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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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JAMES CORNELLY FOUND GUILTY

Conclusion of a Most Interesting Trial.

DETECTIVES STORY BELIEVED

Cornelly Not Guilty of Firing the Electric Light Station—Found Guilty of Firing the Armory—Application For a New Trial Made—A Few Comments—Other Court Notes.

As our last issue went to press, the trial of James Cornelly, indicted for setting fire, etc., to the Electric Light station and the Reynolds Armory, was in progress. As the trial advanced the greatest interest prevailed and the closing scenes were eagerly and attentively listened to and the comments on the outcome were very uncertain. Very few people believed, at any time, that there was a particle of evidence pointing to his guilt of starting the Electric Light station fire. Of course there are some who accredit him with every fire in the community, and facts and evidence will never change their prejudice. The result of the jury in finding him not guilty on this charge naturally met with public approval.

On the conclusion of setting fire to the Armory, sentiment is more decided. In this there was only the unsupported testimony of a stranger, a paid detective. This detective's reputation was questioned by three witnesses from his home, Rochester, Pa., who said it was bad, but according to rules regulating testimony, were prevented from relating what they knew of his record, and why it was bad. On the other hand three witnesses were called from same place, Rochester, Pa., who said they never heard the detective's reputation or integrity questioned.

Here was flat contradiction, on a vital point. Cornelly positively denied setting fire to the Armory and his testimony was the only direct testimony in opposition to the detective. But all the misdeeds of the prisoner were put before the jury and when it came to a decision, the jury must have placed most credence in the detective's story.

Herewith we give a summary of the testimony, carefully made by Samuel Gettig, Esq., for our readers: The first witness called was F. C. Williams, superintendent, who testified as to the plan and contents of the Electric Light station. Joseph Lose and Thomas Faxon, repairer and engineer, testified to practically the same. Mrs. A. H. Chandler testified as to seeing the fire. Emanuel Shupe testified to the same and that he saw the defendant running down past the plant after the fire had started, and that he had on a sack coat and a cap. Mary Butts, Jennie Harper, and Lotta Spigelmyer, testified to seeing a man standing in front of the plant immediately after the whistle blew, and then run up Lamb street, away from the fire, and that they thought it was Mr. Cornelly. Jerome Harper testified as to seeing the fire. Daniel Cowher, an employee of the steam heat and gas works, testified that upon hearing the whistle he ran out on to Lamb street and was on the street before the whistle stopped blowing, and that he looked down Lamb street, and that he saw no one, and that he then ran down to the fire and stood there on the street for a moment, and then ran back and met Mr. Cornelly between the Humes house and the Spring street crossing, when they ran back to the fire and then back to the Steam Heat works; they heard the ladies talking, and that Mr. Cornelly had been with him in the Steam Heat works not over nine minutes before the whistle blew, then he was in his shirt sleeves and on a pair of shoes and a cap. When he met Cornelly going to the fire he was in his shirt sleeves, and had on a cap and gum boots. That Mr. Cornelly and Paddy Toner occupied the McKnight house. William Clark testified to practically the same as Mr. Cowher.

Court convened on Thursday morning and the Court made an order that only attorneys, court officers, and persons directly interested in this trial shall be admitted within the Bar railing.

The Cornelly case was at once resumed and Miss Lotta Spigelmyer was recalled and testified that she had retired at Mrs. Harper's after the party and got up after the whistle blew, and that the man she saw running away from the fire had on a pair of boots. She thought the man had on a cap and a coat; couldn't identify the man.

Homer Barnes testified that he got up after the alarm of fire and ran towards the fire, and met Mr. Cornelly above the Humes house going towards the Steam Heat and Gas works, and that he was running on the boardwalk; was not sure whether he had on a coat or not.

Col. W. Fred Reynolds testified that he was the owner of the Armory and that its value was about \$55,000 and described the general plan of the building, that the fire occurred on the night of the 21st of May, but that he did not examine it until about eight o'clock the next morning and that the door, the glass of which had been broken, and the floor, were charred. C. F. Cook, the treasurer of the Electric Light Co., testified as to the value of the plant. William Desendorff testified that the Armory fire occurred at about twenty minutes of three o'clock, on the night of May 21st, that he went to the fire immediately, but other persons had gotten there ahead of him and that he saw Mr. Gillespie there, and that Mr. Gillespie had notified him of the

fire, and that he had been to the Electric Light station several times before that night.

