

Grand Jury Returns 30 True Bills

Indictment Filed in Federal Court Against Quartet of Promoters in Great Western Tire Deal.

Second Sitting Finished

The federal grand jury finished its second sitting late yesterday, reporting 30 indictments to Judge T. C. Munger.

A brand new indictment against the McWhorter-Masse-Wohlberg-Chimley combination for using the mails to defraud in the Great Western Tire and Truck company program...

There now stands three federal and two state indictments against McWhorter, Masse and Wohlberg. Sam B. Musser and Rachael C. Strickland, already indicted by the state grand jury last summer...

Indictments Withheld. Three or four more indictments, thought to be based on stock promotion schemes, were withheld from publication until arrests can be made.

Webb J. Elliott, Ermin R. and Edwin R. McCormick, the pinless clothesline salesman, were indicted for using the mails to defraud Adolph Schmevelli, and Henry and Otto Lautner, and Armond H. Roemer, recently arrested at Dallas, Tex., were named for a scheme to defraud Walter W. Fisher, South Side merchant.

Curt J. Meitzen and Harry W. Woodward of the bankrupt Meitzen-Woodward Auto company, were indicted on the charge of unlawfully concealing assets of the bankrupt estate from Frank E. Frost, trustee. A check of \$38.86 is mentioned.

Charles Earl Steuteville, postmaster at Bridgeport, Morrill county, is charged with embezzling \$1,788.80 in money orders. There are two counts. Joseph E. Onello, alias "Red," Rochel, of Aakdale, Neb., is charged with stealing a registered letter from the United States mails.

Twelve indictments for violation of the Harrison act also were returned. New Charge a Surprise. The new indictment of Masse, Wohlberg, McWhorter and Chimley was the surprise of the list. It sets forth that the quartet obtained possession of the Nebraska and Iowa Mercantile Building company, incorporating at \$200,000 on December 1, 1917; that they amended the articles, changing the name to the Great Western Tire and Truck company, and raised the capitalization to \$1,000,000; and subsequently sold \$360,000 of "blue sky" by falsely representing themselves to be manufacturing tires to be sold to stockholders at a 20 per cent discount.

"The scheme was typical of all the quartet's deals," said Postal Inspector Henry Randall who assisted in the investigation. A. W. Lane, assistant United States attorney, said the new indictment in the Berg Polish case was made to substitute for the first, should attorneys for the defendant raise objections to the indictment because the name of Charles L. Dundy, now dead, is included among the defendants.

Later, the Great Western Tire and Truck company voters at the Great Western Body company, according to Lane. Norris Would Junk Electoral College. Washington, Jan. 4.—An amendment to the federal constitution abolishing the electoral college and providing for election of the president and vice president by direct vote of the people is proposed in a joint resolution introduced in the senate today by Senator Norris, republican, Nebraska.

Nearly Score Injured in Interurban Wreck. Cleveland, Jan. 4.—Between 15 and 20 persons were seriously injured, two probably fatally, and a score more badly shaken up and bruised shortly before noon today when the first car of southbound Cleveland-Akron-Canton interurban limited was derailed and went into a ditch three miles south of Bedford, near here. The accident is said to have been caused by a broken flange on the first car.

Nurse Sues Akron Doctor for \$250,000 Heart Balm. Akron, O., Jan. 4.—Dr. Elmer K. Hostenstein, practicing physician in Akron for 30 years, was sued for \$250,000 heart balm today by Mrs. Viola Pindle, this city, who was nurse in many of his cases. Mrs. Pindle charges breach of promise to marry. Prominent in her charges is the allegation that Dr. Hostenstein encouraged her use of morphine so that her will power against him was weakened. Dr. Hostenstein denied the charges.

Severe Storm at Tulsa. Tulsa, Okl., Jan. 4.—Further damage was caused here early today by a severe storm which put power lines out of commission, shattered store fronts and littered the streets with debris. The office of the Tulsa Tribune, an afternoon paper, was unable to operate.

