

SLORAH GUILTY

As Charged Said the Jury and Recommended Him to Mercy of the Court.

WILL HANG THE FIRST OF MARCH

Unless Appeal is Granted Which Counsel Has Asked.

HE TAKES SENTENCE CALMLY

And Betrays No Sign of Weakening—Outcome of Trial a Surprise to Many.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily. "Guilty as charged, with a strong recommendation to mercy" was the verdict of the jury in the Slorah murder trial last night, and the death sentence followed this morning.

When the hearing of the afternoon Susie Vernon was called by the prosecution in rebuttal. She was asked by Mr. Wade if she had ever administered any blows to Pearl Mitchell. The question was objected to by Mr. Bleeker on the ground that it was not a question in rebuttal and was sustained by the court.

Dr. Hurdman was called and testified that he had attended to the wounds upon the head of Slorah immediately after the affair, and that he did not think it possible that the deceased could have shot herself in the head and neck. His opinion was that after firing the shot which took effect in the neck, it would have been impossible for him to have remained capable of any act of volition or locomotion.

Dr. McArthur was called and gave an opinion corroborative of that expressed by the previous witness.

J. S. Levine who said he had been a furrier off and on for 34 years, testified that the fur cape worn by the dead woman at the time of her death, had been in use from three to five years. It was made of Persian lamb and electric seal. The singeing of the lining as referred to by previous witnesses, he thought might have been done at the time the cape was made by a hot iron used in pressing. He stated that if a bullet had passed through the Persian lamb skin of which a portion of the cape was made, a large hole would have been torn.

Nathaniel Rhinehart, who had also been a furrier for many years gave evidence on the fur cape and said that the holes in it might be bullet holes and they might have been torn.

Constable Henry Joyce testified that he had had 20 years' experience with fire arms from artillery down to pocket pistols. He said that if a revolver were fired in close contact with a yielding surface, the result would be the making of a very large hole. He had experimented Saturday evening by firing against a piece of muslin backed by a pocket handkerchief, which in turn had behind it a piece of military blue cloth and again behind this a piece of beefsteak. The result was a very large hole in all the materials. The shot had been fired in close contact. At six inches the hair on the muslin had been burned and the bullet hole had been much larger than the ball.

This testimony closed the case and after an adjournment for dinner court again assembled to hear the argument of counsel. The courtroom was more crowded than at any previous time during the trial when Attorney Bleeker began his argument to the jury. He accused the crown prosecutor of having violated his duties. He cited authority which he adopted as his own opinion that the crown prosecutor had made the trial a struggle for professional pre-eminence rather than with any thought of doing justice to the prisoner. The attorney, after thus setting forth his estimation of the tactics of his opponent, said that here was a man not only accused of taking the life of a human being, but that being was his wife with whom the evidence showed him to have been in love. It was hard for the prisoner to understand why he had been accused of this horrible

crime. The evidence, he said, did not in any way go to show a motive. He cited cases wherein people had been convicted and executed on circumstantial evidence and long afterwards proven innocent.

He deduced from the experiments, the results of which had been produced in evidence, the theory that had the revolver muzzle been pressed tight against the material fired at instead of merely touching the ends of the hair, the bullet hole would not have been nearly so large as it was, and that there would have been no surface burning, but on the contrary the effect would have been precisely the same as that seen on the collar of the cape worn by Pearl Mitchell at the time of her death.

Leaving this matter the speaker came down to the morning of the tragedy and reviewed the case from beginning to end, dwelling at length upon what he considered the inconsistencies of the testimony of Susie Vernon and skillfully picking out the more vulnerable points in the theory advanced by the crown.

After a most able and eloquent appeal to the jury from numerous standpoints the attorney for the defence closed his plea, after having spoken nearly two hours.

Mr. Wade, in opening his address said: "I do not apprehend, gentlemen of the jury, that I am expected to defend the police force and myself from the attacks of my learned friend by all the power of rhetoric and eloquence. My learned friend proceeds, of course, to demolish circumstantial evidence; to cite cases wherein it has been found wanting, and to show you why you must not give it credence. He also tells you that you must not give credence to the testimony of an eye witness."

