

SPECIAL VENTURE IS SUMMONED FOR THE MEANS TRIAL

Opening Day of Case Is Given Over to Preliminary Work.

MRS. MELVIN IS NOT PRESENT AT TRIAL

Expected to Appear Later.

Mrs. Robinson Will Take Stand.

CONCORD, N. C., Nov. 26.—Trial of Gaston B. Means in Cabarrus county court got no further on the opening day than summoning of a special venire of 150 men. The jury is expected to be selected from them and from thirteen of the regular panel to decide whether or not Means shot and killed Mrs. Maude A. King. Tonight state and defense were concentrating their attention on the list of veniremen and it was expected that one or more days would be given over to selecting the jury.

Preliminaries Begun.

After court opened today, three hours were taken up with formalities of charging the grand jury and with the lengthy process of drawing the 150 names from the jury list. Under North Carolina law the names must be drawn by a child unable to read. A little boy in blue jumpers solemnly picked out the names on the list one by one and a court official read off the names. The veniremen are scattered throughout Cabarrus county, farmers and residents of various towns. Some thirty of them reside at Kannapolis, it was said.

Mrs. King, a wealthy New York widow, was little known to Cabarrus county people, but Means, her business agent, was born here and hundreds of his acquaintances were present when the trial opened. President Judge Cline, however, limited the spectators to the seating space.

The defendant smiled as he entered facing the court and outwardly, at least, was confident throughout the hearing. His wife joined him shortly and appeared as composed as her husband. Very few other women were present, there being a noticeable lack of them among the spectators.

Mrs. Mary C. Melvin, sister of Mrs. King, who attended the preliminary hearing, did not make her appearance today. She sat with the defense at the preliminary hearing and it was expected that she would appear with them later.

Mrs. Anna L. Robinson, of Asheville, mother of the dead woman, whose grief and seventy-six years, it was announced, kept her from the first hearing, will not only attend this time, but will take the stand for the prosecution, according to her attorney, P. C. McDuffie. The latter, it was announced today, would take an active part in the prosecution. He was admitted to the bar in North Carolina, leaving here later for Atlanta.

The state also will be aided in its evidence by Assistant District Attorney Doolink, of New York, and by other witnesses from New York and Chicago. It was in the latter city that the investigation first started which resulted in Means' indictment, the body of the victim being examined there where it was taken for (Continued on Page Three.)

DRASTIC CURTAILMENT OF PASSENGER CARS HAS BEEN FOUND NEEDLESS

Facilities of Plants Are Found Sufficient for Government Work.

MAY COME LATER.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Drastic curtailment of passenger automobile production which has been talked of since the manufacturers were called into conference recently with the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense has been found unnecessary, according to expert advisers of the commission. Facilities of the plants were said today to be sufficient for handling government work now in sight and steel manufacturers have given assurances that they can supply the metal needed. The automobile industries board, appointed by the government, has placed before the industries board a plan to transfer overland all cars intended for private sale within 100 miles of the city of manufacture and it was said there was no reason why the radius might not be extended as far as road conditions will allow.

The experience gained in sending overland to the Atlantic seaboard all the trucks made for the army will be studied by the manufacturers who expect that material will be required later will depend on developments on the battle front.

Automobile plants now are making various kinds of munitions, including depth bombs used so effectively by destroyers in hunting submarines. Some plants are at work on cylinder castings for airplane engines. Women are being trained in many factories to be repair men who entered the government service and are even doing such heavy work as making six inch shells.

AFTER VALIANT DEFENSE ITALIANS ARE REINFORCED BY FRENCH AND BRITISH

Italians Have Made Brilliant Stand and Have Saved Venetian Plain—Reinforcement Bring Plenty of Guns and Huge Trains of Supplies.

