

MRS. MOHR IS FREED OF CHARGE THAT SHE HAD HUSBAND KILLED

Widow of Murdered Newport, R. I., Physician Acquitted; Two Negroes Convicted.

WILL RECEIVE A FORTUNE

She Is Exonerated of Charge That She Hired Negro Servants to Shoot Doctor and His Secretary.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—Mrs. Elizabeth Mohr is free. She was found not guilty today on the charge of having hired three negroes to waylay and kill her husband, Dr. Charles F. Mohr, wealthy Newport physician, while in an automobile with his office assistant, Emily Burger. Mrs. Mohr collapsed sobbing in court when the verdict was announced. For the two negroes who were charged directly with the murder of the doctor, the doors of the state's prison were tonight. They were found guilty of having killed the doctor and seriously wounding the "other woman" in the case which has stirred Rhode Island for months.

Negroes Are Convicted.
Both Henry Spellman and Victor Brown were pronounced guilty on the murder charge. It was 4:30 when the jury announced its verdict. The 12 men had been deliberating for 7 hours and 45 minutes, having retired at 10:30 this morning.

Having three different verdicts to announce, the strain following the announcement of the clerk that a decision had been reached was terrific. The verdicts in the case of the negroes came first.

Mrs. Mohr leaned across the counterpane. Her hands were clinched. Her face was deeply lined, her eyes puffed and red.

Verdict Causes Sensation.
Not a sound could be heard in the courtroom except the steady groaning at the clerk's voice and the answers of the foreman.

With the verdict of guilty pronounced against the negroes the clerk said:

"Mrs. Elizabeth Mohr not guilty. Is that your verdict?"

Foreman's answer, "It is," was drowned by a sob from the black woman whose whole life depended upon the words that the juror uttered.

Attorney John J. Fitzgerald and William F. Carroll, seated beside Mrs. Mohr, reached over and lifted her to a sitting position. She swept toward them. Fitzgerald's face as he tried to quiet her. But the freed woman sank forward again and for 10 minutes so continued her sobs.

When Mrs. Mohr was half carried down the steps from the courtroom to the waiting car, she was sobbing.

The attorneys who fought the case to a successful conclusion for Mrs. Mohr were fairly carried down the steps of the courthouse.

In an effort to grasp the little woman's hand.

The news flashed through the city with lightning rapidity. Small boys who had stationed themselves at the door parted company with their elders and ran in all directions, shouting:

"She's free! She's free!"

On College street Mrs. Mohr was swept into the law offices of Arthur Cunningham, her chief counsel, by the crowd.

She will get fortune.

Neither Brown nor Spellman showed any emotion when the verdict was announced. Spellman blinked his eyes and half turned to speak to Brown, but the sobbing of Mrs. Mohr evidently caused him to change his mind, and he turned away.

Attorney Lewis made the customary motions for a new trial for Brown and Spellman.

Attorney-General Rice had nothing to say, following the return of the verdict. He was obviously surprised.

Now that she is free, Mrs. Mohr will receive one third of the estate of her husband, estimated to be worth about \$200,000.

Emily Burger, the "other woman," whose relations with the physician were declared to have led up to the tragedy of last autumn, was not in court when the verdict freeing Mrs. Mohr was returned.

Doctor Will Start Anger.

Dr. Charles F. Mohr and Emily Burger were shot as they sat in a stalled

automobile on Washington Park road on the night of August 31, 1915.

George Heals, the negro chauffeur, was arrested on the charge of repairing the engine when the shots were fired from ambush. Dr. Mohr was killed and Miss Burger seriously wounded.

On September 2, Heals was arrested. Later, the negroes, Brown and Spellman, were arrested, when stories were told of them having been seen driving from the scene of the crime in a motorcar.

The shooting was first reported as a holdup. A few days later the negroes made a confession. They declared they were hired by Mrs. Mohr to kill the doctor and Miss Burger. Heals was to get \$1000 for stopping the automobile at a secluded spot.

Heals and Brown and Spellman were to get \$2000 each for the actual shooting, according to their confessions. Later these confessions were repudiated.

Mrs. Mohr Arrested.

