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MERIWETHER ON STAND TELLS HIS OWN STORY

Says Branch "Ran" Him and Kept Trying to Get Things Against Him

ACCOUNT OF VISIT TO BRANCH'S ROOM

No Midshipman Objects to Having
He Said, But "Ran" Him
and Kept Trying to Get
Things Against Him—Full
Story of the Fight.

(By the Associated Press.)

Annapolis, Md., Nov. 28.—The court-martial in the case of Midshipman Meriwether, Jr., charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of Midshipman James R. Branch, after a hot fight between the two, reconvened this morning.

Midshipman Meriwether was the first witness offered by the defense. Meriwether was warned by the court that he was not obliged to commit himself in any way. He testified as follows:

"The first time I had seen Mr. Branch was September 1, 1906. I was on the Santee, and Mr. Branch had been put there for misconduct. He made himself generally unpleasant to me during the four days he was there. On October 1 he returned and lived on the same floor, just a few doors apart. Branch began to run me. It was personal and particularly disagreeable. No midshipman objects to having, but running gives power to the runner to insult and to worse than being in physical possession. Branch frequently told me that he intended to bilge me. Early in the year I had a fight with Midshipman Humphreys and I was knocked out.

Branch ran me further, and coming at me said that he was going to report me, and did tell the midshipman in charge. During June week I went out in town. Branch saw me, and Midshipman Carstein, who was on duty, came to my room and told me that I would be reported. Branch told me that he had told Carstein. The report was not published and Carstein asked me about it. Branch said that he had asked the report to be put out again."

While on the Hartford at Newport News some fruit was being brought on ship. Witness, Branch and many others were helping themselves to the fruit. Branch told him to turn in. Witness said, "Go to hell." Branch made report of insubordination, disrespect and not turning in promptly.

"I told these facts to the executive officer," said Meriwether, "and he took off all but the last charge. I heard that Mr. Branch wanted to fight, but I paid no attention to it.

"About six weeks afterwards we were transferred to the Arkansas. I had heard that Branch requested first class men to report me for speaking.

"When we returned to Annapolis Branch and I were put in different classes. When Branch was put on duty I knew I must be very careful. I saw Branch go to my room for a second inspection. He came to my room and asked me about my civilian clothes, and said that I was on 'pap.'"

"Koehler, to whom the clothes belonged, told me he had told Noyes about it. I saw Noyes talking to Branch. I told him not to interfere. I went to Mr. Bradley and asked him if there had been an extra inspection ordered. He told me that he would not let the report get in, but that Branch had asked him to get a report against me if he (Bradley) could.

"That night, after consulting my friends, I went to Branch's room with Jaeger. I asked Pritchard if I could see Branch and was told that I could. I went in Branch's room and the fight was turned on. I said that I had come to see him about what occurred. Branch said: 'You are a damn fool to come to see me, you know that my class hates you.' I said, 'This is not so, you are only one who does.' Branch then asked: 'What do I do?' I said: 'Don't say a damn thing, sneaking around and I will fight you though I am not in fighting condition.' I added: 'If you get up I will kick you.' He said: 'You mean you will try.' That's what I will, I said, and if you get up I will show you.' He did not get up, and after a little further conversation Jaeger and I left the room."

BIG COLD WAVE SWEEPING DOWN.

Washington, Nov. 29.—(Special forecast.)—The first pronounced cold wave of the season will extend over the eastern part of the country to-night and Thursday, with freezing temperatures as far South as interior parts of the Gulf and South Atlantic States.

WANTS INJUNCTION AGAINST RAILROADS

(By the Associated Press.)

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 28.—Acting in behalf of the United States Government, Federal District Attorney Dyer today filed a petition in the United States Circuit Court for an injunction to prevent the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis from continuing alleged violation of the Federal laws. The allegations are made that the Terminal Railroad Association has destroyed trade and commerce and worked incalculable injury to the shipping interests of the Mississippi Valley, and its dissolution is asked.

CUT TO PIECES BY A TRAIN.

(Special to The Evening Times.)

