

CRANDAL MACKEY AND HIS FIGHT FOR LAW IN ALEXANDRIA COUNTY

St. Asaph Poolroom at Present the Only Survivor of the Notorious Places He Has Vigorously Attacked.

Interesting Narrative of the Shrewd Moves and Shrewd Countermoves in the Attempt to Close It.

THE fight on the gambling houses of Alexandria county, Va., has now settled down to a trial of strength between Crandal Mackey, the Commonwealth attorney, and the proprietors of the St. Asaph poolroom, which has been running for ten years, until last Wednesday, when the Western Union wire was cut off.

Mr. Mackey has closed up the gambling houses at Jackson City and at Rosslyn. All the policy writers, the crap shooters, the faro dealers, and the sweat-board proprietors of Jackson City have suspended operations, as the result of raids and arrests made by Mackey and his men. The policy games at Rosslyn and the famous "Jack Heath's Place," opposite Georgetown University, also are closed. Last Sunday and the Sunday before, saloons which formerly ran wide open on Sundays as well as week days, were as quiet as graves, and nothing to drink could be had from them.

Kept Right on Doing Business.

The St. Asaph poolroom, however, continued in operation, notwithstanding the fact that warrants have been sworn out for nearly twenty men alleged to be connected with its operation. Many of these warrants were duly served, summoning the men to appear before Justice of the Peace Hagan at the Alexandria county court house on Saturday, May 14, to show cause why they should not be prosecuted for conducting a gambling establishment in violation of the laws of Virginia.

Two days before the time set for their appearance before the justice of the peace, the defendants, through their attorneys, filed a petition with Judge Nicol, of the district court. They asked for a writ of prohibition against Justice Nicol in Alexandria and filed a demurrer, asking an immediate hearing.

Hearing on June 4.

It was impossible for Judge Nicol to grant an immediate hearing, but he told Mr. Mackey and counsel for the St. Asaph proprietors that he would hear the case at Manassas, Va., on June 4, when he will be holding court there. Mr. Mackey will appear for Justice Hagan, and Charles C. Carlin, Edmund Burke, and Col. Francis Smith will appear for the St. Asaph people.

Until that time nothing will be done, as Mr. Mackey will wait to see whether or not the cases are to be heard by the justice of the peace. If Judge Nicol decides Justice Hagan is in the right to hear them, Mr. Mackey's original plan will be followed. If he issues the writ of prohibition, steps in another direction will be taken by Mr. Mackey.

The men against whom warrants were issued and upon the majority of whom warrants have been served, are Isaac Jones, Edward Jones, R. Vandegrift, Louis Hagen, Penney Early, George Campbell, George Lescalleet, Wilbur Roberts, Burt Bentley, William Johnson, Frank Snooks, Edward McCauley, Joseph Lee, George Kraft, Thurston Johnston, and J. L. Phillips.

Few Warrants Not Served.

Warrants have been served on all these except Isaac Jones, Edward Jones, and Vandegrift, who are non-residents of Alexandria county, and two or three others, who cannot be found.

The Jones brothers and the Hill brothers have been connected with poolrooms at St. Asaph and Alexandria for the past fifteen years. At one time they ran rival establishments, one at Alexandria Island and one at St. Asaph. After fighting each other vigorously they made peace and joined forces. When those race tracks were outlawed they ran foreign books at St. Asaph, and have continued to the present day, with great success.

The other men who have been served with warrants as being connected with the St. Asaph poolroom are employed, most of them, in subordinate capacities. There are others, however, who do not live in this section of the country, and who have an interest in the establishment. In fact, it is said the ramifications of the famous concern are far-reaching, and the profits divided among many.

Want Cases in Higher Courts.

The aim of the St. Asaph proprietors is to get their cases before the higher courts. Once this is done they will rest in peace for a while, for they will then go on without fear of interruption from Mr. Mackey. They want a long-drawn-out legal battle, in which every move and countermove possible may be made by their lawyers before the courts come to the point of constraining the Virginia anti-gambling statutes.

