

LIFE SENTENCE IN PENITENTIARY JURY'S VERDICT IN LAWSON CASE

Labor Leader and Friends Are Staggered When Conviction of First Degree Murder Is Made Known.

HUNG JURY THE LEAST COUNSEL HAD EXPECTED

"They May Get Me but They Can't Defeat the Cause of Labor," Is Only Comment of Condemned Man.

Trinidad, May 3.—(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Lawson, since 2 o'clock today convicted as a murderer, did not sleep in the county jail tonight. Judge Granby Hilmyer, after deliberating throughout the afternoon, announced this afternoon that the labor leader would be released on \$20,000 bond pending action on his motion for a new trial. Lawson's former bond in Animas county was \$15,000. The new bond was arranged for at a conference here tonight with Judge Hilmyer and Horace N. Hawkins, chief counsel for the defense.

Lawson was convicted of first degree murder, the jury fixing the penalty life imprisonment in the Colorado penitentiary. The conviction was in connection with the death of John Nimmo, a deputy sheriff, killed October 25, 1913, in one of the battles growing out of the recent strike of coal miners.

Lawson tonight sent a message to his wife telling her that he was convicted. Mrs. Lawson, an invalid, suffering from a nervous breakdown, is in Los Angeles. During the trial she telegraphed asking that she be permitted to attend. Lawson, however, thought her strength would not be sufficient for the strain and urged her to stay in California.

In a statement tonight Lawson said: "They may send me to the penitentiary but they cannot defeat the labor cause. My friends and I are ready to take my place. Not for all the millions of the Rockefeller world I give up the fight for human rights in which I have enlisted."

Lawson sat like a stone as the jury filed into the courtroom. There was but a sprinkling of spectators. Judge Granby Hilmyer had announced luncheon recess until 2 o'clock and it was not quite that hour when the jury came into the court. The reason only the few who had reached the courtroom early were in their seats.

In the midst of a tense silence the clerk asked: "Gentlemen, have you reached a verdict?"

The foreman replied, then handed the written verdict to the clerk, who passed it to the judge. Lawson sat beside his counsel, his eyes fixed on the jury, his rugged features set and stern.

Judge Hilmyer glanced at the verdict, then handed it back to Bowdrey Floyd, the clerk. The clerk read aloud: "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree and fix the penalty at life imprisonment."

A gasp, a sharp intake of breath, ran around the slim crowd gathered for the last act of the labor drama. Lawson did not move. A slight smile played over his features. There was silence for a few clock-ticks, then Horace N. Hawkins, pale of face, rose and asked that the jury be polled. Each man assented to the verdict. Then there were brief legal formalities to go through with and the crowd filtered out the door and down the steps and the drama was over.

Can't Defeat Labor. Seated at his lawyer's table after the verdict was rendered, Lawson, former strike leader and still member of the executive board of the United Mine Workers of America, talked calmly of the outcome of his fight for life and liberty.

"They may get me, but they can't defeat the cause of labor," he said. "I'm not worrying about myself—it's the fight I have been making for the workmen that I am interested in and that will go ahead just as before. Even for me, it's all universal and not a personal thing. My attorneys will not give up until everything possible has been done to save me."

As the convicted labor leader talked his friends in the crowd gathered around him and one by one they silently grasped his hand. Like a prairie fire the news of the verdict had swept through the town. Labor adherents whom the sudden rendering of the verdict had caught, hopped the same rushing to the courthouse. Some had tears in their eyes as they greeted their defeated chief.

Acquittal Was Expected. Lawson and his counsel had confidently expected an acquittal, or at most a discharge. The jury had been out since shortly after 3 o'clock Saturday night. When Monday morning came without an agreement belief that the trial would end in a "hung jury" became all but universal among followers of the trial. The unexpected verdict caught the town by surprise.

John Richards, the juror who was slightly ill this morning, was sufficiently to participate in the final deliberations and to walk into the courtroom with his companions. Lawson had with him Horace N. Hawkins and Charles Mahoney of his

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