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JOHN SKELTON AND THE S. A. L.

Gossip About His Efforts to Regain Control

THE FINGERS IN THE PIE

Reported, "On Good Authority," of Course, That the Goulds and the Wabash Interests Are Backing Williams—Mr. Untermyer Seems to be Watching the Cooks Closely and Occasionally Tastes of the Pudding—Williams Would Again Become Active Head, if Possible.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Washington, Jan. 4.—A special dispatch from Richmond, Va., says: It is stated here on good authority that the Goulds and the Wabash interests are supporting John Skelton Williams in his efforts to regain control of the Seaboard Air Line through receivership proceedings. Williams is in New York and is believed to have been called there for consultation with the Goulds. It is understood that Williams wants to become president of the road again after the receivership ends.

According to reports in railroad and financial circles here, Gould money will be used, when the time is ripe, to extend the Seaboard tracks from Richmond to Washington, where connection will be made with the Wabash. It has long been a cherished scheme to give the Wabash a southern outlet through Virginia. It is known that a system of trolley lines from Washington south are now being merged by the Goulds with this possible purpose in the background. With the Seaboard entering Washington over its own tracks, and a friendly alliance in existence between the Goulds and the management of the Seaboard the ambition of both Williams and the Goulds would be realized.

The Williams-Middendorf forces control about 225,000 shares of the total issue of capital stock of the Seaboard. It has been estimated by a gentleman in close touch with the situation that because of desertions from the Ryan-Blair ranks in the past few years, many going over to the other side because of dissatisfaction with the management of the road's affairs, that the Ryan-Blair interests cannot count upon more than 175,000 shares.

There is a third large Seaboard interest, however, which for some time past has chosen to act independently of the larger followings and this third Seaboard party is headed by Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. Ladenburg-Thalmann's strength is thought to be over 75,000 shares.

Judge Pritchard yesterday entered the following order in the Seaboard case: "It is ordered that Messrs. A. C. Braxton, L. L. Lewis, Samuel Untermyer and Eppa Hunton, Jr., be and they are hereby appointed counsel for the receivers heretofore appointed in this case."

It is understood that Mr. Untermyer was appointed upon the suggestion of Receiver Warfield and Mr. Hunton upon the suggestion and request of Receiver Williams, and Mr. Braxton and Judge Lewis were appointed by the court of its own motion.

SENDS THANKS TO GOV. HUGHES

Governor Glenn this afternoon forwarded a communication to Governor Charles E. Hughes, of New York, thanking him for declining to accept \$1,000,000 in bonds offered New York by the holders of the North Carolina special tax fraudulent bonds. The governor thanked Governor Hughes in the name of the people of this state, set forth the merits of North Carolina's position, and referred the New York executive to former correspondence on the subject.

The action of Governor Hughes cannot be too highly commended, for the New York legislature passed an act permitting the acceptance of such bonds.

HORRIBLE DEATH IN POLICE CELL

Young Man in Mobile Who Was Under Restraint

SLIPPED INTO ETERNITY

Mind Was Unbalanced—He Mounted Washstand in His Cell to Examine Flush Tank and Fell From the Slippery Stand, His Head and Neck Lodging Between Tank and An Iron Beam—Strangulation Soon Followed.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Mobile, Ala., Jan. 4.—Michael A. Toner, 24 years of age, and a stenographer by profession, was found dead in his cell at police station early this morning, death being due to strangulation, the result of either an accident or suicide. The former theory is advanced by the police.

Young Toner was held in restraint by the police because of mental derangement pending his removal to another institution. Some time between 5:30 and 6 o'clock this morning Toner mounted a porcelain washstand in his cell and apparently attempted to look at the mechanism of the flush tank attached to the toilet. In order to accomplish this Toner was compelled to incline his head to one side. His feet slipped from the soapy washstand and the body falling, wedged the head between the flush tank and an iron beam supporting the steel ceiling and strangulation followed. The body was found in that position about an hour later.

IDAHO'S GOVERNOR CRITICALLY ILL

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) El Paso, Tex., Jan. 4.—Ex-Governor Horace A. Bois, of Idaho, is in the President Hospital in this city, suffering from pneumonia contracted while enroute from his home at Waterloo, Ia., to Los Angeles for the winter. Mr. Bois, being 80 years old and in a weak condition physically, is in a precarious state, but the physicians say he has a chance for recovery.

