

Boat Her With Whip Because She Defended White.

THE TRIAL NEARING AN END

New York, March 19.—Four more experts are to be examined in the Thaw trial and the taking of evidence will close. Three experts were disposed of in a little more than an hour, so it is generally believed that the last word of evidence may be uttered in the famous case today (Tuesday). In that event the summing up by Mr. Delmas for the defense will begin Wednesday morning. District Attorney Jerome will reply on Thursday. Justice Fitzgerald may proceed immediately with his charge to the jury or he may defer it until Friday. Unless the unexpected happens there should be a verdict by Friday night.

The case for the people was finally closed by the introduction of the much discussed Hummel affidavit, which, with the consent of the defense, was read in full to the jury. The affidavit proved a surprise only in the alleged severity of the assaults Harry K. Thaw is said to have made upon Evelyn Nesbit during their trip through Europe in 1903, when, according to the testimony of Abraham Hummel, Miss Nesbit would not sign statements which Thaw had prepared accusing Stanford White of having drugged and ruined her.

In this affidavit Miss Nesbit charged Thaw with having attacked her with a cowhide whip while they were stopping at an old castle in the Austrian Tyrol and lashing her bare skin until she became faint from the pain and swooned. He repeated the attack the next day, according to the affidavit, and afterward in Paris he beat her at half hour intervals throughout one entire day, leaving off only when she would faint away and could no longer understand what was happening. Miss Nesbit is alleged to have sworn in the affidavit that she was in daily fear for her life and that Thaw acted as a demented person during some of the assaults.

The affidavit was in some ways a direct contradiction of Hummel's recent testimony upon the stand. In order that the defense might not prevent him from telling the story of the making of the affidavit he stated positively that he was not acting as Miss Nesbit's attorney when he drew up the document; that he was acting solely in the interest of Stanford White and that no legal action was contemplated in behalf of the young woman who is now Harry Thaw's wife.

There was considerable surprise consequently when Mr. Jerome read the opening words of the affidavit, which were:

"Supreme Court, County of New York:

"Evelyn Nesbit, plaintiff, against Harry Kendall Thaw, defendant."

It is said the action contemplated when the affidavit was made was the recovery of certain property which it was alleged Thaw had wrongfully taken from the girl. In dictating the affidavit Hummel referred to himself as Miss Nesbit's attorney, she being reported to have said:

"I have received certain letters and cablegrams from Thaw which I have turned over to my attorney, Abraham H. Hummel."

The affidavit is also endorsed "How and Hummel, attorney for plaintiff."

When Mr. Delmas began the introduction of testimony in rebuttal he introduced first of all the record in the trial and conviction of Hummel on the charge of conspiracy. He started to read the entire record, but had not reached the remarks of Mr. Jerome made at the sentencing of Hummel and which Mr. Delmas wanted to present to the jury, when Mr. Jerome said he would admit the entire record without objection. Mr. Delmas then said he would save the district attorney's reference to Hummel for the defense's summing up.

Next Mr. Delmas put upon the stand three policemen who saw Thaw the night of the tragedy or early in the morning after and they all declared that he either looked or acted irrationally. To two of them he complained of hearing young girls' voices. The witnesses admitted on cross examination that there were seven women of the street in the station house the night Thaw was there and that they were making considerable noise, but could not be heard from Thaw's cell.

After this testimony had been presented Mr. Delmas passed to the final stages of the trial by introducing the first of seven alienists employed by the defense, three of the experts being new to the case. Dr. Graeme M. Hammond and Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe, who have been in the case from the first, and Dr. W. A. White, superintendent of the government hospital for the insane at Washington, D. C., were the witnesses and all were interrogated on the hypothetical question framed by the district attorney. All three of the experts declared Thaw was so mentally unbalanced at the time he killed Stanford White that he did not know the nature or quality of his act and did not know that the act was wrong. None of the three would classify the form of insanity from which they said the defendant was suffering.

Missouri to Knock Out Bucket Shops. Jefferson City, Mo., March 16.—The house passed a bill making the operation of a bucket shop a felony. The maximum punishment for violation is from two to five years in the penitentiary. The bill now goes to Governor Folk.

AN IRON SKYSCRAPER.

