

END OF TESTIMONY IN TRIAL OF "BANKERS" REACHED AT LAST

Government Closes, Breesse Testifies Again Briefly for Defence, and Argument Is Begun.

DAY'S CHIEF WITNESS WAS GEORGE M. COFFIN

Effect of Testimony was to Rebut Some of Major Breesse's as to What Comptroller Knew, etc.

GEORGE M. COFFIN was the chief witness today in the trial of Messrs. Breesse, Penland and Dickerson, charged with conspiracy to defraud the First National Bank of Asheville.

Mr. Coffin testified today that he had known Maj. Breesse practically all his life; that they were friends in Charleston; that he was a cousin of Maj. Breesse's first wife and that he had accepted the hospitality of Maj. Breesse in Asheville while deputy comptroller of the currency.

Mr. Coffin was called to the stand as a witness for the government. He was sent here after the failure of the bank and said that Maj. Breesse admitted that he had got the benefit of the \$114,000 of notes in a pile, Mr. Penland the benefit of \$77,000 and Mr. Dickerson the benefit of \$50,000. The witness testified that after looking over the affairs of the bank; the notes aggregating over \$200,000 which Maj. Breesse said were practically worthless, he knew that he would have to proceed against the officials and told Maj. Breesse that he would have to arrest him.

Mr. Coffin testified that this was the first time that he was examined by Mr. Coffin in the Waldorf trial in Chicago. Judge Newman would not allow the testimony. The court held in effect that the case against Messrs. Breesse, Penland and Dickerson now being tried would have to stand on its own legs; that if the defendants willfully violated the law it did not make any difference if the comptroller or deputy comptroller or even the president did know of such violation; that it would not help the defendants any. Mr. Coffin was put through a rigid cross-examination by Mr. Craig when the witness' evidence at previous trials was referred to. Mr. Coffin was not always frank in his answers; his memory was also dim. He replied quite frequently that if the reports of the examiners showed so-and-so about the matter; or the reports of the examiners speak for themselves. He said on direct examination that he did not know Maj. Breesse owed the bank such a large sum until after the bank failed; that he knew the Barker note was in the bank, and the Hatch note. He denied that he ever discussed with Maj. Breesse the matter of Maj. Breesse putting up his bank stock as collateral. He said that Maj. Breesse had never told him that the bank had never exceeded that 10 per cent. loan limit. District Attorney Holton objected. Judge Newman promptly ruled out the evidence and Judge Moore asked that an exception be noted, saying that he was not right sure whether the evidence was or was not competent. Mr. Holton wanted to put in evidence the overdrafts shown on the bank books for February, 1891. Mr. Craig objected to picking out an item here and there or a date here and there in the books and putting it in evidence. He said that it was not right to the defense; that if one was gone into all should be and that would take a great deal of time. Judge Newman at Mr. Craig's suggestion said he thought it proper that the government having the opening, and compelling argument, should show the opening of what items and entries in the books the prosecution relied upon for conviction. Judge Coble, who will make the first argument for the government, objected to the district attorney, who will make the concluding argument, being held down to those items and matters to which the assistant district attorney might refer in his argument.

Judge Newman said that counsel could confine their argument to the various entries referred to during the trial and that the district attorney should say on what he relied for conviction. Mr. Holton replied that he relied upon all the evidence introduced.

The matter was passed over and J. M. Guder, Jr., former representative in congress from this district, was continued on page five.

PAULHAM BETTERS WRIGHTS' RECORD

And Glenn Curtiss Ties the Speed Record Made Yesterday by Bleriot.

Bethany, Aviation Field, Rheims, Aug. 25.—Paulham, the French aviator, flying over the 10 kilometer course here today, beat the distance record held previously by Wright Brothers.

He covered a distance of 131 kilometers (81.35 miles) in two hours and 43 minutes and 24 seconds. The distance between turns was not counted. He covered the course 13 times. His time at the end of the twelfth lap was 12 hours, 23 minutes, 36 seconds; the Wright record for distance is 73 miles according to official measuring.

