

BROWNING'S PLEA IS SELF-DEFENCE

His Preliminary Trial Now in Progress.

WILL HE BE ACQUITTED

HIS FATHER-IN-LAW THREATENED TO KILL HIM.

DREW A SCYTNE BLADE ON HIM

The State Trying to Prove That the Killing of Strickland Was Planned by Browning.

Did He Put the Knife in the Dead Man's Hand?

Yesterday at noon W. S. Browning was put on trial for the killing of his father-in-law, Wood Cook Strickland, just one week ago this morning, twenty miles east of this city.

The trial is being held in the court house before Justice of the Peace Roberts. The prosecution is represented by Jones and Boykin and the defendant by Jas. H. Poy and J. C. L. Larris. The fact of the killing is admitted but self-defense is pleaded in justification of it.

Seven witnesses were examined yesterday—three for the State and four for the defense. Other witnesses for the defense will be introduced to-day. The trial begins at 10 o'clock.

The first witness was N. W. Strickland. He knew Bud Cade Strickland, the man who was killed. The witness lived about two miles from him and got to the scene of the killing at about 11 o'clock. There were present Augustus J. Chamblie, Geo. Hicks, William Pugh and others.

The killing occurred near Strickland's house, on a path leading from Wakefield out toward Earpsboro. He lived about 400 yards from where he was killed. Browning lived on the same path, about 100 yards from the killing.

The scene of the homicide could not be seen from Strickland's house.

"When I got there I found Strickland's body lying in the path. The head was about a foot and a half from the wheel track, the body lying nearly straight with the road. There was a dead tree a foot and a half through, six or eight feet from the path, and perhaps twenty feet from the body."

"Did you see any blood?"

"I did. There was a streak of blood and drops of blood, for about six feet, from the centre of the road to the side where the body lay."

"Did you see any indications of the body's having been dragged?"

"I could not account for the position of the body and the blood on any other theory."

"Did you examine the body?"

"I helped wash and dress it and I examined it then. I found on the back of the head what I at first took to be a wound. But on washing it I found that it was blood matted in the hair and there was no wound there."

"Did you see anything in the road except blood?"

"I saw something that looked like a piece of tooth or bone, some six or eight feet from the body and in the blood."

"How far was the head from the line of blood?"

"About two feet. There was a great deal of cold mud under him."

"The body was removed to the house very late in the day. I made no examination of the wound until he was moved."

"Did you see anything in Mr. Strickland's hands?"

"In his right hand there was a handkerchief and a knife."

"The knife was produced and the witness showed the position in which it was found. There was no blood on it and the hand was not clenched around the handle. The handkerchief and knife were in the same hand."

The witness said there was no blood on Strickland's shoes or clothes, other than a few drops on his vest. On his under lip, on the left side there was a wound. The left eye-bone and eye ball were shot out. The witness thought the balls entered the mouth and went out at the eye. The right jaw bone was broken.

The deceased was 70 odd years old and the witness thought he'd weigh about 130 pounds. He was not very active, but was old and weak. Browning is 35 or 40 years old.

On cross-examination Strickland said he didn't know whether he was related to the Strickland that was killed. He said that there were some indications of dragging, but the body might have been dragged only enough to clear the head from the wagon track.

"Did you see tracks or anything else to indicate any connection of the tree with this homicide?"

"I did not."

"Could any houses be seen from the place where Strickland lay?"

"Both Strickland's and Browning's houses could be seen."

"Did you see anything to indicate whether or not the gun was near when discharged or not?"

"Yes, sir, there was burned powder on the face around the wound."

The next witness, William Pugh, said Strickland was 70 years old, but was pretty active for his age; Browning is 30 and strong and active. He had known them both for several years.

When Pugh arrived W. T. Pace and A. B. Parrish were the only persons present. He saw the knife in the hands of the deceased. The tree he thought must have been ten yards from the body.

"Did you ever go out to that tree and make any investigation?"

"I did Tuesday after the killing. It looked like some one had stood around it and there was bark on the ground as if some one had been sitting there. There was also a log nearby and I saw some tracks coming to it and going away. It was a 9 or 10 shoe and the tracks came from toward Browning's

house and went out to the road near where the body lay. The tracks going to the log left the road about twenty yards from the body."

On cross-examination the witness said the killing occurred Friday and he did not make the examination until Tuesday, after a great number of people had been to the scene of the killing.

Charles Strickland, the son of the dead man, was next put on the stand.

"On the morning of the killing I left the house about sun-up, and half an hour later I heard the report of a gun half an hour later, probably, crying and calling me. I threw down my axe and ran up there and my sister told me Browning had killed my father. Mr. A. B. Parrish said, 'Yes, he's surely dead.' Parrish and I went to the place."

