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Life Term for Mrs. Murray

Woman in Hysterics After Verdict—Denies Knowledge of Poisoning Her Husband—Taken to Moundsville Penitentiary.

Mrs. Elsie Murray was found guilty of murdering her husband, W. A. Murray, Martinsburg, W. Va., by a jury in Berkeley County Circuit Court, Friday, which recommended a sentence of life imprisonment in the Penitentiary at Moundsville. W. A. Bowman, a boarder in the Murray home, was found guilty and sentenced to similar imprisonment. The jury was out less than half an hour.

Mrs. Murray, with a 2-year-old child in arms, and her 13-year-old daughter, Dollie, who had been one of her own witnesses, clinging to her, surrounded by three sisters, went into hysterics upon announcement of the verdict, and pacing up and down the floor in front of the counsel table, shouting in her frenzy: "Never mind my child! God will punish those men for sending me away." In her screams she insisted that she was innocent and wept hysterically amid protestations against being deprived of her youngest child. The Court finally directed that she be removed in order to proceed with court business.

A crowd stayed throughout the entire two days of the trial. Two developments stood out during the days hearing, which was taken up by witnesses for the defense entirely. Mrs. Murray took the stand in her own defense, and in voluble testimony covering more than two hours, related in detail the circumstances, under examination, recalling dates, persons, expressions and events with a readiness which counsel found difficult to reconcile with the low estimate made upon her mentality. She denied explicitly any conscious connection with the alleged crime; denied that she was aware that W. A. Bowman, found guilty on the same charge and sentenced to life imprisonment, intended to poison her husband until after they were arrested, when she testified that he had told her that he had put half the strychnine, which he had purchased in Sykesville, in two glasses of water and the other half in a bottle of medicine. From all of these, Mrs. Murray and others testified that Murray had tasted before his death.

She explained an alleged immoral act with Bowman, saying she was a victim of force; explained that she had signed as "Elsie Bowman," wife of Bowman, a deed for a piece of property under compulsion; said the statement which she made to John Bowler, a prisoner in the jail with her, was not made seriously and was not the truth; declared that she had done everything to save her husband when he was in the midst of the alleged poison attacks, and said she had not intended to live with Bowman, as she started to do after Murray's death, but planned to go to Sykesville to live with her relatives.

The other significant development during the day was testimony from three sisters and four physicians indicating a low degree of mentality in the defendant. The sisters testified that during her early years she had periods of passion, when she was entirely ungovernable and had to be tied at times; that she was impelled during these attacks to rip her clothing from herself and rush outside the house; and that even a few times after she was married, while she was living in Sykesville, she had similar attacks, during which her husband and relatives had to pacify her.

Four physicians testified, after an examination of her mind, that they regarded her mind as that of the medium imbecile type, approximating a moron, entirely capable of distinguishing between the moral right and wrong of a proposition, but not capable of formulating by herself any positive plan to murder a husband. Her whole condition had been degraded, they declared through improper indulgences.

The defense drew from the physicians the admission that she would by nature be exceedingly susceptible to suggestions, and the characteristic was affirmed by the testimony of the sisters, based on their observation of her acts. These suggestions, the defense contended, were supplied by Bowman and took the form of plotting against the murdered man.

The State, on the other hand, contended that Mrs. Murray was accountable for all her acts and that her associations with Bowman made her a party to a conspiracy to kill her husband. Dr. Daniel B. Sprecher, of Sykesville testified. Her sisters appearing on the stand in this evidence were Mrs. Stella Doyle, of Baltimore; Mrs. Annie White, of Sykesville, and Mrs. George Whalen, of Baltimore county.

Testimony by Dollie and James Murray, given originally in the Bowman trial, was repeated as regards the finding of strychnine in Bowman's pocket and the alleged intimacy between Mrs. Murray and Bowman in Sykesville.

MR. WANTZ RE-ELECTED

PRESIDENT OF SCHOOL BOARD—OTHER OFFICERS NAMED—MISS CUMMINGS RURAL SUPERVISOR—MORE GROUND FOR MT. AIRY SCHOOL—TO GRADE AT UNION MILLS SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of the Board of Education was called to order in the office of the Board on Wednesday, May 12th, at 10:30 a. m. Commissioner Koons was absent.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The list of bills as presented to the Board was approved and ordered paid.

