CRIPPEN SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE

Most Sensational Trial of a Generation Came to an End Saturday in Old Bailey Court in London

VERDICT PRODUCED SOME SURPRISE IN COURT ROOM

Judge's Charge Considered Rather Favorable to Prisoner—A Disagreement of Jury Was Looked For

CRIPPEN SENTENCED TO DEATH ON SATURDAY JURY WAS OFF ONLY TWENTY MINUTES.

London, Oct. 22 (Canadian Associated Press).—After an impassioned address by Crown Prosecutor Muir, followed by the charge from Lord Alverstone, which was quite favorable to Crippen, the jury retired, and within twenty minutes brought in a verdict of guilty of the murder of his wife, Belle Elmore. His Lordship passed sentence immediately, and held out no hope of reprieve. As Crippen left the dock he was supported by the warden. His face was blanched and he was trembling in every limb. He said: "I still protest my innocence." The verdict of the jury caused a profound silence in court, as after the address of the Chief Justice it was quite expected there would be disagreement or acquittal.

London, Oct. 22—Intense interest was shown in the closing hours of the Croppen case today and ticket holders had assembled in court an hour before the resumption of proceedings. The chief justice found a full court and the jury in their places when he entered. Crippen entered the dock carefully arranged his overcoat on the back of the chair and took his seat facing the judge, who at once asked the jury whether they had seen yesterday evening's news.

"No, my lord," answered one of them, to which the judge replied he would not refer to the matter any more now. He wished an order of the court to be made for the attendance before his lordship in the course of the day of the editor of the Evening News. He let the order be sent at once so he could attend at once. This caused a sensation in court.

Crippen Again in the Box.

Addressing Mur, his lordship said he had received many communications bearing on this case, some of them entitled to respect. With respect to a question put by one of the jury quite properly he thought, it would be fair to Crippen if he were asked the question. Crippen went into the box and seemed quite composed, but apparently more anxious than yesterday. His lordship said: "Replying to a question yesterday you said that you got your information about hyoscin being used in homeopathic medicines from Hempel-Arndts dictionary. Now" said his lordship, "had you mentioned that book to your advisers?" Crippen answered in a low and subdued tone, "I had not."

"You never mentioned it till yesterday?"

"No, my lord."

His lordship said he wished to ask the question in consequence of information he had received.

"You said you had known of hyoscin having been administered at some lunatic asylum?"

Crippen—"The Royal Bethlehem."

Judge—"What, here?"

"Yes."

"How came you to be there?"

"I was there three months, taking an extra course studying insanity. There is a difficulty about insane people swallowing. The drug is always given in ansanity cases hypodermically."

His lordship—"That is the answer I required. In maniac's cases it is always administered internally in small doses?"

"Yes, your lordship."

"You treated most of your patients by correspondence and seldom saw them?"

"Very sledom."

Crippen replying further said his principal practice was eye, ear and throat. He also studied nerve diseases and locomotor ataxi.

By the judge—"You mentioned the name of a patient named Sweensy in Ireland. Did you ever see him?"

"No."

Some more questions followed along the same line, when his lorship remarked that the question o fadministration by mouth or hypodermically did not appear important.

Innocents Not Often Hanged.

Mr. Muir rose to reply for the crown and said he would not himself have thought it necessary for any one who had observed the demeanor of the jury during the trial to address words to them seeming to enforce upon them the gravity of the task which they had undertaken, but his learned friend had thought it right to drag out of the limbo in which it had rested for many years the old forensic phrase in order to suggest in their minds thhat they had to be cautious and certain before a case of life and death they found verdict of guilty. There were cases in books, his learned friend said, which showed that men have been tried for murder, convicted and hanged, and then supposed victims have turned up alive. There were such cases in a book of Sir Matthew Hale who died in 1676. He mentioned two such cases which were old cases in his time. The world had contracted since then for purpose of finding missing persons. Steamships, railways, telegraphs and newspapers had made a vast difference since Hale's time, but his learned friend had found it necessary to flutter before eyes of jury that ancient bogie as if they would be afraid to go home in the dark because of their consciences, if they had returned a true verdict. To be as cautious as men could be, to be as careful as men could be, to be as certain in affairs of this life they could be, for this no caution he thought would have been necessary, and an attempt to frighten the jury would have been out of place. They would do their duty according to ancient custom of the law which resolved all dubtful questins in favor of the prisoner on trial. If doubt there was then the prisoner was entitled to be acquitted.