Blanton Would Force Lawmakers to Go Home to Take Their Baths

Washington, Jan. 4.—On the theory that the pay of a member of congress is sufficient to provide a home with a bath, Representative Blanton, democrat, Texas, introduced a bill to close free bath establishments in the house office building. The measure would drop from the government payroll what the Texas described in his measure as "bodily rubbers."

Other bills introduced by the Texas would eliminate the house barbershop, where a member may have his hair cut at 25 cents, half the city price, and the house restaurants, run partly at government expense.

Witness Accuses Major of Slaying Army "Runner"

Former Soldier Charges Commander of Infantry Battalion With Shooting Messenger in A. E. F.

By The Associated Press. Washington, Jan. 4.—Accuser and accused faced each other today before a senate committee investigating charges that American soldiers had been hanged without trial in France.

Near the close of the session, Maj. H. Oppie of Staunton, Va., commander of the Third battalion, 116th infantry overseas, went on the stand to enter emphatic denial of charges by former service men that he had shot down some of his soldiers in cold blood on the battlefield. He was asked, however, to step aside until other witnesses testify against him, meanwhile being given the right through counsel to cross-examine them.

Grayson H. Withrow of Baltimore, still in his early 20's, testified that he saw the officer seize a gun from a private and fire at a man in his command, Shells were falling, he said, and there was tremendous excitement. Withrow swore that from his retreat in a shell hole he saw the man fall as the major's gun barked. But he could not say whether Opie had killed him, declaring that the latter, standing out in the open, was within arm's reach of half a dozen officers when the shot was fired.

Accused of Shooting "Runner." As Withrow left the stand, William F. St. John of Lynchburg, Va., suffering from nervous troubles resulting from service overseas, accused the Virginian of shooting down a "runner" at the front, because he failed to stop after three being ordered to halt. Four other men saw the killing, he declared, but he refused to give their names on the ground that he has not been able to confer with them and that it would not be just if they should appear and "not back up" his charges. One, he said, had "developed cold feet" and was unwilling to testify.

Reminded by Chairman Brandegee that the names must be submitted St. John complied, mentioning first the cousin of one of Major Opie's counsel. It was while St. John was being cross-examined by John A. Cutchins of Richmond, Va., Major Opie's counsel, that he lost control of his shattered nerves and shouted he was dealing with a bunch of fanatics who are trying to prove an untrue story. Mr. Cutchins disclaimed such an intention.

Seeing that the young man was worn out by excitement, Senator Watson, democrat, Georgia, whose charges of illegal registration and black caps on the bodies of three American soldiers dug up in the little French cemetery at Bazilles, the committee permitted the inquiry to go to execution. Another witness who assisted in a legal execution, declared that the bodies were buried, nooses and black caps intact, in the same cemetery where Hud Bard said three so marked had been buried. He frankly but pathetically announced he could not read nor write, cleared up his statement concerning the shooting of a soldier because he had quipped away from his command to quench his thirst at a spring. It developed that the command was trying to conceal its position from the enemy and that all hands had been warned that the first man attempting to walk out in the open would be shot. The soldier walked 50 yards beyond the dead line, refused to halt when ordered, and they shot him in the back.

There was much testimony relating to executions at Is-Sur-Tille, none of the witnesses being able to say whether the victims had been tried, beyond the claim of some to the contrary as the trap was sprung. War department records, containing the list of 11 legal hangings, listed two at Is-Sur-Tille.

Bandits Torture Family and Escape With \$400. Los Angeles, Jan. 4.—Three masked robbers beat C. N. Churchill in his home and burned the chests of Churchill, his wife and two daughters to force them to disclose the hiding place of money. The bandits located \$400 under a carpet and were frightened away by noise.

Admits Killing Daughter. Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Jan. 4.—Nathaniel Ingraham of East Park pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree for the killing of his 6-year-old daughter. He was sentenced to from 20 years to life in Sing Sing.

Sentiment for Gas Tax Is Growing

Opposition of Farmers Is Rubbing Off at State Meeting—Colorado Exemption Plan Favored.

