

Pal Tells Of Shotgun Tragedy

'White River White' Declares Earl Williams, Taken Dying to Hospital, Victim of Accidental Shooting.

Carried Load of Rum

Harold Westbrook, known among bootleggers and rum runners as 'White River White,' because he calls White River, S. D., his home and has extremely light hair, yesterday related in a musical voice the little incident of a rum running party last Monday night which resulted in the death of one of the runners.

'White' was a witness at the inquest yesterday afternoon at the Johnson & Swanson undertaking establishment into the death of another young man known as Earl Williams, whose body lay in a room adjoining that where the inquest was held. Williams was only 25. His blond hair, six or eight inches long and on top, was worn 'pompadour,' after the manner much affected nowadays by snappy youths.

'White' and another young occupant of the booze car, testified yesterday. The other young man's name is Claude Dixon, 6322 North Thirty-third street.

Both Appare Harmless.

Both wore natty blue serge suits and looked like quiet, law-abiding young men. But police say they both have long criminal records.

'What's your business?' County Coroner Paul Steinwender asked Westbrook. It actually made the young man laugh. Such a foolish question! But he recovered himself quickly.

'Why—farmer,' he said, amiably. Which made the detectives smile a little.

He told how he and Dixon, by prearrangement, met Williams at the west-baker car at Fifteenth street and Capitol avenue, Monday night. Williams and Martin had run in a cargo of whisky and they were going to help them get rid of it, he said. He mentioned the bag of whisky several times.

Drove Out of Town.

They drove out of town, he testified, and as they passed a culvert, they decided to hide the shotgun, which was in the car. Williams ran back to hide it, they heard him groaning and hasting back, finding him groaning 'I'm done for.' They rushed him to the University hospital.

Dixon gave the same testimony. He described his business as roofing contractor and said he had told Williams that he would help him dispose of the next load of liquor he brought in to Omaha. It was in accordance with this promise that they met the two rum runners Monday night, he said.

City Detective Trapp, one of the officers who arrested the youths Tuesday and who later went to the scene of the shooting, gave it as his opinion that the death of Williams was accidental.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental shooting. The police are trying to solve several problems that don't coincide with this verdict.

If the gun was discharged accidentally, why were both barrels discharged? Why did the booze runners 'want to get rid of the gun' at all? And what is the real name of the dead youth and where does he live? The laundry mark on his shirt is 'C. C.' which, the police point out, does not stand for Earl Williams.

Sioux City police say that Westbrook is wanted there for auto thefts.

Find Blood-Stained Car.

A Buick touring car on which oil had apparently been poured and then ignited, was discovered by Detective William Cich at Fifty-second street and Redmond avenue. It was taken to the military garage in Benson, where close scrutiny revealed many blood spots on the machine.

Detectives Palmberg, Murphy, Trapp and Munch were assigned to determine if this is the automobile in which Earl Williams, rum-runner, was born fatally wounded to University hospital, where he died from bullet wounds without regaining consciousness.

The machine, police record show, was stolen from C. J. Jung of Lincoln at Eighteenth and Douglas streets, the night of January 11.

In addition to Westbrook and Dixon, John L. Hogan and John T. Gratton and Mrs. L. Davis, 6322 North Twenty-second street, have been taken into custody following Williams' mysterious death.

Canadian Export Show Decrease for December

Ottawa, Jan. 17.—Canada, during December, exported 40,669,119 bushels of wheat, valued at \$46,710,896. In December 1921, wheat exports were 34,492,223 bushels, valued at \$37,371,793.

News print paper exported in December totaled 1,710,110 hundred-weight, valued at \$6,127,941. Exports in December, 1921, were 1,453,195 hundred-weight valued at \$5,708,172.

Earthquake in Wyoming.

Sheridan, Wyo., Jan. 17.—An earthquake shock was reported in Sheridan at 1:30 this afternoon. Residents of the Dome lake territory near here reported dishes were rattled and pictures shaken from walls. The tremor lasted for 40 seconds.

Cracksmen Suspects Held Following Mystery Death



This quartet is being held by police for investigation into suspicions that they may be members of a gang of cracksmen. They were arrested following the mysterious death of Earl Williams, rum runner. They are, upper right, John H. Hogan; upper left, John T. Gratton; lower right, Claude Dixon, and, lower left, Harold Westbrook, alias 'White River White.'

