



CONWAY ON STAND AS WITNESS IN HIS OWN BEHALF

Slayer of Torrence Tells Jury He Shot in Self-Defense.

CALMLY RELATES STORY OF CRIME

Prisoner Testifies That Torrence Struck Him, After Making Threat With Oath—Be- lieved He Had Pistol and Feared Attack—Trial May End Monday.

TAKEING, with his lawyers, an active part in his fight for his life and freedom, James H. Conway, on trial for the murder of Robert E. Torrence, went upon the witness stand yesterday afternoon and gave a detailed account of his relations with Mrs. Torrence and her children, apparently telling all and withholding nothing. Everybody agreed that he made a good witness for himself. He appeared perfectly frank, and answered the questions of the cross-examiner with fine calmness.

But Mr. Fulton scored one point when he drew from the witness the admission that he had walked eighteen feet from behind the counter, seven feet across to the aisle of the store and then down to where Torrence stood, within five feet of the doorway. At the time he had in his pockets a revolver, and his right hand was resting on his hip, which was in the side pocket of his trousers. In explanation, however, Conway stated that he thought at the time that it would be possible to keep the revolver in his pocket and explain to him that he had had no improper relations with Mrs. Torrence. He fired after Torrence struck him and when he thought his own life was in danger.

All the direct testimony for the defense was completed yesterday, and the Commonwealth started with rebuttal testimony. It is expected that the case will go to the jury Monday afternoon, and that the verdict will be reached before night. The defense is expecting acquittal on the grounds of self-defense. It is hardly necessary to say that the prosecution expects a verdict.

The jury will have quarters in the Lexington Hotel, where it will be under guard of Deputies John Finnegan and Pat Bowls. Members will be allowed to go to church if they wish. After the opening of the case yesterday was from character witnesses, the defense seeking to prove that Torrence was a man known as a pistol toter.

The Morning Session.

Damning testimony as to the habit of Torrence to carry a pistol was introduced by the defense at the morning session, but this testimony was greatly reduced in importance by the stated fact that Torrence was seen with his revolver on the morning of the shooting, and that he had been seen with a target shooting on an island in the James River. But it was proved that he flashed his weapon three times either on the street or in a barroom, and that he had threatened to shoot on the defense. It was proved by statements from two or three witnesses that he had fallen into disagreement with them and threatened their lives.

Saw Him Strike Conway.

G. C. Sloop was the first witness on the stand. He saw Torrence talking and saw the shooting, but little more. C. C. Magee gave about the same eye-witness testimony. He said he heard Torrence say that he had fixed one man and had come to fix Conway. He struck Conway, and the witness said, threw his hand behind him. He heard the shot, but as he was hearing another shot, he did not know whether he had been shot, he moved away.

G. C. Fleet, who came here from New York to testify, saw the quarrel, and said that Torrence had held a pistol in his right hand and pointed it at Conway. Torrence did all the talking, so far as he heard, and Conway fired immediately upon being struck. He gave in pantomime the actions of Torrence, and said that Torrence made no attempt to draw a pistol.

John T. Becker went further, showing in pantomime that Torrence's hand went back as far as his hip pocket, leaving the impression that he was attempting to draw a weapon. The witness admitted that he asked Conway, after the shooting, to "slip" him the gun.

Offered Bethe, He Says.

Leslie A. Page came next, producing a sensation as when he announced that his evidence would be different from that expected by Mr. Wandenburg. He asserted that he had been led into a trap, and that Thomas J. Cousins had offered him a bribe. He denied much that he had formerly told Mr. Wandenburg, but that latter had a written copy of what the witness had originally told him, and his sensational statements fell rather flat. Judge Witt asked him immediately why he had attempted to bribe him, and he replied that it was Thomas J. Cousins. His evidence was, in fact disappointing. He was asked whether he had counted either way. He was dismissed without cross-examination.

