

DEATH WARRANT.

The Instrument Which Consigns Czolgosz to the Electric Chair.

Czolgosz's death warrant is an historic document.

It is the supreme mandate of the court, commanding the death of the anarchist assassin for the foul murder of the beloved President, William McKinley.

It is not a document of vengeance, but it is the final instrument by which the law takes the life of Leon F. Czolgosz in return for the life which he took. But the document is not attested until the victim has had every opportunity of a trial by a jury of twelve men.

Those men passed upon that crime in all its details, and swore that the assassin should suffer the penalty which the law imposes for the crime of murder in the first degree. Then the passing of the sentence that Czolgosz must die rested with Justice Truman C. White, and he has pronounced the fateful words.

But one more instrument was required by the law to place the assassin in the electric chair in Auburn state prison, and that was the death warrant with all the formalities of law.

The death warrant was prepared by Martin J. Fisher, clerk of part 3 of the supreme court of the state of New York, in which the assassin was convicted of his guilt, and in which the sentence of death was pronounced against him. When it was prepared Justice White attached his signature to it.

When the prisoner's guards present that document to the warden of Auburn state prison, the life of the assassin will be in his hands.

So memorable is that document that it is given in full herewith:

The People of the State of New York—To
the Agent and Warden of Auburn state
prison:

Greeting—

Whereas, at a term of the supreme court of the state of New York, held at the city of Buffalo, in the county of Erie, state of New York, beginning on the 23d day of September, 1901, before Honorable Truman C. White, one of the justices of said court, presiding, and a jury, Leon F. Czolgosz was convicted of the crime of murder in the first degree, in that he wilfully and feloniously, and from a deliberate and premeditated design to effect the death of William McKinley, did kill and murder said William McKinley, at said city of Buffalo, on the 6th day of September, 1901.

The said Leon F. Czolgosz appeared before said court for judgment, and having been duly asked by the clerk whether he had any legal cause to show why judgment should not be pronounced against him, and after due inquiry being made into the circumstances, and there appearing no legal reason why the execution of the sentence against said Leon F. Czolgosz should not be made, or why judgment should not be pronounced, said supreme court of the state of New York, holden as aforesaid, did then and there, and on the 26th day of September, 1901, render judgment and sentence said Leon F. Czolgosz to suffer the punishment of death to be inflicted by the application of electricity, as provided by law, within the week commencing on Monday, the 28th day of October, 1901, within the walls of the state prison of the state of New York, at Auburn, New York, or in the yard or enclosure thereto adjoining; and

that in the meantime he, the said Leon F. Czolgosz, be removed to and until the infliction of said punishment be kept in solitary confinement in said state prison.

Now, therefore, you are hereby ordered, commanded and required to execute the said sentence upon said Leon F. Czolgosz upon some day within the week commencing Monday, the 28th day of October, 1901, the time of the execution within said week to be left to your discretion, and within the walls of said state prison, or within the yard or enclosure adjoining thereto, by then and there causing to pass through the body of him, said Leon F. Czolgosz, a current of electricity of sufficient intensity to cause death, and that the application of said current of electricity be continued until he, said Leon F. Czolgosz, be dead.

Given under my hand and seal of this court this 26th day of September, 1901.

TRUMAN C. WHITE,

Justice of the supreme court.

Thus was the doom of the miserable wretch sealed by the majesty of the law.