

A STRONG CASE AGAINST WILCOX

Nell Cropsey's Uncle Does Not Believe Jim Can Escape the Gallows

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 30.—Special.—In the presence of 800 people gathered about the Elizabeth City railroad station this afternoon the casket containing Nell Cropsey's remains was started to its northern resting place. It was a sad-faced assemblage which had come to bid silent farewell to all that is left of the sweet young woman whose tragic and mysterious death aroused such general interest. Nell's mother was too much affected to ride to the station. The interment will take place about 11 o'clock Tuesday from the New Utrecht Reformed Dutch burying ground at 84th street and Sixteenth avenue, Brooklyn.

"When Ella was a little school girl she tripped by there every day," said Lawyer Andrew Cropsey of New York, who left with the body. "She attended the school No. 101, whose site I sold to the trustees in 1883. My sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Ryder Cropsey, really saw her daughter's form floating in the river before the fishermen, but at the distance was not sure of its identity. She saw the fishermen as they turned the boat and fastened the form to a stake. Mrs. Cropsey has gazed out in to the river every day and night. The effect has been so great that one eye is injured because the nerves are badly strained. She sat up nearly all last night."

Discussing the case against Wilcox as the train sped northward, Mr. Cropsey continued: "I do not think he can escape. I have promised Solicitor Ward to assist in the prosecution, and while I cannot give out all the evidence I will say there is a strong case against him. I think Wilcox would like to go out and be a western ruffian, but that can never happen, for I don't believe he will ever leave Elizabeth City again. No, I don't think the body was thrown into the river on the night of her disappearance. I think Wilcox tried to make my niece marry him, but she would not yield. She had nerve. Her grandfather, William Ryder, was a gunner on the Monitor, and a cousin, William Cropsey, was in continental service. Wilcox was jealous and did not want Ella to visit New York. She said to me in October, 'Uncle Andrew, I have made up my mind not to have anything to do with Jim. Sometimes he's very nice, but then he's eccentric and has such peculiar ways.' I don't think Wilcox did it alone and I don't think he meant to kill her that night."

According to one of the guards, Wilcox told his sister that the jail was no place for her. Asked if she could do anything for him, Wilcox replied that she might bring him a quart of whiskey.

"There are many bad reports going around about Wilcox," said Lawyer Aydlott, his attorney, "and many of them are untrue. Wilcox may make another statement within a day or two," he continued, "but I want first to see his father who is sick."

It is generally understood that Wilcox will waive examination Wednesday. Lawyer Aydlott says he is not sure about this, for he would like to hear some of the new evidence.

Solicitor Ward said: "You can say there will be enough evidence before the grand jury to secure an indictment. This is a hard case, but no stone will be left unturned. There is some very damaging evidence which I believe would insure his conviction, but there is doubt as to its admission."

The strongest alleged evidence against Wilcox, if it can be procured in court, is that he was seen grappling with Miss Cropsey about midnight of her disappearance in front of the Cropsey home in a seeming effort to drag her to the river. It is also claimed that Wilcox cannot account for his whereabouts between the Cropsey residence and his home and that he did not go home through the night. A part of the citizens' committee believe they have a complete state case.

JAIL BIRDS ESCAPE

Winston-Salem, N. C., Dec. 30.—Special.—George Brown, Jim Dunningan, Jim Nelson, Will Baity (the latter a boy), broke out of jail Saturday night. The two first named were captured last night at the Yadkin river. Dunningan jumped in the river, expecting to swim across, but turned back on account of the high water. The Baity boy went home and returned today. There is no trace of Nelson, who is wanted for blackmail.

The Yadkin river is thirty feet above common water this afternoon. Two railroad trestles on the Mooresville road are washed away. Passenger trains were cancelled today.

RAILROAD DISASTERS

Six Men Killed as the Result of Two Accidents

Washington, Dec. 30.—B. W. Fuller, general passenger agent of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, this morning received the following official dispatch regarding the accident last night near Lynchburg, Va.:

"Train No. 9, composed of engine, one baggage car and one coach, struck a landslide two miles west of Reusers, on the James River branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, about 7 o'clock last evening, derailing the engine but doing no further damage to train. Conductor Whitaker, Engineer Fisher, Baggageman Thompson and Express Messenger Shannon, with others, pushed the coach out of the way of possible danger and were engaged in pushing the baggage car back when another slide came on, striking the baggage car and throwing it into the river with the four men mentioned, all of whom were killed. No other persons were injured except slightly. The report that many passengers were killed is not true."