"Where was your father going that morning?"

"Plowing in a field near the place where he was killed. He usually walked and led his horse. He didn't ride because he was too feeble to get on the horse. When I got there the horse was in Browning's yard, tied to a stump."

The witness said his father and Browning were well at variance for two years.

"What was the trouble between them?"

"In January, 1896, my brother got Revolving to visit there and help him farm. They were to take care of my father. At this time I went off to Texas. When I came back in July I found them on bad terms, on account of something my father said to Browning's wife. Six months later I secured a division of the land, over the protest of my father and myself. My father claimed a life-time interest in the land, and there was always a dispute over the possession of the land and the right to cultivate it. Then they got into the courts. In December, 1897, Browning began work on the land. Next day I and my father went on the land and began work, when Browning came down with his gun. My father started for him with his blade and made Browning leave. They abused one another. The feeling has since been very bitter."

At this point the court took a recess until three o'clock, at which time the examination of witnesses was resumed.

Four witnesses were examined by the defense, the State having rested its case. David Brown, Preston Chamblie, W. D. Chamblie, and Mrs. Rittenberg, daughter of the wife of the deceased, were put on the stand. The testimony of all of them was to the effect that Strickland had repeatedly made threats against the life of Browning; that on one occasion at Wakefield Strickland had publicly cursed Browning and dared him to resent it.

This morning some eight or nine more witnesses will be introduced to prove that Strickland intended to kill Browning.

POPS AT MINNEAPOLIS

CONVENTION ENDS IN A VICTORY FOR FUSION FORCES.

Senator Butler in His Speech at the Mass Meeting Gave the Administration a Rap.

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 17.—The Populist Convention here has come to an end with the victory for the fusion force. The State convention was set for June 15th, and the middle-of-the-road who, desired an April convention found itself so much in the minority that it made no struggle. It will make an effort to control the convention, however.

Senator Butler in his speech at the mass meeting took a shot at the administration. Some one called out "How about the Maine?"

He replied, pointing his finger solemnly at the carpeted floor. "I don't know about it, but if we had a truly elected American I would know about it soon."

SPENCER BLACKBURN'S SOP.

United Assistant District Attorney for the Western District.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—Assistant Attorney Carrington was to-day removed and Spencer Blackburn appointed.

CLARA NEVADA DISASTER.

Nanaimo, B. C., Feb. 17.—A special from Junea, Alaska, February 12, confirms the news of the loss of the Clara Nevada, and says:

"The cause of the disaster was doubtless the explosion of her boilers. Of the fifty people on board none are believed to have been saved."

THE COMING WOMAN.

Who goes to the club while her husband tends the baby, as well as the good old-fashioned woman who looks after her home, will both at times get run down in health. They will be troubled with loss of appetite, headaches, sleeplessness, fainting or dizzy spells. The most wonderful remedy for these women is Electric Bitters. Thousands of sufferers from Lame Back and Weak Kidneys rise up and call it blessed. It is the medicine for women. Female complaints and Nervous troubles of all kinds are soon relieved by the use of Electric Bitters. Delicate women should keep this remedy on hand to build up the system. Only 50c per bottle. For sale by all druggists.

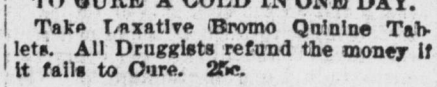
Judge Adams decided that the Commissioners of Duplin county had the right to refuse license to sell liquor, and the right to revoke the license already granted. This makes Duplin a prohibition county.

Whooping cough is the most distressing malady; but its duration can be cut short by the use of One Minute Cough Cure, which is also the best known remedy for croup and all lung and bronchial troubles. Heartt & Heartt's drug store.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to Cure. 25c.

Adults and children are kept healthy by using Vick's Vegetable Liver Pills. 25 cents.

The fac-simile signature of  is on every wrapper of CASTORIA

THE MAINE'S STORY.

Continued from First Page.

ry Congosto, then the acting Governor General, or fulfilling the functions of that responsible position, said to me the night before the Maine had arrived, Consul General Lee had told him that afternoon that a war ship would come.

"Congosto belligerently objected, General Lee then said:

"Remember, if any trouble does occur, I shall have the whole fleet here in four hours."

"Shortly after I saw Secretary Congosto and he was very mad. He was also indiscreet. He said to me:

"If your people would only let us alone it would be all right. Spain has put up with more than any other nation would have done. I have warned you that there will be trouble if the Maine comes here. Now bring your ships here. If you want war you can have it. You will find Spain has not forgotten how to fight."