British Will Ask Instructions on Debt Refunding

Representatives to Sail for Home Saturday—Negotiations to Be Resumed at Later Date.

Washington, Jan. 17.—(By A. P.)—Negotiations between the American and British debt commissions concerning the refunding of Great Britain's war debt to the United States have reached a stage regarded as making desirable a personal report by the British to the cabinet at home before the continuation of efforts to reach even a tentative agreement on terms.

The conversations which have continued for 10 days will be suspended after Thursday's joint session and the British will sail Saturday. The time and manner of the resumption of the negotiations then will rest with the London government.

In both British and American circles today it was emphasized that there would be only a suspension of negotiations; that a settlement of the debt must and would be reached. Both sides to the negotiations also were agreed that a speedy adjustment was desirable because of the effect upon world conditions generally.

American Hopeful. Whether an agreement in principle—and so far as the authority of the American commission is concerned, it can be no more than that—will come in time for formal action on it by congress, at the present session which has only six weeks to run, cannot be forecast.

The Americans are extremely hopeful that it will, for otherwise the agreement could not become effective under a year, as President Harding has often stated his determination not to call an extra session for the new congress. From the first the British have expressed a desire for an early settlement and they are fully cognizant of the situation here which might make for a long delay.

Just how far apart the commissions are at this time neither side will say, but in American quarters it is declared that the difference in views is not great. The interest rate constitutes the chief point of debate.

Up to Governments. Both commissions find themselves in much the same position as regards the requirement of governmental sanction to any terms reached.

The Americans must go directly to congress for approval of the refunding arrangement and naturally they have frankly stated to the British that they could not accede to conditions of settlement which could not be expected to receive ready ratification by that body.

Likewise the British mission must act in full accord with the desires of the London cabinet which, in forming its ultimate judgment, could be expected to have regard for the question of whether the terms could be expected to meet with the approval of a majority in parliament. It was explained that one principal reason for the return of the British mission at this stage was to put Premier Bonar Law's parliamentary lieutenants in possession of the facts necessary to guide them in their action in parliament.

Committee Delves Into Affairs of Sinclair Company

Teapot Dome Controversy Is Carefully Avoided in Questioning Head of Oil Interests.

Washington, Jan. 17.—With Harry F. Sinclair again as its chief witness, the senate oil investigation committee delved deeply today into the affairs of the Sinclair Oil company, but again skirted the edges of the Teapot Dome controversy, in which Mr. Sinclair is one of the principals.

The committee, which is headed by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, one of the leading critics of the action of the Harding administration in leasing the Teapot Dome naval oil reserve in Wyoming to the Sinclair interests, had Mr. Sinclair before it for more than four hours. During that time Gilbert E. Roe, the committee attorney, asked detail after detail as to the operations of the Sinclair company, but those who crowded the committee room expecting to see Chairman La Follette and the witness look horns over the Teapot Dome matter had to leave without having heard the words 'Teapot Dome' spoken either by the witness or his investigators.

Quizzed About Stock. Mr. Sinclair was asked in some detail as to the disposition of the approximately 2,000,000 shares of stock he received from the Mammoth company in return for the lease to Teapot Dome. One million shares, approximately, he said, were exchanged for shares of the Hyva Oil company, another Sinclair corporation; 219,000 shares were given back to the Mammoth company and sold by it for \$3,250,000 for development purposes, and the remainder were held by him.

He said the stock now had a value of \$52 or \$52 1/2 a share, according to New York curb quotations. Leaving the Mammoth company, the inquiry turned toward two of the other Sinclair companies, the Sinclair Crude Oil Purchasing company and the Sinclair Pipe Line company, both of which are owned solely by the Sinclair Consolidated Oil corporation and the Standard Oil company of Indiana.

Explains Jump in Price. The testimony regarding the crude oil purchasing company had much to do with prices paid for crude oil in the mid-continent field in 1920, when the price of oil rose, within three months, from \$2.75 a barrel to \$3.50 a barrel, to continue at the higher price throughout a portion of 1921 and to be reflected in high gasoline prices. Mr. Sinclair, in a long detailed discussion of the matter, told the committee the price increase, as made by his company, was due to indications of a crude oil shortage and although all the larger companies in the field made increases almost simultaneously, it was without conference. Incidentally, he declared that higher prices for crude oil in the near future might be expected.

