

# AT THE SCHLEY INQUIRY

## Interesting Testimony Given by a Newspaper Man.

### WAS WITH SCHLEY ON BROOKLYN

#### Declares He Heard Captain Sigsbee Say "The Spaniards Are Not There"—Other Witnesses Give Testimony in the Case.

Washington, Oct. 23.—Lieutenant Wells resumed the witness stand yesterday and was cross-examined by Judge Advocate Lemly and Mr. Hanna. He was followed by G. E. Graham, a newspaper correspondent, who was on board the Brooklyn with Schley during the campaign.

Mr. Mason was questioned by Mr. Rayner, and said that he had been on the Brooklyn from March 29 to August 20, 1898.

"Did you see Captain Sigsbee on board the Brooklyn on May 26?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you hear him in conversation with Commodore Schley?"

"Yes, sir."

"Can you give us an idea what that conversation was?"

"After he had reached the quarterdeck of the gangway he stopped and Commodore Schley said to him: 'Have you got 'em, Sigsbee?' Captain Sigsbee said: 'No; they are not here. I have been here for a week, and they are not here.'"

"Is that the whole of the conversation as you recollect?"

"No, sir. We went aft, further back of the quarterdeck and he continued the conversation. Commodore Schley said: 'Are you sure they are not there?' He said: 'I have been very close to the harbor entrance two or three times. Captain Cotton has been in and cut a cable and they are not there.'"

"You heard Sigsbee say that?"

"Yes, sir. I took some part in the conversation."

"Did you record that conversation and did Captain Sigsbee know you recorded it?"

"Captain Sigsbee knew I was a newspaper man and was there looking for information, and Captain Sigsbee later took a dispatch written by me and vised by Commodore Schley. He took it aboard his ship, and he was to deliver it to one of the small boats or else take it over himself."

"And Captain Sigsbee took that dispatch?"

"Yes, sir. It was open. It detailed the fact that the fleet was not there."

"Do you remember the reconnaissance of May 31?"

"Yes, sir; I was aboard the Massachusetts."

"Were you in the presence of Commodore Schley during the whole of the reconnaissance on the Massachusetts?"

"Only part of the time. At times I was behind the conning tower and he was on the other side of it."

"Did you see Lieutenant Potts on board the Massachusetts?"

"He came into the pilot house during the conversation and took some part in it."

Describing the battle of July 3, Mr. Graham said that Commodore Schley had gotten to a position in front of the conning tower as soon as the nose of the first Spanish ships appeared. The Brooklyn at that time, he said, pointed almost north. Lieutenant Simpson had fired the first gun from the eight-inch turrets, and, calling Commodore Schley, said: 'How is that?'"

"To this the commodore replied," said the witness, "I did not see it, Simpson; but keep at it."

"When the Viscaya went ashore the commodore went into the conning tower and himself called down the tube to the men below: 'They are all gone but one; it all depends on you, boys.'"

"Did you see the Texas before the turn?"

"I saw her just before the turn. She appeared to me to be inside of us. We turned continuously to the right, according to my recollection."

"Did you ever see Commodore Schley when he appeared to be laboring under any mental excitement?"

"Oh, no; he was jovial and good-natured at all times, and I did not observe the least trace of excitement or anxiety except at one time. That was when it looked as if the Colon might get away. He expressed fear that this might occur, and seemed much concerned."

"Were you?" asked Mr. Rayner, "present at any conversation between Captain Evans and Commodore Schley? Tell us what took place."

"Captain Evans came into the cabin. I sat at a round table in the center. Commodore Schley got up and shook hands with Captain Evans, and the latter said: 'Schley, did you see Phillips turn around and run out of the fight?' The commodore said: 'No; neither did you. He did not run out of the fight.'"

"Captain Evans said: 'Oh, yes he did. I saw him.' Captain Evans said he was in the next ship and saw him. The commodore said: 'It was not the Texas at all. The Texas was in the fight all the time. The ship you saw turn around was the Brooklyn.'"

At the afternoon session Dennis J. Cronin was called. He was orderly to Commodore Schley during the Santiago campaign, and he testified that he was present when Captain Sigsbee came aboard the Brooklyn May 26.