Then he proceeded to call into question the attributes of character attributed to Slorah by his opponent; to show that he had lived upon the earnings of "box rustling," and to apply all his "well known power" of satire and sarcasm to the picture drawn of Slorah's character by Mr. Bleeker.

After dwelling for sometime upon the character of the prisoner in the box whom he characterized as being the lowest type of humanity who ever came before an intelligent jury charged with a heinous crime, Mr. Wade analyzed the case as evidenced by the facts adduced by the testimony for the crown, and altogether laying aside the evidence of Susie Vernon, made a remarkably strong plea for conviction on the showing of the circumstantial evidence brought out in the course of the trial, and by the pure force of deductive reasoning.

He very gracefully paid a compliment to the opposing counsel by saying that he had most consummately and with the utmost care constructed a very plausible theory in the interest of his client. He closed after having talked down an hour and three-quarters.

Justice Dugas then charged the jury after paying their patience, in the interests of good citizenship, a tribute by saying that the prisoner's case did not come under the head of other cases wherein great provocation such as self-defense could be shown. The prisoner was either guilty as charged, or innocent. Briefly, though with clearness and the conciseness bearing the stamp of care and the closest attention to the case, he summed up the matter, overlooking no detail, and leaving out nothing having any bearing of importance.

Referring to the testimony of Susie Vernon he warned the jury that they had no right whatever to reject her testimony on any ground other than that of extreme excitement at the time which led her to believe she saw things which she did not. No grounds of character were sufficient to warrant the jury in rejecting her evidence.

At five minutes past eleven the case was given to the jury who returned to consider it, and during their absence there was the usual speculation as to what the verdict would be, many expressing their belief that it would be one of acquittal, but when 25 minutes after leaving the courtroom the six men whose duty it was to render a judgment in the case, silently filed back to their places, everyone knew from the short length of time they had been out that the verdict must be one of awful import for the prisoner at the bar.

"Gentlemen of the jury, have you arrived at a verdict?" asked Clerk McDonald, and the crowded courtroom held its breath as R. P. McLennan arose and replied: "We have. We find the prisoner as charged, with a strong recommendation to mercy."

All eyes were turned on the being most deeply interested, but if any one felt him to give any sign of what he expected they were disappointed, as James Slorah, whatever else he may be, is either a man of iron nerves or

without them utterly. Not by so much as the quiver of an eyelash did he betray that he had any interest whatever in the matter, as he quietly sat and chewed a toothpick and looked on, and had he not been conspicuous by being in the prisoner's box none would have known that he had reference to him.

To many, especially those who had not followed the evidence closely, the verdict was a great surprise, and last night after the courtroom had poured its crowd back into the town, many indeed were the expressions both of surprise and sympathy heard on every hand. The town was all agog with the news, and a great deal of speculation was heard as to the next step in the case, which a great many refuse to look upon as either closed or hopeless.

One thing seems certain and that is, if any further legal steps are possible which require money, Slorah's friends will produce it for him and welcome, as notwithstanding the evidence against him, they refuse almost to a man, to believe in his guilt.

Owing to the lateness of the hour last night at which the case closed, Justice Dugas deferred sentence till today.

The courtroom was crowded when the orderly called the court to order this morning, the crowd having been drawn thither by the knowledge that James Slorah would, in all probability receive the death sentence, unless something of an unusual nature occurred, the air being filled with all sorts of rumors, one of them to the effect that an appeal was going to be taken.

After the judge had taken his seat, and the manacled prisoner had been placed in the box, Attorney Bleeker addressed the court and gave notice that he would ask leave to appeal the case on the ground that the jury had received evidence out of court. He was unable to back up this startling statement by the proper affidavits, but assured the court that he could do so if only allowed till tomorrow morning. It may be said here that Attorney Bleeker is strong in the faith that his client is innocent, and that he has worked untiringly in his defense, so much so that the nervous strain is telling upon him. When he begged to be given till tomorrow morning his voice shook and trembled in a way to prove his earnestness. He said he did not think the counsel for the crown would offer any objection. There was a moment's hesitancy before the crown prosecutor replied, and it was thought by some that the face of Justice Dugas changed to a grayish color under the weight of his awful duty, but it may have been only the shifting light of the uncertain winter sun. Then came the firm toned voice of Mr. Wade warning a decided objection. The objection was sustained.

