

BECKER GUILTY OF MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE

Trial of New York Police Lieutenant Results in Conviction for Which Penalty is Death in Electric Chair.

WIFE OF PRISONER SWOONS AT VERDICT

Accused Man Does Not Flinch When Finding of Jury is Read in Open Court; Remanded to Tombs for Sentence.

[By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.] New York, Oct. 25.—Police Lieutenant Becker was found guilty early this morning of murder in the first degree by the jury which had been trying him for instigating the death of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, who was shot to death in the city hall.

"Murder in the first degree," Becker was remanded for sentence to the Tombs by Justice Goff until October 30th.

Mrs. Becker, sitting outside the door of the court room, swooned when the verdict was announced. Becker did not flinch when he heard the verdict pronounced by Harold B. Skinner, foreman of the jury.

John P. McIntyre, Becker's chief counsel, announced that he would take an immediate appeal, but beyond this he had nothing to say. The twelve jurors filed into the court room at 11:55 o'clock. A minute later the defendant was brought in from the Tombs. Justice Goff had not yet entered the room and for a moment Becker took a seat. As he waited he scanned the faces of the jurors, but none of them returned his gaze. A tense silence prevailed.

At 11:57 o'clock, Justice Goff entered the court room and bowing to the counsel, took his seat. The jury roll was called. The clerk then asked the jurors if they had reached a verdict.

"We have," announced Foreman Skinner. The jurors rose to their feet. "We find the defendant guilty," as charged in the indictment," Skinner said, looking squarely at Justice Goff. "Do you find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree?" asked the clerk.

"We do," the foreman replied. The court then directed that the roll of the jurors be called for 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 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 pedigree of the defendant. 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:

"Early years old, American citizen, born in Germany; address 3229 Audubon avenue; lieutenant of police; married; Protestant; mother living; habits temperate; never conducted before."

When Becker's voice died away, Mr. McIntyre asked that all further proceedings be deferred for one week, "until I can prepare the proper motion for appeal."

"I will defer sentence," announced Justice Goff, "until October 30th, and remand the prisoner until that date." Becker glanced at the jury and Justice Goff turned and, followed by a jail warden, walked with unfaltering 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 yesterday afternoon. Actual deliberation began at 4:07 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 any one disturbing the proceedings in the slightest degree should be brought before him for punishment.

Two hundred persons or more gathered at the court room door. With her ear almost at the keyhole, 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 corridor. The crowd gave way. He was half way down the



CHARLES BECKER
New York Police Lieutenant Convicted of Murder in First Degree for Instigating Murder of Herman Rosenthal, a Gambler Who Squeaked.

steps to a telephone booth when a policeman shouted: "What's the verdict?" The fleeing man looked over his shoulder and shouted, "guilty." For a moment there was silence, keen, intense, gripping.

PRISONER'S WIFE FAINTS ON HEARING VERDICT

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 the court to grant an earlier request of the jury to inspect the testimony of the persons who talked to Sam Scheppeg 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 by Justice Goff six and a half hours before.

It was upon this question—whether Sam Scheppeg 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 death in the electric chair. An appeal from the verdict goes directly to the court of appeals at Albany and acts 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."

"There is not the slightest doubt that there will be a reversal of this verdict in a higher court," said Mr. McIntyre after the jury had filed out. District Attorney Whitman said the trial of the remaining prisoners in the Rosenthal case will be called. All the prisoners indicted with Becker have asked for separate trials. The trial of Philip Davidson, charged with the murder of Jack Zelig, the east side gang leader, will begin next Wednesday.

Before Mrs. Becker was taken to her home she was allowed to see her husband in the sheriff's room in the building. As she entered the door, her husband clasped her in his arms. Mrs. Becker burst into tears and Becker tried to calm her. She clung to him for more than a minute and then two women companions rushed in. Mrs. Becker did not move. Becker kissed her again and again and finally whispered to her: "It will come out all right."

