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British Railwaymen Support Miners; Break With Owners

ALL EVIDENCE IN WILLIAMS' TRIAL IN HANDS OF JURY

Am as Innocent as a Man Can Be," Stated Williams, His Only Witness.

Conington, Ga., April 7.—Evidence in the trial of John S. Williams, charged with murder of one of eleven negroes who met death after Federal investigation into alleged peonage conditions started on his farm, was concluded here today.

The only witness for the defense was Williams himself, who told the jury "I am as innocent as a man can be."

The last two state's witnesses who testified today corroborated statements of Clyde Manning, negro farm boss.

Manning told the jury yesterday Williams directed the killing of the men, three of whom were drowned in New York.

The state announced it expected to take three hours and the defense approximately five.

The order of arguments was announced as follows: for the prosecution, C. C. King, Covington, for defense, Graham Wright, assistant state attorney general, prosecution; W. H. Key, Monticello, for defense; Solicitor General, H. Brand, prosecution; W. M. Howard, Augusta, Ga., prosecution; Green F. Johnson, Monticello, defense.

Mr. King started speaking soon after the afternoon session began, arguing a hanging crime and proceeding to get these negroes out of his way.

There really had been no peonage on the farm and Williams knew this and had no possible motive for the killing.

"If you were to take Clyde Manning's testimony out, that's practically all you would have," he said.

In conclusion, he made charges that the state's witnesses had been "coached" and reminded the jury that Williams was on trial for the alleged murder of Peterson alone.

Williams told the jury he had told Peterson he might be technically guilty of peonage if their statement as to the Federal laws were correct and said Clyde Manning, negro farm boss, had been the one who had coached him as to how to get these negroes out of his way.

Williams confined his remarks to the cases of Lindsey Peterson, Harry Price and Willie Preston, three negroes who had been hanged here recently. He said he had been on trial for the death of Peterson.

Court recessed for luncheon when Williams left the stand and the arguments were assigned to start at the afternoon session, each side to have three speakers.

Forecast Winter Wheat Crop Of About 621 Million Bushels

Washington, April 7.—Forecast of a winter wheat crop of about 621,000,000 bushels was made today by the Department of Agriculture, basing its estimate on the condition of the crop April 1, which was 91.0 per cent of a normal.

There was an increase of 3.1 points in condition from December 1 last to April 1 this year, compared with an average decline of 4.8 points between those dates in the last ten years.

The production forecast is based upon the acreage planted last fall with the assumption of average abandonment and average infestations on the crop to harvest.

Production of rye was forecast as 66,386,000 bushels from a condition of 90.3 per cent of a normal.

Winter wheat condition April 1 last year was 75.6 per cent of a normal and production 577,765,000 bushels on April 1, 1919, was 90.8 per cent and production 729,563,000 bushels, while the ten-year average condition is 83.6 per cent.

Condition of winter wheat on April 1 in southern states was: Virginia 92; North Carolina 94; South Carolina 87; Georgia 90; Tennessee 94; Alabama 88; Mississippi 90.

WARNS BUSINESS TO PURGE ITSELF

Daugherty Will Countenance No Violation of the Law, Says a Statement.

Washington, April 7.—A general warning to business that the Department of Justice will countenance no violations of the law was sounded today by Attorney General Daugherty.

The country, Mr. Daugherty said, "should take notice of a new day and a new way" and those who had been guilty of illegal practices should not "close their eyes."

His statement, he added, was a "modest, but emphatic warning" to those for whom it was intended and could be regarded as an opportunity for any of those who should mend their ways to do so.

The attorney general said the Department of Justice did not intend to harness business in any way, but that it did intend to enforce the law. He pointed out that, while the profiteering sections of the law were being declared unconstitutional, the department still could proceed under the Sherman anti-trust law.

Mr. Daugherty was discussing specifically the situation in the building materials industry, which he declared "intolerable." He said the department of justice would ask for more aid from the courts to get these practices stopped, and that lawyers representing firms should regard themselves as agents of the department of justice in upholding the law.

