

DEATH FOR GEN. STOESEL

Is the Sentence For Surrendering Port Arthur.

May be Committed to Ten Years in Fortress.

Charged With Cowardice and Reasonable Haste.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—Lieutenant-General Stoessel was condemned to death this evening by a military court for the surrender of Port Arthur to the Japanese. General Fock, who commanded the fourth East Siberian division of Port Arthur, was ordered reprimanded for a disciplinary offence which was not connected with the surrender, and General Smirnov, acting commandant of the fortress, and Major-General Reiss, Chief of Staff to General Stoessel, were acquitted on the charges against them for lack of proof. The court recommended that the death sentence of Lieutenant-General Stoessel be commuted to ten years imprisonment in a fortress, and that he be excluded from the service.

The sentence of death was pronounced upon General Stoessel for surrendering the fortress before all the means of defence had been exhausted, for failing to enforce his authority, and for military misdemeanor.

Commutation of Sentence Asked.

Commutation of sentence was asked on the ground that "Port Arthur was set by overwhelming forces, defended itself under General Stoessel's leadership with unexampled stubbornness and filled the world with astonishment at the heroic courage of its garrison; that the general assaults had been repulsed with tremendous losses on the part of the enemy; that General Stoessel throughout the siege had maintained the heroic courage of the defenders, and finally that he had taken an energetic part in three campaigns."

Before the sentence was read measures were taken to prevent a demonstration in favor of General Stoessel by a number of the younger officers and witnesses who were present. These later sent a despatch to the Empress saying that they would humbly bear testimony that General Stoessel was the soul of the defence of Port Arthur; that he had always encouraged and put heart in the garrison to the best of his endeavor, and that in case of war they would wish to serve again under such a hero. They asked the Empress graciously to bespeak for the Emperor a full pardon.

A public festival is being organized by the municipality of St. Petersburg in honor of the defender of the fortress.

Cowardice and Incapacity.

The basis of the indictments upon which Lieutenant-General Stoessel, General Fock, who commanded the fourth East Siberian division of Port Arthur, and Major-General Reiss, Chief-of-Staff to General Stoessel, were tried for their lives, was a secret report made by Lieutenant-General Smirnov on the defence of Port Arthur. Smirnov was acting commandant of the fortress, Stoessel being commander of the Kwangtung Peninsula. Smirnov categorically accused Stoessel of cowardice and incapacity, and finally of the deliberate and treasonable hastening of the surrender of his own life, and in defiance of the decisions of two successive councils of war. The report was extremely biased. It breathed the most bitter personal enmity, and showed that the high officers of the Port Arthur garrison in the darkest days of siege were almost at one another's throats.

Smirnov's Indictment.

General Smirnov summed up his indictment as follows: "A series of unpardonable blunders outside the fortress, due to the ignorance and lack of military capacity and martial prowess of General Stoessel, and Fock, brought about the investment of the fortress several months earlier than was necessary, and after the investment a desire for undeserved glory moved Stoessel to interfere in the defence with unfortunate results. Finally, at the last period of the siege, Stoessel usurped his authority with the assistance of Generals Fock and Reiss, and committed treason in surrendering suddenly and prematurely. I regard our defeat at Mukden as a direct result of this treason."

General Smirnov declared, further, that the fortress, which was surrendered to the Japanese, January 1, 1905, could have held out for six weeks longer.

Testimony of Japanese.

In opposition to this are the statements of Japanese officers who were the first to enter the fortress. All proper food was exhausted, they said, and the 20,000 Russians under arms were in no condition to fight. General Stoessel, according to the Japanese, might have held out for a fortnight longer, but the result would have been an inevitable massacre, in which it would have been difficult to distinguish combatants from non-combatants.

Stoessel has been a most severe disciplinarian. It is related of him that he has sentenced many men to death for infractions of the regulations, and he is far from popular in the Russian army.

Analogous to Case of Hull.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The sentence of General Stoessel is justified in the general expert belief in military circles here. The United States articles of war prescribe death as the penalty for exactly such conduct. Such a sentence, however, has never been carried out in the United States, although it was imposed in the case of Gen. William Hull, who surrendered Detroit in the war of 1812. General Hull was subsequently cashiered in lieu of the sentence because of his previously excellent record.

Story of Port Arthur.

The siege of Port Arthur was the most spectacular feature of the recent conflict

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NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL AGAIN UNDER ARREST.

Edward Gahan, Figured in Toronto Vitriol Throwing Case of 1887—Was Sent to Kingston for Life, Was Pardoned and Then Resumed the Career of Crime.

Served 38 years in prison—more than one-half of his life—in England and Canada.

Sentenced to six terms, varying in length from 18 months to life.

