

HITCHCOCK FREE OF CHARGE

Astor Acquitted on Direction of Court When One Witness Fails.
New York, March 17.—Raymond Hitchcock, the comedian, was acquitted by direction of Justice Blanchard in the supreme court of charges brought by several young girls after one of the girls had testified that the allegations she had made against the actor were untrue. The acquittal was on the indictment growing out of charges made by Ellen Von Hagen.



RAYMOND HITCHCOCK.

There are several other indictments on similar charges still pending.

The resumption of the trial furnished a sensation when Flora Whiston, who had been called as a corroborating witness, completely refuted her testimony given before the grand jury. In reply to questions by Assistant District Attorney Garvan the girl declared that Hitchcock never had harmed her and that she had told the story to the grand jury as she had been directed to do by an agent of the Terry society.

In directing the jury to return a verdict acquitting Hitchcock on the Von Hagen indictment, Justice Blanchard said he regarded the testimony of the Whiston girl as of the most startling nature and suggested that it be made the subject of an investigation.

GENERAL BROOKE WINS SUIT

Need Not Pay Countess \$250,000 for Destroying Her Beef Monopoly.

Washington, March 17.—The long pending claim of the Countess of Buena Vista against Major General Brooke was adjudicated by the supreme court of the United States unfavorably to the countess. The suit was begun in the United States district court for the southern district of New York and was a demand for the payment of damages to the extent of \$250,000 claimed to have been sustained through an official order issued by General Brooke while serving as military governor of Cuba, by which the countess' exclusive right to slaughter cattle in Havana was abolished. She claimed this right as the daughter of the hereditary high sheriff of Havana. The slaughter right was one of the perquisites of the office of sheriff. When her father, the last male of the line, died the office was abolished, but his daughter continued to hold the franchise until it was annulled by Major General Brooke and the district court intimated that while no action would lie against General Brooke, there was legitimate claim against the United States for damages under the Paris treaty. Without expressing directly an opinion as to the responsibility of the United States government, the supreme court affirmed the decision on the ground that the countess had suffered no loss of property.

American Warship on the Way.

Washington, March 17.—An American war vessel, probably the gunboat Eagle, is now on the way from Guantanamo to Port au Prince, Hayti, where the Haytian government summarily executed a number of alleged revolutionists. The vessel is not sent there because of any serious apprehension on the part of officials here that American interests at Port au Prince or at other points in Hayti are in serious danger, but as a matter of precaution. It is not believed at the state department that foreign interests in Hayti are seriously menaced. The disposition of the administration is to keep hands off and to give the people of Hayti an opportunity to work out their own salvation. It is realized that in dealing with revolutionary movements stern repressive measures often are necessary and the impression here is that it is not up to the American government to interfere with the acts of our neighbors unless the situation is such that our interests are in jeopardy or that broad humanitarian interests require us to interfere.

Motto Put Back on Coin.

Washington, March 17.—The session of the house was devoted to the consideration of bills under suspension of the rules. A number were passed, including one providing for the restoration of the motto "In God We Trust" on American coins, and another increasing the efficiency of the medical department of the army.

CONVICTED OF GRAFT

SANDERSON, SNYDER, MATHUES AND SHUMAKER FOUND GUILTY.

Pennsylvania Capitol Furnishing Suit Holds Record—Defrauded State Out of \$3,000,000 in Furnishing Building. Penalty, Two Years and \$1,000 Fine.

Harrisburg, March 14.—The jury in the first of the capitol conspiracy cases to be tried gave a verdict of guilty as to every one of the four men who have been on trial here for the last seven weeks, after six hours' deliberation. There were two ballots taken, but the jury did not come into court until two hours after reaching a conclusion. The men found guilty are John H. Sanderson, contractor; William P. Snyder, former auditor general; W. L. Mathues, former state treasurer, and James M. Shumaker, former superintendent of public buildings and grounds.

Motions for new trials were made in each case.

Only Sanderson and Snyder were in court when the verdict was given and neither would talk.

Maximum penalties for each defendant in this case is two years' imprisonment and \$1,000 fine.

The four men were convicted of defrauding the state in furnishing the new capitol, which cost the state about \$13,000,000, instead of \$4,000,000, the figure at which the contract was estimated.

The present case constituted one of the longest jury trials in the history of the Pennsylvania courts, and it attracted much attention throughout the country.

The prosecution of the alleged frauds was the outcome of the political upheaval in Pennsylvania in 1905, which resulted in the election of William H. Berry, a Democrat, as state treasurer, in the fall of that year. Berry threw open the books of the state treasury and showed that the cost of building the capitol was more than three times the amount of the contract.

The case was laid before the attorney general and indictments were found against four persons.

When the cases now pending against the four convicted persons are concluded, the other defendants will be heard. The state claims that there are frauds amounting to nearly \$5,000,000 in the furnishing of the capitol.

DEATH SENTENCE FOR ALIA

Priest's Slayer Found Guilty of Murder in First Degree.

Denver, March 13.—"Is there no appeal?"

These were the only words spoken by Giuseppe Alia when informed by Interpreter Matter that the jury found him guilty of murder in the first degree and fixed his sentence at death.

Just eighteen days after firing the shot which brought death to Father Leo Heinrichs at the altar in St. Elizabeth's Catholic church, while in the act of administering the holy sacrament, this wail from Italy, an alleged, but not proven, anarchist, heard his doom.

In the court room not three blocks from the church where he committed his crime and within the sound of the chimes which he said drew him to that church, Alia received the judgment delivered by a jury of his peers. Stolid to the last, he simply nodded his head and whispered to the interpreter, "Is there no appeal?"

Then his chin sank on his breast and he made no further comment.

