

## JURY QUICKLY SECURED TO TRY CHARLES KRATZ

Defendant Late in Arriving and Appears Weak and Aged.

Butler, Mo.: The trial of Charles Kratz of St. Louis on the charge of bribery was begun in the circuit court here Monday at 10 o'clock, with Judge Charles A. Denton on the bench. The defendant had not arrived at court when the case was called. He walks slowly with a cane, and has the appearance of being sick. He has aged greatly since his first appearance here. Kratz is represented by Judge Thomas B. Harvey, Thomas T. Fauntleroy and Thomas I. Rowe of St. Louis and Francisco & Clark of this city. The state is represented by Circuit Attorney Saker of St. Louis and A. R. Ludwick, prosecuting attorney of this county.

The defense filed a motion to quash the indictment, which, after considerable discussion, was overruled. Defense counsel then moved to require the state to furnish him with the evidence taken before the grand jury which returned the indictment. This was also overruled.

The preliminaries were disposed of by 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the work of selecting a jury began, and at the end of three hours the following had been selected: W. J. Park, P. K. Wilson, Sam Walls, Henry Ber, H. O. Maxey, H. S. Williams, J. S. Evisizer, William Rice, A. J. Bryant, J. R. Ford, W. H. Browning and Charles West. Most of them are farmers and in politics they are about equally divided.

Charles Kratz, his wife and daughter arrived Sunday, while Mrs. Kratz's mother and her maid arrived Monday. Many people are coming to town to hear the famous trial, the hotels and boarding houses being crowded. The courtroom was full of spectators at an early hour Monday morning.

John H. Higdon, a clerk in the circuit clerk's office at St. Louis, is here, in charge of the valuable papers and records in connection with the case. The \$61,900 in bills to be introduced as evidence came in Tuesday morning, accompanied by two detectives. As soon as the jury was selected the court adjourned until 9 o'clock Tuesday morning.

## ILLINOIS MINERS OBJECT TO RAILROAD BONDS

Urge That Funds Be Put Into Government Securities.

Springfield, Ill.: Railroads are objectionable investments to a number of members of the United Mine Workers of Illinois. The auditor's report showed that \$200,000 of the funds on hand are invested in railroad bonds, and the knowledge furnished food for an objectionable debate.

It was evident from the discussion in the second day's session of the State convention of the miners that many of the delegates considered railroad bonds insecure. These delegates expressed a preference in their talks for government bonds, even though the rate of interest is smaller.

W. D. Ryan, State secretary-treasurer, defended the railroad bond investment made by the members of the Executive Board.

Disatisfied with certain phases of the agreement made for the hoisting engineers by the Illinois United Mine Workers last summer, delegates representing a few of the locals over the State, started a movement in Wednesday's meeting of the miners to secure the annulment of the agreement.

John McDonald of Athens spoke for the engineers, and said he desired the organization to put as much protection about the engineers as possible. After the debate, a committee was appointed to consider the objectionable matters.

## HARD ROADS LEGISLATION IS DENOUNCED

Illinois Grain Dealers Say They Are Burdens on Rural Communities.

Bloomington, Ill.: The Farmers' Grain Dealers' Association of Illinois, in their meeting Thursday, the first of a two-days' session, denounced hard road legislation.

Resolutions were introduced, which met with enthusiastic approval, declaring that the alleged hard roads were a burden upon the rural communities, and are only demanded by automobile federations and loan and investment companies.

Proper grading and thorough drainage of country roads was declared to be the only feasible solution of the problem.

New Officers were elected Thursday as follows: President, Lee Kincaid, Athens; vice president, Thomas Lamb, Jr., Bement; second vice president, T. J. Dunn, Seneca; treasurer, J. B. Abbott, Mason City.

Addresses were made by Charles Adkins of Bement, on the penalty clause, where stockholders sell to other firms, and by F. B. Hougham of Lotus on the question, "In What Way Are Co-Operative Grain Companies Benefiting the Farmers of the State?"

## Second Inquiries.

Chicago: The investigation of the Iroquois Theater fire begun anew Thursday by the Grand Jury. The complaint is identical with that presented one year ago when indictments were returned, which were recently quashed as faulty.

