

BECKER'S FINAL ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE DEATH CHAIR

Former Police Lieutenant Who Was Sentenced to Die is Given Second Chance.

NO CHANGE OF VENUE

Great Crowd Thronged Court Room and Extra Squad of Police is on Guard.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, May 6.—Reports of a possible delay in the trial of former Police Lieutenant Chas. Becker, which was slated to open here today, before Supreme Justice Seabury, were current as court convened. It was stated in various quarters that counsel for the man charged with having plotted and directed the murder of Gambler Herman Rosenthal would start their fight by an attempt to have District Attorney Whitman committed for contempt of court on the charge that he (Whitman) had given newspaper interviews prejudicial to the cause of the alleged plotter. Demand for a change of venue, it was said, was likely.

Martin T. Manton, Becker's counsel, refused to make a statement of his plans before court opens. It is said Justice Seabury would be very unlikely to grant any postponement unless the weightiest reasons for such were advanced. District Attorney Whitman also was silent as to his plans but it was stated from his office that he saw no real reason to fear delay. Whitman, it is said, has new witnesses to prove connecting points in the Rosenthal murder story which will go far to back up the stories of the plot told by "Bald Jack" Rose, Bridge Weber and Sam Schoppes, the outcome of which was the death of Rosenthal and the execution in the chair at Sing Sing of the four gun men who actually fired the fatal shots. One of these witnesses, Harry Cohen, a chauffeur who is known as "Moe" Levey, was reported as ready to recant his testimony given in Becker's first trial. It was said that Cohen would swear that he drove Rose and Harry Vallon to a conference with Becker in June, 1912, at which Becker called in Webber to plan the final details of the Rosenthal assassination. Confirmation of this meeting is regarded as vital to the conviction of Becker, for in an opinion of the court of appeals it was called "the heart of the conspiracy."

Before the hour set for the court's convening, every entrance to the trial room was jammed with a throng of curious, among whom were many types of the east side. To prevent any disturbance, strong squads of police were on duty.

Entrance to the court room was by special card inscribed "the people against Becker," a horde of photographers also thronged the entrances but Justice Seabury threatened to jail any camera men who attempted to evade the rule against photographers in court.

No Change of Venue. NEW YORK, May 6.—Prompt denial of a change of venue to former Police Lieutenant Chas. Becker, accused of plotting Herman Rosenthal's murder, came from Superior Justice Seabury here today shortly after court opened and subsequent to an attempt by Becker's counsel to have

MEXICAN GIRLS SMUGGLE CARTRIDGES IN THEIR CLOTHES

Slit in Blouse Let the Secret Out and All Are Watched.

[By N. C. Parke, United Press Staff Correspondent.] EL PASO, Texas, May 6.—That pretty señoritas who smiled sweetly at Uncle Sam's customs officers and soldiers at the El Paso end of the international bridges, were smuggling cartridges by the wholesale across the border to constitutionalist troops in Juarez was the discovery made here today. Infantrymen, off duty down town, heard a jingling noise when they saw a Mexican girl board a street

District Attorney Whitman declared in contempt of court. On the latter phase of the fight, which was put into the form of a motion by Bourk Cochran, Becker's attorney, Justice Seabury promised to rule at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Manton's attack on the district attorney came as soon as court convened. Before a room filled with talesmen and with Mrs. Becker, the only woman present, the attorney for the man accused of plotting Rosenthal's death opened his batteries.

"Charles Becker to the bar," thundered the court crier just after Justice Seabury was seated and through a door at the rear of the court room came the brawny figure of the man who was once the czar of New York's underworld. Becker's face was in absolute repose, as guarded by only one policeman, he strode to the front of the room. He greeted his counsel, Martin T. Manton and Bourke Cochran with a quick smile and sat down.

Cockran then addressed the court with a demand that District Attorney Whitman be adjudged in contempt of court for having inspired newspaper stories prejudicial to the defense. Cockran, on being required to do so, put his demand in the form of a motion, which Justice Seabury promised to pass on at one o'clock. Cockran's motion was based on newspaper reports, said to have been inspired by Whitman to the effect that Carl Dresner, a confessed perjurer had conspired with John Becker, the defendant's brother, in such a way as to prejudice Becker's case. Cockran produced affidavits by newspaper men on the support of his position and was waxing eloquent when restrained by the court. Whitman who then arose to address the court declared that he had given out nothing improper. He said Becker had an opportunity to give out statements from both the Tomb and from Sing Sing and as a matter of fact he had given out such statements some of which were distinctly prejudicial to the case of the people.

