

ATTORNEYS BEGIN ARGUMENT FOR AND AGAINST BIGGERS

Defense Closed Its Case Yesterday Afternoon With Strong Testimony of Dr. J. P. Munroe—Mr. Herbert McClammy Makes Opening Speech for the State Followed This Morning by Mr. J. W. Keerans for the Defense—Jury Will Probably Get Case To-Morrow.

The argument of Mr. J. W. Keerans, of Maxwell & Keerans, for Will S. Biggers, charged with the murder of J. G. Hood, began at 10 o'clock when court opened this morning and concluded at 12 o'clock. This was the second argument in the Biggers case, the first being by Mr. McClammy for the State yesterday afternoon.

From noon to-day till the mid-day adjournment of court, Mr. John Parker, of the State.

The order of the speeches during the remainder of the argument will be as follows, unless some change is later decided upon: Preston, Lucas, Shannonhouse, Maxwell, Stewart, Osborne, Clarkson.

The Judge's Charge. The charge to the jury to be delivered by Judge Council will be a lengthy one, and will require from one to two hours to be delivered. The charge will be first dictated by the judge to a stenographer and after it is typewritten he will read the same from manuscript to the jury. It is said that Judge Council will require about five hours in which to prepare his charge.

In the interim also between the beginning of the arguments and the delivery of the charge, both sides are busy preparing briefs, covering points which they will ask the judge to incorporate into his charge.

Mr. Keerans, after his two-hour speech this morning, expected to begin at once on these notes—a task that both sides expect to pay particular attention to, regarding this as an important point.

The Prisoner Weeps. For the first time perhaps since the trial began the prisoner wept freely this morning while Mr. Keerans, his attorney, was making a resume of the evidence relating to Biggers' family and describing with pathos the father holding out his one arm and declaring that that was all he had left with which to keep and provide for his wife and little children.

Biggers held his head behind the chair of one of his counsel during this brief spell of crying, endeavoring to conceal it from the public, and in a few minutes he dried his eyes and sat up, making every attempt to avoid, apparently, any show of grief.

Mr. Keerans Speaks. The two-hour address of Mr. Keerans for the defense was a masterly effort, which included a summarization of all the evidence in favor of the prisoner, and an answering to the testimony of the State's witnesses. A brief summary of this speech is only possible here:

many other good people who noted his condition and many who did not." "As to Policeman Hunter's evidence, we contend not that the defendant was crazy on all subjects, but that he was under a delusion as to the act of killing Hood and did not know right from wrong. And if he were sane on other subjects it is not the most natural thing in the world that he should have recognized the policeman and have handed him his weapon? Dr. Ross, the State's own witness, said that people could be crazy on one subject or two subjects and not on others, and that he has seen patients all right on all other subjects who will want to send for a lawyer the moment certain things are mentioned for which they may have been tried or incarcerated."

Mr. Keerans argued that all of the experts for the State had not harmed the defendant nor had they contradicted the contention of the defense. He further argued that the experts for the defense had seen the patient immediately after the deed, whereas the State's experts had answered questions only upon hypothesis and that Dr. Ross, for the State, had admitted that a question based upon observation of the patient was more important than a hypothetical question. He made strong reference to the good character proven by the defense and the contrast seen in his sudden change, which so much the more indicated insanity when the change was so great.

"This man has been punished even now more than any punishment you could mete out to him. Through Hood he became mentally insane and I believe that everything was being taken from him and that his wife and children were to suffer for the necessities of life. Why, he must have suffered the tortures of the damned. And likewise his wife has suffered greatly, as you have heard told. I beg you to send him back to his wife and his little children so that they may bring him back to normal strength and mind."

The conclusion of the Biggers' trial, which has already become the most famous criminal case in the records of Mecklenburg county, is now near at hand—much earlier than many expected, and the indications are that the question of the guilt or of the innocence of W. S. Biggers, or what is the same thing—his sanity or insanity on the day of the killing of J. Green Hood, will be decided by the jury perhaps before 9 o'clock to-morrow night.