Mrs. Mohr was arrested on September 13, and indicted for instigating the murder of her husband. Motions for a separate trial were overruled, and Mrs. Mohr was ordered to be tried with the negroes on January 5. A few days before the trial date Heals pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of manslaughter, making it certain he would appear as a state's witness. It was understood Heals' sentence was to be governed by the value of the story he told on the stand.

Heals' testimony was in line with his original confession. Brown and Spellman denied the story. The defense claimed the state failed to show a motive for Mrs. Mohr's alleged instigation of the murder plot. Mrs. Mohr spent the day on the stand in her own defense. She told of beatings administered by the doctor, one of the occasions being when she had gone to Emily Burger and asked her to "keep away from Dr. Mohr."

Despite his cruelty and drunkenness, Mrs. Mohr insisted she still loved him. She stated that she had received letters written by Mrs. Mohr to George Heals, threatening Miss Burger's life if she entered the Mohr Newport home again.

Learning.

"Yes, I am learning to shave myself."

"What progress?"

"Oh, I can go over the course in 110 or 120 minutes."

Thompson

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DECLARED NOT GUILTY



Mrs. Elizabeth Mohr, who was found not guilty by a jury at Providence, R. I., of having inspired the murder of her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr.

PROGRESS IN BELGIAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS CLAIMED BY GERMANY

Tentative Proposals Understood to Provide Restoration and Independence.

The Hague, Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—Germany's efforts to induce Belgium to sign a separate peace have made important progress in the past ten days, according to German official reports. In spite of official denials from Brussels, Albert has consented to a consideration of the tentative peace proposals if they contain guarantees for Belgium's complete restoration and independence, Berlin reported. Germany, it is understood here, is willing to make these concessions if negotiations can be concluded before spring.

Diplomats here have learned from sources of unquestioned reliability that Germany is willing to restore destroyed Belgian cities and pay a large sum to Belgium for the cost of reconstruction, though insisting that the payment be not considered as an actual indemnity.

The above dispatch may be significant in view of the official announcement in London last night that Earl Curzon and General Haig, commander-in-chief of the British forces in France, are proceeding to Havre on a mission to meet Belgian king.

It was reported two weeks ago that Germany had offered separate terms of peace to Belgium, promising to restore the country to its former boundaries on condition that they would agree to permit the allies to attack Germany through Belgium. The Frankfurter Zeitung printed what appeared to be an inspired article suggesting the desirability of such an arrangement. Belgian officials issued from Havre a denial of the report.

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GERMANS PREPARE TO ATTACK ALLIES' LINES FOR A MOVE ON PARIS

Belgian Frontier Is Closed and Rumors Are Thick of Proposed German Advance

London, Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—Persistent reports come from Dutch sources tonight that the Germans are about to begin a great offensive smash against the Anglo-French lines, though official statements from the allied war offices and from Berlin mentioned no important engagements in the last 24 hours. The Parisian editor, Maurice de Waleffe, prints a rumor that the Germans have invented a new kind of asphyxiating gas, more deadly than any yet known, and hope to advance 21 miles to the Paris forts behind a screen of death-dealing vapors that will make resistance by the allies futile. De Waleffe reports also that the Germans are contemplating a great raid on Paris from the air with all available Zeppelins and a flock of 100 aeroplanes participating.

Belgian Frontier Closed.

From Amsterdam came the report that the Belgian frontier has been closed by the Germans, indicating important troop movements.

General Haig, British commander-in-chief, reported tonight that the Germans have again bombarded the Belgian village of Elverdinghe behind the French lines and that German aviators have been active over the British artillery during the day shelling German trenches between the Acre and Somme rivers.

French war office, in its communication tonight, reported heavy artillery duels along the front, but little active activity.

At Chevauchee, where a French detachment occupied the fringe of a German crater, German positions between Soissons and Rheims, including the Venizel bridgehead, and also German works at Verdun and Cerny, were under French bombardment.

East of Saint Souplet French gunners shelled a German moving column in the Champagne region German organizations on the Navarin plateau were shelled by French artillery. In the Lorraine artillery on both sides was active around Colmar and Domereva.

The afternoon statement from the French war office reported no engagements of importance last night. Berlin confirmed this, mentioning only mine blasting and hand grenade combats from the trenches of a weak English attack south of the La Bassée canal, and heavy shelling of French positions in the Vosges.

