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CHESTER GILLETTE CONFESSES JUST BEFORE HIS EXECUTION

Former Spokane Man Electrocuted for Murdering Sweetheart.

ADMITS BRUTAL CRIME TO HIS CLERGYMEN.

Letters of Grace Brown, His Victim, Recalled as Classics of Simplicity.

(By Associated Press.)

AUBURN, N. Y., March 30.—Chester E. Gillette today paid the full penalty for the brutal murder of Grace Brown when he went to his death in the electric chair without a sign of weakness. Gillette appeared fully reconciled to his fate and in a statement by his spiritual advisers immediately after the execution they indicated that he had made a confession of his guilt.

The statement which is signed by the Rev. Henry McIlravy and the Rev. Cordello Herrick is as follows: "Because our relationship with Chester Gillette was privileged, we do not deem it wise to make a detailed statement and simply wish to say that no legal mistake was made in his electrocution."

Gillette, so far as the public was concerned, never admitted the crime. In a carefully prepared statement made public after his death, Gillette implored young men to lead a Christian life.

Electrocution Successful.

The electrocution was the most successful that ever took place in the local prison, but one contact being necessary to produce death. Preliminary tests of the machinery having been made, Gillette's cell door opened and the prisoner walked firmly into the death chamber. On either side was a minister of the Gospel. It was 6:12.30 o'clock when the little party entered the chamber and at 6:14.03 the current was turned on. It was switched off at 6:15.06. The doctors made an examination at once and at 6:18, Warden Denham announced that Gillette was dead.

Chester Gillette's case attracted much attention in the Pacific Northwest, he having been born and reared at Spokane, Wash. He was an enthusiastic youth and was one of the best known young men in Spokane. In the efforts of his parents to have Governor Hughes of New York commute the sentence, appeals were made to Spokane people and prominent citizens of Washington and the Northwest generally.

The crime for which Chester E. Gillette was sentenced to forfeit his life in the electric chair in Auburn prison today, was the murder of his sweetheart, Grace Brown, near Big Moose in the Adirondacks on July 11, 1906. Gillette was convicted on circumstantial evidence after a sensational trial in which the pathetic love letters of "Billy" Brown, as the girl was familiarly known among her associates, to Gillette, played an important part. The girl who perished in the waters of Big Moose lake had trusted Gillette to make amends for the wrong he had done her by making her his wife, and her letters which were found in the young man's room after his arrest at Eagle Bay, have been considered by many as classic in their simplicity and their tender pleading for the right that was her due.

Last Letter Pathetic.

Her last letter to her lover, written a few days before her fatal trip to Big Moose, was particularly pathetic. "I have been bidding goodbye to some places today," she wrote, "There are so many nooks, dear, and all of them so dear to me. I have lived here nearly all my life. First, I said good-bye to the spring house with its great masses of green moss; then the apple tree where we had our playhouse; then the 'Beehive,' a cute little house in the orchard, and of course all the neighbors that have mended my dresses from a little tot up, to save me a thrashing I really deserved."

Compelled to Reform.

Gillette had been more or less of a rover up to the time he became foreman in his uncle's shirt manufactory in Cortland, N. Y. He had led a somewhat gay life but was given to understand upon his arrival in Cortland that he must conduct himself so that his wealthy relatives might at least recognize him. He soon became interested in church work, made many friends and apparently conducted himself with propriety.

Grace Brown was a farmer's daughter from South Otsele who worked in the same factory with Gillette. Although he did not pay her unusual attention her companions were not long in recognizing

that she was somewhat of a favorite with the young foreman. He began to call on her at the home of her married sister, who lived in the city, and soon won her trust and affection. The girl's confidence in Gillette and his promise of marriage eventually led to her undoing and in the summer of 1906, she went home to prepare for the wedding which she felt could not long be postponed. It was during her stay at her home in South Otsele that she wrote him the remarkable series of letters which were found among Gillette's effects after his arrest.

Outpourings of Soul.

In these outpourings of her soul she breathed the poignancy of her sorrow, and her sweetness of girlish youth, faith and self sacrifice were ever apparent. In her misery she pleaded with her lover to come to her saying that she had been brave but was beginning to feel discouraged. In spite of her suffering she thought first of all of him, and how she might lessen any burden he was destined to bear.

