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WHAT'S GOING ON

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Jury Scandal Causes Mistrial in the Falls-Sinclair Case.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

MISTRIAL in the case against Albert B. Fall and Harry Sinclair in Washington was declared by Justice Siddons and the jury was discharged, because of alleged attempts to fix one or more of the jurors and because they all had been subjected to shadowing by operatives of a detective agency. Both the prosecution and the defense agreed that a continuation of the trial with the present jury was improper. The grand jury immediately began investigation of the matter and it was expected that several indictments would be returned.

The fixing charges were based mainly on seizures made in a raid on a hotel room where 16 Burns detectives assigned to shadow the jurors had had headquarters since the trial started, and on affidavits attributing to one juror, E. L. Kidwell, statements that he would come out of the trial "with a car a block long" and that the jury would not agree on a verdict. The raid disclosed that reports were made daily by the detectives to A. Mason Day, head of the Sinclair Exploration company. Mr. Day refused to testify before the grand jury on the ground that he might incriminate himself. Kidwell, waiving immunity and declaring the charge against him was a "frame up," told his story to the grand jury. Fall issued a statement to the effect that neither he nor anyone acting in his behalf had any knowledge of or connection with the alleged attempts to tamper with the jury.

Collapsing of the trial came when the government had practically completed its presentation of a strong chain of circumstantial evidence to prove that Sinclair paid Fall \$250,000 in Liberty bonds for the Teapot Dome lease and had traced by a score or more of witnesses the passage of the bonds from the treasury of a company in which Sinclair was interested into Fall's bank account. It was thought unlikely that the new trial could begin before January 1, owing to the necessity for reassembling the government's witnesses from all over the country.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MELLON, backed up by Undersecretary Mills, presented to the house ways and means committee his plan for a tax reduction program, making recommendations that would result in a cut of approximately \$225,000,000. His specific recommendations were:

A reduction of the tax on corporate income from 13½ to 12 per cent. Amending those provisions of the law that apply to the tax on corporate income so as to permit corporations with net income of \$25,000 or less and with not more than ten stockholders to file returns and pay the graduated individual income tax as partnerships at their option.

A readjustment of the rates applicable to individual incomes that fall in the so-called intermediate brackets, the effect of which would be to cut taxes for all persons with net incomes of \$18,000 and more.

On succeeding days the committee heard from various business groups which urged a more extensive tax reduction than Mr. Mellon recommended, and from agriculture, as represented by the American Farm Bureau federation, objecting to even so much of a cut as favored by the treasury and advocating applying surplus funds instead of the retirement of the public debt. The majority of the committee seemed in favor of the Mellon program.

AGRICULTURAL leaders from the corn belt and the southwestern states held a two-day conference in St. Louis and before adjourning adopted resolutions strongly indorsing the McNary-Haugen farm relief measure and condemning every one who opposed it. Those attacked by

name were President Coolidge and Senators Borah of Idaho, Bruce of Maryland, Reed of Missouri and Fess of Ohio. Presidential possibilities were freely discussed by the speakers, and though no one was named as the farmers' choice, the name of Frank O. Lowden was frequently and warmly applauded. There was talk of a third party, but it was not mentioned in the resolutions.

Besides asking for the passing of the McNary-Haugen bill or one similar, the conference requested members of the house from the West to "insist upon the adoption of a house rule under which 175 members can by petition take any measure from any committee and place it upon the calendar for a vote." This was an effort to prevent the death of farm legislation in the house.

Demands also were made upon the Republican and Democratic parties to carry out their national platform pledges adopted in 1924, with respect to farm relief.

DWIGHT MORROW, the new ambassador to Mexico, seems to be making a good start toward settling amicably the troubles between that country and the United States, and President Calles shows a disposition to do all he can to assist in the process. One day last week Calles took Mr. Morrow out to his hacienda at Los Reyes for a breakfast of ham and eggs and they were said to have spent several hours discussing the most serious questions in American-Mexican relations. Mr. Morrow's exceeding good humor on his return to the capital indicated that the negotiations started suited him, and it was said he and the President would have other informal conferences. It is understood in Mexico City that the ambassador will undertake to negotiate a new treaty of amity and commerce to replace the one rescinded several months ago. Many Americans already have presented to him matters which have been pending since the departure of former Ambassador Sheffield.

