



HARRY THAW FACES JURY

His Counsel Springs Sensational Surprises.

JEROME IS SURPRISED

Littleton Bringing Doctors and Nurses From Europe to Uphold his Contention.

THAW WIDE-EYED AND PALLID

Evidence of Hereditary Insanity Not Hinted at in First Trial by Thaw's Attorney—Jerome Makes Many Objections, Some Are Sustained.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The Thaw trial moved with a rush today. After the state presented its direct case and Assistant District Attorney Garvan had characterized the killing of White as a "premeditated, deliberate and cowardly murder," Martin W. Littleton, for the defense made the opening plea for the prisoner. His promise of new evidence was sensational and held the attention of all in the court room. District Attorney Jerome seemingly taken by surprise, seated himself in a witness chair better to hear the outline of the new defense.

Littleton promised to forge a chain of circumstances and to produce a line of testimony which will prove that Thaw was undeniably insane at the time of the homicide. Evidence of hereditary insanity and of strange and unusual acts of Thaw that were not hinted at during the first trial was told by Littleton, who said that physicians and nurses who had attended Thaw were hurrying here from Europe; that teachers of the defendant in childhood would be on hand to give their impressions of the "wide-eyed, distant boy."

In conclusion, Littleton challenged the district attorney to produce a single reputable physician who would say Thaw was not insane at the time he killed the noted architect. Littleton's speech fairly bristled with surprises. Jerome had his surprises to offer too, and when Littleton started to launch into relations White had with the girl Thaw married, Jerome was on his feet with objection as also he was when Littleton alluded to the girl's story as she told it to Thaw.

Jerome was sustained in both his objections. During Littleton's speech Thaw sat wide-eyed and pallid, looking fixedly at his counsel. Toward the close he seemed rather displeased with something that was said and leaning forward scribbled a note.

After his speech Littleton was asked in what manner he would attempt to prove Thaw was sane at the present time if he offered such an accumulation of evidence as to progressive insanity up to the time of the killing.

"I can only say I will cross my bridges as I come to them. A man can't ride two horses going in opposite directions at the same time," he replied.

The first evidence probably of a medical character, will be taken tomorrow.

NEW ELECTRIC DEVICE.

DENVER, Jan. 13.—Timothy Maloney, a resident of this city, propelled a car at the rate of 35 miles an hour, and claims that it could have attained twice that speed. The parallel rails between the tracks supplies the current. At intervals of about half the length of a car there is a cut-off or break in the rails, which takes the current into a box at the side of the track and leaves the rails over which the coach just passed "dead." In this way the element of danger which must exist if the inner rails remained charged is completely reversed.

CANNOT AGREE.

SEATTLE, Jan. 13.—J. G. Woodworth, traffic manager of the Northern Pacific, in the Post Intelligencer, will say tomorrow that the railroads tried to agree with the lumbermen, but they did not consent to any revision of the tariff but insisted upon the 40-cent rate to the Missouri river.

Woodworth says the facts have been grossly misrepresented to the public. He declares the lumbermen have circulated a statement that in 1906 they paid the Northern Pacific \$28,000,000 on 3,500,000 tons of lumber and that their payments exceeded the operating expenses of the road by \$4,000,000 for the year ending June 30, 1906. In reality, he says, they paid the road \$8,058,500 for 1,117,700 tons which is 13.18 per cent of the total earnings and less than 25 per cent of the total operating expenses, although representing 33.65 per cent of the total ton miles. The ton-mile rate on lumber, he says, was less than one-half ton-mile rate charged on all other business. These things developed at the interstate commerce commission hearing. Woodworth says it has been the road's practice to make rates according to commercial conditions, without much regard to possible comparison with other rates.

STATE'S RIGHTS.

