

DENIES MOTION OF THE DENENSE

Judge Won't Quash Indictment Against Hamburg-American Line Officials

SO THE TRIAL MUST PROCEED

Counsel Made Vigorous Assault on Case of Government But Overruled On Every Point—Argued In Absence of Jury.

New York, Nov. 30.—Counsel for the four Hamburg-American Line officials, on trial for conspiracy to deceive and defraud the United States, assailed by legal argument today the case which the government had presented by witnesses against them and lost every point of their contention.

Federal Judge Howe heard argument in the absence of the jury and denied the motion to strike from the record all testimony concerning the chartering and movement of the steamer, Marina Quesada and over-ruled the motion to dismiss all the indictments.

Argument of the motions was protracted in a brief review of virtually all the testimony. In a vigorous assault against the government case counsel for the defense occupied the floor for four-fifths of the time, the government contenting itself with a brief sketch of the testimony, as the district attorney and his staff viewed the testimony.

The motion to dismiss being denied the defense opened its case at the beginning of the afternoon session.

BRITISH COMMANDER IN LONDON

His First Visit to British Capital in Almost a Year

London, November 30.—Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the British forces on the western front, was in London yesterday in conference with Premier Asquith.

So far as the public knows Field Marshal French has not been in London before since he paid a visit to the British capital late in January, 1914, conferred with the British and French officials at Calais on July 2nd, Earl Kitchener, British Secretary of War, was in Paris yesterday.

There have been reports of a movement on foot to place General Joffre, the French leader, in supreme command of the Franco-British forces on the western front, but London denies there was any foundation for them.

JUDGE SUSTAINS OUSTER PROCEEDINGS

Nashville, Tenn., November 30.—In the Circuit Court today Judge Thomas E. Matthews sustained the ouster proceedings against Mayor Howse, suspended in such proceedings on July 27th last. The grounds enumerated included failure to enforce the law, waste of the city's money and loss of management of the city's affairs.

Proceedings against Robert Elliott, commissioner of waterworks, were dismissed. The hearing of the ouster case has been in progress for the past three weeks.

Mayor Howse will take an appeal to the Supreme Court. Commissioner Elliott automatically resumes his seat, which since summer has been occupied by J. O. Tankard, elected by the remaining commissioners.

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EXPLOSION IN POWDER MILL

Wilmington, Del., Nov. 30.—At least ten men were killed and a number wounded in a powder explosion in a Dupont plant here today.

TOM WATSON MAKES LAST PLEA BEFORE THE JURY

Declares that "Religious Liberty" Is At Stake in Trial

ADDRESSES JURY

Government Attorneys Denied Roman Catholic Church Behind Prosecution—Last Speech in the Case This Afternoon.

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 30.—Thomas E. Watson, on trial in Federal Court charged with having sent obscene matter through the mails, made his final plea for acquittal here today. Acting as his own counsel he argued to the jury that in the way in which he employed certain words they could not be called obscene, but were classical. He drew from the prosecution a denial that the government was "protecting the Roman Catholic church."

Watson concluded his statement to the jury by declaring that "in their hands rested the banner of Democratic institutions, Republican principles and religious liberty."

Previously, on motion of the prosecution the court had ruled that the only question whether or not Watson was responsible for mailing the articles mentioned in the indictments and whether or not they were obscene was at issue. On objection from the prosecutors to Watson's reference to other features, Judge W. W. Lambdin again ruled and stated that he would charge the jury to that effect, that "they are not to consider any motive behind the prosecution, if there is one."

"I have been writing for 18 or 20 years," Watson told the jury, "and the government has sailed up the stream of literature and attacked only that which offered the Roman Catholic church."

Here Assistant District Attorney Wallace Miller interrupted to deny that the "District Attorney's office was protecting the Roman Catholic church."

Judge Lambdin then requested Watson to conclude with his speech. It was at this point that the Judge announced in part what he would charge the jury.

At the close of Watson's speech a brief speech a brief recess was taken and District Attorney Donaldson prepared to close for the prosecution.

HAD AMPUTATE LEG OF VICTIM

Condition of Henry Talley Worse and That of O. Max Gardner Better

Salisbury, N. C., Nov. 30.—The condition of Henry Talley, one of the most seriously injured of the passengers in the wreck here last Wednesday, when two persons were killed and 22 injured, was reported worse today. Surgeons at the local hospital, where Talley is confined, had to amputate his left leg early this afternoon in an effort to save his life.