Released from Canadian prisons three times before sentences were completed.

Pardoned after serving only 10 years of a life sentence in Kingston penitentiary for vitriol throwing.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—The above are the outstanding features in the career of Edward Gahan, alias Graham, alias George Wilfrid, alias Rev. Herbert Preston, who is at present under arrest in Havana, Cuba, and who is wanted by the Provincial Department of Criminal Justice, for forgery at Welland. Gahan is the same man who was convicted in Toronto away back in 1887, of throwing vitriol at Lewis Sievert, a tobaccoist, and disfiguring him for life. Since then he has been convicted twice, and has served nearly twenty years in prison. Upon his release from the Kingston Penitentiary last year, he immediately started in crime afresh, and he is now wanted in many cities in Canada and several of the Eastern States.

Gahan is now a man of 61 years of age, five feet seven inches in height, with yellow complexion, grey eyes, grey hair, and he is very bald. Deputy Attorney-General Cartwright was advised of his arrest at Havana two weeks ago, but it was decided not to extradite him, as the police in one of the Eastern States were said to have charges against him upon which he could be sent to prison for a term which would last to the end of his days. The charge upon which he is wanted is that of causing a forged letter of credit to the Bank of Toronto in Welland, Ont., purporting to be issued by the Citizens' National Bank, Baltimore, upon the London City and Midland Bank, London, in favor of Rev. Herbert Preston, and accompanied by the usual letter of identification. This happened in December last.

Twenty years ago Gahan figured in one of the most sensational cases which the Toronto Police Department has ever had to deal with. At the corner of King and Yonge streets in the fall of that year, Louis Sievert, who kept a cigar store, was attacked by a man, who threw a canister of vitriol over his face. Gahan was arrested and sent to the Kingston penitentiary for life by Magistrate Demson. The police were never able to find any motive for Graham's act. As far as could be ascertained, he had never even seen Sievert before, and Gahan himself was altogether unknown to Sievert. The police found out that he had prepared for the crime with deliberate intent, and had the canister made to order, saying that he was a painter and wanted it to hold colors. It is one of the strangest cases recorded in the history of the department.

After serving ten years of his life sentence, Gahan was pardoned on condition that he return to England. After his release he got as far as Quebec, where he was arrested and sent to St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary for ten years for forging the signature of Hon. H. R. Dobbell to a cheque for \$150. He served eight years in St. Vincent de Paul, and was again released. His liberty was limited to only a few months, as in the same year he was convicted of bogus cheque operating in Kingston, Ont., and sent to the penitentiary for three years. According to the Toronto Police Department, his term is not yet complete, as Gahan was sentenced on April 16, 1905, so that two years are not yet complete. It is likely that he has been released on parole.

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FRUIT MEN'S SHORT COURSE

CONTINUATION OF THE INSTITUTE MEETINGS AT WINONA.

Insect Pests Death With in an Able Paper by Mr. Crow—Other Speakers on Same Subject.

Beamsville, Feb. 21.—"Insects and Diseases" was Mr. J. W. Crow's very practical and pointed address on the afternoon of the second day's session of the fruit men's short course at Jordan. The interest for the three days had not abated an iota, and the hall was filled.

Mr. Crow has had a very wide experience in dealing with insect pests, and is a brilliant graduate of the O. A. C. There are two varieties of pests that have to be dealt with by fruit growers—insects and the fungi. The apple scab and the codling moth are among the latter. Fungi belongs to the vegetable kingdom of a very low order, and are blown about and spread by the wind. The dead and decaying leaves lying about the orchards and vineyards are favorable spots, and wherever they find food, spraying is done to kill the fungus, especially in mildew on grapes.

There are two general classes of insects, the codling moth, caterpillar, potato beetle and the green beetle; and these varieties devour by piercing. To a certain class is the mosquito and oyster leaf scale, San Jose scale or the green louse on cherries. The biting insects, or the first class, may be poisoned by using arsenic of lead and paris green solution; also by the lime and sulphur solution. Another good mixture is kerosene and whale oil soap. A most important point, though, is to understand the nature of the disease before beginning to spray, as some of these ingredients will not kill all classes of insects.

The codling moth is the most serious on the apple. If late broods of this pest are not killed a lot of work has to be accomplished for the next spring. A peculiar feature of the San Jose scale is that no eggs are laid. The young broods are born alive; there are four or five of these in a season, and wherever they settle they begin to feed, and the secretion forming over them in the shape of a scale. It is then the life is gradually sucked out of the tree. The scale spreads generally in a northeastern direction, and can be carried by the wind and by other insects long distances. Mr. Crow said the spread from infected fruit was very slight.

The lime and sulphur wash was the best spraying mixture for