

PROGRESS OF THE TRIALS

Commonwealth's Evidence Not All in Yet in Olchefski Case.

DEFENSE OF THE BURGLARS

O'Neil Proves an Exceptionally Strong Alibi.

Reilly Tells His Story and Makes a Good Impression--O'Neil Was Tripped Up by Major Warren--Attorneys for the Defense Claim That No Case Has Been Made Out and Ask Court to Direct a Verdict of Acquittal.

Interest in the arson and burglary cases now on in criminal court continues unabated. Large crowds were in attendance at both sessions yesterday and during the afternoon when the defense was being heard in the burglary case, court room No. 2 was so crowded that many of the spectators were compelled to stand. In the latter case the taking of testimony is about concluded, in the Olchefski case the commonwealth is still presenting its evidence and will likely not conclude before adjournment today.

District Attorney Jones is winding the strands of a chain of circumstantial evidence about the accused Olchefski. A raft of witnesses yesterday provided without doubt that the explosion was a criminal act and made it difficult to see how Olchefski is going to explain his way out of the mesh in which the testimony tangles him.

Mrs. Veronica Nitch, who was on the stand at adjourning time, Monday, concluded her testimony yesterday morning. She told of the kerosene soaked furniture of the bottom of the chairs being cut and kerosene poured into the oakum padding.

Edward Hamm, of the corner of Elm street and Hamm court, into whose house Olchefski was assisted after the explosion, testified to having carried the oil soaked bureau out of the Olchefski house. There were certain articles of clothing in the drawers, so soaked with kerosene that when they were wrung with the hands the oil would drip out. Oil also seeped through Olchefski's trousers, he said. While he was helping to carry out the furniture Mrs. Olchefski appealed to him to let the bureau go and save the piano as the latter was not insured. Both articles were saved.

MALIA TESTIFIED. Charles Malia, another neighbor, testified to having assisted in carrying out the furniture and the discovery of the kerosene. He saw Olchefski soon after the explosion and assisted him to Hamm's house. Olchefski's face was blackened almost beyond recognition as if by smoke or charcoal and his eye lashes, eye brows, mustache and hair were badly singed.

John Klime testified to having seen Olchefski pass his house going from the store to his barn at 9 o'clock on the night of the explosion and that he had a large bag on his back. Mrs. Klime corroborated her husband on this point and added that the bag apparently contained some light material.

Miss Lena Hamm told of having cared for Olchefski when he was assisted to her father's house, and that he told her he had retired at 9 o'clock that night. In the morning Mrs. Olchefski brought in some of her husband's clothing, but where she secured them the witness could not tell. When Olchefski had left, later in the day, she found that the stockings he had discarded were soaked with oil and that the bed in which he slept with his clothes on during the early morning was also oily and the odor of kerosene clung to the bed sheet even after it was twice washed. She also swore that she had Olchefski tell Max Phillips that there were sixty-five sticks of dynamite in the cellar of the store. An hour after the explosion Mrs. Olchefski came to the house where her husband was and had with her a bundle containing women's and children's clothing.

MUCH INDIGNATION. On cross-examination she told that there was much indignation against Olchefski on the day following the explosion and that an angry crowd of people, most of them Poles and Catholics in front of the house and made threats of violence against him. She remembered having noticed a scratch on Olchefski's forehead while washing his face.

Adam Michelowsky, who kept the saloon in the Olchefski building, swore that he talked with Olchefski in the saloon after 10 o'clock on the night of the explosion and that the latter did not leave the saloon until nearly 11 o'clock. He also saw the kerosene soaked bureau, saw Mrs. Olchefski fully dressed only a few moments after the explosion and told that he and his family were obliged to flee in their night clothes.

It. E. Leonard was called to prove that Olchefski had tried to purchase dynamite from him a few days prior to the explosion, but he could not positively identify the defendant.

James McHale, Eugene Dean and Patrick Murkin, three of the four boys who were riding a bicycle on Pittston avenue near to the store at the time of the explosion and who had a narrow escape from being caught by the flying debris, described their thrilling experience.

Thomas O'Hara, who was leaning over the gate in front of his father's residence, next door to the Olchefski store, watching the boys riding the bicycle, told that just a few minutes before the explosion he heard a noise in the Olchefski store as if two pieces of iron striking together. His father, Michael O'Hara, told of the destruction of his property by the explosion and fire that followed.

OTHER TESTIMONY. Katie Brijady, a washerwoman living on the flats, testified that Mrs. Olchefski brought her a large quantity of clothing to be washed, just a day or two before the explosion. On cross-examination she admitted that all the clothing needed washing.

