EXECUTE 7 IRISH TRAIN WRECKERS

Death Penalty Inflicted After Trial by Free State Military Committee

DISCOVERED WITH RIFLES

By Associated Press

Dublin, Dec. 19.—Four railway men and three laborers were executed today for interfering with trains in County Kildare.

The seven men were captured November 13 by Free State troops in Rathbride, County Kildare. With them a quantity of stolen goods, rifles and ammunition was found.

The men were tried by a military committee and sentenced to death on the charge of train wrecking, sentence being carried out today. The men are reported to have been members of the Republican army.

The official army report of the executions gives the names of the men as Stephen White and Patrick Bagnel, of Kildare, laborers; Joseph Johnston and Patrick Mangan, of Kildare, railway workers; James O'Connor, of Bansha, Tipperary, and Patrick Nolan, of Rathbride, railway workers, and Bryan Moore, of Rathbride, laborer.

They were arrested with a number of others, says the official report, which adds that they were found guilty by a military committee of possessing, without proper authority, ten rifles, 200 rounds of ammunition, four bombs with detonators and one exploder.

An unofficial report states that the men executed today were captured in a dugout and that they were part of a column of ten responsible for the ambush of national troops, the destruction of goods shipped by rail and the seizure of materials in shops.

Train wrecking, the tearing up of railway tracks and the blowing up of bridges has been practiced on a large scale by Republican sympathizers in Ireland since the irregulars began their operations. This has badly disorganized the railway system and hurt trade, dispatches frequently telling of communication between Dublin and Belast or between other important points in South Ireland being cut off by this reason.

Today's drastic action aimed at the interference with train operations was under the blanket measure passed by the Dail Eireann last fall giving authority to suppress disorder.

Previous executions have been in connection with the use or possession of arms, except that the last infliction of capital punishment on December 8, when Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellowes and two other Republican leaders were executed, was officially announced as in reprisal for the assassination of Sean Hales, the deputy shot the day previous.

The executions recorded have been as follows:

November 17—James Fisher, Peter Cassidy, Richard Tuchy and John Gaffney, Dublin Republicans, shot for having revolvers in their possession.

November 24—Erskine Childers, chief lieutenant of Eamon de Valera, executed for having had an automatic pistol in his possession.

November 30—Joseph Spooner, Patrick Farrelly and John Murphy, executed for armed participation in a bomb attack.

December 8—Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellowes, Joseph McKelvey and Richard Barrett, executed in reprisal for the Hales assassination.

Today's executions make a total of nineteen by the Free State in a little more than a month.

London, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—A report from Paris that Eamon de Valera had been captured by Irish Free State authorities lacked corroboration here today.

It is believed that the report, which was printed in a Paris newspaper, may have grown out of a Dublin dispatch saying that De Valera had narrowly escaped arrest while attending mass in the Catholic University Church, Dublin, inasmuch as he left the church just before troops arrived.

The Dublin residence of Gordon Campbell, son of Baron O'Neacy, chairman of the Free State Senate, was entered late last night by armed men, says a dispatch to the Times from Dublin. The inmates were ordered to leave the building, which was set on fire. The interior was destroyed.

Cork, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—There was heavy firing for two hours during last night in the northern suburbs of Cork, the Republicans using machine guns. One civilian was severely wounded.

Powell 'Howled Like Dog,' Convicts Testify

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I was through that work I would sell tickets."

"How about that dress-cutting incident in which Mr. Brunen figured?" "He said he was sorry afterward and would get me some new clothes."

At this point Justice Kalisch called Mr. Kelsey to task for the line of questioning he was following.

"What did your husband say on Christmas Day before the shooting began?" "He called Hazel and me names, names I don't wish to repeat here."

Mr. Keown objected to the question, and was sustained. The Justice again admonished Mr. Kelsey not to waste time by useless reiteration.

"Until this remark was made by your husband was there no attempt made at shooting on either side?" "No."

"After your husband made a remark did not you make a remark?" "I just said he shouldn't call Hazel and me such names."

"Did your husband call you a name that significes a shameless woman?" "He called both of us that name."

"Then your husband drew a gun, did he?" "My husband always carried a gun——" Mr. Kelsey made an unsuccessful attempt to pin the witness down on this question, then asked:

"Did you shoot?" "My, Mr. Kelsey, I shot in the pantry and the kitchen. My husband ran into the dining-room."

