

JURY FINDS HASTY GUILTY OF MURDER OF MILAN BENNETT

After Being Out for More than 12 Hours, the 12 Men Find George Hasty Guilty of the Crime Charged in the Bill of Indictment.

Coupled with the Verdict of Guilty was a Recommendation for Mercy. Judge Memminger Sentences Prisoner to Life Imprisonment in Penitentiary.

Special to The News. Gaffney, March 6.—George Hasty, the young man who killed Milan Bennett and Abbott Davidson, members of the "Nothing but Money Company,"

and the other eye-witness to the tragedy, leaves Gaffney this evening, for New York.

Verdict Returned. Raleigh, N. C., Mar. 6.—The jury in the Hasty case at Gaffney, N. C., returned a verdict of guilty at 6:15 this morning. The prisoner was recommended to the mercy of the Court.

Hasty was tried for the murder of Milan Bennett and Abbott Davidson, members of the "Nothing but Money Company."

The killing of Bennett and Davidson occurred on the morning of Dec. 15 last in the Piedmont hotel, at Gaffney, S. C., of which George Hasty was the proprietor.

The theatrical company appeared in the opera house at Gaffney on the night of Dec. 14 and after returning to the hotel Miss May Bishop and Miss Verne Sheridan, two actresses complained to Davidson about the attempt of Hasty to enter their rooms.

The following morning Davidson went to the proprietor to demand an apology. A fight ensued in which both actors were shot and killed.

Hasty's plea was self defense. At the trial Hasty answered to the joint indictment and plead not guilty. The jury took the case last night at 7 o'clock.

Hasty was sentenced to the penitentiary for life, but it was announced that his counsel would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Special to The News. Gaffney, March 6.—George Hasty, the young man who killed Milan Bennett and Abbott Davidson, the actors, has passed from the hands of the jury with his life.

That's all. According to the sentence of the court, he will have to spend the remaining years of his life within prison walls.

The opinion here is that the young man has much to be thankful for, even though he has been sentenced for life in the State prison.

The jury's recommendation for mercy, was the only thing that saved Hasty from a death sentence. It is understood that one member of the jury held out for a light sentence. He agreed to vote "guilty" with the understanding that the jury recommend the prisoner to the mercy of the court.

The prisoner's counsel gave notice of an appeal and the case will now be fought over in the highest tribunal of the commonwealth at Columbia.

The charge of Judge Memminger was concluded shortly before six o'clock yesterday afternoon. The jury retired and the case was under discussion by the 12 men nearly all of the night.

At 6:15 o'clock this morning an agreement was reached and a verdict of guilty was announced.

Promptly at 9:30 o'clock this morning court reconvened. There was a large crowd present, all eager to hear the last words in this now famous trial.

Counsel for Hasty, after the verdict of the jury was formally announced, made a motion for a new trial but no argument was made to sustain this motion.

Judge Memminger then sentenced the prisoner to life imprisonment in the State penitentiary at Columbia.

During the time the court was sentencing the prisoner, the young man sat motionless. There was not a single sign of emotion nor did he seem to be the least disturbed when the fateful words of the court were pronounced.

A few minutes later, one of the local ministers went over to Hasty and extended his hand. This seemed to completely unnerve the man. His large, expressive eyes, filled with tears and for a few seconds he wept like a child.

Despite the fact that Hasty has been convicted of one of the blackest crimes, there were several who were touched by the pathos of the scene.

Sitting there in the strength of his vigorous young manhood—with a life sentence in the penitentiary staring him in the face, Hasty, the murderer, became Hasty the boyish, man again.

Just for the moment, those gathered in the court room, lost sight of the terrible crime that had been committed. Their thoughts were with the doomed young man and those nearest and dearest to him.

But, this thought of tenderness and sympathy for the prisoner was soon overcome by a still more touching and pathetic sight—the tragedy enacted in the little hotel not far away—there where two souls had been ushered into eternity, neither, it is feared, ready for the great change.