The annual reorganization of the Board then took place. Mr. James P. Wantz was re-elected President; Mr. A. W. Feaser, Vice-President. After the organization was completed Superintendent M. S. H. Unger then appointed the executive staff, who were approved by the Board and their salaries fixed:

Miss Adda Mai Cummings, Rural Supervisor.
Miss Ada R. Fulton, Colored Supervisor.
Mr. G. C. Taylor, Attendance Officer.
Mr. Charles Reed, Clerk.
Mr. C. O. Clemson, Attorney.
Mrs. Helen E. Ohler, Stenographer.
Miss Cummings was formerly Principal for several years of the Sykesville high school, and during the past year has been vice-principal of the Westminster schools. Miss Cummings comes to us from Tennessee; a graduate of Peabody College, and West Tennessee State Normal school. In 1919 she received her Master's Degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. She has had good educational experience and training, and has been a most successful teacher, and popular with students and teachers. It is believed that Miss Cummings will be a most successful Supervisor.

Requests for contributions to local funds raised for purposes indicated, were presented to the Board which contributed \$10 to the amount already raised in each case, except in the case of Westminster it agreed to make the contribution 10 per cent of the amount raised for the school, which amounted to \$122.00.

Oak Grove, Mrs. Stewart King, \$42.43, photograph.
Brown's, Mr. Shamer, \$36, photograph.
Westminster, Mr. Seitz et al., \$1220, 43, etc.
Lawndale, Vernon Abbott, \$23.29, photograph.

The requests for a contribution from the Board towards the Westminster Fire Engine drive was not granted, and after careful discussion, the Board deemed it advisable to defer the making of contracts for coal, until later in the summer.

The Board authorized that the usual amount of \$25 be contributed to the Maryland State Teachers Association. The bid of \$200 for the purpose of constructing a retaining wall at the Mexico school was rejected, and the building of same to be deferred until fall.

A petition in the interest of the New Windsor colored school was laid before the Board, and after careful consideration the Board decided to defer action until next year.

LUTHERAN CONFERENCE HELD

THE SESSION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLE CONFERENCE OF THE MARYLAND SYNOD OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH WAS HELD IN ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SILVER SPRING, MONDAY EVENING.

The opening sermon was preached by the Rev. L. B. Hafer, of Taneytown, president. The opening devotional service Tuesday morning was conducted by the Rev. C. A. Shilke. The speakers at Tuesday morning's session were the Revs. A. E. Cooper, Ralph R. Richard, Dr. R. S. Patterson and J. B. Ueberger and at the afternoon's session the Revs. F. W. Meyer, J. B. Lau, Dr. U. S. G. Rupp, H. C. Erdman, W. C. Day and James Willis.

A roundtable conference on the Sunday-school, at the supper served by women of St. Mary's, was conducted by George W. Yeiser; (Rev. C. G. Leatherman, Jesse H. Michael and W. L. Seabrook participating.) The officers elected Wednesday for the coming year were: Rev. L. B. Hafer of Taneytown, president; Rev. W. O. Douth of Union Bridge, secretary, and Rev. W. C. Waltermeyer of Thurmont, treasurer.

The conference also elected as nominees for delegates to the United Synod of the Lutheran Church in the United States the following: Clerical—Revs. L. B. Hafer, Dr. U. S. G. Rupp, Dr. R. S. Patterson, Dr. A. R. Wentz, W. C. Waltermeyer and C. G. Leatherman. Lay—W. W. Doub of Middletown, Jesse H. Michael of Frederick, S. C. Stoner of Westminster, J. R. L. Wink of Manchester and George W. Yeiser of Union Mills.

Of those named three ministers and three laymen will be elected by the Maryland Synod at its convention in Baltimore in October and as among its delegates to the United Synod. At Wednesday night's session of the Conference Rev. Dr. A. R. Wentz of Gettysburg College delivered an address, and Rev. J. Walter Englar, president of the Carroll County Sunday School Association, presented greetings from that body.

