

GRAZED WITH LIQUOR, HURSH SEEKS REVENGE

Other of Complainant In District Court
Trial Imperials the Lives of Many
People---Drinks Alcohol
and Jamaica Ginger

him and the attorney said the thing which frightened him most was the fear that Hursh would follow Hawkins behind the jury box and continue his shooting.

Although seated around the table every one of the attorneys' roused for the statement that the gun was pointed directly at themselves. The escape of the crowd from injury is little short of miraculous when it is remembered that five shots were fired into the mass at close range. One lodged in Hawkins, another struck Mrs. Rye and the other three buried themselves in the maple railing from where they were extracted and placed in envelopes to be used by the county attorney in the prosecution of the case. To the maple railing, some of the crowd probably owe their life. One bullet struck in the solid panel, another in the top piece, and a third just below the wooden splashes.

During the excitement which preceded the only exhibit which had been introduced disappeared and has not been found.

Miss Hursh remained calmly on the witness stand during the shooting. Her father rushed to the side of his girl and later accompanied her to the county attorney's office. She expressed surprise at the shooting.

They Find Mrs. Rye.

Mrs. Rye was found in the southeast corner of the court room near the radiator. She had fainted away and was removed to Judge Frost's office. There she soon recovered but remained hysterical and called for her husband, who is in the employ of the Burlington as a telegraph operator. The Rye live at 1417 O street. Hawkins was taken to the jury room on the third floor and, both later removed to the hospital where it was said Wednesday they would be afloat in a day or two.

Here in my study," said Hawkins to a Star reporter who called at the hospital Wednesday night. His wife was seated at the foot of the hospital cot. Hawkins produced a couple of brown kid gloves. One was torn by a bullet and upon unfolding the glove, the reporter found the powder burned lead. The pair of gloves undoubtedly saved Hawkins from a serious, if not dangerous wound. The bullet entered the hip pocket and left a bad bruise about the size of a silver dollar.

I had talked to Hursh with Dr. Townsend," said Hawkins. "I have known him for years and to my knowledge he never before threatened any violence against me. Dr. Townsend told me that he had hurled H. I saw him enter the court room the second time and take his seat. I heard the last shot but did not think anything about it. The third shot had been fired before I started to run. The fourth time he fired, Hursh carefully leveled the gun at me and I ducked behind the jurors box.

"Hursh was very much excited when I looked around. His hair was standing straight up and his eyes were nearly red."

Hawkins was extremely thankful that the shooting did not result more seriously.

Not Havelock Man.

Upon the request of E. C. Strode, the counsel for Mr. Townsend, the case was continued until the next term and the jury excused. In the excitement of the shooting Wednesday, spectators furnished the reporter with wrong names. Thomas Hawkins is an Exchequer farmer and no relation to George C. Havelock of Havelock, who is not concerned in the trouble in any way.

ALCOHOL AND JAMAICA GINGER.

Shaking like a man afflicted with the ague, Grant Hursh, plainly showed the effects Thursday morning of a four days debauch when visited by the Deputy County Attorney, George E. Hager. Hursh trembled violently and it was only after considerable effort that he was able to tell the county official his story.

Four days ago Hursh visited West Lincoln, he told Mr. Hager, and purchased half a gallon of whisky. He became intoxicated and remained in this condition Sunday. Monday he was partially sober, he told Mr. Hager, but not inclined to work and came to town. He continued drinking and Wednesday morning called at Dr. J. Walter Townsend's office, borrowed 50 cents, and purchased alcohol and Jamaica ginger. He drank the mixture and after the noon recess went to the court house where he found Dr. Townsend again.

"I had no intention of killing Hawkins before the latter entered the room for the afternoon hearing," Hursh told the deputy county attorney. "When I saw him come into the room, so well and so big and strong it just all flashed on me in a moment. I borrowed \$3 of Dr. Townsend went down to a pawn shop and bought the gun. You know the rest."

