

accused; and had he not such jurors as Hutchinson, McKay, Teytaud, Jessen, Jorgensen, Jackson, Dyer, Julian, Fabio, Behagen, Brustmeyer and Skeoch who weighed both sides in the balance, and deliberated for two hours and forty-seven minutes, guided by codes etc; his presentation of the case, supported by such important men as Police Judge Jensen, Despatching Secretary Fox, and Sergeant Vallade, together with his earnest appeal in the name of justice to hang the man, could not fail to have accomplished this end. The case closed at 6.48 P. M. after the Jury had deliberated for two hours and forty minutes. The verdict was read by the Chairman of the jury, Mr. Innis Behagen in words to the effect: "Murder in the second degree". It came as a surprise to many who firmly believed that only the hangman's rope could be justifiable to the cause. The court was then adjourned by order of His Honour the Judge through Sheriff Coulter, to consider the verdict, until Saturday morning at 10 o'clock when the final decision is expected to be given.—Com.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London April 6th.—The executive body of the Miners Union this afternoon accepted the government's proposals that the miners delegates meet representatives of the owners and the Government for reopening the negotiations with the view to a settlement of the coal strike. The efforts to bring the miners and the employers together again was made by Mr. Lloyd George this afternoon. It was announced he had written to the president of the Mining Association and the secretary of the Miners Federation, asking them to meet and resume negotiations. The Premier called attention to his speech in the House of Commons with regard to the desirability of the negotiations being resumed and concluded. "I desire to repeat that the Government tenders the use of its good offices for the purpose of bringing the parties together."

London, April 5th.—Endorsing the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent protest in the House of Lords against reprisals in Ireland, nine Bishops and heads of the principal non-conformist churches in Great Britain have sent a letter to the Prime Minister and the Irish Secretary pleading for peace in Ireland. "The present policy," says the letter, "exposes us to misunderstanding and hostile criticism even of the friendliest of the world's nations."

London, April 6th.—Decision to support the British miners strike was reached by the transport workers federation at a meeting held here this morning. The vote was taken by the transport workers was unanimously in favour of tendering aid to the miners. It was decided to meet in conference

immediately with delegates of the National Union of Railwaymen and the Miners Union, for the purpose of securing action on the strike situation by the triple alliance.

AMERICAN RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE GOES TO RIO DE JANEIRO:

Frederick A. Moran, director of Civilian Relief, Insular and Foreign Division, American Red Cross, has been appointed executive secretary of the Rio de Janeiro Chapter. He will establish Marine Service headquarters in addition to his other work. Mr. Moran has been with the Insular and Foreign Division for nearly a year and a half. During this time he has made a survey of conditions in the Virgin Islands. He has watched the progress of Red Cross service with the men of the Merchant Marine from its inception. Before he came to the Red Cross he served as extension secretary of the United Charities, St. Paul, Minnesota, and as director of investigations for the Pittsburgh Juvenile Court, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His early experience as a businessman and his wide grasp of economic conditions in Latin America will make him invaluable to the Rio de Janeiro Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Many of our readers will recall this genial representative of the American Red Cross, who visited the Virgin Islands from May to July 1920. It is due to Mr. Moran's report and recommendations that we are at present enjoying many of the benefits of the Red Cross interest in these islands.

ENTIRE ARMY JOINS AMERICAN REDCROSS:

The Army of Occupation on the Rhine, 15,000 enlisted men and officers, showed their appreciation of the work of the American Red Cross by returning a membership that was practically 100 per cent, according to Roll Call report just received at the headquarters of the Insular and Foreign Division of the American Red Cross.

The detachment of marines stationed at Christiansted has also joined up 100% during the recent Roll Call.

WOOD ALCOHOL A VALUABLE PRODUCT

Wood alcohol, known to the chemist as methyl alcohol, is a deadly poison, causing certain deaths when taken internally in quantity. It may also cause blindness when taken in smaller quantities or when absorbed by the skin or inhaled. Its odor, taste, appearance and chemical properties are similar to those of grain or ethyl alcohol which, though recognized as a poison, does not

produce any disastrous results except when habitually imbibed in considerable quantities. Because of this similarity wood alcohol is often used in the preparation of alcoholic beverages, now that the manufacture and sale of old-time alcoholic drinks are prohibited by law. Many have been killed and many others have lost their sight through drinking such liquors. This has given rise to suggestion that the manufacture of wood alcohol should be stopped.

This is almost out of the question because many important industries are dependent on wood alcohol. It finds extensive use in the preparation of varnishes and lacquers. In fact more of it is used for varnish-makers as a solvent for gums and resins than for any other purpose. It is also the basic material for the preparation of formaldehyde, one of the most valuable disinfecting compounds, an important dyestuff material and photographic chemical. Enormous quantities are required for the manufacture of high explosives on a large scale.

Ethyl alcohol, denatured with wood alcohol or other substances, is also an important industrial product for use as well as wood alcohol for most purposes, but ordinarily it is considerably more expensive. If it were produced in large quantities for industrial purposes numerous evasions and infractions of the prohibition laws would be invited. When denatured with wood alcohol or other substances it is almost as deadly as wood alcohol.

Wood alcohol production is an important industry in this country. In New York state alone more than 190,000 cords of wood are annually consumed, yielding some 2,000,000 gallons of alcohol as well as acetic acid, acetone, tars and other valuable by-products.—*The Pathfinder*, March 26th.

The British Air Ministry states that from the opening of air traffic with the Continent on August 26, 1919, until the end of November 1920, the value of all imports was £685,054, and of all exports, including re-exports, £344,876. Amongst the merchandise transported were articles of clothing, furs, jewellery, cinema films, perfumery, and mechanical components.—*The Board of Trade Journal*.

In order to encourage the planting of cotton in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Commissioner of that Dependency has recently circulated printed notes in simple language for the benefit of peasant cultivators. These notes are instructive, and are likely to serve a useful purpose, although the present time, in face of the poor demand for cotton, is not the most opportune for encouraging the industry.—*Ibid*.