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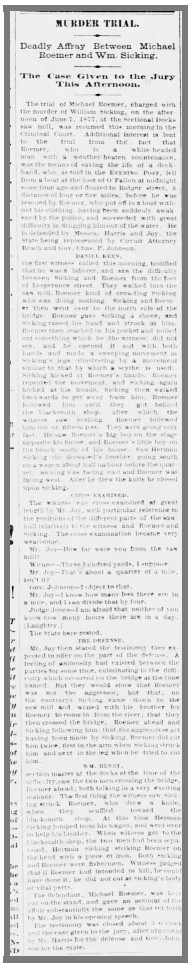

MURDER TRIAL.

Deadly Affray Between Michael Roemer and Wm. Sicking.

The Case Given to the Jury This Afternoon.

The trial of Michael Roemer, charged with the murder of William Sicking, on the afternoon of June 2, 1877, at the Sectional Docks saw mill, was resumed this morning in the Criminal Court. Additional interest is lent to the trial from the fact that Roemer, who is a white-headed man with a weather-beaten countenance, was the means of saving the life of a deckhand, who, as told in the EVENING POST, fell from a boat at the foot of O'Fallon at midnight some time ago and floated to Rotger street, a distance of four or five miles, before he was rescued by Roemer, who put off in a boat without his clothing, having been suddenly awakened by the police, and succeeded with great difficulty in dragging him out of the water. He is defended by Messrs. Harris and Jay, the state being represented by Circuit Attorney Brach and Gov. Chas. P. Johnson.

DANIEL KEIN,

the first witness called this morning, testified that he was a laborer, and saw the difficulty between Sicking and Roemer from the foot of Lesperance street. They walked into the saw mill, Roemer kind of crowding Sicking who was doing nothing. Sicking and Roemer then went over to the north side of the bridge. Roemer gave Sicking a shove, and Sicking raised his hand and struck at him. Roemer then reached in his pocket and pulled out something which he the witness did not see, and he opened it and with both hands and made a sweeping movement at Sicking's legs illustrating by a movement similar to that by which a scythe is used. Sicking kicked at Roemer's hands. Roemer repeated the movement, and Sicking again kicked at his hands. Sicking then walked backwards to get away from him. Roemer followed him until they got behind the blacksmith shop, after which the witness saw nothing. Roemer followed him ten or fifteen feet. They were going very fast. He saw Roemer's big boy on the stage opposite his house, and Roemer's little boy on the bench south of his house. Saw Herman Sicking the deceased's brother going south on a wagon about half an hour before the quarrel. Sicking was facing east and Roemer was facing west. After he drew the knife he closed upon Sicking.

CROSS EXAMINED.

The witness was cross examined at great length by Mr. Jay, with particular reference to the positions of the different parts of the saw mill in relation to the witness and Roemer and Sicking. The cross examination became very wearisome.

Mr. Jay—How far were you from the saw mill?

Witness—Three hundred yards, I suppose.

Mr. Jay—That's about a quarter of a mile, isn't it?

Gov. Johnson—I object to that.

Mr. Jay—I know how many feet there are in a mile, and I can divide that by four.

Judge Jones—I am afraid that neither of you know how many hours there are in a day. [Laughter.]

The State here rested.

THE DEFENSE.

Mr. Jay then stated the testimony they expected to offer on the part of the defense. A feeling of animosity had existed between the parties for some time, culminating in the difficulty which occurred on the bridge at the time named. But they would show that Roemer was not the aggressor, but that, on the contrary, Sicking came down to the saw mill and armed with his brother for Roemer to cross in from the river, that they then crossed the bridge, Roemer ahead and Sicking following him; that the aggressive act having been made by Sicking, Roemer did cut him twice, first in the arm when Sicking struck him and next in the leg when he tried to cut him.

WM. HENRY,

section master at the docks at the time of the difficulty, saw the two men crossing the bridge, Roemer ahead, both hitting in a very exciting manner. The first thing the witness saw Sicking strike Roemer, who threw a knife, when they scuffled toward the blacksmith shop. At this time Herman Sicking jumped from his wagon, and went over to help his brother. When witness got to the blacksmith shop, the two men had been separated. Herman Sicking striking Roemer on the head with a piece of iron. Both Sicking and Roemer were fishermen. Witness judged that if Roemer had intended to kill, he could have done it; he did not cut at Sicking's body or vital parts.

The defendant, Michael Roemer, was [illegible] on the stand, and gave an account of the affair substantially the same as that set forth by Mr. Jay in his opening speech.

The testimony was closed about 3 o'clock, and the case given to the jury, after arguments by Mr. Harris for the defense and Gov. Johnson for the State.

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