To this end they have employed shrewd and able lawyers, several of whom have political influence enough to make them formidable under certain conditions. Persons in a position to know whereof they speak say that the Jones-Hill crowd can control any part of \$2,000,000. If that amount, they need, to win their fight against Mackey. That they have spent money like water, and will do so again, none will deny. The only trouble lies in the as yet unanswered question, "Will their money do them any good in the present contest?"

Can't "Fix" Mackey.

Crandal Mackey they know to be honest. Efforts have been made, it is said, to "fix" Mackey through his friends. They have failed. Mackey's salary as Commonwealth's attorney for Alexandria county is \$300 a year, with \$10 for each felony, gambling or revenue case, and \$5 for each misdemeanor. Not a very lucrative post at best, is the one he holds, and yet he cannot be "got at."

A reporter for The Times was discussing Mackey's anti-gambling crusade a few days ago with a man who knows as much about the question as any man living. He is personally acquainted with every prominent member of the gambling fraternity in and around Washington, and has known them all for years, but does not know Mackey.

"Can Mackey drive the St. Asaph crowd out of business?" the reporter asked him. "Is there law enough on the Virginia statute books for that purpose?"

Can Be Done. "If Mackey is honest, if Mackey has nerve, if Mackey has brains he can do it," was the reply after a moment's hesitation.

"He must have all three of these characteristics, however. The absence of either of them will cause his efforts to fail. The gamblers have money and nerve. The lawyers they have employed have brains, and the combination will fight to the last ditch."

Mackey has proven his honesty and he has proven his nerve. The indications certainly point to the possession on his part of brains. Moreover he has a red head. That indicates many things to those accustomed to dealing with men.

Mackey a Louisianan.

Crandal Mackey was born in Shreveport, La., December 15, 1865, which makes him thirty-eight years old and a little more. After graduating at the Carolina Military Institute, at Charlotte, N. C., he went to live in South Carolina.

From there he was appointed a clerk in the War Department in 1885. Soon after he came to Washington he took up the study of law at Georgetown University Law school, from which he graduated in 1889. Later he became an examiner of pensions, which position he gave up for the practice of law.

When the war with Spain broke out President McKinley appointed him captain in the Tenth United States Infantry, with which he served in camp for nine months. Upon being mustered out he returned to Washington and resumed the practice of law. He moved to Alexandria county eight years ago. His home is a few hundred yards west of Rosslyn.

Success in Politics.

Soon after he went into Alexandria county Mr. Mackey entered politics. He lined up with the Montague faction and was a Montague delegate to the State Democratic convention, which gave Montague the nomination for governor over his opponent, Representative Claude Swanson.

In Alexandria county the gamblers are all backers of the Martin-Swanson faction of the Democratic party, and as a Montague man Mr. Mackey stacked up against them in the fight. In the game, he and others in the county decided to make an earnest effort to drive the gamblers out and rid one of the richest counties in Virginia of a pest from which it has been suffering for years.

To this end Mackey, last autumn, announced himself as a candidate for Commonwealth's attorney, promising, if he were elected, he would close up every gambling resort in Alexandria county if there was law enough in Virginia to enable him to do so.

A Hard Fight at Polls.

The gamblers accepted the challenge and one of the hottest local fights in the annals of Virginia politics was the result. The lines were tightly drawn. There were able and determined men on both sides, and the whole county was wrought up.

There was not a man, woman, nor child who did not take an interest in it. The gamblers were fighting for their lives. The Mackey crowd were fighting to rid the county of those they considered obnoxious.

The gamblers supported Richard Johnston against Mackey. There was a third candidate talked of, but he dropped out toward the end before his strength could be made as the fight was closely between Mackey and Johnston.

Much Money Spent.

Money barrels were opened and their contents scattered in fabulous quantities. Everybody had money. The reduction of the negro vote, always a purchasable quantity, under the new Virginia constitution, helped Mackey wonderfully.

