

INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATORS' BILLSCANDAL

District Attorney Acts in Thompson Committee Rumpus.

CALLS FOR RECORDS AT THE BILTMORE

Law Makes Felony of False Charging of Account to State.

District Attorney Swann yesterday announced an investigation into the \$5,230 bill of the Thompson committee for two months' entertainment at the Hotel Biltmore. Items in this bill were not properly set forth, according to the admission of Senator Thompson himself, who O. K.'d the account.

Assistant District Attorney William H. Black, who has been assigned to the case, announced later that preliminary study inclined him to the belief that the situation was covered by section 1863 of the penal law, which makes it a felony for any person to audit, pay or allow any false claim against the State, a county, city or village or to connive in such work knowing that such claim or demand is false or fraudulent. The penalty is five years imprisonment or \$5,000 fine or both.

Before the bill was introduced in the House, the Hotel Biltmore, where he was promised every scrap of writing that related to the bills of the Thompson committee during the months of January, February and March, 1915. These records will include the ledger, which will contain the separate charges against every member of the committee; the cards on which the accounts were analyzed, such as food, drinks, cigars, flowers, theatre tickets, cabs, manure, barber, tea, and extra guests, male or female.

Task to Get Records Together

As the labor involved in getting these records together is great, the accounts could not be finished yesterday. They will be sent to the committee on Monday at the outside. They will be taken to Mr. Swann's assistant by Auditor Eugene D. Miller, who made the original copy of the bills and who is in charge of all the data and items as mentioned and charged therein were correct. This is where Senator James A. Fine, Mr. McQuiston's representative, and Mr. Hunter McQuiston have contradicted Mr. Miller, all declaring that they did not occupy the rooms they were charged as occupying or eat the food charged against them.

In answer Senator George Thompson, who is head of the committee that has been investigating the Public Service Commission, admits that the bills were correct, but he falls back upon the assertion that the amount is correct and that it was prorated according to correct accounting.

Senator Thompson added this last night: That Mr. McQuiston properly had objected to the items charged against him and that others may have done so. He had proceeded according to the practice, but that at the end of the present investigation he would see to it that other committees and their bills would come into the limelight to the end that the practice may be broken up.

Acts to Gather Evidence.

Mr. Black sent a letter yesterday to Mr. McQuiston asking for a copy of the bills of the committee and for a copy of all requests, vouchers or memoranda bearing on the subject being sent to the District Attorney of New York. Mr. McQuiston's representative, Mr. Miller, was asked if the bills were correct, but he falls back upon the assertion that the amount is correct and that it was prorated according to correct accounting.

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Detective Burns's London Headquarters Are Raided

Mysterious Search of American's Office by British Officials—Federal Grand Jury Suspects Seven Men as Strike Promoters With Lamar.

SESSIONS ARE TO CONTINUE NEXT WEEK

The following private cable message was received here yesterday: "LONDON, Jan. 21.—The London branch of the William J. Burns National Detective Agency, with headquarters in New York, was searched by Scotland Yard men a few months ago. The Scotland Yard men went through the records in the office, but found nothing of an incriminating nature.

"The manager of the branch office, who is an Englishman, told the authorities that the office did practically no business for the New York office, its work being confined chiefly to London.

"It also has been learned that Norman T. Bailey, who was the manager of the London office at the time of the outbreak of the war, resigned about a year ago. He gave no reason for his resignation, but went to America, where he is said to have started an agency of his own."

When Sherman Burns, son of William J. Burns, was reached by telephone at the home of his father in Bronxville last night and told about the contents of the cable message, he said:

"Yes, the investigation happened some months ago. We were informed of it by letter from our London manager. When the authorities visited the London office they pointed out to the manager, who is English born, though he worked some years in America, that the Burns agency was the only American concern of its kind that had branches in London and in Europe. The manager said he understood the situation fully, and immediately opened up all the books and the records for their investigation. The investigators said they were satisfied and from what we learned afterward we have every reason to believe that they found they were perfectly satisfied."

William J. Burns, head of the Burns agency, has gained international fame by the cases that he has solved both in the secret and in the open. He has been active in the collection of the records for their investigation. The investigators said they were satisfied and from what we learned afterward we have every reason to believe that they found they were perfectly satisfied."

LINCOLN STILL FREE.

Women and Nihilists Planned for Sp's Escape.

Ignatius T. Lincoln, who calls himself an international spy, was still at large yesterday, but there were numerous probabilities that he would be captured within a short time.

FIREBUG ESCAPES ON ROOF AFTER A CHASE

Harlem Incendiary Near Capture—Policeman Pursues Upstairs to Skylight.

The Harlem firebug who has kept the upper part of the city in terror recently by his numerous blazes in tenement houses came near being caught last night within a few minutes after he had played his usual game of hide-and-seek in the cellar of 246 Columbus avenue.

