

LEECHAN ACQUITTED OF SLAYING WOMAN

Turns to Mrs. Lynch, His Benefactress, and Pours Forth Thanks.

WILL BEGIN LIFE ANEW Leaves Wife for Year to Reform—Mrs. Lynch Through With Him.

TOMES RIVER, N. J., Dec. 20.—It took an ocean county jury only fifty-nine minutes this afternoon to acquit William J. Leechan of the murder of Mrs. Caroline Turner on April 26, 1911, and set him free.

All agreed that the favorable verdict was due largely to work done by Mrs. Jasper Lynch, a rich woman of Lakewood, in behalf of Leechan. A duty she felt she owed the public gave him a chance to fight for freedom under the best auspices. She hired lawyers to defend him when he had no money and she did detective work of which any professional would be proud.

Thus it was not surprising that Leechan, when Foreman Hugh Kelly "not guilty" turned his eyes, poured forth his thanks. Mrs. Lynch was much affected too. She told newspaper men that she was delighted.

Leechan left Tomes River to begin life anew with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Leechan, at Manchester, Vt. Mrs. Lynch did not go with him and the reason was that she has put him on probation for a year and will not live with him again unless he ceases his habit of drinking. He admitted on the stand that he had been a confirmed drunkard and his wife, though she stood by him loyally during the trial, refused to go with him.

Mrs. Leechan will continue to live during the year that her husband is in Manchester with Mrs. L. Pierrat, a boarding-house keeper in White Plains, N. Y. She will support herself and her eleven-year-old son Bradley by sewing and will accept no aid from Leechan until the year is up. This important step for the Leechans was made at the suggestion of Mrs. Lynch, she admitted to-night.

Will Not See Leechan Again. "I advised Leechan to go with his aunt and uncle," she said. "He needs rest physically and mentally. I told him it was up to him to go straight, to get well and strong, and then to establish a home for his wife and child. I do not expect to see any of the Leechans ever again. I advised him because I believed it was his duty. I am in that sort of work and have lawyers and agents working for me, so that this case was not so much out of the ordinary, except in the public interest it aroused. I am done with Leechan now. I believed him innocent from the start and since he was poor I gave him a chance. Now it is up to him. His life lies ahead of him and it is his duty to carry a future out of it."

So far as Mrs. Leechan is concerned I merely advised her to do as she will. I am not sure that either of them will continue to act as I advised, but I shall not advise them further.

What turned the tide unmistakably in Leechan's favor at the trial this afternoon was the remarkable charge to the jury by Judge Court Justice James F. Minturn. He recognized the fact that the prosecution's evidence was purely circumstantial and treated the situation from that viewpoint. He demolished the contentions of the State in a large degree and especially the testimony of George Jamison, the detective who was the star witness for the prosecution.

The jury got the case at 3:22, and it took them a minute less than an hour to hand in a verdict. As a matter of fact they voted not guilty in thirty minutes, taking only a single ballot, but Justice Minturn had gone for a walk and the jury room was kept locked until he returned. As the jurymen filed to their seats, Leechan leaned far forward in his chair, his face pale and quivering and his teeth drawn into his lower lip. The court room was crowded, several automobile parties having driven over from Lakewood to see the finish of the trial. Mrs. Lynch appeared nervous for the first time.

"Have you reached a verdict?" asked the clerk. "We have," answered Foreman Kelly. "We find the defendant not guilty."

ROBBER HOLDS UP OLD WOMAN. Threatens With Revolver as He Grabs Her Handbag.

YONKERS, N. Y., Dec. 20.—While Mrs. James Adams, 60 years old, of Goshen, N. Y., was walking in Valentine lane near Riverdale avenue this evening a man stepped from behind a tree, pointed a revolver at her, snatched her handbag and ran.

Walter Stolte, a grocer's clerk, heard her cries for help and chased the thief, but could not catch him. Police searched the neighborhood within a few minutes. They found a small empty purse which the robber had thrown away. It had contained only \$2. They could not find the handbag. It contained a deed, an insurance policy and other papers which are of value to the owner but useless to the highwayman. Mrs. Adams is in Yonkers visiting friends.

AUGUST THYSSEN, JR., IN JAIL. Son of Great German Mine Owner Imprisoned for Libel.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—August Thyssen, Jr., son of the great mine owner of Muehlheim, one of the wealthiest men in the world, was sent to jail for a month to-day for having libelled the director of his father's factories.

Young Thyssen and his father have often quarrelled on account of the son's spendthrift habits. The young man was adjudged a bankrupt in the courts here several months ago. His liabilities were estimated at \$4,000,000. His father offered him \$30,000 a year if he would agree to renounce his rights as heir to the immense fortune of the manufacturer. The offer was declined.

HELD AS COINER, HE BURNS OFF MUSTACHE. Prisoner Accused of Making \$10 Bills Disguises Himself in Cell.

When Frank Greco of 62 Seventh street was placed in a cell in the Greenwich street police station on Friday night on a charge of making counterfeit Buffalo \$10 bills he wore a long black mustache and was dressed dapper.