The Hill-Jones combination had enemies who knifed him. They have earned dislike of other gamblers lately because of the monopoly they hold on telegraph wires and other privileges. Their unpopularity hurt Johnston in his fight.

It was hot and heavy to the very last minute, when Mackey won out by just two votes. As it was, Palmer, who was running for sheriff on the Johnston ticket, was elected.

This complicated matters. Immediately after the count Johnston served notice he would contest Mackey's election. Mackey and his friends were prepared for this, and, rolling up their sleeves, they again entered the arena.

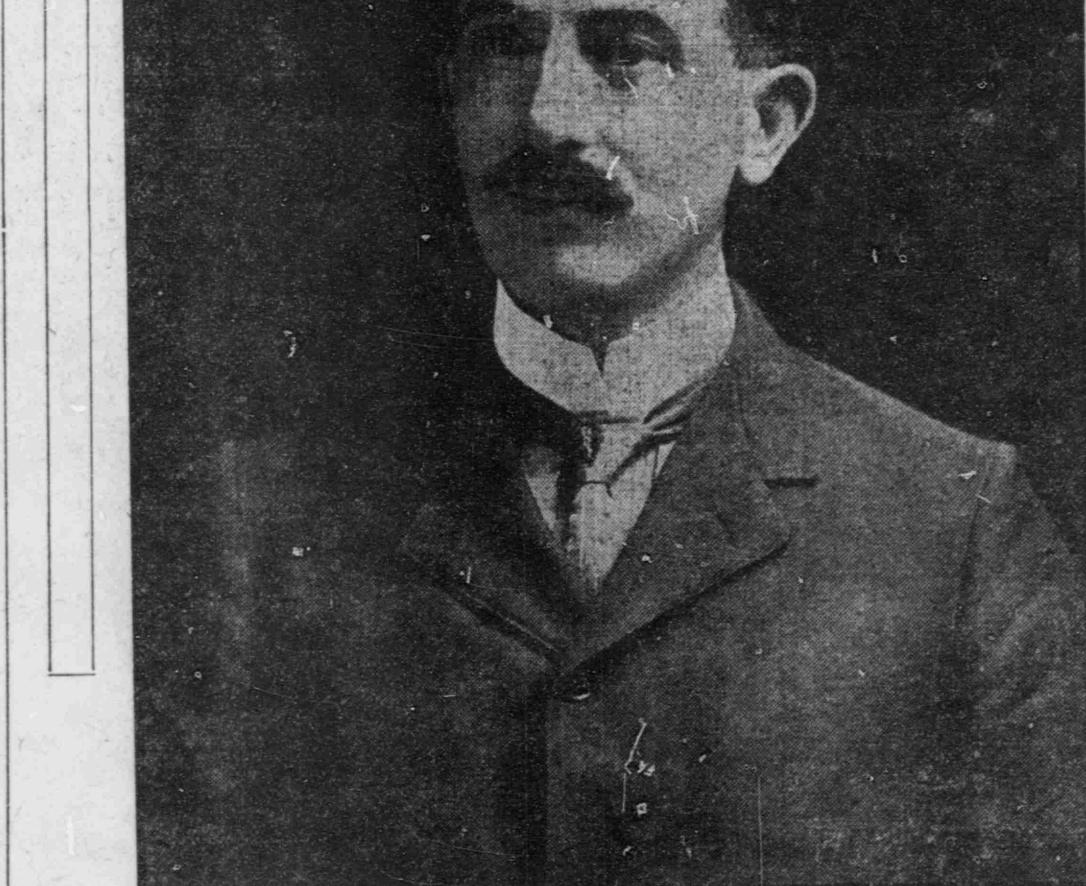
Accused of Buying Votes.

The Johnston crowd accused Mackey of having bought eighteen votes, in violation of the pure election law of Virginia. Mackey accused his opponent of having bought thirty-four. The contest dragged on for three months, and then, all of a sudden, it collapsed. People began asking why the reason of the sudden "lay down" on the part of the Johnston crowd.

