

# Movie Star Witnesses In Court Wednesday

### Mabel Normand and Edna Purviance Being Sought for Testimony in New Year's Shooting Party

BY FORREST WHITE

Los Angeles, March 19.—Mabel Normand and Edna Purviance are billed for another public appearance today, not as screen beauties and celebrities, but as principals in the New Year's party at the apartment of Cortland S. Dines in Hollywood, brought to an abrupt close by the shooting of Dines by Horace Greer, the ex-convict chauffeur of Mabel Normand.

Dines was so seriously wounded that he has not been able to make an appearance in court up to this time. But his physicians have agreed that he will be able to take the stand today.

A surprise move on the part of the defense, in the issuance of subpoenas for Miss Normand and Miss Purviance, will bring the four principals together for the first time since Dines was shot down by Greer, whom the police declared to have been actuated by a love frenzy for Miss Normand.

The bold stroke of the defense in bringing the two film stars and Dines into court together as witnesses indicates that Greer has no fear of prosecution if the efforts of Miss Normand and Miss Purviance and Dines can save him. Greer expects Dines to stick to his story that he does not know who shot him, due to the hazy condition of his mind from over-indulgence in liquor. Miss Normand and Miss Purviance are expected to testify that neither witnessed the actual shooting and that Dines admitted directly after the shooting that there had been a controversy that might have led Greer to act in self defense.

Justice Walter Hanby, before whom the case is being heard, is suspicious of an effort to conceal evidence, and Dines and the two motion picture stars may find themselves subjected to a severe grilling. Directly after Miss Normand and Miss Purviance achieved additional unpleasant notoriety through their connection with this case, the writer pointed out that the result might be a real tragedy for them in bringing their screen careers to a close.

Miss Purviance, at the time of the shooting of Dines, was at the top of her climb with a future of brilliant promises before her. Under the direction of Charlie Chaplin, by

day over the fact that Secretary of Commerce Hoover had found but ten minor commodities, the price of which is controlled by foreign influences, than over the fact that he advocated legislative measures to enable the American manufacturer to meet such control. The responsibility for the Secretary's attitude is being examined. He is being accused of being a "protectionist" and of being a "tariff man."

Chaplin was gallant, and came to her defense. Only a few weeks ago, he declared that Miss Purviance was suffering unjustly by reason of an unfortunate occurrence that might have happened to anyone, and that she was in no way to blame for the encounter at the party in Dines' apartment. He wound up by saying that he would continue to employ her as his leading woman, and star her in his pictures. That was less than a month ago.

Chaplin is now starting on his new picture and his leading woman is to be Lita Gray, who, as a very young girl, played a bit in Chaplin's "The Kid," but who has no other screen experience and is hardly more than a child. Miss Gray comes of an old Spanish California family and has been brought up under a strict regime.

There can be no doubt that Chaplin is delighted with his new leading lady, whose mother accompanies her on all her trips to the studio. Chaplin, when not at work, indulges in play and pastimes with Miss Gray on the lot, and it is hard to tell whether Chaplin is more interested in the beautiful and athletic young woman, or she in the man who has given her her big opportunity.

Edna Purviance has not been cast for this picture. She may never appear again in a leading role on the screen. A great deal of money, time and energy is being spent, probably by Miss Normand herself, in getting a very literary but not very literal story of her life before the public. But thus far there are no definite plans for her appearance in another picture.

These facts make the possibility that Miss Normand and Miss Purviance may be reached by subpoenas and appear in court today, quite interesting as marking perhaps the turning point of their lives.

### JUDGE BROWN PRESIDES IN HIS OWN HOME TOWN

Washington, March 19.—For the first time in twenty-three years Judge George H. Brown, one of the nation's foremost jurists, presided in his home county. At the primary meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the county, held in the county court house, Judge Brown presided over the proceedings. The board of supervisors is the governing body of the county and the judge presides over its meetings. Judge Brown has been a member of the board since 1901. He is now seventy-two years of age and has been a judge since 1901. He has been a member of the board since 1901. He is now seventy-two years of age and has been a judge since 1901.

He received a cordial greeting from the members of the bar Monday morning upon the opening of the court.

He has been on the bench in the State for thirty-two years, sixteen years as a Superior Court judge and sixteen years as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. The last time he presided over the Beaufort County Superior Court was held in the fall of 1901.

On both the Supreme and Superior Court benches he made an enviable reputation both in the knowledge of the law and in meeting out justice. The bench of the State has never had a brighter legal mind.

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### They Are Here

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## Rout Of Bears On Franc Stimulates Foreign Trade

### Still Some Doubt in Financial Circles as to Whether Stabilization Is Permanent but This Uncertainty Not Expected to Vitaly Affect Either Imports or Exports

By J. C. ROYLE

New York, March 19.—The apparent rout of the "bears on the franc" and the recovery of French exchange undoubtedly has promoted a better feeling in business circles concerned with foreign trade. The effect on American business, however, has been largely psychological because dealings with France, since the recent uncertain state of French exchange, has been largely in terms of pounds and dollars. American business men simply followed the same course they pursued in the case of Russia, Germany and other countries, the currencies of which became subject to wide and sudden fluctuations, and conducted negotiations in dollars.

There still exists some doubt in financial circles here as to whether the franc situation has finally been stabilized by the arrangement of large credits here and in London, but this is not expected vitally to affect exports or imports.

The satisfactory state of foreign trade is shown by the fact that in the last 12 months American exports amounted to \$4,167,946,000, a gain of \$336,000,000 over the trade of 1922. In the same time imports increased from \$679,000,000 to \$3,791,938,000. This export increase is accounted for more by the better demand for manufactured products than for raw materials. The wheat movement, for example, has been small and the export of food and breadstuffs in the last year has amounted to only six per cent of the whole, as compared with 12 per cent for the previous year. Cotton exports, however, have been exceptionally heavy.

The lack of influence of the fluctuations of the franc on trade has not been an isolated case in the situation. Argentina's currency is in a depreciated position, yet exports to that country from the United States have improved by at least \$10,000,000 in the last year. The goods shipped to Germany in the last year also have bulked large in comparison with other annual periods in spite of the wild fluctuation of the mark last autumn. Clearly foreign trade of this country is affected to a larger extent by other influences and considerations than currency fluctuations, and exporters and importers declared today that it would continue throughout the year regardless of such disturbances.

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