

SCHOONER OLIVE PECKER TRAGEDY.

Trial of John Anderson for the Murder of Mate Saunders.

Begun in the United States Court at Norfolk, Virginia.

Members of the Crew Relate the Story of the Killing of the Captain and Mate, and the Throwing of Their Bodies Overboard and the Burning of the Vessel.

NORFOLK (Va.), Dec. 20.—The trial of John Anderson, cook of the schooner Olive Pecker, for the murder of mate William Wallace Saunders on the high seas in August last, was begun in the Federal Court to-day. Anderson is also under indictment for the murder of Captain Whitman and the burning of the schooner.

Attorney McIntosh, for the accused, in outlining the defense, stated that he would show that Anderson had been subjected to unheard of cruelties, and that the murders were committed in self-defense.

Martin Barstad, a Norwegian, a member of the schooner's crew, was called to the stand as the first eye-witness to the terrible tragedy that will go down as one of the most dramatic and remarkable of modern times.

Barstad testified that he was at the helm during the whole affair. He saw Anderson throw water on the Captain's dog on the morning of August 6th, the day of the crime; then he heard the Captain curse Anderson, after which followed a noise as of some one falling. He had supposed the Captain had struck Anderson, who came up and asked the mate to protect him. The mate said: "Go to, you've got to die anyway."

Shortly after this Anderson came out of the Captain's cabin and fired the mate dead while he was sitting, and shot him four times. He summoned all hands, and made them throw the body overboard. Then he made them go down into the cabin and get the body of the Captain and throw that overboard, after which they threw the crew into the Captain's cabin and gave them whiskey.

The story of the burning of the vessel under Anderson's orders, and the voyage to land in the small boats, varied little from the published accounts. John Lind was called to the stand and testified essentially the same story as Barstad, except that he did not see Anderson shoot the mate. Anderson came up to him and told him that he had killed the Captain, and that the mate had had to go. The witness said that he called the watch, and while he was doing this, he heard three or four shots on the other side of the vessel. Witness helped to throw the bodies overboard, and Anderson, he said, cursed the dead body of the mate. He could not state what language was used in speaking of the whiskey Anderson gave the crew, Lind said it was only half a bottle, and no one was drunk. The Captain and mate were dead when thrown overboard. Anderson fired three shots when the small boat left the burning schooner, but he said he did not witness could not say.

Lind told how the crew drew lots to see who should go together, and his lot fell with that of Anderson. He said Anderson shot the dog which came ashore in the boat, and on the way to Richmond sold the Captain's watch. Upon cross-examination Lind said he heard Anderson, prior to the killing, ask the mate to protect him from the Captain, and he heard the mate tell Anderson to "go to, you will be dead anyway."

Anderson testified that he had thrown water on the Captain's dog, and that he had heard the mate tell him to "go to, you will be dead anyway."

On cross-examination, March's testimony was not shaken. Juan De Dios Barriol did not see the shooting, but heard the shots. His story varied essentially from those of the others, and when he had concluded his testimony court adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

CIVIL SERVICE.

Commissioner of Pensions Before the Senate Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Commissioner of Pensions Evans to-day appeared before the Senate Committee on Civil Service and Retirement, which is conducting an investigation into the operation of the civil service system.

Mr. Evans was questioned at length by Senators Lodge and Pritchard about the civil service system and its application to the Pension Office force. He expressed the opinion that the law did not accomplish the results its friends insisted that it did. The best men in his office were those who had come in under the so-called "spoils system." They did their duty, and expected to hold their positions by so doing.

DR. ZERTUCHA HAS BEEN REWARDED.

The Betrayer of General Maceo Given a Political Place.

Has Received the Appointment of Mayor of Bejucal, Havana Province.

Havana Newspapers Comment With Sorrowful Utterance Upon the Death of Lieutenant-Colonel Ruiz at the Hands of Cuban Insurgents.

HAVANA, Dec. 20.—Dr. Zertucha, who was the physician of the late General Maceo, has been appointed Mayor of Bejucal, Havana Province. Zertucha has belonged in his day to all the political parties in Cuba. At one time he was a hand in the Vuelta Abajo, and his record was very discreditable. It was quite inexplicable to the friends of Maceo that he kept the physician on his staff for so long a period, notwithstanding the warnings given him. Maceo used to say that Zertucha's fault was his drinking habit. At the time of the Cuban command, he was killed Zertucha was charged with leading him and his party into the fatal ambush, but he issued a long statement, in which he tried to show that Maceo met his death in battle in the usual way. Zertucha also bitterly assailed the honor of the Cuban leaders.

After the killing of Maceo the dishonored physician was allowed to go free by the Spaniards, and it was said, and generally believed, that his pockets were well lined with Spanish gold. THE DEATH OF COLONEL RUIZ. HAVANA, Dec. 20.—The local newspaper comment to-day upon the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Ruiz, the sorrowful utterances reflecting the sentiment of the general public.

