

Frivolity Marks Murder Trial of Auburn Woman

Lapses of Decorum and Sympathy for Mrs. Neal Features—Resume Hearing Today.

(Continued From Page One.)

she "ran behind the telephone bar before she left the house." Mrs. Buck said she hadn't paid any attention and denied the statement.

Joe Wright, brother-in-law of Mrs. Neal by her first marriage, testified to conversations held with Neal in which the latter made threatening remarks.

While he was janitor of the Nemaha county jail in January, 1920, Neal told him of his domestic troubles and made the statement: "I will have a double funeral some day."

When Wright told him to "get that foolishness out of his head," Neal replied: "He would get that boy (meaning his stepson, Leland) and then he's going to end it all, was his parting shot, according to Wright."

Strike Out Testimony. The county attorney's motion here to strike out Wright's testimony because it was too remote in time to have bearing in this issue was sustained by the court.

Mrs. Buck was then recalled to the stand to tell what she knew of the Neal's domestic troubles.

She related that when Mrs. Neal left her husband to get a divorce, Neal said to her: "My wife is afraid of me; she thinks I'm a cave-man and some day I'll show her I am!"

The witness, who is an old-fashioned type of woman, added naively: "What he meant by 'cave-man' I don't know." She stopped the spectators burst into laughter.

Needed Good Spanking. When Mrs. Neal returned to her husband, Neal said to Mrs. Buck: "What she needs is a right good spanking and I've got a notion to spank her," Mrs. Buck said.

Once Neal telephoned Buck that he "had cut his wife's throat during the night and she made a nice-looking corpse."

Mrs. Buck said she knew Neal was "joshing" but she told her husband she didn't like those kind of jokes.

She said she never told this incident to Mrs. Neal until after Neal's death. She admitted Neal was given to extravagant speech and no serious attention was paid to his remarks, and that she held each of the couple equally to blame for their domestic troubles.

Mention Butler's Name. Fixing the time for Neal's remarks, she placed it as the time the Neals were having trouble over A. E. Butler. This was the first mention of Butler's name in the hearing.

After Mrs. Neal returned to her husband she told Mrs. Buck her husband was "just as good to her as he ever had been." This occasioned more laughter in the courtroom.

Mrs. Buck denied that Neal told her she had come back to Neal in order to get a better hold on his property.

On the night of the tragedy, Mrs. Neal kept exclaiming: "Oh, why did I ever come back to him?"

When Mrs. Buck then inquired why she did, Mrs. Neal replied: "Ben threatened to commit suicide if I didn't." Mrs. Buck testified.

Plan of Trial. Thus far in the hearing, the strategic battle of the state has been to reveal as little of testimony damaging to Mrs. Neal as possible, while the defense is using its utmost effort to procure as many revelations in its testimony as possible.

Much sympathy is evidenced in the courtroom for Mrs. Neal, who is the first woman ever put on trial for first degree murder in Nemaha county, one of the oldest organized in the state.

During the noon recess the court house square took on the aspect of a picnic grounds. Family groups were scattered here and there, while other groups gathered to discuss the case and speculate on the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Seven Ages Present. The crowd at the afternoon session was even larger than that of the morning. The air was hot and stuffy. The seven ages of man were represented in the crowd, from babes in arms to doddering old men and women.

The afternoon session was resumed with Sheriff Davis on the stand. The sheriff made an examination of the gun found clasped in Neal's hand. Two shells were expended and two of the chambers were empty. The sheriff said that the condition of the shells indicated that they were eight or 10 years old.

He said he had heard Mrs. Neal testify at the coroner's inquest that she was asleep in bed when awakened by the shot. Describing the bed, the sheriff declared that it had the appearance of having been freshly laundered, still had creases in it and looked as if someone had sat on the bed but not as if anyone had slept on it. The pillows were undisturbed.

Blood-Spotted Sheet. The sheriff produced the blood-spotted sheet found on the bed at the request of the defendant's attorney and arranged it in a position as it had been draped over the bed.

There was a blood spot on the chiffonier which looked as if something had been dragged across it, he said.

At this point the court room became so crowded that the bailiff cleared the aisles, whereat the others cheered.

The sheriff said that he examined all the walls of the room, took up the carpets and examined the casings for a second bullet. He examined windows and screens and also hunted in the adjoining room. He did this because Mrs. Neal said there were two shots fired. He examined the bed and sheets for a bullet hole. He examined Neal's gown the night of the tragedy and brought it to Auburn. He did not know where it was now, but thought the undergarment had burned it. He said that there was no blood on the nightgown at the chest, but there was

some on the fringe. Neal had no other clothes on.

