

5TH WARD PLOT HATCHED IN INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

GUNMAN TALKS TO SAVE SELF; NAMES SLEUTH

Admits Thugs Were Taken to Deutsch Clubhouse

SAYS DETECTIVE GAVE OUT WEAPONS

Confession, Held Secret Here, Is Made Public in New York

ANOTHER LINK IN CHAIN

Declare "Little Nick" Hired Gang for \$30 Each for "Election Job"

The "Bloody Fifth" Ward murder conspiracy was perfected in Independence Square, in the shadow of the Liberty Bell, symbol of American political liberties, according to a confession by Fred ("Whitey") Burkhardt, one of the hired New York gunmen, made public today.

In Independence Square, the confession declares, the blackjacks intended to silence the votes of the anti-Vare-Smith-Deutsch supporters were distributed by "Mike" Sullivan, or O'Sullivan, a private detective of the Val O'Farrell Detective Agency, who gave the gunmen their instructions.

TELLS PLANS IN DETAIL. The document describes how the gunmen registered at the Keystone Hotel; how they were taken to the Fifth Ward Republican League clubhouse (the Deutsch club) and met the "man with eye-glasses"; how they raided the Finletter Republican Club (the Carey headquarters) on election eve, and corroborates many other bits of testimony that have been presented to show that a plot existed.

The gunmen, a band of eighteen "Frog Hollow Musketeers," were recruited in New York by Nicholas ("Little Nick") Ritt and were met here by Sullivan. They were promised \$15 to \$30 each for two days' work. A copy of the confession, made public in New York today by District Attorney Francis Martin, of the Bronx, where Burkhardt is under arrest, is in the hands of District Attorney Rotan, who refused to make it public. The version given out in the Bronx today was telegraphed to this city by an EVENING LEDGER staff correspondent.

THE CONFESSION

Statement by Frederick Burkhardt, made Monday, September 24, 1917, in the presence of Seymour Mark, Assistant District Attorney, of the Bronx; Joseph H. Taulane and Joseph McClain, of the District Attorney's office, Philadelphia:

This statement is made voluntarily without any promise of immunity. I make this statement in order that the truthful story of my connection with the matters I tell shall be set forth for the benefit of the District Attorney of Philadelphia. If my story proves to be true—and I am not implicated with the murder of Policeman Eppley or the assault upon any one else, nor am I mixed up in any of the assaults which occurred in Philadelphia, Tuesday, September 18, and Wednesday, September 19—that my story, if true, shall receive due consideration in the final disposition of my case if I am found guilty.

Monday night Nick Ritt came over to the corner of 15th street and Brook avenue, inside the saloon and he asked me and another fellow they call Mug Smith—his right name is Charles Smith—Nick says to us, "Do you want to go to Philadelphia?" I says, "No, I don't want to go to Philadelphia. What do I want to go to Philadelphia for?" He says, "You only got to go out and watch the polling place." I thought it was a place where you stand around watching barrels with pictures; stand around the polls and hang around. I says to Nick, "What's in it?" Nick says, "Fifteen or thirty dollars for two days."

MURDER PLOT DEVELOPMENTS

GUNMAN arrested in New York makes confession in hope of saving himself. This confession says the gang of New York gunmen were hired by "Little Nick." They were promised \$30 for two days' services for "a Philadelphia election job." Confession says the gang was brought to Independence Square, where, within a few yards of the Liberty Bell, symbol of American political freedom, the Fifth Ward murder plot plans were perfected.

O'Sullivan, private detective of the Val O'Farrell Detective Agency, was the man who distributed blackjacks to the thugs at the Independence Square meeting, according to the confession. Clark, the "man with eye-glasses," has confessed everything to District Attorney Rotan, it is reported.

His confession, held secret by Mr. Rotan, is rumored to implicate men of that "higher-up" type who are called "influential politicians."

WILSON DEFIED BY PRESIDENT OF REICHSTAG

"Bites on Granite" in Trying to Alienate People From Kaiser

MICHAELIS MARKS TIME. AMSTERDAM, Sept. 27. "He who attempts to drive a wedge between the Kaiser and his people bites on granite," declared President Kaempf, of the German Reichstag, in the opening of that body's sessions today.

