

Coopers' Fate Not Decided

JOHN SHARP IS ACQUITTED

Hopelessly Tied Up as to the Coopers'—Was the Expression of Foreman Burke, But Judge Hart Sent Them Back to Meditate a Little Longer—The Judge Had Hoped That Verdict Would Be Reached—Still Insists on Finding a Verdict If the Jury Has to Remain a Week—Jurors Are Unhappy But Are Making the Best of the Situation—They Complain of Their Accommodations.

Nashville, Tenn., March 19.—When the jury today returned a verdict of acquittal for John D. Sharp, charged with the murder of former United States Edward W. Carnahan, and declared it was "hopelessly tied up as to the Coopers," it was generally conceded that the end of the famous case had been reached. Nothing daunted by the expressive firmness of Foreman Burke's declaration of a disagreement for further deliberation and amendment Judge Hart sent the 12 men home, announcing that he would not discharge them until he was absolutely convinced that an agreement could not be reached.

Judge Hart fully expected a verdict today. Several times during the morning he consulted with one of the jury deputies and when he had concluded the day's docket at noon he sent to ask the jurors if they had anything to report. The reply "nothing" came back. Evidently the judge had some information, however, for he ordered the prisoners brought into court and instructed the sheriff to "carry in the jury."

Instead of S. J. Hyde, to whom the charge was given, E. M. Burke, the first man chosen, carried the papers and acted as foreman. In response to the judge's question as to whether a verdict had been reached, Burke, replied: "We are tied up tight as to the Coopers' but we find John D. Sharp not guilty."

The verdict as to Sharp was announced at 12:37 p. m.

"Is there any reason, General McCann, why John Sharp should not be discharged?" asked the court.

"None, your honor."

"Mr. Sharp, you are discharged from custody, acquitted," said the court, with a smile.

Sharp sat stolid and indifferent. Not so with his wife. When she had grasped the significance of the verdict her eyes filled up and she caught her husband's left arm with both hands and seemed about to break down.

"We want the exact words of the jury recorded," said judge Anderson, of the defense. "We understand the report was hopelessly tied."

"I do not recall the exact language but I am told by the clerk and a newspaper man that those were the words. Let the clerk so record them."

"Is that a verdict, your honor," said Anderson.

"It is a verdict as far as John D. Sharp is concerned, but it certainly is not as far as D. B. and Robin Cooper are concerned. I sent the jury back for further consideration."

The defendants' counsel advised together a while, and assented. Then Judge Hart adjourned court until 2 p. m.

Sharp accompanied by his wife and sister-in-law, father and mother the latter two reaching the jail after the verdict, went to the room he has occupied for several months in the jail and there held a little reunion with the Coopers.

As he left the court room, Reid Sharp, youngest brother of John D. Sharp, remarked: "This is not the end of this case."

PREFERS DEATH TO NORTH.

New Yorker Shoots Himself on His Way Home.

Savannah, March 19.—"I am never going North into the cold again," declared William Maloney, of Randolph, N. Y., to two friends on while on the steamship Frederick two hours of the time for its sailing from its dock here for Baltimore. Little attention was paid to his remarks, but later a shot was heard in his stateroom, and he was found lying in his berth, a pistol on the floor, where it had fallen from his hand, and a bullet wound in the center of his forehead.

He was breathing his last when found by those whom the shot attracted. Maloney was on his way back to his home from Palm Beach, Florida.

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