Crippen's Silence

His learned friend had said that newspapers publishing reports of this case had published one side only. "Why do they publish one side only? Because the prisoner chose to keep his mouth closed; because he did not choose to go into the witness box before a magistrate—because he chose to preserve those precious medical witnesses till this trial; witnesses who would if they had gone into the witness box at the police court have sworn to something totally different to that which they had sworn at the trial." And that being the fact his learned friend had thought it right to complain on behalf of the prisoner that the newspapers had only published one side of the case.

The "Kindhearted" Plea

The jury was also asked to discard plain facts, because the prisoner was too kind-hearted a man to have done the deed of which he was accused. Let them examine the foundation of that theory. The prisoner had admitted that over a long series of months he had led a life of studied hypocrisy and utterly reckless of the pain which the lies he was telling woul dinflict on the friends or sister of his wife. What was this man's feelings when he said to his wife's dearest friends, who thought they were sympathising with him, when they wished to lay the last tribute of love on the grave of their dead friend, that the wreath was of no use, she being cremated, that the remains would soon be over here, and then, with tongue in cheek no doubt, Crippen had said, then they might have their little ceremony? And the jury were now asked to say that he was too kind-hearted to do this deed. That this man, who had mocked the mourners, was said to not have sufficient control over his nerves to conceal the fact that he had done the crime. Muir showed how Crippen had asked the jury to believe that his wife was unfaithful to him and that her love wasc flexd on Bruce Millar. The latter had crossed the ocean to contradict that statement.

The Motive.

His learned friend said no adequate motive had been shown by the Crown and said that the only motive put forward had been to obtain six hundred pounds from th bank and marry Miss Le Neve. Neither of these motives had been sugested by him (Muir) in his opening statement. As the immediate cause of the murder the motive suggested was the establishment of closer relations with Le Neve, and to substitute for those clandestine meetings in the day time the permanent cohabitation of the two. What did Crippen care whether he married Le Neve? What was the necessity for the man who within a fortnight of the announcement of his wife's death pretended to his partner that he had married another woman? He was no stickler for ceremony. The motive was love, if they dignified it by that name, lust if they called it by its own more correct appellation, the most powerful of all motives, and money to gratify that lust immediately. They had it upon Crippen's unsupported statement that Le Neve stayed all night at Hillsdrop Crescent on February 2nd. If that were true, there was plenty of time from the morning of February 1st for him to have got rid of the remains of his wife.

The Question of Identity

Dwelling upon the question of identity Muir said the crown asked the jury to say that the remains were those of Belle Elmore, from the facts oner and his wife were left alone together in the house, and through all the months down to July 12 when the remains were found buried in the prisoner's cellar, mixed up with the prisoner's pyjama jacket, nothing had been heard of her. The date of purchase of the pyjamas, portions of which were found with the remains, showed the latter could not have been put there earlier than December 1908. Who in that period could have been buried in the house? Nobody but Belle Elmore.

In reply to the view that Crippen had not the skil to dissect a body, counse pointed out that some one with medica qualifications had been in Crippen's house while he was the tenant of it and had carved up Belle Elmore's body. Who could do this thing if not the man on trial now? What became of her? No one ever saw her alive after that supper to the Martinettis on February 1st. Where was she buried? In Crippen's cellar and by Crippen's hands. It was asking the jury to behave like children listening to a fairy tale to suggest that they would believe the story that Belle Elmore had gone abroad and was now alive. Belle Elmore dead, and Crippen knew he was safe in bedecking Leneve with his dead wife's furs and jewels. She had died of hyoscin found in the remains. It was absurd to suggest that Mr. Wilcox would declare the substance to be hyoscin it it was not. Dr. Winter Blith who had been called on this subject by the defence had presented a sorry spectacle as a witness. Concluding, counsel said: "Do not act upon any thing against the prisoner unless you are satisfied as reasonable men beyond all doubt. But you must not let this murder, if it be one go unpunished of any bogey fluttered in your face. Citizens of London, you are here to do your duty. I am quite sure you will have the courage to perform it."