## Paducah Merchant Drops Dead.

Paducah, Ky.: Frank Lawrence, a well-known merchant and a brother of Will Lawrence, once Republican candidate for Postmaster, dropped dead Thursday afternoon from heart trouble.

## BOODLE FUND MAKES JURYMEN NERVOUS

State Rests After Kelly and Gutke Give Their Testimony.

Butler, Mo.: The Kratz trial was delayed an hour Wednesday morning by the lateness of the Missouri Pacific passenger train from St. Louis, which brought many new witnesses and the \$60,000 figuring in the case. The courtroom was filled with spectators long before court opened, people continuing to arrive from a distance. Much interest is centered in the expected arrival of Thomas K. Niedringhaus, caucus nominee of the Republican party of Missouri for United States Senator. The court Wednesday morning issued an attachment for Mr. Niedringhaus to appear here Thursday. He had refused to reply to the subpoena sent him.

As soon as court was opened Mr. Kratz had a sinking spell, and was aided from the courtroom of the sheriff's private office, where a physician attended him. He was brought back soon, seemingly refreshed. His daughter and his mother were in court and sat constantly at his side, together with his wife.

Charles Gutke, a member of the St. Louis house of delegates combine, was the first witness for the state Wednesday. He said he was asked by Kratz to handle the deal for the boys in the house, and went with Kratz to Stock's home, where he was introduced to him. After talking the matter over with Stock, he said he reported to Kratz that he couldn't come to an agreement yet. He testified that Kratz relied on Brinkmeyer to work his part of the deal and handle the money, whereby he could make a few dollars for himself. He said he talked about passing the bill only a few times in the assembly. Gutke identified a duplicate of the notes and deeds of trust which he signed as security for Kratz's \$20,000 bond before he fled to Mexico.

On cross-examination witness said he had been indicted for bribery three times and convicted once upon his own confession. He declared he perjured himself before the grand jury on the advice of Kratz, upon which Judge Harvey called him down. Continuing, Gutke said his conviction was for bribery on council bill No. 44. He was then excused.

Charles Kelly, another member of the house of delegates combine, was next called. As he took the stand a stir was caused by the entrance of five detectives and the local express agent, with the package containing the \$60,000. One of the detectives carried a Winchester. Kelly said he had been indicted three times and convicted once for bribery on the lighting bill.

On cross-examination he admitted he had perjured himself on many occasions, but was not guilty on the charge for which he was indicted.

Mr. Price, an assistant in the Mississippi Valley trust company, testified as to the deposit of \$60,000 there and the box rent paid on the box. He said the box was never opened but once, and that was by the efforts of Stock. A strong box was produced and identified by Price. It was opened by the attorneys and detectives and its contents exhibited to the jury.

J. R. Ford, one of the jurymen, took the bench and counted it. When through he jokingly said: "Take this, quick; I would go crazy with so much."

The numbers of the bills were taken and recorded.

At 11:15 the state rested.

At the close of the testimony for the state the defense filed a demurrer to the testimony, which Judge Denton overruled.

The afternoon session began at 2:20. Attorney Fauntleroy, for the defense, addressed the jurors and said they would attempt to prove the good character and high reputation of Kratz in St. Louis, and that the charge against him was formed by a band of self-confessed boodlers and perjurers; that council bill No. 44 was one of the best and most beneficial bills to St. Louis ever filed in the council, and that Kratz was always in favor of the same.

## DEATH LIST AT ALABAMA MINE IS SEVENTY-FIVE

Half of the Bodies, It Is Thought, Have Now Been Rescued.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 22.—At 8 o'clock this evening seventy-five blackened and disfigured bodies had been recovered from the Virginia mines, in which the explosion occurred on Monday afternoon, entombing more than 150 miners.

To-morrow will be a day of funerals at Virginia City, Bessemer, Pratt City and Ensley. The men have been taken to Bessemer as fast as identified. Identification is difficult. A supply of coffins from neighboring cities arrived today.

The rescuers are at work in the slope, and as the diggers advance the bodies further in the mine are found to be worse burned and mutilated. No hope is now held out that any of the men can be alive. Three men were found yesterday whose hearts were still beating, but they expired immediately on reaching the air.

