

GREAT TRIAL ON

Chiefs of the Western Federation of Miners, Accused of the Murder of Former Governor Steunenberg of Idaho, Soon to Face a Jury—State Is Divided on Question of Their Guilt or Innocence—Immense Fund Raised for Defense—Fight Promises to Be Long and Bitter.

Boise, Idaho.—No one living in the Rocky mountain regions can have an unprejudiced opinion regarding the Steunenberg murder trial. This is the most important event that has occurred in western America in recent years, and William D. Haywood, secretary of the Western Federation of Miners, charged with the murder of Idaho's governor, has half the population of the entire western country with him and half against him. This is the culmination of a long line of bloodshed in the mining camps, beginning in the Coeur d'Alene's mines 15 years ago, and culminating in the bloody mining riots in Colorado. The prosecution aims to show that all the crimes in the mining camps which appeared at the time to have their motive in the existing bad feeling between the mine owners and the Western Federation of Miners were planned by the "Inner Circle" of the federation. Of this three officials indicted for the murder of Gov. Steunenberg were members, and the crimes committed were supposed to be carried out under their directions. The defense is confident of its ability to disprove these allegations, as well as the charges made in Orchard's "confession," described further on in this article.

At the time of the Wardner riots in the Coeur d'Alenes, Gov. Steunenberg, in the absence of the Idaho militia in the Philippines, asked for federal aid, and Gen. Merriam established such stringent military rule that Gov. Steunenberg gained the enmity of the entire Western Federation of Miners. Two years later Steunenberg retired from office and returned to his home in Caldwell. Four years later, returning home from his office at six o'clock on the night of December 30, 1905, he swung open his garden gate, and a mine that had been set for him exploded and tore his body to pieces. His head was found a block away.

saying that it was obtained from him by coercion and undue influence. All Idaho is torn between the prosecution and defense in this trial. Although broken by great ranges of mountains and divided into separate sections by lack of through railroad connections, Idaho is a unit and its progressive citizens are well acquainted in all parts of the state. The population is small, but enlightened. Rich mines and irrigated farms have produced a great deal of wealth, and the resultant culture has not weakened the moral fiber of its citizens. The people of Idaho are a very high class of Americans.

Trial Made Labor Issue.
The prosecution of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone has been made a labor issue throughout the United States. For a year and more meetings have been held, ending with a sensational series in all the large cities a few weeks ago, in which the prosecution was declared a persecution, and the question was asked: "Shall our brothers be murdered?" The purpose of these meetings was to obtain money with which to conduct the defense, and over a quarter of a million dollars has been raised.

There is tremendous interest in the trial all through the west, even in portions where there are no mines or miners. It is most talked of in labor circles. There the spirit regarding the trial is good. All the labor unions ask is a fair and speedy trial. They have reserved their judgment and are willing to stand by the judgment of any 12 good men.

The trial will cost the state of Idaho over \$200,000. The defense expects to spend even more. It has \$1,000,000 belonging to the Western Federation of Miners, besides the \$25,000 raised in public meetings. James H. Hawley, formerly a well-known California lawyer, now of Boise, Idaho, and Senator W. E. Borah of Idaho, are leading counsel for the prosecution. Clarence Darrow of Chicago heads the defense. His principal assistants are ex-Gov. John T. Morrison and John F.

Two "Confessions" Made.

Investigation implicated Harry Orchard and Stephen Adams in the mur-

Miners depends on the validity of the "confession" of Harry Orchard and its power to convict.

The complaint that two terms of court has passed before the cases were brought to trial was made the basis of a motion to have the case dismissed a few weeks ago. The motion was overruled, Senator Borah arguing that the trial could not previously have been legally held under the laws of Idaho, as habeas corpus proceedings were pending in the supreme court.

The defense then petitioned for change of venue from Caldwell to Boise. This was granted by Judge Wood, the defense agreeing not to bring up the question of change of venue again. Judge Wood then set the trial of Haywood for May 9 in Boise.

About this trial centers the greatest interest, as the fate of Haywood will decide the fate of the others, since all three of the indicted men were equally implicated by Harry Orchard.

Could Not Have Trial Earlier.

The prosecution has been generally criticized for allowing a whole year to pass without bringing these men to

activities of the "Inner Circle" of the Western Federation of Miners.

Orchard's Remarkable Story.

According to his own confession, Orchard was the principal assassin in the pay of the Western Federation of Miners, hired to get rid of objectionable persons. A remarkable side to his story is his care not to injure persons not enemies of the Federation. He planned many times, he confessed, to assassinate Gov. Peabody of Colorado, but, as he says in his "confession": "I could have got Gov. Peabody time and time again, if I had not been afraid of blowing up those Peabody girls."

