

MR. ZIMMERMAN CONFESSES.

HE TELLS HOW HE TOOK BONDS FROM TREASURER'S OFFICE.

Daniel Zimmerman Took the Stand in the Gibson Case, and Told in Detail of His Wrong-Doings in the Abstraction of State Bonds From the State Treasurer's Office and How Gibson Was Implicated.

Columbia, Feb. 26.—Daniel Zimmerman took the stand today in the trial of T. J. Gibson, and confessed fully and freely how he had abstracted from the State Treasurer's office the bonds of the State. It was a pitiful scene. The witness said he was over 66 years old and the defendant is over 76. Standing each of them on the brink of eternity. Zimmerman stood upon the witness stand and confessed his sins, accusing the still older man of being his tempter.

Mr. Zimmerman, on questions from the prosecuting attorney, recounted the transactions and seemed to be holding nothing back.

When Zimmerman was offered as a witness, the counsel for Gibson, Mr. Andrew Crawford, objected on the ground that he had within less than 24 hours pleaded guilty to the charge of forgery and conspiracy. Judge Crawford was asked by Judge Prince to produce his authorities and he did so, reading from Greenleaf, on evidence, and from a decision of the late Chief Justice McVey, to show that such a plea would bar a witness as incompetent. The Judge overruled the objection, saying that the rule is that a witness who has been convicted or pleaded guilty is competent until sentence has been passed upon him, and sentence has not been yet passed on Zimmerman. The plea of guilty might affect the witnesses' credibility, but not his competency to testify.

Mr. Zimmerman in response to Mr. Thurmond's questions told of his entering the Treasurer's office during the administration of Dr. Bates, continuing therein during the administration of Dr. Timmerman and for one year under Capt. Jennings. He went over the books to show how the bonds were recorded when sent back for cancellation or for exchange for State stock certificates. He was referred to the bond book and pointed out where bonds Nos. 744 and 745 had been received in 1900 and recorded in the book. Then, in 1901, May, bonds Nos. 959 and 1,445 were sent in, but the books showed again that Nos. 744 and 745 were received. Frankly the witness owned up to this forged entry in his own handwriting. He said there were other entries of the same sort, how many he did not remember.

Mr. Zimmerman, in the course of his testimony, said that in order that the abstraction of the bonds should not be detected he advised Gibson to purchase coupons, which Gibson turned over to him, and which he kept for some time, then turned them over to Gibson, who cashed them through the banks. In this way the coupons were held out, and the failure to balance the interest account was not detected in the Treasurer's office. It did not matter to what bonds the coupons belonged, as there is no way to ascertain this fact when they are presented for payment.

He was asked how he came to commit this wrong, and replied that for two years Mr. Gibson urged him to get some bonds for him; that he kept putting him off, but finally the temptation was too great, and he yielded. He got out a bond and turned it over to Mr. Gibson. Then he got others. Mr. Gibson got the premium on the bonds, which was about \$40 on the \$500 each, and \$80 on each \$1,000 bond. Then later Gibson began to demand money from him and he gave him small amounts from time to time, say from \$5 to \$25 a week.

On cross-examination Mr. Zimmerman was subjected to a very severe ordeal. Mr. Crawford plied him with question after question, worded in sarcastic style and intended to show that although Zimmerman claimed Gibson to be the author of his wrongdoing, yet he gave Gibson merely a pittance, a small share of the proceeds of his conspiracy.

Mr. Crawford's examination of the witness was one of the best things of the kind that has been heard in the Richland court room for a long time. He endeavored to show that Gibson as a bond broker had no means of knowing that the bonds he received from Zimmerman were stolen; that he merely sold them and received the premium as a commission while Zimmerman retained the principal; that he conducted his negotiations with Zimmerman in the office of Gibson and in public places and there was no secrecy about it. Witness said he knew Gibson had been for years a bond broker and he never told him that the bonds were stolen. Gibson, said Zimmerman, had disposed of all the bonds which he purloined except one, and that one he sent to his nephew in Washington, who sold it and sent him the proceeds less the premium, which was the nephew's commission. His nephew did not, he said, know that the bond was stolen and thought it an honest transaction. Gibson sold the other purloined bonds

and Mr. Crawford wanted to know why Gibson should not have thought all the transactions honest also.

