

The Only Associated Press Newspaper in Western North Carolina

THAW IS SUBJECTED TO A STEADY FIRE OF QUESTIONS BY LUNACY COMMISSION

Examination. Contrary to Expectations. Is Conducted Behind Closed Doors.

SITTING IS ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW

Thaw's Attorneys Emerge From the Hearing Feeling Hopeful and Happy.

(By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, March 28.—Harry K. Thaw, for two hours today, submitted himself to a running fire of questions from the three men appointed by Justice Fitzgerald as a commission in lunacy to determine his present state of mind. The examination was conducted behind closed doors and when, a few minutes before 5 o'clock this afternoon, an adjournment was taken until 10 o'clock Saturday morning, no one connected with the hearing before the commissioners would discuss the details of the inquiry.

Thaw went willingly and confidently before the judges, and when the two hours secret session was concluded his attorneys appeared with smiling faces and declared they were more than satisfied with the course of the proceedings. District Attorney Jerome hurried away from the criminal courts building, declining absolutely to say one word about the commission's work.

Waived Jerome Aside. The most important feature of the day's proceedings was the decision of the commission to limit the scope of inquiry to the exact language of the statute to determine solely the question as to whether or not Harry K. Thaw is able today to understand the nature of the court proceedings against him and is able to advise his counsel in a rational manner. District Attorney Jerome announced to all of the legal experts he had employed in the case had advised him that Thaw is suffering from a typical case of paranoia, a disease of the mind in which the recoveries are limited to two or three per cent. He offered to adduce testimony to support this statement, but the commission waived it aside, and said that the purpose of the inquiry was a very simple one, and had to do with any classification of mental diseases, but with the person's present state of mind as judged by laymen.

On Jerome's Position. In laying down this decision the commission confronted the district attorney with the very position he has maintained in putting Thaw on trial for his life. Mr. Jerome maintains that Thaw was suffering from paranoia on the night when he shot and killed Stanford White, but he added that paranoiacs often have knowledge of what they are doing and that Thaw knew the nature and quality of his act in killing White and knew that the act was wrong. Thus, while medical experts may determine today that Thaw is still suffering from paranoia, the question to which the lunacy commission has decided to confine itself deals solely with Thaw's knowledge as to the proceedings against him and his ability to advise his lawyers.

The commission got under way with a rush and plunged at once into the personal examination of the defendant. District Attorney Jerome protested at first that he was not able to have his medical advisers present during Thaw's examination. He finally stated he would have no objection to the examination going forward provided he was permitted to reserve his cross-examination. The commission forthwith settled the matter of the presence of the experts by excluding them from the room, along with every one else except the defendant and his counsel, the district attorney and assistant district attorney.

Had Thaw's Letters. As to the cross-examination by the (CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

PARTLY CLOUDY. (By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 28.—Forecast for Friday and Saturday: North Carolina: Partly cloudy Friday and Saturday; light to fresh to south winds.

BELIEVE GIRL WAS ASSAULTED AND MURDERED

Further Developments In Case of Murdered Bristol Girl Come to Light.

ACK. HALE ARRESTED CHARGED WITH CRIME

Motive For the Crime Is Shown and Post-Mortem Examination Held.

(By Associated Press.) BRISTOL, Tenn., March 28.—Developments today lead to the belief that Lillie Davis, who was shot in East Hill Cemetery last night, dying an hour later, was assaulted and murdered. Johnson City officers claim that the girl was to have been a witness against a younger brother of Aek. Hale, who was with the girl at the time she was shot, in a trial for manslaughter to be called at that place next week.

It is reported that the man killed was a brother of the dead Davis girl. Police officers who arrested Hale and have had him in the sweat box hold to the theory of foul play. Witnesses examined testified at the inquest today to incriminating actions and tonight the authorities to hold a second post mortem on the girl. The inquest adjourned and the physicians made the examination at the conclusion of which they reported evidence of criminal assault.

No powder burns were found on the girl's clothing. Hale is in jail on the Virginia side and owing to the intense feeling which has developed no attempt was made to transfer him to the Tennessee. The spot where the shooting occurred is six feet south of the Virginia-Tennessee state line and as the arrest had been made by Virginia officers all the legal formalities had to be gone over by the Tennessee authorities.

