

AMERICANS INDIOTED.

Kansas City Citizens Charged With Murder in the First Degree.

The Romans Who Provoked the Trouble Only Charged With Assault—Is the Action Just?—Many People Indignant at the One-sided Report.

The report of the grand jury on the Fifth Ward riot, was turned in to Judge Wofford as follows:

"Dear Sir: Herewith I hand you report of the grand jury. I signed it as foreman by order of the jury. The report does not meet my views as a whole. In my opinion the police are censured too severely and the constables and their deputies are not censured strong enough. In my opinion the riot grew out of the assault made on Wagner. In the main I agree with the report, but cannot assent to all of it. Respectfully, 'S. W. HUDSON.'"

"To the Hon. John W. Wofford, Judge of the Criminal Court.

"The grand jury of the regular April term of the court submits to you the following report:

"We have carefully inquired into all violations of law called to our attention and have returned into court sixty-nine true bills and two 'no bills' as the result of our deliberations.

"A large part of our session has been consumed in a careful and thorough examination into the difficulties occurring in the Fifth ward at the recent city election.

"We have examined all the witnesses upon both sides of this unfortunate affair, amounting to almost 100 in number, with a view to ascertaining the cause of the difficulty and wherein the responsibility thereof rests.

"For months prior to the election day this ward had been the center of all the religious bitterness which has existed in this city for some time past. Feeling had run high; several riots had occurred, and large bodies of police had been repeatedly called out at threatened disturbances. These conditions were to be deplored, but none the less they existed and were well known. There should have been sent a sufficient force of police to that ward on election day to preserve the peace, protect life and prevent expected trouble. This was not done, but there was sent only one policeman to one of the threatened precincts and two to the others, while at a single precinct, No. 48 in the Ninth ward, a peaceable residence precinct, where no trouble was expected or had ever at previous elections occurred, there was stationed the chief of detectives, a sergeant of police, two detectives and four patrolmen, who remained there all day, whose presence in the Fifth ward might have prevented the death and bloodshed which subsequently occurred.

"Both sides of the religious feud, each fearful of the other, find they were not to receive the protection of the police to which they were entitled and had the right to expect, prepared to protect themselves. Each seemed to fear the other would interfere with their right to vote, and that intimidation and coercion would be employed; whether either side had good reasons for their fears matters not, the fact remains that they were fearful and suspicious of each other.

"On the day before election, about noon, C. E. Burnham, an attorney for the A. P. A. side, sent out to Westport and called in J. J. Browning, constable of that town, and induced him to consent to commission a large number of persons as deputy constables. These were sworn in at Burnham's office in the New York Life building at noon on the day before the election as deputy constables of the Westport constable.

"Among those so commissioned were some not residents of the Fifth ward, but residing in Westport, a greater part of whom were engaged in the fatal shooting on the next day in which Callahan was killed. After obtaining these commissions Burnham made a trip to Westport and obtained a lot of other deputy constables' commissions, signed by Browning, in blank, where names could be filled in as occasion might require. Constable Olden, who was the constable of the Fifth ward, late at night (the night before election) commissioned a number of deputy constables to assist him in preserving order at the polls on election day. Among these was Callahan, who was killed, and Bronnahan, Fowler and Fleming, who were all dangerously wounded on election day by the Westport constables commissioned at Attorney Burnham's instance. Neither Prior nor any of his crowd, who started the trouble the next day, were commissioned or sworn in by Olden, but all of them had been commissioned months before by the constable of another district.

"About 10 o'clock on the morning of election day Pryor's crowd made a brutal assault on a negro named Rowlett within plain view of the policemen standing not twenty feet away, yet no arrest was made. A short time afterwards, only a short distance from another policeman and close to the police station on the Southwest boulevard, the same crowd of Pryor's followers

made another assault upon a man named Wagner, who was a member of the A. P. A. organization. Still no arrests were made.

"If the police had performed their duty and made prompt arrests the subsequent bloodshed would not have occurred. Finding the police did not arrest these parties, Pate and others went out to Westport before a justice of the peace there and secured a warrant for the arrest of Pryor and his son and returned to serve it. The solitary and uneasy police officer stationed at that precinct telephoned to headquarters for help, for more policemen, to prevent expected trouble. He was refused assistance.