GREAT SNOW STORM RAGING

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Atlantic City, N. J., Jan. 4.—While trying to reach a steamer which had gone ashore off Barnegat, the life savers from the Barnegat station were blinded by a terrific snow storm which is now sweeping the coast. The life savers put back to their station. The steamer lies easy, but the gale places her in grave danger.

New York, Jan. 4.—A snow storm struck this city shortly after noon today and indications are that the storm is now sweeping the entire Atlantic coast. Reports from different stations state that high winds accompany the storm and that shipping may be endangered.

POWERS JURY IS DISCHARGED

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Lexington, Ky., Jan. 4.—A telephone message from Georgetown, Ky., received here at 11:45 a. m., says: The trouble was brought by the replacing of a number of white laborers with Japanese in the railroad yards. The threats of lynching by the mob frightened the Japanese into deserting their homes, and they fled in every direction. A riot call was sent to police headquarters, and a score of officers, headed by Chief Browning, rushed to the scene. At about the same time the sheriff's forces arrived, and both charged the mob, whose leader was arrested.

A Japanese named Skavoy tried to encourage a number of the other Japs to attack the whites. He was arrested.

WOMAN FOOLED SHARP TRADERS

Big Financiers Who Intrusted Money to Her

KNOWN IN WALL STREET

Men of Large Capital Trusted Her Financial Ingenuity and She Handled Big Sums for Others—Now She is Dead By Her Own Hand Because the District Attorney's Office Was After Her for Questionable Transactions.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) New York, Jan. 4.—The death of Mrs. John VanNess Roberts from morphine poisoning at 27 Riverside Drive last night brought out the fact that the district attorney's office was about to investigate a transaction involving several thousand dollars in which she was one of the principals.

Mrs. Roberts, who was known to Wall street sometimes as Katherine Stuyvesant Roberts, is said to have been one of the financiers of the social-political type that have sprung into being since the exploits of Ella Parson Reader. She represented herself as "a promoter of unquestionable political, social, and financial affiliations," ready to undertake any legitimate enterprise requiring large capital. There is nothing to show that her representations were untrue. As a matter of fact, a good many hard-headed business men thought so well of her that they entrusted their money to her with childlike faith. Among these was a young Massachusetts man, who wanted to dispose of the products of his marble quarry. It was he who finally turned to the district attorney's office.

Late last night the coroner gave it as his opinion that the woman's death was accidental and was due to an overdose of strychnine, which had been prescribed by a physician. Mrs. Roberts was aware that the district attorney's office was going to investigate her deal with the Massachusetts man and creditors were pushing her hard for money. Apparently, though, she was able to keep up to the end the appearance of high social standing and luxury which enabled her to carry on her financial plans.

Among the papers found in the dead woman's room was a will, in which she bequeaths a prospective share in the estate of her aunt, Mrs. Schoonmaker, who is said to live in Germantown, Philadelphia. Mrs. Roberts had said recently that she was an heiress and would eventually come into large property from the Schoonmaker estate. This she told to the Massachusetts quarry owner.

It seems probable, however, that Mrs. Roberts, whatever she may have been at one time, appeared in Wall street first as a clever stenographer. She learned to know a good many downtown men in this way and then she took to selling life insurance. She was known as the Mutual Life's "Society agent," working chiefly on Fifth Avenue. She was married fourteen years ago and had a thirteen year old son, Richard W. Roberts.

Another Cassie Chadwick. (By Leased Wire to The Times.) New York, Jan. 4.—Mrs. John VanNess Roberts committed suicide because she had been jilted by a New York club man. She had no (Continued on Third Page.)

HANG THE JAPS CRIED THE MOB; A POLICE CALL

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Ogden, Utah, Jan. 4.—With cries of "hang the Japs!" 200 men invaded the Japanese quarter here last evening, and but for the timely arrival of the police a riot would have resulted. The trouble was brought by the replacing of a number of white laborers with Japanese in the railroad yards. The threats of lynching by the mob frightened the Japanese into deserting their homes, and they fled in every direction.

