

O'NEIL BROWNE TELLS HIS STORY

Enters Sweeping Denial of Any Wrong-doing in Connection With Lorimer's Election.

HE FELT SORRY FOR WHITE

Flatly Denies He Gave Either Linke or Beckmeyer Any Money in Southern Hotel.

Chicago, Oct. 6.—For the first time under oath, Lee O'Neil Browne, Democratic minority leader of the lower house at Springfield, today told his story of the election of William Lorimer to the United States senate committee.

Browne was tried twice on a charge of bribing Representative Charles White to vote for Mr. Lorimer, but did not testify in his own behalf. The first trial resulted in a disagreement and the second in acquittal.

He has still to stand trial on an indictment charging, the same charges, returned at Springfield.

There was a surfeit when Browne's name was called by the senatorial committee which is investigating Mr. Lorimer's election. Browne talked composedly, entering a sweeping denial of any wrongdoing in connection with the election. He is a lawyer, and his attorney, Thomas Dawson, found little to do in advising his client as to his answers.

Browne said that he was but slightly acquainted with White before the opening of the legislative session, during which Mr. Lorimer was elected to the senate by a combination of Democratic and Republican votes. During the session, however, he met White frequently and helped him with bills in which he seemed deeply interested.

SORRY FOR WHITE.

"I felt sorry for him," said the witness.

The matter of securing Democratic votes for Mr. Lorimer, the witness stated, was first mentioned to him in a casual way by Representative David Shanahan. Later—about three weeks before the election—Speaker Shurtliff came to his room and asked him, in effect, how many of his following among the Democrats would be willing to vote for Mr. Lorimer.

"He asked me how many of my 'boys,' as my following was designated, would vote for Mr. Lorimer," related the witness. "I told him things were in such a condition, that the session had dragged on so long, a good many of them wanted to end the deadlock. As for myself, I could not tell now how I would vote, not having considered the matter."

"I told Mr. Shurtliff, and later Mr. Lorimer himself, that the Democrats would vote for Lorimer with my consent unless they—Speaker Shurtliff and Mr. Lorimer—would give me their word that no Democrat should vote for Lorimer until his election was assured."

Browne testified that he saw Senator Lorimer and Speaker Shurtliff frequently after having decided to support the former, and that he talked to many Democratic representatives, including White, Beckmeyer, Sheppard, Linke and Clarke, all of whom had been testified before the senatorial committee.

"I told Mr. Lorimer that according to my best information there would be 20 Browne Democrats who would vote for him," said the witness.

"Continuing, the minority leader said he did not personally see all the members of his faction about their votes on the senatorship."

He denied that he sent Representative Robert E. Wilson, alleged distributor of the "jackpot," to St. Louis in June. He admitted he had written to several persons expressing regret that he could not have been with Wilson.

Reverting to the election, Mr. Browne said that he kept a list, several lists, in fact, of Democratic representatives whom he expected to vote for Lorimer. He read a list of 20 names to the committee.

BROWNE IN ST. LOUIS.

Browne said he was in St. Louis June 21, 1909, which has been fixed by other witnesses as the time and place when \$1,000 packages of money were handed to them by Browne. He said that he met Representative Henry A. Sheppard, Michael Linke, R. J. C. Beckmeyer and Charles Lusk, in the Southern hotel. Browne declared he did not tell Representative White he was going there. His purpose in going to St. Louis, he said, was to confer with the representatives named on the subject of state patronage for Democrats, as at that time Governor Deussen was taking up the question of minority patronage. Later he talked with the governor on the same subject.

Browne flatly denied he had given Linke or Beckmeyer any money in the Southern hotel, St. Louis, June 21, 1909, as described by them.

"If Beckmeyer said you gave him \$1,000 that day he lied, did he?" asked Atty. Alfred Austrian.

"No," I would not say that," said Browne. "If I had been through what Mike Beckmeyer went through with an indictment held over my head, I might have said what he did. I would not want to say he lied."