Lord Alverston's Address

Lord Alverston, Chief Justice, summing up, said: "Gentlemon of the Jury, the time has now arrived in this great and important case for me to discharge my duty by directing you upon the facts of the law. Yours will be that of consideration of what your verdict shall be."

His Lordship complimented the counsel of both sides on the way they had discharged their duty and expressed the view that the jury in deciding the case would go entirely upon the sworn evidence they had heard. It was one of the unfortunate incidents of our present mode of life that public discussion of criminals takes place before they have been brought to trial. It was for the crown to make out its case. If the jury had any reasonable doubt whether the crown had done this they must give the prisoner the benefit of it. They must not allow the question whether minor points had been established to influence their judgment if upon the whole of the evidence they had no doubt as to the result. Tobbin had used the expression, "Certainty." And rightly understood this was not a mistake. But if by that it was to be supposed juri es were not to act upon evidence unless it put them in the position of having actually seen the thing done, it was a misleading expression. But if they were not satisfied by the evidence that the crown had made out their case, the prisoner was entitled to be acquitted. Something had been said about Dr. Crippen not having given evidence before either magistrate or coroner. His Lordship did not agree with Tobin that it was the prudent thing for an innocent man in any case to reserve his defence. It was an error into which l egal advisers had fallen for many years as the result of an old practice and the sooner it was recognized to be an error the better.

The change would be better for an innocent man and the less difficulty there would be in dealing with his case. But in this case it did not make any material difference, as the Crown were possessed of Crippen's side of the case, apart from the medical aspect, owing to Crippen's statement to Inspector Dew. From the first he had not wavered from his position. There was no question of suggesting that by some means Dr. Crippen caused the death of his wife beyond that he had poisoned her, butilated the body and buried it in the cellar. The charge, of course, involved two questions, not really indepenent, but which still ought to be considered somewhat separate. The first was: Were the remains found the remains of Mrs. Crippen? If they were not, then there was an end to the case. If they were, then the jury had to ask themselves was her death occasioned by hte wilfull act of Dr. Crippen; and, if not, then the defendant was again entitled to be acquitted. These were the two questions on which the jury were asked to concentrate their attention. The defendant had not contented himself with saying the Crown had not satisfied the jury that the remains were the remains of Belle Elmore, or that the Crown had not satisfied the jury that Belle Elmore had died from hyosin poisoning. He said that as far as he knew she was not dead, but had left him of her own accord. If that fact were made out they needed not trouble about whose remains they were that were found. Whatever might be the jury's legitimate views on the case, they must all agree that the defendant was an extraordinary man. If guilty he had committed a ghastly crime and had endeavored to cover up that ghastly crime in a ghastly way, and had behaved in a most brutal manner. If an innocent man, it was almost impossible to understand his mind or character, utterly indifferent to the charge of murder, yet having, according to himself, the means to establish his innocence, no steps had been taken by him to establish his innocence or support or confirm his case.

He had made out in the box, continued His Lordship, that Cora Crippen had left the house on the morning of February 1st. In his Lordship's judgment that was one of the most important parts of the case. It was an incident which the defendant had raised and he was entitled to have that incident considered. Of course, the jury could not have sat in the box for so long without realising that they could not rely upon a mere statement by Crippen. He had by his own confession lied for his own purposes and even when hte was purporting to tell the truth certain things he said were false and false to their own knowledge. He agreed in some sense with what Dr. Crippen had said to Muid: "What is the use of your asking me? I admitted that (he was lying." It was the most remarkable set of statements that had ever come to His Lordship's notice, and the importance of it was that this misrepresentation of events was sustained for six months. If the jury came to the conclusion that this was so enormously dangerous that Crippen could not possibly have carried it out if he had thought his wife might appear again, they must ask themselves again whether they could believe his story of her having leeft home. Nearly nine months had now passed since this case had arisen. The newspapers of two continents had been full of it. Now if Belle Elmore were alive, must not all this have come to her knowledge? Does this man, in the dock, asked his Lordship, suggest that this woman is so abnominably wicked as to let him stand his trial without making any sign? After luncheon, His Lordship, resuming, said that the court was not a court of morals but a court of law. The jury must not find against the defendant because he was an immoral man. What they had to do was to take into consideration those circumstances which had direct bearing on the case.