Then Humphrey Caldes, keeper of Byrd Park; Thomas J. Cousins; William Isaacs; Frank Finnegan; Ernest Hubbard; Ned Willis; Raymond Redford; Policeman Tommie Wilson; Jack Moran and William Wilson were called on to testify, as to Torrence's alleged habit of carrying a pistol. They agreed that Torrence often carried a pistol. William Isaacs and Ernest Hubbard testified that the dead man had once threatened them with his gun. Jack Moran had also become

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FACING COAL FAMINE

Strike of Switchmen Brings on Serious Situation.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., December 11.—In the first time in the history of the city with the possible exception of the anthracite coal strike which Minneapolis fuel dealers to-day are without coal. Not one pound of the black ore could be purchased for love or money.

"The situation is grave. There is no gaining that," said Secretary Rice, of the Northwestern Coal Dealers Association. Minneapolis is not the only city facing this serious dilemma. Milwaukee is entirely out. Grand Forks, Fargo, Moorhead, Bemidji and other cities are appealing for help. Something must be done."

For the past ten days, or ever since beginning of the switchmen's strike, railroad officials have ridiculed the suggestion that a fuel famine was imminent, insisting that they could take care of the situation. This they have signally failed to do, declare fuel men.

The strikers are willing to arbitrate and bring the switchmen's strike to an end. An arbitration was made to-night by D. A. Harsbarger, third vice-president of the Switchmen's Union of North America, who is in charge of strike matters during the absence of President Hawley. Mr. Harsbarger said his position was exactly that of President Hawley, and dictated that statement.

"I do not care to say too much on the point of arbitration. Mr. Hawley will be here to-morrow. We will have a conference, and he may be in a position to give a statement. But I can say that we will do everything possible to bring the matter to an amicable conclusion. We do not want to prolong the strike. We are just as confident of our strength as we were at the inauguration of the trouble, but we are not arbitrary, and will do everything in our power to have the strained condition of affairs."

PRODIGAL SON ON WAY HOME

Baltimore Multi-Millionaire Cables Orders to Help.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)
PARIS, December 11.—Patric immediately. Take your family and come home."

This was the cable message received by the wireless son of the multi-millionaire, Winans, of Baltimore. Young Thomas Ross Winans reluctantly prepared to carry out the cable command. He is a well-known sportsman, who lives in England, has sometimes come to the young man's financial aid, but when his father's representative has promptly advised the generous uncle to keep his hands off the Baltimore man's family affairs, a similar rebuke was given to his other brother, Walter Winans, brother of America's greatest painter, James McNeill Whistler.

Young Winans had begun to dabble in finance, which is a dangerous occupation for a foreigner in France. With his Malagasy wife and baby, he had sailed for the continent of Paris, probably forever. His wife was Henrietta Maria Delgado, who with her sister, had had a successful career as a model, or as a dancer. Their father kept a tavern in Malaga, and the fame of their beauty was so great that they had to mount guard before leaving the town. They had no admirers. Maria went on the stage. Winans changing his religion in order to marry her.

For some time the party in Tennessee has been divided into two factions, one headed by Representatives Brown and Austin, the two Republican members from the State, and the Commonwealth, and another headed by H. Clay Evans, Newell Sanders, the State Chairman, and other members of the party.

TO CHECK EFFECTS OF ZELAYA VICTORY

Government Makes Military Preparation on Large Scale.

MARINES MAY GO TO BLUEFIELDS

Ships Ordered to Concentrate at That Point—Ready to Rush Forces to Managua in Case of Outbreak—Aggressive Movements Like Real Acts of War.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WASHINGTON, December 11.—The State Department was informed last night by the Navy Department that it was about to check the insurgents in the Bluefields province, and immediately military preparations on an extraordinary scale were made to check the effect of a Zelaya victory.

Orders were telegraphed for the assembling of 700 marines at League Island, ships were ordered to concentrate at Bluefields, and a hurry order to Admiral Rowley, commanding the fleet, was issued, probably that the marines on the Pacific may go to Bluefields to confront Zelaya's victorious troops, instead of going to Corinto.

The only contingency that would prevent the marines from being ordered to Bluefields would be the possibility of an anti-American outbreak at Managua in case news of Zelaya's success was telegraphed to the Nicaraguan capital. In that event it has been arranged that all the United States men from the Vicksburg, Yorktown and Albany shall land regardless of consequences and march to Managua, where there have already been threats, not only against the American diplomatic representatives, but also the publication of placards intensely anti-American in expression.

