

BEATTIE CONFESSES BEFORE EXECUTION

SIGNED STATEMENT GIVEN OUT AFTER HIS DEATH. HAD CONFESSED TO MINISTER ADMITS AWFUL CRIME OF SLAYING YOUNG WIFE. HE WANTS PEACE WITH GOD

The Electric Current Is Turned Into Beattie's Body at 7:23 O'clock Friday Morning, and Death Results in One Minute.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 23.—Henry Clay Beattie, jr., before his death in the electric chair at 7:23 a. m. today, confessed to the murder of his wife. The statement was given out in the rotunda of a downtown hotel, as follows: "I, Henry Clay Beattie, jr., desirous of standing right before God and man, do on this, the 23rd day of Nov. 1911, confess my guilt of the crime charged against me. Much that was published concerning the details was not true, but the awful fact, without the harrowing circumstances, remains. For this action, I am sorry, and believing that I am at peace with God and am soon to pass into His presence, this statement is made."

Beattie's confession was followed by the following statement by the attending ministers: "This statement was signed in the presence of the two attending ministers, and is the only statement that can and will be made public by them. "Mr. Beattie desired to thank the many friends for kind letters and expressions of interest and the public for whatever sympathy which was felt or expressed."

"To go before your maker with a lie upon your lips," exhorted the pastor, "is sacrilege. If guilty, speak."

Dresses With Usual Care. Beattie passed a fairly peaceful night, although his sleep was broken. When he arose this morning he dressed with his usual care and ate sparingly. He did not appear either nervous or apprehensive, although he was incessantly under the eyes of his guards, who had redoubled their vigilance in the final moments so that the law might not be cheated. During the reading of the death warrant the doomed man maintained his composure. He stood without a tremor. As the superintendent finished, Beattie swayed, but so imperceptibly that he might have been shifting his weight from one foot to the other. When the deputy wardens fell in on either side of him he bowed his head a moment.

Death March Is Begun. "I am ready, gentlemen," he said simply, and the death march was begun. Just before Supt. Wood and his men

appeared Rev. Dr. Fix knelt in prayer with the condemned man. He prayed for divine forgiveness for him. Beattie appeared affected.

No Member of Family There. No member of the Beattie family was present at the execution nor at the penitentiary when the death march was begun. Preparations for the reception of Douglas Beattie, brother of the doomed man, had been made in the superintendent's office, but the young man did not appear. The failure of any members of the family to be present was welcomed by the prison authorities, for they feared their charge might break down at the last moment.

In a downpour of rain, the twelve witnesses to the execution toiled through the murky dawn up the hill to the penitentiary that looked down on the city. They were quickly conducted by a single file through the gates to the chamber where Beattie was to be executed. The chamber all was in readiness, a solid structure of oak, would ordinarily have appeared like the chairs seen in libraries. In the somberly bare chamber, however, it was sinister.

The Chair a Growsome Sight. Straps dangled from its arms and back, and steel clamps appeared in the light of the electric like tentacles outstretched to clasp the victim. The witnesses were seated six abreast, in an angle of the room. They shuffled their feet uneasily and when one leaned forward to speak to another his action was received with frowns. Maj. Woods, with two deputy wardens, addressed the witnesses, going through some small formalities demanded by the law.

Then, with his two men trooping behind, he passed out into the building, where Beattie awaited the summons in his cell adjoining. In the death chamber the voice of the warden could be heard plainly reading to the doomed man the final summons. The warden's voice droned on, it seemed to the witnesses, interminably. In real length, the compliance with the law occupied only a brief moment.

All Dark But the Chair. Then, with Beattie between them, the deputy wardens began their progress toward the chair only a few feet away. When the procession, followed by Supt. Woods started, a signal was given which plunged the death chamber into darkness, save for a single light immediately over the chair. This was so hooded that it outlined the chair in a circle of blazing radiance, so intense that the remainder of the room seemed in utter darkness. The witnesses scarcely could see each other. The prisoner saw nothing but the chair.

There was no delay in preparing for the end. Beattie took his place, the prison surgeon and the electricians adjusted the straps, a half dozen clamps were quickly thrown into place and snapped. The cap, resembling a leather football head harness, was adjusted and the men stepped back.

