

# PROSECUTION

## Center of Interest in Mer Rouge Case Shifted to Official Conference in New Orleans

Bastrop, La., Dec. 28.—Chief interest in the Morehouse kidnaping case today shifted to New Orleans, where Governor Parker, Attorney General Coco and Special Prosecutor Adams are scheduled to confer regarding policies to be followed in the open hearings starting January 5th. A warrant for the arrest of Dr. McKoin, former mayor of Mer Rouge was issued yesterday. This was believed would make it unnecessary for the state to show its evidence in the effort to have the physician brought here. The masked mob that kidnaped Wart Daniels and Thomas Richards, who were found dead in the lake, consisted of seventy-five men, according to the investigators. They claim that practically every member of the mob is known.

## HOW FAST CAN WE GO?

### State Can Not Move Out of All Difficulties on Good Roads

(Charleston Evening Post). As to the proposed state bond issue of \$25,000,000 or \$50,000,000 for the building of cement roads criss-cross of South Carolina there is much to be said. Nothing would go farther toward developing the resources of the state than easy communication between its several parts. Nothing would do so much to bring other people into its borders who might stay and help to make the country. And, besides, the people who wheel about in motors want the roads and they are going to have them somehow. Perhaps that is the last and the only word on the whole subject that amounts to anything.

The Columbia State, however, ventures another. "To what amount," it asks, "shall the state mortgage the future for hard roads?" and, while not attempting to say it does say "that not good roads alone will save the state." In every part of South Carolina, it is pointed out, school houses and equipment are needed, a round million being required alone in Columbia. Every state college, it is noted, except one, is overcrowded. The State favors good roads as everybody else does but it does "not forget that the state's powers are limited and that a people can not motor at 30 miles per hour over asphalt out of all difficulties and vexations." What, then? Why, says our Columbia contemporary, let us sit down and figure out what we need to make South Carolina better and more useful and greater in every way; let us then figure how much money we can raise toward accomplishing these objects and toward meeting the needs that are most obvious; let us remember that what we raise must be by taxation and that we can not raise by taxation more than our resources justify, that is, more than the people can pay out of their earnings in industry and agriculture and investment. Will this be enough to return the interest on and retire the sums suggested as principal for investment in the building of a system of hard surfaced roads up and down, back and forth of the state? If so, then let us mortgage the future and go about getting the great desideratum. But, if not it might be well, it will be necessary, to consider somewhat more upon the question of road building in one great sweep than is possible in a one day or even a two day conference of enthusiastic advocates of good motor highways. How fast can we travel and how far can we go on the taxes we have at our command must be the determining factor in this problem.

**Fire At Manning Causes Heavy Loss**  
Manning, Dec. 20.—A disastrous Sunday midnight fire ushered in the Christmas anniversary in a most spectacular manner. The Thomas Livery Stables, located in the rear of one of the most prominent business blocks of Manning, and with the stables crowded with horses and mules, was completely destroyed by fire; also the office of W. G. King, cotton buyer and a negro drug store.

The Western Union Telegraph office, the Bank of Manning, the Manning Times office building and T. M. Nimmers' colonial residence were in close proximity to the fire. A total destruction of the block seemed inevitable, but by the splendid activity of the fire department and with only a light breeze the flames were held in sway to the protection of the front building.

There were about twenty-five horses and mules locked up in the stalls, approximately forty hogs together with tons of foodstuffs and forage. The doors of the stables were broken down and with poles and sticks men rushed in to drive out the animals but no sooner were they driven out than they made a dash back into the burning building. Two fine veteran horses belonging to the town were among the horses that made a leap back into the stalls and were burned to a char.

The estimated loss from the fire is \$40,000 with an insurance of about \$6,000. These days nobody seems to dance without a struggle.

# ANARCHIST PLOT IN COLUMBUS

## Police Claim to Have Discovered Plan to Blow Up Number of Buildings

Columbus, Ga., Dec. 27.—This city was stirred as it had not been in years when announcement by officials was made late today of the discovery of an alleged plot to blow up the homes of all five of the city commissioners, an apartment house, and a factory. The authorities have taken precautions to prevent the carrying out of the schedule of murder and destruction.

The county grand jury will meet tomorrow morning to make a full investigation of the affair. It was announced tonight. The names of several persons believed to have information regarding the plot were placed into the hands of the foreman of the jury by the city commission and it is expected they will be subpoenaed to appear before the body.

The active plotters, according to the police, are about a dozen men, criminals, anarchists and persons who are believed to be enraged over the strict enforcement of the prohibition law here. They have in their possession 100 pounds of TNT enough to wreak wholesale destruction, according to information in the hands of the city authorities.

Tonight the homes of the five city commissioners, the Dimon court apartments, the largest building of its kind in the city, and the factory of the National Show Case company, of which Mayor J. Homer Dimon is president, are all under guard, while the city is at high tension.

