

Thomas Freed by Rowan County Jury on Saturday

After Deliberating About Five Hours Jury in Second Trial of Charlotte Man Gave Him His Liberty.

VERDICT DID NOT CAUSE SURPRISE

Salisbury, Where It Was Generally Believed Defendant Would Get Liberty—Goes to Charlotte.

Thomas is a free man Saturday afternoon. A jury of Rowan county men returned a verdict declaring in their opinion that Thomas should not be punished by shooting to death Arthur J. Allen, master plumber of this city, in Kamephis on the night of October 27, 1921. The verdict was rendered after a deliberation of five hours by the jury.

The case went to the jury about 1:30 Saturday afternoon and at 6:25 the members of the jury notified the court that they were ready with their verdict. Once during the afternoon after deliberating about five hours they filed into the court room and read the testimony of the defendant as read. This was done by court stenographer, Miss M. L. Hoover. About two hours later they gave to the court the verdict which made free again the man who last year in Calamus Superior Court was found guilty of second degree murder and sentenced to serve 18 years in the State prison by Judge J. H. Ray, who presided at the first trial.

When the jury filed into the court room about 6:20 Saturday afternoon a large crowd was present, including many women. Judge James L. Webb, who heard the second trial, warned against any demonstration but when the verdict of "not guilty" was read there was an outburst of applause and a rush for Thomas, who, with his little wife met the crowd with smiles and handshakes.

"I feel the people of Salisbury we are just as happy as we can be," was the first statement Thomas made after the verdict.

He and Mrs. Thomas shook hands with the crowd and then returned to the courtroom. Judge Webb ordered court adjourned.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas left immediately after the verdict was rendered for their home in Charlotte, where they will live in the future.

The trial was the longest and most interesting held in Rowan in years. It was evident all through the ten days of the trial that there was an atmosphere of friendliness to the defendant and persons of this city who shared the scene of the trial declared their opinion in Salisbury was that a verdict of acquittal would be reached. There was no surprise occasioned by the outburst that greeted the verdict.

Conceded lawyers who took a hand in the trial were: T. D. Maness, for the defense; and L. T. Hartsell and H. S. Williams for the State. A large number of Concord lawyers appeared for the defense in the first trial, here last year, but when a change of venue was made all of them except Mr. Maness were retained by Salisbury attorneys. It is understood that the Concord lawyers would be to be exonerated, expressing the belief that the lawyers of Salisbury would be of greater benefit to the defendant than a Rowan jury.

E. T. Cantler and John J. Parker, of Charlotte, appeared in both trials for the defendant. In addition to Messrs. Hartsell and Williams, at the first trial the prosecution was represented by E. C. Caldwell, of Statesville, and former Solicitor Hayden Clement.

According to statements heard on the streets here following the message of Thomas' acquittal, the verdict was generally popular here. The popularity of Allen probably accounted for this in a great measure.

Judge Webb reviewed the main points of the case, stated how covering it and also read twenty typewritten pages representing the contentions of the defendant. His honor's charge to the jury was read and the jury returned their verdict in about two hours. He instructed that the four verdicts could be rendered in about five minutes covering each verdict. He told the jury there had been no evidence of conspiracy between the defendant and Mrs. Lowe, who was in the car at the time of the killing and asked them to disregard this contention.

A large crowd remained in the court room all afternoon expecting the jury's return. Many women were present and these were asked to leave the court room for fifteen minutes when a divorce case was heard.

FARMERS OF STATE BEETER OFF NOW

Expert Says Farm People of North Carolina Are on Upgrade Financially

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 26.—After two years of a steep down-grade road, the farmers last winter came to the bottom level and in the summer of 1922 recognized the slight upward grade. This winter has found them where they can look back down and recognize that conditions are becoming better, and 1923 now looks fairly bright agriculturally in North Carolina, perhaps more so than in any other state.

This statement was made by Frank Parker, statistician of the North Carolina and United States Department of Agriculture, in discussing agricultural conditions in this state.

