

# Jailed Baff Witness Reveals Death Plot to Whitman

Fair to-night and Thursday. Continued sold.

## FINAL EDITION

## The

## Evening

## World.

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Copyright, 1914, by The News Publishing Co. (The New York World).

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1914.

16 PAGES

PRICE ONE CENT.

# GERMANS GAIN TEN MILES IN POLAND; FRENCH ADVANCE AT RHEIMS ADMITTED

## BAFF MURDER CONSPIRACY IS REVEALED BY RETTICH AFTER ONE NIGHT IN JAIL

Witness Jailed for Contempt Makes Clean Breast to Whitman.

PROMISES TO TESTIFY.

Agrees With Prosecutor to Let Grand Jury Hear His Story To-Morrow.

Carl Rettich, the stubborn witness in the Grand Jury Baff inquiry who was sent to the Tombs yesterday for refusing to answer pertinent questions, to-day made a clean breast of what he knows to District Attorney Whitman.

The West Hoboken bartender gave the District Attorney a truthful answer to every important question put to him by Whitman, and will, he promised, make the same replies before the Grand Jury to-morrow.

Upon the readiness of this witness to tell everything hung the very capstone of Whitman's case against the conspirators and gunmen. He could not prove his charges without knowledge of the place and personnel of the conspiracy and this he has gained from Carl Rettich.

By one more unexpected piece of evidence the two Cohen brothers, Joe and Jake, were involved more deeply to-day. James Moore, the informer, informed Whitman Carl Rettich had visited him shortly after his arrest last week and told him the two Cohens had instructed that he, Rettich, procure counsel for Moore. He secured Abraham Harowitz of No. 209 Broadway.

To-day, after Rettich had complied with every other demand of the District Attorney for information, he looked when asked where he got the money to secure the services of Harowitz. He positively declined to answer this. Harowitz himself informed Whitman that Rettich was the one to secure services in behalf of Moore.

Five witnesses, said to be minor builders of evidence, were examined before the Grand Jury to-day, none of the principal witnesses being called. They will go on the stand to-morrow.

Walter Rettich, brother of the scared witness, and a travelling salesman, visited Carl Rettich, with the latter's counsel, in District Attorney Whitman's office an hour before the opening of the Grand Jury to-day and had a lengthy conference with him. When Walter Rettich came out he said:

"I believe my brother will tell everything he knows, though I do not think he knows much that will be of importance to the District Attorney. I have advised him to hold back nothing."

As an evidence of good faith, Harowitz, Rettich's counsel, appeared at the District Attorney's office to-day with Louis Alteri, a witness for whom Whitman's aides had been diligently searching for some time. How important a witness he may be before the Grand Jury could not be learned.

The fear of death at the hands of venal members of the "chicken butlers" gang in Hoboken is heavy on the young bartender in whose place the murder plot to kill Baff was hatched, and, it is believed, the money collected from the conspirators

## WILSON AS SANTA CLAUS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

President Will Play the Role for His Little Grand-Niece, Who Is to Be a Christmas Guest.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—President Wilson will play Santa Claus Christmas Day for his small grandniece, Anna Cochran, who will spend the holidays at the White House with her mother and her grandmother, Mrs. Anne Howe, the President's sister. A large Christmas tree was delivered to-day at the White House.

It has not been intended to have any particular celebration on Christmas, although the President planned a family reunion. But when he learned to-day that his favorite grandniece would be able to come with her mother, the President directed that a Christmas tree be procured. The President, with his three daughters—Mrs. F. B. Sayre, Mrs. W. G. McAdoo and Miss Margaret Wilson, and other relatives, plans to go to church Christmas morning, to take an automobile ride in the afternoon and take dinner at the White House in the evening. He will attend only to absolutely necessary business during the day.

## 171,417 MORE SQUEEZED INTO INTERBOROUGH CARS

Company's Profits Grew \$8,416 in Month, and \$484,870 Since July 1.

Subway strap hangers are piling up larger profits than ever for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company. Reports for November issued to-day show that the number of passengers carried during the month in subway and elevated road trains was 54,975,302, an increase of 171,417 over November of last year. The company's surplus profits after paying all charges increased \$8,416 by reason of November packing operations.

During the five months of the fiscal year, from July 1 to Nov. 30, the company squeezed 3,945,388 more passengers in its cars than during the same period last year and increased its profits \$484,870.

## GOV. BLEASE PARDONS 16 MORE CONVICTS

Nine of Men Granted Christmas Clemency Were Serving Terms for Manslaughter.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 23.—The Swedish steamer Orion arrived here last night from Savannah with her cotton cargo burning. Tugs are fighting the fire, which was said to be serious.

