

ASSASSIN CZOLGOSZ IS EXECUTED AT AUBURN

He Declared that He Felt No Regret for His Crime.

Autopsy Disclosed No. Mental Abnormalities—Body Buried in Acid in the Prison Cemetery.

AUBURN, N. Y., Oct. 29.—At 7:12:30 o'clock this morning, Leon Frans Czolgosz, murderer of President William McKinley, paid the extreme penalty exacted by the law for his crime. He was shocked to death by 1,700 volts of electricity. He went to the chair in exactly the same manner as have the majority of murderers in this State, showing no particular sign of fear, but, in fact, doing what few of them have done—talking to the witnesses while he was being strapped in the chair. He said that he was not sorry for having committed his crime.

Czolgosz retired last night at 10 o'clock, and slept so soundly that when Warden Mead went to the cell shortly before 5 o'clock this morning, the guard inside had to shake Czolgosz to awaken him. His sleep was almost unbroken throughout the night, and was restful and refreshing. He did not break his silence when he awoke, nor did he show any indication of failing courage.

Superintendent Collins and Warden Mead also arose at 4:45 o'clock, and their first inquiry was as to the prisoner. They breakfasted early, and at once set about to perfect the final details of the execution. The prison was exceedingly quiet during the earlier hours, and a few newspaper men who watched in front of the building were long without company. A couple of guards and city policemen watched the streets surrounding the prison, but there was nothing in the line of duty for them to do.

Lights began showing in the main building of the prison group at 5 o'clock, and within an hour the entire household was astir for the new day. The night had been clear, but cold, and the morning was bright, but chilly.

When Czolgosz was awakened he made no reply to the Warden's greeting of "Good morning." The prison official took from his pocket the death warrant and read it slowly and distinctly to the assassin, who hardly raised his eyes during the perfunctory ceremony. Just as the Warden stepped away from the cell door, Czolgosz called to him and said:

CZOLGOSZ WANTED TO TALK.

"I would like to talk with the Superintendent."

The Warden responded: "He will be down presently."

Then the condemned man rolled over on his cot apparently anxious to sleep again. At 5:15, however, the guard brought to him a pair of dark trousers with the left leg slit so as to allow the free application of the electrode, and a light gray outing shirt. He was told to get up and put these on, which he did.

Contrary to the usual custom, he was given a new pair of shoes. When dressed he lay down on the cot again, and in this attitude Superintendent Collins found him at 5:30 when he went down to visit him. The Superintendent stood in front of the steel bars, and when the guard had called Czolgosz's attention, he said:

"I want to make a statement before you kill me."

"What do you wish to say, Czolgosz?" asked the Superintendent.

"I want to make it when there are a lot of people present. I want them to hear me," said the prisoner.

"Well, you cannot," said the Superintendent.

"Then I won't talk at all," said the prisoner, sullenly.

After the Superintendent had left the guards brought Czolgosz's breakfast, consisting of coffee, toast, eggs, and bacon, and he ate with quite a good deal of relish. While he was partaking of this the witnesses were gathering in the office of Warden Mead, and at 7:06 o'clock the procession passed to the death chamber, going through the long south corridor.

THE WITNESSES READY.

The preliminaries were exactly like those of every other execution. The witnesses gathered in the office of the Warden, on the second floor of the prison, at 6:45. The jury that was present to return the formal finding in his case was composed as follows: Foreman, John P. Jaeckel, Auburn; Ashley W. Cole, Albany; H. H. Bender, Albany; Charles R. Skinner, Albany; George Weston, Norwich, N. Y.; D. L. Ingalls, Westfield; H. O. Ely, Binghamton; Charles R. Huntley, Buffalo; Dr. W. A. Howe, Phelps, N. Y.; Dr. G. R. Trowbridge, Buffalo, and John A. Slicher, New York.

The physicians were Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald of New York and Dr. Gerin of Auburn. Other witnesses were: H. Bonesteel, Troy; W. D. Wolff, Rochester; C. F. Rattigan, Auburn; George R. Peck, Auburn, N. Y.; W. N. Thayer, former Warden of Dannemora Prison, who assisted Warden Mead, and three newspaper correspondents.

The Rev. Cordello Herrick, Chaplain of the prison, was ready for any call that might be made for his services. He was not wanted by the prisoner, however, and sat quietly in the rear of the chamber throughout the execution.

At a few minutes before 7 the witnesses were told to quietly follow the Warden and State Superintendent of Prisons, and after walking through the long corridor, took their places beside the death chair in the execution room. The iron door leading to the condemned cells was closed, but behind it the Warden's assistants were preparing Czolgosz for death.

The chamber in which the murderer of President McKinley was executed was not the same in which the first execution took place. It is in a comparatively new building, strikingly elaborate in comparison with the very old prison structures about it. The building is of gray stone, and is situated about half way down the prison yard on the left hand, or south side. Entrance to it is possible either from the prison yard, or from the main south corridor, and the execution room proper may be entered without passing the condemned cells.