No Powder Burns

Alva Rogers, former sheriff, who has served Nemaha county four years, testified that he examined the wound in Neal's neck with a magnifying glass. During his term as sheriff he had examined the wounds of four suicides who had died by gunshot wounds. He said that he had turned the body of Neal over to the sheriff's office to be examined by a coroner. He said that he had taken the sharp blade of a knife to probe the wound for powder stains and found none. He used a magnifying glass provided by Hans Nielsen, Bertillon expert of the state bureau of criminal investigation. He based his contention that there were no powder burns on the theory that there are always grains of burnt powder in the flesh when the gun is fired at short range. There were no burnt grains of powder in the wound in Neal's flesh.

J. C. Woodie, village marshal of Peru, was called by the state. He testified that he was called by the Peru central at 11:30; that he had gotten out of bed and looked at his watch. Central said that someone was in trouble but she did not know who. Later she called and told him. He went out of Peru with Dr. V. Vance. He and Vance went to Neal's home and went to Buck's, where he stayed 10 minutes, then went to Neal's.

Mrs. Lucy Neal, charged with first degree murder in connection with the fatal shooting of her husband, Ben Neal, the night of August 11, appeared in court for her preliminary hearing today, dressed in mourning and accompanied by her daughter, Ava, 16, wearing a white middie blouse with black tie and black skirt.

Confronted as she was with a charge of killing her husband, she faced the densely packed courtroom and glanced at friends, neighbors, acquaintances and strangers with remarkable composure.

Friends Beside Her. Seated close to Mrs. Neal was her sister, Mrs. Dodd, who came from her home in Missouri to be with her daughter in trouble. Also close by were other close women friends of the accused but to these she gave no heed during the long minutes which were taken up in preparation for the trial.

Charles Buck, the neighbor to whose home Mrs. Neal and her daughter fled on the night of the tragedy, was the first witness.

Dr. Vance, J. C. Woodie, Arch Raliback and Bert Patterson came to his house together, Buck testified, and then all six persons went to the Neal home. The time was fixed about 1 a. m.

Dr. Vance of Peru was the next witness called. He testified he has practiced medicine and surgery for 18 years, and that he formerly was a police surgeon in Omaha.

No Lights Burning. Dr. Vance called Tom Fisher, druggist, to prepare dressings and also called Tom Woodie, J. C. Woodie, Bert Patterson and help. While waiting, the electric lights in Peru went out as customary at midnight, by which he filed the time. It took 30 minutes to run to the Neal place.

No lights were burning in the Neal home, the doctor testified. The party went through the dining room, the small kitchen to the bedroom, which is about 10 feet square.

The witness described the location of the bed with its head to the northeast. He found the body of Neal on the south side of the room with the feet extending under the bed, the right leg slightly outside and cramped. The head was about two feet inside the door and to the south, he said.

Right Hand on Chest. He described the location of the wound in the left side of the neck. The left hand was lying on the floor. The right hand was lying across the dead man's chest, loosely clutching a .22 caliber pistol, nickel plated, with a black hard rubber handle.

The wound in the neck was slightly swollen. The doctor probed for the bullet until he struck the under side of the jaw bone. The face was bloody and the place around the bullet wound was dark. Sheriff Davis washed all the blood and stains of the neck, the doctor said. He also testified there was no powder stains except a narrow margin around the wound. One finger of the left hand had a small blood stain. The right hand was bloody.

Blood on Carpet. Asked what, in his opinion, caused the death of Neal, he answered: "Gunshot wound."

On cross-examination by the defense the doctor stated there was quite a pool of blood under the head, staining the carpet. In the northeast corner of the room, near the head of the bed, there were "crops of blood on the carpet."

Neal's clothing was on the chair. The body was clothed in a night gown. The witness testified he made no autopsy to find where the bullet went. Indications were that some of the larger blood vessels had been severed. The wound was close to the external aortic artery.

The wound was small and circular with edges. The doctor said he examined the revolver held in the dead man's hand. The chambers contained two exploded shells, two unexploded shells and two of the chambers were empty. The left jaw was discolored and this was washed off by Sheriff Davis. This colored spot was two inches across. The mottled place was covered with blood and was washed off when the wound was cleaned.