The Birmingham district has come promptly forward in the matter of relieving the destitute families of the victims, and mass meetings were held in Birmingham, Bessemer, Ensley and Pratt City today.

To Study Orient at University. Columbia, Mo.: Japan and China clubs have been formed at the university for the study of conditions in the Orient. Several Japanese students of the university will assist in conducting classes. Several students who intend to become foreign missionaries have enlisted in the clubs.

## RIOTS SPREAD IN RUSSIA; RACE WAR A COMPLICATION

St. Petersburg: The latest private reports from the Caucasus say trouble has broken out at Balakhany, near Baku.

The military force of the whole region is declared to be inadequate to suppress the disorder, and a spreading of the racial contest is generally anticipated. Poti cannot be reached by telegraph.

Thousands of Armenians are said to be leaving Baku and Batoum. The Armenians and Mussulmans are practically in a state of open war.

## Rioting Rife at Warsaw.

Warsaw: The police of this city threaten to strike for higher wages. They constitute an independent force paid by the city, and at present receive \$6 a month and their uniforms. The police subsist chiefly on money obtained from other sources. They presented formal demands for an increase of pay to the Chief of Police Saturday.

The operating departments of the Warsaw division of the St. Petersburg railway have struck, but train service is maintained with the aid of the army railway corps.

The strike on the Vienna and Vistula railways continues.

The military occupy the gas works, the employees of which threaten to strike.

A policeman was shot and killed by a student in a disturbance in a railway station Friday. The police attempted to disperse the great crowds which had gathered there, and arrested a student. A mob tried to rescue him, and a policeman drew his sword, whereupon a student killed him and disappeared in the crowd.

Cossacks and infantry are guarding the telegraph lines of the Warsaw-St. Petersburg railroad, fearing that the strikers will cut off communication between the two cities. The mails from Warsaw to Lodz, a distance of sixty miles, have to be delivered in carts.

## KANSAS TO WAGE LEGAL BATTLE ON OIL TRUST

Supreme Court Will Be Asked to Pass on Standard's Rights.

Topeka, Kas.: Frank H. Monnett, ex-attorney general of Ohio, arrived here Friday to assist the Kansas oil producers in their fight against the Standard oil company. Although he has been in Kansas only a few hours, Mr. Monnett says he is of the opinion that the Kansas people have a very just grievance and that they are in a position to win their fight.

Shortly after Mr. Monnett's arrival here, he met C. C. Coleman, attorney general of Kansas, in conference, and it was agreed that proceedings would be commenced shortly in the state supreme court to prevent the Standard oil company from selling its products in this state. Under the provisions of the Kansas statutes, a foreign corporation must have authority from the state charter board before doing business in the state.

The Standard is selling oil in every town in the state, and has obtained no such authority from the charter board. If the supreme court holds that the Standard is operating here without authority, it will be driven from the state, and thus will widen the field of the independent refiners. Mr. Coleman has been contemplating this move against the Standard for several days, but waited until the arrival of Mr. Monnett before deciding to begin it.

"I know very little of conditions in Kansas," said Mr. Monnett, "but from what I have seen of your lawmakers this state will win in any fight it starts against the Standard."

## Russia May Induce Slavs to Return.

Pottsville, Pa.: The Russian government is believed to be making a systematic effort to induce the 25,000 Slavs in the anthracite region to return home and enlist in the service of the government. Most of these men have only been in America a few years, and are favorably disposed toward the bureaucratic government free passage home. A considerable sum in money is the consideration offered. G. Fritz, a stranger, registered at the Pennsylvania Hall hotel, is said to be a secret agent in the Russian government charged with this mission.

## Grand Jury for Beef Investigation.

Chicago, Ill.: The special grand jury ordered by Federal Judge Kohlsaat to investigate the alleged meat trust was drawn Friday. The law requires that the names of members of the jury be spread on the records. This will not be done, however, until a few days before March 20, when the grand jury will meet, as it is desired to keep the names secret as long as possible. It is said that the government wishes to examine the record of each man.