"The economic depression has been terribly hard on our essential food and feed producers. It is not yet over either. For the farmer's dollar still buys only 64 per cent, as much of other commodities as it did before the war," he continued. "Prosperity cannot exist until the farmer's mail leads way to maintenance of a basic, or stable agricultural condition, necessitates co-operation and standardization along modern economic lines."

"Many think that cotton and tobacco are selling at wonderfully high prices. The last crop of cotton was estimated to have cost an average of over twenty cents a pound, which means that half the farmer's cotton cost more than that, and besides much of the farm overhead and supervision costs were not included."

"This means that a small profit was made and that the average farmer made a maximum of less than \$40 per bale, while he produced not more than ten bales. Tobacco is much the same. There is an even stronger limit to large production, due to the heavy expense and limited available labor."

"Large farm production cannot be expected this year with prices as they are. The organized urban interests pay two to three times what the farmer can realize on; then, too, the urban surplus benefits of taking advantage of recreation attractions, and more spare time, too."

"A prominent farmer this month said in Raleigh. There seemed to be some pride actually taken by the packers' agents and market people in answering, 'We can't handle your product as we use only the packer's goods.' Yet our local folks accuse our farmers of being disloyal to home industry, by doing mail order business. This is but one of many instances that might be given to show that farmers must become organized or be discriminated against," he asserted.

SENATORS ARE SILENT ON HARDING PROPOSAL

Wilson Democrats Indorse Plan for Membership in the League Court.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The attitude of senators on the administration's sudden request yesterday for authority for the United States to join the international court of justice, organized under the league of nations, far from developing much more clearly to the point of increased indications that action would go over until the December session of Congress.

The first senatorial line-up on the question will come Tuesday at the meeting of the foreign relations committee, called by Senator Lodge, Republican leader, for initial consideration of the plan presented by President Harding in transmitting to the senate the detailed explanation of the administration program by Secretary Hughes.

Pending the committee meeting, the leaders of the "irreconcilables" and "reservationists" groups of Republicans generally withheld open expressions of judgment. Democratic leaders, however, especially of the so-called "Wilson group," were in harmony in according approval.

The attitude of the "irreconcilable" faction, which played a powerful part in preventing ratification of the treaty of Versailles, appeared to be one of suspicion and, in some instances, hostility, argued for as bitter opposition to the new proposal as to the league of nations.

C. W. Roberts Honored

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 25.—C. W. Roberts, secretary of the Carolina Motor Club, Saturday was notified of his appointment as chairman of the North Carolina Conference of the Motor Vehicle Conference Committee, by Harry Meisell, secretary, of New York.

Woman Prisoner Injured As She Jumps From Car

While trying to escape last night from an automobile in which she was held a prisoner by several local policemen, a young woman giving her name as Mrs. Vera Mullis, was seriously injured, and today is undergoing treatment in the Concord Hospital.

According to police reports, the woman was arrested at the passenger station of the Southern Railway on a charge of intoxication and disorderly conduct. She was placed in an automobile by the officers who started with her to the police department.

When near the home of Mrs. A. A. King on West Corbin street, the woman jumped from the car, striking her head on the street curbing. She suffered a fracture at the base of her skull, according to reports of attending physicians, who operated on her immediately after the accident.

RAISES OBJECTION TO PACKER MERGER

Secretary Wallace Files a Complaint Against Armour & Co., and Morris & Co., of Chicago.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Armour & Co. and Morris & Co., Chicago packers, were today served by the Secretary of Agriculture with a complaint charging them with violation of the packers and stockyards act in connection with the tentative acquisition of the plants and business of Morris & Co. by the Armour interests.

Secretary Wallace set April 2 for a hearing in Washington. Armour & Co., of Delaware, J. Ogden Armour, and Morris & Company were named in the complaint.

The complaint stated that on December 30, J. Ogden Armour entered into a written contract with Morris & Co. to acquire all of its assets.

In so doing, it was charged, parties to the contract violated the packers and stockyards act.

