

HAMBURG-AMERICANS CONVICTED BY JURY

Four Officials of German Line Found Guilty of Criminal Conspiracy.

WILL TAKE AN APPEAL.

Defendants Charged With Plotting to Deceive Federal Government in Sending Relief Ships.

New York, Dec. 2.—Three high officials and a subordinate officer of the Hamburg-American line were found guilty tonight in federal court here of having violated the laws of the United States in sending coal and other supplies to German cruisers in the south Atlantic in the first few months of the war. The jury returned a verdict of guilty on each of two indictments.

The specific charge against the defendants was conspiracy to deceive and defraud the United States.

The maximum penalty for each indictment is two years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine. A date for passing sentence will be designated tomorrow.

The jury is reported to have taken one ballot after several hours of discussion of the evidence. The jury was given the case at 2:40 o'clock this afternoon. Its foreman, George W. Palmer, announced the verdict seven and one-half hours later.

An appeal, it seemed certain tonight, will be made to the federal court of appeals and in case the verdict is upheld to the supreme court of the United States. In the meantime the defendants probably will remain at liberty under \$5,000 bail each.

THE FOUR CONVICTED.

The four defendants affected by the verdict are Dr. Karl Bueenz, managing director of the Hamburg-American line in New York city, former German consul general here, former German minister to Mexico and German commissioner in the Venezuelan arbitration proceedings before The Hague tribunal; George Kotter, general superintendent of the line; Adolph Hachmeister, general purchasing agent, and Joseph Poppinghaus, a former officer in the German navy and at present a second officer in the Hamburg-American line.

A fifth defendant, Felix Seffner, supercargo on one of the neutral steamers sent to supply the German fleet, was not brought to trial. He was captured by the British while on his errand of relief and is a prisoner in Canada.

The four defendants took the verdict calmly. After the jury had filed out Dr. Bueenz turned to Kotter, sitting at his left, and rising, shook hands. "Auf wiedersehen!" he said and Kotter echoed the words. Hachmeister sat silent. Poppinghaus, tall, athletic, youngest of the four, rose to his full height and smiled.

"I do not care," he said in broken English. "This is not the last word." Defendants' counsel was silent as to the verdict.

FORD'S PLAN NOT ENDORSED.

American Government Disavows Any Connection.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Several European nations, neutral as well as belligerents, have inquired of the United States concerning the status of the peace party to call in vessels chartered by Henry Ford. To each Secretary Lansing has replied that the American government not only has no connection with the expedition, but assumed no responsibility for any activities or negotiations of those engaged in the movement.

The fact that Mr. Ford had conferred with President Wilson before starting his movement to end the European war gave some ambassadors and ministers here the impression that the Washington government might have some connection with it.

Bryan on the Way.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 2.—En route to New York, where he will confer with Henry Ford regarding the proposed peace mission to Europe, William Jennings Bryan passed through Jacksonville this morning from Miami, his winter home.

Two British Ships Sunk.

London, Dec. 2.—Two more British steamers, the Colenso and the Orange Prince, have been sunk, presumably by German submarines.

CONFERENCE OPENS IN CHARLESTON

Address Before Historical Society of South Carolina Methodists Delivered by Rev. A. D. Betts, Charleston Special to Columbia Record, Dec. 1.—The historical society of the South Carolina Methodist conference held its annual session last night in Trinity church. The Rev. H. B. Browne of Kingstree, president of the society, conducted devotional exercises introductory to the program for the evening. Prayer was made by the Rev. J. B. Wilson of Sumter.

The feature of the session was the annual address of the Rev. Albert D. Betts of Clio. Mr. Betts is a young minister of marked scholarly attainments, with a decided bent towards historical research, and his address also was historical. "South Carolina, Methodism and Missions."

It was an exhaustive story of Methodist missionary activity and is a very valuable contribution to Methodist history.

On motion of the Rev. Charles H. Smith of Camden it was ordered that the address be published in pamphlet form.

Following the address President Browne announced that an arrangement had been effected by which, in the future the same orator will address both the Upper South Carolina conference and the Lower South Carolina, the conferences alternating in the selection of orators. For 1916 the orator will be Dr. D. D. Wallace of Wofford College, the selection of the Upper conference. It was also arranged that the two conference will have the same curator, Dr. Wallace, who will keep all records in Wofford College library.

The Rev. W. H. Hodges of Lake City was selected vice president of the society. A number of new members were elected. A number of historical relics, books, etc., were presented by members of the conference and others.

DUKES PURCHASING LAND IN FAIRFIELD

Largest Real Estate Deal in the History of the County, Says Report.