MEXICAN BRIDE OF AMERICAN SUICIDES

Chihuahua, Mexico, April 7.—So-cio-orro Molina de Weiss, beautiful 21-year-old bride of Robert Weiss, an American, of San Bernardino, Cal., committed suicide in the Hotel Palacio here following a trivial quarrel with her husband, Weiss, who is connected with an American oil company at Tampico, now Senator Molina after a whirlwind courtship and she eloped with him in defiance of her parents' wishes. They were spending their honeymoon in Chihuahua. When Weiss informed his bride that he was going to a downtown cafe she became angry, and upon his return to the hotel she was found dead.

TAX REDUCTIONS TO CAUSE WATTS SOME REAL WORK

Counties of State Reducing Their Land Values from 25 to 60 Per Cent.

By JULE B. WARREN, Staff Correspondent of The News.

Raleigh, April 7.—General and horizontal reductions in the values of all real property in the state will give the new Commissioner of Revenue a real job soon after he takes over the office in adjusting these values in the different counties.

Indications are that there are general decreases authorized in land values ranging from 20 to 25 per cent to 60 per cent. The largest so far authorized is the 60 per cent cut of Wilson county.

The wide variety of the cuts authorized means that the new Commissioner of Revenue will have to set in motion the proper machinery for adjusting these differences in every county so that the valuation in every county will be uniform throughout the state.

Col. Alston D. Watts, new commissioner of revenue, is not worrying about this work so far. He is still in town and holds frequent conferences with the Governor, presumably about the work to be undertaken by the new department, but so far neither Colonel Watts nor the Governor has indicated any evidence of a general policy.

The law allowing the revaluation of the property, however, gives the tax commission the right to adjust differences so that the equal values will be applied in the different counties in order that there may be no hardships worked in the equalizing fund for public schools.

State officials generally are of the opinion that, except for the school fund, it does not matter with the state what the counties do with their cities. It is recognized that every cut will have to be met with a proportionate increase in the rate in order for the cities and counties to get their revenues for the coming year. No one pretends to do an equal value cut in a 25 per cent cut in values will mean a 60 and 35 per cent reduction in taxes for the coming year.

Practically every city today is "staggering" under a load of debt for past work and demands for future permanent improvements, which will absorb every bit of the revenue it is possible to raise. Just what will become of the cities in the counties where the large reduction is authorized is a matter for the city officials to worry about and not one for the state officials.

The talk of the special session persists in spite of the announcement by the Governor that he sees no need for a special session.

Some believe the general reduction of values will put the financial condition of some of the counties in such a shape that a special session will have to be called in order to help them out of the financial mire they are getting into. What is true of the cities is also true to a certain extent of the counties, though the latter are not in such need of as large amount of money as are the cities.

The average county in the state has not spent as much money as the cities, since there has been no such demand in the country for permanent improvements as in the towns. There is less bonded debt generally in the counties than in the cities, but against the counties than in the cities.

So far as the state is concerned, its finances will not be affected in any way by the decrease in tax values. The last legislature, get all of its money from the franchise tax, corporation tax and income sources. The bonds authorized by the legislature are still undisposed of every board that generally are the borrowed money. The State Treasurer is unable to supply these funds. The road commission, the hospital boards, the blind school and other institutions will be needing their money in the near future.

The Governor and the State Treasurer, in accordance with suggestions of the governor two weeks or more ago, will leave for New York this week.

WAGE REDUCTION PLEA IS DENIED BY LABOR BOARD

New York Central Sought to Provisionally Reduce Pay of Unskilled Labor.

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The dispute between the New York Central and the unskilled labor employees over a permanent reduction in wages will be heard on April 18 in connection with other railroad disputes which have been filed by other railroads.

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SHOULD CANCEL WAR DEBTS OF THE ALLIES

Spartanburg, S. C., April 7.—Governor Robert A. Cooper, of South Carolina, speaking here today, said he has come to the conclusion that the United States should cancel the war debts of the Allies to this country.

"I have never said this before," he continued, "but I believe the best policy for this country in the re-adjustment of world conditions would be cancellation of the war claims against France and England. These countries are unable to pay even the interest on these debts at this time and nobody can say they will be able to pay the principal."

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Macon, Ga., April 7.—Federal Judge Beverly D. Evans will deliver his charge to the jury tomorrow morning in the cases of 45 men on trial here on charges of conspiracy to rob the American Railway Express Company of more than \$1,000,000 worth of merchandise.

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BONDS STUMBLING BLOCK

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Harding Seeks To Bring About Reduction In Freight Rates

BY DAVID LAWRENCE, Staff Correspondent of The News. Copyright 1921, by News Publishing Co.

