

WHO SHOT COHEN?

CHARLESTON CORONER'S JURY CONDUCTING INQUIRY

MILITIA STANDS GUARD

Witnesses Tell Conflicting Stories as to Scene in Death Chamber—McDonald Accused—Brown Accused—But Accuser Fails to Identify Him—What Others Said.

Only the coroner, counsel for the state and the jurors are allowed to question witnesses, the coroner having taken the law, which regards an inquest as merely an ex parte proceeding by the state.

No spectators except three newspaper men and two members of the family of the deceased are present, only attorneys and witnesses being admitted besides these. Every person entering the building, except soldiers in uniform, is searched from scalp to heel and any article that might be considered a weapon is taken from him by the sentries. All the witnesses are held in segregation under guard.

John P. Grace, mayor of Charleston, arrived at the court house in company with Mr. Logan and said he was present as an attorney. He was admitted after he had been searched. The mayor as he handed over a revolver which he took from his hip pocket turned to Col. Blythe, commanding the troops, and said: "I want you to bear witness that I gave this up before being searched."

As he left the building the mayor regained his revolver and replaced it in his pocket. James R. Cantwell, chief of police, appeared with a package of papers and other property which he said had been removed from the persons of Henry J. Brown and Edward R. McDonald at the time of their arrest last Friday.

The chief, after he had been disarmed, was escorted by Capt. Meyer to the court room, but when he had delivered his parcel and an oral message to Mayor Grace he was excluded on the ground that he was a witness. Capt. Meyer took the package from him and examined it before he would permit it to pass into Mr. Grace's hands in order to satisfy himself it did not contain a weapon.

Half a dozen pistols, mostly of the magazine type, with holsters were produced by the coroner as weapons recovered from the committee room, where Friday's affray occurred. Another interesting exhibit was a collection of hats left behind by their owners in the hurried wholesale exit from the room when the shooting commenced.

Joseph A. Black, the county chairman, was the first witness. His testimony was in substance the statement from him already summarized, except that he described as a "tall man with a little black hat" the person who he said aimed a pistol at him, saying, "I'll get the..."

Mr. Black averred that when he appealed to Police Sgt. Quinn the latter drew a gun on him.

"I am almost positive he snapped it," the witness declared. "I threw my hand over my face," he went on, "expecting to be killed instantly. Mr. Cohen was at my side. I heard just then the crack of a pistol from where the tall man with the little hat was standing and looking down saw Mr. Cohen on the floor at my feet. Previously a shot had rung out in the ante-room. Starting out I saw Chief Cantwell with his pistol drawn upon a man whom two other men were holding. Mr. Cohen grabbed my leg, but I jerked free and went on, as threats were being made in the room against me. After the shot that killed Cohen there was a fusillade. Two more shots sounded as I went through a window. Mr. Cohen did not speak. I am positive he was killed by the large man with the small hat."

The witness said he saw no other persons with revolvers except Chief Cantwell and a man over in the corner whom he did not recognize. Coroner Mansfield on Mr. Cobb's advice refused to let Mr. Grace cross-examine Chairman Black.

Lee Holmes, a member of the Hyde majority in the committee, heard, he said, a shout in the ante-room. "Put up that gun," followed by a shot. He heard Committeeman McDonald, inside the committee room, say to a man named Brouters, "You can't intimidate us." McDonald, as Brouters advanced toward him, drew a pistol. About that time the witness started for a window. Just then a man standing in the centre of the room and within his view raised a pistol and fired three or four times in a northerly direction. He believed he would recognize the man if he saw him again. He did not see Mr. Cohen and did not see McDonald fire.

N. B. Barnwell, a Hyde committeeman, heard in the ante-room, he said, a commotion in which Goldman's name was mentioned, then a shot, followed by a rush into the committee room. William Wingate crowded in. He saw a pistol in Henry Brown's hand. Chief Cantwell, gun in hand, entered and joined a group scuffling in a corner, from which presently a shot sounded. He saw a pistol in McDonald's hand.

Other persons had pistols out also, but the witness does not remember who they were. A man whom he understood to be Brown and who had been in the room fired towards the north. He saw no shots toward where Cohen fell. All those who led the rush into the room were in citizens' clothes. He believes Wingate was among those who flourished pistols. He thinks all the weapons he saw were magazine pistols.

Dan S. Lussana, another Hyde committeeman, said he sprang between McDonald and Cohen as they were in trouble and as he did so a shot was fired over his shoulder by somebody toward McDonald. He did not at any time see a pistol and did not see Mr.