Winnboro Special to Charleston News and Courier, Dec. 2.—The largest real estate deal in the history of Fairfield, and one that will materially affect the prosperity of the county in various ways, was consummated today, according to authoritative reports, by the Dukes of Durham, N. C.

The big tobacco magnates are reported to have purchased great tracts of land reaching from Great Falls, along the Wateree river, to a point below Longtown, being in close proximity to the water rights already occupied by the company in which the Dukes are said to be interested.

A colonization scheme will be undertaken by the promoters along with the contemplated erection of several factories. The property will be divided into parcels and sold to white settlers with modern farm houses erected thereon. No definite date was given out as to when the actual development of the enterprise would begin.

MONTENEGRINS FALL BACK.

Admit Retreating Before Austro-German Armies.

Paris, Dec. 2.—Enforced retreat of the Montenegrin troops in their efforts to defend Ulevlje against the reinforced Austro-German armies, is admitted in an official statement by the Montenegrin war office received at the Montenegrin consulate here today. The statement says: "The enemy having received heavy reinforcements, directed his attacks upon Pribos and Plevlje on November 30. Our troops were obliged to retire upon their rear positions to defend Plevlje. We took thirty prisoners."

TO REPRESENT WINTHROP.

Miss Louise McCown Member of Ford Peace Party.

Rock Hill Special to Charleston News and Courier, Dec. 2.—Responding to Henry Ford's invitation, President Johnson today appointed Miss Louise McCown as Winthrop's representative in the Ford peace party, which will call from New York Saturday for The Hague. Miss McCown, who is a member of the senior class, is in every way fitted to represent her college. In company with her father, Secretary of State McCown, she left for New York this evening.

NOT MUCH FIGHTING ON BATTLE FRONTS

Montenegro and Isonzo See Principal Engagements in War of Nations.

ROUMANIA IS UNCERTAIN.

Much Confusion as to Political Developments—Austrian Cabinet Suffers Shakeup.

London, Dec. 1.—Emperor William's visit to Vienna, which coincides with the resignation of three Austrian cabinet ministers, is the cause of much speculation. The two events are variously assumed to be connected with the reported effort of Germany to force Austria into a German solverein, a desire of Emperor Francis Joseph to secure a separate peace through intervention of Pope Benedict, and a rumored dispute between Austria and Bulgaria over division of Servian territory.

There is no authoritative basis for any of these reports beyond statements in the German newspapers that Emperor William's visit was of the highest importance.

Meantime operations in the Balkans and the movements of the armies of the central powers continue with unabated energy. Like Germany, Bulgaria announced that with the capture of Pristina her campaign in Serbia has ended, which seems to support the suggestion that to avoid a dispute with Greece, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has decided against the occupation of Monastir, the only town of any importance remaining in Servian hands. Monastir was still in the hands of Servians until late Monday night and no official news that there has been any change there has been received since.

ATTACKING MONTENEGRINS.

Austria, with the assistance of some German troops, continues her operations against Montenegro, the frontier of which has been crossed but not without considerable opposition from the Montengrins, who have been joined by some portions of the Servian armies.

Battles are now being fought in that part of the Sanjac of Novipazar which was taken by Montenegro after the Balkan war. The Austro-Germans are advancing south from Selenia and across the frontier from Pripolje. In the north the Montengrins claim to have defeated the Austrians in the region of Fotcha, Bosnia. It is expected, however, that the Austro-Germans have provided sufficient forces to make sure of a successful campaign as they did in the case of Serbia.

SNOW STOPS ARMIES.

In southeastern Serbia, where the British, French and Servians hold strong positions, the snow still prevents any movements of importance. No news has been received of the Austrians and Germans who proceeded to Rustchuk, on the Danube river, to co-operate with the Bulgarians and Turks to oppose a possible Russian invasion through Roumania.

The attitude of Roumania is still uncertain. The latest reports say that she, like Greece, is trying to remain neutral.

Greece, in her reply to the latest note of the Entente allies, insists upon neutrality, and a final settlement of the points at issue between Greece and the Entente powers is not yet in sight. Greece objects, according to Athens dispatches, to the evacuation of Saloniki by her troops, the handing over of the railways to the Entente allies and the policing by the navies of the Entente powers of her coastal waters to circumvent the activities of German submarines.

The Italians continue their offensive along the Isonzo river. On the other fronts comparative calm prevails.

Big Reserve For Oconee County.

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 1.—The federal government today began proceedings here to condemn 20,000 acres of mountain land in Oconee county to be reserved as a national forest. More than 8,500 notices will be served on persons in all parts of the United States and Canada.

Some of the deeds, dating back to 1789, involved portions of the original estate of John C. Calhoun. Attorneys from New York and Philadelphia are looking after eastern interests.

