

SAMOA POT NIPPED; 17 CHIEFS PUNISHED

Defendants Are Found Guilty of Murder Plan.

OVERLORDS ARE TARGET

Convicted Men Sent Letter Home Advising Followers to Obey Government.

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, Sept. 20.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—A conspiracy to slay the high chiefs because of their loyalty to the American administration of the island, has been broken up by the island authorities, and 17 of the ringleaders have been sentenced to prison for terms ranging from five to seven and a half years.

Sam Ripley of Richmond, Cal., who with his brothers and sisters is interested in Samoan property, was denied admission to the island on August 15 by Governor Waldo Evans, U. S. N., and departed for Australia on the steamer Sonoma. Ripley, on his arrival here, presented a letter of introduction to Governor Evans from C. S. Hannum, a Richmond, Cal., attorney, which said that Ripley's mission to the American Samoa was on business affairs. Upon examination by Governor Evans, Ripley was said to have declared that his errand was of a political nature. Governor Evans then informed Ripley that under the circumstances he would not be permitted to remain in Samoa.

Secret Meetings Held. Several weeks prior to Ripley's arrival here, secret meetings had been held at which seditious speeches were made and resolutions adopted to slay some of the high chiefs who had demonstrated their loyalty to the American administration. Soon after the departure of the steamer Sonoma, reports reached Governor Evans that some of the conspirators were about to put into effect their plans for the murder of the high chiefs. Warrants were immediately issued for the arrest of 17 of the petty chiefs on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. The accused men were brought here and pleaded guilty before Judge Shyned Hall and two Samoan associate justices.

After sentences had been pronounced, the prisoners addressed a letter to their followers advising them to return to their own villages and not to heed further the trouble makers. As a result of the breaking up of the conspiracy and the admonishing letter to the petty chiefs, a much better feeling now prevails toward the government, the authorities said.

Letter Sent Followers. The letter drawn up by the convicted petty chiefs reads as follows: "August 26, 1921.—To the chiefs and talking chiefs of Tualafua, we wish to inform you that our trial was closed yesterday and the decision was as follows: No. 1, seven and one-half years in jail; No. 2, five years in jail. Now we are sending this letter to you to be sure and be loyal to the government. Therefore we wish you people that as soon as you get this letter, everybody must go to his own village and do whatever the government directed. I wish to say that we surely deserve the punishment and accepted with satisfaction. We warn you not to listen to other people who may give you further wrong advice. Yours truly,

"LIU AND TALKING CHIEFS, 'Tualafua.' When the steamer Sonoma arrived in port on its return trip from Australia, Ripley was on board en route to San Francisco, but was not permitted to land. Governor Evans said his action was taken because Ripley was a political agitator and would stir up dissension among the natives against the government. Ripley's relatives, however, were permitted to board the Sonoma and visit him.

RIPLY'S HOME IN OAKLAND

Owner of Samoan Estates Also Soldier in World War.

OAKLAND, Cal., Sept. 20.—Samuel Ripley has been a resident of Richmond before and since the war, in which he served in the American army. He is heir to estates in Samoa occupied by his brothers and sisters. After his dismissal from the service he went to Samoa and was engaged to a slight extent in the alterations there at that time between the natives and this country.

Returning to the United States he prepared, with the assistance of Judge C. S. Hannum of Richmond, a report which Judge Hannum filed with the state department. August 2 he sailed for Samoa again on business of his estate, but was denied landing at Pago Pago. It was declared by Judge Hannum that his errand was entirely without political significance.

FOUR WOMEN ON JURY

(Continued From First Page.) Intently into the face of each, as if trying to read their thoughts. In spite of the huge crowd which was on hand an hour before the case was called and which blocked the entire main corridor on the fourth floor of the county-city building, preparations had been made so efficiently that the jam did not interfere in any way with the opening of the trial. A temporary structure had been erected at the end of the corridor leading to the court room, and a detail of uniformed policemen was stationed there to keep the crowd back and avoid congestion. No spectators were permitted to enter the courtroom until after the prisoners, lawyers, court officials and venire had been seated, and the case was handled in as orderly a manner as though it had been an unimportant civil suit.

