

"GUILTY AS IS INDICTED"

WAS VERDICT IN POST OFFICE CONSPIRACY TRIALS.

Same Verdict for All Four Defendants—It Is Said They Charged Once Sum Several Times as Much as They Charged Private Parties—Stole Many Thousands of Dollars—They Appeal.

"Guilty as indicted" was the verdict announced by the jury in the post-office conspiracy trials. The jury had been out nine hours. It stated that the verdict was the same as to all four defendants, August W. Machen, late superintendent of the rural free delivery division; George E. Lorenz of Toledo, Samuel A. Groff and Diller B. Groff of Washington.

The crime charged was that of conspiracy to defraud the postoffice department by selling Groff fasteners at prices several times in excess of that charged private parties. Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow, in his sensational report, charged that the defendants have stolen thousands of dollars. In the dimly lighted room sat the four defendants, who, after the case was given to the jury, had been placed in the custody of a United States marshal, and confined to the limits of the city hall. Each wore an anxious look, and a deathlike silence fell on the small crowd which had been permitted to enter the room as the clerk inquired of the foreman if a verdict had been reached. The jury to a man rose, and as the words "guilty as indicted" fell from the foreman's lips the defendants and their counsel seemed appalled. During the time the jury was out the four defendants had paced up and down the hallway outside the courtroom and had given expression to the belief that each hour the jury spent in discussing the case brought them nearer to acquittal. There was general astonishment that the jury had included in the conviction Samuel A. Groff, a Washington policeman and inventor of the Groff fastener, as to Holmes Conrad, special counsel for the government, the day before informed the jury he did not expect a conviction, and that he personally did not believe in his guilt.

Five ballots in all were taken. On the first ballot the vote stood 7 to 5 for conviction, on the second 8 to 4, on the third 9 to 3, on the fourth 10 to 2 and on the fifth the vote was unanimous.

Immediately after the verdict was rendered Charles Douglas, in behalf of all four defendants, filed motions for a new trial, for an arrest of judgement and for an appeal for the purpose of having the defendants admitted to bail. Bail was then fixed at \$20,000 each, the bond of Lorenz and the Groffs being increased from \$10,000.

When Mr. Maddox, on behalf of the Groffs, inquired as to the amount of bail to be required of them, Justice Prichard said:

"I know no difference between these defendants. The jury has said they are guilty, and I can not discriminate, but will treat all alike."

Next to Samuel A. Groff, the most surprised man was Machen, who said he was thunder struck at the verdict.

Justice Prichard later sentenced Machen, Diler B. Groff and Lorenz each to two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$10,000 each, the beginning of the sentence to be made from the time of their arrival at the penitentiary.

The court decided to make the several counts in the indictment constitute one offense.

Two Engineers Are Killed.

San Francisco—The westbound California limited and the eastbound daily overland on the Santa Fe collided a few miles out of Point Richmond. Both engineers were killed. A misplaced switch was the cause of the accident. The dead:

L. L. Baker, engineer of the limited.
J. P. Bennett, engineer of the overland.

Alvin Taylor, a colored porter, who threw the switch open, is under arrest. He claims that he was signaled by Engineer Bennett to open the switch and that he obeyed without realizing the consequences.

Edwin Abell Passes Away.

Baltimore.—Edwin Franklin Abell, president of the A. S. Abell company, publishers of the Sun, is dead, aged 64. Mr. Abell was born in Baltimore, and was the oldest of 12 children of the late Arunah S. Abell, founder of the Sun, and by his death the last of the founder's sons have passed away.

Six Hundred Horses Seized.

Libau, Russia.—A shipment of 600 horses was about to be loaded into a steamer here when it was stopped by the authorities. The horses were believed to have been bought by British agents for Japan.

Postmaster E. S. Parnell of Junction, Union county, Ark., has resigned and in his letter says the action is due to political feud, to escape which he is going to leave the state.

JAPANESE-RUSSIAN WAR NOTES

France Cannot Help Russia—Sacred Image Red Cross Organized.

The fact that the Japanese have renewed the attack is interpreted at Tokio to mean that they are determined to bottle up or destroy the Russian fleet at Port Arthur in order to give themselves freedom for land maneuvers to cut off or invest the city, or as a feint to cover a movement elsewhere.

Yi Yong Ik who was formerly minister of war and practically the dictator of Korea, and considered a friend of Russia, has been taken by the Japanese at Chemulpo and on the same night put on board a warship, which took him to Japan. He went on board in court dress.

The most sacred image in Russia has been sent to St. Petersburg and it will be taken to the far east with the army. This image is a representation of the Virgin appearing to Saint Sergius and is always kept at the troitzko monastery. It is about one foot square, and is covered with precious stones. It has a remarkable history. It accompanied Alexis, Peter the Great and Alexander I. on all their campaigns. A silver tablet attached to it enumerates the battles at which the Ikon was present.