Finally Mrs. Becker stepped back and with a parting kiss the couple separated. As Becker walked toward the entrance to the "bridge of sighs," he smiled back at his wife, but she looked at her hands to her face and staggered into the arms of her women companions. They had carried her to a waiting motor. Becker soon was in his cell.

Becker's conviction comes exactly one hundred days after the murder of Rosenthal. It was during the early days of July that the gambler was shot to death in front of the Hotel Metropole. On July 21st, the grand jury took up the case; on the 29th it indicted Becker; on August 5th he was arraigned and pleaded not guilty. On August 20th he was remanded. His trial was set for September 21st, but a stay was granted until October 7th, by Justice Bischoff to enable a commission to take testimony at Hot Springs, Ark. On October 7th, the trial began. It lasted seven days. Ninety-eight witnesses testified.

BECKER BLAMES HIS CONVICTION ON COURT

Lieutenant Becker sat in his cell in the Tombs tonight while across the "bridge of sighs" in the darkened criminal court building, twelve men struggled to decide whether he was guilty of the murder of Herman Rosenthal. The prisoner's destiny was delivered into the jury's hands this afternoon after a three-hour charge by Justice Goff, which Becker characterized as distinctly unfair and a "thin veiled summing up of the case for the state," and upon which his counsel, John G. McIntyre, declined to comment. To his wife, who would place him in contempt of court.

Stripped of its legal verbiage, the charge, in effect was a ruling that the guilt or innocence of the prisoner rested almost solely upon the debatable point as to whether Sam Scheppeg was an accomplice to the crime. Dapper Little Scheppeg, when arrested at Hot Springs, styled himself as the "keynote of the arch." As events transpired he spoke truer than he knew.

The court himself, was doubtful as to Scheppeg's status and declined to guide the jurors in a decision. What he did instruct them to do was to return a verdict of first degree murder or second degree murder or to acquit the defendant. "Man slaughter was eliminated and a 'no compromise verdict' was directed upon the motion."

(Continued on Page 5, Column 3.)

FARMERS APPEALED TO BY PRESIDENT TAFT TO STAND BY PRINCIPLES

Transmits Special Message to Rural Voters of Northwest Through Governor Eberhart, of Minnesota.

REPUBLICAN SUCCESS INSURES PROSPERITY

Declares Party Does Not Make Sun Shine or Good Crops Grow But Provides High Prices for Products.

[By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.] Beverly, Mass., Oct. 24.—President Taft tonight made a special appeal to farmers of Minnesota and the northwest to remain true to their democratic beliefs of past campaigns.

The political argument submitted for consideration of rural voters was advanced in a letter which the president sent to Governor A. C. Eberhart, of Minnesota, stating that while the republican party had not made the sun to shine, or the crops to grow, it had been responsible for the prevailing good markets. The letter says in part:

"I am very glad to have encouraging news of the political outlook in Minnesota and wish to thank you for the efforts you are making for republican success. The people of your state are vitally interested in the maintenance of our political economic method."

"Their welfare is dependent upon the continuance of the protective tariff, and although at times by appeal to their prejudice they may be diverted from a clear perception of their interest, I am confident that in the end their common sense will enable them to see the fallacy of newly dressed nostrums which in the past they have rejected. I am sure they must realize that this contest is between the republican and democratic parties."

"The men and women of the northwest country have a special interest in republican success this year. They are sharing in the general prosperity of the nation and the continuance of growth of this prosperity is in a large degree dependent upon republican success next month."

"The republican party is not responsible for good crops. It does not make the sun to shine, nor more grass to grow, but it is responsible for the enactment of laws which make it possible, if the crops are good, that these shall be sold at a profit. It is the duty of the republican party to see that they shall be sold at good prices to those who have the means to buy them."