NEW SHIPPING BILL TO AID MERCHANT MARINE

Plan to Create Board Similar to Interstate Commerce Commission.

WILL ASK FOR \$50,000,000.

Draft of Measure Submitted to Representative Alexander, Chairman of House Committee.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Creation of a federal board with jurisdiction over deep water traffic, similar to that exercised over railroads by the interstate commerce commission, and appropriation by Congress of \$50,000,000 for construction of merchant ships, designed for use as naval auxiliaries, are proposed in a new shipping bill drafted after conferences between Secretaries McAdoo and Redfield and submitted to day to Representative Alexander, chairman of the house merchant marine committee.

From this draft will be developed the administration shipping measure to take the place of the one which failed of passage at the last session of Congress.

The old bill contemplated a shipping board with powers limited to control of a vessel-owning corporation, 51 per cent of the capital stock of which the government was to hold. The new one provides for government ownership of stock only in the event private subscriptions are lacking.

With the \$50,000,000 it is proposed that the government have built in American yards if possible, vessels having aggregate gross tonnage of 400,000 or 500,000 to be leased or sold to corporations the entire stock of which would be offered for popular subscription. All contracts would contain provision for making the vessels available for naval use in time of emergency.

Solicitor Thurman of the department of commerce, who put the draft into legal shape, explained today, however, that the naval feature had been made secondary in importance. "The bill aims," he said, "to provide a merchant marine and auxiliary, not a naval reserve."

The shipping board would give powers wide enough to require regular and reliable service at rates for passengers and freight and to prevent discrimination in favor of selected shippers. It would be authorized to act in conjunction with the interstate commerce commission in arranging for through bills of lading between rail lines and steamship lines under the American flag.

After the new bill has been considered and revised by administration leaders in and out of Congress, it will go to President Wilson for final approval before it is introduced in the house and senate.

MANY PUT TO DEATH.

Two Villa Generals Among Half Hundred Shot.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 1.—Two Villa generals, Orestes Pereyra and E. Jimenez, with 50 officers of the command, captured after a battle on the Fuerte river in Sonora, were court-martialed and shot, according to a telegram received today from General Obregon at Nogales, by Arturo Gonzales, Carranza commercial agent here.

Villa's power now has been completely broken, Obregon stated in his message.

At Barbo, north of Hermosillo, where General Manuel Dieguez finally scattered his main body, Villa destroyed all of his artillery, the report said.

A part of his forces defeated on the Fuerte river escaped, proceeding apparently toward Lower California, with the expectation of joining Governor Esteban at Mexicali, opposite Calexico, Cal.

Obregon also stated that among the numerous prisoners who surrendered to General Calles was Alejandro Ceresola, former commander of the Mexican navy under Huerta.

Roumania About Ready.

London, Dec. 1.—Roumania will deliver an ultimatum to Austria as soon as the Entente allies concentrate 500,000 men in the Balkans, it is reported in Bucharest, says a Central News dispatch from that city.

CAUSE OF DISASTER R MAINS UNKNOWN

Rigid Investigation at DuPont Powder Plant Fails to Discover Origin of Explosion.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 1.—Although a searching investigation into the cause of the disaster was started by officials of the DuPont Powder Company immediately after the explosion which caused the death of 31 workmen and the serious injury of six others in the company's upper Hagler yards yesterday, nothing of a tangible nature had been discovered up to an early hour today. Every employe who was near the building destroyed was examined thoroughly. Not one of the 26 men who were in the Pellet Packing house escaped and there is only a big hole in the ground where the building stood. The investigators admit that there is only little possibility of the responsibility ever being placed and company officials stated that they were without a thread on which to hang their hopes that its origin ever will be ascertained.

Charles E. Landis, an official of the DuPont company, gave out a statement in which he said that every precaution had been taken to protect the plants and that these precautions had been redoubled with the receipt of war orders.

"Our policing system," he added, "is under the direction of Major Richard W. Sylvester, former chief of police of Washington, and he is in charge of the company's secret service."

"The whole thing is an absolute mystery. Not a man is living who was in or even near the packing house when the accident occurred and we seem to be without the means of even starting an investigation."

MISTRIAL IN CASE AGAINST TOM WATSON

Jury After Thirty Hours of Deliberation Reported Hopeless Deadlock and Was Discharged.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 1.—A mistrial was ordered in federal court here tonight in the case of Thomas E. Watson, the Thomson, Ga., editor, charged with sending obscene matter through the mails. The jury, after 30 hours' deliberation, reported a hopeless deadlock and was discharged.

According to jurors, the vote stood 19 for acquittal and two for conviction on every ballot.