Death Current Turned On. The warden raised his hand. Instantly Beattie's body stiffened with such violence that the straps creaked with the strain, the clamps rattled as though they were cast by hands of death and then that which once had been Henry Clay Beattie, jr., relaxed. It was just 7:23 a. m., when the shock was applied. One minute later, Beattie was dead.

The surgeon had gone forward with a stethoscope, had listened for another faint beating of the heart that less than sixty seconds before had lived. He stepped back. "He is dead."

The witnesses filed out. One or two were ghastly pale as they stepped into the early morning light. Carriages were waiting for the witnesses, and they were driven rapidly away. The identity of but few was known. After the formalities had been complied with and the witnesses had gone, the body of Beattie was removed from the chair and taken to the mortuary room adjoining. Here it was laid to await the coming of the coroner, who arrived shortly afterward. The Rev. Dr. Fix remained as the sole watcher.

All preparations had been made for the removal of the body. The elder Beattie last night sent to the undertaker the brown suit which his son had worn in court when the jury declared his guilt. In this the body was clad for burial. Story of the Crime. The crime for which Henry Clay Beattie, jr., was executed today was one of the most sensational in the criminal history of Virginia. Interest in the murder was country-wide owing to its unusual features and the swift movement of justice.

On the night of July 18, last, Beattie drove his automobile into Richmond, carrying with him the body of his wife which had a gaping shotgun wound in the head. He declared that

a tall, bearded man had accosted him on the Midlothian turnpike, five miles from Richmond, and when he had requested the man to make room for him in the road the stranger, without warning killed Mrs. Beattie. He added that he had grappled with the man but was overpowered and that the murderer had fled, leaving the gun behind. This story of the crime was maintained by Beattie to the end.

For a brief time Beattie's story was given some degree of credence, but within a day or two suspicion began to point to him and he was kept under the closest surveillance. Bloodhounds, taken to the scene of the crime, refused to leave the place, circling around the bloodspot on the road.

Beattie, it eventually transpired, had thrown the shotgun into the tonneau of his automobile after the shooting, but in passing over some railroad tracks not far from the scene it had been jolted out and was picked up later by a negro. This gun proved the means of sending the young man to the electric chair.

At the coroner's inquest the weapon was identified by Paul Beattie, a second cousin of young Henry, as the weapon he had purchased for Henry with money furnished by the latter. Beattie was arrested immediately after the inquest. This was on July 21, and on Aug. 15, one month after the day of the murder, the trial was begun before Judge Walter A. Watson, in the picturesque little Chesterfield county courthouse, sixteen miles from here.

The jury was made up almost entirely of farmers, and on this fact Beattie based his claim that he had been convicted, not for the murder of his wife, but because of his relations with Beniah Binford, a notorious young woman. He insisted to the last that a jury composed of city men would have freed him. Beattie was defended by H. M. Smith, jr., and Hill Carter. The prosecution was conducted by L. O. Wendenburg and L. M. Gregory.

The trial moved swiftly, though many witnesses testified, and on Sept. 8, after fifty-eight minutes of consideration and prayer, the jury, in chorus instead of through its foreman, declared Beattie to be guilty of the murder of his wife. Motion for a new trial was denied and Nov. 24 set as the day for the execution.

On Nov. 13 the Virginia supreme court of appeals refused to grant an appeal on a writ of error, and two days later Gov. Mann, who had been appealed to for commutation or reprieve, issued a statement declaring that the interests of the people of Virginia demanded that Beattie should die in the electric chair.

THE BEATTIE BABY UNNAMED

Parents of the Murdered Woman Refuse to Discuss the Case. Dover, Del., Nov. 24.—The execution day of Henry Clay Beattie, jr., found the Owen family going about their usual routine as though no tragedy had ever entered their quiet lives.

"I thank you for the news," said R. V. Owen, the father of Beattie's murdered wife. Mr. Owen, who is the manager of a large plant in this city, was at his work when the news that the law had taken his son-in-law's life was given to him. "I thank you for the news, but I have nothing to say."

Mr. Owen explained that since the murder of his daughter none of the members of the family has had anything to say about the affair. "We have not and will not discuss the affair outside the family circle," he said.

But he would talk about the baby, the 6-months-old son, now an orphan. "My wife," he said, "was naturally much wrought up after the death of our daughter and our doctor told us it would be better for her to care for the child and relieve her mind. We brought the baby to Dover and it is with us now. We will keep it and raise it."

