

TRAIN ROBBER CONFESSES ALL

Percy Martin Alone Held Up Passengers In Fit of Desperation.

CHARLES POWLEY IS EXONERATED

Prisoner, Between Sobs and Tears, Tells How Troubles, Brought on by Drink, Led Him to Commit Deed. Thought Only of Wife.

In the last straits of wretchedness, broken-hearted and despondent, Percy Martin, the self-confessed train robber, who held up the passengers of a Pullman car on the Florida Limited of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Sunday night a week ago, was brought to Richmond yesterday by Messrs. W. G. and Albert Baldwin, detectives, and taken to the office of Mr. L. L. Scheer, in the Chesapeake and Ohio building, where the prisoner acknowledged his guilt before all.

Martin was completely broken down. He admitted everything, and attempted to conceal none of the facts connected with the hold-up. He declared that he was alone, when, in a fit of desperation brought on by many worries of a financial nature and by his addiction to drink, he robbed the train, and his statement fully exonerated Charles Powley, who was suspected by the Baldwin people of having had a hand in the affair.

Martin was arrested in Huntington, W. Va., by Chief of Police Dawson a few nights ago while he was in the Opera House with his wife. He is well connected in Huntington, his home city, and, as he had a good record except for the drink habit, not the faintest breath of suspicion would have ever been brought against him had he not made an undue display of his money. He left Huntington three weeks ago without funds; he returned with a large roll of money, and the police learned that his wife had some one to change two twenty-dollar notes. Finding that he also had a valuable diamond ring in his possession, Chief Dawson arrested the young man on suspicion, and it was then that all the facts in the case came out.

According to his own statements, Martin had been harassed and troubled by work over the robbery, and the still small voice had given him no peace from its reproaches for the deed. He was glad when put under arrest, and determining to take his punishment like a man, made a full confession of his guilt. His only thought was for his wife. He remembered her being in dire straits, and it seemed completely to break his heart.

Well-dressed, of a good appearance, of quiet and unobtrusive demeanor, the young man, who was taken far from the paths of honesty, formed a most pitiable sight as he told his story. It was an object-lesson for all. His downfall was ascribed to the liquor habit. According to his story, he was drunk at the time he held up and robbed the Pullman passengers. The idea was not afterthought, and was not planned; he acted simply on the spur of the moment, when before his eyes flashed the picture of himself reduced to the last extremity of poverty through his own ill-doing, and of his young wife, who was to suffer for his faults. When all this came over him, the temptation suddenly arose in him to rob the passengers of the train on which he was riding, and from that time he might get enough to help himself and his wife.

The Confession.

The confession of Martin, signed and sworn to by himself, follows: City of Huntington, Office of H. W. Bloss, City Clerk, Huntington, W. Va.

This statement made this, the 7th day of January, 1907. My name is Percy Martin. My age is twenty-three. Occupation, former news agent on Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. Was discharged at Huntington, W. Va., for drunkenness about three weeks ago. Went to Washington, D. C., and from there to Richmond, Va. Stayed in Richmond two nights and one day. Stopped at Davis Hotel.

On Sunday night, December 30th, I took possession of a train on Seaboard Railway at Union Station, having purchased ticket to Norfolk, and expected to go to Hamlet and get work. I was out of money and only had enough money to take me to Norfolk. I got desperate and made him lock the door of Pullman, and made him walk in front of me, and told him to see what the passengers had. I made one man on left hand side of car give me his money, and got \$12. I saw his diamond ring and got that, too. I got nothing else, but went to another berth on the same side and the last one in the car. I started to go in another berth, and the man I robbed told me not to go in berth, as there was only a little boy in the berth. The porter ran back into the rear car, and I suppose notified the conductor, who came in. I threw my gun in his face, and made him go back into the other car. I followed and went out on the platform, and found the conductor in the other car at the door. I thought he had a gun, and I shot him, but did it to scare him.

I jumped off the train and went two or three miles until I came to the Southern Railroad, and then walked to Summerville, and there saw a negro pumpman and gave him my pistol to let me dry my clothes. I got out of there at 2 P. M. and went to Norfolk, stayed there until I left Tuesday over the Norfolk and Western to Lynchburg, and took the Chesapeake and Ohio and came to Huntington.

I only had about \$20 when I got here and turned over about \$40 to my wife, and told her I had won the money. I was arrested Thursday night, January 3d, by the chief of police in the Opera House. I made a full confession to the chief of police, Mr. Dawson, which was the same as this, and made of my own free will and accord.