The Korean government has decided to order the Korean troops to join the Japanese in the field. The port of Wiju has been opened to foreign trade.

The Red Cross society of Russia has ordered its Siberian agents to prepare a million additional pounds of grain and large quantities of meat and sterilized milk.

A Paris correspondent gives an exhaustive statement from M. De Lanessan, former minister of marine in the French cabinet, setting forth in detail why France cannot come to the assistance of Russia in the present conflict with Japan. He rejects the idea advanced by General Cattianoff that France should lend Russia ships of war—say four armored cruisers and a number submarine boats—for which Russia would pay. He says that if France were to give Russia naval assistance, and was to intervene in the war, she would be followed by England giving assistance to Japan, and a second war would break out in European waters. Thus, it order to give Russia help of doubtful efficiency, France would plunge into an adventure fraught, which no sensible Frenchman could contemplate without terror.

According to the former minister of marine, France's battleships, cruisers and defense fleet are too weak to permit France thinking of sending any portion of her fleet to her ally or exposing herself to a naval war. Finally, M. De Lanessan says: "Russia cannot be ignorant of all this. She knows there would be no use in resorting to armed intervention in her favor where we should thus expose ourselves to disasters prejudicial not only to ourselves and our own interests but also to the prestige and influence of our alliance. These people must be very blind who spread false or falsified stories in order to convince public opinion that Russia is entitled to expect armed intervention on our part."

According to the latest information, Russian infantry has occupied the road between Liu Yang, on the railroad from Mukden to Port Arthur and the Yalu river, its front and flanks being strongly supported. The right flank is at Taku Shan and the left near the town of Wiju. Scouts are ten miles east of Pingyang. The cavalry is 355 miles north of and the infantry 125 miles northwest of Pingyang.

It is said that the French government will ask for the authority of parliament to expend \$20,000,000 in completing the defenses of Saigon, capital of French Cochinchina.

As a result of many conversations with the military authorities at Tokio it can be stated the preliminaries of the Japanese campaign on land have developed so far as to render practically impossible formidable invasion of Korea by the Russians. Japan's present position in Korea has been gained by strategy and skill of the highest order.

The Twenty-ninth Japanese infantry, occupying Pingyang, midway between Seoul and the Yalu river met a body of Russian cavalry scouts north of Pingyang and drove them back. It is estimated that 60,000 Japanese troops have landed at Chemulpo.

The transports now are not escorted by war vessels.

An official news agency in St. Petersburg publishes this dispatch from Port Arthur: According to advices from Peking, Prince Ching has pointed out to the Japanese minister that the attitude of the Japanese living in China, who for more than a week have been spreading mendacious reports, is calculated to cause a rising against the Europeans. The prince therefore requested the Japanese minister to take the necessary preventive measures.

It is confirmed that a Japanese torpedo boat destroyer was blown up and sunk during the fighting. The wreck of the latter was subsequently washed shore.

Mr. Grouch—Can't you stop that kid's howling? What's the matter with him?

Nurse Girl—Well, sir, he was chased by a crazy man wanst, and he thinks you're him.—Boston Globe.

FOURTEEN LIVES WERE LOST

RESULT OF FIRE ON STEAMER QUEEN FROM 'FRISCO.

Origin of Fire Unknown—Started 4:30 a. m.—Raged Three Hours Before Controlled—Owing to Heavy Sea Lifeboats Capsized—Was 30 Miles From Land.

Fourteen people lost their lives as the result of the fire on the steamer Queen, from San Francisco to Seattle. The origin of the fire is yet unknown. It started in the social hall of the vessel at about 4:30 in the morning and raged for three hours before it was gotten under control. When the conflagration was first discovered the lifeboats containing women, children and many men were launched, but three of these, owing to the heavy seas, capsized, spilling the passengers in the water and causing the loss of nine lives. Three men, waiters on the vessel, were suffocated before they could reach the outer air in safety from their bunks in the glory hole, in the aft part of the ship, and one woman died later from exposure.

According to the stories told by passengers and crew of the Queen, which arrived in Seattle Sunday afternoon, the vessel was off Tillamook and about 30 miles from land when the fire was discovered. There was a heavy sea on, and the ship was pitching badly. When smoke was seen issuing from the social hall on the aft of the main deck, the crew was immediately roused out and the hose manned, while the stewards went from cabin to cabin, waking up the passengers.

There was no disorder either among crew or passengers. When Captain Cousins, commanding the vessel, discovered the extent of the fire, which embraced practically all the rear portion of the vessel, he immediately ordered the lifeboats launched. Four filled with women and children and sufficient men to man them were dropped overboard, each containing about 16 people.