Ohio Corn Boys at Capital.

Washington, November 30.—The Ohio Corn Boys, who represent the cream of the coming farmers of the Buckeye State, arrived in Washington this morning, and they will be royally entertained. Tomorrow they will be received by President Wilson and Ohio senators and congressmen will entertain them.

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MOONLIGHT SCHOOL IS PLANNED FOR PRISON

Governor Craig Lends Encouragement to This Big Idea

FARMERS' MEETING

State Council of the Union in Session in Raleigh—Wilmington Lawyers Appeared in Behalf of Ricard for Judge—Political Gossip About Corporation Commissioners.

Dispatch News Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 30, 1915.

A moonlight school for the State prison is being planned by prison workers in Raleigh and today Governor Craig gave it his encouragement. Mrs. Meredith, who teaches Sunday School at the penitentiary; Mrs. Kate Hayes Fleming and others are leading this enterprise which has interested a good many uptown people. Mrs. Meredith will take up the instruction of the illiterates out there with teachers in Wake county and make an effort to get the inmates a reading and writing foundation before they leave.

The prison work has developed the strange fact that proportionally the white illiterates exceed the blacks. The whites will be ministered to in the plans announced by Mrs. Meredith. It is not improbable that a teacher paid by the State will be recommended as the State feels that it owes a duty to the inmates who are turned out with small endowment for good citizenship when they return.

The penitentiary management put on moving pictures and this aided in bringing out the illiteracy figures. The presence of so many negro prisoners who can read was as surprising as the absence of such ability among the whites.

Brooke Empe's, Clayton Grant and Wille Person Mangum Turner, Wilmington lawyers, were here yesterday presenting to Governor Craig the claims of A. G. Ricard, Wilmington lawyer, as the judicial successor of George Rountree, who resigned last week.

Mr. Empe and Mr. Grant declared that Mr. Ricard will be the choice of the Brunswick bar when Mr. Cramer's is eliminated. They think Mr. Ricard is the favorite among all surrounding counties and put up his 36 years against the claims of Mr. Stacy's first years at the law.

Farmers' Union Meeting.

The State council of the North Carolina Farmers' Union was in session last night and will remain through today.

The members are the State officers and the executive committee which is composed of Dr. H. Q. Alexander, president; Dr. J. M. Templeton, of Cary, vice president; E. C. Fairies, Aberdeen, secretary-treasurer; J. Z. Green, organizer, and W. C. Crosby, of Charlotte, educational secretary. These are officers of the union.

The other members are W. B. Gibson, of Statesville, chairman of the executive committee; W. H. Moore, Bruce, Pitt county; C. C. Wright, Hunting Creek, Wilkes county; Clarence Poe, Raleigh, and R. W. H. Stone, Greensboro.

The council has quite a little residue from the convention in Durham two weeks ago and other matters of importance will be taken up. In the light of recent suggestions that the union's declaration against over-preparedness two weeks ago does not represent the true feeling of the State farmers, the union's officials may make a statement reflecting their true position.

Walter W. Watt, of Charlotte, will be the man whom Corporation Commissioner W. T. Lee will race if Mr. Watt's friends have their way.

A Watt boom is unquestionably going on. So far nobody has been able to find Mr. Watt himself with it. It started several weeks ago when the tax question dropped out of the list of excitement. While the present commission was gathering up the fragments from a dozen fights, three of the State's acknowledged leaders in their fields of thought, began "gouging" their fellows with a striking response to the suggestion of Mr. Watt's name.

The Charlotte man's tax record commended him to his boosters. He has never been an officeholder. As chairman of the Mecklenburg Board of Education he is credited with having found about \$2,000,000 of hidden (Continued on Page Three.)

MONASTIR HAS BEEN EVACUATED

Bulgarians Will Soon Be in Possession of The Town

ADVANCE AGAINST ANGLLO-FRENCH STOPS

Whether Winter Or Russian Menace Not Determined—Activity In the Western Arena, With Successful Air Raid by the Allies.