Judge Lambdin called the jury into court tonight after a counsel with counsel for both sides in which it was agreed that should a verdict not be reached tonight a mistrial should be taken. C. E. Brown of Tennille, Ga., foreman of the jury, stated that it was "impossible" for the jury to agree and on the judge's questioning other jurors, J. A. Crawford of Martinez, Ga., declared: "Your honor, this jury might remain here 30 years and it would never reach a verdict."

Judge Lambdin then ordered a mistrial and court was adjourned. Watson returned to Thomson before the jury was called in.

The indictment was returned in 1913, after a previous indictment had been quashed on a technicality and after one federal grand jury had refused to indict Watson on similar charges. The articles were published in 1911 and 1912.

There was no indication tonight as to whether or not the district attorney would press for another trial.

OBJECT OF KAISER'S VISIT.

To Stop Austrian Efforts to Obtain Separate Peace.

Rome, via Paris, Dec. 1.—"The real object of Emperor Williams' visit to Vienna was to put a stop to efforts Austria is making, by means of negotiations through Madrid with the Vatican, to obtain a separate peace with the quadruple Entente," says the Tribuna. "Vienna and Berlin disagree on the question of peace. Berlin desires to treat separately with each of the allies so as to break up the quadruple Entente and then to crush England, but Vienna desires a real and lasting peace to end the tension which rapidly is becoming too great for Austria to bear."

Urba'ejo and His 1,400 Men Surrender.

Nogales, Ariz., Dec. 1.—General Urbalejo, Villa's Yaqui Indian chieftain, with his entire command of 1,400 men, surrendered today to Carranza army officers at Corbo, 200 miles south of here, said a report that reached here late today.

FIGHT WILL BE MADE ON SENATOR CLARKE

Pomerene of Ohio Candidate for Executive Presiding Officer of Senate.

A LIVELY CONTEST LIKELY.

Opposition to Senator Clarke Has Been Smouldering Since Democratic Conference Monday.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Senator Pomerene of Ohio became a candidate tonight for president pro tempore of the senate in opposition to Senator James P. Clarke of Arkansas, who seeks re-election. The candidacy of the Ohio senator announced after a session of the senate Democratic caucus, assures a lively contest which will be settled next Friday.

Opposition to Senator Clarke had been smouldering since the Democratic conference began Monday because of his antagonism to the ship purchase bill at the last session. Administration leaders had sought, however, to allay this opposition for the sake of party harmony and it was not until tonight that an open fight developed.

Tomorrow the Democratic conference will act on the report of the special committee on rules proposing limitation of debate to prevent filibustering. The committee tonight agreed upon a cloture rule, which would provide means for forcing a measure to a vote whenever filibustering tactics became apparent. It would provide that when a senator arises and asserts the opinion that an attempt is being made to obstruct a measure and claims the right of the senate to proceed to a vote, the chair shall submit to the senate without debate on the question:

"Is it the sense of the senate that an attempt is being made to obstruct, hinder or delay a vote?" If the question is decided to the affirmative, it would be in order for any senator to move to fix a time for taking a vote on the pending measure and all amendments, such motion to be decided without debate. The time to be fixed, would be at least two calendar days after the making of such a motion.

Democratic senators who oppose cloture predicted tonight that the proposed rule would be vigorously fought in the conference.

The caucus today elected Senator Milton of West Virginia, vice chairman of the conference and Senator Lewis of Illinois was re-elected as party whip. On the steering committee, Senator Kern named Senators Martin, Owen, Chamberlain, Thomas, O'Gorman, Williams, James and Ford. Senate caucus last Tuesday elected Pete Smith of Georgia, and Clarke of Arkansas retired from the committee. The new committee will make up committee assignments for the new senate. Senator Simmons, chairman of the finance committee, it was learned, has proposed that his committee be enlarged so that Senator Underwood of Alabama, former majority leader of the house, may be given a place.

Democrats of the house ways and means committee continued work on committee assignments, which probably will be completed tomorrow. House Republicans will caucus tomorrow to consider the filling of minority places on the committees.

Speaker Clarke reached Washington today prepared, he said, for a session, lasting "until the dog days."

Leaves to Join Ford Party.

Columbia, Dec. 1.—Andrew J. Bethea, lieutenant governor, who last night accepted the offer of Henry Ford to visit European countries as a member of a peace commission, will leave Columbia today for New York. The peace party will sail from New York Saturday morning. Governor Manning several days ago refused the invitation because of official business.

Senator Smith Asks Action on Potash Problem.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Senator Smith of South Carolina asked President Wilson today to have the government assist in getting potash from Germany for southern cotton planters for use in fertilizer. The President said that the state department would do everything possible.