

6 HELD AS SLAYERS OF HOLBACH COUPLE

Police Say Youthful Gunmen Admit Murder of Roadhouse Keepers.

PRISONERS ARE INDICTED

After Shooting Ozone Park Man and Wife Robbers Fled Without Loot.

After following a trail which led through half a dozen States the police have run to earth and tried confessed slayers, they say, from the gang of waseel faced young gunmen who murdered Jack Holbach and his wife Helen in their roadhouse at Ozone Park, Queens, the night of January 20. Until the Grand Jury in the Supreme Court at Long Island City returned indictments yesterday charging first degree murder against the six prisoners arrested in connection with the slaying it was supposed that the crime was listed among the unsolved murder mysteries of New York.

Robbery was the object of the shooting, but the gangsters were frightened away before they even had time to open the drawer of the cash register behind Holbach's bar. Street in the box upon which the cash register rested were Liberty bond coupon books and checks totalling well over \$1,000 and \$100 in cash. A \$100 bill was missing.

Who the Prisoners Are.

The indicted men are: Michael Casalino, 27, of 146 Clason avenue, Brooklyn, who was arrested on a farm at Fairport, N. Y. He is accused of the actual killing and has admitted it, the police say. Tony Bruno, 22, of 218 Hudson avenue, Brooklyn. He was captured near his home and is said to have told the police that he carried a blackjack to the roadhouse. Street in the box upon which the cash register rested were Liberty bond coupon books and checks totalling well over \$1,000 and \$100 in cash. A \$100 bill was missing.

Nicholas Chrusano, 19, of 80 Emerson place, Brooklyn, arrested in a saloon at 63 Maverick square, East Boston, Mass.

Paul Ricci, 33, a farmhand who worked near Holbach's hotel and who told the gunmen that there was money there. He was present at the murder, the police say.

Frank Riolo, 31, of 151 Clason avenue, Brooklyn. He was arrested in his home and the credits with having admitted that he gave a blackjack to Bruno.

Rocco Braccia, 27, of 841 Kent avenue, Brooklyn, arrested, said by the detectives to have been the third gunman in each to take to Ozone Park. He is the only one of the six who has not signed a written confession, the police say.

The shooting took place on a Sunday night and the police assert that Ricci met Casalino that afternoon and told him Holbach was making \$700 a week and that money was always kept somewhere about his roadhouse—a three story, wooden building well known to the neighborhood as the scene of small dancing parties. The two men entered the establishment and Casalino bought several drinks and carefully noted the location of the cash register. Detective Michael Flacchetti, from Police Headquarters in Manhattan—the man who is largely responsible for running down the gangster yesterday, according to Flacchetti, Ricci agreed to join in the killing and to meet Casalino that night. But Ricci's courage failed and he did not appear.

After leaving Ozone Park that afternoon the detectives say Casalino hurried back to Dominic Meschino's Trans-Atlantic cafe at Franklin and Clason avenues, Brooklyn, where he met Bruno and Chrusano. The three decided upon the final details while in the back room there. Detective Flacchetti said yesterday that Bruno was the bartender, although he denies it, the police say that Braccia handed one of the three a revolver.

Two or three couples were dancing in the back room of Holbach's roadhouse when Casalino, Bruno and Chrusano entered and ordered beer. Before long the dancers left and Holbach, who was 62 years old, came ambulating toward them with a smile. Casalino jumped to his feet and leveled a revolver at the proprietor.

"Throw up your hands and keep quiet!" he commanded.

Flee After Double Shooting. But Holbach jumped toward the three youths, swinging a lusty right which caught one of them on the jaw. Casalino's .38 calibre revolver barked three times and Holbach fell. One of the bullets—the one which killed him—entered his liver. A second penetrated his chest and a third lodged in one arm.

Mrs. Holbach, who was running in from the kitchen and a fusillade greeted her. One hit her in the right breast and she fell backward under the battered grand piano in one corner. She was dead before the ambulance from St. Mary's Hospital arrived, ten minutes later.