AFTER a fight of several years to adjust salaries so they would be proportionate to expenses, the Southern Pacific railroad has won a victory before a Mexican federal arbitration committee, which will prevent workmen from tying up the operations of the company. The committee issued a decree declaring the strike of the Bolshevik railway union at Empalme, where the Southern Pacific has its large shops, to be illegal and ordering the men to resume work within three days or be dismissed. The decree also applied to the shops at Mazatlan. It authorized the reduction of the working week in the shops to five days of eight hours each.

GOVERNOR ADAMS of Colorado sternly warned the striking coal miners out there that they must cease picketing under penalty of arrest, so the I. W. W. leaders who are conducting the strike decided to abandon the illegal practice. For it they substituted the holding of mass meetings of the idle men near the mine shafts at the times when workers were coming off shift. The operators and citizens objected to this as merely another form of picketing, which would intimidate the miners who wished to work, but at this writing the governor had not stated what action he would take, further than to say that he does not yet contemplate issuing an order calling out the National Guard. In the southern field the operators said many men were returning to work.

JAPAN started off the week with a review of the entire naval forces of the empire by the emperor in Yokohama bay. On board the great battleship Mutsu, the ruler passed through eight long lines of 172 vessels, ranging from superdreadnaughts to submarines and hospital ships and including the new airplane carrier Akagi, displacing 27,000 tons. No planes took off from the latter, but swarms of them from the Yokohama base flew over the fleet.

Comparisons showed that since the Washington treaty of 1922 the fleet is less powerful for offense, but is stronger and more efficient in everything except capital ships and is well adapted to its task of defending the empire. Its light cruiser strength has

federal service that saw his name inscribed on every honor roll of science and his deeds extolled in this and foreign lands.

Doctor Howard's favorite fields are medical entomology and parasitology, especially the study of insects that cause disease in man. His studies of mosquitoes and house flies helped to control the malaria, yellow fever, typhoid fever and other dangerous maladies.

One of Doctor Howard's most noteworthy accomplishments has been his

increased from 127,000 tons to 195,000 tons.

The British government, according to the London Daily News, is soon to let contracts for eighteen naval vessels which will cost more than \$55,000,000. These are to include nine destroyers, three cruisers and six submarines. This is part of the great British program of warship building since the armistice.

ALL records for traffic and tolls on the Panama canal were broken in October. There were 567 transits, and the amount collected was approximately \$2,360,000. These figures do not include naval vessels. Congressman Madden of Chicago has been inspecting the canal and announces that work will begin as soon as possible on the Alhajuela basin project, which will create additional water storage of about 22,300,000,000 cubic feet. This will cost \$10,000,000, and when it is completed an additional lock at each lock station will be built at a cost of about \$100,000,000.

CIVILIAN members of the Chinese Nationalist party in Canton have formed the first regional government, for the Kwangtung and Kwangsi provinces, and announce that, tired of the military scheming and discussion, they will devote themselves to domestic improvement and will not waste the people's funds in military adventures. While not openly severing relations with the Nationalist government in the Yangtze valley, the Canton group declares itself the highest Kuomintang authority and issues an invitation to other Kuomintangists interested in the establishment of civilian rule and not dominated by militarists, to go to Canton and ally themselves with the Canton regional administration.

CHICAGO mourned last week the loss of one of the city's most eminent men, John J. Mitchell, banker and philanthropist. He and Mrs. Mitchell were killed in an automobile accident. Other notable victims of death were Maximilian Harden, German editor and foe of the former kaiser; Archbishop J. G. Hardy of Omaha; John Luther Long, author and playwright; Miss Elizabeth Harrison, pioneer in kindergarten work; and Florence Mills, negro theatrical star, who had become so popular in the United States and Europe.