Dispatches from Berlin quoted him also as sarcastically demanding to know how President Wilson could "continue to talk the protection of small nations in the face of the fact that he left Greece in the lurch."

The Reichstag's presiding officer quoted Von Buelow's phrase as to "biting granite" in lauding the "common sense of the German people," who would refuse any such separation from the Kaiser as that desired by the American President.

Berlin dispatches said Chancellor Michaelis's speech, originally scheduled for today, had been postponed. It was declared the Chancellor would not make any additional public statements as to Germany's peace aims, but might address a secret meeting of the main committee of the Reichstag.

It was also reported today that the Holy See had advised Germany that the Pope would visit with active displeasure any attempt in Germany to restrict the liberties of Matthias Erzberger, the Clerical (Catholic) liberal leader, or the Catholic press, which is firmly supporting a nonannexation program.

RETURN OF RUSSIAN LANDS ASKED BY POPE

Restoration of Riga "and all other Russian territory" now held by the Germans was "explicitly and implicitly" suggested in the Pope's appeal, according to a Vatican announcement today.

The announcement was taken to mean that Germany must relinquish her plans for a kingdom of Poland, with a German regency, to meet the Pope's conditions of peace.

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RYAN SUGGESTED TO OPPOSE ROTAN

Nonpartisan League, However, Fails to Indorse Paul de Moll's Plea AGAINST THE VARE TICKET

Paul de Moll, a political satellite of Public Service Commissioner Michael J. Ryan, this afternoon proposed the name of the former City Solicitor and former Democratic candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, as the candidate of the independents for District Attorney. Ryan was not informed of the suggestion.

The suggestion that Ryan, who was appointed to the Public Service Commission through the influence of the Vares, be placed at the head of the ticket that will oppose the Vare-Smith City Administration at the general election on November 6, was made at a meeting of the Non-Partisan League at Philadelphia, held in Dooner's Hotel, on South Tenth street.

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the new independent movement that was launched against the city Administration when the Anti-Contractors party was formed last week. Independents, Democrats and Republicans were present.

GREAT MEETING WILL PROTEST 'MURDER RULE'

50,000 Persons Expected at Gathering at Academy of Music Tonight

POLITICAL THUGGERY WILL BE DENOUNCED

Philadelphians to Declare Their Independence of Gunmen Government

DOORS OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK

Facts About Huge Mass-Meeting Tonight

PLACEMENT: Academy of Music.

TIME: Eight p. m. sharp. Doors open at 7.

SUBJECT: Protest against "Government-by-Murder."

SPEAKERS: Ex-Mayor Blankenburg, Father McDermott, Judge Bonniwell, Rabbi Krauskopf, Magistrate Carson, Albert H. Coggins, Frank L. Kamerar, John H. R. McLean, Jr., Samuel Reynolds, James J. Breen.

ATTENDANCE: Fifty thousand persons are expected.

Overflow meetings to be held on Broad street and Locust street, if necessary.

A city's voice raised in a mighty protest against "government by murder" will be heard tonight.

Vast throngs of men and women—a crowd estimated at 50,000—will press to the Academy of Music for the town meeting called to plan emancipation from the rule of gang politicians and hired gunmen that resulted in the killing of Acting Detective George A. Eppley in the "Bloody Fifth" Ward primary election.

The greatest protest mass-meeting in the history of Philadelphia is expected. A revolutionary demand for a rebirth of clean government is embodied in a set of resolutions to be presented as the city's "Declaration of Independence."

Rudolph Blankenburg, former Mayor of Philadelphia, will be the principal speaker. Unconquered by illness, the white-haired "war-horse of reform" declared that he would address the meeting if in doing so he uttered his last spoken word.

Filling up of the big auditorium will begin at 7 o'clock, when the doors will be opened. Those who reach the Academy early will obtain the best seats, which are expected to be occupied rapidly.

OVERFLOW MEETING. "But we will take care of everybody who fails to obtain a seat," Judge Bonniwell said, "provisions having already been made for several overflow meetings, if necessary. The principal speakers will address these meetings."

