

CHIEF OF POLICE H. F. SCHUETTLER TAKEN BY DEATH

His Family and Close Friends at Bedside in Hospital.

Chief of Police Herman F. Schuettler is dead. The veteran of Chicago's police force died at the Alexian Brothers' hospital at 8:20 o'clock last night.

His death was not unexpected. He had been ill for months and early yesterday morning his family knew the end was near. They were at his bedside when he died.

He died while apparently in a peaceful sleep. He had not spoken for hours, but until he lapsed into the last sleep he had been fully conscious.

The courage that made Herman Schuettler the most romantic figure in the police history of Chicago remained with him till the end. His last act was to shake the hands of members of his family in a last farewell.

His wife, Mrs. Katherine Schuettler, had been with him constantly. Yesterday morning his daughters, Mrs. Edgar Nelson and Mrs. Frank O. White, were summoned to his bedside. Later his son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Schuettler, arrived.

Alcock Called from Council.

At 7:20 last night Acting Chief John Alcock and Charles Agnew, the latter Chief Schuettler's secretary for twenty years, arrived at the hospital, called from a meeting of the city council by a telephone message that the big man of the Chicago police department was lying.

The family was grouped about the bedside when Acting Chief Alcock entered. Raised slightly by his pillows the dying chief espied the tall figure of the acting chief over the heads of the sorrowing group about the bed. He nodded and smiled and held out his hand.

He clung to the hand of the acting chief for nearly five minutes. Then, with characteristic courage, he took the hand of Charles Agnew and then of the members of his family. He said no word. Then he went to sleep. A few minutes later he was pronounced dead.

Mrs. Schuettler Prostrated.

Some hours later a group of hospital attendants passed through the corridor of the hospital with a wicker basket bearing the last remains of the man whose courage and ability pushed him up through the ranks to become and be hailed as the greatest police chief Chicago ever had.

A group of police officers and newspaper men stood by with heads bared.

Mrs. Schuettler was prostrated by the shock of her husband's death. She could not be consulted last night regarding funeral arrangements. It was said, however, that the funeral will probably be held Monday afternoon. At some time before then it is possible that the body may lie in state. The body is now at the A. L. Bentley & Sons undertaking rooms. It will be removed to the Schuettler residence at 3453 Bosworth avenue this afternoon.

News Flashed to Station.

About 8:30 o'clock a touring car drove up before the North Halsted street station and Acting Chief Alcock alighted and hurried up the steps. He asked the desk sergeant for a police wire and called Sergt. James Walsh, in charge of the switchboard at the detective bu

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CHICAGO'S POLICE CHIEF GONE

Long Fight for Health Ended by Death in Hospital.

Family and Close Friends at Bedside as the End Comes in Hospital.

(Continued from first page.)

reau, telling him to announce that the chief was dead.

So the word went out of the passing of "Old Herman." Every station was called, the captains, the lieutenants, even the patrolmen as they rang from the street boxes received the news:

"The chief is dead!"

The word was flashed to the fire alarm office and the words were clicked out over the fire alarm telegraph:

"Attention! Fire Department!"

Every fireman on duty, the chief and battalion chiefs in their homes listened, for those words mean always the announcement of import.

"Chief of Police Schuettler is dead!"

It was taken up and sent throughout the city.

Sorrow Throughout City.

The news of the death of the veteran detective and widely known police chief spread rapidly throughout the city. It was everywhere greeted with sorrow.

The city council was in session. Resolutions were quickly drawn and passed expressing regret and declaring that Chicago had suffered a severe loss. Tributes to the honesty, loyalty, courage, and ability of Herman Schuettler, who was liked and respected by officials and admired even by crooks because of his fairness and fearlessness, were heard everywhere.

The news was received with sorrow but not with surprise, for Chief Schuettler had several times been reported as dying and it was generally believed that he could not live.

Breakdown Last Fall.

He first suffered a nervous breakdown last fall. On Jan. 20 he went to Florida, hoping to regain his health. He returned late in May, apparently improved, but a few days after his arrival he suffered a relapse. Several times during the summer he was reported as dying.

Always the great courage of the man pulled him through. At times it was even hoped that the strength of his giant frame and rugged constitution might save him. Pneumonia and other complications developed, however, and his giant's strength gave way. Wednesday night his fever went to 103 and those close to him realized that the end was coming to the man who was for years held up as a model to every rookie police officer in Chicago.

