

GASTON B. MEANS TAKES THE WITNESS STAND IN HIS OWN DEFENSE THIS MORNING

Tells of First Meeting With Mrs. King in May, 1914, And of His Connection With Burns Agency.

WORK FOR GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Discovered a Plot By German Sympathizers Which Involved Huerta.—Tells of Financial Transactions.

The trial of Gaston B. Means for the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King began its tenth day this morning at 9:30 o'clock, with Afton Means, brother of the defendant, on the witness stand on his re-direct examination. At yesterday's session, on direct and cross examination, the witness was on the stand for about three hours.

The witness said that after the body of Mrs. King had been brought to the Concord Hospital, he was met in the middle of the street by Chief of Police Robinson, who asked him if he would make a statement about the affair. The witness then told the officer that they had been out at the spring, and that Mrs. King had accidentally shot herself.

After the tragedy at the spring, after Mrs. King's body had been put into the automobile, Capt. Bingham had picked up her hat, and put it in the machine. Witness had not seen the hat since.

Afton Means said he went to work for Gaston about January, 1916, at a salary of \$25 per week and expenses. The checks deposited by the witness in the Corn Exchange Bank were paid out by him as salaries to the force in the office of Gaston Means, for office rent, etc. At the time the witness went to New York in September, there was a balance in this bank to his credit amounting to a little more than \$500.

Letter to Afton Means from Gaston, dated January 9, 1917, relative to Afton's having opened telegram for Mrs. King, and instructing him to forward to him all mail for Mrs. King, Mrs. Melvin and others, was read to the witness, and he was asked the contents of the telegram he opened. He said as he recalled, the message was with reference to a proposed visit from a relative of Mrs. King's.

In the absence of Gaston and Afton Means from New York, the Park Avenue apartments of the former were in charge of Henry Deitch. The evening that the witness reached New York on September 11, he carried his suit case to the apartments. The suit case was not opened, to the knowledge of the witness, by Mr. Dooling or his assistants.

On the re-cross examination, Mr. Dooling presented a telegram received at the district attorney's office, and asked the witness if it had not been shown to him in New York. The defense objected and the court sustained the objection.

J. F. Goodman.

J. F. Goodman, brother-in-law of the defendant, told of his trip to New York on September 11, and on his arrival at the Park Avenue apartments he found Mr. Dooling and some of his assistants. The former was looking over Gaston Means' papers. In a few minutes Afton came into the room with a telephone directory, saying he could not find the name of the lawyer he was looking for. Mr. Dooling told the witness that it would not do any good to get lawyers, as he had search and seizure warrants and was going to get the papers relatives to Mrs. King's affairs. Mr. Dooling told Afton he could have copies of such papers as he wished, and would get a receipt for such as the district attorney took. Afton was not allowed to leave the apartments.

Ernest Eury.

Ernest Eury, negro chauffeur of the car on the night of the tragedy, was the next witness called. He had been driving the car for about a week before the trip to Blackwelder Spring. He told of various rides on which he

had taken various parties. He told of the night of the tragedy, when he called for Gaston Means on the telephone and was told to bring the automobile to the Means home. He then drove with Gaston Means to the home of Capt. Bingham, and shortly afterward the latter came out and got into the automobile. They then went to the Means home. There the party got into the automobile, and they proceeded down Union street and out the Mt. Pleasant road. At the forks of the Gold Hill road something was said about going out that way because there were more bushes and there would be more likelihood of seeing a rabbit. They drove into the old road to the spring, after something had been said about a barbecue. At the spring the members of the party got out of the machine and the witness was told to take the automobile back to the place he had stopped in the afternoon, but said "when I saw that graveyard I just kept on driving." He said he took the car to the place the old road forks off from the new highway, and stopped there. He was sitting on the running-board smoking, when he heard the report of a pistol. In a few minutes he heard someone calling, and drove the car back toward the spring. There he met Capt. Bingham. He went on to the spring, and there found what had happened. He was told to help put the body in the automobile, which he did. He then drove back to the Hospital as fast as was practicable, at the direction of Gaston Means.

On cross-examination by Solicitor Clement the witness said he had not seen the pistols or rifles at the Means home, or at the spring, and did not know they had any weapons.

In reply to questions as to why he had not told of looking for rabbits, and of helping to put the body in the car when examined at the coroner's inquest, the witness said he said he had not been asked them.

Gaston B. Means.