Apparently the peril of the Italian troops guarding the Piave line and the hill country in northern Italy against the Teutonic allies is at an end. Large numbers of British and French reinforcements—infantry and artillery—at last have arrived upon the scene, after days of anxious waiting in which the Italians have borne the brunt of terrific fighting on both fronts solely on their own shoulders and kept back the enemy from a further invasion of the Venetian plain.

Valiant Defence. Although faced everywhere by superior numbers of men and gun power, the Italians have valiantly defended every foot of ground in the hills and along the Piave and in the former region in recent days actually have taken the offensive against the invaders and pushed them back from strategic points of vantage they had gained under terrific sacrifices in lives.

For eight days the allied reinforcements marched to the rescue, bringing along with them large numbers of guns and huge supply trains. All the troops are declared to be in fine fettle and eager to test their strength against the enemy.

Just where the British and french forces will be thrown has not been made known, but doubtless large numbers of them will be used to strengthen the Italian front on the north from Lake Garda eastward to the Piave where the Austro-Germans have been making their strongest efforts to pierce the Italian line.

Byng Holding Bourlon.

At last accounts General Byng's British troops before Cambrai were holding in their entirety the Bourlon positions west of Cambrai. Since their repulse of Sunday the Germans had failed to renew their counter-attacks. Only minor operations have taken place on any of the sectors of the wide front where Byng's men last week carried out their swift and spectacular operation, which resulted in the smashing of the famous Hindenburg line.

Along the Chemin Des Dames and in the Verdun region violent artillery duels are in progress. In the latter sector the Germans several times essayed attacks with the purpose of re-capturing ground taken from them Sunday by the French but met with repulse. This ground, which is situated to the north of the famous Hill 344, for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.)

AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARE PRESENTED WITH FRENCH WAR CROSS FOR BRAVERY

May Keep Decorations But Cannot Wear Them for the Present. CONGRESS MUST ACT.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—By the Associated Press.—The French war cross has been conferred on the fifteen American officers and men who were cited with their company by the French general commanding the sector in which the Americans were stationed at the time of the first German raid on the night of November 2-3. The men were decorated today and were informed that they may keep the medals in their possession, but must not wear them until congress gives its authorization.

The ceremony was an impressive one. An American major-general presented the decorations and citations, giving the regimental colonel those for the men who were killed. They will be sent to their next of kin.

The French general, in referring to the action of this American company, said: "On the night of November 2-3 this company, which was in the line for the first time, met an extremely violent bombardment, despite which it seized arms and offered such stubborn resistance that the enemy, though numerically superior, was obliged to retire."

The general specially cited in the order of the day Corporal James D. Graham, and Privates Merle D. Hay and Thomas F. Enright, "who died bravely in hand-to-hand fighting with the enemy, who had penetrated the first line."

The others cited were Lieutenant William H. McLaughlin, Lieutenant R. O. Patterson, Lieutenant E. F. Erickson, Sergeant John Arrowood, Corporals David M. Knowles and Herbert Givens and Private Charles Mass, William D. Thomas, George Hurd, Boyce Wade, Robert Winkler and John J. Jarvis.

WILL DEMAND PASSPORTS

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 26.—If Russia enters into separate peace negotiations the ministers of the allied powers at Petrograd will demand their passports, according to a dispatch from Hapsprande.

GOVERNMENT OPERATION OF RAILROADS MORE AND MORE OF POSSIBILITY

If Pooling System Fails, Government Is Expected to Act. ALL ONE SYSTEM.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Government operation of the railroads during the war is considered an increasing possibility in the minds of officials who with the railroad heads are trying to work out a plan for relief of the eastern traffic situation. Apparently it is conceded that if the pooling system about to be undertaken by the railroads themselves does not solve the problem the government will take over the operation of the roads as one system.

Vice-presidents of the eastern lines met here today with members of the railroad board and worked on details for a general pooling in the east of as much of the entire trackage and equipment as is considered practicable. They intend a committee to be in full charge of the pool with A. W. Thompson, vice-president of the Baltimore and Ohio, as chairman.