After Justice Seabury's decision to rule on the contempt question later, Cockran moved for a change of venue. This request Justice Seabury promptly denied. Cockran then asked for a postponement on the grounds of popular prejudice. To this Justice Seabury replied that a postponement would be granted in no circumstances and the examination of talesmen began.

Wm. M. Murdock, the first talesman called, was examined by Whitman. Murdock had an "unshakable opinion" and he was excused.

During Murdock's examination, Becker motioned to his wife. She arose and came to a seat near him. She was dressed entirely in black and her face showed pain and pale.

Sector Rosenfield, a manufacturer, was the second talesman called. After Rosenfield had been challenged by the defense, Matthew W. Webb was excused because he had known Becker and D. W. Cahill because he had discussed the case. Several others were either challenged or excused for cause. The tenth called, T. Meredith Blansden, bond broker, was accepted and was made foreman of the jury. He is a Harvard graduate of '99. He admitted having had an opinion but said he could decide the case on the evidence presented. A new witness in the case is reported to have been uncovered today in the person of Walter Washington, a negro porter, employed in Bridge Webber's pool room. He is said to be ready to swear that he saw Webber, Rose, Vallon and Becker in conference at the time Rosenthal's murder is said to have been finally planned.

Justice Seabury ruled on the appeal.

(Continued on page 2.)

CHINESE PIRATES THICK AS FLIES

Entire Coast of the Country is Said to be at the Mercy of the Bandits.

IS NO COAST PATROL

Big Ship Boarded by Savage Horde Which Took Possession and Looted the Vessel.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—Chinese pirates raided the steamer Shingtal when it was three hours out of Hong Kong on March 31, killed a soldier of the Chinese government, murdered the keeper of the ship's stores, wounded another guard and looted the vessel of \$30,000, according to officers of the Nippon Maru, which docked here today.

The Shingtal was a Chinese owned vessel, but flew a British flag. Before sailing from Hong Kong it took aboard 170 passengers. These proved to be the pirates. At a signal, they leaped upon the crew of the vessel with knives and revolvers drawn and took possession of the ship. The Nippon Maru officers declared the entire coast of China is at the mercy of pirates, the government being so short of funds it cannot operate a coast patrol.

DIVIDE HER TIME WITH HER PARENTS

Schedule of Daughter of Couple Who are Separated by Decree of Divorce.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, May 6.—By an order of the court Miss Catherine Condict, aged 13, today began ordering her affairs according to a time table. The table, almost as complicated as a railway schedule, was devised by Judge O'Connor, following a divorce granted the child's mother Mrs. Charlotte Condict from Wallace R. Condict, wealthy real estate dealer.

This is the schedule to which she must conform: With Mamma:—Monday, Wednesday, Friday, every other Sunday, every other Saturday, every night, half summer, Easter or Christmas. With Daddy:—Tuesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon, every other Saturday afternoon, every other Sunday afternoon, every other Sunday, half summer, Easter or Christmas. Asked whether she preferred to live with her father or mother, she replied, emphatically "both."

THE WEATHER

For Keokuk and vicinity: Fair tonight and Thursday. Not much change in temperature. For Iowa: Fair tonight and probably Thursday. Warmer northeast portion tonight. For Illinois: Fair tonight and probably Thursday. Not much change in temperature. For Missouri: Fair tonight and Thursday. Not much change in temperature.

Weather Conditions. The eastern storm is central off the New England coast this morning, and rain continues from the Ohio valley to the northeastern states, which is heavy at New York and Boston. The northwestern field of high pressure has advanced to the northern plains, causing fair, cooler weather from the mountains to the Mississippi valley, and conditions indicate fair weather, with not much change in temperature for this section tonight and Thursday.

Table with 4 columns: Station, Stage, Height, Change. Rows include St. Paul, La Crosse, Dubuque, Davenport, Keokuk, St. Louis.

River Forecast. The river will continue to rise from Davenport to Keokuk until Sunday. Local Observations. May. Bar. Ther. Wind W'th 5 7 p. m.—29.86 68 W Pt. Cl'dy 6 7 a. m.—30.11 51 NW Clear River above low water of 1864, 5.9. Change in 24 hours, rise 3 tenths. Mean temperature 5th, 70. Lowest temperature, 58. Highest temperature, 81. Lowest temperature last night, 48. FRED Z. GOSEWISCH.