William Waddle, agent for the American Express Co., testified to being at the Armory fire soon after it had been ignited, and that he saw Mr. Cornelly there with others, and that William Clark had put on the first bucket of water.

A. W. Gillespie, an employee of the Perkins Detective Agency at Pittsburgh, and who is a young man from Rochester, Pa., testified that he first came to Bellefonte as Frank Stewart, on April 13th, and that he left again about the first of May and then returned to Bellefonte again about the 10th of May, and that he had formed the acquaintance of Mr. Cornelly on Sunday the 18th of April. After that had seen Mr. Cornelly frequently, and had drunk with him, and that at one time when the defendant was considerably under the influence of liquor he, Mr. Gillespie, expressed a desire to see a big blaze, and the defendant told him that if he staid in town long enough he would see one; and at one time when standing near the Lamb street bridge the defendant told him that when the Electric Light plant was built up it would burn down again, as the more such building that burned the better for us poor fellows; that he saw him nearly every day from Sunday the 18th of April until the first day of May. They drank together; that he shadowed the McKnight house at the Steam Heat and Gas works, every night from the 18th day of April until the first of May, and from the 10th of May until the Armory fire on the night of the 21st of May, from about twelve o'clock on until four and half past four. On the night of the 20th of May he saw the Cornelly come out of the alley, at the side of his house, carrying something in his left hand, but couldn't see what it was, and go down Lamb street into the shadow of the Electric Light pole, at the corner of the Armory, where he stopped for awhile and then disappeared behind the pillars of the Armory when he heard a crash as if of breaking glass, and soon afterwards saw a flash of light, whereupon Gillespie went to the Electric Light station and gave the alarm. Gillespie is a young man, nineteen years old and was sent here by the Perkins Detective Agency at Pittsburgh, and was arrested a few days after the Armory fire on suspicion of having fired it, but this was a pre-arrangement between him and detective George Verne, of Renova, and to get into the confidence of the defendant in jail. He formerly was assistant to C. W. Cook, railroad officer on the P. & L. E. R. H. C. Yeager, of the Brant House, heard Gillespie changing clothes in his room the night of the Armory fire. The Commonwealth then offered the draft in the case, and rested.

FOR THE DEFENDANT.
At 11:35 H. S. Taylor, of counsel for defense, opened for the defense. The first witness for the defendant was Kay Strunk, a young man living with his parents, between the railroads and McCalmont's lime kilns, who swears that the night of the Electric Light fire he started immediately after the whistle blew, and when he ran up the C. R. R. of Pa. tracks he passed a man running in the opposite direction, and that the man was about six feet tall, but could not describe his dress. Court then adjourned.

Thursday afternoon the sheriff offered his deeds for acknowledgement and special returns were read.
The Grand Jury made their final report and were discharged.
Cornelly case resumed. The defendant was called on his own behalf and testified that he is thirty eight years old, and that he stayed in the McKnight house, at the Steam Heat and Gas works for about two months prior to his arrest; that he was employed at the Steam Heat works on the street lines, that he knew A. W. Gillespie as Frank A. Stewart, and when he saw him the first time, Sunday the 18th of April he knew him as a detective. He had two conversations with Mr. Gillespie, one on Sunday the 18th and on Wednesday the 21st of April. He did not set fire to the Electric Light station, neither to the Armory; that he was committed to jail on the 3rd of June and that Gillespie was in jail when he was committed. Was at home all day on the 6th of April, save when he was up town for papers and that he fell asleep at about seven o'clock that evening. He woke up at about 10:15 when the train came in on the C. R. R. of Pa.; got up and went into the Steam Heat works and saw Daniel Cowher and William Clark, and that he was there until about twelve o'clock, when he went back to his room and took off his shoes and laid down on his cot and began to read when the fire alarm whistle blew. Then he put on his gun boots and cap, and was not sure whether he put on his coat then or not, and ran down onto the street under the arc light and saw Cowher standing in front of the Electric Light station, and then ran towards the fire and met Cowher near the Humes house, and then both of them ran back towards the fire, and stopped near the fire and he ran down past the fire and asked William Dailey about the hose near the fire plug at the C. R. R. of Pa. station, and then he and Cowher ran back to protect the Steam Heat works as the sparks were flying considerably, as the roof had fallen in. When running back towards the Steam Heat works he heard the ladies on Mrs. Harper's porch on Linn street. He also gave an account of his whereabouts on the 20th of May and that he went home at about eleven o'clock that evening under the influence of liquor, and that he was not out of the house until the whistle blew for the Armory fire, and then went to the fire and the first person he saw at the fire was Pat Toner. He saw William Clark put a bucket of water on the fire and outen it. Cornelly positively swore that he was entirely innocent of the charges laid in the indictments, and that he had but two general conversations with Mr. Gillespie, and that the statements that Gillespie swore he made to him at the Lamb street bridge on the 18th of April were false and utterly untrue, and that he could not have been there as he was working for John Bauer on that