The case has become of State-wide interest and has attracted the attention of people from all parts of the piedmont section, to say nothing of North Carolina, and a great part of the country. The peculiar circumstances surrounding this case, in fact, have rendered it unique and for that reason it has been watched with the most scrutinizing interest by every man, woman and child, who has been able to secure a newspaper in which was an account of the trial day by day.

When the case was called on Monday, June 20, at a special term of court, it was known even then that the hearing would prove an extraordinary one, but few realized the magnitude which the affair would assume ere it had reached an end.

Evidence Began Thursday. The taking of evidence was begun Thursday morning, June 17, and continued up to 3:45 o'clock yesterday, thus lasting practically five full days. In this period is not included two days required in the summoning of the special venire of two hundred men from which were selected ten jurors, the other two being chosen from the regular jury list for the special term of the court.

Wednesday morning and a part of the afternoon were consumed in the examination of veniremen, with a view to selecting the jury, and this was a task that consumed an entire day, so that three days elapsed after the following of the opening of court before the first testimony was taken, the State opening with a simple and brief introduction of facts to demonstrate that the defendant, Biggers, had overtaken the deceased, J. G. Hood, on the streets, on the morning of February 9, in front of the Central Hotel, and had opened fire, killing his victim almost instantly.

This part of the trial was, of course, brief, not more than five or six witnesses being required to establish the

FIRE AGENTS AT COLUMBIA

Insurance Men of South Carolina to Hold Convention To-Morrow.

RURAL CARRIERS WILL HOLD MEETING AT CHESTER

Insurance Commissioner Fitzhugh McMaster to Address Fire Insurance Men—Interesting Pythian Event at Chester To-Night—High Moguls of Postoffice Department to Address Rural Carriers at Convention at Rock Hill—Other Notes. CHRONICLE BUREAU, COLUMBIA, S. C., June 23.

The fire insurance agents of the State gather here to-morrow for the annual meeting of their State association. The sessions will be held in the city hall and will begin at 11 o'clock. Commissioner Fitz Hugh McMasters, of the State insurance department, will make an address and several members will also be heard in interesting talks.

Secretary-Treasurer Sam M. Grist, of Yorkville, will read the minutes of the last convention, new members will be enrolled and President James Coyle, of Spartanburg, will deliver his annual report, after which the committee on legislation will have a report of great interest to submit. The only papers of the morning session will be one by Mr. W. A. Douglas, of Rock Hill, on "The Well Equipped Fire Insurance Office."

The Pythian event of the week in the State will be the presentation of the new Lafayette lodge in Chester to-night of the original charter of the lodge, which was the third formed in the State. Grand Chancellor Wilson G. Harvey, of Charleston, and the other grand lodge officers are expected to be present, also Cole L. Blease, of Newberry; J. S. Long, of Union, and Wade Hampton Cobb, of Columbia. An encampment will be organized after the presentation.

Chester is going to make a determined effort to secure the next meeting of the State Press Association. Her claims will be presented and strongly urged at the meeting to be held next month in Greenville. As a side trip Chester promises a glorious run up into the mountains, around Blowing Rock, N. C., reached via Lenoir from Chester.

Rural Carriers to Meet at Rock Hill. Rock Hill is to entertain July 5 and 6 the delegates and visitors to the annual convention of the Rural Mail Carriers. Congressmen Aiken at the request of the officers of the organization, has seen Fourth Assistant Postmaster General DeGraw and Superintendent of Rural Delivery Spillman and has the promise that one or possibly both will attend.

