

Charlotte Mills Seeks Spirit Aid Of Slain Mother

Girl, Pertness Gone, Cries Out Against Jury and Assails Prosecutor for Trying to Put Me Away'

Has Backing of Aunts

Next Move in Case Awaits Conference Monday Between Mott and McCran

From a Staff Correspondent
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Dec. 1.—The bitterness of James Mills over the failure of the authorities to solve the mystery of his wife's death is shared by Charlotte, his sixteen-year-old daughter, who, with a grief she has not previously displayed, seems to feel that justice has not been done.

The girl seemed sobered to-day and greatly increased over what she called the "persecution" of the authorities. She blames Prosecutor Azariah Becker, she blames the grand jury, and she blames the police, saying that the case man should be solved while he has the witness before him. Her experience both inside and outside the grand jury room has not impressed her. She is more eager to get in touch with her mother. Charlotte is further embittered by the suggestion of the authorities to her aunt, Mrs. Ed Tennesson and Mrs. Edna Barnhardt, that she be put away. "Why should I be put away?" she asked indignantly to-day. "Because my mother has been murdered? Because I am not hesitated to say who I believe murdered my mother? Because I believe myself guilty knowledge of the murder? Because scandal-mongers, of which there seem to be thousands in New Brunswick, have credited me with every form of indiscretion their fancy could conceive?"

In Tears, Her Pertness Gone

Her indignation brought tears to the girl's eyes. All her egotism and pertness fell from her. She seemed young and wilted and a little pathetic in spite of the defiant toss of her bobbed head and the challenge she flung, like this: "I will not be put away. And I shall continue to assert that the failure of the grand jury to find indictments in the case has not changed my opinion as to the identity of the person most plainly involved in the plot to kill my mother."

Charlotte spoke of the conference between Attorney General McCran and Special Prosecutor Wilbur A. Mott scheduled for Monday, remarking that it probably would end by Mr. Beckerman taking over the case entirely. "I want to say that I feel I have been persecuted by him," she said. "I had a disappointment in the grand jury room. I went there prepared to give what evidence I could to help them. I didn't expect Mr. Beckerman to attack my moral character. From the start they have been after my father to put

Got Wrong Numbers; Jury Awards \$1,000

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 1.—George S. Griggs, attorney, was awarded \$1,000 by a jury in the District Court here to-day for delays to his business due to "wrong numbers" given him by operators of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Griggs sued for \$3,000 for damages alleged to be due to delays in service from July 31, 1917, to July, 1918, and from July, 1919, to July, 1920.

The company said the influenza epidemic and labor troubles were responsible. The jury, made up of seven women and five men, gave Griggs the verdict after three hours' deliberation. The company will appeal.

me away. They tried to tell him I was a bad girl. They said I was running wild. I haven't said anything about it because I wanted to see something done first about the death of my mother, but now I'm going to hit back.

"Given No Chance," She Cries

"I wasn't given a chance to help before the Grand Jury, neither was Miss Millie Opie, our next door neighbor. The trouble is, they just wanted everything hushed up. One brave detective did his best to find evidence that I think when I should have been asked hundreds of questions which would have brought answers really bearing on the solution of the crime, my questioners confined themselves to insulting interrogations about my actions in the last eleven weeks."

Charlotte's aunts are in sympathy with the girl. They allege that instead of being questioned about the relations between Mrs. Mills and Mr. Hall, they were asked about Charlotte. They feel that the investigation will get nowhere while Prosecutor Beckerman has it in hand. They said yesterday, with a strong note of conviction: "Let the Governor or some other power select a man of wide experience and no connection with New Jersey politics or affairs, and place him in charge. Only then will a sincere effort be made to bring the guilty persons to justice."

