

ALIBI FOR WOLTER

WILL SEEK TO SHIFT MURDER CHARGE.

Father Comes to Aid with Lawyer, While Whitman Promises Speediest of Trials.

From Albert Wolter's father, who went to his son's aid yesterday and retained a lawyer to defend him on the charge of murdering Ruth Wheeler, was learned last night the line the defense would take. An attempt will be made to establish an alibi for the youth, and to show that, as he has said consistently since his arrest, he was not in the house at No. 224 East 75th street, where the murder was done last Thursday, until that night. The defense, said Albert Wolter, the elder, would seek to show that one of young Wolter's companions in the white slave traffic, possibly one higher up in the business, actually committed the crime.

Wolter's father retained W. D. Scott as his son's lawyer, because The Tribune's revelations had convinced him that the youth was simply a tool of a gang of traffickers in young girls. The action by the young man's father saved him from an ordeal at the hands of the police that was expected to break him down completely, for Mr. Scott took steps at once to see that his client's rights were not invaded.

The police and the District Attorney's office obtained evidence yesterday that led them to attach far greater importance to Wolter's past as a member of a "white slave" gang. They took up diligently pursuit of the clues furnished by The Tribune, and as a result of further information given to them yesterday have found the house where Jennie Kohn, who once lived with Wolter, as Katchen Mueller has done of late, is living with "Jonesy," the pickpocket who was first brought into the case by Mary Weisman. They are seeking Annie Goldstein, too, through Jennie Kohn, and may soon restore her to her father.

May Be Indicted To-day.

From what District Attorney Whitman said yesterday, a new record for the rapid execution of justice in this county is likely to be established in this case. The grand jury will be asked to indict Wolter to-day. Under his constitutional rights he may defer pleading, if the indictment is returned to-day, until Friday. Two days more must then elapse before he can be brought to trial, and he may therefore be placed on trial on Monday.

Wolter's father said last night that Mr. Scott had obtained enough evidence to make out an alibi which he expected

to shatter the case now being drawn around the boy by the police.

Mr. Scott had a long interview with the prisoner in the Tombs yesterday, and said later that he was sure the case would come on trial to a climax more extraordinary than the story already revealed.

Wolter's father was sure last night that the murder was committed by another. In the evidence which the parent is investigating he expects to show that a man, who had held a far-reaching influence over the boy, was the one directly responsible for the crime.

Katchen Mueller, the young girl who lived with Wolter, is now believed to be wholly innocent of knowledge of what happened in the East 75th street apartment, where the charred body of Ruth Wheeler was found on Saturday afternoon. The new evidence will be withheld until young Wolter is brought to trial, and then it will be presented as a surprise to the apparently overwhelming evidence now in the possession of the District Attorney.

Father's Conviction Changed.

Mr. Wolter at first denounced his son for what he regarded as his proved connection with the death of Ruth Wheeler, but further evidence which came into his possession caused him to change his mind, and last night he said that he would do everything in his power to bring forward the true facts of the crime. He will himself put the boy through an inquisition, and at the end of it hopes to be able to complete the alibi.

"I am convinced that the murder of Ruth Wheeler is not up to my boy," said the gray-haired father. "There is something deeper, something which only a father can ferret out, that is at the bottom of this case. I have never before had any experience with the police, and I was so upset that I was ready to accept anything as truth."

"Mary Weisman," said Mr. Wolter, "identified Albert as the man she knew some time ago. I am sure that he was with a gang in her neighborhood. You call them 'cadets.' I have always read of them, but find it hard to believe that my son was one of them. Yet the evidence is there, and I am now convinced that he knew Jennie Kohn, the girl whose picture was found in his rooms. That connects him with the other women."

"If my son wanted to kill a woman why did he wait until Thursday?" said the old man, as he summed up the evidence for the defense as he saw it. "He could have taken any one of those women whom the police say were sent to the house in East 75th street on Tuesday and Wednesday. He did not, because he did not plan such an atrocious deed."

Maintains Son's Innocence.

"Ruth Wheeler was the victim of one of the members of the organization which has made the city dangerous for young girls. She was murdered by a man who wanted to make her lead a life of disgrace. Perhaps it was one of the commanders of those fearful gangs. It was not Albert. He may have been a wild boy, but he was not a murderer."