Like Acts of War.

The preparations of to-day are scarcely distinguished from those of war, even while Congress is in session. The government made a shrewd move when it transferred the duties of the Navy Department to the State Department.

The latter department has as its function specifically the protection of American interests abroad. Thus the launching of 1,750 marines, armed with machine guns, automatic Colts and other weapons, to be regarded as an act of war, but that the large force which may be used for invasion is held to be necessary on account of the large number of pirates in Nicaragua which Americans are to be protected.

In this connection, and in view of the orders to-day to the effect that the forces operating against Zelaya on the part of the American government is necessary.

On the west coast there are the cruisers Buffalo, Yorktown, and the Dixie. The Pacific will join them in a few days.

There are 350 marines at Panama, 700 at League Island, and 1,750 more shortly by 700 more making a total of 3,500 marines, for offensive and defensive operations.

REVEALRY REIGNS AT GRIDIRON CLUB

Leaders, Public and Private, Spend Evening at Play.

HOMELY TRUTHS ARE TOLD IN FUN

President Hears That "We Love Our Roosevelt, But Oh, You Taft"—"Uncle Joe," the "Danville Bantam," Assistant in Mirthful Stunt.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 11.—President Taft and members of his Cabinet, Senators, Judges, scientists and diplomats and men of high station in public and private life spent several hours to-night as the guests of the Gridiron Club in revelry and song and nonsense, blended with wisdom. They heard many homely truths told in strange form and enjoyed many a joke at their own expense because of the genial humor in which the shafts of wit were concealed. Men of strongly opposed politics, and others who, although of the same political party, had found serious reasons for wide divergence, were present at the dinner and listened, not only with philosophy but even with glee, to the comical exploitation of their quarrels.

The distinguished company learned in an authoritative way the truth about the discovery of the North Pole through a scientific commission which reported personally to the Gridiron Club, and undertook to arbitrate the differences between Peary and Cook, former Discoverer, and the younger, Edward L. Keen, of the United Press, and Ira E. Bennett, of the Washington Post and San Francisco Call.

One of the explorers said he had identified the pole by the resemblance of the climatic conditions to Inauguration Day in Washington. He had qualified for his task by climbing Capitol Hill to reach the Appropriations Committee, and was equipped with a fountain pen and megaphone. The pole was found to be as far distant from land as President Taft found it from the insurgent Wigwam to Stand-pat Against Custom House Frauds.

Uncle Joe Pooes.

The Aurora Borealis combed the hair that fell on Aldrich, while the Sun's rays combed the hair of the young man's hair, and the sun appeared, claiming to have located the pole in Savannah, and produced it in the shape of a barbers' pole, tenderly telling of his exploits in reaching it. He was identified by the enormous haircuts and the discarding of the pseudo-explorers and disclosed the inlatites.

Then the electric bulbs were dimmed and in the brilliancy of a calcium light "Uncle Joe" Cannon, on a pedestal supported by the heads of the members of the "Iron Duke," with the inevitable cigar, grown to mammoth proportions and tilted upward at an angle, sang a little ditty to the tune of "Pony Boy," the first verse of which was:

"See the Speaker, our own Uncle Joe; Hear him swear, see him tear all his hair. When he argues defy him all; Every man in the House is as still as a mouse. While Cannon is present; But when he's away for a day they begin to argue, and they're all in a lather. And say they don't fear him." Scarcely had the guests turned again to their dinner when the door opened and a dozen hard-faced old dames, leading meek and henpecked husbands. These turned out to be a delegation of Congresswomen, who were in the dining room to participate in the dinner, and were only driven away through a threat to feed them after the British fashion through the medium of a gigantic stomach pump.

A Mirthful Stunt.

"The Battle Royal" was a mirth-provoking stunt. Members of the club had to deliver their own outbursts against "Battling Nelson, the Rhode Island Terror"; "Archilles Ballinger, the Swash Broccoo"; "Gilt Pinchot, the President of the Nation"; "Capt. Parsons, the Candy Kid."

