

MEANS CASE MAY REACH THE JURY BY LATE TONIGHT

Verdict May Be Legally Rendered on Sunday, Is Decided.

CANSLER ARGUING FOR THE DEFENSE

Arguments and Charge Are Expected to Take Up All of Today.

CONCORD, N. C., Dec. 14.—So strong was the possibility tonight that the end of this week would bring the conclusion of the trial of Gaston B. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King that the question as to whether or not a verdict might be legally rendered on Sunday was developed. It was authoritatively answered in the affirmative.

When court adjourned this evening, E. T. Cansler of Charlotte, was in the midst of the closing argument for the defense. He is expected to use two hours Saturday morning in concluding his address which will be followed by the closing argument for the state, expected to consume several hours. Judge Cline's review of the extraordinary mass of evidence is expected to consume several hours more, so that there is no hope that the case will go to the jury before tomorrow night.

Dooling Heard.
The day was consumed by the arguments of John T. Dooling, assistant district attorney of New York, for the state; Frank Armfield and L. T. Hartwell of Concord and Mr. Cansler for the defense.

The court house was filled most of the day. Mr. Cansler devoted two hours this afternoon to argument against the state's contention that a motive for the alleged crime lay in the fact that the defendant had squandered and misappropriated a large portion of the fortune of Mrs. King and that he feared early exposure at the time she met her death. He denied that the state had proved the motive, and that the death accidentally occurred. He declared a motive for the alleged crime had been established. The burden of the state he contended was to first prove that the murder had been committed and then to establish a motive on the part of the defendant. It was not incumbent upon the defendant he declared to disprove either.

Takes Up Transactions.
He took up the transactions upon which the state bases mainly its claim for a motive and sought to convince the jury by the evidence in the case that the defendant had accounted for the funds involved in every instance in which the state's counsel had not withheld from him his records and accounts, by which he could have accounted for every dollar handled. He charged that the state had not dealt fairly with the defendant and that the jury should be convinced of the truth of the matter.

Mr. Dooling sought to convince the jury. (Continued on Page Two.)

ALLIES ARE PROGRESSING TOWARD DESIRED GOAL IN SPITE OF SOME REVERSES

So Declares Lloyd-George In Analytical Speech on Situation—America Will More Than Fill the Gap Left By Defeat of Russia, He Says.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—That steady progress towards the desired goal is being made by the allies, despite some untoward occurrences, it is the firm conviction of Premier Lloyd-George, he declared today.

It is because of this fact, the premier said, that we would regard peace overtures to Prussia at the moment when her military spirit was drunk with boastfulness, as a betrayal of trust of himself and his colleagues.

More Men Needed.

Premier Lloyd-George said that a call must be made on the nation for great sacrifices and more fighting men were needed until the American forces arrive to offset the burden that had been cast on the allies by the defection to Russia and the reverses of Italy.

The allies now must defend all fronts against the enemy and have a mobile army for any point of emergency, the premier said, and he added that the allies had a superiority in man power in France on the battle front and that there were considerable British reserves at home.

Premier Lloyd-George, who was speaking at the dinner of the Grey's Inn Benchers, said:

Americans Coming in.

"If this is the worst moment it is because Russia has stepped out and America is only preparing to come in. Every hour that passes will see the gap formed by the retirement of the Russians filled by the valiant sons of the great republic. Germany knows it and Austria knows it, hence the desperate efforts that they are making to force the issue before America is ready."

The premier's words were:

"It is because I am firmly convinced that despite some untoward events, despite discouraging appearances, we are making steady progress toward the goal that I would regard peace overtures to Prussia at the very moment the Prussian military spirit is drunk with boastfulness as a betrayal of the great trust with which my colleagues and myself have been charged."

If Russia persists in her present policy, the premier pointed out, the withdrawal by the enemy from the east of a third of his troops must release hundreds of thousands of men and masses of material to attack Great Britain, France and Italy.

Folly Not to Face It.

"It would be folly," he added, "to underrate the danger, equal folly to exaggerate it and the greatest folly of all not to face it."