Mr. Owen said that the infant had not been given a name. "We call him 'Baby,'" he said. The question of naming him had not been considered by the family. "You see, we have been in this tangle for the last few months and no one has talked about the baby's name."

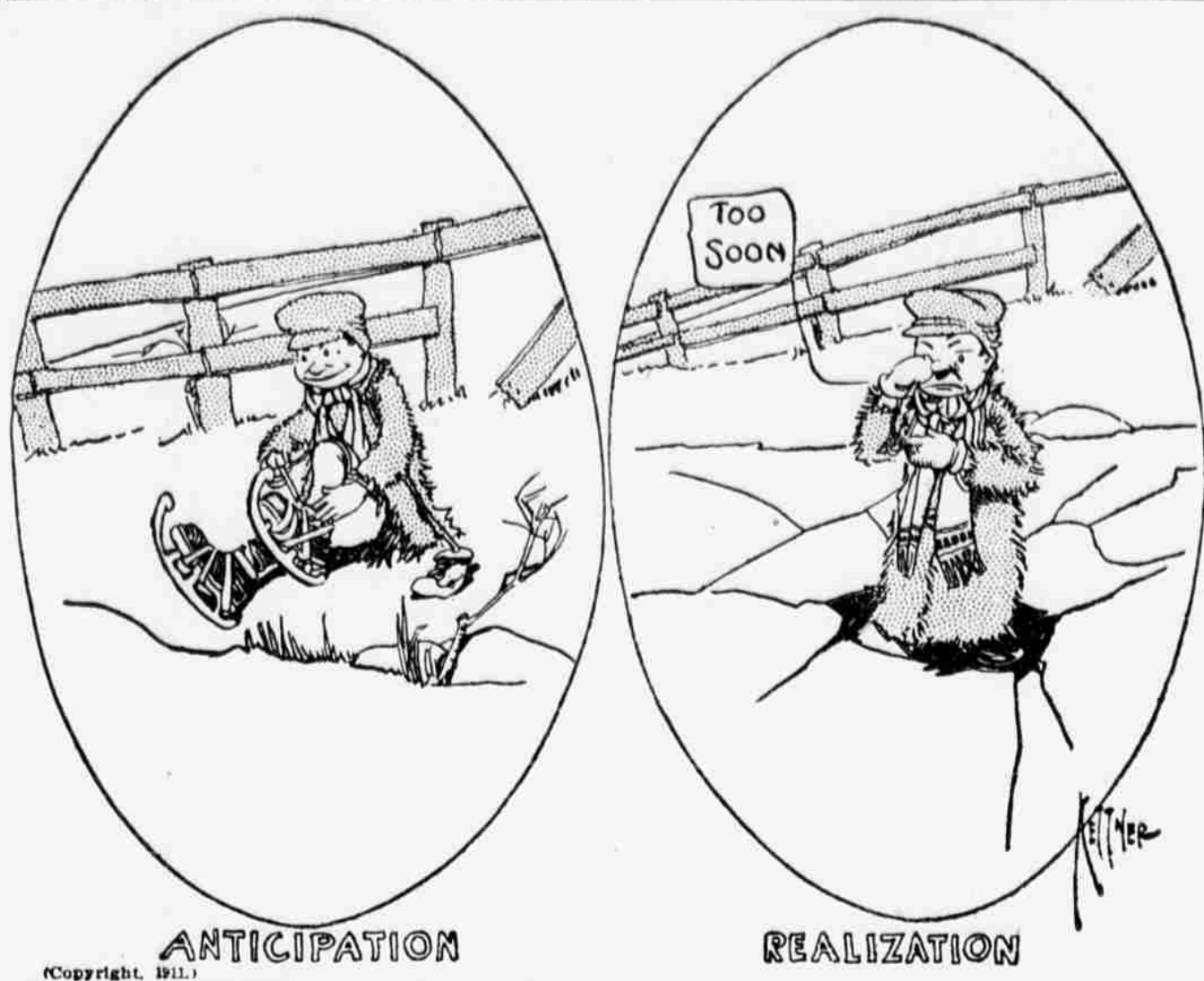
VIRGINIA PAPERS BREAK LAW

Statute Forbidding Printing Details Is Disregarded.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 24.—One feature of the Beattie execution that aroused a great deal of interest and speculation was the attitude to be assumed toward it by the Virginia newspapers which are forbidden by a state statute to print the details of an execution. As a part of the law has substituted the electric chair for the hangman's noose, the Virginia legislature wrote this paragraph into the statute: "No newspaper or person shall print or publish the details of the execution of criminals under this act. Only the fact that the criminal was executed shall be printed or published."