From the time of his entry into the death house, Czolgosz was confined in the cell nearest to the death chamber, so that when he entered the execution room this morning he had only to step a few feet through the stone arch, and as the great iron door swung behind him he was beside the electric chair. The execution room had seats for the witnesses, and was lighted with several windows placed high in the walls. In one corner of the room was the closet in which the keyboard was situated, and in which Electrician Davis stood when he switched the current on.

ELECTRICAL PREPARATIONS.

In the chamber Electrician Davis and Former Warden Thayer of Dannemora had arranged the chair test, placing a bank of twenty-two incandescent lights across the arms and connecting the electric wires at either end. The witnesses were ordered seated, and then Warden Mead briefly addressed them, saying:

"You are here to witness the legal death of Leon F. Czolgosz. I desire that you keep your seats and preserve absolute silence in the death chamber no matter what may transpire. There are plenty of guards and prison officials to preserve order and attend to the proper details."

The prison physician, Dr. Gerin, and Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald of New York took a position to the left of the chair. Warden Mead stood directly in front and Electrician Davis retired to the little room containing the electrical switchboard. Thayer gave the signal and the current was turned through the electric lights, flooding the chamber with brilliant light, and dramatically showing the power that was to be used to kill the prisoner. An assistant, in the meantime, put the two electrodes, which were lined with sponge, into pails of salt water, so as to get them wet enough to prevent the current from burning the victim's flesh.

Warden Mead gave the signal to have the prisoner brought in at 7:10 1/2 o'clock, and Chief Keeper Tupper swung open the big steel door leading to the condemned cells, and as the steel bars behind which Czolgosz had been kept were swung aside two guards marched the prisoner out into the corridor, two others following behind, and the chief keeper walking in front.

The guards on either side of Czolgosz had held his arms, either as if to support him, or to keep him from making a demonstration. As he stepped over the threshold he stumbled, but they held him up, and as they urged him forward toward the chair, he stumbled again on the little rubber-covered platform upon which the chair rests. His head was erect, and with his gray flannel shirt turned back at the

neck he looked quite boyish. He was intensely pale, and as he tried to throw his head back and erect his chin quivered very perceptibly. As he was being seated he looked about at the assembled witnesses with quite a steady stare and said:

CONDEMNED MAN'S STATEMENT.

"I killed the President because he was an enemy of the good people—of the working people."

His voice trembled slightly at first, but gained strength with each word, and he spoke perfect English.

"I am not sorry for my crime," he said loudly, just as the guard pushed his head back on the rubber headrest and drew the strap across his forehead and chin. As the pressure on the straps tightened and bound the jaw slightly he mumbled: "I'm awfully sorry I could not see my father."

It was just exactly 7:11 o'clock when he crossed the threshold, but a minute had elapsed and he just had finished the last statement when the strapping was completed, and the guards stepped back from the man. Warden Mead raised his hand, and at 7:12:30 Electrician Davis turned the switch that threw 1,700 volts of electricity into the living body.

The rush of the immense current threw the body so hard against the straps that they creaked perceptibly. The hands clinched suddenly, and the whole attitude was one of extreme tension. For forty-five seconds the full current was kept on, and then slowly the electrician threw the switch back, reducing the current volt by volt until it was cut off entirely.

Then, just as it had reached that point, he threw the lever back again for two or three seconds. The body, which had collapsed as the current was reduced, stiffened up again against the straps. When it was turned off again, Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald stepped to the chair and put his hand over the heart. He said he felt no pulsation, but suggested that the current be turned on for a few seconds again. Once more the body became rigid. At 7:15 the current was turned off for good.

From the time Czolgosz had left his cell until the full penalty was paid less than four minutes had elapsed. The physicians present used the stethoscope and other tests to determine if any life remained, and at 7:17 the Warden, raising his hand, announced: "Gentlemen, the prisoner is dead."

THE AUTOPSY PERFORMED.

The witnesses filed from the chamber, many of them visibly affected, and the body was taken from the chair and laid on the operating table for the autopsy.

Naturally, almost the entire attention of the physicians assigned to hold the autopsy was directed toward discovering, if possible, whether the assassin was in any way mentally irresponsible. The autopsy was conducted by Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald, an expert alienist and former President of the New York State Lunacy Commission; Dr. Edward C. Spitzka of New York, and Presin Physician Gerin.

The top of the head was sawed off through the thickest part of the skull, which was found to be of normal thickness, and it was the unanimous agreement of the microscopical examination that the brain was normal or slightly above normal. This demonstrated to the satisfaction of the physicians that in no way was Czolgosz's mental condition, except as it might have been perverted, responsible for the crime. At noon the autopsy surgeons issued the following brief statement:

"The autopsy was made by Dr. Edward C. Spitzka of New York, under the immediate supervision and direction of Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald of New York and Dr. John Gerin, prison physician. The autopsy occupied over three hours, and embraced a careful examination of all the bodily organs, including the brain. The examination revealed a perfectly healthy state of all the organs, including the brain.