## Find Diamonds in Rhodesia.

London: A diamond field has been discovered in the neighborhood of Gwelo, southern Rhodesia. This is the first time that diamonds have been found in Rhodesia, and it was not supposed that they existed there.

## Senate Draws Line on Bouquets.

Washington: The Senate began proceedings Friday by adopting a resolution reported by Mr. Lodge from the committee on rules directing the sergeant-at-arms not to permit flowers to be brought into the Senate chamber.

Railroad strikers of Lodz, who are coming here to attend a conference with the strikers of Warsaw, are obliged to travel by road.

A police patrol in Alexandrova street at 8 o'clock Friday evening was suddenly attacked by a mob and two of the policemen were fatally wounded by revolver shots.

The town is threatened with darkness after Friday night on account of the inability of the company to supply the sufficient gas. The soldiers have replaced the strikers, aided by a few skilled men, but the force is insufficient.

## Poutloff Workmen Strike.

St. Petersburg: The strike has broken out afresh at the Poutloff iron works. The men walked out Friday. The minority objected at first to a renewal of the strike, whereupon a conflict occurred between the two factions, which required a strong force of police to quell. Troops have again been requisitioned to patrol the Poutloff strike zone.

## Moscow Men Quit Work.

Moscow: The employees of the Moscow-Kazam Railroad struck Friday, as they had not received the management's reply to their petition. The men, however, decided not to interfere with military trains. Other trains will not be allowed to leave. Troops are guarding the railroad station.

## Southern Peasants Inflamed.

St. Petersburg: The beginnings of a dangerous movement have been observed among the peasantry of some of the southern provinces, where revolutionary agitators are circulating reports that the Emperor will, on March 4, issue a manifesto providing for a general division of lands. A new allotment has been the dream of the moujiks ever since emancipation; and, according to private reports, the stories have spread like wildfire, and are implicitly believed.

## MINERS MAY ERECT BUILDING IN SPRINGFIELD

Proposition Is to Be Submitted to a Vote of the Members.

Springfield, Ill.: President H. C. Perry of the United Mine Workers of Illinois, in his annual address Friday, suggested the construction of an office building in Springfield to cost \$300,000, about half of the reserve fund of the organization. The proposition will be submitted to the miners of the state and a vote on it will be taken.

The reports show that the cash balance now in the treasury is \$885,000, of which \$200,000 is invested in railroad bonds. The convention indorsed a bill now before the General Assembly to compel corporations to be responsible for injuries sustained by employees while in the performance of their duties.

## Mrs. Chadwick Refuses to Answer.

Cleveland, Ohio: Mrs. Chadwick, when placed on the stand in the bankruptcy proceedings against her Friday before Referee Remington, refused at first to be sworn. After consultation with her lawyer she finally consented to take the oath. She was then asked to state her name. She refused to reply to this or any other questions that followed.

## Explosion Kills Miners.

St. Clairville, O.: Twelve workmen were badly injured Monday by the explosion of a stationary boiler at mine No. 1 of the Providence Coal Company, near here. Two of the injured have since died, and four others are believed to have been fatally hurt. At the time of the explosion there were 200 miners in the immediate vicinity of the boiler house.

## Oppose Porto Rico Eviction Laws.

San Juan, Porto Rico: The house of delegates has passed the five-day eviction law against tenants. The American federation of labor denounces the measure as oppressive, and denunciatory meetings are being held throughout the island. The executive council will be appealed to to disapprove the act.

## Canada Canals to Be Free.

Ottawa, Ont.: Canadian canals will be free for another year, an order in council having been passed Friday remitting canal tolls for the coming season.

## Becomes Judge of Canal Zone.

Panama: Former American Consul General H. K. Gudger took the oath Friday as judge of the canal zone district of Ancon.

## James Walsh.

Springfield, Ill.: James Walsh, aged 51, vice president of the Sangamon homestead and savings association, died suddenly Friday of heart failure.

## Francis Joseph Forcing Issue.

Buda-Pesth, Hungary: Count Julius Andrássy has returned, after another unsatisfactory audience with the emperor at Vienna. The cabinet crisis continues, Francis Joseph, it is said, having declined to entertain either the military or the economic demands of the independent party.

