

Crank Explodes Bomb to Blow up Capitol--- Tells of His Act in Letter to Times

curred was registered in the main office of the telephone company.

Although the Capitol police knew nothing of the letter received by The Times today, the general opinion entertained by Chief of Capitol Police Louthan is that the reception room was wrecked by a small time-fuse bomb, placed in the northernmost booth of the line of telephone cabinets by somebody who had made himself familiar with the lay of the land in the Capitol.

The chief of police believes that whoever set the bomb—should the cause of the explosion turn out to have been an infernal machine—was particular to choose a place which at the time set for the explosion would be unattended.

He also thinks that if an infernal machine was used, it was placed in the reception room sometime yesterday afternoon, and not after the building was closed, when it would have been difficult for him to have made his way about the building unnoticed.

"Of course an investigation by the experts may totally disprove the ideas which the police now entertain as to the origin of the outrage," said Captain Louthan. "But it seems to me to have been the result of a desire on somebody's part merely to make a sensational demonstration."

That one of the Capitol watchmen narrowly missed being in the reception room at the time of the blast became known today.

F. G. Jones, watchman on the first floor, almost directly beneath the spot which today is a mass of debris and wreckage, at 11:30 o'clock asked his partner, George Gun, to go to the reception room and close the windows. Gun did so, and had been back downstairs but a few minutes, according to Jones, when the explosion occurred.

HURLED FROM CHAIR, STUNNED.

"I was hurled from my chair, half stunned," said Jones today. "At first I thought the dome had gone. As soon as I could I rushed to a telephone and called the superintendent of the building, Mr. Woods, and the chief of police.

The roar of the explosion which occurred in the southwest corner of the reception room, an apartment about 70 feet long and 15 feet wide, was felt as far downtown as the Postoffice Department. Originating apparently in the northernmost booth of the line of telephone cabinets, which stand along one side of the room, the blast wrecked the booths, tore a gaping hole in the masonry beneath a nearby window, and scattered the place with wreckage.

An immense mirror between the northern wall windows was shattered to bits. One of the big stem chandeliers suffered the loss of many of its pendants. A panel was blown from one of the oaken benches with which the room is furnished.

Door Damaged.

The door leading into the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate was damaged by the explosion, and two doors at the entrance to the rooms of the Senate District Committee were forced inward.

Large bits of wood and finely powdered glass were blown far out into the corridors, and showers of the glass rained down the elevator shafts. The interior of the Capitol today presents a spectacle of wreck and ruin, although the Superintendent of the Capitol, finding that structural damage was accomplished, believes that the loss will not amount to more than \$1,000.

The discovery of a quantity of cotton waste back of the wreckage of the wall partition, near the wrecked telephone booths, is the only point upon which any theory of spontaneous combustion might be built, and in the face of the letter, purporting to clear the mystery, little credence is given to the idea that combustion was the cause of the explosion.

To determine definitely the cause, one or more further investigations of the wrecked room was closed and a strong guard was placed at all doors. Only investigators from the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company were permitted to enter the room, and everything was left as it was until Dr. Charles E. Monroe, of George Washington University, an expert on explosives, could reach the Capitol to make an investigation.

Dr. Monroe was called in after the explosion in 1898, during the Spanish-American war, when the Supreme Court room in the Capitol was the section of the building immediately adjoining was damaged to the extent of \$25,000.

Dr. Monroe reported that that explosion was caused by a break in the Capitol gas main, which supplied the upper floor.

Expert Searching.

From the twisted heaps of debris, the fragments of glass, brick dust, and plaster, which litter the Senate reception room, Prof. Monroe is this afternoon endeavoring to isolate some bit of evidence to tell him the cause of the blast.

After a twelve hour investigation Superintendent Elliott Woods of the Capitol, just prior to the time when he and Dr. Monroe, in their latest search for evidence, declared that he and his men are still in the dark as to the nature of the force which wrecked the reception room.

There is just one small clue which may or may not have a bearing upon the problem set for the explosive expert to solve.

Battery Cell Found.