The first boat capsized almost as soon as it touched the water by getting under the stern of the ship. All the passengers in this were rescued by the other small boats with the exception of a Miss Steiner, a first class passenger, who was drowned. The second boat capsized while being lowered. There were no passengers in this at the time, but the crew of four men who were aboard were spilled out and lost. A third boat filled about half a mile from the Queen, and all but four of its passengers and crew were rescued by the other small craft in the vicinity.

List of the Missing.

The list of the missing are as follows:

First cabin—Miss Steiner, Cle-Elum, Wash., drowned in destruction of small boat.

Mrs. E. Adams, Seattle, a woman of 80, who died from exposure three hours after the discovery of the fire.

Second class—D. E. Newberry and H. Buckley, drowned.

Deckhands—A. Nilson, J. Nelson and B. Frutas, drowned.

Engineers' department—Peter Nuhn and M. Flynn, drowned.

Waiters—W. Heinman and N. Raymond, drowned; H. Douglas and A. Donnelly, burned and suffocated.

The lifeboats that were floated safely and two rafts that were thrown overboard to pick up any who might be thrown in the water remained in the vicinity of the burning vessel, and within view of it while the fire was being fought by the crew and those male passengers that remained on board. Every available stream of water was thrown into the burning cabin, the men working coolly and without any excitement. The survivors state that every man kept his head and worked hard to subdue the flames. Despite their efforts, however, it was after 7 o'clock before the fire was under control and the signal was given to the small boats to return to the vessel.

Passengers when interviewed this afternoon stated without exception that everything was done by Captain Cousins that was possible to insure their safety. Had it not been necessary to send off the boats not a life would have been lost, but as it was dark when the fire started, and it was impossible to light the vessel or to confine the women to their staterooms, it was absolutely necessary to send them away to avoid a panic.

Practically the entire aft of the ship is in ruins. The intense heat of the flames has bent and twisted the interior iron work into a shapeless mass, and sailors viewing the ruins today state that they do not understand how it was possible to get control of the flames. Were it not for the fact that the captain, crew and passengers behaved with the utmost coolness, the vessel would have undoubtedly been destroyed and the loss of life been enormous. The vessel carried more than 200 passengers.

Representative Vandusen of Nevada has introduced a bill for the free and unlimited of coinage.

Chinese Uprising.

Pei in, March 3.—The native city of Tiensin again is like a slaughter pen. Headless bodies are everywhere. Decapitations continue with sickening frequency. This killing is the result of the fierce efforts of the viceroy of Chili to prevent an outbreak in the Chinese army, an outbreak directed at the Russians by the agitators, but which, if not put down in summary fashion, would be destructive to all foreigners. But, with all the blood letting, conditions in northern Chiwa are extremely critical. The troops and people have been excited by the placards, posted on all walls, grossly exaggerating the Japanese success, and calling on them to rise and wipe out the Russians. These placards are pretty numerous and sensational in the Tartar city of Ynan Shihki.

The Russians fear an advance of the Chinese army and the cutting of the transsiberian railway by them. Fifteen thousand of China's most efficient troops are at San Hai Kwan, on the northern frontier. These troops are being reinforced daily. They are well drilled and armed with modern weapons. They represent the flower of the Chinese army.

In this formidable force are many turbulent leaders, who are urging an advance on the Russian line of communication. But the viceroy has issued an order that the slightest effort to incite a rebellion or sedition will be punished by death.

With all this it is the general fear here that the neutrality of China can not long be maintained. The slightest thing is apt to start an uprising, and once there is an outbreak there is sure to be an effort to attack the Russians in the rear. Foreigners in Peking and Tiensin declare that there will be no distinction as to nationality in the massacres which would be attempted if the war agitators once get the upper hand. The cry will again be "Kill the foreign devils." Consequently, all the nations are preparing for emergencies.

There are 2000 American and European troops at Tiensin and 1500 more guarding the legations here at Peking.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

Beaver lake, in Okanogan county, is disappearing.

The Seattle republican city convention nominated for mayor, R. A. Balinger.

The republicans will have only one convention, which will be held at Tacoma May 11.

It transpires that the report regarding the killing of Baron Martin von Schlosser at Solduck hot springs, was a bald fake. Von Schlosser has arrived at Port Crescent alive and well.

Recently the residents of Conconully were startled by a roar and a crash. The large warehouse of the Washington Commercial company had been crushed to earth by the accumulated snow on its roof.

The office of prosecuting attorney of Yakima county has been declared vacant because W. P. Guthrie, who has been serving in the office, failed to provide a bond within the time required after his former bondsmen had withdrawn.

Real estate dealers of Palouse have received word from persons with whom they are in communication in Iowa that 15 families will leave that state this week, with Palouse country their destination. The people are well to do and will purchase farm lands.

An amendment is being prepared to the Indian bill, authorizing Indians to dispose of their lands adjoining the proposed right of way for a drainage canal estimated to reclaim about 15,000 acres of land in the Colville river valley near Chewelah in Stevens county.

