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GUILTY, VERDICT IN NIGHT RIDERS MURDER TRIALS.

Jury Easily Came to Agreement Over the Tennessee Assassins.

Union City, Tenn., January 8.—With a verdict of guilty in varying degrees, the jury in the Night Rider trials reported last night, finding Garrett Johnson, Tid Burton, Roy Ransom, Fred Kinion, Arthur O'lar and Sam. Applewhite guilty of murder in the first degree, with mitigating circumstances, and Bud Morris and Bob Huffman, the other defendants, guilty of murder in the second degree, and fixed their punishment at twenty years in the penitentiary. The punishment of the first six named defendants was left to the court and may be death or life imprisonment.

The jury had been out since 2 p.m. but because of the illness of Juror Rosson had not been able to consult until 6 p.m. There was a difference of opinion among the jurors as to the degree of guilt of the defendants, but an agreement was reached quickly. At 8.45 p.m. the bailiff called for the county physician. Juror Rosson was in a state of collapse and needed attention. It was half an hour before Rosson was revived, the jury filed in and six deputies were summoned to carry in the bed upon which the sick juror reclined. The defence demanded until Monday to move for a new trial, but the state opposed it, and the court fixed Saturday as the day, intimating that the motion was a mere formality anyway, which would be overruled.

The defendants took the verdict with calmness, as they had been expecting it since the closing of the arguments. Attorney Pierce turned to them when it was announced and said: "We will tear this case to pieces in the Supreme Court."

The State expected a verdict of first degree murder in all eight cases, and was visibly disappointed. Bob Huffman, one of the men to escape with 20 years, is the man who, according to the confession of Frank Febringer, fired the shot which killed Captain Rankin as he was being drawn up by the rope.

When the jury's readiness to report was announced, the military guard surrounded the court-house and a detail of soldiers with revolver-holsters open was deployed around the walls of the court room, but there was no demonstration. The prisoners were quickly handcuffed and, under military escort, taken to prison.

Those found guilty in the first degree were sentenced to be hanged on Feb. 17th. Their cases will be appealed.

Foster's Speech Analyzed.

Political honesty is a virtue that invariably distinguishes the really serviceable statesman, and, according as the standard of public morality is high or low, so it is prized. Sir Wilfrid Laurier possesses it in an eminent degree, and it has won for him general esteem. But the Hon. Geo. E. Foster, at every turn in his career, has shown himself to lack it utterly. No more salient illustration of his want of it could be found than the casual manner and method of his criticism of the budget, in which he expended six hours in industriously endeavoring to misrepresent the condition of the country's finances. Only a glance over his speech is needed, however, to detect some of the inconsistencies that stultify his main contentions.

His primary object was to create the impression that taxation had increased under the Liberals. He knew of course as well as any member on the Government benches that the rate of taxation had been substantially reduced; but instead of honestly admitting that the increased revenue was due to the increase in earning power of the taxes held it up as being an increase burden on the people. His manner was as naive as that of a little child. He recites the growth of the revenue from 1896 until the present time and then dramatically asks the question, "Does that mean that the country is paying less than it was in 1896?" and in the next sentence he says, answering his own question, "No, sir, but that the country has been bled."

The revenue of Great Britain in 1890, before the repeal of the Corn laws, was \$315,000,000; and in 1899, after the repeal, \$360,000,000. No one will say, however, that the rate of taxation had increased. It was the trade of the country that had increased, and every tax had a greater earning power.

But, setting every extraneous aid aside, it is only necessary to quote Mr. Foster to refute Mr. Foster. Extolling the action of the Conservatives—and, incidentally, of himself as the late Finance Minister—in lessening the burdens of the people during the hard times from 1890 to 1894, he said:—

"Taxation was taken off the common necessities of life to the amount of \$521,755 in 1890; and in 1891 to 1895 the relief given to the taxpayers in that respect alone was \$19,851,995 counting the decreased duties on a nearly equal consumption. In 1894 a general reduction of the tariff was made, involving a saving to the taxation granted by the Government in these years it amounted to \$21,473,750."

