

BLOUNT IS FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE

Convicted on one indictment With Two Others for Like Crime Pending

VERDICT GARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY

Crime One of the Most Atrocious Ever Known in State of Louisiana.

(By Associated Press.) AMITE CITY, La., April 7.—Late this afternoon the jury in the case of Avery Blount, charged with the murder of J. O. Breeland and Mrs. Breeland and Mrs. Joe Everett brought in a verdict of guilty in the first degree. The verdict carries the death penalty. The accused man received the verdict with comparative coolness. Judge Ellis fixed Friday of this week for the hearing on motion for a new trial.

Blount, a prosperous merchant of Tickfaw, was indicted on the charge of murdering "Buz" Breeland, Mrs. Breeland and the latter's daughter, Mrs. Joe Everett, and was tried first on the separate indictment of Buz Breeland's killing. Garfield and Ben Kilchen, two brothers, indicted for complicity in the assassination are yet to be tried.

The killing of the Breelands and Mrs. Everett was one of the most horrible crimes ever committed in the state. The tragedy occurred on the night of January 22, near Tickfaw, several miles south of Amite City. Breeland and his wife were bringing their daughter, Mrs. Everett, from her former home in Livingston parish to live with them near Tickfaw. Mrs. Everett's husband had been killed by Ben Kilchen a few days before. Breeland was shot from ambush. He was on foot, and the two women were riding in a buggy.

According to Breeland's dying statement, Avery Blount, accompanied by some other person, then leveled guns on Mrs. Breeland and her daughter. The latter held her young baby in her arms. The elder woman was first shot and killed. Mrs. Everett, in the meantime was beseeching the assassins to spare her baby's life. Her supplications finally resulted in the child being taken from her arms and laid by the roadside. The mother was then shot to death.

TAFT SHUNTS QUESTION "WHAT IS WHISKEY?" OFF ON HIS SUBORDINATE

Nobody Seems to Know Just What Constitutes Brother to "Demon Rum"

BONAPARTE GUESSED

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, April 7.—The bitter controversy which has been in progress ever since the pure food law was enacted as to "what is whiskey" was renewed at the white house today before President Taft as referee. The debate enlisted the services of many distinguished lawyers, among them Joseph J. Choate, former ambassador to Great Britain, and John G. Carlisle, former secretary of the treasury. In addition there were present the representatives of practically all the big distilleries of this country. Mr. Choate appeared for Canadian interests. Mr. Carlisle represented distillers of his native state, Kentucky. Attorney General Wickersham, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, the pure food expert, were among the government representatives heard. The hearing continued for more than two hours and was the second time the president had been called into the controversy. Under a ruling of former Attorney General Bonaparte, in consonance with an opinion by Dr. Wiley, all whiskey was noted aged, and freed from fuel oil by several years of storage in white oak barrels which have been charred on the inside, has been made subject to labeling under the head of "imitation" or "compound" whiskey. The distillers who purify their product by higher forms of mechanical rectification and re-distillation are anxious to have this suffering damage declaring they are suffering damage from the system of labeling now in vogue, whereas their whiskey is as pure and free from deleterious ingredients as the whiskey rectified in the old-fashioned way, and now regarded as the only "straight" whiskey on the market. Most Scotch whiskeys and some higher grades of rye and sour mash in use in this country are classed as "imitation" at present.

At the conclusion of the conference it was announced that the whole matter would be referred to Solicitor General Bowers of the department of justice, who is to take testimony.

HURRICANE'S PATH A GRUESOME TRAIL OF DEATH AND RUIN

Many Perished in Storm Which Swept from Great Lakes Eastward to Seaboard.

(By Associated Press.) DETROIT, April 7.—A severe rain and electrical storm which swept over lower Michigan early last night was followed by a windstorm of unusual violence and many accidents and at least one death have been reported.

Near Ionia lightning shot into a farm house along a telephone wire and killed eight year old Benjamin Helmer and severely shocked two other children. Dozens of barns in Western Michigan were set afire by lightning.

The wind has averaged from fifty miles an hour in the western part of the state to as high as sixty-six miles in this city. One child was severely injured on Michigan avenue here by a sign blowing down on her.

At least eight persons are known to have lost their lives in the storm that visited Detroit and Michigan last night and today. Anthony Kaup, a saloon-keeper; Joe Kadich, a barber, an Adam Felin, all of Wyandotte, attempted to cross the Detroit river in a row boat from Wyandotte to Canada this afternoon in a fifty mile gale, to settle a wager, and all three were drowned when their boat capsized. Kadich bet Kaup five dollars that he would not dare to cross in the small-boat and Felin was the stakeholder.