"Wasn't your husband standing in the dining-room door?" "I don't know, Mr. Kelsey, I was too excited."

"On that Hoboken trip, how many days were you away?" "Three days."

"The day your husband found you, you were at your lodgings on Bloomfield avenue?" "Yes, but I was out shopping at the time."

"Was 'Doc' Ward there?" "No.

"Didn't your husband come in with two policemen?" "I didn't know that they were officers."

"Didn't you see 'Doc' Ward there?" "No."

"Didn't you say to a policeman after your husband left the room, 'Get 'Doc' Ward's clothes and hide them before my husband returns'?"

"I never said that."

"Didn't you say 'Get Doc Ward's valise?'" "I never said any such thing."

"Didn't the policeman put two good suits of Ward's between the mattress and the springs of the bed?" "Not to my knowledge."

"Didn't you say 'I'm going to get a divorce?'" "Never."

"Don't you recall the landlady coming up there?" "Yes."

"Wasn't this after your husband left?" "I never seen the landlady but once?"

"Didn't she say 'What's the trouble?'" "No, I never seen the landlady."

"Didn't the policeman say 'This is a married woman?'" "Never."

Justice Kalisch again interrupted. "Mr. Kelsey, hasn't this gone far enough?" he asked. "It's not in the case. Give your question and I'll rule on it."

"Didn't she say, 'This man and woman were introduced as Mr. and Mrs. Noman?'" asked Mr. Kelsey after the Justice had passed on the question.

"Never, Mr. Kelsey," replied Mrs. Brunen.

"Then you all went to the Jersey City police station, did you not—Parkstrom and Hazel, your husband and yourself?" "Yes."

"And you had conversation there with the captain of police?" "I am not certain, Mr. Kelsey. I don't want to give the wrong answer."

"Didn't you tell the captain when your husband went outside you were going to get a divorce?"

Justice Kalisch interrupted angrily. "Don't answer that question—it's ruled out. It's stricken out. It makes no difference."

"Didn't you say you hated your husband?" insisted Mr. Kelsey. "No," snapped Mrs. Brunen.

"Didn't you say he was a brute?" "No."

"Didn't you say you lived the life of a dog?" "No."

"Didn't you say you loved 'Doc' Ward?" "No, I never made any such assertion."

"Didn't you shake the tablecloth out of the window the evening of the murder?" "No. I shook it on the porch, as I did every night."

"Didn't Mrs. Powell call on you after her husband's arrest? What did you say?" "I said to her that my brother was sleeping and I would wake him up. Then I called my brother and he came down."

"What was said?" "Nothing, only that her husband had been arrested. I only said to her: 'Don't worry. He'll soon be out. They're only taking everybody.'"

"Then Mrs. Powell was incorrect when she said you said 'Shh—'?"

The Judge interrupted again and said: "That's for the jury to decide."

"You say your brother never told the different times he went to see Powell?" "No, he never did. He only told me Powell had some flags to sell for us and that he was a promoter."

Mrs. Brunen admitted later she had seen Powell riding around in Mohr's motorcar.

Mr. Kelsey then returned to the fight last Christmas Day, insisting that Mrs. Brunen repeat the names her husband had called her. She did so under protest, saying again that he had called both her daughter and herself by a name applied only to outcast women, and that she had said: "John Brunen, don't call us names like that." Then, she said, he had drawn a revolver and Hazel had interposed between them.

Mr. Kelsey then insisted on taking the witness over the same ground covered by him before, relating to the fight and her reputed friendship with "Doc" Ward, Justice Kalisch regularly reminding him that it had all been gone over before and didn't matter anyhow.

Convicts Testify

The first of the five convicts to take the stand for the defense was Ernest L. Mayo, serving a life term for killing Jonas K. Fox, a jitney driver. As he took the stand the sun, breaking through clouds, shone strongly into the courtroom, and so dazzled the eyes of the jurors they had difficulty seeing the witness. The foreman, Walter Wills, held up a big writing tablet to shield his eyes as the convict was sworn.

Mayo's testimony was not heard by his fellows, as the other four were kept on the second floor until wanted. Thomas Mahoney, identification officer, and E. L. Eldridge, his assistant, brought them in one by one. The others were Joseph Belman, a burglar; Grover Duncan, a murderer; John Denno, a burglar, and Job Noe, a burglar.

