

GOVERNOR REFUSES ANY CLEMENCY FOR SNOWDEN

Dramatic Incidents Fill Big Meeting At State House In Behalf Of The Condemned Man

MANY SPEAKERS HEARD

Governor Harrington told a crowd which filled his executive offices in the State House and overflowed into the corridors this morning that John Snowden must pay the penalty for the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Branning with his life on the gallows Friday, February 28.

The gathering was one of the most notable of its kind in the annals of Annapolis' history. Announcement by the governor would review the evidence and prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the foul murder was committed by the colored man served to draw a crowd of representative citizens not only from Annapolis but from distant parts of the county and beyond. Many of the best known businessmen and private citizens were included in the crowd.

Governor Harrington said at the meeting that he was surprised at the size of the crowd which attended the meeting. He said that it was the sixth meeting he had attended seeking to bring about a commutation of the death sentence hanging over Snowden in life imprisonment.

Jurors Ask Clemency.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the meeting was when R. E. Bosley, one of the jurors who voted for the death penalty, presented a petition signed by eleven of the twelve men composing the jury which sat in the trial of the case, asking that the condemned man be sentenced to life imprisonment.

When questioned by the governor as to his own change of mind he said that he believed it was possible for mistakes to occur in human affairs. Governor Harrington dismissed Bosley when he said that he believed that Snowden did commit the murder but ought to have his sentence commuted. After the meeting was thrown open to the governor said that he would hear anyone who had real facts to present or portions of the evidence in which they might be in doubt of.

Houses Governor's Ire.

This proceeded in orderly fashion until a young man with a wild light blue eye pounced in front of the governor with a book entitled "The New Nation" in his hand.

"Who are you?" queried the governor.

"My name is Campbell, sir, and I am an agent of justice," replied the man.

"What do you do," the governor con-

tinued.

"See that justice is done," he coun-

and taken to the depot where he was told to leave at once.

Attorney A. T. Brady, chief counsel for Snowden in the trial, was the first speaker. He presented a petition signed by scores of prominent Annapolitans both in business and private life. Brady declared that it was almost the unanimous desire of Annapolis that the sentence be commuted because it was believed generally that Snowden was innocent. "I wouldn't ask this to be done if I did not believe him to be innocent," he said.

Brady was followed by Juror Bosley who asked for a commutation of the sentence.

Attorney Munroe Presents Petition

Attorney James M. Munroe then presented a petition setting up several causes why a reprieve should be granted.

He explained that he was representing the petitioners in the case and said he would submit conclusive evidence as to why the governor should commute the death sentence.

"Whoever is guilty should hang," he said, "but let's not hang the wrong man in our haste to get the right one."

This statement brought scattering applause which lasted but momentarily, however.

Mr. Munroe read the following petition:

Annapolis, Md.,
February 24, 1919.

To His Excellency,
Emerson C. Harrington,
Governor of Maryland.

In addition to the petition which has been presented to your Excellency asking a commutation of sentence of John Snowden from sentence to death to imprisonment for life, the following considerations are respectfully suggested to your Excellency:

First, not only is it the prerogative of the governor, under the Constitution of Maryland, to grant a commutation of sentence, but by recent enactment the jury, in all capital cases, is expressly authorized to find a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree without capital punishment.

Second, eleven of the jurors who tried and convicted John Snowden do now present to your Excellency a petition asking a commutation of sentence from sentence to death to imprisonment for life, and this we respectfully submit to your Excellency is equivalent to their having found a verdict in the first instance, as provided by statute, of guilty of murder in the first degree without capital punishment.

Third, such a petition from the jurors who tried and convicted John Snowden shows at least that there must be in their minds serious doubt as to the correctness of their verdict, and it is respectfully submitted that the governor must give attention to such a recommendation from such a source.

Fourth, there could not exist such a widespread doubt of the guilt of the accused as exists in this case, and such an interest in his fate as has been manifested by people not only in the city of Annapolis and Anne Arundel county, but in various parts of the

tence of imprisonment for life as by the execution of the prisoner. And it is further believed that in this case the people of Maryland would be better satisfied with a commutation of John Snowden's sentence to imprisonment for life instead of his execution. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES M. MUNROE,
On Behalf of Petitioners.

Prof. H. L. Rice of the Naval Academy asked permission to read a paper but had read but a few lines when the governor waved him aside. The governor ascertained that he was reasoning his appeal on spiritual laws.

Governor Spoke Until Exhausted.

Several others gave different versions of the affair but no new points or new evidence was brought out and finally Governor Harrington arose and began speaking. He was ill and complained to those about him of having a fever. He spoke for more than an hour and was completely exhausted when he had finished. He retired immediately to his private office and the petition asking for a reprieve, of 90 days prepared by Mrs. Grace Humiston, famous New York woman lawyer, was not noticed by him.

