

MOHR PLEA IN VOICE CASE FLEED

Defendant's Petition Alleging Cruelty Against Doctor, Offered in Evidence By Prosecution As Its Case is Nearly Ended.

Boston Newspaper Writer, Who Interviewed Negroes in Jail, Placed on Stand to Tell About Alleged Alibis They Offered.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 24—When almost at the point of resting its case, the prosecution today introduced as evidence against Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, Cecil V. Brown and Henry H. Spellman, jointly on trial for the murder of the woman's husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, the divorce petition which was filed by Mrs. Mohr on Feb. 7, 1914.

The petition charged extreme cruelty. As amended on July 6, 1914 referred reference was made to Dr. Mohr's association with other women and contained the charge that he used drugs excessively. Separate maintenance for the wife instead of absolute divorce, was charged.

Attorney William H. Lewis, of the defense, questioned Miss Gertrude Stevenson, a writer, of Boston.

Showing the witness a slip of paper on which was written a name, he asked her if she knew anyone by that name in Boston. "I do," replied Miss Stevenson.

Mr. Lewis destroyed the paper when Attorney-General Rice asked to see it. The court objected to this method of examining a witness. Mr. Lewis offered to write out the name again but the court would not permit it.

Miss Stevenson said she did not know until last Friday that she was to be called as a witness.

"Didn't you tell a young lady at a birthday party in Boston on Oct. 30 that you were going down to Providence to testify against those negroes?"

"I never said such a thing," she answered.

The witness admitted she was at the party and talked about the case with Salita, Bolano, a newspaper writer.

Miss Stevenson denied that she exercised any "personal charms" to get the confidence of the negroes but admitted she thought it was "necessary to deceive them" to get their story.

She denied that she went to the jail to get a story that would connect Mrs. Mohr with the murder.

"Have you any prejudice against the defendants I represent?" Mr. Lewis asked.

"I have the greatest sympathy for them," said Miss Stevenson.

On re-direct examination, Miss Stevenson was asked if Brown, Spellman and Heald said anything about the disposition of their guns.

"Yes," she said. "I asked them how they were going to get around the fact that they had told Chief Robbins what they had done with the revolver and they said, 'Oh, that won't amount to anything; we can say we told the chief that just to agree with him.'"

The alleged alibi that Miss Stevenson testified Brown gave her to give his sister, as introduced in evidence, purported to account for his presence in Providence on the night of the killing. It stated he went to Riverside to call on friends but failed to see them. Brown, in this statement, said he left Riverside at 10:20 for Providence.

Theodore E. Hedlund, a Boston reporter, testified as to Miss Stevenson's interview with the negroes in the jail.

Fifteen Dead in Blast At Buffalo Shop

Buffalo, Jan. 24—Fifteen workmen were killed and as many more probably fatally injured in an explosion at the plant of the Kelker Blower Co. in Harrison street this afternoon.

Two alarms of fire were sent in from the scene and ambulances summoned from several hospitals.

U. S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS INCOME TAX

Washington, Jan. 24—The Supreme Court today upheld the constitutionality of the income tax law. Chief Justice White gave the court's decision sweeping aside all the many objections to its constitutionality in whole or in part.

NAVY SEEKING \$30,000 APPROPRIATION TO PAY "INFORMATION BUREAU"

Washington, Jan. 24—Paymaster-General McGowan, of the Navy, told the House naval committee today about the purpose of a \$30,000 appropriation the navy wants for "collection of information at home and abroad." He said the sum included the expenses of naval attaches at London, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, Petrograd, Paris, Buenos Ayres, Tokio and Peking.

ORGANIZED LABOR MUST GAIN JUSTICE THROUGH OWN STRENGTH--WALSH

Indianapolis, Jan. 24—Speaking before the convention of the United Mine Workers today, Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the new committee on industrial relations, the head of the federal commission on industrial relations, now out of existence, declared that if labor is to be emancipated and receive industrial justice it must be done by labor itself. Only in complete organization can workers find protection, he said.

OSBORNE DENIED OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER HIS PLEA

White Plains, N. Y., Jan. 24—District Attorney Weeks, of West Chester County, refused today to allow Thomas Mott Osborne, former warden of Sing Sing Prison, to enter a plea to the indictment charging him with immoral conduct. A demand that the former warden be allowed to answer to the indictment today was made by his counsel, George Gordon Battle, before Justice Morchauer, but the district attorney said that it was within his province alone to say when an accused man should be allowed to plead. He added that he had not called him to plead at this time.

The grand jury, which indicted Mr. Osborne, is still in session and it was rumored that the district attorney was seeking a superseding indictment.

Justice Morchauer took briefs in the matter and left the question as to when the plea should be entered unsettled. The justice postponed meantime on motion of Mr. Battle the date on which Mr. Osborne is to be tried for alleged perjury, from Feb. 7 to Feb. 24.