Miss Davis is to be buried in the new wedding gown in which the girl was to have to be married early in April to a well known coal mine owner.

CONGRESSIONAL PARTY HAS VERY NARROW ESCAPE

(By Associated Press.) NEW ORLEANS, March 28.—A thrilling, but harmless, accident occurred today to the congressional party of rivers and harbors committee men, who are inspecting Louisiana waterways. While they were aboard the steamer Sewanee on the Atchafalaya river, which is out of its banks and very swift, the steamer's bow collided with the Sewanee, causing it to career so far that capsizing was imminent. The Sewanee righted safely, but with the loss of three barrels of her stores, which slid overboard.

"CHICK" STAHL, WELL KNOWN BALL PLAYER, ENDS HIS LIFE

WEST BADEN, Ind., March 28.—Charles S. Stahl, known in baseball circles as "Chick" Stahl, committed suicide today in his rooms at the West Baden Springs Hotel, by swallowing carbolic acid. No cause is known. Stahl was captain of the Boston American League baseball team, and formerly lived at Fort Wayne, Ind. Manager Taylor has abandoned the spring practice games of the team. Stahl ate his breakfast as usual and visited members of the team in their rooms. Later he left for his own room, which he shared with Collins, and it was supposed he was dressing for practice. Collins entered the room a few minutes afterward and Stahl told him he had just taken carbolic acid. In a few minutes he was in terrible agony. To members of the team whom Collins summoned, Stahl said: "Boys, I couldn't help it. It drove me to it." Members of the team say they do not know what he meant, but they knew he was worried about something. A bottle of carbolic acid had been taken away from him a few days ago at Louisville, Ky. Stahl's wife at Boston, and his relatives at Fort Wayne, Ind., were notified. He will be buried at Fort Wayne, Ind.



NEW HOME OF THE SPRINGFIELD WOMEN'S CLUB

Women's Club Has Men's Smoking Room.

As a gentle hint to the men that the women might like similar courtesies extended to them, a smoking room has been provided for the male sex in the Women's Club of Springfield, Mass., and both bachelors and married men are encouraged to make use of it. Mrs. George C. McClann, the president of the organization which has been the first in the country to introduce this novelty, is a leader of fashionable society and the club is up-to-date in every way, possessing every adjunct that men's have and adding the innovation referred to.

TWENTY-SIX ARE KILLED IN SOUTHERN PACIFIC WRECK

(By Associated Press.) COLTON, Cal., March 28.—A disastrous wreck on the Southern Pacific occurred one and a half miles east of here late this evening when west bound train for San Francisco, ran into an open switch. Four coaches were derailed. Twenty-six persons are known to have been killed and the list will probably total much higher. The injured number about 100. The wrecked coaches were hurled in every direction and four were smashed into splinters. Most of the dead were Italians from New York and New Orleans going to San Francisco. They occupied the smoker and day coach. Eighteen corpses were brought to Colton this evening and eight additional bodies could be seen underneath one of the demolished cars. This car could not be raised until a derrick was brought from Los Angeles, sixty miles away. But two Americans are known to have been killed, George L. Sharp, of Muncie, Ind., was instantly killed.

CONTENTION OF THE GREAT NORTHERN IS UPHELD BY COURTS

(By Associated Press.) ST. PAUL, Minn., March 28.—The state supreme court today upheld the Great Northern Railway company in its contention that it had the right to issue the \$60,000,000 of stock authorized by the board of directors some months ago and which was enjoined by Attorney General Young, who claimed that the company should first come before the state railroad and warehouse commission and submit to an examination by that body the necessity and purpose of the issue. This contention of the state is upheld by Judge Hallman in the Ramsey county district court, who ordered an injunction to issue. The supreme court today reversed that decision. The opinion of the court was unanimous.

NORTH CAROLINA DEFEATS CORNELL

(By Associated Press.) HAMPDEN, N. C., March 28.—The football game between the University of North Carolina today by killing the men they have been long following, having lost their score.