One reason which was promptly given was "Oh, they have 'fixed' Mackey. They have got together, and Mackey will let them alone." But this was not the reason.

Plans Fall Down.

Certain plans of the Johnston crowd failed at the last moment. They accused a man of having given the "snap" away and killing their chances by placing in Mackey's possession information that enabled him to produce evidence to controvert their allegations.



CRANDAL MACKEY.

This information, it is said, was to the effect that a number of men were prepared to testify they received pay for voting for Mackey. When told of the scheme Mackey got proofs of the fact that the men named had not voted for him at all, but had voted for Johnston. That ended the matter, and Mackey got clear title to his office.

Redemption of Pledges.

It was not long then before Mackey went to work to redeem the pledges he had made to his supporters. Again he met with obstacles. If a raid was ordered it was "tipped off" to the gamblers in some mysterious manner. When the raiding party appeared at the establishment it was their purpose to raid, very little was found going on.

This was notably the case when Heath's was raided on Sunday, May 8. Sunday is a big day at Heath's, and there was always a good crowd there when it was running. Downstairs were the poker tables and bar, and upstairs the faro bank, the crap table, the hazard board, and the kale tables. When Sheriff Palmer appeared, with his deputies, he found one or two employees and two or three patrons. Only a couple of tables were in operation.

Jackson City Cleaned Out.

Long before the Heath brothers were tackled, however, the aggressive Commonwealth's attorney had cleaned out Jackson City and the rest of Rosslyn. The St. Asaph poolroom alone was left. As it is principally through the influence of the Jones-Hill crowd the politics of Alexandria county have been controlled, they have been Mackey's strongest enemies. For many years they have held absolute sway there. Their control has, in fact, been complete since they joined forces ten years ago.

To tell the story of the bitter fight between the Joneses and the Hills, it is necessary to go back to the time when poolrooms flourished in Washington.

Jones-Hill Feud.

In 1885 Orlando Jones and another man opened a poolroom under what is now the Lawrence Hotel, but which was then the Imperial Hotel. Orlando Jones is a brother of Isaac and Edward Jones. He is now a bookmaker on the Metropolitan race tracks, and has no connection with the St. Asaph poolroom.

The old Imperial poolroom flourished. In a little while a rival establishment was started by Mahoney & Co., in the old Marble Saloon, which was in the basement of the building on the south-west corner of Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue northwest. The poolroom and bar were in the same room. Together they did an extremely lucrative business.

The Marble Saloon. An historical place was the Marble Saloon. It was there Frank Ward killed his man. There several other shootings occurred.

No laws against poolrooms in Washington existed in those days. Everybody used to patronize them. Senators and Representatives came and went as freely as touts and bootblacks. Everything was run wide open, the Marble poolroom, and the Imperial poolrooms doing a tremendous business.

McIntyre's Venture.

Seeing their success, H. D. McIntyre, a time secretary of the Ivy City Jockey Club, and afterward secretary of the Brooklyn Jockey Club, the man who is considered by a majority of racing men to have been the brightest race-dealer to start a poolroom of his own. He was joined by a prominent newspaper man, and they opened a poolroom over Mike Scanlon's saloon on Ninth Street, a short distance north of Pennsylvania Avenue, operating under the name of Bliss & Co.

Within a week they failed for \$5,000. In a few days Harry Howard of Mahoney & Co., posted a notice on the blackboard of the Marble poolroom announcing that "All outstanding tickets on Bliss & Co. will be cashed here."

This was done to keep the integrity of the poolroom business in Washington. About that time rumors were afloat that Congress was to "take action" against gambling houses in the District of Columbia. The claims against Bliss & Co. were promptly paid. It was not long, nevertheless, before the rumors of Congressional action were verified, and Congress did pass a bill killing poolrooms in the District.

Mahoney & Co. moved out on Seventh Street beyond the boundary, and the Jones Bros. crossed the Potomac and set up an establishment at Jackson City. For many years they thrived there. In the session of 1892-93 the Virginia Legislature passed a law prohibiting the conducting of poolrooms in the State.

