

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Pr. lator.

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"MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE"

Verdict Rendered Against Frank Beckwith, Tuesday Evening

A LONG AND TEDIOUS TRIAL

A Complete Summary of all the Testimony—Verdict Generally Approved—Prisoner Appeared Pleased and Smiled.

Tuesday afternoon, at 3:30 the jury retired in the Beckwith murder trial and at 8:30 the court house bell began to ring, indicating that the jury found a verdict. The large court room in about five minutes, was crowded to every foot of space, including isles, by streams of people from all parts of town who hastened thither to hear the verdict of the jury. Fully one-third of the throng were ladies. As the judge entered and took his seat, silence was rapped, and the officer of the court commanded to admit the jury. The verdict was handed to the prothonotary and passed to the Judge who found it in due form, and passed it back to the clerk, who had the jury hearken to their verdict that they find the prisoner "Guilty of murder in the second degree," the jurors nodding assent. Thereupon attorney Gettig notified the court that application would be made for a new trial. The Judge then adjourned court. The entire procedure did not take ten minutes, and the court room was vacated by the crowd in about the same time it took to fill it.

BECKWITH TRIAL.

Last week, at the hour of going to press, Thursday morning, the case of Frank Beckwith, charged with shooting his wife, Mary Beckwith, Feb. 16, 1902, at Sandy Ridge, Pa., was called for trial. For that reason we were unable to make any mention of same, further than to give list of jurors drawn, in the last portion of the edition. As there is more than usual interest centered in this trial, owing to incidents surrounding the shooting, we have decided to publish a summary of the evidence, eliminating much of the verbiage and legal forms observed in cross examination yet retaining the substance in a simple narrative form. Much that is obscene and degrading will be omitted as unfit for public reading, in which the case abounds.

The facts concerning the shooting are all admitted, and the evidence for the defendant will be to show that his wife was unfaithful, dissolute, and by such conduct drove the husband to madness, who, in his desperation, committed the deed.

HISTORY OF THE CASE.

Frank Beckwith is 45 years of age; home was in Taylor township, family consisted of his wife and six children. He worked at the Sandy Ridge, Pa., brick works, about eight miles across the mountain, where he lived alone in a shanty. For several years he noticed that other men frequented his home during his absence and that his wife and daughter were unduly intimate with such. These things caused frequent family quarrels. The week prior to the shooting Mrs. Beckwith left her family of little children alone, and without food, and spent several days over in the vicinity of Sandy Ridge in questionable company. When Beckwith returned from his work, Saturday, he found his wife gone, children hungry, when he started back to Sandy Ridge again he found her, and gave her 75 cents to return home, by train. Having but 3 cents left he walked back again, and down to Hannah, but she failed to come. He started back after her. Sunday morning he finally found her at the home of Lyle Edmiston. Their meeting precipitated a quarrel, and he shot her in the back of the head and in the arm. She died where she fell. He returned to his home where he was arrested later, offering no resistance.

The case was set for trial at April court, but owing to the illness of W. E. Gray, Esq., one of the defendant's attorneys, it was postponed.

CALLED FOR TRIAL.

Last Thursday morning the case was called for trial. The Commonwealth is represented by District Attorney N. B. Spangler, and E. R. Chambers, Esq. Mr. Chambers was ill the week prior and Messrs J. C. Meyer and W. F. Reeder, two of our able practitioners were summoned to assist. Mr. Chambers has since been able to attend court, though his condition is not the best. Mr. Beckwith is being ably defended by Orvis Bower & Orvis, and W. E. Gray.