It will thus be seen that, according to Mr. Foster himself, a reduction in the rate of taxation does lighten the burden of taxation.

Next he sought to leave the impression, while not definitely saying so that the rate of taxation had, in effect, been increased. It was done in this way. Having remarked that the Liberals would say they had reduced the rate of taxation, he put the question, "Has the rate of taxation been reduced or not?" and after mentioning the average tax rate in 1896 and 1906, he proceeded to add the bounties to the customs duty and said the "percentage of protection" was actually more in 1906. The ordinary listener would not recognize the significance of the debt substitution of "percentage of duty," and the impression intended to be conveyed was that the rate of taxation was greater. As a matter of fact, the money for the bounties is derived from the customs duties; for, although charged up to a special account, it is provided out of current revenue.

Mr. Foster also criticized the Finance Minister for having made, out of current revenue, capital expenditure on the National Transcontinental, harbor improvements, canal construction, and other public works. The proper method of finance, he said, was to borrow. In providing for them out of current revenue, Mr. Fielding was taking from the general funds of the country money that was needed for the general business of the country. A little later, however, Mr. Foster expressed alarm at the enormous obligations before the Government in the shape of renewing loans (contracted by the Conservatives, who, in the last years of their administration, had to borrow to liquidate deficits) and of raising a new loan to finance the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. He complained that the minister had not taken time by the forelock and reduced the country's obligations. This sounds strange, indeed. The minister of Finance is criticized for having kept down the obligations of the country by refraining from borrowing, and then he is blamed for not reducing the obligations of the country.

Mr. Foster's next device was to take three sentences out of their context and try to prove that the Prime Minister had said, in 1903,

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that the cost of the line from Montreal to Winnipeg would be no more than \$13,000,000. In doing so, he resorted to the lowest kind of party tactics. Everyone had correctly understood the Prime Minister at the time. He was not referring to the cost of construction, and the sum mentioned was the total in interest he thought the country would have to pay on the bonds, which they guaranteed, on the mountain section.

The ex-Minister of Finance spent much time in trying to prove that our trade is not as good as it looks. A great deal of the increase in the value of country's trade was, he asserted, attributable to an increase in the prices of commodities, and, therefore, a proportional amount of the increase in revenue was due to the increase in prices. The Government actually got more in duty from a given quantity and quality of goods than did their predecessors.

This was another sample of specious reasoning to show that the burden of taxation had been increased. But it can easily be controverted. Wages have increased far more than the prices of commodities, and the burden of taxation is, therefore, very much lighter, because it bears a much smaller relation to the earning power of the people. While the general trade of the country with foreign nations in 1897 was \$50 per head of the population, it was \$100 in 1907; and the deposits in the banks grew from \$50 to \$100. Mr. Foster put the increase in the prices of commodities somewhere between 30 and 50 per cent.; but both the trade and the savings show very much higher percentages. There is a greater production per head, and, notwithstanding the growth of comfort, and even of luxury, in the homes of the people, there is more than double the amount saved per head of the population.

Finally, Mr. Foster pointed his finger, in warning, to the disparity between imports and exports. But, in mentioning the fact that the two balanced each other 1903, he unconsciously dropped, though he did not know it, on the secret of the expansion of our imports. That year marked the sudden rise of Western Canada. Then came immigration in a flood. Capital—encouragement by the soundest and stability of an enlightened Government—flowed into the Dominion. The people came; and, along with them, the money to supply their needs and to develop new enterprises, out of which they were to live in the future. The land was taken up. Values enhanced; and land, which before had no value, acquired a value. The available assets increased; and the ability to get money from the lending and investing countries grew accordingly. Large loan companies came into existence. Funds were available to equip the country industrially and socially; and they were spent to furnish the agencies of reproductive enterprise and the necessities of the new settlements, only a portion of which requirements could be furnished by the manufacturers of Eastern Canada. So the imports began to grow and have been growing ever since. The account will have to be balanced some day, of course; but, while much of the energy of the nation is being directed to development work, that cannot be for the present. But the position is, nevertheless, sound. Every mile of a new railway gives fresh areas of marketable assets. It may be that there will have to be temporary halts, and more of the national energy directed to production to maintain the confidence of investors, so as to prove that their money is being profitably employed; but the good work will go on until the great Western country is adequately settled.