Cohen after the latter had taken his seat prior to the opening of the meeting. The witness departed through a window.

W. P. Poulnot, a Hyde committeeman, saw Brouters and McDonald in an altercation. As the crowd surged in he heard a shot. Two men in a corner were fighting with their fists. McDonald was at his left. James Allan grabbed McDonald and jerked a revolver out of McDonald's pocket. The witness was seated just back of Cohen. He saw pistols in the hands of Cantwell, McDonald, Wingate and Sgt. Quinn. He saw a pistol flash in the northeast corner, but could not say who had it or where the bullet went. Brown was there, but witness did not see a pistol in his hand. He saw Sgt. Quinn throw his revolver in Chairman Black's face.

John P. Michel, a Grace committeeman, took the stand. He testified he saw Brown gain the centre of the committee room, he said, and start firing. He did not see Mr. Cohen.

J. W. Robson, Hyde committeeman, saw a man whose forearm and hand only were visible to him fire rapidly several times at Wingate. He saw Chief Cantwell fire at a man whom two others were struggling with at a window. He grasped the chief's revolver with both hands and it went off, the bullet striking a wall across the street. He turned and saw Cohen lying on the floor. He used a chair as a shield to prevent crowd from trampling on Cohen. He does not know Brown.

Harry Hancock, Grace committeeman, said he saw Brown shooting but when Brown was produced admitted he couldn't say whether the man before him was the one he saw shooting. He said he intervened in a row between Brouters and McDonald and grabbed the latter's pistol and it went off. He afterwards saw Mr. Cohen lying six feet away near a window.

J. I. Cosgrove, another Grace committeeman, said he saw Brown shoot Wingate, then fire deliberately at him again after he had fallen. He yelled to Hancock to disarm McDonald and saw them grapple. He went himself to assist in overpowering Brown. He saw Cohen, with Black and another man, crowding through a window. Cohen suddenly fell backward into the room. He had put one foot on the window sill and the other on a chair. Chief Cantwell ran up and grabbed Brown by the throat. The witness caught the chief's hand and as he did so the chief's pistol was discharged.

"I presume he intended to shoot Brown," said the witness. Cosgrove said he saw pistols in the hands only of Brown, McDonald and Cantwell. He identified Brown upon the latter being produced before him. He said Cohen fell near the spot where McDonald and Hancock were struggling. He doesn't know in what direction McDonald's gun was pointed.

On Tuesday several new lines of testimony were opened but these tended rather to incriminate in the affray persons not heretofore accused than to throw light on the main question as to whose hand fired the shot which brought down Mr. Cohen.

One witness, Jerry W. Dunn, made the first direct imputation of guilt for that homicide. He said he saw one of the two men now in arrest, Edward R. McDonald, shoot Mr. Cohen in the back, though he would not say the shot was deliberately aimed at the newspaper man. Some evidence was adduced tending to show that the police took special care to keep down trouble, whereas testimony from other quarters was that police actively participated in the disorder.

Two witnesses said they saw a policeman stand in the doorway and deliberately fire into the committee room. Allen Legare said he heard Plain Clothes Officer Hogan, after conversing in low tones with Chief Cantwell, say "All right, there will be held when I get to them," whereupon Hogan entered committee headquarters and a commotion culminating in pistol shots immediately broke out there.

E. A. Cobia said he heard Hogan say, "I am going to get what I came for or they will have to carry me off in a wagon."

W. B. Hearon, who admitted he had been tried for murder and acquitted, Mayor Grace being his attorney in that case, testified that he saw Hogan fire into the committee room and this, he said, was the first shot he heard. Further evidence directly charging the prisoner, Henry J. Brown, with shooting William E. Wingate was introduced.

Mendel L. Smith, judge of the Fifth circuit, has the distinction of being the first person not in military uniform allowed so far to enter the inquest without undergoing a search of his person. Judge Smith had business Tuesday at his chambers, opening off the court room. When he appeared at the court house door sentries stationed there halted him and were about to insist on searching him for arms, when somebody said: "Why, that's the presiding judge of the sessions court." Thereupon the judge was bowed past the inner cordon of sentries.

A. M. Deal of Columbia was sworn in as official stenographer of the inquest. During the afternoon session, having need of spare notebooks, he sent downstairs for his bag. A sentry brought it and he was about to open it when Capt. Meyer, ranking military officer present, said with a smile, "Beg pardon, but I'll have to examine that first for firearms." No lethal weapons being found to lurk beneath its clasps, the grip was handed to its owner.