All of last Thursday forenoon was consumed in securing a jury. This was a slow and tedious process, and after the panel was exhausted and ten jurors only secured, the Court ordered the doors closed and the sheriff to call talesmen from the audience. First, Jacob Runkle, Bellefonte; challenged. Michael Shaffer and

Fred Bartley were called and accepted. Thursday noon the selection of a jury was completed as follows:

Harry Lingle, Phillipsburg.
John D. Miller, Walker.
John Y. Stover, Miles.
W. H. Miller, Miles.
Nicodemus Lose, Haines.
R. C. Mallory, Rush.
Benj. F. Vonada, Marion.
Chas. McClintic, Walker.
Henry Breen, Penn.
S. H. Hov, Benner.
Michael Shaffer, Potter—talesman.
Fred Bartley, Boggs—talesman.

Judge Love then instructed them as to the duties of jurors in murder cases. They were taken in charge by tipstaves Simeon Haupt and Thos. Donachy who must keep them under surveillance constantly, day and night, not permitting them to associate with any other persons until the verdict is rendered by them. The jury are quartered at the Brockerhoff House and occupy three rooms front on second floor. They take frequent walks about the town for exercise, always carefully guarded from communicating with outsiders.

Herewith we publish the summary of the testimony.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY.

(Reported for Centre Democrat and Keystone Gazette by T. H. Harter.)

Court convened at 2 o'clock. The Beckwith homicide case was taken up, and N. B. Spangler, prosecuting attorney, opened the case by giving a statement of facts which the Commonwealth will endeavor to prove, of which the following is a synopsis:

That the defendant had purchased the revolver with which he killed his wife for that purpose, and that he had fired several shots at her upon a former occasion with the intent to kill her; that upon a former occasion (Jan. 25) he said to his wife that if she and her daughter would not be at home when he returned somebody would be a corpse. Mrs. Beckwith and her daughter left on the 7th of Feb. for fear of him carrying out his threat when he returned. That when he returned and not finding his wife at home he started for Sandy Ridge where he met his wife and asked her whether she was ready to die—that he was, and that if she did not return that night he would kill her. Fearing the consequences she remained with friends at Sandy Ridge that night. The next morning while sitting in the house of Mr. Edmiston and seeing Beckwith come, she exclaimed that her hour had come to die and then proceeded to the door to remonstrate with him. Approaching him she asked him why he acted in this manner, whereupon he drew his revolver and shot her twice—killing her almost instantly. He further stated that before starting for Sandy Ridge to kill his wife, the defendant called up his children and told them that their family would be broken up. The balance of his statement simply confirmed the facts as published in the Centre Democrat at the time of the tragedy.

Leslie Edmiston was the first witness called—He testified that he resided at Sandy Ridge, that he knew prisoner and last saw him when the tragedy occurred at his (Mr. Edmiston's) home. Mrs. Beckwith came to his house on Saturday at noon and remained over night. That Sunday morning the defendant came to his house between 7 and 8 o'clock and was told not to enter the house, but not heeding the request, he entered the sitting room where in conversation with the witness he said he was going to kill his wife, who was in the kitchen. He went to where his wife was and after a few words between them he shot her. After the shooting he left the house and witness had not seen him since. When Mrs. Beckwith was found outside of the house she was dead. Mrs. Beckwith was a very large woman—weighing about 250 pounds.

Mr. Edmiston, who is quite an aged gentleman, was subjected to a severe cross examination by the defense which affected little else than define the cause which the defense will most likely adopt—that of establishing the martial indelicacy of the victim of the tragedy.

Mary Edmiston, sworn. Mrs. Beckwith is related to my husband. She had not been at our house but a few times before; did not eat dinner at our house on Saturday before the tragedy but took supper with us. Our family is composed of my husband, myself and the boy that we raised (William Douglas). On the morning of the tragedy when we saw Frank Beckwith coming, his wife exclaimed, "My hour to die has come." I walked out to the porch to meet Beckwith and he asked me if his wife was in the house. I told him she was and that he should stay out and not make a fuss. He bolted past me through the door, saying he wanted to see her. Approaching her he asked why she didn't come home. She answered by saying that her shoes were too bad and the snow was too deep. The next thing I heard was the shooting and saw Mrs. Beckwith running out of the house and he following her. The next I saw of Mrs. Beckwith she was lying outside in the snow on her hands and face. Going out she left the imprint of a bloody hand on the door panel. I tore off the board and burned it.