At Jennings, in Missaukee county, three young men, Bernard Carlson, Charles Jacobson and John Torrey, were killed by being caught under a wall that was blown down by the wind at the Mitchell brothers' mill. Ray Moore was killed at Brighton today when he was struck by a roof that had been blown off.

Rumors that a little boy and girl were drowned while fishing at Belleme, Detroit, have not been confirmed. The damage to roofs, chimneys, plate glass, etc., will probably reach \$50,000 in Detroit and Michigan. The wind velocity reached seventy miles and hour.

(By Associated Press.) CLEVELAND, O., April 7.—The fishing tug George Floyd, with seven men aboard, and the sand sucker Mary H., with nine men, are missing, and the barge Norman Kelley, with a crew of four persons, was rescued tonight after a desperate fight, as a result of a fierce windstorm which raged on Lake Erie today. The wind blew a sixty mile gale throughout the day. Life savers have been unable to do effective work.

CASTRO IN RAGE LANDS AT ONLY PORT OPEN TO HIM IN WEST INDIES

Ordered Off Ship, Buffeted By All Nations, He IS APPARENTLY ILL

(By Associated Press.) FORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, April 7.—Cipriano Castro, in a rage against the British government and the state department at Washington left the steamer Guadeloupe at this port today and has taken up quarters on shore. Finding all ports in the West Indies excepting Fort De France barred against him, the present course was the only one left open to the former Venezuelan dictator. Senator Castro's wife will continue on board the Guadeloupe to La Guaira. The American Cruiser Montana came into port this morning. The Guadeloupe, on board which Castro and his party sailed from France March 26 after four months spent in Europe, came into Fort De France last evening. While at Pointe-A-Pitre on the island of Guadeloupe, where the steamer touched yesterday, Castro was notified by the British consul that the British government had decided not to permit him to disembark at Port of Spain, Trinidad; consequently Castro decided to leave the Guadeloupe here. The decision of the British government, acting on a request from the port department at Washington not to let him land at Trinidad was unofficially communicated to Castro a second time this morning. He expressed himself as exceedingly annoyed and angry at this decision, which he characterized as a violation of the rights of man. He is furiously angry with the American government and the French steamship company. The latter refused to let him continue on board the Guadeloupe to Colon. After expressing his annoyance at this unexpected turn in his affairs Castro disclaimed the bellicose intentions with regard to the existing political situation in Venezuela with which he has been credited, and he declared that his only purpose in returning to Venezuela was to give his attention to business.

CONFERENCE FAILS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT, MAY DECLARE LOCKOUT

Operators Insist on Extension of Award Made Three Years Ago MAY APPEAL TO TAFT

(By Associated Press.) PHILADELPHIA, April 7.—At a meeting held here today between committees representing the coal operators and the officials of the United Mine Workers of America, representing the anthracite workers of Pennsylvania, to consider demands made by the miners, the operators refused a proposition to extend the wage agreement brought about by the anthracite strike commission for another term of three years. In order that the proposition be laid before the officers of the three anthracite districts who are now in this city the conference adjourned to meet again tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The wage agreement which the operators seek to have renewed expired on March 31. The miners, however, pending the outcome of the conference are working under its terms. The agreement does not provide for recognition of the miners' union and this, it is said, is the bone of contention, as the operators absolutely refuse to recognize the union. It is said that should the operators refuse to make any concession and insist upon the offer to renew the anthracite strike commission's award the miners will appeal to President Taft for the appointment of a commission to investigate conditions controlling the mining and selling of hard coal. It is also said that if the conference comes to an end without an agreement being reached the miners will not declare a strike but will leave it to the operators, if they see fit to do so, to declare a lock-out.

PEN. OFFICERS CHOSEN.

(Special to The Citizen.) RALEIGH, April 7.—The new board of directors for the penitentiary elected today are J. J. Laughlinhouse, Pitt county, superintendent; T. W. Fenner, Halifax, clerk; Dr. J. G. Young, Franklin, physician. Election of warden was left over to next meeting.

GEN. WILLIAM BOOTH, Grand Old Man of the Salvation Army whose Influence Has been Felt all over the World.



The Celebration of His Eightieth Birthday Begins in London Tomorrow.

PARENTS' EVIDENCE AGAINST DAUGHTER

Their Testimony May Bring About the Conviction of Mrs. Georgia Sampson For the Murder of Her Husband

(By Associated Press.) LYONS, N. Y., April 7.—The father and mother and two brothers of Mrs. Georgia Sampson, charged with the killing of her husband, Harry Sampson, were called to the witness stand today by District Attorney Gilbert to give evidence on which the state is depending to convict Mrs. Georgia Sampson of murder. A sad figure in the courtroom was the widowed mother of Harry Sampson, Mrs. George Sampson, who will probably be called as a witness tomorrow. The defense scored several material points today through the testimony of the members of the Allyn family. It was established, notably, that shortly before Harry Sampson staggered into the Allyn dining room and fell dead that Mrs. Sampson was seen on the second floor of her home. Through Mrs. Allyn, the state's attorneys brought out the fact that Robert Manson, of Niagara Falls, had written to Georgia inviting her and a friend, Miss Mildred Gryvons, to spend a few days in Niagara Falls. Harry quarreled with his wife over the letter. Mrs. Sampson's lawyers state that Manson had written asking Mrs. Sampson to act as chaperone. A sensational bit of testimony was offered by John Ebert, a neighbor, who by before Harry Sampson staggered into the Allyn dining room and fell dead that Mrs. Sampson was seen on the second floor of her home.