## Viadivostok Is Threatened.

St. Petersburg: Gen. Kuropatkin telegraphs that twenty Japanese torpedo boats and one warship have been sighted off Viadivostok.

## DILEMMA PRESENTED BY DOMINICAN TREATY

Senate, in Passing It, Must Consider Effect on Monroe Doctrine.

Washington: Members of the foreign relations committee of the Senate, of which Senator Cullom of Illinois is chairman, agree that it will be impossible for the Senate to ratify the treaty with Santo Domingo at this session. It will go over to the extra session, immediately after March 4. The belief is based upon the general disposition of the Senate to be deliberate in passing upon all matters that come before it, and the even greater disposition to go slowly with things that involve our foreign relations.

Senator Morgan has prepared a formal protest against the action of the President in Santo Domingo. There is a disposition on the part of Republican Senators to proceed with caution, for they realize that much is involved in what the administration proposes to do in Santo Domingo. They realize that once the United States appears before the world as the sponsor for the debts of Santo Domingo, it becomes a standing receiver for the defunct and bankrupt nations of this continent. Foreigners have millions of dollars' worth of claims against the South and Central American republics. They can never hope to collect them under present conditions. Once the United States intervenes in behalf of foreign creditors in Santo Domingo to prevent coercive measures by foreign powers, it establishes a precedent that can apply in similar situations relative to other southern countries.

The President realizes the responsibility which the ratification of the treaty involves. He believes, however, that unless the United States assumes that responsibility it might as well repudiate the Monroe doctrine or stand aside and let foreign nations collect their debts.

The latter course is one which, it is admitted, can but lead to eventual occupation of territory on this continent and the smashing of the Monroe doctrine past all hope of repair. It is believed that the Senate will not accept the responsibility for this latter course, which is sure to be involved by the rejection of the Santo Domingo treaty.

## STOCK TELLS STORY OF BRIBERY DEAL

Testimony Regarding Passage of Suburban Bill in St. Louis Council.

Butler, Mo.: At 9 o'clock Tuesday morning the Kratz case entered the active trial stage, Phillip Stock, the main state witness, completing his testimony. At the outset Circuit Attorney Sager read the indictment to the jury. He then outlined what the state would attempt to prove. He declared that Phillip Stock was the agent of the St. Louis and Suburban railway company; that J. G. Brinkmeyer was agent for Charles Kratz; that the money was deposited in the German Savings bank, and that Stock and Brinkmeyer held keys to the safe-deposit box, which could not be opened unless both were present; that the \$60,000 was deposited October 13, 1900, and remained there until January 28, 1902, because neither side would give in. It was not to be turned over to Kratz for distribution until council bill No. 44 was passed.

John Higdon, deputy to the circuit clerk of St. Louis, was the first witness called. He produced a record book showing that Kratz was elected councilman in April, 1897. Patrick R. Fitzgibbons, register of St. Louis, produced a record of the oath made by Kratz upon taking his office April 10, 1897.

George F. Mochler, secretary of the city council, was asked by the prosecution to read the council bill which was desired to be passed by the St. Louis and Suburban railway company.

Judge Harvey objected, but after an hour's argument the objection was overruled. Mr. Mochler then read the famous franchise bill, and his record showed that Kratz was present when the bill was introduced. Much time was spent by Mr. Mochler in naming members of the council and stating the duties of the various committees in the house.

Phillip Stock, secretary of the St. Louis brewing association, was the first witness called after the noon recess. He told his story of his connection with the passage of the bill.

The courtroom was crowded with women during the entire day.

## Votes \$1,000,000 for Courthouse.

Memphis, Tenn.: The county court Monday decided to make a million-dollar bond issue to build a new courthouse, and a board of five commissioners to supervise the work was appointed. A motion to submit the bond issue to a referendum was voted down.

## Maj. Carlton Stricken.

Bedford, Ind.: Maj. James C. Carlton, president of the Mexican War Veterans' Association, was stricken with paralysis Thursday, and it is believed he is dying.

## Hoch Denies Confession.

Chicago: Johann Hoch Tuesday repudiated his alleged confession read by Police Inspector Shipley before a coroner's jury. "I never told Inspector Shipley I had married eleven women," said Hoch.

