

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

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GASTONIA, N. C. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 5, 1917.

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

MEANS WILL GO ON STAND

WILL TESTIFY IN HIS OWN BEHALF

Concord Man, on Trial for Murder of Mrs. King, Chicago Millionaire, Will Face Judge, Jury and Lawyers on the Stand—Murder Trial Now in Its Ninth Day—Jury Visits Scene of Woman's Death—Lawyers and Witnesses Match Wits.

Judge F. I. Osborne, of counsel for the defense in the trial of the case of the State against Gaston B. Means for the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, announced in Cabarrus Superior Court, at Concord, yesterday afternoon that Means would take the stand in his own behalf. This was the first intimation the public had received on this point and created no small amount of interest. Just when Means will go on the witness stand, of course, is not known.

Today is the ninth day of this trial and the end of the examination of witnesses for the defense is not yet in sight. That the case will continue into next week seems now at all together.

The feature of yesterday's session was a pitched battle of wits between examining lawyer and witness on cross-examination rarely equalled in North Carolina criminal courts. For the greater part of two hours the crowd that packed the courtroom during the late afternoon listened with the keenest zest while John T. Dooling, assistant district attorney of New York, plied a thousand and one questions in rapid fire order at W. R. Patterson, of Clarksville, Miss., father-in-law of the defendant, who, with apparent confidence sought to match wits with the New York lawyer and seemed to enjoy the sparring as much as did the spectators.

On cross-examination, Mr. Dooling took the witness over all the ground over which the father-in-law of the defendant, with the latter, had traveled during the last two years, into the nooks and recesses of all business transactions, in Chicago, New York, Duluth, Minn., Asheville, N. C., and elsewhere.

The examination of Mr. Patterson followed the introduction by the defense of 15 witnesses, mostly representative business and professional men of Concord, who testified that they had known the defendant many years, some of them since boyhood, and that his general character was good.

On motion of the defense, Judge Cline permitted the jury to be taken to Blackwelder spring during the noon recess in the custody of Sheriff Caldwell, who was instructed to point out to them without comment the various points on the premises around the scene of the tragedy which have been mentioned in the evidence. The State objected to this procedure prior to the closing of the case by both sides, but was overruled.

The feature of the morning session was the testimony of George W. Means, of Concord, uncle of the defendant, who qualified as an expert in the use of firearms and told of experimental tests made by him and others by firing bullets from a 25-caliber Colt automatic pistol at paper blotters, with and without a hair swath in front of them. He declared that when the pistol was fired through the hair no powder marks were made on the blotters, and in the absence of the hair there were powder marks when the muzzle was as near as six inches to the blotter when the pistol was fired. He declared it his opinion, as an expert in the use of firearms and from his experience, that Mrs. King could have self-inflicted the wound that caused her death, either accidentally or intentionally.

Two local physicians, Drs. P. R. McFayden and J. W. Wallace, this morning testified that in their opinion the fatal wound could have been self-inflicted, accidentally if not intentionally.

The defense is apparently proceeding on the theory that Mrs. King shot herself accidentally as she dropped to the ground after the bone just above her left ankle was broken by stumbling over a protruding root, while she had the pistol in her hand.

TO MAKE WAR ON AUSTRIA

WILSON URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION

With Victory an Accomplished Task, Peace Will Be Evolved Based Upon "Mercy and Justice," Declares President Wilson in Historic Address to Congress—War Will Be Considered Won When German People Say They Are Ready to Agree to Settlement Based on Justice and Reparation of Wrongs Rulers Have Done.

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—President Wilson in his message delivered personally to Congress at noon today recommended that Congress immediately declare war on Austria. He stated that Turkey and Bulgaria are only tools of Germany and that no declaration against them is necessary now. The President emphatically declared himself in favor of a "peace based on generosity and justice," after German autocracy shall first be shown the utter futility of its claim to power or leadership in the modern world. But "our first and immediate task is to win the war," he declared, and "nothing shall turn us aside from this until it is accomplished."

"We will regard the war as won," he stated, "when the German people say to us through their accredited representatives that they are ready to agree to a settlement based upon justice and the reparation of the wrongs their rulers have done."

"The voice of humanity demands that no nation be robbed or punished because the rulers of one single country have done abominable wrong," President Wilson continued, "but it is impossible to apply justice as long as the German rulers are undefeated."

