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VIRGINIANS SEEK TO FREE ALLENS

Plea To Governor Is That Conviction Of Men Was Miscarriage of Justice

Richmond, Sept. 27.—Petitions carrying the names of nearly 90,000 men and women of Virginia in every walk of life, asking clemency for Sidna Allen, Friel Allen, Wesley Edwards and Sidna Edwards, were laid before Governor Trinkle in the executive conference room by a large number of prominent men and women interested in the prisoners, who now are serving their eleventh year for participation in the Hillsville courthouse killings July 12, 1911, in which Judge Massie and Commonwealth's Attorney Foster were slain.

Pleading that the conviction of these four men was a miscarriage of justice due to political prejudice and excitement incident to the suddenness of the crime for which Floyd Allen and his son, Claude Allen were electrocuted Edgar B. English, counsel for the Allens and the Edwards; R. Holman Willis, of Roanoke, who was a member of the counsel for the defense; Richard Evelyn Byrd, Rev. R. Cary Montague, Judge William F. Rhea, chairman of the State corporation; J. Z. Johnson, of Hanover county; Dr. Len G. Broughton, pastor of the Grove Avenue Baptist church; Dr. J. J. Scherer, Jr., pastor of the First English Lutheran church; Mrs. Janet Stuart, of Durham and Rev. H. D. C. MacHachian, pastor of the Seventh Street Christian church asked that the men be pardoned, declaring they had served sufficient time to pay for their part in the crime.

Governor Trinkle said he would give the matter earnest consideration at the earliest possible moment.

Among the others in the conference was Mrs. J. W. Stevens of Roanoke.

Addressing Governor Trinkle, Attorney English said the men and women were there to present the petitions signed by between 50,000 and 90,000 persons asking clemency, for a crime for which a majority of the people in Virginia doubted their guilt. He said the suddenness of the crime shocked the state and the nation and a prejudice arose which permeated the atmosphere when the men were brought to trial and which prevented them from having a fair trial.

Mr. English said in addition to the petitions he presented letters from 23 of the 24 jurors who tried Sidna Allen in the two trials, urging clemency. He said he had a letter from a man in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who offered to post a bond of \$100,000 that Sidna Allen, if pardoned, would conduct himself properly.

R. Holman Willis, of Roanoke, member of the House of Delegates, who was one of the counsel for Claude Allen and others of the clan, made an impassioned plea in behalf of the men.

Mr. Willis said that Judge Massie was between a cross fire of shots and that the bullet imbedded in the judge's chair came from the right of the chair, while the members of the Allen gang were on the left of the chair. He declared the entire wealth of commonwealth was arrayed against the accused men in their trials, and that afterwards the legislature made an appropriation of \$40,000 to meet a deficiency in the state's costs in the litigation.

Mr. Byrd, who was next heard, said the night before Claude Allen went to the electric chair he declared to Byrd. "I want you to know that I had no more intention of shooting the judge than I have of shooting you. I saw Dexter Good reach for a pistol and I shot because I wanted to defend father."

Judge Rhea said the one point that impressed him was that the last men tried, after a lapse of several weeks when excitement had died down had received lighter sentences for the same charges than others tried previously and he took this to indicate that the commonwealth had weakened in the presentation of its charges with the dwindling of excitement and prejudice.

J. Z. Johnson, of Hanover county, said the sentiment in that county was practically unanimous in favor of the Governor extending clemency.

Dr. Broughton said he had written 30 letters to prominent men in Roanoke, Danville, Radford and other southwest towns and cities and 29 answers has been received expressing the hope that pardon would be granted.

FRIDAY, THIRTEENTH, WILL END DEADLY WEEK AT STATE PRISON

Four Men Will Be Executed During Week Beginning October 10

Raleigh, Oct. 1.—A combination of judicial coincidence, and orders of execution from the Governor will send four men to the death chair during the four days beginning Tuesday, October 10, and culminating with a double execution on Friday, the thirteenth.

John Dixon, a Craven county burglar, will lead the dismal procession, followed two days later by McIver Burnett, sentenced for rape in Wake county, and on the next day John Bush, a Caldwell county murderer and Joe Johnson, a Washington county burglar will go down into the hereafter together.

It will break all the records of the prison when these four men are killed in one week. Thus far in the twelve years that the death by electrocution has been an institution in the State no more than two have been executed in one week. Four times double executions have been staged, the last two weeks ago when Angus Murphy and Joe Thomas were killed.

John Dixon, who was sentenced last Spring by Judge Daniels to execution, was caught red handed by a fourteen year old boy while he was burglarizing the house where the lad slept. His appeal to the Supreme Court was denied, and he is making ready his ways for death in the ten days that remain for him on earth. He is calm and seemingly unafraid.