The room was nearly filled with members of the venire before any of the principals entered. L. B. Schweljenbach and Lee Johnston, attorneys for the defense; Mrs. Nora Mahoney, Mahoney's mother, and Mrs. Dolores Johnson, Mahoney's sister, came in together and seated themselves at the defense table. A few minutes later prosecuting Attorney Douglas entered with Deputy Prosecutors Patterson and Hartling, who took their places after nodding to the defense counsel and immediately went into conference, speaking in subdued tones. Mahoney was brought in by Sheriff Matt Starwich and took a chair between his mother and Attorney Schweljenbach. He was immaculately dressed in black, his white shirt and collar and a handkerchief in his

breast pocket forming the only relief in his attire. Although he did not speak to anyone when he came in, he wore an expression of marked variance with the vacuous look which he had assumed at the time of his insanity hearing, and he seemed to take a lively and intelligent interest in everything that was going on. No sooner had court been opened and the case called than Attorney Johnston was on his feet with two motions—one holding that the court had no jurisdiction in the matter, as an appeal was pending in the supreme court in the matter of the insanity charge, and the other asking a change of venue on the ground in view of an article published in an afternoon paper Monday, a fair trial could not be given Mahoney in this county.

Judge Ronald refused to take action on the motions, remarking that "if it appears at any time that we can't have a fair trial I'll move it out of the county." He added, however, "but I think we can."

Johnson protested against this and asked that it be noted in the record that he was objecting to the entire proceedings, but Judge Ronald cut short further arguments by declaring: "I don't think we want to try the case on its merits until we have impaneled a jury."

A. A. Swain, a civil engineer from Renton, was the first venire man to be examined. He was excused when he had a prejudice against inflicting the death penalty which could not be removed without evidence.

John Harrison, a jewelry salesman of 714 North Seventy-second street, took his place, but he, too, was excused when he said: "I think I'd find Mahoney guilty without any evidence."

Woman Found Acceptable. Mrs. Rose E. Hellman, 6230 Thirty-third avenue northeast, wife of a carpenter, was the first juror to be found acceptable. She said she had read of the case but declared with some vehemence: "But I don't believe what I read in the papers."

Alex McIntyre, 69, a blacksmith living at Kenny street, was also accepted, although Attorney Johnston challenged him twice after he had admitted that he had an opinion about the case.

Mrs. Mildred Keene, wife of an attorney living at 1408 East Sixtyfifth street, was excused when she said she had a prejudice against inflicting the death penalty on the strength of circumstantial evidence. "Let me tell you, Judge Ronald," she remarked to her severely, as she left the jury box, "a human being might lie, but a circumstance can't."

Mrs. Estelle Roe of Auburn, was disqualified when she announced that she could not vote for the death penalty.

Prejudice Is Excuse. Mrs. Adelaide Walter of 5904 Thirty-eighth avenue southwest, wife of a general dealer, was the next juror to be chosen.

Mrs. Kate Gregory of the Kinnear apartments, wife of an attorney, was excused on account of prejudice against the death penalty.

Mrs. Marie Covington, wife of an attorney, interjected a little comedy into the proceedings when, upon being asked if she had read about the case in the newspapers, she replied: "No, sir; I've got 3000 chickens to tend to on our chicken ranch at Vashon island, and they keep me too busy to do anything more than look at the headlines, she was accepted."

Charles Hickman, 7212 Twelfth avenue Northwest, was disqualified by his statement that he did not believe in inflicting the death penalty on circumstantial evidence.

W. C. Wolff, 750 Southern street, declared that he had an opinion which he could not discuss, and was excused.

Glove Manufacturer Excused. Because he had known the dead woman and other principals in the case, Charles Tracer, a glove manufacturer of 608 West Howe street, said he "would rather not be on the jury" and was excused.

