

PREMIER ROSS PROMISES A COMMISSION OF JUDGES

His Proposal for a Three Weeks' Adjournment and a Royal Commission Opposed by Whitney.

THE PREMIER'S SPIRITED DEFENSE OF MR. STRATTON

When Questioned by Mr. Ross as to Whether the Charges Were Made on His Responsibility as a Member of the House, the Member From Manitoulin Avoids a Definite Answer.

[From Our Own Reporter.]
Toronto, March 12.—Great interest was taken in today's session of the house, all the galleries being crowded. Premier Ross made a dignified and straightforward delivery on the matter of the Gagey charges, moving for the appointment of a commission of judges and proposing an adjournment of three weeks. The leader of the Opposition followed in a lengthy diatribe, in which by implication he assailed the probity of the judiciary. Hon. J. M. Gibson, who followed, resented Mr. Whitney's reflections upon the judges, and Mr. Donald Sutherland succeeded him, speaking till the house adjourned.

PREMIER ROSS' ADDRESS.
Premier Ross said: Before proceeding to the consideration of the orders of the day, I desire to refer to certain matters brought before the house yesterday by the honorable member from Manitoulin. The charges made by him were of a serious character. They were totally unexpected, as you will understand. Both sides of the house are affected, and as members of the Government we naturally feel some concern. As I stated yesterday, I really believe the statement of my colleague, the Provincial Secretary, has denied the charges in toto, particularly those portions which are of a serious and corrupt character. I really believe the statement of my colleague is true, and the members of the Government have unbounded confidence in his honor and integrity, in his observance of his oath of office, and in his realization of the serious nature of his responsibility as a member of the Government and an adviser of the crown. In the long time that we have been associated with him, we have found him worthy of every confidence, and we do not believe that he has betrayed his trust.

COMMISSION OF JUDGES.
In view of the gravity of the charges made, however, we deem that this denial is not a sufficient answer to these charges. Not for one moment would we permit them to stand without an investigation. I have this morning advised his honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the charges made, and of the desire of the Government to have the proper proceedings taken immediately for an investigation, to be held as quickly as is consistent with the interests of justice.

The proper mode of procedure we consider to be the appointment of a royal commission. Yesterday I suggested that the matter be dealt with by either the committee on privileges and elections, or by a special committee. Either, however, would involve considerable delay, and the Government does not want. An examination by judges of the high court, it was felt, would be more satisfactory to all parties. The committee on privileges and elections would also be open to the same objection. Of course the sittings of such a committee would be open to the public, and it would have large powers, but if the result of its findings was the exculpation of the member, it would be pronounced a party finding by those prone to believe any charge made against the Government. Thus, instead of settling this important matter, it would still remain a subject for that newspaper and partisan criticism which I think does not always make for the public interests.

CONFIDENCE IN JUDGES' FINDING.
The members of the judiciary in this country enjoy the confidence of the people. Their findings in civil and criminal cases are accepted without question, and it is seldom said that even election court decisions are in question in their findings. The high character of the judiciary and the esteem in which they are held will commend their finding to the conscience of the people. This is the most expeditious way of disposing of the matter, and when a conclusion is arrived at, it will command the confidence of the country, no matter what that conclusion may be.

This course has been pursued in previous cases of a similar kind. In 1873, when the Government at Ottawa was charged with corrupt acts in connection with the Pacific Railway, the matter was referred to a commission. In 1884, at the old Parliament buildings, when an effort to corrupt mem-

bers of the Ontario Legislature were being investigated, the matter was first referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, but was immediately transferred to a commission of judges. When charges were made against Sir Adolphe Caron, as Postmaster-General, Sir John Thompson recommended the appointment of a commission. We would thus be following precedents in this and other cases of parliament. I have not had time to look the matter up fully, but I think it would be found that a precedent exists in the British House of Commons in the Parnell commission, which charges were made against a member of the house.

GAGEY HEDGES.
I assume that the member for Manitoulin made his charge on his responsibility as a member of the house, and that the statement and documents laid by him yesterday on the desk of his leader or his alleged leader, are available for purposes of investigation. Am I right in asking if the member for Manitoulin made his charges on his responsibility as a member of the house? and the Premier looked inquiringly at Mr. Gagey, who was sitting conversing with Mr. MacDonald.