This law, however, contained a clause which provided that the prohibition should not apply to such companies or individuals as held charters for driving parks, driving associations, agricultural or grange associations.

It has often been said that this softening clause was inserted through the influence of the Alexandria county gamblers. Be that as it may, the Jones brothers procured the charter of the Grange Camp Association of Virginia and resumed the operation of their poolroom. They leased Alexander Island and built the racetrack, which opened May 6, 1894.

St. Asaph's History.

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Marvelous Surgical Operation Just Performed by a German

WHAT is considered one of the most successful, brilliant and remarkable surgical operations ever performed in the world, by reason of the great danger involved in cutting off the life of the patient during the progress of the delicate work, has just been performed by Prof. Mantuffel of Dornach, Germany, on a young girl living in the same town as the noted surgeon.

This marvelous and daring operation, which proved so successful and is now claiming the attention of eminent surgeons the world over, involved cutting open and sewing up of the girl's heart. This prominent surgeon succeeded in removing from the heart of his patient, beating of which had stopped two hours before his aid was sought, a bullet which had lodged in back of the organ.

Apparently Dead. This girl, aged twenty years, shot herself by accident, and when discovered she was to all appearance dead, her heart having ceased to beat. Two hours after the accident Prof. Mantuffel was called in, and after examination declared that, though the heart had undoubtedly ceased its functions, he felt convinced that the girl was not dead.

After administering chloroform he opened the breast, and on examining the heart found at the fleshy part of the back a hard substance which he knew to be the bullet. Making a slight cut with a lancet, he pressed his fingers against the flesh until the lead fell out. After which he sewed up the wound. Curiously enough, though the bullet had practically pierced the heart, it had touched no large blood vessel. After several hours the patient regained consciousness, and is now as well as ever, the stitched heart being good as new.

Tale of Operation. Prof. Mantuffel tells in a most interesting way the story of this now notable surgical case, noting every phase of the successful operation in which he was the chief surgeon.

"This young girl received, at 2:45 one afternoon recently, a shot from a revolver, pressed into the naked chest into the fourth left intercostal space. She fainted and awoke now and again, vomited and arose at last at 4:30 and rang for the servant. This one brought a friend, a Sister of Mercy, who found a camphor injection.

"I was called at 6:20 p. m. I found the patient pale, anoxic, pulse 88—hardly noticeable. In her vomiting there had been no blood, pleura was free. Entering of the shot was close to the sternum's edge. Heart percussion was not enlarged. The patient collapsed during the examination, which was often interrupted, through many injections of camphor.

"I thought the patient would not live long. But other camphor injections brought the almost vanished pulse to life again, and the patient awoke.

Then I risked four other camphor injections in order to take her to the clinic.

"The patient seemed so well that I thought the shot had after all not gone through the chest wall. But the test of the enlargement of the relative heart percussion (weakened sound on heart auscultation) and a new collapse left no doubt in my mind that the filling up of the pericardium with blood was endangering her life.

"At midnight (nine hours after the shot) two injections of camphor were given and the patient was put under ether. I cut in the skin along the left sternal edge, starting at the height of the third rib and ending at the eighth. Through the shot hole fourth and fifth cartilages were resected, and also a two-centimeter wide strip of sternum.

Following the Wound. "Following the channel of the shot, the muscular triangular was severed, and the vena mammae pushed aside. Out of a pericardial wound blood flowed at each expiration. Resection also of the sixth and seventh rib cartilages. The turnover fold of the pleura was pushed to one side, the heart was seen, the heart ending at a smooth, in an inserted grooved sound.

The pericard, the blood of which had partly coagulated, was removed. After this, the shot hole became visible, out of which blood flowed distolastically. The shot hole closed at once through a silk seam. The bleeding was stopped. But where was the bullet?

"The heart was lifted up respectfully—the pericard was safe. But could feel the bullet through the back wall. It was situated about a centimeter from the coronaria, in the back wall of the second ventricle.

