Witnesses and Counsel Clash In Trust Probe

Three Spectators Are Ejected From Room During Investigation of "Open Shop" Policy of Steel Firms.

New York, Dec. 17.—Despite defiant witnesses and numerous interruptions from spectators, three of whom were ejected from the meeting room, the joint legislative committee investigating the alleged "building trust" yesterday continued its investigation into the "open shop" activities of the National Erectors' association.

Clash after clash between witnesses and Samuel Untermyer, committee counsel, marked the proceedings.

Walter Drew, counsel and labor commissioner for the association, was the first person ejected for interrupting the committee's counsel. A few minutes later, W. W. Corlett, general solicitor for the American Bridge company and A. L. Davis, also an official of the United States Steel corporation subsidiary, were ordered to leave for alleged "prompting" of a witness.

Witness in Contempt.

Captian Robert J. Foster, a private detective, alleged head of the "Espionage system" of the Erectors' association, had a stormy session on the witness stand and was twice adjudged in contempt for refusing to produce the reports of his "secret agents" in the steel industry and in union organizations.

Testimony purporting to show that the National Erectors' association had worked in conjunction with the United States Steel corporation, was given by Charles E. Cheney, secretary of the association, who admitted Mr. Drew had given his instructions to alter the records by making omissions relative to meetings at which relations with the corporation were discussed.

Vice President Joseph Hatfield of the American Bridge company, a subsidiary of the steel corporation, denied knowledge of any general policy by his company to refuse structural steel to New York builders who employed only union workers. He admitted, however, that Post and McCord, "open shop" iron erectors, handled all of the company steel in the metropolitan district.

Denies Payments.

William Bowan of New York, president, and William Dobson of Indianapolis, secretary of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International union, took the witness stand and denied the accusation last week by W. K. Fertig, secretary of the Marble Industry Employers' association, that he had paid them various sums amounting to $6,500 "in gratuities."

Thomas Preece of Chicago, international vice president of the union, admitted however, he had received $1,500 from Fertig for "expenses" in connection with the international union's 1920 convention at Cleveland.

Standing by his original testimony, Fertig took the stand and declared he had paid the International Bricklayers' Masons and Plasterers official $6,500 in various sums, of which $1,000, he said was paid to Bowan in cash at the Park Avenue hotel in December 1919, for "expenses." He said he had also made other payments to the union chief as well as to Preece and to Dobson. Fertig, however, exonerated Dobson, declaring that the union official had later returned him the $850 he had given him.

Salt Lake Air Mail Hangar To Be Dedicated Tuesday

Salt Lake City, Dec. 17.—With E. R. White, acting second assistant postmaster general, here to preside at the ceremonies and with the expected attendance of the governors of Wyoming, Nevada and Utah to assist, the Salt Lake hangar of the United States air mail service, the last completed link in the transcontinental air mail route, will be dedicated Tuesday. Announcement to this effect was made by the secretary of the local commercial club today.

Baker Denies Seals With Red Cross Labels Sponsored

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary Baker issued a statement today declaring that the American Red Cross was in no way responsible for the appearance on sale in this country of articles bearing Red Cross labels, which were contributed by American women for American troops during the war. The articles to which he referred, Mr. Baker said, had been included by oversight in the non-inventoried contents of army warehouses sold to the French government after the armistice.

Siam and U. S. Sign Treaty For Navigation Purpose

Washington, Dec. 17.—A new treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and Siam has been signed by Acting Secretary of State Davis and the Siamese minister. The treaty grants full fiscal autonomy to Siam and a protocol provides for the surrender by the United States of extra territorial jurisdiction in that country. Titles to American missionary property have been settled through the exchange of notes.

Bluffs Flyers Endangered As Oil Explodes In Hangar

Washing the propeller of his airplane with gasoline in his aero building at Main street and Fifth avenue, Council Bluffs, Thursday, A. J. Nielsen, stunt flyer, narrowly escaped death when the oil exploded and his plane and two automobiles were set afire. A second airplane was damaged before the fire department succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Insurance will total but $2,000.