Secretary Wallace claimed such acquisition would have the effect of restraining interstate commerce, or of creating a monopoly in many sections of the United States in the purchase of livestock and in the shipment and sale of meat and other products.

The complaint also charged that the contract would have the effect of manipulating or controlling prices.

SCHOOLS GIVEN AID BY EXTENSION SERVICE

Blue Prints of Grounds Given to the Schools Seeking Aid.

Chapel Hill, N. C., Feb. 26.—Eight schools, scattered throughout the state were aided during the last ten weeks by the University of North Carolina Extension Bureau of Design and Extension, Bureau of Design and Extension, Bureau of Design and Extension, according to the report of Dr. W. C. Coker, head of the department of botany and this work.

The schools visited by Mrs. W. J. Matherly, field agent of the bureau, were Selma, Morehead City, Gray's Creek, Holly Springs, Haw River, Daniels' Chapel, Black Cree and Lenoir College.

Besides his scientific research work in botany and in addition to his regular teaching program, Dr. Coker finds time to apply some of his knowledge to other needs of the state. All designs and planting plans are made by Dr. Coker, with the assistance of Mrs. Matherly. From the ink sketches, blue prints are made and furnished to the schools free of charge.

Before the design can be made, the school must be visited by the field agent, who makes notes on the size and shape of the area, kind of soil, general topography, position of the school and of all the other permanent objects as trees, wells, other houses, and collects pictures of the campus. These notes are used in drawing the plans.

CHARGES AGAINST ANDERSON TO BE AIRD BEFORE JURY

Proposal Would Give American Membership in the International Court Set Up by League of Nations.

SENATE DEFERS PRESENT ACTION

Senator Robinson, Acting Democratic Leader, Indicates That He Will Support the Plan Later On.

Washington, Feb. 26.—A resolution to carry out the new administration proposal for American membership in the international court of justice organized by the league of nations was introduced in the Senate today by Senator King, democrat, Utah. There was no discussion and it went over indefinitely.

Senator Robinson, Arkansas, acting democratic leader, gave out the formal statement declaring that on preliminary study he had a "feeling of friendliness for the administration plan," but added that it indicated a "policy of timidity and half-heartedness" by the administration in its foreign policies.

Wants to Do More. Miami Fla., Feb. 26.—Wm. Jennings Bryan, while expressing his approval of the step taken by President Harding in proposing that the United States take a conditional seat in the international court at the league of nations, in a statement today said: "I think our action should be broader than the President's proposals. His appeal is only to the international court. That deals only with matters which can be arbitrated. I think that an investigation of all disputes is as necessary as the arbitration of those to which arbitration can be applied and that therefore we should be represented on the tribunal that investigates only and as well on that tribunal that decides reserving at all times the independence of action as in the duty treaties."

"We cannot afford to allow ourselves to be bound by opinions of those who repress other nations because their colonial ambitions and commercial aspirations are different from ours."

WHISKEY KILLS GASTONIA GIRL. Autopsy May Be Held in Order to Determine Definitely Cause of Corigan Woman's Death.

Gastonia, Feb. 24.—Mack Lippford, jitney driver, was held without bond by the coroner's jury for further investigation into the death of Mamie Turner Carr, who it is believed died of poisoned whiskey, furnished her by Lippford, Solicitor Carpenter conducted the hearing and intimated tonight that he might order an autopsy in order to more definitely determine the cause of her death.

Convening at 2:30 o'clock in Sheriff Rhyne's office at the courthouse the jury heard only one witness, Miss Corie Stoddard, of West Gastonia, who testified in effect as follows: "I was at Mrs. Turner's home between 7 and 8 o'clock last night, Mamie got out a fruit jar of liquor and gave me a drink. I took a small amount. She took a good-sized drink. Just after we had taken the whiskey, Mack Lippford came in. He asked for his whiskey. She told him she was going to keep it and would give him three dollars for it. Lippford left. A little later she got the jar out and took another big drink. She gave me some in a coca-cola bottle to take home with me. I left about 8 o'clock. I became deathly sick by the time I got home and vomited. She was getting weak when I left. I believed if I had not vomited the whiskey would have killed me, though I took on a small drink as compared with what she took."