The committee will establish headquarters in Pittsburgh and will sit continuously until the present congestion is cleared. The first meeting will be held Wednesday.

The pooling plan calls for a joint use of tracks, locomotives, cars and employes in the congested centers. It will not be permitted to go so far, even if the railroad heads admit as to threat, on the revenues of any lines and this is the point advocates of government operation emphasize as illustrating the need for government operation.

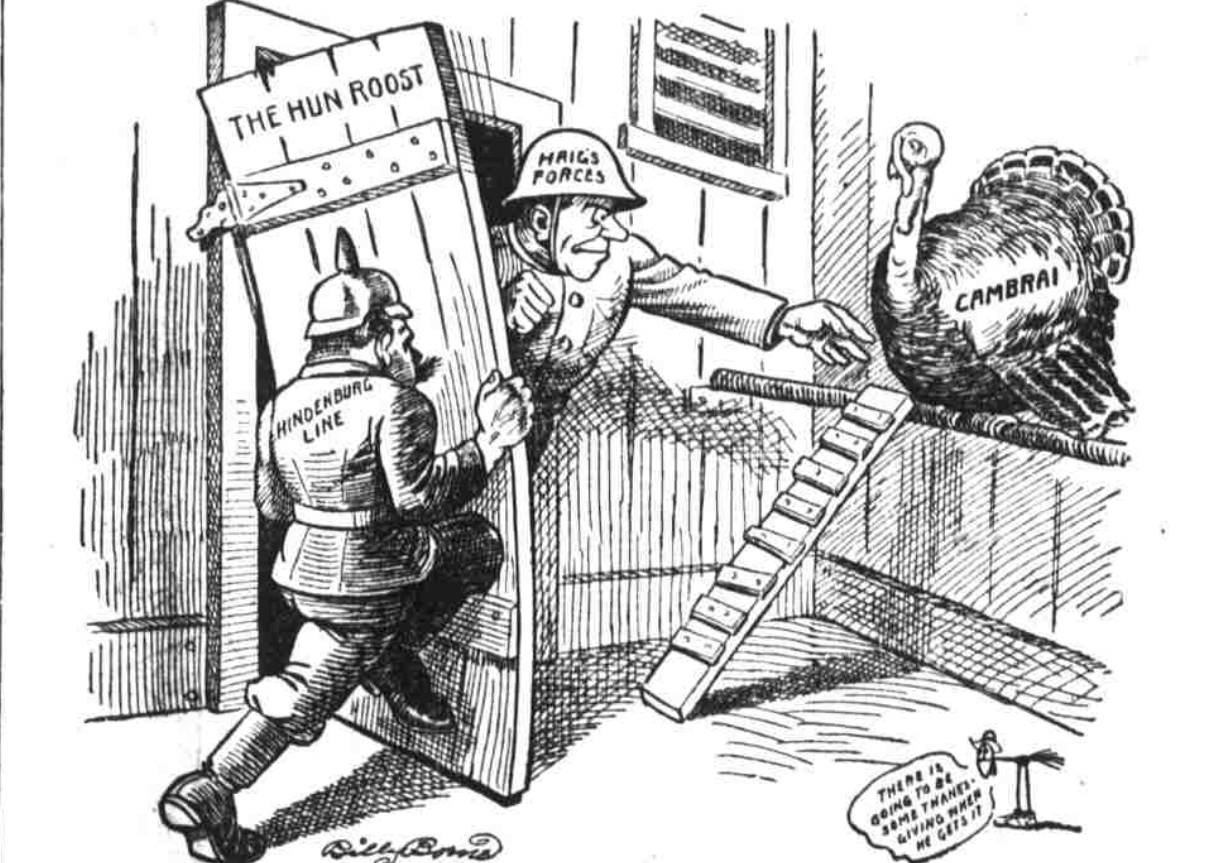
Under government supervision of the roads could pool their profits, under present circumstances would constitute a violation of the anti-trust act. A pooling of profits would permit of an actual operation of all lines as one system and it would make little difference whether one particular property pair, if the roads as a whole were making money.

