WILLIAMS FINED: MANNING IS FREE

Election Fraud Cases That Were Tried in the Hustings Court Yesterday.

EDITOR-LAWYER WILLIAMS

Jury Wanted Judge Witt to Remit Williams's Fine, But He Didn't.

The election cases possibly came to an end in the Hustings Court yesterday. A. B. Williams and Chris. Manning, Jr., indicted for violation of the Barksdale pure election law, were tried. Williams was found guilty on his own testimony and fined $100, which he paid promptly. Manning was acquitted, because the only evidence against him was that given by an imbecile, which evidence he successfully disputed. However, it was not shown to the satisfaction of a discriminating public just how a penniless imbecile managed to get his poll-tax paid just in time to vote. The imbecile said Mr. Manning loaned him the money to pay the tax bill after he had been refused a vote, because of the non-payment, and when he appeared later with his tax receipt, he was allowed to vote according to law. He said Mr. Manning "loaned him the money, and he still owed it. The probability is that he will owe it forevermore. Mr. Manning's testimony contradicted that of the imbecile. The Commonwealth had no witnesses other than the imbecile, and the jury was not inclined to believe him, notwithstanding the tax receipt, and Mr. Manning was acquitted. The name of the imbecile is Joe Edwards, who is said to have been in his time a noted diver and water-rat, whatever they may be. His appearance on the witness stand yesterday indicated that his principal diving has been towards the bottom of well-filled glasses of very strong whiskey, and that he has been a very persistent diver in that direction was self-evident. But his vote counted, and he stated on the witness stand that he "always did and always would cast it for 'Junk' Smith."

The jury in the case of Mr. Williams added a postscript to the verdict, in which was a request that the fine the jury felt bound to impose be remitted. Judge Witt quickly replied that he had no authority to remit the fine, and Mr. Williams paid up.

Mr. Williams appeared without counsel, being his own lawyer. Mr. Manning was represented by Mr. J. E. Cannon, who appeared, so he said, more in the capacity of a friend than as a lawyer.

Charge Against Williams.

The violation alleged against Mr. Williams consisted in his promising to pay and having paid Samuel Goldstein $25 for him to work in the interest of Mr. Williams' friend, Colonel George Wayne Anderson, a candidate for the nomination for Commonwealth's attorney.

To assist the Commonwealth in securing all the facts necessary for a complete understanding by the jury, Mr. Williams presented the Commonwealth's attorney with a written statement of the details of the transaction with Goldstein.

Mr. Williams pleaded not guilty to the indictment.

Mr. Richardson explained to the jury what the indictment charged. He then read the facts agreed to and admitted as proved in Mr. Williams' written statement. Mr. Richardson said that he did not deem it necessary to call any witnesses.

Williams On the Stand.

Mr. Williams then took the stand and said that he preferred to have the case go to the jury without counsel representing him. He did not desire to be benefited by any probable technicality. His statement was, briefly, to the effect that he thought that if he could help Colonel Anderson's chances by legitimate use of his own money he would be only too glad.

He understood from Manning that he could find a man in one precinct who could get Anderson voters to the polls. This party, as he understood, was to persuade the voters to support his friend. No sum was agreed on, but he was of the opinion that $25 would be about the right sum to pay this worker. About ten days after the election Mr. Manning gave him the card of Sam Goldstein, and he made out a check for $25, wrote a letter thanking Goldstein and himself delivered it at the address.

Mr. Williams said that he did not know Goldstein, and does not know him now.

"Did you consider yourself pecuniarly responsible for the paying of Goldstein?" asked Mr. Richardson.

"I did," was the answer. "I gave my word."

That frank admission by Mr. Williams made the technical violation of the Barksdale law, and it is probable that the jury then and there made up its mind.

A Frank Statement.

"I don't know whether it is proper evidence," added Mr. Williams, "but as a matter of fact I think it is due to myself to say that I didn't have the faintest idea or suggestion that any of this money was to be used in corrupt way to buy votes. My whole idea was to meet any expense that this man might be put to in the purchase of cigars and drinks or for carriages or anything he had spent."

"And I would like again to reiterate very strongly that Colonel Anderson was in absolute ignorance of the whole transaction. He never had the slightest knowledge or indication of the matter until it came out in the newspapers."

Manning On the Stand.