"I made my statement yesterday," said Mr. Gagey, rising to his feet. "When I have more to say on the subject, I will stand up in the house and say it."
Mr. Ross—If the honorable member will not acknowledge his responsibility in the matter, we will see that in some other way he is obliged to accept his responsibility. We will not allow the honor of any member of the Government, or that of any private member of the house, to be attacked, without putting the person making charges in a position where he must prove them. We will put the honorable gentleman in that position as speedily as possible.

HOUSE TO ADJOURN FOR THREE WEEKS.
"I will presently move for the adjournment of a commission, such as I have suggested, and if the honorable gentleman opposite will agree, I propose that the house adjourn for three weeks, pending the investigation and the finding of the commission."

I do not think that members on either side of the house could comfortably go to the business of the session while this investigation is in progress, either in this building or at Osgoode Hall. The members of the Government, having the personal honor at stake, feel that they could not give the proper attention to the Province's business while the investigation was pending. As leader of the Government, I share the view. We should not go on with the transaction of public business while such a cloud rested over our heads. If these charges were found to be true, the Government would be disgraced. We want to govern as honest men, with our honor unimpaired, or not at all. I ask the honorable members opposite to afford us every facility by indicating to our character. If we are guilty of these charges we are unworthy to sit here and unworthy to bring any measure before the house.

COUNSEL TO BE EMPLOYED.
It is proposed that the parties on both sides shall be represented by both senior and junior counsel, for which the house will, I have no doubt, vote the necessary funds. As leader of the Government, I should like to see the Government employ counsel to provide for the curing of various witnesses, the expense of which it is expected will be borne by the Province. It will be a state prosecution. It is hoped that the investigation may be completed within three weeks.

The Premier then read a resolution providing for the appointment of a judicial committee and the adjournment of the house for three weeks. "This motion," concluded the Premier, "is in practically the same terms as the resolution introduced by Sir Oliver Mowat in 1884, when the Government proposed to investigate certain alleged offers of bribery made to members of the house. It will also be approved of by honorable members opposite, so that the investigation may proceed without delay."

WHITNEY ASSAILS JUDICIARY.
Mr. Whitney's reply teemed with such phrases as "appoint their own tribunal," "loaded dice," and "outrage against propriety." He would, he said, force the house to place itself upon record in the matter before it adjourned. He cited authorities to show that the principle of reference to a commission had been condemned by

leading parliamentarians. He charged that not only Mr. Stratton but Mr. Ross, Mr. Latchford and Mr. Gibson were implicated in the Gagey affair. He said: "The honorable Provincial Secretary has, I know, some peculiar ideas with regard to myself, but I want to say in all possible fairness that it was not fair of the Premier to refer to the Provincial Secretary as the accused member. He is only one of the accused members. He is entitled to at least this credit, that his denial has been heard. The Attorney-General, the Minister of Public Works and the Premier are also implicated and charged, but the Provincial Secretary is the only one who has denied the charges. The Minister of Public Works can surely have no possible denial to the charge that he had a guilty knowledge of the fact that the honorable member for Manitoulin was being unduly influenced to support the Government."

Mr. Latchford rose in his place and his voice was shaking with anger. He wanted to deny that here and now," he said.

"The honorable gentleman has interrupted me," said Mr. Whitney. "He should wait till I have finished." "I beg the honorable gentleman's pardon," said Mr. Latchford, as he sat down.

Mr. Whitney then read Mr. Latchford's letter to Mr. Gagey, acknowledging receipt of the latter's list of desired road appropriations. "I take this as a proof that the honorable gentleman knew that the member for Manitoulin was not going to vote as a straight Conservative, or he would not be receiving such favorable conditions for his road grants. We all know that larger grants are made to the constituencies of Government supporters than to those of Opposition members."

But will go on to a more important member of the Government," continued Mr. Whitney. He read extracts from Mr. Gagey's statement that he had been given by Stratton a letter which was to be signed by him to Hon. G. W. Ross. He mailed the letter to Ross, but altered it first, and when he was next in Toronto Stratton asked (Continued on Page 2.)

STAGE HOLD-UP IN OLD MEXICO

Bandits Kill Six Passengers and the Drivers.

VICTIMS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH

Amongst the Dead Are Filiberto Alverado, a Wealthy Rancher, and Two Young Women.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 13.—A dispatch from Tucson, Ariz., to the Herald says: Mexican bandits held up a stage which runs between Potom and Torin, on the Yaqui River, in Sonora, last Tuesday night, killing all of the six passengers. Among them was Filiberto Alverado, a wealthy Mexican, who owns a number of ranches along the Yaqui River. The authorities at Guaymas were at once notified.