He tells in another place how he deliberately foiled a determination on the part of the Federation to destroy a whole trainload of innocent people. There was a military ball at Victor, Colo., Nov. 14, 1903, in the midst of the mining trouble in this district. The military was in control, and the miners objected to the martial law. A train on the Florence & Cripple Creek railroad took over to Victor from Cripple Creek 218 persons. Knowing that



trial, and many excuses have been made to account for it. The Idaho laws provide that a man cannot be convicted of a crime on the uncorroborated confession of an accomplice. It is stated that the prosecution has delayed because it was unable to obtain corroboration of Harry Orchard's confession. The district attorney yields no information on this point. But since the prosecution is now taking up the case, it is presumed that it has stronger evidence against Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone than the "confessions" of Harry Orchard and Stephen Adams. The fact that Adams has retracted his confession practically destroys it as evidence, and Orchard is understood to be in so weakened a state of mind that he will not be able to take the stand, and the prosecution will be forced to seek to have his sworn testimony, on which the indictments were brought, admitted as evidence in the form of affidavits.

The confessions of Harry Orchard and Steve Adams for the murder of ex-Gov. Steunenberg were obtained by James McPartland of the Pinkerton detective service, who broke up the Mollie Maguire gang in Pennsylvania in the seventies, and secured the conviction and execution of 17 members.

Murder of Steunenberg.

When ex-Gov. Steunenberg was murdered, Dec. 30, 1905, the nature of the death trap set for him and seemingly the probable motive for the act pointed suspicion toward the Western Federation of Miners. James McPartland, superintendent of the western branch of the Pinkerton service, with his office in Denver, took up the case. Three days after the murder McPartland arrested Harry Orchard, in whose room in a hotel in Caldwell was found a suspicious white powder and some letters. In his trunk in the railroad station, it is claimed, were found materials for making bombs, a cipher code, and letters from several Federation officials, containing instructions and advice.

How "Confession" Was Got.

McPartland set about obtaining a confession from Orchard. He worked on his nerves by placing him in solitary confinement with silent attendants. At the end of a week McPartland appeared, sowed the seed of distrust in Orchard's mind, and left him to ruminate over what he believed to be the treason of his investigators. McPartland did not come back for days. By that time Orchard was ready to talk. It took five days' steady writing to take down his "confession." It takes seven hours' rapid reading to get through with this document, which purports to give the entire history of the

this train was to return at two o'clock in the morning, Orchard, according to his "confession," was ordered by Secretary Haywood of the Federation to wreck the train on a very dangerous curve. The attempt to wreck the train was made; spikes were pulled from a rail on a curve of a 300-foot embankment. "When I was ordered to wreck that train," says Orchard in his "confession," "I said I would not do it. And I was the man who passed the word to the conductor, warning him to look out." The conductor took warning and the wreck was averted.

Tells of Another Crime.

In the long story of his "confession" Orchard tells of many things. He confessed to the blowing up of the Independence railroad station. The Findlay mine, at Independence, Colo., employed nonunion men. The plan, Orchard says, was to kill off two shifts at once by blowing up the railroad station as one shift was going to work and another leaving. Two o'clock in the morning was the hour selected. Orchard says that this crime was "framed up" in Haywood's room in Denver. Haywood made his "get-away" by inducing a saloonkeeper named Neville to burn down his saloon, get the insurance money, and then to travel north through the mountains. On the first night out, Orchard pretended to have forgotten his gun, and rode back in the night with the ostensible purpose of getting it. At that time he says he laid the mine which tore 13 men limb from limb and crippled six more for life.

Judge Goddard's Escape.

The "confession" contained accounts of efforts made to "get" two judges. In one instance Orchard says he had planted a bomb just outside the gate before Judge Goddard's house, buried six inches below the surface, on the outside of the gate post, covered with a piece of sacking, and attached to a fine wire connected with a small bottle of acid, which lay above a heap of potash and sugar, deftly placed over the explosive. The little wire from the bomb came just above the surface and a fishhook was fastened to the end of it. A screw eye was driven into the gate and a piece of iron wire was attached to it. When the two wires were connected the slightest opening of the gate would explode the bomb. But Judge Goddard, said Orchard, constantly failed to come when he was expected, and the "job" was forced to wait until Orchard should finish some other work he had on hand. The time never came when Orchard was able to set the mine.

INDIANA PEOPLE IN WESTERN CANADA.

What Shall We Do?—I've Got to Build Granaries.

A letter written to a Canadian Government agent from Tipton, Indiana, is but one of many similar that are in the hands of the Canadian government agents whose privilege it is to offer one hundred and sixty acres of land free, and low railway fares. But here is a copy of the letter:

"Tipton, Ind., Nov. 28, 1906.