Edward Pultar, who lives in the house, entered the flat about 9:15 o'clock and found the man lurking in the rear. He demanded the man's business, whereupon the man fled upstairs. Pultar ran out and met Policeman Schrimpf of the West 100th street station. Schrimpf ran inside, drawing his revolver as he went.

The firebug was just disappearing around the turn on the second floor. The policeman yelled at him to stop and followed him upstairs until the fugitive went through the hole and disappeared. Schrimpf, hindered by his heavy uniform, was delayed in getting through. When he emerged there was no sign of the fleeing man.

An investigation revealed a quart hot in the rear of the flat in the cellar of the tenement. Near by was a pile of newspapers, liberally saturated. A quantity of oil had also been sprinkled in the wood bins near by.

SUBMARINE SINKS AEROPLANE.

British capture Austrian Aviator and Destroy Torpedo Boat.

DENIES SINKING THE PERSIA.

Austria Tells U. S. Envoy None of Her U Boats Was Concerned.

ONLY SIX HOURS TO HAVANA. Atlantic coast line, Florida and West Indies limited, 1:15 A. M. All Florida routes reached. 4 Trains Daily. 11:30 P. M. 4:45.

BANDIT SHOOT TWO IN HEART OF CHICAGO

Wounds Cashier, Kills a Policeman and Escapes Into Busy Streets.

WOMAN "PAI" WITH HIM FOR CLOSE COOPERATION

Waiting in Auto, She Mingles With Panic Stricken Throng and Gets Away.

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—A lone bandit held up and robbed the office of Thomas Cook & Son, tourist agents, 15 East Jackson Boulevard, late this afternoon, shot and dangerously wounded the cashier, E. L. Walsh, shot and killed Policeman B. A. Johnson, who attempted to block him at the entrance, and finally escaped with \$500.

A woman accomplice, who sat at the wheel of an automobile near the curbstone, jumped from the motor and disappeared in the crowd. State street was filled with homeward bound shoppers at the time and shooting caused a panic. The ticket office is but a few feet east of State street.

At 5:15 o'clock when the robber entered the door of the office, the cashier was counting over the receipts of the afternoon.

"Hands up, everybody," ordered the highwayman as he came toward the cashier's counter with a revolver in his hand.

"Get over on this side and stand in line, just as I command," Walsh started to obey a revolver. Immediately there was a report and Walsh fell with a bullet in his chest. The robber seized the pile of bills, tucked them into his pocket and backed toward the door.

Policeman Shot Down.

The report of the revolver had attracted the attention of passersby. One of the crowd ran to the street crossing and summoned Policeman Johnson. Johnson started to follow the robber, but the bullet passing through his heart, he died before he reached the door.

By this time the crowd was almost impassable. Women rushed screaming into doorways. Those nearest the ticket office were being pushed back. Those behind were pushing their way to the front. Many did not know what had taken place.

The robber saw that it was impossible for him to reach the machine where the woman was waiting with the engine running. He ran east, where another machine was standing. He jumped into the seat beside the driver and ordered him to drive away.

The woman who had driven to the ticket office with the highwayman was seated in the machine and was unable to reach her on account of the crowd on the sidewalk and street. She did not attempt to drive away, but stepped from the machine and mingled with the crowd, disappearing last night in the street.

Woman Gets Away.

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STOLEN JEWELS FOUND.

Carden Robbery in Riverside Drive Quickly Solved.

Less than twelve hours after the discovery that the apartments of Howard J. M. Carden at 210 Riverside Drive had been robbed of jewelry, silver and clothing valued at \$10,000, the police had arrested the thief.

The apartment of Mr. Carden, who represents a distillery with an office at 22 William street, was entered early yesterday by means of a jimmy applied to a rear door. The valuables were taken away in suitcases. The burglary was discovered by a maid. Mr. and Mrs. Carden were at home when they returned last night when they were informed by a neighbor that their apartment had been robbed.

BELGIAN OFFICE OPPOSES SHOOTING AS MORE COSTLY THAN HANGING.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

BURGOMASTER MAX DYING.

King Alfonso Seeks Release of Former Brussels Official.

FORNISHING DIET IN GRIPS FOR SUBS. "Horse and Cattle" Mailed Daily. 11:30 P. M. 4:45.

RAILROADS JOIN IN BIG DEFENCE PLAN

Their Sub-committee Consults the War Department on Mobilization.

ARMY WAR COLLEGE IS WORKING OUT A SCHEME TO BE SUBMITTED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Active negotiations are under way between officials of the War Department and representatives of all the leading railroads of the country except those in New England looking to an arrangement under which the equipment of the roads might be placed at the disposal of the Government for purposes of troop mobilization in time of war.