"If the Russian democracy has decided to abandon the

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The Christmas Offensive



SUGAR SHORTAGE IN EAST DUE TO THE FIXED IMPORT PRICE SET BY THE FOOD ADMINISTRATION, SPRECKELS DECLARES

Asserts That Sugar From Cuba Is Passing Through New York to Canada, Where the Refiners Are Allowed to Pay a Higher Price For the Sweet Stuff—Accuses Administration Agents With Undue Activity For Own Company.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Blame for the sugar shortage in the east was charged to the food administration's fixed import price by Claude A. Spreckels, president of the Federal Sugar Refining company, testifying today before the senate investigating committee. He asserted that raw sugar from Cuba was passing through New York for Canada, where refiners are permitted to pay higher prices.

Mr. Spreckels who said his refinery was almost because of lack of supplies also charged that Earl A. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining company, and Geo. M. Rolph, general manager of the California-Hawaiian Sugar Refining company, in their positions as agents of the food administration had been unduly active in getting raw sugar from the American company. Mr. Babst is chairman of the international sugar committee created by the administration which fixed the price to be paid for raw sugar coming from outside the United States or its territories at \$6.90 a hundred. Mr. Rolph is head of the food administration's sugar division and a member of the international committee.

Wanted to Pay More.
When his supply was getting low in October, Mr. Spreckels testified, he asked Food Administrator Hoover that he be allowed to pay more than \$6.90 for Cuban sugar. He put in evidence a letter in which Mr. Hoover declined, saying speculators were

holding the sugar in Cuba for higher prices and that the American standard price would be maintained. Under questioning by Senator Jones of New Mexico, the witness said he understood that about half of the 70,000 tons available in Cuba when he wrote the letter had been shipped to other countries and that the balance either had arrived in the United States or was en route.

Mr. Spreckels told of protesting to Mr. Hoover against the contract whereby the American sugar company was to obtain 100,000 tons of the Louisiana crop. He said his company had not considered getting any of that crop because the food administration had fixed no price and he was astounded to learn of the American company making the contract after a price of \$6.85 for the Louisiana product had been agreed upon at a conference participated in by Mr. Rolph and Mr. Babst.

Sugar Held in West.
When the shortage came in the east, the witness asserted, more than 100,000 tons of raw sugar was held in the west of which the California-Hawaiian company held 40,000 tons. He said he appealed to Mr. Rolph to allow some of this to come east to keep eastern refineries going but was informed it was necessary to keep the supply in the west.

In support of his charge, that Messrs. Rolph and Babst favored the American company, Mr. Spreckels related an incident that brought out

how two companies operating chain retail stores, recently had sugar when none was to be produced at many stores. He said A. H. Lamborn and company of New York, sugar brokers, contracted for two cargoes of Cuban raw sugar for delivery at New York and offered it to the international sugar committee in October at \$6.90 a hundred pounds but the committee without giving a reason declined to buy.

Lamborn came to him soon afterward, Mr. Spreckels said, for means to further finance the deal and told him that within fifteen minutes after the committee had declined the sugar a buyer for the American had offered him \$6.65 for it.

Buyers for the chain stores company head of the situation, purchasing the sugar for \$1.15 and with the permission of the food administrator had it refined by the Federal and the Warner Refining company for \$1.90 a hundred.

The witness said the retail price of \$7.25 for granulated sugar at seaports works a hardship because his company's manufacture produces nothing but granulated and brown, whereas the American company specializes in granulated handled in shapes, for which prices are not fixed.

Several witnesses have been summoned by the committee, including Mr. Lamborn, who is expected to testify after Mr. Spreckels concludes tomorrow.

CONGRESS DECIDES TO EXTEND INVESTIGATION INTO AFFAIRS OF NAVY

Crozier Again Witness Before the Senate Military Committee.

SHORTAGE OF GUNS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Congress today extended its investigation of the administration's war preparations to the navy. While the senate military committee continued its army hearing the house committee unanimously decided to begin immediately a general inquiry into naval affairs and appointed a sub-committee headed by Representative Oliver, of Alabama, to conduct it.

