

FREE REIN GIVEN BITTER FEELINGS AS HEARING ENDS

(Continued from First Page.)

for the purpose of playing upon the feelings of this coroner's jury and trying to turn the minds of jurors from the real facts in the case. It is inhuman; it is unthinkable that any man, no matter how zealous in the interest of his client, should go to the length of torturing and racking that client in order to strengthen a case for her." Patrick protested against Murphy's remarks and charged Chief Briggs' attorney with attempting to cloud the evidence and arouse the passions of the jurors by inflammatory oratory.

Murphy Overruled. Coroner Armstrong overruled Murphy's protest. Another clash came when Attorney Patrick, in cross-examination of Chief Briggs, attempted to impeach the chief's own testimony.

Coroner Armstrong had been sworn as a witness and had described the course of the bullet that killed Blunt. It entered from the rear over the left hip and took a diagonal course to the right until it left the body. Chief Briggs testified that he shot from the right side of the road. If the testimony as to Blunt's attitude at the time he was shot is true, this testimony, taken with Briggs' statement, would tend to clear Briggs of the responsibility for Blunt's death. If Blunt sat on the wagon seat, his back directly toward the pursuers, a shot fired from the right rear could not have sent a bullet on the course that was taken by the bullet that killed Blunt.

Briggs an Expert. Chief Briggs declared that a man may be shot at as close a range as three feet without powder marks appearing on the clothing or body. Cross-examining, Patrick asked the chief if in the Otson murder trial at Papillion recently he did not qualify as an expert witness and testify that powder marks would show when the shot had been fired from seven to fourteen feet.

Vigorous protest against the question was made by Briggs' counsel. Much wrangling over the point followed, and the coroner at last ended the argument by ruling that Briggs must answer. Briggs denied having so testified. Patrick said he will show by transcript of the Otson trial evidence that the chief did so testify.

Says Bandits Killed Blunt.

Sheriff Grant Chase, sheriff of Sarpy county, declared that one of the convicts fired the shot which killed the young farmer.

Sheriff Chase told his story of the chase in few words. He told how he and Chief Briggs and John C. Trouton pursued the convicts until within fifty yards of them. He said:

"I stood up and said, 'We've got you. Now you surrender. I'll stand between you and the posse.' They threw up their hands.

"Then Briggs said, 'Drive on like hell, Trouton.'"

"Then the convicts said, 'Go to hell you—and opened on us. They fired the first shots. Their fire was so strong we tried to get down under cover as best we could. I got out and ran to the side of the road and was going to shoot one of the horses in the neck. My rifle sights were full of mud. Somebody hollered, 'For God's sake, sheriff, they've got a head on you.'"

"I dropped and then there was a rain of bullets around me."

Asked Not to Shoot.

He was cross-examined by J. T. Bagley of Papillion, former county judge of Sarpy county, and one of the counsel for the Blunt family. Sheriff Chase said that Lloyd Blunt, a brother of the young man who was killed drove up to him. Briggs and Trouton as they were searching the convicts and told him not to shoot until Roy was safe.

Mr. Bagley asked: "When Roy's brother came up there; told you not to shoot until he was safe, isn't it a fact that you turned around and said, 'To hell with Blunt; we are going to get those men.'"

"I did not," declared Chase, emphatically; "and the boy will bear me out in this," he added, pointing toward Lloyd Blunt, who with the rest of the Blunt family occupied a row of seats directly behind the witness stand.

"I don't care what he says," spat out Bagley. "I want you to say whether or not you said that." Chase repeated his denial in even more emphatic tones.

Was Hyers Sober?

Questions as to whether Sheriff Hyers of Lancaster county, who was one of the pursuers, was drunk or sober created another sensation at the afternoon sitting.

A. F. Empey, who drove the rig in which Hyers pursued, was the witness. Empey swore he and Hyers were some distance behind the rig in which Briggs, Trouton and Chase were riding. The witness said Hyers wanted him to pass the other pursuers and run up abreast of the convict wagon so that Hyers could pick off one of the convicts. Empey refused to do so, but, observing a young man riding horseback a short distance to the rear, suggested that he might lend his horse to the sheriff. The young man was willing. Hyers mounted the horse and rode on, but did not get much nearer the convicts.

