

Thomas Freed by Rowan County Jury on Saturday

After Deliberating About Five Hours Jury in Second Trial of Charlotte Man Gave Him His Liberty.

VERDICT DID NOT CAUSE SURPRISE

In Salisbury, Where It Was Generally Believed Defendant Would Get Liberty—Goes to Charlotte.

O. G. (Red) Thomas is a free man again. Saturday afternoon at 6:25 o'clock a jury of Rowan county men returned a verdict declaring in their opinion Thomas should not be punished for shooting to death Arthur J. Allen, master plumber of this city, in Kannapolis on the night of October 25th, 1921. The verdict was rendered after a deliberation of five hours by the jury.

The case went to the jury about 1:25 Saturday afternoon and at 6:25 the members of the jury notified the court that they were ready with their decision. Once during the afternoon, after deliberating about two hours, they filed into the court room and asked that the testimony of the defendant be re-read. This was done by the court stenographer, Miss Minnie Lee Hoover. About two hours later they gave to the court the verdict which made free again the man who had year in Cabarrus Superior Court was found guilty of second degree murder and sentenced to serve 18 years in the State prison by Judge J. His Ray, who presided at the first trial.

When the jury filed into the court room about 6:20 Saturday afternoon a large crowd was present, including many women. Judge James L. Webb, who heard the second trial, turned against any demonstration but when the verdict of "not guilty" was read there was an outburst of applause and a rush for Thomas, who, with his little wife, met the crowd with smiles and handshakes.

"Tell the people of Salisbury we are just as happy as we can be," was the first statement Thomas made after the verdict.

He and Mrs. Thomas shook hands with each jury and while the general demonstration continued Judge Webb conferred with the jury.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas left immediately after the verdict was rendered for their home in Charlotte, where they will live in the future. The trial was the longest and most interesting held in Rowan in years. It was evident all through the ten days it continued that there was an atmosphere of friendliness to the defendant, and persons of this city who visited the scene of the trial declared general opinion in Salisbury was that a verdict of acquittal would be reached.

There was no surprise occasioned by the outburst that greeted the verdict. Concord lawyers who took a hand in the trial were: T. D. Maness, for the defense; and L. T. Hartsell and H. S. Williams for the State. A large number of Concord lawyers appeared for the defense in the first trial here last year, but when a change of venue was granted, all of them except Mr. Maness were replaced by Salisbury attorneys. It is understood the Concord lawyers asked to be excused, expressing the belief that the lawyers of Salisbury would be of greater benefit to the defendant before a Rowan jury.

E. T. Cinsler and John J. Parker, of Charlotte, appeared in both trials for the defendant. In addition to Messrs. Hartsell and Williams, at the first trial the prosecution was represented by S. C. Caldwell, of Statesville, and former Solicitor Hayden Clement.

According to statements heard on the streets here following the message of Thomas' acquittal, the verdict was not generally popular here. The popularity of Allen probably accounted for this in a great measure. Judge Webb reviewed the main points of the case, stated law covering it and also read twenty typewritten pages representing the contentions of the defendant. His honor's charges took two hours. He instructed that one of four verdicts could be rendered. He told the jury there had been an evidence of conspiracy between the defendant and Mrs. Love, who was in the car at the time of the killing and asked them to disregard this contention.

A large crowd remained in the court room all afternoon expecting the jury's return. Many women were present and these were asked to leave the court room for fifteen minutes while a divorce case was heard. Mitt Laving, cited to appear and show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court, for the alleged threat he made to Roy, D. P. Grant who had given his father, R. E. Lawrence, witness in the Thomas case, a bad character forged to appear and a car was ordered issued for him.

The second trial of Thomas began on last Wednesday a week ago. It having been removed to Rowan from Cabarrus by Judge Webb, on motion of the defendant's counsel who claimed he could not get justice in Cabarrus on account of local prejudice. His first trial in Concord was held in January, 1922, and after being out three hours the jury returned a second degree murder verdict and Thomas was sentenced to serve 18 years in the State prison.