McIver Burnett, who attacked a white woman a few miles from Raleigh on the day before he was to have been discharged from the county roads was tried before Judge Lyon in Raleigh three weeks ago and sentenced. No appeal was filed for him, and he will go alone to the death chamber on Wednesday.

John Bush, who is a member of a prominent white family, was sentenced by Judge J. S. Ray in Lenoir three weeks ago. Lawyers for him are understood to be making an effort to perfect an appeal to the Supreme court in his behalf, but thus far no notice has been received at the Prison of a stay of execution. He was convicted of murder.

Joe Johnson was sentenced from Washington county on September 2 by Judge Frank A. Daniels after a jury had found him guilty of burglary in the first degree. No appeal has been made on his behalf, and barring executive intervention, he will die on the morning of Friday the thirteenth probably before John Bush. He will be the sixty-second man to die in the chair.

Five other men, including Clyde Montgomery, are awaiting death in the solitudes of the death row at the Prison. No date has been set by the Governor for their going. Montgomery was denied a new trial by the Supreme court last April, but thus far no day has been set for his execution. It is understood that an effort will be made in his behalf before the Governor.

Chinese Girl At State University

Chapel Hill, Sept. 26.—The first Chinese girl to enter the University for a full college year arrived here today. She is Miss Tzu-Lien Yui, and she came to America from Shanghai only a few weeks ago. A North Carolina missionary, Miss Lelia Tuttle, who taught her in China, directed her here.

Miss Yui speaks perfect English—probably a great deal better brand of the language, if the truth be told, than most of the people who are born to it. She is going to be a special student in the School of Public Welfare this next year, but in 1923 she expects to register as a junior and take regular course leading to graduation.

"I was educated in the McTyair School in Shanghai," said Miss Yui today. "It is a missionary institution conducted by the Southern Methodists. Miss Tuttle told me about North Carolina. Before I came to Chapel Hill I went with her to her home in Lenoir. After landing in this country I had gone to Rochester, Minnesota, and Chicago, and at Lenoir, in the beautiful mountain country, I had a fine rest from my long trip."

SHIPS RACE INTO PORT TO EVADE HIGHER TARIFF

Importers And Merchants In Last-Minute Mad Rush

New York, Sept. 21.—With more than \$15,000,000 collected in customs duties in the past week from importers and merchants making a last minute rush to declare their goods before the new tariff with its higher duties goes into effect tonight at midnight, the New York customs house today ended one of the most exciting periods of its history.

An average of more than \$1,000,000 a day has been collected in customs at the port of New York since July 1, and more than \$3,000,000 a day was taken in Saturday, Monday and Tuesday.

Cash withdrawals from banks became so great today, coupled with withdrawals by interior banks to move crops, call money was forced up from 4 1-2 to 6 per cent on the stock exchange.

When the tariff bill left the senate last Tuesday to go to the White House for the President's signature steamship men sent out appeals by wireless to ships at sea to bend every effort to reach port as soon as possible before the new tariff could become a law. Several ships, by increasing their speed, made New York harbor today and thus saved the owners of the merchandise they were carrying thousands of dollars in increased duties.

Other shipping concerns having steamships due to arrive late tonight or tomorrow endeavored to obtain rulings from the customs authorities that would consider the ships within New York harbor if they were within the 12-mile bootleggers' limit.

The steamship Rotterdam from Holland with general cargo was due to reach Fire Island around midnight but the customs men ruled that the ship would have to be well on her way through the Narrows by midnight in order to escape the workings of the new tariff law.

Sugar, tobacco and wool were the chief commodities withdrawn from customs, while woolen, silks and cotton goods made up the bulk of the manufactured goods declared for duty at the last moment by the customs brokers.

One of the shipments from foreign ports which failed in the race to reach here in time was a special trainload of English textiles, Irish laces and other merchandise rushed aboard the Mauretania before she left England. The Mauretania will not arrive here until Saturday. Other steamships bearing large cargoes of goods which will have to pay the new duties are the France of the French line from Havre, the La Bourdonnais from Bordeaux, the Vasari from Rio de Janeiro, the Lapland from Antwerp, the President Fillmore from Bremen and the Roma, Oropes, Scythia and Baltic. In addition there are more than two score freight and tramp steamers speeding for New York with dutiable goods.

"Uncle" Joe Cannon To Travel Long Trail One Time More

Washington, Sept. 30.—Uncle Joe Cannon dug into the cedar chest today for some woolen things he will wear next week when he hits the same trail westward to Illinois that he and his parents broke 83 years ago in emigrating from the hills of North Carolina.

The early voyage westward was made in an old prairie schooner, out of the back of which Uncle Joe, then barely four years old, watched the shifting scenery and dreamed. Even now he remembers the nights he played around the campfire, the hardships and the stars that peered down at him as he slept.

There was something that resembled a tear in the veteran's eyes as he recalled today his earliest recollections of that trying trip, but they sparkled as he talked of his coming trip over the same old pike—this time in an automobile.