"At your earnest solicitation a party of us from Tipton left May 15 for Western Canada. Our interviews with you and a careful study of your literature led us to expect great things of your country when we should arrive there, and we were not disappointed. We went prepared to make a careful examination of the country and its resources, and we did so. At early dawn the second morning out of Tipton we awoke in a new world. As far as the eye could reach was an apparently limitless expanse of new sown wheat and prairie grasses. The vivid green of the wheat just beginning to stool out, and the inky blackness of the soil contrasted in a way beautiful to see. An hour or two later we steamed into Winnipeg. Here we found a number of surprises. A hundred thousand souls well housed, with every convenience that goes to make a modern up-to-date city—banks, hotels, newspapers, stores, electric light, street railways, sewerage, waterworks, asphalt pavements, everything. With eyes and ears open we traveled for two thousand miles through Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, going out over the Canadian Pacific railway, via Calgary to Edmonton, and returning to Winnipeg over the Canadian Northern railway. In the meantime we made several side trips and stopped off at a number of points where we made drives into the surrounding country. On every hand were evidences of prosperity. The growing wheat, oats, rye, flax, barley, not little patches, but great fields, many of them a square mile in extent, the three, five and sometimes seven-horse teams laying over an inky black furrows straight as gun barrels and at right angles from the roads stretching into the distance, contrasted strangely with our little fields at home. The towns both large and small were doubly conspicuous, made so, first by their newness and second by the towering elevators necessary to hold the immense crops of wheat grown in the immediate neighborhood.

The newness, the thrift, the hustle, the sound of saw and hammer, the tents housing owners of buildings in various stages of completion, the piles of household effects and agricultural implements at the railway stations waiting to be hauled out to the "Claims," the occasional steam plow turning its twenty or thirty acres a day, the sod house, the unpainted residence with large red barn by, all these were seen everywhere we went, an earnest of prosperity and wealth to be.

We talked with men and visited their places that four years ago was unbroken prairie. Their houses, barns, implements and live stock were the equal of anything in Tipton County, and why not, when they were raising five, ten and twenty, yes, in one instance, forty thousand bushels of wheat a year. The fact that such large yields of wheat are raised so easily and so surely impressed us very favorably. And when we saw men who four or five years ago commenced there with two or three thousand dollars, and were now as well fixed and making money much easier and many times faster than lots of our acquaintances on Indiana farms fifty years cleared and valued at four times as much, we decided to invest. So we bought in partnership a little over two thousand acres, some of it improved and in wheat.

Before leaving Indiana we agreed that if the opportunities were as great as they were represented to be, that we would buy, and own in partnership a body of land, and leave one of our number to look after and operate it. This we accordingly did.

Just before time to thresh I received a letter from him. "What shall we do?" said he; "I've got to build granaries. There's so much wheat that the railways are just swamped. We can't get cars and the elevators are all full. I never saw anything like it." In reply we wrote, "Good for you. Go ahead and build; your story sounds better than the letters we used to get from our friends in Kansas when they bewailed the fact that the hard wheat had been destroyed by the chinch bugs and the corn by hot winds, and that they must sell the stock for means to live on. Yes, build by all means." And he did, and our wheat put in by a reaper made twenty-seven bushels per acre.

Very truly yours,
(Sd) A. G. BURKHART.
(Sd) J. TRELOAR-TRESIDDER.
(Sd) WALTER W. MOUNT.



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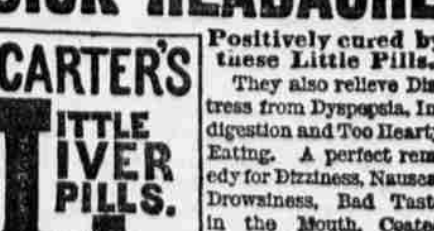
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der, and both confessed. In their confessions they stated that they were the tools of the "Inner Circle" of the Western Federation of Miners, and implicated the officials of the federation in a long list of murders and attempted murders. Charles H. Moyer, president; William D. Haywood, secretary, and George A. Pettibone, committeeman, all members of the "Inner Circle," were "kidnaped" in Colorado on hurried extradition proceedings and rushed to Idaho on a special train. Orchard has since become greatly weakened mentally and Adams has retracted his "confession."

Nugent of Idaho, the firm of Richardson, Patterson & Hawkins of Denver, and lawyers from every town in the west in which the Western Federation of Miners has had trouble.

Will Be Hard Fought Battle.

The trial will be long and hard fought. In the first place, it will be difficult to secure a jury in a state where every one takes a vital interest in the trial. The prosecution will exert every possible effort to secure the conviction of Haywood, as the hope of fastening the long line of Colorado murders on the officials of the Western Federation of