On appeal a new trial was granted because of errors of Judge Ray who presided at the first hearing.

FARMERS OF STATE BETTER OFF NOW

Expert Says Farm People of North Carolina Are on Upgrade Financially

(By the Associated Press.) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 25.—After two years of a steep down-grade road, the farmers last winter came to the bottom level and in the summer of 1922 recognized the slight upward grade. This winter they found themselves where they are back down and recognize that conditions are becoming better and 1923 now looks fairly bright agriculturally in North Carolina, perhaps more so than in any other state.

This statement was made by Frank Parker, superintendent of the North Carolina and United States Department of Agriculture, in discussing agricultural conditions in this state. "The economic depression has been eroding hard on our essential food and feed producers. It is not yet over either. For the farmer's dollar still averages only 67 per cent. as much of office commodities as it did before the war," he continued. "Prosperity cannot exist until the farmer is put on his feet with our less essential industries. Of course, some types of farmers fell in the valley of despondency. Others still are struggling there or trying to make the slight upgrade with their heavy load of overhead and operating expenses."

"North Carolina, as a whole, is perhaps on a higher agricultural economic level than any other state. This is due largely to the good prices received for cotton and tobacco by improved and organized modern methods of production and marketing. This level may be maintained. A basic, or stable agricultural condition, necessitates co-operation and standardization along modern economic lines."

"Many think that cotton and tobacco are selling at wonderfully high prices. The last crop of cotton was estimated to have cost an average of over twenty cents a pound, which means that half the farmer's cotton cost more than that, and besides much of the farm overhead and supervision costs were not factored in. "This means that a small profit was made and that the average farmer made a maximum of less than \$40 per acre, while he produced not more than one bale. Tobacco is much the same. There is an even stronger limit to large production, due to the heavy expense and limited available labor."

"Large farm production cannot be expected this year with prices as they are. The organized urban interests pay two- to three times what the farmer can realize on; then, too, the urban surplus permits of taking advantage of recreation attractions, and more spare time, too. "A prominent farmer this month called some hogs and tried to sell them in Raleigh. He found to his regret that the packers' agents and market people in Newberry. We can't handle your product as we use only the packer's goods. Yet our local folks accuse our farmers of being disloyal to home industry, by doing mail order business. This is but one of many instances that might be given to show that farmers must become organized or be discriminated against," he asserted.

SENATORS ARE SILENT ON HARDING PROPOSAL Wilson Democrats Indorse Plan for Membership in the League Court. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—The attitude of senators on the administration's sudden request yesterday for authority for the United States to join the international court of justice, organized under the league of nations, failed to develop much more clearly today except for increased indications that action would go over until the December session of Congress. The first senatorial line-up on the question will come Tuesday at the meeting of the foreign relations committee, called by Senator Lodge, Republican leader, for initial consideration of the plan presented by President Harding in transmitting to the senate the detailed explanation of the administration program by Secretary Hughes.

Pending the committee meeting, the "irreconcilables" and "reservationists" groups of Republicans generally withheld open expressions of judgment. Democratic leaders, however, especially of the so-called "Wilson group," were in harmony in according approval. The attitude of the "irreconcilable" faction, which played a powerful part in preventing ratification of the treaty of Versailles, appeared to be one of suspicion and, in some instances, hostility argued for as bitter opposition to the new proposal as to the league of nations.

C. W. Roberts Honored. Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 25.—C. W. Roberts, secretary of the Carolina Motor Club, Saturday was notified of his appointment as chairman of the North Carolina Conference of the Motor Vehicle Conference Committee, by Harry Maxwell, secretary, of New York. The purpose of the conference is to work for the adoption of legislation for the benefit of motor car owners and to seek uniform traffic laws in all states. The conference is composed of the American Automobile Association, Motor and Accessory Manufacturing Association, National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, National Automobile Dealers Association, Rubber Association of America and the Trailer Manufacturing Association of America.