Mr. Crawford asked Zimmerman if he had been advised to plead guilty yesterday and he said that he had and that the suggestion met with his hearty approval. He was asked if the hope had been held out to him that the plea would lessen his punishment, and he said he had been told it would be better for him to do so. His attorneys and his son had so advised him, but no assurance of this sort had been given him by the prosecution. He did not know he would be put up as a witness against Gibson until after his plea of guilty.

Judge Prince objected to the nature of Mr. Crawford's question and interrupted to say that if any one had promised the witness anything in regard to the sentence the court would impose they had reckoned with it their host; that no one could speak for the court.

Mr. Crawford disclaimed any intention to reflect upon His Honor, and declared he had not desired to leave any such impression.

Mr. Thurmond, for the prosecution, assured the Court there had been no agreement as to Zimmerman's plea of guilty the day before.

After the conclusion of Mr. Zimmerman's testimony several other witnesses were examined.—News and Courier.

THOMAS GIBSON CONVICTED.

The Jury Returns a Verdict in the State Bonds Suit.

Columbia, Feb. 27.—The jury in the case of Thomas J. Gibson, charged with knowingly receiving stolen bonds taken from the State Treasurer's office by Daniel Zimmerman, which has been on trial here this week, after being out a short time returned a verdict of guilty, with recommendation to mercy.

The case is one of the saddest in the recent criminal history of the State. Half a dozen of the best men in the community swore to his good reputation, yet a jury of 12 good men, feeling it their duty, promptly convicted him, and no doubt on account of his extreme ill health and age recommended him to the mercy of the court.

Tom Gibson is now beyond the age of 74. He is bent with age and palsied. His mind is clear and active. Perhaps it was too active today and his frivolity on the stand may have operated against him.

Solicitor Davis and Mr. Thurmond, who handled the case for the State, did so with judgment and force. In the first place they narrowed the charge down to two specific bonds of which they had the complete history, and with these two bonds handled in one sale they avoided any confusion.

The evidence against Mr. Gibson was in the main that of Daniel Zimmerman, who alleged that Gibson suggested the plan to him, but today two little things developed in his testimony that operated against him. One was that he went out and bought for Zimmerman coupons. These coupons were presumably to be used by Zimmerman to cover up the amount of coupons that would have to come in at the appointed interest period, and the second incident that hurt his case was that a Charleston client discovered a mistake of \$120 and sent the money to Mr. Gibson to be refunded to the State, and instead of refunding the \$120 he used it and stated that he did so because he was in need of money, and intended to repay it, and has done so in part to Capt. Jennings.

The statute is not clear as to the punishment except that it makes it a misdemeanor and leaves the sentence to the discretion of the judge. Mr. Crawford, who had made a superb fight for his client, gave notice of an appeal and will no doubt take the case to the supreme court. The people of the community are universally sorry for Mr. Gibson's two daughters, who have watched the trial with the keenest interest and sorrow. The verdict of the jury was perhaps a surprise to many and particularly the promptness with which the jury rendered its judgment.—News and Courier.

FIRE IN WINNSBORO.

Doty's Store and Lodge Rooms Totally Destroyed.

Winnsboro, Feb. 27.—The large dry goods and grocery store rooms of M. W. Doty were totally destroyed by fire at 4 o'clock this morning, together with all their contents. In the second story were the rooms of the Commercial club, the lodge and reading rooms of the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen of the World. Also the dental office of Dr. J. D. McMeekin. The contents of all these offices were entirely destroyed. Mr. Doty had \$12,000 insurance on his stock and brick building. Dr. McMeekin had no insurance. The Commercial club and Knights of Pythias were partially insured. The Woodmen of the World had no insurance. The News and Herald office adjoining was slightly damaged, but the loss is fully covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is not known.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS NOTES.