Mr. Foster's misgivings should, therefore, weight no more with the public than his glaring misrepresentations and shameless tergiversation. The length of his speech was neither satisfied by the occasion nor the public interest; and, in the ultimate result, was a sheer waste of

other members' time. No one will, of course, deny the gentleman's fecundity of intellect; but its offspring, conceived out of political enmity, slew one another as soon as they reached the walking stage, until only one was left to survive namely his envy of the splendid performances of his successor.

The striking feature of the whole of Mr. Foster's speech was, as has already been pointed out the lack of candor, and the frequency of the use of the "double entendre." Every educated man can, of course, appreciate the skill of the craftsman of well turned phrases and the weaver of finely spun arguments; but the artifice with which the flaw in the web is covered up and the vehemence of invective whereby he diverts his listeners from the gaps in his logic; the Ariel flight from fact into the impalpable realms of fiction; and the occasional Blondin feats of political dexterity. But ill-directed powers of mind are a questionable service. Better the honest man of moderate talents than the clever man who will wilfully deceive. The one does not, by his example, break up the heritage of moral and ethical principles, which were won for us by our forbears after suffering; and the other may, by the glamor of his talents, lead many astray and cause to be condoned the stealthy introduction into public life of the wanton arts of duplicity. It is only in its ability to cast off such sinister influences that a nation shows itself susceptible of healthy progress. Fortunately for the future of Canada, there is no probability that the trustees of that future—the electors of to-day—will accept Mr. Foster or his party while he is the moving spirit.

The Winter Housing of Swine.

It is at this season of the year that the housing of swine becomes a more or less difficult problem. This is more particularly true in regard to the housing of sows due to farrow in the spring. It is chiefly of the housing that the vigor of spring litters depends. The revised edition of Bulletin No. 10 of the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa, treats this question in a very practical manner. It says:—

"Much of the success of hog raising depends upon suitable housing. Suitable housing does not, however, demand extensively built houses and pens designed so as to provide summer temperature during the winter season. In an ambitious desire to treat swine with due consideration for their comfort many progressive hog raisers have, during the past few years, practically wasted large sums of money in building elaborate warm houses for their herds. Having wintered their stock of all ages and conditions in these structures for one or two seasons the mistake they had made became apparent by reason of the fact that the swine instead of showing greater vigor, exhibited signs of ill-health in the form of coughing, lameness, scurfulness of skin and other evidences of lack of thrift. The chief difficulty from these close houses is due to the lack of exercise taken by the swine kept in them. After rising from their comfortable beds to take their food, which is usually provided regularly near at hand and in palatable condition, the pigs fill themselves and again return to their resting places. This mode of living followed for weeks and months at a season of year when outdoor life is uninviting, even should the pen door be left open, is attended with indigestion, constipation and other forms of sluggishness, causing weak litters, lack of a good milk flow in dams, stunted weanlings and slow gains in older hogs. Exercise is one essential for swine of all ages if hog raising is to be made a success, and it is in not providing this that the warm pen used for both sleeping and feeding fails. For young litters coming in cold weather a warm pen is necessary, and rather close quarters are also conducive to the most profitable gains during a hog's final fattening period, but at no other time in a hog's life is close housing advantageous."

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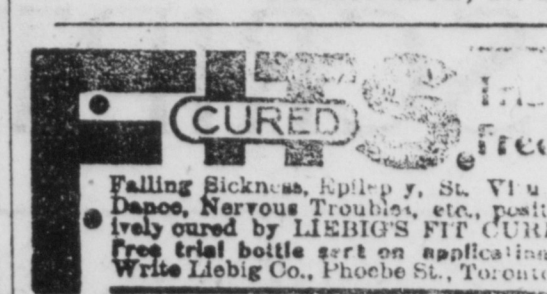
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