Justice Coleman in the Supreme Court to-day directed a jury to bring in a verdict against the Public Bank and in favor of the Maxim Hat Works for \$29,000 in an action based upon the peculiarities of two years of Max Friedman, a former employee of the plaintiff. Friedman deposited in the bank 175 checks drawn to the order of the hat concern, after he had indorsed them for deposit to his account.

Friedman filed his application with the Harlem branch of the bank. One Hundred and sixteenth Street and Madison Avenue, and was accepted as a depositor. It was contended that the bank officials should have known the account was one requiring investigation. Friedman is now on parole.

## NINE PASSENGERS HURT WHEN BRIDGE CAR JUMPS TRACK

Flying Glass Cuts Men and Women in Manhattan Span Trolley.

ONE SENT TO HOSPITAL.

Car Half Capsizes as It Hits Curve and Plunges Off Rails.

Nine passengers were injured to-day when one of the new cars of the Manhattan Bridge Three-Cent Line jumped the track in the Brooklyn Plaza at Sands Street and fell over against a pile of dirt, half capsized.

Frank Degall of No. 78 Mulberry Street, Manhattan, the most seriously injured, was taken to the Brooklyn Hospital. Others who were treated for contusions and cuts by Ambulance Surgeon Brown were Walter Wiggins, No. 327 East Twenty-fourth Street, Brooklyn; Albert Moran, No. 715 Logan Street, East New York; Sol Nelson, No. 301 Gold Street, Brooklyn; Helen McGee, No. 155 Douglas Street, Brooklyn; Anna Stalona, No. 33 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn; Salvatore Ivona and Vittoria, his wife, No. 247 Elizabeth Street, Manhattan, and Ida Katz, No. 65 Forsythe Street, Brooklyn.

The car was in charge of Conductor Frank Martin and Motorman Frank Kiernan and was bound east. Kiernan told the police that his brakes refused to work as he approached the bottom of the long grade leading from the bridge proper to the Brooklyn Plaza.

Extensive repairs are under way in the plaza and temporary tracks have been constructed over which the cars wind their way between piles of dirt, stone, concrete and building material. The temporary curves are very sharp. Kiernan's car struck a short curve at Sands Street at full speed, climbed off the rails, slammed sideways into a big dirt pile and partially turned over. Most of the injuries were caused by broken glass, although all the passengers on the car were shaken up. Martin and Kiernan escaped injury.

## GOV. BLEASE PARDONS 16 MORE CONVICTS

Nine of Men Granted Christmas Clemency Were Serving Terms for Manslaughter.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 23.—Gov. Cole L. Blease this afternoon granted Christmas presents to sixteen convicts by granting them paroles. Nine were serving terms for manslaughter. More pardons are expected to come.

## VERDICT AGAINST BANK.

Hat Company Wins \$29,000 Case Growing Out of Peculiarities.

Justice Coleman in the Supreme Court to-day directed a jury to bring in a verdict against the Public Bank and in favor of the Maxim Hat Works for \$29,000 in an action based upon the peculiarities of two years of Max Friedman, a former employee of the plaintiff. Friedman deposited in the bank 175 checks drawn to the order of the hat concern, after he had indorsed them for deposit to his account.

Friedman filed his application with the Harlem branch of the bank. One Hundred and sixteenth Street and Madison Avenue, and was accepted as a depositor. It was contended that the bank officials should have known the account was one requiring investigation. Friedman is now on parole.

## Society Matron and Daughter of Col. Roosevelt, Who Return Home for Xmas After Nursing Wounded



## NOTED AMERICANS RETURN FOR XMAS ON THE LUSITANIA

Mrs. Whitney and Charles M. Schwab Back—Col. Roosevelt's Daughter on Chicago.

A wireless despatch from the Lusitania, of the Cunard Line, the last big ship to reach New York from England before Christmas, reports her nearing Ambrose Channel Light at full speed. She will dock to-night, with a large number of Americans returning from the war zone and one of the biggest Christmas mails ever received from England.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, who established, at her own expense, a field hospital in France near the Belgian frontier, is a passenger on the Lusitania. She is coming home to rest and spend the holidays with her family.

Charles M. Schwab, whose contract to supply submarines to one of the allies was nullified by the orders of President Wilson, is coming home on the Lusitania from a flying trip to London. Mr. Schwab is fast piling up a record as a transatlantic traveler.

His trips have been so frequent, since the war began, that he might almost be called an over-seas commuter. Mrs. Richard Derby, formerly Miss Ethel Roosevelt, is a passenger on the French liner Chicago, which is due to arrive to-night or to-morrow. She has been aiding her husband, Dr. Derby, in hospital work in France and comes home to spend the holidays with the Roosevelt family at Oyster Bay.