The elder Wolter had denounced his son on Sunday night when the abduction charge was changed to murder. His wife had died with him in the denunciations, but there was something, a thread in the cord of evidence that may have slipped by the police, that caused a change in the parents' manner. He had refused to come to their son's aid, but the mention of the name of another woman, not Katchen Mueller, made them suspicious.

The defense will try to show that Ruth Wheeler was lured to her death by a man, now unknown to the police. They will try to prove that Wolter was not in the apartment when the girl called. The paint, the umbrellas and the fact that the bundle containing the body was placed outside the dining room window will be explained, it is said.

"In the defense we will show that Wolter was a tool of the young men who are supported by women," said L. H. Saper, of No. 11 Broadway, Mr. Scott's assistant. "The man who is charged with the crime is not guilty. I say this not as his lawyer but knowing that every word is true. The story printed in The Tribune on Monday is the key to the murder. It was committed by one of the gang of vicious characters whose habitat is the east side of the city."

"This man knew Wolter. He carried out his plan so cunningly that Wolter was an unwilling aid. He induced him to let him use the rooms, under the cloak of false friendship."

"Wolter was always 'broke.' He never had money. A woman whose influence was greater than Katchen Mueller's stood behind him. She may have engineered the plan. Then, again, we know it was not a woman who committed the crime but a man. That man was the head of the syndicate which sent women away."

"It is true I denounced my son," said Mrs. Wolter. "I cannot think that this crime is laid to him. He was never cruel. Yet the murder was done in the boy's rooms. I shudder to think that he should have been arrested for such a thing. Even if my son was one of that gang which infests some parts of the city it is better to know that than to know that he is a murderer."

Here the reporter asked Mrs. Wolter why she did not go to the Tombs to console her son and why she had not written to him. The details of the police inquisition on Sunday and Monday were told to her.

"I cannot think of again looking at the boy unless he comes home to me with his conscience cleared of the deeds that were done in that chamber where he and Katchen Mueller lived. Then I will understand. Then he will again have a mother, but now—"

The interview was broken by the appearance of an old friend of the Wolter family, who came to extend his sympathy. "Why don't you move?" asked the visitor.

"No," said Wolter's father. "I will remain here until I know who killed Ruth Wheeler."

Frank Moss, First Assistant District Attorney, who has been put in charge of the case, decided yesterday that the

"A Two-Mile Walk in Every Foot."

RETAW

RETAW

RETAW

RETAW



COMMANDER PEARY AND LIEUTENANT SHACKLETON.

Who met at luncheon yesterday.

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discovery of Jennie Kohn was important in the extreme. He spurred Captain Carey, of the Homicide Bureau, on to renewed efforts, and the two detectives who have been working almost continuously since early Monday morning on the clues furnished by The Tribune were reinforced. A dozen were at work last night, and they had traced Jennie Kohn to a house in East 13th street. There she is living with the "Jonesy" of Mary Weisman's story, notorious as a pickpocket.

Annie Goldstein, who was found by her father last summer living with Jennie Kohn, is not far away from this house. Two weeks ago she was living with "Rolph," also named by Mary Weisman. "Rolph" is well known to the police as a cadet and petty criminal, and they hope to reach Annie Goldstein ere long.

All these men and women are intimately bound up with the life of Albert Wolter. Mr. Moss said last night that it might turn out that Jennie Kohn would be an important witness in the murder trial, and he added that she was necessary in the Goldstein case. That is a case of abduction, of "white slave" pure and simple, for the girl is only a child.

"It is a puzzle to me, but we do not jump at conclusions," said Captain Carey, of the Homicide Bureau, when he found that Wolter had not confessed yesterday morning. "I cannot talk to the subject of Wolter's guilt or innocence. I shall lead one of the most complete investigations into the 'white slave' traffic ever made in this city."

Justice will be prompt in the case. District Attorney Whitman announced yesterday that he would lay the evidence so far obtained before the grand jury to-day. It is expected that an indictment will be returned before the day is over. The constitution gives the defendant the right to two days' delay between the indictment and the pleadings and two days more before the trial. It would not be at all surprising, therefore, if Wolter should be placed on trial by Monday for the murder of Ruth Wheeler.

That the crime was more serious than even at first supposed was established yesterday. Professor J. H. Larkin, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, reported that from a partial examination of the girl's remains he found that she had been outraged.

Scott Folds the Police.

Mr. Scott forbade his client yesterday to say a word to any one about the murder, and thus the police were foiled in their plan of securing a confession from the prisoner through confronting him with Katchen Mueller. Encouraged by the effect that a letter from the girl had had in breaking the young man's nerve, the police had hoped that the presence of the young woman herself would have a still more striking effect.