The coming of Mayo was awaited with interest by the crowd in the courtroom. Their interest was heightened by a rumor that he had taken part in the recent unsuccessful attempt to make a jail delivery at Mount Holly, in which it was reported, though erroneously, as it afterward developed, that Mohr had taken part.

Mayo is about twenty-five years old and looks anything but a murderer. He is rather good-looking, with ruddy skin and cleancut features. He spoke in a pleasant voice. He wore a dark suit, white collar and gray tie. None of the convicts was in prison garb.

Mayo smiled at several acquaintances in the audience. They smiled back cordially.

Walter Keown, counsel for the defendants, asked him to narrate occurrences in the jail during his confinement there with Powell. Mayo said:

"I talked to Powell two or three times and asked him how he was getting along. He would shake hands with me, but that was all he would do."

"Barked Like a Dog"

"Did he ever do anything else besides just that?" asked Mr. Keown.

"Yes," said the witness. "He barked like a dog and yelled: 'Don't bother me. Call the cops. I'm under the bathtub. I'm a T. M. man.'" Some one surmised that "T. M." meant theatrical mechanic.

"This was in the month of May," continued the witness, "and I heard these shouts off and on for two months."

Duncan was the next convict. He gave his full name as Grover Landis Duncan. He is serving a life sentence for a murder at Camp Dix. He was thin, pale, unshaven. He, too, wore dark clothes. He said:

"I often heard Powell yell 'Help! Help! Here I am under the bathtub.' He screamed, 'No, that man next door isn't Charlie Powell. Here's Charlie Powell. Don't hit me with that stick.'"

Duncan said he heard a sound as if Powell was bumping his head against the wall and that he barked like a dog.

Denno, short, thick-set and "hard" looking, came next. When asked if he knew Powell he answered. "I don't know if Powell was confined in the jail.

"All right, you're excused," said Mr. Keown. As he was about to leave the stand he said, "Well, I heard——"

Justice Kalisch halted him as he was about to step down. "Come back," said the Justice, "and tell us what you did hear."

Denno said in a loud voice, which aroused laughter in the courtroom: "I heard 'Help, Help, Help. Here I am under the stove.'"

Mr. Kelsey, cross-questioning the witness, asked how many times he had been convicted. "I don't know," replied Denno.

"Is it that you know, or that you don't want to know?" asked Mr. Kelsey.

Upheld by Court

"It doesn't concern the court what my past is. I'm here for something else," replied the witness in a flippant tone. Justice Kalisch upheld him.

Job Noe, a negro burglar, told the court he did not know how old he was. He looked about fifty. He wore dark clothes and had an anxious manner, like a professional end man. He had he b t time of any one in the room, and caused laugh after laugh, leaning back in his chair and beaming benevolently at Judge, jury and audience. Even Justice Kalisch smiled at some of his sallies.

Job was asked if he had heard anything unusual.

"I heard somebody shout—I don't know who it was," he said, "but I heard him yell, 'Take this guy out of here.'"

Justice Kalisch said: "Did you hear anything that sounded like a dog?"

"I heard something that sounded something like a dog, but it had a man twang in it." Everybody laughed, including the defendants and the Justice.

"He didn't bark in the church services, but he did afterward, by jack," continued Job. The court stenographer looked up from his notes: "What was that—'by jack?'" he asked.

"By jack, yes sir," replied Job; "you know, that's a favorite expression of mine."

"You bark—give us a demonstration," said Mr. Kelsey.

"I can't—I'm not a dog, am I?" replied the witness.

"How many times have you been convicted?" asked Mr. Kelsey.

"Well, one, two, three, four—well, we'll say fifty, more or less," replied Job. "But to be exact, I've served fifteen years in New Jersey and seven years and twenty-two days in Pennsylvania, making a total of twenty-two years and twenty-two days so far." He was then excused, but seemed loath to leave. He sat in the chair a moment and then turned hopefully to the prosecutor.

"Isn't there anything else you'd like to ask me, sir?" he inquired.

Belman, the last convict witness, looked the part. He was on the stand but a few minutes. He pointed out Powell, who was sitting beside County Detective Ellis Parker.

"I heard him yelling, 'Here I am under the bathtub. Come and get me.' One time when I was out in the yard a man told me that a crazy man was coming out for a walk. It was Powell, and he couldn't walk straight."

