

# Love's illness under scrutiny after 1904 murder

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friends there insist that she tell everything."

There were those who hinted that Love knew far more than she was saying. An editorial in the Brazil newspaper had stated that investigators were overlooking someone in Schafer's past. After Jim McDonald had been acquitted, his attorney, whose name was R.N. Palmer, had criticized S.B. Lowe — another attorney, president of the school board and a member of the investigating committee — for thwarting

the investigation of Love during the McDonald trial. (At that time, Lowe had strenuously objected when Love was asked where she stayed overnight in Indianapolis and the question had not been answered.)

Palmer insisted, that "they open up everything and let the daylight of God's sunshine in and the diamond of innocence will sparkle under the light of truth as diamonds always sparkle in the sunshine."

Finally, Love said, "If I went to Indianapolis on Jan. 1, I had a right to go. My statement was published

in the newspapers in February. Go look them up." Capitalizing on the mystery, the *Evening World* commented, "People insist that Miss Schafer and Miss Love had a secret. It is known that they had, but whether that secret means anything in this investigation is a matter of doubt." But another teacher at the Bedford school testified Schafer had said that Love had a serious case of tonsillitis.

Even the most casual scanning of the newspapers of 1904 would indicate that almost everyone involved in the Schafer case had, temporarily at least, lost sight of the original

objective — that of finding her killer. One lead did provide some comic relief, if any could be found in a murder investigation.

Earlier in the year, the Pinkertons had found a mysterious-stranger suspect. The man was picked up on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. In his pocket was a notebook with such intriguing notes as "Didn't have to change my clothes after murder" and "Short life of a shocked detective." But the man was found to be nothing more than a crank.

**Next week: Two more are tried.**