"There has never been a time in our history when the farm products of the northwest would purchase as much as they do today. The democratic platform promises a change in our tariff system, whose effect would be to halt manufacturing enterprises, throw out of employment thousands of wage earners and destroy the home market now enjoyed by the American farmer. No reforming legislation could neutralize or mitigate the paralysis which would follow."

"It is not necessary to jog the memory of the older farmers of your state as to what happened when the democratic party passed the Wilson tariff bill. Wheat went down to forty cents a bushel, corn to twenty-one cents, oats to eighteen cents, potatoes to twenty-seven cents."

"The welfare of the farmer is vital to the whole country. He is interested in the restraining of excessive and unduly discriminatory railroad rates, in the enforcement of pure food laws, in the promotion of scientific agriculture, in the extension of rural credits and increasing the comforts of country life, as by the extension of rural free delivery."

"The republican party is responsible for the organization and growth and splendid development of agriculture. Republican administrations have greatly developed agricultural investigations in the last fifteen years and no other party has been made in all our states and the islands of the sea under our flag, to the end that we may produce the necessities of life for ourselves and for those for whom we are responsible."

"I feel confident that the voters of Minnesota will appreciate the shallowness of the attack upon our institutions and will not be swayed by the promise of undefined benefits which are to follow undefined changes. It does not require the eye of a witch to see that clovered factories in Massachusetts and Ohio means a diminished demand for the farm products for the northwest. We can not strike down the industries of one section without bringing disaster to all the people. It is not a progressive policy in any true sense to be hostile to the prosperity of any part of the country."

Nicaragua Election One Sided.
Washington, Oct. 24.—The Nicaraguan election Sunday will be a one-sided affair, according to advisers received by the state department and Nicaraguan Minister Castillo. President Diaz is expected to succeed himself.

A CURIOUS TANGLE IN MATRIMONY UP TO COURT

Mrs. Lina M. Brooks-Seebert-Covington-Leyner is Sued for Divorce on Ground That She is Bigamist.

[By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.] Denver, Colo., Oct. 24.—A curious matrimonial tangle closely resembling the Morse-Dodge proceedings in New York a few years ago became known here today when the fact that Mrs. Lina M. Brooks-Seebert-Covington-Leyner, wife of J. George Leyner, president of the J. George Leyner Engineering Works of Denver, was served yesterday with a summons and complaint in a suit for annulment of her marriage to James M. Covington, filed in the superior court of Chicago.

Covington, who does not, or did not, know that the now Mrs. Leyner has divorced him, charges her with being the wife of George Seebert when she married him (Covington).

The service, therefore, was made on Mrs. Leyner as Mrs. Lina M. Covington.

In his complaint Covington sets up that he married the defendant at St. Joseph, Mich., on June 13, 1907, and that in October of 1909 he learned she had a husband, George Seebert, whom she married in 1903. They then parted.

After the parting, Mrs. Covington came to Denver and while working as a waitress in September, 1911, filed a divorce proceeding against Covington charging non-support and desertion.

On January 5, 1912, the decree was granted by default, Covington's whereabouts being unknown. Mrs. Covington averred. Following the divorce Mrs. Covington married Mr. Leyner in New York about the first of this year.

Mr. Leyner declared tonight that he knew nothing of George Seebert or whether his wife ever married a man of that name. He stoutly declared he would assist his wife in her defense. He, himself, is divorced from his first wife, who alleged cruelty and obtained alimony in the sum of \$23,000 from him on July 23, 1911.

Levi A. Hughes Declares That Schedule "K" Is Shell Game To Fool Wool Grower

Levi A. Hughes, of Santa Fe, for thirty years a wool dealer in New Mexico, and one of the candidates for presidential election on the republican ticket, gives a few facts regarding the present wool schedule of the tariff, which are especially interesting at this time. Mr. Hughes declares that Schedule "K" is indefensible, and goes on to prove his assertions in the following statement:

The republican press in New Mexico charges the progressive republicans with having "straddled" the tariff on the wool issue.