Agnes O'Hara was called to prove that Olchefski had carried goods away from his store at 12 o'clock at night about four weeks before the explosion, but the testimony was not admitted because the time between the explosion and the appearance of the store goods in Olchefski's barn on the day following the explosion. They consisted of perfume, bags of salt, fancy articles, bundles of clothes, lace and ribbons. Mrs. Veronica Nitch, Mrs. Mary Krotosky, Chief Hickey and Edward Hamm identified the furniture taken from Olchefski's house. It was piled up within the bar enclosure and from its quantity and dilapidated appearance gave the place the appearance of a junk shop.

The commonwealth will continue this morning and among other things will show that Olchefski both admitted and denied that he had dynamite in his store.

IT IS UPON US!

The Mysterious Trouble That Has Assailed So Many and the Only Way It Can Be Met.

There can be little doubt that the "grip" which has played such havoc for years, has not only left its effects upon a great many, but seems to be rearing its ugly head in a new form. Many people are complaining of heavy colds, accompanied by all grip symptoms. Many people take colds easier than before; others are troubled with weak eyes, headaches, etc. These things not only come to those who were laid low by the grip last year, but are also being felt by those who have never been laid low by the grip before. Pains, neuralgia, lassitude, all the symptoms are present.

Every leading physician who treated the grip last season prescribed stimulants. The weakened, depressed state of the body, demonstrated by the fact that numerous cases on record where pure whiskey saved the lives of men and women who were on the verge of the grave. As in all other things, however, the purity of an article determines its value, and so it is in this case. Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey can be made available, and it is in this respect. Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey has shown itself to be immeasurably superior to any other known stimulant. The attention of the best physicians has been drawn to this fact. They are prescribing it as the highest prize they could bestow. Professor Joseph Parrish says: "We know that whiskey will steady the pulse, slow the pulse, calm excitement, and we use it in all our cases. However, that you secure only the genuine, and such as has, by years of popularity, been proven purest and best, in other words, use only Duffy's."

brought up in Youngstown, O., was working in Chicago, and he decided to look him up and get him to go to the express office with him and identify him. They found O'Neil in a restaurant and the three men went together making the rounds of the town.

In the early morning, about 7:30 or 8 o'clock they went together to the express office in a cab which they had been using in their rounds of the town during the night. The express office was not open and they drove off. A few blocks away they stopped at a restaurant to get breakfast. About 9 or 10 o'clock they went back to the express office and were arrested.

To Major Warren's question as to why he had given the name of Harry Johnson, he said that he did not want his real name to get into the papers. He admitted that he and Bixler purchased complete new outfits of clothing upon their arrival in Chicago. Bixler paid for the clothes, but he, the witness, contributed half the money. He denied that he admitted to Chief Robling that he had been as far east as Michigan in June, picking strawberries.

O'NEILL ON THE STAND. Michael O'Neil was next put on the stand. He gave his age as twenty-eight, and said he was employed in the hardware store of D. W. Bosley, Chicago. He was raised in Youngstown, Ohio, and knew Bixler there. He denied the burglary and contended that he was at work in Chicago on Sept. 30, 1927, when the burglary took place. On cross-examination Major Warren, referring to the meeting on Sept. 13, in the restaurant in Chicago, said, after some preliminary questions: "Bixler introduced you to his friend, Johnson, I suppose?"

"Yes."

"Didn't tell you anything about him, did he?"

"No, only introduced him."

"Merely said 'Mr. O'Neil, this is my friend, Mr. Johnson,' or something like that?"

"That's all."

There was a low murmuring through the court room, but the witness gave no indication of being aware of the damaging remark he had made. His attorney, however, noticed it and when Major Warren was through with the witness, called his attention to what he had said and asked him if that was what he meant to say. He, of course, said no, and admitted that it was "Reilly" and not "Johnson" that Bixler introduced him to. On cross-examination on the point he said he had been reading "Reilly alias Johnson" so much in the papers, that he got the name confused.

Major Warren asked him if he had not admitted to Chief Holleran, of Chicago, that he had been arrested on suspicion of holding a man up, but the question was ruled out.

John G. Holahan, a well dressed and smart looking tall young man came from among the spectators and took a seat in the witness box. He was a resident of Chicago and employed as a bookkeeper for D. W. Bosley, hardware merchant, 208 and 210 Washington boulevard. He was also time-keeper and his first duty in the morning was to go through the shop and check off the employees who were at work. Refreshing his memory from his time-book he testified that O'Neil was at work on September 30, 1927, and for some days before and after that date.

Major Warren critically examined the time book but if he found any weak spots in it he gave no indication of it. An effort was made by the defense to show that O'Neil's employer paid the bookkeeper's expenses for his journey to Scranton to act as a witness, but court would not permit it.

DEFENSE RESTED. At this juncture John Power O'Connell identified his notes of a conversation between Reilly and Chief Robling, in which the former told the chief that he had been in Michigan in 1927 and that Bixler had paid for his clothes in Chicago.

Mr. Martin argued to have the case taken from the jury but Judge Gunster would not hear to it. Adjournment was made at this juncture.

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