Opocord, N. C., Nov. 28.—Yesterday evening at 5 o'clock, Mr. Matthew Hill, an employe of the Buffalo Mills of this city, was run over by a shifting engine on the sidetrack of the Southern Railway way here near the depot and literally mangled to pieces. His head was severed from his body.

He was about fifty years of age and leaves a wife and several children. He was going up the track and was watching a train on the main track when the engine ran up on him.

Accompanying him was an old man named Tucker, who also was run over and seriously injured, but not killed. Tucker had just arrived from Salisbury with two logs, and Hill had gone to the depot to meet him, it is said. Hill had just moved here a few days ago from the Hala Mill.

THE STATEHOOD BILL

Strongest Effort Yet Made Under Way

Senator Beveridge Will Introduce the Measure and Press it Early so as to Get it out of the Way—Belief that it Will be Favorably Considered.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Nov. 29.—The strongest effort yet made in the direction of securing the admission of New Mexico and Arizona as a State is under way and the statehood advocates propose that nothing will be left undone that will induce favorable action by Congress. Enormous petitions will be presented in both houses with all the signatures that could be obtained.

In New Mexico the movement is under the direction of the New Mexico Non-Partisan Joint Statehood League, an organization of which former delegate Bernard S. Rodey is secretary. This league extends to Arizona and petitions from that territory also will be presented to Congress. Mr. Rodey and other men who are not in official life, will be in Washington a portion of the winter in the interest of the statehood bill.

Senator Beveridge, chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories, will introduce and press the joint statehood bill as early as possible in order to get it out of the way of other important legislative business. Friends of the movement express the belief that the bill which came so near being passed at the last session, providing for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one State and New Mexico and Arizona as another, is very likely to receive favorable consideration early in the session.

ALL QUIET AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

(By the Associated Press.)

Constantinople, via Sofia, Bulgaria, Nov. 29.—The occupation of Mytilene by the allied forces has had no effect on the population of Constantinople, which is celebrating the Bairam festival, but advices from Adrianople and Salonica cause apprehension of trouble in the event of the prolongation of the present situation. There has been an alarming increase in the number of murders of Bulgarians by Mussulmans in the Villayet of Salonica during the last few days.

STATE MAY SELL McNAIR TRACT.

(By the Associated Press.)

The trustees of the University of North Carolina held a special session today in the office of Governor Glenn. The matter for discussion was an offer of \$5,500 for the McNair lands in Robeson county. This tract of 2,750 acres was given to the University by John C. McNair. The offer was referred to a special committee, composed of Governor Glenn, Mr. R. H. Battle and Dr. R. H. Lewis, for consideration.

RUSSIAN CAPITAL TO TALK WITH AGAIN ISOLATED

Telegraph Operators Strike This Time

(By the Associated Press.)

St. Petersburg, Nov. 29. 12:45 p. m.—The situation has again suddenly grown exceedingly grave. The Russian capital is shut off from telegraphic communication with the interior. The Pan-Russian strike of the telegraph operators declared yesterday has gone into operation, and the Workers' Council is deliberating whether to declare a general political strike throughout Russia to-morrow, predicting that this time the alleged unwarranted arrest of the members of the Peasant's Congress at Moscow, and also calling on the people to compel the employers of St. Petersburg who locked out 10,000 men to open their doors.

The telegraphic strike draws an impenetrable curtain between the capital and the provinces, which in such a crisis renders the position of the government almost desperate, as being in instant and constant touch with the military and local authorities in the interior is imperative. If the telegraph strike can be maintained the government will be compelled to grope blindly in the dark.

The employes of the office here have not yet struck, but they are expected to walk out to-day. Only two lines are working out of St. Petersburg.

Telegraphic messages from Moscow, which are momentarily expected to stop, say that the operators on the Siberian lines and on all the lines South, North and East of Moscow have struck. Communication with Sebastopol and Odessa has ceased. The operators on the lines throughout the Baltic provinces have also struck.