This clue is a chloride of silver battery cell. It was picked up this morning fully 100 yards from the scene of the explosion, in the grass bordering the north drive in the Capitol grounds. It is a battery cell, the nature of which would have made it useful in detonating a bomb such as is supposed to have been the cause of the wreckage in the reception room.

From the location in which it was

WRECKAGE WROUGHT IN CAPITOL ROOM BY CRANK'S INFERNAL MACHINE



Only photograph taken showing effect of explosion in Senate reception room made and authorized by the Government.

found the investigators do not believe it impossible that it may have been blown through one of the wrecked windows at the time of the explosion. Upon the supposition that the cell might have been one used in connection with the ordinary mechanism of telephone booths in the room, all of which were wrecked together with a small switchboard, the telephone company was communicated with. From them the information was obtained that no battery cells were in use in the reception room at the time of the explosion.

Mr. Woods is not prone to attach a great deal of importance to the finding of the cell. He does believe, however, that the explosion exerted a terrific force, although the breakage it caused was largely superficial.

Explosion Not Confined.

"The light damage may be explained by the fact that the two doorways to the room were open, connecting it with the corridor, so that the explosion, if it occurred, was closely confined as it might have been, permitting its force to expend itself without doing great damage," said Superintendent Woods.

"Do you suppose that it could have possibly been due to an accumulation of gas?" he was asked.

"I do not think so. Immediately after arriving at the building I made a personal inspection of the debris in the room above ground and in the basement, and I found no evidence of any kind that would help me in fixing the cause of the explosion."

Superintendent Woods was asked concerning the statement accredited to the police officers who were on duty at the time that they smelled traces of detonated powder. He replied:

"I heard the statement. I do not know of my own knowledge that such traces were present. The slight odor which was apparent immediately after the explosion may have originated from a pile of rubbish which was beginning to take fire when the police arrived."

No Negligence.

Chief of Capitol Police Louthan, following an additional investigation as to the movement of the explosion, declared himself satisfied that the force was in no way guilty of negligence and that every precaution which the police have established to keep cranks out of the building after hours was faithfully regarded.

In discussing the possibilities so far as the cause of the explosion is concerned, before he began his investigation, Prof. Monroe admitted that if the explosion were caused by a bomb, and that the bomb was of the variety which would be possible for the explosive to annihilate all visible traces of its presence.

The only explanation established by the investigation thus far is that last night's explosion was not caused by telephone wires. Telephone company investigators cleared the debris in the telephone booth and discovered that there was nothing which could have caused an explosion.

Telephones Not Blamed.

D. S. Porter, division manager of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, said after today's investigation that he was unable to account for the explosion, but that it was definitely determined the telephone system could not be blamed.

The nature of the telephone exchange in the corner of the room was a private system, separate from the main Capitol exchange, which supplies the Capitol and Senate and House Office buildings. The main system was not damaged by the explosion, and not a telephone was disconnected in the explosion.

It is well known, telephone company officials said, that wires carrying electricity do not explode. Cross wires may cause fire, which, coming into contact with gas, might cause an explosion. So far as the telephone company investigators were able to learn there were no cross wires that could even have caused a spark in the Capitol reception room.

Superintendent Woods also shattered the gas theory when he said that there was no gas piped into the Capitol since November 25, 1905, after the gas explosion in the Supreme Court room. The Capitol has been lighted exclusively by electricity since then, he said.

Gas Theory Shattered.

Superintendent Woods moved to his office today an ornamental French clock which rested on a mantle in the Senate reception room and the hands of which were frozen at 11:30 o'clock. The clock was not believed to be accurate, however, and 11:30 is still accepted as the official hour of the explosion.

The heavy glass over the face of the clock was shattered, and there was a crack in the dial, indicating that it had been struck a terrific blow by flying debris.

Alarmed by the explosion, Capitol officials today gave orders to guides and watchmen to enforce more rigorously the regulations prohibiting Capitol visitors from carrying packages into the building. This regulation has been operative for years, but it has not been generally enforced.

Today all visitors were stopped at the door and were compelled to check packages of all descriptions before entering.