Special Courses for Women. (By the Associated Press.) Rocky Mount, Feb. 25.—Plans for offering Rocky Mount women and girls special courses in home economics and home making are being formulated by Miss Margaret Edwards, state supervisor of the work, and local women. Announcement of a decision on the offering of the courses will be made at an early date.

Woman Prisoner Injured As She Jumps From Car

While trying to escape last night from an automobile in which she was held a prisoner by several local policemen, a young woman giving her name as Mrs. Vera Mullis, was seriously injured, and today is undergoing treatment in the Concord Hospital. According to police reports, the woman was arrested at the passenger station of the Southern Railway on a charge of intoxication and disorderly conduct. She was placed in an automobile by the officers, who started with her to the police department. When near the home of Mrs. A. A. King on West Charlotte street, the woman jumped from the car, striking her hand on the street curbing. She suffered a fracture at the base of her skull, according to reports of attending physicians, who operated on her immediately after the accident. Police officers state that the woman had a number of letters on her person, all addressed to "Mrs. Vera Mullis, Rockingham, N. C." Officers in Rockingham informed local officers that the woman was released from jail there last Friday after serving 30 days. Local officers were also advised that the woman's home is in Statesville, and a telephone conversation with Statesville officers brought the information that the woman is Mrs. Vera Lindsay and that she has a number of relatives in that city. These relatives, police officers state, have been advised of the woman's condition, and they are expected to reach Concord during the day. The condition of the woman remained critical during the day.

RAISES OBJECTION TO PACKER MERGER

Secretary Wallace Files a Complaint Against Armour & Co., and Morris & Co., of Chicago.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—Armour & Co. and Morris & Co., Chicago packers, were today served by the Secretary of Agriculture with a complaint charging them with violation of the packers and stockyards act in connection with the tentative acquisition of the plants and business of Morris & Co. by the Armour interests. Secretary Wallace set April 2 for a hearing in Washington.

Armour & Co., of Illinois, Armour & Co., of Delaware, J. Ogden Armour and Morris & Company were named in the complaint. The complaint stated that on December 30 J. Ogden Armour entered into a written contract with Morris & Co. to acquire all of its assets. In so doing, it was charged, parties to the contract violated the packers and stockyards act.

Secretary Wallace claimed such acquisition would have the effect of restraining interstate commerce, or of creating a monopoly in many sections of the United States in the purchase of livestock and in the shipment and sale of meat and other products. The complaint also charged that the contract would have the effect of manipulating or controlling prices.

SCHOOLS GIVEN AID BY EXTENSION SERVICE

Blue Prints of Grounds Given to the Schools Seeking Aid. (By the Associated Press.) Chapel Hill, N. C., Feb. 25.—Eight schools, scattered throughout the state were aided during the last two weeks by the University of North Carolina Extension Bureau of Design and Improvement of School Grounds, according to the report of Dr. W. C. Coker, head of the department of botany and this work. The schools visited by Mrs. W. J. Matherly, field agent of the bureau, were Selma, Morehead City, Gray's Creek, Holly Springs, Haw River, Daniels' Chapel, Black Cree and Louisburg College.

Besides his scientific research work in botany and in addition to his regular teaching program, Dr. Coker finds time to apply some of his knowledge to other needs of the state. All designs and planting plans are made by Dr. Coker, with the assistance of Mrs. Matherly. From the ink sketches blue prints are made and furnished to the schools free of charge. Before the design can be made, the school must be visited by the field agent, who makes notes on the size and shape of the area, kind of soil, general topography, position of the school and of all the other permanent objects as trees, wells, other houses, and collects pictures of the campus. These notes are used in drawing the plans. The report makes it clear that the rural and small town schools were not neglected by the bureau, for the field agent visited Gray's Creek school, Cumberland county, and Daniels' Chapel school, Wayne county. Besides the plans for the beautification of the grounds at Gray's Creek, Professor H. D. Meyer, of the University, prepared a plan for a playground.