Captain Lemly asked the witness concerning his testimony about the proximity of the Texas, and the witness replied that he had not especially noticed the Texas. "Because he had

believed it was not enough to be dangerous."

"That will do," said Captain Lemly. "I have before objected to that line of testimony."

Mr. Rayner interrupted at this point to say that "it is not necessary to get into a rage with the witness."

To this Captain Lemly responded that he was not in a rage, adding: "I have seen counsel with the veins standing out on his forehead as big as your face. He is accusing me of being in a rage when he is in a high temper all the time." Mr. Cronin was then excused.

Lieutenant Commander Rush was called. Witness said that on the day of the battle off Santiago he had been in the after turret. Describing the Brooklyn's loop, he said: "When I was ready to fire it was impossible to do so, as the ship had commenced turning very promptly and was heading in toward the mouth of the harbor. I was unable to fire until the ship made her turn, so as to bring the after guns on the enemy. The after guns trained from about 45 degrees forward of the beam on one side around aft and across the stern to about 45 degrees on the opposite side. Of course, there was an angle, generally speaking, of 90 degrees on either side of the keel right ahead, in which the guns would not bear, and it was not until the ship commenced to turn, or had turned, through a certain arc, that I could fire at all."

"What did you see?" asked Mr. Rayner.

"I saw nothing but the target, the enemy's ships," the witness replied.

"The smoke was so dense I never saw any of our ships until after the Brooklyn had turned to the westward. The witness said he had a vivid impression of the Spanish ship Viscaya turning toward the Brooklyn, and he was under the impression that this had occurred before the Brooklyn made the turn. He had himself considered it necessary to make a turn.

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# BIG POST OFFICE ROBBERY

## Large Haul of Burglars in Chicago's Government Office.

### ROBBERY EFFECTED IN NIGHT

#### Entrance Effected Under the Flooring and the Cashier's Vault Cut Open. Nearly \$75,000 Worth of Stamps Carted Away in a Wagon.

Chicago, Oct. 22.—A remarkable robbery, which netted the perpetrators \$74,000 in stamps, was discovered here yesterday, when the wholesale stamp department of the post office was opened for business. A rapid investigation showed that the burglars had crawled under the flooring for about 300 feet, bored a hole in the bottom of the vault, secured the stamps and escaped, carrying their booty away in a wagon.

The work of forcing an entrance to the vault had evidently been going forward with the greatest patience for many days. It is believed, however, that the intention of the thieves had been to enter the cashier's vault, in which there was \$35,000 in money and stamps valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. The bottom of the vault is of steel half an inch in thickness. In this 97 holes were bored, until a space 18 inches square—just enough to allow the entrance of a man's body—had been so weakened that it was possible to take out the whole plate with little difficulty. A dry goods box stood over the hole thus made and concealed the work of the robbers while it was in progress. When discovered the finger marks of one of the burglars were still discernible in the dust on the box, which he had pushed on one side. So carefully had the scheme been planned that men working in other parts of the building had not the slightest inkling of the daring robbery being worked almost under their noses.

Of the \$74,610 in stamps taken, \$4,712 were in "postage due" stamps, so \$2,960 in special delivery stamps, so the convertible stamps amounted to \$67,828, but of these \$4,828 were Pan-American stamps of eight and ten-cent denominations.

F. O. Spaulding, chief clerk of the wholesale stamp department, discovered the robbery when he opened the vault at 7:50 o'clock. The safe had been locked, with its contents apparently secure, at 5 p. m. on Saturday. Mr. Spaulding notified Post Office Inspector Stuart, who, assisted by his deputies and a squad of detectives, made an investigation. Inspector Stuart afterwards said:

"It was the largest stamp robbery ever committed in the history of the postal service in this country. To get to the vault the men dug through the brick foundation wall, and a hundred feet or so further on they encountered another wall, and this they also dug through. On the way they met with a number of pipes, and as the floor is only two feet and in some places three feet above the ground, they tunneled under the pipes. The wholesale stamp vault, like the cashier's vault and the money order vault, is supported by a brick wall. It forms a square, and before the robbery was airtight. In this the robbers broke two holes, possibly to secure more air."