Government operation along the lines contemplated by officials in favor of it would not take the actual operation from the hands of those now in charge of the roads. A railroad administrator, if named by the president, would be a leading railroad man and no changes would be made in the management of individual lines.

OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—The official announcement of the appointment of Baron Rothermere, brother of Viscount Rothermere, as president of the air council was made tonight.

A Piize Bird



BIANCA DESAULLES, ON TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND, TELLS THE STORY OF HER EVENTFUL LIFE TO JURY

Pathos and Humor Mingled in Grim Narration, Which at Times Visibly Move Jury and Crowd—"Dashing Jack" DeSaulle's Hidden Life Laid Bare by the "White Widow" Formerly His Wife—Years of Unhappiness Ended in Tragedy.

MINEOLA, N. Y., Nov. 26.—From the witness stand today Mrs. Bianca Desaulles told a story upon which may depend her conviction or acquittal of the charge of murdering her husband, John L. Desaulles, the night of August 3. It was a tale in which pathos and humor were mingled. There were moments when the pale twenty-three-year-old Chilean belle smiled broadly at a part of her own grim narration, and when the spectators who crowded the court-room laughed so loudly it was necessary for Justice Manning to rap for order. But the greater part of the story was so deeply pathetic that jurors and spectators were visibly affected.

Scenes Shift Rapidly. It was a recital in which scenes were rapidly shifted. The first was a luxurious estate in Chile—Vina Del Mar, "the vineyard by the sea," where the defendant spent her childhood. Then followed a reference to the three years the young woman spent in a convent in England. There was the return to her Chilean home and her acquaintance with Desaulles, fresh from laurels won as a football star at Yale.

Then the witness told of her brief courtship and the wedding ceremony performed in Paris in 1911. The witness said the story was of "in-different neglect" and unfaithfulness on the part of the husband which eventually led to the divorce court. These years of unhappiness for the defendant were described as a "horrible nightmare" in one of several letters written by Mrs. Desaulles as read to the court and which interspersed her testimony.

Climax of Tragedy. Next came the climax of the narration—Mrs. Desaulles' account of the tragedy at "The Box," her former husband's home near Westbury, Long Island, the night she fell in her endeavor to obtain possession of her son and in a moment of mental irresponsibility, according to her account, fired the revolver shots. There was no reference throughout the five-hour recital to "hysteria," the thyroid condition which her attorneys said were partly responsible for her temporary mental derangement.

Mrs. Desaulles' story having been

told, there remained to be examined several other witnesses on behalf of the defendant and then the way will be cleared for a long battle of alienists and other medical specialists representing the prosecution and defense which is expected to be waged before the case finally goes to the jury. With this in prospect, lawyers accompanying Mrs. Desaulles into the trial chamber were her mother, Mrs. Bianca Erzuruz her sister, Amalia and brother William, who came from Chile for the trial.

At the opposite side of the court room were seated Charles A. H. Desaulles, a brother of John L. Desaulles, his sister, Mrs. Caroline DeSauger and Stephen S. Tuttle, Desaulles' former secretary. Near them was Julius Hademek, Desaulles' valet who testified in behalf of the state last week. Among the spectators were many persons prominent in New York and Long Island social circles.

Mrs. Desaulles entered the court room she smiled in acknowledgment of her attorney's greetings and bowed to the jury as she took her seat.

Reads Her Letters. The witness had finished the first part of her story—her marriage at the age of sixteen and her return to the United States with Desaulles—when her attorney, Henry A. Uterhart, interrupted to read several letters bearing Mrs. Desaulles' signature.

These missives brimmed with words of affection. They pictured the youthful bride's dream of the happiness which she thought was to be hers but an occasional phrase such as "please don't disappoint us again," and "come Tuesday without fail" indicated the negligent attitude, which Mrs. Desaulles claims her husband assumed toward her, was asserting itself.

