



GERMANS TAKE 9,000 RUSS

VERDICT ON LYNCH IN SIGHT

Judge Sears Remains Ready to Accept Answer of Jury Until Midnight; Five Specifications Named.

BULLETIN.

At the hour of going to press a verdict on the Lynch oyster case was expected within 20 minutes.

The Clark-Lynch oyster suit in district court was given to the jury Thursday afternoon at 4:05 o'clock, after a day of closing arguments by Attorneys Rose and Baker.

The court room was crowded to the judge's stand, Judge Sears read his instructions for 30 minutes and charged the jury with these brief words: "Gentlemen, you may retire with the bailiff."

Baker Makes Final Plea.

Attorney Baker, for Sheriff Clark, presented the final arguments of the case to the jury. He related that when Mike Clark went into the office of sheriff he was a poor man, having raised a family on a salary of \$110 a month and did not have even an automobile.

Trial Not Contest.

He impressed the jury with the thought that the trial was not a contest whether Tom Dennison of John Lynch should endure, but whether Lynch should continue in office. He told the jury that a verdict of not guilty would mean that Lynch could operate a gymnasium and assignation house in the court house, and ride rough-shod over the sheriff's office.

In his instructions, Judge Sears advised the jurors that they should return a separate verdict on each of the five specifications. A verdict of guilty on one or more of the counts will be sufficient to convict Lynch. The court instructed that Lynch's private life did not enter into the issues of the suit, and he also stated that no consideration should be given to references of jail-feeding graft, because no evidence had been presented to sustain that allegation.

Rose Makes Plea.

Halleck Rose, in his closing argument for "Johnny" Lynch, poured forth vitriolic eloquence upon the heads of those who testified for Sheriff Clark. Rose spoke for three hours and made the only argument for the defense.

Attorney Baker, for the sheriff, began the second and closing argument for the prosecution immediately after the noon recess. At the conclusion of Baker's testimony Judge Sears read his instructions to the jurors, who were instructed to retire in charge of a bailiff and deliberate on the case.

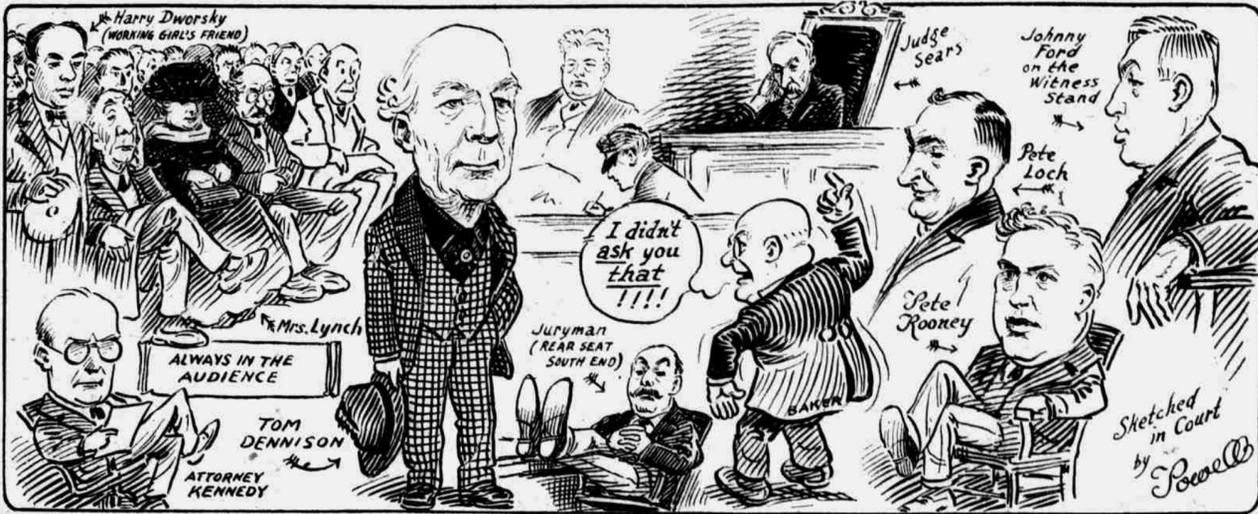
Court Room Packed.

The court room was packed to the doors, many spectators standing during the long argument. In his extension of "any incidental occupancy by Lynch of the northeast room of the court house basement," Attorney Rose confessed that in the years of long ago, when he was a poor and ambitious young lawyer in the capital city of this state, he slept in a library room of the state house for two and a half years, using the state's heat and light.

The Weather

Table with weather data for Nebraska, including temperatures, wind directions, and precipitation reports from various stations.

Court Room Scene at Sheriff Clark—"Johnny" Lynch Ouster Suit Hearing Which Went to Jury in District Court Thursday Afternoon



ROOT SAYS PEACE IS FAR OFF

Warns American Public Not to Heed Discussions on Peace Negotiations; Germany Fooled Russia.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—Elihu Root of New York, who headed the American mission to Russia, in a letter read at the congress of national service today, said that the American public should be careful not to have its attention distracted from the intense concentration necessary to win the war by discussion about peace terms that was appearing in certain newspapers and at some gatherings.