continued on page 5.

DEATHS IN THE COMMUNITY

Hon. Chester Munson of Philadelphia Passed Away.

WAS A PROMINENT CITIZEN

Mrs. Jacob Struble, of Zion, died at the Advanced age of 95—Body of Miss Kate Lieb Brought here for Interment—Other Deaths.

Hon. Chester Munson, ex-associate judge of Centre county, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. T. J. Lee, in Philadelphia, on Monday. The direct cause of his death resulted from a cancerous affection on his lower lip, which started about one year ago as a slight cold blister or sore which became irritated and developed into the disease which caused his death.

Mr. Munson was married to Miss Letitia McClellan on January 11, 1844. Five children were the result of this union, viz: Richard, Edward, James Hale, Mrs. Gertrude Ann Lingle, and Mrs. Carrie Bowman Lee, all of that city, one daughter, Ellen, having died when young. Mrs. Munson preceded him to the eternal world two years ago.

During a period of over 50 years he has been largely identified with the lumbering business of Philadelphia and its vicinity. He was the founder of the town of Munson, on the Beech Creek R. R. He at different periods of his life controlled large lumber, land and coal interests in that community.

Death of Mrs. Mulbarger.
Nannie E. Mulbarger died at her home, at Lemont, Wednesday, August 25, 1897, of brain fever and brights disease.

Mrs. Mulbarger was 45 years, 5 month and six days old and was the esteemed wife of Wm. Mulbarger who survives her, also one daughter and two sons: Elmer, of Rockview; Minnie, wife of John Klinger, of State College, and Charles at home, and six grand children, all of whom keenly feel the loss of a loving mother and grandmother. Deceased was a loving wife and mother, a kind and useful neighbor, and a devoted Christian lady. She was a member of the Lutheran church, at Shiloh, for eighteen years and will be missed by all who knew her, as she was kind to all.

Interment at Shiloh cemetery, funeral services conducted by Rev. Leshner pastor, who preached a very impressive sermon from the words: "There remaineth a rest for the people of God."
Mrs. Mulbarger was a daughter of Mrs. Solt, of Bellefonte. Her daughter, Carrie, preceded her to the grave about one year ago. Her last words were peaceful and consoling. May her ashes rest in peace until these beautiful words: "Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep. From which none ever wakes to weep. A calm and undisturbed repose. Unbroken by the last of foes." A BROTHER.

Death of Kate Lieb.
On last Thursday morning Miss Kate Lieb died at the home of her brother, Dr. Andrew Lieb, at Bethlehem, Pa., where she resided during the past four years. Her illness was due to an attack of the grip and heart affection.

Miss Kate J. Lieb was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lieb, both of whom died a number of years ago. She leaves to mourn two brothers, Dr. Andrew Lieb, of Bethlehem, and Mitchell Lieb, of Bellefonte, and many dear friends.

The services were held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock at the home of Mr. P. Potts Green, on Linn street, conducted by Rev. Dr. Stevens.

