

Becker, Composed and Protesting Innocence, Goes to His Death for Murder of Rosenthal. Germans Plan Triumphant Entry to Warsaw

TWO MESSAGES LEFT IN DENIAL OF THE CRIME

Leads Way to Own Execution; Dies With Wife's Picture Over Heart. DIED AT 5:55 A. M. AFTER 3 SHOCKS

Talked Throughout Night With the Warden--Pays Touching Tribute to Devotion of Wife In One of Statements.



CHARLES BECKER IN ELECTRIC CHAIR.

ing Sing Prison, Ossining, N. Y., Charles Becker was put to death in the electric chair this morning for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, the New York gambler. The former New York police lieutenant retained his composure and protested his innocence to the last. Becker went to his death with the photograph of his wife pinned to his shirt over his heart. Three shocks were given the condemned man before the prison physician announced his death at 5:55 o'clock.

Becker led the way to his own execution. He sat up all night on the edge of his cot talking calmly with Deputy Warden Charles H. Johnson. "I have got to face it and I will go to meet my God without troubling anyone," Becker said.

Shortly after 5 o'clock the first witness began to assemble outside the prison walls. When the witnesses were seated, Deputy Warden Johnson nodded to Principal Keeper Fred Dorner and left the room through a small wooden door which led to the death cell beyond which Becker was praying with his spiritual adviser.

Becker rose to his feet when he saw the deputy warden and took a crucifix from the hand of the priest.

To Father Curry his spiritual adviser, Becker had given his last message as he took his place at the head of the little file of men and marched to the death room. The message was written with a pencil and read: "I am not guilty by deed or conspiracy or in any other way of the death of Rosenthal. I am sacrificed to my friends. Bear this message to the world and my friends. Amen."

Hesitates Briefly.

The one-time police officer hesitated as he entered the execution room. It seemed to the witnesses as though he were startled when he saw the death chair so near him. He looked quickly at the double line of

witnesses and glanced at the floor, swept with his eyes the white walls of the room, and then suddenly as if coming to himself walked briskly over the rubber mat and took his seat in the electric chair.

Behind Becker came the prison priest chanting the prayer of death which was repeated by the condemned man. Deputy Warden Johnson half turned his head and the executioner jammed the switch.

"My Dying Declaration."

During the night Becker pencilled a message which he captioned: "My Dying Declaration."

The message read: "Gentlemen: I stand before you in my full senses, knowing that no power on earth can save me from the grave which is waiting to receive me. In the face of that, in the teeth of those who have condemned me I go to meet my God and your God proclaiming my absolute innocence of the foul crime for which I am to die.

"You are now about to witness my destruction by the state which is organized to protect the lives of the innocent. May Almighty God pardon anyone who has contributed in any degree to my untimely death.

"And now on the brink of the grave I declare to the world that I am proud to have been the husband of the purest noblest woman that ever lived—Helen Becker. This acknowledgment is the only legacy I can leave her.

"I bid you all good-bye. Father I am ready to go. Amen."

After bidding his wife farewell, shortly after midnight, Becker maintained a casual conversation with Deputy Warden Johnson who sat behind the screen in front of his cell.

Wife's Last Effort.

Mrs. Becker made a last effort to save her husband yesterday when she appealed personally to Governor Whitman for a reprieve, so that an appeal could be made to the state court of appeals. She missed the governor at Albany and met him at Poughkeepsie. Her plea was fruitless. Then she returned to Sing Sing to bid her husband farewell.

Mrs. Becker was with her husband for an hour, leaving the death house at 12:30 o'clock a. m. She left soon afterward for New York without displaying noticeable effects of mental strain.

John Becker, her brother-in-law, and John Lynch, her brother, accompanied her to the prison.

In a lengthy statement to Governor Whitman given out by Becker late yesterday, he reiterated his innocence and declared he had never offered to plead guilty to second degree murder.

Father James Curry, of New York, who has been Becker's spiritual adviser ever since his first conviction, visited the doomed man during the day. He left him a prayer book and Testament marked with cooling passages, which the prisoner promised to read.

Dr. Charles W. Farr, the prison physician, and Dr. Henry Mereness, his assistant, made a customary physical examination of the prisoner at noon. They reported his pulse normal.

