

DRAWING UNBIASED JURY WORRIES MER ROUGE OFFICIALS

State Fears Fraternal Ties Will Outweigh Good Citizenship in Trial of Terrorists Accused of Murder.

By United Press
MER ROUGE, La., Dec. 30.—Can an unbiased jury be drawn in Morehouse parish to try those responsible for the murders of F. Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards?

Will fraternal ties outweigh good citizenship and can a body of twelve men be found in the parish that is not related to the accused members of the Ku-Klux Klan, rightly or wrongly accused of the crimes?

These are the questions that are worrying Federal and State officials in their attempt to ferret out the terrorist activities of the hooded band in the Louisiana town.

Arrest of forty or more prominent citizens on charges of murder are awaited today as the next step in the State's effort to solve the slayings.

Citizens of Morehouse parish were all expectant, believing any moment officials would swoop down and make the arrests. Many under surveillance were said to mask their activities as they marked the faces during the escapades last August.

The State worked in secrecy, as the natural clanishness of the folks of southern Louisiana farm country has been strengthened since the arrival of the troops.

With two men under arrest, Dr. R. M. McKoin, former mayor of Mer Rouge, in jail at Baltimore and T. J. Burnett held at Mer Rouge, Attorney General Cocco declared that confessions of other members of the mob has resulted in preparations of a clean-cut case against them, despite the fact there may be no convictions. Public hearings on the activities of the invisible empire are to be held on Jan. 5.

WORLD IS R. COVERING SANITY—LLOYD GEORGE

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tion of their offensive and defensive forces. Restrictions and reductions have been often imposed in peace treaties by triumphant nations upon their beaten foes. The Versailles treaty is an example of that operation. But at Washington the victors negotiated mutual cutting down of navies built for national safety and strengthened by national pride.

One Disturbing Factor

It is true that France and Italy have not yet ratified the arrangement arrived at. That is a disturbing factor; their attitude, if persisted in, may ultimately have the effect of upsetting a balance it took months of care and thought to adjust. We must, however, continue to hope that wiser counsels will prevail when wiser counsels are listened to.

MEANWHILE, FRIENDS OF PEACE HAVE SOLD GROUND FOR THEIR RESOLVING IN CONTINUATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS ALREADY EFFECTED IN THE NAVAL PROGRAMS OF THE MOST POWERFUL MARITIME COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD—Britain, the United States and Japan—as a direct result of the Washington negotiations. American statesmanship has given a lead of which it is entitled to boast, and 1922, when it departs, is entitled to claim that this triumph of good understanding has brought a measure of glory which will give it peculiar splendor amongst the years of the earth's history.

The gatherings at Cannes and Genoa can also claim outstanding merit in the large and growing family of international conferences. At Washington the allies alone foregathered. At Cannes and Genoa nations came together which had only recently emerged out of deadly conflict with each other.

"Without Recognition"

At each conference I met on both sides men who had only just recovered from severe wounds sustained in this struggle. At Cannes, French, Belgian, Italian and Japanese, as well as British ministers and experts, sat down in council with German ministers and experts to discuss the vexed question of reparations without taunt or recrimination. There was calm recognition not only of the needs of the injured countries, but also of the difficulties of the offending State. Outside and beyond the German problem there was a resolve to eliminate all the various elements of disturbance, political and economic, that kept Europe in ferment and made its restoration impossible.

It was decided to summon all late belligerent nations to a great conference at Genoa to discuss reconstruction. To these were added the neutral nations of Europe. It was a great decision.

Here Are Obstacles

There were three obstacles in the way of realizing the program. First was the stipulation of France that specific problems raised by the treaty of Versailles should be excluded altogether from the purview of the conference. This was a grave limitation of its functions and chances. Still, if the Cannes sittings had continued an arrange-

Motive?

Why were F. Watt Daniel and Thomas F. Richards lured from their homes by a masked and hooded band, beaten and mutilated, slain and thrown into Lake La Fourche?

The motive behind this Louisiana tragedy is being sought by secret service men who have been aiding Attorney General A. V. Cocco and State authorities in their probe, carried out under protection of militia machine guns.

The masked men, secret service men learned, accused Richards and Daniel of being bootleggers and habitual lawbreakers. Investigation has disproved this charge.