Alverado said his horse had taken the stage from Potom to Torin, and the bandits no doubt thought he carried a large sum of money with him. The stage carries very little mail, and rarely any money or valuables, so that the bandits must have been the mark for the passengers. The hold-up took place about half way between the two towns, but just how the stage was tackled will never be known, as all of the passengers and driver were killed. They were picked up the afternoon of the tragedy, and the circumstances given evidence that they put up a fight, else they would not have all been killed. Their bodies were rifled of everything of value on them. The traces had been cut and the horses were allowed to run wild. The cover of the stage and the body were both shot full of holes. It is thought by the Guaymas authorities that the perpetrators of the deed were a warlike band of bandits who have taken refuge in the mountains back of the Yaqui River, and were laying for Alverado. Friends of the murdered rancher say that he had lived in Mexico for many years, and had been married only two months. With him were Senorita Julia Berdo and Senorita C. H. De Gonzales, both of prominent families, and both of whom were murdered.

KAISER VERY CAUTIOUS
People Must Not Wave Handkerchiefs or Throw Bouquets.

Berlin, March 13.—The Kaiser has directed the police to prevent spectators from waving handkerchiefs or throwing bouquets during the passage of the Imperial carriage through the streets of the city. The police are frightened by the Imperial horses. When the carriage is approaching, the police will warn the spectators in a loud voice not to wave handkerchiefs. Disobedience of this order will result in their arrest.

The Emperor and Empress will go to Homburg in June to attend the sangerfest. They will remain there several days.

WOMAN DEFIES STRIKERS

She Uses Whip on Mob and Drives a Wagon Unhindered.

Kansas City, Mo., March 13.—The striking transfer teamsters here and all their sympathizers were defied yesterday by a woman, Mrs. George B. Evans, who used her whip freely upon those who were trying to stop a wagon upon which she was riding. Later the same woman took charge of a wagon of the Standard Dry Goods Company, and mounting to the driver's seat, drove the wagon through the crowds of strikers and others that had gathered about her. Her drive was not free from interruption, but she was not harmed by the men, and finally secured a police escort, under which she took the wagon to its destination.

The woman's defiance of the strikers was one of the exciting incidents of an exciting day in the teamsters' strike. The woman took charge of affairs after her husband had failed and had been arrested.

THE LABOR VOTE STIRS ENGLAND

Journals Express Alarm at Strength of the Unions.

"PUNCH" ON MAN FROM GALWAY

No More Big Liners Can Be Built Until Proper Docks Are Supplied in English Ports.

London, March 13.—The rush of immigrants to Canada is so great that it is impossible to book their cabin or steerage passages till May. Thousands of intending immigrants in England and the continent are anxious to leave immediately, but are unable to secure passages. The steamship companies were advised months ago to prepare for an unprecedented rush to Canada, but ignored the advice.

POWER OF THE LABOR VOTE.

London, England, March 12.—Some of the London Conservative papers in their editorials express alarm at the growing power of the labor vote, as shown by the result of the Woolwich election. "It means," says the Times, "that the spectre that has hypnotized the continental governments has shown itself at last among ourselves." The country is urged by the Conservative organs to take the warning to heart, and oppose those tendencies which in the United States and on the continent of Europe have led to lamentable conflicts between the executive authority and the working classes.

BETTER PORT FACILITIES.

The Shipping Gazette says it understands that the International Mercantile Marine Company has decided not to build any more leviathans, like the White Star Line steamers Cedric and Celtic, until improved port facilities enable the company to exercise greater economy in working the vessels and render their construction a less risky financial undertaking.

THE MAN FROM GALWAY.

Charles B. Devlin, the member-elect for Galway, will take his seat in the House of Commons tomorrow. A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Devlin the day he was elected. The following gives Mr. Devlin, the following verse:

"The Galway patriots begin to show returning reason. They say: 'We'll put this Devlin in. They can't try him for treason.'"

SPEECH DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

The Commons Will Take It Up at Today's Session.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Before House Adjourned Mr. Prefontaine Announced the Safety of the Steamer Stanley.