The City of Vera Cruz As it Looks Today

Old Mexican Town Under Control of United States Troops Described by Shepherd.

[By Wm. G. Shepherd, United Press Staff Correspondent.] VERA CRUZ, Mexico, April 23. (by mail to New York)—The first thing you see in Vera Cruz these days is the American flag, flying over the Terminal hotel and you find the wide corridors filled with hurrying officers and jackies. The first thing that catches your attention, however, will probably be Captain H. O. McHuse. You can't miss him. You'll know him by his roar, his mustache, his flashing eye, and his supreme contempt for civilians—he being sort of a door tender for Admiral Fletcher, who is mild beyond words—he stands around roaring to folks who come to the admiral's headquarters to "sit down," "come here, you," "stay out of this room."

Admiral Fletcher keeps his door closed, they say, in order to shut out Huse's roarings. Mothers with babies here. You try to tell any Mexican in Vera Cruz that the navy is the servant of the American people and that the taxes of the people keep the navy going and you'll be laughed at. They've learned otherwise from the majestic bellows of the mustached Huse. But there are other sights in Vera Cruz and having paid your respects to headquarters and been roared at by Huse you sally forth into the town.

First you cross the ten acre field which lies between the American consulate and the water front. Across this field fled the Madero family, and later, Felix Diaz, from the wrath of Huerta. The other day in the fighting, he became a battlefield, baptized with blood; dead men have lain on it. But now there are the brown tents of infantry on it and the pastured horses of officers. In one corner of the lot, soldiers are tossing a baseball. In the streets that skirt the field, the flags of five different nations float over two story business houses, as if to say: "This isn't a Mexican house; don't shoot at it." In an entry way you walk along the street, you see two playful jackies boxing, sinking their bare fists into each other's ribs with many grunts and "Oo's" and around them stand a ring of wondering Mexicans, who can't understand what fun there is in such play. There are other things you can see as you walk along the streets. Groups of jackies and marines reading a no'ice posted on the wall of the cable office; you discover that it's a cable report of the baseball games of the day in far away American cities. Baseball follows the flag.

A street car loaded with unshaved, begrimed American soldiers. They've been out on the advance line in the sand hills and they're on their way to the beach, where they'll stack their rifles within easy reach, strip down to their undershirts and plunge into the cool surf with yells of delight. A man in a gray hat is sitting by the table before a cafe, writing. Behold Richard Harding Davis. At another table sits a group of men drinking beer. Look them over. There is Jack London himself. There are other correspondents, American and English in the crowd. Some of them are telling about their experiences in the Balkan war. The point of their talk is that war correspondents weren't given a chance to get news in that war and they hope that they'll be given a fair shake this time. Most of them are very discontented because they arrived in Vera Cruz three days after the battle, too late for any war corresponding.

Here you are at the plaza. Every Mexican city—or town, has in its very center, a square park criss-crossed by grave walks and centered by a band stand which is called the plaza. Here in the late afternoon and early evening the Mexicans gather to listen to the town band. It is the custom for the señoritas, accompanied by their chaperones, to walk in one direction about the park and for the lads to walk in the other and to flirt with their eyes, as they pass. They're doing it now. You find the plaza full of Mexicans. The band is playing. It's a band from the Florida. The tune is one of the latest hits in New York. The Mexican señoritas like it. They can flirt to the tune of "It's Apple Blossom Time in Normandy," as well as to the music of Carmen.

Now you're in the very heart of Vera Cruz and it will keep your eyes busy to catch all the sights. Sit down at a cafe table under the portales or porches that line the plaza. In the cathedral spire across the park there sits among the bells a jackie in white, his feet dangling in space. Jackies have been on guard up there ever since, in the battle three days ago, they toppled six Mexican sharpshooters out of the place. On the top of another building facing the park, stands a man with a flag in each hand,

wigwagging messages over the roofs of the town to ships in the harbor. Here goes a huge marine in blue, perched on the seat of a tiny sprinkling cart drawn by a tiny burro. The "navy's on the water wagon" some one yelled. Three cheers for the wine mess. The marine whacks the burro, gives a hoot and his rattly water wagon sprinkles a wobbly stream along the plaza asphalt. On another side of the plaza sixty marines stand patiently at attention while a famous war artist sketches them. A group of curious civilians surround the artist's easel and from time to time yell "get out of my way. Give me some elbow room."