William Douglas Edmiston called—an adopted son of the Edmiston's and five with them I was at home when Mrs. Beckwith came there and when Frank came on Sunday morning; I was by the kitchen stove with the poker in my hand; had just been fixing the fire; when Frank came in he pushed me aside and rushed to the door from the kitchen to the room; I heard him ask his wife why she had broken his heart; then he shot; after he had shot his wife Frank pointed his pistol at me, then ran out after his wife and shot again; he then deliberately walked up the road to the Ridge to his shanty; I went to the Ridge for help. Nothing new on cross-examination.

George Faust, Sandy Ridge—testified that William Edmiston had given him a

(Continued on page 3.)

RAILROAD MEN ENDORSE PATTISON

Strong Resolutions Adopted Denouncing the Quay Machine

APPEAL TO WAGeworkERS

To Vote and Support a Man Who Can be Trusted—Help to Suppress the "Reign of Graft"—Looters and Rippers must be Defeated.

Representatives of 128,000 organized railroad employes in Pennsylvania met in Harrisburg Monday and unanimously adopted a resolution urging the election of Robert E. Pattison as Governor. Their avowed intention is to "rescue the Commonwealth from a reign of graft."

The body taking this action was the State Legislative Board of Railroad Employes. The main organization is composed of the Brotherhoods of Locomotive engineers, firemen, conductors, telegraphers and trainmen. Each of the 347 lodges is entitled to one member on the committee, and the attendance at the session, which was held behind closed doors, was much larger than that at the recent meeting at Reading.

Another step taken by the railroaders was aimed to force Governor Stone to define his position on the coal strike when he returns from his business trip to Pittsburgh. A committee was appointed to wait upon the Governor and urge him to assist in the movement to adjust the differences between the miners and the operators.

The committee will request the executive to call an extra session of the General Assembly to enact arbitration legislation to end the strike, if it should be found that this is the method of last resort. Its members will remain in Harrisburg until the Governor returns on Wednesday.

Those composing the committee are Benjamin Crager and George W. Coyie, of Philadelphia; W. L. Pummer and William A. Bouse, Pittsburg; Jere N. Weller, Mauch Chunk, and Milton T. Robinson, Harrisburg.

HOLD QUAY MACHINE TO ACCOUNT.

The resolution endorsing Pattison carries a preamble denouncing in most vigorous language the Quay machine, which is responsible for unparalleled legislative corruption in the state and has refused to give laboring men fair laws. The whole, as offered by Byron G. Austin, of Philadelphia, and adopted as follows:

Whereas, The present political regime in this State has proved that no good can be expected from it, judging from the actions of the Legislature, in that various ripper bills have been enacted and executed, together with the grabbing of valuable franchises, given to corporations without restrictions, and the Legislature as a whole going on record as being the most corrupt body ever known to exist in the State of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Legislation in the cause of labor has not been given proper recognition, in that many of the bills presented for the improvement of the condition of the wageworker of this State have failed to pass; and

Whereas, The only method by which corrupt and domineering government, with selfish intentions and entrenched by many years of machine rule, can be reformed is to cast the ballot for the opposing candidate; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the State Legislative Board of Railroad Employes, do hereby endorse the candidacy and advocate the election of Robert E. Pattison for Governor, believing that thereby the Commonwealth may once more be rescued from the reign of graft and restored to the party of the immortal Lincoln—the party "of the people, by the people and for the people."

A committee, composed of ex Representative Thomas T. Sheridan, of Conemaugh; P. O. Garahan, S. W. Hiller, S. G. Bowman and Mr. Austin, was appointed to visit Reading on Thursday, when the democratic candidates will be formally notified of their nomination, and advise ex-Governor Pattison of the board's action. None of the other state candidates was endorsed.