Mr. Littlejohn of The News and Courier staff saw, he testified, the beginning of a quarrel between Brouters and McDonald, but being in line between them he dodged and at that instant heard a shot from the northeast corner. He made his way to the south wall and men passing in front prevented him from seeing middle of the room and sides.

He heard men pressing in through the doorway. The only weapon he saw was a pistol held by a man in the centre of the room, whose hand only was visible to him. The muzzle was directed toward the doorway. Some shots were fired within six feet of where the witness stood. He escaped through southeast window.

Some witnesses who were in the room on hearing a row at the door he moved to the southwest corner to get out of the line of fire. He heard several shots. Several policemen had

pistols out. McDonald had a gun in his hand, hanging down. Replying to a question propounded through Solicitor Cobb, by Mayor Grace, the witness said he heard exclamations in room after Cohen fell—"Brown did it. Brown did the shooting." The witness was not armed.

Mr. Sams of The News and Courier staff said he heard from his seat within the committee room the noise of Rentiers' arrest in the ante-room. Hancock told McDonald that Rentiers was flashing a gun. Chairman Black passed him going to the telephone, but several men cried, "Not yet, not yet!"

Hearing a shot in the northeast corner, the witness backed against the south wall, Black being then at his side. Several more shots rang out. Men were falling. He saw Brown standing in the northeast of the centre of the room and firing left and right, apparently at random. Officer Hogan (alias "Rumpy Rattles," a plain clothes man), as the witness passed him going out, threw his hand to his hip pocket, but let him pass.

He saw Brown fire three times in a northwesterly direction. He saw somebody present a pistol at W. Turner Logan. He knew Brown well by sight as a former policeman. Brown being produced, the witness identified him. He did not see McDonald with a pistol.

R. C. Richardson, secretary of the executive committee, said a shot in the ante-room or near the door stampeded the crowd. There was a second shot, then a fusillade, then a lull. The witness had so far kept his seat, lowering his head, but at this stage climbed upon the window sill.

Finding the balcony space crowded, however, he stepped back into the room. Then he saw Sidney Cohen on the floor. He put his hand on his forehead and said, "Sidney, old boy, are you badly hurt?" He realized then Mr. Cohen was dying. He gathered his papers and went out to get a doctor. He met N. B. Barnwell and asked him to phone for a physician.

When he reached King street the witness was arrested and was detained at police headquarters about an hour. While he was under arrest a plain clothes man came up, collared him and shook him. He saw McDonald's hand with a gun in it pointing upward, but held by several hands.

He saw a man whom he did not know standing in the centre of the room with a pistol held towards the north. Brown being brought in the witness identified him as the man. He didn't see him fire and saw him only momentarily. He did not fire while the glance of the witness rested upon him.

JUDGE M. L. SMITH FREES BROWN AND McDONALD

No Formal Warrants Have Been Lodged Against Them—Militia Still in Montreal.

With Col. Holmes B. Springs, Second Infantry, South Carolina National Guards, in command of the Charleston military situation Friday, orders have been issued aimed to relieve as many of the men in the seven local volunteer organizations from duty as possible, the arrangement being for one full company to remain under arms at its armory twenty-four hours, while the other companies retain only a guard detail at their armories; the rest of the men being at liberty to return to their homes and work, after a week of constant service. These orders have been issued to be effective through this month, under the present arrangements. There has been no disorder in Charleston since the outbreak of last Friday a week.

E. R. McDonald and H. J. Brown, arrested by the police on charges of murder and conspiracy to kill just after the pistol shooting of last Friday, in the city Democratic executive committee rooms, when Sidney J. Cohen, a newspaper reporter, was killed, and four others wounded, were released from jail Friday by order of Judge Smith, of the State court, on the grounds that there were no formal warrants lodged against the defendants and the inquest jury's verdict found the death of Mr. Cohen due to a pistol shot fired by party or parties unknown.

The court stated that the order for release did not prejudice the right of any one to take out warrants against the two men.

NO ARMS TO MEXICO

Carranza Alone is Allowed Munitions From This Country.

President Wilson Wednesday declared an embargo on the shipment of arms and ammunition to Mexico. President Wilson signed a supplementary order, however, which excepts Gen. Carranza's government from the embargo and permits munitions to go through to him unhampered. The prohibition applies to the factions opposed to the government which the United States has recognized.