"Did you give Linke any money June 21, 1909, in St. Louis?"

"No."

"If he says you did, he lies."

"I would not say so," said Browne. "If I had been through what Mike Linke went through—and had been threatened in the attorney's office as he was threatened, I might have fallen for it. I wouldn't say he lied."

Atty. Austrian retorted: "You have put men through those same ordeals, haven't you?"

"No, never."

"Have you not brow-beaten lawyers of less physique than you until they shot at you?"

"No," never," replied Browne.

Witness explained the question about being shot at by saying that a man named Conway of Ottawa, Ill., was the man referred to by Atty. Austrian. Conway, he said, shot at a man, but it was not at the witness.

Browne read into the records a letter from Representative Linke, in which the latter congratulated Browne on his recent acquittal of the charge of bribing Representative White, Linke, like Beckmeyer, testified to being bribed by Browne.

"Touching on his relations with White, Browne said he helped White draw up bills and assisted him in his legislative labors, because he saw that White was deeply interested in his work. During the year the legislature met, Browne said he saw much of White, and met him once or twice in the Briggs house, Chicago, where White asserts he received most of the bribe money for his vote for Lorimer.

"I was busy with my duties as a legislator and as minority leader," declared the witness, "and necessarily had but few conferences with any member unless when in my room or occasionally in the hotel."

"Were you minority leader?" asked Atty. Austrian.

"I was and I was not," answered Browne. "I was elected minority leader, but if I had been really the leader

WANTED TO KILL PRINCE TSAI HSUN

Member of Young China Association Sought His Life as He Stepped From Train.

CONFERRED HIS INTENTION

Had Loaded Revolver—Regretted Not Being Able to Accomplish His Purpose.

San Francisco, Oct. 6.—An attempt to kill Prince Tsai Hsun, uncle of the emperor of China, as he stepped from the Overland train at the Oakland mole a half-hour before boarding the liner Chiyu Maru for the return trip to China, was frustrated this afternoon by Chief Secret Service Harry Moffitt and Detective Sergeant George McMahon of the local police department, when they seized and overpowered George Fong, a member of the Young China association, just as he was about to draw a revolver from his hip pocket with which to fire upon the royal visitor.

Fong was handcuffed by the detectives and quickly detached from the crowd that had gathered at the station to welcome the prince upon his return to this city from his visit to the east. He was taken across the bay on a ferry boat, placed in a taxicab and hurried to Moffitt's offices, where he made a full confession of his intention to assassinate the prince.

A five-chambered, 38-caliber revolver, fully loaded, was found in his pocket. He acknowledged that he had purchased it on the day that the prince left San Francisco for his tour of the east, with the purpose of shooting him when he arrived here on his way back to his home.

A QUICK ARREST. The arrest was made so quickly and quietly that neither Prince Tsai Hsun, any one of his retinue, nor any member of the reception party knew anything of it until the steamer was ready to sail. Then Rear Admiral Thomas S. Phelps, representing the government of the United States in the final ceremonies attending the distinguished visitor's departure, was informed by Moffitt of what had transpired.

Whether the prince was told of his close call from death was not learned. In his statement to the secret service men, Fong denied that his action was the result of a conspiracy to kill the prince. He said that the organization to which he belongs, while revolutionary in its tendencies, is in no way responsible for his attempt to slay the emperor's uncle. The prisoner shouldered all responsibility, declaring himself a revolutionist and an enemy of the present dynasty in China.

Fong expressed regret that he had not accomplished his purpose, saying that he wanted to be a martyr to the cause to which he had consecrated his life and that he wanted to awaken his countrymen. He calmly told of how he had prepared to face "the electric chair or the gallows" and said that he would have considered it a great honor to have been put to death had he accomplished what he set out to do.