Superintendent Woods continued the investigation at the Capitol until nearly daylight before going home for a brief

rest. He returned to the Capitol before noon to resume charge of the investigation.

Windows Examined.

Main interest in the explosion was directed at the two north windows of the Senate wing of the Capitol opening into the wrecked reception room. The window farthest west is but a few feet off a balcony extending over the north entrance. It was plainly apparent that a bomb could have been thrown into the room by a man standing on the north balcony.

It developed today that this window had been opened until a short time before the explosion. Guards making their rounds had been in the reception room just a short time before the explosion, and noticed that the window nearest the balcony was raised while the other window in the room was closed.

Both Windows Shattered.

Both windows were shattered and the wooden framework was partially blown out and splintered. Hundreds of tourists crowded into the Capitol corridors today. They were not prevented from going through the building, but they were permitted to enter the wrecked reception room.

LAST FIGHT TO SAVE BECKER ON 3 POINTS

W. Bourke Cockran to Make Plea to U. S. Supreme Court Next Week for Writ of Error.

NEW YORK, July 3.—The legal premises on which counsel for Charles Becker will apply to the United States Supreme Court for a writ of error to set aside the conviction of July 28 allege three specific grounds.

First, that the newspaper notoriety given the case prior to the trial prejudiced the defendant's case.

Second, that the application for a change of venue was refused without a hearing.

Third, that the defendant's constitutional rights are being violated, inasmuch as the law allows in all capital cases, as in a last resort, a review of the case before an unbiased juror.

Mrs. Ella N. Irwin Dies in California

The death of Mrs. Ella N. Irwin, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. F. Lensen, in San Jose, Cal., she is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Roscoe E. Brookbank, of this city, Mrs. Lensen, and Mrs. John B. Moon, of Portland, Ore.

Her husband, Mr. Irwin was one of the pioneer residents of the Eckington section of this city. Through his efforts came the founding of the Eckington Presbyterian congregation and the building of the present edifice at North Capitol street and Florida avenue.

Funeral plans have not been completed, but it is believed that following services in San Jose the body will be taken to Greenfield, Ohio, for interment in the family plot at that place.

Commutation of Hicks' Sentence Recommended

The Department of Justice today forwarded to the White House a recommendation for commutation of sentence in the case of Robert E. Hicks, a New York Bowery mission worker, who recently confessed to a crime fifteen years old, and gave himself up to the police.

The President will act on the recommendation when he returns from Cornish.

TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TO GUARD PRESIDENT

WINDSOR, Vt., July 3.—The corps of nine secret service men attending President Wilson here today took additional precautions to guard the Executive, following detailed reports from Washington of the bomb explosion that wrecked part of the Senate chamber early this morning.

Chief Joseph Murphy will ride in the President's automobile at all times until the vacation is over and three of his men will be in constant attendance.

No person who is not known to have business inside the grounds will be allowed about the entrance of Harlakenden house.

HENRY JURY UNABLE TO REACH VERDICT

Twelve Men Sent Back After All Night Session, Still Fail to Report.

No agreement has yet been reached in the case of John William Henry, former head of Lewis Johnson & Co., charged with embezzling checks amounting to \$41,589 from Mrs. Isabel Barkley, of Wayne, Pa.

The jury, which took the case under deliberation at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, was called into Criminal Court No. 2 by Justice Siddons at 10 o'clock this morning and asked if a verdict had been reached. The foreman replied negatively and added in response to a query by the court that no further instructions as to the legal points involved were desired.

The jury remained in his chambers until after 12:30 o'clock this afternoon, and then went to lunch. The departments and bureaus did not close until 1 o'clock.

Many Government workers, from Cabinet members to charwomen, took the full day off, which gives them three days' continuous holiday with but half a day charged against their annual leave. Thousands left for seashore and other resorts, and a return to the Capital for the Independence Day celebrations Monday.

Besides the Cabinet members and assistant secretaries who are out of Washington, either for the week-end or a more extended vacation, every member of the Federal Trade Commission, with the exception of Commissioner Parry, is out of town on vacation.

All divisions of the Library of Congress, including the copyright division, were closed at 1 o'clock, to remain closed—with the exception of the divisions composing the Sunday and holiday service—until Tuesday morning.