"James Slorah," said Clerk McDonald, "have you anything to say as to why sentence should not be passed upon you?"

"I have nothing to say, except that I did not commit this crime!" came the answer in cool, evenly spoken words, but whatever else he may have intended to say was cut short by Attorney Bleeker, who moved a stay in the sentence on the ground that the indictment under which his client was convicted was defective, inasmuch as the person whom he was accused of having killed was named as Pearl Mitchell, when in reality she was Mrs. Slorah. Again in the attorney for the defense was overruled, and the justice addressed his final words to the prisoner.

"Prisoner, you have been accused and found guilty of having murdered one Pearl Mitchell, whom you claim to have been your wife."

The justice then went on to state that the crown prosecutor had done his duty; that he did not want any words of his to make the tortures which he must be suffering any greater than they must already be; that he had hoped that he would be able to establish his innocence.

The justice then placed upon his head the black cap, and said: "The sentence of the court is that you shall be taken back to the place of confinement and there kept till the first day of March, 1901, and then taken to the place of execution and hanged by the neck until dead, and may the Almighty have mercy upon you."

There was a death like stillness in the room for a moment, during which all eyes were turned upon the condemned man, but he gave no sign whatever—not so much as changing color, or by the movement of an eyelash, and when he left the room he did so with a firm step and an erect head.

Mail in Tonight.

The incoming consignment of 500 pounds of mail left Ogilvie this morning at 6 o'clock and will reach here some time tonight.

REPORT VERY VOLUMINOUS

Mr. Tyrrell's Idea of Forming a Public Museum.

He Favors a Large Exhibit of Indigenous Minerals—Museum Will Be Pride of the Yukon.

At a late meeting pertaining to the founding of a public museum the following report was submitted by Mr. Tyrrell, M. A. B. C. A. S.:

Ladies and Gentlemen—In starting a museum which will illustrate the resources of the valley of the Upper Yukon it is necessary, in order to make the project a success, that it should receive the hearty support of all the people, Canadian and foreigners alike of the Yukon territory. They should contribute to it both financially and by bringing in specimens that they may think would be of interest to others. It is necessary to keep in mind the object of such a museum, viz: to collect, properly, name and classify, and exhibit the natural resources and products of the country, in order to give a clear and distinct view of those resources to all who may wish to study or understand them.

As mining is the most important industry of the territory, and as minerals are the most important natural products, it is of the utmost importance to illustrate the character of the minerals, the conditions under which the minerals exist and the methods adopted in extracting them. But it is also of great importance to exhibit the fauna and flora, or the minerals and plants native to the region, as these show more clearly than any extended descriptions or than long lists of temperatures, what animals and plants thrive hereabouts. With this knowledge at hand the experienced naturalist or botanist can tell quickly and certainly what are the natural conditions of life under which we live, and what animals or plants will be reasonably sure to succeed if introduced. For instance, feed for horses and cattle is scarce in this immediate vicinity, and it would be important to know which of the valuable feed grasses would grow to the greatest perfection. After a study of the plants which are indigenous to the country the botanist could furnish that information very much quicker than it could be determined by actual experiment, for he would be merely giving the final results of thousands of observations and experiments made in other places.

But to return to mining and especially to its geological aspect, or the conditions under which mineral deposits occur. It is admitted by all that a thorough knowledge of the conditions existing in known mines is of the greatest assistance in forming a correct estimate of the value of new or unprospected ground. In this gold mining camp where the gold has been primarily derived from the rocks of the immediate vicinity, a thorough knowledge of the bedrock, both on the claim itself and also on the adjoining ones, is of the utmost importance. To illustrate this statement, I cannot do better than to draw your attention to a map recently published by the geological survey of Canada, which shows that all the richest gold bearing ground in the Klondike district is underlain by one series of rocks, which have been grouped together by Mr. McConnell under the name of Klondike series. A full and complete set of rocks, not only from this Klondike series, but from all the different formations throughout the country, should be collected into this museum. Such a collection would be of service, not only to miners and prospectors working in this territory, but to capitalists and miners from other countries who may visit Dawson and who would be particularly interested in knowing whether the rocks which underlie this country bear any resemblance to those with which they are acquainted elsewhere or not.