"After March 4, next, I will make my last journey homeward as a member of the House," said Uncle Joe. "So the trip by motor, delayed and delayed, will be made at this time and on every foot of the road my heart will beat with happiness as I think of the many honors that have come my way. I have decided I had better go now, for March is a long way off and I am growing old."

WATSON'S FINISH PATHETIC SIGHT

Georgia Senator Had Difficulty In Getting Floor In Senate

Washington, Sept. 26.—The sudden death of Senator Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, at an early hour this morning was not known to many, being told of, only in a late and partly circulated edition of the Washington Herald, the Washington Post failing to get the item. The news came as a shock to the people generally, while some of the few Senators still here said they were not surprised, that Senator Watson had been looking near to death's door lately.

He was last in the Senate on Friday of last week, the day the Senate adjourned and had been absent some days then, not having been present on the day the vote on the question of overriding the President's veto of the soldier bonus bill was taken. In this matter Senator Watson had spoken against the bill, but changed and on the roll call voted for the measure. During the last day of the session Senator Watson made his position absolutely clear, and in view of his death here this morning the scene at that time becomes a most pathetic one.

During the last session Senator Watson, whose seat was on the back row of the Democratic side, rose slowly to his feet and walked slowly and carefully to the front row between two desks, placing a hand on each to support himself. "Mr. President," he said quietly to the presiding officer, the President pro tempore whom he was near. No attention was given him, a Republican being recognized by the chair. Again "Mr. President," said Senator Watson when the Republican ceased, but again he was not recognized. Four times he addressed the chair, but was not given recognition. Then a Republican asked unanimous consent for some measure, and quickly Senator Watson announced, "I object," and stated that he would object to any unanimous consent measure until he was recognized. Then the chair recognized him and quietly speaking but two sentences, Senator Watson said that "when a vote was reached on the question as to whether the veto of the President of the soldier bonus bill should be overridden, I was struggling between life and death with asthma, and had no chance to arrange a pair. Had I been present I would have voted to override that veto." Then he quietly returned to his seat. He was pale, showed marks of his illness, and the few correspondents in the press gallery, agreed that Senator Watson was still a very sick man.

Called To Task For His Figures By Republicans

Washington, Sept. 26.—It is rather an open secret around Washington that when Congressman Will Wood, of Indiana, chairman of the Republican Congressional committee, naively confessed that the Republican majority of 170 in the present House of Representatives would drop to some 24 or 30 after the next election, he was called to task by some of the Republican leaders for confessing too much. It was pointed out to him that an admission that the Democrats would secure from 140 to 146 of the seats now held by Republicans was an admission of defeat that might indicate that the Democrats might take the tail with the hide and thus have a majority in the next Congress.

This fact is said to have been impressed upon the chairman Congressman in some vigorous language and he is said to have been called upon to reconsider his figures and hand out a different looking set. And the Indiana man has done just that thing. Yesterday he was at the White House and had a conference with President Harding, a conference on political matters. When he came away he was ready with a brand new lot of figures and had jumped one hundred per cent. His latest set is that the Republicans will have a majority of 60 in the House, and that rainbow will last him for another spell. In the meantime the Democrats are going ahead with their campaign work, and according to the reports that reach Washington they are finding fields of the most fertile kind in which to plant Democratic doctrines. They hold that the trend is strong for the Democrats and that there will be "a big killing" for them on election day.

PRESIDENT HAS LOST LABOR AND SOLDIER VOTE

However, He Has Wall Street Back Of Him And G. O. F. Can Get Campaign Money

Washington, Sept. 22.—The President's veto on the bonus bill has in a measure cleared the political atmosphere and given the Democrats a line on the real strength of the forces that will be arrayed against them in the November election.

Up till very recently house Republicans have counted largely on the popularity of President Harding to pull them through this fall at the ballot box. But within the last month his lack of success in settling the rail and coal strikes has seriously undermined his popularity with the labor people, according to Samuel Gompers and now his bonus bill veto has alienated an immense number of ex-service men if the National legislative committee of the American Legion is correct in its estimate.

Manford McNider, commander of the American Legion, has, in a circular letter to members of Congress, concentrated the fire of the legion upon the head of the President. Mr. Harding is held responsible for the failure of the compensation legislation. Mr. McNider writes: "After three years of careful consideration the representatives of the people in Congress have given the adjusted compensation legislation their approval. President Harding opposes its enactment into law. Apparently agreeing with the principle, he is unwilling that the handicap of those who offered their lives and brought safety to the nation should be adjusted."

But the failure of the legislation with the senate bill carrying the McNary amendment for the reclamation of arid lands in the west has also, it is stated, alienated the large irrigation vote. The friends of the bill esminated this amendment to make it easier for the President to withhold his vote. And for the same reason they dropped the Simmons amendment, which proposed to raise the bonus money from the allied debts due the United States. With the Simmons amendment out the President condemned the bill for offering no plan for raising the money.