Beginning today, and continuing until October, the office of the clerk of the District Supreme Court will be closed on Saturdays at noon, as will the office of the register of wills.

Ban on Crown Prince Is Social, Not Military

LONDON, July 3.—For the first time in several months the name of the German Crown Prince is mentioned in the official report of the German headquarters staff. The report tells of a battle in the Argonne, where the German forces were led by the Kaiser's eldest son.

It is considered probable here that the lack of mention of the Crown Prince in the reports for the last few months, which gave rise to rumors that he was either dead or badly wounded, has been due to the social stigma said to be attached to him on account of his alienation from the Crown Prince.

The absence of the Crown Prince's name from the reports has been regarded as a mystery outside of Germany, but a correspondent who has just returned from Berlin, says there is not even a hint of mystery there in that connection, and that there has never been the slightest doubt that he was with his army at the front in France.

Central American Locusts At War on Bananas

KINGSTON, Jamaica, July 3.—News received here indicates that the locust invasion of Central America is becoming serious. The banana estates of Costa Rica are suffering heavily.

The Jamaica government report for the past fiscal year shows that Jamaica's trade has been moving steadily toward the United States.

The colony is still actively recruiting hundreds of volunteers for the war.

BRYAN IGNORED WILSON, HELD PEACE PARLEYS

Conferences With Ambassador Dumba Took Place Without President's Knowledge.

Another story of remarkable conferences between William J. Bryan, former Secretary of State, and Dr. Dumba, the Austrian ambassador, gained currency today.

The Providence Journal is sponsor for the story, which attracted wide notice. Neither at the White House nor at the State Department was there comment upon it.

It is said that after the note of February 19, Mr. Bryan saw Ambassador Dumba at least three times at the State Department and twice at the Bryan home.

The note of President Wilson and submarine warfare were discussed and at the last meeting the Austrian ambassador took with him a document which he considered to be the attitude of the Administration in connection with the note as outlined to him by Bryan.

Presented to Bryan.

This memorandum was presented to Bryan in typewritten form. In it were these provisions:

Germany is willing to discontinue submarine attacks on vessels aboard which it is known there are United States citizens unless such vessels are known to be carrying contraband of war.

That provision be made for such a passenger book.

Proclamation to be issued by the President of the United States advising United States citizens that they must not in the future take passage aboard vessels sailing under a belligerent flag which are carrying contraband of war.

It is alleged Mr. Bryan agreed with the Austrian ambassador that if this were put up to President Wilson in the form outlined it would be accepted.

Ambassador von Bernstorff was notified and he took up the matter with the German foreign office. He was instructed to see the President and agree to the terms. It was not until von Bernstorff laid the plan before the President that the latter knew anything about it.

It is alleged the document containing the agreement is on file with the German and Austrian embassies and with the Berlin foreign office.

The circumstantial nature of the story, it is expected, will compel a statement from Mr. Bryan who is on his way to San Francisco.

Penny's Movie Censors Upheld by Supreme Court

PHILADELPHIA, July 3.—The State Board of Censors, created for the purpose of regulating moving picture films, was upheld by the supreme court today.

The appeal of moving picture concerns which attacked the constitutionality of the act creating the board was dismissed.

ANTI-RED LIGHT LAW UPHELD BY COURT IN ARDMORE CASE

Decision Grows Out of District Attorney's Suit Against Owners of Hotel.

An opinion upholding the constitutionality of the so-called Kenyon anti-redlight law was handed down today by Justice McCoy, of the District Supreme Court.

The decision grows out of a suit filed by District Attorney Laskey against the owners and occupant of the AA Ardmore Hotel, 516 Thirteenth street northwest, for a decree to enforce the provisions of the act, following several arrests by the police "vice squad."

Testimony as to the character of the hotel was given at the final hearing of the case, among the witnesses being several women who had been arrested in the place in company with men.

Closed As Nuisance.

