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The jury that was to try the case was impaneled June 4, and the taking of testimony began June 5. The trial progressed until June 21, when sentence was pronounced. Thruout the entire time the defendants were calm and serenly happy, conscious that the Lord was with them and that he was permitting the experiences for his own wise purpose. One spectator referred to them as "dignified, pale-faced Russellites." Another said: "Those fellows always have a smile. They will be smiling when they get behind the bars, and when they go to the gallows." Little does the world realize why the Christian smiles.

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of the book; The Bible Students Monthly and The Watch Tower, and the writing of letters to conscientious objectors were overt acts in carrying out the conspiracy. Defendants denied all such, and proved clearly and substantially the following facts:

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That the International Bible Students Association is wholly a religious organizaton; that the members accept as their principles of belief the Holy Bible, as expounded by Pastor Russell; that Pastor Russell in his lifetime wrote and published six volumes of Studies in the Scriptures, and as early as 1896 promised the Seventh Volume, and that it would treat the prophecies of Ezekiel and Revelation; that on his deathbed he stated some one else would write the Seventh Volume; that shortly after his death the Executive Committee of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society authorized Brothers Clayton J. Woodworth and George H. Fisher to write and submit manuscript for consideration, without any promise being made concerning publication; that all the manuscript on Revelation, except the extract from an article by the Rev. John Haynes Holmes, was completed before the United States got into the war, and that all the manuscript of the entire book, except the "Temple" chapter in Ezekiel, was in the hands of the printer before the enactment of the Espionage Law, hence the impossibility of any such conspiracy as charged having been entered into with intentions to violate that law. Not one of the defendants saw or even knew of the existence of the Espionage Law until March, 1918; but the Court held this fact to be immaterial and ruled it out, even on the question of intent.

The evidence further showed that the letters written by the defendants were replies to inquiries made by brethren of the International Bible Students Association, for advice under the law governing the selective draft.

Brother De Cecca did not take the witness stand. Each of the other seven testified that they never at any time had combined, agreed or conspired to do anything whatsoever to affect the draft or to interfere with the Government in the prosecution of the war, nor did they have any thought of so doing; that they never had any intention of interfering in any manner with the war; that their work was wholly religious and not at all political; that they did not solicit members, and never advised or encouraged any one to resist the draft; that the letters written were sent to those whom they knew to be consecrated Christians who, under the law, were entitled to advice; and that they were not opposed to the Nation's going to war, but that as consecrated Christians they themselves could not engage in mortal combat.

The law requires that before one can be convicted the proof must show that he wilfully committed the act with the intent to interfere with or obstruct the Government in its prosecution of the war. The defendants testified that they never at any time entertained such an intent and had no desire whatsoever to impede the Government in any manner. They further testified that their lives for years past had been devoted exclusively to religious work--telling the divine plan for the blessing of mankind; that the Lord had foretold the war, and that for them to be against the war would mean to be against that which the Lord has permitted; hence all their efforts were confined exclusively to religious work.

CHRISTIANS ALWAYS MISUNDERSTOOD

Verily the unconsecrated cannot understand the consecrated Christian. It was so with the Master; and it is equally so with his followers. As an example, the Government put in evidence a letter written by a brother to some brethren in camp, saying: "We rejoice with you, dear brethren, that you are having opportunities of study and fellowship together. Be of good courage and hold fast; a little while and the fight will be over, and then you will be glad that you have stood for the Lord and righteousness." This the prosecution construed as an overt act to resist the draft and encourage insubordination, whereas all Christian brethren understand the words to apply entirely to the Christian warfare and as having no application to worldly matters. To be misunderstood is a part of the sufferings for Christ's sake. Some day all will be made clear. What a happy day that will be!

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When called upon by the Court to state whether they had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon them, the defendants remained silent. The Judge said in part: "During the trial counsel for the defense attempted to impeach the law officers of the Government, the Army Intelligence Bureau, and all the ministers throughout the land. The religious propaganda which these defendants have vigorously advocated and spread throughout the nation as well as among our allies is a greater danger than a division of the German army, and a person preaching religion usually has much influence and if he is sincere he is all the more effective. This aggravates rather than mitigates the wrong they have done.

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"'A better day is coming, a morning promised long,
When truth and right with holy might
Shall overthrow the wrong;
When Christ the Lord shall listen to every plaintive sigh,
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The following comparisons will be of interest to many:

1. Jesus, the perfect one Head of the church, was without fault and was wrongfully accused.	1. Seven brethren were sentenced. The number symbolizes perfection, hence represents all of the New Creation on earth, wrongfully accused.
2. Jesus offended the clergy; and they stirred up the people against him. He was brought before the civil powers and charged with sedition as an enemy of Rome.	2. His brethren offended the clergy, who stirred up the people against them, sending petitions to the officers of the law and causing the brethren to be arrested, charged with sedition and hindering the Government in the war.
3. The moon symbolizes the law dispensation.	3. The sun symbolizes the Gospel dispensation.
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