ARGUMENT BEGINS AT 2 P. M. IN THE MATTHEWS TRIAL

Evidence was Concluded at Dinner Recess. Argument in Famous Case Begins. Morphine Insanity Expert was Introduced.

He was Emphatic in his Opinion that the Prisoner was Insane, Gave Interesting Discussion of Effects of Morphine on System.

Special to The News. Greensboro, N. C., March 12.—The evidence in the Matthews murder trial was concluded at the dinner recess today and the argument began at 2 o'clock.

The testimony of Dr. Crothers, the morphine expert, from Hartford, Conn., consumed most of the session. He was emphatic that the prisoner was insane and gave interesting discussion of the effects of morphine on the system saying it deteriorated all the tissues but most prominently the higher nerve centers known as those acting on the reasoning powers which controlled the will, conscience and man's relation to man, its constant use inevitably producing dementia or paralysis.

He was not shaken on the cross examination. The prosecution occupied but three quarters of an hour in a very inconsequential rebuttal of the view of the strong expert testimony introduced by the defense as to the prisoner's sanity. Experts of equal reputation would be introduced by the prosecution.

The Matthews murder trial does not flag in interest, after five days of progress. Possibly the longest question ever fired at a witness was the one propounded yesterday afternoon by Major Guthrie for the defense to Dr. James McKee, superintendent of the North Carolina Hospital for the Insane at Raleigh. Dr. McKee was sworn as a witness for the defense and the first hypothetical questions asked, took Major Guthrie exactly one hour and twenty-five minutes to complete.

The prisoner stood it for an hour and twenty minutes, when showing signs of collapse, Major Guthrie suspended until he could go into the lawyers room and take a dose of medicine and the interrogatory was completed in five minutes after his return to the bar.

The proceedings of the afternoon were interesting throughout.

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EDICT ORDERS THE PROTECTION OF ALL FOREIGNERS

Chinese Much Perturbed Over the Reports in Their Papers of the Hostility in America Against China. Our Unfriendly Policy Causes Uneasiness.

Official Gazette Published Edict Repeating Chinese Students and Charging Officials to Protect Foreigners, Under Pain of Severe Punishment.

Special to The News. Peking, March 6.—The principal topic in the Chinese press relates to the reports coming from America that the United States is making complete preparations to send a military expedition to China. The newspapers regard these reports as the manifestation of an unfriendly policy.

The imports of New Chwang for 1905, exclusive of military supplies, was the largest recorded. The total was \$55,000,000 gold of which \$22,000,000 came from America, \$9,000,000 being in cotton.

The Chinese Government is greatly perturbed by the reports of the anti-foreign movements printed in the American and European press. An edict published in the Official Gazette reproves the Chinese students for meddling with politics and charges the officials, high and low, to thoroughly protect the lives and property of foreigners, specifying missions, under pain of most severe punishment.

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GREENSBORO NEWS.

Inter-Urban Line Between Greensboro and High Point May Be Built—Other News Items.

Special to The News. Greensboro, N. C., March 6.—Before the Board of Highway Commissioners yesterday afternoon, State Senator Webb, representing the bond brokerage firm of C. A. Webb & Co., of Asheville, had the satisfaction of securing acceptance of his first bid for the third \$60,000 bond issue for Guilford macadam road fund. There were eleven competitors, the Asheville firm making the highest bid of \$66,325 for the bonds. When this money is received the good roads fund will have received about \$200,000 of the \$300,000 bond issue authorized by a vote of the people for good roads in Guilford county.

For several years there has been much talk of an inter-urban electric car line from High Point to Greensboro and High Point to Winston. It has been mostly on paper and in newspaper correspondence. There is every probability now that a trolley line will soon be constructed from High Point to Greensboro. The Board of County Commissioners yesterday afternoon granted to a syndicate represented by E. J. Justice, of Greensboro, a franchise over the road from High Point to Greensboro for a trolley line, provided work begins in thirty days.

A large delegation from Greensboro will go to Salisbury Saturday to see Sarah Bernhardt in "Camille," and to visit Salisbury.

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