Holbach tottered through the door of his roadhouse and made his way fifty feet across the street to James McInerney's house. The gangsters scattered without even waiting to scoop up the loose change in the cash register. Holbach died in the hospital a few hours later. Casalino's visit to the roadhouse that afternoon was what ultimately led to the arrest of the murderers, for Holbach remembered the face and told the police on the way to the search for some friends of Ricci, the farmhand, who had been drinking with him.

Working on this slight clue, Queens county detectives learned of Casalino's identity and that he was employed in a Brooklyn factory. As they entered a young gangster leaped through a window and escaped. It was after this that Detective Flacchetti from Manhattan and Detectives Louis Dardis and William Quinn from Brooklyn Headquarters were assigned to the case.

They trailed Casalino to Bayonne, to Staten Island, to Philadelphia, back to Bayonne and then to Philadelphia again. They always arrive a few hours after he had left. After the Philadelphia trip for the second time Casalino went to Rochester, N. Y., where he found work as a farmhand under the name of Frank Riley.

The police arrested Chrusano in East Boston.

UNION LEAGUE TO ENTERTAIN. Officers of 77th and 27th Will Be Guests This Evening.

Major-Gen. Robert Alexander and John F. O'Ryan, together with their staffs and divisional officers, including regimental commanders and their staffs of the Seventy-seventh and Twenty-seventh divisions, will be entertained this evening at a dinner and reception by members of the Union League Club.

Samuel Patchin, a member of the war committee of the club, said that Charles E. Hughes, also a member, will address the officers. Admirals Sims and Glennon will represent the navy and will probably make addresses too. The Seventh Regiment band will play in addition to the club's orchestra.

BLOODHOUNDS SEEK MISSING WOMAN, 76

Mrs. L. E. Valli of Chodokee Lake Likely in Mountains.

Special Despatch to The Sun. FORTKENNEDY, May 14.—Mrs. Louis E. Valli, 76 years of age, mother of Frank Valli, owner of the Chodokee mill at Chodokee Lake, disappeared from her home there Monday morning, leaving no intimation where she was going. Although posses have hunted through the woods shouting and whistling and searching every crevice, they have been unable to find a trace of the woman.

Frank Valli came to this city today and made arrangements to place bloodhounds on the trail of his mother-in-law, but she had already been taken to the mountains that overlooks the Hudson.

The family thought she had taken a walk about these woods and had kept a close watch upon her. She would frequently elude them, and after being out a few hours would return. She left Monday, and after a few hours the family started a search, and then word was sent to the neighbors, and dozens of men joined in the effort to locate her.

Agents of a private detective agency discovered a bomb yesterday morning in a small tool chest in the machine shop of the Fryerick Pearce Company at 20 Rose street, near the Brooklyn Bridge. It had been constructed from a three inch shell and was filled with two pounds of black powder, with a foot long fuse attached.

The bomb was turned over to Owen Egan of the Bureau of Combustibles, who made an examination of it. Mr. Egan said that it appeared as though an attempt had been made to light the fuse, which would have burned for one minute before setting off the powder.

The bomb, however, had not sufficient power to do much damage even if it had exploded, as the destructive power of black powder is very slight except under exceptional conditions. No detonating cap was found with the bomb, and had it been set off the powder would have had to be ignited by direct contact with the fire of a fuse attached.

The head of the private detective agency said last night that he believes the bomb was planted in an effort to ruin the plant because the Fryerick Pearce Company is hiring many of the place strikers. More than 200 employees have been out for some time, and recently they have been picketing the plant. The bomb, however, had not sufficient power to do much damage even if it had exploded, as the destructive power of black powder is very slight except under exceptional conditions. No detonating cap was found with the bomb, and had it been set off the powder would have had to be ignited by direct contact with the fire of a fuse attached.

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SINN FEIN M. P.'S FINED \$250 EACH

"General" Mellows and Dr. McCarton Admit Passport Conspiracy.

McDERMOTT ALSO GUILTY

Martin Conboy Pleads for Prisoners, Denying Intent to Hinder War.