Richards operated the Mer Rouge garage. Hatred between him and the masked men was born when they held a banquet in his garage and he demanded an aisle be kept open for cars, according to agents.

Later Dr. D. M. McKoin, then mayor, was said to have been fired at with a shotgun while driving his car. The hooded men sought to implicate Richards. But secret service men have shown that McKoin could not have been in the car when the shot was fired. McKoin is held without bail at Baltimore on a murder charge.

When kidnapped, the two men were threatened and the hooded band refused to allow them to speak in their defense. It is said, Richards bitterly denounced the hooded men and swore he would divulge to the authorities the names of those he recognized.

Since the finding of the bodies, two members of the mob are said to have confessed, implicating forty-five others.

ment might have been arrived at there together, and then with the Germans, which would have helped the deliberations of Genoa.

The second obstacle was the refusal of America to participate in the discussions. Why? There were probably good reasons for that refusal, but the Recording Angel alone knows them all fully and accurately.

The third obstacle was the fall of the Briand ministry and the substitution of a less sympathetic administration.

In spite of all these serious drawbacks Genoa accomplished great things. It brought together into the same room enemies who had not met for years except on the battlefield. They conferred and conversed around the same table for weeks. They broke bread and drank wine together at the same festive boards. Before the conference came to an end there was an atmosphere of friendliness which was in itself a guarantee of peaceable relations for the delegates who represented the nations at Genoa were all men of real influence in their respective countries.

But, however important the intangible result, there was much more achieved. Thirty nations represented in assembly entered into a solemn pact not to commit any act of aggression against their neighbors. When they entered the conference there were few of them who were not oppressed with suspicions that these neighbors meditated violence against their frontiers.

One of the most promising results of the pact and the improved atmospheric conditions out of which

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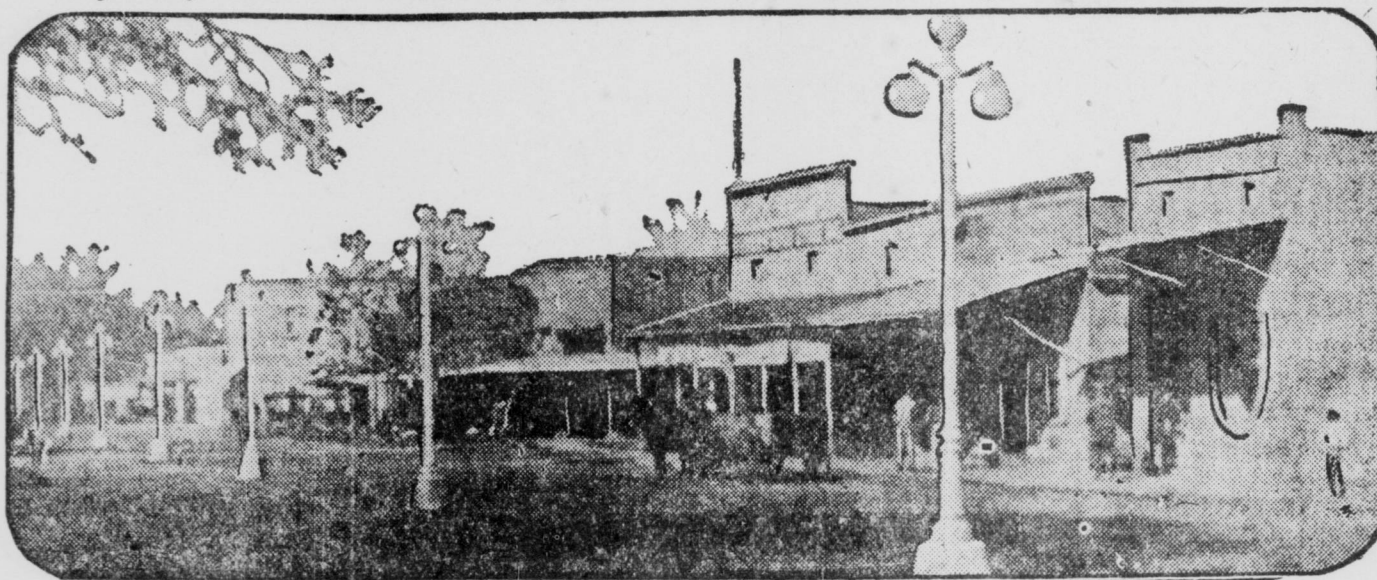
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That removes a real menace to European peace. If a reduction of armies in the east of Europe is followed by a corresponding reduction in the west, the reign of peace is not distant.