Ottawa, March 13.—The proceedings in the Commons were, as usual, neither brilliant nor exciting. Even the time-honored laugh at the expense of the North-West Territories and Manitoba, introduced by the new usher, did not deliver his message with the same tremendous dignity as his predecessor. Mr. Laurier was the only member who spoke during the list of vacancies that had occurred since the last session, and of the writs issued and returned. The new members were introduced, half a dozen Liberals and one Conservative. Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved for leave to introduce the bill respecting the administration of oaths of office. Hon. Raymond Prefontaine was introduced. Mr. Prefontaine was greeted with hearty Liberal applause. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Gallihier introduced Mr. R. J. McPherson, of Burrard, Mr. R. L. Borden and Mr. Richard Blain introduced Mr. J. H. Thompson, of Noisette. Mr. Prefontaine introduced Mr. J. A. C. Ethier, Two Mountains; Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Prefontaine introduced Mr. Maynard, of Noisette. Mr. Laurier introduced Mr. Thomas Christie, of Argenteuil, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. B. B. Law, of Yarmouth. Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved the adjournment.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Friday, March 13.
Sun rises, 6:35 a.m. Moon rises, 8:59 p.m.
Sun sets, 6:29 p.m. Moon sets, 6:27 a.m.

Tomorrow: Mild and Showery.

Toronto, March 12-3 p.m.
The weather has been generally fair and continued mild from the lakes to the Maritime Provinces and quite cold in the North-West Territories and Manitoba, attended by local snowfalls.

Minimum and maximum temperatures:
Winnipeg, 20 below-4; Victoria, 24-36; Kamloops, 18-28; Calgary, 8 below-zero; Edmonton, 28 below-6; Qu'Appelle, 6-28; Regina, 24-32; Port Arthur, 28-40; Fanny Bay, 20-40; Toronto, 33-41; Ottawa, 24-40; Montreal, 34-42; Quebec, 24-40; Halifax, 35-45.

Friday, March 13-3 a.m.

FORECASTS.

Cloudy to partly cloudy and mild; light local showers during the night and on Saturday.

Temperatures.

Stations. 3 a.m. Min. Weather.
Winnipeg, 6 2 Cloudy
Parry Sound, 25 24 Cloudy
Toronto, 28 24 Cloudy
Ottawa, 24 24 Cloudy
Montreal, 24 24 Cloudy
Quebec, 24 24 Cloudy
Father Point, 36 24 Cloudy

WEATHER NOTES.

The weather keeps generally fair and mild from the lakes to the Atlantic, and decidedly cold in the Territories and Manitoba, attended by some local snowfalls.

Local temperatures: Thursday—High, 40°; low, 27°.

pointment of the following committee to select the standing committees for the session: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. R. L. Borden, Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. James Sutherland, Hon. John Haggart. Sir Wilfrid also moved that the address in reply to the speech from the throne be taken up tomorrow. Hon. James Sutherland presented the report of the public works department. Mr. R. L. Borden, of Halifax, inquired what explanation of the ministerial changes which have taken place during the recess would be offered to the house. At the last session named a date upon which he would be prepared to make the explanation, and upon the day fixed had taken the house into his confidence.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied that the first duty of the house, according to constitutional usage, was to pass an address in reply to the speech of his excellency. As soon as that duty had been accomplished he would be prepared to name a day and give the desired explanation.

Before the house adjourned Hon. Mr. Prefontaine read for the information of the house the following cable dispatch, which he received this morning, announcing the safety of the Government steamer Stanley: "Charlotte town, P. E. I., March 12, 1908.—Stanley got clear ice pack this morning, six miles east Cape Bear, and now along side Minto. Gulf ice very heavy to eastward." The announcement was received with applause. The house then adjourned.

KILLED SEVEN OF THEM

Murderers Who Almost Wiped Out a Family Will Go to Gallows.

Lake Charles, La., March 13.—The second trial of A. E. Batson, charged with the murder of seven members of the Earl family, near Welsh, La., has resulted in a verdict of guilty and Batson will be for the second time sentenced to death.

ARTHUR PENNELL NOT A SUICIDE

Everything Points to an Accident as Cause of Death.

POLICE COMPLETELY BAFFLED

Every Theory Has Been Followed to Its Logical End, But Mystery Is as Great as Ever.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 12.—Former District Attorney Thomas Penny, who was acting as attorney for the Pennell estate, said tonight: "Mr. Pennell had nothing to kill himself for in the first place, and had he, he would not choose such a method, and would not take Mrs. Pennell with him. He was guilty of nothing, and was no way implicated in the Burdick case. He could have proved at the trial of Burdick's divorce suit that he was wrongfully accused."