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STEELE, LYNCHBURG MAN, WHO WRECKED BANK



FIRST PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BOMB-THROWER.

This portrait of Rolfe Steele was taken in his old home town, Garner, Iowa, and is a characteristic likeness of the man who armed himself with a nitro-glycerine bomb and then ventured into Philadelphia's biggest bank, determined to force the officials to give him \$5,000, under threat to blow up the institution. In the bank he clumsily dropped the bomb, making his own death certain and also killing the cashier.

THIRTY KILLED, EIGHTY WOUNDED

Strikers in Mill District of Nogales Pillaged Stores and Set Criminals Free.

MILITARY SHOT DOWN MOB

CITY OF MEXICO, January 8.—Reports received this afternoon from Nogales, in the Arizona Mill district, indicate that the government has completely managed the situation. The strikers have ceased all acts of violence in the presence of the large body of troops rushed there from the capital and nearby garrisons. The seriousness of the affair, however, was realized to-day when it was made known that thirty of the workmen were killed outright and over eighty wounded by the soldiers, who were compelled to fire on the main body of the rioters before they could be dispersed.

It was learned that the men, after pillaging the stores at the Rio Blanco Mills, became emboldened by their success. A part of the men rushed to Nogales, a short distance away, where another mill is located. Telegraph, telephone and electric light wires were cut and pawn-shops and even private houses were pillaged. Then the jails were thrown open and the prisoners set free. Residents of the mill district fled in terror to the city of Orizaba. When the strikers reached Nogales one mill official and a gangster from Orizaba made an ineffectual attempt to check them.

Assaulted Mayor.

A striker named Morelos threw a huge stone at Mayor Herrera, mayor of the city of Orizaba, striking that official on the head and badly wounding him. Herrera shot Morelos, killing him. A body of troops arrived, and as the strikers attempted to resist, a volley was fired into the mob, killing thirty and wounding over eighty. After this the mob was scattered, the strikers gathering in groups at various points. A body of troops arrived on a railroad track and held the train for the city of Vera Cruz for several hours, the engineers not daring to run through the crowd. Finally troops arrived and charged the men with broadswords, scattering them. The jails and armories are filled with prisoner-strikers.

The government has learned that a committee of strikers have left Orizaba for Tlaxcala, Puebla, and other cities to incite laborers at those points to strike. It was also learned that one man, well known to the police, had left for the isthmus of Tehuantepec on a like mission. All of these men are being pursued by the Federal authorities.

\$70,000 BRIBERY CASE CLOSES WITH SENSATION

PITTSBURG, Pa., January 8.—With bitter invective and personal denunciation the address to the jury to-day closed the sensational case of Common Pleas Judge W. A. Martin, charged with bribery in the \$70,000 scandal in connection with the ordinance permitting the Pittsburg and Tube City Railroad to enter this city. At midnight no verdict had been reached.

WILL NOT GIVE UP BALLOT-BOXES

Commissioner Dooling Refuses to Obey Order of Justice Hendricks.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S RAID

NEW YORK, January 8.—Attorney-General William Schuyler Jackson had not to-night been able to locate all the ballot-boxes used in the McClellan-Hearst majority election, entrusted to his possession by a Supreme Court order, and intimated that he might be obliged to bring contempt proceedings against the board of elections.

Certain boxes containing ballots cast in Manhattan were stored under the direction of the board, and a search that continued until late to-day failed to reveal their whereabouts. According to the Attorney-General, Commissioner Dooling refused to surrender these particular ballot boxes or make known where they might be found.

To prevent, he says, possible tampering with the ballots which may be needed for a recount under the action begun by the State to oust Mayor McClellan and seat William R. Hearst as Mayor, Attorney-General Jackson, acting under orders from the Supreme Court, caused raids to be made early to-day at such storage places throughout Greater New York as were known to his representatives.

After some delay the greater number of the boxes were located, newly sealed, and placed under guard of officers representing the Attorney-General. It was toward night when a hitch developed in Manhattan and the deputies assigned to the work reported that many boxes stored in that borough could not be located. Later, Commissioner Dooling was found at the office of Corporation Counsel Ellison, and for-

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A. POWELL BROOKES IS OUT ON BAIL

WINCHESTER, Va., January 8.—Judge William M. Atkinson, of the Corporation Court, this afternoon admitted to bail A. Powell Brookes, of Alexandria, Va., who has been in jail here since December 31st, charged with attempting to kill Mr. Alexander M. Baker. Two hundred dollars and sureties were Messrs. W. Roy Stephenson, of Winchester; Judge Keith North and William Brookes, of Alexandria. Judge Norton asked that young Brookes be released on his own recognizance, but Prosecuting Attorney Reardon asked that substantial bond be required.