He declared that peace must free Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria from the Prussian menace and permit them to govern themselves without hindrances.

Referring to the German people, the President stated that the worst that could befall them would be for them to elect to remain under the rule of leaders whom the Congress of Nations which will follow peace could not trust or allow to participate in the world's affairs.

He stated that Russia has been poisoned by the same falsehoods that have kept the German people in the dark. The exigencies of war force us to regard Austria-Hungary as a common enemy with Germany and a declaration of war is necessary to the most efficient carrying on of the war.

The President asked Congress for laws to govern the entry and departure of people from the United States, more stringent price-fixing laws and a law to confine enemy aliens in penitentiaries where they will have to work for a living. The President stated he would appear before Congress again if the railroad situation demanded it.

MUST NOTIFY BOARD.

Registrants Under Selective Draft Law Required to Notify Local Boards When They Change Residence or Addresses.

Col. T. L. Craig, chairman of the Gaston County Exemption Board, has received the following information from Adjutant General L. W. Young, the same being Bulletin No. 10 issued by Provost Marshal General Crowder:

The following telegram from the Provost Marshal General received by this office November 30, 1917, is published for the instruction and guidance of all Local and District Boards:

Washington, D. C., Nov. 29, 1917. Governor of North Carolina: Raleigh, N. C.

"Number 10948. Please cause the broadest and most extensive and continuous possible publicity to be given through the Adjutant General, Local and District Boards, the newspapers and by all other possible means of warning to all registrants who may have changed their places of abode and Post Office address to communicate immediately with their Local Boards where they are registered and furnish their present addresses so that Questionnaires which will begin to be mailed December 15th will reach such registrants without delay. Registrants are bound by law to keep themselves advised of all proceeding in respect of them and failure to do so may result in their losing right to claim exemption or discharge. Please request newspapers to give this warning broad and continuous publication from this time until the process of mailing Questionnaires has been accomplished.

"CROWDER."

HAS NAILED THE COLORS TO THE MAST.

(By International News Service.) LONDON, Dec. 5.—"Pacifist hopes must founder," says The Times in commenting on President Wilson's message to Congress. It adds that "the German people are still the willing accomplices of their rulers." The Chronicle declares that Mr. Wilson "has literally nailed the colors to the mast."

WANTED: To buy good milling corn. Rhyme Roller Mill. 12c4

MORE DOGS HERE THAN EVER

Mr. Justice S. Jones, one of the city mail carriers, received a letter this morning from his home at Flat Rock, Henderson county, stating that several people there had been bitten by mad dogs, including a cousin of Mr. Jones. The victims are now taking the Pasteur treatment.

Things like this happen somewhere every day. They will happen in Gastonia again if the dogs are not securely muzzled as the law requires that they must be.

Are you willing, Mr. Citizen, to let your children continue to be exposed to attack by vicious, rabid dogs? If not tell the city authorities so and tell them that you are willing to help enforce the law by giving information and testifying in court against violators of the law.

In one day within the past week the writer saw three worthless unmuzzled dogs in the business section of Main street and NOT A SINGLE ONE HAD A TAX COLLAR ON.

City Tax Collector R. A. Ratchford says that he believes there are more dogs in Gastonia today than there have been at any one time in the past three years. It is hard to locate them and collect the tax. To do this and see that every dog is effectively muzzled will require the united efforts of the citizens of the town. Are you willing to do your part?

SUGAR AND SALT SCARCE HERE

Gastonia is facing a sugar famine and a salt famine as almost imminent. Inquiry was made at half a dozen of the leading grocery stores by the Gazette reporter this morning as to the sugar situation. One of the largest stores was selling 25 cents worth of granulated sugar to its regular customers or 50 cents worth of brown sugar. Another large store was selling 50 cents worth of granulated sugar to a customer. Three other stores were selling 50 cents worth of brown sugar.

In each case the merchant stated that his supply was very limited and the probability is that by Saturday night, unless the situation is relieved, there will be no sugar, either white or brown, for sale in Gastonia. The reporter was also informed that salt was almost as scarce as hen's teeth. One wholesaler stated that he had a limited amount of table salt in small packages. The merchants generally are not overly optimistic as regards the sugar situation. Attention was called to the fact that a large quantity of sugar recently seized by the government in New York from agents of the Russian government will be placed on the market within the next few days and they are hoping to get some of it. They are hoping that the Cuban crop will come in within the next thirty days.