Marvelous Method In Rearing the Towering Structure.

MAGIC OF ITS MECHANISM.

The Building of It is Akin to the Putting Together of a Modern American Watch—Simply a Matter of Assembling the Various "Members."

On the twentieth floor of a towering office building in lower New York a young man sat at a roll top desk talking into a telephone. He was a clean shaven, clean collared young man, with gray eyes and a cool, dry, even voice. It was a sunny office, with an admirable rug on its oaken floor, and from its windows you could see over into New Jersey. The young man at the desk was the general superintendent of a company which builds "skyscrapers," and he was performing the functions of his office.

"What report on those I beams?" he was asking. There was some reply.

"How many men have you?" he inquired and then presently remarked:

"Well, make it 610." Then he turned to the reporter who had come to ask him how big buildings are erected. But the telephone claimed him again, and again he asked:

"What report?" and to the reply announced:

"The masons must catch up by Wednesday. This is final. Goodby." He turned again to the reporter, and the reporter asked:

"How do you put up a skyscraper?"

The cool, clean faced superintendent looked across to New Jersey for a second and said:

"The building of an iron constructed skyscraper is a huge counterpart of the building of a modern American watch. It is simply a matter of assembling the parts—the 'members,' we call them. The fact is that little of the real work is done on the site of the building at all, as in the old days of stone construction. Broadly speaking, the digging of the cellar and the sinking of caissons in order to lay a bed for the ironwork comprise most of the engineering done on the spot. The rest we do in the office."

"What is the advantage of iron construction, aside from its having made the skyscraper possible? Is it stronger?"

"No; it's cheaper."

"But you have to use stone anyway. One would think that the added expense of the ironwork, say, on a comparatively small building would increase the cost."

"It isn't material that costs—it's time. You see, in putting up an iron construction building everybody can work at once—excavators, draftsmen, rolling mills, ironworkers, masons, plumbers, finishers and all. Suppose you come here and tell us you want to spend \$10,000,000 on a building to take the place of a big stone hotel. To ascertain the shape and dimensions of the lot is of course easy. This done, we turn the diagram over to an architect. He does the aesthetic part of the work, and we don't bother much with him after we get his ground and side elevations, though of course we keep in close practical touch with him. Well, now, as soon as we close the deal with you—not a week afterward, but the very next day—we are tearing down the old building, the architect is roughing out his floor plans, and we are figuring, with your assistance, how much weight each floor will have to carry. And all the while this is being done our superintendents are arranging for caisson men, ironworkers, masons and all the rest of the labor. At the same time our foundrymen and quarrymen are planning to be in readiness to ship material when it is needed. In fact, everything moves forward simultaneously."

"What is the first step of actual construction?"

"To get the architect's finished ground plan away from him. He dearly loves continually to make changes in that end of the work. As soon as we have the ground plan we can tell by the shape of the future building just where the uprights are to go and so where we shall have to sink our caissons. Meantime we have found what 'load' each upright will have to carry and thus know the sort of foundation and structure each will require. By the time we get the final ground plan the excavation is so well under way that caisson work may begin, and we can also set our draftsmen to making detail sketches for the guidance of the rolling mill man. This is what I meant by saying that the real construction of a modern big building is done in the office. We make a drawing of every beam, girder and upright to be used, with every dimension calculated to the sixteenth of an inch and every rivet hole indicated as to place and size to a nicety. There is a separate drawing for each one of these 'members,' and each is numbered. The drawings are sent to the rolling mill and there reproduced in steel. When a member is shipped from the rolling mill it is numbered to correspond with the drawing."

"For instance, we want a beam with a cross section like the Roman letter I twelve feet long and thirty inches wide. It is to be three and a half inches thick, and the flanges are to be seven-eighths of an inch thick and eight inches wide. It is to have a transverse brace supported by L shaped brackets three inches each way, and the rivet holes are to be in the places indicated and are to be three-quarters of an inch in diameter. When shipped to us the beam is to be marked M 4, 114."

"That shows were it goes in the

building, of course," ventured the reporter, with a gleam of intelligence.