Filley Endorses Bill

By PAUL GREER. Staff Correspondent Omaha Bee. Lincoln, Jan. 4.—(Special.) A good deal of the opposition to the proposed gasoline tax is rubbing off at the farmers' meetings at the state agricultural college here. Some important farm leaders taking the stand that road-building must be continued, favor lifting the cost of property and putting it directly on those who use the highways. They suggest that an exemption such as is allowed in Colorado be given on fuel for stationary engines and tractors, which do not use the roads.

Prof. H. C. Filley, rural economist at the agricultural college, made a great impression with an endorsement of the plan of Governor McKelvie before a meeting of the Growers' association. The day previous, F. W. Chase of Pawnee criticized the gasoline tax, and Prof. Filley presented the other side.

Shifting Tax Burden. His first warning was that with a national debt of \$24,000,000, the farmers, as the only class which was not to charge its taxes into the price of its products, must be on the watch for attempts of other interests to shift the burden of payment. He urged the farmers to study taxation and organize a plan of their own on information and not hearsay. He praised the excess profits tax, the income tax and the surtax on large incomes, and warned against a general sales tax. The gasoline tax, he pointed out, is not a sales tax, but an excise tax, just as that on tobacco. He expressed the view which is also quite general among the farmers, that a low state income tax would be good and that the plan of Governor McKelvie for an income tax on office holders may grow to apply to all incomes.

"The man who uses the gasoline pays the tax," said Prof. Filley. "The man who does not wish to pay this tax has merely to refrain from the purchase of gasoline. Insofar as gasoline is a necessity to people of small incomes, such a tax is a burden, but insofar as gasoline is a luxury, as in a semi-luxury, such a tax is an admirable means of raising revenue."

Fitting Use of Funds. "It seems particularly fitting that the proceeds from such a tax should be used for road construction, since the men who manufacture, sell and drive pleasure cars have been most insistent upon the rapid development of a good roads program. Such a tax (Turn to Page Two, Column One.)"

Rum Sleuths Seize 10 Gallons and Car

Three Men Caught With Load of Booze—Clothier Nabbed for Selling Whisky.

Federal rum sleuths played in luck yesterday afternoon, confiscating a large quantity of liquor. Three of U. S. Robert's men captured three men, 10 gallons of moonshine and an auto one mile west of Fairacres on the Dodge road. The men arrested are Ralph Dimerco, 1937, South Eleventh street, San Francisco; 1140 North Seventeenth, and Charles Day, 2021 California street. Later the officers made a purchase of two gallons of whisky from Samuel P. Goldberg, proprietor of clothing stores at 1314 Douglas and 1308 North Twenty-fourth streets. Goldberg was kept in jail all night on Robert's order and not permitted to give bond until an information was filed against him.

Pugilists Did Not Perish in Fire, Reports Indicate. New York, Jan. 4.—Two stills, two barrels of liquor and nine bars of mash were found by the police last night in the fire swept ruins of the Beechhurst Country club at Whitestone, which had been leased as training and sleeping quarters by Joe and Frank Welling, pugilists. Fears were expressed when the boxes broke out yesterday that the boxes had perished, but a search of the ruins failed to reveal trace of any bodies. Later, the police learned that the Welling had been seen seven miles away after the fire.

Police also announced that they had confiscated all liquor in the building. They expressed the opinion it was the property of the owner and announced that a warrant for his arrest would be applied for tomorrow.

Two Women Found Dead in House at Aberdeen, S. D. Aberdeen, S. D., Jan. 4.—Authorities today were investigating the cause of the death of two women and the illness of two men who were found in a house here last night. Police said they had not determined whether liquor or fumes from a stove were responsible for the tragedy.

Wife of Mitchell Palmer, Ex-Attorney General, Dies. Washington, Jan. 4.—Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, wife of the former attorney general of the United States, died suddenly at her home here tonight.

Heel Makers Strike. Haverhill, Mass., Jan. 4.—Wood heel makers in 20 factories walked out yesterday because of a 10 per cent wage cut and refusal to recognize the union.