TO VOTE FOR HONEST LEGISLATORS.

The main purpose of the board's meeting is to discuss what legislation is wanted by the railroad men from the next Legislature and to take an active part in the legislators whose records on labor questions justify their support. The record of every legislative candidate will be carefully scrutinized by a committee composed of M. T. Robinson, Harrisburg; C. L. Schriver, McKees Rocks; George W. Cole and S. W. Hiller, Philadelphia, and W. J. Zerbe, Mauch Chunk. This committee will publish the record of every candidate during the campaign and indicate those for whom it is believed the railroaders should vote.

—Something special for ladies; see Yeager & Davis' advertisement on page 2.

PRESIDENT INJURED.

Roosevelt's Carriage Struck by Electric Car—President Escapes Injuries.

The drag containing the President's party, while traversing the distance between Pittsfield and Lenox, Mass., was struck by an electric car yesterday.

The President escaped with a few bruises but his face was badly scratched. Secretary Cortelyou was somewhat bruised.

Secret Service Agent Craig was killed and the two horses attached to the carriage were also killed.

Gov. Murray Crane, of Massachusetts, was seriously hurt.

CONCLUSION OF COURT.

Wednesday morning a short session of court was held, and the following business was transacted:

W. Harrison Walker, Esq., was appointed an auditor to make distribution of the funds in the hands of accountant in the estate of Minnie Treaster, M. L. Kishel, trustee.

S. Kline Woodring, Esq., was appointed an auditor in estate of A. E. Meyers, deceased.

J. Thos. Mitchell, Esq., was appointed an auditor in estate of Nancy H. Sparr, dec'd, also in estate of Margaret Sparr, dec'd.

S. Kline Woodring, George A. Bayard and George Hastings were appointed viewers to view and lay out a road in Spring township.

D. W. Pletcher, James Hayes and Wm. Neff were appointed viewers to view and lay out private bridge in Curtin township.

E. R. Chambers, Ed. McKinly and Stanly Watson were appointed viewers to view and lay out a road in Snow Shoe township.

S. Kline Woodring, Alexander McCoy and Samuel Slack were appointed viewers to view and lay out a county bridge in Gregg township.

S. D. Ray, O. M. Kling, and Harry McDowell were appointed viewers to view and change the route of Holt Hollow road in Boggs township.

Jno A. Way, Geo. W. Loner and Wm. B. Way were appointed viewers to view and lay out a road in Patton township.

SENTENCES IMPOSED.

Wednesday morning the following persons were called before court for sentence:

Myrtle Meyer who plead guilty to larceny last week was called for sentence and sentence was suspended on the condition that the Salvation Army take her to some institution.

Bruce Yarnell, convicted of forgery, was sentenced to pay costs and sent to the Huntingdon Reformatory.

Joseph Resides, convicted of cruelty to animals, sentenced to costs and fine of five dollars.

Scared to Death.

Mme. Cecilia Nershall, a lion tamer, died in the McKeesport hospital Monday.

She appeared there recently with the Bostock wild animal show, and while in a cage with a troupe of trained lions they attacked her. She escaped without a scratch, but was terribly frightened.

Two days later she was placed in the hospital with her nerves wrecked.

For three weeks she had been hysterical and at times violently insane. She was 35 years old and had been taming lions and wild beasts all her life. She had no relatives in this country and died penniless. She was buried by the St. Peter's Catholic church.

Dynamite Badly Maims Angler.

While John R. Snavely, of Petersburg, was about to fish with dynamite in the Conestoga creek, near Lancaster, Friday night of last week, he accidentally turned the current on his electric battery and the explosive was discharged in his hand, which was completely severed from his arm, and ghastly wounds were inflicted in the face and chin and abdomen. The sight of one eye was destroyed and his injuries may prove fatal. Snavely saved himself from bleeding to death by his self-possession. He is 27 years old and formerly resided at Hummelstown, Pa.