The wound had the appearance of being powder smoked before being washed, according to the doctor. There were no powder burns, but there was a small circular abrasion about the size of a dime around the wound.

Stains on Chiffonier. There were streaks of blood on the chiffonier in the room and blood stains on the door casing and wall paper.

The stains on the chiffonier were like blood running down, the doctor said. The stains on the wall paper looked like finger prints of bloody hands.

Sheriff Davis was next called, and testified that he was called to the Neal home at 12:05 a. m., of August 12.

He went in the house through the south dining room door, he said, through the kitchen to the bedroom and found the body lying on its back, legs extended under the bed, the right hand loosely grasping a revolver.

Print of Hand. He said Mrs. Neal told him she

"Near Bride" Flees Hour After License Has Been Procured

Chicago, Aug. 25.—A story of how pretty Edith J. Liffers, an 18-year-old bride-to-be, fled from her home in Jersey City an hour after the marriage license was procured, taking with her the wedding trousseau, was told the Chicago police today by Mrs. Lilia Kern, Jersey City, the girl's mother.

Underneath the story, as a motive for the girl's disappearance, lies another tale of a former suitor, Ted Kocokinski, whose mysterious letter almost on the eve of the wedding suddenly induced the girl to abandon her fiance, Frank A. Doeling, a sailor, and flee to Kocokinski in Chicago.

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They were made by a left hand, the sheriff testified. He used a magnifying glass and by ridges of the prints and by the position of the marks, determined they were made by the left hand.

Leave All Possessions. The plight of the refugees is terrible. They have parted with every possession they own and have been reduced to eating horses and other animals. Literally millions are taking part in this exodus, leaving their homes under stress of insupportable hunger and moving westward by any and every available means of transportation.

Neals' gown. The refugees are willing to endure any hardships and risk in order to escape. They travel in box cars packed to suffocation and fight like maniacs to secure places on the roofs or trucks of the cars. Along the railways and in the stations, thousands are herded in enclosures, being refused admission to many towns and cities owing to the inability of the authorities to provide food.

It is the opinion of Mr. Johnson and his colleagues, that all of western Russia is faced with a similar menace, carrying with it the gravest consequences to civilization, if not actually making its foundation totter. It is the opinion of the commission that the only way to induce the fleeing families to return to their homes and resume agriculture. Those to whom members of the commission spoke expressed their willingness to return to their abodes if they were guaranteed sufficient food to maintain themselves and were given seed grain for planting in the spring.

Problem Two. The problem strikes the commission as being two-fold. The first problem is to supply the minimum amount of foodstuffs to prevent the creation of an immense refugee problem in Russia, which is likely to engulf western Europe. The second is to localize food distribution so as to compel the refugees to return to their homes. The point out, that merely feeding the children does not touch either of these difficulties.

They suggest Rostov as the main base for distribution in the stricken area, with a field base at Tzaritzin, where supplies could be shipped via the Volga. Subcenters are suggested for similar work at Kazn and Samara. At Rostov there are loops of two railways. It is suggested that 140 miles of these loops could be used, having one for loaded cars and the other for empties, thus making it possible to handle three trains, each carrying 500 tons daily.

In addition, it is suggested that the Don river be available as a supplementary base. They say speed is necessary, as the Volga will be frozen up by the middle of December and food must be delivered before that time.

Girl, 12, Confesses She and Brother Robbed 25 Places. Chicago, Aug. 25.—A 12-year-old girl confessed to the police that she and her brother, 14, had committed 25 burglaries. The girl, Hattie Koforski, was arrested last night as she stood guard while her brother, Joseph, was trying to rob a dry goods store.

The mother of the two children, Mrs. Rose Koforski, told the police today that her 19-year-old son, Raymond, had had the younger children steal her turtleneck and that they had become experts in burglary.

Hindu Worker Deported From California Ranch. Visalia, Cal., Aug. 25.—A band of about 20 white laborers appeared at the ranch of Francis in the outer district 15 miles north here Wednesday afternoon and deported a Hindu worker from the house in an automobile. Tuesday night the white workers called on Francis and told him they would not stand by while the employment of Hindu grape pickers while white men are out of work. Francis discharged all Hindus working for him, it was said, but one.