"Pate and other Westport deputies returned to the Fifth ward and arrested Young Pryor and started him in charge of others to Westport. They then attempted to arrest others who were passing along, for whom they had no warrants. These parties protested, a loud altercation arose, which attracted the attention of everybody in that vicinity, and drew Callahan and a large crowd of others from blocks away to the spot. A single policeman clothed in uniformed authority, then on the spot to have interfered, could have saved human life and prevented the bloodshed which followed, but none was there, and so armed men, filled with religious hatred of each other, fought out a battle and then escaped before the solitary policeman, stationed only about a block away at that precinct, ever appeared upon the scene.

"After a careful investigation it clearly appears to us that if there had been furnished any adequate police protection to this threatened territory, or if Lieutenant Bouliars, who was the police officer in charge of that ward, had promptly and properly discharged his duties during the day this unfortunate riot, ending in bloodshed and death, would not have occurred.

"The thanks of the grand jury are extended to Prosecuting Marcy K. Brown and to his assistant, Mr. Thomas A. J. Mastin, for their impartial, thorough and painstaking efforts to aid us in our investigation in the Fifth ward difficulties, as well as all other violations of law which we have investigated. By order of the grand jury.

"S. W. HUDSON, Foreman."

Those who were supposed to belong to the American Protective Association, were, S. G. Pike, E. T. Coleman, J. M. Pate, E. C. Ott, G. G. Brigham, A. J. and John Cove, W. G. McCowan and W. H. Gumm. These men were placed in jail while the Roman Catholic "Pryor gang" were allowed to run at large, and charged only with light offense, yet, it is claimed that they were the ones who instigated the trouble and commenced the fight by resisting arrest. Marcy K. Brown, the prosecuting attorney has from all time swung with the Roman's as shown in the McNamara case, and has now another scheme of the Romans against Protestants, and has been assisted by the Roman "puller" Walsh. The indictments returned and made public by the grand jury are given below:

"S. A. Pike, E. T. Coleman and Jeremiah M. Pate were indicted for murder in the first degree. They are charged with killing Michael Callahan, during the riot at the Belt line bridge on the Southwest boulevard on April 3, while the city election was being held.

E. C. Ott and O. G. Begham were indicted for assault with intent to kill. The indictment against them sets forth that they made an assault upon and shot Cornelius Bronnahan on April 3. The shooting occurred at the same place Callahan was killed. Ott and Begham were arraigned in the criminal court yesterday afternoon and entered pleas of not guilty to the indictment. Their trial was set for May 30 and they furnished bail in the sum of \$1,000 each with John B. Stone and E. H. Allen as sureties for their appearance on that date.

The other indictments found against participants in the riot that were made public are, James Pryor, John Pryor and Edward McGovern were indicted for feloniously assaulting C. J. Wagner. John Pryor, Edward McGovern and John McGovern were indicted for feloniously assaulting Andrew Rowlett. There is a count in each of these indictments that charges the accused with feloniously wounding Wagner and Rowlett. Harry Arthur and John McGovern were indicted for assaulting Jeremiah M. Pate with intent to kill him and with feloniously wounding him, and Perry Fowler was indicted for assaulting E. T. Coleman with intent to kill him. Ott and Begham were arrested together with W. G. McCowan, A. J. Cove, John Cove and W. H. Gumm, by the police shortly after the riot for the murder of Callahan. The grand jurors did not deem

the evidence submitted to them sufficient to justify indictments against these men for that crime.

Prosecuting Attorney Brown ordered the dismissal of the charges of murder pending against Ott, Begham, McCowan, A. J. and John Cove and Gumm in Justice Woorthen's court. As Ott and Begham are under indictment upon other charges the dismissal of the charge of murder against them in Justice Woorthen's court does not get them out of the trouble they are in on account of the riot, McCowan, the Coves and Gumm are at liberty.

James Pryor, who was indicted for feloniously wounding C. J. Wagner, came into criminal court and answered to the indictment. He entered a plea of not guilty, gave a bond of \$500, with James Pendercast as surety, for his appearance for trial.

