VAN WORMER BOYS ELECTROCUTED

Three Brothers Met Death Like Stoics In Electric Chair.

SHOWED NO SIGNS OF FEAR

They Paid the Penalty For the Murder of Their Uncle and Benefactor, Peter Hallenbeck, on Christmas Eve, 1901.

Dannemora, N. Y., Oct. 2—The three youthful Van Wormer brothers were electrocuted Thursday morning for the murder of their uncle, Peter A. Hallenback, on December 24, 1901.

They have been preparing for the end for the last few days, after all hope of executive interference at Albany had gone. They embraced the Catholic faith, made confession of their sins and wrote pathetic letters of adieu to their relatives and friends.

Then they made ready for the electric chair, to which they were led one after the other.

First, Willis, the oldest and most impressionable of the three, second, Frederick, the youngest, who was second to be the most hardened, third, Burton, the second in point of age.

At 9:30 it was reported by the warden that the men were in the best possible condition, lots of mind and body, and well nerved for their ordeal.

In the Death Chamber.

Willis Van Wormer entered the death chamber at 11:34:30, the current was turned into his body one minute later, and at 11:37 he was declared dead.

At 11:41:30 Frederick entered the death chamber, at 11:42 the current was turned on, and he was declared dead at 11:45:30.

Burton entered the death chamber at 11:47, the current was turned on at 11:47:30, and he was declared dead at 11:48:30.

The entire proceeding, from the start of the first man from his cell to the doctor's declaration of the death of the last, consumed but 15½ minutes, and no untoward incident marred the execution of the law.

The Van Wormers' Crime.

On Christmas eve, 1901, with their cousin, Harvey Bruce, the three brothers drove from their home in Kinderhook, some 14 miles, to the hamlet of Greendale, in Columbia county, where lived Peter A. Hallenbeck, an uncle of the Van Wormers. On the way they stopped at the Greendale church, where they stole from the vehicles of the farmers a number of robes and whips.

At Their Uncle's Home.

Thence they went on to the Hallenbeck house, where Mr. Hallenbeck, his wife and his aged mother, were sitting in the lamplight in their living room. Both the women saw them drive past. A few moments later there was a knock at the door, and Mr. Hallenbeck answered it, to find masked men before him armed with revolvers. Burton Van Wormer led the way, and with him the old man grappled. At once all four began a fusillade of pistol shots, which fairly riddled the body of Mr. Hallenbeck. Mrs. Hallenbeck, the wife, ran into the kitchen, and the brothers shot at her but missed. Her husband ordered her to flee, and she ran upstairs, whither the older woman had preceded her, and the two barricaded themselves in the attick.

The Murderers Run.

Mr. Hellenbeck, although mortally wounded, broke away from his assailants and went to the landing of the stairs, where he kept a loaded shotgun. The assailants saw him get the gun and fled. The old man fell to the floor and died.

The four young men were soon after arrested, betrayed by their footprints in the snow, and because they were known to have harbored bitter feelings and to have made threats against their uncle. They were brought to trial before an extraordinary term of the supreme court appointed by Gov. Odell and presided over by Justice Alden Chester, of Albany, on March 30, 1902.

The Convicting Evidence.

Harvey Bruce turned state's evidence, and it was to a large extent upon his testimony that the conviction of the Van Wormer brothers was secured. He swore that upon the ride back from the scene of the crime each of the brothers boasted of having shot the uncle.

It was shown that the bitterness which the brothers felt toward their uncle was due chiefly to his having foreclosed a mortgage upon the property in Greendale owned by their stepmother, the loss of which compelled their removal to Kinderhook.

On April 8 all three were found guilty and sentenced to be put to death in the week ending May 30, 1902. Their appeal to the court of appeals acted as a stay, and the case went over to the present year.

TARIFF STRUGGLE IN ENGLAND

Logic of the Commercial Situation Driving Great Britain to Protective Policy.

