

Merry Christmas To One and All

SINCLAIR AND FALL MUST STAND TRIAL, JUSTICE HAS RULED

Justice Bailey of the District of Columbia Supreme Court Refuses to Quash Indictment.

MEN PLEAD NOT GUILTY AT ONCE

They are Charged With Conspiracy in Connection With Leasing Teapot Dome Naval Reserve

Washington, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Harry F. Sinclair and Albert B. Fall must stand trial for conspiracy in connection with the leasing of the Teapot Dome naval oil reserve, Justice Jennings Bailey ruled in the District of Columbia Supreme Court today in refusing to quash the indictments against them.

Immediately after the ruling the two defendants were arraigned and pleaded not guilty.

Justice Bailey in refusing to quash the indictments ignored the plea that the government had wrongfully singled out the two men for unusual prosecution through the appointment at the request of the Senate of special counsel to conduct the case.

Before Justice Bailey made his ruling defense counsel announced that there would be no further appeal and that their clients were ready to proceed with the case, which had its inception in the famous oil investigation of 1924.

Fall last week was acquitted with Edward L. Doheny in a conspiracy case involving the leasing of the Elk Hill, Calif., naval oil reserve but today's formalities furnished the first opportunity for the appearance for the trial of Sinclair.

There was only a slight delay in reaching a decision on a trial date. Owen J. Roberts who with former Senator Atlee Pomerene, of Ohio, is in charge of the proceedings for the government, suggested that February 1st be designated. Martin J. Littleton, counsel for Sinclair, suggested a later date, but after brief discussion Justice Bailey set February 2nd for the beginning of the trial.

Should Abolish Christmas, Says G. Bernard Shaw. London, Dec. 22.—George Bernard Shaw, the sprightly British dramatist who recently was awarded the Nobel prize for literature for 1925, thinks that Christmas should be abolished.

Writing in The New Leader, Shaw says: "It has become an unbearable nuisance, but the difficulty is to draft a bill making the celebration of Christmas a criminal act and commencing the shopkeepers, who are just enabled by the Christmas trade to pay their rents, not to mention all the other people who make money out of it and who do not know that the landlords pocket it all in the long run."

Alimony Club Does Not Want Husband. Chicago, Dec. 22.—Fifty-four wives whose husbands are in jail for failure to pay alimony were offered their erring spouses as Christmas presents today in municipal court, and all but ten declined with thanks, maintaining that Christmas would be merrier without them.

Reduce Number of Dry Agents. Richmond, Va., Dec. 23.—(AP)—A reduction of 25 per cent. in the number of federal prohibition field agents in Virginia and North Carolina was announced today by C. G. Merrick, administrator for the two states. The cut was necessitated, Mr. Merrick said, by a decrease in the appropriations for prohibition enforcement in Virginia and North Carolina. He declined to make public the figures on the number of field agents left, but said the curtailment affects the two states about equally.

Dr. Rudolph Schiffman Dead. Pasadena, Calif., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Dr. Rudolph Schiffman, millionaire discoverer of an asthma powder, formerly of St. Paul, Minn., died here early today.

WEATHER FORECAST. Cloudy, probably followed by rain in the central and west portions tonight and Friday, rising temperatures Friday. Fresh east and south-east winds.

In the News of the Day



JOHN P. HILL



POPE PIUS XI



ALANSON B. HOUGHTON



PRINCE CHRISTOPHER

State control of Prohibition was provided in a bill introduced by Congressman John P. Hill. Pope Pius believes Premier Mussolini, of Italy, is protected by Divine Providence, it was said in Rome. Alanson B. Houghton, Ambassador to England, was guarded on his return to America for a visit because of threats against his life. Prince Christopher, of Greece, younger brother of the late King Constantine, arrived in New York for a visit of America.