WHY FONG HESITATED. The would-be assassin said he hesitated a moment before drawing his revolver, because the crowd he closed in around the royal party, and he did not desire to injure anyone except Prince Tsai Hsun when he pulled the trigger. It was at that moment that Moffitt and McMahon seized him.

Fong is a native of San Francisco. He has been residing in Berkeley, where he was employed as cook in a students' fraternity house. In his statement to the authorities and newspaper men, Fong, who speaks good English, said:

"I tried to kill Prince Tsai Hsun because he is an enemy of my people. I did the best I could, but my work in this particular case is over for a while. It will be taken up again elsewhere, I can assure you.

"My desire was to strike a blow for the liberty of my people. Just as George Washington did for his people."

I could have had all the Democrats with me. When I started out my faction numbered 23, but before the session I had lost two of them."

White said he had heard no reports that Browne was trying to get money for legislation and declared that he had tried to help White get reinstated in his previous job as street car conductor.

CURRAN IN REBUTTAL.

Thomas Curran, a Republican representative, testified in rebuttal of the testimony of White. Curran said White approached him at Springfield and asked him to hold out the 10-hour bill, which was in the committee of which Curran was chairman.

"White told me to hold out that bill because there might be something in it for us," said the witness. "Later White asked me if there was anything doing on the Lorimer election. I told him I did not know, and observed that he, as a Democrat, ought to know if there was anything doing. Why did you ask me if there was anything doing?"

On cross-examination, Curran said he thought that if any money was used White, as a Democrat, would know it. Representative John Griffin of Chicago, a Democrat, testified today. Yesterday Henry Terrell testified Griffin told him "there was \$1,000 in it for him (Terrell) if he would vote for Lorimer."

On the stand today Griffin denied he had made that statement.

On cross-examination Griffin said he decided to vote for Senator Lorimer because many of his friends were friends of Lorimer.

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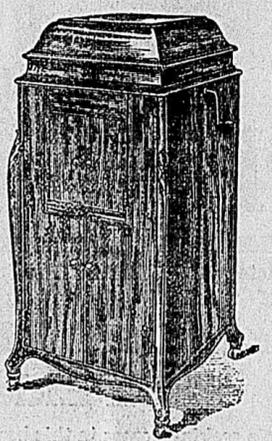
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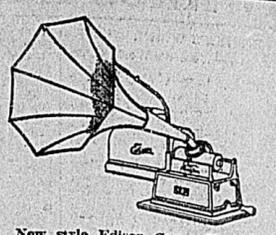
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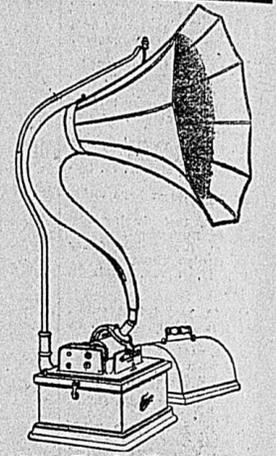
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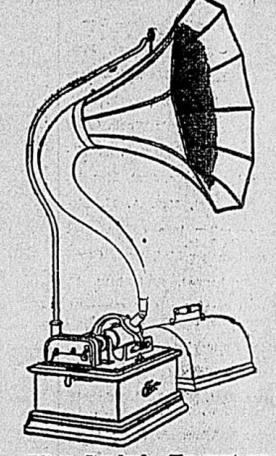
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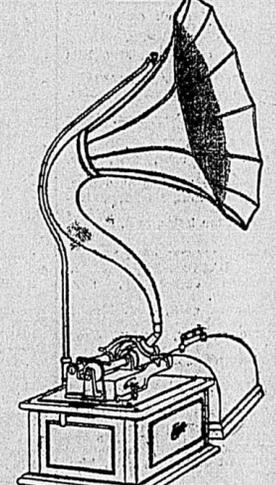
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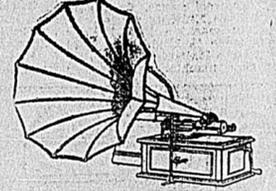
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