

## MILLIONS PAID BY PUBLIC FOR STOLEN GOODS

Former Express Messenger Tells of Conspiracy to Steal Merchandise From Company

### GOVERNMENT MONEY LOST

More Than Eight Million Paid Out by U. S. Treasury on Lost and Damage Claims

Macon, Ga., March 15.—Telling calmly how he stole hundreds of dollars worth of goods including bicycles, lawn mowers, suits of clothes, shirts, ladies' hose and dresses, R. C. Brinson of Millen, former express messenger, who pleaded guilty Monday to the charge of stealing from the American Railway Express Company, was the leading witness for the government today in the trial of the fifty-four men charged with conspiracy to steal \$1,000,000 worth of merchandise from the express company while it was under government control.

Brinson, who was the last witness of the day related how the stealing began when the wages of the express messengers were cut during the latter part of 1917; how the goods were disposed of through certain agents along the road; and how he and other messengers received orders for articles wanted.

**Business Too Big**  
Brinson said the express messengers formulated the combine to steal when the express company took away bonuses and dispensed with the checking system when the volume of business became too big to handle with books.

"W. A. Benson of Chattanooga, assistant to the vice president of the American Railway Express Company, in charge of accounts, testified that the American Railway Express Company has already been reimbursed for the amount of \$19,700,000 to cover loss incurred by the company during the six months guaranty period extending from March 1, 1920 to September 1, 1920. The loss and damage claims for that period will exceed \$12,000,000, according to Mr. Benson.

**Over \$8,000,000 Paid Out**  
Though the government has not yet paid \$12,000,000 for loss and damage claims, it has paid out an average of \$2,000,000 a month covering a period of four months. In January, 1921, \$834,893.75 was paid out in addition to the \$8,000,000 paid in 1920. This last sum was also paid to cover claims for traffic handled within the six months period.

Mr. Benson explained that claims paid under loss and damage accounts included expenses incurred through loss, damage and destruction. "The loss and damage was incurred through goods stolen," Mr. Benson said in answer to Mr. Powers' question on the matter.

Wallace Miller, attorney for thirty-two of the defendants conducted the cross examination for the defense. He asked Mr. Benson the deficit from operation during the six months. "The total deficit was \$30,899.90," Mr. Benson answered. "The gross receipts for the same period were \$62,772,560.56."

### YARN MILLS EXPECT CUTS IN PRODUCTION

Charlotte, N. C., March 15.—Further drastic curtailment in production by Southern soft and hard yarn spinning mills generally in the early future, was predicted today by Robert Chapman of Cheraw, S. C., president of the Southern Consolidated Yarn Spinners' association, following a meeting here of the executive committee of the organization.

Summarizing the present situation, Mr. Chapman declared that the yarn spinners realize that curtailment of production is inevitable, "unless there is a radical change in the market conditions, and that is not an immediate prospect."

Most of the mills are now running three and four days in the week, a small number are completely idle, while another small number are running full time "practically all of them running on hopes," with very few sales, said Mr. Chapman, adding that all night work has been eliminated long since.

The situation outlined, Mr. Chapman explained, is the basis for his prediction of more drastic curtailment of production in the near future.

### SUMTER MAN FACES SERIOUS CHARGES

Sumter, March 15.—W. H. Thomas, a white man of this community, is held in jail charged with a very serious crime. Late Sunday night, two negro men, Ellis Jackson and Richard Sumter dashed into police headquarters with a story of having been attacked by a white man while in the company of two negro women; that the white man had driven them away with a pistol and then had attempted to assault one of the women. Two officers, Carrigan and Chandler, set out immediately in the department's car for the place named, just beyond city limits, on West Hampton avenue. When they arrived they found Thomas struggling with a young negro woman whose clothing had been partly torn from her in the struggle. Thomas was taken into custody. He had been drinking and was under the influence of liquor. A warrant was sworn out charging him with attempted criminal assault and he will be tried at the next term of court. The witnesses against Thomas are two policemen, two negro men and one negro woman.