The examination of Mr. Sinclair as to the pipe line company had to do largely with its relations to the Standard of Indiana, and when the inquiry turned to the various Sinclair refining companies the witness was temporarily excused.

Plan to Fake West Indies Gains Favor

Vice President Coolidge and Leaders Support Proposal to Accept Islands in Part Payment of War Debt.

Check to Rum Traffic

Washington, Jan. 17.—Strong sentiment developed in both houses of congress in favor of the proposal of acquisition of the British and French West Indies in part payment of the war debt, owed the United States by Great Britain and France.

Vice President Coolidge and many leaders who favor acquisition of the islands in the interest of strengthening the natural defenses of continental United States and the Panama canal have been joined by the 'drys' who hold that with the West Indies under American control the rum running could be suppressed.

'The reason for our interest in these possessions,' said Vice President Coolidge, 'is increased by our interest in the Panama canal. They are natural barriers to its approach, as well as natural barriers for its defense.'

Should Consult People. 'It will be necessary to consult experts in order to make a determination of the financial value which would accrue from these possible annexations. That is only one element to consider, but a most important element. It would be highly desirable, if not absolutely necessary, to secure some expression of opinion from the people most interested, who are the people resident in these locations.'

Senator Moses, republican, New Hampshire, a member of the foreign relations committee, declared in favor of the proposition, that it would round out American control of the western hemisphere.

Senator McKibley, republican, Illinois, who has traveled extensively in the West Indies, is opposed to the purchase. 'The people down there are incapable of self government, and I do not believe we should add to our burdens in that direction,' said Senator McKibley. 'I am not impressed with the argument that the islands are necessary to our national security because already held the key positions to the West Indies.'

Source of Liquor. Much of the liquor that is being smuggled into the United States comes from the Bahama Islands. Because of their proximity to the Florida coast, these islands are used as a base of operations by rum runners doing business with thirty citizens of continental United States.

Senator Willis, republican, Ohio, one of the authors of the Campbell-Willis anti-beer bill, and Senator Sterling, republican, South Dakota, strongly regarded the proposal as a measure to check the flow of liquor into the United States and declared themselves strongly in favor of acquiring the West Indian islands. 'I am most heartily in favor of action looking to the acquisition of the islands,' said Mr. Willis. 'I would be a great aid to the enforcement of prohibition in the United States and would shut off one of the biggest sources of bootleg liquor. I favor the acquisition of the islands for other reasons also but it would be a boon to prohibition enforcement.'

Sheppard Favors Plan. Senator Sheppard, democrat, Texas, author of the 18th amendment, expressed himself in favor of the proposal, although he thought prohibition enforcement would succeed without it. Representative Volstead, republican, Minnesota, author of the Volstead enforcement act, said he did not think the proposal would ever go through and therefore saw no reason for discussing it.

Prohibition leaders, it is understood, have already been making some quiet informal inquiries to ascertain the attitude of the British government on the question. They were told by one high British official competent to speak for his government, that 'Britain was not in the real estate business,' but that in case any deal was entered into it would be necessary to provide 'a charter of freedom' for the British subjects involved in the transfer.

1,000 Hunt Foxes.

Ashtand, Jan. 16.—More than 1,000 participated in the fox hunt which included closing in on the whole of Orange township, one fox being bagged and two getting away.

Not Only How Many—But How Good

That's the principle most Omaha Bee "Want" Advertisers go on when they want to fill any particular need.

FURNISHED room with private family. References required. KE 2539.

This room was rented in two hours after the above advertisement appeared in the Omaha Bee for the first time.

When YOU have a vacant room—or a house—or an apartment—to rent, telephone AT lantic 1000 and ask for Miss Smith, our "For Rent" specialist.

Read and Use Omaha Bee "Want" Ads—the Bee-Line to Results

The Boy in the Jam.



Harding, Ill from Grip, Stops Work

Washington, Jan. 17.—President Harding cancelled all of his engagements today in order to remain in bed on account of an attack of grip. It was said at the White House that the day of rest was decided on merely as a precautionary measure and that the president's condition showed no serious developments.