A riot call was sent to police headquarters, and a score of officers, headed by Chief Browning, rushed to the scene. At about the same time the sheriff's forces arrived, and both charged the mob, whose leader was arrested.

A Japanese named Skavoy tried to encourage a number of the other Japs to attack the whites. He was arrested.

WAKE SUPERIOR COURT MONDAY

Criminal Term With Judge Biggs Presiding

THE IMPORTANT CASES

There Are Now Docketed 149 Cases, 75 of Which Were Continued in July—Auburn Week Case of Most Interest—Only One Per Murder, Other Cases.

When Wake Superior Court convenes in Raleigh Monday for the trial of criminal cases, Judge J. Crawford Biggs will find a rather heavy docket confronting him. There are now on the docket 149 cases and several more will be added before night. Of the cases set for trial only one is of unusual interest, that of the state against W. W. Rippey, C. M. Oakley, B. P. Ketchum and Victor Parvin for manslaughter. The other cases are of lesser interest, only one being for murder, and that against Everett Spence.

About seventy-five of these cases were continued at the last term of Wake criminal court. It will be remembered that an entire week was consumed in the cases against various ticket agents and the Southern for violating the new rate law. On the docket now are several misdemeanor charges against a popular man of this city for selling tickets for more than 2 1/2 cents a mile.

Wednesday Rosa Johnson, the young white woman who pleaded guilty to concealing the birth of her child, will be sentenced. On Thursday six or eight characters of East Raleigh who were bound over by Police Justice E. J. Taylor will be tried. For Friday is set the case of Everett Spence, charged with murdering a negro in East Raleigh in October, 1907. His case has been continued from time to time and he remained in jail until last December, when he was able to give bond in the sum of \$500.

The case that will receive the most attention is scheduled for Friday. This is against Engineer W. W. Rippey, of Burlington; Conductor C. M. Oakley, of Greensboro, and Dispatchers B. P. Ketchum and Victor Parvin, of Durham, who are held responsible for the wreck at Auburn early in August. In this collision of passenger and freight trains three men were killed and a coroner's jury put the responsibility on these men. They have employed a half-dozen able attorneys to defend them.

Judge Biggs, who will preside, is not only the youngest man on the bench, but is one of the hardest workers. Since he has been holding court he has presided forty-nine weeks out of fifty-two. Raleigh lawyers speak very highly of his ability as a judge and say he is one of the most courteous and agreeable men on the bench.

GOV. HUGHES REFUSES N. C. JOSIE BONDS

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) New York, Jan. 4.—Governor Hughes has refused to accept for collection, under a law passed by the New York legislature of 1905, \$1,000,000 in repudiated state bonds of North Carolina. Governor Hughes says he does not deem it proper for him to accept gifts of claims in order that they may be prosecuted against a sister state.

WEST PT. BOARD VISITORS FOR 1908

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Washington, Jan. 4.—President Roosevelt has appointed the following board of visitors for 1908: Lieutenant S. B. M. Young, U. S. A., retired, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.; Colonel H. L. Higginson, Boston, Mass.; Charles M. Hough, United States district judge, New York; Robert S. Bean, Portland, Ore.; Dr. George M. Morrow, Birmingham, Ala.; Joseph B. Bates, Bloomington, Ill.; George S. Patton, Los Angeles, Cal.

SWAMP VICTIM SURE ENOUGH

The Identification This Time Seems to be Complete

HUSBAND IS ARRESTED

Woman Murdered Ten Days Ago in New Jersey Was Mrs. Whitmore, Wife of a Motorman and Ex-Convict—He Is Arrested and Locked Up—Evidence That He Beat the Woman—Other Developments in the Sensational Case Unearthed Today.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) New York, Jan. 4.—The body of the swamp victim has been positively identified as that of Mrs. Helena Satter Whitmore, wife of Theodore S. Whitmore, a motorman on the Third Avenue elevated railroad, an ex-convict and a member of the notorious Paul Kelly gang, according to the police. Whitmore today was held a prisoner in the Harrison jail at Harrison, N. J., on an order signed by Police Justice Braugun, to await the coroner's inquest. There has been no specific charge made against him but the police say his conflicting statements and his conduct warrants his detention.