Mr. Manning expressed a desire to hit the witness stand, and Mr. Williams not objecting, he was duly sworn. He proceeded to explain how he ran up against the Anderson-Williams-Rankin crowd at a club house on the night before the primary, and it was all in response to a 'phone message. Said the witness:

"On the night preceding the primary Colonel Anderson 'phoned to me several times and asked me to come to the club, and finally sent the steward after me. I went around there. When I got there Colonel Anderson was in the dining room, and he asked me about the primary. I will state here that I have always supported Colonel Anderson. He asked me if I thought he would get a fair count in all the precincts in Richmond.

"I don't remember when Mr. Williams came in. However, Mr. Williams and Mr. Rankin appeared. I told Colonel Anderson I thought he would get a fair count.

"Then a question came up about the result of the election. I told Colonel Anderson I thought he would be defeated.

Williams, Rankins, Manning.

"Mr. Rankin, Mr. Williams and myself talked and talked as to the campaign—how it should be run. Finally we went out—Mr. Williams and myself—and we had a conversation in which we talked the matter over. I said I thought that if the friends of Colonel Anderson could be gotten together he might be helped.

"The subject had come up about other candidates using money. I said that if I were conducting this campaign I would make an appeal to the foreign vote, as they would not be prejudiced against Colonel Anderson. Mr. Williams said: 'How would you go about it?' I replied: 'Get some one to go around and work by personal appeals.' Mr. Williams said: 'If you think any money can be used in a legitimate way, I am perfectly willing to put it up.' I said: 'Hold on, Mr. Williams. I don't handle money.'"

Where Goldstein Came In.

"I went out," continued Mr. Manning, reverting to his statement about the conversation with Mr. Williams, "and started for Murphy's, where I stayed until 1 o'clock.

"Goldstein had been supporting Anderson all through the fight. He was in the military. He is a friend of mine, but he is the last man I would get to work a precinct. I never mentioned his name to Mr. Williams on that occasion. About ten days after the election I met Mr. Williams in front of his office and as I knew Goldstein had been laid up with rheumatism and was a citizen in hard luck, I mentioned the man to Mr. Williams. I felt that if Mr. Williams feels 'that way' I will suggest Goldstein. As usual, I helped the man that helps me."

"Did you tell him that the city could be carried for $200?" asked Mr. Richardson of the witness.

"No," answered Mr. Manning.

"Did you tell him that First Precinct, Jefferson, could be carried for $25?"

"I did not. It has never cost any candidate whom I have supported a dollar to carry that precinct."

"Why did you carry a card with Goldstein's name written on it to Mr. Williams?"

"He was in hard luck, as I have explained," replied the witness.

"Didn't you regard Mr. Williams as pecuniarily liable?"

"I did not. Mr. Williams said he wanted to be perfectly open in the matter."

Colonel Anderson Testified

Colonel George Wayne Anderson next took the witness stand.

"I have always carried that precinct," said he, "at least, as far as I can recollect. And I have never paid Mr. Manning a red cent in my life, but he had undertaken to carry the precinct for me this time. What I wanted with him was this. I had been informed that other candidates were spending money. The question as to whether they were violating the law or not was a nice one. I had often consulted with Mr. Williams as to this. He invariably suggested that I do nothing about which there was the slightest doubt. Being satisfied I would not get a fair count at certain precincts, I thought it would not be unlawful for me to get somebody to go and witness the count after the polls were closed.

"Mr. Manning being a friend of mine, since he was in Company F, and having always been my supporter, I looked to him to tell me whom I could get. I had been vainly trying all day to get him and ask him whom I could get to witness the count. I told him that I thought it would be perfectly lawful to pay a man to witness the count. He assured me there was no necessity for this, and I took his advice.

"When I went to supper at the club I saw Messrs. Williams and Rankin. I came over and asked to be allowed to put my supper alongside theirs, so we or want of corrupt motive—in this matter. But at the same time, because of that high character, this furnishes a shining example of the application of the Barksdale law. This is, I believe, the first adjudication under the law that I know of. You will, therefore, take all these facts into consideration—the object of the penal laws. One object is to deter others from the commission of similar offenses. In ascertaining all this you should have this matter in view."

"Lawyer" Williams

When the Commonwealth's Attorney had concluded his remarks, Mr. Williams arose, and with all the evidences of embarrassment, proceeded to address the jury, without first making any remarks to the judge or making use of the usual "may it please Your Honor,' all of which could eat together. In that way Mr. Manning happened to meet Mr. Williams."

Commonwealth's Case.