OLD VETERAN DIES OF HEART FAILURE

(By Associated Press.) DOVER, N. C., March 28.—Hiram E. Lee, a veteran of the Mexican and civil wars and a nephew of General Robert E. Lee, died here yesterday of heart failure, aged 87 years. Although closely related to the Southern general and a Virginian by birth, Mr. Lee fought with the Union army. In the late seventies Mr. Lee went to Leadville and was the discoverer of the famous Robert E. Lee mine.

83,941,510 IS POPULATION OF THIS COUNTRY

United States Gained Eight Million People In About Six Years.

COLONIES HAVE NEARLY TEN MILLION SOULS

New York Has Over Four Millions and Chicago Passes Two Million Mark.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 28.—There are now nearly eight million more people in Continental United States than there were six years ago. The above estimate is based upon figures compiled by the census bureau and reported today. According to its estimates the population of Continental United States in 1906 was 83,941,510, this being an increase over 1900 of 7,948,937. The population of the United States exclusive of Alaska and the Hawaiian possessions in 1906 was 83,142,740, the growth of population in that time being 7,948,937. Compared with the population of 1900, the gain of population in 1906 was 7,948,937, or 10.7 per cent. The population of the United States in 1900 was 75,192,573.

INVESTIGATION OF MOSQUITOES BEGINS

(By Associated Press.) NEW ORLEANS, March 28.—The city board of health today began an investigation of mosquito mosquitoes, not the kind which transmit yellow fever, but a new variety from their eggs, which are a source of discomfort in New Orleans, nearly the whole year. The extermination of the mosquitoes is to begin about the middle of the month.

QUARANTINE RAISED

(By Associated Press.) A danger of infectious fever from the quarantine ship upon the coast of the city, today, assigned by the board of health, is being investigated by the city board of health.

KOTOHIKI TO COMMAND

(By Associated Press.) TOKYO, March 28.—The Japanese government today announced that Kotohiki was to command the Japanese troops at the Japanese expedition.

WILL ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 28.—Chairman Knapp of the interstate commerce commission and Charles F. Smith, commissioner of labor, will leave here tomorrow for Chicago, where they will hold a conference with representatives of the conductors and trainmen and officials of western railroads entering Chicago in regard to the dispute over the question of wages, which threatens to result in a disastrous strike unless a satisfactory adjustment is effected.

CONFLAGRATION VISITS SOUTH BOSTON CAUSING MILLION DOLLAR LOSS

TIME NOT YET COME FOR INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Decision Arrived at In Conference Between Root and Ambassador Creel.

INFORMATION IS LACKING

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 28.—The moment has not yet arrived when America and Mexico can intervene to stop the spread of war in Central America. This was the decision arrived at as the result of a conference between Secretary Root and Ambassador Creel at the state department today. The secretary also had the benefit of the advice received by the diplomatic representatives of the Central American states from their own government.

The absence of definite information from the seat of trouble is embarrassing to the officials who are desirous of bringing about peace.

The state department received a dispatch today from United States Minister Merry at San Jose, Costa Rica, announcing that it is reported there that Amapala, Honduras, is being bombarded. Amapala is the chief Honduran port on the Pacific side and President Bonilla of Honduras is reported to have fled to that port which was formerly one of his strongholds. Some time ago it was reported that Nicaragua had sent a gunboat to storm Amapala.

CORBIN BANKING CO. MAKES ASSIGNMENT

(By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, March 28.—The Corbin Banking Company today assigned for the benefit of creditors, to George C. Austin, the two members of the company are George S. Edgell and Austin Corbin. Mr. Edgell is president and Mr. Corbin vice president of the Manhattan Beach Hotel and Land company. Mr. Austin said that a rough estimate placed the liabilities at \$1,200,000 and assets at \$2,000,000. The assignment was due to the maturing of obligations. Said he.

Times are hard and money is high. The company owns 400 acres of land at Manhattan Beach and Far Rockaway, which is worth \$2,000,000, but it could be sold today under existing conditions for \$1,500,000. You cannot get any one to buy real estate at present. There is other valuable real estate in the south and west but loans and contracts prevented it from being disposed of.