Lively Debate in the House Yesterday on Penal Law Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—A vigorous defense of state's rights in dealing with violations of civil rights or with special state elections where troops have been called into service, served to enliven the debate in the house today in connection with the consideration of a bill to codify the penal laws of the United States. A number of Democrats mostly from the Southern states strenuously sought by amendment to reserve to the states themselves discretion as to the qualifications of voters or of persons to serve on juries and to limit the powers of federal judges in certain cases; but every attempt failed. The Republicans presented a solid front and the votes were all on party lines. The bill was still under consideration when the court adjourned.

BATTLING NELSON WINS.

Clifford Gets Punch in Fifth Round That Gave Him the Dreamy Feeling.

OGDEN, Jan. 13.—Batling Nelson scored a clean knockout here tonight over Jack Clifford of Grass Valley, Cal., putting Clifford to the floor for many seconds over the count in the fifth round. Outfought as he always is, Nelson, head down and fists busy, kept coming over every second of the five busy rounds, and finally, in the midst of a hot rally, near the ropes, put over a short right uppercut that caught Clifford full on the point of the jaw. The Californian went down flat on his back, his head hitting the floor with great force and it was two or three minutes before he regained consciousness. It was learned after the fight that Clifford broke a bone in his left wrist in the first round.

OFFICER IN TROUBLE.

NICE, Jan. 13.—Venezuelan General Miguel Corao has been arrested here on the charge of forgery. The police state that he wrote a letter abusing President Castro, signing it to the name of a Venezuelan officer in Paris, who, as a consequence of the letter, was summarily dismissed from office. The Paris officials traced the authorship of the letter to Corao and placed the matter in the hands of the police. The general is well known at the racetrack here and owns a number of race horses.

RESTRAINING ORDER.

SEATTLE, Jan. 13.—The Puget Sound Navigation Company today secured from the superior court a restraining order against the American association of masters, mates and pilots from interfering with the company's boats or with the company's employees. The union men regard the measure as precautionary as the owners have announced that they employ non-association men on their boats.

TO RELEASE MEN IN TWO WEEKS.

ELY, Nev., Jan. 13.—The rescuers in the Alpha shaft reached solid ground today. Foreman Gallagher expects to release the men in about two weeks.

HOLOCAUST IN PENNSYLVANIA

Crowded Theatre Catches Fire From Explosion of Oil Tank

100 LIVES LOST—MANY INJURED

Burning Oil Scattered Over Maddened, Panic Stricken People—Many Are Trampled to Death.

BOYERTOWN, Pa., Jan. 13.—Nearly 100 people of this borough were killed in the Rhodes opera house fire and panic tonight, and nearly three score were injured, and many fatally. Many of the killed were members of leading families of the town. The theatre is completely destroyed.

The theatre was crowded with members of St. John's Lutheran Sunday school attending a benefit given for that church. While the show was in progress an oil tank exploded. The actors endeavored to quiet the audience but in their anxiety to make themselves heard and to avert an awful stampede, the coal oil lamps used as footlights were overturned, setting the place on fire. The lamps which were used to light the opera house also exploded, throwing blazing oil over the terror-stricken people who were frantically fighting to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement. The flames fed by the oil shot almost up to the ceiling and there was a wild rush of 700 persons to escape from the building. Scores of women and children were trampled and several who escaped being burned to death, died after being dragged from the opera house. In many cases, it is said, entire families have been wiped out. The scene which followed the explosion is indescribable. Scores of persons who were in the balcony at the time the explosion occurred, jumped from windows and sustained fractured limbs and skulls. To add to the terrible disaster the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left to the mercy of the flames. It is almost certain that not a vestige of the bodies of the unfortunates overcome by the smoke and who perished will ever be found. Assistance was asked from Pottstown, but just before the fire apparatus from that place reached here the entire structure was a roaring furnace. Had the women and children heeded the warning of cooler heads in the audience the terrible loss of life might have been averted, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows such a catastrophe. Special trains carrying nurses and doctors were rushed to this place from both Pottstown and Reading. Every home within a radius of half a dozen blocks of the opera house was made a temporary hospital where the wounded were hurried. Boyertown is a borough with a population of about 2500, and is located about midway between Pottstown and Reading.