Resolutions condemning the Commission

KILLED BY TOADSTOOLS

One Man Died, Another Family Made Ill, Testimony Shows

A verdict of death from poisoning due to eating toadstools was given by a coroner's jury today in the case of Peter De Angelis, thirty-seven years old, of 1505 North Leithgow street, who died in the Episcopal Hospital on September 14.

Michael Wise, of 409 Berks street, testified he gathered the toadstools at Wynnewood, believing them to be mushrooms. They were prepared for dinner by Mrs. De Angelis, and Wise and his wife aided in eating them. All were taken sick.

Orders Meal, Then Falls Dead

An unidentified man, about fifty-five years old, fell dead in the Ridgway restaurant, 1223 Ridge avenue, today after ordering a meal. Believing that a spark of life might remain, the police sent the body to the Hahnemann Hospital. Efforts to revive the man proved futile. He was five feet eleven inches in height, weighed 175 pounds and wore a blue coat, brown trousers and black shoes.

The Continuation of the Story "Germany, the Next Republic?" by Carl W. Ackerman is printed on Page 18

LATEST SPORTS

BASEBALL SCORES

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. ST. LOUIS 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0. ATHLETICS 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 0.

EXHIBITION GAME

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. BOSTON RED SOX 0 0 0 0 0. ALL STARS 0 0 0 0 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. BROOKLYN 0 0 0 0 0 0 1. PITTSBURGH 1 2 0 0 2 0 4.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. CHICAGO 2 1 3. WASHINGTON 0 1 0.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. INDIANAPOLIS 0 0 0 1 0. TORONTO 0 0 0 0 0.

SENATOR CHAMBERLAIN'S CONDITION HOPEFUL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—A consultation will be held tonight to determine whether it will be necessary to operate upon Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, who is suffering from appendicitis at his hotel here. His condition today was hopeful.

SCHOONOVER'S RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—The Department of Justice has accepted the resignation of District Attorney Albert B. Schoonover, of Los Angeles, who will be assigned to special investigation work by the department.

CROWDER DENIES FIXING SECOND DRAFT DATE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Persistent rumors that a date had been set for the second draft were flatly denied by Provost Marshal General Crowder this afternoon.

EIGHT ACCUSED IN DRAFT PLOT DISCHARGED

ABILENE, Tex., Sept. 27.—Eight of the forty-nine defendants charged with conspiracy against the Government to resist the selective service law were discharged here today. Judge Mack, in Federal Court, instructed the jury to render a verdict of not guilty because the evidence, he said, failed to establish the charges.

KERENSKY QUILTS WORKMEN AND SOLDIERS' BUREAU

PETROGRAD, Sept. 27.—Premier Kerensky today resigned as a member of the Central Council of the Workmen and Soldiers' Bureau. He also announced his retirement from the governing boards of other similar organizations.

BRITISH AIRMEN MAKE BOMBING RAID

LONDON, Sept. 27.—British Admiralty reports that on the nights of the 25th and 26th British airmen dropped many tons of bombs on Thourout, Lichtervelde and Cortemarck junctions, making direct hits on all the lines observed. All machines returned safely.

LANSING DENIES HOUSE IS TO HEAD PEACE MISSION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Secretary of State Lansing today denied reports that Colonel E. M. House is to be sent to Europe on a peace mission by President Wilson, or that a so-called "Peace Intelligence Bureau" is to be established by the United States in Entente countries. Administration officials take the ground that it is premature to discuss peace or to lay the basis for peace negotiations in the near future.

SAN FRANCISCO SHIPYARD STRIKE AT END

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 27.—Paralysis of San Francisco Bay shipbuilding, which has been tied up for ten days, will end tomorrow, when 25,000 members of the Iron Trades Council will resume work. The decision to end the strike came after a five-hour session of the Iron Trades Council. The council announced, however, that it was not satisfied with the temporary agreement and would accept purely for patriotic reasons.

BRITISH SHIP SUBMERGED; ALL ON BOARD LOST

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Sept. 27.—A steamship arriving here today reported that the British steamship Wentworth, from an Atlantic port to a French port, had been sunk by a submarine on September 8. All on board were lost, it was stated.