## HEAVY WEEK IN CRIMINAL COURT

Court convened in Manning Monday with Judge Peurifoy presiding. Solicitor Frank McLeod was right on his job as the convictions below will show. Mr. Stack is the stenographer. This term of court is the most largely attended session Clarendon county has ever experienced. In fact, there are more cases to be tried than ever before, and the court house is packed to overflowing every day. The grand jury finished their work late yesterday afternoon and the following is the presentment:

Presentment of Grand Jury for Spring term 1921:

To his Honor Jas. E. Peurifoy presiding judge:  
We the Grand Jury beg to report that we have taken up and carefully considered all bills handed us by the Solicitor and have passed on the same. The following committees have been appointed for the year.

**Finance Committee**  
T. Nimmer, T. M. Kennedy, G. M. Smith.

**Educational Committee**  
R. D. White, R. W. Chewning, H. D. Dubrow.

**Chaingang Committee**  
J. S. Ridgeway, E. A. Flemming, J. P. Coleman.

**Building Committee**  
S. M. Reardon, J. J. Barnes, G. C. Beaton.

We beg to say that we have appointed these committees, and that matters requiring the attention of the Grand Jury will be diligently and thoroughly looked after. Thanking His Honor for all courtesies shown us.

W. R. Keels  
Foreman.

### True Bills

Ella Kingwood, murder.

Charlie Wilder, assault and battery.

R. A. Pierson, assault and battery intent to kill.

Clarence Haynesworth, grand larceny.

Isaac Gibson, grand larceny.

Alex Lawson, grand larceny.

Isaac Gibson, forgery.

Remus White, violating prohibition law.

Richard Dears, disposing property under lien.

Laurence Griffin, disposing property under lien.

Philip White, grand larceny.

Jim Williams, grand larceny.

Cecil Williams, house breaking.

Lucius Otis, assault and battery intent to kill.

Ellison Bryant, seduction.

Quay D. Hood and Latta Hood, obtaining goods under false pretense.

Doe Townsend, stealing from house.

John Wesley alias Sam Richardson, house breaking and larceny.

Henretta Gamble, violating prohibition law.

Louis Scott, liquor.

R. H. Davis, liquor.

Henry Wilson, liquor.

Mott Gaymon, liquor.

Ben Holliday, liquor.

Jim Way, liquor.

Helton Richardson, liquor.

Pinckney Felder, liquor.

B. K. Drakeford, liquor.

York Gamble, assault battery intent to kill.

Romey David, house breaking and larceny.

Neta Plowden, assault battery with intent to kill, carrying concealed weapons.

Hester and Abraham Johnson, grand larceny.

William Dingle, grand larceny.

William Haley, official misconduct.

Frank Williams, violating check law.

Ellis Joe, July Felder, disposing property under lien.

### Cases Tried

Charlie Council, forgery, three years.

Ella Kingwood, murder, not guilty.

Charlie Wilder, three years.

R. A. Pierson, mistrial.

Clarence Haynesworth, two years and \$300.00.

Isaac Gibson, two years and \$300.

Alex Lawson, three years and \$500.

Isaac Gibson, three years and \$500.

Remus White, guilty not sentenced.

Richard Dears, two years or \$300.

Lawrence Griffin, guilty not sentenced.

Philip White, two years and \$500.

Jim Williams, two years and \$500.

## MISS TORA BAGNAL TO REPRESENT CLARENDON PALMAFESTA WEEK

Miss Tora Bagnal is the successful contestant to represent Clarendon at The Palmafesta to be held in Columbia March 28th to April 2nd. It is now up to Clarendon people to work and get her selection as the Queen of the Palmafesta. The Queen will be selected in the following manner: With each admission ticket into the display there will be attached a ticket giving the names of all the contestants. You vote for your favorite young lady and the one having the largest number of votes will be announced as Queen of the Palmafesta. So it is up to our people to get out the votes for Miss Tora. Write your friends in Columbia to vote for her as they go in the grounds. Have them get their friends to do the same and we will have Miss Tora riding on the Queen's float with all the pomp and glory of this festive occasion.