An interview, relative to the action of the grand jury, Bernard E. Corrigan reveals as follows:

"Bernard E. Corrigan, police commissioner, used every emphatic language last night.

"The grand jury," he said, "has made a great effort to display this unfortunate riot as one which had its origin in religious feeling. As a matter of fact it was politics, first, last and all the time. The men who professed to be Catholics have been Catholics in name only. It is not likely that they have conformed to the rites of their church for years, if ever; nor is it likely that the alleged Protestants have any better record. It is politics, politics and nothing else.

"Do you call Jim Pryor a catholic?" said Mr. Corrigan. "He may be, but the idea of regarding him as a representative of the Catholic church is absurd. I have no right to represent the church, and I am probably a better Catholic than Jim Pryor.

"Speaking of the police department I have this to say. The force is not large enough to be omnipresent. One officer to each voting precinct is all that can be detailed, unless the night force and reserve are drawn upon.

"We did draw upon that reserve when the rumors of possible election riots reached us, and no less than five officers were stationed in the Fifth ward when the polls opened, on April 3. The commissioners made every effort to avert trouble, and if trouble occurred it was in spite of their vigilance, not because of their negligence.

"Had there been no deputy constables that day there would have been no trouble. Pryor's character and record should have been considered by the grand jury before it made its report. He is not an obscure or unknown character."

The Americans, Jerry M. Pate, S. A. Pike and E. L. Coleman, remaining in prison up to Saturday, 5th, charged by a bill from the grand jury, with murder in the first degree, were released on bonds of \$7,000 each. The question was discussed by Judge Wofford and Prosecuting Attorney Marcy K. Brown concerning the admission of bail. After some consideration Prosecuting attorney Brown decided that the cases were bailable, and he was not sure if the State should try them for murder in the second, or third degree, or homicide. Charles O. Birney who has been in California, has returned at the request of a telegram sent by Burnham and Elliott, the attorneys in the case, as he was under the same charge as the three above named. He has given bond to appear before the court.

E. E. Ott and O. M. Begham were confined at the same time as those before mentioned. The grand jury found a bill against these parties for assault with intent to kill. Their friends furnished bond for them and procured their release some days ago. C. J. and A. J. Gove, W. H. Gumm and W. G. McCowan were released, as no indictment could be hatched up against them.

This case has been one vile persecution and those who have instigated the on-sided detention and rottenness of officials should be hunted down. These men who were true constables at the time and doing their duty as such have been persecuted to the last degree, while the "Pryor gang" whom they had warrants for, and who resisted arrest causing the riot, are now at large on bonds of about \$500. As the Pryor gang were the aggressors, being Romans, they are shielded by the Roman sympathizers in the officials who worked the case. It is time to oust this rotten gang of county officials and the chief of police Tom Speers in particular.

Wants to Do His Share. CHICAGO, Ill., May 7, 1894.—Being informed that there is a likelihood of a rate war on ocean vessels to Europe and also a cut in railroad fare to the seaboard (and it may come to pass that it will enable an adult to travel to Europe for \$14, it seems to me that this cut would perhaps prove a boon to the United States, viz:

We have in our midst thousands of aliens "of unquestionable political ideas who are at present unemployed and whose tendencies towards socialism are marked" who would gladly embrace the opportunity to return to their respective native hearth, if they only had the wherewith to do it. I believe the United States could easily spare them. Would it not be a great charity to

them (the aliens) and to the citizens of the United States if some public spirited citizens would defray the expenses of \$14 each and ship them back to their native country? I would gladly pay the fare for one or two of those unfortunate who may be craving for the fresh pots they left behind them by restoring them back to their native land. If by concerted advocating of this mighty and all powerful press this suggestion could be promulgated throughout this vast domain, I believe enough enthusiastic and public spirited citizens could be found who would contribute to this philanthropic plan of reciprocal charitable exchange, by restoring these forlorn foreigners to their native land and ridding this country from a lot of undesirable and dissatisfied emigrants. I leave it to your editor to enlarge and improve this crude suggestion.