LANGLEY GETS FREEDOM

"My First Thought is of Wife, Home and Children," He Says. (By International News Service.) Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 23.—"My first thought is naturally of home, wife, children and friends. I want to get to them as quickly as I can."

These are not the words of a long lost war veteran, just recovered from shell-shock, and memory returned, nor of a "Rip Van Winkle" just awakening. They are from a prisoner known throughout the United States when he was given his freedom from penitentiary walls here this week: his Christmas gift from Uncle Sam, so to speak.

Such was the answer given newspaper reporters' questions when John W. Langley, one time Congressman from his home state of Kentucky, walked out of Atlanta Federal Penitentiary here this week a free man, after having served little less than a year of a two year sentence for alleged violation of the prohibition act.

With a smile covering his face, and gratitude to everyone, it seemed, the former congressman from the third Kentucky district, walked briskly from the great stone building that had been his "home" for many months, thinking, perhaps, mostly of the hour when he would reach Pikeville and home. The happiness was occasioned when United States Attorney General Sargent had affixed his signature to his parole, previously favorably passed on by the Federal Parole Board, as the result of untiring efforts of his friends.

"I am going to spend Christmas with my family," was his word to newspaper men. "I am paroled like anyone else, under the laws and rules of the institution adopted pursuant thereto. My first thought is naturally of home, wife and children and friends. I want to get to them as quickly as I can."

"At the proper time and in the proper way, I shall probably have something to say or to write, or both. I am sure it will interest and probably astonish a good many people of this country. For the present, I trust I may be excused with this statement."

LANGLEY GETS FREEDOM

Before taking his departure, Mr. Langley paused in the face of Ward Snook and thanked that official for his kindness to him while he was an inmate of the institution. He declared that in all his career he had never seen a busier man than the warden, or one who fulfilled his duties in a more pleasing manner. He said he had been treated well, and said that his imprisonment had not injured his health since he felt "as good or better now than when I entered." He started serving his term on January 22. He is 63 years of age.

And to show the popularity of the man and the prisoner who, while indicted, was re-elected to his seat in Congress by the largest vote he ever received from his fellowmen, many of his prison friends gathered around as he was leaving the massive building to shake his hand and bid him well. He had won them over, he had won over many outside prison walls.

The man who was re-elected to a responsible office while under indictment and then to resign that office in the national house when he was convicted last year, maintained throughout his trial that he was "framed" on the charge of conspiracy to violate the prohibition law by political enemies.

Then his wife took up his fight where he left off when he started for prison, by announcing her candidacy to succeed her husband in the House. And she was elected to her husband's seat by a large majority, which fact she claimed, was vindication for her husband.

On September 14, Langley, under the law, became eligible for a parole. Immediately his friends set about to gain his freedom which came a week before Christmas.

Only on sorrow still abides in Langley's heart, perhaps. He is denied his citizenship for under law, he is not a citizen until he has fully pardoned. Now, it is said, his friends will seek to secure his pardon in order that he may run for his old seat two years hence.

M'DERMOTT SEEKS TO FREE HIMSELF OF MURDER CHARGE

Takes Stand in Own Defense and Was Nervous When He Started to Give Testimony.

SAYS HE SOUGHT TO WARN EDITOR

Called at Mellett's Home, He Says, to Warn Him to Stay Away From Garage—Warned Wife.

Court House, Canton, O., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Patrick Eugene McDermott, on trial charged with the murder of Don R. Mellett, took the witness stand in his own defense today.

McDermott was obviously nervous. His voice was husky and from time to time he swallowed and attempted to clear his throat.

McDermott said that he knows Steve Kaschok, the state's chief informer, and went with him to Massillon from Cleveland on January 8th as related by Kaschok on the witness stand. It is on this occasion that the state charges McDermott conferred with Ben Rudner, his co-defendant, about "slugging an editor."

McDermott maintained that it was Kaschok and not he who suggested the trip to Massillon. He declared Kaschok told him he was going to "slug an editor," McDermott claimed it was he who called Mellett several nights before the murder, to warn him of the plot against him.