This will be a great honor to the winner as she will be selected out of forty-five young ladies from every county in the state except Richland. The successful contestant will be presented with the finest trossseau that can be purchased in Columbia; her picture will be taken by one of the leading picture companies and thrown on the screen in every picture house in the country. She will have a big court of attendants and will be given airplane rides over the city; in fact she will be the big "it." So everybody get busy and help make Miss Tora Bagnal the Queen of The Palmafesta. The Vote:

Miss Tora Bagnal.....4415  
Miss Myrtle DesChamps.....2750

## NO DEMAND FOR COTTON BY BELGIAN MILLS

Editor Manning Times:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Maybanks representative in Belgium, which he has kindly consented to allow me to publish. As it states the condition of trade and the future outlook for cotton in a clear and strong light and I do hope every farmer and merchant will read and can fully digest the advice he gives the American farmer, relating to the cotton crop we are now planting.

The farmer that has the credit or money and labor—that goes ahead and plants a full crop of cotton is a slacker—and should be ostracized at the banks when he calls for credit.

If we make a half crop this year, we will get a full price for this cotton we are holding and a good price for what we make this year.

F. C. Thomas,  
President Clarendon Branch American Cotton Association.

Ghent, Belgium, Feb. 11, 1921  
Messrs. John F. Maybanks & Co.,  
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sirs:  
My object in writing present letter is to make you further acquainted with conditions prevailing on this side:

The situation has remained unchanged since writing you last, and there can be no thought whatever of any business in Belgium. Spinners continue to resell their cotton amongst themselves at anything they can get for it for the sake of making money, and to delay the financial crisis. They are supplied for at least five to six months ahead on account of the enormous short time they had to work on, in order not to increase their already very big stocks of yarns.

I have told you before that, during the whole of this season, Texas and Orleans-Texas cotton has been much cheaper than other growths, so that practically no cotton other than Texas and Orleans-Texas has been bought here.

As I see the situation here, Belgian spinners must have lost approximately 100 million francs this season. Delay after delay of shipment is being asked for, and our competitors who have come out all the time with extremely low prices, and who got so to say most of the business done, are now in a terrible fix. Drafts, for cotton already shipped and invoiced, have to be re-issued. Under these circumstances we can only be glad we have not done any business, I can even say that I have not been too eager to sell cotton for any of my firms.

The situation of our spinners is really so deplorable, that it is almost a necessity for the American firms to help them. I must say that so far Belgian spinners have all behaved extremely well, as it was come to my knowledge that a good many French spinners have simply cancelled their contracts leaving the American shippers to get out of the situation as well as they could. Of course, law suits might be made, but it is really questionable whether much will be obtained by them.

It is only to be hoped that the American planter will see the danger of the situation, and will reduce his acreage to a minimum. It is the only salvation for the spinner as well as for the planter.

Unless the market improves very much within the next few months, I am afraid that many failures will have to be recorded.

I am, dear Sirs,  
Very truly yours,  
Paul Pfeiffer.

## NEW PLANS MADE IN IMMIGRATION

Commissioner Declares His Scheme Has Been Approved By Secretary of Labor

Washington, March 14.—Plans to divert immigrants from the cities and industrial centers and to coordinate agencies of the departments of interior, agriculture and labor to place the new comers on small farms were announced today by W. W. Husband, commissioner general of immigration. Mr. Husband, who succeeded Anthony J. Caminetti, was sworn in today.

The new commissioner general made public a plan approved by Secretary Davis which he declared would help solve the immigration problem and at the same time correct the economic situation arising from the flow of population to the larger cities.

"There is land enough in this country for millions of small farms," Commissioner Husband said.

"Our plan not to replace American farmers with foreigners but to create new farms and make new farmers thereby increasing the resources of the nation. Our immigration problem is largely a problem of distribution of the immigrants.

"The majority of our immigrants are peasants, and essentially farmers. Our plan is not to scatter these people out in sparsely settled sections and put them up against the problems that our pioneers went through. Neither do we plan to start foreign settlements or communities in the strict sense of the term, but we plan to group them, somewhat on the European village plan, and offer them the advantages of expert agricultural and home demonstration instruction through the department of agriculture and to aid them in taking advantage of the farm loan act.