Says Hyers Was Sober.

"What was Sheriff Hyers condition-

whether drunk or sober?" asked Bagley.

"Sober."

"Did not you say in the presence of Harry Slabaugh at Papillion that Hyers was half drunk?"

"I did not."

Witness denied having made an affidavit for Hyers and denied having received any money from Hyers except pay for driving and for a pair of gloves.

Briggs in the Clear.

Chris Peterson, near whose home the convicts made their last stand, testified that the horses of the convicts' wagon broke into a furious gallop when the first of the four men in the wagon fell. He indicated he thought the driver, Blunt, must have been the first man killed. He said he saw one man, whom he described as Briggs, get out of a buggy and fire while all four men were unhurt. The shot did no damage, and the man returned to the rig. Several volleys were fired by both sides and the first man fell.

Start of Inquest Delayed.

A dramatic recital by Chief of Police Briggs of South Omaha of the pursuit of and battle with the three convicts who recently escaped from the Nebraska penitentiary featured the first session of the inquest over the body of Roy Blunt, the young farmer who was an innocent victim of the shooting. The inquest was held at Springfield.

Briggs' story was a frank one and he admitted that he had no thought of the young man's life, once the battle was on.

"My life was as much in danger as was Blunt's," declared Briggs.

"I was the center of their attack and after I was started I was bound to fight until dead."

Seated within an arm's length of the chief sat the widow of the dead man. She had little interest in the proceedings, however, if appearances counted; she seemed dazed by the scene around her. Her parents and those of young Blunt also occupied seats near the witness.

Opera House Crowded.

The opera house where the inquest is being held was crowded to its capacity, every aisle and the stage being used for standing room. Many who came from the country did not have the theater during the noon hour, having brought their lunch baskets with them.

Clashes between attorneys were frequent and at times personalities were indulged in. These became so serious at times that the coroner appeared in a quandary as to what action to take. When this condition came up the attorneys apparently by common consent settled the matter among themselves without a ruling.

Did Not Think of Danger.

"Did you realize that an innocent man was in the wagon and that his life was in danger every time you fired?" inquired Attorney Patrick, on cross-examination.

"No more than my own," was the reply. "Didn't you think you might be taking the life of an innocent man?"

"I didn't think anything about it."

"Could you not have effected the capture of these men by strategy. That is, to shoot the horses or run the wagon down?"

"They were firing at us. I tried to make them surrender by killing upon them to throw up their hands, but renewed firing was the answer I received and shot was striking me in the face from their guns."

Attorneys Clash.

Another extended clash between counsel occurred at this point.

Chief Briggs made sharp reply to several questions, and the exchanges became heated.

"Have you before this instance shot into a crowd of men one of whom was an innocent person?" inquired counsel.

"I never had such desperate men to deal with," replied Briggs.

Many Come Armed.

Chief of Police Donahue of Omaha with nineteen police officers of that city were among the witnesses subpoenaed. They presented a formidable array when they arrived. County Attorney Jamieson consulted with attorneys and officials and decided no attempt would be made to disarm those present, although it was known that many men came armed.

Members of the families of the dead man and his wife came in just before the proceedings were begun and were given seats near the jury. The young widow, almost oblivious of what was happening about her, sat with her eyes on the floor.

Coroner Testifies.

Coroner R. B. Armstrong was the first witness called. He went into detail of the bullet wounds found on Blunt's body. He could not tell by the nature of wound whether the bullets were of large or small caliber, and neither whether rifle or revolver bullet. This has been a mooted question, as the convicts were armed with shotguns and revolvers and the officers with rifles.