At the conclusion of the convicts' testimony, Justice Kalisch ordered that they be taken back to the State prison at Trenton immediately. There was a heavy guard of State troopers in the courtroom and around the court building and jail during their testimony. Mr. Keown said he would have other witnesses of the same character from Rahway.

The convicts were followed on the stand by Dr. Melvin Knolb, of Reading, a former practitioner of mechanotherapy, who promoted the Brunen show and rose to the job of secretary.

"Did you ever hear of John Brunen threatening the life of any one?" he was asked.

There was an objection to this by Mr. Kelsey which Justice Kalisch overruled. The witness answered: "Yes, in the middle of August, 1919."

Justice Kalisch ordered the answer stricken out as the time was too remote to have any bearing on the case.

Mohr and Brunen Quarreled

"Did you ever hear of any quarrels between Mohr and Brunen?" he was asked. "Yes."

"Where?" "At Salamanca. It was in regard to an order Mohr was supposed to have given a concessionaire. The order did not meet the approval of Brunen, who censured Mohr in the presence of others. Mohr quit the show, saying he would take his own show and make it a wagon show."

The witness described a visit to the Brunen home after the tragedy. He was asked if he ever had heard Hazel speak in terms of disrespect of her father. He answered: "Yes, Hazel spoke very disrespectfully on one or two occasions. Once at the supper table Hazel had a very good appetite.

"I jested with her about it and she said, 'Well, doctor, now that father is gone I can sit down and enjoy a meal. Before, whenever I heard him approach the dining room I would be so frightened at what might happen that I would lose my appetite.'"

"What were the relations between Hazel and Mrs. Brunen?" "They were more like girl chums than stepmother and daughter."

"While you were visiting the Brunen home in Philadelphia after the funeral, what did Hazel say?" "The first time she referred to Powell she said: 'To think, doc, of them keeping Uncle Harry locked up on the word of a drunken dope fiend like Charlie Powell.'"

"What was her feeling toward Powell generally?" "Very bitter."

At this point Hazel flushed and held her head down, looking at her hands. The witness admitted that Hazel had written to him and asked him to testify in her mother's behalf at this trial.

"How did Mrs. Brunen assist her husband in the conduct of the business?" the witness was asked. "I have known Mrs. Brunen to take charge of the privilege car, where refreshments are sold, in 1919. She also was ticket seller for the circus side show. She always worked hard to help Brunen make a success of his show."

"Did Brunen have any enemies?" "Oh, yes."

"Who were they?" "It's only hearsay for me, but Brunen told me about them frequently. We were very confidential."

"Who were they?" "Well, upon my return from South America he told me about the robbery where his wife lost all her jewels. He said Charlie Friendman was in it he thought. I tried to defend Friedman and he became very bitter and highly aroused. He declared emphatically that the Friedman boys were guilty."

After a brief cross-examination the witness was dismissed and Harry Benton, then and now general advance man for the show, was called.

"Tell us what was said concerning Powell's movements the night of the murder when you were visiting his home a little later." "I went to 45 Cooper street, Camden, Marie Powell's home, and Mr. and Mrs. Earnst, the landlady and her husband, told me in Harry Mohr's presence they positively saw Charley Powell at 7:30 o'clock on the night of the murder in their bathroom. They told me this four days after Powell had been arrested."

"Was Mrs. Powell present and did she corroborate this statement?" "Yes."

"Did you visit the Brunen house in Riverside after the tragedy, and did you observe Hazel's actions?" "Yes, I went repeatedly and daily, and I observed her actions closely."

"Did you ever see Hazel shed a tear over her father's death?" "No."

"Did you atten dthe funeral?" "I did."

"Did you tell Mohr in Hazel's presence that Benny Frankiin, of Baltimore, had said 'The guy that killed John Brunen ought to have a gold medal.'"

"I did." Hazel Brunen, on the stand for the Commonwealth, had attributed this remark to Harry Mohr.

"Did you hear any of Hazel's remarks concerning her father at Riverside?" "Yes, the first time, before the funeral, she said, 'In one way I am glad that father is dead. I now have more freedom. He kept me too strictly to the house.' I told her that was no way to talk and she said: 'Well, that is the way I feel.' And once she said she could not understand why Detective Parker would arrest Mohr on the statement of a dope fiend. The witness said he saw a letter from Powell asking Mohr to go to Wilkes-Barre and run a punchboard campaign. He said that he paid $25 to Powell from the show, directly to the latter's wife, together with five to seven dollars he had collected.