Fire at Milesburg.

The general store of August Newman in Central City, near Milesburg, was totally destroyed by fire at two o'clock Friday morning.

As everything was entirely destroyed it is impossible to determine whether it was the work of burglars or not. Origin of the fire is unknown. The loss is \$600 on the building, and \$2,500 on stock and store fixtures on which there was an insurance of \$2,300.

THE Atlanta Constitution puts the question in a nutshell as follows: "The political puzzle that millions of voters would like to understand is why congress can legislate to raise the prices of commodities and then cannot find any way to legislate them down again when they have reached robbery figures?"

A COMPARISON OF NOMINEES

Issues of the State Campaign Clearly Defined

PATTISON VS. PENNYPACKER

Judge Pennypacker Deserves a Defeat—Issues Same as When Beaver was Nominated—Pennypacker Represents a Corrupt Machine

To many independent voters the selection by the parties of men of indisputable ability and worth, both distinguished for the probity of their personal and professional character, may, at first view, seem embarrassing in the making of a proper choice between them. But if the question should be carefully considered from the broad view of the public welfare, not from the narrow one of pernicious partisanship, the true solution of it should not be at all difficult. The axiom that, He who serves his country best serves best his party, has its value in the truth of it.

There is nothing in the character or reputation of Mr. Pennypacker which is not honorable to him as a man, citizen, lawyer or judge. But as the Republican candidate for Governor, his position before the public is entirely changed. Here his own personality has little share or part; he is the selected candidate of Senators Quay and Penrose; of Durham and Ashbridge, and as their first, best found choice, his candidacy represents not only their desperate need, but all the malice forces, policies and purposes of these discredited politicians who stand forth as the exponents of what are generally known as Quayism and Ashbridgeism, which are, so far as this State and city are concerned, the top and crown of venal political scheming and doing.

The character of Mr. Pattison is not a whit less estimable, in any way, than that of Mr. Pennypacker. It is above and beyond reproach, and so far, the candidates stand shoulder to shoulder upon the same firm ground of vantage. There, however, all comparison of their respective merits as candidates ends. Mr. Pennypacker has no political record except as an eulogist of the discredited politician, Mr. Quay. Mr. Pattison has been long in active political life, and twice Governor of Pennsylvania. His record is an open one and of unusual distinction and usefulness; of fidelity to official trust, unselfish devotion to popular interests and of intelligently directed zeal in the discharge of all public duties.—Ledger.

The only argument of the Machine is that its selection for Governor is a very respectable Judge of the Common Pleas Court. Twenty years ago a much stronger plea of the same kind was made in behalf of General Beaver, the regular Republican candidate for Governor. For General Beaver it was urged with truth that he was a distinguished soldier of the civil war who had lost a limb in battle; that he was an able lawyer, and that his personal life and character were without reproach. But the Independent Republicans looked beyond the candidate to the Machine of which he was the exponent; and they made the nomination of John Stewart for Governor, which resulted in the election of Governor Pattison. Instead of making a Republican nomination for Governor and thus dividing the opposition, the Republican opponents of the Machine are now resolved to make assurance doubly sure by uniting their forces against its misrule and corruption.

Then the revolt of the Independent Republicans was against Machine oppression and tyranny, which required absolute submission to its decrees. Now the more formidable revolt to which expression is to be given by independent voters is against Machine tyranny and corruption. Then, with General Hoyt in the office of Governor, there were no "rippers" to startle the people with the insolent violation of their dearest municipal rights, and no railway franchise conveyances to rob them of their most valuable privileges.

These are among the considerations that have given to this latest Republican revolt against Machine misrule an impetus never before witnessed in the Commonwealth.—Record.

She Forgot Her Baby.

