

JONES CASE NOW WITH THE JURY

Argument Completed Forenoon Session Thursday and Jury Retired Following Charge in Afternoon.

The fate of Alex E. Jones as this newspaper goes to press is with a Pasquotank jury.

Argument in the case was completed at the close of the forenoon session of court which adjourned for dinner at 1 o'clock Thursday, and the judge began his charge to the jury promptly at 2 o'clock at the opening of the afternoon session. The jury took the case at 2:35 o'clock.

Representing the defendant in this case is the law firm of Aydtlett & Simpson, W. L. Cohoon, and W. I. Halstead of South Mills. The prosecution is represented by Ehringhaus & Hall as private counsel.

Argument began Wednesday afternoon at five o'clock and, as court did not adjourn until about 7, something like five hours was taken up with the speech making.

The trial of A. E. Jones, prominent and well-to-do Newland farmer, the brother-in-law of D. E. Williams, wealthy contractor and lumberman of South Mills, was begun in Superior Court here Wednesday morning and the evidence was all in by five o'clock the same afternoon. Seldom in the Superior Court of Pasquotank County has a case against a defendant charged with so serious a crime and represented by so able an array of counsel moved forward so smoothly and with so little delay. But Judge Devin has kept the wheels of justice turning and brooked no needless dallying, and Wednesday afternoon's session of court did not adjourn until well on toward seven o'clock.

That Alfred Ferebee, negro of good character and standing both among his own people and among the white people of his section of the County, was hit a terrific blow dealt by the defendant with a heavy spiked club can hardly be questioned. Mr. Jones himself admits that he clubbed the negro and left him lying near the bridge leading from the Jones premises to the State highway. But Jones claims that he acted in self defense, and the fact that the negro was apparently not struck from behind but from in front is in the defendant's favor.

A post mortem examination left hardly room for a reasonable doubt that the blunt instrument which did Alfred Ferebee to his death hit the negro squarely over the left eye. There the skull was crushed in, a triangular or V-shaped section of the bone being driven back into the brain. From this triangular depression extended two linear fractures, one ranging upward and back to a point on the crown almost perpendicular to a line from ear to ear, the other ranging downward and back along the floor or base of the skull to a point below the end of the fracture on the crown of the head. It was to the fracture along the floor or base of the skull, in the opinion of Dr. William A. Peters, who had the negro brought to the Elizabeth City hospital, that death was due.

"One thing, nobody saw it," Alex Jones with an oath told Sheriff Reid when the sheriff went to the Jones home to arrest the defendant, according to the sheriff's own testimony. And it seems that Mr. Jones was right about it. Not a witness for State or defense has been produced who testified that he saw the blow struck. There is, then, no direct rebuttal of Jones' story of what happened. He declares that Ferebee was impudent and cursed him, that he ordered the negro off, that the negro would start off but then turn back and begin mouthing again and that on his premises but between his fence and the State highway Ferebee finally turned and cursing him said that he would cut the guts out of him before he left and that then, in fear of bodily harm at the negro's hands, he picked up a club and knocked him in the head.

For corroboration of the story, Jones has only the testimony of his wife, who admits that when Ferebee was struck down she was in the house. On the stand she told, in substance, the same story as her husband about Ferebee's coming to the house in the evening for money for himself and for Ned Moore, the negro helper whom he had hired. She saved Alfred the money, she said, just as her husband came out of the dining room into the porch. Mr. Jones then told Alfred that with the days getting so short and with such wages as he was getting he ought to get down earlier and work later, and that he ought not to leave evenings without feeding up.

"Abbie," said Mrs. Jones, referring to Alfred, who had been a servant to her family for 20 years or more, "cursed and swore that he would never feed up for Mr. Jones, that he would quit first, and Mr. Jones told him to go ahead and quit, that he could get on without him. Then Abbie nussed him, and Mr. Jones ordered him off, and Abbie said he would go when he got ready—that he was at this house before Mr. Jones was. I went out in the yard then and told Abbie to leave, and he said that he would, and started off. I thought he was gone and the trouble was over, and I went back into the house. Then one of

CHINA TELLS SOVIET MINISTER TO LEAVE

London, March 20.—The Chinese government yesterday ordered the Soviet minister to China to leave Peking at once, according to dispatches received here, because of demands on China by Russia for recognition. The situation is said to be serious.