Robert Peacock, Assistant Prosecutor, cross-examined the witness.

"Didn't you say to Mary Miles Miller that it was a good thing Brunen had been killed?" "I did. I said, 'It's a good thing John Brunen is dead: the world is better off without him.' I said that because of what he did in the business world, and how he did it."

SCENE AT HERRIN MASSACRE TRIAL

A scene in the courtroom at Marion, Ill., where five men are on trial in the first of the Herrin massacre cases. The photograph shows the attorneys for the defense looking over a map of the Herrin mine. These attorneys are, left to right, Angus W. Kerr, A. C. Lewis, Rufus Neeley and George R. Stone

Seven More Barns Burned by Firebugs

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further hearing pending the investigation.

The barn in West Chester was on the grounds of the State Normal School. It was of stone and frame construction and stood on Rosedale avenue, between Walnut and Matlack streets. The loss is placed at $10,000. Three horses, a cow, sixty hogs and 100 chickens were saved by the firemen.

The property is occupied by John Hollinger, steward at the Normal School. Hollinger says he is convinced the barn was fired by incendiaries. He had made an inspection of the structure half an hour before the blaze was discovered by a member of his family.

The fire was started in a hay mow containing thirty tons of hay, and within fifteen minutes the huge barn was destroyed. In addition to the hay, agricultural implements, wheat, corn, fodder, feed and other crops were burned.

Hollinger told the police he was awakened Monday night by a noise in the barn. A member of his family who investigated says he saw two men run from the barn as he approached. Hollinger says there had been no fire or lights used about the barn recently.

On Old Darlington Estate

The barn was the property of the State, taken over as a portion of the normal school tract two years ago. The structure stood on what was for years the home of the late Thomas Darlington, who lived in a fine mansion now occupied by Hollinger. This house is but 100 feet from the barn, and the firemen with difficulty succeeded in saving it.

Like the Gulph Mills Golf Club fire, that at Perkiomen Junction offered positive evidence of having been the work of incendiaries. It occurred in the barn on the farm of Barney Martin.

Mrs. Martin was awakened by the sound of an automobile. Peering out the window she saw the machine driving away from the barn. Smoke was coming from the barn doors. She awoke her husband, who seized his shotgun and ran into the yard, but the machine and its occupants had disappeared.

The fire was started near the doors to the barn, so that rescue of livestock was impossible. Three cows and four horses were burned in the barn, together with large quantities of foodstuffs and crops stored there. The loss is placed at $5000.

The Phoenixville Fire Department answered the alarm of Martin's place, but by the time it reached the scene the barn had been completely destroyed.

Catholic Farm Barn Burned

At the same hour that the Martin fire was discovered, an alarm was received from the St. Ignatius farm, conducted by the Catholic Church on Whitehall road, five miles from Norristown. It is believed that the firebugs separated after the Gulph Mills Golf Club fire, one remaining in Montgomery County and the other going into Chester County.

Nine cows were burned to death and other livestock narrowly escaped during the fire which destroyed the St. Ignatius barn. The fire was discovered by Thomas J. Curley, superintendent of the place, about fifteen minutes after he had made the rounds of the buildings of the institution. Curley believes the fire was of incendiary origin.

Curley occupies a portion of a building known as the tenant house.

He was just about to retire when he noticed a great red glare. Then he discovered the barn was burning a several places. As an electric lighting system is used for illuminating purposes and there was no sign of fire while he was inspecting the building, Curley is certain that some one set it afire.

Several inmates of the tenant house were quickly on the scene, and, assisted by residents of nearby houses, attacked the flames from all angles. Several of the firefighters assisted in saving horses, two automobiles and some of the cows.

The administration building of the institution is close to the building, but it was saved by the fact that a southeastern wind was blowing and carried the flames clear of the other structures.

Fire companies from nearby towns responded, but the fire had gained such headway that the barn could not be saved. The loss was $8000.

A quick search of the surrounding countryside was made, but no trace of suspicious persons was found.

Armed Guards for Barns

Renewed activity of the firebugs within the last tweek, despite road patrols maintained in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties by State police, has led to renewed efforts on the part of farmers to protect their property.

At the Delchester Farms, near Newtown Square, an armed guard of thirty men stands watch at the four barns from 6 P. M. to daylight.