Road Conditions. (Furnished by Omaha Auto Club.) Lincoln Highway—Road good, washer fine. Lincoln Highway—West—Detour Elkhorn to Valley, putting in gravel road from Central City to Chapman; roads good, washer fine. O. L. D. Highway—Roads fair to Lincoln; good, washer fine. S. Y. A. Road—Roads good to Sioux City. George Washington Highway—Take the High road to Blair; roads good to Sioux City. Rock Hills Trail—Road work Omaha to Fremont; Fremont to Norfolk, roads good. King of Trails, North—Roads fine. King of Trails, South—Roads excellent. River to River Road—Road to Des Moines. White Pole Road—Excellent to Des Moines.

Plot to Slay Obregon Is Discovered in Mexico City. Mexico City, Aug. 25.—(By The Associated Press.)—The discovery of an alleged plot to assassinate President Obregon resulted last evening in the arrest of Gen. Jesus Salas Lopez, commander of a small body of troops in the state of Morelos; Anastacio Svedera and Fernando Gonzales Gomez, according to an announcement by the chief of police of Mexico City today.

Head of American Near East Relief Arrives at Riga

Workers Describe Huge Task Facing Organizations in Famine-Stricken Districts Of Russia.

By AMBROSE LAMBERT. Chicago Tribune Cable, Copyright, 1921.

Riga, Aug. 25.—Albert A. Johnson of Farmingdale, N. Y., chairman of the American Near East and Caucasian Relief Commission, arrived here today on the steamer "Humbler" from New York and Frank Conroy, an interpreter, having just arrived from Moscow after having crossed Russia from the south. They painted an almost indescribable picture of conditions in the famine area which they visited and told of the herculean tasks necessary to adequately relieve Russia.

Mr. Johnson and his aids left Tiflis on August 16, reaching Moscow via Petrovsk, Vladikavkaz, Rostoff and Kozloff. They were overwhelmed with the extent of the danger attending the emigration of the people from the 10 stricken Volga provinces. They said that it was doubtful whether the authorities would be able to control the situation.

They said that 300,000 persons have left the Simbirsk and Samara districts during the last few months and been transformed into a huge concentration camp for the refugees from the upper Volga.

Leave All Possessions. The plight of the refugees is terrible. They have parted with every possession they own and have been reduced to eating horses and other animals. Literally millions are taking part in this exodus, leaving their homes under stress of insupportable hunger and moving westward by any and every available means of transportation.

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Weak Girder Blamed For Dirigible Wreck

(Continued From Page One.)

today was somewhat akin to that which followed the receipt of news of a serious disaster during the war days. At the air ministry, which yesterday was a bee hive of activity with elaborate preparations for the transatlantic flight, there was today a sensible depression on all sides.

Relatives Are Stricken. It was at Howden, Hull, Leeds and neighboring towns, however, where lived the wives and relatives of many of the men whose lives were snuffed out by the disaster, that the grief was most keenly felt. In these places, too, were the English brides of nine of the American enlisted men who came to England for the transoceanic flight. These young women had been eagerly awaiting the time of the ZR-2's start for America and had expected soon to follow on board a government transport to their new homes.

The American dead included two members of the American Legion. Lieutenant Little and Lloyd E. Crowell, mechanic. Several of the British victims were members of the British Legion of former service men. Both these organizations will be represented at the funeral services. As the dirigible was still British property, not having yet been turned over to the American authorities, all investigations of the calamity will be supervised by the British air ministry.

Divers Explore Wreck. Hull, England, Aug. 25.—(By The Associated Press.)—Divers began at dawn to explore the fire-twisted wreck of the dirigible ZR-2, which last evening exploded above this city and fell into the Humber river, carrying for America and here to peace time.

Only one American, Norman O. Walker, a rigger, and four British, Flight Lieut. A. H. Wann; Ernest Davis, airman; H. Bateman, scientific assistant, and Walter Poter, mechanic, survived the disaster that in a twinkling changed the trial cruise of the airship into a ghastly tragedy.

During the hours of darkness that followed the collapse and destruction of the ZR-2, tugs stood by the wreckage and keen eyes scanned the water for any bodies that might have been dislodged by the tide that flowed over all that remained of what was yesterday Great Britain's mightiest dirigible, which officials expected to turn over to the United States navy today. It was believed that the ruins of the aerial dreadnaught held the bodies of 15 American and 26 British officers and enlisted men, who were engaged in the final test of the machine.