FORMER TRAIN ROBBER HAS BEEN SUBPOENAED

Washington, March 20.—Al Jennings, once famous train robber of Oklahoma, is to be summoned by the oil committee.

In announcing the subpoena today Senator Walsh said he would be questioned in connection with the rumor that Jake Hamon, former Republican National Committeeman from Oklahoma, undertook to put through "an oil deal" at the Chicago convention in 1920.

JUDGED THE TIME BY LAWYER'S BRIEF CASE

Did you notice the courthouse bell clanging lustily one morning this week at half past eight o'clock instead of an hour later?

If you didn't you missed the best joke of the week's term of Superior Court.

While cleaning up the courthouse the other morning, the custodian glanced out the window and saw J. Kenyon Wilson with his brief case in his hand hurrying to the courthouse, as if desperately afraid that he would be late.

"By Ned! I'm an hour behind time," he thought, glancing at his watch. In haste, then, he rushed to the bell rope and began to pull frantically.

And every lawyer in town pricked up his ears. "What are you opening court an hour earlier for?" somebody asked Judge Devin.

"But I'm not," said the Judge. Investigation followed and nobody enjoyed the joke more than Judge Devin himself.

McADOO GETS GEORGIA

Atlanta, March 20.—Returns today in the Presidential primary of Wednesday indicate that McAdoo swept Georgia defeating Underwood by a large majority.

PROBE SALE OF ARMS

Washington, March 20.—A resolution calling upon Secretary Work for full information regarding the sale of arms to Mexico was today adopted by the Senate.

The children told me that they were together again and when I went out in the yard Abbie was lying on the ground. I told Mr. Jones not to hit him any more and he said he wouldn't and went on in the house. I asked Abbie if he was hurt, but he wouldn't answer. I asked him if he could walk, and he got to his feet, picked up his hat and walked off toward home. The moon was rising, but we were in the shadow, and I couldn't see that he was bleeding."

Mrs. Jones says that at the spot where he fell Alfred was nearer the house than when she went back into the house after telling the negro to go on home.

The missing link in the evidence of the defense is the knife Jones declares that Ferebee had in his hands when he struck the negro. The knife was never heard of until Jones went on the stand Wednesday morning. It was not produced in court. And yet, as it was dark when the difficulty occurred, the negro, of course, might as easily have picked up his pocket knife as he did his cap. But there was no evidence that he did so. So far as evidence for prosecution or defense went, Jones was the only man who ever saw the knife, though two negroes, as well as Mrs. Jones, saw Ferebee as he lay prone after the bludgeoning he had received.

Mrs. Jones, who was the only witness to Ferebee's getting up and walking off, testified that the negro picked up nothing but his cap. Not only is the knife which the defendant declares that Alfred Ferebee had in his hands when he clubbed the negro missing, but also the club used by Jones could not be brought into court. The testimony of Deputy Sheriff Pritchard in this connection is interesting: "I told Sheriff Reid," said Mr. Pritchard, "when we went to the Jones' home to arrest him on the murder charge, that Solicitor Small wanted the club. The Sheriff asked Jones if he could get it. Mr. Jones made two steps toward a door that I took to be a closet door, then stopped, and said that he couldn't get it, that he didn't know what became of it." Sheriff Reid testified to the same circumstances.

Counsel for the State in the argument emphasized the facts that the defendant failed to call attention to the knife while there were witnesses that Ferebee had been struck down and that the club seemed to have been made way with.

As already intimated, however, the State could offer no direct rebuttal of the defendant's testimony, but had to rely largely upon circumstance. Alfred Ferebee's lips are sealed. He walked home and in semi-delirium he got out of his bed on one occasion at the Elizabeth City hospital and walked about. In the earlier part of his stay at the hospital he would answer in a fashion if he were questioned, but his answer (Continued on Page Five)

DISTRICT DOCTORS IN MEETING HERE

Clinic at Community Hospital in Afternoon, Banquet and Business Sessions in Evening at Hotel.

