

TIP TO DIE BY POISON TO-DAY

HYDROCYANIC ACID CAPSULES IN A CARROT AT 6 A. M.

Choice of Death Agent After Consultation with Scientists—Lively Interest in the "Rogue's" Fate—Director Smith Tells Some New Facts—Tip's Hind Shackle Removed to Allay Public Clamor—Impossible to Re-secure the Beast—Photographed.

Permits like this were issued last evening:

Department of Public Works.—Admit bearer to execution of Tip. G. R. BURNS.

The "rogue" elephant is to die in his stall at about 6 o'clock this morning. The time and manner of his death were decided on at the Arsenal yesterday afternoon. Hydrocyanic acid will be the toxic agent, and it is expected that it will kill the huge brute six seconds after the poison is in his mouth.

The conviction and sentence of Tip by the Park Commissioners are not popular. At 5 o'clock yesterday morning more than 500 persons were at the elephant house because of a false published statement that that was the hour set for the killing of the animal. While half of the gathering were attracted by curiosity or morbid impulse, the others were sympathizers and could not understand why Tip's destruction was imperative.

As the day wore on Tip's friends asserted themselves so as to threaten overcrowding in the cottage occupied by Tip, the elephants Juno and Tom, and the two-horned rhinoceros, and the clamor of the men, women, children, and nursery maids against the sentence of capital punishment was earnest. It became necessary to clear the elephant house, lock it up, and with ropes and chains establish a cordon around it.

Even this did not prevent the gathering of crowds of hundreds of sympathizers at each barrier up to dusk, and no one talked of anything but the condemned animal. The barrier the most patronized was that near the seal tank, whence, through the windows of the elephant house, the head and ears of the "man-killer," as he "weaved" nervously, could readily be distinguished.

Public comment was not only unfavorable to Keeper William Snyder and the Park Commissioners, but to the management of the menagerie in general. It attacked the policy of keeping Juno near to the monster when he was in a condition to be tantalized into ferocity, the absence of proper restraints on Tip, and the ignoring of all advice in regard to curbing his propensities by surgery or narcotics.

John W. Smith, director of the menagerie, met these criticism by admissions that threw a new light on the situation. He said that when Tip last month had his periodical attack of rebellion and disposition to attack his keeper, one hind foot and one fore foot had been shackled, so as to keep him in the middle of his pen. This restriction was denounced by many visitors and a Park Commissioner as cruel. To appease such clamor, the shackles on the hind foot were taken off during the day.

It would have been unsafe to leave Tip shackled by only one foot at night. Once, when thus lightly picketed, he broke loose and tore down all the partitions in the elephant house before help came. On April 30 Keeper Snyder went to put the shackle on the hind foot for the night, and was attacked and nearly killed by Tip. It has been impossible since then to get the hind shackle on. The shackle on the fore foot, although tested to a strain of ten tons, did not safely restrain the animal. Tip could, in a paroxysm, break it, and it is, besides, loose, and if pulled on in a certain way might slip over his foot.

Once outside the elephant house, Tip would be a terror, and nothing short of calling out a number of sharpshooters or militia would cut short his career of life-taking and destruction.

No operation could be performed on him, as he was shackled. Experts had been consulted in regard to narcotizing or stupefying the animal so as to permit of the shackling of the hind foot. It was considered impossible to administer ether or chloroform successfully, and because he was herbivorous, morphine or any other opiate would not have the same effect as on a carnivorous or omnivorous animal. For the reason that Tip was not safely tethered no one would have attempted to give him a hypodermic injection of any sort, and the same argument militated against an operation.

Were the elephant house less frail, several attempts to secure Tip, so that danger of his escape would be reduced to a minimum, would have been made. There are two fronts to his shed, one where the public go and the other on a lawn. It was easy to throw a ball of twine under him, and by this haul a rope, to pass between his fore and hind legs, but there was no beam overhead, and the roof was too weak to hold hoisting tackle.

Had it been possible to rig up such tackle Tip could have been braced up so as to be practically helpless until safely secured by his fore and hind feet. Even then, Director Smith said, Tip would have been considered incorrigible and dangerous. Mr. Smith thought that after a while the public would consider the destruction of Tip wise when they considered the awful consequences that would certainly come of his being at large.