Desaulles' fitful trips to London and Paris from where he would cable to his wife to join him there, made up the next part of the story told by the witness. These summonses, she said, were followed several times by intimations from her husband telling her to remain in the United States—that he was coming back to this country. The changed instructions were invariably received she said, after she closed up their home and made all preparations to leave.

Tells of Infidelities. A number of additional instances of Desaulles' alleged infidelities and inconsiderate treatment was told. When given securities worth \$100,000 which the witness said, she inherited from her father, Desaulles told her "it is absurd to call you an heiress" the defendant declared.

During a brief stay in London, and later while living in New York, Mrs. Desaulles said her husband repeatedly endeavored to force her to appear at social functions which they had arranged.

While living with Desaulles' parents at South Bethlehem, Pa., where she said she was treated as "an unwelcome visitor," her husband spent nearly all his time in New York "on business" making an occasional weekend visit to the place.

Joan Sawyer, a dancer, that Mrs. Desaulles said she learned her husband had "entertained" in an apartment in New York during one winter, and the Duke of Manchester, with whom she said Desaulles "coveted about" bringing her disastrous notoriety were mentioned in this part of the recital.

Leads to Tragedy. Leading up to the date of the tragedy, the witness told of efforts which she said were made by her former husband, whom she had then divorced, to alienate the affections of her son. This was done, she declared, through a nurse that Desaulles had engaged to care for the boy and who, she testified, told him to "act bad" when he returned to her custody from the father's home.

A letter bearing Desaulles' signature, and purporting to show that the boy, John L. Desaulles, Jr., was in the custody of his mother by terms of an agreement between the parents when the shooting occurred, was introduced by Attorney Uterhart. Mrs. Desaulles' fitful trips to London and

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AMERICAN SAILOR GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS

Osmond Kelly Ingram Goes Down to Posterity as Hero True to Tradition.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Osmond Kelly Ingram, of Pratt City, Ala., the gunners' mate lost overboard when a German submarine attacked the American destroyer Cassin in the war zone, on October 16, deliberately sacrificed his own life to reduce the risk of his messmates.

A detailed report from Admiral Sims, shows that Ingram, standing aft on the destroyer where some high explosive depth charges were stored, saw the torpedo coming. Instead of rushing forward to his own life by getting away from the explosion, Ingram stuck to the spot, throwing overboard the high explosives which he knew would further endanger the lives of his fellows if they were detonated by the explosion of the torpedo. He was the only man lost, being blown overboard by the explosion.

The Cassin got in under her own steam and the gallantry of her crew in effecting temporary repairs was commended by Admiral Sims in a special report. The navy department's announcement refers to the exceptional presence of mind of the gunners' mate and says: "The department considers that Ingram sacrificed his life in performing a duty which he believed would save the ship and the lives of the officers and men on board."

BRITISH TROOPS THREE MILES FROM JERUSALEM

Turks in Strong Force on Ground West of City Await Their Coming.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—British cavalry have captured Bittir Station, about six miles southwest and Ain Karim, three and a half miles west of Jerusalem, according to a British official communication issued this evening.

The text of the communication reads: "Our mounted troops have captured Bittir station and Ain Karim, three and a half miles west of Jerusalem, and the high ground west of Jerusalem and covering the Jerusalem-Shechem road to the north."

Another official communication dealing with the fighting in Palestine says: "General Allenby reports that his advanced patrol which has crossed to the north bank of the Nahr-El-Azjel, four miles north of Jericho, have been pressed back by hostile infantry and now are holding the southern bank of the river and covering the crossings."

RUSSIA IS ON THE VERGE OF A BLOODY CIVIL WAR

This Is Declaration of Dispatch From Petrograd. Supplies Short.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—A belated dispatch to Reuter's Limited from Petrograd, dated November 21, says: "The commanders at the front continue to send in most ominous dispatches concerning the exhaustion of supplies and reports of forthcoming hungry hordes of soldiers invading the centers of population."