"I am as lonesome for you as—Oh, as I thought I'd be. I don't believe you've even missed me," she wrote soon after her arrival home. "I did not think all the home folks would be so glad to see me. They ate me up, and if you ever have thought I was spoilt, dear, I don't know what you will think of me when I get back. You or any one else won't be able to do anything with me."

A few days after she wrote: "I have done nothing but cry since I got here. If you were only here I would not feel so badly. I do try to be brave, but how can I when everything goes wrong? I can't help thinking you will never come for me, but then I say you can't be so mean as that, and besides you told me you would come and you have never disappointed me when you said you would not."

"Chester, there isn't girl in the world as miserable as I am tonight," she wrote in her next letter, "and you have made me feel so. Chester, I don't mean that dear; you have always been awfully good to me and I know you will always be. You just won't be a coward I know. You must write more often, please, and, dear, when you read my letters, if you think I am unreasonable, please do not mind it, but do think I am about crazy with grief and that I don't know just what to do."

In her next letter she told of receiving a letter from a girl friend. "This girl wrote me," she said, "that you seemed to be having an awfully good time, and she guessed that my coming home had done you good as you had not seemed so cheerful in weeks. I should have known Chester, that you did not care for me. But somehow I have trusted you more than any one else. Perhaps you don't think or you can't help making me grieve, but I wish things were different. You may say you do too, but you can't possibly wish so much as I. I have been very brave since I came home but tonight I am very discouraged. Chester, if I could only die, I know how you feel about this affair and I wish for your sake you need not be troubled. If I die I hope you can then be happy."

Replies were Cold.

The coolness of Gillette's replies to the girl's fervent pleadings caused her to say in her next letter:

"I was glad to hear from you and surprised as well. I thought you would rather have my letters affectionate, but yours was so business-like that I have come to the conclusion that you wish mine to be that way. I may tell you though, that I am not a business woman and so presume that these letters will not satisfy you any more than the others did. I think, pardon me, that I understand my position and that it is rather unnecessary for you to be so frightfully frank in making me see it. I can see my position as keen as any one I think. You say you were surprised, but you thought I would be discouraged. I don't see why I should not be discouraged. What words have I had from you since I came home to encourage me?"

Showed Self Sacrifice.

Then further along in the same letter the girl's spirit of self sacrifice asserted itself and she wrote:

"Chester I don't suppose you will ever know how I regret being all this trouble to you. I know you hate me and I can't blame you one bit. Of course, it's worse for me than for you, but the world and you, too, may think I am the one to blame, but somehow I can't, just simply can't, think that I am. Chester."

"My little sister came up just a minute ago with her hands full of daisies and asked me if I didn't want my fortune told. I told her I guessed it was pretty well told now."

Plans were arranged by letter for a meeting at DeRuyter and Gillette secured leave of absence from the factory. He arrived at DeRuyter on the evening of July 8th, and registered at a hotel as Charles George. The next day Grace Brown left South Otsele ostensibly for Cortland but changed cars for Utica at DeRuyter where she was joined by Gillette. On the journey to Utica Gillette did not share the seat with "Billy" but chatted with other girls on the train from Cortland and made an appointment to meet them later in the week.

TWO DROWN WITH VESSEL

Steam Schooner Lydia Sunk by Chippewa Near Seattle Early Today.

WAS STRUCK AMIDSHIPS.

Fishing Boat Goes Down Almost Immediately After Collision Off Point No Point.

(By Associated Press.)

SEATTLE, March 30.—The steam schooner Lydia was cut in two by the steamship Chippewa of the Puget Sound Navigation Co., early this morning and Wilson Spinning of Ballard and Thomas Hicks of Seattle were drowned. Eight men including the Captain of Lydia were rescued by the Chippewa life boats.

The accident occurred off Point No Point. The Lydia was returning from the Halibut grounds after two weeks fishing. The Chippewa's lookout claimed that no lights were displayed on the Lydia but this is denied. The Lydia was struck amidships, going almost immediately to the bottom and carrying Spinning and Hicks to bottom in their berths.

At Eagle Bay, At Utica Gillette registered Grace Brown and himself as Charles Gordon and wife, New York. They left the next morning. Gillette did not pay his bill but directed that some laundry which he had left behind, be sent by express to Eagle Bay.

The couple went to Tupper Lake registering at a boarding house there as Charles George and wife, New York. While at Tupper Lake, Gillette inquired for a quiet lake and Grace Brown threw herself into the arms of a maid who had brought her a glass of water, and burst into tears.

