

GARY CONSPIRACY CASE IS SET FOR TRIAL MARCH 14

Prosecution Loses Point When
Judge Sustains Demurral
on Strong Count.

Dismissal of the fifth count of the indictment in the Gary liquor conspiracy cases pending in Federal Court will not cripple the Government's case, Homer Elliott, United States district attorney, said today. He said that all evidence gathered in the case can be presented under the other counts of the indictment.

Rumors of breaks in the ranks of the sixty-six defendants entering pleas of not guilty were current today.

Two defendants will change their pleas to guilty at the first opportunity, according to stories in circulation.

Trials will start March 14 before Judge Anderson in Federal Court. Of the seventy-five indicted, sixty-six entered pleas of not guilty Friday, one, Mike Drakulich of Indiana Harbor, pleaded guilty, and eight have not been arrested.

The prosecution was believed to have received a severe blow when Judge Anderson sustained demurrers to the fifth count of the indictment, charging the defendants conspired to commit fraud against the Government by building up a corrupt political machine to prevent law enforcement. It was said it was upon this count that Homer Elliott, United States district attorney, relied to get convictions against Roswell O. Johnson, Gary mayor, and other Gary and Lake County officials.

Demurrers to the first four counts, charging conspiracy to transport, sell and manufacture liquor and maintain nuisance were overruled. It is upon these counts that the defendants will be tried.

SCHOOLS FACED BY MONEY LIMIT

Another Blow Dealt Board in
Durham Bill.

The Indianapolis school board has received another blow.

Passage of the Durham bill limiting the bonded indebtedness of taxing units to 1½ per cent of the valuation of taxable property would make it impossible for the school city to borrow any more money except on petition of 10 per cent of the taxpayers, according to Walter Twiname, business manager of the board. The present bonded limit is 2 per cent of taxable valuation. The bill has been passed by the Senate but not by the House.

An effort to have the Senate reconsider will be made Monday by Senator Winfield Miller, who said he had discovered he had been recorded as voting for the measure, whereas he opposed it.

It has been reported numerous taxing units would be unable to assume any more indebtedness should the bill become a law.

ROAD MATERIALS CENTER OF FIGHT

Manufacturers of road materials, State engineers and county officials were organizing today for a fight next week over a bill introduced in the House Friday by James L. Day proposing that not more than 30 per cent of State road contracts shall be for the same hard surface material.

Manufacturers of hard-surface materials other than concrete are behind the measure, and charge that the highway department has discriminated in favor of concrete. The bill provides that bids for paving State roads must be received in five materials.

Engineers interested in highway construction materials are reported divided in opinions as to the best material.

Members of the State highway commission said there was no discrimination for concrete, bids for that material being accepted because of comparatively low cost.

COUZENS BESIEGED BY RAIL EXPERTS

By JOHN CARSON
Times Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Any one with some real information and real ideas on the railroad problem of the United States, is hereby invited to shoot it along to Senator James Couzens of Michigan. Couzens wants to know all about railroading. He says he has much to learn.

When Couzens made its first statement that it seemed "Government ownership of railroads was coming and coming fast," he got more attention than has been given a Senator for many months. Immediately he began to receive information and suggestions. When he made his second statement on the subject, the students of transportation rushed to him.

The result is today that Couzens is getting in close touch with the best informed men in the country on railroads. Men high up in the legal profession; men with standing as economists, farm leaders and labor leaders are seeking him out. To all of them Couzens lends ear. If he does not take any step to solve the transportation problem, he will admit that he is offering only the combined judgment of a whole coterie of informants.

Western Union Telephone Recorder Is 'Buffer' for Humanity's Nerves



MISS JUNE VINSON

WITH her finger on the pulse of human sympathies, Miss June Vinson, 647 W. Thirtieth St., sits at her desk in the Western Union building day after day.

She is a telephone recorder. From her lips, through the telephone mouthpiece attached to a headpiece, go messages of joy and sorrow to all parts of the city. She also takes dictation.

"People use the telephone for many unique purposes. Sometimes invitations to an impromptu party are sent to persons in the city.

"It affects me almost as much as the one who gets the message when a death is made known. We try not to give such messages over the telephone, but to have them delivered by messenger.

"Once in a while the recipient of a message starts to tell the whole history of the case. We just have to listen.

"It affects me almost as much as the one who gets the message when a death is made known. We try not to give such messages over the telephone, but to have them delivered by messenger.

"I handle between thirty-five and fifty messages an hour. I suppose I know people's hearts pretty well by this time."

MORE OF LLOYD GEORGE

(Continued From Page 1)

ness, especially amongst friends. Strangers expect it and prepare for it, and there is no resentment when the bill arrives. But a man hates reminding his friend at the end of business in which both have been engaged in warm amity that there is "a little balance" to be paid up.

He has been expecting his friend to mention the matter to him, so he puts off introducing the unpleasant topic from year to year. But the friend disappoints his expectations. Not a hint comes from that quarter of any realization that there is anything due. It soon looks as if it had been forgotten altogether.