2 Dogs Arrested and Brought to Jail as Guardians of Still

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 4.—Two dogs were arrested by federal prohibition officers in Shelby county and brought to headquarters, he charged with being guardians of stills.

According to Chief Federal Officer N. L. Pierce, the dogs have been used by moonshiners for several months, viciously attacking officers who attempted to raid the stills. The raid was made near Pelham, where five men, three stills, a horse and 2,640 gallons of beer were seized.

Governor Halts Plan Presented by R. B. Howell

McKelvie Refuses to Open Telephone Regulation Question at Special Session of Legislature.

Governor McKelvie refused yesterday to open the question of telephone regulation at the special session of the state legislature which is to meet late this month. The governor's decision was announced at Lincoln when he made public a letter addressed to R. B. Howell, general manager of the Omaha metropolitan utilities district, who urged him Tuesday to take action.

Proposes Municipal Control. Mr. Howell proposed that cities and towns be given control of telephone rates, instead of having exclusive control vested in the state railway commission, as at present. He suggested further that competing telephone companies be required to exchange service, so that subscribers of one company could talk with those of another. A third proposal was that the metropolitan utilities district be authorized to establish a wireless telephone news service.

Holds Plan Unwise. The governor wrote Mr. Howell that the special session is being called for certain specific business purposes and that he does not believe that reason he does not propose, he said, to include any general legislation in the call. Under the constitution, the legislature cannot consider any subject not mentioned by the governor.

The governor said that he thought the proposal for municipal regulation of telephone rates and for competition of competing companies would be unwise in any case. "I do not believe," said Mr. Howell, "that action of the sort I recommended would go a long way toward ending the present telephone rate controversy. I see no reason why cities and towns should not have the same right to regulate telephone rates as they do water, gas and electric rates. The lack of enforced connection of competing companies was what killed telephone company competition years ago. If we have not had our automobiles, we would meet the present situation, where the public apparently is helpless in the face of increased telephone charges."

Harding Challenged on Blood of Negroes. New York, Jan. 4.—Charles Edward Russell, socialist writer and lecturer, tonight challenged President Harding to produce "any photograph or other kind of picture of the impassable gulf between the white and black races which he said existed." He declared that no microscope could detect the slightest difference between the blood of white and negroes and said this proved "that man is man, regardless of the color of his skin."