TWO EXPELLED FROM N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—Announcement was made from the rostrum of the New York Stock Exchange this morning that J. W. Cornwell and H. C. Taylor had been expelled from membership in the exchange. H. D. Lewis, it also was announced, had been suspended from membership in the exchange for two years. Mr. Cornwell joined the Stock Exchange on October 27, 1904, and Mr. Taylor on May 28, 1902. Mr. Lewis was elected a member June 1, 1907.

BRITISH FORCED BACK SLIGHTLY AT ZONNEBEKE

Heavy Shelling Compels Retirement After Assaults Fail

BATTLE RAGES ON 6-MILE LINE

Haig Holds Nearly All Gains—2000 Prisoners Taken

FRENCH STOP THRUSTS

Two Counter-Blows North of Aisne Fail to Bend Petain's Line

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Sept. 27.

Very heavy German shelling this afternoon had apparently forced the British to retire slightly in the area of Hill No. 40, immediately north of Zonnebeke. The Zonnebeke railway station, in consequence, is again in German hands.

However, outside the town and north-eastward the major portion of the advances remain in control of the British. Further counter-attacks late today won the Germans local posts in the region of Winzig Farm and Valehouse, but British troops, in desperate fighting, wrested back some of these points.

The same violent combat brought relief today to a detachment of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who had been cut off twenty-four hours from their lines and who, despite the fact that they were without water, food or additional supplies, nevertheless refused to surrender and kept the Germans at bay.

Four separate and distinct German counter-blows, delivered with terrific force and strength against Haig's newly won positions in the Trosser sector, were hung back by British defenders last night, the British commander's report asserted today.

The enemy attack at the British lines east of Tower Hamlets and the St. Julien-Gravenstafel road between 4 and 7 o'clock last evening. All of the assaults were defeated.

FIGHTING "MOST SEVERE" "Later accounts of the fighting yesterday afternoon and evening show it was most severe," Haig continued. "The enemy spared no effort to regain the important ground captured by our forces. The struggle was most severe in the area south of Polygon wood, where English, Scottish, Welsh and Australians defeated repeated attempts to break in."

Artillery and infantry fire was extremely heavy. Later in the evening the fighting gradually died down, we being in possession of the ground captured during the day."

Battlefront dispatches today indicated the fighting was almost continuous along all the six-mile front over which the British registered their successes yesterday. The most determined resistance was encountered from the Germans, and when the British drove them out of positions the enemy sought in violent counter-attacks to regain the lost ground.

Zonnebeke was held firm against strong enemy attacks. At several places the Germans succeeded in reaching the British lines, but were later repulsed.

IMPORTANT ATTAINMENTS These important results had been attained by the British:

The British line has been advanced from one half of a mile to a mile over a front six miles wide east of Ypres.

The newly won ground is being consolidated. About 2000 German prisoners have been captured.

The fortified village of Zonnebeke is now in the hands of the British.

The German front has been beaten back until it is now only seven miles from the great German base of Roulers, where German headquarters on the west Flanders front is maintained.

Important high ground, commanding the Flanders plains, is now menaced by Field Marshal Haig's army.

Australian troops took an important part in the latest British thrust, but the glory of storming the strongly fortified village of Zonnebeke fell to English, Welsh and Scottish soldiers.

Prisoners pouring back of the lines were heartily glad to emerge from the fighting alive. Australian and British troops who opposed part of the British advance declared they were sick of war. They complained.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity: Increasing cloudiness tonight, probably followed by showers Friday, slightly warmer tonight; gentle winds, mostly southerly.

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Generally cloudy tonight and Friday, with moderate showers, mainly to southeast portion, tonight; warmer tonight; gentle to moderate southerly to west winds.

LENGTH OF DAY Sun rises 6:22 a. m. Sets 6:23 p. m. DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES

LOW WATER: 6:58 a. m. and 7:05 p. m. HIGH WATER: 1:22 p. m. and 12:55 a. m. PROBABILITIES AT EACH PORT

AT PHILADELPHIA: 6:58 a. m. and 7:05 p. m. AT DELAWARE: 6:58 a. m. and 7:05 p. m.