Friendly Understanding

This is not the time to dwell upon the important agreements come to at Genoa on questions of exchange, credit and transport. All the recommendations made depend for their successful carrying out on the establishment of real peace and friendly understanding between Nations. Peace and good will on earth is still the only healing balm for idealists to preach and statesmen to practice. Without it, plans and protocols must inevitably fail.

Where does peace stand? The weary angel is still on wing, for the waters have not yet subsided. She may, perhaps, find a foothold in the great west, and Britain is fairly safe—not yet Ireland. But the continent of Europe is still swampy and insecure.

The debate in the French chamber on reparations is not encouraging. The only difference of opinion in the discussion was that displayed between those who advocated an advance into the Ruhr and seizure of pledges further in German territory, and those who preferred "developing" the left bank of the Rhine. Occupying, controlling, developing, annexing—they all mean the same thing—that the province to the left bank of the Rhine is to be torn from Germany and grafted into France.

"It Is Sinister Note"

There is no peace in this talk. It is a sinister note on which to end the pacific music of 1922. You must interpret it in connection with another event of 1922—the Russo-German agreement. Since then, Chicherin—the spirit of mischief incarnate—has almost made Berlin his abode. The men who are devoting their ingenuity to devising new torments for Germany are preparing new horrors for their own and their neighbors' children.

The year ends with rumors of

great American projects for advancing large sums of money to all and sundry in the hope of settling the vexed question of German reparations. The loan, it is surmised, will be accompanied by guarantees on the part of France not to invade German territory. Some go so far as to conjecture that it is to be an essential condition of participation in this Christmas bounty of Madame Rumor that France is to reduce her armies to undertake not to exceed the Washington limits for her navies.

Nobody seems to know, and I am only repeating the gossip of the press. But if the 350,000,000 pound sterling loan is likely to materialize, its projectors are wise in imposing conditions that would afford them some chance of receiving payment of moderate interest in the lifetime of this generation. No prudent banker would lend money on the security of a volcano.

The Veddas, now an almost extinct race of Ceylon, have none of them ever been known to laugh and they seem unable to tell a lie.

INDIANAPOLIS ROTARIANS GOING TO MICHIGAN CITY

Reserve Ten Pullmans to Attend Conference.

Indianapolis Rotarians are making preparations to attend the annual conference of the Rotary Clubs of the Twentieth district at Michigan City, Feb. 21 and 22.

The local club has made reservation for ten Pullmans. The Indianapolis delegation will be accompanied by a glen club and other entertainers. Michigan City is expecting 2,000 visitors.

OWSLEY ON TOUR

Alvin Owsley, American Legion national commander, has left national headquarters here on an extensive speaking tour of the West. He will address meetings sponsored by the legion in Texas, California, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota and Illinois, returning to national headquarters about Jan. 14.

BULLETS HASTEN THIEF'S RETREAT

Four shots from a revolver caused a would-be burglar to set a new speed record at 2:30 a. m. today.

Yates Green, 3515 W. Twelfth St., was awakened by his wife who heard the gate in the rear yard open. Green listened and heard a noise in the rear of the house. Obtaining his revolver, Green went to the kitchen. He heard the thief working on the lock of the back door.

"What do you want?" demanded Green. The prowler started to run. Opening the door Green fired four shots. Green does not know whether he hit the man. He believed the man was colored and that he wore a cap. It was the second attempt of a burglar to break into Green's home.

GUNMAN WOUNDS GIRL AND KILLS POLICE OFFICER

Slayer Dies at Hospital as Result of Fatal Shots From Patrolman's Revolver.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—A gunman shot a high school girl when she refused to speak to him, and killed a policeman in trying to escape here early today. The had man died in the hospital from wounds inflicted by the policeman's companion, Patrolman S. R. Kennedy.

The victims: William J. O'Malley, policeman, killed.

John Riese, one of three gunmen, died in county hospital.

Minnie Finkelstein, 17 years old, high school student, shot in the hip by Riese.

Miss Finkelstein was walking home from the Medill High School room at 1:30 a. m. with her brother Isadore and another couple.

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