FUNERAL OF NELLIE CROPSY

A Great Throng Pays Tribute to the Murdered Girl

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 30.—Special.—The funeral services of Ella M. Cropsey took place at the M. E. Church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock according to previous announcement. Long before the appointed hour the spacious building was packed from pulpit to stone steps. For some distance even the streets were thronged by people eager to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the dead girl. It was not the curious gaping multitude of people upon whose faces were plainly written deep heartfelt sympathy for the sadly bereaved family and genuine sorrow for the tragic departure of one so young so sweet and so beautiful.

L. A. Winder, R. W. Turner, A. K. Kramer, W. M. Baxter, H. T. Greenleaf and W. M. Hinton acted as pall bearers. As the hearse left the Cropsey residence, followed by father and mother, sisters and brothers, uncle and cousin and a long procession of sympathetic friends, and moved slowly towards the church the solemn tolling of the bell, the gentle lapping of the waters beneath whose waves the dead girl had rested for 37 days, and the suppressed sobs of the bereaved, sounded a sad requiem, while the weeping clouds sent down their crystal drops to mingle with the tears of the sorrowing. As the corpse was borne to the chancel the choir sang softly and sweetly "Asleep in Jesus." A wealth of floral offerings lay upon the handsome casket. These were silent but eloquent tributes of love.

The beautiful burial service was impressively read by Rev. D. H. Tuttle who afterwards preached a touching and appropriate sermon. Revs. C. W. Winkler and J. J. Ferber assisting the services. "Lead Kindly Light" and "Abide With Me" were rendered with melting pathos. The vast congregation was moved to tears. At the conclusion of the services the remains were placed in the annex of the church, where they remained until taken to New York for sepulture.

Wilcox's Battle

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 30.—Special.—The latest alleged evidence against Wilcox is an empty whiskey bottle, found near the river bank. A liquor dealer identified the bottle as having been sold at his place, and said Wilcox bought the bottle, or one like it.

MRS. PRITCHARD SERIOUSLY ILL

Washington, Dec. 30.—Special.—Private information received here today states that the wife of Senator Pritchard is critically ill at her home near Marshall, N. C. She was taken ill about a week ago and a complication set in which has aggravated her illness until now it feared she may not recover. A telegram received here today by her sister, Mrs. Hyams, asked that she come immediately to her sister's bedside. The railroads leading to Marshall are reported washed out, so she will have to defer her going until railroad travel is resumed. A letter two days old from Senator Pritchard states that his wife is so critically ill that he has not left her side for nearly a week, and that if she can recover it will be necessary to perform a delicate surgical operation to restore her to health. In her present condition it is by no means certain that she can withstand the shock of an operation.

Much sympathy is expressed here for Senator Pritchard. He has been obliged

to neglect all his business engagements and his correspondence, and is devoting himself solely to his wife.

A pension of \$8 per month has been granted to Anna S. Helper of Bailey. Dr. John Spicer has been appointed a pension examiner at Goldsboro. Postmasters appointed: Arthur W. White, at Holsale, Alexander county, and W. J. Pannel, resigned, at Marmaduke Harrell, at Merchants, Gates county, vice N. J. Reddick, resigned.

DOG DID NOT BARK

And Detectives Think the Circumstance May Help Them

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—Emotion displayed by a dog may point out to the police the person who murdered Howard A. Bruce, watchman for a firm of contractors, in his slant at the foot of East Jackson street early yesterday morning. Bruce was found dead at 2 o'clock by Harvey Johnson, a watchman on the Baltimore and Ohio trestle, near by. He had been killed with an axe.

Belle, Bruce's black and white pointer, was the one witness to the tragedy besides the murderer. Belle had been Bruce's faithful companion for a long time. She was usually prompt, says Bruce's friends, to give her master notice of the approach of a stranger. A month ago the animal attacked a stranger who halted in the street in front of the place Bruce guarded. The slightest unusual noise was sufficient to set her to barking. From the fact that she was not heard to bark Saturday night it is argued that whoever killed Bruce was well known to both master and dog. It is assumed that a stranger entering the place would have been detected by the dog and have put Bruce under his guard. When the police arrived the dog was found whining pitifully and endeavoring to pull her master into a sitting posture.

It is probable that Belle will figure in the case in the role of detective, for it is proposed to suddenly confront suspected persons with the animal in the hope that she may recognize her master's slayer and evince fear or anger, thus pointing to the perpetrator. Four men are now under arrest at the Moyamensing avenue station house. Johnson, who gave the alarm, is one. The others are "Cuban" Benjamin, colored, 18 years old of 724 South Mildred street, David Henry, 15 years old, alias "The Marine," who lives in a shanty not far from the one in which Bruce was killed, and William Davenport, 21 years old, no address.