TERRIFIC storms swept the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland and scores of persons, mostly fishermen, were drowned. The property damage was heavy, being estimated at nearly \$30,000,000.

Final figures of the lost in the sinking of the steamer Princess Mafalda off the coast of Brazil put the number at 314. Of the first-class passengers 55 per cent perished; of the officers, 45 per cent. The crew lost only 16 per cent of its members.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE is making plans for his trip to Cuba to attend the Pan-American congress that opens in Havana January 16. He has named Charles Evans Hughes to be head of the American delegation, the other members being: Ambassador Fletcher and Ambassador Morrow, who will come, respectively, from Rome and Mexico City for the meeting; former Senator Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama; Morgan J. O'Brien, lawyer of New York; James Brown Scott, author of several books on international law; Ray Lanyon Wilbur, president of Leland Stanford university, and Dr. L. S. Rowe, director of the Pan-American union. To this list the new ambassador to Cuba will be added as soon as he is appointed.

BARON FRIEDRICH VON PRITZ WITZ UND GAFFRON has been appointed German ambassador to the United States to succeed the late Baron Von Maltzen. He is only forty years old and began his diplomatic career at the Washington embassy.

An attempt to kill Admiral Paul Kondurotis, President of Greece, was made by a young Communist in Athens. One bullet was fired which struck the admiral on the forehead, inflicting a slight wound.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha was re-elected President of Turkey by the national assembly. His cabinet is being reconstructed under the premiership of Ismet Pasha.

extraordinary successful work with parasites of insect pests. Introduction of a beetle from the Orient is conceded to have saved the citrus industry of the Pacific coast from great injury by white scale, and the use of European parasites and natural enemies of both the gypsy and brown-tail moth has had a leading part in saving the trees of New England. Similar control measures are regarded as having saved American agriculture from approximately \$1,000,000,000 in damage by insects.

HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FAMILY

(By D. J. Walsh.)

WHEN John Heardon died and left behind that his big farm should be carried on by his five sons without change, also that John, the eldest, was to have sole charge not only of the work but also of fulfilling his plans regarding the younger children, the neighbors said it was preposterous. Even if a boy of eighteen was capable of carrying on a big farm—which, of course, he wasn't—it was ridiculous to think of his bringing up a family of four headstrong boys.

But John did not flinch. His father had been a hard-working man—killed himself that way, was the common verdict—and John was very much like him. The morning after the funeral he and the next two boys, Tom and Luther, were in the barn as usual, beginning the day's labors by the light of lanterns. When the sun rose over the eastern hills they had milked fifteen cows, done the chores and had the milk wagon standing in front of the kitchen door, ready for its trip to the factory village six miles away.

As they left the breakfast table John paused for a moment in the doorway.

"I don't suppose there's any use to go over the details," he said thoughtfully. "We all know what father's wishes were."

"To go through college, learn some profession or trade and for you to hold the reins," commented Tom, briefly.

John nodded.

"You understand what it means, too, I suppose," he went on gravely. "We have a big farm here, but that is all. A college education costs a great deal of money, and there are five of us. We will have to work sixteen hours a day, as we are doing now, year after year, without time for play or recreation, until each of us is through with his schooling. Are you willing?"

"Count me in," said Tom, sturdily.

"And me," chimed in the twins, Harry and Joe. Luther alone remained silent.

"Well, Luther?" said John his clear, uncompromising eyes turning sharply to the third boy.

"You know, John, without my telling," Luther replied, irritably. "Father and I went over it times enough. I'm willing to help you until spring, and you are welcome to my share of the farm, but I don't care for a college education. I have other views."

"But your views must come in after father's wishes," returned John. "You know he went through college, and he wants all us boys to. That's what he worked so hard for. He said a man could do better work in the world if he was educated."

Luther's eyes flashed rebelliously.