Other Buildings Destroyed.

Richards, Spriggins & Lawson, wholesale grocers; Early Grocery company; East's tobacco warehouse; Virginia Bottling company; D. B. Patterson's saloon; Turner's saloon; Griffith's harness factory; Bank of South Boston in which building the telephone exchange was located, and burned; Johnson & Lloyd's drygoods establishment; Perry Grocery company; Flug's warehouse; Star warehouse; J. W. Elliott, grocer; J. L. Neal, druggist; J. G. Patterson's saloon; Collins livery stable; Guild & Moore Tobacco prize.

In addition to the above, a large number of small houses, including cottages in the negro section in the center of the business district were burned. No one sustained any injuries in the fire and no railroad property was destroyed. The Norfolk & Western depot was damaged and all of the freight was removed from the depot to box cars. This step later proved unnecessary.

The fire fighting facilities at South Boston proved very inadequate. In combating the fire the Danville fire department was telegraphed to be on hand and shortly after 5 o'clock left for South Boston, arriving there about an hour later. At this time the flames had gained great headway and had not the arrival of the Danville company it is said that the entire town would have burned. South Boston has a volunteer company and the water pressure is very low, but by hard work the fire was kept confined to the water tank at Main street.

Durban Officers Aid. Early tonight the Durham, N. C. fire department was telegraphed to be on hand.

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For Second Time Virginia Town Is Nearly Destroyed by the Flames.

BUSINESS SECTION OF CITY IS DEVASTATED

Fire Departments From Other Cities Are Called In. No One Injured.

(By Associated Press.) DANVILLE, Va., March 28.—For the second time during the past 12 months the town of South Boston, located thirty miles north of Danville, was visited by fire this afternoon. At 3:30 tonight the fire was reported to be under control, but only after entailing a loss that is estimated between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

Almost the entire tobacco section of the town and a considerable portion of the business section was devastated by the flames. The heaviest losses from the fire will probably be the H. J. Reynolds Tobacco company in whose plant it originated. Fire broke out at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon in the steam tobacco factory of the Reynolds company and was caused by some mishap to one of the dry machines. In a short time the building, a four-story brick structure, was in flames. The loss from the building and machinery is estimated at \$25,000 and \$30,000. The fire then extended to the storage warehouse of the Reynolds company, a three-story building, in which was stored hundreds of hogsheads of tobacco valued at about \$100,000 or more. The building was worth \$5,000. From the Reynolds factory the fire spread to the storage house of the H. A. Thomas Lumber company, then to the factory of George A. Lea & Co., of Danville and to the storage warehouse of T. B. Johnson, a tobaccoist, who was a heavy loser. The building occupied by George A. Lea & Co., was valued at \$10,000 and the stock of tobacco at between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The Johnson factory was valued at fully \$50,000. The following other building and most of their contents were destroyed.

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COUNSEL CONFIRMS PURCHASE OF TRACT

(Special to The Citizen.) RALEIGH, March 28.—The counsel of state today confirmed the action of the state hospital commission in the purchase of 115 acres of land adjacent to the present tract of the Central Hospital for the insane here, for the purpose of building a "cottage" in connection with the present hospital. The purchase of the tract was confirmed by Attorney General Young, who claimed that the company should first come before the state railroad and warehouse commission and submit to an examination by that body the necessity and purpose of the issue. This contention of the state is upheld by Judge Hallman in the Ramsey county district court, who ordered an injunction to issue. The supreme court today reversed that decision. The opinion of the court was unanimous.

BLOW OF FENCE RAIL PROVES TO BE FATAL

(By Associated Press.) DOTHAN, Ala., March 28.—A freight car's coupler, which was struck by a blow from a fence rail, today proved to be fatal to a man who was riding on it.

FLORIDA MERCHANT IS FATALLY SHOT

(By Associated Press.) GAINESVILLE, Fla., March 28.—A merchant in Gainesville, Fla., was shot and killed today by a man who was riding on a train.

A AND M WINS

(By Associated Press.) RALEIGH, N. C., March 28.—The Fayette University's Agricultural and Mechanical College 4.