While these precautions have been taken, officials do not believe any attempt will be made tonight to carry out the plans of the alleged bomb plotters because of the publicity given to their scheme.

Police officials say the plotters met last night in a local cemetery and mapped out the plans for the attack. They charge that among 12 men attending the meeting were members of the police, malcontents, criminals and one or two persons from the Alabama cities across the Chattahoochee river.

Discovery of the plot was announced at a citizens' meeting at a local hotel this afternoon, following a session of the city commissioners, at which time Judge Geo. P. Munro and Foreman Frank G. Lumpkin of the grand jury were called into conference.

A verbal resolution was adopted at the meeting requesting the city commissioners as the constituted authorities to meet and recommend any steps they might deem necessary to forestall violence. The aid of those present was pledged to the commission in the fight against the lawless element.

## COLUMBUS GRAND JURY CONVENES

Columbus, Ga., Dec. 28.—Muscookee county grand jury convened in special session today to investigate the alleged bomb plot that was unearthed late yesterday. It was reported that an effort would be made to blow up the homes of the five city commissioners, an apartment house, and a large factory. The police guarded the buildings last night. The police claim to know all the plotters.

## OPPOSED TO BOND ISSUE

### Senator Johnson, of Allendale, Raises Point of Heavy Interest Charge

Allendale, Dec. 24.—Opposition to a bond issue for the construction of highways in the state was expressed here today by J. Henry Johnson, state senator for Allendale county. He favors the building of highways of the state through the gasoline and automobile taxes together with a small property tax. The interest on \$50,000,000 worth of bonds, which he says he believes would be the smallest sum feasible, would amount to two million dollars a year and this sum could as well be spent on the roads. He was discussing the plan broached at a recent meeting of citizens at Columbia which is now in the hands of a committee of seven for formal preparation of a plan to be laid before the legislature after another mass meeting.

Declaring he was against the proposed bond issue the senator continued:

"I do favor a state system of highways, however, but believe that South Carolina can construct and maintain same without a bond issue. In my opinion, it would be necessary to issue bonds in the sum of \$50,000,000, the annual interest on which would amount to \$2,000,000, and, since, we could not well expend more than \$5,000,000 a year, I believe that this sum could be raised by means of the gasoline tax, the automobile license fees and a small property tax. The two million dollars annual interest on the bond issue could thus be expended in building roads to a better advantage than expending it as interest."

Senator Johnson, who is 35 years old, has served two terms as state senator, one from Barnwell county and the other from Allendale. He was elected last fall for his second term from Allendale. He is an attorney, having graduated from The Citadel in 1906 and the law department of the University of South Carolina in 1909.

# CHRISTIANS PERMITTED TO FLEE

## Turks Reluctantly Agree to Let Christians Leave Asia Minor

Constantinople, Dec. 27 (By the Associated Press).—The Turkish Nationalist government has notified the American embassy here that it has decided to permit Greek vessels to enter Black sea ports for the embarkation of Christian refugees from Asia Minor on condition the ships are not under the Greek flag and that they be escorted and under surveillance of American destroyers.

This is a complete reversal of policy on the part of the Ankara government, which only a short time ago categorically refused a request for such permission transmitted by the American naval authorities here. The new move comes on the heels of the Turkish concession restoring to Christians full freedom to leave Anatolia whenever they desired. Both changes of front are believed here to have resulted from the pressure brought to bear on the Turkish delegation at the Lausanne conference, particularly from the American delegation, and the Turks' realization that their previous measures had created a bad impression throughout the world.

As soon as the new decision became known the American Near East relief, which from the start has shouldered the burden of responsibility for assisting the Christian exiles to leave Anatolia, began extending its rescue machinery to include adults as well as orphans and wireless messages were sent to all its Black sea coastal and intercoastal stations.

Greek steamers, which had been waiting at the Golden Horn, were soon under way, accompanied by American destroyers. An American relief worker is traveling aboard each ship and all the vessels are well stocked with food-stuffs provided by the Near East relief. Bases for the conveying destroyers have been established by the American naval authorities at Samasun, the principal embarkation point on the Black sea, in the Bosphorus, at Constantinople, and at Piraeus, Greece, from which port refugee ships are starting.

The new scheme provides free transportation for the exiles for the first time since the exodus began and obviates the necessity of transshipment from allied vessels to Greek boats at Constantinople. It will accelerate the refugee movement, permitting the departure of tens of thousands who remained in the interior because of their lack of funds or through fear of making the long trek through winter roads to the coastal towns, only to find no ships awaiting them.

## DISCUSSION OF REPARATIONS

### French Would Operate on Left Bank of Rhine to Put Up Barriers

Paris, Dec. 24 (By the Associated Press).—Reparations and guarantees were the subject of a meeting today between Premier Poincare, M. Revel, minister of liberated regions, M. de Lasteyrie, minister of finance, Yves Le Trocquer, minister of public works, Louis Barthou, president of the reparations commission, and other prominent personages. The meeting lasted three hours.