Death of Mrs. Frank Yealy.
Mrs. Augusta Yealy, wife of Frank Yealy, of Philadelphia, died Saturday afternoon of peritonitis, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Verier, Lock Haven. The deceased was aged 30 years, and is survived by her husband and four children.

An Aged Lady Dies.
Mrs. Jacob Struble died at Zion, on Tuesday, from stomach trouble, and other ailments due to extreme age. She was born in 1802 and was 95 years of age. The interment will take place on Friday morning.

Died in Illinois.
John Harkins died at Mt Pleasant, Michigan, on Saturday aged 49 years. A wife and four children survive him. The body was taken to Centre Hall, his early home, for interment on Wednesday.

Died at Lemont.
Mammie E. wife of William Mulbarger, of Lemont, died at her residence in that place, Wednesday morning 25th at 2:30 o'clock. Funeral Friday, at 10 o'clock. Interment at Shiloh cemetery.

A GENUINE POPOCRAT.

On Friday our office had a pleasant caller, Mr. Jacob Royer, of Effingham, Atchinson county, Kans., who came East a short time ago for the purpose of visiting friends and relatives. He formerly was a resident of Nittany valley, and left here in 1865. From him we learned that Kansas had the most abundant crops known for years. Wheat was exceptionally good and other cereals were doing well. Corn is their principal crop and will likely reach good prices this season, at least 25 cents per bushel. As the price of corn was down to 8 cents per bushel recently he has stored away his crops for the past three years, as there is no difficulty in preserving grain in that western prairie climate.

The conversation then drifted to politics and we found our visitor an exceedingly interesting person—a genuine Kansas Popocrat. According to him, in that state every farmer is a politician. For years they have been studying public questions and discussing them in their regular schoolhouse gatherings. In this respect they claim to be in advance of our Eastern farmers. When the subject of silver was introduced, Mr. Royer became an enthusiast. When he moved to Kansas, he was one of the very few democrats in that district—everything was strongly republican. A democrat was looked upon as one of those "d— Johnny Rebs" that they fought against in the sixties—and we still have a number of the same kind of narrow-minded bigots in this enlightened community. He said no matter what principle the democrats might espouse, republican prejudice was too strong. So an advance party came forth to meet this difficulty. Out of the democratic organization sprang the Populists, and to this name these republican patriots took more kindly. In Kansas, nearly every farmer is a Populist arguing for free silver and can tell you how and why it will benefit him. The result of the election last fall has only encouraged them to continue the fight with increased vigor.

In 1877 Mr. Royer paid his last visit to this section. At that time he found the industries about Bellefonte in full operation—now they are painfully silent. So much truly can't be charged to the effects of free silver.

Mr. Royer is a typical Kansas Popocrat. From that we are convinced that the Populists embody the energy, enterprise and intelligence of the West—even if they advocate democratic principles, under another name.

Good News at Last
A dispatch from St. Paul, Minn., in the daily papers, says:

"L. M. Keenan will send a consignment of marriageable young women to Alaska in the Spring. He intends spending the Winter scouring the matrimonial ranges in the states in search of material for the venture. In an interview concerning his scheme, Keenan said: "I've talked with the miners, and I know what they want. Nice 18 or 20-year-old girls, respectable, good-looking and willing to work, will go like hot-cakes. Medium grades should bring \$2,000 or \$3,000 a head. That will cover the cost of transportation and leave a handsome profit!"

This is good news at last. By next Spring there will be a general exodus of young women from all sections. The Klondike is a great institution.

Fell Thirty Feet.
Ollie Campbell, of Clearfield, Superintendent of the Telephone Exchange, while at work on a high pole last Friday he missed his footing and fell a distance of 30 feet, sustaining very serious injuries.
The injured man is a son of Frank Campbell, of Bellefonte, and up to a short time ago was connected with the Exchange in this place.

A Fine Compliment.
A. Y. Casanova, of Philadelphia, has secured an appointment as translator under the government and is at work in Washington now. His wife will join him shortly and they expect to spend a year or two in the Nation's Capitol. Mr. Casanova is a fine linguist and a highly cultivated man, specially fitted for the congenial task he has undertaken.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Typhoid at Eagleville.
Miss Fletcher, daughter of Joseph Fletcher, near Eagleville, died Thursday 26th, of typhoid fever, aged about 20 years. Several other members of the family are ill with the same disease and it is reported that there are a number of other cases in the village.