At 1 o'clock a special from Reading arrived with physicians and nurses but there was little to do as the injured had been cared for by the local physicians. A few minutes after midnight the rear wall collapsed. The flames broke out anew and those who vainly hoped to find the remains of loved ones turned away in despair from the scene. Three children ranging from eight to twelve and one woman who were dragged from the building by persons who had rushed to the rescue were trampled almost to a pulp. The skulls of children were crushed like egg shells. The fire was under control at 1 o'clock, but it is impossible to attempt a search before tomorrow. It is doubtful if the remains of the victims can be distinguished.

DRANK CARBOLIC ACID.

Supposed it to be Throat Medicine—Died From the Effects.

OAKLAND, Cal., Jan. 13.—Miss Irene McMillan, the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. McMillan, of 115 Eleventh street, died early last evening from the effects of drinking a draught of carbolic acid solution from a glass which she thought contained throat medicine. She left a family at the lunch table and went upstairs with the announcement that she intended taking a dose of the wash that she was using for throat trouble. A few moments later the members of the household heard the girl scream and on rushing upstairs found her writhing upon the floor. She had taken the poison from a glass that stood beside the receptacle containing the medicine.

MUTINY ON WHALER.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—The American ship Sintrim which arrived yesterday from Sydney, Aus., brings with her a story of mutiny on the whaling bark Andrew Hicks. On the Sintrim is Frank Ballinger, who was steward on the whaler and was put ashore because of sickness at Norfolk Island, where the Sintrim picked him up. Ballinger states that the crew of the Andrew Hicks became mutinous just before Norfolk Island was reached and threatened to take charge of the vessel. They were held in check until arrival at the island, when the captain threw the whole crew in irons, and set out to communicate with the British and American consuls. At the end of four days he returned and found the men pacified after their confinement and ready to promise obedience.

THE NEW ATHLETIC CLUB.

Enthusiastic Meeting Last Night Results in Club Being an Assured Fact.

A very enthusiastic meeting of some of the best young men in Astoria, was held last night, at the hall of the Chamber of Commerce, the object of the gathering being to organize an athletic club in this city.

Much enthusiasm prevailed, and the meeting was a most successful one, and was enlivened by several spirited speeches by representative men, who urged the immediate organization of the club, as it will fill a long felt want in this city for a place of clean healthy amusement for the rising generation as well as for the grown ups. The list at present has 93 names as charter members, and a special effort is being made to increase that number to 100 before the next meeting which will be held at the room engaged for the gymnasium, tomorrow night at 8 o'clock.

Bert Allen, who is an enthusiastic booster of the new organization was chosen as chairman and made a good talk. Messrs. Franseen, Trullinger, Vincent and Hawthorn volunteered to accompany Professor Rathlou among the signers for the collection of initiation fees and dues of charter members, and to assist in gaining new members.

At the meeting tomorrow all are invited and those interested are specially requested to be present, so that the new organization can be started in a blaze of glory. It is proposed to have a short exhibition if possible in the form of a wrestling or boxing bout.

AFTER FORTY LONG YEARS.

CHICAGO, Jan. 13.—After having been divorced for 40 years, an accidental meeting brought Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ackley, the latter for some years a music-teacher in Chicago, together again, and now they are enjoying their second honeymoon.

Last week Mrs. Ackley visited Minneapolis and met her former affinity by accident. She addressed a letter to him at his hotel which brought about a meeting and reconciliation.

UNABLE TO TELL HIS NAME.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—Deprived of reason by a blow upon the head, found wandering in the streets of San Francisco, mumbling bits of verse, but unable to tell his name, a man who is believed to be G. D. Ackley, a composer of songs which are widely popular, was taken to the Central Emergency Hospital, yesterday morning, where he died a few hours later. How Ackley was injured in such a manner is unknown, but it is supposed that he was the victim of footpads.

RASCALLY RAISULLI.

