

"BRIDGIE" WEBBER, CHIEF BECKER WITNESS, SUDDENLY VANISHES FROM HIS JERSEY HOME

"The Lady Doc"

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The

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WEATHER—Fair to-night and Saturday.

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DEMAND MADE ON HUERTA FOR PUNISHMENT OF MEN WHO HANGED AMERICAN

Wilson Takes Quick Action
After Cabinet Confers on Mur-
der of Vergara by Federals.

MOVE IN BENTON CASE.

Villa Terms for Examination of
Body at Chihuahua Are
Accepted by Bryan.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Secretary Bryan announced late to-day that a demand for the punishment of those responsible for the killing of Clemente Vergara had been sent by the United States to the Huerta Government. The demand on Huerta was made after President Wilson and his Cabinet had discussed in detail the murder of Vergara, who was hanged by a band of Mexican Federals near Hidalgo, Mexico, several days ago.

Vergara lived in Texas, but had property in Mexico. This was raided by the band who later appeared on the border line and called to Vergara to cross into Mexico and he would be paid for his losses. Friends of the American cautioned him against going, but he did not heed them.

He had gone but a short distance when he was struck down and then hanged to a tree. His body was left swinging from a bough for two or three days.

The people of Laredo, Tex., took up the matter and a Federal and State inquiry revealed the facts stated. None of the murderers has been caught.

The Cabinet discussed practically nothing else than Mexican affairs. Despatches being read from Consul Letcher saying Gen. Villa would give permission for a complete medical examination of the body of William S. Benton, the slain British subject, at Chihuahua.

ACCEPT TERMS OF VILLA ON BENTON'S BODY.

While the Benton incident was discussed in great detail, members of the Cabinet were particularly concerned over the hanging of Vergara. That act, they believed, had shocked the American people and should not go unpunished. Prompt steps were accordingly taken to impress the Huerta government of the feeling of the United States in the matter, particularly after repeated assurances had been given by the Federals that Vergara would not be harmed.

So far as could be learned the Cabinet was not inclined to condone the killing of Benton, but in discussing responsibility for the act, some members were inclined to think Benton at least was indiscreet in going into the camp of a military commander, with whom he was not on friendly terms, and entering into an argument with him.

Final judgment was not reached by the Cabinet as to the merits of the Benton case but it was apparent that vigorous steps to procure the body for his widow would be continued.

Consul Letcher telegraphed Secretary Bryan to-day that Villa would permit two Americans, two British representatives and two members of the family of William S. Benton to view the body of the dead ranchman. Consul Letcher also reported that Gen. Villa would permit two physicians to accompany the American and British representatives and members of the Benton family and that he would furnish transportation and accommodations for all of them.

Secretary Bryan said just before entering the Cabinet meeting that Consul Letcher's despatches also confirmed previous information that

RHINO HOT AFTER BILL SNYDER AND NEARLY GETS HIM

But Nery Little Fox Terrier to
the Rescue—Rhino Had
a Hangover.

"Old Smiles," the Central Park rhinoceros, was affected by the cold spell last Wednesday and Keeper Bill Snyder rolled a half dozen blankets around her. She was still chilly yesterday and two quarts of whiskey were poured down her throat. To-day she appeared to be free of the chills but there was a queer look in her eyes.

Snyder entered the cage this afternoon to remove the blankets. Hardly had he entered when "Old Smiles" charged straight at him, her snout lowered almost to the ground.

Bill was taken aback for a second, but dodged out of the way just in time and the animal charged past him.

Then commenced a thrilling chase around inside the bars of the circular cage. "Old Smiles" at Snyder's heels. Bill kept running, for if he stopped it meant death. He shouted to Keeper Hurton, who was nearby.

Hurton called his small fox terrier, Daisy, he pushed the dog through the bars of the cage and yelled:

"sic'er, Daisy! sic'er, Daisy!"

Daisy snapped at the heels of the enraged rhino and barked, while Hurton shouted.

"Old Smiles" stopped for just about one second to glare in contempt at the impudent fox terrier, but it was long enough to enable Snyder to scramble up a ladder to a beam stretching across the upper part of the cage. He straddled the beam and made his getaway as the rhinoceros snorted in anger.

"Gee!" said Bill. "That whiskey must have touched the spot. She acts like a human with a hangover."

PERKINS PROMISED TO FINANCE INQUIRY HENNESSY SWEARS

Sulzer Wanted Five Men to
Furnish Funds for Hunting
Highway Graft.