Sold His Implement Store.
W. O. Rearick, the manufacturer of the Centre Hall corn planter and dealer in farm implements, has sold his retail department to H. I. Wise, formerly of Zion. Mr. Wise will occupy the store room in the foundry building and will look after the trade of implements.

PIG IRON PRODUCTION

Why the Prices Have Dwindled Recently.

THE SOUTH NOW LEADS US.

The Iron Industries of this State May be a Thing of the Past—Carnegie's Large Furnaces—Shipping Iron Abroad—Changing Conditions in the Iron Trade.

The following editorial recently appeared in the Philadelphia Record. It will be of interest to many of our readers who can not understand why our iron industries are languishing:

"We have called attention on several occasions recently to the expanding production of pig iron in the Southern States at the very time when the production in Pennsylvania and in the Western States has been declining; and the returns from all the blast furnaces in the country presented in the annual report of the Iron and Steel Association substantiate the truth of our statement. A correspondent of The Manufacturer writes as follows from Nashville, Tenn.:

There are now in England alone more than fifty American agents selling Southern iron. Within the past year more than 450,000 tons have been shipped to Europe from Southern furnaces. Orders are now registered large enough to keep the furnaces busy for six months, and every available effort to ship room is utilized as swiftly as offered. For six months past the sales of the grey forge ore have heavily exceeded its production, and the furnaces steadily hold it at \$6 per ton. England, Russia, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy and Austria are the heaviest purchasers of Southern iron, while Spain, Portugal and Turkey are small buyers. For a year past, in fact, Southern iron furnaces have been running full time, while those of the North and West have been shut down from time to time. The reason for all this is that the Southern furnaces, as a rule, are differently situated from the furnaces in the North and West as regards their supply of coke, ore and limestone. Northern and Western furnaces buy their ore from the lakes and their coke from Connellsville or Pocahontas. The Southern furnaces own their coal mines, coke ovens, ore mines and limestone quarries, and themselves mine all the raw material. They pay no profits to coal miners, ore miners or coke makers.

These and other conditions more than offset the compensating advantages which for so many years have given the furnaces of the Northern and Western States a leading position in the iron world. There are two radically different classes of pig iron. One kind is generally called "Bessemer pig" because it is made and used chiefly for conversion into Bessemer steel; the other kind has several names, according to the grade, such as "mill iron" or "grey forge iron," "foundry iron," "car wheel iron," "white iron," etc., and these are again subdivided into numbers 1, 2, 3 or even 1x, 2x, 3x, etc. These grades are used for castings and for other purposes.

Pennsylvania holds a peculiar position to-day in the changing condition of the iron business. The continued large output from this state has been mainly owing to the "one man power," or, rather, to the vast needs of one great concern—namely, the Carnegie Company. This company has recently erected in Pennsylvania the largest blast furnaces in the world. It brings most of its iron ore nearly a thousand miles by railroads and steam vessels on the lakes, which are owned or controlled by the corporation. Its fuel (coke) is mined and manufactured by the same interest; and thus, notwithstanding the long hauls, Bessemer pig iron is produced in these furnaces at a cost which enables the company to make Bessemer steel rails and other steel products at a less cost than they can be manufactured anywhere in the world, and thus to set the price and capture the home and foreign markets. As a striking evidence of this, witness the recent extraordinary inquiry in the British Parliament as to the reason why the contract for over 7,000 tons of steel rails for the Government railway in India was given to an American firm instead of English makers. This combination of capital in Pennsylvania has thus given to America the supremacy in the manufacture of steel. On the other hand, the production of foundry iron in Alabama, through the natural combination of iron ore, limestone and fuel, aided by cheap transportation of the pig iron as ballast in cotton ships, is likely to soon give to America the supremacy in the manufacture of foundry iron, and perhaps of finished castings made therefrom.