The railroads have appointed a committee headed by Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railway, and in conjunction with the Department. Today a sub-committee of that committee, consisting of Chairman B. L. Livingston of the Transcontinental Association, C. L. Hunter of the Trunk Line Association, and J. C. McLeod of the Western Railroads Association and Mr. Hannigan of the Southwestern Railroads Association, held a long conference at the Department with Lieut.-Col. Chauncey B. Baker of the Quartermaster-General's department.

Suggested by the President.

Suggestions for such cooperation between the railroads and the Government were first broached in the annual message read to Congress by President Wilson last December, when in referring to the Administration's national defence programme he said:

"I take it for granted that I do not need your authority to call into systematic consultation with the directing officers of the army and navy men of recognized leadership and ability from among our citizens who are thoroughly familiar with the country and its transportation facilities of the country and therefore capable of advising how the best use can be made of the resources of the country who can suggest the best way in which to bring about prompt cooperation among the manufacturing and other industries of the country and those who could assist in bringing the technical skill of the country to the aid of the Government in the solution of particular problems of war."

At the conference today the discussion dealt principally with five general problems of cooperation to be worked out, some of them dependent, it is said, upon the action of Congress. These problems were defined as follows:

1. Devising of a special military tariff to be available by the military for the country for the transportation of troops and supplies in time of war and under which the shipment and billing of supplies and settlement of accounts could be effected with the greatest ease and despatch.

2. The enrollment of railroad officers as reserve officials of the quartermaster department for the purpose of acting as a reserve force in the solution of particular problems of war.

3. Cooperation between the War Department and the railroads on the solution of problems of engineering construction of military railroads in time of war.

Continuous Cooperation.

4. Exchanging of information between the railroads and the Department from time to time with a view to the betterment and the needs of the latter respecting railroad equipment in time of war emergency.

5. A system under which the Department might have the right to call upon the railroads for the use of their equipment in the most rapid transportation of troops and supplies in time of war.

The complete text of the statement made in the Reichstag by Dr. Zimmermann, Under Secretary of the Foreign Office, on behalf of the Government follows:

"With the most sincere satisfaction I am able in the name of the Government to note the unanimity with which you, in common with the German people and the German Government, denounce this atrocious and heinous crime. You have appropriately branded it as a horrible incident and the impertinence of the English answer. It needs no further words from me to lay to rest the indignation of the Reichstag of the English."

YUAN POSTPONES CROWNING.

Chinese Rebellion the Cause—No Date Set for Ceremony.

PEKING, Jan. 21.—The coronation of Yuan Shih-kai as Emperor of China, which was to have been held on February 12, has been postponed indefinitely, owing to the uprising in southern China.

BET ON U. S. STEEL DIVIDEND.

Wall Street Odds on Common Average 200 to 300 Against.

There was much speculation in Wall Street yesterday with regard to the meeting next Tuesday of the directors of the United States Steel Corporation as to whether or not they will declare a dividend on the common stock.

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Expect Attack by Teuton Fleet With 17 Inch Guns

Germans Preparing Naval Surprise for England, London Paper Says—New Armament Will Far Outclass That of British Ships, It Is Declared.

NEW GUNS ALREADY USED AGAINST DUNKIRK

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Jan. 22 (Saturday).—The Daily News gives prominence to an article suggesting that the Germans are preparing a naval surprise for England. The article says the Germans are arming their new battleships with 17 inch guns. The Daily News adds that it is believed the shells thrown into Dunkirk some time ago were fired by 17 inch naval guns.

The Daily Mail asserts that it knows "upon the highest authority" that the statement in the Daily News regarding the 17 inch naval guns is true.

The writer of the Daily News article expresses fear that the British will be caught napping. He recalls that Germany and Austria concealed the overwhelming power of the howitzers which demolished the Belgian and Russian fortresses. Experts of the allied nations had prophesied them, but the experts were proved to be wrong.

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NEW FLIERS DEADLY.

Hamburg Paper Says They Doom Britain—Soon to Attack London.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Jan. 21.—The greatest interest is manifested here in the recent achievements of the new German Fokker aeroplanes, which have been arousing public attention for several days and were the subject of debate in the House of Commons a few days ago. The efficiency of the aeroplane continues to be described as amazing. The Germans assert that since December 16 it has destroyed three biplanes, ten battle aeroplanes and one monoplane.

The following description of the machine was given to the correspondent of THE SUN by an expert:

"The new Fokker aeroplane is a very small monoplane with a large engine of between 100 and 150 horse-power. It is operated by one man and is fitted with an immovable machine gun that fires straight through the propeller. The pilot at tremendous speed can generally manoeuvre to get beneath the tail of the machine he is attacking, so as to be safe from the fire of the enemy."