The telegraphers' strike is the direct outgrowth of the government's circular prohibiting telegraph operators from joining a union, which prohibition is attributed to M. Durnovo, Minister of the Interior, for whose removal from office the radicals are vigorously working.

The minister recently summarily discharged the leaders of the Moscow union, and yesterday their colleagues sent a twelve-hour ultimatum to M. Durnovo and Premier Witte, demanding the re-instatement of the dismissed men and the withdrawal of the obnoxious circular. No answer being forthcoming at the specified time the strike was declared.

The telegraphers of Moscow, after leaving their keys, held a meeting in an adjoining building, and upon the appearance of the police and troops sent to break up the meeting they declared firmly that they would not disperse, even if the authorities used force.

Graphic communication with the capitals it is not known here whether the mutineers have surrendered or whether General Neplueff, the commander of the fortress, began active operations against them to-day.

The last dispatch which came through announced that Sebastopol was practically deserted except for the troops. The scared population had fled in all directions and Bala-klava and neighboring towns were filled with refugees. The streets of Sebastopol were represented as being flooded with incoming troops, and artillery and machine guns had been employed so as to command Admiralty Point, the stronghold of the mutineers, while the guns of Fort Constantin had been turned on the sailors' barracks.

General Neplueff and the other military officers, according to the latest advices, were consulting with the view to working out a plan to take the mutineers by surprise and without bloodshed if possible. No further statement was made regarding the attitude of the Black Sea fleet.

A dispatch to the Novoe Vrmya says not more than a thousand sailors are now supporting the leaders of the mutiny, who number a hundred. The dispatch also says that there are only four hundred rifles in the sailors' barracks and that only a few cartridges are available.

COAST SQUADRON IN CHARLESTON.

(By the Associated Press.)

Charleston, S. C., Nov. 29.—The battleship Texas, accompanied by the monitors Florida, Arkansas and Nevada, composing the first division of the coast defence squadron, under Rear Admiral Dickins, arrived today at this port, which will be the headquarters for the winter maneuvers. The torpedo boat division is expected in a few days.

DR. H. J. THOMAS, OF WINSTON, DEAD.

(By the Associated Press.)

Winston-Salem, N. C., Nov. 28.—Dr. H. J. Thomas, a prominent physician, died early this morning after an illness of one week, from pneumonia, 55 years old.

Dr. Thomas came here fourteen years ago from Milwaukee, Wis. He was hospital steward in the United States navy during the civil war. During the Spanish-American war he was surgeon in hospitals at Santiago and Montauk Point, N. J. He was a prominent Mason, and will be buried to-morrow with the honors of that order.

NINE DROWNED IN LAKE STORM

Crew of Steamer Mataafa Off Duluth

(By the Associated Press.)

Duluth, Minn., Nov. 29. Nine dead bodies including the entire engineering crew of the steamer Mataafa at the mouth of Duluth ship canal. The life-saving crew made desperate but futile efforts to get a line to the boat. In the presence of thousands of spectators the line was fired over the ship from the cannon three times. Once it caught and those on the forward end of the boat where it landed began to haul it in, but the rocks on the bottom of the canal cut the rope in two.

At midnight the officials of the company owning the boat advised the life saving crew to give up until daylight, saying that the men of the forward part were safe enough until morning, but the stern end of the Mataafa not a sign of life had been detected since shortly after dark.

When the storm died out somewhat this morning the life saving crew was able to hit the boat and the work of bringing the crew ashore began at once. In the forward end of the boat all were safe, but in the stern it was found that all had succumbed to the cold and were drowned.

In the first boat load seven men were brought to shore and later eight more. From those rescued it is learned that not a sign had been heard by those forward from the rear end since early in the evening and the death of all was certain.

The names of the lost men follow: William Most, chief engineer, Cleveland. Second Engineer Claude Farringer, Cleveland. James Early, Buffalo. W. Gilchrist, oiler, Winton, Ont. Carl Carlson, oiler, Chicago. Henry Wright, steward, Cleveland. Walter Bush, second cook, Amherstburg.

Fireman and Deckhand, who shipped at Conneaut, names not known.