In addition to the regular services, special services, such as bulletins and letters of advice, were rendered to a number of schools, among which were Winston-Salem, Iry, Rose Hill and Edenton.

A Tax Contrast

In this country the single man with an income of \$2,500 a year pays \$0 to income tax to Uncle Sam; in England he pays \$253. On a \$5,000 income the American pays \$100; the Englishman \$485; and upward. On a \$20,000 income the English tax is \$5,500; the American only \$1,700. Nevertheless our Mr. Otto Kahn is very sure we ought to reduce our income tax on big incomes and get the difference out of the folk who buy things across the counter, in the form of a sales tax.

Forest Warden for Henderson County

Asheville, N. C., February 24.—G. W. Justice has been appointed forest warden of Henderson county, heading a force of ten men. The appointment was made by the county board of commissioners following a conference with C. E. Burroughs of this city, district forest warden.

WOMAN PRISONER INJURED AS SHE JUMPS FROM CAR

While trying to escape last night from an automobile in which she was held a prisoner by several local policemen, a young woman giving her name as Mrs. Vera Mullis, was seriously injured, and today is undergoing treatment in the Concord Hospital. According to police reports, the woman was arrested at the passenger station of the Southern Railway on a charge of intoxication and disorderly conduct. She was placed in an automobile by the officers, who started with her to the police department. When near the home of Mrs. A. A. King on West Charlotte street, the woman jumped from the car, striking her hand on the street curbing. She suffered a fracture at the base of her skull, according to reports of attending physicians, who operated on her immediately after the accident. Police officers state that the woman had a number of letters on her person, all addressed to "Mrs. Vera Mullis, Rockingham, N. C." Officers in Rockingham informed local officers that the woman was released from jail there last Friday after serving 30 days. Local officers were also advised that the woman's home is in Statesville, and a telephone conversation with Statesville officers brought the information that the woman is Mrs. Vera Lindsay and that she has a number of relatives in that city. These relatives, police officers state, have been advised of the woman's condition, and they are expected to reach Concord during the day. The condition of the woman remained critical during the day.

FARM CREDITS BILL REPORTED TO HOUSE

Bill Would Establish Two New Banking Systems, Which Would Be Used to Aid the Farmers.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—An agricultural credits bill which would establish two new banking systems for the aid of the farmer was formally reported today by the House banking committee. It contemplates twelve intermediate credit banks as independent adjuncts of the Federal Farm Loan board, and a system of private-owned agricultural credit corporations and re-discount corporations.

The bill follows the general lines of the Capper and Lenroot-Anderson bills passed by the Senate, and the Strong bill passed by the House. Under present plans the measure will be taken up in the House tomorrow, leaders having expressed the hope of passing it in one day. Think Immigrants Are Smuggled in. Washington, Feb. 25.—Immigration authorities have begun an extensive survey of industrial areas in New Jersey and northeast Pennsylvania, Secretary Davis announced today, to determine how many aliens have been smuggled into the United States in violation of the seaman's act. Warrants ordering deportations from the United States of 198 individuals already have been issued.

CONGRESS CONFRONTED WITH A MASS OF WORK

Over 14,000 Bills and Resolutions Are Awaiting Action Before Adjournment. Washington, Feb. 25.—The 67th Congress enters the home stretch tomorrow with more than 14,000 bills and resolutions on its calendars and with prospects of enactment of about 100, including two of major importance. Firm credits legislation and the deficiency appropriation bill. "This year's pre-adjournment jam of legislation promises to be centered more in the house than in the senate. The deficiency bill is scheduled for house passage tomorrow while the farm credits composite bill will come up in the house on Tuesday. In the house also vigorous efforts will be made to complete action on the Netter constitutional amendment to change the dates of the presidential inaugural and the convening of Congress and to get a vote on Mississippi flood control and other bills.