Gaston Means, the defendant, took the stand in his own defense shortly before 11 o'clock. He told that he had first met Mrs. King in May 1914, and had not seen her again until in the spring of 1915. At the time of the meeting the defendant was with the Cannon Mills, with which he had been connected for twelve years. For about 6 years he was with the New York office, and from 1909 to July 1, 1914 he was manager of the Chicago office for Cannon Mills. At that time he severed his connection with the company, because he was obliged to travel more than he wished to be away from his wife. At the time of his resignation his salary amounted \$4250 per year, besides commissions which brought his income for the year before he resigned amount to between \$10,000 and \$11,000. Some of this was for articles written for magazines and journals.

After leaving the Cannon Mills, the witness said he returned to New York City, where he went to see W. J. Burns on a commercial proposition he had in mind. Burns at that time was the president of the detective agency which bears his name. A contract was eventually made with Burns, and a commercial department was organized, with Means as manager, with as many as 250 men under him at one time. After being manager for only about 2 or 3 weeks, Mr. Burns would call Means away on other business, and the commercial department was never fully organized as projected. The witness said his first work was to find out for the Hamburg-American whether or not there were French or English cruisers or men-of-war off the American coast receiving supplies from this country. This, in the opinion of the attorney, would be a violation of neutrality in connection with this question as to whether or not England was having submarines built in the United States. In ascertaining whether or not supplies such as coal, food, etc. had been furnished these cruisers and men-of-war, it was necessary in some cases to trace shipments back for some time and this investigation required the assistance of many assistants. In these investigations he was busy for five or six months, and as a result of it there was discovered that no foundation was in the rumors, and there was no breach of American neutrality.

The second investigation began three to foment a war against the United States, and was to find if the allies were having submarines built in this country. So far as the investigation went, it was found no submarines had ever been built in this country, and sent to Montreal, Canada, where they were used in construction. In this way, there was no violation of the neutrality laws of the United States. This investigation lasted four or five months, or possibly longer.

While connected with the Burns agency Means was released temporarily to give him necessary time to do some writing and to buy goods for some foreign interests. According to his recollection, the witness resigned from the Burns agency in the fall of 1915.

He said he did not find any plot on the part of the German government, but did discover a plot by German sympathizers, and communicated the plot to Mr. Burns. He had told the German representatives before that time that if he observed any act hostile to the United States he would promptly report it to the proper authorities.

Mr. Burns asked Means to make a complete report and details of the plot, so it could be reported to the President of the United States, or his representative. The report was produced and identified by the witness as the report made by him at that time. The

report told of a meeting in Barcelona, Spain, of Gen. Huerta and representatives of the German government, at the first investigation, and was to find to foment a war against the United States in order to assist the German government. A peace party was to be formed in Mexico, and was to arrange a peace conference. The report, which was quite lengthy, gave the names of the parties who were seeking to overthrow the United States in war with Mexico. It also stated that Huerta's financial agent, then in New York, had about 400 machine guns for Mexico, to be used at the so-called peace conference. The communication was dated March 8, 1915, and was dictated by the witness to a stenographer. It was then handed to Mr. Burns, who had told him to make the written report, and Mr. Burns later told the witness that the report had been delivered by him in Philadelphia to Secretary Tumulty.

Up to this time, the witness said he had been doing work in which Capt. Carl Boy-Ed was interested. As a result of this report having been made, the witness saw Capt. Boy-Ed, who said someone had reported the details of the Huerta plot. Capt. Boy-Ed suggested that Means must have made the report, and the latter stated he had done so, and would do so again. Capt. Boy-Ed told the witness to go see the clients, and he would be discharged. Means went, and received his discharge.

A letter was handed to the witness, who identified it as one having been written by him to Afton Means on February 17, 1917. One paragraph referred to the fact that Pinkerton Agency had been making inquiries into his (the witness) relations to German interest but these did not worry him. In case of a break between Germany and the United States, the writer said he would promptly offer his services to his own country.

Later the witness made a trip to Washington to see Joseph Daniels. Before him he laid facts about what German interest were doing. He told about the Huerta plot, and about explosions in munitions and manufacturing plants in this country which would be brought about by the Germans. The Huerta plot was all but carried out, when Huerta was arrested, and it was broken up. The machine guns were also taken by our government. This was after he had sent his report to the President.