List of Vessels Wrecked. Chicago, Nov. 29.—Reports received up to midnight last night showed that nineteen vessels were wrecked in Lake Michigan and yesterday. Six vessels are reported missing.

The following is a list of the vessels wrecked and missing: Wrecked—Crescent City, steel steamer, wrecked near Duluth; Mataafa, steel steamer, driven ashore at Duluth; R. W. England, steel steamer, wrecked near Duluth; Rosemount, Canadian steamer, ashore near Port William, Ont.; Isaac L. Elwood, steel steamer, disabled in Duluth harbor; J. H. Outhwaite, steamer, ashore and burned near Cheboygan, Mich.; City of Holland, passenger steamer, stranded at Rogers City, Mich.; D. O. Whitney, steamer, ashore near Port Washington, Wis.; J. M. Spaulding, schooner, ashore near Port Huron, Mich.; Mary Mitchell, schooner, stranded near Cheboygan, Mich.; Harvey Bissell, schooner, broken up at Alpena; F. A. Geoger, schooner, dismasted on Lake Michigan, towed to Cheboygan, Wis.; Oliver Mowatt, ashore in Lake Ontario; Jim Sheriff, steamer, dismasted on Lake Huron; Vinland, schooner, waterlogged at Alpena; unknown vessel, reported ashore at Presque Isle, Lake Huron; Charles M. Warner, steamer, ashore at Nine Mile Point, near Cheboygan, Mich.; steamer Mariposa, ashore at Split Rock; schooner George Herbert, sunk off Two Islands, Lake Superior.

Reported Missing—Angeline, steel steamer, Lake Superior; Panther, steamer, Lake Erie; James Mowatt, schooner, Lake Huron; Jud, schooner, Lake Huron; Mohegan, steamer, Lake Huron; Alcona, steamer, and barges, Green Bay.

Must Be Made Over. Berkeley, Cal., Nov. 29.—When informed last night of the action of the Columbia University in reference to football, President Benjamin Ide Wheeler, of the University of California, said:

"The game of football as played on the coast must be made over or will have to be given up entirely. A slight changing of the rules for the purpose of eliminating stugging will not suffice. An entirely new game must be devised."

FIRE IN GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Nov. 29.—Fire to-day damaged the Grand Opera House, one of New York's historic theatres. The loss is about \$5,000, confined mostly to scenery and stage fixtures. The fire started in a pile of rubbish soon after daylight.

The old Grand Opera House is at the corner of Twenty-Third street and Eighth avenue. It was built nearly a half century ago as the headquarters of the Erie Railroad. In 1867 the building was remodelled into a theatre. Hall Caine's drama, "The Prodigal Son," is at present being presented there.

Postmaster at Lynn.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Nov. 29.—James B. Pace was to-day appointed fourth-class postmaster at Lynn, N. C.

HEAVY FIRE LOSS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

(By the Associated Press.)

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 29.—Fire to-day destroyed the cigar box manufacturing establishment of Ellis & Gaudin at 224 Fremont street, the Union Iron Works, Reliance Engine Company and the Jardine Machine Works. Heavy loss was also sustained by the V. Kingwell Brass Foundry and the Betts Spring Company. The losses amount to \$100,000. Most of the property is insured.

ANDREW HAMILTON LOCATED IN PARIS

BURTON GETS 6 MONTHS IN JAIL

(By the Associated Press.)

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 29. United States Marshal Joseph Joseph Burton of Kansas was today sentenced to the United States district court to serve six months in the Penitentiary Jail, St. Louis, Mo., and to pay a fine of \$1,000 as the penalty for conviction on the indictment charging that he had acted in the capacity of a paid attorney in behalf of the Rice, Cream & Securities company of St. Louis, before the postoffice department to prevent the issuance of a fraud order.

He was released on bond in the sum of \$5,000 with H. C. Kerens as surety pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. Execution of sentence was stayed pending appeal.

YELLOW PERIL ALARM SOUNDED.

(By the Associated Press.)