Policeman Attracts Attention Driving Team Through Street

A uniformed policeman seated on the seat of a team cart and driving a "frighty pair" of horses, was the sight presented pedestrians at Fairfield avenue and Main street at 10 o'clock this morning, when Policeman Alpheus C. Goulden, a former circus driver, drove a team to police headquarters after arresting an intoxicated driver.

PNEUMONIA TAKES THREE IN FAMILY DURING 24 HOURS

South Norwalk, Conn., Jan. 24—Pneumonia nearly wiped out a whole family in this city during the past twenty-four hours. William W. Comstock, former city official, and wealthy retired merchant, died at 8:15 yesterday morning, his niece, Florence Hale, died at noon and his sister, Mrs. Ann Hale, died at 10 o'clock this morning.

MISS MCCORD OPENS ART EXHIBITION AT HOTEL

Miss Mary McCord, one of the most talented artists of this vicinity, is holding an exhibition of her paintings in the Assembly room of the Stratford today and tomorrow. Miss McCord has spent much time abroad in study and has many beautiful oils of well known places in Europe as well as in this country. She is an active member of the Bridgeport Art league.

THE WEATHER

Fair tonight and Tuesday with rising temperature, moderate southeast to south winds.

TOWN NOTABLES APPREHENDED AT BIG COCK FIGHT

Stratford Constable And Local Fireman Among the Prisoners.

ONE MAN LOSES \$50 WALLET IN FLIGHT

Prisoners Forfeit \$10 Bonds As Game Cocks Crow in Court.

(Special to The Farmer.) Stratford, Jan. 24—A sensation was caused in Stratford today when the names were disclosed of those who partook in the cock fight raided by State Policeman Anthony Fellows, assisted by Town Officers Edward Manchester and Fred Palmer yesterday afternoon at Aerodrome park. Eight men, some officers of the law, and a member of the Bridgeport fire department were arrested and brought to Stratford Center last evening to furnish a bond for their appearance in court this morning. All furnished \$10. Only one was present at court this morning. Their bonds were forfeited. The names they gave to Chief Allen D. Judson, who was appointed as bond holder were: John Weiden, Joseph Lesko, Thomas Johnson, James Jones and William Eddeson.

It was learned at court this morning that Martin Knapp, ex-constable of Stratford, residing at East Broadway, Constable Edward Burritt, a butcher living at Oranogue; Samuel Wakelee of Avon Park, an ex-special officer; Albert Anderson, known as "Fussy" Anderson, residing at 107 South Main street; a freeman, consigned with the Bridgeport fire department, were among those apprehended. The three other prisoners despatched word that they would settle with the court some time during the day.

More than 75 had gathered in the grove yesterday and considerable money it said to have been put up on the various birds. Word was passed to the Stratford authorities of what was transpiring. The constables arrived in due time and the crowd started to disperse. So interested were some of the members in the game that when they saw the officers coming they forgot some of their apparel. Some left their overcoats, rubbers and umbrellas. Others in scaling the fence lost their pocketbooks. It is said that "Fussy" Anderson lost a \$50 gold watch during the scramble. All these possessions are now in the hands of the police.

State Policeman Rowe H. Wheeler was telephoned for and he carried the captured cocks along with a few bags of meal to the fire house. The birds were brought in court this morning as evidence. While court was in session the birds crowed despite the fact that they were in a cage. The spectators looked on with much regret.

The state police are today making an investigation of the promoters of the cock fight. The birds will be kept by the police until the owners come and claim them. Judge Howard M. Curtis occupied the bench.

CITY MUSICIANS PLAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HERE

Bridgeport Expected to Have Organization to Rival Others in State.

Plans are on foot to form the largest permanent symphony orchestra that Bridgeport has ever possessed. The stimulus has been given by musical societies that look with concern upon the growing symphony organization of New Haven, Hartford and other cities. It is said that Bridgeport has a large number of musicians and organizations whose efforts, both professional and amateur, have been latent.

With aim of having all the orchestras in Bridgeport combined upon a basis that will reflect credit upon the city in state and national musical meets, Alexander Howell has been commissioned by civic-spirited persons to attempt a consolidation and augmentation to number not less than 70 pieces. In the event that the project can pass a tentative stage of agreement, it is believed that considerable financial support will be given and that a leader of note will be employed to bring up the standard of the organization on a par with any similar symphony orchestra in the state.

Four Couples Marry In One Church Today

Four Polish couples were married at 8:30 o'clock this morning in St. Michael's Polish Roman Catholic church on Sterling street. This is said to be the record of the church in number of marriages performed at one time. Rev. Ambrose Figlewski, assisted by Father Gregory, O. S. P., performed the marriages. Thirty-two coaches were required to conduct the contracting couples and guests.