Items of Interest Condensed and Paraphrased for Quick Reading.

The great power plant of the Southern Power Co., on the Catawba river, will be put into operation in about two weeks.

Robert Boyce, colored, was burned to death while drunk in his house at Gaston Shoals, Cherokee county, Saturday night.

Judge of Probate John B. Phelps, of Kershaw county, died suddenly in Charleston Monday.

Mr. A. Gordon Jones, superintendent of the Charleston division of the Southern Railway, has been appointed purchasing agent of the system.

Mr. Robert Keeler, of Orangeburg, was fatally shot at Elloree Tuesday afternoon by the accidental discharge of his gun while out hunting. He struck his dog with the butt of the gun, discharging it, and the entire load passed through his abdomen.

The dispensary at Monck's Corner was robbed Monday night.

C. J. Shannon has been appointed postmaster at Camden and J. W. Dunovant at Chester.

The residence of Mr. Daniel Dewis, of Horry county, was burned by an incendiary Saturday.

John Gladden, a negro train hand, fell from the Seaboard trestle at Blossom Street, Columbia, Monday afternoon and was killed.

Mayor Rhett, of Charleston, is arranging to meet the railroad officials in a conference to attempt to settle the freight rate controversy.

The dispensary at Blackville was robbed Saturday or Sunday night.

J. F. Burty, a baker employed by Curleton & Bro., of Greenville, had one arm crushed in a bread mixing machine Monday.

The latest information of the burning of the steamer Marion between Charleston and Beaufort shows that 20 people lost their lives.

Mrs. Bessie Thomas, aged about 30 years, committed suicide at Walnut Grove, Spartanburg county, Thursday night, by jumping into a well. She has been in failing health for some time and this is thought to be the reason for her act. She was the wife of Perry G. Thomas, a prominent farmer of the county.

After March 4th there will be two graduates of West Point in the Senate—Mr. Dupont, of Delaware, and Mr. Briggs, of New Jersey.

The dispensary commissioners have offered to sell liquor to the Charleston dispensaries at 20 per cent. less than invoice price.

Mr. J. H. M. Beattie, of Greenville, will hereafter have charge of the Olympia and Granby mills, Columbia. Mr. J. Sumner Moore, heretofore in charge of all four of the Parker mills, will have charge of the Richland and capital city mills.

Frank M. Schumpert has been nominated in the second primary for probate judge of Newberry County.

R. H. Edmonds, editor of the Manufacturers' Record, is to speak at the annual dinner of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce.

Senator Tillman is at his home in Trenton. He has declined for the present to discuss the abolition of the State dispensary.

The supreme court has decided that Sunday cannot be counted as a day in charging up time for the non-delivery of freight.

One of the laws of the recent session of the general assembly was one placing a license fee of \$2,000 on emigrant agents. This is expected to be prohibitive.

Darlington is planning for a county fair the coming fall.

Orangeburg is soon to have free mail delivery.

E. W. Robertson has given the city of Columbia \$1,500 towards a park.

Anderson expects to join the proposed baseball league being promoted by John McMakin.

The Charleston dispensaries will probably open for business Monday morning.

C. C. Morrow, of Spartanburg County, was seriously wounded last Wednesday by the accidental discharge of a muzzle loading gun, which he was loading.

W. A. Courtenay, Edward Ehrlich and A. E. Gonzales have been appointed members of the commission to improve the capitol grounds at Columbia. The legislature appropriated \$15,000 for that purpose.

Gov. Heyward, Mr. Gadsden and Commissioner Watson will sail March 12 for Germany to take up with the officials of the North German Lloyd Steamship Co. the matter of establishing a permanent line to Charleston.

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THE PEACEMAKER KILLED.

Mr. Duke Owens Shot to Death by Asbury Wooten in Anderson County.