Chicago, Nov. 29.—The yellow peril alarm has been sounded by a Chinaman, Ng Poon Chew, managing editor of The Chung Sai Yta Po, a Chinese daily paper of San Francisco, in a talk at the University of Chicago on the Chinese exclusion law.

After rehearsing the evils of the exclusion law, he concluded, as follows: "All these indignities heaped on China will come back. China is growing stronger every day. We are preparing to fight. In ten years we will have 800,000 well-armed men, well trained with every latest munition of war."

SILENCE AT HARVARD Columbia's Action

(By the Associated Press.)

Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 29.—President Eliot, of Harvard University, declined today to comment upon the action of the committee of Columbia University in abolishing football.

President Eliot permitted it to be known that he had declined the proposition of Chancellor McCracken, of New York University to call a meeting of college presidents to consider the question of football, because he thought that college presidents were not a competent body to deal with reform in the game.

J. D. Greene, secretary to President Eliot, said that it was the purpose of the head of Harvard to say whatever he had to say on the subject in his annual report to the University, which will be presented in February, 1906.

HE DOES NOT THINK COLLEGE PRESIDENTS WOULD BE A COMPETENT BODY TO DEAL WITH FOOTBALL REFORM— WILL SAY HIS SAY IN ANNUAL REPORT IN FEBRUARY.

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WANT RUSSIAN PRISONERS. (By the Associated Press.)

Naples, Nov. 29.—Great excitement was caused here to-day by an alleged attempt against the life of the Duchess of Aosta, who is very popular.

While the Duchess was entering the royal palace at Capodimonte in an automobile, a man about 40 years old picked up a stone, intending apparently to throw it at the Duchess, but was prevented from so doing by a policeman, who arrested him.

The man, who has not yet been identified, asserts that he did not intend to throw the stone, but picked it up to clear a way for the passage of the automobile.

DRUNKEN HUSBAND CAUSED HER DEATH.

(By the Associated Press.)

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 29.—George I. Worthington, the husband of the young woman who was burned to death in her South Norfolk home as the result of the explosion of a lamp, which is alleged to have been knocked from her hand by Worthington while intoxicated, was to-day arrested and committed to the Norfolk county jail upon charges brought in accordance with the verdict of the coroner's jury, which held him responsible for his wife's death.

He will probably be permitted to attend the funeral of his wife in company with a deputy sheriff.

ARMSTRONG'S ADVICE TO POLICY HOLDERS

Should Not Allow Policies to Lapse— Holders in Better Position Than Before Investigation Began— Young McCall Will Try to Get Hamilton to Return or Give Ac- counting of the Money Received From New York Life.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Nov. 29.—Andrew Hamilton, to whom the New York Life Insurance Company has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars charged to legal expenses, has been located in Paris.

John C. McCall, secretary of the New York Life, and son of President McCall, testified to this effect to-day before the insurance investigating committee, and said it was his, McCall's, intention to sail next Saturday to see Hamilton and induce him to return, or if not to give accounting for the money received by him from the New York Life.

Mr. Hughes, counsel to the committee, asked Mr. McCall to get an order from Hamilton to his agents here to surrender Hamilton's papers, and Mr. McCall promised to do so.

Senator Armstrong, chairman of the committee, appointed by the New York legislature to investigate life insurance, issued a Thanksgiving greeting to-day to policyholders advising them not to let their policies lapse. The address follows:

"I am asked for a brief message to policyholders on the eve of our adjournment for the month, and am glad to make this suggestion: 'Do not allow your policies to lapse on account of anything revealed by this investigation.'

"Policyholders are in a better position now than before the investigation began, and their position ought to steadily improve as our inquiry proceeds.

"The legislation we will recommend will undoubtedly safeguard and strengthen the rights of policyholders, but those who suffer their policies to lapse will lose the benefit of what has been done already as well as what we hope to accomplish.

"No such sacrifice ought now to be made by policyholders, and patience and courage for a short time yet will not only prevent loss, but enable this committee to render the best service to the greatest number."

ALLEGED ATTEMPT AT ASSASSINATION.

(By the Associated Press.)

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