Delchester Farms are owned by Dr. Thomas G. Ashton, of Wynnewood.

On the estate of Isaac H. Clothier, at Rosemont, the barn is being guarded by four men with orders to shoot first and investigate later in case prowlers are seen. One man is stationed on each of the four sides of the structure so that an approach to it without being discovered is considered impossible.

Hundreds of other farmers throughout the three counties have taken similar precautions and either stand watch themselves or employ others for that purpose.

Lewis Would Audit State Insurance Fund

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an act which will give authority; in fact, make it mandatory upon the Auditor General, to audit the accounts of the State Workmen's Insurance Fund.

"As the State Workmen's Insurance Fund is now constituted it is neither an institution, bureau or department of the State Government, nor a private corporation. The general impression prevails that the State Workmen's Insurance Fund is a State institution and is a department of the State Government sustaintng practically the same relations to the State as those existing, for example, between the State and the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Insurance Department or the Banking Department.

"This impression that it is a State institution or bureau is due, no doubt, to the fact that in the period of the formation and development of the State Workmen's Insurance Fund the money for its organization and operation was provided by legislative appropriation. This money has, however, since been paid back to the State Treasury out of the earnings of the fund.

"The State Workmen's Insurance Fund, as a matter of fact, sustains a very anomalous relationship with the State Government. The parties who take out insurance are, in a manner, regarded as stockholders, but they have no control or voice in the management of the institution. It is apparently run on the mutual, plan, yet it is not a mutual company, neither is it a stock company.

"Under the law the fund is controlled and administered by the heads of three State departments; namely, the State Treasurer, the Insurance Commissioner and the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. Three officers are charged with making the investments, making the rules and regulations, classifying the subscribers, fixing the rates, declaring the dividends, making contracts and performing all other duties connected with the administration of the fund.

"The employes are by act of Assembly declared to be employes of the State, yet the State does not make any appropriation for the payment of their salaries, as is the case with the employes of all other departments of the State Government. These salaries are fixed by the board and are paid out of the fund itself, the fund thus operating as an independent organization.

"The manager and other officers are appointed by the board with the approval of the Governor, and the manager is responsible to none but the members of the board for expenditures and salaries paid, while the State Treasurer is custodian of the fund.

"The Attorney General of the State is general counsel for the board and is authorized to appoint and fix the salaries of attorneys to act as counsel for the board.

"The members of the board, namely, the State Treasurer, the Insurance Commissioner and the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, no doubt have certain auditing and supervisory powers over the fund, but neither the Auditor General nor any other disinterested officer not connected with the board has it within his power to audit investments, salaries and expense accounts, as is done in connection with other departments.

"The State, through its chief auditing officer, namely, the Auditor General, audits the departments of all three of the officials mentioned as members of the board, having control over their salaries and expenses excepting where fixed by statute; but over the board itself, which, constituted by these three officials, there exists no such control or auditing supervision and, strange to say, there is no means of exercising the auditing and supervisory powers conferred by the Constitution over the fund itself.

Auditor Has No Authority Now

"An opinion of the Attorney General is to the effect that the Auditor General has no authority whatever to check up these securities. I understand that approximately $26,000,000 of bonds and securities are now in the hands of the State Treasurer. For the protection of the State Treasurer as the custodian of these securities, the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings recently entered into an agreement with a surety company providing for burglary and theft insurance.

"The bill which I had prepared and which was introduced at the last session by Representative James A. Walker and Senator Morris Einstein will again be offered. This bill provides for regulating deposits of State moneys or funds, creating a State Depository Board, consisting of the State Treasurer, the Auditor General, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the State Commissioner of Banking, defining the powers and duties of such board, imposing certain duties upon the State Treasurer and Auditor General and prescribing penalties.

"The bill specifically provides for advertising for bids for State deposits, so that the State may realize interest thereon in conformity with the value of the deposits instead of realizing merely 2 and 3 per cent, the nominal amounts now fixed by law. A law of this kind would do away with the practice of preferring certain banks and favoring certain depositories to the prejudice of the interest of the Commonwealth. The best evidence of the merits of this bill is the recent disclosures of Main & Co.'s audit of the State Treasury Department under my direction. The enactment of this bill into law would have prevented all the trouble that was developed by the audit."

