

CONFESSOR

Made Today by Mrs. Thomann and H. C. Medlock.

Conspirators in Gillett Case on Mercy of Court.

LETA FOSTER TOLD TRUTH

Girl Confessed at First Trial of the Case.

Last Chapter of Conspiracy to Blackmail Judge Gillett.

SENTENCE IS DEFERRED

Confession Implicates Wilcox and Erierson.

Bold and Elaborate Scheme to Save Wilcox.

Fearful of leaving their fate to a jury Mrs. Charlotte Thomann and H. C. Medlock, charged with libel against Judge P. B. Gillett of Anthony, Kan., pleaded guilty at noon today in Judge Dana's division of the district court. Sentence was reserved upon request of the attorneys for the defendants and will likely be passed sometime near the close of the year, the exact date not yet being known.

In the confession a statement of fact is made which clears the name of Judge Gillett of the slightest shadow. Attorneys say that the facts which became known only in this confession would have convicted Wilcox at the trial held here last summer.

The court room into which the wife of the Kansas banker and her comrades in crime were taken was little like the one they sat in last summer. There was little heat turned on and the room was cold and nearly empty. It presented a desolate appearance, strongly contrasting with the packed room which greeted the man and woman when they attended the hearing against their co-conspirators in June.

There was but one bit of hesitation. It was on part of Mrs. Thomann. Judge Dana called the case and asked for plea of guilty, which was entered by A. T. Crane, attorney for the defendants. The court inquired if the defendants realized that they were pleading guilty to a serious offense. Medlock said that he did. Mrs. Thomann did not answer and the court repeated the question, calling her name.

"I don't know about the crime," she said. "But I told the truth."

It seemed at this time that the woman might yet withdraw her plea of guilty.

"Do you wish to plead guilty?" asked Judge Dana.

"I do," she answered. "I just told the truth."

The case was called at 25 minutes until 12 o'clock and three minutes later the attorneys went on their way to the office of Charles Bower, clerk of an court.

In the recorded order of the court is a complete statement of fact entirely exonerating Judge Gillett from the charges which caused one of the most bitterly contested legal battles in the history of Shawnee county. It is a statement which is signed by the defendants and their attorneys. It connects Wilcox with the scheme to defame the character of the Anthony judge. This statement, made in the court, becomes a part of the court record.

The principal statement is made by H. C. Medlock. He tells of his connection with the case, his employment by Erierson, his dealings with the Thomann woman and the Foster girl, of Wilcox's promises to him if he would "stand pat" during the trial and of the knowledge he gained that the affidavits were untrue.

Medlock's Statement.

Below is the Medlock statement in full:

"During the month of December, 1911 and January, 1912, I was working for H. C. Erierson, of Topeka, as a detective. I was informed by him that he was being employed by a lawyer to get something on Judge P. B. Gillett, of Kingman, saying that there was a disbarment case against this lawyer in that case. He said Judge Gillett was a lady's man and might have a lady with him, but that it would be necessary for me to have a girl ready in Topeka about January 29. I arranged and had Leta Foster come to Topeka just before the 29th of January.

"On the night of January 29, Erierson pointed Judge Gillett out to me and this was the first time I had ever seen him. There was then at the Kansas Day club banquet. On that same evening I introduced Erierson to Leta Foster who was at the Fifth Avenue hotel. Erierson had never told me the name of the lawyer that we were working for. He said it was best that I not know the name of the man he had hired and assured us all that he only wanted something to bluff the judge with.

"On the morning of January 30, I went to the National hotel and saw Leta Foster and Erierson in the lobby and went upstairs with them. Judge Gillett at that time was in the lobby of the hotel. This is the only time I ever was upstairs in the National hotel and I never saw Judge Gillett upstairs in that hotel. Erierson and the Foster girl at the hotel and I went to the Rock Island depot. I spent the day of January 30 in Holm, Okla. My return I saw Leta Foster several times.

"I will not undertake to relate the different conversations as told to me in the room and had had a time with him.