Secretary Christian, after a visit to the president's room, said his chief felt "a very little worse" than he did yesterday when he attended the cabinet meeting, but spent the remainder of the day lying down. He has been suffering from a heavy cold for several days.

Brig. Gen. Sawyer, the White House physician, described the president's indisposition as "a slight attack of grip, such as about everyone else is having here, also termed influenza." The president has a little fever intermittently, such as one would "naturally have with the grip," Dr. Sawyer said. He added that if Mr. Harding had followed his own inclinations he would have spent today at his desk.

\$500,000 Fire Destroys Buildings in Baltimore

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 17.—A repetition of the conflagration of 1904 when practically the entire business section was destroyed was threatened today when two five story brick buildings in the clothing and warehouse district were destroyed. The loss was estimated at approximately \$500,000.

When these buildings were on fire, the Rock Hill College at Elliott City, Mo., also burned, bringing the total of fires in the vicinity of Baltimore to nearly three-quarters of a million dollars.

The wholesale district fire started within a short distance of the origin of the 1904 disaster.

Fire Drives 150 Persons from Chicago Apartments

Chicago, Jan. 17.—Nearly 150 persons were driven from their apartments today when fire attacked three buildings on Michigan avenue at the northern end of automobile row. Two floors of furniture in storage were destroyed in a three-story building where the fire started. Considerable property damage resulted.

Nebraska Photographer Roasted Alive in Room

Mobile, Jan. 17.—C. T. Rodstrom, 29, a traveling photographer of Holdrege, Neb., was literally roasted alive here yesterday by an explosion of flash-light powder in his room. His death is surrounded in mystery and an inquest has been ordered for today.

Burglar Shoots Lincoln Man.

Lincoln, Jan. 17.—Norman Walt, son of a Lincoln business man was shot in the leg by a burglar, whom the young Walt surprised as the man was attempting to gain entrance to the Walt home. The wound, physicians said, is not serious. The robber escaped.

107 Years Old.

Victory, Vt., Jan. 16.—John Morrison, a well-known citizen of this town, recently celebrated his 107th birthday. Morrison is in good health, can see and hear excellently. He was married 60 years ago, and three of his four children are living.

Day's Activities in Washington

President Harding, a victim of grippe, cancelled all engagements and remained in bed.

The house voted today a proposal to cut the enlisted strength of the regular army from 125,000 to 100,000 men.

Hearings on plans for consolidation of trunk lines in the northwest were resumed before the Interstate Commerce commission.

Possibility of the British debt commission, before it sails for home Saturday, reaching a tentative agreement with the American commissioners was considered remote.

Prohibition authorities, in an effort to prevent illegal conversion of industrial alcohol to a beverage base, decided to deny manufacturing permits to a number of concerns.

Approval was given by the house flood control committee to a bill which would authorize an annual \$10,000,000 appropriation for flood control work on the Mississippi river and tributaries.

Ohio members of the house unanimously agreed to support Representative Longworth of Cincinnati, son-in-law of the late President Roosevelt, for republican floor leader in the next congress.

Present Indications Point to Continuation of Boom

Washington, Jan. 17.—Indications point to a continuation of the building boom throughout the country this spring. Sales of fabricated structural steel took an upward swing in December, the census bureau announces, carrying the year's estimated sales to 1,929,400 tons, or 64.3 per cent of the shop production capacity. The sales exceeded those of 1921 by almost a million tons and were the highest in the last 10 years.

December's estimated total bookings aggregated 145,800 tons. That was 29 per cent more than November bookings and marked the turning point from a series of seasonal declines in fabricated steel orders.

Beatrice Murder Trial Starts in District Court

Beatrice, Neb., Jan. 17.—(Special)—Francis South, 20, went on trial in district court, charged with the murder of Charles Wolf, who was strangled and robbed the night before Thanksgiving, dying of his injuries two days later. Implicated with South are Francis Stewart and George Warren, who will be given separate trials. Many were unable to gain admission to the courtroom because of the crowd.

Cold Wave Sweeps Italy.

Rome, Jan. 17.—A cold wave is sweeping Italy, being especially felt in the Alps and the Apennines, where shepherds are endangered by blizzards. In the Ligurian Apennines above San Remo a patrol of soldiers was caught in a blizzard and one died of cold. Two are missing and are thought to have suffered a similar fate. The remainder were almost frozen when rescued.