The governor took up the evidence and presented it to the crowd exactly as it was given in the trial. He was not interrupted by anyone except Campbell during the time he talked, although he stated at the outset that if he misquoted any testimony he de-

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COLUMBIA LOSES TWO EVENTS TO NAVY MEN

Midshipmen Win In Wrestling And Swimming Events On Saturday

MATMEN FAIL TO SCORE

Columbia university athletes made a poor showing Saturday afternoon against the husky midshipmen and were defeated easily in the tank and on the mat, failing to make a point in the wrestling bouts and being defeated 44 to 14 in the swimming contests.

The academy's team of wrestlers won, 27 to 0, gaining three falls and three decisions. Lee, the Chinese contestant in the 115-pound class, was the only representative of Columbia to stave off defeat. He wrestled with Midshipman Gallery through the regular time of nine minutes and the extra period of six without giving Umpire Lynch a chance to reach a decision. The results:

One Hundred and Fifteen Pound Class.—Gallery, Naval Academy, and Lee, Columbia, drew, after regular bout of 9m. and extra bout of 6m.

One Hundred and Twenty-five Pound Class.—Adell, Naval Academy, gained decision over Yip, Columbia, after

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ced.

"See that justice is done," he coun-
d.

"Are you the man that wrote that
le in a Baltimore newspaper last
k" shot back the governor.

"Yes sir."
stantly the governor was on his
pointing an accusing finger at the
man before him.

"I'm glad I found you out," the gov-
or shouted. "I don't want to hear
and I won't. You should be turn-
ver to the detectives and prosecut-
or writing that article."

Sent Campbell Out Of Town

Campbell withdrew politely from
scene but kept his place in the
line and near the governor.

When the governor was relating
incident concerning the new dol-
bill that Snowden was alleged to
taken from the Brandon home
Campbell interrupted him and again
ed down his wrath.

"I don't know who you are or what
are but you can't be a Marylander,
he shouted at him.

Despite these two incidents, after
hearing had broken up Campbell
tempted to speak to the crowd in
governor's office after he had re-
d but was removed by a detective

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ors who tried and convicted John
Snowden shows at least that there
must be in their minds serious doubt
as to the correctness of their verdict,
and it is respectfully submitted that
the governor must give attention to
such a recommendation from such a
source.

Fourth, there could not exist such
a widespread doubt of the guilt of the
accused as exists in this case, and
such an interest in his fate as has
been manifested by people not only in
the city of Annapolis and Anne Arun-
del county, but in various parts of the
state of Maryland, in the District of
Columbia and especially in Baltimore
city, unless there was an honest be-
lief in the minds of these people who
have no interest whatever in Snowden,
and to whom Snowden is personally
unknown, that there was room for
doubt of his guilt.

The conflicting theories which were
advanced as to the perpetrator of
such a horrible murder of Mrs. Bran-
don, have not by any means been re-
conciled by the verdict of the jury,
and the very least that could be grant-
ed under the circumstances of the
case, is a reprieve of ninety (90) days
of time to enable the collection and
presentation to your excellency in
proper form of new evidence which it
is confidently expected can be pro-
cured to satisfy your excellency of
the justice of the petition for the com-
mutation of Snowden's sentence, if in-
deed a new trial may not be obtained
for him.

Fifth, a statement of certain new
evidence which has never been pre-
sented to any court will be presented
in the form of affidavits subscribed by
the persons who are prepared to fur-
nish the same.

Sixth, it is further respectfully sub-
mitted to your Excellency, in view of
the growing sentiment all over the
world against capital punishment, as
evidenced by the enactment of the
statute above referred to authorizing
the jury to find a verdict of murder in
the first degree without capital pun-
ishment, and in view of the further
fact that many persons would rather
suffer capital punishment than im-
prisonment for life, that the safety of
society is as well protected, the ma-
jesty of the law as well vindicated,
and the policy of the law as fully car-
ried out by the inflictment of a sen-

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One Hundred and Twenty-five Pound
Class.—Adell, Naval academy, gained
decision over Yip, Columbia, after
regular bout of 9m. and extra bout of
6m.

One Hundred and Thirty-five Pound
Class. — Swigert, Naval Academy,
threw Matthews, Columbia, in 2m. 35s.,
with a head, scissors and wrist hold.

One Hundred and Forty-five Pound
Class.—Pixton, Naval Academy, gained
decision over Barish, Columbia, in
regular bout of 9m.

One Hundred and Fifty-eight Pound
Class.—Tusler, Naval Academy, gained
decision over Kirkland, Columbia,
after regular bout of 9m.

