

# DEFIES THE GOVERNOR

Mrs. Lease Refuses to Be Removed From the State Board.

HER LETTER TO LEWELLING.

She Demands That He Show Cause for Her Suspension.

FRIENDS RALLY AROUND HER.

Labor Commissioner Todd Will Not Step Down and Out.

REASON WHY HE IS RETAINED.

Special to the Kansas City Times.  
TOPEKA, KAN., Dec. 20.—Mrs. Mary E. Lease refuses to be removed from the State Board of Charities. This announcement was made this morning by Mrs. Lease herself, after a lengthy conference with friends. She said there was no truth in the story, however, that she had employed attorneys to look after her interests. "I am capable of attending to my own affairs," she said, "at least for the present. I notice that R. M. Chanault of Fort Scott has been talking about hiring Glead, Ware & Glead of Topeka to help me fight Governor Lewelling, but there isn't anything in it. I have telegraphed Mr. Chanault to be quiet.

"I still regard myself as president of the State Board of Charities, and shall preside over the January meeting of that body. I am comfortably located here at the hotel and shall probably remain in the city till after the January meeting. If it becomes necessary I will stay all winter. Governor Lewelling has no right to remove me without cause. The cause he assigns is no cause at all. Here is his letter to me:"

Mrs. Mary E. Lease, City.  
TOPEKA, KAN., Dec. 20.—Dear Madam: Having learned that you are in the city, I address you here instead of Wichita.

I regret to say that many circumstances in connection with the work of the State Board of Charities lead me to believe that the interests of the board and the administration of the various institutions of the State demand your retirement from the board.

I have, therefore, reluctantly and with great hesitation decided to fill your place immediately. This will, therefore, be notice to you that you are today removed from the State Board of Charities. Very respectfully,  
L. D. LEWELLING,  
Governor.

"I have written to Governor Lewelling," con-

tinued Mrs. Lease, "informing him of my intention to remain on the board until he has shown cause for removal. I was confirmed by the Senate and am a trustee of the State. I am responsible to the people for my actions, and not to Governor Lewelling."

The letter which Mrs. Lease wrote to Governor Lewelling is as follows:

Mrs. Lease's Letter.

Hon. L. D. Lowelling, Governor of Kansas.  
TOPEKA, KAN., Dec. 20.—Dear Sir: Disclaiming any intention of questioning your authority, the wisdom of your acts, or the integrity of your purpose, I beg leave to remind you that you have, as chief executive of this State, tried and sentenced me without according to me that which the laws of our land accord to the vilest criminal—the right of defense. Were I an employe of yours, your right to perpetrate such an act of injustice might depend upon your inclination. As it is I recognize the fact that I am an employe of the State, accountable as such to the people of the State for my official record, and for them as well as for myself I demand a statement and an investigation of the charges preferred against me that I may have an opportunity to concede the manifest justice of your decree, or defend myself from the imputations of hiring politicians. Most respectfully yours,  
MARY E. LEASE.

President State Board of Charities.  
Governor Lewelling declined to discuss Mrs. Lease's letter. He said, however, that he had the authority to remove any undesirable official holding an appointive office, the Supreme court having decided that the Governor could remove for cause, and that he alone was the judge of the cause. The vacancy on the board, Governor Lewelling said, would be filled tomorrow, but he declined to give the names of the candidates, although he admitted that there were several under consideration. He also stated that a woman would probably be appointed to succeed Mr. Yoc, whose term as a member of the board expires April 1.

The Topeka Capital comments editorially on the matter as follows: "The Capital congratulates Governor Lewelling for reducing Mrs. Lease to the ranks because she had the audacity to refuse to turn all the patronage of this board over to machine politics for his renomination and reelection. This action on his part shows the shallowness of the 'reform' in his administration. Every close observer of the politics of the State recognizes, regardless of what party he belongs to, that Mrs. Lease has greater influence and power with the rank and file of her party, and did more for the success of Populism in Kansas than all the members of the State administration put together. The determination of the State house ring to renominate and re-elect themselves is very apparent, and they will use all the patronage in their possession to secure help for this purpose. This effort of the administration to suppress Mrs. Lease for the purpose of putting in her place a more pliable tool will remind every citizen of the ambitious and somewhat historic bull that undertook to throw the engine from the track. The Capital predicts that the political bosses will prove no match for this woman who has the confidence of her party."

Friends Rally Around Her.

All morning Mrs. Lease's friends have been rallying about her at the National hotel, and she has received hundreds of callers since the news of her removal was published last evening. Telegrams have come to her from all over the State. The noon mails brought a correspondence that will take a stenographer a day to answer. Mrs. Lease says:

"The fact of the whole matter is that I stood in the way of fusion, and I had to be run over or put out, and it was preferable to me to be put out, and in this, Prime Minister Dick Chase (penitentiary warden), who is the Governor's right bower, cut no small figure.