Washington, April 7.—President Harding has been using the influence of the executive to bring about, if possible, a reduction of freight rates at the same time as wages are being raised. The viewpoint of the country, Mr. Harding is "officially" interfering or forcing his advice, influence or suggestions on either the railroads or their employees, but never has the matter arising in a dispute on whose settlement perhaps depends more the revival of business in America than any one single factor.

Mr. Harding refers to his efforts modestly as merely seeking information. He is conferring daily with the labor leaders. Next week he talks with the railroad executives. The viewpoint of the shippers of agricultural products has been recently presented in cabinet meetings by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

As a consequence, Mr. Harding believes a reduction of freight rates is absolutely essential. But the Interstate Commerce Commission, whose expert judgment is never called in question, insists that it would be dangerous to reduce freight rates unless the railroads can cut their "operating expenses," which means, of course, negotiating on disputed questions in railroad operation today.

To reduce wages would be a relatively simple task if there were not interwoven with it something so much more vital to both the railroad executives and their men that the revision of the wage scale of this month of the year. It is the ticklish problem of railroad standards and methods of adjusting future wage scales.

President Harding has himself recognized the delicacy of the problem by this method of handling the labor leaders. The railroads, for instance, insist that, now that the war is over, each railroad system should deal with its own men while the railroad brotherhoods insist that the Federal government handle all wage questions uniformly with the heads of the brotherhoods.

Naturally, labor is more powerful if it is not split into regional divisions with the railroad system as a unit. Conversely, the brotherhoods cannot exert such a powerful influence over their men if the same classes of labor are split into regional divisions of the country. Their solidarity is affected.

There is division in the ranks of the labor as well as in the ranks of the railroad executives. The Pennsylvania Railroad, notably those who are eager to have the American Federation of Labor join its part in handling railroad policies, insist upon having the national agreement which was made by Mr. Hines maintained so that everything can be dealt with on a national basis. Other labor leaders are not so anxious to have the national agreement, a much more reasonable attitude, namely the division of the country into regions so that regional boards may be appointed as between railroads and workers.

Inside the railroad executives groups are those who think that is a fair compromise. Other executives, of a more aggressive nature, such as General Atterbury of the Pennsylvania Railroad, insist that the issue is clean-cut—either the Pennsylvania Railroad deals with its own employees through its own representatives or it is being deprived of inalienable rights. It is some relationship indeed to the open and closed-shop controversy which has been troubling employers other than railroad executives for some time.

With a walking delegate of a union or a spokesman of a shop committee of one's own employees is a moot question which the industrial world has not yet solved. The labor leaders are not satisfied of either employer's employees. That's why Mr. Harding's efforts as a mediator on this very phase of the railroad controversy are being watched so closely.

The president, it is believed, avoided recognizing the complexity of the whole by calling the various labor leaders into conference singly. Had he called for the group who have represented the railroad industry, he would have been suspected erroneously of recognizing the same arrangement as was provided in the famous national agreement.

From the fact that Mr. Harding has not asked any organization to act as such to confer with him, but has adopted the idea of summoning individuals "for advice," he believes nobody can accuse him of meddling or of bias. He is anxious to settle the dispute as to the President, however, is anxious that the disputants settle the issue themselves. He doesn't want the Harding administration to be put in the position of curing wages. That's not good politics or good economics, especially in a period in which the government's read policy is to extricate itself from acts of paternalism or benevolent partnership either with business or labor, as was necessary during war times.

Mr. Harding is endeavoring to use his executive influence to bring the parties to a decision on any group basis. This can be done by personal talks with the principals and by pressure upon both sides to heed the demand of public opinion for fair settlements. The results would be accepted by the representatives of the workers if the who's power of the brotherhoods were not threatened. The railroad executives are reluctant to promise freight rate reductions until they pare expenses and some of the railroad executives think this is the name to deal a smashing blow to the railroad unions as a whole. It is a safe prediction that, if the plan for regional adjustment of labor disputes were accepted, the whole problem would be solved overnight, for it is doubtful if the railroad workers will accept wage reductions and a blow in union solidarity at the same time. Nobody can speak for Mr. Harding as yet, but the attitude of the Harding administration in the first industrial dispute thus far settled—the packers strike—is being taken as a criterion of government policy, namely the bringing about of a settlement without impairing the labor standards acquired by the men through years of bitter strife.