Before the mixup, which was very realistic, the cautious referee discovered concealed in the gloves of the gladiators various articles, such as lumps of coal, axes, knives, pieces of steel, and a great many other things, which would do mischief if they did not cause damage upon some of them. President Taft's projected visit to Alaska formed a subject of humorous comment. "One order of Roosevelt's," said "One Uncle Joe" was the response to the suggestion that the President would like some "possums."

POLL SHOWS MAJORITY FOR LOCAL OPTION IN VIRGINIA

Judge Mann's Position On Liquor Legislation



First, I favor the principle of local option as the best method of dealing with the liquor question. Should a Legislature of this State, without previous instruction from the people, pass a bill for State-wide prohibition by legislative enactment, without submission to the people, I would vote the bill.

Third, Should the people elect a Legislature upon this issue, and should the Legislature, as directed by the people, pass a State-wide prohibition law, clearly responsive to the widespread demand of the people expressed at the polls, while preferring myself the local option method as in my judgment best calculated to produce permanent results, I would sign the bill, as I recognize the right of the people to initiate legislation in this and all other matters.

Fourth, If the Legislature passed a bill giving to the people the right to vote on the question of State-wide prohibition, I would sign the bill.

Fifth, Should a local option election be held in any community in which I lived, I would vote "dry."

Sixth, While believing that the local option method is calculated to produce the best results in an election held on the question of State-wide prohibition, in such an election I would vote "dry."—Statement by Judge William Hodges Mann on June 17 in reply to Anti-Saloon League.

SEVERELY ASSAILS VIRGINIA WARDLAW CUSTOMS FRAUDS HELD FOR MURDER

MacVaugh's Speech Feature of Pennsylvania Society Dinner.

WORDS OF PRAISE FOR LOEB UNMOVED WHILE IN COURT

Attorney-General and Secretary of State Also Make Addresses.

NEW YORK, December 11.—Nine hundred and sixty-four distinguished men heard three members of the Cabinet of the United States address the eleventh annual dinner of the Pennsylvania Society of New York at the Waldorf Astoria to-night. And of these speakers the most emphatic note was struck by Franklin MacVaugh, Secretary of the Treasury, in a bitter arraignment of customs frauds, particularly at the port of New York.

The other two—George W. Wickorsham, the Attorney-General, and Philip C. Knox, Secretary of State—spoke along more general lines, the former, however, emphasizing the increase of Federal power, the latter, emphasizing the increase of which has been so much criticized. Secretary Knox confined himself largely to the ever increasing co-operation of nations.

Concerning customs house frauds in New York, Secretary MacVaugh said: "You know what we are trying to do for this city. We are trying to cut out a festering corruption. You may say that the customs service at New York is a blot upon the Federal Government. It is also a blot upon New York City. And what the government is doing, and attempting to do, is not only to clean up its own premises, but to raise the standard of public service in this city."

MacVaugh praised William Loeb, Jr., collector of the port, for the work he had accomplished. The dinner to-night was a brilliant affair. Seated under the time-honored portrait of William Penn, and the emblazoned coat of arms of the State of Pennsylvania, was the secretary of the Pennsylvania Society, Arthur W. Carnegie, New York City, Secretary Knox, Secretary MacVaugh, Attorney-General Wickorsham, and Governor Edwin S. Stuart, of Pennsylvania, the principal guests.

At other tables sat Simon Guggenheim, United States Senator from Colorado; John W. Mamler, former Postmaster-General; Rear-Admiral Joseph M. Murdock, U. S. N., commandant of the New York Navy-Yard; United States Senator Boies Penrose; Commander Peary, U. S. N., an honorary member of the society; United States Senator George Oliver; Samuel W. Van Hook, Governor of Pennsylvania; and the United States Ambassador to Italy; John D. Archbold, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., W. E. Corey, president of the United States Steel Corporation, and others.

Knox Believes in Altruism.

Secretary Knox regarded as the most practical man in the Cabinet, prophesied that airships would bring nations much closer together, and enumerated them among the first agencies toward international unity, the theme of his address.