"All along, the Governor has said he could not remove the Republican members of the board until their terms had expired but he seemed to have changed his mind about my removal. What I want him to do now, and I shall insist upon it, is that he shall give his reasons for my removal. He has not done it yet and the people should know what his reasons are.

"I do not want the place on the Board of Charities, but I do want fair treatment and shall insist upon it; as far as my removal is concerned, it rather pleases me, as it gives me a chance to again go upon the lecture platform. I have calls from Oregon, Alabama and California, and with my present duties, I can not get away."

# MUST SUFFER DEATH

Assassin of Mayor Harrison Found Guilty of Murder.

DEATH WATCH SITS IN HIS CELL

Murderer's Bravado Vanishes With the Verdict Is Read.

THE JURY WAS OUT ONE HOUR

Prendergast Proves Himself a Most Able Coward.

PRISONER REFUSES TO TALK

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 20.—Prendergast, the dexter of Carter H. Harrison, will hang for crime. The death watch sits in his cell tonight. The verdict of the jury has said it, and the city of Chicago approve it. Aply defended as assassin has been; strong as has been the odds adduced to save his neck from the halter, the jury has found him sane, responsible for his act, and demanded that he pay the highest price of offense against the law. This price, however, is a life such as that of Carter H. Harrison, weighed down the scale against the existence of Prendergast.

Nothing since the commission of his crime so irritated Prendergast, as the comparison between himself and Charles J. Guiteau. He resisted it with energy and scorn as though the assassin of Garfield was a foul and creeping creature compared with himself. But in the court this afternoon he showed that one trait was common between Guiteau and himself. He proved himself an unmanly, miserable coward, a creature who would have life at any price under any conditions, anywhere, anyhow, only to live. The verdict was agreed upon after the jury had deliberated a little over an hour. Prendergast crossed himself, but uttered no word.

Trude's Closing Argument.

The morning of the last day in the trial was allotted to Alfred S. Trude, who eloquently for justice, and argued convincingly to the twelve men before him that the miserable wretch knew he was committing a crime when he took the life of the lawyer. Judge Brentano followed with instructions for the jury, lengthy but explicit, providing for every contingency or doubt which might arise in the minds of those who were Prendergast's accusers. The text of all verdicts for and against the prisoner, which could be rendered in his case, was given to the twelve peers, and they retired at 1:25 p. m. to consider which one they should return according to the law and the evidence. Prendergast sat sullen and silent through the scene but bright in the trial. He was accompanied by officers of the law, who had no sympathy for him, and farther away sat well-dressed men, women who came to hear the eloquent Trude. While the judge was reading his carefully prepared instructions the prisoner's face

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# The Best Cooks

always find success in the use of Silver Churn Butterine. Extravagant cooks sometimes fail. The explanation is easy. Owing to the concentration of its nutritive properties, two ounces of

## Silver Churn Butterine

will perform the work that requires three ounces of ordinary butter. Those who obtain successful results always observe this proportion. Will this explanation help you?

Don't forget the Silver Churn trade mark on each wrapper.

**Armour Packing Co.,**  
Kansas City, U. S. A.

The Times' Art Gems of The World's Fair

make a beautiful Christmas present. Twelve of the prize paintings reproduced in photographic effects, with surrounding water colors, at The Times office for 25 cents. Postage 4 cents extra.

Don't Fail To See This

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Speaking of her attitude toward the administration, she said: "What can one woman who can't vote do in fighting an administration, and I don't like to fight anyway, but if you want to know anything about it just ask the Governor's private secretary, Mr. Chase. He could tell you things if he would, that would be quite interesting."

## WILL STAY BY TODD.

**Governor Lewelling Emphatically Declares That Todd Will Not Be Removed.**  
Special to the Kansas City Times.

TOPKA, KAN., Dec. 29.—Governor Lewelling today stated that he would not remove Labor Commissioner Todd, who has been on the anxious seat for several weeks. He said: "I know of no reason why I should remove Todd. Of course he whipped a man down in Marion county, which perhaps he ought not to have done, being a State officer, but as an individual he was justified. The man he whipped had libelled him, and Todd, having no confidence in Republican courts, took the law in his own hands. Todd is a good officer, and a faithful one. There was never a more industrious or pains-taking man in the position. He is not a pretty man by any means, and his manner is not inviting, nor would he make a great hit in society, but that is not what I put him in office for, and I am going to stay by him."

This declaration is directly in the face of every other State officer or employe about the State house, except the two or three immediately around Todd. Every State officer has privately expressed to the newspaper reporters and others an intense dislike of Todd. Two of the State officers have expressed themselves publicly on Todd. These are Osborn and Gaines. The former in an interview, said that Todd was not the kind of a man the People's party liked, and that he had got to the end of his rope and ought to resign. Gaines talked in the same strain through his newspaper published at Abilene. They all hoped that Lewelling would remove Todd, but his declaration today settles that question, at least till the labor commissioner's next bad break.