PAR CLEARANCE ACT TO SUPREME COURT

Highest Court in Country Will Decide Constitutionality of 1921 Act. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—The constitutionality of the act of 1921 of the North Carolina General Assembly under which state banks and trust companies were authorized to charge a fee for remitting funds to other banks in payment of checks drawn by their depositors will be passed upon by the Supreme Court, it was announced today. The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Monroe, N. C., and eleven other banks of that state in a case against the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Va., sought to have reviewed the decisions of the North Carolina Supreme Court, holding the law unconstitutional, on the ground that it conflicted with certain sections of the Federal Reserve act, and was in contravention of the legal tender provisions of the Federal constitution.

HOUSE TABLES SEVERAL BILLS PRESENTED TODAY

Enlarging E. J. Frazar Measure; and Burgwyn Pro-osed; Killed in House. Raleigh, Feb. 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—In a tabling mood, the House today killed the Turbington bill providing a constitutional amendment for the purpose of abating a garnishment law as proposed by state merchants, the Baggett bill from the Senate which would allow operations in state charitable and penal institutions by physicians or surgeons without consultation with or consent of relatives, and a measure by representative Burgwyn which proposed to reduce from \$300 to \$100 the tax exemption on personal property. All went down by sweeping majorities.

With Our Advertisers.

The Citizens Bank and Trust Company is always ready and anxious to cultivate an interest in affairs of its patrons. Cline's Pharmacy sells Armand Cold Cream. Each day the Specialty Hat Shop is receiving hats in newest shapes and colors. Knox hats, hats that "are different" at Browns-Cannon Co. for \$7.00. Caps \$1.00 to \$3.00. The Central Filling Station is going to give away a Chevrolet Coupe, New ad. today gives all of the facts covering the contest.

Grain Exports Increase.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 4,251,000 bushels, as compared with 3,688,000 for the week previous, while exports of flour amounted to 284,500 barrels, as compared with 177,500 barrels the week before. Southern Railway Appeal Dismissed. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—The appeal of the Southern Railway Company from the decision of the United States District Court for Western North Carolina involving the construction of certain tax laws of the state was dismissed today by the Supreme Court on motion of the Railway Company.

Former Senator Died.

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 25.—Former United States Senator George C. Perkins, 84, died at his home here today.

CHARGES AGAINST ANDERSON TO BE AIRED BEFORE JURY

Four Officials of Anti-Saloon League Ordered to Give Testimony Before Special New York Jury. (By the Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 25.—With four officials of the state anti-saloon league under subpoena, Acting District Attorney Peora expected to present to a grand jury today evidence concerning the manner in which Supt. Wm. H. Anderson handled the organization's finances. Yesterday Mr. Anderson, speaking in an Albany pulpit, declared he was the victim of a "far reaching conspiracy" in which Tammany, wet republicans and machine politicians, and wet financial interests were involved. His charges that the conspirators were using Raymond B. Fosdick, legal representative of the Rockefeller's, as "a de facto stool pigeon, a wettable, personally hostile employee of John D. Rockefeller" to help their fight brought an immediate response from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. "Telephoning from Ormand Beach, Fla., Mr. Rockefeller authorized a statement which said: "If Mr. Fosdick is guilty of participating in any wet conspiracy, I am equally too, for he has represented me in this matter for two years, and I have fully approved his every action, and he has had and still retains my full confidence. "Insofar as the gift of my father and myself to the anti league is concerned, we have ourselves published them on several occasions. We feel that the source of all receipts of any organization such as the Anti-Saloon League should be made known, and also that a full public accounting should be made of the use of the money. An organization whose purpose is to influence public opinion can hardly afford to have financial secrets."

ANDERSON SAYS CHARGES FALSE

He is Being Prosecuted by Tammy Democrats, Wet Republicans and Financial Interest, He Says.

