

PERSONS UNKNOWN HELD RESPONSIBLE

Coroner's Jury Does Not Connect Eli Shaw With the Camden Murders.

DEARTH OF NEW FACTS

At the Inquest the Prosecution Fails to Bring Out Any Evidence That Is Particularly New.

There was positively nothing in the testimony adduced at the inquest on the death of Mrs. Zane, in Camden, yesterday, to add any weight to the theory of the prosecution, backed up by circumstantial evidence, that Eli Shaw murdered his mother and grandmother.

The verdict was rendered in accordance with the evidence. In other words, the responsibility for the killing of the two women, as stated in the verdict in the case of Mrs. Zane, was not placed upon Eli Shaw, but upon "a person or persons unknown" to the jury.

If Prosecutor Jenkins has any strong evidence aside from the facts already brought out at his disposal he did not put it to the jury. There was a general belief that such was the case. If it is not, then, in the opinion of many a Camden wiseacre, Eli Shaw has more than a good chance of having his forehead remain clear of the brand of Cain.

That it is the intention of the prosecution to lay considerable stress upon the contradictory nature of young Shaw's statements subsequent to the double tragedy seemed apparent from the nature of the testimony at the inquest. That Prosecutor Jenkins, who conducted the inquest and examined the witnesses, made this phase of the investigation so prominent leads to the belief that he intends to emphasize it later on.

SHAW'S STATUS UNALTERED.

In the meantime Eli Shaw remains in jail on the original commitment, based upon the charge of the Chief Coroner, E. L. Scovel, however, proposes to apply for a writ of habeas corpus, to secure, if possible, his client's release. Scovel was quietly elated at the verdict of the Coroner's jury, although he did not have much to say. "We are not complaining," he remarked, with a smile of satisfaction, when questioned concerning the verdict. "The result of the inquest certainly does not weaken Eli Shaw's defense."

Shaw himself offered to make a statement for use in the Coroner's investigation, but his counsel did not consent. He was not at all nervous, according to Mr. Scovel, over the inquest, but bore himself with a calm air, which caused Mr. Scovel to express more sympathy than before. "I tell you, Shaw is an innocent man," said now the attorney will try to secure a ruling that there is not sufficient evidence to hold Shaw confident that his client will be released from prison, or at least admitted to bail.

COURT ROOM CROWDED.

An immense crowd surged about the doors of the Camden Court House at the time set for the opening of the inquest. Men and women fought to get in when the doors were finally opened, and the scene resembled an incipient riot. One witness was carried in fainting. Others screamed as they were dragged into the fest and almost thrown into the room by struggling men, and then laughed as they found seats and clothing. In a few moments the room was filled and hundreds were turned away.

NO STATEMENT FROM SHAW.

Before calling any witnesses, twenty-five minutes had been subpoenaed. Prosecutor Jenkins turned to his counsel, Lawyer Henry S. Scovel, and when questioned by a representative of the defendant, if he had any statement to make, he said he had none. "I do not desire to make any statement," the first witness called by the prosecution, the Coroner, ordered Mrs. Zane. He was sworn by the Coroner. After telling how he had seen Mrs. Zane while in Philadelphia, where he resides, he was asked concerning his conversation with her in the Zane house a few hours after the murder. He said: "I asked him (Shaw) how it occurred, but he had heard no noise in the house while up stairs. His mother had also heard it, and he said he had heard it."

The witness had last seen his mother and sister alive four weeks ago, at the County Physician W. S. Jones was the next witness. He described the wounds on the bodies of the murdered women.

In Mrs. Zane's case the bullet entered the head, penetrated the brain, and about three inches above the ear. The bullet went through the right temporal bone, and the compression of the brain. The bullet did not enter the brain, in the opinion of the Cooper Hospital morning of the tragedy. The bullet entered the right side, one inch above the ear. It was found back of the left eye, just back of the left ear.

"Was the course of the bullet level?" asked Prosecutor Jenkins. "Slightly downward," said the Doctor, indicating the course of the bullet.

A SIGNIFICANT QUESTION.