Glenn H. Curtiss covered a lap of the course, 4.5 miles, this afternoon at a rate of speed that according to unofficial timing, broke the record for this distance made yesterday by Bleriot, 8 minutes, 4 2-5 seconds, but when official time was given out it was seen that Curtiss had tied Bleriot.

The marvelous, prolonged high flight of 20 kilometers (12 1/2 miles) at a 20 knot breeze by Paulham and the establishment of a new world's record for ten kilometers at the rate of 46 miles an hour by Bleriot, was the features of the aerial race meeting yesterday.

Owing to the high wind there probably would have been no flight except for the visit of President Fallieres and his cabinet. The president was accompanied also by distinguished officers of the French and British armies. His presence stimulated the sky pilots, and a dozen machines were brought out on the field, but a majority of them were unable to battle against the winds.

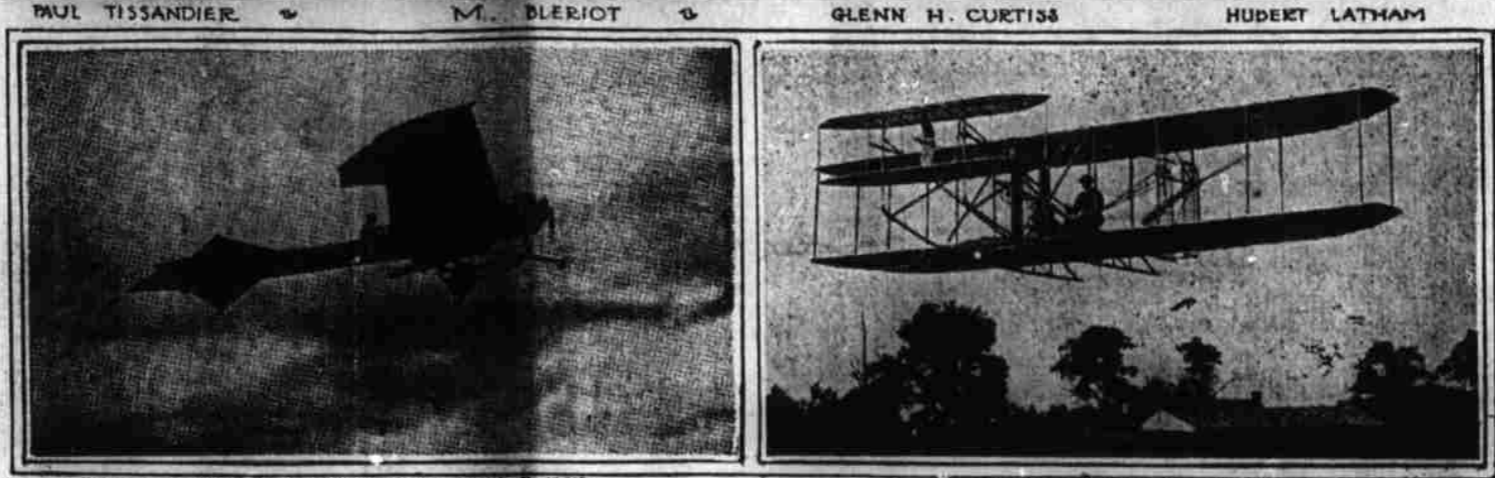
Young Bunnau-Vanilla, however, with his machine plunging like a ship on a stormy sea, managed to navigate the turbulent air currents for one hour.

Then Paulham, who already had won a reputation for courage and endurance, began his thrilling flight. He made the first two rounds at an altitude of 250 feet, but, ascending in front of the tribune as he entered the third circuit, he reached a height of between four hundred and five hundred feet. The spectators gazed aloft in admiration, mingled with horror, for as they watched, the biplane struck what seemed a dangerous angle. The machine swayed in the wind but each time righted itself.