"The tendency of modern times is manifestly toward international unity. At the same time preserving national organizations," he declared.

"There can be no doubt that the airship before long will be used as a means of communication, and it is likewise free from doubt that its use will bring the nations much closer together, and that international conferences must needs be called in order to regulate the new tariff."

Increase of Federal Power.

Attorney-General Wickorsham fired a hot shot into the ranks of the believers in State rights, by advocating

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Members of Legislature Are Against State- Wide Prohibition.

POST-CARD VOTE STANDS 6 TO 1

Ratio Nine to One If Democrats Alone Are Considered—Re- turns Indicate That No Im- portant Liquor Legisla- tion Will Be Enacted at Next Session.

(Copyright, by The Times-Dispatch, 1909.)
REPLIES from seventy-three out of 140 members of the Legislature in response to an inquiry from The Times-Dispatch clearly indicate that no legislation of any sort in the direction of State-wide prohibition will be enacted by the incoming General Assembly. A poll of the membership of the two Houses, to which more than half have replied, shows that six members stand for local option to each one who favors prohibition, while if the Democrats alone are considered, the ratio is nine to one.

Of the seventeen Senators who have replied to the request from The Times-Dispatch for a declaration on this subject, thirteen are for local option and four for State-wide prohibition. Between the parties the Senate stands as follows:

Democrats—For local option, 11; for prohibition, 2.

Republicans—For local option, 2; for prohibition, 2.

No replies have as yet been received from twenty-one Democratic and two Republican Senators.

More than a majority of the members of the House of Delegates have replied. Forty-eight of the fifty-six who have answered favor local option; six are for State-wide prohibition, and two are doubtful. Among the Democrats in the House, forty-five are for local option and four for prohibition. Three of the Republicans answering are for local option, and two for prohibition. Thus it will be seen that among the Democrats in the House the proportion for local option is eleven to one.

Majority Answers.

Combining the Houses, it will be seen that seventy-three replies have been received from the 140 members. Sixty-one favor local option, ten favor State-wide prohibition, while two are in doubt. Sixty-seven members have not yet answered.

Should three of the forty-four members of the House who have not answered favor local option, the passage of a bill referring State-wide prohibition to the people is impossible. It is safe to presume that a majority of the forty-four will stand for the local option policy.

The voters of only eight of the twenty-three Senators who have not replied are necessary to maintain the present local option policy.

It will be noted that the Republicans are nearly equally divided on the question. Of the nine members belonging to that party who have replied five are for local option and four for prohibition.

It is quite evident from this record that Judge Mann will not be called upon during the coming session to sign a bill submitting the prohibition question to the people, since none will be passed, if members vote as they write.

Request for Information.

With a view to informing the people of the State of the sentiment prevailing among the lawmakers, the following communication was addressed to each Senator and Delegate.

The Times-Dispatch Office,
Richmond, November 25, 1909.

Dear Sir—Will you have the kindness to answer the question set forth on the attached postcard? The question is of the greatest interest to the people of Virginia.

Yours truly,
MANAGING EDITOR.
The Times-Dispatch.

1909.

I favor (State-local) option in the matter of liquor legislation.

Yours truly,

of

Note—Strike out either the word local or State.

How Members Stand.

Those who favor local option are:

W. W. Baker, Frank Nelson,
A. O. Beaman, C. H. Nolting,
A. W. Owens,
M. A. Bowman, E. W. Owens,
E. E. Parr,
R. E. Cook,
R. E. Cook,
E. P. Cox,
R. E. Parks,
J. A. C. Casey, Rosewell Page,
John A. Curtis, John R. Rev.,
J. B. Roberts, F. W. Sims,
S. C. Clement, J. A. L. Sulphur,
N. B. Early, Jr., W. W. Sale,
T. H. Edwards, N. D. Spassard,
W. H. Ewins, J. N. Stubbs,
E. S. Folkes, L. P. Stearns,
W. B. Fitzhugh, F. W. Sims,
A. A. Garratt, A. H. Sherry,