Liam Mellows and Dr. Patrick McCarton, members of the British House of Commons elected by Irish constituencies while under indictment in the United States District Court here, were fined \$250 each yesterday by Judge Learned Hand.

They pleaded guilty to conspiring to obtain false certificates as American seamen that would enable them to go from the United States to England and Ireland.

James McDermott, brother of Sean McDermott, who was put to death by the British authorities for his part in the Easter uprising in 1916, also was fined \$250. He was accused of the same offense, but his case was distinct from that against Mellows and Dr. McCarton.

Michael Francis Doyle of Philadelphia, who was of counsel for Sir Roger Casement at his trial in London, appeared at the bar with Dr. McCarton, Martin Conboy, director of the draft, pleaded for leniency for Mellows.

McCarton an American Citizen. Both Mellows and McCarton were leaders in the Sinn Fein movement that culminated in the Dublin rising. Mellows, however, had not sufficient power to do much damage even if it had exploded, as the destructive power of black powder is very slight except under exceptional conditions. No detonating cap was found with the bomb, and had it been set off the powder would have had to be ignited by direct contact with the fire of a fuse attached.

McCarton, born in Ireland, is an American citizen, who was naturalized here after the war. He lived in Ireland before and after the uprising. He came here as a Sinn Fein envoy shortly after the United States became a belligerent and presented a memorial in half of the Sinn Fein people to President Wilson. McCarton has been accepted by Sinn Fein here as the accredited envoy of the unrecognized Irish republic.

He returned to Ireland in the usual way it would have been necessary for them to have secured passports through the British consul. They selected to pass under the names of the September certificates and credentials of two other men and used these to secure seamen's certificates.

McCarton was arrested by agents of the British intelligence service at Halifax. Mellows was arrested at the same time in this city. Both pleaded not guilty. They were arraigned yesterday to present a changed plea.

In explaining the case to Judge Hand, Ben A. Matthews, Assistant United States Attorney, said that the histories of the two men made it likely that they would have attempted to foment discord in Ireland if they had reached there. He pointed out that at that time the United States was just finding itself a warmaker and that the situation of the Allies was serious.

Speaking for the defendants, Mr. Doyle said that they had changed their plea on advice of counsel and that he doubted the wisdom of the course in the light of the assertions of Mr. Matthews.

"Dr. McCarton came to this country to present to President Wilson the affirmation of the Irish people that they were loyal to the United States and the United States to enter the war," said Mr. Doyle. "We absolutely deny that it was his intent to stir up new discord."

Mr. Conboy asserted that efforts to win Irish freedom by force had been definitely abandoned at the time Mellows and McCarton attempted to go to Ireland. "Self-determination, of which we hear so much, had its most emphatic expression in 1918, when the Irish people to the extent of 75 per cent of the population voted for independence," said Mr. Conboy. "That is the only revolution there has been there since the Easter uprising. These men took the course that was open to them to return to their native land. We are not defending what they did, but we say that they committed a technical violation of the law. They did not injure to the United States or to any one."

Mr. Conboy declared that the statute under which the men were indicted was an outgrowth of conditions before the war of 1912.

Both lawyers asked for the imposition of a nominal fine. The accused were liable to twelve years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000 on two indictments.

The argument that appeared to have most weight was advanced by Mr. Doyle. He said for the names were political and that the attitude toward such cases at this time is one of leniency and amnesty, and that the need for severe sentences as deterrents did not exist. Mr. Conboy said that he had made a careful examination of the case of Mellows and added that if it involved an attempt to hinder the nation in the prosecution of the war he would not be at the bar with the prisoner.

The defendants were paroled in the custody of their counsel. The fines will be paid.

YENAGA TELLS OF KIAO-CHAU RETURN

Japan Will Give Back Territory Within Two Years, He Says.

READY TO OPEN BARGE CANAL

Freshet Only Obstacle to Traffic on Troy-Tonawanda Route.