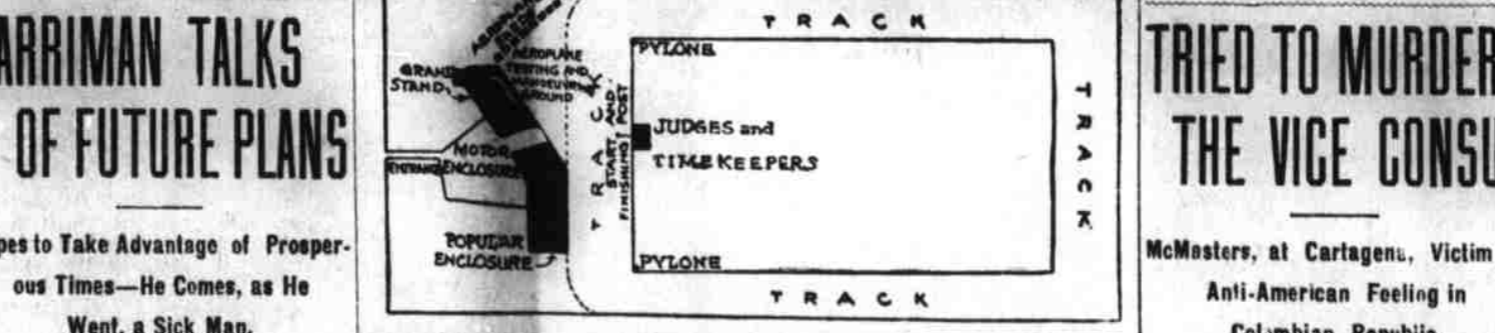
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Participants in Aviation Week Events at Rheims



THE LATHAM MONOPLANE IN FULL FLIGHT



THE WRIGHT BIPLANE

HARRIMAN TALKS OF FUTURE PLANS

Hopes to Take Advantage of Prosperous Times—He Comes, as He Went, a Sick Man.

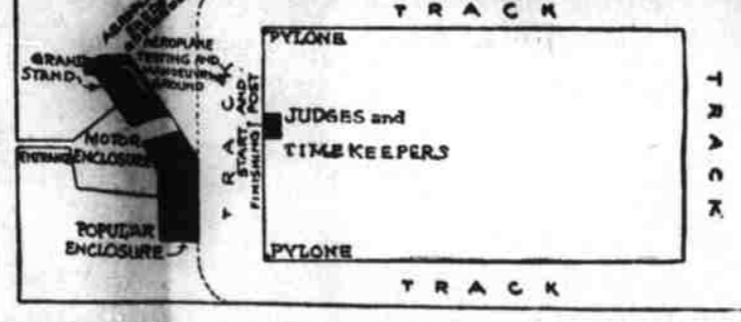
New York, Aug. 25.—Sustained by sheer determination and will power, E. H. Harriman, after the trying ordeal accompanying his arrival from Europe, is today beginning the after cure for which he returned to his home in Arden, after vigorous treatment at the Austrian resort, Bad Gastein.

Although Mr. Harriman talked about his railroad plans with manifest interest, he declined to discuss the plan for segregation of assets of the Union Pacific railroad, which has been reported as being in prospect.

"The only thing that concerns me," he said, "is the development and improvement of the lines under our charge, and that we may take advantage of these prosperous times to complete these developments."

When Harriman, genius of finance, leader of men, and master builder of railroads, came back to the United States yesterday, the financial world stood on its tip-toes in anxiety and expectancy.

He came back as he left on June 1 last—a sick, tired man, seeking health. Surrounded by his family and physicians at his magnificent, although uncompleted summer home at Arden on the Hudson, he has begun the "after cure."



TRACK LAYOUT

HEAVY EARTHQUAKE SHOCK IN ITALY

One Killed, Many Injured in Siena Province, Many Houses Thrown Down.