TO SOLVE THE RAILROAD PROBLEM

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—A tentative program has already been drafted by Congressional leaders to solve the railway problem. The plan includes the appropriation of several billion dollars to be loaned the railroads and for the construction of cars which will be rented to them. This program, it is believed, will be the last chance of the railroads to make good under private ownership. If they fail, nothing can prevent the government taking them over at a valuation of twenty billion dollars, leaders declare. Anti-strike legislation will again come up at this session.

Relieved from Active Service.

Lieut. J. A. Dimmette received this morning from the War Department the following notice: "Special Orders No. 274. War Department, Washington, November 23, 1917. Extract: 59. First Lieut. True S. Burgess and James A. Dimmette, Medical Reserve Corps, are relieved from duty at the medical officers' training camp, Camp Greenleaf, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and will proceed to their homes, reporting on arrival there by telegraph to the Adjutant General of the Army. They will stand relieved from further active duty in the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army, to take effect upon their arrival at their respective homes. The travel directed is necessary in the military service. By order of the Secretary of War John Biddle, Major General, Acting Chief of Staff." Dr. Dimmette returned to Gastonia some days ago and gives notice in today's Gazette that he will resume his practice of medicine. He is still in the Medical Reserve Corps and subject to call in the future.

LULL ON BRITISH FRONT.

(By International News Service.) LONDON, Dec. 5.—There is a lull in infantry fighting over the entire British front. Nothing but cannonading occurred last night, the war office announced.

IN SOCIAL CIRCLES

LATEST EVENTS IN WOMAN'S WORLD

BETTERMENT MEETS FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The Woman's Betterment Association will meet at the Central school auditorium Friday afternoon at 3:30. A large attendance of the members is desired to be present, as a very interesting program has been arranged.

PHILATHEAS MEET TONIGHT.

The Senior Philathea Class of Main Street Methodist church will have a parcels post show this evening at 7:30 in the ladies' parlor at the church. This is the regular social meeting for the month of December.

Each member of the class, there being more than 100, has been working for several months on the articles for the parcels post booth that will be had at the Methodist bazaar which opens Friday. Several hundred hand-made articles have been prepared and nothing will sell for more than 50 cents.

At the shower tonight the members will bring the articles they have made. They will also bring some article on which they are still working. This will be one of the most enjoyable social meetings ever held by the class.

METHODIST BAZAAR FRIDAY.

The annual bazaar given by the ladies of Main Street Methodist church will be held Friday in the Heath building. The doors will be opened at 9:30 in the morning, the bazaar running through the day and that evening.

There will be three booths this year. One will be for all kinds of fancy work. The ladies of the church have been planning for this all the year, and many handsome articles will be offered. The young peoples' society will have a candy and doll booth combined. They will sell home-made candy and hand-dressed dolls. The Senior Philathea Class will have a parcels post booth. A large number of articles will be offered by the young ladies, all of which will be hand-made. All packages will sell from 5 cents to 50 cents.

Meals will be served during the day, beginning at 12 o'clock. There will be oysters served in any style, salad course, ice cream and cake, coffee and many other good things to eat.

THOUSAND GASTONIANS ATTENDED CONCERT.

Over a thousand people, composed largely of musicians and music lovers, assembled at the Central school auditorium last evening to hear Mrs. Florence Ferrell, the famous soprano, assisted by Miss Helen Jeffrey, a popular violinist, who is associated with Mr. Thomas A. Edison.

Last night's recital was unique. It was a so-called "Tone Test" between Mrs. Ferrell and Mr. Edison's laboratory re-creation of her voice. It seems that Mr. Edison has devoted about five years and something over two million dollars to the object of developing and perfecting a new art, called by him "Music Re-Creation." It undoubtedly had its origin in the phenomenon of sound reproduction as effected by the familiar talking machine; it probably has some of the same mechanical features, but there comparison ceases. Mrs. Ferrell stood beside Edison's latest and favorite invention, the New Edison. When Mrs. Ferrell commenced the first selection it was easy to understand why she is a favorite wherever she has appeared. Her voice is luscious and sympathetic throughout its entire register—a voice totally different from the familiar tones of the talking machine. Amazement, therefore, was written on the faces of the audiences when Mrs. Ferrell's lips ceased to move and the re-created voice, continued the same voice, enunciation, tone color, identical in every detail with the possible exception of volume. Mrs. Ferrell finished the song, pausing from time to time with the same result. Unless one watched her lips, it was impossible to know when she paused.