At the morning's session the subjects discussed were: "Loyalty to Church and Pastor," by Revs. G. L. Ueber and E. L. Folk, and "The Atonement," by Revs. J. B. Rupp and W. C. Waltermeyer.

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RYAN RESIGNS.

HIS RECORD IN OFFICE IS WITHOUT A FLAW—A HUNGRY REPUBLICAN OFFICE SEEKER NEEDED THE JOB.

Hotel Regent, Baltimore, May 12th, 1921. The Republican administration at Washington is showing the cloven hoof of partisanship earlier than was expected, notwithstanding the fact that tens of thousands of so called Democrats voted to install them in power, and that in many respects the campaign in Maryland was supposed to be non-partisan in its character.

The practical removal of Mr. Ryan from the head of the Customs service in Baltimore, more than two years before the expiration of the term for which he was appointed, contrary to all precedents, for Mr. Ryan's record in office is without flaw, is the most high-handed manifestation of bitter partisanship that has been witnessed in this State since the Civil War, more than half a century ago, and is direct opposition to the course adopted by President Cleveland and President Wilson, who allowed all the Republican officials to retain their places until the full term, for which they were appointed had expired, and in Mr. Wilson's case all the Republican Federal officials in Maryland held over for some time after the limit fixed in their commissions had expired. And no reason is given except that Mr. Ryan is a Democrat, and an obscure Republican politician from Allegany county wanted the job at once.

One of the odd features in politics is the fact that Republicans when in office, can violate all the rules of decency in removals, can turn out efficient men, men whose records are faultless personally and officially, and the newspapers pass it by as a matter of course, or with so little criticism that it amounts to nothing, but let a Democratic official remove a Republican, and put in his place a Democrat, and the city press in all parts of the country, and especially here, exhausts the English language in their denunciations. Democratic officials are often urged by the press and certain classes of citizens to appoint Republicans to office, even where there is no special reason for doing so, and there are innumerable instances where Democratic Presidents and Governors have passed their own party people by, and have chosen Republicans for offices, when it would have been just as easy to find equally capable Democrats to perform the duties. This was notably the case with President Wilson, who rarely allowed party affiliation to guide him in making his appointments—and it will be difficult to find more than a very few instances where any Republican President or Governor, in any part of the whole Union, has appointed Democrats to office, except where the law required minority representation. A close observation of those matters as a newspaper worker in both State and National politics, for over a half a century, warrants the writer in saying that for pure, bitter, and uncompro-mising partisanship, the Democrats are far ahead of the Republicans, and the Republican leaders of today are just as bitter and uncompromising in their hatred and dislike of everything Democratic personally, individually and in every way as the leaders and the rank and file of that party were for several years after the Civil War, when Democrats were not allowed to vote or hold office in Maryland, because they were Democrats, and all the best citizenship of the State was held in political bonds, and the spirit manifested by the Republican leaders of today, Messrs. Weller, France and their subordinates, is quite as intense in its bitter animosity to all Democrats, and all things Democratic, as was that of the Republican leaders in this State for years after the close of the Civil War. These men are bitter partisan Republicans, first, and Marylanders last. Their allegiance to their party is slightly on them, while as partisan Democrats, they are ready to do the limit, not for their party only, but for the most obscure of their fellow partisans.

And Maryland Democrats vote for these men, who would see their hands palsied rather than vote for a Democrat, even for the most insignificant non-political job. To them Democrats have no right to hold office, either State or National. They are privileged to vote and that is all, and to some of these men, all those whose fathers even sympathized with the South in the Civil War, should never have been enfranchised even to the tenth generation. And this enfranchisement would include nearly all the men and women who have made Baltimore and Maryland all that they are in what is best in life.

PAUL WNCHESTER.

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COURT HOUSE NEWS

TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE, ORPHANS COURT, MARRIAGE LICENSES, ETC.

REPORT OF GRAND JURY.