Erierson, however, directed her what to say to me, right in my presence, and there was no attempt made to make me believe that she was the charge. Erierson then asked both myself and Mrs. Thomann to sign certain statements and affidavits. I did not want to sign them, neither did Mrs. Thomann, but he assured me it was all right and that they would never be used except by this lawyer to bluff the judge and under no circumstances would they be used for any other purpose.

"I never met E. C. Wilcox until the day I was arrested in this case. That day Erierson introduced him to me saying: 'This is the man we have been working for.' Wilcox said: 'I am glad to meet you.' He said: 'I will stand behind you and pay your attorney fees and all expenses and wages right straight through the fight.'

"He never asked me if my affidavit was true but said he wanted me to state that it was. After that, and about the time of their trial, I told Erierson that Wilcox looked to me like a quitter, and that I knew that he, Erierson, was not able to pay wages right along. Erierson said that he had Wilcox behind him with plenty of money, and for me not to worry.

"Then after that Wilcox and Erierson came to my room one night at the street Wilcox said to me: 'Do you look like a quitter?' and I said: 'You do not—but I know human nature so well that when a man is through with a man he generally lets him down.'

"He said: 'You stand hitched and I'll stand by you. I cannot give you any money, but you will find a piece of money to put in your pockets, all expenses and wages! And besides that, I will make me a home for the rest of my life.'

"It was mentioned and understood by us all at each time the statements and affidavits concerning Judge Gillett and Leta Foster were read or prepared that they were false and were to be used only as a bluff.

"I heard Leta Foster give her testimony in the case against Black and Erierson, and as far as I know both of her testimony given at the trial about the Gillett matter was true.

"Mrs. Thomann's statement which together with the one made by Medlock, becomes part of the court record, follows:

"I, Charlotte Thomann, hereby state that I have read the foregoing statement of H. C. Medlock and I know all his statements are true. I, of course, was not present at any of his conversations with Wilcox, but he has practically all of the conversations mentioned and heard the testimony of Leta Foster in the Wilcox, Erierson and Black case and to the best of my knowledge her testimony referring to the affidavits was true.

"MRS. THOMANN.

Conjunction Regarding Sentence.

The punishment which will be imposed upon the woman and Medlock is still a matter of opinion. The court has thrown themselves upon the mercy of the judge in the case of the woman. It is also possible that the woman will be charged against Black and he is good for them. They amount to \$200. This is in addition to the \$100,000 which was charged against Black and he is good for them. The costs in such cases are charged to the defendants. And the fines that have been and may be imposed.

History of the Case.

It was early in May, last year, when E. C. Wilcox, county attorney of Harper, Kan., and Leta Foster, a woman living in Topeka, an old friend of Wilcox's, and Mrs. Thomann, of Kingman, Kan., were arrested on state warrants charging criminal libel against Judge Gillett, of Kingman. These arrests caused a state of excitement and a great deal of public interest.

The arrest of the five defendants federal grand jury in Fort Scott. When these five were arrested they were notified by Black. The two men came to Topeka together and turned the sensational affidavits to Count Simon, attorney for Erierson, urging that a criminal prosecution be instituted against the defendants in the Shawnee county district court. Simon maintained possession of the affidavits of the Foster girl, of Erierson and Medlock.

Leta Foster, county attorney of Harper, Kan., and Leta Foster, a woman living in Topeka, an old friend of Wilcox's, and Mrs. Thomann, of Kingman, Kan., were arrested on state warrants charging criminal libel against Judge Gillett, of Kingman. These arrests caused a state of excitement and a great deal of public interest.

Fair and Warmer Promised.

There has been a considerable improvement in the weather today. The temperature has risen to 55 degrees, and the wind is blowing at the rate of twelve miles an hour from the northwest.

"I will not undertake to relate the different conversations as told to me in the room and had had a time with him.

DO NOT DO IT

Gov. Wilson Issues a Warning to the Financial Interests.

Will Make It Unpleasant for One That Starts a Panic.

HE HAS NO FEAR OF TROUBLE

He Finds an Increased Temptation to Profanity.