The progressive republican platform declares that it stands squarely with President Taft upon that issue, as stated by him in his Winona speech, when he declared the present wool schedule of the tariff to be indefensible.

Do the New Mexico republicans charge that President Taft, the head of their party, also "straddled" that issue?

We say, boldly and openly, with the President that Schedule "K," which provides and establishes the duty on wool and woolsens, is "indefensible." The best possible proof of the correctness of this statement is in the fact that during the past ten years the average protection on New Mexico wool under that schedule has amounted to one and fifty-two one-hundredths cents, or about a cent and a half per pound.

In other words, foreign wool, equivalent to the New Mexico product, could have been delivered in Boston or New York, free of all duty, at one and a half cents per pound less than the average selling price of the last ten years of New Mexico wool.

And this is the fact of the duty of eleven cents per pound provided in Schedule "K" for wools of the class we chiefly produce in New Mexico.

For example, a lot of Argentine wool comes into Boston, paying the duty of eleven cents per pound, and sells in Boston for about twenty-five cents per pound in the grease; if it came in duty free this would put its value at fourteen cents per pound. At the same time a lot of New Mexico wool of the same class sells in Boston, freight paid, at about fifteen and one-half cents per pound, and this one and one-half cents difference is the full measure of the protection New Mexico wool growers enjoy under the working of Schedule "K."

We thus clearly see that the actual protection to our New Mexico wool grower has been practically about ten per cent ad valorem, while the law passed by the last democratic house of representatives, by the democrats and progressive republicans in the United States senate, provided a duty of twenty-nine per cent ad valorem, or nearly three times as much as the real, actual working protection under the present law.

Under that law our markets have been lower at times than the foreign markets and domestic wool has been exported for sale abroad.

Ten years' experience with Schedule "K" shows it to be a "shell game," rigged up to fool the wool grower and to over-protect the woolen manufacturer. It gives no practical benefit to the sheep raiser, while it makes us all pay double prices for our woolen clothing and blankets.

Is not President Taft correct in declaring it to be indefensible?

(Signed) LEVI A. HUGHES,
Santa Fe, N. M., October 10, 1911.

POSTOFFICES ARE PLACED UNDER TWO CLASSES

Plans for Extending Civil Service to Postmasters are Announced by Postmaster General Hitchcock.

[By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.] Washington, Oct. 24.—Plans for the administration of the executive order of President Taft, placing all fourth class postmasters under civil service, were announced today.

Postmaster General Hitchcock has divided the 36,256 offices affected by the order into two classes. Class A will embrace postmasters at which the compensation is \$200 a year or more for postmasters, and class B at which it is less than \$200.

Appointment to each class A office will be made from three names certified by the civil service commission after competitive examination of the applicants. Vacancies in all class B offices will be filled on the recommendation of postoffice inspectors after personal investigation. This method has been followed in several states with success.

The order of the president is now in effect and the civil service commission is ready to hold examinations to create lists of eligibles for appointments to fill vacancies. Hereafter all vacancies in the postmaster's ships of fourth class offices will be filled without regard to the political affiliations of the applicants.

Postmaster General Hitchcock has recommended that all postmasters, irrespective of class, be placed under civil service.

BOARDING HOUSE FARE PROVES FATAL TO TWO

Leadville, Colo., Oct. 24.—L. A. Canby, superintendent of the Mary Murphy mine at St. Elmo, Gardner, the assayer, and a miner named Johnson, are dead as a result of pneumonia poisoning. Mr. Canby was taken to the St. Elmo hospital, where he died this afternoon. Twenty-five miners are seriously ill.

BULL MOOSE PARTY REPORTS FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO DATE

Frank A. Munsey Leads All With Sum of \$70,000 Given to Boost Interest of Progressive Party Policies.