ROCHESTER, May 14.—The spring freshet of the Genesee River is the only obstacle to the opening to-morrow of through navigation on the barge canal from Tonawanda to Troy, according to announcement made here today by Harry Hughes, General Canal Inspector. The levels between Tonawanda and the lock west of the Genesee and between Troy and Macedon have been filled with water and the remaining level between Macedon and the lock east of the Genesee will be filled to-morrow.

The Genesee's freshet has passed its crest and waters at the canal crossing are expected to be navigable before the end of the week.

Government steel barges loaded with wheat are held at Lockport awaiting the opening of through navigation.

BERGER REACHES WASHINGTON. Convicted Socialist Prepared to Demand Seat in House.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Victor Berger, Socialist Representative-elect from Wisconsin and under jail sentence for violation of the espionage act, arrived in Washington to-night preparatory to presenting his credentials and requesting to be seated as a member of the House when Congress convenes next Monday.

He declined to make any statement as to the course he would pursue to obtain title to his seat pending appeal to the United States Supreme Court or as to what action he would take if the House refused to seat him.

Cop Injured by Automobile. Patrolman John J. Conway, 36, of the West 152d street station, was seriously injured by an automobile at 149th street and Broadway yesterday. The driver, Charles H. Willmore of Larchmont, was locked up on a charge of felonious assault. Conway was taken to St. Laurence Hospital with a fracture of the skull.

DRYS SEEK GOVERNOR IN N. J. Condit of Essex Falls Promises to Make Warm Campaign.

TRENTON, May 14.—The Anti-Saloon League in New Jersey has put forth a candidate to make the run for the gubernatorial nomination at the September primaries. The petition, bearing 1,900 names, filed here to-day, names William Condit of Essex Falls, N. Y.

The Anti-Saloon League will make a big campaign and hope to muster enough votes to make the fight interesting. Condit is running as an "Independent Republican."

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Freshet Only Obstacle to Traffic on Troy-Tonawanda Route.

ROCHESTER, May 14.—The spring freshet of the Genesee River is the only obstacle to the opening to-morrow of through navigation on the barge canal from Tonawanda to Troy, according to announcement made here today by Harry Hughes, General Canal Inspector. The levels between Tonawanda and the lock west of the Genesee and between Troy and Macedon have been filled with water and the remaining level between Macedon and the lock east of the Genesee will be filled to-morrow.

The Genesee's freshet has passed its crest and waters at the canal crossing are expected to be navigable before the end of the week.

Government steel barges loaded with wheat are held at Lockport awaiting the opening of through navigation.

BERGER REACHES WASHINGTON. Convicted Socialist Prepared to Demand Seat in House.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Victor Berger, Socialist Representative-elect from Wisconsin and under jail sentence for violation of the espionage act, arrived in Washington to-night preparatory to presenting his credentials and requesting to be seated as a member of the House when Congress convenes next Monday.

He declined to make any statement as to the course he would pursue to obtain title to his seat pending appeal to the United States Supreme Court or as to what action he would take if the House refused to seat him.

Cop Injured by Automobile. Patrolman John J. Conway, 36, of the West 152d street station, was seriously injured by an automobile at 149th street and Broadway yesterday. The driver, Charles H. Willmore of Larchmont, was locked up on a charge of felonious assault. Conway was taken to St. Laurence Hospital with a fracture of the skull.

DRYS SEEK GOVERNOR IN N. J. Condit of Essex Falls Promises to Make Warm Campaign.

TRENTON, May 14.—The Anti-Saloon League in New Jersey has put forth a candidate to make the run for the gubernatorial nomination at the September primaries. The petition, bearing 1,900 names, filed here to-day, names William Condit of Essex Falls, N. Y.

The Anti-Saloon League will make a big campaign and hope to muster enough votes to make the fight interesting. Condit is running as an "Independent Republican."

McCarton was arrested by agents of the British intelligence service at Halifax. Mellows was arrested at the same time in this city. Both pleaded not guilty. They were arraigned yesterday to present a changed plea.

In explaining the case to Judge Hand, Ben A. Matthews, Assistant United