#### Suit for Real Estate.

Trenton, N. J., Oct. 23.—The case of Marion Eltonhead against George Allen and others, involving title to a large amount of property in the heart of Atlantic City, was begun in the United States court here yesterday. The case is one of a series of over thirty suits. The Eltonhead heirs claim title to this property by virtue of some ancient deeds. The property is now in the hands of third parties. The proceedings went no further than the presentation by a surveyor of maps showing the location of the property in dispute. The case was resumed this morning.

#### Dynamiter Arrested.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 22.—Alexander Dongowski was arrested yesterday, charged with being one of the men who placed dynamite under the house of Mine Superintendent Reese Morgan Sunday night and wrecked it. The prisoner was formerly an employe of the Murray mine, where Mr. Morgan is superintendent. Last week he was discharged, and is said to have made threats that he would get even with somebody. The police are after two other men who are said to have been implicated with Dongowski in the deed.

#### Yale's Bi-Centennial Celebration.

New Haven, Conn., Oct. 23.—In a great amphitheatre, bedecked in blue and illumined by long strings of orange-hued lanterns, the sons of Yale witnessed last night an allegorical performance by the dramatic association of the university, and listened to the songs of the student chorus, drilled especially for this feature of the bi-centennial celebration.

#### A Philadelphia Fire.

Philadelphia, Oct. 23.—A fire of unknown origin late last night destroyed the drying and hair department of Congressman Robert H. Foerderer's leather factory, at Bridesburg, a suburb of this city. The loss is estimated at over \$100,000, fully covered by insurance.

#### Fatal Boiler Explosion.

Berea, O., Oct. 22.—An explosion of a boiler in a sawmill six miles west of here last night resulted in the death of Charles Weeder, of Pottsville, Pa., and the fatal injury of Edwin Irving, of Olmstead Falls, O., and in slight injuries to three other men.

# CZOLGOSZ SEES PRIEST

## Pastor of Polish Church to Attend His Last Hours.

Auburn, N. Y., Oct. 23.—In accordance with Czolgosz's wishes, the Rev. John J. Hickey, pastor of the Church of the Holy Family and the Catholic chaplain of the prison, has appointed Rev. Father Szadinski, pastor of the Polish church of Rochester, to attend Czolgosz in his last hours. He visited the assassin. Czolgosz never practiced religion, and as an Anarchist denounced all its tenets. He will make a statement to this effect before his death.

Czolgosz's request for a priest of his own nationality was made known to Warden Mead yesterday morning. Yesterday afternoon he went to the prison and remained there about an hour. Upon leaving he was seen by a representative of the Associated Press, but refused to be interviewed, saying that his visit to the prisoner was in the interest of another Polish confidant there. Warden Mead, however, says that Father Szadinski saw Czolgosz, and that he came at the prisoner's request. Further than that the warden would say nothing. Father Kelly, who accompanied the Polish priest to the prison, also stated that Czolgosz was visited. It is learned that Czolgosz was baptized in the Catholic church, but never received his first communion, nor was he confirmed in that church.

Father Szadinski urged him to renounce his belief in anarchy and return to the faith of his early years. Czolgosz declared his inability to do so, and he was informed that unless he could the consolation of the church would be denied him. Before taking his departure he left with Czolgosz some Catholic literature printed in Polish, and also some emblems of the church. Czolgosz assured Father Szadinski that in case he determined to accept the offices of religion he would send for him, but he did not hold out much hope that he would renounce the doctrines of anarchy.

Warden Mead, of Auburn prison, was in conference on Monday with Superintendent of State Prisons Cornelius V. Collins arranging the details for carrying out the sentence of death imposed on Leon F. Czolgosz, the murderer of President McKinley. They went carefully over the 1,200 requests which have been received for invitations to the electrocution. There will be 25 witnesses admitted, the law limiting the number. The prison physician will be assisted in the conduct of the autopsy by Dr. Charles F. MacDonald, former president of the state commission in lunacy, and one of the greatest experts on insanity in the country. There will also be a number of other physicians in attendance when the final mandate of the law is carried out.