DOLLAR FALL STIRS GERMAN BUSINESS

Berlin Shoppers, However, Fail to Find Any Drop in Prices

IS EQUAL TO 5000 MARKS

By Associated Press

London, Dec. 19.—Berlin dispatches printed here today assert that the sudden fall of the dollar to approximately 5000 marks, following rumors of an American loan, had strange and startling results in Germany last week-end. The writers say that the whole country was bewildered, and that everybody's calculations, long adjusted to holding the dollar at something like 8000 marks, were completely upset.

The people, to whom every rise in prices has been represented as due to the rise in the dollar, logically expected that its fall would be immediately followed by a drop in the cost of living, and on this assumption thousands of persons thronged Berlin's shopping district on Sunday in the hopes of indulging in purchases hitherto beyond their means.

It was "Silver Sunday," the last before Christmas, on which the police allow the shops to be open and the shoppers were confident that prices would be way down. To their disappointment, however, the merchandise they had longed for was as high as ever, and consequently they bought little.

The tradesmen, taking notice of the peculiar situation, on Monday marked their goods down 20 per cent, but it was too late. The people, half expectant that a further rise of the mark would bring another price cut, kept their purse strings tight and the merchants now have visions of large Christmas stocks remaining on their hands.

Another striking effect of the mark's appreciation is seen in the fact that British coal is cheaper today in German coast towns than is German coal, and it is feared that if the mark's improvement is maintained the demand for British fuel will increase and the German will become unsaleable. The steel trade also shows the effect of the activity in exchange.

Dispatches say that under the circumstances the manufacturers and tradesmen welcomed yesterday's news that the dollar had risen again.

New York, Dec. 19.—J. P. Morgan & Co. last night issued a statement to set at rest what were described as "highly fantastical stories" regarding the possibility of an international loan to Germany, estimated as high as $1,500,000,000. The statement follows:

"Dr. Otto Wiedfeldt, the German Ambassador, called on Mr. Morgan on Saturday to make inquiry as to the possibility of our undertaking to assist in floating a large so-called international loan to Germany. In his reply Mr. Morgan adverted to the statement that he had made following the sittings of the Dawes' Committee last June, and in effect told the Ambassador that our position was exactly the same as it was then.

"He informed Dr. Wiedfeldt that, while we greatly desired to be of service to the general station, nevertheless matters had manifestly reached such a point that it was not feasible for us to discuss or to consider a loan to Germany unless and until the reparations question was settled."

Official denial was made to reports that the Morgan firm had presented "a plan" for the settlement of the reparations problem to the Washington Administration.

GRAND JURY GETS HALL-MILLS CASE

Court Tells New Panel He Hopes Murder Mystery Will Soon Be Solved

DETECTIVES ARE OPTIMISTIC

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger

Somerville, N. J., Dec. 19. — The unsolved Hall-Mills murder case was formally laid before the Somerset County Grand Jury today when it convened for the December term.

Supreme Court Justice Parker gave no definite instructions on the case, but said it was one that should be taken up by the grand jurors. The justice added he hoped the mystery would be solved as soon as possible.

A break seems to have developed between Wilbur A. Mott, special Deputy Attorney General, and the county officials who investigated the murder of the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills.

Mott said yesterday no new evidence has been uncovered since the previous Grand Jury ended its session. Somerset County detectives asserted today that "new and important evidence" has been obtained since that time. Once more they came forward with the expressed belief that indictments can be obtained.

There are two women on the new Grand Jury and one clergyman.

Herrin Men Told Victims to Pray

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cemetery," said the doctor. "One of them, I later learned, was Howard Hoffman. These men were bleeding, dirty and ragged. The mob of about 150—some armed—made the six prisoners march ahead of them. I saw Leva Mann"—and he pointed out the defendant—"there with a gun. Two of the wounded men were pressing their wounds with their hands.

"Leva Mann ordered them to 'swing arms.' One of the men held his wounded arm, and a rioter beat it down with his revolver. Then the prisoners were ordered to crawl on their hands and knees, with their heads touching the road. Near the cemetery the armed men asked whether the prisoners had anything to say. I heard some one cry, 'If you want to talk you better be damned quick about it, because you haven't much time.'

"At the cemetery two automobiles came up. A man got out of one, with some rope. I think it was Percy Hall" (Hall is indicted under another charge and is a relative of George Galligan, the present Sheriff) "and he looped it over the heads of one prisoner after another, binding them all together.