No More Survivors. All hope that there might be other survivors of the disaster was dissipated during the night. The wreckage fell only 200 yards from the shore and the six gondolas in which most of the crew were riding were sinking immediately to the bottom of the Humber. The men in the gondolas, it was believed, would have little chance to escape after the dirigible struck the water, as the weight of the engines and machinery quickly carried the ruined structure beneath the water. Experts here were at a loss to account for this greatest of peace time air disasters.

Residents of Hull who were watching the ZR-2 when her cruise came to its sudden and tragic end declared that it seemed when the craft attempted to make a sharp turn during a speed test, some of her girders buckled and broke, probably because of a strain too heavy for the structure to bear. Some members of the crew appear to have this same idea of the cause of the accident.

The body of Lieut. Charles G. Little, one of the American officers, was today at the Hull infirmary, where he died after being removed from the wreckage of the ZR-2. The body of Lieut. Marcus H. Esterly, another American victim, was at a mortuary and both were being held pending an inquest which probably will not be held until attempts to take other bodies from the ruins have been made.

Harbor officials today expressed doubt that many bodies would be recovered unless they were held fast to the wreckage or were imprisoned in the gondolas. They said they feared the tide and the swift current of the Humber would carry them away.

Immediately after the disaster John H. Grout, the American consul; Lieutenant Pennoyer, who becomes senior officer of the American detachment, and Naval Physician Taylor assumed control of the situation for the American government. They are co-operating in the work of recovering and identifying the bodies and are preparing an official list of the missing.

Most of the American members of the crew of the ill-fated dirigible ZR-2 were killed by the explosion which followed the buckling and snapping of girders amidships, declared Flight Lieut. A. H. Wann, in command of the craft at the time of the disaster in a statement to The Associated Press today.

Lieutenant Wann said the ship had run beautifully at 60 knots an hour and that he had reduced the speed to 50 knots, when there came a violent cracking sound. He thought several of the girders broke. The whole thing happened in five seconds.

"There was no sign of anything wrong when we passed over Hull," he added, "but everything happened afterward. I was in sole control at the time."

"Before the moment of the accident," said Lieutenant Wann, whose injuries are not serious, "the craft had been sailing perfectly. It had been passing through various difficult tests and the speed had been reduced, when suddenly, while crossing the Broad estuary of the Humber, I heard the grinding and cracking of girders and the airship pitched forward, from an even keel."

"As soon as humanly possible I emptied the water ballast to enable the craft to resume its normal position, but at his instant a tremendous explosion occurred. The great ship seemed to halt for a moment, and then it dropped like a rock. The concussion threw me down in the navigator's car, where I was pinned by the wreckage. The section of the craft in which I was riding remained above the water when it plunged into the Humber, and I was rescued after being imprisoned for

15 minutes. That is all I am able to say."

Lieutenant Wann denied local reports that he had heroically plunged the ZR-2 into the river rather than on the shore, which was crowded by thousands of spectators. The disaster occurred so quickly, he said, that any such action was impossible.

Denver Man Victim. Denver, Aug. 25.—One Denver man was among the crew of the ill-fated ZR-2 that fell into the Humber river following an explosion. He is Charles I. Aller, designated as a rigger. Aller, 34, had been in naval service since 1907. During the late war, he served aboard a torpedo boat destroyer.

Commander St. Paul Man. St. Paul, Aug. 25.—Commander Lewis H. Maxfield of the ZR-2, who was killed when the giant dirigible fell at Hull, England, was a St. Paul resident, who had won many honors during a varied career in the navy. The disaster occurred 38 years ago. Commander Maxfield received his early education in local schools. After graduating from the Boston Institute of Technology he was appointed to Annapolis in 1903. He graduated three years later and as a midshipman was sent around the world with the navy on the trip ordered by President Roosevelt.

After the war he was awarded the distinguished service medal from the American government for his efficiency.

U. S. Officials War Over Bond Of Fugitives

A telegraphic war between J. C. Kinsler, United States district attorney, and the United States commissioner at Los Angeles, with charges of an effort to frustrate local officials in their attempt to bring Charles Wahlberg and Jacob Massey to Omaha for trial, was disclosed by Kinsler yesterday.

Who wins is yet to be determined. The Los Angeles commissioner is under fire for failure to send on to the clerk of the Omaha federal court \$25,000 bonds that Wahlberg and Massey were required to put up for appearance in Omaha this fall, when arrested early in the summer for using the mails to defraud in the William Berg Potash company case.