There's a yell in another part of the plaza and a company of khaki clad infantrymen swing into the square. They're army boys, part of the thousands who have arrived only today to relieve the navy of duty of policing the city. Soldiers ride by singly and in pairs on ranky, manny Mexican ponies which they have picked up goodness only knows where. There's a quarrel at a table near you. Two shoe shining boys are demanding 50 centavos for shining the shoes and riding leggings of a couple of infantrymen and the latter think the price is too high. Infantrymen can't talk Spanish and the only English word the dusky little shoe shiners know is "Meester." These American soldiers may have conquered Vera Cruz but they can't conquer the bootblacks, so the infantrymen pay their fifty cent pieces and depart, calling the bare-footed boys "greaser robbers."

An army airplane circles over the town but within two days Vera Cruz has become accustomed to the sight and only a few persons crane their necks to see it. By this time evening is falling. The tropic sunshine has disappeared and a cool breeze is blowing in from the Mexican gulf. Three thousand persons or more fill the plaza—soldiers, blue jackets, white marines, white clad men and women, brown Mexican beauties in white and browner Mexican men in sombreros. The electric lights blaze out among the tropical trees of the plaza. The wigwag man on the roof are using blinking electric lights now instead of their flags. On a balcony stands a little Mexican girl waving her arms in imitation of the wigwag man. It's a trick she has learned since the gringos came. It's almost bed time for her and for grown folks too, because the city is under martial law and taps sound at 9:00 o'clock.

Soon the streets will be deserted and the houses dark. The only footfalls on the pavements will be those on guard or of belated newspaper correspondents working their way from sentry to sentry, down to the cable office. Out in the sand hills in a circle that reaches miles beyond town, American soldier boys are keeping their vigils. Uncle Sam is really on the firing line.

CLAIMS HE SLEPT WHILE HE MURDERED

Plea of Somnambulist Insanity is Presented by Man Charged With Crime.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, May 6.—Wm. Keith, on trial here for the murder of Walter Paul, today made a plea of "somnambulist insanity" through his attorneys. Keith contends that he dreamed he entered a west side saloon and sent for Paul; that he dreamed he drew a revolver and said: "You ruinate one family but you will never ruin another," and that he dreamed he fired and Paul fell dead. In fact, everything appeared to have been a dream except the revolver, the bullet in the victim's body and the report of the coroner's jury. He said he dreamed he shot Paul, because he dreamed Paul had been too attentive to his wife and daughter. Expert counsel and detectives have been furnished in Keith's case by Jas. Patton, millionaire grain operator, who became interested in Keith through a letter he wrote Mrs. Patton, asking aid. Investigation is alleged to have shown in Alabama that Keith and his family were known as "sleep walkers."

Will Try City Manager. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] DENTON, Texas, May 6.—A business manager will conduct municipal affairs in Denton. At an old fashioned New England town meeting last night, commissioners were nominated to serve without pay and to choose a business manager to supervise all city officials. W. B. McClurkin, J. E. Wilson, R. H. Evers, E. F. Hill and J. C. Coit are the commissioners, the first under the new city charter.

WILL TALK OF PEACE ON BRINK OF GREAT FALLS

Mediation Council Announces First Meeting at Niagara on Date of May 18.

ONE GREAT OBSTACLE

Unless Rebels Start Fighting Among Themselves, Plans Are Expected to Work Out.

[By John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.] WASHINGTON, May 6.—The United States is relying upon the constitutionalists to save the Mexican situation. It was learned today that both President Wilson and Secretary Bryan believe long before any acceptable plan of mediation can be arrived at, the rebels will have driven Huerta from power and will hold Mexico City. Then, they believe the A. E. C. mediators can submit to the conquerors a plan of action which will provide for a new regime in Mexico, a legally elected president and congress and strong support from without in crushing any rebellion until the new government is firmly established.

Because of this fact, the administration is well pleased with the announcement that formal sessions of the mediators will not begin until May 18 in Niagara Falls, Ont. That is almost a fortnight off. Villa has assured George D. Carothers, representative of the state department with the constitutionalists, that he will have possession of Saltillo, Tampico and San Luis Potosi within the next ten days. Occupation of these cities would absolutely clinch the hold on the rebels in the north. It would open to them two direct routes to Mexico City so that a speedy conquest of the capital would be possible.