"I'm willing to work until spring," he repeated. "Going to college would be wasting too many years. Just think! By the time we were through, and helped Harry and Joe through, I would be twenty-five years old or more. No, I can't wait that long. If you'll sell two of the cows next spring and give me the money, I'll call myself square and go off and fit myself for what I like."

"After we are all educated the farm may be sold and divided," he said, shortly; "or one of us can take it and pay the others their share. Until then everything from it goes toward college expenses. You can share that way or not, just as you like."

Luther turned abruptly and walked toward the barn whistling. John gazed after him irresolutely, and once started as though he would call him back. Then his eyes hardened. Luther was only fifteen, he thought, and did not know his own mind. He would come round before he was old enough for college.

But as he went down the land toward the main road he glanced anxiously toward the barn, with half a mind to leave the wagon and look up his brother instead. However, it was already late, and the milk customers would be growing impatient.

It was a long past noon when he reached home, and the boys had gone back to their work. It took an hour for him to feed the horse and wash the milk cans and set them out in the sun. The woman hired to do the housework had the poultry and pigs to look after, and the butter and cheese to make, so John had taken it upon himself to wash the cans every day after his return from the village. At length it was accomplished and he took a hoe and started for the field where the boys were at work. Tom saw him approaching and came to meet him.

"Here's a note Luther gave me for you soon after you left this morning," Tom said anxiously. "I'm afraid he's up to something."

John took the note, which read:

"Dear John and the Boys: I'm afraid we can't agree very well about the college business. There is one thing I like, and which I think I can do well, and it don't seem right for me to give it up for something I don't like and can't do well. Father used to say everyone should do his best. That's what I'm going to try to do, only not in the way he meant. Don't think too hard of the shiftless brother who isn't brave and patient enough to fight for a college education, and don't worry about me. I'm going to the place where David boards, and will be all right."

"LUTHER."

"Well, what do you make of it?"

"Nothing now, except that I've been too hard. I'm not old enough to treat him as father could. Now let's pitch in and finish off the field before night. Tomorrow you'll have to run the milk wagon, for I'm going to the city to that place where David Brown boards."

It was only two hours' ride to the city, and little trouble was experienced in finding the big tenement building in which David Brown, the son of one of their neighbors, had lodging. Luther had taken a room on the third floor, the janitor said, and he gave John directions how to reach it. But when he went up John found the room empty, although the door was ajar.

He recognized Luther's hat upon the bed, and flushed a little as he saw an unframed picture of his father in a conspicuous place on the wall. There was a dingy bureau in the room, and on it a violin in a cheap pasteboard box. He gave a low cry of comprehension as he saw it. Then he drew out the violin, glistening and bright in its unsoiled coat of varnish and with the price mark not yet erased.

John's eyes grew tender as he gazed. Unquestionably this was the cause of Luther's unrest. He knew the boy had brought only \$10 from home to pay his fare to the city. Allowing even a small amount for the room rent, probably all the rest had been put into this cheap violin. How he must have longed for it, to risk all the money he had, with no prospect of more coming in! He remembered Luther's passionate devotion to a violin which had been given to him several years before, and which had caused him to neglect some chores, until finally his father had consigned it to the fireplace.

A quick step in the hall, and John turned, with the violin in his hand to gaze into the astonished, defiant eyes of Luther.

"John?"

"Luther!" and then the older boy stepped forward impulsively and placed both hands upon his brother's shoulders. It was such an unprecedented act for the grave, matter-of-fact John to do that the defiance in Luther's eyes changed to questioning surprise.

"I've come to talk things over," John explained, "and to ask forgiveness. Lately I've been feeling almost as though I were a grown-up man, and the rest of you only boys, and I'm afraid I've acted that way. If you'll come we'll try to make it pleasant."

Luther shook his head, with some of the hardness coming back into his eyes.

"I mean to learn that," nodding toward the violin in John's hands. "Just the same as the rest of you mean to go through college."