One Hundred and Seventy-five
Pound Class.—Isbell, Naval Academy,
threw Shaw, Columbia, with a chan-
cery and body hold in 5m. 6s.

Unlimited Weight Class.—Maichle,
Naval Academy, threw Towers, Co-
lumbia, with a half Nelson and crotch
hold in 1m. 25s.

The midshipmen won in the tank
44 to 14. The Navy swimmers began
by taking the relay by a good lead and
then won by fair margins in all but
two of the events. Columbia had no
entries for the plunge and the event
went by default to the Navy. G. Rog-
ers and Polk saved Columbia from a
whitewash by winning in the forty
yard and two hundred and twenty
yard events. The best time of the
meet was made in the former event.
In the hundred a close race was swam
by Goggins and Lardin, both of the
Navy. The summary:

One Hundred and Sixty Yard Relay.
First, Naval Academy with Lardin,
Gallagher and Goggins; time 1 min.
20 1-5s. Columbia swimmers, Polk,
G. Rogers, Garrigus, and McCabe.

Forty Yard Back Stroke.—First,
Navy Naval Academy; second, Bow-
man, Naval Academy; third, Mable,
Columbia. Time 23 1-5s.

Forty Yard Dash.—First, G. Rogers,
Columbia; second, Garry, Naval

Cafeteria

Luncheon

WILL BE SERVED IN THE WO-
MAN'S CLUB, SECOND FLOOR,
OF THE ANNAPOLIS BANK
BUILDING, ON TUESDAY, FEB-
RUARY 25, BETWEEN 12 AND
2 P. M. CHICKEN A LA KING,
MARYLAND BISCUIT, AND
HOME-MADE LAYER CAKE.

GOVERNOR OPPOSES ANY CLEMENCY FOR SNOWDEN

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sired to be corrected. He said at the outset he wanted everyone to know that his decision that Snowden must hang was a final one.

"I am opposed to capital punishment except in a case such as the Brandon murder," he said. "When a woman is outraged—be she white or black,—I think hanging is too good." This statement drew applause.

Said Not Responsible For Conviction.

"It is not up to the governor to review the cases passed upon in our circuit courts. I have not convicted John Snowden. My only duty in the case was to fix the date on which the sentence of the jury and the court should be carried out."

Referring to the venue of the case to Baltimore county the governor said he was sorry now that it had been done because the crowd would not have been there today had the case been heard here.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the people do not know the facts in the case," he declared. "There is no room for clemency. If Snowden is guilty he doesn't deserve clemency."

He then referred to the Evans case and hanging and said he would rather have commuted Evan's sentence than Snowden's. The governor said he had read the complete transcript of the case four times carefully and that he was convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that Snowden was guilty.

Reviews Various Clues

Then he took up the different clues that had been followed from the time of the discovery of the commission of the outrage and murder.

He showed how Mr. and Mrs. Thomas King had been absolved and then the husband of the slain woman.

"Now we come to Snowden's case," said the governor. "If Snowden came out of the Brandon house at the time the two women say he did, and I believe he did, on the eighth day of August, he is guilty of the crime with which he stands charged and convicted."

The governor said if he was innocent he would have told what he was doing about the house that day. He said he did not expect Snowden to confess. Referring to reference to the alleged questionable character of the state's two colored witnesses the governor said he had known and heard from their own lips their stories and that he believed them implicitly. He asked the crowd what motive they would have in wishing to see a member of their own race put to death. To the story of the alleged reward paid to them he said, he knew that neither had ever received a cent.

In closing, the governor told the crowd plainly but firmly, that they should come in a better cause when they came to him to appeal for mercy.

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Governor Deeply Agitated

When he resumed his seat, Attorney Brady asked permission to read the application for a reprieve of 90 days drawn by Mrs. Humiston, with the aid of Mrs. Spencer Murray, but the governor in an agitated mood made his way to his private office exclaiming as he did so that he "had talked for more than two hours and a half with that woman yesterday."

The crowd expected the governor to return to the meeting shortly and waited for some time before dispersing, but he failed to come back. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Humiston gave out the text of the new evidence which they wished to submit to the governor, to newspaper men and said that they would have other facts soon to present.

Will Not Give Up Fight

Mrs. Murray said she would not give up the fight to clear Snowden even though he is hung after the hearing. She declared that she was receiving new clues and evidence every half hour and predicted that she would be able to show beyond any doubt that he never murdered Mrs. Brandon. The petition is a lengthy one and many of the things mentioned are really new.

Indications were that the hearing did not accomplish much in the way of convincing persons who have their own theories of the case. Long after the governor had left the room little knots of persons were still in the executive chamber discussing and arguing the merits of the case.