The one obstacle to this however may be a break in the ranks of the constitutionalists themselves. Villa continues to assert his friendliness for the United States. He has convinced the administration that under no circumstances will he or the men that he can control, join in any movement against America. Knowing this for the last forty-eight hours, the constitutionalist junta here and high officials of the diplomatic corps have been hearing of serious quarrels between Villa and the other leaders of the revolution. The junta has been divided ever since the landing of American forces at Vera Cruz. One faction holds Carranza should have insisted that the United States withdraw from Vera Cruz. The other believes aid of the United States is essential and that the administration must be cultivated. If a break does come in the rebel camp, those in touch with the situation here believe it will mean another revolution in the north and in all probability the juncture of one faction with Huerta. Meanwhile the president is seeking three experienced diplomats to represent this country at the Niagara Falls conference. While it is admitted with Carranza and the constitutionalists not participating, only meagre results can be hoped for by the mediation, the administration is confident by the time the envoys get down to business the constitutionalists will control so much territory, Huerta will be willing to eliminate himself. Then if their hopes are justified, the administration heads would be in a position to urge through their representatives that the federals be influenced to make peace

and end revolution at once. While admitting that there are other contingencies, administration officials refuse to discuss them. They have a single definite plan, founded on hope and promises and will not change it unless forced. This hope was greatly enhanced by the defiant letter sent General Maas by General Villa when the former asked help to attack Funston. Villa insisted Huerta wanted a foreign war to save himself and declared the constitutionalists will continue to fight until they have driven Huerta from power. Secretary Bryan himself was authority for the statement that no definite plan has been submitted by the United States to the mediators. None will be until the mediators themselves take the initiative. It is certain that any proposition that carries with it only a settlement of the Tampico incident will be rejected by this government on the grounds that this was a question of national honor and in itself not a subject of mediation. Meanwhile reports from General Funston emphasize the preparations being made to oppose any American advance. Mexican troops are being concentrated at every vulnerable point from Pueblo to the American lines, while it is stated on authority of Major Smedley D. Butler that the railway bridges have been mined.

SURVIVORS OF STEAMSHIP WHICH BURNED AT SEA

Two Small Boats, Filled With Men, Have Been Picked Up.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] SABLE ISLAND, May 6.—A wireless message received here early today from the steamship Manhattan declared that Captain McDonald and thirteen members of the crew of the British steamer Columbian had been picked up by the Manhattan and that the vessel was searching for others who may be adrift in small boats.

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Huerta is Drunk Again. [By Wm. G. Shepherd, United Press Staff Correspondent.] VERA CRUZ, Mexico, May 6.—With a revolt in the capital reported to be threatened against him and even Mexicans fleeing from the city to gain the protection of the American flag in Vera Cruz, refugees here today declare that General Huerta is drinking heavily. Starting in the morning with his usual cognac, the dictator piles himself with liquor throughout the day. The strain under which Huerta was laboring has apparently been greatly relieved by the selection of the government's representatives in the mediation negotiations, the refugees declare. Some of the most prominent residents of Mexico City have fled from the capital because they expect Zapata, the bandit rebel, Villa or General Castro of Jofutla fame, to seize the city.

These Mexicans declare that safety in the capital during the mediation negotiations is not assured. The capital police are distrusted. It is rumored that they have been approached by agents of General Villa with a proposition that they seize the capital upon the approach of Villa, thus preparing the way for a triumphal entry. The police are equipped with rifles. News of the advances made to them by rebel agents has reached Huerta but he is afraid to attempt to disarm them. Mexican pride has asserted itself in Vera Cruz in connection with the operation of the public schools of the city. Juan Rodriguez, superintendent of public instruction, has persuaded the city school teachers not to serve under the Americans. He plans to collect 200,000 pesos from local merchants to keep the schools running. There was another delay in the departure of the 500 American refugees from Mexico City last night and they probably will not leave until Thursday. According to reports here, the refugees will probably sail direct for the United States from Puerto, Mexico, on the steamship Esperanza.

The military court is being kept busy here hearing cases against Mexicans. Three Americans have also been tried and deported. One of the men was U. R. Mulcahy who represented the city school teachers.

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(Continued on page 2.)