The legislature, however, failed to provide a penalty for a violation of the section. Hitherto the law has been complied with, out of respect to state authority, but the Beattie case has so enthralled the state during the last several months that there were indications today that many newspapers would feel compelled to disregard the statute on this one occasion and give as many details as could be obtained.

LIFE'S DISAPPOINTMENTS



CHAMP CLARK IS SCORED BY BRYAN

NEBRASKAN SAYS THAT SPEAKER OF HOUSE IS FAILURE AS LEADER.

Lincoln, Nov. 24.—Inasmuch as Champ Clark is a candidate for the democratic presidential nomination, the following editorial, by W. J. Bryan, which appears in today's issue of the Commoner is significant: "There is a progressive majority in congress but it lacks leadership. Speaker Clark's usefulness in that capacity is being impaired, partly by the fear that he will be accused of imitating Cannon, and partly by the mistaken idea that it is his special mission to preserve harmony among the democrats in the house."

"In both cases he errs. The first error tends to make him a negative quantity but the second may convert him into a positive force for harm. If he conceives his highest duty to be to preserve harmony he will exert his influence to prevent the consideration of any measure upon which democrats are divided, the trust question for instance."

"Progress is more important than harmony. The men who oppose reforms are always quick to threaten a bolt if remedial legislation is attempted. The democratic party is a progressive party. Nine-tenths of the rank and file are progressive, but the one-tenth is powerful because it is made up of men with large corporation connections and of politicians whom they intimidate. The people need a champion in the house. To whom will the honor go?"

A DUEL FOUGHT IN FRANCE.

Paris, Nov. 24.—A dispute over the merits of the charges against M. Langevine, professor of general and experimental physics at the College of France, brought by his wife and involving the professor's co-worker in scientific research, Mme. Curie, resulted in a duel with swords between M. Chervet, editor of Giblas, and Leon Daudet, editor of Action Francaise.

There were several fierce bouts under the cameras of photographers. Finally Daudet was wounded in the arm. A reconciliation followed.

The charges in which the names of the two eminent scientists, Mme. Curie and Prof. Langevine, have been involved were founded on the fact that Mme. Curie and Prof. Langevine were in close association in their scientific researches. This gave rise to jealousy on the part of Mme. Langevine, who thereupon brought suit against her husband, coupling his name with that of Mme. Curie.

Mme. Curie, who was credited equally with her late husband in the inquiry of radium, was after his death named to occupy the chair of physics which he had had at the College of France.

Omaha Firm Wins.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The Interstate Commerce commission in a ruling handed down yesterday decided in favor of Sunderland Bros., against Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, et al., in the matter of reweighing coal at Omaha. The commission holds that the present rule is unjust and unreasonable and must be amended so as to provide that if reweighing of coal discloses a variation of more than 1 percent with a minimum of 500 pounds, from the original shipping weight, the original weight and charges will be corrected and reweighing charge refunded to consignee, but if reweighing fails to disclose a variation of 1 percent with a minimum of 500 pounds, the original weight and charges will not be changed and the reweighing charge will be relayed by the defendant.

NO VERDICT YET IN TAR CASE

HOLLOW EYED AND WEARY IS THE JURY AFTER ALL NIGHT.

"HUNG" JURY IS THE FORECAST

At Times During the Night the Jurors' Voices Were Raised to a High Pitch—The Judge May Keep Jury Till Saturday Morning.

Lincoln Center, Kan., Nov. 24.—Hollow eyed and weary, the jury in the "tar" case was still locked in its room trying valiantly to reach a verdict when the dawn broke today. All night long, under the orders of Judge Dallas Grover, the jurors had struggled in a futile attempt to reach a verdict. The testimony of Chester Anderson and E. G. Clark, which the jury requested near midnight be read to them again, was gone over many times. Occasionally the voices of the jurors were raised to a high pitch, but that was not frequent. It seemed that the men were giving the case much thought and keeping their equanimity.

On every hand today predictions that the jury would be "hung" were heard.