The Medical Society of the First District will hold its annual meeting and banquet at the Southern Hotel this evening at seven, with Dr. H. M. S. Cason, president of the society, presiding.

Reports on cases will be heard and papers will be read, followed by a round table discussion and the election of officers for the coming year.

The present officers are: Dr. H. M. S. Cason of Edenton, president; Dr. M. P. Whichard of Edenton, secretary; and Dr. H. D. Walker of Elizabeth City, councillor.

The Medical Society of the First District includes in its membership physicians from Pasquotank, Camden, Perquimans, Currituck, Chowan, Gates, Dare, Washington, Tyrell, and Hyde. The 1923 meeting was held in Edenton.

Thursday afternoon at the Community Hospital—the doctors held a clinic.

JUDGE DISMISSES UTILITIES ACTION

The action brought by the utility companies to restrain the city from erecting its own plants was dismissed late Tuesday afternoon by Judge W. A. Devin.

The utilities will appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Tuesday's victory follows close upon the heels of that of March 10 when at Richmond the United States Circuit Court of Appeals handed down its opinion in Elizabeth City's favor.

AMUSEMENT PARLOR TO OPEN FRIDAY EVENING

R. J. Cohoon, proprietor of the Cut Rate Drug Store on Parsonage street, has added a second story to his building and will open an amusement parlor there Friday evening.

The room is large and airy, with new, clean walls, fixtures, and furnishings. It is well lighted and will be prettily decorated with potted plants and flowers for the opening evening.

COTTON MARKET

New York, March 20.—Cotton futures opened this morning at the following levels: May 29.05; July 28.39; October 25.70; December 25.38.

New York, March 20.—Cotton futures at two o'clock stood at the following levels: March 28.66, May 28.83, July 28.25, Oct. 25.68, Dec. 25.41.

Boy Condemned To Hang May Go Completely Free

Trial Rushed Through in Atmosphere of Mob Violence Without Taking Time to Investigate Age Results in Sentence Which Can Not Legally be Carried Out

By L. C. OWEN
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San Rafael, Calif., March 20.—Sometimes the law in its over-zealousness to punish completely oversteps and nullifies itself. Also it is the constitutional right of every man that he shall not be put twice in jeopardy for the same offense.

The two facts working in strange legal liaison may shortly serve to snatch youthful William Alexander Hard, convicted 17-year-old murderer, from the gallows' brink in San Quentin prison here. At the same time and in the same legal processes they also may open wide to him prison gates and turn him loose—completely beyond the reach of the law for a crime in which he admittedly participated. Able attorney here unite in declaring the case without precedent in American legal annals.

Last October, young Hard with a companion, Ronald Erno, 24, murdered Fred Skeen, a young rancher near Yreka, Siskiyou County. They fled in their victim's automobile but were captured and brought back to the scene of their crime. Feeling ran high and there was danger of mob violence. Their trial, held in Yreka, was quickly over and the jury's verdict assuaged public indignation. Both youths were sentenced to hang.

In the course of the trial, however, attorneys for young Hard attempted to present evidence that he was only 17 years of age. There is a California law which forbids the hanging of any person under 18 years of age. The only evidence they were able to obtain for the hurried trial was a family Bible showing in fading ink the date of the youthful prisoner's birth. The court refused to accept the Bible as evidence, or to delay the trial while other proofs were sought. The jury's verdict was "guilty" with recommendation of

Messages Tell Of Suffocation

Twenty Six Meet Horrible Death In Submarine, Other Barely Alive

(By The Associated Press)
Tokio, March 20.—Graphic descriptions of the emotions of 18 men facing slow death from suffocation are being received here by underwater telephone from members of the trapped crew within a Japanese submarine resting on the sea bottom off Sasebo harbor, according to dispatches to the navy office here.