"By handling the immigration problem in this manner we will do away with the 'red' danger. The farm with the advantages we can offer, will be the best sort of an Americanization school."

Washington, March 14.—A new issue of farm loan bonds to the amount of approximately \$75,000,000 will probably be offered for subscription in the next few days, treasury officials said tonight.

Issuance of new bonds, Commissioner Lobdell said at the time of the supreme court decision of February 28 upholding the legality of the federal farm loan act would be made as soon as possible but he intimated that it would be at least 30 days before the funds would be available for actual loaning.

"In the present money market the bond rate will have to be advanced to 5 per cent," Commissioner Lobdell said. "The interest rate to the borrowers will have to be correspondingly advanced to 6 per cent."

"The farm loan board is hopeful that the market may absorb farm bonds equal to the borrowing demands of the farmers of the country but not one can predict, with safety, the results of a financial operation of this magnitude."

## WAGES HAVE BEEN CUT

Newport News, Va., March 15.—"Wages have been cut, and will be cut twice and thrice. Food and clothing have come down, and must come down some more. Rents must come down or enough men will be laid off at the shipyards to bring them down." These were among the statements made by Homer L. Ferguson, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., and former president of the United States chamber of commerce in an address before the Rotary club tonight.

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS OF TWENTY YEARS AGO

March 20th, 1901

The Manning Methodist church is being repainted.

Smith & Dennis, merchants of Seloe, have moved to Timmonsville.

A big fire occurred in Sumter last Monday night with a total damage of about \$40,000.

Petitions from all the stations on the Central Railroad will be sent to the Railroad Commission, asking that the Atlantic Coast Line be required to run two passenger trains each way daily on this road.

The town council is putting the sidewalk in front of the stores facing the courthouse in good condition. This Council has had a great deal of good work done and it has kept the town out of debt too.

Hon. William Henry Thomas of Charleston died last Monday at the home of his father-in-law, Hon. James E. Tindal, near Felders.

W. E. Jenkinson was selling yard-wide Percales for 5c.

## WAGE REDUCTIONS TO BE OPPOSED

Railway Efforts Sure to Be Rejected

MANY WORKERS MEET  
First Official Refusal Expected to Be Submitted to New York Central

New York, March 14.—The wage reductions proposed for unskilled labor by the various railroads in the east probably will be rejected by the workers, a canvass of officials of the interested union organizations indicated here tonight. The first official announcement of the refusal of the reduction is expected tomorrow when representatives of the workers will meet in conference with officials of the New York Central and reply to that road's proposal to cut wages from 17½ to 21 per cent.

While no official statements were made by union leaders it was learned that the various organizations have been holding conferences here during the last few days and all have virtually agreed to decline the wage cuts and let the whole matter go to the railroad labor board at Chicago. The workers take the position that the figures and data submitted by the railroad do not show sufficient cause for the reductions and can not be substantiated in a hearing.

That the railroad workers had agreed on a policy to fight the reductions was indicated by their move in advancing the date one week for the second conference with the New York Central officials. This conference was originally set for March 22.

The latest reductions proposed by the railroads was made today by the Central Railroad of New Jersey which would cut wages of all unskilled labor from 10 to 17 cents per hour, effective April 1. Union representatives will make their final reply to this proposal on March 24.

Wage reductions ranging from 15 to 23 per cent. for marine workers employed by the railroads in New York harbor, it was also learned, have been agreed upon by the Official General Managers' association, an organization of general managers of all railroads with terminals at this port. The proposal will be submitted immediately to workers by the various railroads.

Philadelphia, March 14.—A conference between heads of four big railroad brotherhoods and members of the executive committee of the association of railway executives, was held here today in the office of Thomas DeWitt Cuyler, chairman of the association. At its conclusion it was announced progress had been made "in the discussion of matters of common interest." Further than this neither the railroad executives nor brotherhood representatives would discuss the meeting.

Chicago, March 14.—Four prominent railway executives are expected to take the stand before the United States railroad labor board next Friday in answer to a summons issued by the board today. T. DeWitt Cuyler, chairman of the association of railway executives and his assistant, Robert S. Binkard, will be called Friday morning. W. W. Atterbury, vice president of the Pennsylvania and Carl R. Gray, president of the Union Pacific, will take the stand later Friday or on Saturday.