An official note issued at the conclusion of the conference specified that nitrates demanded from Germany was among the matters discussed. It added that officials from the ministry of liberated regions gave an account of the recent mission to Berlin and of the difficulties they encountered.

In connection with this meeting The Matin says the government is anxious to have a plan for operating on the left side of the Rhine ready almost to details, including the establishment of a customs barrier between the Rhineland and the Ruhr basin on the one hand and the rest of Germany on the other. The government at the same time attaches the utmost importance to having the true nature of the plan understood. It is distrustful on productive guarantees, not a military expedition intended to annex territory.

The intervention of the army, continues The Matin, is foreseen only to an extent necessary for the protection of customs employees or control of German state property.

A Toulon dispatch to this paper says that the maritime prefect has been invited by telegraph to name several conferring engineers who hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the Ruhr. The mission of the officers will be to supervise production in case occupation of the basin is decided upon.

A Havas dispatch from Berlin says the French demand for nitrates amounts to 60,000 tons, to be delivered on account of reparations. The German government, however, has declined to meet this demand on the ground that the German production is far from sufficient to cover domestic needs.

## MR. DERIEUX VISITS COLUMBIA

Columbia, Dec. 28.—James C. Derieux, former secretary to Gov. Robert A. Cooper and his wife are spending the holidays with Mr. Derieux's father, the Rev. W. Derieux here. Mr. Derieux is on the staff of a New York magazine.

## THE MER ROUGE MYSTERY

### Factions in Morehouse Parish Put Up Money to Carry on Legal Battle

Bastrop, La., Dec. 27.—Civil and military authorities today followed through the red low hills and swamps of Morehouse Parish the trail they believe was taken by the masked and robed men on the afternoon and night of August 24 when five men were kidnaped and two murdered.

The trail covered a distance of about twenty-five miles from a point on the Bastrop-Mer Rouge highway where the men were kidnaped here. His friends in Morehouse Parish near where the bodies of the two were found last week. The reconnoiterers were seeking additional evidence implicating those responsible for the mysterious dynamiting that released the bodies from the bottom of the lake where they had been weighted down four months.

The day was devoid of local developments. All eyes were turned toward Baltimore where Dr. E. M. McKoin, former Mer Rouge mayor was battling against extradition to Louisiana where he is to face a charge of murder in connection with the case.

That the legal fight to bring him back may develop another historic incident similar to the efforts to get former Governor Taylor of Kentucky out of Indiana, to stand trial for the murder of Governor Goebel of the Blue Grass state in Frankfort, Ky., two decades or more ago, is the belief expressed today by friends of the former mayor.

It developed during the day there be unlimited funds available to the countless friends to assist the physician who does not want to remain in Louisiana. It is generally conceded that the adjoining parishes were coming up in his behalf. Many messages of reassurance were sent his family at Monroe, where his wife, children and parents reside.

That bond in six figures would be available in the event bail would be permitted is generally conceded. A sum of \$350,000 was said to have been available for the release of T. J. Burnett, former deputy sheriff, the first arrest in the case. A fee of \$25,000 was reported to have been offered to a certain firm of lawyers to lead in his defense. Since the incarceration of Burnett, various strangers have reached the town held brief conversations with the prisoner and then departed on the next train, it is known.

Governor Parker at Baton Rouge today conferred with Special Prosecutor St. Clair Adams, one of the state's leading criminal lawyers, regarding the course to be followed in the McKoin extradition. Requisition papers on the governor of Maryland are being prepared. Attorney General Coco and his assistants reached New-Orleans today to outline the plans for the January open hearing and discuss the investigation program. The attorney general declared evidence would show Daniels and Richards had been tortured before being put to death.

The events of each succeeding day are more sharply dividing the people of the Mer Rouge community. The town and the outlying sections are regarded as armed camps. State troops are stationed here to prevent an outbreak.

## McKOID HABEAS CORPUS HEARING

Baltimore, Dec. 28.—Three judges presided in the city court here today in the habeas corpus proceedings brought by Dr. E. M. McKoin, former mayor of Mer Rouge, La., who is fighting his return to that state on the murder charge preferred by Governor Parker. Dr. McKoin's attorney announced that he will fight extradition to the last ditch.

The judges refused to order Dr. McKoin's release on bond. They remanded him to await the Louisiana officials.

## WILSON'S REPORT

### Commissioner of Education Submits Review of System of State

Dec. 28.—In spite of the fact that the work of this department is not to be abridged or curtailed in any way, the public interest in all its forms is the greatest need of South Carolina. Our common schools, and colleges are full of students. Our girls are our greatest asset. The greatest asset we can have is our children.

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## JOINS STATE WAREHOUSE SYSTEM

Columbia, Dec. 28.—The warehouse of the Farmers' Storage company of Darlington will be received into the state warehouse system Friday, December 29, under arrangements made by the owners with J. Clifton Rivers, state warehouse commissioner. This warehouse is bonded and has a capacity of 4,000 bales of cotton.