NO BASIS. He pointed out that there were not only no negotiations but no basis for peace negotiations.

The congress, to be held under the auspices of the National Security League, opened a three-day session today with delegates present from 30 states in the union. Among those on the program for addresses today was William Howard Taft, former president of the United States.

LEADERS ARE TRAITORS. In his letter regretting his inability through illness to be present at the congress, Mr. Root said: "Let us be warned by poor Russia's present position.

"The Bolsheviks were very eloquent about peace without annexations or indemnities, and they filled the minds of Russian soldiers and workmen with the idea to such an extent that they stopped fighting and making munitions, but when they got to Brest-Litovsk they found what the leaders probably knew all along—that Germany had no intention of making any such peace.

Will Keep Provinces. "They wanted the Baltic provinces of Russia and they seized and purpose to keep them, and Russia, having stopped fighting in favor of the kind of peace they admired, finds itself in a position where for the present it has nothing whatever to say about the kind of peace there shall be.

"We must beware of anything in the remotest degree approaching that. Of course, there have been mistakes and shortcomings in the conduct of the war—it would be a miracle if there were not.

"Sincere and constructive criticism of executive conduct is a very useful thing. But we all must be careful that neither shortcoming or criticism tends in the slightest degree to divert or decrease the heartiness with which we all support and reinforce the president and his civil and military officers in carrying on this war.

"I beg of you as citizens of this great republic not to let your minds be carried from the great work we have before us.

"The object of the congress is to arouse the morale of the people so that loyal support may be accorded every effort put forth to accomplish the speedy winning of the war.

RUSS DIVIDED ON GERMANY'S PEACE TERMS

Petrograd, Wednesday, Feb. 20.—The decision of the soldiers' and workmen's delegates to accept the German peace terms was reached by a majority of only one vote, after a heated debate lasting throughout Monday night.

Premier Lenin, Foreign Minister Trotsky, Ensign Krylenko, commander-in-chief, and many other leaders addressed the council.

Military men explained the impossibility of offering effective resistance, but no decision was reached until messages had been received showing that the Germans had captured Dvinsk with ease and were advancing all along the front.

This news reached the council early Tuesday morning and influenced the delegates to decide for peace.

Before the capture of Dvinsk Premier Lenin said he was opposed to peace, but finally urged that peace be obtained at any price in order to insure the reconstruction of Russia. He said the Germans were advancing on a solid front from the north to the south.

NATION'S CUPBOARD IS BARE, DECLARES HOOVER; SERIOUS CRISIS LOOMS

Food Administrator Says Traffic Congestion Is Cause of Acute Economic Situation Which Prevents Us From Feeding Our Allies; Foodstuffs Rotting On Producers' Hands.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 21.—The eastern part of the United States faces a food shortage likely to continue for the next 60 days.

In making this disclosure tonight Food Administrator Hoover declared that the situation is the most critical in the country's history and that in many of the large consuming areas reserve food stores are at the point of exhaustion.

RAIL TIE-UP CAUSE. The whole blame is put by the food administration on railroad congestion, which he says also has thrown the food administration far behind in its program for feeding the allies.

The only solution he sees is a greatly increased rail movement of foodstuffs to the exclusion of much other commerce.

It was very evident tonight that the railroad administration is inclined to resent Mr. Hoover's blame of the railroads and Director General McAdoo declared he was ready to provide every transportation facility for expediting food movement.

The railroad administration, he said, had suggested that farmers be urged to release their grain holdings that large numbers of available cars might be utilized in moving them.

Cereal exports to the allies, Mr. Hoover's statement says, will be 45,000,000 bushels short on March 1 and meat shipments also are far short of the amounts promised.

Corn Crop Spoiling. A large part of the corn crop is about to spoil because it is not moving to terminals for drying. "The percentage of soft corn in last year's crop, all of which must be dried if it is to be saved, is the largest ever known. Estimates place the amount as high as a billion bushels.

Mr. Hoover's statement follows: "In response to many inquiries I beg to say it is true that since December 1 we have fallen far behind our agreed food program with the allies.

"By the end of February we will be short 45,000,000 bushels in cereal products which we undertook as our share of their supplies. We will also be short of the amount of meat and pork products that we were to deliver. This deficiency is due solely to the railway congestion. The railway directorate since coming into control on January 1 has made effort to find a remedy, but during the month of January the weather was insuperable and although progress has been made since February 5 the situation is the accumulation of three months' delays.

Crisis Faces Nation. "The next 60 days will be the most critical period in our food history. The simple fact is that the problem grows far deeper than supplies to the allies. During the last three months (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

Federal Officials Say Some Nebraska Postmasters 'Boneheads'

An exhibition of widespread "bone-headedness" by some postmasters of Nebraska is remarked by the federal officials in Omaha, scores of them have returned the filled out registration blanks of German aliens, although the directions state in plain English that these are to be held for 10 days after the close of the registration time.