It was officially announced that the purpose of the naval investigation would be to scrutinize past and future expenditures and policies and to secure greater co-ordination between congress and the executive departments in the conduct of the war. Hearings probably will begin Monday and most of them are expected to be behind closed doors to protect the navy's secrets.

Secretary Daniels heard about the committee's action as he left a cabinet meeting. He said he was pleased and that the more he found out about what the navy had accomplished the better congress would be satisfied.

PLEASURES SHOULD BE FOREGONE DURING THE WAR, VANDERLIP STATES

War-savings Stamps Should Be Bought Instead, Banker Declares.

ARE PRACTICAL AID.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 14.—Pleasures should be foregone during the war to a large extent and the money invested in war savings stamps or other government securities, said Frank A. Vanderlip, national director of the war savings campaign in an address here tonight.

"Store up your pleasures as you would store up money in the bank," pleaded Mr. Vanderlip. "You will enjoy them ten-fold later, at the right time and with a clear conscience. I am not asking you to be sad or doleful—that is quite unnecessary—but if you have a heart you won't get a tenth part of the normal enjoyment out of a pleasure or a luxury in these times, when every newspaper you pick up brings you a sense of the suffering and agony of so many millions of your fellow men."

NEW YORK FACING WORST COAL SHORTAGE IN ITS HISTORY BECAUSE OF ICE

Barges Held in Grip of Ice on New Jersey Side of River.

MUCH SUFFERING.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Homes and industries in New York were confronted tonight with the most serious coal shortage in the city's history because of inability to get supplies across the river on barges from New Jersey tide-water points where thousands of tons are ice-bound. The situation already had been greatly aggravated by last night's storm.

An investigation by the fuel administration today disclosed that nearly one-half of the city's coal yards are empty while others have only a few tons on hand. Thousands of families have no coal to heat their homes and scores of the city's manufacturing plants are said to be on the verge of shutting down. It may be necessary to close many of the public schools.

DECLARE THEY REJECTED ONLY ONE CAR OF ONIONS

Firm Charged With Refusing Perishables Defends Action to Commission.

TWO DROWNED.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Dec. 14.—Lester brother produce merchants of this city, testified today before James I. Ford, of the food administration in attempting to show cause why their license should not be revoked, that they had only turned back one car of onions and this was turned back because the onions were small and of inferior grade.

The firm was charged with refusing to take six car loads of onions which they had ordered and had been shipped to them. Commissioner Ford took the evidence in the case back to Washington from which a decision will be announced by the food administrator. Lester brothers testified today that they had received only three cars of onions and had turned one of them back, accepting the two which were up to standard.

ALLIED NAVAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCED BY BENSON

Will Co-ordinate Naval Operations of All Nations at War With Teutons.

INSIGNIFICANT GAIN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Creation of an allied naval council to co-ordinate the naval operations of all the nations at war with the central powers, was announced tonight in a cablegram to the navy department from Admiral Benson at Paris.

Members of the council, established in accordance with the plans of the inter-allied conference, will report to their respective governments with recommendations for action. The council will be composed of the minister of marine and chief of naval staff of each country, in the case of the United States Secretary Daniels and Admiral Benson. As the meetings must be held in Europe, flag officers designated by their governments will represent the members from both the United States and Japan. The Admiral Benson's name was made public by Secretary Daniels tonight.

WOMAN SENTENCED FOR UTTERANCES IN SPEECH

Tended to Discourage Obedience to the Draft Registration Law.

CLOSES SALOONS.

BISMARCK, N. D., Dec. 14.—A sentence of five years in the penitentiary at Jefferson city was imposed today by Judge Martin J. Wade of Des Moines, on Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hare, convicted of making utterances in a speech at Bowman, N. D., last summer tending to discourage obedience to the military registration law.