Foreman Husted inquired: "Doctor, did you see any other marks of violence on Mrs. Zane's body?" "No, sir," answered O'Brien, one of the jurors, wanted to know how long Mrs. Zane had been dead when the witness saw her. Doctor Jones replied that he could not tell accurately.

"Well, Doctor, in your opinion, how long had she been dead when you saw her?" "I am not a physician," he should say, was the reply.

Policeman Steiner, who responded to the question, was the last witness called. He described his entrance to

the Line street house. Eli was standing in the sitting room with his night shirt on. The witness told of finding the bodies and searching the house. "The place did not seem to have been broken into by burglars. "Did you examine Mrs. Zane's bed for blood?" "No, sir. The lieutenant did." "Did you see any blood in Mrs. Zane's room?" "Yes, on the window sill; it looked like a hand print." "Didn't you see any on Mrs. Zane's bed?" "No, sir. I didn't look." "Do you know what time it was when you got to the house?" "No, I didn't look. It wasn't yet daylight." "When you went up to the third story did you see matches?" asked the prosecutor. "I can't say. We all had matches. The gas in the third story must have been lit, because we could see. Perhaps Mr. Lane lit it." "Did you see any blood in the third story?" "No. All the time I was there I didn't have a chance to look. I was looking after the people who were shot."

NO SMOKE APPARENT.

Morgan Keeper O'Brien put the important question: "You say you got to the house immediately after Shaw cried for help. Did you notice any smoke in the house such as would come from the discharge of firearms?" "No, sir. There was nothing like that."

One of the jurors wanted to know if Steen heard means when he went up the stairs. The witness said he couldn't tell where they came from. He went into Mrs. Zane's room first. "It was light enough to see in there. The light came from the street electric lamps."

Juror Benkert wanted to know about Mrs. Zane's position in the chair when the policeman found her. The witness said she looked as if she had been shot while in the chair. The wound was next to the window.

"Then," said Juror Benkert, "some one must have put his arm behind her, and some clothing on her, to reach back and shoot her on that side?" "It looked to me as if Mrs. Zane had put her hand to the wound, and then rested her bloody hand on the window sill."

An important witness came next. This was Harry Delamater, of No. 201 Line street, a personal friend of Eli Shaw, who was held in \$1000 bail by Squire Stockhouse some time ago because he refused to make any statement to Prosecutor Jenkins at the time of the preliminary examination of witnesses. His statement follows: "I can remember, as follows, in the presence of several other people around in front of the door, just as she struck a light. The match had no sooner been ignited than a shot was fired. He came down stairs, and gave the alarm."

ed his mother not to disturb her, as she was asleep. He ran up stairs, got a pistol, and rushed down and tried to fire it to attract attention, but it would not go off. He also said that when he heard the shot fired he ran into his grandmother's room and said, "My God, some one is in the house and is shooting." He got a sort of sleepy groan, as some one awakening, for a reply.

As Mrs. Zane was dead or dying by the time Eli said he called her and received a reply, this statement was received with particular interest.

James E. Tatem, of 610 South Fifth street; Frank B. Haines, of 501 Washington street, and Albert Fogg, of 615 South Fifth street, who were also in Mrs. Zane's house on the evening after the tragedy when Eli Shaw told his story of the tragedy, were next called in rapid succession. Their testimony was for the most part a repetition of Delamater's statement.

Albert Fogg testified that Shaw said he rushed into his grandmother's room immediately after his mother was shot and cried:

"Get up, grandma; for God's sake, get up, there's some one in the house." "Did he say his grandmother made any response?" asked the Prosecutor. "No, sir."

Albert Hollingshead was called, but had nothing to testify to. Policeman John Painter, who found the revolver in the chimney, gave his testimony concerning the find. The revolver was brought in and, after wrestling with it for a few minutes, to the consternation of everyone else in the court room, Hall Officer Beard succeeded in unloading it. Painter identified the weapon. He also said:

"We made an examination of the chimneys. We found that there was a stove hole in Mrs. Zane's room, but it was not opened. We found one in Eli's room on the third floor, which was or had been recently opened. We also found a spot of blood on the door leading into Eli's room, which looked as though it had been a large drop."