He said the first time he attempted to give the warning a woman's voice answered and said Mellett was not there so he called later and told Mellett to stay away from his garage because some "chickies" were waiting to get him.

McDermott denied knowing Ben Rudner, one of his co-defendants. He said he did not meet Rudner in Massillon on July 16th, the alleged "pay off" night. On that occasion, he said, he visited a pool room and a hotel, but saw no one whom he knew.

McDermott testified that he did not have a gun at any time while he was in Canton, and that he was in bed shortly after 10:30 on the night of the murder.

The defendant admitted he one time sold liquor for Ben Nadel, Cleveland, who is alleged by the state to have hidden McDermott for two months after the murder. He denied he became acquainted with Rudner and Nadel when all three were in the Atlanta federal penitentiary.

McDermott told his various meetings with William Bitzler, the state's "star" witness during the week preceding the murder. He related his activities from day to day up to the murder night. He said he went to a theatre and remained until 10:30 that night, then he went home to bed. He denied he had a gun in his room as Bitzler had testified.

McDermott said he arose about 10 o'clock the morning of July 16th and did not hear about the murder until he went out to breakfast.

What Are We Coming to in This Day of Fast Life?

(By International News Service.) Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 23.—"What are we coming to in this day of fast life?" asked the Rev. Charlie Dunaway, noted evangelist, in a sermon here recently.

And he answered: "It used to be 'wine, women and song.' Now it is 'wood alcohol, trained nurses, and—Nearer My God to Thee.'"

The evangelist, speaking to a large congregation that packed the Gospel Tabernacle, innocently flayed the "cigarette-smoking, half-nude flappers" of today; took a healthy swing at bootleg liquor, sex fiction "that should not be distributed through the mails," and ended with the degrading influence of the modern dance on the youth of America.

His subject was appropriate for the occasion: "Whatever a Man Soweth, That Shall He Also Reap."

"Every inch you women raise your skirts," shouted the evangelist, "you lower the morals of this country a thousand miles. The problem of how to save our boys and girls from ruin is the greatest problem of the day."

"The root of it all, my friends, the real cause, is sin, that which beats the men out of a man, utterly saps his morals, and forever damns his soul."

Several of the congregation squirmed in their wooden seats under the terrific barrage of the evangelist against the sins of the world; against all manner of wrong doing that would tear down the morals of the young people, and leave them the wrecks of a fast day and time.

"Jesus Christ!" he shouted. "There is the answer for your sin; the only hope of salvation."

"Jesus Christ or the Devil, Which do you take?"

TEMPORARY RECEIVER FOR QUEEN CITY BANK

Charlotte Bank and Trust Closes Its Doors—Slow Assets Given As Cause.

Charlotte, Dec. 22.—The Charlotte Bank and Trust company tonight was in the hands of the American Trust company, acting as temporary receiver after the doors of the institution were closed today.

This situation followed a conference of the bank's directors with John Mitchell, state bank examiner, Tuesday night. The bank was unable to realize on its assets to an extent that would enable it to pay off its creditors in due course of business and the board of directors requested the corporation commission to take charge of its affairs, the bank examiner said in a statement.

"During the past four months," the statement continued, "the bank has been subjected to more than normal and unusual withdrawals by its depositors and for the past few days they had become increasingly urgent. During the time referred to the deposit liability of the bank decreased approximately \$100,000."

The deposits were listed at \$22,500 and paid in capital was given \$25,000.

Marvin A. Turner was president.

CHARLES BESS KILLED AT GRADE CROSSING

Automobile in Which He Was Riding Struck by P. & N. Train at Gastonia.

Gastonia, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Charles Bess, 21 years old, was killed here at 9 o'clock this morning when his automobile was struck by a passenger train on the Piedmont & Northern railroad as it was coming into Gastonia. A companion, Lee Huffman, was seriously injured.