"The heart was held upward, two fixed seams served as reins and then I cut for the bullet. At the extraction with the hook tweezers, I almost slipped into the ventricle. A pressure with my pointer and thumb of the left hand made it slip out and fall into the pericardium. "I sewed up this wall, which had bled little after digital compression. Also the fixed seams on the end of the cut were joined by closing up of the pericardial wound with four knotted stitches. The breast wound in the lower part was closed, above part of the wound was gauze drained.

"Immediately after removing blood from pericardium the pulse was excellent. The etherization ran a smooth course. Cyanotic symptoms disappeared. At the beginning everything went as well as could be desired. Later a serious pericarditis developed that necessitated the removal of some stitches. "A large amount of pure serous fluid ran off. Temperature 38 C, pulse 120. From the 23d of the month, at 12 o'clock noon, no more fluid was given off. The wound healed perfectly by second intention. During the entire time we found abnormal sounds in the fourth intercostal space. These were slowly diminished, and on the 23d they had disappeared. On the 24th of the following month the patient rose, and on the 25th the wound closed up. Patient was detained at the clinic for observation for four weeks longer. Then she returned to her home.

St. Asaph Has Had a Long and Eventful Career as a Poolroom, Succeeding Where Others Have Failed.

Now Comes a Commonwealth's Attorney Determined to End Its Existence--Is He Strong Enough to Do It?

also, and fought the Jones brothers at every turn. They had bought the charter of the Alexandria Driving Park at St. Asaph, where there was a half mile track. They built the St. Asaph race track, but not without many difficulties, which were thrown in their way by the influence of the Jones faction. Hill would retaliate and have the disturbers arrested.

Old stagers declare at one time Hill Jones was giving bond to the amount of \$100,000 for his men, secured by his Jackson City poolroom, for their appearance before the justice of the peace.

The Jones brothers beat Hill at this game and opened a foreign book on their track at Alexander Island. Hill also opened a foreign book at St. Asaph with wires to New York.

One night in August, 1894, the sheriff served a warrant on the proprietors of the Alexander Island track for running a poolroom in violation of the law. Hill was back of this move. The Jones brothers sent lawyers to Richmond and straightened the matter out. They opened up again at Alexander Island and Hill soon after sued for peace.

Get Together.

Early in 1895 the Hills and Joneses reached an agreement whereby they would race on alternate days at their tracks, Alexander Island one day and St. Asaph the next. At the expiration of the spring meeting Hill outlawed St. Asaph. The two tracks ran as outlaw tracks all that year.

When the Virginia Legislature assembled in the autumn both tracks shut down in the hope of getting a bill through permitting racing on their tracks. The Eastern Jockey Club, which had declared against outlaw tracks the year before, and which was making a vigorous fight, took a hand in the proceedings and beat the Alexandria county crowd before the Legislature and their bill failed.

A bill was passed, the aim of which was to kill their project entirely. But, it is said, the Jones-Hill combination got in its work in the end and had the title of the bill phrased so that when the courts had a look at it they declared the bill unconstitutional because its title was defective, the title not being sufficient to cover the contents.

Combination Made.

Hill kept up his foreign book at St. Asaph and the Joneses kept up theirs at Alexander Island. Finally, in consideration of the shutting down of the Jones book, the Hills took the Joneses in with them at St. Asaph in the early winter of 1896, and from that time to the present the Hill-Jones combination has flourished.

Their strength with certain members of the Virginia Legislature has been shown upon a number of occasions since they joined forces. It was by their influence that they are in no sense that gambling law passed was amended so as to cover only "money forwarded to race courses." The St. Asaph poolroom claims to forward to the West Virginia Athletic Association, and on the back of their tickets they state in vigorous language that they are in no sense that gambling law passed was amended so as to cover only "money forwarded to race courses." The St. Asaph poolroom claims to forward to the West Virginia Athletic Association, and on the back of their tickets they state in vigorous language that they are in no sense that gambling law passed was amended so as to cover only "money forwarded to race courses." 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