"El Diario de La Marina" relates the fact that at the end of the ten years' war the principal headquarters of the Conservatives, with delegates from various parts of the island, was held this evening, convened by a circular issued by the Marquis de Apestequia, leader of the Spanish Conservative party. The circular said the Conservatives expect and demand only justice from the Government.

Yesterday at Regla, a suburb of Havana, there was a sensational bull fight, in which girl fighters from Spain entered the ring and killed the bulls like regular professionals. They were greatly applauded.

MADRID, Dec. 20.—Official dispatches from Havana confirm the result of the execution of Lieutenant-Colonel Ruiz. The Queen Regent has cabled an expression of sympathy to the family of the dead officer.

It is alleged that the insurgent chief Nestor Aranguren has had seventy insurgents shot because they offered to make submission.

AMERICAN CONGREGATION.

Society to Assist Needy Jews in Jerusalem and Palestine.

ALBANY (N. Y.), Dec. 20.—A certificate of incorporation was filed to-day with the Secretary of State by "The American Congregation, the Pride of Jerusalem." Its principal headquarters are to be in New York City, and it is intended to carry on operations throughout the United States and Canada.

The object of the organization is to aid and assist indigent and needy Jews of all nationalities resident in Jerusalem and Palestine by means of dues, donations and collections from receipts bearing the Hebrew words, "Rabbi Meyer Ball Ha Ness," or an abbreviation thereof, "Rambahn." These receipts are to be placed in the homes of Jews throughout the United States and Canada and in the synagogues. The money is to be forwarded to the main organization in Jerusalem, called Kollei Americani Tiphereth Jerusalem, and under the supervision of Rabbi Joshua L. Desulin and the United States Consul in Jerusalem.

It is also proposed to encourage and aid the so-called Zionist movement, and to support, furnish and equip pilgrims and pilgrimages from the United States to Jerusalem and Palestine in connection with that movement.

POPE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH.

Bishop Emard Describes His Visit to the Vatican.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 20.—Bishop Emard of Valleyfield, Province of Quebec, who arrived here on the La Normandie from Havre to-day, described his visit to Pope Leo.

"The Pope is in excellent health," he said. "I had an audience of an hour and ten minutes with him, and his vivacity was as great as ever. He asked questions incessantly. He seems to know everybody everywhere, and follows the events of the world with avidity."

THE COLD WAVE WAS GENERAL.

Severe Frosts in Nearly All Sections of the State.

The Thermometer in Places Goes Down to Twenty-Four Degrees.

A Sharp Freeze in the Santa Clara Valley, Ice Forming a Quarter of an Inch Thick—No Serious Damage to Crops Reported, While Fruit Men in Some Sections Consider the Cold Snap a Benefit.

SAN JOSE, Dec. 20.—Last night was the coldest of the season here, and thermometers in some locations make the temperature the lowest since the winter of 1893-94. The thermometers about San Jose were from 29 down to 21, some reports even lower. Probably the more accurate instruments give no lower than 26.

There was a severe frost and sharp freeze over the entire valley. No serious harm was done, as there was no crop out to be injured. A few late grapes, usually destroyed long before this by rain, may be injured and even frozen. In the foothills they were not hurt, but these grapes were merely scattering bunches left in picking. Ice formed in places one-quarter of an inch thick.

ORANGES ARE SAFE. SAN BERNARDINO, Dec. 20.—Reports from the orange growing districts show that the danger line of frost last night was approached, but that little or no damage has been done to the orange crop. At Highlands the thermometer fell to 28 above, and on the Colton bench to 27. The crops at Redlands and the Mission were practically safe. The lowest point was reached at about 6 o'clock this morning, and only continued for a short time.

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MOUNTAINS WHITE WITH SNOW. SAN DIEGO, Dec. 20.—The weather in San Diego has been unusually cold the past two days, but was warmer last night than Saturday night. The mercury went down to 38 Saturday night and there was a little frost, but no damage has been reported anywhere. At 5 a. m. the thermometer was at 28, and at 6 a. m. it was 27. The lowest temperature here last night, and clouds prevented frost in valleys. The mountains are white with snow, which is six inches deep on Cuyamaca Peak, where the temperature went down to 2 above zero Saturday night, but registered 15 above last night.

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FRESNO, Dec. 20.—George A. and Edward L. Arnold were arrested to-day to answer to a charge of assault to commit murder upon Ed. L. Palmer.

All the parties are prominent and wealthy citizens of this county. Palmer was building a fence across a piece of land over which he and the Arnolds have had some dispute, and George Arnold ordered him to stop. Words were used, and Arnold went for his brother Edward. George returned his decision on the Durrant case.

MOORHEAD TRAIN ROBBERS.

Chicago Authorities Believe They Have Them Located.

PANIC IN A RAILWAY CAR.