"Of course I understand that," John conceded quickly. "I wish I had before. But why can't you learn at home? You can take a few hours from work every day to practice, and there's that Mr. Carew down in the village. Folks say he's a splendid musician, and he's willing to give you two lessons a week."

A teacher? Luther's eyes glistened at the thought. And learn at home? The very idea made him hold his breath. Why, back there he had felt it almost a crime to even mention a violin.

"Yes," John said, answering the expression on Luther's face. "It will be best that way; and I am sure father would have wished it so had he understood. But you see he was always so busy working for us that he never found time to really get acquainted. And as to the college, I really wish you would go, like the rest of us. I think it will help you and it is what father wished. You will not have to wait so very long. Tom will go first, and then you."

"But you?"

"Oh, I'll wait until the last. I understand the farm better than the rest of you, and can make it turn in more money. After Harry and Joe get through college I'll take my turn."

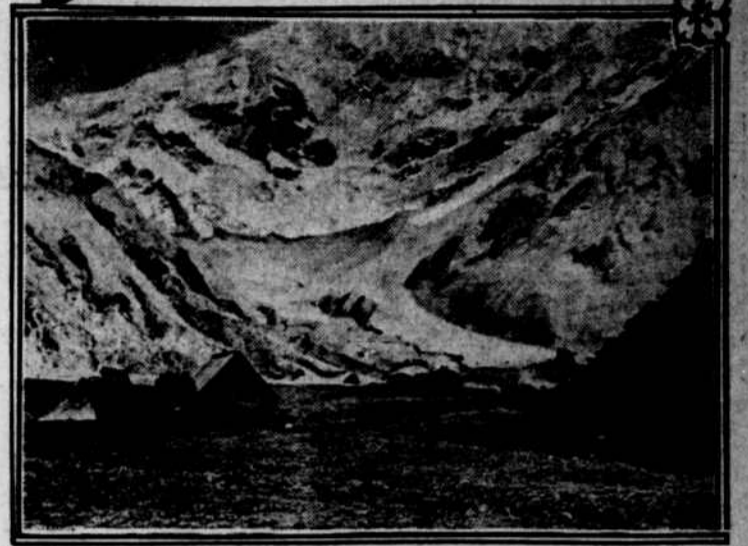
"But you'll be pretty nigh thirty years old," wondering.

"Yes, pretty nigh. Father was thirty before he had worked his way through."

Luther looked at him with the last trace of sullenness and defiance going from his eyes.

"If you can do that," he said at last, slowly, "I guess I'll be glad to stand by and help."

Hidden City of the Incas



Mountain Valley in the Machu Picchu Region.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

ONE of the most remarkable accomplishments in uncovering the secrets of the past in the Western hemisphere was the discovery a few years ago of Machu Picchu, hidden refuge city of the Incas, in the mountain fastnesses of Peru. The discovery was made by an expedition sent out by the National Geographic Society and Yale University under the leadership of Prof. Hiram Bingham, now United States senator from Connecticut.

The historical geography of the Andes of Peru and Bolivia offers a series of problems of intense interest. These include the origin of the ancient cities, such as Tiwanaco, Cuzco, and Machu Picchu; the relation of the different types of architecture, including the monolithic, the adobe, and the rubble; the question of the migration of races, the spread of the ancient civilization, and the sequence of cultures, besides a thousand and one queries as to the manners and customs, government, religion, and philosophy of those illiterate but very skillful engineers and soldiers, the Incas, and their predecessors, the "Megalithic Folk."

Machu Picchu was first found after a climb over mountain ridges and along sheer cliffs. Later the remains of old highways were found. It thus appears that the builders of Machu Picchu had an elaborate system of highways throughout this little known and almost unexplored country which lies between the Urubamba valley and the Apurimac. This region was once densely populated, and Machu Picchu was its capital. There are no other ruins in the region that approach the hidden city in magnificence, although there are a great many whose architecture bears a striking resemblance to the less important buildings in Machu Picchu itself.