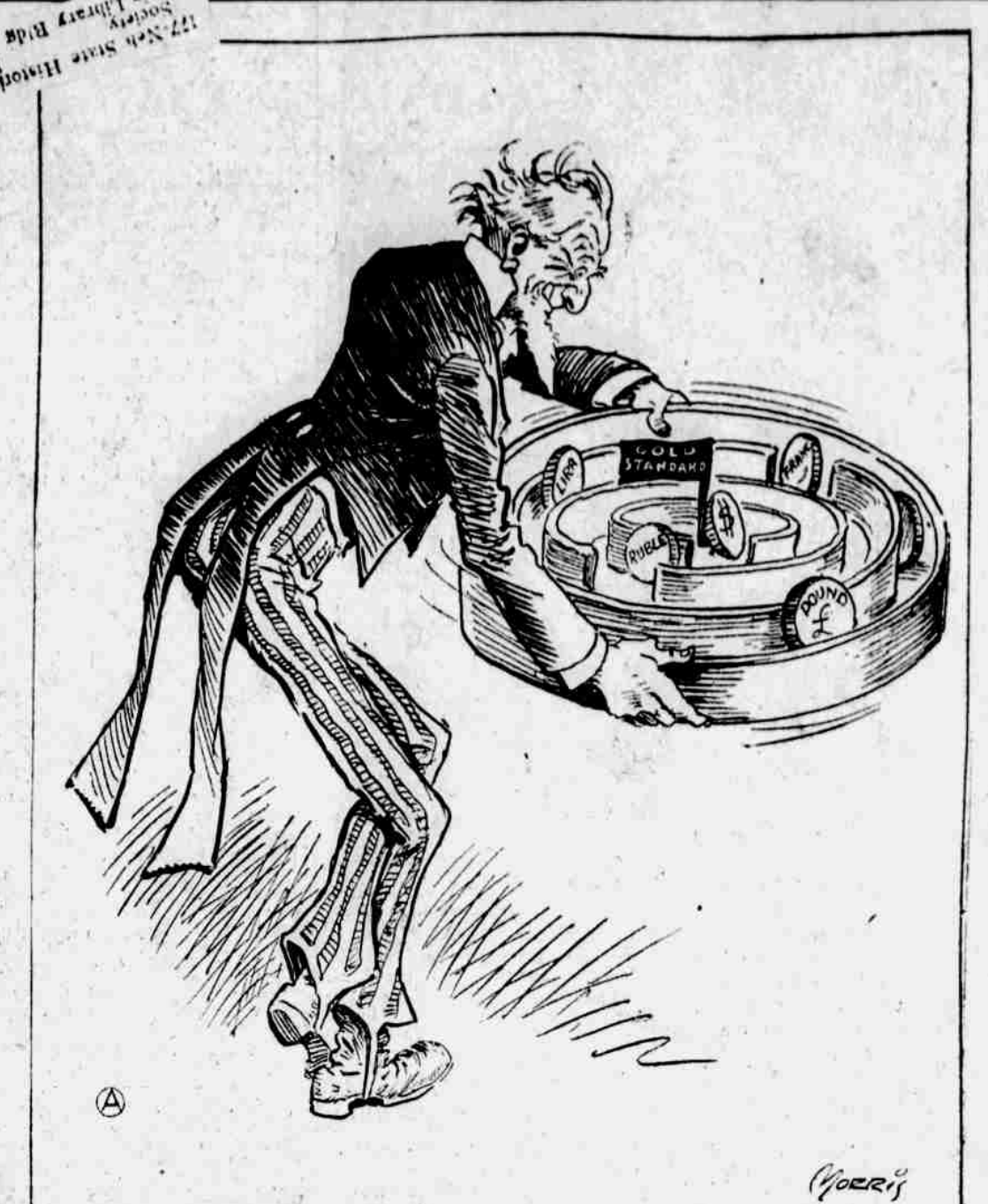
LaFollette's Charges Refuted by W. I. Drummond. Washington, Jan. 4.—Denial of recent charges by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin that an agreement not to push legislation to repeal the so-called guaranty section of the transportation act and to restore state control over intrastate rates was obtained from farm organization leaders at a conference here with representatives of the railroads and of coal, steel and other interests, was made today by W. I. Drummond of Kansas City, chairman of the board of governors of the International Farm congress.

Mr. Drummond, who attended the conference December 9, which was termed a "secret meeting" by Senator La Follette, declared the session was not a secret one and that the agricultural representatives held out "uncompromisingly" for repeal of the guaranty clause and that the railway executives agreed not to oppose its repeal.

Jolly Bandits Kidnap Victim for Auto Ride. "Get in the car and don't ask any questions," said one of three masked men who alighted from a closed automobile at Twenty-fourth and street at Fourteenth street Tuesday night at 11. The man addressed was C. B. Bogger, an office employee of the Sinclair Oil company, who was walking to his home, 3026 Fowler avenue. As a revolver was held against him, Bogger got in with the three men who laughed and talked as they sped to a lonely spot on the Carter lake drive. There Bogger and the men alighted, they took \$25 and a gold watch from him, gave him a car slug to ride home and told him to "beat it," which he did.

Japanese Place Contract for Rails With U. S. Firm. New York, Jan. 4.—(By A. P.)—The first large steel export contract of the year—13,000 tons of rails for the Japanese government—was announced today by the U. S. Steel Products company, the export agency of the U. S. Steel corporation. The rails will be manufactured at the Enslay plant of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company, the largest southern subsidiary of the U. S. Steel corporation.