It is understood that Mrs. Baker, the complainant, has withdrawn from the case, and that the release of Brookes marks the close of the matter, it being regarded as unlikely that the grand jury will, under the circumstances, render an indictment.

ACCOUNTANTS TO STAND BY REPORT

Mr. Boudar Takes Exception to Statements Made By Treasurer.

READY TO PROVE CHARGES MADE

Does Not, However, Doubt the Honest Intention of Mr. Hechler—Great Interest Taken in Case—Talk About Political Aspect.

Interest in the affairs of the Henrico treasurer, now approaching an airing in the papers yesterday, was greatly increased by a further statement from Mr. Henry C. Hechler of his position, calling forth in reply an assertion from the accountants of their ability to substantiate fully every allegation made in their recent reports touching the matter.

Commenting upon the publication in the papers yesterday, many which he declared as untrue, Mr. Hechler denied absolutely that he had used any of the county funds for personal use, as charged in the report of the grand jury on Monday, which stated in precise terms that the treasurer "has used the county funds from time to time for his own personal use, contrary to law."

Mr. H. B. Boudar, of the auditing firm, who examined the accounts of the treasurer, and whose recommendations submitted to the grand jury were printed yesterday, said last night that his firm was prepared to prove the correctness of its report in every particular.

What Mr. Boudar Says.

"The statements made in the interview with Mr. Hechler, this evening are entirely without foundation," Mr. Boudar said. "When they are dissected they do not mean anything. I have received a summons as a witness in the court proceedings for January 17th, and am prepared to prove the correctness of our report in every particular. If the accountants had not been short in his accounts at all, why should he have deposited thirty-two hundred-dollar bills on the 16th of October, over and above the collections of the office to make good what was found to be a deficiency. In this regard, the bank officials have testified that there were two notes which were accounted for, and Mr. Hechler claimed that this was his own note, which he was depositing at the bank in order to raise the amount of cash called for. We did not see this note."

According to Mr. Boudar, Mr. Hechler told him during the auditor's investigation of the treasurer's office that he had used money called for on the books of the office, and Mr. Boudar said he used this conversation was presented as evidence before the grand jury.

Mr. Boudar said he had no reason to doubt the intentional honesty of Mr. Hechler, nor did he think there was any intention to defraud either the county or the State.

The rule issued by direction of the judge of the Circuit Court, R. Carter Scott, was served on Mr. Hechler yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock by Deputy Sheriff Aschbacher. Mr. Hechler refused to surrender these particular ballot boxes or make known where they might be found.

Statement of Hechler.

As stated, Mr. Hechler positively denies that he has followed that is known to have been the custom of some of his predecessors in advancing taxes to citizens of the county. In fact, according to Mr. Hechler's statement, this could not have been done during his term, as he went into office in June, 1906, while the report of Boudar & Co. was of October 1, 1906, and he would not be required to pay the penalty until December 1, 1906.

Mr. Hechler said yesterday: "The report made to Judge Scott by John Stewart Bryan and W. C. Saunders, advising certain changes in my method of bookkeeping, was nothing but a find endorsement of Accountant Boudar's report, which was submitted to the board of supervisors some time ago. Neither the amount of cash Mr. Bryan took the trouble to make any personal investigation of my books or methods. They reported blindly to Judge Scott, with no knowledge of their own, merely taking for granted what Mr. Boudar had said."

"The article to the effect that I have, like my predecessors, appropriated county funds to my personal use, is utterly without foundation. My books are open to the public, and I have retained accountants, Messrs. O'Flaherty and Fulton, who will represent him during the proceedings."

Counsel's Statement.

Mr. O'Flaherty when on at his office in the Mutual Building yesterday afternoon made the following statement: "Mr. Hechler has retained ourselves and Mr. H. St. John (after as counsel to represent him) as we have conferred with him fully about the entire matter. We assure that the court's investigation will show that he has never used dollar of the State's or county's money; that he has paid to the credit of his predecessors in office, or through custom of other treasurers, in their advancing and paying the tax of hers and collecting the penalty if himself, or using the county's fund in any way for his own private purposes; that his books are correct; that he keeps a cash account, and that his bookkeeping and his system of bookkeeping are of the very best order, and from our information the report of the grand jury and the article in the morning paper doing him a great injustice. Mr. Hechler is glad of an opportunity to dispose of these numerous reports, and when the matter got up before Judge Scott we, as his counsel, believe that he will be exonerated of every charge and fully vindicated."