Decision to request the appearance of the executives was made by the board today after Frank P. Walsh, attorney for the labor unions in the rules hearing now before the board, had refused to proceed with the case until the railway men had been called.

New York, March 14.—Marine workers employed on ferries, tugs, barges and other floating equipment of railroads in New York harbor will be asked within the next few days to accept wage reductions ranging from 15 to 23 per cent., it was learned here tonight.

## HARDING CALLED ON TO MAKE A DECISION

Republican Leaders in Squabbles Over Tariff Plan

PRESIDENT MOVING SLOW  
Approves Plan to Make Antidumping Legislation First on Program

Washington, March 15.—Approval was given by President Harding today to the proposal to make anti-dumping and American valuation of imports measures the first fiscal legislation to be enacted at the special session of Congress, called to meet April 11.

The President, meeting with Chairman Penrose and Fordney of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, respectively, agreed to the decisions reached at yesterday's conference of Republican members of the two committees and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, and it was indicated he promised to throw his influence behind the two measures definitely decided on.

The question of whether priority should be given tariff revision legislation or internal tax revision measures was still undecided, Senator Penrose and Representative Fordney said after their call on the President. Mr. Harding discussed the matter with them, they said, and in view of inability of Republican members of the two committees to reach a unanimous agreement on the question, indicated that he desired to consider the matter further before arriving at a recommendation.

**To Meet With President**  
Other members of the two committees, the chairman said, probably will be called into conference with the President with the idea of reaching an agreement acceptable, if possible, to all. The two chairmen stated that they expected to hold another conference with the President soon, probably before the end of the present week.

The President seemed to be in complete accord with the agreement reached at yesterday's conference that the anti-dumping and the American valuation of imports legislation be rushed through as soon as possible after Congress convenes, the two chairmen said. Chairman Fordney, whose committee will have charge of the drafting and reporting of the legislation, said the two measures probably would be compiled in one bill, which he said would be ready for consideration before the House as soon as it convenes.

**"Would Eliminate Advantage"**  
Anti-dumping legislation, as proposed at yesterday's conference, would be designed through a special tax to relieve American manufacturers from competition with imports selling below the cost of American products. The other proposed legislation would provide that ad valorem duties on imports shall be levied on the basis of the American dollar instead of on the valuation at the point of origin. This, sponsors of the legislation declare, would eliminate the advantage now held by foreign manufacturers through the difference in exchange.

The committee chairman, in discussing priority of tax or tariff revision, were understood to have laid before the President the view of the majority of the two committees that tariff legislation should have precedence with tax revision closely following. The views of those who believe that tax revision should precede any changes in the tariff also were understood to have been presented.

The President rode back to the White House from a game of golf to meet the two chairmen, and immediately went into conference with them, wearing his golf clothes. The conference lasted about three-quarters of an hour.

## TROTZKY TO ISSUE THIRD ULTIMATUM

London, March 15.—The Russian Soviet war minister, Leon Trotzky, has twice delivered an ultimatum to Kronstadt and will deliver a final ultimatum Wednesday, according to information received by the Riga correspondent of the London Times. From M. Joffe, head of the Russian peace mission in Riga, who has been so informed by the Russian foreign minister, M. Chicherin.

Trotzky's final ultimatum will declare: "If the town remains obdurate it will be stormed and razed."

American food supplies from Finland have reached Kronstadt.

## THREE WIVES, IS CHARGE

Atlanta, March 15.—Carl Devers Ford, held in jail here on State charges that he had three wives at one time, was indicted by the federal grand jury today for alleged violation of the Mann act.

Ford had one wife when he went into the army, was married in London to an English war worker, whom he met in France, brought her to this country and abandoned her and was married to the daughter of a Florida banker, according to the police. The federal indictment is based on the charge that he brought the English woman to this country when not legally married to her.

The first Mrs. Ford is residing with the former captain's parents in Hamilton, Ala., federal officials said, the second is here and the third has gone back to Florida and brought formal proceedings to have her marriage annulled.