



Clemenceau Is Shot Three Times by Anarchist; Leaps From Auto and Grapples With Assailant

Officer Here Convicted of Navy Graft

Lieutenant Davis, of Medical Corps, Found Guilty of Accepting 2 Bribes

Ensign Paul Beck Is Under Arrest

Several Enlisted Men Also Held and Others Suspected. Says Daniels

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. The naval scandal in the New York district may assume the proportions of a widespread conspiracy to defraud the government, involving numerous officers and men, it developed here today.

Two commissioned officers, Lieutenant Benjamin Davis, of Plymouth, Penn., a surgeon in the medical corps, and Ensign Paul Beck, of New York City, a pay corps officer, are now under arrest awaiting court-martial. A third officer, whose name is withheld by the Navy Department, is expected to be tried by a naval court. Secretary of the Navy Daniels admitted today.

In addition, several enlisted men in the Third Naval District are being held, and may face court-martial proceedings if the evidence now being gathered warrants it, Daniels said. Lieutenant Davis, the Secretary said, has been charged with irregularities in his conduct.

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Full Publicity Later

"I have been asked by Major Muir to withhold the name of the third officer arrested until he completes his investigation. Announcement at this time might seriously interfere with the progress of the inquiry. When the department has a complete report on the charges, however, full publicity will be given to the men involved and the nature of the offenses."

"I have instructed all officers in the Third Naval District to give their cooperation to Major Muir and his assistants in their investigation, and they have been directed to file the charges to the best of their knowledge."

Secretary Daniels admitted that a systematic course of fraud had been going on for some time in the New York district. He declared that evidence already gathered indicated that Lieutenants Davis and Ensign Beck had received bribes of \$1,000 and \$500 for "favors" to men in the service.

Men Discharged From Navy To Be Recalled

Because of Scandal

Hundreds of men, released from the Naval Reserve force, and back in civil life probably will be recalled to active service in the investigation of graft and bribery now being conducted by

Welcome Home!

ON THE collar of the uniform of former Private Louis A. Sormani, of 1005 Sixth Avenue, is the insignia of the tank corps. In his pocket are the slender remnants of the money that he brought out of the service. He also brought the sublime belief that the store in which he had worked as an assistant electrician would take him back again, or else that jobs would be plentiful in New York.

That was more than a month ago. Private Louis A. Sormani became a private citizen on January 5. Since then he has been disabused of the idea that jobs are plentiful.

Faced with the problem of taking Sormani back and discharging the man that has his place, his former employers felt obliged to pursue a stern laissez faire policy. So, according to the extant, has the rest of the city.

He says he is an expert electrician and is willing to start on any salary on which he can live. "But apparently," he added yesterday, "this town doesn't care whether I do or not."

Nearing Freed; Publishers Are Found Guilty

Jury Acquits Professor of Espionage Charges After 30 Hours' Deliberation

Dr. Scott Nearing, on trial for the last two weeks in the United States District Court before Judge Julius M. Mayer, charged with violating the espionage act, was acquitted last night after more than thirty hours of deliberation by the jury. The American Socialist Society, a co-defendant with Dr. Nearing, was found guilty on both counts of the indictment.

When it was announced definitely at about 6:10 p. m. that the jury had reached an agreement little knots of Dr. Nearing's sympathizers, who had been waiting impatiently for two days to hear the jury's verdict, rushed forward and prepared to hear the "worst."

The jury filed in silently, taking their seats in the jury box with a tired air. It was evident that all of them had undergone rigorous discussion, for their faces, which were unshaven for two days, were lined and drawn. Earl R. Barnes, United States Assistant Attorney, snatched slowly into the room and took his seat at the government's table, immediately in front of Seymour Steadman, the attorney for the defendant.

No Demonstration

As soon as Judge Mayer reached the bench, the clerk called the jury roll. The clerk then turned to the foreman and asked if the jury had agreed on a verdict. With a wan smile, Irving D. Zimmer, the foreman, said that they had.

"What is your verdict?" asked the clerk loudly.

"We find the defendant, Scott Nearing, not guilty on both counts of the indictment," answered the foreman quickly, "and the American Socialist Society guilty on both counts."

Nearing Congratulated

Judge Mayer explained further that the finding by the jury on the third count was inconsistent, as it related to both the society and Dr. Nearing. It was arranged by Mr. Barnes and Mr. Steadman, with Judge Mayer's approval, that briefs arguing the fourth count be submitted by March 3. The maximum penalty that the American Socialist Society can suffer is a fine of \$10,000.