The Osborne inquiry into highway graft was resumed this afternoon in the City Hall with John A. Hennessy on the stand. Henry A. Rubino who withdrew all his serious charges against Hennessy yesterday cross-examined Hennessy this afternoon in his capacity as counsel for the Warner-Quinlan Asphalt Company.

Hennessy said that George W. Perkins promised to finance one-fifth of the expense of the investigation of the State roads. Gov. Sulzer did not think the scheme a good one, because he wanted more than five men to finance the scheme of investigation. Perkins gave no money.

Jacob H. Schiff, Hennessy said, contributed \$1,000 towards the expenses and Joseph Murphy of Troy, gave up \$5,000. Hennessy said he knew he would not be able to get anything from the legislature.

MAYOR SAYS: PRAY FOR SUN AND RAIN TO RID US OF SNOW!

Street-Cleaning Commissioner
Fetherston Badly Crippled
by Weather Conditions.

LITTLE WORK YET DONE.

Only a Million Cubic Yards
Moved and Nearly Three
Millions Litter the Streets.

The efficacy of prayer to aid in the clearing of the snow and silt from the city's streets was urged before the Board of Estimate this afternoon by Street-Cleaning Commissioner Fetherston and ably backed by Mayor Mitchell.

"We are praying for rain," said the Commissioner, "and we are praying hard for it. We want rain and sunshine—lots of both. One day of sun, and rain and the great problem of snow removal will be solved."

"And up to date," asked the Mayor, "you have not received any natural assistance in getting rid of the snow? That is, the natural conditions of freezing and continued cold have tended to make your work difficult instead of easier?"

"That is true," said Fetherston. "We have had absolutely no help, only nature's hindrances."

MAYOR BELIEVES IN THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

"Well," said the Mayor, "I certainly believe in the efficacy of prayer, so keep on praying. Commissioner Fetherston and the Board of Estimate will join you. The people of New York ought to join you. It's a good cause."

The Commissioner was before the board to ask for money to carry on his work. He was allowed \$51,000. The Commissioner said that for thirteen days' work since the storm \$900,000 has been spent for snow removal. The total amount of snow contracted to be removed, which amount includes what has been carried away and is yet to be carted away, is 4,700,000 cubic yards.

The \$51,000 is to pay for the snow thus far removed. This represents a removal of 1,600,000 cubic yards, which leaves 4,100,000 cubic yards still to be removed. It will cost approximately \$2,700,000 to clean up Manhattan and the Bronx on this estimate.

The Street-Cleaning Commissioner said he attempted to send out hose gangs to-day, men who would flush the snow into the sewers. But the temperature was still too low. With the help of his prayers, the Commissioner added, he hoped to send hose-men out to-morrow. The flushing of snow into the sewers will entail an extra coat to the city later on flushing out the sewers of the dirt deposits carried in with the snow.

BURIED UNDER TRAIN WRECK.

Five Men Believed Killed in Milwaukee Railroad Smash.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 27.—Five men are believed to be dead under a mountain of wrecked freight cars in the centre of this city. A broken flange rolled thirty-seven cars of a Northwestern freight train down a steep embankment. Frank Rowan and A. J. Stewart, injured, have been taken out. Others are known to be buried, but whether they are dead is unknown.

The train crew escaped without injury. The men not located are hoboes.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL WINS.

Senate Defeats Bill Aimed to Curb Him on Parcel Post.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Amendments to the Post-Office bill to strip Postmaster-General of power to lower rates and alter regulations of the parcel post were thrown out by the Senate to-day, 33 to 24.

"Ten Million Dollar Widow" Who Gets Absolute Divorce



FEDERALS WON'T TELL NAMES OF PLAYERS, AS THEY PROMISED

Gilmore and Partners Decide to
Wait Until Giants and White
Sox Return.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—Federal League magnates gathered here to-day for their meeting to-morrow, at which important business is expected to come up. President Gilmore, who has returned from Buffalo, said, however, that no complete roster of the league's ball players would be given out then, the magnates having concluded to announce them team by team.

Some of the teams are still negotiating with players whose names they wish in the roster when it is published, and they are anxious to wait. In this connection President Weeghman of the Chicago club hinted that he was averse to naming his players until he had met the world's tourists on their arrival at New York.

The Federal Leaguers, it is understood, are confident that some of their offers to the tourists, among them Speaker, Crawford, Wingo and Doornan, will not go unheeded.