Through the underwater telephone it was determined that 24 men and two officers perished when the forward compartment was flooded as the result of the collision yesterday with the warship *Tatusta*. Ten divers are working to release the 18 men still alive.

FUNERAL MRS. PRITCHARD

The funeral of Mrs. Thomas Pritchard was conducted Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the home by Rev. R. F. Hall and interment made in the Martin Pritchard burying ground.

Mrs. Pritchard died about 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at her home on Route Five about two miles from the city, after being in failing health for some time though she had been confined to her bed for only the last week. She was 51 years old and is survived by her husband, six children, Mrs. Dorsey Relf of Route Three, Misses Sarah and Lessie Pritchard, Willis, Earle and Grady Pritchard of Route Five; one sister, Mrs. Geneva Pritchard of Route Five, and four grandchildren.

PATRICK CASE TRIED IN LOWER COURT THURSDAY

Calvin Patrick, charged with assault on Officer Harris and with obstructing an officer in the discharge of his duty, and Charlie Patrick, charged with having liquor in his possession for the purpose of sale, were given a jury trial in recorder's court Thursday. The arrests were made Sunday. The case took up all of Thursday morning and the jury failed to agree. A new jury will be drawn and the new trial is scheduled for next Wednesday.

WILBUR SWORN IN SECRETARY OF NAVY

San Francisco, Mar. 20.—Curtis D. Wilbur was sworn in yesterday as Secretary of the Navy and will immediately leave for Washington.

WILL SPEED UP

Washington, March 20.—Coolidge's announced drive to speed up the legislative program will begin tomorrow when Republican House leaders will be his guests at a White House dinner. A conference of Senate leaders will be summoned later.

President Coolidge Will Probably Sign Bonus Bill

If Senate Passes House Measure Without Material Change So Different Is Bill from That at First Contemplated That It's Believed Coolidge Will Not Veto It

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, March 19.—President Coolidge probably will sign the endowment policy insurance bill just passed by the House for the benefit of soldiers and sailors who participated in the European war, provided the Senate does not materially alter the measure.

The President was opposed to a bill that the Government could not afford and he particularly expressed his antipathy toward the payment of funds to the able-bodied. The new bill in large part takes care of the veterans when they are approaching old age or when they are in acute need. It is a bill to relieve possible distress and not a measure that will permit the ex-service man to fritter away the funds given them as argued by the opponents of a large cash outlay.

The principle of the insurance bill is so different from previous measures passed by Congress and vetoed by the executive that Mr. Coolidge can consistently sign it. The American Legion favors the bill. The total cost to the Government is slightly more than two billion dollars spread over a period of 20 years and the annual appropriations are already available because Congress has been authorizing about \$100,000,000 for vocational training and that comes to an end shortly. So the existing budget contains the funds, the total cost is not conjectural as has heretofore been the case, 87 per cent of the ex-service men will be alive to enjoy the benefits of the insurance according to the estimates of insurance experts who have been able in the past to figure out mortality tables, and the families of those veterans who have died since the war will immediately get the benefit of the insurance payments.

The reason why the new measure will not make a serious financial burden is the introduction of the sinking fund. In other words the maximum annual appropriation will be \$110,836,564 while the minimum outlay for any one year will be \$90,825,920. Such sums as that when set aside annually grow larger and larger because the interest on the sums invested constantly increases. The idea is absolutely sound because it has been demonstrated in the case of private insurance companies who invest the premiums paid by individuals, and yet the number of persons who die annually is not equal to the number who carry insurance. The law of probability and mortality takes care of the insurance company just as surely as it will take care of the Government's sinking fund.

The Government will give the veteran the opportunity that private insurance companies give to borrow on an insurance policy when in need. No loan can exceed 90 per cent of the reserve value of the policy for the current year of the certificate or 60 per cent of the face value at any time. The veteran who borrows on his insurance certificate at the bank and fails to pay the amount back to the bank will find it expensive to recover the full value of the policy when he comes to redeem it. The banks will be privileged to go to the Veterans' Bureau in case of default and receive the amount they have loaned to the veteran with the accumulated interest; but when the veteran tries to redeem a defaulted certificate he will have to pay six per cent interest compounded annually. This was arranged so as to discourage veterans from borrowing on their certificates and failing to pay up. The number of defaulted certificates will not be large, according to the estimates thus far made, and the Veterans' Bureau will be able to take care of the defaulted cases out of the sinking fund provided.