"Becker seems to have a strong grip on himself," said Dr. Carr. "When we entered his cell, he half smiled and said 'Well, I suppose you've come to say good-bye.'"

Last night Becker seemed coldly resigned to his fate. The prison officials reported that while he awaited the arrival of his wife somewhat impatiently his composure was remarkable.

"He was seated in his cell smoking a cigar," said Leon C. Weinstein, commissioner of prisons who saw the prisoner in the death house at about 1 o'clock.

He was as cold as ice. When I remarked that he seemed to be taking it easy he said: "What else can I do? I've got to face it, haven't I?"

No Direct Offer.

Albany, N. Y., July 29.—Charles Becker never made a direct offer to plead guilty to murder in the second degree and never offered directly to implicate others in graft exposures, Governor Whitman declared here yesterday.

"Becker is right in saying he never made a direct offer, for I did not spoken to him since the night Rosenthal was murdered," the governor said. "He can well say that for he personally never made any proposition to me. It is a well known fact that his counsel offered to implicate others in graft disclosures and named five persons. It was only a short time ago that Becker's counsel in New York city said that it was 'up to me to save the men.'"

No New Facts.

New York, July 30.—Nothing was brought out by Becker in his fight for a third trial that Gov. Whitman did not know on either the first or second trial, but he could not introduce those matters recently revealed, under the rules of evidence on the lines laid down by the Court of Appeals in the first verdict, when the injection of politics into the case was strongly deprecated.

Many women throughout the state have been urging the Governor to commute Becker's sentence on the plea that Becker's family life was pure. This appeal, however, has not impressed Mr. Whitman.

First Wife Died Suddenly.

It is New York district attorney's office has known that Becker's first wife died suddenly in a bathtub, and that his second wife obtained a divorce from him on the ground of cruel and inhuman treatment and infidelity. She is now living in Denver with a child that Becker refused to support, even though he had \$65,000 in the bank.

The district attorney's office, the governor knows, is confident that the Rosenthal murder is not the first with which Becker was concerned.

Gov. Whitman wanted it understood that Martin T. Manton, Becker's lawyer in the second trial, acted honorably all through the trial, and that while Manton believed Becker was perhaps as vile a grafter as New York City has seen in many days, he did not believe him guilty of murder.

The governor knew of the Circuit theater conference on the Sunday night before Rosenthal's murder, in which Sullivan and Becker participated. But this could not be introduced in evidence for the reason that Becker refused to take the stand.

Becker, it was learned Wednesday night, was ready at any time to plead guilty to murder in the second degree. The reason Becker, according to the district attorney's office, advised "Big" (Continued on page 10)

FOOD SHORTAGE MORE SERIOUS

Situation So Acute That U. S. Government Will Urge Carranza and Zapata to Aid Transportation.

CARRANZA REPORTS CAPTURE OF PACHUCA

Claims Victory Clears Villa Troops From Central Mexico—Reports Rout of Villa Army.

Washington, July 30.—So serious had the food shortage become at Mexico City that the United States will make immediate representations to Carranza and Zapata urging them to permit the transportation of food supplies to the capital. Stories of alarming conditions have reached the state department, dated July 25. Secretary Lansing said the first direct officials' advice received from the Mexican capital in several days regarding conditions there had been brought by courier to Vera Cruz and showed that the food shortage was desperate.

Representations to Carranza at Vera Cruz and to Zapata whose forces are said to be scattered along the railway leading to Vera Cruz and in the city will go forward probably today.

Reports from Mexico City say that some of the Zapata forces in the city have gone northward to meet Carranza troops.

Carranza has cabled his Washington agency that after six hours fighting his troops have captured Pachuca and routed the Villa flying column which was working south to re-entrance Zapata near Mexico City. The Carranza dispatch is the first word to come from behind the veil which has covered the operations about Mexico City for almost two weeks.

When Gonzalez and his Carranza army evacuated the capital July 17 after occupying it a week, it was announced that the Carranza troops were going to meet the Villa troops moving south.

The Villa agency announced that a column under General Fierro had gone to join Zapata and retake the capital.

Since then the capital has been cut off from the outside world.