PARIS, Jan. 13.—A special dispatch the Matin from Tangier says that Raisulli, the noted bandit, has joined Mulai Hafid and that he still persists in his refusal to give up Caid Sir Harry MacLean, except by order of the new leader. A dispatch from Rabat to the Ministry says that the Sultan's court is terror-stricken by the news that Mulai Hafid is proclaimed sultan.

ARMY CANTEN NOT DEAD YET.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The governing board of the army canteen association is taking active steps to organize branches of the association in every state in the union, that a united pressure may be brought to bear on Congress to restore the canteen. Major-General Frederick G. Grant and many other prominent army officers are giving the movement their hearty support.

JEWISH THEOLOGIAN DEAD.

CHICAGO, Jan. 13.—Rabbi Bernhard Felsenthal, said to be the oldest Jewish theologian in the United States, recognized as one of the world's greatest Hebrew scholars, died last night after ten days' illness. He was 86 years old.

LONG DISTANCE WIRELESS.

PARIS, Jan. 13.—A brief wireless dispatch was received here last night at the Eiffel Tower station from the warship Kleber, which is lying at Casa Blanca, a distance of 1900 kilometres. This is the first time that a message has been sent so long a distance under similar conditions.

BOND ISSUE BROUGHT UP

Tillman Asks Some Pertinent Questions.

CORRESPONDENCE READ

Question Asked Why Panama Bonds Were Sold at 102 1-2 When 104 1-2 Was Bid.

BANKERS GIVEN PREFERENCE

Private Citizens Bid 104 1/2 on Panama Bonds in Blocks of \$10,000 Worth But the Bonds Are Allotted to Bankers at 102 1/2—Explanation is Demanded.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—After a short discussion in the Senate the recent bond issue of the treasury department it was agreed before taking up the question in detail to await the report from the secretary of the treasury which Senator Aldrich assured the senators would be before them on Thursday. Clay, of Georgia, asked whether the secretary be required to make a report of these facts by law. Aldrich replied that he believed he was so required, but there was no provision of law stipulating how the report should be made.

Culberson insisted that the duty of the secretary under the law was to make such a statement on or before January 1, for the preceding year, concerning the deposits of public money. He said he had not seen such a statement. Tillman referred to the two solutions by him which had remained on the calendar since December 9, calling for information concerning clearing-house certificates, and bond issues, and said he thought it best to let them go to the committee on finance without attempting to pass them without reference to that committee. He said he wished to lay some correspondence on this subject before the committee and read a letter from a private individual who had bid 104 1/2 for \$10,000 Panama canal bonds and had not been awarded them although they sold for 102 1/2. Tillman wanted to know how it happened that bonds had been sold to banks to lower the price, and denied to citizens who bid higher for them. He also read a letter from a correspondent in Augusta, Ga., who wanted to know how it happened that the secretary places the vast currency in the New York banks to relieve the financial stringency.

"This stringency seems to be a source of profit to some one," Tillman's correspondent added.

The Senate passed Tillman's resolution calling on the interstate commerce commission for information concerning purchases by railroad companies of stocks of competing roads. Unfinished business in the form of a bill to codify the criminal laws of the United States was placed before the Senate and the reading begun when the Senate adjourned.

PITCHER FATALLY SLASHED.

SOUTH ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan. 13.—With throat cut from ear to ear, Pat Seay, a pitcher for St. Joseph and Omaha in the Western League, and for Rock Island in Three P's, was taken to a hospital last night, where he is reported to be dying. James Troutman, released from the penitentiary recently, gave himself up, saying he cut Seay's throat. Troutman engaged in an altercation with a waiter in the Colorado House. He said Seay struck him and he then slashed Seay's throat.

GRAND OPERA COMES HIGH.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—Every seat for five of Madame Tetrazzini's 15 appearances at the Manhattan opera house has been sold, the receipts being \$87,500. Tetrazzini's first appearance in New York Wednesday night will be in "Il Trovatore."