There Has Been Too Much Hangers in Politics.

State Employees and Salaries.

New York, Dec. 18.—President-elect Wilson held up a warning finger to any man who might deliberately start a panic in the United States in order to use the machinery for that purpose. In a speech at the banquet of the Southern society of New York he said that he had heard sinister predictions of what would follow if the Democratic party put into effect changes in economic policy.

The president-elect first distinguished the machinery for that purpose as "unnatural" panics. He said that in many cases panics had come naturally because of a mental disturbance of people with reference to loans and money generally.

"But the machinery is in existence," he said, "by which the thing can be deliberately done. Frankly, I don't think there is any man living who dares use the machinery for that purpose. If he does, I promise him not to myself but for my fellow countrymen, a gibbet as high as Haman's."

The governor added that he meant no "threat" gibbet, for that is not palatable, but he said it would be a gibbet of public disgrace which would live "as long as the members of that man's family survive."

Mr. Wilson then referred briefly to the "American" and said that some people had an idea that all the thinking of the country was done in New York city. He said the Southern society represented an importation of thought from the south into the great metropolis.

"I am happy to feel that there no longer is a serious consciousness of sectional differences in the United States. It is a national movement. We are thinking of America from this time on, because no hard-headed man can prove that there are such things as sectional interests."

Mr. Wilson here told his hearers of his strenuous day in New Jersey. "We thought we straightened things out in New Jersey," he said, "but the 'American' stay straight. There are some people in New Jersey who are happy that they can count the days when they can get rid of me. But they are not going to get rid of me. A man can't get rid of me. I know what goes on in New Jersey and a man can say from Washington what he thinks about New Jersey and he can't say it in the most effective way—by mentioning names."

"This anonymous assertion of inquiry ought to be stopped. It's all very well for the public who own the journals of the country, but it also ought to be made public who owns this or that idea. If it cannot be produced by law it can be produced by common sense."

"The only way to keep out of trouble in the future is to see that your name is connected with the right thing. If anything is to be afraid of, it is to convey this intimation that men have got to stand up and be counted and put their names down."

The Task Ahead.

"The task ahead of me so far as making appointments to office is wholly outside of the task so far as it is leadership of the United States. It is all of everything that is bright and touched with confidence, because I know that all you have to do is to know the people of the United States on the right ground and put those who are wrong out of business. I am not a brave man because I don't know anything to be afraid of. Some people are making all sorts of sinister predictions as to the trouble we are going to get into at Washington. I don't think there should be public trouble and a great jury is always going to know what the evidence is in the case."

"I have been warned by some newspapers about keeping the open door because they have said so many people want to get into it. Perhaps I should have said that the door will be open only to those who come to transact business. I want to say that I may not be very popular by preferring business to stimulus, but I feel obliged to transact business, and will feel obliged to cut out everything that does not touch that business. But business has to be supported and comprehensively given to the people, so I will not feel it necessary to stay in Washington all the time, but to find out by conversation with the neighbors everywhere what they think, for it is a great deal more important to the country what you think than what I think."

Taste in Politics.

The governor discoursed somewhat vehemently on politics and on the "no such manners in politics" and that "good taste often stands in the way of public morals."

STATE'S PAY ROLL TRUST REVEALED

The 2,064 Employees Draw \$1,753,242 in Salaries.

Figures Compiled by State Auditor Davis.

WHAT WILL HODGES DO?

New Governor's Hand Rests on Many of These.

But Complete House Cleaning Not Expected.

State Employees and Salaries.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Elaborate charts were presented to the house money trust committee today giving lists of "interlocking directors" in a number of leading financial and industrial institutions; also a table showing affiliations of J. P. Morgan and company; Guaranty Trust company, Bankers' Trust company, First National bank and National City bank and other corporations through interlocking directorate.

This was in pursuance of that branch of the committee's inquiry bearing on the so-called "concentration of money and credits." The charts are very voluminous and contain a mass of details.

