

# DAUGHTER'S EVIDENCE MAY HANG BISSONNETTE

## Albertina Bissonnette Furnishes Testimony Necessary to Establish Premeditation

### Girl Sobs Loudly and Faints Away As She Tells Story of Tragedy—Court Twice Adjourned While She Regains Self-Control—DeLaney Denounces Bissonnette

Napoleon Bissonnette, who shot and killed Romo P. Demery Thursday night, must face the charge of murder in the first degree in the criminal superior court in December. Probable cause was found in his case in the city court this morning by Deputy Judge Frank M. Wilder, and Bissonnette was held for the higher court without bail. The principal witness was Miss Albertina Bissonnette, daughter of the accused. She sobbed and wept all through her testimony and swooned in the arms of her uncle, Albert V. Demery, brother of the dead man, as she stepped from the witness stand. Bissonnette was not put on the stand by her lawyers, Attorneys George Kane and Joshua Metzger. Bissonnette was apparently unprepared when she heard the decision of the court. He sat between his attorneys unperturbed. Attorneys Kane and Metzger argued for a change of venue from the city to the county court. The court refused. Medical Examiner Frederick B. Doolen was called. He said that the bullet struck the victim in the neck and was found in the muscles of the right side of the face. He said that from the appearance of the wound he should think that both men must have been standing at the time of the shot and that the pistol was held at right angles when fired. He thought the person shooting the gun must have been two or three feet from Demery, because the powder marks were so close together. He testified that Demery was about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed about 185 pounds. Dr. Harry Bennett of the Emergency hospital, who was called to the scene of the murder from the city hospital, said that he thought Demery died within five or ten minutes after being shot. When pressed by Attorney Kane he admitted that he did not know how long Demery lived.

Following Dr. Bennett, Albertina Bissonnette who accompanied her uncle, the dead man, to the city court the night of the shooting, was called. She was dressed neatly in a suit of plain black. A heavy black veil partially hid her face. She raised the veil and looked at the court while in the court room. She wept constantly and held her handkerchief under her veil. She is pretty in the ordinary type, and she speaks in a low but steady voice, trying to bear up under the strain. After one or two simple preliminary questions she burst into tears and said that a recess was ordered, and she was led from the room. She was assisted by her uncle, Charles Albert V. Demery. She did not testify freely and it was easily seen that she did not feel at all friendly toward her father, who watched her constantly.

She told again how she and her uncle went to her father's home on Seaside avenue. She said she saw her father announce their coming, but walked right into the kitchen. Bissonnette was sitting in a rocking chair. After she conversed a few minutes with her father about her remaining with her mother, who was ill, during which her father objected to Demery's interference, she saw her father suddenly rise and grabbed her father, who was still seated in the chair. Her father rose from the chair and Demery let go of him. "And what happened then?" asked Attorney Kane.

"He shot him," she cried, and burst into tears. "I saw him shoot and heard another recess was ordered." After she had calmed down again, she told how she ran into the street, but returned to the house to see her mother and her uncle, who had been shot, clinging to her father, who was trying to get to the street between the two men she admitted that she begged her uncle to let her father alone. She said, however, that she did not know whether she had seen her father or not, but she thought her father would hurt the uncle.

Here she was excused. She was assisted from the stand by her uncle Albert, and had taken but a few steps when she fainted. The evidence furnished by the girl was so interesting that the court adjourned until 11 o'clock. The girl was carried out of the court room, where she revived. As the older girl fainted a shriek was heard from the witness bench. It was from little Alva, the 12-year-old daughter of the accused, who had been called as if her heart would break. She was soothed by Matron Hill. Several women who were among the spectators began to weep heartily. About this time, Bissonnette alone seemed unmoved. No tears flowed from his eyes.

Attorney Arthur L. Prout was put on the stand to repeat a conversation between himself and Bissonnette on the night of the murder. The patrolman testified that Bissonnette told him, "I had to shoot him or he would have killed me."