# CHESTER MAN'S SUICIDE

## Reprimanded By His Father, He Shot Himself.

Chester, Pa., Oct. 23.—Edward Stauffer, son of Joseph Stauffer, proprietor of the Aubrey Hotel, in this city, shot himself last evening and will die. He walked from the barroom to a small room adjoining, pulled a revolver from his pocket and shot himself in the head. The only reason assigned for the deed was family difficulties at home over the young man's habits. Young Stauffer is unmarried and about 25 years of age. He was reprimanded by his father a few minutes before he made the attempt upon his life.

# Striking Machinists.

Chicago, Oct. 23.—A novel plan to escape conflict with a court order has been hit upon by union labor men and will be put into operation here today.

Fearing that any attempt by them to talk with the non-union machinists at the Allis-Chalmers company shops might be construed as a violation of the injunction recently issued by Judge Kohlsaat in the Federal court against picketing, the striking machinists will communicate with the men inside the works by means of printed cards. It is the first time that a printed card has played so important a part in a big strike. It is believed by the unionists that this mute appeal to the men who have taken the places of the strikers will prove efficacious and at the same time be within the limits of the law.

# Fright Causes Death.

Wabash, Ind., Oct. 23.—Worry killed John Dye, who died yesterday. He was one of several heirs to an alleged estate of several thousand acres of coal land in Pennsylvania. Recently he received many anonymous letters, stating that he would be kidnapped and held for ransom. Dye was an old man, and the letters threw him into a paroxysm of fright, which resulted in a speedy decline and death.

# Wholesale Poisoner On Trial.

Dayton, O., Oct. 23.—Mrs. Mary Belle Wittwer, the suspected wholesale poisoner, charged with the killing of her sister, Mrs. Anna Pugh, was placed on trial in the police court yesterday for murder in the first degree. The prisoner appeared in court calm and dignified, assisting her attorney in cross-examinations.

# Hunters Start Prairie Fire.

Fargo, N. D., Oct. 23.—A prairie fire, believed to have been accidentally started by a party of hunters, is sweeping through the northern part of Ward county. It is reported that damage to the extent of thousands of dollars has been done.

# Opposed to Capital Punishment.

Buffalo, Oct. 23.—The Universalists at yesterday's session of their general convention evinced their opposition to capital punishment by applauding and adopting the report of the committee on penology.

# A WEEK'S NEWS CONDENSED.

## Thursday, October 27.

Booker T. Washington, of Tuskegee, Ala., dined with the President last evening.

Edgewood Inn, a summer hotel on Lower Saranac lake in the Adirondacks, was burned.

All litigation over the will of Jacob S. Rogers, the eccentric Newark millionaire, has been settled.

Somerset will be the next meeting place of the Association of Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania.

The first annual meeting of the International Missionary Conference of the Christian Church began at Piqua, O., last night and will continue in session four days.

## Friday, October 18.

The quarantine at Naples has been abolished, and that city has been officially declared free from the plague.

Officials of Shreveport, La., claim great injustice was done their city by the report of the United States census department regarding the death rate there.

The National Council of Congregationalists adopted a resolution at Portland, Me., favoring the appointment of a committee of seven to consider the plan of publishing a systematic and graded work for Sunday schools.

It was stated in New York upon the authority of his relatives that Edward Stokes, who killed Jim Fisk, is not in a dangerous condition. He is ill, but not seriously, and is able to go out driving.

## Saturday, October 19.

The Presbyterian Synod of Pennsylvania, in session at Pittsburg, decided to hold its next meeting at Dubois.

Attorney General Knox, Justice White, of the supreme court, and Hon. Wayne MacVeagh dined with the President last night.

Funeral services over the remains of the Duke of Alva were conducted yesterday at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church in New York city.

At Wilmington, Del., last night, Jack Bennett, of McKeesport, got the decision over Charles McKeever, of Philadelphia, in a 15-round bout.

Sydney R. Tabor, of Lake Forest, Ill., was elected president of the American Humane association, vice Francis H. Rowley, of Brookline, resigned.

## Monday, October 21.

Senator Hanna starts on a two-weeks campaigning tour of Ohio today.

The 17-day strike on the Chicago & Southwestern Midland railroad is ended.

Dr. B. M. Duggar, department of agriculture expert, goes to France at once to study mushroom raising.