

# 1905 trial verdict miffs prosecutor

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room is a disgrace and an insult to justice; it is a disgrace to this good community, and it can not be tolerated by any serious court.' He was just beginning to speak when a chorus of hisses started in reply to the cheering."

Judge Robinson then made it perfectly clear that from that moment on even the slightest peep from any spectator would result in a fine for contempt of court. As to his verdict, he had already put the court reporter to work typing a copy of the nine-day testimony.

Out of the courtroom, in his temporary sanctuary provided by the firm of Loudon & Loudon, Robinson, who was probably anxious to return to the more civilized atmosphere of the Owen Circuit Court, contemplated the fates of Miller and Mayor Claude Malott and City Attorney Arthur Hadley.

The verdict of the trial was featured on the front page of the *Indianapolis Star* of April 30. Presumably its editor had deemed the case worthy of a "special service" writer, who was present in the courtroom when Judge Robinson

read his two-hour, 52-page finding.

The *Star* correspondent wrote: "Prosecutor Miller sat nervously fingering a piece of paper as the judge pronounced him guilty of misconduct. The condemned official kept his eyes fixed on the floor and in no way did he show his true feelings."

Miller was found innocent of accepting illegal fees, but guilty of misconduct in five of the seven cases cited in the indictment. Robinson, in reviewing each of them, gave the most attention to the Thrasher horse and buggy-stealing case that triggered the trial in the first place.

Later in the day, Miller issued the following statement: "In my own conscience I know I am an innocent man. I am not going to die, or persecution is too well known for an explanation at this late hour, and I do not intend to let the temporary triumph of my enemies drive me from my chosen profession. The past two weeks have shown me that I have some very warm friends who will stick by me."

Malott was found not guilty of the charges of misconduct against him.