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The Great Trials of History

Trial of the Tichborne Claimant

One of the most remarkable trials of recent years was that of Arthur Orton, who claimed to be the long lost Roger Tichborne, and heir to the Tichborne title and estate. This was one of the most interesting cases of all history, and lasted over a number of years and involved a great many persons.

When Sir Edward Tichborne, the ninth baron of that name, died, he left an estate that netted about \$100,000 a year. He had no son, and his nephew, James Tichborne, was his heir. James had two sons, Roger and Alfred. Roger naturally, being the elder, would have been the heir of James, but when the father died all trace of him had been lost. He had started for New York by sea, but the fate of his ship was never known. He was officially declared dead and the Tichborne fortune fell to the younger brother, Alfred.

All this happened in 1872. The mother never gave up hope of finding her first born, and in 1886 she offered a reward for any information that would be forthcoming regarding Roger. In response to this offer, an Australian detective agency produced a man, known as Thomas Castro, whose real name was Orton, and announced he was the missing heir.

Orton left Australia for England, where he gathered all the information he could regarding Roger's early life, and then proceeded to Paris, where Lady Tichborne was living, and he was able so fully to convince her that she accented him as her son. The mother claimed to recognize him, and officers of his old regiment were sure it was Roger Tichborne. He was able easily to answer all questions, and in 1871—Lady Tichborne having died three years previously—he brought a formal suit for his rights.

The Tichborne estate defended the case fiercely, asserting that the claimant was Orton, the son of a London butcher, and backed this charge with powerful testimony. The claimant, on the other hand, brought forward sailors who swore that they had taken him from the wreck of the ill-fated Bella, and Orton called as witnesses the dozens of old acquaintances who recognized him. He proved that he had a wound on the head and a brown mark on the side, both of which Roger had.

For months the legal battle waged. A number of "Tichborne bonds" to defray the expenses of litigation were taken up by the dupes of the imposture, and an ejectment action against the trustees of the Tichborne estates finally came before Chief Justice Bovill and a special jury at the Court of Common Pleas on the 11th day of May, 1871.

For 163 days the trial went on, and it was not until Sir John Coleridge, in a speech of unparalleled length, laid bare the whole conspiracy from its inception, that the result ceased to be doubtful. The evidence of the Tichborne family convinced the jury, who declared that they wanted no further evidence, and on the fifth of March, 1872, Sergeant Hallattine, who led for the claimant, declared that the case was non-suited.

When Orton had lost his suit the defense at once arrested him and placed him on trial for perjury, as well as several of his witnesses. This second trial dragged on for 188

days, the longest trial ever held in England, and large sums of money were subscribed by the indignant British populace to help the accused man.

This second suit was begun in 1872 before Chief Justice Cochrane. The defendant showed his old qualities of impudence and endurance, but the indiscretion of his counsel, Edward Kennedy, the testimony of his former sweetheart, and Kennedy's refusal to put the Orton sisters in the box proved conclusively to the jury, who, after a half hour's deliberation, found that the claimant was Arthur Orton.

Orton was found guilty of perjury on two counts and was sentenced on the twenty-eighth of February, 1874, to fourteen years' penal servitude. The cost of the two trials were estimated at something not far short of \$1,000,000, and of this the Tichborne estate was mulcted of fully \$500,000.

The claimant's better class supporters had deserted him before the second trial, but the people who had subscribed for his defense were convinced that he was a persecuted man. There were symptoms of a riot in London in April, 1875, when parliament unanimously rejected a motion by Kennedy for referring the Tichborne case to a royal commission, and the military had to be held in readiness. But the agitation subsided and when Orton emerged from jail in 1884 the fickle public took no interest in him. Orton came to America on a lecturing tour and resided for a time in New York City. He finally returned to England, where he sank into poverty and oblivion, dying in obscure lodgings in Marylebone on the second of April, 1898.

Tomorrow—Trial of Gibbs, the Pirate

ARIZONA BRIEFS

First Installment Paid
PRESOTT—Payment of \$1,000, the first installment of the Dougherty fair grounds, that was recently purchased, is ordered by the Northern Arizona Fair association. After such payment there will still remain in the treasury a good balance with which to start business on the frontier celebration.

To Fumigate All Books
PRESOTT—In future all books returned to the public library by borrowers will be fumigated before being again loaned out. This is not because of any particular present prevalence of any disease but is a general precautionary measure to prevent disease transmission through books in public use at all times.

