

BECKER DECLARED GUILTY OF MURDER

First Degree is Verdict of Jury Returned Late at Night—Went to Jury Early in the Afternoon

SAM SCHEPPS' STORY THE PIVOTAL POINT

His Statement That His Testimony Was Key More Nearly True Than He Thought—Judge Refuses to Say Whether He is an Accomplice or Not

MRS. BECKER FAINTS; BECKER IS UNMOVED

(By the Associated Press.)
New York, Oct. 25.—Police Lieutenant Charles Becker was found guilty tonight of murder in the first degree by the jury which has been trying him for instigating the death of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler. The verdict was pronounced at 12:02 o'clock this morning.

The verdict read: "Murder in the first degree" and was pronounced exactly at midnight. Becker was remanded for sentence to the Tombs by Justice Goff until Oct. 30. Mrs. Becker, sitting outside the door of the court room, fell in a swoon when the verdict was announced.

Becker did not flinch when he heard the verdict pronounced by Harold B. Skinner, foreman of the jury.

John F. McIntyre, Becker's chief counsel, announced that he would take an immediate appeal but added that beyond this he had nothing to say.

The twelve jurors with solemn faces and measured steps filed into the court room at 11:55 o'clock. A moment later the defendant was brought in from the Tombs. Justice Goff had not yet entered the room, and for a moment Becker took a side seat.

Jurors Avoid Gaze.
As he waited he scanned with anxious eyes the faces of the jurors, but none of them returned his glance. A tense silence prevailed.

At 11:57 o'clock Justice Goff entered, and bowing low to counsel, took his seat. The jury roll was called. The clerk asked the jurors if they had reached a verdict. "We have," announced Foreman Skinner. The jury rose to its feet. "We find the defendant guilty as charged in the indictment," Mr. Skinner said, slowly and evenly, looking squarely at Justice Goff.

"Do you find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree as charged in the indictment?" asked the clerk.

"We do," the foreman replied. The court then directed that the roll of the jurors be called for their individual verdicts. As he repeated the question "do you find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree as charged," each juror answered "I do."

Becker Immobility.
Becker stood at the bar with squared shoulders, head erect. Not a muscle moved in his face, but he swallowed hard. That was all. When the last juror had answered, Justice Goff instructed the clerk to take the defendant's pedigree. Becker answered the questions in a low, firm voice. A court officer brought the questions to him, written on a slip of paper and as the prisoner read them to himself, he replied:

"Forty-two years old, American citizen, born in Germany; address 3235 Audubon avenue; lieutenant of police; married; Protestant; mother living; habits temperate; never convicted before."

When Becker's voice died away Mr.

McIntyre, who had covered his face with his hands as the verdict was given, rose and asked that all further proceedings be deferred one week. "until I can prepare the motions for appeal," "I will defer the sentence until October 30," answered Judge Goff. Judge Goff spoke in the same low voice, almost a whisper.

Still Unflinching.
Becker gave a fleeting glance at the judge and rested his eyes for a moment on the jury. Then he turned, and followed by a jail warden, walked with unflinching, rapid steps up the aisle of the court room and disappeared through the door leading over the "Bridge of Sighs" to the Tombs. The jury had deliberated nearly eight hours before reaching the verdict, although the case had been in their hands since 2:20 o'clock this afternoon. Actual deliberation began at 1:07 o'clock when the doors of the jury room swung behind them on their return from luncheon.

What happened behind those doors, how the debate ebbed and flowed, who stood out eight hours against the final verdict, how many ballots were cast—these were matters to whose secrecy each juror was pledged.

While the jury was making up its mind, absolute stillness, heightened by the midnight quiet of the streets, prevailed in the court room. After the verdict was given no one was allowed to leave the room until the jury had filed out. Justice Goff had given orders that anyone disturbing the proceedings in the slightest degree should be brought before him for punishment.

The News Out.
Two hundred persons or more gathered at the court-room door. With her ear almost at the key-hole sat the prisoner's wife. As the last juror left the room by another exit the door flew open and a man rushed excitedly into the corridors. The crowd gave way. He was half way down the steps to the telephone booth when a policeman shouted:

"What's the verdict?"
The fleeing man looked over his shoulder.

"Guilty," he shouted.
For a moment there was silence, keen intense, gripping. It was broken by a woman's muffled scream and the sound of a falling body. The prisoner's wife had fainted dead away.

Just before the verdict was given, Mr. McIntyre made his last plea. He asked that the court grant an earlier request of the jury to inspect the testimony of the persons who talked to Sam Schepps in Hot Springs, Ark. The court refused to hear the plea.

Mr. McIntyre had opposed granting that request of the jury when it was made to Justice Goff six and a half hours before. It was upon this question whether Sam Schepps was an accomplice to the murder that Justice Goff had hinged his charge to the jury.

The penalty for murder in the first degree is the electric chair. An appeal from the verdict goes directly to the Court of Appeals at Albany and acts, of course, as a stay of execution.

When the jurors left the court-room they went directly to their homes. They were under the mandate of Justice Goff, "not to communicate the nature of what had taken place in the jury room."

The Wait.
Police Lieutenant Charles Becker sat in his cell in the Tombs tonight, while across the "Bridge of Sighs," in the darkened criminal court's building twelve men struggled to decide whether or not he was guilty of murder of Herman Rosenthal.