"He was the greatest of policemen," was Acting Chief Alcock's tribute, as he sat in the corridor of the hospital waiting for the body of his former chief to be brought down. "His last orders to me when he left for Florida were that the entire police department should be used in every possible way to assist the United States government in all its war work."

"His death is a distinct loss not only to this community but to the entire country. He was a patriot of the true type."

"His integrity and honesty as a public official were never assailed. No one will deplore his death more than the policeman himself, from the highest official to the man on the beat."

Tribute by the Mayor.

Mayor Thompson paid him the following tribute:

"Herman F. Schuettler left behind him as priceless heritages a name untainted and a record of achievement that time will not dim. Whatever the future may bring forth, the past has not seen his equal in police circles in this country. His fame was municipal, but national, even international."

BORN IN CHICAGO.

Chief Schuettler's exploits form the basis of many a nickel thriller, but he was far from spectacular in his method of operation. Rather he worked quietly and systematically.

Physically he approached the gigantic, towering above the biggest and most powerful of his subordinates. Temperamentally he was as kindly and thoughtful as a woman. He was born in Chicago, spent his whole life in the city, and knew its every alley.

He was born July 14, 1861, in a house that stood at Cleveland avenue and Blackhawk street. And it was in the north side district he performed most of his notable work. His first job was that of conductor on the old Larrabee street horse car line. On June 13, 1881,



Herman F.
Schuettler

he joined the police department, traveling a beat in his home ballwick.

Member of Anarchist Squad.

His natural sagacity and his great strength gained him instant recognition, and the unruly characters of that day and place found much reason to shun his heavy fist. He was attached to the Chicago avenue station for a short time and then transferred to Central station in 1886, where, by appointment of Chief Joseph Ebersole, he became a member of the famed anarchist squad.

Louis Ling was one of the anarchist leaders and a bad actor. He was the maker of the bombs used in the Haymarket riot of 1888. Schuettler set out to take him. He found Ling in a house that stood at 80 Ambrose street and the anarchist flew at him with a revolver. In the struggle that followed Schuettler bit off one of Ling's fingers to save himself from being shot.

The Cronin Case.

In 1888 Schuettler became a patrol sergeant in the old Harrison street station and in the same year was promoted to lieutenant. On Jan. 21, 1890, he became a captain and was assigned to the Sheffield avenue station. It was in 1889 he did much to solve the murder of Dr. Patrick Henry Cronin, one of the epochal events of the police department.

Cronin's body was found in a catch basin at what now is Foster avenue and Broadway. It then was a far removed suburb. Patrick O'Sullivan and Martin Bourk were sentenced for life. Dan Coughlin, a city detective, was tried twice; once convicted and then acquitted.

The murder of Mrs. Louise Luetgert, wife of a northwest side sausage maker who was convicted of disposing of her body in a lime vat, brought Schuettler into more prominence. His keen eye for details disclosed Mrs. Luetgert's ring and a bit of bone in the mystery vat. Luetgert went to prison and died there.

Studied Conditions Abroad.

In 1900 Schuettler went abroad and studied police conditions in continental cities, bringing many features into the Chicago department. In 1903 he forced a confession from Gustave Marx, one of the car barn bandits, which resulted in the capture of all four.

In 1904 Schuettler became assistant chief of police, retaining that position through all the vicissitudes of political storm and charges of graft which have racked the department. In 1913 his title was changed to first deputy superintendent.

No Blot on Escutcheon.

Chiefly notable is the fact that through his whole career there never was suggested the smallest hint of dishonesty, an item most noteworthy in connection with a business that has caused the downfall of many men. He was said to have entertained but one great ambition—to be chief of police of Chicago and close his public career in that position. He had been offered the post numerous times, but always refused, considering the term too short and himself too young to think of re-

turning. When finally he accepted the office it was with the understanding he would close his police work when he relinquished the baton of chief.

That he "died in the harness" was said to be his greatest wish achieved.

Schuettler was married in 1884 to Miss Katherine J. Flint of Watertown, Wis. There are three children: Mrs. Edgar Nelson, Mrs. Frank O. White and Dr. Arthur Schuettler.