Boy Shooter on Parole
PRESOTT—What disposition the court will make of the case of John Eckels will depend on his own actions between now and February 28, when he comes before the juvenile court for sentence. He was convicted of shooting Guy Davis through the arm at Fair Oaks about a month since and may be sent to the reform school or placed in charge of a responsible family. Meanwhile the juvenile court has released him on parole.

Smelter Fenced in
DOUGLAS—About the new Calumet and Arizona, enclosing all of the premises except the office building a fence nearly completed. It is eight feet in height and above this are arranged three strands of barbed wire. It is of the most substantial character and when completed will make it impossible to reach any part of the works without first obtaining a permit from the office.

Are Voting on Bonds
WINKELMAN—Residents of this school district are today holding an election to determine whether there shall be an issue of \$8,000 of bonds for the building of a new school building and enlargements and improvements on old buildings. Much interest is displayed and a large vote is being cast.

Gas Service Extended
BISBEE—Laying out a gas pipe line to Warren by the Bisbee Improvement company has been commenced. Heretofore this important residential district has had only electricity for lighting and the extension of the gas service has been long sought.

Held As Jail Breaker
PRESOTT—Answering the description of one of the two young men who recently escaped from Florissant of the two young men who recently escaped from Florence, Jesse Ledoux is held in the county jail to await identification by penitentiary officials. He was arrested at Jerome and transferred from there to the county jail here.

Mail Shows Big Increase
BISBEE—Gains of more than fifty per cent are shown by the first period of weighing the mail of the Bisbee postoffice now in progress. Under the system now in vogue the railroad weighs half the post-office mail. This is the periodical method of determining the compensation to be paid the El Paso and Southwestern railway for transportation of mail to and from the Bisbee postoffice.

School Enrollment Grows
BISBEE—As shown by the report of the superintendent of schools the enrollment in the Bisbee school district has increased 23 per cent since last year. The gain in January, 1914 over January 1913 was 498. Daily attendance is showing a proportionate increase.

Indians Killing Beef
GLOBE—Once more complaint comes from the vicinity of Fort Apache that there is considerable trouble caused by Indians killing heaves. Warrants have been issued and placed in the hands of the sheriff for the arrest of three Indians from the fort for cattle killing.

Is Adjudged Insane
GLOBE—Conrad Helms has been

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adjudged insane in the superior court and committed to the asylum at Phoenix. The first signs of insanity he exhibited was in quitting his job and failing to draw the pay that was due him. Local alienists consider this an unmistakable symptom of dementia.

Enters Guilty Plea
TOMBSTONE—Jose Lopez last Halloween night shot and killed a young boy, one of a party that was dragging away a wagon from his premises. He has withdrawn his plea of not guilty and instead has entered a plea of intentional manslaughter. Owing to the extenuating circumstances that surround the case the clemency of the court is expected to be exercised in his behalf.

To Develop Fruit Culture
GLOBE—Operations now in progress by the Arizona Eastern are expected to develop about Escala, ten miles this side of Bowie. The railroad is sinking wells to obtain water for domestic purposes at its section houses and to develop a supply that will also be sufficient for irrigation purposes.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARIQUITA.

The Matter of the Estate of WOLF SACHS, deceased.
Order to Show Cause Why Order of

Sale of Real Estate Should Not Be Made.

IT APPEARING TO THIS COURT BY the petition this day presented and filed by A. S. Herzberg, Administrator of the estate of Wolf Sachs, deceased, that it is necessary to sell the whole or some portion of the real estate of said decedent to pay the debts of decedent and the expenses and charges of administration, and the reasons given in said petition, reference to which is hereby made, it appearing that it would be for the advantage, benefit and best interests for said estate that said real estate be sold;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THIS COURT: That all persons interested in the estate of said deceased appear before the said Superior Court on Tuesday, the 24th day of March A. D. 1914, at the hour of 9:30 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the Court Room of said Court, at the Court House in the City of Phoenix, Maricopa County, State of Arizona, to show cause why an order should not be granted to said A. S. Herzberg, Administrator, to sell so much of the said real estate as shall be necessary and that a copy of this order be published four successive weeks in The Arizona Republican, a newspaper published in the said County of Maricopa.

Dated February 20, A. D. 1914.
JOHN C. PHILLIPS,
Judge of the Superior Court.

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