To the Honorable, the Judges of the Circuit Court for Carroll County: The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Carroll County, summoned for May Term, 1921, do hereby respectfully beg leave to report that they have been in session for three days, and in that time have examined 94 witnesses, and have found 45 presentments and true bills. The majority of our cases involved larcenies and forgeries. The numerous forgeries happening recently in this county prompt us to warn the citizens of this county against cashing checks for strangers. As required by law, we visited the County Home and the County Jail and we there found the county's property well taken care of, and the inmates properly housed and treated. We extend to the steward of the County Home and the Sheriff, our thanks for their hospitality extended to us at each of these institutions.

In the examination of the license record we recognized the importance of an indexed record, thus making the same possible to be used. We would recommend to the County Commissioners that the rack over the head in the jail be more securely fastened thus preventing the possibility of escape, and also that a window, which an attempt to escape was made, be repaired. Having concluded all matters which came to our attention, we respectfully asked to be discharged, subject to the call of your Honors. Respectfully submitted, NATHANIEL H. BAUMGARDNER, Foreman. H. G. Englar, Lee C. Leister, Secretaries.

The Grand Jury having been in session three days was discharged on Wednesday, until further notice.

TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE.

Mary A. Crumbacker et al. to Philip E. Selby, 3 acres, for \$1500.
Henry R. Cooper and wife to Edgar W. Cooper, 2 tracts, for \$100.
Edgar W. Cooper to Henry R. Cooper and wife, 2 tracts, for \$100.
Grover Lyon and wife to Charles C. Williams and wife, 2 tracts, for \$1800.
William H. Robinson to Charles Brown and wife, 8 acres, for \$1400.
William R. Yingling and wife to Clarence E. Leppo, 14 acres, for \$10.
Albert H. Mancha and wife to Mary Vingling, 69 square perches, for \$16.
William H. Brown to Anne B. Snow, 108 square perches, for \$10.
Horace Z. Wine and wife to Wayne Millon and wife, 47 acres, for \$590.
Lucinda Armacost Kemp to James H. Vandever and wife, 15,220 square feet, for \$5.
John H. Diffendal, administrator, to Luther T. Sharratts, lot for \$25.
Henry L. Hostfeld and wife to John T. Shafar, 7/8 acre, for \$10.
Westminster Savings Bank to Milton A. Sullivan, 5 acres, for \$10.
Thomas J. Hann et al. to Andrew Frizzell and wife, 9 acres, for \$10.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

The May term of the Circuit Court for Carroll County began Monday morning, with Chief Judge Thomas on the bench. Judge Thomas appointed William Airing as bailiff to the grand jury, Kent Duvall bailiff to the petit jury and Samuel S. Hobbs and Samuel Miller bailiffs at the gates. Nathaniel H. Baumgartner was designated foreman of the grand jury, and the following grand jurors were drawn: Harry C. Hesson, Lee C. Leister, Theodore M. Bowman, George M. V. Wantz, Oliver T. Davis, Charles A. Fleming, Walter G. Snader, Herbert G. Englar, Albert Selby, Charles H. Leese, Bernard M. Hesson, John H. Leese, Paul Shipley, Granville Reed, Herbert G. Mathias, Charles W. Krontz, John Sent, William Hesson, Bradford B. Blizard, William T. Harris, John W. Smith and Theodore R. Strevig; leaving the following as petit jurors: Harry Sent, Edward C. Keeter, Harvey M. Petry, George I. Harman, John T. Miller, Harry A. Lippy, John F. Schaeffer, Charles F. Lippy, Joseph F. Utz, William Keck, William H. Bowers, Leonard J. Fricke, David B. Reiffand, William A. Kirchoff, Joshua G. Thayer, Joseph Calvin Duder, John T. Harris, Howard L. Price, Asa Hepper, Milton A. Zollichoff, John L. Bollinger, Newton E. Six, Howard F. Legore, Albin F. Conaway, Daniel H. Arrington.

Judge Thomas made no special charge, to the grand jury. About 75 witnesses were summoned for examination by that body in the investigation of a number of petty cases. So far as known there are no serious cases for investigation. The trial of the criminal docket is fixed for May 16 and the civil docket will be taken up on May 23.