PRESIDENT REMITS FINE

Washington, Jan. 24—President Wilson today remitted a two thousand dollar fine imposed on J. H. Bullock, convicted in a federal court several years ago of defrauding the government in bids for coal for Fort Davis, St. Michael and Livium in Alaska. Bullock has served a jail term which expires today.

THAW ALIENIST SUSPENDED FOR MOLL HEARINGS

Dr. Diefendorf Called in For Testimony in Fight Over Conservator.

HOSTILE ACTS OF MOTHER RELATED

Wanted Snakes Carved on Memorial Stone for Son And His Wife.

That Mrs. Theresa Moll had tried to have two snakes carved on the monument in the family plot in Park cemetery and also tried to have the names of her son, Gustavus Moll, and his wife carved under them, developed the probate court today at a continuance of the hearing for the removal of Gustavus as his mother's conservator.

The Moll family have lived in Bridgeport many years and during most of that time the family has been in litigation of some sort. Now Mrs. Lily Thorpe and Mrs. Theresa Oberly, daughters of Mrs. Moll, have made application to the probate court to have their brother Gustavus removed as conservator of their mother. A fourth hearing on this petition was held by Judge Miller in the probate court today. Attorneys DeForest & Klein appeared for the sisters, Attorneys Nobbs and DeLaney for Mr. Moll.

It developed during the hearing that the Moll family has prospered much in the past few years. There is a 50-acre tract of farm land in Arlington avenue and there was some property in South Main street but this has since been transferred to the name of Mrs. Oberly.

Dr. A. R. Diefendorf of New Haven, one of the foremost alienists in this country, and who figured prominently in Harry Thaw's case, was one of the witnesses today. He was called into the case some time ago. He was before the court today to give his opinion as to whether or not Mrs. Moll was irrational and ought to be restrained. At present hour had not been called to the stand.

Mrs. Thorpe was the principal witness today and Judge Nobbs in cross-examining her brought out that the family owned property in Milford as well as in Bridgeport. She also admitted that she and her sister have never spoken to their brother's wife.

"Gus was never what he ought to be," Mrs. Thorpe testified. "I was asked a question from Judge Nobbs. 'We never considered him a proper person to care for mother.'"

This answer came after the witness had testified to the court that an arrangement to have Gustavus as conservator had been agreed to by herself and her sister. As for the snake carvings on the monument the witness said she could not testify if she had heard her mother say that she meant to place such carvings.

She told the court that she had heard her brother's wife tell him to "throw them out" when she and her sister tried to visit their mother. She claimed that once when she visited her mother she had to climb in through the window and when she came again she found the window nailed down. At previous hearings the sisters have declared that they brought the present proceedings because their brother and his wife is mistreating their mother.

On part of Gustavus Moll, his attorneys set up the claim that the present action was brought only after Gus refused to allow the sisters any more money from the estate and after he refused to cut up his build-up lots, the valuable farm that the mother owns.

EXPECTS \$5,000 FROM PARK CITY TO HELP HATTERS

That Bridgeport labor union members will contribute \$5,000 towards the alleviation of the financial stress of the union hatters affected by the closure sale of their homes, was the confident statement of Simon Blake of the general agent of the United Hatters of North America, in this city today.

Mr. Blake has been delegated to handle the special collection of funds in union circles, throughout Connecticut. He explained today that instead of giving the returns of the second hour of the working day, Jan. 27, to the hatters, most of the Bridgeport workmen had decided to pay a flat assessment, usually 50 cents.

On Jan. 27, union workers throughout America will contribute the wages of this second hour of their work to help pay the judgment under which the courts have directed the sale of homes of the members of the Hatters' union. The judgment was given against the union hatters because of a boycott declared upon the product of a manufacturer who was opposed to the union hatters.

Unwelcome Sleepers in Garfield School Arraigned in Court

William Russell, age 31, Edward Blagiff, age 18, and Michael, "Tubby" McDonald, were arraigned in city court today on a charge of vagrancy. They have been sleeping in the Garfield school on Stillman street for a long time. Russell was given a jail sentence of 15 days, McDonald sentenced to seven days in jail and Blagiff, owing to his minority, was sentenced to 30 days in jail and placed on probation.

FRENCH AIR FLEET RAIDS MONASTIR; DOVER UNDER FIRE

Forty-Five Aeroplanes in Raid Inflict Great Damage on Ammunition Depots and Staff Headquarters—Channel Port is Shelled by Zeppelins in Sunday Attack on British Coast.

Paris, Jan. 24—Bombardment of Monastir, in southwestern Serbia by a squadron of 45 French aeroplanes yesterday is reported by the Havas correspondent at Saloniki.

Considerable damage is said to have been done to ammunition depots, the quarters of the general staff and the railroad station.