But the Democrats do not overlook the fact that the President's veto will greatly strengthen his party's claims on that comparatively small group of men who furnish the Republican coffers with campaign money. The veto will supplement the Fordney-McCumber tariff act as a money getter.

So the campaign for the House of Representatives is about to open with the President's popularity shaken by labor strikes and by his opposition to a demand to render a mead of justice to the men who went out to face the fire for their country and with one of the most unpopular congresses that ever met on Capitol Hill, but with the campaign treasury able to get every dollar that can be spent. When Mr. Harding wrote his name to the Fordney-McCumber bill making it a law and when he wrote his disapproval of the bonus bill, he metaphorically, wrote a check for the campaign of his party, the Democrats declare.

On the other hand the Democrats have less money than they have ever had according to Chairman House, of the Democratic Campaign Committee of the House. Some days his committee has not enough money to buy a postage stamp and some of the members of the Democratic National Committee have mortgaged their property to save office rents. "The Democrats," said Mr. House, "never had such telling issues with no means with which to tell them."

"But depend upon it," he went on, "the story will get out. It is a story that will hit every man's and woman's pocket before sixty days are gone. The steel trust, the American Woolen company, the Pittsburgh Aluminum company, the American Pipe Line company and scores of other big corporations have set the stage for the drama and for millions it will be a tragedy. The American people will know who have conceived and staged this tragedy. If the Republicans had all the money in Wall street they can not suppress the story."

JAIL SENTENCES CHECKING BOOTLEGGERS

Judges Beginning to Realize Seriousness of Situation, Says Mr. Haynes — Maximum Penalties Needed for Efficient Enforcement

Washington, Sept. 18.—The increasing tendency of judges to impose jail sentences rather than fines in liquor violation cases is one of the most potent weapons against law-breakers, is the opinion of Roy A. Haynes, federal prohibition commissioner.

"There is no doubt that judges are realizing more and more the necessity for imposing jail sentences, and severe ones, on liquor violators," said Mr. Haynes. "Until they are willing to do this in even greater degree, however, we cannot have the Volstead Law operating at its full efficiency."

"Judges are just coming to realize the seriousness of the offense. From all districts I am getting reports showing that jail sentences are becoming more common, and that there is a consequent increasing respect for the law on the part of the liquor element."

"The imposition of a fine means very little to the average bootlegger with money behind him and it is easy for him to pay it out of his profits. But he hates to go to jail—and with the possibility of a jail term hanging over him, he is apt to consider the matter of law-breaking a little more seriously."

The futility of fines is shown by the practice that has grown up in many states of professional bondsmen signing bootleggers' bonds, and forming "companies" to stand temporarily any financial loss imposed by court sentences. So flagrant has this practice become in Georgia that it has been openly and severely condemned by some of the grand juries.

The willingness of judges to impose prison sentences, which has been very evident in recent months, according to Mr. Haynes, has done a great deal to break up the liquor traffic among the more prosperous classes.

The provision of the Volstead Act makes imprisonment for a first offense optional with the judge, the limit being six months, and the alternative being a fine of not more than \$1000; for a second offense, however, the penalty is both fine and imprisonment, varying from one month to five years. It is in the willingness of the judges to inflict the maximum rather than the minimum penalty that the hope of breaking up the illegal liquor traffic largely rests, as Mr. Haynes sees it.

The congestion of liquor cases on federal dockets will be broken soon by the appointment of 24 additional district judges, provided in the bill signed this week by the President. Mr. Haynes estimates that over 20,000 such cases are pending, and is confident that the work will be expedited greatly by the increase of the number of judges.

Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, assistant attorney-general, in charge of liquor violation cases for the Department of Justice, also said that in many districts federal judges are imposing jail sentences in every possible case. She named particularly Pennsylvania, central New York, Alabama, and California. The number of jail sentences, as compared with fines imposed since last March averages only 25 per cent, however.

Statistics on the action of federal courts in liquor violation cases for the last few months, while showing an increase over last year in jail sentences, give evidence that there is yet room for improvement. Treasury and Department of Justice officials agree that the percentage of jail sentences passed should be greater than it is. Figures for four recent months follow:

April, convictions, 2098; fines imposed, \$353,445; commitments to jail, 701.

May, convictions, 2682; fines \$363,733; commitments to jail 761.

June, convictions, 356; fines \$74,151; commitments to jail, 75.

How Better Than Pills?

The question has been asked, in what way are Chamberlain's Tablets superior to the ordinary cathartic and liver pills? Our answer is, they are easier and more pleasant to take and their effect is so gentle that one hardly realizes that it is produced by a medicine. They not only move the bowels but improve the appetite and strengthen the digestion.