PRESBYTERIANS READY TO ADJOURN

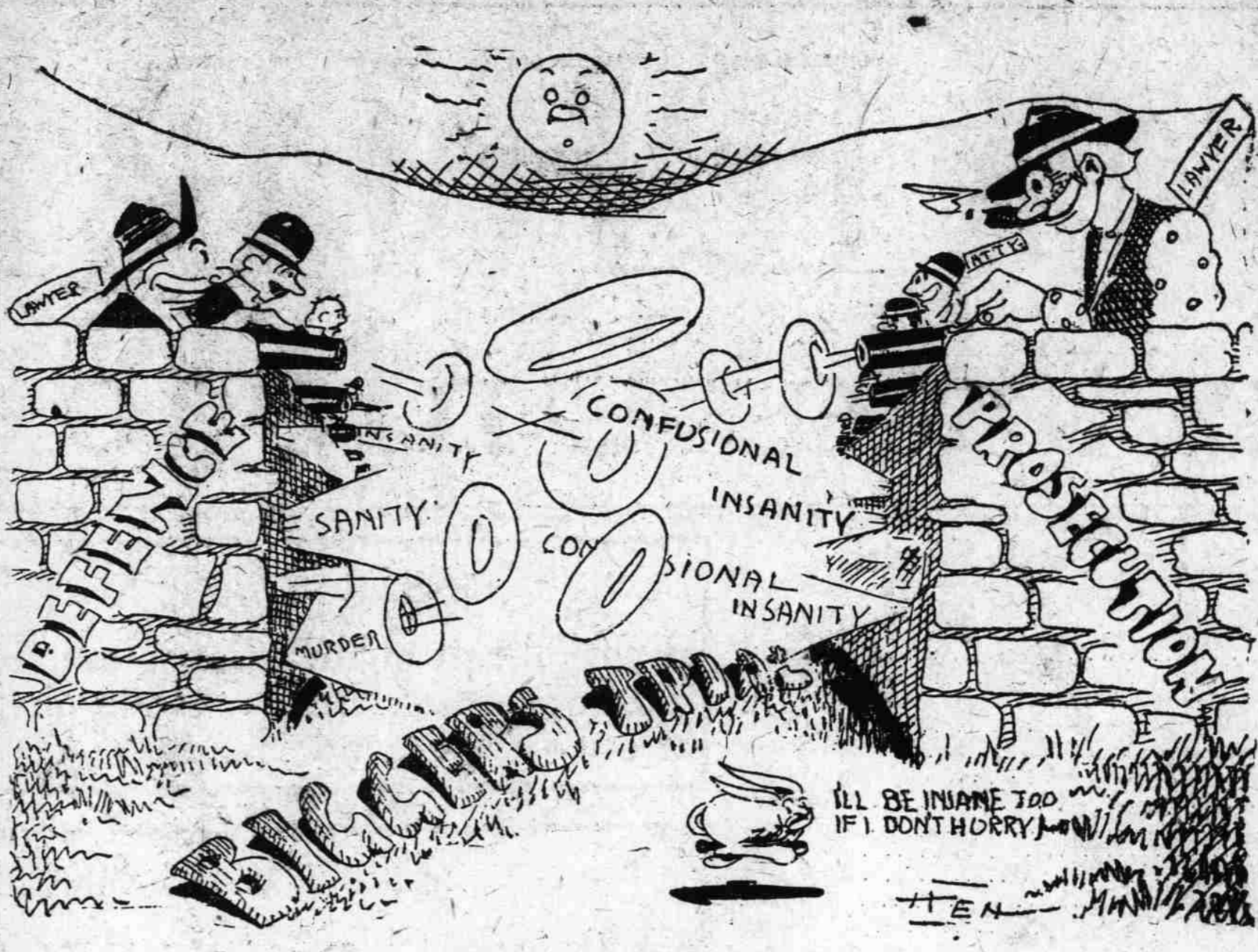
Pan-Presbyterian Alliance Convention Engaged in Mission Discussion To-Day—The Closing Events. NEW YORK, June 23.—Delegates from all over the world are in attendance at the International Pan-Presbyterian Alliance convention to-day engaged in mission work. Missionaries engaged in spreading the Presbyterian faith in many of the out-of-the-way corners of the earth recited their experiences. Only two days more remains of the period allotted to the convention.

Council committees will be appointed and a president and an American treasurer will be elected to-morrow. At the afternoon session, marriage and divorce, Sabbath observance, and temperance with discussions following, will be the subject of formal addresses. "Christian Fellowship," will be the evening topic.

On Friday at 10, Robert Watchorn will discuss "Immigration," and Sir Alexander Simpson, "City Evangelization." In the afternoon the work of the Brotherhood and of the deaconesses will be among the subjects of addresses. A farewell meeting in the evening will bring the council to a close.