Attorney Kane said that while he would not assume the responsibility of discharging the accused, he could not see that his client could be held for the higher court on the meagre evidence furnished by the State. He said the character of the testimony certainly does not show that there was murder in the first degree. From the evidence here this morning there was nothing which he deliberated about it. It is very evident that the principal witness of the State, the daughter of the accused, went over the testimony, emphasizing the unwarranted interference of Demery in Bissonnette's case. He dwelt particularly upon the fact that Demery took off his glasses when he started for Bissonnette. Attorney Kane held, deliberately, that Demery was a big man, he said, and Bissonnette thought that his own life was in danger he had a right to shoot. There has been absolutely nothing to show premeditation on the part of the accused.

Prosecuting Attorney DeLaney replied sharply to the State's evidence. He said, "You honor, for the state to produce prima facie evidence that the accused is guilty for your honor to send him over. Now it is not denied that a man has been killed. It is not denied by the defense that the man was killed by this 'whelp.' And their defense is self-defense! This monstrous specimen of man, half a man, it is a pity Demery didn't throttle the last ounce of blood from his body. I think your honor that the state has produced sufficient evidence to warrant the holding of this unfortunate individual and Brother Kane ought to know enough law to let the accused nothing would prevent a grand jury from indicting him for murder just the same."

Attorney DeLaney made no answer; the prosecutor and stated that in his opinion the state had proven the case of the defense by the statement of Attorney Kane. He also referred to the animal instinct in a smaller man, which he pleaded that the state take "judicial notice" of this fact. He also appealed to the court that if the old saying "that every man's home is his castle," held as good in a court of law as in every day life, Bissonnette was surely justified in shooting the man who came to his door with the charge he made manslaughter.

# CAUCUS DOES NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES

## Speech for Mayorality Candidate Gets, Oh! An Awful Frost

As an experiment in telepathy the Republican caucus, held last night, in the Board of Trade Rooms, was measurably successful. As a means of trying out delegates it was a failure. As the caucus was doubtless assembled for this purpose there must have been disappointments. The whole business was kept a secret. Less of the transactions than usual looked, because of the absence of the regular assortment of wire pullers and political henchmen. Word had gone out that there were delegates who would severely rebuke the presence of any such. One lone candidate for a minor office got near enough to the delegates so that they could see him. His chances were not improved thereby. John D. Curtis, formerly of the Adams Express Company, one of the delegates from the Seventh district, was elected chairman in compliment to his distinguished military record, and also perhaps a few delegates voted for him to further the idea that Mayor Lee will control the convention, because Mr. Curtis believed to favor Lee's candidacy.

But there was nothing else in the caucus to substantiate the claim that its members are overwhelmingly pledged to Lee's renomination. One delegate, whose name could not be recalled, gave an impression being that he was another Seventh district delegate, made a fervid speech in which the accomplishments of the late Governor in office were enumerated in detail.

And this was the only discussion of candidates. It is also the only clue to the real temper of the convention. This speech not only did not precipitate an endorsement, but it was followed by a cold, and solemn silence so lengthy as to give the impression that the atmosphere was desirous if not hostile.

Whatever interchange of opinion there was among delegates took place after the caucus had adjourned. It was the Morris men, it is said, who prevented a discussion, and endorsement of candidates so long as to be subject to the influences that would be directed against them until the convention is in session.

For the first time in years Republicans will be obliged, like the Democrats, to make a portion of their nominations at least, in public, and not in caucus.

In three districts solid delegations were sent for Morris. These delegations, having received their instructions direct from the people, cannot vary from their pledges unless another primary is called. They are, therefore, less the same way in which they were pledged.

Thomas Arnold, Jr., by himself and his friends, is seeking delegates to the publicity that immediately follows his visits does not, in the minds of political students, augur well for his prospects.

The Fifth district delegates are still grooming Coroner C. B. Wilson as hard as they can in the hope that they will be some kind of a compromise between Morris and Lee, which will let Wilson in.

The Booth and Cooney contest even is in the air and neither of those candidates knows this morning where he stands.

The corrupt practices act it is difficult to trade, and any alliances that have been attempted upon a purely trading basis have so far, it is claimed, been promptly broken up. A party behind the attempted bargain warned to be more discreet.

Billings used to hold big meet. Seventy-four lodges represented at 41st Annual Convention in New London.

Which Fack He Did Not Fail to Make Known in His Application for Citizenship.