Mr. John Stewart Bryan of the Henrico

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LATE RULER OF PERSIA AND HEIR TO THE THRONE



MOHAMMED ALI MIRZA, Who will be the next Shah.

GIRL SACRIFICED TO NEGRO BRUTE

Miss Bladys Shelton, Aged Seventeen, of Amherst, Criminally Assaulted.

FIVE MEN UNDER ARREST

Sheriff Makes Brave and Determined Effort to Have the Prisoners.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) LYNCHBURG, VA., January 8.—One of the most brutal and heinous criminal assaults in the history of Virginia was perpetrated late yesterday afternoon upon Miss Gladys Shelton, the seventeen-year-old daughter of Benjamin Shelton, a farmer, living six miles from Lynchburg, in Amherst county. The scene of the crime is remote from telegraph and telephone communication, and it was not known of here until this morning, the full particulars being unobtainable until in the afternoon. Five negroes are under arrest, Sheriff Beard making a gallant race for two miles across Amherst county with them to keep the negroes from being taken by a mob. There is intense excitement in the country, and the Sheriff is certainly being braved. The girl's condition to-night is serious.

Miss Shelton was dismissed from her school, which is some distance from her home, in the forenoon, on account of the teacher being ill. She stopped at a neighbor's home on her return, remaining there some time, reaching her home only a short time before the arrival of the negro. It is evident that he saw her and followed her. When he saw Mrs. Shelton leave the house to go to a neighboring home, he went to the house and asked the girl for something to eat. She was in the sitting-room then, and when she started to the kitchen to comply with his request he followed. It was then that she realized the negro's intention. Hoping to frighten him off, she called her brother's name, hoping to make the negro think he was in the next room. The negro told her that he knew that she was alone, and he covered her with a revolver. Then he slapped his hand over her mouth and bore her to the floor.

Bit Lips Together.

When he found he could not assault his victim without the use of both hands, on account of her plucky fight for her honor, he placed the arms of the girl and still prevent her from making outcry, he placed his lips over her mouth and bit her lips together.

With her lips between his clenched teeth she had to submit to the brute, and the rest of his diabolical effort was easy. First he placed the arms of the girl and marched her two hundred yards distant to a stream. She thought he intended to drown her. Evidently the negro weakened, and after reaching the stream he released her and told her to go, indicating the direction. Then he disappeared in another direction. In her frightful condition she was taken to the hospital.

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DANIEL SPEAKS ON BROWNSVILLE

Defends Stand Taken By President In Dismissing Negro Troops.

SAYS HE ACTED WITHIN AUTHORITY

Asserts That a Soldier, No Matter What the Color of His Skin, May Be, Must Have Discipline—Has an Abiding Faith in the Angel of Right.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8.—Aside from a speech by Senator Daniel, of Virginia, in support of the President's action in the Brownsville affair, practically all of to-day was given over by Senate leaders of both parties to an effort to bring about harmony between opposing views concerning the proposed investigation of the affair. What amounts to an agreement between Senators Foraker and Lodge has been attained by their friends, but inasmuch as it was decided not to present the compromise until all of the Senators desiring to do so had made speeches on the subject of the original resolution, it provides for the investigation by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs of the affair at Brownsville, and to this is to be added provisions that a subcommittee be sent to Brownsville, and that the expenses of the investigation be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate. Such a resolution would ignore the constitutional and legal questions that have been debated for several days in the Senate.

The situation now is said to be the same as it was before the speech of Senator Lodge on yesterday. Both sides were then agreed to leave out the constitutional questions, and they had been ignored by the substitute offered by Senator Lodge. It was the speeches on the resolution, and the manner in which it was interpreted that caused Senator Foraker to oppose it. Unless the speeches yet to be made create resentment on one side or the other, it is believed the compromise will be effective.

Daniel's Speech.

In consequence of this prospect Senator Foraker to-day postponed a further proposition in the Senate of his views on the subject.

Senator Daniel, of Virginia, thereupon secured the floor. The speech was heard by nearly all the Senators and crowded galleries. Senator Daniel spoke for two hours and fifteen minutes, and despite the fact that the speech was in large measure a legal argument, in which there were frequent citations of authorities and quotations of decisions, he held the close attention of his colleagues and spectators from start to conclusion.