Bruce was a man of good character and sober habits. He was 42 years old and lived at 2207 Howard street. He was married, but his wife and he had not lived together for some time.

FILIPINOS CELEBRATE A PATRIOT'S BIRTHDAY

Manila, Dec. 30.—Thousands of natives today celebrated the anniversary of the birthday of the Philippines patriot, Jose Rizal, in an appropriate and orderly manner. They first decorated the spot where Rizal was executed by the Spaniards and then held a stirring meeting on the Luneta on the site of the proposed monument to "The George Washington of the Philippines." A number of fervid Tagalog addresses were made and the assemblage marched to the palace and acceded Acting Governor Wright, who responded with an address of acknowledgment.

Generals Chaffee and Wheaton left for Batavia province today to inspect the conditions there. They will return to Manila tomorrow.

which left here this morning stopped at Clarkton and came back tonight. Water has been higher than known in years, but was receding this evening. Railroad officials hope to have trains through by tomorrow.

Information from Elon College says John Brady, who killed Eustace A. Smith on Christmas day, is now in jail at Graham. He was captured, together with his pal, at Salisbury and brought back this morning.

Another Cup Lifter

London, Dec. 30.—It is stated that Sir Thomas Lipton has decided to contest for the America's cup in 1902 with a new yacht, Shamrock III. Captain Seymour, who sailed Shamrock II, has had a number of interviews with Sir Thomas, and it is understood that Watson will be the designer of the new yacht. All of the crew of Shamrock II wish to sail again in the contest for the cup.

PENNY POSTAGE AN Iridescent DREAM

Washington, Dec. 30.—Penny postage, which is strongly advocated by Henry C. Payne, the newly appointed Postmaster General, finds little favor with Representative Lord of California, chairman of the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. While Mr. Lord was in conference with the President today the future policy of the Post Office Department was discussed. "Penny postage cannot be made a success," said Mr. Lord after his interview with the President. "The present rate does not pay expenses. To cut it in half would create a still greater deficit. Even if the mail increased to twice its present dimensions as must be the case for it to bring in equal revenue, the expenses would be 75 per cent more."

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SHAW IS CAUTIOUS

He Will Cross No Bridges Before He Comes to Them

Washington, Dec. 30.—Gov. Leslie M. Shaw of Iowa, who will succeed Mr. Gage as Secretary of the Treasury, will arrive in Washington probably next Sunday, on which day he will hold a conference with the President. The future policy of the Treasury Department will be discussed at length, but inasmuch as Governor Shaw will not be confronted with any knotty problems when he takes the helm, the conference will hardly be marked by any important decisions in regard to policy.

Governor Shaw's cautious character is typified in the decisions he has made of requests for an expression of the action he will take on certain questions. He says that he will not cross any bridges until he comes to them.

A FREE HAND GIVEN GERMANY

Venezuela to Be Coerced, but No Attempt is to Be Made to Seize Territory

Washington, Dec. 30.—All doubt as to the purpose of Germany toward Venezuela has been removed by a frank and unqualified statement conveyed to President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay by Herr Von Holleben, the German ambassador. Having ascertained the views of the President and the Secretary of State as to how far Germany might go in an attempt to compel Venezuela to pay her obligations to German subjects, Herr Von Holleben informed the imperial authorities at Berlin and waited for further instructions. These have been received and carried out.

By direction of his government the ambassador has made a frank statement to Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Hay of the plans of Germany to bring Venezuela to terms, and as a distinct promise that there will be no violation of the Monroe doctrine has been given the United States will not interfere.

Germany's plans, according to the statement conveyed by Herr Von Holleben, are to send a squadron to Venezuelan ports, land marines, seize the customs houses and hold them until revenue equal to the \$2,000,000 owed by the Venezuelan government to German subjects shall have been collected.

According to Herr Von Holleben's assurance, his government will under no circumstances attempt to acquire any territory or to hold any territory other than that embraced in the customs houses. The promise that there shall be no acquisition of territory has been made in the most positive terms. While no official statement to that effect is obtainable, it is learned that the administration is satisfied with Germany's assurances and has a fear that any attempt will be made by the imperial government to obtain a foothold in Venezuela.