DAUGHTERS PREPARE FOR ANNUAL ELECTION

Promise of Lively Contest For Successor of Mrs. McLean

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, April 7.—Mrs. Donald McLean, president-general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, arrived here today and presided over the final meeting of the national board prior to the convention which will meet here April 19. Plans were portected for the convention, and 876 new members were admitted to the society. More than \$200,000 was reported in the treasury, exclusive of the \$200,000 building fund for the completion of continental hall, the permanent marble home here of the Daughters. Mrs. McLean expressed the belief that Mrs. Matthew Scott, the administration candidate, will be elected as her successor to the presidency of the society. The "insurgents" in the order, it is said, have decided on Mrs. William C. Story, state regent of New York as their candidate for president-general.

ROOSEVELT PROUD OF WORK DONE AT MESSINA

Sends Back Message to His People Congratulating Them on Practical Charity

(By Associated Press.) ROME, April 7.—Just before his departure last evening on the steamer Admiral for Bombay, ex-President Roosevelt wrote the following message to the American people: "Before leaving Messina I desire to say that I am sure the American people do not realize the splendid work that is being done at Messina and Reggio with the lumber sent from the United States. I have visited the American camp and seen 250 houses already completed, and arrangements have been perfected for the rapid construction of 1,250 more. The whole work, which is under the general direction of Ambassador Grignon, has been organized and perfected by Lieutenant Buchanan, Ensign Wilcox and Shofford, Dr. Tompkins, Paymaster Rogers, forty enlisted men of our navy and a number of stalwart American carpenters. In addition there is a fine group of Americans, such as J. Elliot, Winthrop Chandler, E. Bush and H. Hatz, who are giving their time and energy to help the philanthropic work. I wish to say I consider that the American people are deeply indebted to each and every one of these men. I cannot exaggerate the pleasure it gave me to see the officers and enlisted men of our navy adapting themselves to strange and unexpected circumstances and successful performing with ability and thorough good will this most difficult task. Our nation can well be proud of them."

LEARNS THE GAME OF POLITICS FROM SLY OLD SENATORS

President Taft Not Such A Novice as to Let Them Steal Glory

ADOPTS NEW METHOD OF CUTTING EXPENSES

Which Will Give Upper House Small Chance to Play to Galleries.

(Sheldon S. Cline.) WASHINGTON, April 7.—Theodore Roosevelt left the white house with the reputation of being the greatest master of politics who ever occupied that mansion, but his successor is showing surprising accomplishment in that direction. Those past masters of the art political in the senate who expected to find the new president "easy" have been rubbing their eyes of late. Mr. Taft has gathered in several tricks which the senate already had counted as won. It would be unfair to say the action of the senate in creating a special committee to cut down appropriations was nothing more than a shrewd move in the game of politics. No doubt the senate leaders are genuinely impressed with the need for economy, but it was, nevertheless, a shrewd political move. The senate is very hungry for a share of the popularity which has been denied it in recent years, and the senate leaders thought they saw a road to popularity in being the watch-dogs of the treasury. In the past the senate has been notoriously liberal in the matter of appropriations. It had gotten to a point where even members of the house wanting appropriations that would not bear too close scrutiny would wait until the appropriation bills had passed the house and reached the senate and there would have the appropriations they wanted tacked on as amendments. The chances were about even that in the stress of conference as the session neared its end the appropriation which could not have passed the house in the first instance would be allowed to stand. When the senate finally awoke to the fact that the house and officials of the departments, not to speak of outsiders, were habitually taking advantage of its generosity, it saw an opportunity of turning the tables. The creation of the "committee on expenditures" was the result. It readily will be seen how large a feather it would have been in the senate's cap to have been alone responsible for saving the treasury some scores of millions of dollars at each session of congress. The public is proverbially of short memory, and senators saw visions of past grievances forgotten and themselves as popular heroes. By lopping huge chunks off the estimates sent in by the heads of departments and doing the same to the appropriation bills sent over from the house side of the capitol, sternly insisting that the government's outgo should be kept within its income, the opportunity would have been a splendid one for the senate to enhance its popularity. And no one would have been churlish enough to withhold a full meed of praise. But here enters the president, and shows himself a skilled player at the political game. He was quick to see that if the senate, in its new-found aggressiveness for economy, succeeded in placing the executive branch and disciplining by congress to keep it from bankrupting the treasury, his administration would be at a serious disadvantage. Taft Spills Game. The counter-move was decided upon at a cabinet meeting. It was plain (Continued on page Six.)