"ANY MEANS TO AVENGE BARALONG," GERMAN CRY

Teuton Press Claims for Most Drastic Reprisals Possible—Britannia Is Pictured as "Jeering and Whistling at Humanity."

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Jan. 21.—While the Baralong case continues to furnish the German papers with a subject for vitriolic attacks on England, coupled with a unanimous demand for immediate retaliation, no hint is given regarding the nature of the reprisals to be taken. Fear is expressed in some circles here that Germany will decide to execute thirty British officers as punishment for the attack on the Baralong.

The complete text of the statement made in the Reichstag by Dr. Zimmermann, Under Secretary of the Foreign Office, on behalf of the Government follows:

"We have also been able to note with indignation the fact that sharp punishment is necessary. On this point also the Government entirely agrees with you. I thank you in the name of the Government for the edifying way in which you have once more given expression to your indignation. I can assure you and beg you to take this assurance home with you, that the Government will not fail to take the most effective means of punishing sharply and emphatically this horrible deed."

Reprisal Plan Opposed.

The plan for drastic reprisals is not supported by the Socialist Deputy, Herr Ledebur, who makes the following statement:

"I am in no way in favour of the reprisals, but I am in favour of the most effective means of punishing sharply and emphatically this horrible deed."

Leibknecht's Course Assailed.

"Yet there was one who had the unhappy courage about the Baralong case, Leibknecht, of course, whom one could not but regard as a man of courage, but like all diseased persons, a claim on our sympathy."

The Reichstag says:

"The indignation and actually daring to murder on the perpetrators of cowardly murder who had disgraced their service in the war, has been expressed in London. Thus there is nothing left but to cease all discussion of the matter. At the same time we shall have regard also to the fact that the British Government has long been engaged in a policy of a term of silence. It is a term of silence which has been degraded by their attitude towards the Baralong case. We will enter into no negotiations."

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MONTENEGRIN PEACE PARLEYS ENDED BY ARMY

Gen. Martinovich Took Matter in Hand When King Was Yielding.

HAILED AS SAVIOR OF "BLACK MOUNTAIN"

Troops Refuse to Surrender and Will Continue the Fighting.

ALLIES MAKE LANDING ON BULGAR COAST

Send Force Ashore at Porto Lagos, but Party Is Withdrawn.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Jan. 21.—Peace negotiations between Austria and Montenegro have been broken off owing to the intervention of Gen. Martinovich, leader of the anti-Austrian party in Montenegro, who assumed command of the troops, including the Serbian detachments aiding the Montenegrins, and opposed their disarmament, thus averting the betrayal of the Allies by King Nicholas.

The entire population of Gen. Martinovich as the deliverer of Montenegro. A complete exodus from the little country is expected. All efforts are now being concentrated on the defence of Scutari.

The negotiations were held in obedience to King Nicholas' wishes. Montenegro's neutrality and its refusal to cooperate in the restoration of Prince William of Wied as King of Albania, Montenegro's neutrality and its refusal to cooperate in the restoration of Prince William of Wied as King of Albania, Montenegro's neutrality and its refusal to cooperate in the restoration of Prince William of Wied as King of Albania.

MONTENEGRO ASKS HELP

Says Allies Must Act If Army Is to Escape Annihilation.

Paris, Jan. 21.—King Nicholas has sent an urgent call to the Allies to aid his forces if the latter are to escape annihilation in their final stand against the Austrians. Immediate supplies of food and several batteries of artillery and ammunition are asked for.

It is supposed that there are to aid in the defence of Scutari, to which the Montenegrins are retreating. In Scutari, it is said in the former Montenegrin capital, the forces of the Austrians are estimated to number 10,000 men.

Meanwhile, in spite of details from Vienna that peace negotiations with Montenegro have been broken off, the Allies are reported to be continuing their operations against the Austrians, while officers of lesser strength have crossed the Albanian frontier and are operating within fifteen kilometers of Scutari.

NEW BLOW AT BULGARIA.

Allies Shell Porto Lagos, Then Land Men to Cut Italians.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—A powerful allied squadron, six days' work in all, successfully shelled the Bulgarian coast from the Ionian Islands. Last Wednesday's bombardment of Porto Lagos, the Bulgarian sea port on the Aegean which lies in the immediate neighbourhood of the Greek border and about 100 miles east of Salonica. The naval guns shelled the port's defence cannon, whereas a force was landed.

This force proceeded northward in the direction of the important Bulgarian coastal railway, with the object of cutting it; but was met by a superior Bulgarian detachment and forced to withdraw. The Bulgarian gun emplacements were destroyed prior to the bombardment.

On the same day an allied squadron of twenty-four units launched a vigorous fire against the Bulgarian coast, the chief targets being the important coastal railway and the port of Porto Lagos. The two attacks are general operations of a large scale against the Bulgarian coast with the object of the landing of a large force and the ultimate aim of cutting the

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