The munitions plants would be blown up by German sympathizers, some of whom would be willing to perish in the explosion, if they could blow up the plant. This was aided by the German propaganda which the witness told to Secretary of the Navy. There were three advertisements in German and Austrian papers for mechanics or laborers. The men would answer the advertisements and would be talked to carefully. The one with minds warped would be taken, and would be sent to the Du Pont plant or Bethlehem plant. There they would get into touch with German ministers and would be worked up into the state of mind necessary to sacrifice their lives for Germany.

In New York city the witness went to the Federal District Attorney and informed him there was a plot by Germans to go to Ottawa, Canada, extract chemicals from the fire extinguishers in the capitol and substitute other chemicals which would cause the fire to burn more rapidly. They then set fire in the library, and the capitol of Canada at Ottawa was burned not more than four weeks after his report was made.

After having been discharged by the German interests, other services were performed for German government up to October, 1916, when the witness voluntarily severed his relations, because he was expecting a break of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany. Since that time he has had no dealings with any German interest or any German agent, and has had no letter from any such person.

In the office of Minoprio & Co., the witness said he had said nothing about having knowledge of what the German chancellor's speech would be. As for the confidential telephone number of Capt. Boy-Ed, he said that such person had left the United States the first part of that year. He did not give the Cannon Mills as reference, did not state that he was connected with them, but on the contrary Mr. Todd, with the Minoprio Company, had communicated with him at Chicago Beach Hotel.

With reference to the conversation he had had with Mr. Rockefeller, manager of the Chicago Beach Hotel, the witness said he had rebuked Rockefeller for having gone to the room of Mrs. King, because of its impropriety, and told him to have any further conversation with Mrs. King in the parlor. He made no threat to take the entire party away from the hotel, and made no reference to any will.

Henry Deitch came to Chicago for his first time on May 3 or 4. The witness said never in his life had he endeavored to estrange or keep apart Mrs. Robinson and her daughter, King. On the contrary, Mrs. King and Mrs. Robinson left New York in October to go to Battle Creek. No one went with them but the doctor and nurse. They remained in that city until early in December. During that time, the witness said he saw Mrs. King only twice, and that was while passing through Battle Creek.

The first business transaction Means had with Mrs. King was in August, 1915. Mrs. King had a mutual trust fund in the Woodruff Trust Company in Joliet, Ill. Means was living at the Manhattan Hotel, New York city, in the spring of 1915, and Mrs. King had from time to time spoken to Means about her account at the above bank. Means told he could tell nothing definite about the account unless an auditor's report was made out. This Mrs. King did, and turned over the auditor's report to the witness. The report was handed to the witness, who identified it. The report showed the exact condition of her account and the amount she had borrowed

THE NEGOTIATIONS MEET OBSTACLES

Reports From Berlin Today Stated That the Russians Had Refused to Accept Certain of German Terms.

THEY LAY DOWN COUNTER TERMS

Terms the Germans Are Insisting on Given.—A Temporary Truce is Underway On Parts of Front.

(By International News Service.)
Copenhagen, Dec. 6.—Germany's negotiations for an extended armistice on the eastern front as a preliminary to a separate peace with Russia and Roumania are meeting with obstacles. Reports from Berlin today stated that the Russians had not only refused to accept certain German terms but had laid down counter terms which were not acceptable to the German officials.

A temporary truce is already under way on parts of the eastern front, according to an official announcement made by the German war office. It is understood that the Germans are insisting upon terms which may be grouped in a general way as follows:

Austro-German forces to retain their present positions but the Russians to deliver up a certain part of their territory and Roumanians are to retreat "behind their defensive lines" and are to deliver up a certain part of their arms. Austro-German prisoners in Russia are to be released but Russian prisoners in Germany are to be allowed to remain as laborers and are to be given "a reasonable wages."

RIGID MEASURE TO PREVENT EXPLOSIVES

Coming into Possession of Austrians Taken by Attorney General.

(By International News Service.)
Washington, Dec. 6.—Rigid measures have been taken by attorney general Gregory, at the suggestion of Fuel Administrator Garfield, to prevent explosives coming into the possession of Austrians employed in the mining regions. The largest groups of Austrians miners are at work in the coal fields of Pennsylvania and Ohio and they will be able hereafter to obtain explosives only under the greatest restrictions. The law licensing the use of high explosives prohibits their possession by any alien enemy and he will not be permitted to buy them.

THE COTTON MARKET.

Opened at an Advance of from 27 to 32 Points in Response to Liverpool Cables.