When court adjourned Dr. Nearing's sympathizers, about a hundred in number, congratulated him warmly. They

N. Y. Men in 27th to Find Jobs Waiting

Chaplain Sails Saturday for Brest With Application Blanks To Be Filled

General O'Ryan Helping U. S. Employment Service Is Joined by Welfare Organizations to Canvass the City

Each of the 25,000 New York State men of the 27th Division will be given an opportunity to apply for a job before he reaches home. Chaplain Cecil H. Lang, of the Transport Harrisburg, will sail for Brest on Saturday, charged by the War Department with the task of supplying application blanks to such of the men as want jobs.

While the six transports, which are scheduled to leave Brest with the homecoming troops on March 2, 3 and 4, are en route to New York, officers detailed by Major General John F. O'Ryan, will collect the blanks. Meantime, the United States Employment Service, 362 Fifth Avenue, already has begun a special canvass of the city to locate and hold jobs for the New Yorkers.

It is expected that not more than 11,000 men, or about 40 per cent, will find themselves without their old jobs when they return, and the employment service expects to have the required jobs ready by the time the men have arrived and are demobilized.

Jobs Wanted for All

"There will be no unemployed New York boys if we can help it," said Dr. George W. Kitchin, Federal director of the service for New York State, yesterday.

The application blanks which Chaplain Lang is carrying over are provided especially for the New Yorkers. The blanks are headed "Get Ready for a Peace Job." After asking details as to dependents, these questions are put: "Usual occupation?" "Where do you prefer to work?" "Last employer; name and address?" "Will you work elsewhere?" "Wages expected?"

The transports on which the men are to return are the Mauretania, the Leviathan, the Harrisburg, the Louisville, the Agamemnon and the Pannonia.

Plans for enlisting the men for "peace jobs" were made with the War Department through Major General O'Ryan. Dr. Kitchin, after obtaining the approval of the War Department, called Major General O'Ryan.

Welfare Workers to Help

"United States Employment Service and all welfare organizations have combined to aid men in your command to obtain employment. The War Department authorizes you to designate men to prepare transport lists, giving the names, ages and residences, former employers and work desired by those wishing assistance."

Dr. Kitchin followed on the cable message with a letter to Major General O'Ryan. He sent a sample of the application blanks, and described the work to be done. The letter says: "No. 1. The United States Employment Service for the State of New York is charged with the responsibility of readjusting into industry discharged military men. With it in this work are intimately allied all of the welfare organizations recognized by the War Department, such as the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., War Camp Community Service, Salvation Army, American Library Association, Knights of Columbus, National Catholic War Council, Jewish Welfare Board, Federation of Churches, etc., and a very definite state-wide campaign is now being conducted under the supervision of the service to obtain opportunities for employment from employers of the state and turn them over to the returning soldier."

War Department Aids

"No. 2. This afternoon the undersigned asked permission of Assistant Secretary of War Kepner to cable you requesting that if possible transport lists should be prepared by night. In that event President Wilson probably would remain aboard until Monday morning and deliver his address in Boston some time during that day."

The Boston speech is expected by Administration officials to be confined almost entirely to an appeal to the country for support of the league of nations.

Secretary Tumulty has arranged to go to Boston Friday to complete arrangements for the President's address and to be ready to confer with the President on the situation at home.

Boston Welcome Ready

BOSTON, Feb. 19. Plans for the reception of President Wilson upon his arrival here on Sunday or Monday from the peace conference assumed more definite form to-night, although it was not known at what hour he would leave the George Washington or how long he would remain in this city.

It Is Nothing, Premier Says, in Joking Mood

PARIS, Feb. 19.—After disentangling himself from the grip of his would-be assassin, the anarchist Cottin, Premier Clemenceau, without casting a glance in the direction of Cottin, started to walk to his home. Before he reached the door many persons ran forward to assist him.

In reply to a sympathetic inquiry the Premier said: "It is not serious this time."

Supporting himself on the shoulder of one of the domestics of his household, M. Clemenceau walked up one flight of stairs to his bedroom and, sitting down in a big armchair, began to joke with the servants, who were in tears, saying: "Ce n'est rien" ("It is nothing").

Marshal Foch arrived at the Premier's residence about 10 o'clock and took a seat in an adjoining room to await developments. The Marshal had a few words with the Premier and reported M. Clemenceau as saying: "I have dodged bigger ones than that at the front."

Kaiser's Crack Troops Beaten By Heroic 27th

Vanguard of 19 Officers Reach Home and Tell How Men Proved Valor

The vanguard of the 27th Division is home. Nineteen staff officers of "New York's own" reached port yesterday on the La Touraine to prepare for the arrival of the entire division early next month. They brought with them the story of the brave part the Empire State's troops played in the overthrow of the Hun.