"All of the physicians who attended the execution were present at the autopsy, and all concurred in the finding of the examiners."

"JOHN GERIN, M. D.

"CARLOS F. MACDONALD, M. D.

"E. A. SPITZKA."

A lengthy technical statement was issued later in the day. This report related entirely to the brain and was of a highly technical character. After scientifically describing to minutest detail the brain of the dead murderer, the report concluded as follows:

"No anomalies found. The brain in general is well developed, sufficiently marked with fissures, and the lobes are in normal proportion."

The surgeons have not yet drawn a report on what the autopsy disclosed as to the other organs.

CZOLGOSZ'S BODY BURIED.

Following the autopsy, the body was placed in a black stained pine coffin, every portion of the anatomy being replaced under the supervision of Dr. Gerin and Warden Mead. Shortly afterward it was taken to the prison cemetery, and an extraordinary precaution taken to completely destroy it. A few days ago, under the Warden's order, twelve pounds of meat was placed in a glass jar, and the same proportion of quick lime which would be used to consume a human body was placed in the jar.

It was found upon examination this morning that the meat had shown little sign of disintegration. Warden Mead at once conferred with some of the physicians present and determined, in conjunction with Superintendent Collins, that the purpose of the law was the destruction of the body, and that it was not necessary to confine themselves to the use of quicklime.

Accordingly, a carboy of acid was obtained and poured upon the body in the coffin after it had been lowered into the grave. Straw was used in the four corners of the grave as the earth was put in to give vent to such gases as might form.

It is the belief of the physicians that the body will be entirely disintegrated within twelve hours. During that time, and as long as deemed necessary, a guard will be kept over the unmarked grave.

The clothing and personal effects of the prisoner were burned under direction of Warden Mead shortly after the execution.

Waldek Czolgosz and Waldek Thomas Bandowski, brother and brother-in-law of the assassin, called at the prison at 2 o'clock this afternoon. They sent word in to Warden Mead that they wished to see the body of Leon F. Czolgosz. The Warden told them that the body had been buried for more than an hour, and that if they wished he would send a guard to guide them to the grave.

They answered that they did not care to go to the cemetery, but that they were anxious to arrange for the collection of the insurance on the life of the dead murderer and asked that a certificate of death be given to them. The Warden promised them a certificate and they departed. The insurance about which they talked is supposed to be in a fraternal society to which the murderer belonged.

When the body of Czolgosz had been removed from the room where he was killed to the autopsy table, Auburn prison returned to the routine of its ordinary life. The prisoners, who had been kept locked in their cells, were released at 7:45 o'clock, and prison work was resumed at once.

FELLOW-CONVICTS QUIET.

There was no excitement among the convicts and no unusual scenes about the prison. A crowd that numbered scarcely a hundred stood around the prison gate to watch the witnesses enter and wait until they reappeared. The witnesses dispersed quickly, some of them leaving for their homes as early as 9 o'clock.

Superintendent Collins made the following statement: "Just consider that within about six weeks from the death of his distinguished victim Czolgosz has been executed for his crime. He was regularly tried, convicted, sentenced, and executed, and despite the fact that the law compelled us to give him four weeks to prepare for death the time was wonderfully short for our system of punishing criminals. It has all been done in a dignified way, and the greatest credit is due to Warden Mead for the care he has taken to strip the case of sensationalism."

"The execution was one of the most successful ever conducted in the State. Extraordinary care had to be taken in the case because both the Warden and I received hundreds of threatening letters, many of them asserting in violent and intemperate language that the prisoner would never be put in the chair. I have decided for the present that we will not destroy any of the hundreds of letters written to Czolgosz, the Warden, and myself as to the case.

"Eventually they will be destroyed, but it has struck me that perhaps we should make a list of them, especially those letters signed with full and proper names, in which condolence was offered to the prisoner or threats against us were made. My plan is to get the addresses of these people and keep the list for police reference. I believe that there may come a time when such a list would be valuable in running down anarchists."

Electrician Davis made this statement as to the execution: "I used 1,700 volts of electricity, turning it into the body at full voltage for seven seconds, and then slowly reducing it for forty-five seconds. Then I threw the full voltage on again for eight seconds. Then, at the suggestion of Dr. MacDonald, I turned it on again for a few seconds. I did not think there was any necessity for the third contact, and the lack of resistance shown when it was administered proved that life was extinct."

"The body showed eight amperes of resistance. That is a little more than would be given by a larger or stouter man where the current could have more chance to per-

colate. It was as successful an execution as I have operated at in all my experience.