State Police Ordered to Stay

Charlotte and her aunts are not alone in their indignation. The town is still seething with talk over the futility of the long investigation. There are still signs of official activity although nothing definite will be done until Mr. McCran and Mr. Mott meet on Monday. The state police have received orders to stay here "until they break the case." They admitted to-day that they have no new leads but that they will keep on the job.

Mr. Mott was non-committal when questioned to-day. He said he would make a full report on his investigation Monday morning, but refused to indicate whether or not he intends to withdraw from the case. Detective Ferd A. David, Middlesex County detective, who has been active in the investigation, said to-day the case was not closed by a "long shot" and that he intended to go right ahead working. "The case given the jury was almost complete," he said. "If we can locate a few more witnesses, and not many are needed to link up the chain of evidence now in the state's possession,

Figures in Bronx Murder Mystery That Stirs Police



At left, above—Celia and Sarah Becker, children of the slain woman; beneath them—Miss Anna Elias, who is held as a material witness because of her relations with Becker; above, at right—The accused husband; beneath him—Mrs. Becker, with whose death he is charged. At bottom, right—Mrs. Rebecca Baldwin, one of the women who identified the body which was found in a pit.

there should be no excuse for the grand jury failing to find ground for indictments. I am firm in my belief in Mrs. Gibson's story and I should know, for I have checked it up, step by step. It is, to my mind, so convincing that I wouldn't give up the case now if every one else did so. It may be a long time before the one witness needed turns up, but I am convinced this witness will ultimately weaken."

Feeling runs both ways in New Brunswick itself. "The Home News" comes out with a strong editorial to-day pointing out that Mrs. Hall has been pilloried because she happened to have money. It answers many of the rumors that have been in common circulation. "Why is it when a person with money gets into trouble and gets out of it, so many people have an idea



if that they were not involved in the frightful tragedy of September 14. While not attempting to defend Mrs. Hall or the Carpenders at all, it is only fair to state that if Jimmie Mills had been wealthy, he would have been suspected just as much as the former. When trouble comes the rich have more suspicion cast upon them than the poor would have, and the way sentiment crystallized against Mrs. Hall and the Carpenders is ample proof of this contention."

The arrival here on Monday of Sir Basil Thompson, former chief of Scotland Yard, is looked forward to with interest. He will lecture on his experiences in Scotland Yard and is expected to give his views on the Hall-Mills murder after being taken over the scene of the crime.

Slain Wife Buried Alive; Husband Held

(Continued from page one)

going on I am unable to reveal these just now."

Jury Acts Quickly

The grand jury required but a few minutes to bring in an indictment after hearing the testimony.

A number of the witnesses testified as to Becker's apparently jubilant attitude following his wife's disappearance on April 7 and various indiscreet remarks he is said to have made, such as "Congratulations!" and "I've got rid of my wife."

Among the most important witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. Max Lindner, who were said to have told of the call of the Beckers at their home on the night of April 6 and Becker's unwillingness to leave until the early morning, despite Mrs. Becker's protests. Mrs. Rebecca Baldwin was reported to have described the stormy life led by the couple and the investigations she made leading to Becker's arrest.

The sensation of the day, however, was caused by Dr. Kennard, when he testified that he was certain, from his examination of the body, that Mrs. Becker had been buried alive. Just what Dr. Kennard told the grand jury was not disclosed, but he expressed that opinion to newspaper men before entering the grand jury chamber.

Thinks She Suffocated

"I do not believe," he said, "that the blow which fractured the base of the skull killed Mrs. Becker outright. She may have been in a dying condition when placed in the pit, but there are indications that death actually resulted from suffocation following her burial."

"One of the strongest is the fact that, when the earth had been removed from above the body, the legs were found to have been crossed, in such a way as to appear that Mrs. Becker may have struggled to arise after her slayer began heaping dirt upon her."

"It is true that no dirt was found in the mouth or throat, but her coat was placed over her head when she was laid in the pit, and this would have prevented earth particles from entering the mouth, no matter how desperately she may have gasped for air."