The evidence of Colonel Anderson concluded the testimony, and Commonwealth's Attorney Richardson addressed the jury briefly, saying: "This case originated from the testimony given by the defendant before the grand jury, which was followed up by his frank statement in his newspaper. There is no question as to the facts, though the statements differ a little from statements made at first. It seems to me, therefore, that the case is fully made out. In this case we must acquit Mr. Williams of any corrupt motive. The intent with which this thing is done does not enter into the consideration of the case. This is one of those classes of penal statutes denominated 'offenses prohibited.' There are two classes of crimes in law—mala prohibita and mala in se. The first class pertains to certain actions, not evil in themselves, but rendered so by the prohibition of the law. The second class—mala in se—are things which are evils in themselves, with or without the prohibition of the law."

The lawyer here went on to illustrate, but the point is so simple a one in law that even the laity can quickly grasp the distinction.

The Barksdale Law.

"Whether this law (the Barksdale statute) is good or bad, we are not called upon to say," continued the Commonwealth's Attorney. "As officers and sworn jurors, it is our duty to uphold the law as we find it. If it is a good law, it should be enforced. And as somebody—General Grant, I believe—has said, there is no more forcible way of securing the repeal of an obnoxious law than by enforcing it. I say we have nothing to do with the policy of the law. You are sworn to try this case according to the law and the testimony. The law was intended to correct an evil which had grown up to stupendous proportions in this State and in this city. It had begun to be thought that a man couldn't get any office unless he had a long purse.

"This is a law which prohibits the spending of money. If Mr. Williams had a right to say: 'I will give $25 or any amount of money to one man to work at First Precinct, in Jefferson Ward, on behalf of a candidate,' he had a right to employ 100 men for money on behalf of the same candidate. It makes no difference that it was only one man.

"In ascertaining the penalty, if you believe he is guilty, you wil take into consideration the high standing and character of the gentleman and his motive—was evidence of the truth of his opening remark.

Mr. Williams said: "Gentlemen of the jury, I am not a lawyer, and, as I have explained while on the witness stand, I preferred coming here without counsel, because I didn't care to hide behind any technicalities of law. As a matter of fact, under Mr. Manning's evidence, I suppose I would be entitled to ask for an acquittal on the ground that no bargain was made as to any special man, and I was not legally bound to pay this man any money. I am also advised that there are serious doubts as to the constitutionality of this law. I am willing, however, to submit to you seven fair men. If you think I have done anything wrong I am perfectly willing to submit, under instructions of the law. If you are satisfied that I am guilty, I am entirely willing to abide your decision."

Jury Takes Case.

Judge Witt did not charge the jury, and immediately upon the conclusion of "Lawyer" Williams' argument, the jury took the case.

In twenty minutes they returned and reported: "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty, as charged in the indictment, and assess his fine at $100."

The foreman, Mr. William D. Rice, then read the following, which was signed by all the jurors: "The jury in the case against A. B. Williams, believing there was only an unintentional violation of the law, would respectfully recommend that the fine imposed be remitted."

Judge Witt promptly announced from the bench that he had no authority to remit the fine.

The Manning Case.

Almost immediately after the case of Mr. Williams had been ended the indictment against Mr. Chris. Manning, who was charged with paying the poll tax of Joe Edwards, was taken up. Mr. Manning was represented by Mr. J. E. Cannon. The principal witness was the man, Joe Edwards, who testified that Manning loaned him the money to pay his poll tax so that he could vote, and that he did vote. A number of reputable witnesses knocked the imbecile's testimony into the middel of next week, and the jury found no trouble in acquitting Manning.

In Other Courts.

In the Chancery Court Beverly J. Crump qualified as administrator of the estate of the late Robert P. Richardson.

In the Law and Equity Court the case of General Johnston against the Virginia Passenger and Power Company was settled by an agreement verdict, whereby judgment for $250 was entered up against the defendant company.

In the case of Dr. E. R. Jefferson, assignee, against the Grand Circuit of Virginia, Independent Order of Calante, the money ($100 on a policy), which has been the bone of contention, was awarded to Rosa Richardson.

Real Estate Notes.

A large majority of the real estate agents are enthusiastic patrons of the Horse Show, and it may be added that many of the real estate buyers and sellers of real estate are in the same boat. Hence but very little will be doing in real estate this week. However, there are two very interesting sales booked for to-day. At 5 o'clock this afternoon J. Thompson Brown & Company will sell the handsome residence of the late ex-Governor Charles T. O'Ferrall, No. 903 Park Avenue. The Real Estate Trust Company, at 5 o'clock this afternoon, will sell a desirable lot of land on the east side of the Boulevard between Floyd Avenue and Main Street.