It was a representative gathering Major General John F. O'Ryan sent ahead to make ready for his boys' homecoming. It was led by Lieutenant Colonel J. Leslie Kincaid, of Syracuse, the judge advocate who threw down his law books to grasp a sabre when the fighting waxed hard. It included Father Francis A. Kelley, of Albany, a chaplain who took part in every battle and who was decorated for valor by King George and General Pershing.

Each of the others has a gallant record in France and several have been wounded.

Feats of Division Described

Major Tristram Tunper, division adjutant, undertook to relate some of the achievements of the 27th. His time was necessarily limited, but the summary he gave of the division's overseas career indicates that it didn't do very much except fight Germans.

"The engagement of Vierstraat Ridge, in Flanders, was our first action," he said. "The purpose was to occupy this ridge and Mt. Kemmel, from which the enemy was believed to be retreating. Prior to that time the 27th Division had been in the East Poperinghe line in support of the British in front of Mt. Kemmel, since July 9, it being believed at that time that the group of armies under Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria intended making a drive toward the coast."

"Later the word came that the enemy

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Fight Begun on World League By Poindexter

Queries by Lodge and Reed Give Emphasis to Attack by Washington Senator

Galleries Applaud Speaker Opposition in the House Is Inaugurated by Fess, Ohio Representative

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—With galleries packed and nearly every Senator in his chair, the onslaught of the foe of the league of nations against the covenant President Wilson is rushing home to explain, began in the Senate chamber to-day. Senator Miles Poindexter, of Washington, not a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, enjoin to silence by President Wilson, but who for years has taken a more active interest in all international questions than many members of that committee, opened the attack.

In the House this evening Representative Fess, of Ohio, delivered a speech in opposition to the league.

The crowd in the galleries apparently was with the attackers and against the league. At times it was boisterous. Several times the Vice-President had to caution against applause. Senator Poindexter was interrupted repeatedly by Senator Reed, of Missouri, who is more bitter against the league than any one else on the Democratic side, and who used stronger language in denouncing it than even Mr. Poindexter himself.

Lodge Joins Discussion

Senator Lodge, leader of the Republicans, and who will be their chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee when they organize the Senate, rose to his feet on one occasion and asked permission to interrupt Mr. Poindexter. He apparently had been delighted with Poindexter's line of thought for several moments, having nodded smiling approval of three or four points.

"I would like to ask the Senator," said Mr. Lodge, assuming an air as though the problem were troubling him, "whether a nation which is selected by the league as a mandatory power to carry out some order has the right to decline, or whether it must obey whether it wishes to or not."

"I should say it would have to obey," said Senator Poindexter.

"That is my conclusion," said Mr. Lodge, "but, like many other provisions of the constitution, it requires many vigorous inferences."

Senator Reed made the point during the Poindexter speech that America would have but one vote out of nine on the executive council.

Tribute to Clemenceau

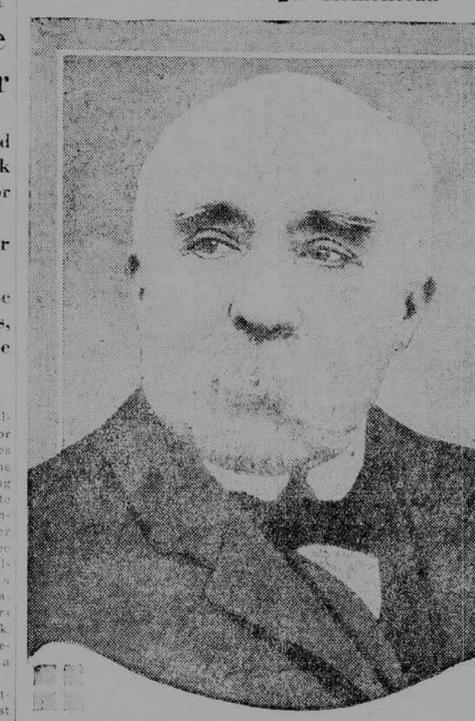
An announcement by Senator Poindexter of the attempt on the life of Premier Clemenceau provided a dramatic introduction for his attack on the league.

"This morning," he said, "we read of the discontent in Europe over the delay of the Paris conference in framing a treaty of peace and restoring the world to normal. This moment I have just seen in a noon edition of a local newspaper an announcement that will shake the world—the news of the attempted assassination of Georges Clemenceau, Premier of France."

"The world could all afford to lose

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Premier Georges Clemenceau



Germany Now Is in Grip of Moral Panic

Leaders Talk of Giving Up and Allowing Allies to Take Control of Country

By William C. Dreher

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—The German calendar continues to fall, and the frosts which it gives off is the inevitable sign of violent internal commotion. Labor troubles and political turmoil are increasing daily.

The political strike in the coal region under the Spartacist organization, which is suddenly continuing to defy the newly constituted government, threatens to become even more dangerous an affair than the Berlin rebellion last January. The situation at Nuremberg also is an omen of dangerous import.