London, November 30.—Monastir, Southwestern Serbia, has been evacuated. The Serbian soldiers having accomplished their purpose in delaying the advance until the civil population had time to escape, left the city and, according to report, are retiring in good order. Bulgarian occupation is apparently a matter of hours. Though the Austro-Germans and Bulgarian campaign against Serbia is described by the Central Powers as "finished" and practically the whole of Serbia is in their possession they have not accomplished, according to general belief here, the more important aim of entirely crushing the Serbian army. Though defeated and worn-out in conflict against overwhelming numbers the Serbian forces still are said to be unbroken and undemoralized and are reported to be reorganizing on the Albanian and Montenegrin frontiers.

Bitter winter has retarded the Central Powers in their proposed new offensive against the Anglo-French at Strumitsa or the rapidly-developing Russian menace from the direction of Rumania has caused them to abandon it. In any event their campaign has come to a standstill.

Other fronts during the last forty-eight hours have shown general revival. Sir John French reports a successful air attack on the German positions along the Belgian coast and a raid on an aerodrome and ammunition factory behind the German lines. The French in Souchez succeeded in driving the Germans from a crater made by a successful mine explosion, as recorded here in sufficient detail to make the situation entirely clear. From the latest official statement there doesn't appear to have been any further fighting since the British advance in the battle of Ctesiphon, but the British troops again have fallen back to the Tigris, having been outnumbered by the Turks, and now occupy more easily defended positions in the rear of their former lines.

Earl Kitchener, the secretary for war, returned to London today from his trip to the near east.

Another Serbian Town Captured.

Berlin, November 30.—The capture of Priesendorf, in Western Serbia, near the Albanian border, was announced today by the war office.

WELL KNOWN RALEIGH WOMAN PASSES AWAY

Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 30.—Mrs. Julia Johnston Andrews, widow of A. B. Andrews, late first vice president of the Southern Railway, died at her home here today. Mrs. Andrews was 69 years old and had been ill for several weeks.

She is survived by four sons and a daughter. Her sons are W. J. Andrews, Graham H. Andrews, John H. Andrews and A. B. Andrews, all of Raleigh, and the daughter is Mrs. William M. Marks, of Montgomery, Ala.

FINAL SOLUTION AGAIN DELAYED

Athens, Greece, November 29 (Via Paris, Nov. 30).—Final solution of negotiations of the entente powers with the Greek government was further delayed, it is reported today, pending reply of the Allies to the Greek proposal to permit the respective staffs to interpret the military features of all the requirements in Macedonia.

MANY MINERS ENTOMBED.

Fayetteville, W. Va., Nov. 30.—An explosion occurred at noon today in Mine No. 2, of the Boomer Coal & Coke Co., at Boomer. Three hundred men, it was said, were in the mine when the accident happened and it was not known how many escaped.

DEMOCRATS BUSY FOR THE OPENING

PRESIDENT FINISHES HIS ADDRESS

Will Leave Many Matters Until After Christmas Holidays

Washington, November 30.—President Wilson's address to Congress went to the public printer today. The President spent the whole of yesterday at work on the document, finally completing it last night.

The message, which is comparatively brief, will be read by the President to a joint session of the two Houses of Congress a week from today. It deals primarily with National preparedness, other questions on which the President hopes to see legislation being left for treatment in other addresses to be read to Congress after the Christmas holidays.

LAKE LINES FREED FROM ROAD CONTROL?

Chicago, November 30.—The freeing of the steamboat lines on the Great Lakes from the control of the railroads, which is effected tomorrow by an order of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in compliance with the Panama Canal act, marks a radical advance toward competition in freight traffic in the great ore and grain-producing States. The commission has decided that the benefit of the great chain of waterways has redounded to the private advantage of railroad lines, and that the natural advantages of the lake traffic, instead of bringing economics to the shipper, have actually led to higher rates under the domination of the railroads.

When the lake steamboat season opens next spring, a new era in shipping is anticipated by the merchants' associations along the lakes, and some substantial decrease in carrying charges are assured.

The railroads have been ordered to dispose of their lake lines by December 1st, and nearly all of the lines have accepted the inevitable. Those who still own their boats on the lakes will dispose of them to the highest bidders, and it is said they will bring good prices from independents who will come into prominence.