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 25.—With four officials of the state anti-saloon league under subpoena, Acting District Attorney Peora expected to present to a grand jury today evidence concerning the manner in which Supt. Wm. H. Anderson handled the organization's finances. Yesterday Mr. Anderson, speaking in an Albany pulpit, declared he was the victim of a "far reaching conspiracy" in which Tammany, wet republicans and machine politicians, and wet financial interests were involved. His charges that the conspirators were using Raymond B. Fosdick, legal representative of the Rockefeller's, as "a de facto stool pigeon, a wettable, personally hostile employee of John D. Rockefeller" to help their fight brought an immediate response from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. "Telephoning from Ormand Beach, Fla., Mr. Rockefeller authorized a statement which said: "If Mr. Fosdick is guilty of participating in any wet conspiracy, I am equally too, for he has represented me in this matter for two years, and I have fully approved his every action, and he has had and still retains my full confidence. "Insofar as the gift of my father and myself to the anti league is concerned, we have ourselves published them on several occasions. We feel that the source of all receipts of any organization such as the Anti-Saloon League should be made known, and also that a full public accounting should be made of the use of the money. An organization whose purpose is to influence public opinion can hardly afford to have financial secrets."

WANTS ANDERSON INDICTED

Attorney Peora announced this morning that he would go before the grand jury this afternoon with a request that Wm. H. Anderson, state superintendent of the anti-saloon league of New York be indicted on a charge of grand larceny.

SANATORIUM INQUIRY HAS BEEN CONTINUED

Final Hearing Until Legislature Adjourns Was Held During the Day. Raleigh, Feb. 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—In recognition of the press of necessary legislation upon the remaining time of the General Assembly the committee investigating the management of the state sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis voted to make the short session of today the final meeting of the committee until after the legislature adjourns. One witness was examined today and his testimony was to the effect that he found "filthy conditions" in the kitchen of the sanatorium when he visited it. The witness was J. R. Turner, a traveling salesman, who testified that he visited the kitchen to solicit business. The chairman of the investigating committee, T. C. Bowie, stated that he believed the inquiry should be continued in Raleigh, and the committee membership concurred in this opinion. Future meetings will be called at times chosen after due consideration of the possibility of conflict with engagements of Dr. L. B. McBrayer, superintendent of the sanatorium and his counsel, it was stated.

WOULD DETERMINE OWNERSHIP OF WEALTH

Such Resolution Has Been Introduced For the Consideration of Congress. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—An inquiry to determine the amount of ownership of the chief kinds of wealth in the United States would be made by the Federal Trade Commission under a resolution introduced in the Senate today by Senator Norris, republican, of Nebraska. On objection by Senator Smoot, republican, of Utah, consideration of the resolution was postponed for a day.

GRAIN EXPORTS INCREASE

Washington, Feb. 25.—Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 4,251,000 bushels, as compared with 3,688,000 for the week previous, while exports of flour amounted to 284,500 barrels, as compared with 177,500 barrels the week before. Southern Railway Appeal Dismissed. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—The appeal of the Southern Railway Company from the decision of the United States District Court for Western North Carolina involving the construction of certain tax laws of the state was dismissed today by the Supreme Court on motion of the Railway Company.

Former Senator Died.

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 25.—Former United States Senator George C. Perkins, 84, died at his home here today.