TRUSTED EMPLOYEE IS ARRESTED FOR STEALING

PITTSBURG, June 23.—Baggage Master L. Jones, of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, a trusted employe for 22 years, was to-day arrested on the charge of stealing \$2,500 of jewelry. According to a detective who worked up the case for several months, he found a watch on Jones known to be a stolen article.



THE BATTERIES OPEN

65 MEN IMPRISONED IN A BURNING MINE

Gas Explosion in Coal Mine of Lackawanna Coal and Coke Company Will Result in Many Deaths—Several Already Dead and Others Being Suffocated and Roasted.

WEHRUM, PA., June 23.—One known dead and 12 injured is the result of an explosion this morning at the Lackawanna Coal and Coke Mine here. There were 100 miners reported in the mine at the time of the explosion, but it is believed the casualty list will not be large. An accumulation of gas caused the explosion.

At 11 o'clock this morning an unidentified foreigner and a dozen injured were brought to the surface. Though several are badly burned, it is not believed any will die.

Rescue parties have gathered around the mouth of the mine, preparing to enter the galleries, and employes are still coming to the surface.

WEHRUM, PA., June 23.—Fire broke out in mine No. 4, of the Lackawanna Coal & Coke Company, soon after noon where the explosion occurred this morning. It is feared that the 65 men underground will be burned to death.

A phone message from the scene of the disaster says three are already known to be dead, five or six fatally injured and 25 badly burned.

Oxygen tanks from the Cambria Steel Company, at Johnstown, are on the way to the mine.

Black damp is now so thick that the work of rescue is exceedingly hazardous. Fire fighting apparatus has been sent for from Johnstown.

EARTHQUAKE IN CALIFORNIA

CHICO, Cal., June 23.—Sacramento valley is to-day recovering from the effects of severe earthquake shocks last night. Little damage was done beyond the shaking down of a few chimneys and the breaking of windows.

CHUNG SIN DESCRIBES MURDER

Pal of Leon Ling Tells Detectives of Brutal Killing of Elsie Sigel—Inquisition Continues. NEW YORK, June 23.—In the dim, close room of Leon Ling, Elsie Sigel's murderer, Chung Sin, Ling's room mate to-day retold the story of the girl's brutal murder as he saw it through a key hole.

The details are practically the same as he confessed to in third degree last night. He was led shackled to the room this morning. When Captain Carey shouted, "You killed the girl," Sin humbly protested against the accusation, declaring "Me no kill. You find Ling. He do it." After returning to headquarters, Sin was placed in the hands of a fresh set of inquisitors who are expected to continue the inquisition further.

ITALIAN LOVER RUNS AMUCK

ALBANY, N. Y., June 23.—Angered because the parents refused to let the daughter receive his attentions, Rosario Carvellaro, an Italian, to-day fatally shot the daughter of Tony Dostafanie, stabbed the mother and then suicided. Carvellaro went early this morning to the girl's home, demanding her. When refused he ran amuck.

Fourteen Dead From Heat In New York; Scores Down

NEW YORK, June 23.—The hottest day of the year dawned this morning. The intense heat during the night forced thousands to sleep in the open, filling the parks, benches and roofs.

It is estimated that 20,000 people slept on Coney Island sands. Special policemen patrolled the beach to prevent harm to the sleepers. Fourteen are already dead and scores prostrated from the heat.

W. J. Oliver Asks Uncle Sam To Help Get Cuban Claim

WASHINGTON, June 23.—William J. Oliver, of Knoxville, one of the largest railway contractors of the country, is here to-day to urge the State Department to assist him in collecting an \$800,000 claim against the Cuban government for municipal works done in Havana under the Palma administration.

Oliver also consulted Garcia Vitez, the Cuban minister to the United States regarding the claim. It is understood that the State department is assisting him in trying to collect the claim. Oliver declined to discuss the probability of another American intervention in Cuba.

