

TRACING THE CHIEF

From His Home to His Death.

He Had No Gun a Few Minutes Before the Fatal Meeting.

Considines Together and on a Prominent Corner All Afternoon.

Apparently Awaiting Meredith and Expecting a Crisis.

FOR the first time since the killing of Chief W. L. Meredith on Tuesday night *The Times* is enabled to give its readers this afternoon some facts in regard to the movements of the murdered man and his murderers during the hours of the afternoon immediately preceding the tragedy.

These facts allow of but one conclusion: The Considines spent the entire afternoon tracking Meredith. The two brothers traveled together, something their closest friends say they seldom did. During a portion of the afternoon they had with them a "laid man"—the mysterious individual in the case—who, the theory is, committed the act which led Meredith to use the shotgun upon John Considine.

Further than this the evidence obtained by *The Times* clearly establishes the fact that Meredith was NOT carrying the shotgun for the purpose of slaying Considine.

With THREE OTHER ARTICLES he had the gun taking it home. He carried NONE of those packages at five minutes past five—only two to fifteen minutes before the shooting occurred.

If he had been looking for John Considine all the afternoon, as Considine's friends say, and had determined to kill him with the shotgun, Meredith would have had the gun all the afternoon. On the other hand, if he had stopped the gun AFTER FIVE MINUTES PAST FIVE with the intention of going after Considine, he would not have loaded himself down with other packages—three of which, beside the "wrapped shotgun," he had at fifteen minutes after five.

Meredith left his home with no arms but the gun he always carried, at about 2 o'clock. After leaving his car he went immediately to an office in the Boston block to see a friend there on some personal matter which he wished to discuss. He left the Boston block through the Columbia street exit. This was about 2:30 o'clock. While Meredith was in the Boston block the two Considines, Tom and John, appeared at the corner of Second avenue and Cherry street—the theory being that they were waiting in wait there for Meredith. Instead of going south on Second avenue Meredith either went up to Third avenue or down to First. He did not return to Yester way via Second avenue.

The Considines waited about the Second avenue corner till nearly 4 p. m. and went away, appearing later standing around the corner for a while but did not see Meredith.

In the meantime Meredith called at two or three places, looking after personal matters. At about 5 o'clock he went to Mace's cafe on Cherry street, near Second avenue and had lunch. He had left there only a few minutes when the Considines entered the restaurant, looked around and ordered some lunch. It was an unusual thing lately for the Considines to patronize Mace's cafe; here again they were evidently looking for Meredith.

At five minutes after 5 o'clock the Considines and Officer Mafford were within two blocks of each other on the east side of Second Avenue. Detective Gil Philbrick is authority for this statement. Philbrick hurried a car at the corner of Yester Way and Second Avenue at exactly that time. He looked at his watch as he boarded the car and because of the events immediately afterwards the time was fixed upon his mind.

At this time Meredith was strolling in front of Bartell's drug store, one door above Yester Way, on Second Avenue. He had on packages of any kind with him at that time. His arms were perfectly free and he carried nothing under his coat. Detective Philbrick says he will swear to this statement.

At the car which the detective had proceeded up Second Avenue, Philbrick noticed Officer Mafford standing in front of WILLIAMS' cigar store, about half way between James and Cherry Streets. Further up, at the corner of Second Avenue and Cherry Street, were the two Considines in conversation with two or three other men. This was about five minutes after 5 o'clock—ten or fifteen minutes before the shooting.

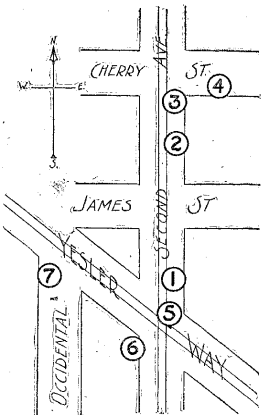
Within two or three minutes after this Meredith left the vicinity of Bartell's drug store and walked down to Occidental Avenue and Yester Way. In this immediate neighborhood he had left the short shotgun, carefully wrapped in paper, a case, an umbrella and another package.

All of these packages he had secured. While still carrying them he met Judge M. L. Deer at the southwest corner of Occidental Avenue and Yester Way, with whom he stopped and engaged in conversation. This was about ten minutes after 5 o'clock.

While Meredith and Deer were talking "Jack" Thompson came up Occidental Avenue from the direction of Washington Street, and joined the two men. He noticed the packages in Meredith's arms and made some remark in regard to them.

"Yes," said Meredith, "I've cleaned out my goods from police headquarters and am taking them home. I'm loaded down, so?"—and with this Meredith opened his coat up so that the contents of the pockets would show.

In the opinion of a man who has lived all his life on the frontier, where guns are very often in use, and where a man must become familiar with them, in order to hold his end up, the "sawed-off shot gun" which Meredith carried, was not wrapped with the intention of having it be



WHERE THE PRINCIPALS IN THE TRAGEDY WERE SEEN JUST BEFORE THE MURDER

AT 4:30 O'CLOCK

No. 4—Mace's cafe at which Meredith dined at four o'clock and which the Considines brothers entered about a half hour later.

AT 5:05 O'CLOCK

No. 5—Where Detective Philbrick boarded the car to proceed north on Second avenue.