Dover Object of German Raid Berlin, Jan. 24—The German admiralty issued the following today: "German naval aeroplanes during the night of Jan. 23-24 dropped bombs on the station, barracks and docks of Dover."

WESTERN FLOODS CAUSE HUNDREDS TO FLEE HOMES

Illinois River Rising and Inundation of Many Towns Threatened.

Peoria, Ill., Jan. 24—With the Illinois river rising, residents along the lowlands today were fleeing to safety. Hundreds have been rescued from their homes by boats. In many places dykes have broken and valuable farm land is inundated. Reports from points up and down the Illinois indicate enormous damage to farm property and livestock.

Early this morning water began seeping into the village of the Central Illinois Light Co. Interruption of light service is feared.

The Spoon river levees which protected thousands of acres of land below Havana, Ill., 55 miles south of here, broke this morning. A score or more of families fled to higher ground. The towns of Havana, Lewistown and Duncan Mills are isolated.

Davenport, Ia., Jan. 24—A section of the retaining wall of the government dam at LeClaire was carried away by an ice jam last night and today the area within the wall is flooded. One of the government dredges is submerged. The loss will be heavy, as the water covers many acres and will have to be pumped out after the break is mended.

The wall was constructed as a preliminary step towards building a canal over the LeClaire rapids as an aid to navigation. The river here is near the danger point.

MILITIAMAN'S SLANDER SUIT TO BE TRIED A NEW

"Unfortunate Personality" Action is Scheduled For Hearing Wednesday.

The \$15,000 slander suit brought against Capt. Albert Moseman of the Sixth Company of Norwalk by Attorney Horace M. Gray of Norwalk, an action which caused a sensation in military circles when tried here three years ago, is scheduled for a second trial before Judge Gager and a jury Wednesday morning. On the previous trial a jury awarded Gray \$500 damages but Judge Greene set aside the verdict on the ground that it was rendered from sympathy rather than in accordance with the evidence.

Gray asked for a finding of facts from Judge Greene and when this was refused he appealed to the supreme court of errors. The highest tribunal found no error in Judge Greene's decision. Therefore a new trial was necessary.

In 1909 Gray was a member of the Sixth Company, with the rank of senior sergeant. He wished to become a lieutenant and claimed Captain Moseman wrote in a letter to a high military official "Gray has an unfortunate personality and if advanced higher the company would suffer grievously."

Gray declared these statements disgraced him in military circles and caused him great humiliation. He said he was ambitious to advance in the company, and Captain Moseman's statements did him much damage.

Refused Increase In Wages, Nine Men Quit Bryant Electric Co.

Nine men left the Bryant Electric Co. Saturday because they couldn't get an increase in wages. They are buffers.

According to the company, the men demanded a raise and the assistant foreman over them, said he had no power to make a change. The foreman who has, is ill with diphtheria, the company says the men were told. They protested and as no results were noted, they left.

FINED FOR SHORT WEIGHTS

Ansonia, Conn., Jan. 24—Michael Yudin pleaded guilty in city court this morning to a charge of selling short weight coal when he fined \$20 and costs. Judgment on the charge of issuing a sales slip written in lead pencil instead of ink or other indelible matter was suspended.

REPORTS TURKISH U-BOAT ATTACKED STEAMER PERSIA

Despatch to State Department Says Sinking of Liner May Be Traced.

Washington, Jan. 24—Despatches from abroad indicating that Turkey might acknowledge that one of her submarines sank the British liner Persia promise to revive the diplomatic festering of the disaster.

State Department officials had no despatches on the subject today from Ambassador Morgenthau. Neither had they received official word from Ambassador Penfield at Vienna transmitting Austria's official disavowal of any connection with the disaster reported unofficially last week.

Until the incident was reported it was generally assumed in official quarters that the cause of the sinking of the liner would be numbered among the mysteries of the war.

MOST FREIGHT OF PENNA. LINES IS ACCEPTED NOW

Shipments Over Other Lines Still Held Up, Explains Nickerson.

Regarding the modification of the freight embargo, as applied to the handling of shipments from the Pennsylvania railroad and its connections, L. B. Nickerson, general freight agent today explained the new ruling as follows:

"The embargo has been lifted on all freight from the Pennsylvania lines and shipments will be received by the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad at Harlem river only, for points on the New Haven lines only, with the exception of the following building materials, structural and reinforcing steel and iron, stone, lime, brick, cement, lumber, terra cotta, tile and wallplaster.

"The building materials enumerated, however, will be received at Harlem river only, for points on the New Haven lines only, when for use in building work already under contract or under construction. They will not be received for consignees anticipating their use."

Mr. Nickerson said that the embargo, as applied to shipments from lines other than the Pennsylvania, remain as heretofore, with foodstuffs, cattle feeds, coal, coke, charcoal and other necessities alone being handled.