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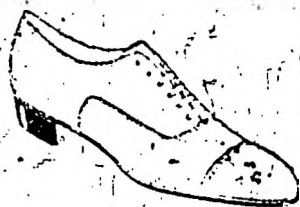
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4TH GAS VICTIM DIES; 31 NOW UNDER CARE

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for both microscopic and chemical examination. He will both place the results of his own investigations at the service of the experts of the State and add them by supplying pathological material for their own independent investigations.

Action in New Jersey.

The chief activities, aside from medical attention given to the known victims continued, however, to be in New Jersey. Prosecutor Abe J. David of Union County, in whom centres responsibility for any criminal action that may be refused to say that he had actually taken the case before the October Grand Jury which is now sitting, or that he contemplated so doing. In the prosecutor's office, however, no doubt was allowed to exist that the present Grand Jury actually would be asked to pass on a most unusual situation and decide whether there was sufficient indication of criminal negligence to justify indictments.

It appeared unlikely that any Grand Jury action would be forthcoming very speedily because of the intricate nature of the scientific investigations upon which would have to be predicated such conclusions as would justify that body acting.

Researches both gross and minute are necessary into the brain, the blood and the general body tissues and organs before pathologists will be able to say with legal conclusiveness that the victims or any one of them died of lead poisoning. That subtle quantities of lead may cause extreme systemic derangement is well known and the chemical processes necessary to a quantitative determination of minute amounts of the substance are necessarily slow. In the present situation a further complication is added because the lead, if that actually is the toxic agent, as it believed having been absorbed in a volatile form, may well be wisely speck through the body of the victims now undergoing examination.

Mr. David said that he had learned that the tetraethyl lead was made only in a crude state in the Bayway laboratory and that he understood it was shipped in drums to Dayton, Ohio, there to be refined and then distributed to the production into gasoline, the purification of which in automobile motors it was intended to improve. The prosecutor added that efforts were under way to learn if any of the finished product had been shipped back into New Jersey and was on sale.

While Mr. David was gathering all available evidence and the scientists were conducting their researches, the New Jersey State Department of Labor took a hand yesterday. Dr. Andrew J. McRidge, the State Commissioner, directed a State-wide inquiry into the manufacture, use and transportation of the substance, the production of which has had such unexpectedly alarming results. On the outcome of that investigation will be based immediate and drastic steps to avert danger if it is found that the temporary closing of the Bayway laboratory has not ended the menace, and that the stuff is being produced, handled or sold elsewhere. There also will be drafted a covering law. This proposed law, according to the Labor Department, will be introduced at the next session of the Legislature.

It will either seek to prohibit the manufacture of the substance, if it is found that its dangers cannot be eliminated, or else it will carry stringent regulations for experimental and commercial production, handling, sale and use. New Jersey now has no law regulating the handling of gasoline and like products. Heretofore it has been left to municipalities to enact ordinances for the control of dangerous petroleum products and outside of municipality limits there were no regulations. Dr. McRidge some time ago determined that a State law was desirable and had decided to ask the Legislature to enact one at its 1925 session, which starts early in the year.

John Roach of Irvington, Deputy Commissioner of Labor in charge of the Bureau of Hygiene and Sanitation, took charge of the investigation. He was

detached for this service by Dr. McRidge after the District Inspector, assigned to visit the laboratory yesterday, had asked for assistance. However, Deputy Commissioner Roach is not a chemist and he probably will request the assignment of a State scientist.

The tragedy precipitated by the experiments in the Bayway plant has presented a new problem to the State Labor Department. That the experiments were dangerous had never come to its knowledge and it is expected that an exhaustive investigation will have to be made to establish a basis for regulation for the safety of workers, and to make sure that no dangerous substance will be sold to automobilists.

Truth Kept Secret.

Secrecy surrounding the experiments was responsible for the Labor Department's lack of knowledge of them; an official said. This secrecy was adopted by commercial rivals racing each other in an effort to perfect a commercially valuable product. The Labor Department, it is expected, will seek to force at least partial lifting of the veil.

Dr. A. E. Edel of the Edel Laboratories, Newark, who has been commissioned by Prosecutor David to try to solve the mystery of the gas, said that weeks might be required. Within a few days Dr. Edel will go to the Bayway laboratory, and there the process which produced the illness will be explained to him fully, he expects.

The Elizabeth police are trying to learn whether Henry C. Becker, employed as a chemist in the laboratory last summer, was the first victim of the gas. The New York police notified them early on the morning of Sept. 29 that Becker had jumped or fallen from a sixth story window in a New York hotel. Becker boarded in the home of Samuel Webb, at 101 Orchard Street. Webb said Becker kept very much to himself. On Sept. 25 he announced he was leaving Elizabeth, and asked Webb to ship his trunks to 47 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn.

Claude Becker, a cousin, said yesterday that Henry was a graduate of Trinity College, Ireland, and apparently had a promising career before him as a chemist. About Sept. 20, Claude Becker said, his cousin's fellow-employees noticed that he was acting peculiarly. He was suspicious of the others in the plant, declaring that they were all following him and prying into his affairs. His superiors thought his nervous condition was due to strain and overwork, and about Sept. 25 he was transferred to New York and took a furnished room at 47 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn. The next day, according to Claude Becker, Henry went to Manhattan and engaged a room at the Herald Square Hotel, where he committed suicide that night by jumping from a window. Claude Becker said he could think of no motive for suicide and was inclined to attribute his cousin's condition and action to the gas fumes at the plant. Claude Becker lives at Garden City, L. I., and is on the editorial staff of The Tablet, a Roman Catholic publication of Brooklyn.

Immediate action by organized labor to protect workers against poisoning by gasoline containing lead was urged yesterday in a circular letter sent to trade unions throughout the country by the Workers' Health Bureau of 799 Broadway. State federations of labor and central labor bodies in every State have been urged to take steps at once along the following lines:

To protest to their State Departments of Health and Industrial Commissions against the exposure of workers to gasoline containing lead.

To oppose the introduction of lead in gasoline in their respective States.

To call for an immediate and complete investigation of working conditions in the Standard Oil Company's Bayway plant and all other plants where similar experiments for manufacturing is being done.

To demand that the sale of gasoline containing lead be stopped immediately and prohibited until the subject is fully investigated by scientific experts.

That in the investigation committee chosen for this purpose scientific experts representing labor shall be included.

It was explained by the Workers' Health Bureau that the call to organized labor was based on a telegram from Dr. Vandell Henderson of Yale, in which he said that unless the sale of gasoline containing lead be immediately stopped until the subject could be fully investigated by scientific experts, "there is great danger of widespread poisoning among men at gasoline stations, garages and repair shops and even the general public."

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