Mrs. Jeffrey gave similar solos, illustrations with her violin, playing with re-creation of violin solos by Kathleen Parlow and Albert Spalding. Allowing for the difference in the tones of different violins, Miss Jeffrey's playing and the sounds emanating from the New Edison, were generally alike.

Re-Creations of a male voice and a selection by full orchestra were rendered by the New Edison, alone, so that all departments of music were thus covered. The absence of any metallic rasp, and the correct tonal coloring of these selections made them grateful to the ear, and impressed the hearer with the idea that a new era of better music in the home is at hand.

This entertainment was given by the popular firm of Torrence-Morris Co., the local representative of Thos. A. Edison Co. All who attended were very fortunate in hearing artists of this class.

AMERICAN DESTROYERS IN MEDITERRANEAN.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—American destroyers will soon be operating in the Mediterranean. This was made known by a high navy official today. "United States destroyers will soon be wherever enemy submarines are at work," he stated.

AROUND THE COURT HOUSE

COMMISSIONERS MEET.

The board of county commissioners met in regular session for the month of December Monday and transacted business as follows: R. K. Davenport was re-elected chairman of the board for the ensuing year.

J. D. Brackett was given permission to peddle without license, account of being a Confederate veteran.

The following releases and refunds from tax assessments were ordered:

Justice Jones on \$347 personal property erroneously charged; A. F. Gaston on \$750 real estate, State and county taxes, and \$980 Belmont special school taxes; S. L. Roper on \$315 erroneously charged; J. M. Wilson, on \$365, Lowell special school tax; J. B. Brown on \$250, Belmont special school tax, erroneously charged; Arthur Lawing on \$450 real estate, Belmont special school tax; Loy Sellers on poll tax; account physical infirmities; I. S. D. Jones assessment on 186 acres of land was reduced to \$3500; B. F. Bridges' assessment was reduced to \$1,000; Ormand Mining Co. released of State tax \$59.60, erroneously charged; C. C. Clark released of tax on \$800 personal property erroneously charged; J. B. Brown released of tax on \$250, Belmont special school tax, erroneously charged.

It was ordered that a special school election, as petitioned for by D. Grier Dellinger and others, be held in Cherryville township on January 12, 1918. G. E. Dellinger was appointed as registrar and S. Mauney and B. M. Stroup as judges.

JURY DRAWN.

A jury for the January term of court was drawn as follows:

First Week.
J. B. Boyd, W. C. Davis, L. H. Long, F. D. Phillips, Wm. Mac Morris, W. T. Hall, L. L. Bryson, W. W. Harris, T. H. McArver, Frank E. Allen, J. C. Owens, T. L. Allison, J. P. Allen, J. E. Sanders, Chas. R. Abernethy, John F. Bradley, T. L. Falls, E. L. Froneberger, J. A. Robinson, C. B. Armstrong, Joe Ellington, W. A. Froneberger, D. H. Cox, O. C. Pryor, George Casler, C. A. Womble, B. A. Morris, C. A. Spencer, Roy D. Loftin, O. O. Rhyme, Luther Nims, Lee H. Smith, Clarence E. Bell, J. H. Beatty, Henry Rankin, Joseph Holland, Robert Black, Geo. E. Hathcock, T. I. Edison, T. Ellis Avery, Sr., R. G. Rhyne, T. L. Phillips.

Second Week.

J. Lloyd Beam, L. B. Clemmer, W. A. Leeper, Jr., W. F. Riddle, A. L. House, John W. Daniel, W. L. Dixon, Jos. A. Elmore, R. Z. Robinson, John M. McAllister, H. Jack Shannon, Frank Kale, J. E. Froneberger, T. A. Baker, J. Frank Flowers, T. A. Baker, J. F. Meek Crawford, G. W. Ballard, J. E. Dameron, R. F. Ratchford, Jas. E. Torrence, N. B. Anthony, W. A. Jenkins, S. H. Owens.