There are two scratches on Whitmore's face. One is on the right side, just below the ear. The other is on the left jaw. Both scratches, the police say, look as though made by a woman's finger nails. The marks were apparently inflicted a week or more ago.

Soon after Whitmore was locked up Mrs. Schmitters, a sister of Whitmore's, was taken to the front of his apartment in the basement of a building on Harrison street. "You tell her you know you killed her," she cried, "and you tell her you beat her and hit her head. You never loved her and always mistreated her and now you have killed her."

Whitmore looked at her with a grin on his face and when she had stopped, said: "What are you trying to do—kill me?" The positive identification was made by Mrs. Schmitters, a sister of the dead woman, who resides at No. 481 east 16th street, in the Bronx. Mrs. Schmitters was found by Hearst News Service reporters and taken to Harrison with her husband, Martin Schmitters, and two friends, Edward Mooney, his wife, Edith Mooney, Thos. and a half a score of others have been found who are positive that the dead woman was Mrs. Helena Whitmore.

An amazing feature of this strange case also was unearthed here and in Schenectady, N. Y., where a brother and sister of the dead woman, Walters and Mrs. Lillian Hughes reside. Letters purporting to have been written by Mrs. Whitmore, although in strange handwriting and signed with her name, have been received by both Mrs. Schmitters and Mrs. Hughes since the nude body of the swamp victim was found in the pond in Harrison, N. J.

These letters were written while Mrs. Whitmore lay dead on a morgue table in Harrison.

Mrs. Whitmore and her husband were married fifteen years ago in Atlantic City.

TRIAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CRUISER MONDAY

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—The naval inspection board left Washington Thursday night for Rockland, Me., to conduct the trial of the armored cruiser North Carolina just completed by the Newport News Shipbuilding Company, which sailed from Newport News yesterday for Rockland. The trial will begin Monday, weather permitting, with the standardization of the screws of the ship, and when that is completed the speed trial will be made on the course from Rockland to Hampton Roads, an exceptionally long trial course. The North Carolina was planned to make a minimum of twenty-two knots at full power.

TROUBLES OF THE OLD MOTHER

Made Ill By Marital Troubles of Her Daughter

STORY OF THE COUNTESS

Announcement, Printed Yesterday in The Times' Dispatches, That the Countess of Yarmouth Had Actually Begun Suit for Divorce Added to the Great Strain the Elder Mrs. Thaw Has Been Under Since Harry Thaw Killed White. Stories of Crazy by the Count.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 4.—Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw, mother of the Countess of Yarmouth, is severely ill from shock which caused her to take to her bed when she learned that the countess had determined to sue for divorce from the Earl of Yarmouth.

While the news was expected by Mrs. Thaw, the actual announcement added too much to the strain the aged woman has endured since her son Harry killed Stanford White. Stories of extreme cruelty on the part of the titled husband have been circulating in Pittsburg for some time—in fact it was known by intimate friends of the Thaw family that a divorce was only awaiting the final decision in the case of Harry Thaw. The countess consented to postpone her action so as not to add to the great notoriety the family was forced to endure.

That she had determined not to wait is taken to indicate that there have been secondary quarrels and that, considering what the members of the Thaw family she was advised to proceed against the Earl without delay. It is known that the mother of the countess looked on the marriage with great favor and that her disappointment upon hearing the marriage was unhappy created a constant worry. This grief and the present plight of her son has caused her a severe nervous shock which alarms her friends and physicians.

400 GO DOWN WITH STEAMER

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) St. John, N. J., Jan. 4.—That the steamship Mount Royal with more than 400 people on board has gone down at sea and that all on board are lost is believed to be almost certain by the officials of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, to which road the vessel was under lease.

The Mount Royal left Antwerp on December 10, almost a month ago, and has not been seen or heard of since. None of the vessels arriving at the ports from Antwerp over the same course have sighted her. The Mount Royal is not equipped with wireless apparatus and consequently none of the stations have been able to pick her up.

