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### Jury Convicts Seven Strikers

(Continued from page one)

nounced they thought conviction of second degree murder covered the assault charges. It took only seven minutes to arrive at a verdict in the three assault charges.

This was done at 12:52 p. m. but when the defense made a motion that the jury be polled as to each of the defendants on each of the charges one of the jurors became confused in his replies and declared he voted "not guilty" on the assault charges. Judge Barnhill then sent the jurors back for further deliberations and recessed for lunch.

On returning, the polling began anew, requiring an hour and five minutes time. Each of the jurors was asked twenty-eight questions, making a total of 336 questions asked. This was necessary because each of the seven defendants was under four indictments.

Before passing sentence, Judge Barnhill questioned three of the defendants, Harrison, McLaughlin, McGinnis, as to their part in the shooting of Chief Aderholt, which occurred on June 7 and also asked them questions about themselves and their families. None of these defendants had taken the witness stand.

When he had finished, he permitted defense attorneys to argue for light sentences for their clients, J. Frank Flowers, chief of the defense counsel, J. D. McCall and Thaddeus A. Adams, making pleas.

The shooting of Chief Aderholt and the other officers occurred June 7 at the tent colony of strikers and head-

quarters of the National Textile Workers union, strikers of the Loray mill in Gastonia. The police chief was fatally wounded and Gilbert, Roach and Ferguson and George Carter, a defendant, were wounded in the firing that followed the appearance of the officers at the union grounds. The first effort to try the case was made in Gastonia July 28 but a change of venue was granted because of alleged high feeling against the defendants. The next trial in Charlotte was halted when one of the jurors became suddenly insane on September 9 after the case had entered its third week. Three weeks were consumed in trial of the case this time.

Immediately after convening this morning, Judge Barnhill began his charge to the jury and completed it in two hours and fourteen minutes. The jury was excused immediately and in 57 minutes the foreman knocked on the door of the jury room and informed Avery W. Johnson, deputy sheriff, that a verdict had been reached.

The prisoners were brought in and announcement as to the second degree verdict was made.

The jury was composed of nine farmers, a merchant, an automobile assembly plant employee and a retired merchant. In it were John L. Todd, E. L. Moore, J. A. Helms, C. L. Hill, Zeke Johnston, J. W. Elliott, J. T. Faires, M. B. Flowe, J. B. Lawing, H. T. McCauley, S. L. Manson, Jr., and R. N. Keziah.

The defense, after giving notice of appeal, was granted until January 15 to perfect it. The state then will have until March 1 to make the reply.

A number of formal motions were made by the defense, one of them being a request for the verdict to be set aside because "the solicitor made an appeal as might be calculated to have roused the emotions of the jury against the defendants as to deny them a fair trial."

When called before Judge Barnhill, McGinnis told him he was a Gastonia boy and had never been in trouble with the exception of a fist fight. McLaughlin, after declaring he had never been in court before, declared he fired his gun after a man near the police automobile fired a shot. He said he did not know how many guards there were and that Hendricks was not on the grounds at the time of the shooting.

Harrison showed the judge his arm which still had marks from the bullet wounds. Asked why he had come South, he said he "just wanted to look round." He declared he took no part in the shooting. In arguing for a light sentence, Attorney J. D. McCall declared he had never seen a case in North Carolina in which there was so much prejudice exhibited. "It is utterly impossible," he said, "to get a fair trial for these defendants at least in this end of the state." He also said the newspapers had helped stir this prejudice.

Judge Barnhill replied by saying the only criticism that had been voiced of his conduct of the trial was in one instance where some newspapers charged he was admitting testimony adverse to the defendants.

A statement issued tonight by International Labor defense, which directed the defense of the seven union members, said the verdict "was a temporary victory of the Southern capitalist class over the working class."

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## THE TALE LITE

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Published for the benefit of the motorists of Clinton and vicinity by the

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E. D. CRAIG, Editor

Our motto — As they show, so shall we peep.