The sentences followed a long speech by Mrs. O'Hare in which she reiterated her opposition to war and defied Federal Judge Wade to do his worst. Witnesses at her trial testified that Mrs. O'Hare declared in her speech at Bowman that "wherever we rally our sons to be cannon fodder were no better than a farmer's brood sow" and that "young men who are foolish enough to enlist or volunteer are only good enough for German fertilizer."

It was brought out that a few hundred machine guns have been furnished the training camps and that for many weeks after the national army got into training some of the units were instructed with charts instead of weapons.

KENILWORTH INN TAKEN OVER BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

Telegram Received Yesterday From Jake M. Chiles Gives That Information

USED ONLY AS A RECUOPERATIVE BASE

Wounded and Convalescent Officers Will Be Sent to Handsome Structure.

Private telegrams received here yesterday from Jake M. Chiles, of the Kenilworth inn company, who has been in Washington for the past five days, announced that the negotiations looking to the taking over of the new Kenilworth inn as a recuperative base for convalescent officers had been practically closed, and that the necessary papers awaited only the signature of Secretary of War Baker. With the hotel in operation, will be the five handsome bungalows recently erected by E. G. Hester, president of the Kenilworth Development company. These bungalows will be leased by the government as well as the hotel for the use of officers' families.

For Convalescent Officers.
It has been known for two or three weeks that the war department officials were looking for a recuperative base for wounded and convalescent men at various points in the south and Asheville was one of the first cities visited by government representatives. The new Kenilworth inn was favorably considered and when other officials came here last week it was almost a certainty that the new hotel now being rushed to completion, would be chosen for the purposes named. Mr. Chiles went to Washington last Monday and his telegram yesterday to Roscoe A. Marvel, who will manage the hotel, indicated the negotiations for the lease of the new structure had been closed.

Regarded as Asset.
At a recent meeting of committee from the various civic organizations, it was the consensus of opinion that the use of Kenilworth inn as a recuperative base would be a decided asset to the city. It was never the intention of the war department officials to use Kenilworth inn as a base for convalescent officers. The government officials recently looked over Asheville, and one has been selected, it is

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BELIEVED PRESIDENT WILL SETTLE RAILROAD QUESTION NEXT MONDAY

Is Still Deliberating Over Various Proposals Put Before Him.

DIFFERENT PLANS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Without any reason for it apparent on the surface, the impression grew today that President Wilson will settle the question of how the government is to deal with the railroad problem about Monday.

The president is still deliberating over the various proposals put before him—the government operation or control of the railroads, the creation of an interstate commerce commission, the plan for naming a federal administrator to direct operations by the present railroad management, and the consent association of the railroad war board that the lines can handle the situation themselves if properly supported by the government.

In considering the appointment of a federal administrator or director it is understood the president is occupied chiefly with the question of who the man should be. Several names already have been discussed at the capital and in railroad circles without, however, any indication that the president actually is preparing to select one of them. First on the list has been Secretary Lane, whose knowledge and railroad questions is well known because of his services on the interstate commerce commission. Associate Justice Brandeis of the Supreme court, has been mentioned and the visit of former Justice Charles E. Hughes to the white house a few days ago, added him to the group. Today the name of Secretary McAdoo was brought out and the president was said to be weighing the question whether the head of the clearance department could be spared from the tremendous task of handling the nation's war financing.

Senator Newlands, chairman of the senate interstate committee and of the joint congressional transportation committee, referred in a speech in the senate during the day to the possibility of government aid in financing the railroads.

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., Dec. 14.—Every saloon in New Rochelle was closed tonight in compliance with an order from Governor Whitman.

Prompt action was taken by the governor when Mayor Griffing informed him that the city was filled with recruits for the United States army who had been ordered to report at Fort Houson but for whom there were no accommodations at the army post. It was estimated that fully 10,000 embryo soldiers had been turned loose in the city without equipment of any kind and many of them penniless. Serious trouble was feared the governor was told, if the sale of liquor continued.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN	
Circulation Yesterday	
City	4,311
Suburban	4,316
Country	1,860
Net paid	10,687
Service	215
Unpaid	70
Total	10,972