The Trick Is to Get the European Currency Back to the Gold Standard



Investigation of House Furnishing Industry Ordered

Washington, Jan. 4.—Investigation by the federal trade commission of the house furnishings goods industry was directed in a resolution adopted late today by the senate. No. 11, about 200 yards north of the railroad yard limits here shortly before 6 tonight. Several persons were injured slightly but none seriously. The engineers and firemen jumped when they saw the collision was inevitable and were the most seriously injured, being badly bruised from the fall. Passengers on the train were badly shaken up and some slightly injured. On the train were a number of Fremont school teachers, returning to their duties, and a number of families, being badly bruised from the fall. The county attorney, when informed of the happening, stated that complaints would be filed against two women who are alleged to have arranged the flag. They will be charged with desecration of the flag and using it for purposes contrary to law, he said.

Northwestern Trains Crash Outside Wahoo Yard Limits—Passengers and Crew Escape Injury. Wahoo, Neb., Jan. 4.—(Special Telegram.)—Northwestern passenger train No. 28, northbound, collided head-on with an extra freight train. No. 11, about 200 yards north of the railroad yard limits here shortly before 6 tonight. Several persons were injured slightly but none seriously. The engineers and firemen jumped when they saw the collision was inevitable and were the most seriously injured, being badly bruised from the fall. Passengers on the train were badly shaken up and some slightly injured. On the train were a number of Fremont school teachers, returning to their duties, and a number of families, being badly bruised from the fall. The county attorney, when informed of the happening, stated that complaints would be filed against two women who are alleged to have arranged the flag. They will be charged with desecration of the flag and using it for purposes contrary to law, he said.

Women Pickets Use Flag to Halt Strikebreakers. Nebraska City, Neb., Jan. 4.—(Special.)—An American flag was stretched across the road leading to the packing house here by women pickets in an endeavor to stop strikebreakers from being taken to work in automobiles. A taxicab driver drove through and dragged the flag in the road. The county attorney, when informed of the happening, stated that complaints would be filed against two women who are alleged to have arranged the flag. They will be charged with desecration of the flag and using it for purposes contrary to law, he said.

Woman Severely Beaten When She Attempts to Work—Many Arrests Promised by County Attorney. Nebraska City, Neb., Jan. 4.—(Special.)—An American flag was stretched across the road leading to the packing house here by women pickets in an endeavor to stop strikebreakers from being taken to work in automobiles. A taxicab driver drove through and dragged the flag in the road. The county attorney, when informed of the happening, stated that complaints would be filed against two women who are alleged to have arranged the flag. They will be charged with desecration of the flag and using it for purposes contrary to law, he said.

Police Recover Auto Truck and Silk Valued at \$40,000. New York, Jan. 4.—A daylight holdup was reported by the police late today after the truck and its contents had been recovered. Charles Fritz, the driver, told the police that he and his two assistants had been held up by men in the Bronx, bundled into the robbers' car and taken to the woods near Van Cortlandt park, where they were ordered to walk north under pain of being shot. Circling through the woods, they returned to the city and notified the police. The truck was found in a garage, where it had been placed in storage.

Riverside, Cal., Mayor Killed 11 Hours After Taking Office. Riverside, Cal., Jan. 4.—L. V. W. Brown, who was inducted into office as mayor of Riverside at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning, was accidentally killed in an automobile accident near Upland, 18 miles north-west of here, at 9:30 o'clock last night. His secretary, Miss Monica Alverson of Phoenix, Ariz., and the mayor's sister also were in the car, but escaped injury. Brown was wealthy, his holdings including extensive interests in and near Phoenix.

Newberry Will Defend Himself in Senate. Washington, Jan. 4.—Senator Truman H. Newberry of Michigan plans to take the floor in the senate within the next few days to defend himself against the movement to oust him on charges that he spent too much money in his campaign against Henry Ford in 1918.

County Attorney Arrested. Wahoo, Neb., Jan. 4.—(Special Telegram.)—County Attorney H. A. Bryant was arrested here tonight by police, charged with being drunk and disorderly.