The letter which produced such an impression on Wolter that he fainted on reading it was translated as follows: "My Dear Al: As you have been good to me I beg you to tell the truth. They found a sock on your fire escape, and from what they tell me I think you are guilty. I beg you to tell all. I will forgive you. You have been so goodhearted to me that I can hardly believe it. Take my advice and tell everything. You know what I know. I appreciate your kindness, but I believe you guilty, and I beg of you to confess, and no matter what happens, I will love you."

"KATIE."

Mr. Scott, the defendant's lawyer, has already been in the public eye. He married Blanche Chesbrough, the former wife of Roland B. Molyneux, who was tried for murder and acquitted. She stuck to Molyneux through his two trials, but afterward went to South Dakota, where Mr. Scott, who was practicing in Sioux City, was her attorney, and secured a divorce, after which they were married.

In announcing his intention to lay the case before the grand jury to-day District Attorney Whitman said he had no intention of slighting the Coroner, but considered that prompt action was called for in the circumstances. Coroner Holtzhauser had intended postponing the inquest until next week, but the action of the District Attorney has induced him to hasten matters, so that to-day witnesses will be heard in the basement by the Coroner and then sent upstairs to the grand jury room.

Case May Break Record.

Should the grand jury indict to-day the case will establish a record in New York County, and should the trial be brought on next week it will be one of the most notable cases of promptness in judicial action in the annals of the state. "I have no desire to have any controversy with the Coroner's office," said Mr. Whitman, "but I do believe that this is a case that calls for the greatest promptness. I do not see any necessity in waiting for the Coroner's verdict. I think we have sufficient evidence to secure an indictment. I don't see how we could have much more. If the grand jury reaches an indictment to-morrow

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SHACKLETON'S POLE

LAUGHS IF HE LOST IT

British Antarctic Explorer in Lecture Tells of His Dash.

Carnegie Hall was packed last night to hear from the mouth of their leader the story of the daring, bravery, determination and loyalty of a small party of British subjects who risked their lives to add to the prestige of the English nation by placing the flag of their country on the South Pole. The story was modestly and entertainingly told by Lieutenant Sir Ernest H. Shackleton, the man who planted his majesty's ensign "within sight of the South Pole" and "who would have accomplished his ultimate purpose had he had fifty pounds more of provisions."

Lieutenant Shackleton won the hearts of his audience last night before he had spoken five minutes. Physically he is representative of his country. Broad shouldered, broad chested, his every motion shows latent power and strength. He told the story of his fight for the pole, aided by numerous illustrations and some interesting moving pictures which he succeeded in having taken in the Antarctic regions. The humor of his descriptions kept his hearers laughing and almost hid from them the dark scenes of privation and the sufferings which every man of the party endured.

There was some slight trouble in getting the pictures properly on, which worried the explorer considerably. "I say, is this the point we have got?" the lieutenant asked, disjunctly, when he was handed a rather abbreviated rod with which to point out particular spots on his pictures. This remark somehow caught the audience and they made Carnegie Hall ring with their laughter for several moments, laughter in which its cause finally joined.

Rufus H. Choate introduced Commander Peary in a speech in which he lauded the great American explorer and urged that Congress give him soon official recognition for his exploits. Then Commander Peary introduced the speaker of the evening as "the world's leader in Antarctic exploration, the man who had won the title which God Almighty alone can give—that of a man." When Mr. Shackleton rose to acknowledge the introduction the audience cheered him for several minutes.

Lieutenant Shackleton rapidly sketched the financial difficulties under which he labored in getting his expedition started, its departure from New Zealand, the bad weather encountered soon after the start, and how the good ship Nimrod had missed by a scanty fifty yards being crushed between an enormous ice floe and the great ice barrier in Ross Sea. Then he told of the hazardous work in scaling Mount Erebus, the highest mountain of the Antarctic region, and the party's winter encampment, and the long winter night, lasting 129 days.

"On October 28, 1908, we started for the South," he continued, "and on November 7 we sent back our supporting party, and the party consisting of Adams, Wild, Marshall and myself pressed on. We had soon to begin relaying in carrying our provisions and equipment, which meant that we had to walk three miles for every one we got further south."