Bess, according to eye witnesses, attempted to cross the track in front of the train at a little-used crossing on the outskirts of the city. Both were textile operatives at the Flint and Graves mills.

SAVED AT SCAFFOLD

Joe Barty Given Three More Weeks to Live—Was Ready to Die.

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Joe Barty, who was to have been hanged at dawn today, was given a Christmas gift of three more weeks of life just as he was about to mount the scaffold.

The hangman had arrived, and Barty had bidden farewell to his children when word was received that a stay until January 12th had been granted.

COTTON PICKERS MET CRISIS; CROP ABOUT IN

Annual Struggle to Get the Cotton Picked—Porto Ricans Imported to Arizona.

Washington, Dec. 23.—(AP)—A campaign wherein a warlike government enrolls its \$1-a-year-men again, and drafts its field forces relentlessly from far-flung territories, is just now drawing to a close within the southern part of the United States.

The annual struggle to get the cotton picked—this year complicated by an immense crop—apparently will be successful again, but only because the United States employment service was able to throw into action at the crisis an army of upwards of 300,000 men and women.

18 Million Bales Coming. Returns are far from being all in yet, and Francis I. Jones, director of the service, will not be able to make his accounting of the situation for many weeks. But the emergency that built most seriously in the early days has unquestionably been met, though the force assembled for the need had to be drawn from Porto Rico and Mexico.

The south this year will produce 18,000,000 bales of its best sugar field crop.

Possibilities of trouble were forecast long ago in Texas, where 6,000,000 of the bales will come from, and the state growers' union, Mr. Jones to conference. The farm labor office of the employment service is organized for sudden expansions and later collapses. Volunteers and local government employes in 42 states can be affiliated with it for emergency going on the payroll at \$1 a day to give them authority to function. The organization was expanded with utmost swiftness, and recruiting offices for cotton pickers sprung into activity everywhere.

Drafted Outside Here. The Arizona growers, notwithstanding, found themselves almost entirely without pickers, and to the aid of the service, two separate ship loads of Porto Ricans were embarked and then shipped across country to the danger spot.

Cotton picking is something of a skilled occupation. The trained hand, working on a piece basis, takes down \$8 a day or even more, when the amateur gets a backache as his chief consideration.

With Our Advertisers. Last minute suggestions at S. W. Preslar's—fountain pens, pencils, handbags, pocket and wrist watches, compact, cigarette cases, silverware, and lots of other things suitable for Christmas giving.

You will find many last minute gifts for Christmas at Cline's Pharmacy. See list in new ad. today. Phone 333.

See list of new Columbia records at the Concord Furniture Co. You will find all your Christmas food needs at the A. & P. Stores. See list and prices in ad. today. "Better photographs" at the Boyd W. Cox Studio.

Wales' Pet



Claus of Seale, a twenty-month-old Alsatian dog, was purchased by the Prince of Wales.

International News Service.

COUNTY-WIDE COTTON MEETING TO BE HELD

For the Purpose of Stressing Danger of Planting a Large Crop Next Year.

Raleigh, Dec. 23.—(AP)—County-wide cotton meetings will be held in 38 of the cotton growing counties of North Carolina between January 4th and 15th.

The schedule of dates has just been announced by James M. Gray, assistant director of extension work at State College. District extension agents of the college will take over a large share of the burden of conducting the meetings, but Dean I. O. Schaub, of the extension department, and Dr. E. C. Brooks, State College president, will attend some of the meetings in the large counties.

The meetings will be for the purpose of stressing the danger of planting larger cotton average next year and to push the campaign for a better balanced system of farming.

College representatives will endeavor to show up the present cotton price crisis and at the same time demonstrate advantages of a better balanced system of farming.

THE COTTON MARKET

Opened Steady at Advance of 6 to 11 Points—New High Ground for the Movement.