Told Prisoners to Pray

"The rioters ordered the prisoners to pray, and then the shooting began. Ten to twenty men did the shooting. I recognized Joe Carnaghi and Leva Mann—two of the defendants—and Percy Hall and Jim Galligan. They all fired into the six prisoners. 'Men, oh men, what are you doing?' Hoffman cried. Joe Carnaghi fired two gunfuls into the men. They all dropped right away, piling up over each other. Carnaghi fired into Hoffman after he was down."

On the Wednesday before the rioting, Dr. Shipman also testified, he saw Peter Hiller, another defendant, eating in a restaurant. Hiller had a gun slung over his shoulder. Hiller said, according to the doctor, that union men were guarding the mines, that he had gone over a few of the company cars, but found no men. This evidence, like all the rest, was presented to indicate that defendants were members of a conspiracy which resulted in the deaths of Hoffman and his associates.

The doctor was in complete witness, and he weathered Mr. Seeley's verbal assaults. However, he admitted at the time of the rioting he did not know the names of the men he identified, for "remembered their faces."

Denies He Is Prejudiced

Seeley attempted to show that Shipman is a physician employed by coal operators to testify in their behalf in compensation or personal injury cases. The doctor admitted that during the last few years he has testified for coal companies in some 100 cases.

"You are prejudiced against miners, Shipman," Seeley, and the doctor admitted it. Dr. Shipman stated that he went out to the cemetery simply out of curiosity.

"You were close enough to Leva Mann to put your hand on his shoulder, and yet you didn't try to make him stop shooting?" jeered Seeley, and the doctor replied "No."

"You say you didn't know he name of these men until five weeks ago," said Seeley. "Isn't it true that you didn't worry about their names until you learned there was a reward out for them?" The doctor replied "No," in spite of the State's violent objection to the question.

BROAD STREET GARAGE DESTROYED BY FIRE

Fire partially destroyed a partly completed eight-story steel-frame garage and auto show room under course of construction on Broad street above Master shortly after noon today.

BOMB FOUND NEAR BUCKINGHAM PALACE

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Police found a grenade bomb in an ash cart at the rear of Buckingham Palace. It is a mystery how the bomb got there.

STEAMER THUNDER BAY NOW POUNDING BEACH

BUFFALO, Dec. 19.—The steamer Thunder Bay, which ran ashore at Morgan's Point, near Port Colborne, Ont., last Thursday, was reported today to be pounding heavily on the beach and in danger of breaking up. The coast guard took off the crew.

100,000 CONGREGATIONS ASKED TO URGE PEACE

December 24 Set as Special Appeal Day in Christian Churches

Washington, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America today issued a request to 100,000 congregations in the United States to observe December 24 as "World Peace Sunday," to demand that the Government of the world find ways to settle their disputes other than by war.

The message also asked that the churches act in concert throughout the year toward "attitudes as a warless world through international cooperation.

Christians in every nation on earth will observe "World Peace Sunday," it was added, under an agreement reached last summer at Copenhagen by the conference of the World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches.

Expert Continues Testimony

The cross-examination of J. A. Seeley, assistant to Robert M. Foster, the city's expert in the valuation proceedings of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, was continued yesterday before Commissioner Clement. It was confined to the balance sheets of the Catharine and Bambridge streets Passenger Railway Company, as contained in the report to the Commissioner.

Bishop Quayle Improves

Baldwin City, Kan., Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—The Rev. William A. Quayle, Bishop of the St. Louis district of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was in improved condition today after two attacks of paralysis Sunday, a recurrence of a similar attack in San Francisco last summer.

DAUGHERTY WOMAN ASSISTANT MAY TESTIFY

Mrs. Mable Walker Willebrandt may be brought even more prominently into the public eye during the threatened impeachment proceedings. Constance Hazel, a special PUBLIC LEDGER correspondent, writes frequently of news of interest to women, of national and international importance, in the columns of the PUBLIC LEDGER. "Make it a habit."—*Adv.*

SPEED WRECKED TRAIN

Inspectors Find P. R. R. Air Brake Was Defective

Washington, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—Operating officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad are "open to censure" in connection with the wreck on that road November 7 at Cincinnati which resulted in the death of an employe and the injury of sixty-one passengers and employes, the safety inspectors of the Interstate Commerce Commission reported today.

The wreck occurred, the inspectors declared, because a passenger train locomotive was operated at a rate of speed in excess of the time table and because the air brake was defective.

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