GEORGE W. PERKINS DONATES \$45,000

W. Emile Roosevelt Aids With \$31,000 and Mrs. Longworth Assists Papa With \$600 Pin Money.

[By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.] New York, Oct. 24.—The progressive party received contributions for its campaign fund, up to October 17th, of \$204,244, spent \$292,241 and had unpaid bills and contract obligations for \$41,341 more, according to the official statement of receipts and expenditures sent to the clerk of the house at Washington today by Treasurer Hooker, of the progressive national committee.

Frank A. Munsey, who gave \$70,000; George W. Perkins, who gave \$45,000; and W. Emile Roosevelt, who gave \$31,000, appeared as the leading individual contributors. The balance came from nearly 7,000 individuals, whose gifts ranged from \$15,000, given by Douglas Robinson, Colonel Roosevelt's brother-in-law, to two anonymous contributions of 10 cents each.

The statement by Mr. Hooker filed in compliance with the campaign publicity law requiring a publication of financial affairs ten days before the election is the first complete statement to come from any of the three principal parties. It embraces all receipts and disbursements from July 1st to October 17th. The republican and democratic movements will be filed at Washington Saturday according to announcements from the respective committees today.

Mrs. Willard Straight, of New York, gave \$10,000; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hooker, \$6,000; William P. Eno, George Moore and Antonine Eno Hood, \$5,000 each; Representative William Kent, California, \$4,500; George E. Porter, Illinois, \$3,825; William Wrigley, Chicago, \$2,000; E. H. Van Ingen, New York, \$2,000; and Gertrude Pinchot, \$1,100. Henry White, former ambassador to France, appeared as a contributor of \$1,000. Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of Colonel Roosevelt, gave \$400; Thomas A. Edison, \$300; Emily T. Chew, \$200; Mrs. M. E. Roosevelt, \$200; Philip J. Roosevelt and Mrs. J. West Roosevelt, \$250 each.

The chief items of expenditure up to October 17th were: Printing, \$38,444; printing bills unpaid and contracts in force, \$28,874; advertising, \$20,565; traveling expenses of candidates and speakers, \$45,955; salaries of employees, \$22,712; postage and general campaign expenses, \$11,345; telegrams and telephone, \$19,298; office rent, \$6,262. The sum of \$95,563 was sent to thirty-seven progressive state committees for the work of state organizations.

The national progressive committee received 4,857 contributions of \$1 each, sixteen of 25 cents each, twelve of 50 cents each, and a large number of from \$25 to \$250. The total contributions of McNeill McCormick, vice chairman of the national committee, were \$1,000.89.

Contributors of \$1,000 were Henry White, Washington; Alexander H. Keuff, Chicago; J. D. Larkin, R. P. Perkins, E. H. Merrill, Willard Straight, New York; Mrs. M. E. Pinchot, Ohio; Davis family, Massachusetts; G. A. Soden, Alfred L. Baker, A. B. Dick, Ruth McCormick, Progressive club of Evanston, Ill.; Edward A. Rumely, Indiana, and others. Contributors of \$500 included Charles Scribner, J. P. Gray, C. E. McCormick, D. Tibbets and A. Dickson, New York; R. K. Leeds, Indiana; H. B. Quay, F. T. Montgomery, H. W. English, Pennsylvania; George R. Carter, Hawaii; Margaret D. Robins, Mrs. E. De K. Bowen, Lucien M. Williams, A. L. Baker and George A. McKelock, Illinois; Dr. E. M. Harrington, Rhode Island; Edward K. Warren and Charles Warren, Michigan.

POLICE SEARCH FOR YOUNG BRIDEGROOM

Spokane, Wash., Oct. 24.—Police throughout the northwest are searching for Oren Parmeter, said to be the son of a wealthy banker at Stevens Point, Wis. Parmeter is said to have borrowed an automobile from Mrs. D. S. Wallace, of Spokane, Monday night and eloped with Mrs. Wallace's daughter, Marie, aged 23, leaving more than \$2,000 worth of dishonored checks in the hands of Spokane merchants.