A prepared summary, after giving the names of eighteen selected institutions said to be affiliated says:

"The firm members and directors whose affiliations are thus shown number 150. In the aggregate they hold 355 directorships in 41 banks and trust companies having total resources of \$3,852,000,000 and total deposits of \$2,854,000,000; fifty directorships in eleven insurance companies having total assets of \$1,219,000,000; 155 directorships in 31 railroad systems having a total capitalization of \$1,193,000,000 and a total mileage of 163,200; six directorships in two express companies; four directorships in one steamship company with a combined capital of \$245,000,000 and gross income of \$97,000,000; 98 directorships in 28 producing and trading corporations having a total capitalization of \$3,283,000,000 and total gross annual earnings in excess of \$428,000,000; in all 746 directorships in 194 corporations having a total resource of capitalization of \$35,825,000,000."

The Morgan Interests.

An explanation of the chart relating to Morgan & Co., the First National Guaranty Trust company and the Bankers' Trust company says:

"1. The table shows that J. P. Morgan & Co., the First National Guaranty Trust company and the Bankers' Trust company together have 118 directors in 34 banks and trust companies having total resources of \$2,679,000,000 and total deposits of \$1,983,000,000.

"The 118 directors in ten insurance companies having total assets of \$2,283,000,000.

One hundred and five directors in 32 transportation systems having a total capitalization of \$1,193,000,000 and a total mileage (excluding express companies and steamship lines) of 160,300.

Sixty-three directors in 24 producing and trading corporations having a total capitalization of \$3,283,000,000.

"Twenty-five directors in 12 public utility corporations having a total capitalization of \$2,150,000,000.

"In all 341 directors in 112 corporations having aggregate resources or capitalization of \$2,245,000,000.

The Banking Combine.

"2. That J. P. Morgan & Co., the Guaranty Trust company, the Bankers' Trust company and the First National bank together have three firm members or directors in such banks and trust companies.

"Seventy-eight directors in such producing and trading corporations, and 14 directors in such public utility corporations. In all 291 directors.

"3. That J. P. Morgan & Co., the Guaranty Trust company and the Bankers' Trust company together have:

"Twenty-nine directors in such insurance companies.

"Sixty-four directors in such transportation systems.

"Forty-four directors in such producing and trading corporations, and 14 directors in such public utility corporations. In all 229 directors.

The explanation of the general table says:

"The table shows further that J. P. Morgan & Company and the Guaranty Trust company have three firm members or directors in common. Henry P. Davidson, William H. Porter and Thomas W. Lamont, and the two first named, together with George F. Baker, a director of the First National bank, are voting trustees of the stock of such trust company.

Directors in Common.

"That J. P. Morgan & Company and the Bankers' Trust company have three firm members or directors in common. Henry P. Davidson, Wm. H. Porter and Thomas W. Lamont, and the first named and Daniel G. Reid are two of the three voting trustees of the stock of such trust companies, George W. Perkins having also been one of such voting trustees until he retired from the firm of J. P. Morgan & Company.

That J. P. Morgan & Company and the First National bank have three firm members or directors in common, namely: J. P. Morgan, Henry P. Davidson and Thomas W. Lamont.

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"That the First National bank and the Bankers' Trust company have five directors in common, namely, Henry P. Davidson, A. B. Hepburn, F. L. Hines,

Minnesota-Wisconsin Game Brought In About \$30,000.

Minneapolis, Dec. 18.—Allen E. McBean, manager of athletics, today announced receipts from the University of Minnesota football games this season. Receipts from the Wisconsin game approximately were \$30,000, checking on this game not having been entirely completed. Of this amount Wisconsin received approximately \$13,000.

MONEY OCTOPUS IS LOCATED

The Money Octopus Is Located by House Committee.

Eighteen Financial Institutions Are Closely Affiliated.

INTERLOCKING DIRECTORSHIPS

One Hundred and Eighty Men Hold 746 Directorships

In Corporations With Resources Over 25 Billion Dollars.

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FIRST BIRTHDAY

Bull Moose Party Born in Kansas Dec. 17, 1912.

Feast to Celebrate the Event on Lincoln's Birthday.