His lordship commented on the fact that Belle Elmore was said by Crippen to have left Hilldrop Crescent leaving clothes, furs and jewelry behind, although she was very fond of all three, and he said he regarded that fact as such a very remarkable incident in the case that he thought it right to question Crippen on this in the witness box. Crippen could only say that when he arrived at the house on February 1 he found one room in confusion, and he believes one trunk taken. His lordship then dealt with the question of the remains, asking how long had they been under ground. He thought it unfortunate from the view of the defence that no explanation had been made regarding the pyjama jacket which the Crown suggested had been used to wrap the remains in, it being thought it would never come to light again. He did not think it worth while calling attention to Crippen's evidence because he had made statements which he had to admit were not true. Assuming that the jury were satisfied that the remains had been buried in the cellar at the time consistent with Belle Elmore's disappearance, were they her remains, as it was not seriously disputed they were the remains of a women being clothed in woman's garments.

He thus came to the battleground in the case of the piece of flesh. They had the evidence of the prosecution, though it was contradicted, that it came from the lower part of the abdomen. Possibly the jury would come to the opinion that there was no more than one person in the case and that the answer to the question of who killed her answered the question of who buried her.

His lordship then went into the question of the cause of death and the hyoscin found in the remains. He concluded his summing up as follows:

"If the jury were of the opinion that Crippen's story of his wife's going away was true, and they were of the opinion that the crown had failed to prove that Cora Crippen was poisoned by hyoscin, they would return a verdict of not guilty, but they ought not to hesitate in returning a verdict which they were satisfied upon, on the evidence submitted, without any fear or suggestion as to what might occur in the future. There had been ample opportunity of getting hold of Cora Crippen if alive and they could not approach the case with the idea that Cora Crippen was alive."

As the jury was leaving their box Crippen stood up, nervously stroking his moustache with his right hand, looking earnestly at each juryman. He spoke once or twice to the attendant warden in an undertone and made his direction towards the entrance to the dock as though he expected to go out.

After the jury had retired the question of the appearance of counsel for the Evening News, about which his lordship had complained, arose. A representative of the newspaper's solicitors informed the clerk of the court that counsel were on their way. This was then communicated to the chief justice, who left the bench. Crippen had gone below and a hubbub of conversation arose. It seemed as though the waiting for the verdict would be long and wearisome. The counsel representing the Evening News appeared in court, and the judge said that it was a bad case when a statement had been made in a newspaper that the crown had allowed the quartermaster to consult Muir, and that the latter knew of his presence at the time when he was conducting the cross-examinations in the trial. This case will be taken up on Monday and his Lordship added that in that event it would be necessary to try Ethel Lenext on Tuesday.

When the Chief Justice resumed his seat on the judgment bench, Crippen was brought back to the dock. The prisoner stood up with his face very pale and cast an anxious look at the jury.

The clerk asked: "Have you agreed upon your verdict?"

Foreman: "We have."

Clerk: "How do you find prisoner, guilty or not guilty "

"Guilty of wilful murder," replied the forman promptly.

There was a prolonged sigh in the court. Crippen went deathly pale, and sank back in his chair. He was assisted to his feet by two warders. His mouth was trembling, his eyes bulged further out and he appeared to be suffering from great nervous excitement. The clerk broke the painful stillness.

"Hawley Crippen," he asked "have you anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon you according to law?"

Crippen, who was an abject figure of woe, mumbled something that could not be heard. In a moment, however, he appeared to pull himself together and exclaimed in a fairly nrm voice: "I still protest my innocence."

The Chief Justice assumed the black cap, and with the impressive figure of the chaplain standing beside him, delivered judgment. He said:

"Hawley Harvey Crippen, you have been convicted on evidence which could leave no doubt in the mind of any reasonable man that you cruelly poisoned your wife and mutilated her body and disposed of the remains piecemeal. You possessed yourself of her property, and as soon as suspicion was aroused you fled, taking every means to conceal your flight. On the ghastly wicked crime I will not dwell. You must entertain no nope The sentence of this court is that that you will escape the consequences of your crime. I implore you to make your peace with your Maker you be taken to the lawful prison and there be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and that your body be buried within the precincts of the prison in which you were last confined.

"May the Lord have mercy on your soul."

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