The president's proclamation is based upon the authority conferred by congress in 1912 and follows closely the terms of President Taft's proclamation issued when the revolution was on against Madero.

ATTACK IN FORCE

Germans Have Advanced Four Miles Towards Morava Valley.

Paris, Friday: The Germans are attacking in great force near Passarowitz, which commands the Morava valley, according to a Nish dispatch to The Matin. The Serbs are resisting stoutly and it is asserted that the invaders have not advanced more than four miles south of the river at any point on the Danube front. The Bulgarians have been held in the Timok valley where a new action is in progress along the entire front.

Parliament Confirms Loan.

A bill to confirm the action of the government in raising a five hundred million dollar loan in the United States in conjunction with France, passed through all stages of the

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ENGLAND OFFERS CYPRUS TO GREECE FOR HER AID

All Belligerents are Striving to Win Big Victory to Influence Neutral States.

With the rapid sweep eastward of the Bulgarians, the people of the allied countries are watching with keenest interest negotiations between their governments and Greece. These negotiations are being carried on by the British foreign office in behalf of the Allies. Having failed to convince Greece that it was her duty to abide by the Serb-Greek treaty and help Serbia, the Allies have made a fresh offer to that country, including cession of the island of Cyprus. This offer and an outline of possible financial help are now being considered by the cabinet.

Should the negotiations fail, it is expected that Greece will be asked to demobilize or clearly define her attitude. Conversations also are proceeding with Roumania through the French-foreign office. All the belligerents think that the best way to influence the neutral states is to win a big victory. Austria, Germany and Bulgaria are trying for this in Serbia, Germany in Courland and France, Italy in the Tyrol and Trentino and Russia in Galicia and near Slonim, which, roughly, is the centre of the Eastern front.

France at War With Bulgaria. The council of ministers at Paris presided over by President Poincaré, announced at noon Saturday that a state of war existed between France and Bulgaria from six a. m. October 16.

Most anybody can tell you how rich they expect to be.

BLYTHE SEES GOVERNOR

Mr. Manning Issues Statement on the Conference.

Gov. Manning, after a conference with Col. Edgeworth M. Blythe, of the First Infantry, who is in command of the militia in Charleston, said that he would not make any change in the status of the militia in Charleston until the conclusion of the coroner's inquest. "No troops outside of Charleston will be sent there unless conditions change and make it necessary," said the governor.

Col. Blythe reached Columbia early Tuesday morning and spent all day in conference with the governor, returning to Charleston on the Carolina Special. The colonel of the First regiment is receiving many compliments from citizens throughout the state on his tactful handling of the situation.

Col. Blythe was engaged in a case in Greenville when he received the governor's call to go to Charleston and he promptly dropped his private business and responded to the call. His admirable handling of the situation is very gratifying to Gov. Manning and to the people of the state.

Gov. Manning gave out the following statement after his talk with Col. Blythe:

"I have had a full personal conference with Col. Blythe on the situation in Charleston. The present status of the militia will continue unchanged until after the conclusion of the coroner's inquest. No troops outside of the City of Charleston will be sent there unless conditions change and make it necessary. The Charleston militia have responded promptly to my call.

"I desire to express my warm appreciation of the manner in which Col. Blythe has handled the situation, and also to acknowledge gratefully the manner in which the militia have conducted themselves, showing

their efficiency, their loyalty and their ability to maintain order. I confidently expect them to continue to do so."

RUSSIANS CLAIM SUCCESS; GERMANS STRONG IN WEST

London Says Teutons Have Been Heavily Reinforced—British and French Repulse Attacks.

London reports Wednesday: Along the eastern front activity is confined to the two tips of the long battle line. The Germans are pressing their offensive in the northern area, near Riga, while General Ivanoff claims several successes for his Russian army in Galicia.

Reports from the allies on the western front indicate that the Germans have been reinforced heavily and are showing a disposition to assume the offensive. Field Marshal French announced the complete repulse north of Loos of Germans who made an attack after heavy artillery preparation. Paris reports that east of Rheims the Germans made a fierce attack on a large scale, occupying several French trenches.

Women Lose in N. J.

Indications based on unofficial returns are that woman suffrage is defeated in New Jersey by from fifty thousand to sixty thousand. A majority of 23,671 was recorded on official returns from 804 of the state's 1,831 districts, the vote being 56,766 for and 80,347 against the amendment.

Guarantees Religious Freedom.

By a vote of 69 to 12, the chamber of deputies of Peru Wednesday sanctioned a change in the constitution which will guarantee religious freedom.