COMMUNITY MEETING.

Miss Ola Day, of the University of Maryland, will give an interesting talk on Kitchin Mileage at the County Agent's office, May 27th, at 1:30 p. m. She will use charts showing arrangements of kitchen so as to save the housekeeper steps and time.

CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING.

The Women's Civic League will meet on Thursday, May 19, at 8 p. m. at the residence of Mrs. Luther Bare. As this is an important meeting, it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

MANCHESTER IS READY

BIG HOME COMING CELEBRATION NEXT WEEK—STARTS TOMORROW—INTERESTING ATTRACTIONS—BIG CROWD EXPECTED.

Manchester's five day carnival opens tomorrow with Firemen's Day. There will be a parade of 350 companies headed by the Boy Scout Band of Hanover. The company having the most in line is to receive a prize. On the carnival ground the Y. M. C. A. Glee Club of York, Pa., will give a special program in the evening.

At 2 and 7 p. m. Sunday, on the School ground out-door services will be in charge of J. R. L. Wink, Chairman of devotionalists. A large chorus under the direction of H. M. Loats, trombonist, will sing the familiar old hymns. A visiting quartet from Baltimore will render special numbers. After the address of the afternoon, the school children will sing and march to the cemetery with a flag service and then decorate the graves. Rev. R. J. Freeman, pastor of the Reformed Church, will deliver the afternoon address.

Rev. C. G. Leatherman, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, will be the speaker for the evening, "Subject 'A Man'." Revs. D. R. Wagner, of Greenmount, and R. R. Richard, of Lineboro, are invited to be present and take part in the services. The Hymns will be the old, yet ever new and known hymns. The Quartet is well known to Manchester folk and are always at their best. The devotional services will draw all nearer to their God and Creator and strengthen each one for better life services. The pastors will bring vital messages to every hearer, and will aim to inspire and encourage all in the nobler things of life. Bring your whole family and greet all your old friends and bid them God speed. While Monday, Governor Ritchie of Maryland, will deliver an address. An automobile parade will be held and will be the largest ever shown in Manchester. The cars will be decorated in attractive styles.

Tuesday is to be Community Day. A parade consisting of Manchester School children, American Legion Posts, Fraternal orders, uniform ranks from the Western Maryland College, headed by the Alesia Band has been arranged. Wednesday will be known as carnival day. Mayor Broening is to make an address on the grounds. Mayors from the surrounding towns are invited to be present. In the evening a masked carnival will be staged. Prizes will be awarded to the most attractive display. Displays of automobiles, machinery, etc., will be on the grounds. All kinds of amusements.

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM IN WESTMINSTER.

The committee in charge of Memorial Day in Westminster is arranging a program that calls for the co-operation of the whole community and surrounding districts. The idea of making Memorial Day a Community Day is appealing to the town. The veterans of the last war will do their part and the citizens will again focus their interest in the man in uniform. Various other organizations will take part in the parade and school children will carry flowers to the graves of soldiers. The line of march will form at 9:30 a. m. at the Armory and led by the band will proceed to the cemetery. After services there and the decoration of graves, the people will return to the Armory where an excellent program of patriotic music and speaking will be given. Places of honor will be reserved for the members of Burns Post G. A. R., and all ex-service men will be seated in a body. In the afternoon of Memorial Day a program of recreation for the whole community will be given on the athletic field of Western Maryland College. Beginning at 1:15 a track meet will be held in which the various service organizations have been invited to participate. Entries will be made by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Company H, and Companies A and B of Western Maryland College. A competition drill between the two college companies, R. O. T. C., and evening parade will end the track and field events. Following this a base ball game will be staged between the Western Maryland team and the Westminster Athletic Association.

A committee has interviewed the business men of the town and secured unanimous approval of closing stores and offices for the day. This is but an indication of the general anticipation and enthusiasm that are being developed.

CONCERT FINKSBURG CHURCH.

The Gressett Quartette from Baltimore, accompanied by soloist and elocutionist, will give a concert at Finksburg church on Friday, May 20th, at 8 p. m. This entertainment will be for the benefit of the Finksburg W. C. T. U. Come and enjoy a musical and literary treat.