"I took these words at the time as the angry utterance of an overtasked diplomat. Now they seem to me as meaning something."

"Two days ago a Spanish daily here claimed Senor De Lome wrote his famous letter and caused its capture because he saw no gain in further delaying the break between the two governments."

ELABORATE FUNERAL MARCH.

Participated in by Civil, Political and Municipal Organizations, Survivors of the Maine and Representatives of Foreign Governments.

Havana, Feb. 17.—The interment of the martyrs of the Maine took place this afternoon about five o'clock. Shortly before the hour all Havana was in movement. The flags on the public buildings were at half mast, and many of the houses were draped in mourning. All classes were present in the throngs that filled the streets along which the funeral procession passed to the cemetery.

The order of the procession was as follows:

The municipal guards on horseback, in full uniform; the city brigade, the municipal employees, the aldermen in seven splendidly decorated firemen's cars; special cars bearing the remains; nine bodies being carried on a splendid decorated car, the clergy, deputations consisting of the chief officers of the army, navy and the volunteers, representatives of various civil bureaus and of the custom house, a committee representing the Chamber of Commerce; a delegation representing the grocers, the council of administration, representatives of the treasury, the press and various political organizations; then the chief officers of the Maine, the representatives of foreign governments, the city magistrates, with their mace bearers, provincial deputies, employees of the general and regional automatic governments; the municipal mace bearers; then General Pardo, with four aides de camp, representing Captain General Blanco, (whose personal presence was not allowable under the law), having on his right United States Consul General Lee and on his left the Mayor of Havana, the Marquis Larinaga, Admiral Monterola, General Alana and other officers, two companies of marine and infantry. The funeral music was furnished by the bands of the Isabela La Catalica and Porto Rico battalions, which accompanied the bodies.

The population that lined the route gave every indication of the profoundest respect.

THE NORTH CAROLINA DEAD.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—The Navy Department tonight made up from its latest cable advices a list of the dead, wounded and rescued from the Maine.

Among the list of the dead are four from North Carolina, as follows: Trouble Finch, of Raleigh; John H. Moss, of Oxford; Henry Williams, of Elizabeth City, and John Warren, of Randolph.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 17.—Admiral Monterola has summoned Captain Sigbee to appear before Military Judge Peral to make the necessary depositions.

PRESIDENT THANKS SPAIN.

Madrid, Feb. 17.—The government has called instructions to the commander of the warship Vizcaya, leaving to his discretion when to quit New York.

Orders have also been issued to Captain Pearl to open an inquiry into the cause of the disaster to the Maine.

The government has received a cable message from the Washington government thanking Spain for the assistance rendered by the Spanish authorities at Havana after the disaster.

HONORING THE DEAD.

Havana, Feb. 17.—The correspondent of the Associated Press visited the hospitals of San Ambrosio and the Alfonso XII yesterday and again today, and met Miss Clara Barton and John Elwell, of the Red Cross Society.

The scene was heart breaking, and the dressing of the wounds of the victims was a horrible spectacle.

Some of them, however, are already much better, and they are carefully attended by Dr. Bernardo Maas, whose treatment is kindness itself. Two are near death, Carl A. Smith, whose leg and jaw were broken, and who is badly burned, and A. Anderson, who has burns all over his body. Both have received the sacraments.

Elaborate preparations are being made for the interment of the dead. Already twenty-two bodies have been brought to the City Hall, where they rest in coffins, covered with beautiful crowns of silk ribbons, with appropriate inscriptions.

There is a handsome crown, of silk ribbons in the Spanish national colors, with the inscription: "The Navy Department of Havana to the victims of the Maine."

Among other tokens are one from Lawton Childs, with the inscription: "To Our Brave Dead Sailors," a flower cross from the New York Morning Journal and Advertiser, an emblem from the Havana Yacht Club and floral or other tributes from M. Garranza, Senora Emilia Maas, Lucia Lacoste, Mrs. T. Gonzalez, Miss Catalina Cessa, Charles and George Barnett and a crown from the firm of Dalmon Brothers, with the inscription: "To the victims of the Maine."

HARBOR FULL OF TORPEDOES.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 17.—A special to the News from Bay City, Mich., says:

A letter was received to-day from Elmer Meistrup, gunner on the battleship Maine, dated February 11, addressed to his mother, in which Meistrup wrote that he wouldn't be surprised if they should be blown up any day; that the ship was surrounded with torpedoes and could not leave the harbor without consent and direction of the Spanish authorities.