Sought Homes for Children

Mrs. Weinberg became interested in Becker's four motherless children through thus meeting him, she said, and offered to aid in finding them a home. She finally found a Mrs. Eisenberg, a corsetier, who agreed to adopt Celia, one of the three-year-old twins. But Mrs. Eisenberg's lawyer pointed out that in the event Mrs. Becker should return to her home, Mrs. Eisenberg would be held responsible.

"And so," Mrs. Weinberg was reported to have told the grand jury, "Mrs. Eisenberg and I went to see Becker. He said at first that he would give a written guaranty that his wife

Two Held as Slayers In War Over Oyster Beds in Maryland

CAMBRIDGE, Md., Dec. 1.—William Travers, prominent oyster planter, of Nanticoke, prominent oyster planter, was named as the man who fired the shot that killed Emerson Pritchett, of Bushops Head, Dorchester County, in a factional feud between Wicomico and Dorchester County oyster tongs, at a preliminary hearing before Justice Vinton here to-day.

A charge of murder was placed against Travers and he was held without bail for action of the grand jury. Captain J. W. Collier, another Nanticoke oyster planter, was charged with complicity in the murder. He was released under \$5,000 bail.

Travers and Collier had previously been charged with assaulting and shooting Pritchett. The shooting occurred November 23, in Deep Creek, a small tributary of the Nanticoke River. Pritchett died last Saturday night in the hospital at Cambridge.

The hearing to-day was attended by hundreds of residents of both counties. Many prominent residents of Wicomico County attended the hearing. Only Gordy Pritchett, brother of the slain man, and Ivy Bramble, who were in the boat with him on the morning of the shooting, were called to the stand. Both testified that on the Monday preceding the shooting they, with Moses E. Pritchett and Edward Robinson, had gone to the Deep Creek beds to tong. They were tonging from three boats, they said, when William Travers appeared in a motor boat and, after calling the three boats together, asked those who were tonging if they didn't know they were taking his oysters.

The Pritchetts are said to have replied that they did not, and showed a letter received by Moses E. Pritchett from the State Conservation Commission stating that there were no leased beds in that creek.

The Pritchetts left, but came back the following day and took a few oysters from the Deep Creek beds. It was testified.

20 Leave Police Force; Fourteen Go on Pension

The names of twenty members of the Police Department were stricken from the rolls yesterday. One sergeant, twelve patrolmen and a policeman were dismissed from the force and placed on the roll of the police pension fund on surgeons' certificates; three patrolmen were dismissed on their own application, two resigned and one was dismissed from duty after having been tried on charges.

The patrolman dismissed after having had charges brought against him is Darby Dent, of the Butler Street station. He is said to have been guilty of insubordination, neglect of duty and violations of regulations.

The policeman placed on the pension fund is Henriette Durie. She is to receive \$1,018 a year. She was appointed in 1905.

The total of twenty names stricken from the rolls is said to be the largest single-day total in Police Department history.

Prominent Nanticoke Planter Accused of Firing Shot In War Over Oyster Beds in Maryland

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Tiernan Ordered Held For Test of His Sanity

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—A test to determine the sanity of John P. Tiernan, former Notre Dame University law instructor, was ordered to-night by County Judge Righelmer on the petition of Mrs. Frances Pulaski, sister of Mrs. Tiernan.

Upon a statement made by Dr. James W. Hall, alienist, that Tiernan was mentally unsound and the charge was made by Mrs. Pulaski that the professor had "hypnotized" his wife and "prevented her from carrying out her own will," Judge Righelmer signed papers for Tiernan's commitment to the Cook County Psychopathic Hospital for observation. Deputies were then sent to search for Tiernan, who came to Chicago to-day with his wife following the auctioning off of their household effects in South Bend.

Professor Tiernan recently returned to the wife from whom he had been granted a divorce as a result of the voiding of the decree after he had married again at Crown Point, Ind.

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