LEADER NOT ABLE TO CARRY THROUGH DEAL WITH TRUST

Democrats and Insurgent Reduce Protection on Crude Oil to Small Figure

OVERRIDE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

Cannon Makes Vain Plea for His Friend, the Standard Oil Trust.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—This was a bad day for the republican organization of the house. By a coalition between some republican insurgents and democrats, the ways and means committee was bowled over; and its advocates of free crude oil and its products won a signal victory when an amendment by Mr. Norris, of Nebraska, placing the insignificant duty of one percent ad valorem on those articles was adopted by a substantial majority. A decision of the chairman that amendments could not be offered to the oil schedule other than the one covered by the special rule of last Monday which provided for the removal of the countervailing duty on crude petroleum and applying an ad valorem duty of twenty-five percent was overruled, and not even a fervid appeal by the speaker, in an endeavor to rally the republican forces, was sufficient to stem the tide. Cannon's amendment was a practically unanimous vote of the countervailing duty voted out as the committee recommended. On all other propositions the committee was sustained. The barley schedule ran the gauntlet without change, tea and coffee were tacked on the free list, and duty on berries increased from seventy-five cents a ton to a dollar and a half a ton. Oil Schedule Sacked. When the oil schedule was taken up Mr. Vreeland of New York promptly offered an amendment striking out the countervailing duty on crude petroleum and its products, and fixing the rate of duty at 25 percent ad valorem. Immediately Mr. Norris, of Nebraska, presented an amendment fixing the rate at one percent ad valorem. "Point of order," shouted Mr. Daisell, of Pennsylvania, and then a dozen members were on their feet. "Is that schedule so sacred you cannot amend it at all?" asked Mr. Clark of Missouri. Mr. Daisell answered that that was the situation. "Well," interjected Mr. Clark, "I will try it anyway." He then offered an amendment putting crude petroleum and its products on the free list. In an elaborate decision the chair sustained a point of order, that the Vreeland was the only one in line with the rules. The Norris amendment in consequence, was barred. From the decision, Mr. Clark, of Missouri, appealed with the result that on division the ruling was reversed 162 to 173. Many republicans, mostly from Wisconsin and Kansas voted with the democrats. This result finally rendered negative the chair's decision and opened up the whole petroleum schedule for any number of amendments. Cannon Works for Trust. A bitter attack against the Standard Oil company was made by Mr. Cooper of Wisconsin, in favoring the Norris amendment. Seeing the wave of sentiment in favor of the amendment, Speaker Cannon took the floor and warned the members of the dangers ahead. He made a plea for the American producer of oil. The amendment, he declared, was designed to punish the wicked Standard Oil company. (Continued on page Four.)

CHARLOTTE PREPARES FOR HER CELEBRATION

Invites Governors of the Thirteen Original States To Meet Taft

(Special to The Citizen.) CHARLOTTE, April 7.—The central committee which is directing the program of exercises to be held here on the twentieth of May in celebration of the 13th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, has invited the governors of the thirteen original states to come to Charlotte for the three days' festivities. Governor Elen B. Draper has accepted. The people of Charlotte are preparing to give Mr. Taft the greatest reception ever accorded a president of the United States in a southern city. Local officials of both the Southern and Seaboard railroads have given the assurance that ample train accommodations will be provided and that reduced rates will be offered. Special trains will be operated into the city on the 20th—"Taft Day"—from all directions.

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CHAUFFEUR ARRESTED ADMITS KILLING BOY

Tramped From New York to Texas Only To Be Traced By Miscarried Letter

PORT ARTHUR, Texas, April 7.—William Durrugh, wanted in New York city, charged with having run down and killed Ingvard Trimble, the thirteen year old son of R. D. Trimble, a Kentucky lawyer, was arrested when he arrived here today, after "tramping" from New York. Durrugh, when arrested, admitted his identity and expressed a willingness to return to New York. Durrugh admits that he was driving the automobile which ran down young Trimble, but declares that the accident was unavoidable, that he struck the boy while endeavoring to avoid running down others. He attributed his arrest to a letter he wrote to a young woman acquaintance in New York when he left the city immediately after the accident, informing her of his destination. The letter, he declares, fell into the hands of a rival and thus his whereabouts was learned.



WASHINGTON, April 7.—Foreca for North Carolina: Fair and cool; Thursday: Friday fair; moderate; northwest winds.