As told in The New-York Times yesterday, it was decided Wednesday night to kill Tip to-day, and that either hydrocyanic acid or cyanide of potassium would be administered in capsules. The choice of the poison was submitted yesterday afternoon to Prof. Huntington, at the Vanderbilt Clinic, in West Fifty-ninth Street, Veterinarian Liautard, and Dr. E. C. Spitzka, the toxicologist. They decided on hydrocyanic acid, because of its rapid action, arguing that the cyanide, the slower poison, might be detected in time by the wily animal and rejected.

Superintendent Wallace of the Museum of Natural History, where this expert opinion was given, went to a down-town drug store and had eight ounces of hydrocyanic acid made into capsules. The poison will be given to Tip by taking a large carrot and, after dividing it, scooping out receptacles for enough capsules to give the elephant two ounces of the poison.

Keeper Snyder will probably be Tip's executioner. He will have a number of carrots, which, however satiated the beast may be, he never refuses. Snyder will give several of them to Tip before he presents the one that is dosed. Director Smith believes that there can be no mishap, and that as soon as the capsuled carrot is crunched Tip will exist but a few seconds.

Should there be a failure there will be plenty of capsules left, and the beast will be starved until he is ready to eat anything that may be offered.

Arrangements were made last night to have as many park policemen in reserve at

the Arsenal to-day as may be necessary to establish a complete cordon around the elephant house when Tip is killed and until the autopsy is over.

Those who will witness the execution will be C. H. Hankinson, Superintendent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Profs. Huntington and Allen, Superintendent Wallace, Dr. Spitzka, Surgeon Liautard, Director Smith, Assistant Director Burns, one or two Park Commissioners probably, and the reporters.

It is expected that in a last vital effort Tip will sunder his bonds, but this will not cause alarm, as it will prove that the poison has done its work.

As soon as the animal is dead, John Rowley, Jr., the taxidermist of the Museum of Natural History, and several assistants, will operate on the cadaver. The viscera will be sent to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The skin, which will weigh about 1,100 pounds—Tip's live weight is five tons—will be carefully removed and placed in a vat of preservative fluid for a couple of months. The bones will be carefully taken out and treated. The flesh will be sent to the offal dock, because the acid employed will unfit it for food for the carnivori of the menagerie.

When the skin and the bones are ready for mounting, Tip will be reconstructed for the Museum of Natural History, and when mounted, will face the skeleton of Jumbo in the gallery of mammals. In order to have the reproduction as faithful as possible, many photographs of Tip were taken yesterday.

Keeper Snyder was not absolutely sanguine about the method decided on for killing his enemy. He said that a few months ago a boy had planned to astonish Tip's internal economy by scooping out the core of an apple, filling the cavity with cayenne pepper, and closing the apple perfectly. But the elephant, after eating several apples that were not "fixed," came to this one, and detected the trick when the apple was poised in air. He let it fall, and it burst and disclosed the pepper.

Like his race, Tip was afraid of rodents. He was often scared over a mouse. One day Snyder came into the elephant house with several rats in a cage. He set the cage down near Tip's pen to go out for something, but was called back by a tremendous trumpeting, and found Tip crouching in a corner of his compartment with his trunk up, and nearly wild with terror over the rats.

Only those who had special permits saw Tip yesterday. Among his last visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Leicester Holme.

CHARGED WITH BREACH OF CONTRACT.

Suit Against The Press by the United Press Involving \$93,600.

An action has been begun by the United Press against The New-York Press Company, Limited, which publishes The Press newspaper of this city, for \$5,100, due for service since Jan. 1. The suit involves the question of breach of contract and the payment of a sum of money aggregating \$93,600.

The publishers of The Press entered into a contract with the United Press on July 7, 1892, agreeing to take its news service continuously until Jan. 1, 1900. The contract stipulated that the price charged for the service should not exceed \$300 a week. The United Press furnished The Press with its telegraph news to the entire satisfaction of that newspaper, but on Jan. 1 last the publishers of The Press suddenly refused to take the United Press news service. They made no complaint against the United Press, but simply said they did not wish its news.

It was then discovered that The Press was taking the service of the Western Associated Press at a reduced rate. The United Press reminded the publishers of The Press of their contract, but they said the contract was worthless and could be broken without incurring damages. Notwithstanding the refusal of The Press to take its news, the United Press continued to send its service regularly to The Press, which as regularly rejected it.

The United Press managers finally became weary of the action of the publishers of The Press and decided to sue them for payment for the service which has been offered to The Press and rejected. The amount now due the United Press is \$5,100, but the contract has still six years to run, and the price of the service for that period would be \$93,600.