Those who are familiar with these changing conditions must recognize that the Southern States are certain in the near future to prove powerful competitors of the Northern States in the production of foundry iron; and it is not impossible also that in the field of pig iron for the manufacture of steel the Southern States may yet become powerful factors. It behooves our iron manufacturers in Pennsylvania, therefore, to look at these possibilities and to prepare themselves to meet them; otherwise the one-time preponderating manufacturing business of this State may become a thing of the past.

Death in Benner Township.
A six month old child of Ira Marshall died on Tuesday in Benner township. Interment in Meyer's Cemetery on Wednesday.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LAWS.

Some Facts Our Readers Will be Interested in Knowing.

The following laws relating to the public schools of the State were among those passed by the late Legislature, according to the Harrisburg School Gazette:

That school boards may purchase flags and shall display them whenever they deem proper.

That school children shall have the use of the books of the board during vacation for pay or select school, provided the teacher has a valid certificate.

That school directors shall be authorized to provide transportation for school children, at the expense of the district, to the public schools of the district in which they reside or to the schools of neighbor districts.

That a copy of Small's Legislative Handbook shall now and hereafter following each decennial census, be placed in each public school of the Commonwealth, and bi-ennially a copy of the School Laws and Decisions, by the State Superintendent.

That independent school districts now existing may be abolished by the courts whenever a majority of the taxable citizens of any school district, out of which any independent district may be created, petition for such action.

That school directors shall establish and maintain, out of the school treasury, free kindergartens for children between the ages of three and six years, residing in the district.

That it shall be unlawful for any industrial establishment to employ any minor who can not read and write in the English language, unless he has attended in the preceding year an evening or day school for a period of sixteen weeks.

That school boards shall have power to levy per capita tax of one dollar annually on every mail inhabitant who is of age.

That the compulsory school law be so amended as to increase the compulsory age to 16 years, to require attendance continuously during at least 70 per cent. of the term, which period shall begin at the beginning of the school term, or at a time to be fixed by the school board at their organization; that between the ages of 13 and 16 a child shall be excused if he has regular employment.

Boalsburg Academy Reunion.

Personal invitations have been sent to all former teachers and students of Boalsburg Academy, whose addresses have been found, to attend a reunion on Thursday Sept. 9th, at McFarlane's Grove, near Boalsburg. During the day if the weather permits services will be held in the grove, and at the Presbyterian church in Boalsburg in the evening. Those who have not received the personal invitation are by this notice specially invited to attend and participate, or if unable to attend to write a letter to the Committee of Invitation, recounting their personal history since their connection with the Academy. The public generally are also cordially invited to attend.

Exercises begin at 9 a. m. Evening exercises are memorial to deceased teachers and students, and begin at 7:30 p. m. Hacks meeting all trains at Oak Hall station will convey, for a small fare to the place of meeting, all persons coming by rail. It will be a basket picnic, but refreshments, at reasonable rates, furnished those who do not wish to provide their own entertainment. Former teachers and students, on arriving at the place of meeting, will at once report to the Secretary for enrollment. Committee of Invitation: G. W. Leshner, of Boalsburg; A. A. Dale, of Bellefonte; W. A. Jacobs, of Centre Hall; J. T. Stuart, of Boalsburg and D. W. Myres, Boalsburg.

SOBER NEWS.

Lewis Rote left for his job, at Woodward, on Monday morning. He expects to stay a week.

Mr. P. S. Confer, Mrs. L. P. Smith and Mrs. Sarah Jamison were visiting friends at Tusseyville, on last Sunday.

Mr. Wm. Neese, residing about one mile north of this place, had a paralytic stroke, last week one day. At this writing is able to sit up again.

Dogs, as well as people, like to see strange sights and this was known by F. M. so he took his to the colored camp-meeting the other Sunday.

Quite a number of our young fellows were attending the festival, at Coburn, on Saturday eve. They report a good time. Ower der Diche hut sich felora kot. Are is net hame cumma bis em Sunday over, un wore shere gore dot.

Mr. J. B. Musser built a stone wall along the line of his and John Heckman's property. The old man's eye fooled him and he got it over the line about six feet. This gave Mr. Musser about 15 or 20 rods of stone wall to remove. After this is done, there will be some more moving done.

The CENTRE DEMOCRAT and Pittsburgh W. Post for \$1.50 a year.