On the morning of July 11th, the couple retraced their journey to Big Moose where Gillette registered at the Glenmore as Charles Graham, Albany, and on the next line on the register wrote the girl's correct name and address. Gillette inquired for good places to take pictures and securing a boat rowed away over the blue waters of the lake. Gillette carried a suit case, camera and tennis racket. The girl's baggage had been checked to Old Forge and she left some of her wraps and hat at the hotel.

Late that night Gillette appeared at the Arrowhead on Eagle Bay, twelve miles from Big Moose. He had walked through the woods, carrying the suit case and camera but the tennis racket was missing. His clothing and baggage were dry. The next day he went on an excursion with the young woman from Cortland whom he had promised to meet.

Alarm was felt in Big Moose over the failure of Gillette to return with the boat he had rented and search was made the next day. The boat was found floating bottom up near shore in a secluded part of the lake, with a woman's wrap spread over the bottom. The lake was dragged and the body of Grace Brown was found about 300 feet from the shore. Gillette subsequently was arrested at Eagle Bay on July 14th.

Gillette Admitted Cowardice.

The trial began at Herkimer at a special term of the Supreme Court on November 12, 1906, and on December 5th, Gillette was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to death. The prosecution presented a chain of evidence which the defense was unable to break down. Gillette, who testified, denied none of the evidence except the actual killing of the girl. He said she had urged him to marry her but that he was not in a position to do so at that time as he had but scant means and his marriage would mean the loss of his position in the factory. He said the girl arose in the boat, declaring that she would end the matter then and there, and leaped overboard. The boat was overturned, he claimed, and although he made efforts to save the girl from drowning he was unable to do so. The evidence showed that the water was but a few feet deep. Upon his failure to rescue the girl he said he had waded ashore. He explained the condition of his baggage by saying that he had left it on the bank where he had partaken of some slight luncheon. The tennis racket, with which the prosecution claimed he dealt the girl's death blow, was found hidden in the woods after weeks of search.

The execution of the death penalty was stayed by an appeal to the Court of Appeals on February 19, 1907, and, on January 5th last, the case was argued. The court affirmed the judgment of conviction and fixed the week beginning March 30th for carrying out the death sentence.

Gillette's mother visited Albany and pleaded with Governor Hughes to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment but the governor declined to interfere.

H. G. VAN DUSEN IS REPLACED

H. C. McAllister of Portland, Appointed Master Fish Warden of Oregon.

CHANGE IS HARD FOUGHT.

Old Incumbent Endeavored To Retain Place But Officials Were Against Him.

SALEM, Ore., March 30.—After many months' deliberation and discussion, during which they have been beset upon all sides by a multiplicity of candidates and interests in the fishing industry, the State Board of Fish Commissioners has finally arrived at a conclusion in the matter of the selection of a successor to Master Fish Warden H. G. Van Dusen and have announced the appointment of H. C. McAllister, of Portland, to take effect May 1. The appointment was made during a closed session of the board. The election of Mr. McAllister was unanimous.

It has been known for the past year or more that Mr. Van Dusen was slated for removal, because of a conflict of interests on the upper and lower Columbia river over the enforcement of fishing laws. Mr. Van Dusen's shadow had scarcely passed beyond the portals of Governor Chamberlain's department when the members of the board put their heads together and settled the matter.

Fifteen Wanted It.

There were 15 candidates for the job, all of whom were given due consideration, but the most prominent were W. P. Andrus, a deputy in the office of County Clerk Fields, of Multnomah; former Deputy Fish Warden H. A. Webster, of Estacada; W. C. Babcock, of Oregon City, and J. U. Campbell, of Oregon City.

Although practically a stranger in this State, having come to Oregon from the East but two years ago, Mr. McAllister is looked upon as a suitable man for the position, particularly since he is not identified with any of the contending interests in the fishing industry. He is a member of the Travelers' Protective Association, and his election was strongly chosen of the entire board and Governor Chamberlain was strongly in his favor.

KILLS DRUNK IN SEATTLE

L. Arnold, Motorman, Starts Row With Conductor and is Shot by Another.

(By Associated Press.)

SEATTLE, March 30.—L. Arnold, motor man off duty, and drinking, quarreled with Conductor Koch on the South Park car and was shot and killed early today by C. F. Cushman, a passenger. Arnold struck the conductor who is an elderly man and Cushman interfered. Cushman who is a watchman in the United States Assay office, gave himself up to the police, claiming self defense.