Instead of doing this, when the two men were later rearrested, cited for contempt of court in the Missouri Valley Cattle Loan company case, the commissioner apparently suspended the original \$25,000 bond and agreed to hold the two in \$12,500 bond each for a hearing before him September 20. This hearing to determine whether the men should be returned to Omaha for trial, according to Kinsler.

"The commissioner has no authority under the law to alter or supplant bonds in any such way and I so notified him," declared Kinsler. "He promised to forward the original \$25,000 bond, but it has not arrived."

The action of the California official will make it necessary for government witnesses to journey to California for the hearing there.

Hay Dealers Condemn Co-Operative Markets. Chicago, Aug. 25.—Co-operative farm marketing and the participation of county farm agents in such projects were condemned by the National Hay association in the closing session of the 28th national convention.

Recommending the elimination of hay inspection by the federal bureau of markets of the Department of Agriculture, George S. Bridges of Chicago, reported that the bureau of standards, while empowered to inspect hay, had informed him that it had no funds to maintain an inspection corps and consequently no inspections would be made.

Auto Stealing Rivals Bootlegging in New York. New York, Aug. 25.—Automobile stealing is increasing with alarming rapidity and has grown to proportions comparable only with the bootlegging traffic in the get-rich-quick operations in and around New York. Automobile owners are deeply worried over the situation and it is expected a lobby will be placed both in Albany and Washington to demand legislative action.

For the first six months of this year, with August figures incomplete, a total of 2,304 machines have been stolen in Manhattan alone.

Son-in-Law of Slayer of Priest Put Under Arrest. Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 25.—Acting at the request of Peoria, Ill., police, local authorities today arrested as a suspicious person Pedro Guas-Sian, whose marriage to Miss Ruth Sian, which took place in this city, was reported early this month to have resulted in the killing of Father James E. Coyle, Catholic priest, by the bride's father, the Rev. Edwin R. Stephenson.

Heat Wave at Grand Island Accompanied by Hot Wind. Grand Island, Neb., Aug. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—Thursday was the third day of another intense heat wave. The thermometer hit 105 late in the afternoon. A decided hot wind, the first of the real kind in several years, accompanied the wave for several hours, but receded later in the afternoon.

International Nickel Co. To Close Mines and Smelter. Sudbury, Ont., Aug. 25.—Six hundred employees of the International Nickel company's mines and smelter at Copper Cliff were notified yesterday that the plant will close down Saturday for an indefinite period. Heavy reserve stocks and general depression make further operation unprofitable.

Reduced Fare Excursion to Kansas City August 27 to September 3. Round trip fare, including tax, \$11.62, from Omaha via Burlington route on above dates; final limit Sept. 5. Trains at 9:05 a. m., 4:30 p. m. and 11:10 p. m. Tickets and information, City Ticket Office, 1416 Dodge street, and Burlington depot.

High U. S. Officers Tell Amazement at Cresson Charges

Major General Bullard and Other Officers at Bergdoll Prosecutions Write Major They're Absurd.

Letters from high army officials and from officers who were present at his prosecution of Grover C. Bergdoll and Colonel Hunt, expressing amazement at the report of the congressional investigating committee accusing him of laxity, have been received by Maj. C. C. Cresson at Fort Crook.

Maj. Gen. R. L. Bullard, commanding general at Governor's Island at the time of the prosecution, writes: "I noticed especially Major Cresson's zeal and interest for the conviction in these cases. It seemed to me too great. It was so strong I felt less personal concern in the prosecution of the cases and that he should limit himself to doing his official duty without too much personal concern as laid down in the army regulations and military law."

"Laxity in the prosecution of the cases which took place at my headquarters nowhere appeared either in the actual fact or in the report of the cases."

(Signed) "R. L. BULLARD, Major General, U. S. A." The foregoing letter is dated August 22, at Governors Island, headquarters of the Second army corps.

Another letter, written by Col. Allen W. Gullion, judge advocate in charge at Governors Island at the time of the Bergdoll and Hunt trials, and who inspected the record. The letter reads:

"Personally, I think the report of the Bergdoll investigating committee as far as it involves you is the most absurd thing of my experience. It may be some consolation to you to know that this opinion is general among these headquarters."

"While everyone knows that the thing is annoying to you, they all think that the absurdity of the thing

is such as to be almost a joke. Any errors you may have committed in the prosecution of Bergdoll and Hunt were due to overzealousness rather than to lack of zeal.

"In fact, I often compared you with Javelin, the detective in Les Miserables, who hounded Jean Valjean."