Yours truly, PHILIP LICHTENSTADT.

A Showing from New York.

Editor THE AMERICAN: Sir: Permit a charter member of the banner council of your city, Lincoln Council No. 28, to furnish you with a few statistics that will make an ordinary American's skull sweat. The following is from the New York Sun of this date: "The National League for the protection of American institutions has entered upon its campaign, and during the past week has sent out more than 100,000 copies of documents urging voters to insist on the passage at the coming constitutional convention of the proposed amendment to article VIII, as follows: Add to article VIII of the constitution as now in force, at the end thereof, the following:

"SECTION 12. No law shall be passed respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; nor shall the state, or any county, city, town, village, or other civil division, use its property or credit, or any money raised by taxation or otherwise, or authorize either to be used, for the purpose of founding, maintaining, or aiding by appropriation, payment for services, expenses, or in any other manner, any church, religious denomination, or religious society, or any institution, society, or undertaking, which is wholly or in part under sectarian or ecclesiastical control."

"One of the documents gives the following as the official figures for a year of the appropriations of money for sectarian purposes in the principal cities of the state, except those from Buffalo, which have not yet been obtained:

Table with 4 columns: Name of City, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Hebrew. Rows include New York, Brooklyn, Albany, Troy, Syracuse, Rochester.

Total of the six cities for a year \$2,055,244. This list comprises only the principal cities of the state, but it will give an idea of what percentage of the public monies goes into the coffers of the Romanish machine.

It is high time to put a stop to this leakage, not only in the state of New York, but every state in the union where public monies are misappropriated for sectarian purposes. The League is doing a good work and it should be supported by every American that has the welfare of his country at heart. No public money for sectarian purposes. No nuns in our public schools! One flag and one tongue for all.

New York, April 30, 1894. JOSEPH L. RICHARDSON, 649 Lexington Ave.

To the memory of our beloved brother, A. N. Whitney, who died in the discharge of his duty on Saturday, April 28, 1894, these lines are respectfully inscribed:

Thou hast left us, dear brother, for the realms of glory, Where Jesus our Saviour in majesty stands, Thou hast done well the duty, whatsoever was before thee, That our laws be enforced, whatsoever its demands. Thou ever wast true to the duty assigned thee, However unseeing its execution might be, To the thoughts of thy safety thou said "Get behind me," That our town from the lawless might ever be free.

We mourn thy departure, we deplore the sad ending, Of a life so devoted, so pure and so brave, Thou hast fallen in death while our city de-fends, From the grasp of the robber, by the hand of a knave.

We bow to the fate that has now overtaken Our brother in virtue, in justice and love, Ever knowing the trusting are never forsaken By the Father of all, who reigneth above.

We honor thy memory, thy virtues, well knowing, Thy face at our councils we ne'er more shall see, The hearts of its members with grief is overflowing, Our love for our brother forever shall be.

And now to those dear ones thou hast left to mourn thee, We extend to them sympathy in this their dark hour, We'd watch o'er the welfare of her who hast borne thee, And pray God to keep her by His all divine power.

H. W. MILLER, Member of Acheron Council No. 12, Junior Order United American Mechanics, of which our brother was an honored member. Mo. Valley, Ia., April 30, 1894.

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Advertisement for a piano for \$145. Includes an image of a piano and text: 'You can buy this Piano for \$145 IF YOU BUY IT NOW. It has 70 strings, is 50 inches high...'

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TO PROHIBIT SECTARIAN GIFTS. Strong Pressure for the Passage of the Amendment to New York's Constitution.

New York, April 30.—[Special]—The National League for the Protection of American Institutions has during the last week flooded the state with more than 100,000 copies of documents urging the voters to insist on the passing at the coming constitutional convention of the proposed amendment to Act 8 of the Constitution of the State of New York, as follows: "No law shall be passed respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, nor shall the state nor any county, city, town, village, or other civil division use its property or credit, or authorize either to be used for the purpose of founding, maintaining, or aiding by appropriation, payment for services, expenses, or in any other manner, any church, religious denomination, or religious society, or any institution, society, or undertaking, which is wholly or in part under sectarian or ecclesiastical control."

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