Police Lieutenant Pettit was called to corroborate Painter's story. He examined the pistol thoroughly when it was found. It was as though it had been fresh oil about the hammer, some burnt powder could be seen at the muzzle, and it had an odor of burnt powder about it.

NO TRACE OF BURGLARS.

Lieutenant Pettit said he examined Mrs. Zane's bed. There was no blood on the pillows or bolsters. The only blood he saw was one little spot on the under sheet near the foot. In the third story he saw one spot of blood on the doorknob of Eli Shaw's room. The Lieutenant said he found a hammer in Mrs. Shaw's room in the third story. There were stains on it that might have been blood stains. An examination was made for traces of a burglar's work. The witness described the position of the windows and said that in his opinion no burglar had ever gone through those windows.

tried to get the weapon identified in Philadelphia pawnshops. It exploded while being examined in one of those establishments.

William Klein, a gunsmith, told that the bullets found in the bodies of the women were 12-calibre, the same as those used in the revolver found in the house. Guy Viskinski corroborated the story of the accidental discharge of the weapon in a pawnshop.

LANE TESTIFIES.

One of the most important witnesses was Charles Lane, who lives at 610 South Third street, and who was next called. He is the neighbor who first heard Eli Shaw's cries for help and responded. He was in bed when he heard cries of "Help! Help! Murder!"

The cries were repeated three or four times. He got up and dressed hurriedly. He ran around and found Eli Shaw in his night shirt on the front step. Shaw cried:

"Oh, Mr. Lane, mom and grandmom are shot!" "Just at this moment the witness' son came running up, and they went into the hallway."

"My son asked for a light," said the witness. "Shaw brought up two tapers. He said: 'Don't go upstairs yet; they may be up there.' Then Officer Stein came in. I said to Shaw: 'Haven't you got anything to defend yourself with?' and Shaw handed me a revolver. He cocked it and he said: 'There's nothing in it.' Then we struck some matches and went upstairs."

"Was Eli Shaw's night shirt outside his pantaloons when you first saw him on the steps?" asked the Prosecutor. "Yes; it hung down almost to his feet."

Continuing his story of the search, Mr. Lane said they went first to the second story front, and there found Mrs. Zane sitting in a chair near the window.

She was in her night clothes, her head and neck on her chest, her eyes were closed, and blood trickled down her face. She was gasping for breath. "That like this," said the witness, drawing in his checks like a person almost suffocated. "Mrs. Zane's dying agonies."

Mr. Lane said he called to Mrs. Zane. "I had known her for forty years," said the witness to the jury in explanation of his familiar manner of addressing the woman. Then he said they went into the next room and found Mrs. Shaw on the floor moaning and wailing in her own gore. He spoke to her, but she could not answer. He described the position in which Mrs. Shaw lay. Then, he said, the policeman went to the third door. The Prosecutor asked if they found any lights. The witness said no they did not see the gas in the third story front room. They found the gas in the dining room on the first floor when Mrs. Zane first entered the house.

NIGHT SHIRT EXHIBITED.

Coroner Lippincott took the stand next and showed the jury Shaw's night shirt, on which there were many spots of blood. Some were very small, others approached the size of a pea. "When he had finished making this gruesome exhibit, he returned to the stand and stated that he had heard of the conversation between Eli Shaw and Prosecutor Jenkins."

that he did not see any one when his mother was shot, did not see her fall, and did not see the flash of the ed his night shirt into his trousers before he went downstairs."

Officer Sinclair was called but stated that he knew nothing of the case on the morning it occurred.

Mrs. Knight, who lives next door to where the tragedy occurred, said that she had made an examination of the bureau drawers, and as far as she had any knowledge, nothing was taken removed. This was the last testimony, and it ten minutes of 1

o'clock the jury retired to deliberate. After a few moments they returned and the foreman read the verdict, finding that Mrs. Emma Zane came to her death from a pistol shot wound at the hands of a person or persons unknown to this jury."

Some one attempted to applaud, but no one seconded the attempt; and it was given up. Shaw was shortly after notified of the verdict and received the news with satisfaction.