No. 1—Where W. L. Meredith stood, as Philbrick boarded the car. Meredith was not accompanied by any packages at this time.

No. 2—Where Officer Mafford stood as Philbrick passed on the car.

No. 3—Where the Considine brothers were standing at 5:05 or 5:06 o'clock and several other times earlier during the afternoon.

AT 5:15 O'CLOCK

No. 7—Where Meredith, M. L. Deer and Jack Thompson were engaged in conversation and at which time Meredith had the wrapped gun, a case, an umbrella and another package.

AT 5:20 O'CLOCK

No. 6—Where Meredith, the Considines and Mafford came together and the shooting occurred.

that it could be used at a moment's notice.

Across the part where the finger was pressed through the paper in order to touch the trigger, were several twines of string. At each end of the gun the paper was overlapped, and apparently no effort had been made to wrap it so as to disguise the contents of the package.

Both "Jack" Thompson and Judge Deer have the moment they saw the package that it contained a gun.

Further evidence of this fact is the remark made by a friend of Meredith's who passed the three men on the car. This friend said, so he claimed of Meredith in passing: "What have you got a gun. Well?" It is quite evident that if Meredith had wrapped up the gun with the intention of going out sporting for Considine with it, he would have disguised it and would have arranged the paper around the trigger in an entirely different manner.

During the conversation held among the three parties, Wappenstein's whereabouts were sought by Meredith—and as it was well known that Wappenstein frequently stopped at Guy's drug store in taking his car home, Meredith evidently expected to find the detective at that place—and just as Thompson, who had walked over to a Yester Way car, leaving Meredith in conversation with Judge Deer, was boarding the car, he saw Meredith pass away from where he had been standing, with all his packages on his arm, the same as he had been during the conversation.

Meredith and Deer parted in less than five minutes before the shooting. This is arrived at from the fact that the car upon which "Jack" Thompson was ascending Yester Way had just reached the first light when the shooting occurred. The people on the car heard the report of fire-arms.

From the spot where Meredith was standing at the corner of Yester Way and Occidental Avenue Guy's drug store could not be seen, nor could any portion of the premises in front of the store. Meredith, therefore, could not have been watching the entrance to Guy's drug store for waiting for the approach of the Considines.

Now, to return to Officer Mafford—who may not be an important figure in the case—and the Considines. It is apparent that two or three minutes before Meredith left the corner of Yester Way and Occidental Avenue, Mafford leading by about half a block, and the Considines following, made their way toward Guy's drug store. Mafford had reached the corner before Considine arrived.

When the Considines arrived Mafford held out his hand to John and was congratulating him upon his success in securing the removal of Meredith—whom it is known Mafford always hated—when Meredith came aboard. At this time Meredith still had the gun, the umbrella, the case and the fourth package. He did not stop anywhere after he left the corner below until he reached the entrance to the drug store, where he expected to meet Wappenstein.

What was said at this corner before the shooting occurred, no one knows but John Considine and Officer Mafford. That something was said which excited Meredith's ire there can be little doubt, and the shooting followed.

It is known at police headquarters that

Chief Meredith procured all of his weapons on Monday and took them away with him. Since he left his home at about 2 o'clock on Tuesday with no visible weapons about him, according to his wife's statement—and was seen at five minutes after five o'clock standing on Second avenue near Bartell's drug store with nothing in his possession, it follows conclusively that the chief had taken his gun, umbrella, case, knife and revolver to some place near the corner of Yester way and Second avenue the day before, and immediately after being seen by Detective Philbrick secured them from the place where he had left them and proceeded to take his car home, that being the starting point of the Yester car line.

These facts are brought out for the purpose of showing that Meredith did not expect any trouble that night and it is had not expected to meet Wappenstein at Occidental and Yester way, as indicated in his talk with Thompson and Deer, he would have proceeded home in the usual way.

To Try Russell.

By Cable and Leased Wire.
LONDON, Friday, June 25.—At a special meeting of the House of Lords today a committee was appointed to ascertain the probability of trying Earl Russell, recently committed for trial at the old Bailey on the charge of bigamy, to a speedy trial by his peers. The committee includes the lord chancellor, Lord Halsbury, the lord privy seal, Lord Salisbury, and twelve other peers.

Chamber Adjourned

By Cable and Leased Wire.
MADRID, Friday, June 25.—The discussion of religious conflicts led to such a tumult in the Chamber of Deputies that the sitting had to be adjourned. The minister of the interior, Sr. Bosch, promised to present Catholic religious demonstrations so long as they were not of a political character.

Minister Resigns.

By Leased Wire.
NEW YORK, Friday, June 25.—A dispatch to *The Herald* from Buenos Ayres says:

The minister of justice and public instruction, Senor Magro, has resigned in consequence of the affair in the Chamber of Deputies a few days ago, when he was accused of having obtained grain furniture made by convicts.

Swimming Contests.

By Leased Wire.
NEW YORK, Friday, June 25.—The Amateur Athletic Union swimming championships to be held at the Pan-American Exposition from July 8 to 13 inclusive, has drawn the greatest entry list ever seen at an aquatic contest, all the American champions having entered.

Her Usual Drive.

By Leased Wire.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Friday, June 25.—Mrs. McKinley continues to improve. She took her usual drive this forenoon with the President. Dr. Rixey did not accompany them.