During the afternoon the jury communicated with Justice Goff. Once it asked for the stipulations made by the State with the four informers, Rose, Webber, Vallon and Schepps, and Schepps' letter to Rose written at Hot Springs, Ark., and expressing his willingness to testify. The second time the jury wanted the testimony of persons who talked with Schepps in Hot Springs. The first request was granted; the second denied because portions of the testimony taken at Hot Springs had been excluded by the court.

Before leaving, Justice Goff instructed court attendants to take the jury to dinner when its members should signify they wanted to go. But the jurors made no such request and a meal was sent in to them—sandwiches and coffee—at 8:30 o'clock.

At 10 o'clock no further word had been received from the jury room and indications then were that the jury might be locked up for the night.

The prisoner's destiny was delivered into the jury's hands at 2:20 o'clock this afternoon after a three-hour charge by Justice Goff, which Becker characterized as distinctly unfair and a "thin veiled summing-up for the State," and upon which his counsel, John F. McIntyre, declined to comment. To do so, he said, would place him in contempt of court.

Gillet—"Anything essential about Macy's children?"
Perry—"Yes; they all failed."
Judge.

DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ADVERTISING

WALTER CLARK TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA

My Friends and Fellow-Citizens: Your choice of your United States Senator will deeply affect your welfare. It ought not to be presumed by agencies employed to control your votes.

The increase in the production of wealth has been marvelous, indeed nearly double that of ten years ago. National legislation, controlled by the Special Interests, has transferred the wealth created by you here, few so that there are now over one thousand men in this country who possess from ten millions up to one thousand million each and 97 per cent of our population own more than the other 97 per cent.

Not only this but the same legislation has transferred the wealth created in the South, which has been retarded in its development by the discrimination, to the enrichment of other sections. The discrimination in freight rates against North Carolina amounts to \$2,000,000 annually. The tobacco tax takes from the farmers 8 cents on every pound they raise and deprives this State of \$7,000,000 a year, while twenty-five States pay no tobacco tax whatever. The war contribution of \$5,000,000 yearly for Federal pensions, almost none of which comes back to us, ought to cease now that it is nearly half a century since the war. The contribution by each State for pensions should be returned to that State to be distributed by it among its own citizens and their widows.

Neither of my competitors during the twelve years each of them served in Congress has done anything for the relief of the people of this State from the above annual burdens of \$22,000,000. Each of you pays your part of this tribute. Do you wish it stopped?

On 13 May, 1910, Mr. Simmons voted against a bill to prohibit freight discrimination and to send the matter back to the Interstate Commerce Commission which had theretofore done nothing for our relief, and which has done nothing since, and about the same time the tax on tobacco was raised from 6 to 8 cents a pound—an annual addition of \$2,000,000 yearly upon our tobacco raisers.

The tobacco tax maintains the existence of the Tobacco Trust by preventing farmers and others from manufacturing tobacco just as the Protective Tariff creates the other Trusts.

In the Senate I shall stand firmly for the removal of the above and other burdens upon our people. The sharp contention between the friends of my two opponents render it unadvisable for the party to nominate either of them.

The great contest between the People and the Special Interests must be fought out in the U. S. Senate and there I can do fifty times as much for your good as in the position which I now hold by your good will.

Your friend,

25 October, 1912.

WALTER CLARK

BRADSTREET'S REPORT.

(By the Associated Press.)
New York, Oct. 25.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

The mercantile interests of the country, speaking of them collectively, have experienced another week of exceptionally active trade. Jobbers of all staple lines have enjoyed a brisk business and calls for winter goods have come to the front in a noteworthy way. Incidentally, buying for future account, for next spring is becoming more conspicuous. The relatively most active zones are the West, Northwest and Southwest, which sections have been blessed by bounteous crops. Even the South, for a long time comparatively backward, is showing greater life, thanks to free marketing of cotton, though things remain rather slow in the South Atlantic regions. Shipping rooms, particularly of dry goods houses, are overtaxed in getting out orders, and manufacturers in most districts are working to capacity.

The iron and steel industry continues in an enviable position, further advances in prices are being made and the railways have bought more freely than at any time this year. Collections are improving and while matters in this respect are not yet entirely favorable the trends indicate that they are being met more promptly. Business failures in the United States for the week ending October 24, were 229 against 187 last week, 231 in the like week of 1911, 220 in 1910; 217 in 1909 and 241 in 1908.

THE PRESENT POPULATION.

Knicker—"Half the people are being about enjoying their vacation in the country."

Bocker—"And the other half is about how they enjoyed the summer in town."—Judge.

Fond Mamma—Now, Charlie, don't you admire my new dress?

Charlie—Yes, mamma, it's beautiful.

Mamma—And, Charlie, all the good is provided for us by a poor wretch, Charlie—Do you mean dad?—Society Bulletin.

FEATHER BEDS

PAIR FEATHER PILLOWS FREE

This offer is to the Ladies that are looking for the well-fare of the home and the good comfort that a good nice FEATHER BED and SET OF PILLOWS will give to the family for a life time. We take pleasure in making the following offer with the knowledge of the fact in view that every lady will gladly take advantage of this advertising offer. **READ IT.** For a limited time we will ship you a nice 30-lb. Feather Bed, of new prairie feathers, good as any feathers for only \$10.00. The bed is full size, 9-yds. best 8-oz. A. C. A. Feather Pillows, worth \$2.00, and we will give Free with each bed a nice set of Feather two or more beds and pillows to your station. Now this offer is special to get them advertised in territories that we cannot reach otherwise. While they last send in your orders you can result in full or send one-third the amount of your order. We will ship them C. O. D. for the balance due.

Your obedient servants.

Z. Blackwell Feather Bed & Furniture Co.

Chesare, S. C.