

REGRETS HIS CRIME

"It is too late, but I would like to live," says Czolgosz.

DENIES ANY CONSPIRACY

Had nothing Personal against President McKinley—Assassin in Auburn.

Special to The Buffalo Express.

Rochester, Sept. 26.—"I wish the people to know I am sorry for what I did. It was a mistake and it was wrong. If I had it to do over again I never would do it. But it is too late now to talk of that. I am sorry I killed the President. I was all stirred up. I was alone in what I did and, honestly, there was no conspiracy. No one else urged or told me to do it. I did it myself. There was one mistake about the trial. It was that I did not go to Niagara Falls to kill the President. I only thought of killing him for about one day before I did it. But I was all alone. No one else had anything to do with it and I have nothing to say to any who may think that what I did was a wise or good thing. It was not. I don't know anyone in Paterson. I don't know Count Malatesta or Mme. Brusiglioni.

"It is an awful thing to feel you killed someone. You do not feel the same after you kill them. It is hard and much different. You are not the same person after you do the crime. I wish I was my same old person again. You never can be the same. I wish I was the same for the little time left. I have nothing more to say to all the people. My mind was stirred up and I don't know what was in it or what influenced it. Some ask where I was between August 29th and September 1st. I was in Buffalo on August 29th and went to Cleveland for two days. No, I do not know Hippolyte Havel. My two Toledo references to Mr. Nowak were not anarchists. When I shot the President I had nothing against him personally.

"My trial was fair. It was more than I thought. The judge could not help doing what he did. The jury could not. The law made them do it. I do not want to say now that the law is wrong. It was fair to me and it was right. It seems too late now, but I am sorry for Mrs. McKinley. I hope she does not die."

So spoke Leon F. Czolgosz, the assassin, as he rode in the special car that is taking him to Auburn. He sat in a seat beside Jailer George N. Mitchell and talked with The Express man freely. He smoked as he talked and looked out the window as the train passed Batavia and other stations. He said he hoped his brother Waldeck would not suffer by his act as no one knew of it, but himself. He said it was not true that he was married to someone down in West Virginia. He repeated again and again that there was no conspiracy. He talked freely of his visits to Chicago and Cleveland.

As the train neared Rochester he stopped talking suddenly, looked out and then said, slowly: "It is too late, but I would like to live."

The party with Czolgosz was headed by Sheriff Caldwell. The talk of Czolgosz with The Express reporter was in the presence of Louis Seibold of the New York World and Jailer Mitchell.

Czolgosz also talked in Deputy-Sheriff Metzler's presence and said it was not true that anyone had tied the handkerchief over his hand. "The handkerchief was not tied," he said. "I put it over my hand and held the pistol with my finger on the trigger. I felt nervous all the time and thought someone would catch me. I held my hand against my body to keep the handkerchief from falling or rubbing off."

Czolgosz was asked by The Express man about dying and whether he feared it. "I don't want to be ashamed of myself," said Czolgosz. "It is worse than I knew before I did it. I hope I don't make myself ashamed." He referred to his desire not to weaken when he faced the death chair.

"Will you see a priest or minister before you die?" he was asked.

He hesitated, then answered: "Yes, I think so. Maybe, a priest."
