and business men from every section of South Carolina are gathering here today to participate in a conference having for its object the discussion of plans for marketing the cotton crop.

Indications this morning are that several hundred men interested in the cotton crop will be in the hall of the

house of representatives at 3 o'clock this afternoon when the conference will be called to order.

Announcement by E. J. Watson, of the plans proposed by President Barrett of the National Farmers' Union for financing the cotton crop is awaited in this state with eager interest. It is believed that at the conference this afternoon decisive action on all questions that will be brought before it will be taken.