When the jury had been polled the judge thanked them for having done their duty and expressed his approval of the verdict. Attorney Widdecombe of the defense made a motion for a new trial and was granted five days in which to file papers. The prisoner was then ordered to be returned to the county jail, pending this action.

The trial, which had lasted only three and a half days, was over. Under the laws of the state, Alia cannot be hanged within sixty days of the rendering of the verdict.

There was absolutely no demonstration in the court room when the verdict was read by Foreman D. S. Johnson, a mining engineer. The finding had seemed inevitable from the beginning and the audience received it in silence, apparently satisfied with what had been done.

WALSH DENIED NEW TRIAL

Judge Anderson Sentences Him to Five Years for His Acts.

Chicago, March 14.—John R. Walsh, former president of the Chicago National bank of this city, who was convicted of illegal use of the funds of the institution, was denied a new trial by Judge Anderson in the United States district court and sentenced to serve five years in the federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth.

As soon as the court had announced the refusal to grant a new trial, the attorneys for the defense entered a motion in arrest of judgment, on which they argued for some time.

Judge Anderson then promptly overruled the motion and sentenced the

banker to five years in Fort Leavenworth.

The court further directed that all the counts in the indictment be served concurrently and further directed that the defendant pay the entire cost of the trial.

An application was immediately made to Judge Grosscup of the United States circuit court of appeals for a writ of supersedeas, which was granted, and Walsh was released under bonds of \$50,000 pending the hearing of his appeal.

STATE LOSES ANTI-PASS CASE

Judge Thomas of Columbus Directs Verdict for Union Pacific.

Columbus, Neb., March 14.—Judge Thomas directed a verdict against the state of Nebraska in the physicians' pass case, in which the state was prosecuting Dr. Martin for accepting a pass from the Union Pacific. The case was prosecuted by County Attorney Hensley, assisted by Judge J. J. Sullivan, special counsel employed by the state. Dr. Martin has been a physician for the Union Pacific for thirty years and he has an indeterminate contract to do the work at Columbus for the Union Pacific in consideration of \$25 a month and an annual pass over the road. His present contract was dated Jan. 1, 1906, before the present law went into effect. The court held the pass to the physician on a contract was not a free pass and directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

ALIENS ON JURY PANEL.

Irregularities in Connection With Furnas County Body Are Uncovered.

Beaver City, Neb., March 13.—Something of a sensation was sprung in the district court when the attorneys for the defense in the criminal court attacked the validity of the late grand jury. The county commissioners testified that names were drawn that had not been selected by them as provided by law. One member of the jury admitted in court that he was not a resident of the United States, but was a British subject.

The foreman of the jury was one name that was mysteriously spirited into the panel. The judge has not rendered a decision, but there is no doubt the indictments will be quashed by reason of the irregularities.

Taylor Candidate for Commander.

St. Edward, Neb., March 17.—Andrew W. Taylor, commander of Kinsman post, No. 140, Grand Army of the Republic, is a candidate for department commander. The encampment of the organization will be held at Hastings May 19, 20 and 21. Several other posts in central Nebraska have incoorsed Mr. Taylor.

Would Organize Spanish Veterans.

Lincoln, March 16.—Major E. H. Phelps has mailed copies of letters to Spanish war veterans, asking for cooperation in the hope of organizing the United Spanish War Veterans.

Drives Poker Through Mother's Arm.

Lincoln, March 14.—Charles Barrett, aged nineteen, drove a poker through the arm of his aged mother. He became angry at a parental reprimand. He was arrested.

STATE ASKS FOR A REFEREE

Endeavors to Have Testimony in Express Cases Taken in This Manner.

Lincoln, March 18.—Grant Martin, deputy attorney general, acting on instructions from Attorney General Thompson, filed a motion in the supreme court for the appointment of a referee to take testimony in the express cases. He asks that the motion be argued April 7.

J. A. Williams, member of the railway commission, filed a protest against the appointment of a referee, holding that testimony taken now under the old rates would throw no light on the amount of business which might be done under the Sibley law and therefore would be of no value in determining the justness of the Sibley rates. He also said the law itself was a sufficient injunction against the express companies and if an additional injunction was necessary he prayed the court to grant it and not to appoint the referee.

The express companies filed affidavits setting out that they intended to obey the Sibley law just as soon as the matter of its justness could be determined by the courts, and that they had no intention of disobeying it; that this was determined at a conference of officers and attorneys for the companies.

RAILROAD TAKES RADICAL STAND

Missouri Pacific Says Commission Has No Jurisdiction Over It in Any Way.

Lincoln, March 18.—In a cross-petition filed in the United States district court, the Missouri Pacific railroad takes the radical stand that the state, through the railroad commission, has no jurisdiction over it in any way; that it is an interstate corporation, subject only to federal control. The road follows up this contention by asking relief by the court from further annoyance through an injunction forbidding the state railway commission from attempting to regulate its traffic rates or service in any manner whatever; that it be enjoined from requiring any reports of the business to be made; that it be enjoined from advising railroad patrons what steps to take in order to secure lower rates, and that the 2-cent fare law and the commodity law be declared void and their enforcement prohibited.

Prairie Fire Menaces Lexington, Neb.

Lexington, Neb., March 18.—A prairie fire was started by a Greek living a mile east of town, who was burning off a garden patch, and a strong northeast wind swept the flames directly toward town. The fire department and hundreds of men were on the ground in a few minutes. By plowing miles of furrows and back firing the flames were at last extinguished, but not until they had burned into the very door yard of houses in the town.

"When a lion eats an antelope it is only devouring glorified grass," was the comforting reflection delivered by Dr. Andrew Wilson at Bristol the other day. We see now that the king of beasts is apt to regard the average wayfarer as merely a man of straw.—London Globe

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