The correspondence between Messrs. Balfour and Chamberlain throws light on the rather mystifying situation brought about by the latters' resignation from the British cabinet just at the time the Balfour government was making public declaration of its belief in the protective principle advocated by Chamberlain. In brief, Chamberlain explains that public opinion is not yet ready to go the full length of his programme of a general tariff, with preferential duties for imports from the colonies, but he believes it will go far enough to sustain the government in a policy of retaliatory tariffs. Furthermore, he believes that he can do more to advance the cause of the commercial unity of the empire in independent position than he can accomplish while working under the limitations of the official proprieties. In his formal reply Mr. Balfour takes especial care to announce his entire agreement with the plan advocated by Mr. Chamberlain. He writes:

"Agreeing as I do, with you that the time has come when a change should be made in the fiscal relations by which we hope to weld closer our commercial dealings with other governments, it seems particularly important that you should leave the cabinet at the same time that others of my colleagues are leaving it who disagree on the very point with us both. You cannot but admit that there is some force in your argument in support of that course, based as it is, upon your special and personal position with that portion of the conservative party which deals with imperial preference. You have done more than any man living to bring home to the citizens of the empire the consequences of imperial shipping and commercial ties between the various component parts into which the empire is geographically divided.

"I believe you to be right in holding that this is a question which affects expansion of our commercial as well as in our political and military relations. I believe with you that a closer bond union between the mother country and the colonies would benefit the trade of both, and that if such closer union could be established on fitting terms its advantage to both parties would increase with years and as the colonies grow in wealth and population."

But he further agrees with Mr. Chamberlain that the time is not yet ripe for the introduction of this whole programme; that it is more practical to take half a loaf by dissociating the plan of an imperial zollverein from the other branch of the proposed change of policy "to which we both attach importance and which we believe the country is prepared to consider without prejudice."

Thus we have a fairly clear statement of the lines upon which English parties are likely to divide, the protectionists making their first battle on the demand for retaliatory tariffs and their opponents standing for the free trade policy which has been the settled policy of the United Kingdom since 1846. Necessarily it means a very considerable realignment of parties and a parliament election in the near future, in which the liberal party, if it can patch up its internal differences on the subject of leadership, will have more than an equal chance of success. The one man that can pull the party together, Rosebery, has not yet spoken. But a free trade victory would not settle the matter. The logic of the present commercial situation is driving England inevitably to a protective policy.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

☞Now that Mr. Bryan has reconciled himself to one gold democrat, perhaps he will be able to stand and look at the rest of them without trying to break his halter strap.—Detroit Free Press.

☞Mr. Bryan told the reporters a few days ago that he was in the east on "private business." The people have failed to give Mr. Bryan a chance to go anywhere on public business.—Indianapolis Journal.

☞It is intimated that there is a possibility of the republicans carrying Kentucky this year. The reputable, law-abiding, peace-loving people of that state are growing pretty weary of the sort of rule they are having with democratic Bourbonism in control.—Troy Times.

☞It is Tom Johnson's ambition to dangle Mark Hanna's scalp at his belt. Fates other than political have already removed the hair, and the polished pink cuticle which remains is tight and slippery. Mr. Johnson, on the other hand, possesses a fine shock in which it would be easy to tangle a hatchet.—St. Louis Republic (dem.).

☞The following is the classification of the nominees on the Ohio state ticket as given by a newspaper which has looked up their antecedents and record: Single taxer, golden rule, old-fashioned democrat, disgruntled republican, gold democrat, silverite and one who confesses that he can't tell how to define himself. And the old-fashioned democrat is dissatisfied with the socialistic platform and may withdraw. With Bryan speaking for the ticket and the platform and booming for senator a pronounced gold democrat the crazy-quilt character of the democratic campaign in Ohio is apparent without a magnifying glass.—Troy Times.

CLEVELAND AND INDIANA.

There Is Hardly Soil in the Hoosier State to Raise a Democratic Boom.

There is information in trust circles that the Indiana democrats are turning to Mr. Cleveland. Convinced, it is said, that Mr. Roosevelt is daily losing ground in conservative circles in his own party, and that a strong nomination by their party will bring the presidency within reach, they have determined to put their best foot foremost and enlist under the Cleveland banner. It is a pretty story, but deficient in particulars, says the Washington Star.

Are the old friends of Mr. Hendricks very prominent in this movement? Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Hendricks were about as ill-assorted a pair as ever traveled in double harness. It was with great difficulty that the Indianian could be persuaded to make the race, and this Mr. Cleveland seemed never able to forget. Mr. Hendricks lived but a short time ater taking office, but long enough to develop serious differences with his chief, and to make it plain that the association was very unpleasant to him. When he died Mr. Cleveland did not attend the funeral. It was explained that he was advised in his course by those who thought he ought not to take the railroad risk of the journey. But his absence was resented by many of Mr. Hendricks' friends.