"Exactly. We work by floors. For each floor we make a ground plan showing the position of every bit of ironwork, with each bit numbered. Now, when that beam comes to us numbered M 4, 114, we look at the M ground plan, find member 114, and that's where the beam goes."

"And 'M'—how about 'M'?"

"That shows the floor. We number the members and letter the floors, so that M means the thirteenth floor." The reporter was about to comment frivolously on the regrettably small number of letters in the alphabet and its effect on the future of tall buildings, but the superintendent continued:

"So far the system seems perhaps comparatively simple, but it is when we come to consider the aesthetic vagaries in the way of outside stonework which the architect's sensitive soul demands that many complex problems have to be solved. It is when we are confronted with turrets, towers, balconies and bow windows and gargoyles and ponderous copings and cornices that delicate figuring must come into play. While it is easy enough to calculate the weight of the sheer walls—the uniform blocks of stone between stories—the carved stones forming ornate projections must be considered individually, so that each will rest upon ironwork of proper strength to sustain it and of proper construction to hold it in place, and this, too, must enter into the computation of the load to be carried on its particular floor. In this way many iron members will enter into the support of a single stone whose only use is to satisfy the artistic cravings of the architect."

"Why is it that one often sees the stonework going forward on, say, the fourth story, while the floors below show only the iron skeleton?"

"There are various reasons for that. Nearly always there are huge boilers, engines, pumps and the like which must be put in before the ground floor stonework begins. Sometimes there is delay in the delivery, so we start the stonemasons in at some story above. This is easy enough, as all the loads have been computed long before. Then, again, the floor beams of one story may reach us sooner than those of another, so we put the masons on that story, or perhaps there is much carving to be done on a third story stone coping and little on the second. So as not to delay this we jump the stonemasons from the first to the third story."

"You see," pursued the expert, "the plan, idealized, is to keep the stonemasons, housesmiths and plumbers one floor behind the ironworkers, the carpenters one floor behind these, the plasterers one floor behind the carpenters, and so on till the top story is finished."

"Would it be possible to erect a twenty-four story building in the old way of brick and stone construction?" asked the reporter.

"Possible, yes, but it would take so long that in these days of quick fortune building the proposition would be commercially absurd. You can't assemble a stone or a brick building. You've got to start at your foundations and raise your walls to your first floor before you can put in your girders and beams, and so on to the top. Now, laying stone is a slow process, and by the old method everything had to wait for the masons and bricklayers. Today we don't have to wait for anything after the caissons are sunk. We can keep all hands busy, no matter how slowly an individual part of the work may be forced to progress. We can put on a stone tower before we touch the stonework of the sidewalk floor."

"Is an iron construction building safer than one of stone?"

"No, simply cheaper, but just as safe. Another thing, too, saves time in modern building, and that is the abundance of available labor. An ironworker who is capable of helping to rivet a big battleship together or assisting in tunnel or subway or bridge construction is quite as much in his element when he takes part in the assembling of a great building. This fact of interchangeable labor makes it possible to work at the very top limit of speed when occasion requires. At the present time we have one building under way on which we employ 1,600 men simultaneously."

"As I said before, putting up a building today is just like making a modern watch. The various parts are made separately, but to fit into each other to a hair's breadth. These are turned over to the skilled mechanic, who simply puts them together—assembles them."—New York Herald.

Husband Tore Body of Wife's Paramour to Pieces With a Pick.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., March 18.—John Boshus, aged 30, a Russian, was brutally murdered at Brockside, a suburb of this city, by Petro Komeck, aged 33, a Pole. Komeck came home about midnight and found Boshus with Mrs. Komeck. The enraged husband secured his mining pick and literally tore Boshus to pieces with the pick. When life was extinct he dragged the body to Mill Creek nearby, and threw it into the stream. The murder was not discovered until the body of Boshus was found by the crew of a trolley car. In the meantime the murderer had escaped.

Six Dead In Virginia Mine.

Bristol, Va., March 18.—Advices from Tacoma, Va., are that six persons are positively known to have lost their lives in the explosion which wrecked the coal mine of Bruce & Bond, near that place, Saturday. Owing to the mass of slate blocking the entrance to one portion of the mine that portion has not yet been reached by the rescuers, and it is the impression at Tacoma that as many as six other miners may be entombed.

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