On top of this internal ferment came the renewal of the armistice, whereas the terms and general circumstances attending its acceptance are such as to deepen the gloom of German leaders.

Goethen Is Pessimistic

Goethen, the new imperial Minister of Finance, contributes an article to this morning's "Tagblatt" which is pitched in an extremely pessimistic tone. Goethen is one of the most prominent German pacifists and is a liberal of the old English school.

The Minister of Finance says that the German people are to-day dancing unknowingly over a volcano. The new armistice conditions, with their three-day period for demobilization, destroy the last remnant of public security, he says. He pictures the Allies as preparing the way for complete dissolution of the German political structure and he sees only a vengeful will to destroy. He says he fears that the Allies will actually produce conditions far exceeding those following the Thirty Years' War, conditions which may lead to the destruction of the world civilization.

Goethen seriously asks whether it would not be better to reject the Allies' latest terms, and leave them the responsibility of occupying Germany and undertake the task of governing the people for years. He asks whether the peoples of the Entente would be content to employ their troops for years in such a manner. "Would they be willing to see their best market ruined?" he asks.

Sees Dangers Ahead

Goethen expects evil results from the new armistice. Continued maintenance of the blockade and the refusal of food are bringing Germany deeper into economic depression, he argues. Unemployment, already frightful, will be increased.

He asks how public order can be maintained in the presence of hunger and lack of work, and draws the conclusion that Believers must spread and civilization perish.

Germany's present economic condition he painted in dark colors in this article, saying that although coal production has been reduced it is impossible to move such as is mined adequately.

Doctors Say Wounds Are Not Mortal

Wounded in Shoulder and Arm; Was on His Way to Meet Col. House

Assassin Is Badly Beaten by Crowd

Premier Was Humanity's Enemy; Planned a New War, Asserts Assailant

PARIS, Feb. 19.—(By The Associated Press).—Premier Georges Clemenceau, characterized by Lloyd George as "France's grand young man," was attacked to-day by an anarchist, Emile Cottin, known as "Mijou."

Seven shots were fired, three of which struck the Premier. One bullet lodged in the muscles of the shoulder, penetrating deeply, but, so far as is at present known, not injuring the spine or penetrating the lungs. Two bullets bruised the right arm and hand, while two other bullets are reported to have passed through the Premier's clothing.

At the time of his attempted assassination M. Clemenceau had just left his home to drive in a motor car to a conference with Colonel Edward M. House, of the American peace delegation, and Arthur J. Balfour, British Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Though bleeding profusely, M. Clemenceau was able to return to his home, where he reassured the members of his household and waved aside anxious inquirers with: "It is nothing."

Has Coughing Spells

Latest reports from his attendants are to the effect that his condition was satisfactory and that he was cheerful throughout the day, despite occasional fits of coughing.

After temporary aid had been given M. Clemenceau, Professors Gosset and Tuffier, of the University of Paris, were hastily summoned and had a hurried consultation. They decided upon an X-ray examination.

One of the surgeons said that perhaps it would not be necessary to remove the bullet, as no bones were shattered and no important blood vessel had been touched, although the wound was quite deep and bled profusely.

Assailant a Frenchman

Cottin, whom the police believe to be a somewhat harmless person, associating with anarchists and aiding in their propaganda, declared that he had planned to kill the Premier because M. Clemenceau "was the enemy of humanity and was preparing for another war."

Premier Clemenceau declared to members of his household that he thought he knew his assailant. He had seen him last evening when entering his home, but the man had slunk away.

According to the first examination the Premier's assailant, Cottin, was born at Creil, thirty-two miles north of Paris, in 1896. He is French. He has done no military service, having been excused owing to the state of his health. He lived with his family at Compiègne until they removed to Paris, where he worked as a carpenter.

Cottin declares himself to be "a solitary and scientific anarchist."

Tells How He Shot Premier

Describing his attack on the Premier, Cottin said:

"When I reached Clemenceau's house I saw it was guarded, and so decided to make an attempt further on, at the corner of the Rue Franklin and the Boulevard Dessestier. There I hid, awaiting the automobile. When I saw the car I advanced and fired sideways, the first bullet piercing two windows. Then as the car continued to advance I ran after it and continued firing until my revolver was exhausted. Most of the bullets hit the car. It seems to me that it was the last, or last but one, which hit the Premier."

"About seven months ago I thought of killing Clemenceau as the greatest enemy of humanity. I determined to carry out this project a few days ago, and for this purpose went to the Rue Franklin to see how I could attack the Premier with the least possible risk. I had taken care to find out his habits and identify his house, which seemed very simple for such a personality, and very ugly."

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