HARDING PROPOSAL FORMALY SENT TO SENATE FOR ACTION

Proposal Would Give America Membership in the International Court Set Up by League of Nations. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—A resolution to carry out the new administration proposal for American membership in the international court of justice organized by the league of nations was introduced in the Senate today by Senator King, democrat, Utah. There was no discussion and it went over indefinitely. Senator Robinson, Arkansas, acting democratic leader, gave out a formal statement declaring that on preliminary study he had a "feeling of friendliness for the administration plan," but added that it indicated a "policy of timidity and half-heartedness" by the administration in its foreign policies. Wants to Do More. (By the Associated Press.) Memphis, Feb. 25.—Wm. Jennings Bryan, while expressing his approval of the step taken by President Harding in proposing that the United States take a conditional seat in the international court at the league of nations, in a statement today said: "I think our action should be broader than the President's proposals. His appeal is only to the international court. That deals only with matters which can be arbitrated. I think that an investigation of all disputes is as necessary as the arbitration of those to which arbitration can be applied and that therefore we should be represented on the tribunal that investigates only and as well on that tribunal that decides reserving at all times the independence of action as in the thirty treaties. "We cannot afford to allow ourselves to be bound by opinions of those who represent other nations because their colonial ambitions and commercial aspirations are different from ours."

SENATE DEFERS PRESENT ACTION

Senator Robinson, Acting Democratic Leader, Indicates That He Will Support the Plan Later On.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—A resolution to carry out the new administration proposal for American membership in the international court of justice organized by the league of nations was introduced in the Senate today by Senator King, democrat, Utah. There was no discussion and it went over indefinitely. Senator Robinson, Arkansas, acting democratic leader, gave out a formal statement declaring that on preliminary study he had a "feeling of friendliness for the administration plan," but added that it indicated a "policy of timidity and half-heartedness" by the administration in its foreign policies. Wants to Do More. (By the Associated Press.) Memphis, Feb. 25.—Wm. Jennings Bryan, while expressing his approval of the step taken by President Harding in proposing that the United States take a conditional seat in the international court at the league of nations, in a statement today said: "I think our action should be broader than the President's proposals. His appeal is only to the international court. That deals only with matters which can be arbitrated. I think that an investigation of all disputes is as necessary as the arbitration of those to which arbitration can be applied and that therefore we should be represented on the tribunal that investigates only and as well on that tribunal that decides reserving at all times the independence of action as in the thirty treaties. "We cannot afford to allow ourselves to be bound by opinions of those who represent other nations because their colonial ambitions and commercial aspirations are different from ours."

WHISKEY KILLS GASTONIA GIRL

Autopsy May Be Held in Order to Determine Definitely Cause of Carigan Woman's Death. Gastonia, Feb. 24.—Mack Lippford, jitney driver, was held without bond by the coroner's jury for further investigation into the death of Mamie Turner Carigan, who it is believed died of poisoned whiskey furnished her by Lippford. Solicitor Carpenter conducted the hearing and intimated tonight that he might order an autopsy in order to more definitely determine the cause of her death. Convening at 2:30 o'clock in Sheriff Rhyne's office at the courthouse the jury heard only one witness, Miss Conie Stoddard, of West Gastonia, who testified in effect as follows: "I was at Mrs. Turner's home between 7 and 8 o'clock last night. Mamie got out a fruit jar of liquor and gave me a drink. I took a small amount. She took a good-sized drink. Just after we had taken the whiskey Mack Lippford came in. He asked for his whiskey. She told him she was going to keep it and would give him three dollars for it. Lippford left. A little later she got this jar out and took another big drink. She gave me some in a coca-cola bottle to take home with me. I left about 8 o'clock. I became deathly sick by the time I got home and vomited. She was getting weak when I left. I believed if I had not vomited the whiskey would have killed me, though I took on a small drink as compared with what she took."

GRAIN EXPORTS INCREASE

Washington, Feb. 25.—Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 4,251,000 bushels, as compared with 3,688,000 for the week previous, while exports of flour amounted to 284,500 barrels, as compared with 177,500 barrels the week before. Southern Railway Appeal Dismissed. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 25.—The appeal of the Southern Railway Company from the decision of the United States District Court for Western North Carolina involving the construction of certain tax laws of the state was dismissed today by the Supreme Court on motion of the Railway Company.

Former Senator Died.

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 25.—Former United States Senator George C. Perkins, 84, died at his home here today.