Two of the defendants spent practically all of last night in the courtroom sleeping on benches. They were Sheriff Clark and John Schmidt. After Judge Grover left, about 1 o'clock, Schmidt departed to meet Clark, who had preceded him to their hotel, but the suspense was too great for them to sleep away from the court room, and a few hours later they returned to the scene of their trial. No spectators remained all night.

It was said at the beginning of the court that the defendants who have pleaded guilty might be disposed of today. It was known that their attorneys preferred sentence deferred until next term of court, but Judge Grover made no definite promise that he would do this. Judge Grover summoned the jury for the conference shortly after 7 o'clock this morning, and was told no agreement had been reached. He gave them an hour and a half for breakfast, with the admonition that they must return to their deliberations at the end of that time. The court said he might keep the jury together until tomorrow morning.

A STEEL CASE ROW

Open Break in Committee Between Littleton and Stanley.

Washington, Nov. 24.—An open fight in the house of representatives between Representative Stanley of Kentucky, chairman of the house special committee of inquiry into the steel corporation, and Representative Martin W. Littleton of New York, a democratic committee, was assured when Chairman Stanley declared he would appeal to the house to force Littleton's resignation from the committee. The fight, certain to be precipitated soon after the house convenes, will determine the course of the steel committee. The committee adjourned indefinitely yesterday, following the sensational testimony of the Merritt Bros. of Duluth, regarding their loss of millions in ore land and railroad properties to John D. Rockefeller. This was done because Chairman Stanley was powerless to enforce continuance of the hearings under objections filed by attorneys for the United States Steel corporation that the corporation is now a defendant in a federal suit for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. In

considering the point raised by the counsel, Representative Littleton took the position that nothing further should be done by the committee until the house had been consulted.

Mr. Littleton, who left the sessions of the committee, has broken openly with Chairman Stanley and will carry the question as to the future of the committee to the house. Mr. Stanley, after a conference with Messrs. Beall and McGillicuddy decided to make the question a party issue, and he will call upon the democratic majority to sustain him in opposition to Littleton and to force the latter's resignation from the committee.

Rockefeller's Statement.

New York, Nov. 24.—John D. Rockefeller, in a statement given out here, replied to the charges made by the Merritt Bros. before the Stanley steel investigation committee regarding the methods used by Mr. Rockefeller in securing control of the Mesaba iron mines, and the Duluth, Mesaba and Northern railroad, pointing out that these charges were denied under oath as long ago as 1895 in litigation over the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron mines. He furthermore submits the text of a paper bearing the date of Jan. 22, 1897, to which are attached the names of Alfred and Leonidas Merritt and "all the other members of the family," declaring themselves satisfied that neither Mr. Rockefeller nor his agents committed any fraud or made misrepresentations in the matter in question. Mr. Rockefeller then sets forth what he says are the facts with regard to the loans which the Merritts testified and denies that the loans in question were ever called by him.

TOMMY JOHNSON DEAD.

Famous Kansas Athlete Hurt in Nebraska Basketball Game.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 24.—Thomas Warwick (Tommy) Johnson, former Kansas University athletic star, died yesterday at the Kansas University hospital in Rosedale, Kan., a suburb of a complication of diseases. Mrs. Francis Luther of Lawrence, Kan., Johnson's mother, and Edward Johnson of Omaha, Neb., were at the bedside. Johnson was 26 years old. An accident in a basketball game with the Nebraska university in 1909 and later injury in a college wrestling match hastened the death. Johnson was one of the most widely known athletes in the Missouri valley.

A Nebraskan in Trouble.

Salt Lake, Nov. 26.—Persevering use of the mails by a deserted Nebraska wife has brought C. L. O'Donnell face to face with a charge of polygamy. He was arrested at Great Falls, Mont., according to advices received by Sheriff Sharp, and will be returned to this county to stand trial for marrying Miss Pearl Wilson of Salt Lake City in August, 1910, while Kirtle Hull O'Donnell, whom he married at Omaha in 1905, was living at Lincoln undivorced.

Report Sixty Drowned.

Vienna, Nov. 24.—The Austrian steamer Romania, was wrecked today near Rovigno. It is reported that sixty persons were drowned. A sirocco swept the coast of the Adriatic for three days and caused much damage to shipping.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Temperature for Twenty-four Hours. Forecast for Nebraska.