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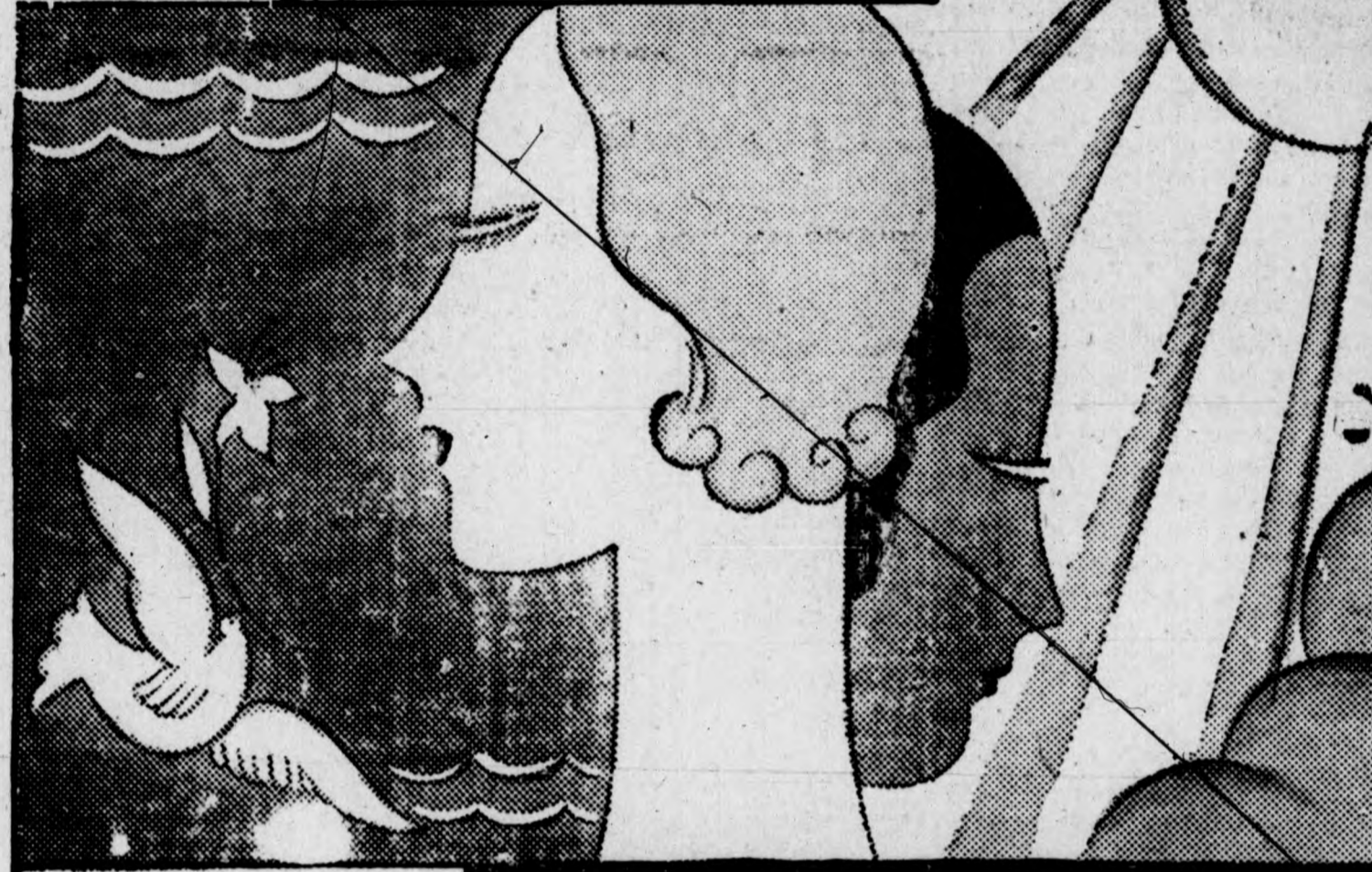
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