U.S. CONTROL OF UTILITIES IS PREDICTED

Senator Lewis Says Government Will Take Over All Public Utilities Before War is Over.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 21.—Senator J. Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, speaking in the senate today, declared the administration railroad bill is a forerunner of government control over various public utilities and predicted that the question would be the great domestic issue in the next presidential campaign.

"Let us not deceive ourselves as to the meaning of this measure," Senator Lewis said. "This is the beginning of the government taking the railroads as a government agency. The roads never will be permitted to return to the former state of personal control for private benefit.

Take Over Privileges. "At the same time the United States takes over the railroads it will take the telegraph and telephone privileges and then the products for fuel, particularly the lands of coal and oil, and put these under government direction.

"All agencies of this nature necessary to the public welfare of man will be taken by the government as a necessary protection of the republic."

"The railroads, Senator Lewis declared, confessed their inability to meet the situation and by surrendering to the government admitted that the one power capable of the work under the existing conditions was the government itself.

Proof of Federal Power. "The government now conducts the roads and directs them as the proof of its power and ability to do so," he asserted. "Private ownership of railroads failed us for the purpose of sending supplies to ships or for transport of soldiers for foreign service. What would be the calamity under private ownership if enemies were at our gates and in possession of our country?"

"Let us announce that the United States is a government and shall assume governmental responsibilities in protecting all public agencies of human welfare from being a monopoly of private pillage.

If this is done, Senator Lewis said, any Bolshevik uprising in the United States will be avoided.

DON TROUSERS WHEN SKIRTS GO

Bavarian Women Petition for Permission to Change.

Copenhagen, Feb. 21.—Women conductors and guards on the Bavarian railways want to wear trousers instead of skirts.

"They have sent a petition to the authorities demanding that the trousers must be supplied at once, as their skirts are worn out and repairs are impossible, owing to the scarcity of cotton thread.

Would Establish Horse Meat Market in Omaha

George P. Gaver of the Equine Meat and Packing company of Washington, one to Omaha, one to Columbus, and was keeping one himself.

TEUTON ARMIES SWEEP THROUGH SLAV CITIES GATHERING RICH BOOTY

Germans Seize 5,000 Motor Cars and Hundreds of Guns Town After Town Falls Prey to Invading Hordes; No Resistance Apparent; Will Make Stand At Petrograd.

(By Associated Press.)

Berlin, Feb. 21.—The Berlin war office announces that 1,353 guns and between 4,000 and 5,000 motor cars have been captured from the Russians thus far in the new campaign. The Germans have made prisoner a general, commanding an army, 425 officers and 8,700 men, making a total of 9,125 troops.

The German troops have entered Minsk in their advance eastward, in Russia, according to the report from headquarters this evening.

GERMANS STRIP ROVNO.

The Russian town of Rovno has been cleared of the Russians, the war office reports. Trains with about 1,000 cars, many laden with food, have been captured, as well as airplanes and an incalculable amount of war material.

Rovno is the most easterly of the triangle of Russian fortresses in Volhynia. Lutsk, the western citadel in the triangle, capitulated to the Germans on February 18, without fighting. The third fortress in Volhynia, Dubno, lies about midway between Rovno and the town of Brody, on the Galician frontier.

DESCEND ON RIGA. The Germans have passed through Wenden, 55 miles northeast of Riga, and are now before Wolmar, 79 miles northeast of Riga.

Between Dvinsk and Pinsk the Germans are pressing eastward. General von Linsingen's movement continues. Important railway and highway junctions have been occupied.

SLAVS WILL MAKE STAND. Petrograd, Feb. 21.—Bolshevik leaders declare that if the German advance continues, they will defend Petrograd with the Red Guard and harass the German advance by guerrilla warfare. No plans have been made for evacuation of the city.

Teutons Near Petrograd. London, Feb. 21.—German troops, having occupied Dvinsk, are advancing toward Pskov, 180 miles southwest of Petrograd, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd.

They also have occupied Hapsal, Esthonia, and their cavalry is pushing the two countries.

GOVERNMENT TO CLASSIFY ALL COAL CONSUMERS

Fuel Administrator Has New Plan for Distribution to Help Win the War, Household-ers on Preferred List.

Washington, Feb. 21.—A plan for coal distribution to supply consumers in the order of their importance toward winning the war will be put into operation soon by the fuel administrator.

According to a plan outlined by Administrator Garfield, consumers will fall into four classes.

Preferred Class. Class I will include householders, shipping interests, railroads and public utilities put in the preferential list issued in connection with the closing order of January 17.

Bee Want-Ads Pour in the Results

Feb. 18th, 1918. Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb. Gentlemen: For goodness sake stop my ad in the Bee, about the drug store. Am swamped with replies and send the store. Could have sold several times.

Nebraska Enrolls More Than Half Required Men

Lincoln, Feb. 21.—(Special.)—The great national drive for the registration of men for the shipbuilding trades, State Director Norman states, has resulted in the enrollment of more than one-half of Nebraska's quota of 4,500 men estimated to be needed during the next seven months.