MEETING OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

A social was given by the Parent-Teacher Association, of New Windsor, at the Methodist Episcopal church, May 6, at 8 p. m. It was quite a success in every way. There were about two hundred and ten present. Members of the Parent-Teacher Association, the public school children, Miss Ayres and her pupils, and all patrons of the school were invited. Forty-one members were secured, in all, seventy-eight. The collection amounted to \$115.77; sale of cake, \$1.15, which helped toward the expenses.

The program was creditably rendered and the teachers and children deserve much praise. The program was as follows: Blue Bird Song, Public School; Prayer, Rev. Wm. Parrish; Song, "Little-Oh-Deer," Miss Ayres's school; recitation, "Grown Ups," Joseph Baker; Primary Song, "More Like Jesus," public school; recitation, "Raggedy Man," Davis Snodder, paper, "Aims and Ideals of Parent-Teacher Association," prepared by Miss Hanna Shunk; read, by Miss Ivy Fowler; pantomime, "When You and I Were Young," 8 girls; recitation, "The Cookie Jar," Harvey Haines; recitation, "Work," Geo. Smith; collection; "A Little Mother Mine," solo, Mrs. E. Thompson; "In May," Timmy E. Thompson; "Aunt Jane Visits School," 7th grade; song, "Wynken, Blynken and Nod," Miss Ayres's School.

FARMERS' CALENDAR

May 17, Carroll County Farmers' Council—County Agent's Office 1:30 p. m.
Smallwood Grange 8 p. m.
Westminster Grange 8 p. m.
May 18, Carroll County Poultry Association. Very important meeting. 8 p. m.—County Agent's Office.
May 19, Berrett Grange.
Snydersburg Grange.
Medford Grange.
Time to burn all caterpillar nests, not only on fruit trees but around the wood-lot as well.
May 21, Union Bridge Grange.
May 24, Pleasant Valley—Woman's meeting 2 p. m. Community Meeting 8 p. m.
May 25, Eldersburg—Woman's meeting 2 p. m. Community Meeting 8 p. m.
May 26, Keymar—Woman's Meeting 2 p. m. Community Meeting 8 p. m.
May 27, Westminster—Woman's Meeting 2 p. m.—County Agent's Office.

Western Maryland May Bridge Potomac

A bill has been introduced in Congress giving the Washington and Old Dominion Railway Company, operating a trolley line between Washington and Leesburg, Va., the right to build a bridge across the Potomac river in the vicinity of Point of Rocks. It is understood that this is a move to give the Western Maryland interests and its owners backing a lifewater freight terminal at Alexandria, Va.

It is reported that the Western Maryland Company has secured from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company a concession to use its tracks from Martinsburg or Cherry Run to Washington Junction. This is taken to indicate that the proposed bridge across the Potomac will be utilized to enable the Western Maryland interests to reach Washington by way of the Old Dominion line. The latter road was a steam road until converted into an electric line some time ago. It is thought that later on the road may again be operated by steam.

A Western Maryland terminal at Alexandria will give the Western Maryland interests an outlet to the Great Lakes and open up other possibilities for expansion. It is understood that these interests some time ago had under consideration a plan to reach Washington from Cherry Run through Virginia by way of Winchester. It is thought that this route was abandoned probably on account of the vast expense involved, and that the route to Washington Junction, thence across the river near Point of Rocks, substituted. While this is merely conjecture it is strengthened by the fact that the company has a concession, it is said, to use the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio to Washington Junction, and the fact that a bill has been introduced in Congress for the proposed new bridge.

In the event these plans materialize this city, it is expected, will be very much benefited from a business viewpoint. However, the plans of the Western Maryland Company, as indicated, are being followed with a feeling of interest by persons in this city who have watched the developments of the company.

CONCESSION FROM B. AND O. TO USE TRACKS FROM MARTINSBURG OR CHERRY RUN TO WASHINGTON JUNCTION TERMINAL AT ALEXANDRIA.

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Caple, Patapsco, on the birth of a little son.