New York, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The cotton market opened steady today at an advance of 6 to 11 points on a continuance of yesterday's buying movement promoted by talk of unfavorable weather for saving late cotton in the South, and continued covering by near month shorts.

Prices made new high ground for the movement, selling up to 12.54 for January and 12.95 for May, but at these figures the market seemed to be attracting pre-holiday realizing, while there also was a little more hedge selling by the South. Prices eased off a few points, but active positions still showed net gains of 2 to 3 points at the end of the first hour.

Private cables reported trade calling, and covering in the Liverpool market, with a broadening demand for cotton cloths in Manchester. Cotton futures opened steady: Dec. 13.15; Jan. 12.51; March 12.75; May 12.95; July 13.17.

MOTHER AND BABY KILLED AND MANY OTHERS ARE HURT

An Explosion in Baldwin, N. Y., Wrecked Twelve Buildings—Cause Is Not Yet Determined.

TWO THEORIES ARE SUGGESTED

One Is That Escaping Gas Exploded and Another Is That Still Operating in the House Blew Up.

Baldwin, N. Y., Dec. 23.—(AP)—A terrific explosion of undetermined origin today demolished twelve one-story buildings on Pipe Line Boulevard, near the Long Island railroad station, causing the death of a mother and her baby, and injuring a number of persons.

The police are investigating two theories as to the cause. The first and most generally believed was that gas from an escaping main caught fire, and the second that a still in a cellar blew up.

NEW TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION BUSY

Understood To Be Considering Applications for Important Steamer Operations. Raleigh, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The newly organized transportation advisory commission was understood today to be considering applications for important steamer operations between Wilmington and the West Coast.

Fertilizer manufacturers of the state also were known to be asking the commission for ships to Germany for potash transportation.

Governor McLean has appointed a personnel to the commission comprising twelve members, including J. Allen Taylor, Wilmington; E. K. Bishop, New Bern; James A. Gray, Winston-Salem; William Preyer, of Greensboro; John V. House of Wilson, Fred Kent, of Asheville; J. L. Spencer, of Charlotte and George Marsh, of Raleigh.

Under the state law the commission was authorized to advise with the corporation in all matters affecting rail or water rates in the state; to investigate the entire rate structure, interstate and intrastate; and to ascertain if there be any causes of discrimination and to try to work out remedies.

The commission was also authorized to investigate closely to see what may be done in co-operation to and from North Carolina ports.

Airmen Go to Vera Cruz Next

Tampico, Mexico, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Vera Cruz, 260 miles down the coast, is the next stop for the American goodwill flyers. The time of their departure is dependent upon weather conditions, but Major H. A. Dargue, U. S. A., commander of the expedition, said he hoped to get away some time today.

Condition of Emperor Worse

Tokyo, Japan, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The condition of Emperor Yoshihito was officially reported to be somewhat worse in a bulletin issued at 9:30 o'clock tonight. His pulse was irregular and his temperature higher than heretofore. High court officials were called to the bedside indicating a serious turn in his illness.

Only one man in three is perfectly healthy.

Closed Christmas Day

All Filling Stations in Concord will be closed all of Christmas Day.

Don't Forget to Gas Up Before Friday Night

SPECIAL

Concord Theatre Friday 8 P. M. Only Colored Orchestra and Quartette LULLABYS, SPIRITUALS, CHRISTMAS SONGS AND MODERN NUMBERS

Wanted Quick

Everybody to fill Coal Bins and Ice Boxes by Friday evening. Don't forget two holidays together. Wishing you a Merry Christmas A. B. POUNDS Ice, Coal and Service

Early Court School Burned

Greenwich, Conn., Dec. 23.—(AP)—Fire today burned to the ground the entire plant of Early Court, an exclusive school for girls, with a loss estimated at \$100,000. Five buildings were burned. Nobody was injured. The girls were away for the holidays.

Missouri has joined the ranks of States having workmen's compensation laws.