

A BAND OF CONSPIRATORS

THEIR PLOT NIPPED JUST IN TIME TO SAVE LIFE.

THE ANARCHISTS WERE TO MURDER JUDGES GARY AND GRINNELL AND CHIEFS BONFIELD AND HUBBARD.

CHICAGO, July 17.—An Anarchist plot of the most desperate character was revealed to-day when the police swooped down upon a band of conspirators and lodged the leaders in jail. They made their raid just in time, for the Anarchists had set the murder of Judge Gary, Judge Grinnell, Inspector Bonfield, and Chief of Police Hubbard for to-morrow night. At 3 o'clock this morning Inspector Bonfield, with Lieut. Elliott and a squad of seven picked men, started for the Bohemian quarters and posted themselves outside a small frame house at 2,952 Farrell avenue. There they were joined by a stranger who waited with them until after daybreak, when the master of the house came out into the street. At a signal from the stranger Bonfield and his squad surrounded the man and, after a desperate resistance, overpowered him. He proved to be John Hronck, an Anarchist of the reddest dye. Bonfield, Elliott, and three other policemen rushed into the house. They were met on the stairs by a woman, the wife of the man who had been captured, but she was brushed aside and the police, guided by the stranger, entered a hall bedroom, where hidden in a corner the Inspector found 12 dynamite cartridges wrapped in brown paper. A further search of the room disclosed, hidden in the bed, a large revolver and a dagger. Then in almost similar fashion visits were made at 498 West Twentieth-street, where Frank Chapek was arrested, and to a house in Zion-place, where Frank Chibowa was also captured. In both places arms and explosives were found.

The prisoners were hurried to Police Headquarters and locked up, and then the heads of the Police Department began to breathe easier. The plot thus nipped in the bud dates back almost to the Haymarket riot. Hronck had been a leader even before that time, and was a great friend of the men arrested after the riot. He was especially intimate with Lingg, and swore vengeance for his friend's fate. Soon after the famous trial he began to organize a "group," and laid his plans to kill the Judge and all who had been especially concerned in the prosecution. Frank Chapek, also a leading Anarchist, and for a time a prisoner on suspicion, soon joined Hronck, and a little later Frank Chibowa was associated with them. Two other men were taken into the group, but they failed to have daring enough to give them much of a standing.

Hronck kept the band small in order to secure the greatest secrecy. He laid his plans carefully and skillfully. He was something of an inventor, and devised a small spherical bomb which was filled with slugs, bits of glass, and dynamite, and was far more dangerous than the ordinary grenade. In Austria he had learned something of poisoned daggers, and his followers were equipped with these weapons as well as with the bombs and revolvers. His band was sworn to murder and to suicide in case of detection, for Hronck shrewdly saw that there was little chance of all of them escaping. All these preparations took time, and it was not until a few weeks ago that the conspirators were ready for action.

On July 4 they went to Aldine-square, where Judge Grinnell lives, to inspect the neighborhood, and chanced to meet their proposed victim in the street. His suspicions were at once aroused by their actions, and he lost no time in laying the case before Inspector Bonfield.

Police surveillance of the Anarchists has never ceased, and for a time guards were kept at the house of the very people whom Hronck planned to murder, but lately vigilance had lessened somewhat, and for a time Inspector Bonfield could get no reliable clue to what was going on. In a week or so, however, a respectable Bohemian to whom one of the weaker members of the group had given a hint visited the Inspector and gave him something to work on. In a few days news came through the same channel that Hronck had set last Saturday night for the quadruple murder. He had been anxious to include some other victims, but was forced to limit himself to four. Hronck was to attack Chief Hubbard and Bonfield in the latter's office, Chapek was to murder Judge Gary, and Judge Grinnell was to fall by Chibowa's hand. Each man was to carry bomb, dagger, and pistol, and each was pledged to die rather than be captured. All this proved too much for the nerves of the timid conspirator. A guard of detectives prevented the carrying out of the plan on Saturday, and then the weak man went to the police and told his story. Hronck had set July 18 for a second attempt, but Inspector Bonfield was too quick for him and his allies.

Such is the story of the plot as it is told by the police, who seem to be looking for further trouble, pretty certain that the armed sections of the Anarchists have increased since the Haymarket riot. All are now armed with Winchester rifles, and the names of the gun dealers who have secretly purchased these arms are known. They have bombs without number and dynamite without limit undoubtedly. They are still possessed of plans of the buildings and streets, and that the Anarchists will be ready for another test of strength some time in the future is more than possible.

The Anarchists drill in groups of six, knowing each other by numbers and knowing only one in a limited number of neighboring groups. Orders are passed from the Captain of one group to that of another, and so complete is the organization that it is estimated the entire force could be massed at a given point in a few hours. Some of the leading Anarchists to-night deny all knowledge of the Hronck plot. Mrs. Parsons says she had not heard of it, but its end will be accomplished sooner or later.