(By The Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 6.—The cotton market opened steady at an advance of 27 to 32 points in response to firmer Liverpool cables and renewed buying by trade interests. January sold at 28.74 and March 28.47 on the call making rallies of about 60 to 67 points from the low level of yesterday. Cotton opened steady, December 29.10, January 28.60, March 28.43, May 28.20, July 27.84.

You can't always tell—unless you are a woman.

from the First National Bank of Joliet, giving as collateral the stocks held by the Woodruff Trust Company. The face or par value of the securities held by the Woodruff Trust Company amounted to \$172,352.08. The money borrowed from the First National Bank against these securities, amounted to \$34,000 in the form of demand notes.

After receiving this report Means told Mrs. King, in his opinion, some Studebaker stock Mr. Woodruff had bought in Mrs. King's name and later transferred to his own name, really belonged to her.

This stock had advanced sharply since the time it was first purchased. The matter was discussed, and it was decided to go to Chicago. There they met Mr. A. B. Melville, Mrs. King's attorney and the auditor who made the report. The attention of Mr. Melville was called to the Studebaker stock, Means claiming that Mr. Woodruff ought to pay Mrs. King the difference in the price paid for the stock, and the price at which it was then selling. Mr. Melville put in a claim for Mrs. King for the difference, amounting to about \$21,000. Mr. Woodruff accepted a compromise for \$11,756.25 which he paid to Mrs. King.

Mrs. King said to Means that Mr. Woodruff did not want to handle the trust fund any longer, and had shipped the securities to her at Chicago. The witness said the trust fund had been dissolved and the dissolution papers signed by Mrs. King in Joliet, in the absence of Means.

The arrangement between Means and Mrs. King was that he should receive one-half of all money he saved or recovered for her, after the first \$10,000. Statements were made monthly by Means to Mrs. King, and he received settlement monthly, with the proper receipts.

At this point court took a recess until 2:30 o'clock.

CITY OF HALIFAX, N.S. IS IN FLAMES TODAY

The Fire Started Following An Explosion in the Harbor This Morning.—Buildings Torn to Pieces

SEVERAL MEN ARE KILLED

Two Vessels, One of Them Loaded with Munitions, Including High Explosives, Collided in Harbor.

(By The Associated Press.)
Amherst, N. S., Dec. 6.—Scores of people have been killed, hundreds of buildings destroyed, and a portion of Halifax set on fire by the explosion which occurred after the collision of the American ammunition ship and another ship at Rockingham, according to telephone messages received here this morning.

The explosion was so terrific that it destroyed the insulation in the telegraph and telephone offices for 30 miles around Halifax, while it was heard at Truro, 61 miles distant.

The concussion caused the roof of the railroad depot at North street to collapse, while all the warehouses on the water front for a mile and a half were damaged. The premises affected in many places caught fire. The concussion was so great that freight cars were blown off the track for a stretch of nearly two miles. Messages asking for fire fighting apparatus, doctors, nurses, hospital supplies, etc., were received from Halifax at a number of places. Special trains were made up.

Halifax in Flames.

St. John, N. S., Dec. 6.—A large part of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is in flames, following an explosion in the harbor this morning when two vessels, one of them loaded with munitions of war, including high explosives, collided.

Many buildings along the water front were torn to pieces and many persons are believed to have been killed.

Shipping in the harbor suffered severely and the crews of several of the vessels are said to have been killed. Wire communication between this city and Halifax was interrupted soon after the explosion and before more than fragmentary reports have been received. The munition ship blown up was said to have been an American vessel.

At the moment of the explosion a fierce storm was sweeping the harbor and it is supposed that the collision of the vessels was due to this.

Hundreds Killed and Property Loss Will Run into Billions.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, via Havana, Dec. 6.—Hundreds of persons were killed and thousands of others injured and the city of Halifax is in ruins as the results of an explosion of a munition ship in the harbor there today. It is estimated that the property loss will run into the billions. The city is in flames.

Several Transports in Harbor.

St. Johns, Dec. 6.—It was stated positively there were several transports in the harbor when the explosion occurred. Nothing as to the fate of these was obtainable. Neither is it known whether the transports were filled with troops or occupied only by crews.

300 Dead.

Truro, N. S. Dec. 6.—Reports reaching here early this evening stated it was feared that several scores of people lost their lives when the railroad station at Halifax collapsed. Twenty-five railway workers were killed on tracks near Richmond.