When members of the family found the Carrigan girl dead she appeared to have died in great agony, her clothing being torn and there being evidence that she probably died in convulsions.

The body was removed to the Ford Undertaking company's place by order of the coroner and later was moved again to the house where the coroner's jury is completing its investigation this afternoon.

Grain Exports Increase.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 4,351,000 bushels, as compared with 3,688,000 for the week previous, while exports of flour amounted to 284,500 barrels, as compared with 177,500 barrels the week before.

Southern Railway Appeal Dismissed. Washington, Feb. 26.—The appeal of the Southern Railway Company from the decision of the United States District Court for Western North Carolina involving the construction of certain tax laws of the state was dismissed today by the Supreme Court on motion of the Railway Company.

Senator Simmons Up Again. New Bern, Feb. 26.—United States Senator F. M. Simmons has regained his strength sufficiently to spend a few hours each day in the open. He is recovering from an illness with influenza.

Four Officials of Anti-Saloon League Ordered to Give Testimony Before Special New York Jury.

Anderson Says Charges False

He is Being Prosecuted by Tammy Democrats, Wet Republicans and Financial Interest, He Says.

New York, Feb. 26.—With four officials of the state anti-saloon league under subpoena, Acting District Attorney Pecora expected to present to a grand jury today evidence concerning the manner in which Supt. Wm. H. Anderson handled the organization's finances.

Yesterday Mr. Anderson, speaking in an Albany pulpit, declared he was the victim of a "far reaching conspiracy" in which Tammany wet Republicans and machine politicians, and wet financial interests were involved.

His charges that the conspirators were using Raymond B. Fosdick, legal representative of the Rockefeller's, as "a de factor stool pigeon, a wet-talking, personally hostile employee of John D. Rockefeller's" to help their fight brought an immediate response from John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Telephoning from Ormand Beach, Fla., Mr. Rockefeller authorized a statement which said: "If Mr. Fosdick is guilty of participating in any wet conspiracy, I am guilty too, for he has represented me in this matter for two years, and I have fully approved his every action, and he has had and still retains my full confidence."

"Insofar as the gift of my father and myself to the anti league is concerned, we have ourselves published them on several occasions. We feel that the source of all receipts of any organization, such as the Anti-Saloon League, should be made known, and also that a full public accounting should be made of the use of the money. An organization whose purpose is to influence public opinion can hardly afford to have financial secrets."

Wants Anderson Indicted. New York, Feb. 26.—Acting District Attorney Pecora announced this morning that he would go before the grand jury this afternoon with a request that Wm. H. Anderson, state superintendent of the anti-saloon league of New York be indicted on a charge of grand larceny.

SANATORIUM INQUIRY HAS BEEN CONTINUED. Final Hearing Until Legislature Adjourns Was Held During the Day.

Raleigh, Feb. 26.—(By the Associated Press)—In recognition of the press of necessary legislation upon the remaining time of the General Assembly the committee investigating the management of the state sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis voted to make the short session of today the final meeting of the committee until after the legislature adjourns.

One witness was examined today and his testimony was to the effect that he found "filthy conditions" in the kitchen of the sanatorium which he visited it. The witness was J. R. Turner, a traveling salesman, who testified that he visited the kitchen to solicit business.

The chairman of the investigating committee, T. C. Bowie, stated that he believed the inquiry should be continued in Raleigh, and the committee membership concurred in this opinion. Future meetings will be called at times chosen after due consideration of the possibility of conflict with engagements of Dr. L. B. McBrayer, superintendent of the sanatorium and his counsel, it was stated.

WOULD DETERMINE OWNERSHIP OF WEALTH. Such Resolution Has Been Introduced For the Consideration of Congress.