A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Copenhagen gives similar reports. It says advice received from Russia describe the situation as more desperate than ever and assert that the country is on the verge of a bloody civil war.

According to this dispatch the Russian newspaper Volka Narodna asserts that the Russian armies on the northern front have for several days been without food and that soldiers daily are leaving the front in hundreds or are dying in the trenches from cold and hunger. The newspaper adds that mutinies due to hunger have broken out on several parts of the line.

NEWSPRINT MEN ARE FOUND GUILTY OF COMBINATION

Newsprint Manufacturers' Association Is Dissolved by the Court.

PRICE OF PAPER IS FIXED FOR PRESENT

Five Members of the Association Are Sentenced to Pay Fines.

NEW YORK, Nov. 26.—With the assent of the government the Newsprint Manufacturers' association, which represents about eighty-five per cent of the printpaper production of the United States and Canada, was dissolved today as an unlawful combination in restraint of trade in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

Under this decree, signed by Federal Judge Mayer and which the defendants' counsel said was accepted by the accused men because of patriotic motives and a desire not to embarrass the government while engaged in war, evidence will be adduced before the federal trade commission, with a view to paper prices being fixed by the commission. Price is Fixed.

Pending the commission's decision, which under the decree may be reviewed by the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals here, the price of paper is fixed at three cents a pound. This contract, of which the United States attorney general is trustee, is understood to be in effect today on the American Newspaper Publishers' association.

Under the decree the three cent price will prevail until April 1 in the case of the individual and corporate defendants, and until January 1 in the case of others. The price finally fixed by the federal trade commission will, it is understood, be for the period of the war.

Five of the seven individual defendants and all but a few of the corporate defendants accused under the federal indictment returned last April entered pleas today of nolo contendere. The five individuals who thus refused to carry the case to trial are George H. Mead, Philip F. Dodge, Edward W. Backus, George E. Chalmers, Jr. and Paul J. Greenbriar.

Four Are Fined. The first four of these individuals were fined \$3,500 each and Greenbriar was fined \$1,000. G. H. P. Gould pleaded not guilty. At the session of the federal council who said government investigators had not uncovered sufficient evidence to warrant trial, the indictment against him was dismissed.

Alexander Smith, a Chicago banker, the seventh individual defendant, is engaged in Red Cross work in France. (Continued on Page Three.)

UNITED STATES SEEKING NATIONALITY OF U-BOAT WHICH SUNK SCHUYLKILL

If Austrian Boat Is Guilty Congress Will Be Asked to Act.

OTHER CASES KNOWN.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Inquiries by the state department regarding the nationality of the submarine that sank the American steamer Schuyllkill have developed that the periscope was marked black and white with a spiral design. Data in possession of the government does not reveal whether this indicates an Austrian vessel.

The state department is continuing its inquiry through consular officials at Mediterranean ports and should it be established that the Schuyllkill was sunk by an Austrian submarine, the state department, it was said today, would have in its possession the essential factors upon which to ask congress for an expression of its will regarding the further maintenance of peaceful relations with Austria.

Americans lost their lives on the Italian liner Anconia destroyed in the Mediterranean, and the American tanker Petrolite also was attacked there. While the submarine carried the Austrian flag it was established that the boats themselves really were German made and German manned. Negotiations in these two cases were pending when Dr. Dumba, the Austrian ambassador, was recalled at this government's demand because of his activities in bomb plots. Austria would not admit responsibility for the acts and the government did not press the cases after the departure of Dr. Dumba.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN Circulation Yesterday City 4,353 Suburban 4,536 Country 1,841 Net paid 10,730 Service 205 Unpaid 82 Total 11,017

THE WEATHER. WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Forecast for North Carolina: Fair Tuesday, Wednesday cloudy and warmer, probably local rains.