Meistrup's letter says:

"The Spaniards have a couple of gun boats and a cruiser and there are two German gun-boats. The guns of Morro Castle are pointed at us. I write. The whole bottom of the harbor is covered with torpedoes, so that if they didn't want to let us out, we would not be able to go very well. We are lying between the Spanish and German men of war, and they have picket boats out all night watching us."

In a letter of January 15th, Meistrup tells of an accident aboard the cruiser Marblehead, when five men were injured by a shot. Commenting, he says:

"It is a wonder some of the ships don't blow up, they are so careless."

NOT A TORPEDO.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 17.—The Associated Press correspondent here has had an opportunity to question a number of the officers and men who were aboard the war ship Maine, at the time of the explosion, and it is the universal opinion of all of them that the explosion was due to some interior cause, and not the result of the explosion of a torpedo on the outside.

MR. WEYLER'S ESTIMATE.

Barcelona, Feb. 17.—Lieutenant General Weyler, who arrived here today expressed the opinion, in the course of an interview, that the disaster which had befallen the United States warship Maine in Havana harbor was "due to the to the indolence of her crew."

He announced his intention to ask the government's permission to go to Havana and stand as a candidate for the Chamber of Deputies for the Havana district.

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE.

They Pour in From Kings and Potentates of Foreign Countries.

Washington, Feb. 17.—A number of messages have been received at the State Department from foreign governments, expressing regret in connection with the Maine disaster. Among them are the following:

Secretary of State:

I have the honor to inform you that I am commanded by the Queen to convey to the President the expression of Her Majesty's sympathy with the American people on the occasion of the sad disaster which has befallen their Navy by the loss of the battleship "Maine" and of so many members of her crew. I request that you will be good enough to transmit the above message to His High Destination.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOUR.

ARCHBISHOP SAENS.

Santiago de Cuba, Feb. 17, 1898. Received 11:45 a. m.

Washington: Archbishop Saens expresses sympathy for Maine disaster.

HAYTL.

Legation of the Republic of Hayti, Secretary of State:

The news of the sad accident which has befallen the "Maine" has deeply touched me, and I beg leave to express my condolence and sympathy with the families of the unfortunate victims. My government cannot fail to feel deep concern on account of the loss which the United States have just experienced.

Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary of State, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) J. N. LÉGER.

EMPEROR WILLIAM.

Berlin, Feb. 17, 1898.

President United States, Washington. Let me express my sincere sympathy to you and your country at the terrible loss of the Maine and the death of so many brave officers and men of your Navy.

(Signed) WILLIAM I. R.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

Legation of the Greater Republic of Central America.

I have received instructions from the Diet of the Greater Republic of Central America to inform the Supreme Government of the United States of America, through your Excellency, that both it and the governments of the States which compose that republic feel profound regret on account of the disaster which befell the Maine night before last in the port of Havana.

In obeying these instructions I take pleasure in renewing to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) LOUIS F. COREA.

ENGLAND'S NAVY.

London, February 17, 1898.

Sherman, Secretary, Washington: The First Lord of the Admiralty requests me to express admiralty's and his personal sympathy with your government and navy in the loss of the "Maine." Various members of the diplomatic body have called, including Spanish Ambassador.

(Signed) WHITE.

PRINCE OF WALES.

London, February 17, 1898.

Sherman, Secretary, Washington: Prince and Princess of Wales request me to convey to the President and Secretary of the Navy the expression of their horror at the terrible accident which has happened to the Maine, and of their profound sympathy with the whole American nation at the occurrence.

(Signed) HENRY WHITE.

THE OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT.

Imperial Legation of Turkey.

The Charge d'Affaires Ad interim, of Turkey has the honor to convey to His Excellency the Secretary of State the deepest regrets of the Ottoman government on account of the deplorable accident which has befallen the "Maine."

February 17, 1898.

PRESIDENT FAURE.

Paris, February 17, 1898.

Sherman, Secretary, Washington: President Faure asked personal interview in which he requested me to express his warmest sympathy, and profound sense of condolence to President McKinley regarding the appalling catastrophe to the Maine; and to convey an assurance that the French people, es-

pecially the French Navy, are deeply touched by the death of the gallant officers and men who lost their lives at their post of duty.

(Signed) PORTER.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

London, February 17, 1898.

Sherman, Secretary, Washington: I have received following message from Duke of Connaught: "Pray, accept my most sincere sympathy at the terrible accident which has befallen the warship Maine. I deeply deplore the loss which your Navy and country have sustained."

(Signed) WHITE.

SPANISH RESIDENTS.

New York, February 17, 1898.