Washington, Feb. 26.—An inquiry to determine the amount of ownership of the chief kinds of wealth in the United States would be made by the Federal Trade Commission under a resolution introduced in the Senate today by Senator Norris, republican, of Nebraska. On objection by Senator Smoot, republican, of Utah, consideration of the resolution was postponed for a day.

Record Year For Canal. Panama Canal traffic doubled in 1922 for shipping between the western and eastern coasts of the United States, an increase undoubtedly due to the high freight rates of the railroads. In tonnage, toll and number of ships \$122 exceeded any former 12 months since the opening of the canal. The canal collected \$12,573,407.77 in tolls from 13,710,556 tons of cargo. Six carloads of nitrate from Chile passed through for Atlantic coast farmers. Just another hint of the country's need of Henry Ford at Muscle Shoals.

FARM CREDITS BILL REPORTED TO HOUSE

Bill Would Establish Two New Banking Systems, Which Would Be Used to Aid the Farmers.

Washington, Feb. 26.—An agricultural credits bill which would establish two new banking systems for the aid of the farmer was formally reported today by the House banking committee. It contemplates twelve intermediate credit banks as independent adjuncts of the Federal Farm Loan board, and a system of privately owned agricultural credit corporations and re-discount corporations.

The bill follows the general lines of the Capper and Lenroot-Anderson bills passed by the Senate, and the Strong bill passed by the House.

Under present plans the measure will be taken up in the House tomorrow, leaders having expressed the hope of passing it in one day.

Think Immigrants Are Smuggled in. Washington, Feb. 26.—Immigration authorities have begun an extensive survey of industrial areas in New Jersey and northeast Pennsylvania, Secretary Davis announced today, to determine how many aliens have been smuggled into the United States in violation of the seaman's act. Warrants ordering deportations from the United States of 198 individuals already have been issued.

CONGRESS CONFRONTED WITH A MASS OF WORK. Over 14,000 Bills and Resolutions Are Awaiting Action Before Adjournment.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The 67th Congress enters the home stretch tomorrow with more than 14,000 bills and resolutions on its calendars and with prospects of enactment of about 100, including two of major importance, farm credits legislation and the deficiency appropriation bill.

This year's pre-adjournment jam of legislation promises to be centered more in the house than in the senate. The deficiency bill is scheduled for house passage tomorrow, while the farm credits composite bill will come up in the house on Tuesday.

In the house also vigorous efforts will be made to complete action on the Norris constitutional amendment to change the dates of the presidential inauguration and the convening of Congress and to get a vote on Mississippi flood control and other bills.

PAR CLEARANCE ACT TO SUPREME COURT. Highest Court in Country Will Decide Constitutionality of 1921 Act.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The constitutionality of the act of 1921 of the North Carolina General Assembly under which state banks and trust companies were authorized to charge a fee for remitting funds to other banks in payment of checks drawn by their depositors will be passed upon by the Supreme Court, it was announced today.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Monroe, N. C. and eleven other banks of that state in a case against the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Va., sought to have reviewed the decisions of the North Carolina Supreme Court, holding the law unconstitutional on the ground that it conflicted with certain sections of the Federal Reserve act, and was in contravention of the legal tender provisions of the Federal constitution.

HOUSE TABLES SEVERAL BILLS PRESENTED TODAY. Burlington C. Fitzgerald Measure and Bergwyn Proposed Killed in House.

Raleigh, Feb. 26.—(By the Associated Press)—In a tabling mood, the House today killed the Burlington bill providing a constitutional amendment for the purpose of enacting a garnishment law as proposed by state merchants, the Baggett bill from the Senate which would allow operations in state charitable and penal institutions by physicians or surgeons without consultation with or consent of relatives, and a measure by representative Burgwyn which proposed to reduce from \$300 to \$100 the tax exemption on personal property. All went down by sweeping majorities.

Former Senator Dead. Oakland, Cal., Feb. 26.—Former United States Senator George C. Perkins, aged 84, died at his home here today.