## GLADSTONE'S BIRTHDAY.

**He Celebrates His Anniversary by Working Hard in His Study.**

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Rt. Hon. William E. Gladstone, who was born December 29, 1809, is celebrating his birthday today by working hard in his study. During the afternoon he is going to the House of Commons, and in every other way he is rigorously attending to the duties of his position. Mr. Gladstone is receiving many telegrams of congratulation from distinguished people in all parts of the country.

The Times, in an article on Mr. Gladstone's birthday anniversary, attributes to him marvelous energy, but says it is permissible to ask whether for the sake of public interest and for his own credit he should not retire from office. It adds that there is still plenty of work for Mr. Gladstone to do if he were to become, in Labouchere's phrase, "Patriarch of Hawarden" instead of the "Athlete of Westminster."

Mr. Gladstone throughout the day was in the best of health and spirits. He took a short carriage drive before proceeding to the House of Commons, and at his residence there was a constant procession of visitors, including many members of the diplomatic corps. Among the

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The morning of the last day in the trial was allotted to Alfred S. Trude, who pleaded eloquently for justice, and argued concisely to convince the twelve men before him that the miserable wretch knew he was committing crime when he took the life of the lawyer's friend. Judge Brentano followed with instructions to the jury, lengthy but explicit, providing for every contingency or doubt which might arise in the minds of those who were Prondergast's judges. The text of all verdicts for and against the prisoner, which could be rendered in his case, was given to the twelve peers, and they retired at 1:25 p. m. to consider which one they should return according to the law and the evidence. Prondergast sat sullen and silent through the scene but one in the trial. He was hemmed by officers of the law, who had no sympathy for him, and farther away sat well-dressed men and women who came to hear the eloquent Trude.

While the judge was reading his carefully prepared instructions the prisoner's face betrayed the keenest anxiety. His open mouth twitched nervously and he turned his misshapen head every sound coming from the entrance to the crowded court room after the jury had retired. He was fearful of a speedy agreement, as he realized that it would be significant of a verdict of guilty. After awhile he was taken back to his cell in the adjoining jail, and the tension which he kept the men and women subdued was relaxed. The silence gave place to light-hearted talk in every part of the court room. The lawyers engaged in an off-hand argument on various topics and famous murder trials. Hurats of laughter came from the group at intervals and even the attorneys who have worked hard against each other to save their miserable client from a murderer's fate, joined in the diversion. Four years ago there was a similar scene enacted in the same dingy court room while anxious men and women were waiting to hear the verdict of the Cronin murder jury. The Harrison family was represented by Prest Harrison, son of the murdered man. Prondergast's mother was in the court room during the closing scene.

## The Verdict Announced.

Nobody was expecting the return of the jury for a few hours, but suddenly at 2:10 o'clock, the midst of the laughter, came a bailiff's shrill voice calling: "Take seats now, gentlemen." The meaning of the order was well understood. It had the effect of an electric shock. "That means guilty, sure." "It's a hanging," were the words which passed from mouth to mouth. Every eye was turned toward the door and the buzz of excitement and conversation died away. A solemn stillness pervaded the chamber. From the door came a procession of stern-faced men. Judge Brentano led the way, followed by the jury and bailiffs.

Deputy sheriffs had a minute or two before been dispatched across the "bridge of sighs" to the jail, with an order to bring in the prisoner. There was a shifting of men at the reporter's table next to Prondergast's seat by order of the court. Walking with guards in front of him and guards behind him, Prondergast advanced slowly to his seat. Jail Clerk Ben Price, who accompanied the assassin, urged him to "Brace up and keep your mouth shut." Prondergast obeyed the latter injunction only. His bravado and vanity had fled. The mask had been torn from his face by fear of an adverse verdict, and he stood before court and jury now, a cowering coward, afraid to hear his doom pronounced. The countenance of every juror was sphinxlike. No sign of hope for Prondergast could be detected there. The great drops of sweat stood all over him. His protruding jaw became limp so that his lips hung wide apart in imbecile fashion. A pallor spread over his face and he stared vacantly in front of him. He sat there friendless and execrated.

The silence was oppressively intense. It was broken by the voice of Judge Brentano saying: "Have you agreed upon a verdict, gentlemen?" "We have, your honor," said Foreman J. Sutton, handing the fatal document to the judge who transmitted it to the clerk. That officer quickly opened it in the midst of breathless suspense and read as follows:

"We, the jury, find the defendant, Patrick Eugene Prondergast, guilty of murder in the first degree, and we fix his punishment at death."

Prondergast's Cowardice Shown.  
When the clerk uttered the word "dead" Prondergast made the Catholic sign over his breast with his right hand. His demeanor was abject, pitiful. He looked, indeed, like a miserable wretch in human form. A word escaped his lips. The effect of the death verdict kept the spectators silent. No one rose to go. Quickly the guards took hold of the trembling prisoner and was hurrying him back to the jail, when the voice of the judge was heard again. "Bring the prisoner back!" he called.