Anderson, Feb. 26.—Anderson county was the scene of a horrible killing yesterday, when Asbury Wooten, a white man of 49 years, shot Mr. Duke Owens, a white man of 72 years, through the heart, killing him instantly.

The shooting occurred on the A. W. Galaspie place three miles this side of Central, near the county line.

The facts of the killing are meagre, but it is said that some boys playfully rocked Wooten's home Sunday night. He, being half-witted, became angry. Mr. Owens, a neighbor, and some other person whose name could not be learned today, went to Wooten's home to tell him the boys meant no harm, but Wooten did not accept the explanation and ordered Mr. Owens and his companion off the place.

Mr. Owens remained to remonstrate with Wooten and it was then that Wooten fired the fatal shot.

Squire Hunter held an inquest yesterday afternoon and Wooten was brought to the jail here this morning.

Mr. Owens was a prominent man in this county, and the tragedy is greatly deplored.

NEWSPAPER MAN WEDS.

Mr. W. H. McCaw, of Columbia, and Miss Genevieve Anderson, of Rock Hill, Married at Hickory, N. C.

Rock Hill, Feb. 25.—News was received here today of the marriage in Hickory, N. C., of Miss Genevieve Anderson, daughter of Mr. John G. Anderson, of this city, to Mr. William H. McCaw, of Columbia. The marriage took place at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. George Killian, where she was visiting. This event was not altogether unexpected, as Mr. McCaw has been haunting Rock hill at frequent intervals for some time past. They will arrive in Rock Hill tonight and spend a few days with the bride's parents, before going to their home in Columbia.

GREENVILLE BLIND TIGERS.

Citizens Petition Gov. Ansel to Reappoint Constables Recently Relieved of Duty.

Greenville, Feb. 26.—Believing the proper enforcement of the State's anti-liquor law is impossible in Greenville county without the aid of specially appointed constables, more than 200 prominent citizens have signed a petition asking Gov. Ansel to reappoint certain constables recently relieved from duty here under the Carey-Cothran act. In view of the fact that the governor has already appointed several special constables, it is regarded as certain that he will detail two or three officers for work in Greenville county. On account of proximity of the mountains and the moonshiners, Greenville has always been the home of the illicit distillery and dealer and during the past year the federal revenue officers and State constables have captured an average of two illicit whiskey-making plants a week. The sheriff of the county has acknowledged his inability to keep down the traffic unaided and it is peculiarly necessary that at least two or three constables be assigned to this territory if the liquor law is to be enforced.

Oliver Flowers, the 17-year-old son of T. O. Flowers, of Rock Hill, has been missing since Sunday.

Orangeburg County is the eighth largest cotton producing county in the South.

Charles Howard and Thomas Nolan, the alleged yeggmen, accused of robbing the Bank of Mullins in 1902, were tried and acquitted at Marion on Thursday.

FEEL EVERY CHANGE OF THE WEATHER.

A Bad Back is Always Worse During Wet or Changeable Weather.

Is your back like a barometer? Does it foretell every change of weather? Does every cold settle on your kidneys? Bring aching, throbbing pains? Does it disorder the urine? The kidneys are calling for help. Use Doan's Kidney Pills. Guaranteed by Sumner Testimony. B. A. Betts, well-known farmer, living two miles northwest of Sumner, says: "I believe Doan's Kidney Pills which I procured at Dr. A. J. China's drug store are a good kidney remedy. For a number of years I had a hard time with my back and the pain felt just like rheumatism and would just lay me up. I could not sit for any length of time in one position or attempt to turn over in bed without the sharp pain striking me and making me yell right out and I had to take hold of something to support me when I got out of bed. The kidney secretions were irregular, unnatural and at night too frequent in action. I used lots of remedies and took doctor's medicine but was just the same after I used them as before. I was told about Doan's Kidney Pills curing other people so I went and got them. They helped me immediately and since then the pain has left me, my back is strong and the kidney secretions do not bother me. My health is greatly improved in every way and I give Doan's Kidney Pills the credit."

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