Much-Married Broker Held for Swindling

Lawrence A. Schaeffer, a stock promoter, was held in $50,000 bail in the West Side court, New York City, on charges of bigamy and swindling. Schaeffer, who is 37, is alleged to have at least 20 wives. Two women who claimed Schaeffer as husband appeared in court against him. According to the police, six women whom Schaeffer is alleged to have wed have been located. The investigation, it is said, promises to uncover one of the most sensational bigamy cases in recent years.

Mexican Rebel Leader Escapes. Wife Is Caught

Spouse of General Who Financed Uprising by Robbing Paymaster Falls Into Hands of Enemy.

Mexico City, Mex., Dec. 17.—Mexican troops sent after Gen. Ricardo Morelos, who is at the head of a rebellion in Vera Cruz, have been unable to force him into an engagement, but have overtaken and captured the rebel's wife, according to reports reaching the capital. Senora Moralos, it is said, was captured near the town of Teocelo.

It is supposed that she was on her way to the camp of General Morelos, but search of the surrounding country failed to reveal the camping place. This led to the belief that word of the approach of the Federal troops and the capture of Senora Morelos reached the rebel general, causing him to flee to the mountains.

The fact that he still manages to keep up his "revolt" discredits recent reports that desertions had so depleted his force that he was left practically alone.

Morelos is the general who financed his uprising by robbing an army paymaster of money sent to pay federal troops.

Gonzalez Is Defeated In Attempt to Force Way Back Into Mexico

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.—General Pablo Gonzalez made an attempt to get back into Mexico from the United States with armed troops yesterday, according to official advices received here today, but was driven back with a loss of 11 men killed and several wounded. General Alvaro Obregon became president December 1.

The report of the new revolution, received by the Mexican embassy, has not been confirmed by reports from American consular officers on the border, but it is known to Department of Justice officials that General Gonzalez is at the head of a number of former Carranzista officers and men recently returned from Europe, Cuba and various parts of the United States, whence they fled when Carranza was overthrown.

Move Started to Get Pardon For Political Prisoners

Oberlin, O., Dec. 17.—A movement to petition President Wilson to grant amnesty on Christmas to all federal political prisoners held under the espionage act has been inaugurated by Dr. Henry Churchill King, president of Oberlin college. Restoration of free speech, press and assemblage also is urged.

U. S. Agents Study "Joker" Clause In Prohibition Law

Immunity Clause Guarantees Against Prosecution Any Person Who Gives Testimony Against Violation.

By HARRY L. ROGERS.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Officials of the Department of Justice and legal lights of the Anti-Saloon league are studying with concern an alleged "joker" in the Volstead prohibition law which has just been brought to their attention by a group of Washington attorneys.

Section 30 of the Volstead act, the so-called immunity clause guaranteeing against prosecution any person who gives testimony under oath concerning violations of the dry law, is the basis for the claims of these attorneys that liquor may be manufactured, sold or transported without fear of punishment.

"Unless this provision is repealed the Volstead law is knocked higher than a kite," said Attorney Walter Holland, one of the discoverers of the alleged joker. "It is merely a re-enactment of Section 860 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, the notorious 'immunity bath' law, which was repealed in 1910 at the solicitation of the attorney general after he found that hundreds of criminals were using it as a means of defeating justice.

Go Scot Free.

"As the Volstead law stands today a man might bring a ship load of liquor up the Potomac, land it, drink it on the Capitol steps and then go scot free merely by confessing under oath that he had brought it in. Until this defect of the law is remedied dry officers will have a most interesting time enforcing prohibition."

F. B. Ebbert, an attorney for the Anti-Saloon league, said that he had made a careful study of the legal points which section 30 involves. Though admitting that in isolated cases individuals might evade punishment by invoking the immunity provision, he was confident such evasions could not be carried out on a large scale.