"He had no motive to kill Burdick and he was absolutely innocent of any connection with the crime."

Mrs. Pennell's home was in New Haven previous to her marriage, and her brother, Henry Lamb, and Mrs. Lamb were not her bedside when she died. Mr. Pennell's mother and brother were also present. Miss Nellie Lamb, sister of Mrs. Pennell, made this statement in New Haven today:

"Mr. Pennell wrote us saying that the situation was terrible for him and Carrie. He said it was hard to have to bear up under such a load of suspicion. He did not know how he could endure it. He referred to the newspaper innuendoes. It seemed as if his nerve was giving way under the strain. We believe that that is how the accident happened. He was so unwell with grief at his unhappy position that his hand was not true and steady."

A high police official, who desired that his name be withheld, stated tonight that the police did not accuse Pennell of the Burdick crime, and do not believe he committed it.

"We have looked over the situation carefully and we have absolutely nothing upon which we can base a tangible suspicion concerning him. So far as we have been able to learn from his papers and his movements he had no grievance against Burdick. No one has come forward, and we have found no one who is willing to say that Pennell had anything to do with the case, and to back it up."

"So far as the Burdick murder is concerned it is still a complete mystery to us. We have not a single clue to follow to work on. Every theory has been followed to a logical end, and we have learned nothing. The mystery, from present appearances, may never be solved. The best men from New York have spent time and money in working on the case. They have found nothing. We are stumped. That is the exact situation."

LATER.

Buffalo, March 13.—The will of the late Edwin L. Burdick, murdered in his home on Ashland avenue Friday, Feb. 27, was made public today. In his will Burdick cut off his wife, whom he was suing for divorce, with out a cent.

Dr. Seth E. Paine and Mrs. Paine have been subpoenaed to appear at the Burdick inquest in Buffalo tomorrow.

ENGINEER BADLY HURT

Was Run Down by a Trolley Car at Hamilton and Lay Die.

Hamilton, March 13.—Mr. Pearce, for many years engineer on the G. T. R., and who has recently been living on a small farm near the city, while driving on York street, near Park, yesterday, was run down by a York street car and thrown from his rig. His head struck the pavement with much force, and he was rendered unconscious. He was taken to the city hospital, where his injuries, which are of a very serious nature, were dressed. Mr. Pearce is about 70 years of age, and it is doubtful if he will survive his injuries. His rig was wrecked and a load of furniture, which he was moving, was badly smashed.

GOVERNMENT MAY MEDIATE THE VANCOUVER STRIKE

President Gompers Telegraphs His Approval of the Railway's Offer of Arbitration.

WINNIPEG SHIPPERS ARE GREATLY HANDICAPPED

The Copper Trust Is Said To Be Investigating Strikes in B. C. and Are Accused of Starting the C. P. R. Trouble—Columbia and Western Men Go Out—The Teamsters' Position.

Vancouver, B. C., March 13.—In connection with the C. P. R. proposals to refer all matters in dispute with their employees to the international unions recognized in the railway service, President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, yesterday evening wired your correspondent from Washington: "Offer to refer arbitration dispute between railway employees and railway company to the executive officers of railway brotherhoods, all differences existing between the classes of labor they cover, is manifestly fair."

The latest advice to the strikers are that the employees of the Columbia and Western branch of the C. P. R. at Greenwood have joined the strikers and the brotherhood, though not affiliated with U. B. R. E. at the commencement of the trouble. There are members of the brotherhood out at several points in the Kootenay, and freight handlers are out at Trail and Smeelter Junction, in addition to Greenwood.

The United Brotherhood executive this morning formally announced its readiness to accept the proffered mediation of the Provincial Government in its dispute with the Canadian Pacific General Superintendent Marpole has not yet been advised, however, of any readiness of the Government to act as peacemaker, and the probabilities are, against the company's acceptance, and its insistence upon a reference to recognized labor. Mr. Marpole will consult Mr. McNeill before announcing any decision.

Premier Foster will be here tomorrow, when the U. B. R. E. will present their troubles to him. Aside from these new suggestions of mediation, the strike interest locally centers in the position of the union teamsters, who last night by 98 to 1 rejected the merchants' ultimatum, which was to support the master draymen in using non-union labor if the unionists still refused to handle merchandise. Their argument was in brief that it is manifestly unfair to tie up shipments started Vancouverward prior to the strike, or goods imported by liner competing with the C. P. R., but entering Vancouver necessarily over the Canadian Pacific from Seattle. The teamsters' absolute refusal was delayed this morning, and this afternoon the master teamsters themselves broke the freight blockade. The strikers offered no interference.