The influence of the railroad-owned boat lines on commerce, which moves East and West through the Great Lakes ports, has been marked. Beginning in 1902, Eastern trunk lines, such as the Pennsylvania, New York Central and Lehigh Valley began to gain control of the lake lines. Steady increases of rates followed until the lake route was made the least attractive to shippers, because a small difference in rates will divert traffic to the through rail routes to avoid re-handling. Many of the traffic associations along the lakes have contended since 1910 that the lake lines should be independent, and they fought for this measure when the Panama Canal act was up in Congress.

Early this year, the railroads submitted the question to the Interstate Commerce Commission, which decided against them. It was decreed that none of the lake line services maintained by the petitioning railroads "is being operated in the interest of the public or is of advantage to the convenience of commerce of the people," within the meaning of the law. The lake lines, the commission points out, have been shorn of their initial rate-making power because of their control by the railroads, and are but concurring carriers. "No doubt," the Commission stated, "under joint operation certain economics can be effected, but these economics have not manifested themselves in a reduced lake and rail transportation cost of the public. Instead of any reduction in lake and rail rates, they have been steadily advanced under joint ownership."

"As a direct result of this rate policy of the owning railroads, the lake boats have operated with small cargoes, although their operating expense was almost as great as if they had been fully loaded. The railroad control of these boat lines cannot be said to be in the public interest when the policy of these railroads has been, by artificial rate structure, to deprive the public of the natural benefits that would flow from the free use of this waterway."

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Both Senate and House Members Working on Plans for Organization of Next Congress

BUDGET COMMITTEE IS STILL AT SEA

Can't Agree on Any Specific Plan and Will Have to Ask for More Time—Committee Out—Senate Caucus To Assignments Being Worked

Washington, Nov. 30.—Democrats of House Ways and Means Committee again met today to assign members of the committee in continuation of the work of organizing for the coming session of Congress. It probably will take several days before the assignments can be worked out.

The committee, as result of Minority Leader Mann's request for larger Republican representation on all committees, in view of increased minority membership, has tentatively agreed to add a Republican to the Ways and Means, the Appropriations, the Military, the Naval and Judicial committees.

The special rules committee of the Senate, of which Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, is chairman, also met today to decide on a form of cloture to be laid before the caucus of Senate Democrats. It was to await among other things the committee's recommendation that the caucus adjourn over until tomorrow.

The House special budget committee failed to reach an agreement at a conference on any specific plan. A recommendation, probably will be made to the House that further consideration be given to the various budget plans.

TO FORM ORGANIZATION. Executive Committee of Corn Show to Call Mass Meeting.

For the purpose of forming a permanent organization and discussing ways and means of financing it, a mass meeting of the citizens of Wilmington and New Hanover county will be called in the near future. This was the decision reached last night at a meeting of the executive committee and other committees of the Cape Fear Corn and Agricultural Show held in the Chamber of Commerce.

The chairman of the finance committee, Col. J. Van B. Metts, reported that a portion of the amounts pledged in the underwriting plan and the gate receipts will meet all the Corn Show expenses. The prize and award committee reported that all prize winners will be mailed checks in a few days. Miss Margaret Gibson made a gratifying report of the work of Scrovis at the Corn Show.

IN NEW HEADQUARTERS Tidewater's Transportation Office in New Bear Building—Other Changes.

The transportation office of the Tidewater Power Company is today being moved into its handsome new quarters of the new Bear building, near corner Front and Princess streets, which building has been leased by the street railway company, for this purpose, and for a sort of waiting room and lodging room for their employees who are not on duty.

The second floor will be used by the chief dispatcher and his assistant and the third floor will be fitted up as a recreation room for car motormen and conductors. It will contain billiard tables, book cases with books and periodicals and steel lockers for uniforms.

Married at Southside Miss Teshia Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Loughby Moore, of Currie, N. C., was married to Mr. Major E. Applewhite, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Applewhite, of Pee Dee, S. C., this afternoon at the parsonage of the Southside Baptist church, by Rev. W. G. Hall, the pastor. The couple arrived in the city this morning and left for Pee Dee this afternoon, where they will make their future home.

Basketball Results—In the basketball game at the Boys' Brigade last night the Seminoles defeated the Braves by a score of 24 to 14 and the Dodgers took the game from the Reds 36 to 10. The games were in the Friday Night League, having been postponed from last Friday night.