"If the liquor interests can get any comfort out of this new quibble they are welcome to it," he said. "Our position is that the objections raised by the supreme court in the case of Counselman against Hitchcock do not apply to section 30 of the Volstead act, and that it therefore is not unconstitutional.

Authorities Differ.

As for the contention that a bootlegger might present himself as a witness and, after giving testimony, claim immunity under section 30, it is easy to see that no honest and efficient officer would be taken in very often by such a trick."

Section 30 provides that no person shall be excused on the ground of self-incrimination from testifying concerning violations of the Volstead law, but guarantees any person so testifying from prosecution on account of any facts he may disclose. The statute specifically states, however, that a witness who swore to a falsehood would be subject to prosecution for perjury. Authorities differ as to whether this perjury clause is in contravention of the constitutional prohibition against a person bearing witness against himself.

Germans at Idemnity Meeting Present Views

Brussels, Dec. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—German ideas on the best solution of the reparations problem and some indication as to how much Germany was prepared to pay were expected to be advanced at today's session of the second financial conference. Members of the German delegation were frank in declaring yesterday's session unsatisfactory and the younger and more progressive element believed it useless to continue dwelling on Germany's troubles. They declared the ears of the allied delegates were tuned only to hear how much the damages would be and whe npayment would be made.

Famed Lost Gold Mine in California Is Reported Found

4 Diggers Say They've Located Rich Claim Uncovered by Pioneers in 1853 Who Were Massacred.

Redding, Cal., Dec. 17.—Has the famous "Lost Mine" been found?

George Rice, Del Taylor, George West and George Bryner, Shasta county miners, declare they have found it and pioneer miners are inclined to give credence to their story.

The four miners who declare they discovered the long-lost mine last June and have since been working it have come out of the mountain fastnesses of the Squaw creek district for the winter. They declare they located the mine 22 miles up Squaw creek from Copper City.

The well-established story is that in 1853 some miners found a rich claim far up Squaw creek. All but one of them was massacred by the Indians.

Find Rich Claims.

The survivor came down to Copper City and told the story of the riches that were abandoned, but he was soon afterward drowned in Pitt river.

For years and years efforts have been made by prospectors to find the lost mine. It remained for the four miners to find the claim last June. It is in an almost inaccessible region and it was only accidentally that they stumbled on it.

Abandoned in Haste.

They found a shaft 14 feet and old rusty tools, indicating that the claim had been abandoned in haste. Cleaning out the shaft, they found a ledge of rich ore which proved to be gold quartz. There is lots of it, say the quartet, and it is rich, too. The four are confident they have found the famed "Lost Mine."

Judge Orders Acquittal In Manslaughter Trial

Detroit, Dec. 17.—A verdict of acquittal was ordered by Judge Wilkins in recorders court in the case of Frank H. Dunany, prominent Detroit attorney, charged with manslaughter in connection with the death last July of August Dwyer of Middlesboro, Ky. The court held that evidence that a crime had been committed had not been adduced.

Pope Holds Consistory With the Sacred College

Rome, Dec. 17.—Pope Benedict today held a consistory with all the members of the sacred college present in Rome participating. They included Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium.

The pontiff appointed Monsignor Cosenza, archbishop of Capdaas, as vice chamberlain of the Holy Roman church, which is one of the highest positions in the papal court.

25 Fires Reported In 15 Hours Yesterday

Twenty-five fire calls, the largest number registered in Omaha in a day for months, were sent in Thursday between 7 a. m. and 10 p. m. Most of the alarms came from the residential sections and were due to chimney sparks.

Julius Johnson, Forty-first and Hamilton streets, driver of fire truck No. 8, suffered slight injuries at 8 last night when his truck collided with a street car at Twenty-fourth and Hamilton streets. The motorman of the street car was bruised.

Women formed a bucket brigade and kept a fire in the garage of Mrs. Fred Johnston, 2563 Evans street, under control until the fire department arrived.