Taken as a whole, it was perhaps the ablest speech made on this subject since Mr. Foraker introduced his resolution providing for an investigation of the Brownsville outrage. The whole effort of the Senator's debate was directed against the proposed investigation. He declares he courted that, but he argued against any attempt to impugn the authority of the President and Commander-in-Chief to dismiss any organization in the army of his own judgment, and the score of the service and the country demanded it.

In passing, Senator Daniel protested against mob law and against the tendency towards centralization of power at Washington.

Senator Daniel said he thought that President went too far in directing that the discharged negroes should be forever debarred from the civil service, but he did not think this the time to discuss that feature of the order. He was not in the army of his own judgment, and he said he felt it his duty to defend his action in discharging a dangerous military organization.

Senator Daniel said he agreed with Senator Foraker, that the fact that there were things in our army regulations that were in the British articles of war did not necessarily make them just and wise. But we had a great many things in our laws, civil and military, which were derived from the mother country, and had been demonstrated to be founded in wisdom and justice. Senator Daniel then proceeded to take up the articles of war governing our army, tracing their history and development. Our present articles of war, he said, are statutes and as binding as any other enactment of Congress. Senator Daniel criticized Senator Foraker's declaration yesterday that the articles of war made it incumbent upon the President to observe most strictly the regulations governing such discharges. This was true, but it should be remembered that articles of war do not include army regulations. The sanction of Congress given in collateral ways and the power vested in the President by the Constitution should be considered in considering the action of the President. The Senator declared he was not the advocate nor the friend of autocratic power, but no nation had ever made successful offensive or defensive war without an army headed by a commander wielding vast power vested in him by the articles of war. Any regulation made by the President must be within the purview of the Constitution and laws.

The Contract.

The contract between the enlisted man and the government, said Senator Daniel, had a hard knot at one end to bind the soldier, and a bow-knot to bind the government, which might be untied by departmental commander or a field officer representing the government. Occasionally, it was untied to the hurt of the soldier, more often it was untied for the good of a soldier. It was untied often to allow a married man to go home to his wife and children, to allow a man of deranged mind to return home, to get rid of a man of whose guilt of crime there was no reasonable doubt, but whose conviction could hardly be secured in a court.

Surely, it should be possible to discharge an enlisted man who had lost the confidence of his commander. Senator Daniel, discussing the subject

SHAH OF PERSIA DIED LAST NIGHT

No Public Announcement Will Be Made Until This Morning.

FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TOLD

LONDON, January 8.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Teheran, in a telegram sent last night at 11:30 o'clock says: "The Shah of Persia died this evening, though no public announcement of the fact will be made until tomorrow (Wednesday)."

"It was evident yesterday (Monday), that the end was rapidly approaching, and at 5 o'clock this evening the heir apparent and the ministers were summoned. The women of the palace also began preparations for mourning."

"Soon after sunset the doors of the harem were closed. This was the sign that all was over. "The news of the Shah's death reached the foreign ministers late this evening, but the public is still unaware of His Majesty's end. The streets are deserted and the city is in darkness."

Muzaffer-ed-Din, Shah of Persia, ascended the throne of Persia May 2, 1896, the day after his father, the famous Naasr-ed-Din, was assassinated by a religious fanatic. Reputed to be the wealthiest monarch in the world, the Shah's reign has been clouded by a malady which would not yield to medical treatment. During his visit to England in 1902, the most ambitious journey he undertook during his life, he was suffering such pain that, in spite of the extravagant plans which had been made for his entertainment, he was seen to smile but once during his stay. Shortly after his return to Persia he was said to be hopelessly mad. He has lived since that time in semi-seclusion. The Shah's last illness was so serious that he was repeatedly reported dead. Muzaffer-ed-Din has been a reformer during the ten years of his reign, and the only concessions which the Persians have obtained for four thousand years have been made by him. A reign which began most inauspiciously has continued in peace and quiet. The Shah's household makes him a unique figure in the twentieth century. He is said to have eight hundred wives. They were selected as Artaxerxes, who ruled in Persia before Christ, chose his helpmates. Every year one hundred of the most beautiful maidens in the country were brought before the Shah. He selected the twenty-five who were most beautiful to him. Muzaffer-ed-Din's wealth was fabulous, although reports of the value of his property have been exaggerated. His jewels are said to be worth \$300,000,000. Most of them are kept in the palace in glass jars. The crown itself, surmounted by a great flawless ruby as large as a hen's egg, is valued at several millions. Two gem-studded swords with their scabbards were said to have cost over \$1,000,000 each. Unless he will sign a constitution which has been prepared, the Crown Prince may find his ascent to the throne disputed.

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