## LINER ZEELAND IN CRASH.

Red Star Steamer Damaged as the Starts on Voyage From Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 23 (via London).—The Red Star Line steamer Zeeland, which had just sailed for Portland, Me., came back and anchored in the river to-day after having been slightly damaged in a collision with the British steamship El Paraguayo.

## SAILING TO-DAY.

Arapahoe, Jacksonville, 1 P. M. Algeniquin, San Domingo, 3 P. M.

## TRENCHES DUG AT LONDON TO CHECK GERMAN INVASION

Remarkable Precautions Include Placing 500,000 Soldiers on Guard and Patrol of Coast by 1,600 Vessels.

Trenches are being dug about London and extraordinary precautions are being taken throughout the English East Coast region in anticipation of a further expected German raid or invasion. This information reached the United Press to-day from a reliable private source in England.

The trench digging around London began two months ago. It was announced at the time that this was more practice work for recruits. This pretense has now been abandoned. Any traveler by road out of London, especially to the north and northeast, has ample opportunities to observe long lines of trenches. These extend in an almost unbroken line from Hendon, on the northwest, through Potters Bar, across to Epping Forest, on the northeast, and thence southward as far as the Thames.

For two months the German invasion has been expected "next week." The German cruisers made their raid on Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby, but that the actual invasion is overdue is causing no relaxation of vigilance or preparation on the part of Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton, commander-in-chief of the defense forces. It is also known in London that Lord Kitchener recently made a tour of inspection of the points on the east coast where it is considered most likely the Germans may attempt a landing.

## 500,000 MOBILIZED ALONG THE ENGLISH COAST.

Altogether there are now mobilized along the coast from Dover to Leith approximately half a million men. A large part of these are territorials, but at important points are a number of regiments of seasoned regular troops.

All the coast harbors, inlets and waterways have been mined. A day and night patrol of the sea planes, steam yachts, motor boats and armed steam trawlers is maintained. The navy has provided some 300 trawlers.

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(Continued on Second Page.)

## PORTUGUESE VOTE TO PREPARE FOR WAR AGAINST THE KAISER

Official Reports from Paris and Berlin in Striking Contradiction, Show Claims of Advances at the Same Points on the Front.

## DARDANELLES FORCED BY THE ALLIES, SAYS ROME

LONDON, Dec. 23 (United Press).—The main line of the Russian defense before Warsaw has been withdrawn to within twenty miles of the Polish capital.

(This represents a gain of ten miles for the German invaders.) This was indicated in reports from Petrograd to-day of the desperate fighting which is in progress west and southwest of the city.

The Russians are stubbornly opposing the attempts of the Germans to cross the Bzura and Rawka Rivers, but the forces of Field Marshal von Hindenburg have succeeded in establishing themselves in strong positions on the Bzura north of Sechaczew.

Previous reports from Petrograd have intimated that Skierniewice, 40 miles southwest of Warsaw on the railroad line leading to the fortress would be abandoned, and that this place was not defended is evident from the fact that the foremost German position is east of the town.

LISBON, Dec. 23 (United Press).—The Portuguese Chamber to-day voted in favor of preparations for Portugal joining England in the war against Germany. The vote was taken immediately after the announcement by the Colonial Secretary of another attack by the Germans upon the Portuguese province of Angola.

Portugal's peace strength consists of 30,000 men, comprising the home army and 10,000 colonial troops. In war time about 250,000 trained troops could be put into the field. Conscription prevails in Portugal and the army is considered fairly efficient, but not thoroughly equipped.

## Direct Contradictions in Reports From Paris and Berlin To-day

### FRENCH REPORT.

"Yesterday in Belgium we made slight progress between the sea and the highway from Neuport to Westende, as well as in the region between Steenstrawe and Bixchoote, where we occupied a forest, some houses and a redoubt.

"To the east of Bethune, working in conjunction with the British Army, we recaptured the village of Givenchy-les-La-Bassee, which had been lost to us.

"In the region of Perthes-les-Hurlus we carried, after a spirited counter-attack, and two assaults, the last section of the line which we occupied in part Dec. 21. We made an average gain of 800 yards."

The last paragraph in the German report is practically an admission that gains have been made by the French in the vicinity of Rheims.

### GERMAN REPORT.

"Attacks in the region of Lombaertside and to the south of Bixchoote have been easily repulsed by us. At Richebourg l'Avance the English again were driven from their positions yesterday.

"Notwithstanding desperate counter-attacks, we have retained all the positions which we captured from the English on the Richebourg canal from Aire to La Bassee. Since Dec. 20 750 British and colored soldiers have been captured by us and five machine guns and four mine throwers taken.

"Attacks to the north of Sillierie, southeast of Rheims, at Souain and at Perthes have been partly repulsed by us with heavy losses to the French."

The forts were subjected to a severe bombardment again yesterday