The Weather

Forecast. Thursday partly cloudy and warmer. Hourly Temperatures. 5 a. m. 31, 1 p. m. 50, 3 p. m. 53, 7 a. m. 34, 3 p. m. 53, 9 a. m. 35, 6 p. m. 55, 11 a. m. 36, 3 p. m. 56, 10 a. m. 45, 6 p. m. 52, 12 noon 48, 8 p. m. 54.

Plan Made to Mobilize Conscripts

Coal and Coke From Ruhr Valley Seized by French—Will Start Working State Forests.

Industrial Plant Closed

London, Jan. 17.—The Kiga correspondent of the Times says he learns from reliable sources that the Russian soviet government has decided to mobilize the five-year conscripts with a view of assisting Germany, should Germany decide to resist French action.

Paris, Jan. 17.—(By A. P.)—The French government has begun its policy of requisitioning in the Ruhr. It was announced this evening. Five thousand eight hundred tons of coko and 600 tons of coal, which the Germans had loaded in cars, was taken and rerouted for distribution among the allies.

The French, Belgian and Italian governments today gave the order immediately to commence working the state forests on the left bank of the Rhine as penalty for Germany's default in the delivery of timber, as established by the decision of the reparations commission on December 26.

Plant Shut Down.

Katernberg, Jan. 1.—(By A. P.)—The first shutdown of a large industrial plant in the Ruhr since the Franco-Belgian occupation occurred today in this town, lying between Essen and Gelsenkirchen, when the Kellerman locomotive works, employing 5,000 men, ceased operations.

The plant had been working on a nine-hour day schedule, but the workmen informed the management that in view of the French ruling set forth in General Degoutte's proclamation that the eight-hour day must be respected, they had decided to work only that number of hours, but insisted upon nine hours' pay. Thereupon the Kellerman management closed down the plant.

To Operate Mines.

Essen, Jan. 17.—(By A. P.)—The French occupational authorities announced this afternoon that they will begin operating the mines of the Ruhr district tomorrow, requisitioning German labor if necessary.

The Ruhr coal and industrial magnates who refused to cooperate with the French will be prosecuted before a court-martial.

At Bochum the population has been notified by the occupying officials that the troops will act without warning against any action directed at the French troops or officials, even if it be only whistling or shouting.

Operations Complete.

Duesseldorf, Jan. 17.—(By A. P.)—It was officially announced by General Degoutte this afternoon that the military operations of the Ruhr occupation now are completely finished.

The French will take possession of the mines throughout the district tomorrow morning, placing military guards at the head of each mine.

The Ruhr magnates were informed late this afternoon that their property will be confiscated and will be worked under French management for the benefit of the reparations account.

Representatives of the German magnates failed to appear this morning before the control commission to obey the instructions of the Berlin government instead of the French orders as to coal deliveries, thus placing the next move squarely up to the French occupying authorities.

At the conference here yesterday between the French authorities and the operators, General Simon said to the Germans:

'We have not summoned you here for a discussion but to transmit to you the orders of our government. If you do not see fit to obey them you will be prosecuted before a court-martial, condemned and imprisoned.'

The industrial leaders filed out of the room without uttering a word, but once outside of the conference hall they made no secret of their determination to go to jail rather than submit.

Labor Leaders Appear. Thirty-two labor leaders, representing all the districts and all the trades in the Ruhr, including the Catholic socialists and communists syndicates of miners, railroad men and steel and iron workers, were produced. Dr. Grotzner, Prussian governor of Dueseldorf province, acted as their spokesman.

Gen. Simon told the labor leaders France was the friend of the working man. The German government, he declared, was responsible for the recent events and was willing to sacrifice the working man to its imperialistic policy. It had permitted the food stocks to become depleted and cared little whether its own nationals starved or not.

Gen. Simon, continuing, requested the labor men to get into touch with their comrades in the Dueseldorf and Duesburg zones, which had been under French occupation for two years, and learn how well the working men 'had been treated. The leaders agreed to discuss work so long as there was work for them to do, but expressed the opinion that circumstances might cause the industries to shut down.