## President Calls Special Session.

Washington: The President Thursday issued a proclamation convening the Senate in special session at 12 o'clock noon on March 4 next to receive such communications as may be made by the executive.

## RUSSIA AND JAPAN SEEM NEAR TO AN AGREEMENT

Czar's Council Said to Have Practically Decided Upon Terms.

London: A dispatch Tuesday to Reuter's Telegraph Company from St. Petersburg, confirming the Associated Press advices of February 17 and February 18 from St. Petersburg to the effect that peace was under consideration, adds:

"The question of peace has not only been formally discussed, but the conditions on which Russia is prepared to make peace have practically been agreed upon.

These are as follows: Korea to be placed under Japanese suzerainty.

Port Arthur and the Liaotung Peninsula to be ceded to Japan.

Viadivostok to be declared a neutral port, with an open door.

The Eastern Chinese railroad to be placed under international administration.

Manchuria as far north as Harbin to be restored as an integral part of the Chinese Empire.

## Indemnity.

The difficulty lies in settling the question of indemnity, upon which it is known that Japan insists, but it is thought that this difficulty is not insuperable.

The most trustworthy opinion at St. Petersburg is that, in view of the internal situation and the enormous difficulty in carrying on the war, peace on the terms outlined will be concluded within a comparatively short time if the indemnity question can be arranged, but it is quite possible that Russia will risk another battle before a decision is reached.

## China's Integrity Assured.

The concessions said to have been made by Russia practically insure the integrity of China.

Some time ago the Powers, in response to a note from Secretary of State Hay of the United States, agreed that, whatever the outcome of the war, they would see that China did not suffer dismemberment.

United States officials felt that there might be an effort on the part of the victor to take off a slice of China's territory or some of the Powers might step in and agree upon a division among themselves.

Under the Hay agreement, however, the Powers have pledged themselves to preserve China's integrity, and there is little chance for any sort of a division.

## KRATZ NOT GUILTY SAYS THE JURY

Verdict Freeing the Defendant Was Brought in at 1:30 a. m. Friday.

Butler, Mo.: Charles Kratz, former St. Louis Councilman, was found not guilty on the charge of bribery in connection with the Suburban bill at 1:30 Friday morning.

The jury was out an hour and forty-five minutes.

Kratz began to cry when the verdict was read, and was kissed by his wife and mother, who flew to his side as they heard the words: "Not guilty."

"I am glad, was all Kratz would say for a time.

Later, when more calm, Kratz made this statement: "I knew in my conscience that I was innocent, and am pleased and vindicated in my own mind. I am now free and have nothing hanging over me, for the first time in three years."

"I admit I made a mistake when I went to Mexico, but I did not think so at that time."

The jury retired at 11:45 p. m. After being closeted for half an hour Judge Denton sent word that if a verdict had not been reached the jurors would be locked up for the night.

Word was sent back that a little more time was wanted.

At 1:15 Friday morning it was announced that a verdict had been reached.

Circuit Attorney Sager had retired and a messenger was sent to bring him into court.

When he arrived the jury was brought into court and the verdict was handed to Judge Denton by H. O. Maxey, foreman.

## RAILWAY COMMISSION BILL PASSES OKLAHOMA HOUSE

Adopted by Decisive Vote Although Bitterly Fought by Corporations.

Guthrie, Ok.: The Maxwell bill, to create a board of Railway Commissioners, was passed by the lower house of the Legislature Monday night by a decisive vote of 20 to 3.

It is a combination of the Kansas and Texas Railway Commission laws and was opposed by the railroads. It is almost certain the measure will pass the upper house.

The bill provides for two Commissioners, with the Governor, as an ex-officio member, an auditor, a secretary, a clerk and a stenographer, carrying salaries aggregating \$11,700.

## Beat Redmond Amendment.

London: John Redmond's amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne was defeated in the House of Commons Tuesday night by a vote of 236 to 236, after an exhaustive debate occupying two days, and affording an opportunity to representatives of the several parties and factions to express their views on the Irish situation. The amendment declared, in effect, that "the present system of government (of Ireland) is opposed to the will of the Irish people."