Caused by the Explosion of Two Boxes of Celluloid Combs.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—It is believed by the authorities that they have located the robbers who held up a Northern Pacific train near Moorhead in October, and one of the alleged robbers is now in the County Jail in this city. It is reported that he worked in Moorhead long enough to familiarize himself with the situation, and to engage the help of some local men, who, however, weakened later. It is reported that the prisoner has made a complete confession, but the authorities will not talk.

AN INSANE PATIENT ENDS HIS LIFE. CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—John Hogan, a patient at the Cook County Insane Asylum at Dunning, and a brother of the widely known sporting man, Malachai Hogan, committed suicide last night in a peculiar manner. He eluded the watch of the guards, and going to the bathroom, picked up a dust pan and drew the razor edge of it across his throat, severing the wind pipe and veins of his throat.

VISIBLE SUPPLY OF GRAIN. NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The statement of the visible supply of grain in store and afloat Saturday, December 18th, as compiled by the New York Produce Exchange, is as follows: Wheat, 35,565,000 bushels; increase, 21,000 bushels. Corn, 38,389,000 bushels; decrease, 2,142,000 bushels. Oats, 14,202,000 bushels; increase, 2,000 bushels. Rye, 3,443,000 bushels; decrease, 36,000 bushels. Barley, 4,695,000 bushels; decrease, 283,000 bushels.

COLD SPELL IN COLORADO. DENVER, Dec. 20.—The oldest inhabitant can hardly recall a cold spell in this vicinity that continued longer than the one which began 22 the British steamer Appomattox, from London December 8th for Newport News. The Appomattox signaled that her shaft was broken. The British steamer Virginian was preparing to take the Appomattox in tow.

HER SHAFT BROKE. LIVERPOOL, Dec. 20.—The British steamer Floridan, Captain Bullock, from New Orleans on December 1st for this port, has arrived here and reports having passed on December 16th, in latitude 50 and longitude 22, the British steamer Appomattox, from London December 8th for Newport News. The Appomattox signaled that her shaft was broken. The British steamer Virginian was preparing to take the Appomattox in tow.

WILFUL MURDER. LONDON, Dec. 20.—At the inquest to-day over the remains of Actor Terresa the Coroner's jury rendered a verdict of wilful murder. The crowd present at the inquest included many actors. The accused man was absent. The evidence was a repetition of the stories when Prince was arraigned at the Bow-street Police Court.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT. BARBOURVILLE (Ky.), Dec. 20.—Ison Lawson, the eighteen-year-old boy who murdered his father in Brush Creek, this county, was given a life sentence this afternoon. Lawson killed his father, by striking him on the head with a hoe because the father had corrected him for some misdemeanor.

WEAVERS ON A STRIKE. NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The weavers at the German looms in the William Strang Company mills at Patterson, N. J. are on a strike against a reduction of wages. Fifty hundred silk weavers in the employ of the Moding Manufacturing Company, at Patterson, went on a strike to-day for an increase in wages of 10 per cent.

AN EX-SUPREME COURT JUSTICE III. BUFFALO, Dec. 20.—Hon. Charles Daniels, who for twenty-eight years served on the Supreme Court bench, and also represented the Thirty-third Congressional District, was stricken with paralysis this afternoon. His doctors say his death is only a question of a short time.

FUNERAL OF DAUDET. PARIS, Dec. 20.—The funeral of Alphonse Daudet, who died suddenly Thursday, was largely attended to-day. Emile Zola, who attended the funeral, was hoisted owing to his support of the effort made by the friends of Alexander Dreyfus to bring about a reopening of his case.

WAGES TO BE REDUCED. SINGAPORE (N. H.), Dec. 20.—Notices have been posted at the cotton mills of a reduction of wages of about 10 per cent. January 1st. The cut will affect superintendents and overseers and all employees, including nearly 1,500 operatives. The monthly pay roll amounts to about \$27,000. It is probable that the cut will be accepted.

Non-Catholic Marriages.

LIMA (Peru), via Galveston, Dec. 20.—It is understood that President Pierola will promulgate the new law as to non-Catholic marriages, but Senor Alejandro Lopez de Romano, Minister of the Interior, will resist.

Ehanks Must Hang.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The Supreme Court of the United States to-day affirmed the decision of the lower court in the case of J. J. Ehanks, a convicted murderer of California, basing his decision on the Durrant case.

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Assert That They Have the Two Most Important Strategic Positions.

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LONDON, Dec. 20.—An unconfirmed report is current here that part of the British far Eastern squadron will be stationed at Wei Hai Wei this winter. If true, this indicates that Great Britain is working in harmony with Japan. The latter Power still occupies Wei Hai Wei, pending payment of the Chinese war indemnity.

The evening newspapers are much disturbed over the situation. "What do we get?" is the burden of their complaint, and they all insist upon the necessity for immediate action. The "Globe" and "Standard" and "Times" are all in a state of commotion. The "Globe" and "Standard" are especially so. The "Globe" and "Standard" are especially so. The "Globe" and "Standard" are especially so.

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