The friend is most insistent on collecting business accounts due to himself. He is angry at all delays in the payment of his own bills, but his conscience is blind on the side of the debts he himself owes.

Debtors Are Reluctant.

It is not an uncommon experience, and we are suffering from it today. The war left us a creditor nation to the extent of over 2,000 million pounds, and a debtor nation to the extent of about half that amount. We readily accepted an invitation from our creditor to discuss repayment of the debt we owe. Our debtors displayed a ninyinice reluctance to enter a similar discussion with us.

That ought not to influence our action. Britain is the greatest of all international traders, and her credit rests on the reputation she well earned that her bond is a sacred trust which her people always honor and redeem without counting the cost in toil and treasure.

I remember when war broke out the panic which seized bankers and brokers as they contemplated the obligations incurred by British firms, with their support, to finance world trade. These liabilities ran into a hundred millions sterling and the only security for repayment was represented by a bundle of flimsy paper criss-crossed with the signatures of men, most of whom no British banker had ever seen, many of them dwelling in countries with whom we were actually at war.

There was one signature, however, on each paper which was known to the bankers and carried with it the good name of Britain throughout the world, and it was that of some well-known British firm.

Traders in far-distant lands parted with their produce on the credit of that signature and of the country with which it was associated.

It is true that the Government had no responsibility for any of these transactions, but the honor of Britain was involved in seeing that foreign merchants should not suffer ruin because they put their trust in British commercial integrity. For that reason the British Government of the day shouldered the burden and took all the risk, and although it meant a liability between four hundred and five hundred million sterling not a voice was raised in protest.

The action then taken, though quite unprecedented, was not only honorable. It was wise. It saved British pride from reproach, it also saved British credit from a blow from which it would not recover for a generation. During that generation this lucrative business would have passed into other hands.

As soon as the war was over the people of Britain, with an instinctive impulse that required no persuasion to stimulate its activity, set about the task of restoring war-battered credit.

The Government, bankers, merchants, brokers, manufacturers

ers and workers of all kinds were of one mind. Borrowing must come to an end. Britain must pay her way—whatever the sacrifices.

Expenditures Cut Down.

Expenditure was ruthlessly cut down. The army and navy were reduced below pre-war dimensions. Other services were curtailed. Heavy taxation was imposed, taxation such as no other country bears. The budget at home must balance. Debts to other countries must be paid off.

Already large sums have been paid abroad. It required courage and constancy to pursue such a policy, but the endurance of the nation was beyond praise. It is now calmly facing liquidation of this heavy debt to the United States. But no party has yet arisen, or is likely to arise, to demand that the hand of the negotiators should be arrested. Britain means to pay the last of her debts without murmur.

We are already reaping some of the reward. The purchasing value of our currency already has risen under its burdens and as a consequence the cost of living has fallen steadily, while other countries who pursued a different policy find the cost of living for their people ascending month by month.

A short time ago we were taunted in the French Chamber of Deputies by the president of the council that our unsound financial policy had been responsible for our unemployment. It is true that if we had gone on borrowing instead of paying our way—if we had defied our foreign creditors instead of paying them—we also, like many other European countries, might have fostered an artificial prosperity by means of discredited currency.

But British credit would have rapidly disappeared beyond recovery and British trade would soon have followed. Meanwhile the cost of living in Great Britain would have been double what it is today.

We therefore dismissed that policy from our minds without paying it the tribute of discussion. Trust is the only soil in which credit flourishes. Had that trust been forfeited British buyers, and consequently British consumers would today have been paying more for their wheat, their meat, their cotton and their wool.

I hazard no opinion as to the percentage at which the terms of repayment to the United States will ultimately be fixed. But whatever the figure, the burden will be infinitely

ASSEMBLY IN BRIEF

SENATE

These bills were introduced in the Senate Friday:

No. 208 (Adams)—Providing for appointment of assistant county highway superintendents. Roads.

No. 209 (Hodges)—Providing requirements by which plans and specifications for new school houses must be submitted to State board of health. Construction.

No. 210 (Henley)—Providing for installation of crossing gates and safety devices at railroads.

No. 211 (King-Hartzell-Holmes-Harmon)—To repeal the teachers' fund law. Education.

No. 212 (Leonard)—Providing for referendum of local voters to decide question of constructing new school house. Roads.

No. 213 (Cravens)—Restoring legislative powers of Indiana University to issue \$200,000 in bonds for Robert W. Long Hospital. (34-0.)

No. 214 (Hodges)—Providing for codification of all city laws. (34-0.)

No. 153 (Hodges)—Providing for assessment of costs of street lights against property owners of cities of certain classes.

No. 154 (Holmes)—Increasing requirements for engineers and regulating license fees and examination of undertakers.

No. 215 (King-Hartzell-Holmes-Harmon)—To repeal the teachers' fund law. Education.

No. 216 (Day)—Providing for appointment of justices of the peace to serve in absence of regular justices. County and township business.

No. 217 (Rainey)—Established State preparatory school of domestic arts for colored girls.

No. 218 (Day)—Established State school of agriculture.

No. 219 (Hartzel)—Amending laws providing for organization of municipal corporations.

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