Secretary of State:

Undersigned Committee of Spanish residents of New York, respectfully tender sincere expression of heartfelt sympathy and regret for dreadful disaster to the Maine, with appalling of life. For the committee.

(Signed) JOSE NAVARRO, Chairman. ANTONIO CUYAS, Secretary. AURELIO CUYAS, C. VIADERO, E. M. CASTILLO.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

Secretary Long received the following cablegram from the Russian Minister of Marine at St. Petersburg:

"I have just received the news of the Maine's terrible disaster. I beg you to accept my own and the Russian Navy's sincere sympathies and condolence.

(Signed) "Vice Admiral P. TRYKOW. "Minister of Marine."

THE SPANISH LEGATION.

Secretary Long received the following during the day:

"I regret with all my soul the horrible catastrophe of the Maine, and send my condolence for the victims and their families. Spanish Navy is in mourning for American Navy.

(Signed) "SOBRAL." "Naval Attaché, Spanish Legation."

A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING.

Miss Ella Madeline Petty to Mr. William Baxter Waddell.

Carthage, N. C., Feb. 16.—(Special.)—On the afternoon of the 15th at the residence of Maj. W. C. Petty, the president of the Carthage railroad, was solemnized the marriage of his daughter, Ella Madeline to Mr. William Baxter Waddell, of Atlanta. At 4 o'clock the tastily decorated parlor was filled with the relatives and friends of the bridal couple; choice hot house plants and flowers lent their fragrance and waxen tapers shed a soft and mellow light over the bridal scene.

Promptly at the hour, accompanied by the strains of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," Miss Cornelia Petty, the maid of honor, entered the room. She was followed by the bridegroom and his best man, Mr. U. L. Spence, of Carthage. Then came the bride on the arm of her father, joining the groom before the slightly elevated dais from which the minister officiated. The ceremony was presided over by the Rev. Arch C. Cree, of Wake Forest, N. C., in a most beautiful and impressive manner. During the marriage service Mrs. Mary C. Bagwell, who presided at the organ, played with her usual grace and sweetness, "Love's Old Sweet Song."

The bride was becomingly attired in a handsome traveling dress of brown cloth, and carried Brille's roses. She is very popular and has won for herself a wide circle of friends, whose best wishes follow her to her new home in a distant State.

The bridegroom represents the Studebaker Wagon Company, of South Bend Ind., as their general traveling salesman for the Southern States. With this Company he has won a most enviable reputation, which is no surprise to his many friends. Many elegant and valuable presents attested the popularity of the bride couple. Immediately after the ceremony, amid many congratulations and good wishes, Mr. and Mrs. Waddell left for an extended Southern trip. They will be at home at "The Aragon," Atlanta, Ga., after March 15th.

THE FLAME SWEEPED FOREST.

The Horrible Work of Tuesday Night's Great Forest Fire.

Southern Pines, N. C., Feb. 17.—(Staff Correspondent)—Now that the forest flames have blown by and the smoke has cleared away the one thousand or more Northern guests at Southern Pines and Pinehurst are once again quiet and happy. There are perhaps few among them who regret seeing it, if it had to be, but there is not one among them that ever wants to see the like again. It was a grand but a gloomy experience, the flames lit up the country for miles and miles. The beautiful little town of Pinehurst which has cost its owner, Mr. J. W. Tufts, of Boston, half a million dollars, it seemed every moment for hours would be melted to ashes by the terrible flames. The fire came before the gale of wind like a great column of angry demons, the forked flames fed by the resin covered pines leaping from hill to hill and from forest to forest, these forked tongue monsters seemed to be veiling with each other as to which could devour the most, they climbed up the fat pines as though they were covered with powder and would then leap from the dry combustible limbs in great sheets and ignite other forests hundreds

of yards away. The people in its path were horror stricken, the very sky seemed to be ablaze, the air was filled with smoke, steam, and burning debris. One man's barn was threatened and before the stock could be gotten out it was wrapped in flames and cows and horses perished. A half mile or more of the cross ties on the Aberdeen and West End Railroad were burned, stopping the trains from running. An S. A. L. train attempted to pass through the blaze between Aberdeen and Southern Pines, but the fire was so intense that it had to push back to Aberdeen. Section hands, railroad agents and their men were kept busy for hours putting out the cross ties that caught on fire as the flames crossed the track.

But little has been heard from out in the country, where the fire raged and it is feared that much loss will yet be to chronicle. It was the fiercest, hottest, most terrific inhuman and unfeeling torrent that ever swept over this famous pine forest and to-day the forest from Rockingham to Cameron is a smoking smoldering area of charred and glistening high lands.

Mr. John Blue, of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad was a heavy loser by the fire. He had only