Advices from Halifax early this evening gave the number of dead from the explosion at 300. The advices further state that the ship which collided with the munition ship was a Red Cross liner.

Next Baptist Convention to Meet in Greensboro.

(By The Associated Press.)

Durham, Dec. 6.—Greensboro today was selected for the next meeting place of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The convention today endorsed with enthusiasm the plan to raise within the next four years, beginning January 1, \$1,000,000 for equipment and endowment of the Baptist education institutions of the state.

Successful men believe in luck, backed up by their own efforts.

MEANS ON THE STAND YESTERDAY

Was Examined for More Than Three Hours Yesterday And Testimony Was Concluded This Morning.

UNDERGOES FULL CROSS EXAMINATION

Cross-Examination Was at the Hands of District Attorney Dooling.—Story of Visit to the Spring.

At the convening of Court at 2:30 on Wednesday afternoon, Afton Means, brother of Gaston B. Means, took the stand in defense of his brother, continuing the story of his dealings and associations with the defendant since the year 1915.

On Wednesday afternoon the witness said that he, Gaston Means and Capt. Bingham went to the Blackwelder Spring, where they had all shot at target. On the trips to Pharr's Mill and to the Spring there were several boxes of cartridges shot. At the Spring they shot at knots, branches and various parts of trees, each of the parties shooting one of the weapons. At the spring Gaston had ordered the chauffeur to drive the automobile away and wait until the called him. The driver took the machine back beyond the little bridge, near the negro graveyard. The car had also been sent away when the party was at Pharr's Mill, the day before. They returned from the spring about 3 or 4 o'clock that afternoon.

In shooting the automatic while at the spring, the cartridges would not come freely from the magazine into the chamber of the pistol.

Wednesday evening the witness was at the supper table with the other six persons. During the time they were at the table the telephone bell rang and someone called for Gaston Means. He returned and asked if anyone wanted to go to ride. Mrs. King said she wanted to go, but some of the parties at the table said they were going to the moving picture shows. Gaston suggested that Capt. Bingham would go, and Mrs. King said he was the very fellow.

After the party had left the table and gone out on the front porch, after a few minutes the automobile returned with Gaston and Capt. Bingham in it. The pistols and rifles were brought and put in the automobile, where Capt. Bingham had his shot gun. Mrs. King, Gaston, Capt. Bingham and the witness got down Union Street and out the Mt. Pleasant road until they reached the forks of the Gold Hill road. Here Gaston told the driver to go straight on, but the witness told the driver to turn out the Gold Hill road, because there was more underbrush and they would be more likely to see rabbits that way. They drove on out that road until almost to the spring. Mrs. King asked then if that was the place where the recent barbecue had been held. She then expressed a desire to see the place, as she was intending to give a barbecue.

They drove in to the old road and up to the spring. Here Capt. Bingham started out the road toward Dry's home and the witness followed in a few minutes after he had opened a box of cartridges and loaded the rifle. He then joined Capt. Bingham near the little bridge on the old road. He had been there only a few moments, when he heard a shot, and then the voice of Gaston calling to him and Capt. Bingham to come quick.

When he arrived in sight of the spring, he saw Gaston Means bending over the body of Mrs. King, who was lying on the ground. The witness went to the spring and dipped his handkerchief into the water, placing it on the woman's head. She did not say a word, but made a kind of rattling noise in her throat. Capt. Bingham at the same time had gone to find the driver and the car. In about seven minutes the automobile drove up to the spring. The members of the party at the suggestion of Gaston put the body in the car, with the assistance of the negro chauffeur. They then brought the body to Concord Hospital, driving as fast as they possibly could, at the hospital Dr. MacFadyen said that the woman was dead.

After then went up the street to find Mrs. Melvin or some member of the Means family. He finally found his father. Mrs. Melvin and his sister in

(Continued on page four.)

The Greatest Snob in America

was what the newspapers called the millionaire girl of Philadelphia—

ENID BENNETT

But she was really starving for friends. At college she is snubbed by everyone who has read of her. But the little girl who brings the laundry introduces her to a boy who takes in washing to earn his way.

These Three Form the Soap-Suds Trust and The Triumvirate of

"HAPPINESS"

A Triangle Feature

AT THE THEATORIUM TODAY

Christmas Club

Matures December 13. No payments received after Saturday, December 8. Members can receive their money by presenting book or card on or after the 13th. NEW CLUB OPEN NOW. For white people only.

Citizens Bank and Trust Company.