MINERS REFUSED TO WORK PUMPS DURING DEBATES

Leaders of Allied Federations Consider What Form Support Shall Take.

London, April 7.—(By the Associated Press.)—With the breakdown of the conference between the coal miners and the striking miners concerning the wage dispute this morning and the almost immediate decision of the railwaymen to join the transport workers in supporting the miners, Great Britain this evening was trembling on the edge of an industrial precipice.

The prime minister, Lloyd-George who had attempted mediation, announced the complete rupture of the negotiations to the house of commons at mid-afternoon, adding the significant statement that the issue raised was much wider than that of wages. This was interpreted generally as meaning that the government and the miners, to all intents and purposes, were again at grips over the old question of nationalization of the mines.

Some ray of hope appeared in the subsequent debate in the commons when Mr. Clynes, chairman of the parliamentary labor party, and others pleaded with the prime minister to call the miners and owners again together, with neither side offering conditions as the basis for the re-opening of negotiations. One of the members of the miners' executive body, Samuel Pinner, declared the miners were willing to negotiate on this basis and the debate generally showed a desire to make every effort to bring the contestants together again.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the railwaymen, the transport workers and the miners were conferring to decide what interim steps should be taken to enforce the miners' demands. Both the railway and transport men had stated their intention of giving the miners full support, but no intimation was forthcoming as to whether this would mean a nation-wide strike.

The government, on the other hand, continued apace its preparations to meet any emergency with the employment of all the facilities of the army and navy.

London, April 7.—(By the Associated Press.)—Leaders of the mine workers' union, who were in conference with Prime Minister Lloyd-George this morning, refused to order pump men and engineers in mines affected by the coal strike to resume work, pending negotiations.

The result of this refusal, the miners and their employers will not meet today. The National Union of Transport Workers' Federation, which already has decided to support the miners, met this morning but adjourned until 4 o'clock this afternoon in order that they might attend the meeting of the conference of the miners and the prime minister before deciding what form the support will take.

The National Union of Railwaymen also convened during the forenoon, but it remained in session to hear the result of the premier's conference.

The conference of the prime minister and the miners' leaders continued for several hours. Mr. Lloyd-George, accompanied by Sir Robert S. Horne, the chancellor of the exchequer; Thomas J. MeNamara, minister of labor, and officials of the mines department, urged the miners to accept the owners' conditions that pumping be resumed pending negotiations. This the miners' representatives declared they were unable to consent to and, shortly after adjournment of the conference, the board of trade issued an official statement saying "the negotiations have broken down."

London, April 7.—New disturbances occurred in the town of Cowdenbeath Scotland, last night. During the disorder, a National Union of British feet in the Firth of Forth have been given sleeping berths on board the battleships Crescent and Rosyth. Loudie guards have been placed on all caissons in the Forth area.

Queenstown, Ireland, April 7.—Naval units here and at other home ports have been instructed as a result of the strike of British miners, to hold themselves in readiness for emergency service. Shore leave has been curtailed and naval officials view the situation as being filled with the gravest possibilities.

The question of shifting large numbers of crown forces in Ireland to England if disorders ensue, has been fully considered. Officials, however, are aware of the possibility that the Irish republican army may take advantage of the opportunity offered by disorders in England, and military authorities are reluctant to deplete forces in Ireland.

TORE AMERICAN FLAG TO SHREDS, HE SAYS

Tampa, Fla., April 7.—Captain S. H. Jackson, master of the American schooner Telegram, arrived here today from Vera Cruz, Mexico, via Havana, to take up with officials of the United States his charges that Mexicans at Alvaria, 40 miles from Vera Cruz, had torn an American flag into shreds, refused to aid him and his crew when they were forced ashore after the vessel was wrecked and refused to help get the vessel out of the harbor on March 6, last. The Mexican consul here has reported the matter to Mexican representatives at Washington.

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RICH HAUL MADE FROM THE MAILS

Chicago Bandits Are Believed to Have Secured \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Chicago, April 7.—An abandoned mail sack, found by the police early today and believed to be the registered pouch stolen by the bandits from a mail truck late yesterday, contained wrappers for money, which the police said showed that from \$500,000 to \$750,000 was obtained by the robbers. It was reported last night that the loss would not exceed \$500,000.