De Valera Presents New Treaty

Republican Leader Urges Association Between Ireland and Britain and Other Commonwealth States.

Buckley Opposes Plan

Dublin, Jan. 4.—On the reassembling of the Dail Eireann today the new version of Eamon de Valera's amendment was distributed to the members. It proposes a treaty of amity and association between Ireland and the governments of Great Britain and of the other states of the British commonwealth.

The amendment provides: "That inasmuch as the articles of agreement for a treaty between Great Britain and Ireland, signed at London December 6, 1921, do not reconcile Irish national aspirations and the association of Ireland with the community of nations known as the British commonwealth cannot be the basis of an enduring peace between the Irish and British peoples."

Treaty of Amity. "The Dail Eireann in the name of the sovereign Irish nation, makes to the government of Great Britain to the governments of the other states in the British commonwealth and to the peoples of Great Britain and of the several states, the following proposals for a treaty of amity and association which the Dail Eireann is convinced could be entered into by the Irish people with the sincerity of good will."

The complete text of the proposals, it was announced, would be put into the hands of the delegates before the motion was moved.

Mr. De Valera, after sharp exchanges with Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins over the much-mooted "document number," announced that he would move his alternative proposals tomorrow as an amendment to the Griffith motion for ratification of the treaty.

The question was raised whether Mr. De Valera, under the rules of the debate, would be permitted to make another speech. Session Starts. The first speaker at today's session was Donald Buckley of Kildare, who opposed the treaty.

"The people of this country have been stamped into acceptance of the treaty by the wrong press of Ireland," he said. "I shall vote against it."

Alexander MacCabe of Sligo followed with a plea for acceptance. While he was picturing the disappointed faces of millions of Irish women and children, he would feel if the treaty were rejected, Miss Mary MacSwiney interrupted him, saying the women were not in favor of the treaty. To this MacCabe retorted: "I know what the women of Ireland want as well as you."

Mrs. Pearse, mother of Patrick H. Pearse, the first president of the Irish republic, who was executed after the Dublin rising in 1916, spoke against the treaty. She declared she knew that her son, if he were alive, would vote for rejection.

Announcement was made during this afternoon's session of the Dail Eireann that Eamon De Valera would make public his alternative proposals as a substitute for the Anglo-Irish treaty at the close of the afternoon session.

Two Sisters Die in Fire Started by Still Blast. Cairo, Ill., Jan. 4.—Marie Hogan, 17, and Gladys Hogan, 9, sisters, were burned to death this morning in a fire which police attributed to the explosion of a still. The blaze destroyed the Hogan home. A still and several jugs of illicit whisky were found in the ruins. Dennis Hogan and his wife and three small children escaped.

Sproul Will Not Resign to Fill Vacancy in Senate. Philadelphia, Jan. 4.—Gov. William C. Sproul tonight announced he would not resign to take the senatorship made vacant by the death of Senator Boies Penrose.

"I should ever desire to go to the United States senate," he said. "I shall submit my candidacy to the people of the state in the regular way. In due time, I shall name a successor to Senator Penrose who will, I hope, commend himself to the state and the country," he said.

Sproul Denies Report He Will Resign Post at Once. Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 4.—Gov. William C. Sproul tonight dismissed reports that he would resign as governor to be appointed senator within 48 hours by saying the question of the succession to Boies Penrose would not be settled for some days, possibly not until early next week.

Admits Stealing \$21,500 to Gamble on World's Series. St. Louis, Jan. 4.—Carl Frank Abraham, 19, a bank teller, was sentenced to three years in the reformatory after he confessed that he utilized \$21,500 of his firm's money for betting purposes during the world's series.

K. of C. Get Cross. New York, Jan. 4.—The archbishop of Santa Domingo has presented to the Knights of Columbus a wooden cross made from the same tree from which Columbus constructed the cross with which he opposed the Atawak Indians in the battle of Cedro Santo.

The Weather Forecast. Thursday fair; rising temperature. Hourly Temperatures. 5 a. m. 21 10 a. m. 28 5 p. m. 33 11 p. m. 30