Table with 2 columns: Maximum, Minimum, Average, Barometer. Values: Maximum 28, Minimum 6, Average 17, Barometer 30.10

Chicago, Nov. 24.—The bulletin issued by the Chicago station of the United States weather bureau gives the forecast for Nebraska as follows: Fair tonight and Saturday; warmer east portion tonight.

MRS. STEHR TELLS STORY

THE CASE HAS NOT YET GONE TO THE JURY.

STEHRR DENIES MURDERING BOY

Tells of the Night of the Blizzard When the Little Fellow's Feet Were Frozen—Declares He Only Whipped the Boy to Correct Him.

Madison, Neb., Nov. 24.—Special to The News: The Stehr murder case had not gone to the jury at noon today, but probably will go this afternoon.

Mrs. Stehr was on the stand all the morning. Yesterday afternoon Henry Stehr, the defendant, occupied the stand and the general impression of those in the courtroom was that his story weakened the case. The manner of his telling the story, answering questions only when prompted by Attorney Barnhart, indicated his untruthfulness.

Stehr said he was 26 years old and had married Minnie Lecon, April 6, 1899, at Hamburg, Germany, when Kaurt Stehr was not quite 2 years old. He came to America and lived at the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Bankrath, seven months, until his wife and child followed him. He stated he had whipped Kaurt with a strap taken from an old harness several times for bedwetting. It was this habit of the child's that made Stehr want Kaurt to stay in Germany, he said. He denied making threats against the child in case Kaurt should be brought to America, as Mrs. Bankrath had testified. He said he entertained no ill will against the child, and denied striking him with an iron rod intentionally, insisting it was an accident.

Says Feet Were Diseased.

He said the child's feet were diseased and had been treated in Germany by a doctor. He denied having been arrested in Germany for ill treating the child, but admitted he had been called into police court on complaint of a woman for investigation in this connection.

He explained to the jury that he had bandaged the child for a disease, causing marks on the stomach and hips. He explained the mark on the eye by stating the child had fallen out of bed, striking his eye on a box. Photographs of the exterior and interior of the Stehr home and an exact model of the child's bed were introduced.

Stehr said on Monday preceding the amputation he had a half bushel of coal and \$2.50 in cash and was out of a job. Asked why he had failed to call a physician earlier, he said he had no money.

Child's Feet Frozen.

He said the child's feet were frozen during the blizzard of Jan. 1. He was awakened in the night and found the walls of the room white with frost and snow, the boy's bedding being frozen stiff. He arose, changed the boy's bedding, put a dry cover over him, covered his feet and went back to bed. The next morning he found much snow in the house and the boy complained that his feet hurt (at another point Stehr had said the boy did not complain about his feet until about five days later).

Put Feet in Hot Water.

He put the child's feet in hot water and later put vaseline on them. Stehr said he first called Dr. Pilger. Later the same day he called Dr. Verges, who administered applications and later returned with Dr. Tashjian. Then County Commissioner Burr Taft came. Next day, assisted by Loebus, Stehr took the boy to the Kleutz home and never saw the little fellow afterward. Two days later he was arrested. He was not advised of the death of the funeral.

During cross-examination by Judge Powers, Stehr admitted whipping the boy with a leather strap for the reason complained of, at least three times and admitted telling Julius Kell the boy's feet were frosted in the blizzard. He denied that he had locked the child in an outbuilding during the storm.

Madison, Neb., Nov. 23.—Special to The News: Henry Stehr took the witness stand in his own behalf this afternoon, to try to convince the jury that he had no intention of killing his 4-year-old stepson, Kaurt.

Court reconvened at 9 o'clock this morning with Minnie Bankrath, Mrs. Stehr's half sister, still on the stand. The defense waived cross-examination.

D. Rees, a juror at the coroner's inquest, testified that the body appeared "a bruised and mangled mass." This testimony was violently attacked by M. D. Tyler, counsel for the defense. It was characterized as vicious and the defense moved that the court strike it out. The court sustained the objections in part.

At this juncture the state unexpectedly rested. The defense then moved to the court that the state elect the count on which it desired the case to go to the jury. The motion was overruled. The defense moved then that the court instruct the jury to find the defendant not guilty of murder in the first or second degree for the reason of insufficient evidence. The court overruled this motion and ordered the defense to proceed.