The abandoned pouch contained wrappers indicating a shipment of one package of \$40,000 in one-dollar bills, a package holding \$50,000 in currency; another containing a hundred \$100 bills and five large sacks consigned to branches of the Federal Reserve bank, each sack containing five smaller bags, which, in turn, held currency of large denominations.

The robbery took place at the Dearborn street station in the business quarter. Bystanders said the robbery was committed in less than two minutes. So sudden was the assault on the mail truck that many conflicting stories were given to the police by witnesses.

According to one report the robbers had played baseball all afternoon in a lot adjoining the station where the holdup occurred. Other witnesses said the robbers rushed up to the mail truck in an automobile just as it was preparing to unload.

The four bandits held up a dozen mail clerks and several bystanders at the point of pistols, demanding that they register mail pouches thrown out of the truck. One of the robbers, described as a huge man weighing more than 200 pounds, grasped the sack with one hand and carried it to a car across the street.

Two other mail pouches were then taken, witnesses agreeing that one of the bandits shot at a companion before recognizing him. Whether the bullet took effect was not known.

As the bandits' machine turned the first corner, a policeman fired two shots at the car without effect. The judge spoke last night on the subject of an anniversary celebration of America's entry into the war.

"I warn you that the 18th amendment is in danger of nullification by business heads—those deuces and treys of officialdom—who are making a lot of rules which permit soft-drink saloons to sell booze in bottles labeled '25 per cent alcohol; for medicinal purposes only,'" said Judge Landis.

"And there are a lot of crooked saloon keepers getting away with it, too; with a lot of crooked doctors and druggists in cahoots. I know of instances where they have sold booze for as high as \$32 a quart. How do they do it? Well, I have been through it for a year and it's too much for me."

ALL-AMERICAN DAY BEING CELEBRATED

Philadelphia, April 7.—Philadelphia today celebrated all-American day with General Pershing, Admirals Benson, Sims and Conzot and Governor Sprout among the guests of honor.

The municipal government, the American Legion and scores of civic, social, business, charitable and patriotic organizations joined in patriotic demonstrations. A patriotic mass meeting of approximately 75,000 children was held in Independence Square, while a half holiday was generally observed. Admiral Benson was the principal speaker at an all-American day luncheon of the Poor Richard's Club.

THIEVES STOPPED HERE

Chester, S. C., April 7.—While at prayer meeting last night, country Engineer H. E. Kester had his automobile stolen by three soldiers from Camp Jackson. The automobile and soldiers were stopped at Charlotte. The soldiers will be tried at Chester.

CHARLOTTE BANK CLEARINGS

(Reported by Chamber of Commerce.)
For the week ended—
April 6, 1921 \$5,755,986.46
March 30, 1921 \$4,974,306.39
April 7, 1920 \$8,737,237.16

UNSETTLED

Charlotte and Vicinity: Unsettled with probably occasional showers to-night and Friday; little change in temperature. Gentle to moderate northeast winds.

North and South Carolina: Cloudy and unsettled tonight and Friday, probably showers; little change in temperature.

Tilford Moots has started 'save for his next year's income tax. Squire Marsh Swallow, who is in Washington on business connected with 'th' plum office, says 'th' plum line is four miles long.



Nicotine Able Ally In Fighting Pests

Nicotine can be enlisted in fighting the plant pest, says today's issue of the American Forestry Association which is conducting a nation-wide drive of education in battling against the bugs that eat up about five million dollars worth of property every year.

The safest spray material for killing plant lice (aphis) thrips and other soft-bodied insects is a nicotine preparation. These preparations are put on the market in various forms, but the most generally used is a forty per cent nicotine-sulphate solution which is very effective spray in spraying operations. Other nicotine preparations of similar or lesser strength are on the market.

A forty per cent nicotine-sulphate solution used at the rate of one part to one thousand parts of water, with or without soap, is very effective against most forms of the more delicate aphids and tender insects. For the black cherry aphis and the black peach aphis, it is necessary to use a stronger solution, one part to six hundred parts of water in a covered vessel for two or three hours. Strain off the liquid and use as a spray. If very delicate plants, such as new growth on roses or sweet peas, are to be sprayed, this solution can be diluted with equal parts of water. Nicotine or tobacco preparations, although very effective for their designated purposes, do not injure foliage and on that account are very desirable sprays.