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TRY HUSBAND AND WIFE FOR ALLEGED BRUTAL MURDER

Hattiesburg, Miss., May 8.—A great deal of interest is manifested not only in this county but through out the state, in the fate of G. L. Crosby and his wife, Minnie Crosby, who will be tried for the brutal murder of J. R. McShann at the term of the Forrest county circuit court beginning here Monday.

The crime, which was one of the most sensational in the history of this section, and presented many unusual and interesting features, was committed on Easter Sunday of this year. As both Crosby and his wife have made complete confessions, it is expected that the trial will not consume much time.

According to the confession of the murderers the crime was planned by Crosby, the wronged husband, who conceived the fiendish idea of compelling his unfaithful wife to not only lure her lover to his doom but actually to become particeps criminis in the widest sense of the word. She pressed the trigger of the shotgun with which her husband aimed at the defenceless victim.

When the partly decayed body of McShann, mutilated by hogs and vultures, was found in a secluded spot near the Bowie street bridge in Leaf river swamp on April 21, Coroner Fairley called a jury and held an inquest. As there was evidence that Mrs. Crosby had been intimate with the murdered man, she was arrested and submitted to an examination before the coroner's jury. She denied all knowledge of the crime and was remanded to the county jail.

There she made a full confession to Deputy Sheriff D. G. McGillvray, who induced her to appear again before the coroner's jury and repeat her confession the same evening.

Mrs. Crosby admitted that she had been intimate with McShann and had met him secretly many times near the Bowie street bridge, while her husband, a saw filer in the employ of the McIntosh Lumber Co., at Petal, was working with the logging crews in the woods, staying away from home for days and weeks at a time. Her husband became aware of her unfaithfulness by intercepting her correspondence with McShann. He threatened to kill her, but spared her to make an instrument of his revenge.

Under threats of death, Mrs. Crosby said, her husband compelled her to agree to his fiendish plan of revenge. At his dictation she wrote a letter to McShann, asking him to meet her on Friday morning, at 11 o'clock, at the Bowie street bridge. Two days before the day of the murder Crosby and his wife went to the swamp near the bridge

and concealed a loaded shotgun under a log. Sitting on the same log the two arranged the details of the plan and Crosby insisted that his wife, as a punishment for her unfaithfulness, should pull the trigger of the shotgun, while Crosby aimed it at McShann's throat.

On Easter morning, at an early hour, Crosby and his young wife, who is only a little more than fifteen years old, left their home in Petal, a suburb of Hattiesburg, and went to the swamp. While she waited at the bridge for McShann, her husband penetrated farther into the swamp until he reached the log under which the gun was concealed. McShann came promptly and seemed pleased to find Mrs. Crosby there, waiting for him. She induced him to leave the rather exposed ground near the bridge and led him toward the spot where her husband was waiting for his victim.

When they had arrived within a few feet from the log, Crosby arose from his crouching position and commanded McShann to throw up his hands. The trapped victim obeyed, as Crosby threatened him with the shotgun. While Crosby was taking careful aim at McShann's throat, Mrs. Crosby walked behind him and when he informed her that he was ready, she reached over his shoulder and pressed the trigger. The load of shot struck McShann squarely in the neck and lower part of the head, killing him in a few moments. Not until Crosby and his wife had reached home did it occur to them that they had left the gun upon the scene of the murder. During the night both returned to the spot and recovered the gun.

When Crosby was informed that his wife had made a full confession, he refused to believe it at first. When he was convinced, however, he also consented to appear before the coroner's jury, where he substantiated practically every detail of his wife's previous confession. He also completely exonerated E. L. Woodruff and wife who had been arrested on suspicion of having been implicated in the murder. They were promptly released and Crosby and his wife were held for trial.

STRENUOUS ELECTION IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Voting Today After One of the Most Strenuous Campaigns

St. Johns, N. F., May 11.—Following one of the most strenuous campaigns in the political history of the colony, in the course of which many bitter personalities have been indulged in, a general election is being held in Newfoundland today for members of the legislative assembly. The parties headed respectively by Sir Edward Morris, the present premier, and Sir Robert Bond, the former premier, have straight tickets up in every district. There are no independents running.

The present election, which is the second to be held in Newfoundland within seven months, results from the dead-lock in the election of Nov. 2 last, when the Bond party and Morrisites each elected eighteen members of the legislature. All efforts to end the dead-lock were unavailing. Governor MacGregor was favorable to the formation of a coalition government of a temporary character, and he only ordered a general election after all persuasive methods had failed.

The campaign began the second week in April and soon developed much bitterness. One of the sensational features was the arrest of Walter Burns Grieve, a leading merchant and shipowner of this city, on a charge of criminally libelling Sir Edward Morris. Sir Edward in his complaint alleges that Grieve wrote a letter stating that the premier was in the pay of the Canadian government and was secretly working to bring about the annexation of Newfoundland to Canada.

Another sensational incident of the campaign occurred a week ago at Western Bay, giving evidence of the bitter political feeling throughout the colony. Sir Robert Bond was scheduled to give a political speech in the town. When he started to go ashore from his steamer he was met by a crowd of voters in sympathy with Sir Edward Morris and warned that the people of Western Bay did not desire to hear him. When Sir Robert persisted in landing the crowd made a rush for him and in the confusion the ex-premier was pushed overboard. He rejoined the steamer and made no further attempt to land.

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