On cross-examination, the clothing of the dead man was exhibited and was the subject of the first clash. The bloody coat was produced and brought forth a dramatic scene. Attorneys on each side charged opposing counsel with lack of feeling for the widow and parents of the dead man. Coroner Armstrong was himself on the stand and rapped the attorneys to order after some sharp exchanges.

Before the inquest was resumed in the afternoon it became apparent that the inquest never will end the Blunt case and that regardless of what verdict may be returned by the coroner's jury at least one lawsuit and probably more will be

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VISIT our clothing department on Saturday of our Thirtieth Anniversary Sales. For 30 years Brandeis Store has served Omaha men and served them well. We control the best makes of ready-to-wear clothes. We outfit the best dressed men in Omaha. We know we have the newest, most up-to-date clothes for men and young men, and we want the chance to prove it to you.

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For Men's and Young Men's Easter Wear

Brandeis lines of Soft and Stiff Hats for spring 1912 are now complete. The handsomest models ever shown. Durability is a feature of every Brandeis hat. Expert workmen fashion them.

- The celebrated John B. Stetson Hats at \$3.50
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- The new Stitch Cloth and Silk Hats for young men, college styles, at \$1.25 and \$1.50
- Men's Soft and Stiff Hats, manufacturers' samples, all new spring styles; values up to \$3.00, at \$1.25

- Boys' School Hats—New spring styles, at 25c, 49c, 98c, \$1.50
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Special Sale Trunks and Suit Cases

Over 100 famous Drucker Trunks of Cincinnati, all floor samples; values up to \$18.00, at \$7.50, \$10 and \$12.50

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Genuine cowhide leather suit cases with straps all around, solid brass lock and catches, linen lined with shirt folds, women's and men's sizes, at \$4.98

We Are Omaha Agents for the "Society Brand" Clothes for Young Men

Ask to see our exclusive patterns in this high art clothing. Shown in no other store in Omaha. At— \$20 to \$35

Men's Spring Clothes

All wool guaranteed blue serge, fancy worsteds and tweeds; all suits serge lined and hand tailored throughout, peg top or regular cut trousers, etc. Two and three button models—stouts, regulars, slims and extra sizes. Values up to \$25.00. Easter Special at \$12.50 to \$21

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Our 1912 Special—The greatest line of new spring patterns in all the new models and giving the men of Omaha the best values in these two high grade makes of clothes at \$25.00 ever offered by any store in America. Come and see them Saturday.

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Thousands of pairs men's pants in serges and neat striped worsteds, values up to \$8.00, at \$2.98, \$3.98 and \$5.00

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Lot 1—All the Madras and Soisette negligee and outing shirts, value up to \$1.25; all sizes, at 69c

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Men's 50c Silk Four-in-Hand Neckwear 19c

Lots 3 and 4—All the high grade sample shirts, coat style, plain color and neat striped effects, values up to \$3, at \$1.49 and \$1.49

Pure Combed Egyptian Cotton, medium and light weight; \$1.50 values at 75c and 98c

started and the entire matter will be tried out before a district court jury and eventually the supreme court.

Unless good headed officials take the situation in charge with severe hands the inquest is likely to become a pure and simple farce. If feeling continues to increase as it has increased today it will occasion no surprise if the inquest breaks up altogether before a verdict is reached.

GOVERNOR WRITES A LETTER

Nebraska Executive Advises Holding Inquest Behind Closed Doors.

The following letter from Governor Aldrich was received by Coroner Armstrong:

LINCOLN, Neb., March 29.—R. B. Armstrong, Coroner, and Citizens Attending Inquest, Springfield, Neb.: Permit me as governor of the state of Nebraska to call your attention to the fact that it is of the utmost importance in an investigation of this kind that the proceedings

should be conducted in an orderly, calm, impartial and judicial spirit.

Let no excitement or prejudice in any way influence the jury in this investigation. On this occasion the name of the state of Nebraska is at stake, and let us see to it as citizens that nothing occurs here in any way reflect upon the good citizenship of Sarpy county and the state of Nebraska. In this matter let two wrongs never make a right and two extremes never solve a problem. It will avail no one anything to proceed with undue haste or arrive at a conclusion based upon prejudice, passion and feeling.