# THREE HEARSES BEAR SANSONES TO THREE GRAVES

## Funeral of Mother, Son and Daughter Dead of Eating Poison Fungi—Church of Rosary Thronged.

The sight of three hearses, one black, Mrs. Enoch Sansone, and her two children, Harry, aged 12, and Emma, aged 10, all of whom met their death by poison, after eating toad stools. The hearse containing the remains of the mother came first, followed by that of her son, and then the little girl. From the undertaking parlors to the Holy Rosary Italian Catholic church, on Exchange street, the cortege moved, a solemn high mass of requiem was sung by Rev. Angelo De Tora, pastor of the church. The interment was in St. Michael's cemetery, where three open graves marked the spot that would on the same day receive the remains of three members of the same family. Following the funeral, the remains of the father, who also was poisoned with the fungi, and who is craved with grief, attended the funeral.

The general sympathy felt by the public, especially the Italian population was shown by the very large number who visited the undertaker's room, last evening, behind his trip to St. Louis. President Taft and his military aide, Captain Butt, are the only members of the party at the ranch house, the remains are quartered at the New Green Hotel at Gregory, built especially for the occasion.

Friday will include golf before he takes to the special train again and reaches the metropolis behind his trip to St. Louis. President Taft and his military aide, Captain Butt, are the only members of the party at the ranch house, the remains are quartered at the New Green Hotel at Gregory, built especially for the occasion.

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Each Delegation Can Be Represented in Primary Contests

Homeopaths in Convention at New Britain Today

# TAFT ENJOYS PRAIRIE LIFE

## President Staying on the Immense Ranch in Texas Owned by His Brother

Gregory, Tex., Oct. 19.—When the President awakened today after the best sleep he had had for a month, he looked out on nothing but a boundless prairie. But anyway there were no reception committees stamping about waiting and wondering when the President would "show up," and this helped a lot. The President dressed leisurely and went down to breakfast at a 9 o'clock, ready to enjoy the first of his four days' stay at the ranch of his brother, C. F. Taft. The ranch is three miles from Gregory and near Corpus Christi.

The big tract, said to contain more than a hundred thousand acres, stretches for miles north of the ranch house. It is so great in fact that it required three-quarters of an hour for Taft to get to the ranch from Stinton to Gregory, the northern and southern boundary. Mr. Taft was bright today, his program including golf, horseback riding, hunting and resting. The wild birds are chased by the hunters following on horses. Interest in the shooting is increased, the ranchers say, because it is a game in which the cats get the dogs or the dogs the cats.

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# TO THE SUMMIT OF MT. MCKINLEY

## Dr. Cook Will Lead an Expedition to Recover His Records There

Cleveland, Oct. 19.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook will again lead an expedition to recover the records he says he left at the summit of Mount McKinley in Alaska, the highest mountain in America.

In an interview today with the United Press the explorer declared his intention of making the ascent to clear his honor of the slur that has been cast upon it. The explorer said he would begin his preparations next week, having cancelled all future lecture dates after this week so that he may give his entire attention to the work. Probably the Alaskan journey will start in the early part of next week.

Copenhagen, Oct. 19.—Rector B. Orph, of the University of Copenhagen, declared today that the Alaskan expedition tomorrow the request of the American Naaloga Geographical Society that the university waive its claim to the first examination of Dr. Frederick A. Cook's north pole data would be refused unless Dr. Cook joined in the request.

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# MAURA WILL BE FORCED TO RESIGN

## Pressure Brought to Bear on King Alfonso to Retire the Premier

Madrid, (Via Hendaey), Oct. 19.—Premier Maura announced today that he will not resign but he believed that King Alfonso, realizing that Spain's national life is being forced the head of the present cabinet into retirement. It is positively known here that the King had received intimations, put forward in a manner more forcibly than delicate—from France and England—that Maura's international and foreign policies are stirring up a revolt that threatens serious difficulties. In the face of these hints which are practically demands, and the terrible international conditions of the country at present, it is felt that Alfonso will force Maura to resign. General Weyler was butch-er to whom the King turned to-day for advice, told the ruler the position of the present cabinet requiring 100 men to constantly guard the premier and so gradually each of the other ministers is ridiculous.

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