NEW ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Special to The Chronicle. ANDERSON, S. C., June 23.—Several changes in the office of the United States district attorney of South Carolina were announced to-day. Mr. T. W. Bacot has tendered his resignation as assistant United States district attorney and will devote his entire time to his private law practice and business affairs. Mr. Abial Lathrop, of Orangeburg, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Bacot and Mr. Drayton F. Battle, of Charleston, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Lathrop. These changes become effective July 1, which will be the beginning of the new fiscal year. District Attorney E. F. Cochran stated to-day that he regrets very much to part with Mr. Bacot, who is a lawyer of wide and varied experience, well known throughout South Carolina, having filled this

MAJOR GRANT IS CLEARED

The Negro William Jones Gets 18 Months on the County Roads.

RALEIGH GOVERNMENT BUILDING BEING IMPROVED

Charges Brought Against Clerk of the United States Court at Raleigh During Trial of Negro Hackman for Illegal Relations With White Woman Are Ignored by Police Justice—Apparently Compromising Acts Explained—Improvement in the Government Building. CHRONICLE BUREAU, RALEIGH, June 23.

Crowds thronged the police court room all Tuesday following the developments in the William Jones trial in which the charges of immoral relations between Major Hiram L. Grant, clerk of the United States Circuit and District Courts, with Maude Kelly and other disreputable women had developed, the features of the day being three hours examination of Major Grant on the witness stand, the heated arguments and cross-fire by counsel and final judgment of Police Justice Stronach, that the negro, Jones, was guilty of illegal relations with the white woman and must serve eighteen months on the county roads. From this sentence the negro appealed and gave bond to the Superior Court.

Major Grant in his lengthy statement denied having any improper relations with the woman and characterized the testimony against him by the negroes as a fabrication inspired by political or personal enemies. While the hackman had testified that he carried Major Grant to the house on Sunday and Wednesday nights, Grant testified that he had spent only three Sundays in Raleigh in six years, going to his home in Goldsboro Fridays and returning generally Mondays. He explained his ownership of the house in which the Kelley woman lived by saying the late S. G. Ryan had told him he had the property to sell for parties in Baltimore at its tax valuation and also a purchaser who would pay for it in installments, a fine investment. He says the deal was made without his knowledge of the character of the woman. He took a mortgage but finding the bad character of the woman, was ashamed to have it recorded, and securing a sale to another party as soon as he could to rid himself of the ownership of the disreputable place. As to going on the woman's bond later, he said he did this with money she had paid on the indebtedness and purely to save the transaction he had as to the house. The money the hackman claims was paid, him to leave town, Grant says was given for attorney's fees in the present case against the negro.

Counsel for the negro argued that Major Grant and not the negro was guilty of the illegal relations with the woman and asked the court to dismiss their client. The court's action in sentencing the negro to the roads came as a strong link in Major Grant's defense. He was in the court solely as a witness whose character was impeached.

Improving Government Buildings.

The work of refinishing the interior of the Raleigh government building is well under way and the improvements are to continue until there is an entirely new interior finish. The outside masonry of Salisbury granite is to be washed off with acid and a fresh new appearance imparted. The cornerstone of the building was laid July 4, 1874, and it is one of the handsomest public buildings in the State. An up-to-date electric elevator is being installed to run through the three stories and basement. This was tested recently as to a required guarantee of safety appliance that prevents it from falling through the shaft in the event of an accident to any of the machinery. For this test 1600 pounds weight was placed on the carriage and it started on a sudden drop from the third floor. The safety catch stopped it within six and a half feet. When completed this elevator will afford a \$600 job for "elevator conductor." Many applications are already on file for the post ion.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY CONFERS DEGREE ON TWO AMERICANS.

OXFORD, England, June 23.—Oxford University to-day conferred honorary degrees on two Americans and one Canadian. The Americans are Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes, D. C. T.; Prof. George E. Hale, D. S. C.; Canadian Governor General Earl Gray, D. L. C.

PALMETTO VETERANS MEETING AT CHESTER.

CHESTER, S. C., June 23.—Clad in faded gray and bearing aloft the tattered flags which the South Carolina troops carried into many bloody battles, the Confederate veterans of the State assembled here to-day in annual reunion. The Sons of Veterans are also holding their reunion in connection with that of the veterans' organization.