And how about the old friends of Mr. Voorhees? They are nearly all silver men, and they deeply regretted the course their old favorite took under Cleveland's influence in the fight over the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. What has lately occurred to make Mr. Cleveland so very attractive in their eyes?

Then there are the friends of the late John G. Shanklin. In 1892 Mr. Shanklin was a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor of Indiana, and had good prospects of success. He was a Cleveland man, and wanted the state delegation to the democratic national convention instructed for the New Yorker. But Isaac P. Gray played the "favorite son" game, and obtained instructions for himself. He likewise defeated Mr. Shanklin's gubernatorial aspirations because of Mr. Shanklin's opposition to his presidential aspirations. At the Chicago convention that year Mr. Gray traded the Indiana vote to the Cleveland people for the promise of the ministership to Mexico, and got the place. Mr. Shanklin in the distribution of the national patronage got nothing.

There may be good soil in the middle section of the country for the Cleveland boom, but, all things considered, one would hardly expect to find it in Indiana.

WORKING AGAINST ROOSEVELT

Democrats Making Much of the Labor Issue for Partisan Purposes.

The democratic campaign managers, it is said, are plotting to defeat the nomination of President Roosevelt, and they think they can accomplish this by a dexterous use of the Miller incident in the government printing office at Washington. They are gathering all the facts they can find on this issue, with the intention of using them in the meetings which will be held to nominate delegates to the convention next year, with the hope of turning the president down, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Just at present, therefore, the democrats' literary bureau at Washington is busy in a direction which, they think, will cause great embarrassment to the republicans.

There is nothing in this Miller episode which can harm the president or his party. Mr. Roosevelt said in the Miller case that the laws of the nation were superior to those of any organization in it, and that those laws would have to prevail in the management of the government's affairs. The labor organizations have accepted this ruling as just, and they are making no opposition to it. The more important journals published by the labor organizations have taken the president's side in the affair. So far as can be learned, the Miller incident is closed.

The president and his party have shown their friendship for the labor cause so often that the democrats who are trying to make capital out of the government printing office incident will fail. In the coal strike last year the president's influence aided union labor, and at the same time gave great help to the masses of the people, who are far more numerous and important than the labor organizations. The one party in the country's history which has been the intelligent and persistent champion of the cause of labor is the republican party. In its tariff acts and the homestead law it did more for the workers of the country than the democratic party ever thought of doing, or ever would do if it could. Neither President Roosevelt nor the republican party has anything to fear from the bringing up of the labor issue in any phase by the democrats. The more the cause of labor, organized and unorganized, is talked about in the canvass the more votes will be cast for the republican ticket.

Elevating the Standard.

"So you are to have a high church wedding?" asks the friend of the beauteous damsel who is to become a midsummer bride.

"Yes, indeed," she admits.

"It seems to be quite the fashion now," says the friend.

"Yes. But papa is determined that mine shall be a bigger church wedding than any of the others."

"I thought that high church was high church, and that ended it."

"But papa has donated enough money to the congregation to allow them to build the spire 50 feet higher."—N. Y. Tribune.

Cheap Excursion to the South.

On Oct. 20th the Kansas City Southern Ry. (Port Arthur Route) will run a cheap excursion from Kansas City and all stations in Missouri and Kansas to Lake Charles, Shreveport, Beaumont and Port Arthur. The rate for the round trip will be $15, limited to 21 days from date of sale, good to stop over on going trip at all points en route, provided final destination is reached inside of 15 days from date of sale. This exceptionally low rate, together with liberal stopover privileges allowed, should insure a great crowd, especially in view of the fact that this is the most delightful season of the year to visit the Southland. Similar low rates will probably be placed in effect from points north and east of Kansas City. Ask your ticket agent.

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His Failure.

"Do you know anything about flirting?"

"No," he replied sadly. "I thought I did, but when I tried it, I asked if the girl didn't marry me."—Chicago Post.

Half of wisdom is in being silent when you have nothing to say.—Ram's Horn.

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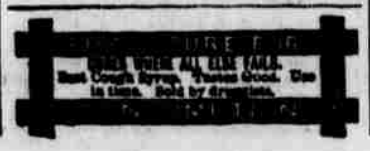

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