Incidental to the progress of the campaign, the company has formally warned the U. B. R. E. executive against any violation of the criminal code respecting intimidation, while on the other hand the strikers have urged the city council to apply the alien labor law to stop the company's importation of substitute labor from Seattle. In

OCEAN MAIL CONTRACT

Wants to Erect a Million Dollar Hotel at Havana.

Havana, March 15.—Sir William Van Horne has visited President Palma and offered to purchase the state penitentiary property, valued at \$500,000, his purpose being the erection of a \$1,000,000 hotel with New York and Canadian capital. The president promised to take the matter to congress and use his influence to secure the sale.

WALKED THROUGH WINDOW

Odd Blunder of a Shopper in a Big Chicago Store.

Chicago, March 13.—A window trimmer at Marshall Field & Co.'s big State street store left the entrance to a Randolph street show window open for a minute today, and while his back was turned an absent-minded shopper walked straight out of the store through the big glass show window.

Notwithstanding the fact that he was being covered with a \$500 glass shower, the customer did not realize his mistake until he had passed through the window and several feet into the street. And, stranger still, he escaped without injury, save a few scratches on his hands.

During the excitement which followed the stranger walked away.

CONGRESS NAMES BABY

Because One of Its Members Is Father of Twenty-One.

Austin, Tex., March 13.—President Roosevelt's race-suicide theory does not apply to Representative J. C. Roberts, of Ford County, who yesterday received a telegram announcing the birth of his ninth son and 21st child. Fourteen of his children are living.

The House of Representatives adopted a resolution demanding that the new arrival be named Pat Neff Roberts, in honor of Speaker Pat Neff of the house. Mr. Roberts has been twice married. His first wife had ten children, including two sets of twins. The boy who has just arrived is the eleventh child by his second wife.

VAN HORNE MAY BE CHAIRMAN

OF TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Will Be Three Experts Representing Railroads, Shippers and Mercantile Interests.

Ottawa, March 13.—The Government, as announced in the speech from the throne, have decided to appoint a commission to inquire into and report upon the transportation question and the terminal facilities in Canada. It will consist, so far as can be learned, of three members. One will be a railway expert, and the other two will each have a representative of the Globe correspondent understands that Sir William Van Horne is the railway expert referred to and that he will be chairman of the commission.

The other two members will be gentlemen in whose experience, knowledge and wisdom the public will have every confidence. Inquiry will be made as to the best means of providing speedy transportation to the seaboard, and of promptly handling our products, especially grain, when they reach the Canadian terminals. The commission will doubtless report as to the improvements under way at Port Colborne, which is to be a point of transshipment for grain brought down on the giants which navigate the upper lakes, and they will probably also give some attention to the question of whether the depth of the canals is sufficient to meet the growing demands of the grain export trade. The subject is one of paramount importance, and no time will be lost in appointing the commission and getting it under way.

MUTINEERS OF THE VERONICA ON TRIAL FOR SEVEN MURDERS

The Cook of the Vessel Relates How They Butchered the Crew and Destroyed the Bark.

Liverpool, March 13.—The trial of Otto Mosson, Henri Flor, Gustav Rau and William Smith, an American, who are charged with having committed seven murders on the British bark Veronica last December, was begun here yesterday. The steamship Brunswick picked up these four men and a negro cook at sea and landed them here about six weeks ago. The negro cook made a statement in which he said the four men had mutinied at sea and killed the captain and six members of the crew. They afterwards set fire to the bark and left her in

an open boat. The cook's life was spared because the mutineers wanted him to do their cooking.

The charge against Flor was withdrawn and the crown decided to put him on the stand. He said that while the vessel was on a voyage from the Mississippi to Montevideo the prisoners conspired to murder certain members of the crew. Rau was the ringleader. The mutineers were armed with revolvers and belaying pins. Captain Shaw, of the bark, was shot by Rau and lay in his cabin for two days in a pool of blood. He was then shot again and his body, together with those of four of the crew who had been murdered, was thrown overboard. An attempt was made to kill the cook, but his life was spared on condition that he did as he was told. Besides the captain, the first and second officers were also murdered. The men were remanded.