As they pressed on and on up the ice-terminable glacier and still on south the hardships became more intense, blizzards and continued ice drifts became incessant and the food allowance had to be fearfully diminished. One day they advanced only six hundred yards. "Finally," the speaker said, "we reached a point where I knew we could make the pole, but if we did we could never have got back. With fifty more pounds of food we could have reached there and returned. I was then met by the planted British flag and turned north."

That return trip was marked by fearful sufferings from hunger. Full and technical accounts of the expedition and the work accomplished by it have already been printed, but the public has never seen so closely glimpsed of the every day life of the men of the party than were shown to them last night.

The "man from farthest North" and the "man from farthest South" sat side by side yesterday at a table in the Astor Hotel at the luncheon given by the Explorers' Club in honor of the latter, while on the left hand of the English explorer was Captain Robert. Bartlett, who commanded the Roosevelt during Commander Peary's last dash for the pole. Among these men were seated many of the most prominent of the American explorers, with a scattering of men from other nations who have distinguished themselves in such work.

Commander Peary made a short address of welcome to the English explorer, during which he told him of his election to the Explorers' Club. Short addresses were made by Captain Bartlett and William J. Peters, of the Carnegie non-magnetic yacht expedition.

Among the guests were Professor H. C. Parker, of Columbia University; Marshall H. Saville, vice-president of the Explorers' Club; Donald B. McMillan, of Cornell University; Henry Arctowski, who led a Belgian Arctic expedition; Antony Flah, who commanded the Ziegler polar expedition; Herbert L. Bridgman, Henry C. Parker, who will attempt to climb Mount McKinley shortly, John B. Stetson and Henry C. Walsh.

DEMOCRATIC INCONSISTENCY.

Dodging Attempts to Make House

Rules More Liberal.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, March 29.—Despite their repeated protestations that they favor a great liberalization of the House rules, the Democratic leaders have succeeded in checking the efforts of Representative Thelus Sims, of Tennessee, to put a Democratic caucus on record as favoring such changes. For several days Mr. Sims has been attempting to obtain enough signatures to call a Democratic caucus to adopt his resolution providing for a committee on committees. He had obtained almost the requisite number, when he was informed by the Democratic leader that they did not desire such a caucus, and that, even if such a meeting were called, it would be doubtful if his resolution would be adopted.

This incident has afforded much amusement to those Republicans who have all along contended that the Democratic outcry was for a meeting for T. E. and did not emanate from a sincere desire to change the rules.

AUTOMOBILE CASE DISMISSED.

The case against James S. Masterman, manager of the printing department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, whose automobile ran over Helen Mandel in Third avenue, near 75th street, south Brooklyn, on March 11, was dismissed in the Fifth avenue court yesterday morning. The girl had no bones broken and is now entirely out of danger.

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12.50 to 75.00

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CANADIAN TARIFF.

Official Announcement To-day—More Proclamations.

Washington, March 29.—It was officially stated to-day that the announcement of the tariff agreement with Canada would be made at noon to-morrow in Ottawa and at the State Department simultaneously. The terms of the agreement will be withheld until that time.

Proclamations were issued to-day by the President granting the minimum rates of the Payne-Aldrich tariff act to Tunis, Gabon (French Congo), Mayotte and Comoro, French Somaliland, Salvador, Martinique, St. Pierre and Miquelon; the French settlements in Oceania, Guadeloupe and dependencies, French Guiana, French West Africa, Reunion, Madagascar, French Indochina, New Caledonia and dependencies.

ADOPT TARIFF PACT.

French Chamber and Senate

Pass U. S. Measure.

Paris, March 29.—The bill approving the Franco-American tariff agreement was adopted unanimously by the Chamber of Deputies to-day. The sole objection to the measure was raised by M. Antoine Jourde, Radical Socialist, on the ground that the United States could discontinue the minimum concession at any time upon three months' notice being given of her intention to do so. However, the Minister of Commerce, M. Dupuy, explained that both countries were on the same footing in this respect, the right to break the agreement after due notice being reciprocal.

M. Dupuy added: "This accord ends the iniquitude on both sides of the Atlantic."

Neither France nor America can consider herself the victor or the victim in the agreement, which is most important, both from a moral and a material standpoint.

The Senate to-day concurred with the chamber in passing the tariff agreement measure.

The bills will be promulgated in the official journal to-morrow, and will go into effect immediately.

A. B. PARKER GUEST OF MINISTER.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—Ex-Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, was the guest at luncheon to-day of M. Kokovoff, Russian Minister of Finance.

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