Airship Shot Down.

Paris, Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—A German airship was shot down in flames this morning between Villers and Harbécourt, in the region of Fries, by Pilot Sergeant Obermaier of the French air corps, it was officially announced tonight.

This is the fourth enemy aircraft brought down by German since the beginning of the war.

The French official statement does not specify that the German airship was a Zeppelin, though the term is usually employed only in referring to dirigibles. It is possible that a smaller German dirigible, not a Zeppelin, was shot down.

Austrians Take Krova.

Vienna, Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—Austrian troops have occupied the Albanian city of Krova, 20 miles northeast of Durazzo, and are pressing forward against the Albanian coast, it was officially announced tonight. The vanguards of the advance army have reached the river Ishmi, 15 miles from Durazzo.

Find Bombs Near Dublin.

Dublin, Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—Great excitement was caused here tonight by word that nine bombs filled with strychnine and highly explosive materials were found by children in a drain at Leixlip, ten miles west of Dublin. The police ordered an immediate investigation, but have made no arrests.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE CONTAINED GASOLINE

Ottawa Officials Claim Fire Grew Fiercer as Soon as Extinguishers Were Used.

GASOLINE BUYERS SOUGHT

Munition Works Has Explosion, War Contract Factory Burns, All Canada Is Aroused.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 5.—(I. N. S.)—Gasoline instead of the usual fluid filled the hand extinguishers firemen used in the great fire at parliament house. The extinguisher had been tampered with during the two hours before the blaze began in the reading room. When the firemen tore the extinguishers from the walls and slammed down the plunges, the liquid that squirted out merely added fresh fuel to the already cruel fire.

Fire Chief Graham, Charles Stewart and Dominion Police Constables Moore and Helmer all agree that the flames grew furious the moment they used the extinguishers.

Chief Graham is even now having one of the steel containers tested by chemical experts.

Gasoline Was Purchased.

There is a regular system of inspection of the hand grenades that are scattered through the great building at frequent intervals.

The last time they were inspected was Wednesday afternoon. Colonel Percy Sherwood, C. M. G., the director of Dominion police, met the hidden branch of his service toward finding out the identity of three men who purchased five gallon cans of gasoline, in Hull a week away from the parliament buildings on Wednesday morning.

One of these men was seen the same day in the vicinity of the Grant, Holden and Gensler company, limited.

War Plans Suspected.

Early this morning that plant, which has \$500,000 worth of war contracts, was destroyed by a mysterious explosion and subsequent fire. Uniforms, tents, haversacks, etc., were all being made there. The fire was a regular volcano.

Smoke and flame filled the building almost in an instant. The six story brick structure was well high demolished. A watchman had passed the sample and the fire broke out, not two minutes before the flames burst out. Mr. Holden of the firm, has employed a private detective.

Threats that the royal mint in Sussex street was in dire danger came to the authorities by an underground tunnel from the parliament building. The building was immediately doubled.

More than \$200,000 lies packed behind the steel bars there. It is impossible to get the money out of the vaults.

Jardine Works Blown Up.

About the same time the news came that the Jardine works, which manufactures shells at Hespeler, a small village in western Ontario, had been blown up, reached Ottawa.

Hughes, the minister of militia, frantic appeals were made for authorities to call out the militia. The neighborhood of Hespeler was peopled largely by Europeans.

Ottawa is worried. There is no doubt of it. Military rule has been even stricter than ever. All the railway trains coming into the city are accompanied by secret service men who give a searching glance to every passenger.

General Sam Hughes, booted and spurred, was the busiest man in the place this morning. He had telegraph and telephone wires humming in all directions. Colonel Sherwood, too, sat like a spider in the center of the net, his ceaselessly moving through this section of Our Lady of the Snows.

Duke Helps in Inquiry.

Rideau cottage, the office of the military secretary of the Duke of Connaught, was the center, too, of huge activities. The cottage lies near Rideau hall, where the governor general brookes the front and the detective patrolled all the approaches even on the frozen Rideau river up where Samuel de Champlain sailed just a trifle over 300 years ago.

There was fear today that still another member of parliament, J. B. McLeod, had been shot in the fire, but he was found at his home. The list of victims still numbers seven.