Cachuca, which the Carranza forces claim to have taken is an important point north of Mexico City. The Carranza authorities claim the victory eliminates Villa as a force in Central Mexico.

THE ROTARIANS WILL ATTEND BOARD MEETING

Announcing that the members would gather next Monday afternoon and march in a body before the city commissioners to urge that the matter of issuing bonds for a new High School building of Asheville, which will come before the city board at that time and accepting an invitation extended by Fred Kent to hold the next meeting on his farm in West Asheville, the Asheville Rotary club held a most interesting meeting yesterday at the Woman's exchange.

The members of the club have favored the proposition of securing a new school building for the city and the issuing of bonds with which to pay for it and recently passed resolutions to this effect. Now that the club, as a body will be present at the city commissioners meeting, it is expected, that other organizations in the city will also take similar steps within the next few days.

At the next meeting, which will be held Thursday, at the farm of Mr. Kent, as stated, Albert Cox, president of the Raleigh Rotary club will be present as guest of honor of the local club. On August 10 the Raleigh club will entertain Rotarians from several cities and President Cox will visit Asheville with a view of securing a large representation of Asheville Rotarians at the meeting.

Several members were admitted and an elaborate luncheon was served.

RUSSIAN ARMY IS ABANDONING POLISH CAPITAL

Germans Are at Very Gates, and Russians Decide Further Resistance Would Be Unwise.

JUDGE BOYD SAYS HE WANTS RETIRE

Thinks It Is Dishonest for Jurist to Quit His Work—Excellent Health.

(By Parker R. Anderson.)

Washington, July 30.—Those gentlemen in North Carolina who have been hoping that Judge James H. Boyd, of Greensboro, would retire from the bench and make room for a good democratic lawyer are to be disappointed. It can be stated as a fact that Judge Boyd has no intention of retiring. He is enjoying the best of health, considers that he is better qualified now to fill the federal judgeship than at any time during his forty-eight years as a lawyer and, furthermore, he deems it dishonest for a judge to retire from the bench until after he becomes unfit for the discharge of his duty.

The federal jurist stopped in Washington Thursday to pay his respects to Commissioner Osborn. Judge Boyd and the commissioner are neighbors in Greensboro and the closest kind of personal friends.

When asked if he intended to retire, the judge asked if he looked like a sick man or a man who was unable for duty. It must be admitted that he never looked better in his life and certainly there is no reason to believe that he is suffering from old age.

Some of the democratic leaders it is claimed had already selected the man who was to succeed Judge Boyd if he retired from the bench 1/4 of 1/4 if he retired when he reached the age limit. That time arrived last March; but there is to be no vacancy on the federal bench for some time if Judge Boyd has to retire voluntarily to make such a vacancy.

Judge Boyd has been spending his vacation at Atlantic City and returned to Greensboro last night.

JAPANESE CABINET MEMBERS RESIGN

Tokio, July 30.—The Japanese cabinet, headed by Count Okuma as premier, has resigned. The act followed the resignation yesterday of Viscount Kanetake Oura, minister of the interior, after an investigation by the ministry of justice into bribery charges resulting in the March parliamentary elections.

Viscount Oura's resignation was sanctioned by Emperor Yoshihito after he had received a report of the situation from Count Okuma.

Premier Okuma believing he should be responsible for the acts of the members of his cabinet was the first to tender his resignation and the other ministers immediately followed his example.

After receiving the resignation of Count Oura the emperor summoned the elder statesmen for a conference. The cabinet change is unpopular because of the war.

Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Ravenel leave today for Highland, taking with them as their guests Florence and Lewis Harrison.

Mrs. Becker, Resting at Home, Bearing Up Well

New York, July 30.—Mrs. Helen Becker, according to her brother, John Lynch, is bearing up well after the strain of yesterday and last night. Mrs. Becker is resting today at her home and is not expected to see anyone except the members of her family. An undertaker has been dispatched to Ossining to get the body of Charles Becker, who was executed this morning. The funeral is announced, will take place on Monday. A solemn high requiem mass will be said at the Church of St. Nicholas of Tolentine by Rev. Nicholas J. Murray. The interment will be at Woodlawn cemetery.