Remember, also, in this matter that these officers were in pursuit of desperate men—mere human devils, as it were—and that in the pursuit and capture of these lawless and law-breaking men their own lives in their hands and courageously performed their duty, and if what may seem to be an unnecessary taking of life occurred, remember that it was in no spirit of violation of law, but rather whatever unfortunate incident occurred in this desperate pursuit after desperate men was accidental.

I say to you who may be assembled on this occasion to calmly and justifiably await careful investigation of the facts. It will serve no good purpose either to this community or to the bereaved relatives that any untoward act may occur. When this situation is appreciated, I assure that the good people of this community and the bereaved friends will counsel moderation in all particulars. Any violation of law and act of lawlessness will be a stain upon the name of our fair state, and will not in any way compensate for the violations of law that have already taken place.

I submit these few lines to the people assembled on the occasion of the coroner's investigation in a spirit of profound sympathy for bereaved friends and relatives and for the purpose of calling your attention to the necessity of being calm and orderly.

This coroner's jury should receive evidence, in my judgment, in a room by itself and call witnesses as they see fit to. I have been informed that the coroner's purpose of the coroner to hold this inquest in the opera house so that the crowds may be accommodated. Gentlemen, this is a serious and grave mistake. You start in, by this proceeding, in the form of an entertainment. It mars the solemnity and dignity of the occasion. Entertainment or satisfaction of curiosity seeks is not the aim or object in this matter. This investigation should be conducted by the members of the coroner's jury with the assistance of the county attorney and the coroner, in such a manner that a witness would not feel the embarrassment of curious eyes. In this way a witness could and would be more liable to tell the plain truth, free from the scorn and criticism of idle curiosity seekers. By having this jury, with the county attorney and the coroner, in a room by itself in the presence of a witness who is giving testimony, then a dignified and orderly procedure could be carried out.

But to have the proceeding in an opera house savors of a show or an entertainment and the yellow newspapers of the

country would seize upon it as something to color up in glaring headlines.

With every confidence in the integrity and fairness of the coroner's inquest of the people of this county, I submit to you, without further remark, the consideration of this important matter. Yours respectfully,

CHESTER H. ALDRICH, Governor.

Seed Corn Experts Preach New Gospel to Three Thousand

CORNING, La., March 28.—(Special)—Before an audience that taxed the capacity of the Adams county court house here

last evening agricultural experts from the state agricultural college expounded the laws of good farming, featuring the imperative necessity of testing seed corn this spring. This meeting rounded out the second day of the Burlington's seed corn and soil special itinerary of two weeks. During the day meetings were held and seven towns and fully 3,000 people were addressed on the subject now so vital to Iowa's prosperity this fall.

The first meeting of the day was at Cumberland at 9 o'clock. Despite the early hour there was a large crowd of farmers who had driven over muddy roads to hear the lesson to be offered them. At Massena and Fontenelle both audience coaches on the special were filled to the platforms. While the roads are muddy farmers, unable to work in

the fields, are willing to brave the inconvenience of the roads to reap the benefits offered by this train with its experts.

At Greenfield the meeting was held in the court house, which was packed. Judge Hauser, who is holding court here, adjourned the session pending the lecture hour. Orient furnished two carloads of interested farmers. Prescott gave a big attendance and then Corning was reached for this evening's meeting.

Prof. W. H. Stevenson of the state agricultural college of Ames joined the special train today and delivered his first lecture here last night. After covering the seed corn testing subject he gave an interesting discussion on the soil problem that is one of permanent interest to every farmer.

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Here are three big specials for Saturday that outshine any millinery values offered in Omaha. Thousands of women have taken advantage of my out prices in the last two years, and once you buy here, you will be a permanent customer.

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Trimmed collars and Derbies. Including the New English models, trimmed with fancy brush effects and cockades of gros-grain ribbon. Colors are black and "burnt." Positively \$6.00 values, for \$3.50

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