There are two councilmen to be elected on April 6th, in Myrtle Point to succeed Councilmen W. W. Williams and E. A. Dodge, whose terms expire with this year. Four men were placed in nomination for these offices, namely: R. C. Dement, J. L. Lewellen, W. O. Cooper and J. D. Barklow.

For city recorder I. E. Rose, the present incumbent, and V. L. Arrington were placed on the ticket.

For city treasurer J. M. Arrington, the present treasurer, and E. W. Hermann were nominated.—Myrtle Point Enterprise.

FIFTY-NINE MEET DEATH IN WYOMING MINE DISASTER

SAYS AMERICA MAY ENLARGE

President Castro of Venezuela Fears United States May Try to Get Them.

(By Associated Press.)

CARACAS, VENEZUELA, March 25 via Willemstad, Curacao, March 30.—Minister Russel has advised Dr. Jose De Jesus Paul, the Venezuelan foreign minister, that pouches of official mail brought to La Guayra for the cruiser Tacoma had been opened at the Guayra. Russell said it was very serious matter and asked for an investigation. Paul replied that the opening of the pouches was accidental and that only a prejudiced mind could call the occurrence "very serious" as the contents of the pouches were not disturbed. The incident of the mail bags, coupled with the return of the Tacoma to La Guayra today caused great excitement in Caracas.

President Castro's organ, El Constitutional, published an editorial entitled "What Does Roosevelt Want?" in which it declares that Sec. Root, under the influence of Roosevelt, and inspired by Americans holding claims against Venezuela, is following a premeditated plan of creating a conflict with this republic. The paper also says that the United States purpose is to raise the flag of conquest in South America and that the American Government does not intend to recognize the finality of the decision of the Venezuelan courts.

MIKADO PAYS TRIBUTE TO HIS SLAIN DIPLOMAT.

Emperor of Japan Bestows Highest Honor in His Power on Late D. W. Stevens.

(By Associated Press.)

TOKIO, March 30.—The Emperor bestowed today on the late Durham White Stevens, assassinated in San Francisco by a Korean, the decoration of the Grand Rising Sun, the highest order in Japan. The Japanese government gave \$75,000 to the family of the murdered diplomat and the Korean government will give about \$25,000.

BIG REWARDS ARE OFFERED

Over \$10,000 Prize Money for Capture of Bukley Wells' Assassins in Colorado.

(By Associated Press.)

TELLURIDE, Colo., March 30.—No trace has yet been secured of the miscreants who attempted to assassinate former Adjutant General, Bukley Wells, of the Colorado Militia Friday night. The rewards offered for their apprehension now total \$10,000.

VETERAN EDUCATOR IS DEAD AT NORTH YAKIMA.

Robert Bruce Bryan Succumbs To Apoplexy After Being Unconscious For Days.

(By Associated Press.)

NORTH YAKIMA, March 30.—Robert Bruce Bryan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, died here today of apoplexy from which disease he has been unconscious since Friday. The deceased was a veteran of the civil war, having served with the third Iowa. Mr. Bryan was the first superintendent of public instruction in Washington.

For city recorder I. E. Rose, the present incumbent, and V. L. Arrington were placed on the ticket. For city treasurer J. M. Arrington, the present treasurer, and E. W. Hermann were nominated.—Myrtle Point Enterprise.

PHONE 111 for messenger boy to carry parcels and run errands.

NEWS.—Keep up with the times by reading the Coos Bay Times. Local, foreign and domestic news tersely told while it is news. Then patronize Times advertisers and get the most for your money.

Only Five Bodies of Victims at Hanna Recovered Up to Noon Today.

EXPLOSION IN SHAFT OF UNION PACIFIC.

Entire Town in Mourning and Hope of Rescuing Any One Alive is Given Up.

(By Associated Press.)
HANNA, Wyo., March 30.—The bodies of only five of the fifty-nine miners and mine officials killed in the ill-fated mine No 1 of the Union Pacific Coal Company, by two explosions Saturday night, have been recovered. The other bodies will probably not be reached for several days.

The disaster is one of the worst that has ever occurred in the mines of this State. Just what was the cause of it has not been explained.

The whole town is in mourning, the weeping and wailing of the widows and orphans of the victims confronting one on