Larry Schaffly, manager of the Buffalo Federals, and Will Bradley, who was to have been manager of Toronto, were among the arrivals to-day. Bradley signed to play for the league and has not been assigned to any team.

STEAMSHIPS DUE TO-DAY.

Bergenford, Bergen..... 8 A. M.
Fred. VIII, Christiansand..... 9 A. M.
Zacapa, Santa Marta..... 10 A. M.
Esperanza, Havana..... 11 A. M.
Estonian, Antwerp..... 12 M.

TAFT AT WHITE HOUSE IS ENTERTAINED AT LUNCH BY WILSON

First Time a President and Ex-
President Have Met at Such
a Function in Years.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Former President William Howard Taft, who was in the city on business to-day, was the luncheon guest of President and Mrs. Wilson. This was the first time since the Harrison Administration that a President and his predecessor in office dined together in the White House, although former President Roosevelt visited Taft at Beverly when the latter was President.

After the luncheon ex-President Taft appeared before the House Judiciary Committee and spoke against the recall of Federal Judges and judicial decisions.

"Both would tend to break down the courts," he said, appearing as President of the American Bar Association in support of a bill to reform and simplify court practices and rules.

Life tenure of the judiciary was praised by the ex-President. He declared against election of judges but held that impeachment investigations of Congress serve a valuable purpose.

"The judges know they are under watch and that impeachment is a real thing and not a scarecrow," he commented.

The former President was given a cordial reception by both Democrats and Republicans. He "joshed" many old friends.

DIVORCE GRANTED VAN VALKENBURG'S \$10,000,000 WIFE

Connecticut Court Awards Her
a Decree on the Grounds
of Desertion.

NO ALIMONY ASKED.

Husband, Once a Millionaire,
Won Her From Scores of
Foreign Noblemen.

PUTNAM, Conn., Feb. 27.—Mrs. Philip Van Valkenburg was granted a divorce from her husband on grounds of desertion by Judge M. A. Shumway in the Superior Court hearing here to-day. The action was uncontested. No alimony was asked.

The suit was filed last April while Mrs. Van Valkenburg was a resident of Pomfret. She came from France about the middle of the month for the trial and it is said expects to return there shortly.

Philip Van Valkenburg, whose wife divorced him to-day in Connecticut, is a member of one of the oldest New York families and although, subsequent to the beginning of the divorce action, he was declared a bankrupt in a Connecticut court, he was reputed to be worth several million dollars.

The Van Valkenburgs were married on Nov. 23, 1909. Mrs. Van Valkenburg was at that time known as the "\$10,000,000 Widow." She had been the wife of William Hayes Chapman who died in 1907, leaving an immense fortune.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg, young, beautiful and luxurious in her tastes and habits, became a marked public figure in New York and in Europe. She has said that she spent \$100,000 a year on "the barest necessities." In Europe and in this country as well she was pursued by a shoal of foreign noblemen of all degrees.

In 1908 she met Van Valkenburg on a ship bound from Cherbourg to New York. On their arrival here, Van Valkenburg, who was then fifty-five years old, proposed marriage, but the widow was shy. She accepted him at dinner one evening and they were married at Greenwich, Conn., at 11 o'clock that night.

The match was unhappy from the start. Mrs. Van Valkenburg said she found that her wealthy husband was pennurious. They separated in a few months. Then she brought an action for divorce and had to chase her husband all over the Continent to serve the papers.

DELANEY ATTACKS METHODS OF WHITMAN

Says He Should Not Permit Sulzer
to Make Charges Without
Corroborating Evidence.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 27.—Commissioner John H. Delaney of the Department of Efficiency and Economy to-day criticized District-Attorney Whitman sharply for his method of conducting the John Doe proceedings.

Mr. Delaney, whose name was mentioned yesterday by William Sulzer at the District-Attorney's hearing as a "go-between" for Charles F. Murphy, says it is an unjust use of power for Mr. Whitman to permit Mr. Sulzer to make his statement without corroborating evidence. He also denied the charges.

"If District-Attorney Whitman had desired to fulfill the plain duty of his quasi-judicial office," Mr. Delaney said, "he would have compelled Mr. Sulzer to produce corroborative evidence before permitting him to attack the character of any person. It is no recompense to me to have the opportunity of going on the witness stand and saying that Sulzer lied."

"BRIDGIE" WEBBER FLEES WHEN HE HEARS OF BECKER DECISION

Informer Who Hired and Paid
Rosenthal's Assassins Suddenly
Disappears From His Box
Factory in Passaic.