Attorney Johnston challenged A. I. Miller, a tourist living in the Cascadia canoe club, but Judge Ronald overruled the challenge. "I couldn't vote for the death penalty," said Mrs. Mary Gavin, 714 Denny way, and was excused.

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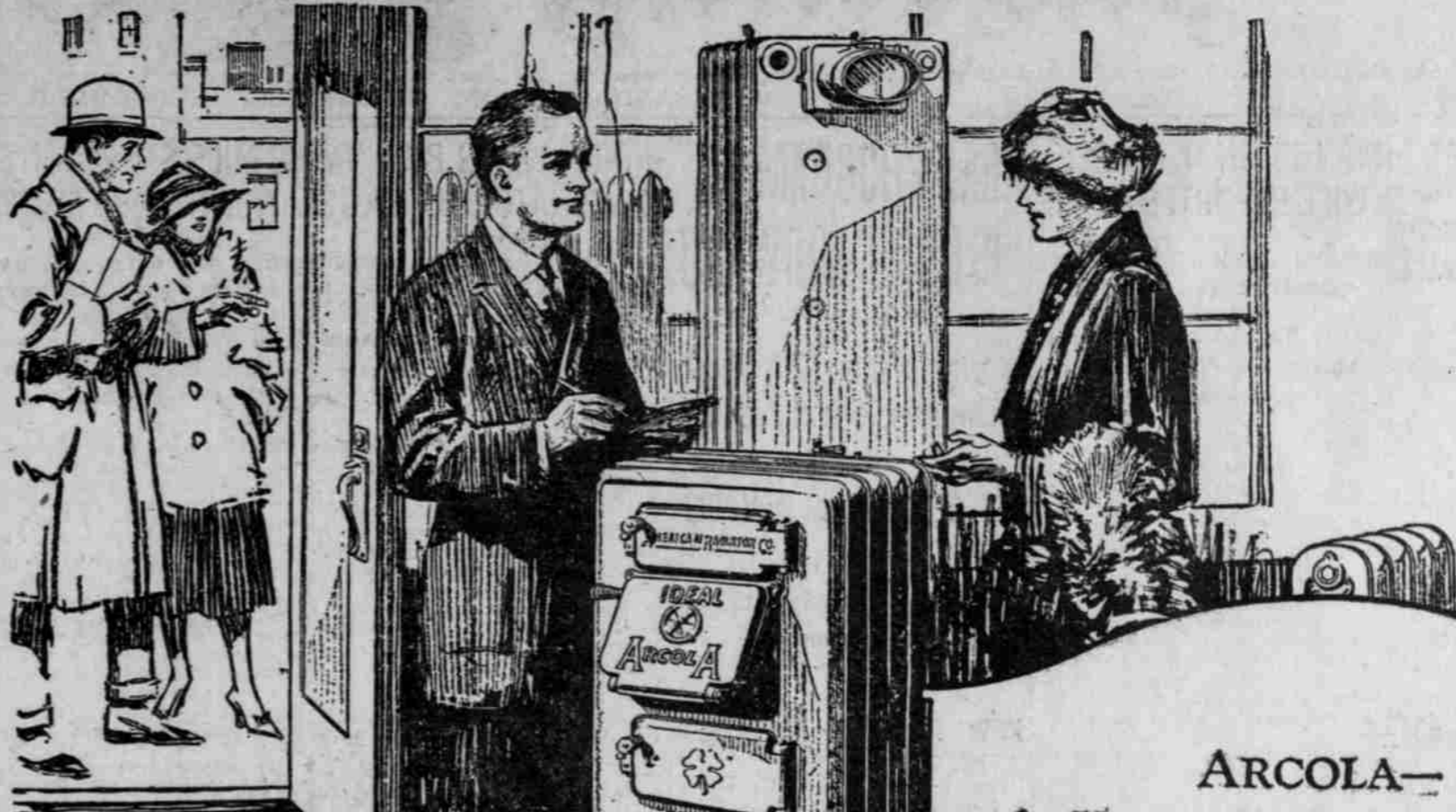
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