President Roosevelt has recently explained to Herr Von Holleben that this government would not tolerate for an instant an attempt on the part of any European power to acquire territory on the western hemisphere. Herr Von Holleben was given to understand, however, that while the United States government did not look with favor on attempts to collect debts from nations from small nations by a display of armed force it was obliged to recognize that

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Germany and Venezuela were sovereign states with whose dealings the United States had nothing to do. Mr. Roosevelt made it plain that the matter was a very delicate one and that any landing of foreign troops on Venezuelan territory might be regarded with suspicion unless positive assurances that no purpose that might infringe on the principle laid down by President Monroe were conveyed in advance.

It was learned today that all information as to Germany's plans had been given except as to the date the German squadron will reach Venezuelan waters. A demand will first be made for the payment of the money due, and if this is ineffective marines and seamen from the war ships will be landed at La Guayra and probably at Maracaibo.

This government continues to deny emphatically that the movements of American war ships in the West Indies have any relation whatever in the trouble between Germany and Venezuela. A press cablegram from Berlin this afternoon says that the German cruiser Gazelle has been ordered to leave Kiel for Venezuela.

Ultimatum Within Three Days

London, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Central News from Berlin says: "It is believed to be certain here that an ultimatum will be issued within three days and that an attack on Venezuela will follow directly after. In addition to the Itzeta, the Falke, two training ships and the cruiser Geier have been ordered to LaGuayra. In the meantime I am officially assured that the German charge d'affaires has not left Caracas and that diplomatic relations have not yet been broken off. The fourparties continue. An agreement has been reached between Germany and the United States in regard to the German course of action in Venezuela."

Our English Cousins Uneasy

London, Dec. 30.—Commenting on the London Times' statement from Washington that persons of considerable importance in official circles there profess to believe that war between the United States and Germany is inevitable, the St. James Gazette, though it does not believe that such a result is likely to follow the dispute in regard to the debts of Venezuela to Germany, says that if it does there can be no doubt that English sympathy will be with America. At the same time the St. James Gazette expresses the hope that the United States will not allow such states as Venezuela to gain the impression that they can reckon on the protection of Monroism if the choice is repudiate their obligations to Europe.

The Arbitration Question at the City of Mexico

Two Plans in Process of Development with Parties Divided in Preference

Washington, Dec. 30.—The State Department received dispatches today from Mexico City, making clear for the first time about what was to be expected on the subject of arbitration, which has been the most important and the most difficult problem before the congress of American republics. The advice came from Mr. Buchanan, the American delegate who was assigned to look after this particular question. He states that an agreement on the lines of The Hague conference appears to be favored by the majority of the republics, and that this will probably be the basis of action to be taken by the congress. He also stated that those republics which desire to go further than The Hague agreement will probably sign an independent convention for compulsory arbitration.

The congress is rapidly drawing to a close and another fortnight will probably bring a final adjournment, so that the determination of the arbitration question appears to be very near at hand.

General Miles Defended

Washington, Dec. 30.—A criticism in the current issue of the Army and Navy Register on the rebuke administered to Lieutenant General Miles by Secretary Root at the instigation of President Roosevelt, pursuant to General Miles' expression on Admiral Dewey's minority report as a member of the Schley court of inquiry, was the principal topic of discussion in army and navy circles today. The comment of the Journal is favorable to General Miles. At the War Department it was stated that Secretary Root has no more jurisdiction in the matter than he would have had had the criticism appeared in the editorial columns of one of the daily newspapers.

Could Not Break In

New Orleans, Dec. 30.—A neatly dressed and well-to-do young woman of 25 applied to Coroner Richard today, gave her name as Mrs. Blanche Spurgeon and asked to be committed to the Louisiana State Insane Asylum as a lunatic, the only way in which she could be prevented from committing suicide. The woman when questioned spoke coherently and the coroner could not notice the slightest sign of lunacy, but she explained that she was subject to frequent spells during which an irresistible desire to commit suicide assailed her. She had attempted suicide in this condition several times, but escaped by a scratch,

Liberal Force Landed

Colon, via Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 30.—It is reported that an expedition of Liberals over 1,000 strong has landed on the coast forty miles from Panama. Four hundred government troops left Panama yesterday bound for the interior. It is said that there will be important developments within a few days.

Russian Notes Received

The Hague, Dec. 30.—State Counselor Asser, the arbitrator of the dispute between Russia and America, over Behring Sea, has just received the Russian notes on the subject. They were brought here by Imperial Adjutant Cougrov.

Yamaguchi Resigns

Yokohama, Dec. 30.—General Yamaguchi, who commanded the Japanese troops in China during the expedition of the allies, is reported to have resigned, owing to charges which have been made public accusing him of looting after the siege of Peikin had been raised.