Mit Owners Responsible for Unrest.
Boston, Oct. 24.—Resolutions declaring that unrest in Lawrence and other textile centers, is caused by the mill owners, were adopted by the international convention of the textile workers of America today. The Industrial Workers of the World were criticized for the methods they employ in conducting strikes.

BULGARIANS WHIP TURKISH ARMY IN SEVERE BATTLES

Important Port of Kirk-Kilisseh Taken by Allies After Hard Fight; Great Rejoicing in Sofia.

MOHAMMEDANS LOSE NEAR ADRIANOPLE

Many Moslems Drown Themselves to Escape Capture Fearing That They Would be Massacred.

London, Oct. 24.—A three days' battle and a Bulgarian turning movement has resulted, according to Sofia accounts, in the fall of Kirk-Kilisseh and the capture of fifty thousand men. That so many Turks have been taken is regarded as improbable and the more likely report is that he Turks retreated in the direction of Thrace to the southwest. The capture of this stronghold, to which the Turks attached almost the same importance as to Adrianople, was confirmed to night from Constantinople in an official communication explaining that the Turkish army at Kirk-Kilisseh in attempting to split the enemies' forces discovered that they were in greater strength than had been expected. The Turks, therefore, retreated to the south to await reinforcements.

The news of the Bulgarian victory has caused great rejoicing in Sofia, where it is expected the fall of Adrianople soon will follow. It is generally assumed, Abdullah Pasha still is engaged in bringing up his main army to Adrianople, the position of that town is critical. An interesting situation will develop should the Turks be compelled to evacuate Adrianople. It is supposed that the next stand of the Turks will be made at Domotia, twenty-five miles south of Adrianople, an important strategic position on the road to Constantinople.

In other directions both the Servians and the Turks claim great victories at Komanova. The Servians declaring they have captured the town and the Turks claiming they have repulsed the enemy. Late reports indicated that heavy fighting is still proceeding in this district.

The Greek army operating from Arta toward Jaina, Matkotch and the neighborhood of Grimbova.

[By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.] Sofia, Oct. 24.—Kirk-Kilisseh fell before the Bulgarian army at 11 o'clock in the morning, according to the latest reports received tonight from Bulgarian sources.

The Turkish troops retired in disorder in the direction of Thrace, four hundred miles to the southeast. They left a battery of quick firing guns, sixteen ammunition wagons and a large quantity of ammunition and food. When the news was received in Sofia vast crowds bearing the flags of the allied states formed processions and marched to the Greek, Servian, Russian and British legations, the palace and the military club. In front of each the national anthem was sung and cheers were given.

A party of boy scouts headed one of the processions and the Greek minister was carried through the streets on the shoulders of enthusiastic demonstrators. Church bells were rung and the whole city was hung with flags.

Masses will be celebrated throughout the kingdom tomorrow for the Bulgarians who have fallen in the fighting and thanksgiving services for the success of the Bulgarian arms.

The Bulgarians were attacked by 5,000 Turks in an engagement Tuesday at Marib, near Adrianople. After an hour's heavy artillery and rifle fire, the Turks were defeated and fled in disorder, leaving the field strewn with dead and wounded. The Bulgarians captured 700 prisoners, a dozen quick fire guns and quantities of ammunition.

Many Turks drowned themselves in the river because they believed the Bulgarians massacred their prisoners. Details of the capture of Kirk-Kilisseh are meagre. An unofficial estimate puts the Bulgarian casualties at 2,000. The fighting has been continuous since Tuesday. The Bulgarians made a steady advance throughout the operations but at a great sacrifice of life.

On Tuesday the first army, under General Ivanoff attacked the outer works of Adrianople in two large bodies. The northern detachment marched along both sides of the river Tundja, the right wing to the west of Havara, the center to Tundja, the left wing advanced along the road from Kirk-Kilisseh to Adrianople. In the west another division simul-