Last of Series.

Rev. Charles S. Gardner will lecture again to-night on his recent trip through Europe, at the Grace Street Baptist Church. These lectures are deeply interesting, as well as instructive, and this may be the last of the series. There is no admission fee, and all are invited.

Licensed to Wed.

The clerk of the Hustings Court yesterday issued marriage licenses to the following couples: Harry C. Duesberry and Mattie Waring; Leroy M. Lee and Annie M. Branch; James R. Pharr and Mattie Mulford; Walter Quarles and Camilla Boyd.

THE DELINEATOR for November Out To-day

¶ The Keynote of the new and greater Delineator for November is Novelty.

¶ In its Fashions the new order of things is evidenced on every page; in its illustrations of the present and coming Styles, Novelty of treatment lends much to the temptations of the modes themselves. 64 pages of the New Things from Paris, from New York, from wherever can be gathered the season's newest and best creations.

¶ Speaking in pages may not mean much to you. A better way to realize the bigness of the November Delineator is to know that it contains more pages devoted to fashions and dress topics than any two other magazines.

¶ Helen Berkeley-Loyd and M. Edouard La Fontaine, writing exclusively for this magazine, contribute papers this month that every woman in the land will wish to read—the real news of woman's dress; the final word of authority on what is to be during the coming months, which is awaited with eagerness each season by every woman who cares for her appearance.

¶ Then the color printing—a feature that is practically exclusive with The Delineator—for while one or two other publications print a few pages with an added color, this number contains 21 pages in color in addition to the regular full-color plates of fashions.

¶ The Delineator has always given the most in quality and in quantity for its subscription price—it is now giving more—much more—than ever before.

¶ Practically everything in this number is new—excepting its good old name. Besides the Fashions and the Household Departments, which have made The Delineator famous; besides its Children's Magazine, which is beyond comparison; besides its many special articles of helpfulness and interest, one great feature deserves the attention of every thinking woman and man:

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¶ It is nearly two years now since The Delineator began its investigation of the Pure Food Question—the most thorough searching for facts, the most careful analysis of products ever conducted. Supplementing the work of the Government's experts, The Delineator has gone much further by establishing its own board of examiners and specialists who are investigating the different value of food products and beverages, their chemical analysis and correct or fictitious labeling.

¶ The results obtained by this department or laboratory enable the housekeeper to quickly and accurately decide for herself what is safe and wholesome food for daily home consumption.

¶ Readers of The Delineator have been regularly supplied with timely and most interesting articles on the subject. Among these is the series now running in each issue, entitled "Safe Foods and How to Get Them," written by that well-known authority, Mary Hinman Abel. In the November number the author treats of "Official Milk Inspection." The article is well illustrated by pictures and diagrams. If you want to know how a billion gallons of milk are treated annually in this country, Mrs. Abel's article will inform you.

¶ These specially prepared articles are to be a regular feature of The Delineator, and will contain, in part, some of the results of the investigations now carried on by the business department.

¶ That The Delineator has become an authority on the Food Question, all the world knows. No better evidence of this could be found than in the fact that it is frequently and favorably quoted. This, then, is another evidence—were one needed—of the great value of The Delineator to the American housekeeper, not only in the protection of her health, but to her material comfort as well.

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SHE TOOK POSITIONS THAT SHE MIGHT STEAL

Maggie Price, Charged With Many Robberies, Put Under Arrest By Police.

Maggie Price, a negro woman, who is alleged to have systematically robbed not less than forty dwellings in Richmond within the past three months, and who has so successfully covered her tracks, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detectives Wiltshire and Wrenn. The woman was walking down Broad Street when arrested. The two clever detectives are confident that they have enough evidence against the woman to send her to the penitentiary.

She would go to a house and apply for a position as cook or maid. Not in any case did she work for longer than two days, when she would suddenly disappear. A search of the house invariably found that valuable jewelry and costly clothing had been stolen. Time and again this game was worked on unsuspecting citizens, and the police received numerous complaints. The woman always appeared under a different name and was dressed differently each time. One day she would be dressed in very plain material and would present a pitiable appearance. Again she would be seen in fine dresses and playing the part of a maid.

A negro woman was arrested several weeks ago, who had played the same game, but had not proven quite as successful as this one has done.

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