Thursday evening, of last week, after the 8:45 train had left Bellefonte avenue station, says the Lock Haven Democrat, the conductor's attention was attracted to a woman who was crying loudly. He inquired the cause of her grief and was informed in hysterical tones that the woman in her excitement to get on the train had left her baby in the station. The kindhearted conductor had the train run back. The baby was taken on board and the woman was happy.

Large Berry Crop.

It is estimated that 1,000 bushels of berries of all kinds have been picked in Sugar valley this year, including huckleberries. Many families make from \$50 to \$125 each season. The average quantity gathered by a picker in a day is 25 quarts.

Walter G. Mattern, after a pleasant visit of two weeks with his parents, Doctor and Mrs. P. G. Mattern, of Milesburg, left Monday to resume his business duties in New York city.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

The bachelor does all he can. Sometimes to catch a wife. It never is the single man Who leads a double life.

Life's full of strange surprises; Thus sometimes it's decreed The flower of a family Turns out to be a weed.

Mr. Oyster will soon be back in town. A child may be spoiled and still be too fresh.

A honeymoon is often a calm before a storm. Still water don't always come from a distillery.

Most men feel that they have more brains than money.

A health resort is generally a place where people go to die.

A new broom may sweep clean, but it is apt to raise blisters.

A man always looks foolish when you ask him how he proposed.

A person may have a good ear for music and still have a bad voice for it.

Few men are so accommodating as to be willing to make fools of themselves.

The difference between a lover and a husband is that a lover pays compliments and a husband pays bills.

THE youthful attorney secured a verdict in favor of the Irishman charged with murder, on the ground of temporary insanity. He did not meet his client again for several months, when the following remarks were exchanged between them: "Well, Pat, isn't it about time you gave me that extra \$200?" "Faith, an' what two hundred is that?" "The \$200 you promised if I saved that worthless neck of yours?" "Sure, an' did I promise that? Oi don't remember." "Why, Pat, you promised it to me." Pat scratched his head for a minute, and then with a smile outlaid the claim with the remark: "Oh, well, but ye know Oi was crazy thin."

UNION PARTY MOBBED.

Wednesday the Union party of Pennsylvania was scheduled to hold their state convention in Philadelphia. It is an organization of independent republicans who seek to destroy machine rule in this state.

The convention was stampeded by a gang of Quayites who entered the hall in a body and interrupted the proceedings in an endeavor to organize a Quay-Pennypacker meeting; a free fight followed, chairs were broken over mens heads and pandemonium prevailed. The meeting was broken up, just as was desired. Later the Union party met at another hall and after organizing endorsed Pattison for Governor.

"Kill Your Dog and Buy a Pig."

An exchange says: "Kill your dog and buy a pig with the dollar you save on dog tax. The scraps you feed the dog would make the pig weigh 300 pounds, and then you could sell it and give your wife the money." "Yes, kill your dear old faithful, mindful, thankful, trustful dog and buy a pig. But when you come home after a hard day's toil don't expect that same pig to meet you two blocks away with a joyful little cry of welcome at every jump. Sometimes when you feel unusually "blue" and it seems as if the whole world was "knocking" against you, don't expect it to nestle up to your side, and laying its head within your lap wag out its unalloyed sympathy. Don't expect it to forsake its meal of "scraps" just for the privilege of being your companion on a lonely drive or walk. Don't expect it to do any of these "little things." There's a vast difference between your most constant friend and a pig.—From Our Dumb Animals.

Cheston-Saltsman

At the home of Mrs. Ella Saltsman, Lock Haven, Wednesday noon, Miss Jessie Saltsman, daughter of Mrs. Saltsman, and a niece of Ex-Governor Hastings, was married to Marvin E. Cheston, junior member of the firm of Everette & Co., of that city. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. D. Shedy, of Trinity Methodist Episcopal church, assisted by Rev. Samuel Creighton. The bride was given away by her uncle, Hon. Daniel H. Hastings. The bride is well known in Bellefonte.

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