Shortly before Grant Hursh entered the big court room Wednesday afternoon to shoot Thomas Hawkins, to whom Hursh laid the responsibility for his sister's shame, Hursh held a consultation with Dr. Walter R. Townsend and borrowed three dollars with which it is presumed he bought the 22 calibre revolver and shells. Gone but a short time, the young man excitedly entered the court room a second time, seated himself in the center line of seats, three rows from the front and in the fifth seat from the aisle.

His sister, Miss Desna Hursh, had just finished telling of her acquaintance with Thomas Hawkins and of their alleged intimacy when the deputy county attorney, George E. Hager, who was conducting the examination asked her to tell of the final visit to Dr. Townsend.

"Doc, I says," testified Miss Hursh, "there is going to be trouble, this trouble is too settled; then I told him I wanted to know what he was going to do; I wanted to know if he would tell the truth and he said he did not know whether he would or not. He said he was going to protect himself."

Her Story Ends.

The witness got no further, the stenographic notes of the court reporter ending at this point. There was a sharp explosion in the rear of the court room and then in rapid succession four more shots rang out. The first shot threw the crowd which filled the court room into a panic. Spectators leaped a stampede away and, hurriedly, his eyes bloodshot and his hair disheveled, apparently aiming at Hawkins, who was seated close to the railing and ten feet away from the man. Simultaneously lawyers and jurors sought shelter. Max Hachtal and E. C. Strode who were making the defense in the Townsend case, dived under the attorney's table. County Attorney Strode ducked under the edge of the bench. The jurors threw themselves flat on the floor.

At the third shot Hawkins started to run towards the juror's box, followed by Frank Peterson and R. S. Mockett, who were in the court room preparing the defense to be made in the case pending against Hawkins, charged with having advised and procured abortion.

Hawkins fell face downwards on the floor behind the juror's box while Frank Hachtal, Rye, who was undoubtedly struck by the first bullet fired, was about ten feet to one side.

The shooting was over so quick that no one in the court room hardly realized what had happened. Bailiff Loomax had by this time reached Hursh, but the man made no attempt to escape.

Surrendered to Bailiff.

"Here it is," he told the bailiff. "I surprised." Health Officer Koode was the second man to reach Hursh and assisted the bailiff in taking him from the court room. Deputy Sheriff James Dawson was in the lower court hallway when he heard the shots and he started to run towards the court room. He met Lomax and Rhode leading Hursh and quickly placed a pair of handcuffs on the man. Dawson was preparing to take another prisoner to the penitentiary and had the cuffs with him for that purpose.

"I meant to do what I did," Hursh declared on the way to the jail. "I bought the revolver to kill the villain who ruined my sister. I am sorry if I hit anybody else."

Seated in Liquor.

At the jail a box of cartridges was taken from Hursh and he was placed in a cell. He was apparently too much under the influence of liquor to tell of the shooting. Shortly after the assailant had been taken to the jail, he was dealing on a cot in the cell apparently unconcerned and it was late in the evening until he again took a lively interest in his whereabouts.

Grant Hursh is well known in Lincoln and rather a picturesque character at Eagle where his father and sister live. Hursh is thirty-eight years of age while his sister Desna upon whose testimony the grand jury returned the indictment against Dr. Townsend and Thomas Hawkins is forty-one. Hawkins is twenty-six. Hursh has not been at home for over a year and Miss Hursh and the father of the boy told County Attorney Strode that they have not spoken to him for several months. Until recently Hursh has been employed as a

transfer for a local transfer company. Eagle residents claim that Hursh is much addicted to the use of liquor and several parties who talked with him before the shooting stated that he was visibly under the influence of liquor.

A rather amusing feature of the affair arose in connection with the fight of the attorneys and spectators. Max Baghtal and E. C. Strode found refuge underneath the table. County Attorney J. H. Strode said that he looked around at the third shot and saw the revolver pointing directly at him. Likewise Hachtal, Peterson, R. C. Strode and R. S. Mockett thought the gun was aimed at them while Dr. Walter R. Townsend, the defendant in the case insisted that it was at him that Hursh was shooting. Peterson said that he could not recall exactly what happened. Mr. Mockett was reminded of his surroundings when he found Hawkins on the floor next to