WOMEN HAD A PART

Significant Feature of Meeting Their Pledged Support.

At Large Meeting Divorce Was Decided On.

Amid the shouts of 250 enthusiastic Bull Moosers, the Progressive party in Kansas was launched today afternoon at a meeting in representative hall. Men and women—both on an equal footing in Kansas politics since the November election—cheered the birth of the new party and testified concerning their fealty to the cause.

U. S. Sartin, of Wyandotte county, the new provisional chairman of the Progressive party, presided at the meeting following the preliminary organization. A formal organization of the new party will be completed February 12, when the Progressive leaders will have their first annual banquet in Topeka. In the adoption of a resolution by William Allen White, the provisional officer of the new party, it was arranged for an organization in every county and every township in the state. County chairmen, secretaries and precinct committeemen will be selected and at the time the meeting is held in February, it is believed that Kansas will have a solid state wide organization. Such county chairmen as do not withdraw from the regular Republican committee will be replaced by Progressive places at the heads of the county committees filed by true Progressives. White expects 46 chairmen of Republican county central committees to resign and be replaced by the new party.

More than 150 Progressive men and women from all sections of the state, to assist in the launching of the new party. They came from Wyandotte, Cherokee, Crawford, LeFlore, Cherokee and a score of other counties. Such opposition as existed concerning the baptism of the new party into Kansas political affairs, were quelled in the flood of oratory favoring the new cause. And so, for three hours, the Progressive leaders talked and laughed and yelled. The women were given a prominent place in the councils of the new party and Mrs. Helen Ecker, of Cherokee, and a score of other women, were given a prominent place in the councils of the new party. Mrs. Ecker was elected secretary of the new party. Mrs. Ecker was elected secretary of the new party.

White Started Enthusiasm.

William Allen White was at the helm for the Kansas Bull Moose. His plan was clearly defined and nothing slipped. From the minute that White began to preach his gospel of a Third party, he was met by a cheering throng. He declared that the Progressive and the Stand Patter could no longer feast at the same banquet table—on that point the Progressive and the Stand Patter were agreed.

Two women—Mrs. Eugene Pulliam of Atchison and Miss Helen Ecker of Lawrence—were among the ten members of the committee to select about 20 minutes in selecting nominees for officers of the provisional state committee. While the eight men and two women were engaged in the election, the Progressive orators were busily cultivating enthusiasm. Governor Stubbs stated that the Republican Regulators' caucus had been a failure. He said that the Progressive party was the only party that had a chance of winning the election. Governor Stubbs perhaps aroused more enthusiasm than any one speaker of the day. He prepared by each of his denunciations of the Regular Republicans and urged the need of the Progressive party in Kansas politics.

No Apologies From Stubbs.

"The Stand Patters have no use for the Progressive except to help them to elect their men to office," declared Stubbs in his discussion of the political situation. "But now, after the election, they are holding out the olive branch. That is pretty cheap bait and it will not appeal to the man sincerely and honestly trying to work out the problems of our great commonwealth. For four years I have been boss. I never went into office with a political promise to give a man a job tied to his neck and I never went into office as a commissioner to get votes. I am right well pleased with the campaign. I told the naked truth. And I didn't promise any man a job tied to his neck. And now, I will tell you honestly I would rather be a private citizen in the ranks of the Progressives in Kansas than a Stand Patter in the United States senate."

Stubbs' remarks were often interrupted by applause. Progressive enthusiasm was at its height when Tom Botkin, chairman of the speaker's platform and began to read the committee's selection for places at the head of the provisional committee of the new party.

Sartin, concerning whose truly Progressive spirit, White offered personal testimony, was called to the speaker's table to accept the nomination as the chairman of the new state committee. The Kansas City man reaffirmed his allegiance to the Progressive cause and declared that the Wyandotte Progressives were in the fight to win—not for office alone, but for a principle.

Then Miss Ecker, who had been nominated as secretary, was called to the speaker's table. She was elected secretary of the new party.

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(Continued on Page Two.)