An injunction to prevent the use of the hotel for immoral purposes, and a decree closing it as a "nuisance" for a period of one year were sought by Prosecutor Laskey in his suit. It was contended by the defendants that the statute authorized the taking of property without due process of law, or resulted in the taking of property without public use without compensation.

After quoting at length from a decision of the United States Supreme Court, involving a Kansas act permitting the closing of places where intoxicating liquors were sold, Justice McCoy says:

Exercise of Power.

"We have it established then by the Supreme Court that a valid exercise of the police power does not involve the taking of private property for public use without compensation and that a suit in equity is due process of law for the abatement of a nuisance when the person knowingly maintaining the nuisance is made a party. The defendants were themselves violating the law."

The courts adds that "that a common nuisance may be abated summarily is not to be questioned nor can it be doubted that a nuisance which in itself is such a nuisance may be destroyed."

BIG PREPARATIONS FOR HOLIDAY CROWD

Additional Attractions Offered at Most—Glen Echo Chief Among Pleasure Places.

Great preparations are being made by the managers of the various pleasure resorts in and about Washington for the entertainment of large crowds on Monday. Additional attractions will be featured at most of the resorts.

Chief among the pleasure places will be Glen Echo, with its numerous devices for fun and enjoyment. With its picnic groves, large playgrounds for the children, canoeing and boating on the canal, and fishing on the river, Glen Echo will prove an ideal place for families, and parties to spend the entire day. The amusements will run from morning until night.

Dancing at Glen Echo is getting more popular every day. Under strict censorship, the dancing pavilion is one of the most popular places in the park. This, however, does not mean that the crowds desert the roller coaster, flying horses, midway, and numerous entertainment booths.

Beaches Ready For Crowds. Big crowds are expected at Colonial Beach. In addition to the trip with the steamer, Johns will make to "Washington's Atlantic City" today, there will be a boat at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning and again at 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Another popular water resort, for which great preparation has been made for over the Fourth, is Chesapeake Beach, on Chesapeake Bay. In addition to the other amusements, crabbing and bathing are among the chief attractions at the beach. There is free dancing in the afternoon and evening. Trains to the beach run at frequent intervals, the schedule being printed in full in another column of the Times.

To those who enjoy a short sail down the Potomac and a few hours—or a day's outing—in the city, the trip with the Steamer "Washington's Atlantic City" today, there will be a boat at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning and again at 9 o'clock Monday morning.

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Special Excursion Trains. Great Falls, on the upper Potomac, is another popular resort near Washington, while further away is Bluemont, in the Blue Ridge mountains. Special excursion trains will be run to both places tomorrow and Monday by the Washington and Old Dominion railway will run special excursions to Bluemont, Va., for \$1. electric trains to leave Thirty-sixth and M streets northwest at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 o'clock Sunday morning, and at 7:30, 9:00, and 11 o'clock Monday morning.

Many citizens of the Capital are planning to go to the Blue Ridge mountains to spend the Fourth. The Washington and Old Dominion railway will run special excursions to Bluemont, Va., for \$1. electric trains to leave Thirty-sixth and M streets northwest at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 o'clock Sunday morning, and at 7:30, 9:00, and 11 o'clock Monday morning.

Mother-in-Law as Legacy.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., July 3.—A mother-in-law was bequeathed to John Whitman, his wife's will directing that he should always make a home for her mother. If he does not the mother is to bring suit for sixteen years' salary as a domestic.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

District of Columbia—Partly cloudy to night and Sunday; probably local thunder showers, not much change in temperature; light, variable winds.

Maryland—Partly cloudy tonight and Sunday; probably local thunder showers, not much change in temperature; light, variable winds.

Virginia—Probably local thunder showers tonight and Sunday; moderate, southwest winds.

TEMPERATURES.

U. S. BUREAU OF AFFLECK'S. 8 a. m. 75 8 a. m. 80 10 a. m. 82 10 a. m. 84 11 a. m. 82 11 a. m. 84

SUN TABLE. Sun rises.....4:41 Sun sets.....7:27

TIDE TABLE. High tide—12:35 a. m. and 1:15 p. m. Low tide—7:24 a. m. and 7:41 p. m. Light automobile lamps at 9:07 p.m.