Siena, Italy, Aug. 25.—A heavy earthquake was felt throughout the province of Siena at 1:29 a. m. today. Practically all houses in San Lorenzomorze were destroyed or badly damaged. Many persons were injured.

The quake was felt most severely within a radius of 20 miles from Siena. Considerable damage was done at Buonconvento, where several houses collapsed and one person was killed. Several persons were injured at Montetoni. A number of houses also were damaged there, and masonry fell into the streets.

The shock was recorded at Piombino, on the coast about 50 miles southwest of Siena at 1:25 a. m., and there was a repetition five minutes later. The people fled from their homes in terror but no damage has been reported. Siena escaped with a severe shaking.

The people were badly frightened, however, and rushed out of their houses into the streets, where they wandered about in a state of semi-panic until assured the quake was over.

FATAL EXPLOSION OF FIRE ENGINE

Brevard Chemical Engine Blows up; One Man Is Killed, and Four Others Are Injured.

Brevard, Aug. 25.—The chemical engine of the Brevard fire department exploded early this morning, killing J. P. Aiken, colored, and injuring four firemen—J. W. Smith, proprietor of a barber shop, hurt about the face; J. A. Galloway, chief of police, bruises on leg and hip; C. B. Wilson, clerk in drug store, injuries on face and leg, and J. W. Chapman of the Electric Light company, leg crushed at ankle. Mr. Chapman is the most seriously injured.

The fire department about 7 a. m. responded to an alarm, a small house occupied by a colored family being on fire. On the hill just north of the school house the cylinder of the engine turned over, releasing the pressure of the gas in some way, just as the hose had been connected. The rear end of the cylinder blew out, blowing Jim Aiken ten or 12 feet away, and he was dead when picked up. He had been helping to make the connection. Two others were knocked down by the explosion but not injured.

Aiken was a good citizen, a good business man, well to do, active in school and church affairs of his race, and highly respected by white and colored alike.

Nothing has been heard of the woman this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

TRIED TO MURDER THE VICE CONSUL

McMasters, at Cartagena, Victim of Anti-American Feeling in Colombian Republic.

New Orleans, Aug. 25.—Steamship passengers arriving from Colombia report the attempted assassination and serious wounding by two Colombians of William B. McMasters of New York, United States vice consul at Cartagena. The attack was the outgrowth of anti-American feeling there.

McMasters was at his home in Cartagena on the evening of July 24, when Lara Cendoba, editor of an anti-American newspaper in Cartagena, accompanied by a friend, broke in on him. The two were armed with knives and revolvers.

McMasters put up a brave defense but was badly wounded in a dozen places and left for dead. A bullet grazed his forehead and he was stabbed in the head and abdomen. It is understood that the United States legation at Bogota has demanded satisfaction.

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ALL QUIET IN MONROE AFTER ANXIOUS NIGHT

Following Negro's Murderous Rampage, People Were in Feverish Excitement.

Monroe, La., Aug. 25.—All is quiet in Monroe, after a night that caused anxiety to the local authorities, following the rampage of the negro, William Wade, yesterday, during which 23 persons were wounded before Wade was killed.

SAYS INCUBATOR BABY IS NOT MRS. BLEAKLEY'S

Mrs. Barclay, Foster Mother, Declares the Little One Is the Daughter of an Actress.

Kansas City, Aug. 25.—Marian Bleakley, the incubator baby, is not the child of Mrs. J. J. Bleakley of Topeka, according to Mrs. Stella Barclay of Buffalo, N. Y., foster mother of the little girl. Her real mother, Mrs. Barclay declares, is an actress.

GIVE UP POLITICS OR CENSUS JOBS

President Says Supervisors Holding Party Positions Must Let Loose One or T'other.

Washington, Aug. 25.—President Taft is leaving nothing undone to make it clear that he does not intend that the census work and politics shall be mixed.

WOMAN MISSING; FOUL PLAY FEARED

Mrs. Lonnie Garren Disappeared from Battle Place, on the Mountain, Last Night.