The weather has been stormy much of the time since the Mount Royal sailed, and she, in common with the other steamers, must have encountered heavy gales. There is also danger from icebergs in the path she takes and fear is expressed that she may have crashed into one of them.

According to dispatches from Halifax, officers of the Pomeranian, which reached that port today, declares that the Mount Royal is drifting with her machinery disabled, the prevailing winds will have carried her north of the route usually taken by steamers in the winter and she would now be somewhere off the Irish coast. The passengers of the Mount Royal number 200, mostly Italian and Jewish immigrants. The crew numbered over 100.

Dispatches from Portland, Me., state that the Allan Line steamer Hungarian is overdue there, having left Glasgow ten days ago and the suggestion is made in Portland that the Hungarian may be towing the Mount Royal.

SALISBURY BOY FALLS ON REVOLVING SAW

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Spencer, N. C., Jan. 4.—Sidney Klutz, aged fifteen years old, son of Robert Klutz, a Spencer merchant, was seriously injured here by falling on a rapidly moving revolving saw. One arm was almost severed and the lad was taken to the hospital for treatment.

GREAT SLIDE ON THE TOBOGGAN

Over the Financial Precipice Goes Morgan

HIGH FLYER NOW PAUPER

Likewise He Was a Few Years Ago Counted in Society, Married the "Beautiful Edith Parsons," Whoever She May Have Been, and There's None So Poor to Lend Him a Dollar—David Percy Morgan Signs Away the Last Interest in a Big Estate.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Chicago, Jan. 4.—David Percy Morgan, 15 years ago one of the leaders of Chicago society, who married the beautiful Edith Parsons, daughter of John E. Parsons, the sugar trust lawyer, has signed away the last of his interest in the estate of his father, the late David Pierce Morgan, of New York.

Morgan, who two years ago sprang into notoriety again by his sensational kidnapping of his own three children in New York and who later was divorced by his beautiful wife, has assigned his interest in the Portland block and the real estate building in Chicago, to Harriman & Company, stock brokers, at 111 Broadway, N. Y., to secure an indebtedness of \$143,516.85.

This assignment, it is said, brings to the proverbial last dollar, one of the most brilliant financiers and society men of the decade.

During Morgan's residence in Chicago his name was linked with that of several Chicago belles, also in 1892 when he went to New York where he was mourning.

Shortly after going to New York Morgan entered the brokerage business and began operations on the stock exchange and later he was married to Miss Edith Parsons, the beautiful daughter of John T. Parsons, who drafted the sugar trust charter, was president of the New York Bar Association and one of the richest and most widely known lawyers of the time. Three children were born to the couple.

It is said that Morgan prospered for a few years, but about 1904, it is stated, he lost heavily in speculative enterprises. In May, 1904, Morgan signed a great sensation in New York. He had had trouble with his wife over money matters, it is said, and when the three children from his wife fled with them to Radnor, Pa.

From May until October, the father retained possession of the children and kept them at Radnor. Their handsome wife executed a sensational escape. Going to Radnor in a motor automobile she entered the house, took possession of the children, rushed with them to the waiting car, and in an instant later was flying toward the New York state line with them. She reached her home in Mamoroneck, where she held her children. In April, 1905, Mrs. Morgan entered suit for divorce at White Plains, charging that Mr. Morgan had used \$267,000 of the trust funds in his father's estate and a considerable amount of her own money.

On June 25, 1905, the decree of divorce was granted. Since that time Morgan's financial career, it is said, has been troublous.

DOUBLE SHOOTING OVER LOVE AFFAIR

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Chicago, Jan. 4.—A double shooting—attempted murder and actual suicide—started people on Michigan avenue in front of the Auditorium Hotel last evening. It arose out of a love affair between Mrs. Pishzak, wife of William Pishzak, a state bank examiner, and Charles Gilbert Brockett, a floor walker in a State street department store. Brockett shot the woman through the body, then turned the revolver on his own brain.

Brockett died in St. Luke's Hospital at 8 o'clock, two hours after the shooting, without regaining consciousness. Mrs. Pishzak's wound was found to be not necessarily fatal. There is considerable evidence to bear out the supposition that Brockett's tragic act was the result of the woman's resolve to cease his attentions and return to her husband.