BECKER DECLARES HE IS THROUGH WITH POLICE

Whitman Hopes to Build Up Stronger
Case—Schepps's Status as Witness
Puzzling District-Attorney.

Efforts to find "Bridgie" Webber, one of the chief witnesses for the prosecution in the first trial of Charles Becker for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, resulted in the discovery to-day that Webber secretly left his home in Passaic, N. J., last night for parts unknown. Webber's wife boarded an Erie train for Jersey City at the Main Street Station in Passaic at 12:32 o'clock to-day but she did not attempt to hide her departure.

Webber has been at odds with Jack Rose since they figured as District-Attorney Whitman's leading aides in the conviction of Becker. Passaic people say that Webber took a late train from that town last night and that he made every effort to get away unobserved.

PET CAT IS DEPORTED BY A MILITARY ORDER

Commodore Nutt, Owned by Major
Cannon, Killed the Squirrels
on Governor's Island.

Commodore Nutt, pet cat of Major Cannon of the Quartermaster's Department at Governor's Island, was deported to-day by military order for making the squirrels on the island his favorite diet. He was canny in his mode of attack. He would roll a peanut near the squirrels and then lie in wait for a victim.

He was caught in the act and reported to headquarters. Major Cannon was notified that Commodore Nutt must leave the island or else be provided with a bell. Thereupon the tricky pet went about the island tinkling as he went. But the squirrels continued to die and a watch was set upon the Commodore.

He was seen yesterday by a sentry creeping toward a chattering little animal. He was creeping on three feet. His left forefoot clutched the bell at his neck. When that bell tinkled it sounded the death knell of another squirrel. That settled the tenure of Tabby's lease of life on Governor's Island. He was brought from Governor's Island to-day and cast into the outer darkness. He joined the great army of unemployed cats.

Major Cannon said he was very sorry to part with the Commodore, but was resigned by the thought that the cat would have no trouble making his way in the world.

COMING TO RAISE \$150,000 FOR NEXT OLYMPIC TEAM

BOSTON, Feb. 27.—President A. J. Lill Jr., of the American Athletic Union, will go to New York to-morrow to begin the work of raising \$150,000 which the Union officials believe will be necessary to send an American team to Berlin for the Olympic games of 1916. Mr. Lill said to-day that he thought there would be very little trouble in raising the fund.

It is too early yet to decide on the name of the American troupe," he said, "but I am confident that if they are held in the Harvard Stadium again, \$150,000 will be added to the general fund. The Union made \$12,000 in the troupe at the Stadium two years ago."

Shortly after the conviction of Becker Bridge Webber went to Passaic and bought an interest in the Garfield Paper Box Company at No. 21 Main avenue. His brother Henry had been conducting the business. Bridge and his wife went to live at No. 21 Henry street, Passaic, and few thereabouts know that he had been such a prominent figure in the Becker trial.

Reporters saw Bridge at his home last Tuesday night and talked with him about the reversal of the conviction of Becker. He did not appear to be in Passaic after that. Neighborhood boys may be in his home all of yesterday. His brother Henry, who soon at the factory to-day, declared that he knew nothing about Bridge's whereabouts.

Webber, in consideration of his testimony against Becker, was granted immunity by the District-Attorney and it is said in the District-Attorney's office that he promised to appear as a witness at a second trial should the first conviction be set aside. Just how the District-Attorney can go in the way of compelling Webber to come to New York and go on the witness stand is a question of interest to lawyers.

It was in Webber's police room at Forty-second street and Sixth avenue that the conspirators assembled prior to the killing of Rosenthal. Webber reported to the four gunmen, who had been drinking at Webber's expense, that Rosenthal was at the Metropolitan. They left Webber's place, got into an automobile, rode around to the Metropolitan and killed the man they were after. The following day Webber paid them \$1,000.

Webber's testimony was important in that it bolstered up many of the statements of Jack Rose concerning conversations with Becker and with the gunmen at which neither Harry Valton nor Sam Schaggs was present.

"I talked too much last Wednesday," declared Charles Becker in the "Tomb" to-day. "Of course I didn't hurt my case, but a man in my position should depend upon his lawyers. Hereafter my lawyers will do the talking for me."

"My final statement is that I have not contemplated and do not intend to make any further statements."

(Continued on Second Page.)

World Wants Work Wonders.

FOR RACING SEE PAGE 13.