Yesterday morning when he was taken down to the office of Capt. John Henry of the local secret service for scrutiny he wore a shabby coat, and the glory of his mustache was dimmed.

Investigation disclosed the fact that Greco during the night had borrowed the clothes of a Pole in the next cell and, with a box of matches, had set about to burn off his mustache. He suffered dearly for his attempt to conceal his identity. His face was badly burned about the mouth and nose. In addition to this his thick striped tie secret service men to increased energy in investigating his record.

Capt. Henry sent for Chief William Flynn, who happened to be in this city on a visit from Washington. Chief Flynn recognized Greco as an old offender who has worked under the aliases of John Furnan, John Taylor and Frank Ross. He was arrested in Philadelphia about ten years ago on a charge of making and passing bad silver dollars and was sent to Western penitentiary in Pennsylvania for five years.

His arrest Friday night was based on the confessions made by John Carroll, 17 years old, of 322 West Forty-second street, and Edward Tuiti, 27 years old, of 83 Third street, Long Island City, who were picked up by the secret service men and held in \$1,000 each by United States Commissioner Shields recently on a charge of passing \$10 bills. They are said to have received \$2 for each bill they passed.

Tuiti was arrested at Twenty-third street and Second avenue while trying to rid himself of one of the bills by purchasing a pair of suspenders. The secret service men are positive that Greco must have been near to see the arrest, for when Augustus Charles M. Schroeder, Peter A. Rubano and John Schlimm visited Greco's home on Friday night they were unable to find any trace of the counterfeit plant which they had been led to believe was there.

The secret service agents were admitted to the house by Greco's wife. As they stepped into the dining room where the family was at supper Greco, they say, drew a magazine gun from his back pocket. Three revolvers were levelled at his head. Greco made no further attempt to use his weapon.

Christmas 1913

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SILENT ON SANTO DOMINGO. Minister Sullivan's Cousin Refuses to Discuss Rumors.

Timothy J. Sullivan of Springfield, Mass., a cousin of James M. Sullivan, American Minister to Santo Domingo, arrived yesterday by the Clyde liner Algonquin with a rumor that he had sought refuge aboard her because of threats against the life of his wife and child, who were with him, and himself. Mr. Sullivan had nothing to say and went directly to Springfield.

DENIES FAKE BURGLARY CLAIMS. Underwriters' Secretary Explains Increase in Insurance Rates.

The Burglary Insurance Underwriters Association objects to reports that it is raising its premium rates because of the increase in the number of "fake burglaries" and "fake claims on burglaries."

In a statement issued yesterday over the signature of Samuel B. Brewster, secretary of the association, it is said that the true reason is the "uniformly high loss ratio of all companies and the marked increase in such ratio during the past two or three years."

WANT AN ANTI-BARNES SPEAKER. Twelve Brooklyn Assemblymen Unite on Altmeth W. Hoff.

Twelve Brooklyn Assemblymen, all Republicans, have agreed to support Altmeth W. Hoff for Speaker. Eight of them are young men who have not been to the Assembly before, and they take their jobs seriously. All hands have united on Hoff on the ground that he is an anti-Barnes man.

POCO WILL BEFRIEND HARVARD MEN NO MORE. Old Clothes Dealer and Money Lender to Students Is Dead.

BOSTON, Dec. 20.—Barnard Bennett, known to Harvard students for many generations as POCO, old clothes man and money lender, died suddenly to-day of acute indigestion at his home in Allen street, West End.

Poco, to undergraduates and alumni, was as much a part of Harvard as John the Orange Man. He was a man of many gifts, and some side invariably appealed to the Harvard man in need of cash. He could be relied on to turn what seemed like slow assets into ready money, and he got his commission. He originally gained access to the dormitories as a

SHOPPERS JAM STREET TO SEE \$10,000 FUR FIRE. Night Blaze in 22d Street, Near 6th Avenue, Is Rife With Incident.

Several thousand shoppers stopped playing Santa Claus last night to watch a fire do \$10,000 damage in a four-story loft building at 38 West Twenty-second street, just east of Sixth avenue. The flames destroyed the store of the Polar Fur Company and Wohlender & Harris, furriers, on the third floor. They extended to the roof.

Nearly 7,000 persons with Christmas packages under their arms got jammed on the block between Fifth and Sixth avenues before the flames arrived. They were shooed beyond the lines by Capt. Mason and the reserves from the West Seventeenth street station. All were sneezing and snorting from the ill-smelling smoke.

SIX SISTERS' TOTAL AGES 475. PARIS, Dec. 20.—There is a family of six sisters living in the French village of Comelle sous Houvron, of whom the eldest is 85 and the youngest 75 years old. Their total ages amount to 475 years.

WANTS \$2,000,000 FOR 1914. The Public Service Commission wants \$2,000,000 to carry on its business in 1914. A requisition for that sum was sent to the Board of Estimate yesterday.

The amount is \$250,000 more than has been appropriated in 1913. The advance in the cost of regulation is only \$50,000, but it will cost \$650,000 more in 1914 to make plans for new subways and to supervise the construction than it cost in 1913.

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