In collecting rocks it is necessary to exercise some care in order to get good fresh specimens which will show the component grains or crystals distinctly. If the specimens are much decomposed it is often impossible to tell what was their original character. In the creek claims it is usually an easy matter to secure fresh specimens of bedrock, but in the hill claims it is often very difficult, as the bedrock is commonly decomposed for a long distance down. They should all show freshly broken surfaces, rather than even jointage or bedding planes. It is also important, in order that the rocks may be compared easily and certainly, that specimens should be of about uniform size and

unless in special cases, when large masses might be needed, neat pieces of rock four inches long, three inches wide and one inch thick, which will readily lie in the palm of the hand, will be found to be a convenient size. Such specimens should be arranged in flat or special cases, where they can be examined carefully and readily. Larger specimens may, of course, be needed to illustrate such rocks as coarse conglomerates or rocks showing peculiar structure. In collecting these specimens great care should be taken to observe as definitely as possible the width of the vein, lode or strata from which they (the specimens) are taken; the rock or mineral associated with the specimen on each side, and specimens of these rocks or minerals should also be secured.

The direction and dip or inclination of this vein or lode should also be noted as closely as possible; a pocket compass will do fairly well for the former, if nothing better is at hand. The dip properly requires a clinometer, but a couple of lines drawn on a piece of paper, one representing the horizontal, the other the "dip" would be better than nothing.

Good typical examples of gold bearing gravel from the various creeks should be obtained before the richest of the known ground is worked out.

A good collection of coal from the various seams in the vicinity might be made a special feature of the museum.

Besides the above, a well arranged series of minerals and ores, set up in such a way that they could be closely examined, would be of much service to prospectors, as they might not only lead to the discovery of new minerals with which they are not acquainted, but also avoid sensational reports of bogus discoveries. All this material could be gathered together with the greatest ease by miners and prospectors and their observations and collections, which would otherwise soon be lost sight of, would here be stored up in such a way that they might be of permanent value to others.

Fossil bones are found in abundance in the gold-bearing gravels, and fossil leaves and coal shells should be found in the coal-bearing beds; a collection of these would be exceedingly interesting, and would give the museum a standing and reputation among outsiders and scientific men such as it would hardly gain in any other way.

Oversight Corrected.

One was a Liberal and the other a Conservative. They had met and, in a friendly way started an argument. They waxed warmer and warmer until finally the lie was passed. As one man they jumped out of their coats and with fire flashing from their eyes leaped like gladiators into the fray and for a few seconds blows hard and furious fell like sledge hammers.

"Stop!" cried one of the contestants, "have you neglected something which must be attended to before we proceed, after which I will give you the thrashing a man ever received!"

"What have you neglected?" asked the other man as he pawed around like a war horse.

"We forgot to choose patrons."

The oversight was corrected, the fight proceeded, and the way they hammered, belted, and plugged each other was a corker.

A Runaway.

One of Heath's teams for Hunker creek ran away this morning on the beach opposite the fire hall, upsetting and partially wrecking the stage. No passengers were aboard at the time and no injury was sustained by the driver.

A Nefarious Trick.

At about 5:30 o'clock yesterday evening some person drew the staple by which the water house at the corner of Third avenue and Harper street is locked, entered the building and turned on the hydrant to its full capacity, thus allowing a vast amount of water to escape and run out beside the box in which the main is encased, where, the chances are, it will freeze and eventually stop the flow of the main. The perpetrator of the deed either did it to put the water company out of business, or was stealing water and did not take time to turn off the trap. Superintendent Matheson, as will be seen by an advertisement elsewhere in this paper, offers \$100 reward for the apprehension of the miscreant.

Parried the Thrust.

A lady had in her employ an excellent girl who had but one fault. Her face was always in a smudge. Her mistress tried, without offending, to tell her to wash her face and at last resorted to strategy.

"Do you know, Bridget," she remarked in a confidential manner, "I'm marked that if you wash the face every day in hot, soapy water it will make you beautiful?"

"Will it?" said Bridget. "Sure, it will! I never tried it, ma'am!"

Our Dumb Animals.

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