The body of J. B. R. Lepoint, assistant clerk of the House of Commons, was found frozen to the window sill. He was on his knees in prayer and his arms had stuck fast to the ice on the sill and all around him.

Thrown wide the window and gazed up to the black sky in desperate appeal.

Anti-foreign Feeling Strong.

Sir Robert Borden has ordered a strict investigation into the circumstances of the great fire. Public clamor would have demanded it even if the premier had not so directed. Ottawa can still talk of nothing else.

Feeling against foreigners grows more bitter each day. Today one of the afternoon papers inquired editorially:

"Should the chief intelligence officer of the war department of Canada be a German officer, with brothers in the German army? Is Canada at war with Germany or playing marbles?"

VICTORIA PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS NOW UNDER MOST STRINGENT GUARD

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 5.—The parliament buildings here are under strict guard, to prevent any attempt at destruction by German sympathizers. Up to today, despite the presence of thousands of Germans in Canada, who are not interested, the public has been permitted to enter the buildings without question; but it is impossible now for unknown persons to get inside.

This is the result of a message from eastern Canada today intimating that the fire which destroyed the parliament buildings at Ottawa was but the first link in a predicted chain of outrages in the capital of each province. The guard is composed of government employees, the military forces not having been called.

This afternoon only the ministers and deputy ministers were allowed to enter the buildings. So strict was the guard that a civil servant who had been in the employ of the government for 15 years who returned to the buildings this afternoon to get a walking stick, he had to be escorted by a constable to convince the sentries of his identity, and had to depart.

Ford Is Mysterious On Trip to Chicago

He Attends Michigan Society Dinner There Only on Agreement That All Reporters Be Barred From Room.

Chicago, Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—At least 54 varieties of mystery report came with Henry Ford when he arrived in Chicago today to attend the annual banquet of the Michigan society at the Blackstone hotel.

MINNESOTA PRIMARY AGAIN CONTESTED

Attorney Seeks to Have His Name Presidential Ballot as Candidate for President.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—For the second time within a month the Minnesota presidential preference primary law was contested today. Walter M. Carroll, Minneapolis attorney, obtained from the supreme court a writ of mandamus calling upon the secretary of state to show why his name should not appear on the ballot as a candidate for presidential elector. Carroll wants to vote for either Root, who wouldn't allow his name to be filed as a presidential candidate in Minnesota. Though that action of the law providing that no delegate may vote for a candidate who has not consented to appear on the ballot, has been held constitutional, Carroll presents other allegations, among them that the Democratic primary is unnecessary, inasmuch as Woodrow Wilson is the only Democratic candidate filed for.

Mules Go Home With Auto Coming Behind

Long Beach Man Solves Middle of Fast Machine and Snow Animals by Letting Them Furnish Power.

Long Beach, Cal., Feb. 5.—(U. P.)—John H. Betts, Long Beach real estate dealer, went to Los Angeles in an automobile to buy a pair of mules. Unable to make arrangements for having them delivered at his ranch, Betts hooked them on in front of the car and let them pull the car home. At first Betts tried running the car on its own power, but couldn't tone the speed down slow enough, and fearing to antagonize the mules into kicking the machine off the right of way, he finally shut off and steered while his wife handled the reins. They arrived with flying colors.

What's Writing or Telling on Advertisers?

Please mention The Journal.

(Adv.)

WILL MARRY MOVIE STAR



Geraldine Farrar who will become the bride of Lou Tellegen Tuesday

GERALDINE FARRAR IS GOING TO MARRY THAT HANDSOME TELLEGEN

She Decides Not to Wait Until She's 40 After All; She's 32 and Lou Is 29.

HE IS ADONIS OF MOVIES

Famous Opera Star Met Him in California When Both Were With the Movies.

New York, Feb. 5.—(I. N. S.)—Geraldine Farrar, famous Metropolitan opera star, and Lou Tellegen, actor, will be married here next Tuesday afternoon. The announcement was made today coupled with the statement that this time there would be no denial by Miss Farrar's family.

Miss Farrar has often declared that she would not wed until she was 40. She has asserted that her husband would be a man of means and has ridiculed reports that she was to marry duke or prince