Indeed, the whole plan is worked out so conservatively that the Government may find in a few years that the amount appropriated annually can be cut down, for the purpose of the fund is not to make a profit but to take care of the needs of the veterans.

The bill provides: First, the payment in cash of the adjusted service credit to those veterans to whom \$50 or less is due. The basis of the credit is \$1 per day for each day of service on this side of the Atlantic and \$1.25 per day for overseas service. So few were in the service 50 days or less that the sacrifice involved was considered relatively small and the cash amounts in the aggregate will not total very much.

Second, the dependent relatives of the veterans who have died will be paid immediately the full amount of the insurance policy to which the veteran's length of service would have entitled him based, of course, on a 20 year paid up endowment

MEEKINS CHOICE OF REPUBLICANS

Convention Names Him for Gubernatorial Candidacy and Delegate-at-Large—Instructs Coolidge Delegates.

Raleigh, March 20.—I. M. Meekins of Elizabeth City was Wednesday nominated Republican candidate for Governor by acclamation.

He was also named one of the four delegates at large to the Republican Convention at Cleveland. The others are David W. Blair, John J. Parker, and W. B. Bramham. Parker was also named as National Committeeman from the State. A full ticket was named for State offices.

The convention instructed its delegates for Coolidge at the National Convention.

DR. ELIOT REACHES NINETIETH MILEPOST

Cambridge, Mass., March 20.—Harvard alumni from all parts of the country, and representative Americans not of Harvard tradition, assembled here today to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Dr. Charles William Eliot, president emeritus, and for more than 40 years head of Harvard University. An honorary committee of citizens with President Coolidge as chairman joined with the Harvard Alumni Association and the Associated Harvard clubs in preparing honors for the venerable educator.

PRIORITY FOR BONUS

Washington, March 20.—The prediction that the bonus will be given priority in the Senate finance committee over the tax measure was made today by Watson, Indiana Republican member of the committee.

STORM WARNING

A storm warning was sent out Thursday morning from the Weather Bureau at Washington stating that the storm, extending from the Virginia Capes southward to Jupiter Inlet, Florida, with a disturbance of increasing intensity central over Louisiana, moving northeastward with increasing east and southeast winds, thick weather and rain.

policy. The age of the veteran, of course, is a factor in determining the amount of insurance to which he would be entitled.

Third, the credit in no case exceeds \$500 for home service and \$625 for overseas duty. The veteran receives the equivalent of a 20 year paid up insurance policy for the amount of his service credit plus 25 per cent and with interest compounded annually at 4 per cent. If a veteran therefore is entitled to \$500, the face of his policy would be increased by 25 per cent to \$625 and that sum compounded at interest of 4 per cent for 20 years constitutes the amount of money he would receive at the end of that period. If he dies before the 20 years, his family receives the full amount the veteran would have received if he had lived through the 20-year period.

Fourth, the veteran has the privilege of borrowing money on his insurance certificate and the Government will indicate on the certificate the amounts that can be borrowed at any one time. More money can be borrowed as the policy approaches the end of the 20-year period than at the beginning, for the policy will be worth more as it near maturity.

Fifth, security must be given for loans made and no borrowing is permitted until two years after the passage of the bill.

Provision is made to prevent these loans from becoming "frozen assets" at the banks.

The House Ways and Means Committee estimated that the average amount of compensation for those who served over 110 days (the maximum service being 560 days) would be about \$382. About \$14,799,479 would be payable to those now living. About \$50,000,000 would take care of the claims of families in which veterans have died since the war and prior to January 1, 1924.

Some of the cash payments may be made during this year but, owing to the labor involved in setting up the machinery of administration, the war department doesn't think it will be able to issue certificates or make payments before next January.