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR SOLDIER BOYS

A committee of ladies from the Gaston County Chapter of the American Red Cross, with Mrs. A. A. McLean as chairman, is busily engaged today packing 139 Christmas boxes for the soldiers in camp. This was the number allotted to the local chapter by the National headquarters. The packing is being done in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce. Each box contains the following: One pound of Stone's fine fruit cake, milk chocolate, chewing gum, writing tablet, pencil, bar of toilet soap, Turkish wash rag, mentholatum, tin of tobacco, court plaster, a copy of today's Gazette, and a Christmas card bearing a greeting from the chapter. The contents of the boxes are uniform.

These will be shipped at once by express to the divisional headquarters at Atlanta and from there re-shipped to North Carolina troops.

The committee is composed of Mrs. A. A. McLean, chairman, Mesdames O. F. Mason, G. W. Ragan, E. W. Gilliam, W. J. Clifford, J. H. Kennedy, L. F. Wetzel, R. C. Warren, C. W. Wilson, J. F. Thomson and Miss Lowry Shuford.

The contents of each box, bought at wholesale, cost a little over \$1. The money for this cause was secured by voluntary subscriptions and the ladies are grateful for the liberality which made these boxes possible. They will bring great cheer on Christmas day to 139 Sammys.

MEANS WITNESS GETS TANGLED

(By International News Service.) CONCORD, Dec. 5.—W. R. Patterson, father-in-law of Gaston Means, was subjected to a grueling cross-examination this morning by Attorney Dooling. The witness several times made statements which the prosecution would immediately refute by letters the witness had previously written.

TODAY'S COTTON.

(By International News Service.) NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The cotton market opened this morning with January contracts selling at 23.13; May 27.70.

Promoted.

Capt. Erskine Boyce, who has been battalion adjutant at Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., has been promoted to the position of regimental adjutant, Major A. L. Bulwinkle has been placed in charge of this regiment absent during Col. Cox's absence on a 300-day leave. The many friends here of these two officers will be delighted to know of their promotions.

RESOLUTION DECLARES WAR.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Chairman Flood of the House Committee on foreign affairs introduced a resolution formally declaring war on Austria-Hungary as soon as the House met at noon. The preamble declares that the Dual Monarchy has supported ruthless submarine warfare and has given Germany every possible aid in its warfare against us.

UNCLE SAM BUILDING BIG NAVAL SANITARIUM.

Los Animas, Colo.—Uncle Sam's largest recuperation camp for the sick and wounded sailors of the United States navy will be at Fort Lyons, near here, when new additions now under construction are completed. At present the sanitarium accommodates 250 patients, but work is being rapidly pushed on the construction of buildings that will make it possible to care for between 5,000 and 6,000 marines and sailors who are incapacitated through tuberculosis and other diseases. The cost of the work will be about \$2,000,000. Dr. F. H. Ames, who is in charge of the Fort Lyons sanitarium, says that the 4,000-foot altitude of the site makes it an ideal location for the care of those afflicted with the great white plague, and declares the government plans to make the camp the finest of its kind in the world.

POISONED FISH FOR RATS.

Authorities at Somerville, Mass., in War With Invading Army of Rodents.

Somerville, Mass.—Poisoned fish for pesky rats.

The city dump here is headquarters for a rat army which has invaded the city. The authorities are carrying on a franc-tireur warfare against the invaders, and the enemy has been exacting reprisals on family larders.

Householders are fearing that the cold weather will drive the rodents away from the dump to some more private and exclusive domicile.

Poisoned fish will be scattered about the dump and boys will police the vicinity to keep children, dogs and cats from interfering with the rats' repast.

PAWNS RIVAL'S GIFT TO GIRL.

She Has Him Arrested in East St. Louis and Departs With Other Man.

East St. Louis.—A love "triangle," with a diamond ring, making it a "quadrangle," was unfolded in the police station when Miss Annabelle Mace, eighteen years old, of St. Louis, caused the arrest of her former sweetheart, Walter B. Howell of 648 Collinsville avenue, on a charge of pawing a ring given her by her other sweetheart, Charles Lucas. Then she walked triumphantly away with Lucas, waving farewell to Howell as he was led to a cell.

The Gazette goes all over Gaston—and then some. Only three-cent paper in the State. Two dollars a year, and cheap at that.