Study of the remains found at Machu Picchu indicate that we have here an essentially Inca city, using the term Inca in its most reasonable sense—that is, to designate the tribes and nations that occupied the major part of the central Andes from earliest times down to the Spanish conquest.

Lack of timber, the prevalence of heavy rains during part of the year, and the ease with which stone might be procured early led to the development of stone as a building material. Strength and permanence were secured through the keying together of irregular blocks. The upper and lower surface of these stones were frequently convex or concave.

In constructing their walls the pure arch was not evolved. They developed several ingenious devices, such as "lock-holes" for fastening the bar back of a door; "ring-stones," which were inserted in the gables to enable the roofing beams to be tied on; projecting stone cylinders, which could be used as points to which to tie the roof and keep it from blowing off. The ancient builders also provided for ventilation and drainage.

Although the buildings are extremely well built, there is no cement or mortar in the masonry, and there is no means of preventing the roots of forest trees from penetrating the walls and eventually tearing them all down. In several cases gigantic trees were found perched on the very tips of the gable ends of small and beautifully constructed houses. It was difficult to cut down and get such trees out of the way without seriously damaging the house walls.

City of Refuge.

Machu Picchu was essentially a city of refuge. It is perched on a mountain top in the most inaccessible corner of the most inaccessible section of the Urubamba river. Apparent-

ly there is no part of the Andes that has been better defended by nature.

A stupendous canyon, where the principal rock is granite and where the precipices are frequently over 1,000 feet sheer, presents difficulties of attack and facilities for defense second to none. Here on a narrow ridge, flanked on all sides by precipitous or nearly precipitous slopes, a highly civilized people—artistic, inventive, and capable of sustained endeavor—at some time in the remote past built themselves a city of refuge.

Since they had no iron or steel tools—only stone hammers—its construction must have cost many generations, if not centuries, of effort.

Across the ridge, and defending the builders from attack on the side of the main mountain range, they constructed two walls. One of them, constituting the outer line of defense, leads from precipice to precipice, utilizing as best it can the natural steepness of the hill.

Beyond this, and on top of the mountain called Machu Picchu, which overlooks the valley from the very summit of one of the most stupendous precipices in the canyon, is constructed a signal station, from which the approach of an enemy could be instantly communicated to the city below. Within the outer wall they constructed an extensive series of agricultural terraces, stone lined, and averaging about eight feet high. Between these and the city is a steep, dry moat and the inner wall.

When the members of an attacking force had safely negotiated the precipitous and easily defended sides of the moat, they would still find themselves outside the inner defenses of the city, which consisted of a wall from fifteen to twenty feet high, composed of the largest stones that could be found in the vicinity—many of them huge boulders weighing many tons. This wall is carried straight across the ridge from one precipitous side to the other. These defenses are on the south side of the city.

On the north side, on the narrow ridge connecting the city with Huayna Picchu, strong defensive terraces were strategically placed so as to render all the danger of an attack on this side.

Construction of the Houses.

On entering the city, perhaps the first characteristic that strikes one is that a large majority of the houses were a story and a half in height, with gable ends, and that these gable ends are marked by cylindrical blocks projecting out from the house in such a way as to suggest the idea of the ends of the rafters. The wooden rafters have all disappeared, but the ring-stones to which they were tied may still be seen.

The next most conspicuous feature of Machu Picchu is the quantity of stairways, there being over 100, large and small, within the city. Some of them have more than 150 steps, while others have but three or four. In some cases each step is a single block of stone 3 or 4 feet wide. In others the entire stairway—six, eight, or ten steps, as the case might be—was cut out of a single granite boulder.

The largest level space in the city was carefully graded and terraced, so as to be used for agricultural purposes, on the products of which the inhabitants could fall back for a time in case of a siege.

It seems probable that one reason why the city was deserted was a change in climate, resulting in scarcity of water supply. At the present time there are only three small springs on the mountain side, and in the dry season these could barely furnish water enough for cooking and drinking purposes for 40 or 50 persons.