Lonnie Garren, who lives in a small cottage on Dr. Battle's estate on Beaucatcher mountain, this morning reported to the sheriff's office that he was unable to find his wife; that she must have mysteriously disappeared during the night. While Garren lived in the cottage, his wife, Mrs. Claudia Garren, cooked for Mrs. Phinney of Jacksonville, who is at present occupying Dr. Battle's house on the mountain, and in the absence of Mr. Phinney, Mrs. Garren usually slept at the large house with Mrs. Phinney.

Last night Mrs. Garren left her husband's cottage about 9:30 o'clock and went up to the other house, just a short distance away, to retire. It is said that she was heard to go up the stairs about 10 o'clock.

OLD SANTA CLAUS COMES SEPT. 11

To 38 of the Gazette-News Contest People, Who Take the Matter Into Their Own Hands.

AND THE BIG BONUS PERIOD ENDS AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

And Opportunity is Still Battering at Your Door, Bidding You Wake and Admit Him.

Bonus Offer on New Subscriptions: Every candidate bringing or sending to The Gazette-News office five new yearly subscriptions to The Gazette-News, \$25, to be delivered by carrier, or six new yearly subscriptions to The Gazette-News, \$24, to be delivered by mail, between Wednesday, August 11, and midnight Wednesday, August 25, will be awarded a voting certificate for 40,000 votes additional to the regular scale. One two-year subscription will be counted as two yearly subscriptions, and each candidate may secure as many of these clubs as possible.

Are you afraid that Santa Claus will slight you on the 25th of December? If so, why not get busy at once and change the date of Christmas to September 11 and have a nice little Christmas present delivered along about the eleventh of September, instead of December 25, and instead of some little common place present, why not get an automobile?—those Buick cars offered by The Gazette-News for instance? A present like that is equal in value to all the Christmas presents you will likely be able to receive in the next 25 days.

It is true of course, that your friends help you to help yourself to any of the thirty-eight valuable and costly presents offered by The Gazette-News; but it is done without the obligations entailed in exchange of presents. When a person gives you a subscription to The Gazette-News he is not only benefiting you, but he is benefiting himself more, he is buying something he needs and should have, and which he in all probability would buy any way at the regular price.

Remember the offer of forty thousand extra votes expires tonight at midnight. What have you done during this bonus period to increase your score? Get every available subscription and bring them to The Gazette-News office or have them in the mail before midnight tonight. This is an opportune time and those who have done their best during this period will undoubtedly stand best chances of winning.

Contest Gains Ground: The big contest is certainly gaining ground day by day and no one can anticipate what height this good natured tug of war will attain. Certain it is that 95 per cent. of the people in the territory of the contest are directly interested in the outcome and before another week has elapsed the other 5 per cent. will be closely watching the outcome and many will get busy and help some friend who is in the race. Many people are willing to help the contestants and are only waiting to be asked. The first candidate to ask, of course, will be the one to receive the subscription and the votes, so it is imperative that those who desire to enlarge their count get among the people and make themselves known. It certainly does not require any sacrifice in this contest, but if you expect to win you should stick to the campaign and put your best energies before your efforts to come out victorious. The prizes are surely worth the little effort required and the time is comparatively short. Just show the people that you are the determining factor in anything you undertake and that you are out to win. As before stated, the contest man has a number of little ways of assisting candidates and their friends. Come to the office, or write him a letter and he will gladly answer any inquiries that (Continued on page 5.)

SKILLED WORKMEN TO BREAK STRIKE

Force of 90, Recruited in Chicago, en Way to Car Plant at McKees Rocks, Pa.

Chicago, Aug. 25.—A force of 90 strike breakers, said to be skilled steel workers and riveters, was recruited in Chicago yesterday and sent to McKees Rocks, Pa., to help break the strike in progress there against the Freres Steel Car company.

THE WEATHER

Forecast until 8 p. m. Thursday for Asheville and vicinity: Fair weather, with moderate temperature, tonight and Thursday.