Two townships, Nos. 30 and 31, range 44, will be filed for homestead March 3, and a great rush is looked for at the United States land office in Spokane. The land which will be thrown open lies directly north of Camden, and the surrounding country is well settled.

Eastern Washington hay producers have taken up through western Washington hay-buyers the question of comparing the quality of the hay of Washington, Oregon and California, claiming as the Washington hay is of superior quality this question should be considered in connection with awarding of army contracts.

E. A. McDonald of Seattle, state pure food and dairy commissioner, is now working in eastern Washington in the interest of the Washington state dairy exhibit at the St. Louis exposition this summer. All men connected with the dairy business are taking hold of the matter better than was expected and an exhibit is expected that will show the state as from a dairy standpoint in a most favorable light.

The government corps of engineers at work on the Palouse river irrigation scheme, are now in the vicinity of Mesa. Many reports on this plan agree as to its feasibility, and that if the laws of this state are so amended at the next session of the legislature as to conform with the railroad irrigation act, work will commence early in 1905 on the largest irrigation canal in the state, covering 150,000 or more acres of Franklin county soil.

ARMIES HAVE BEGUN FIGHTING

BOTH JAPANESE AND RUSSIANS CLAIM A VICTORY.

Russian Soldiers Disperse Korean Soldiers—Heavy Land Battle Expected Soon—Russians Are Concentrating Forces in Northern Korea—Railroad Over Ice Lake Is Finished.

The following official dispatch has been received at the Japanese legation at London:

A number of the enemy's cavalry appeared at a point 700 meters north of Pingyang, Korea. Our infantry fired upon them, causing them to retreat."

Russian Version.

A dispatch received at St. Petersburg from Liaoyang, says that Chinese on the Yalu river report that an advance guard of Russian cavalry, which has penetrated Korea for a distance of about 200 versts across the river, had an encounter with a detachment of Japanese, and that the Japanese were compelled to retreat and had, leaving their horses, which were seized by Cossacks.

General Linevitch dispatched cavalry and a body of infantry in pursuit and with an order to occupy northern Korea.

Details of a skirmish at Pingyang show that 50 Russian cavalrymen approached the north gate of the Japanese camp and fired at 1000 meters. A sharp fusillade took place and the Russians retired. All foreigners are safe.

The emperor has contributed 100,000 yen and the crown prince 50,000 yen to the Japanese relief fund.

Korean soldiers on the Ham Gyeng frontier have been attacked and dispersed by Russian troops.

The official announcement by Major General Pitug, chief of staff of Viceroy Alexieff, that Russian cavalry had crossed the Yalu river, is expected to be followed shortly by news of rather heavy land fighting, as, according to seemingly trustworthy reports, General Lenivitch has sent a whole army corps of infantry to support the Cossacks, who have penetrated to a point below Anju and who are reported to have beaten the Japanese in several skirmishes. Nevertheless, if this movement in force is progressing, it must not be assumed that the Russians have taken the offensive, but rather that they are taking up a strong position in northern Korea in order to check the advance of the formidable army of Japanese landing on both shores of Korea, while the concentration of Russian troops behind the Yalu is being completed. This concentration is making better progress than is generally believed abroad.

The movement of troops eastward over the transsiberian railroad will be greatly accelerated henceforth, as telegraphic reports say that the ice railroad over Lake Baikal is finished.

The Chinese war minister is hurrying large bodies of troops to the northeastern frontier of Pechili.

The military situation will be greatly complicated if General Ma is really moving to the rear of the Russian position with the intention of making common cause with the Japanese, as it will expose both Russian flanks to attack.

The hopes and hearts of the Russians are centered in their army.

The war excitement here and throughout Russia generally seems to be dying down.

The movement of troops on the transsiberian railroad has attained unprecedented proportions. Trains going east are filled with troops. All trains from Manchuria are crowded with women and children and the station here is filled with refugees waiting an opportunity to return to Russia, many of them remaining two days before being able to continue their journey.

On Lake Baikal near the shore and on Lake Baikal near the shore and sank, but no loss of life has been reported.

The decision of the United States supreme court in awarding the "over lap lands" to the Northern Pacific railroad, will affect almost 2000 persons in Clark county, Wash. The contested grants comprise all the odd sections in the northern and western portions of Clark county, most of it being fine timber, grazing and farming land. On this land the government has issued 1895 patents, and many of the patentees have made their homes there for years, besides improving the property. The suit has been bitterly fought through the courts for the past ten years, and thousands of dollars have been expended to defray the costs. In addition to this expenditure, should it be impossible to make the railroad company select other lands under the lieu land act, the settlers must suffer the hardships of buying their land over again from the company or forfeit their farms and the improvements.

A young man often stays up nights to learn things that cause an old man insomnia because of his inability to forget them.