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CHARGES OF GRAFT HEARD BY THE COURT

Massachusetts Supreme Court hears Petition to Remove Official

CORRUPTION SAID TO BE WIDESPREAD

Ring of Politicians and Former Officials Attempted to Extort Money in Several Cases.

(By Associated Press)
BOSTON, Dec. 27.—Removal of Joseph C. Pelletier as district attorney of Suffolk county, hearing in whose case started today before the Supreme Judicial Court, is asked by Attorney General J. Weston Allen on the general charge that Pelletier's continued incumbency is "injurious to the public interest." Two sets of charges against the district attorney, as well as a petition for his disbarment, have been filed.

In the original charges, Pelletier is alleged to have aided in extorting or attempting to extort money or property from certain persons by threats of prosecution. The attorney general alleges that the district attorney procured indictments that ought not to have been procured; that he failed from improper motives to prosecute in specified cases and that he permitted persons to use his office in coercing other persons to release or settle civil claims.

Corruption Alleged.
Attorney General Allen's petition alleged that the acts of Pelletier as district attorney since November 13, 1909, when he took office, down to the date of filing the charges, show him to be unfit to hold office. It charged that Pelletier conducted his office in an "unlawful and reprehensible manner."

Pelletier is said in the petition to have failed from improper motives to prosecute Merrill W. Shute after Shute's indictment on the charge of embezzling \$15,000 from Emma F. Brackett of Bangor, Me.

Daniel H. Coakley and William J. Corcoran, a former district attorney of Middlesex county, are named as among those with whom Pelletier is alleged to have conspired. Mr. Allen charges that the district attorney conspired with Coakley and others to extort \$20,000 from the Emerson Motors Co., to procure the abandonment of threatened criminal prosecution.

Extortion Alleged.
Pelletier is further charged with having conspired with Coakley to attempt to extort \$10,000 from Warren C. Daniel, a dealer in securities, by threat of prosecution. Conspiracy is charged also in the case of Dorothy Cote, who, it is alleged, was forced to abandon a suit for conversion of an automobile by similar threats.

Mrs. Elizabeth Chase Emery, daughter of a Worcester county millionaire, figures in the charges, in a specification that Pelletier conspired with Coakley, Corcoran and others to extort money from her, Curtis W. Emery, her second husband, and Mrs. Jennie S. Chase, her mother.

Conspiracy to frighten Albert T. Smith into paying \$37,500 as alimony to his wife, Agnes J. Smith, and abandonment of prosecution against Smith after the money was paid, also are charged. In this connection, the attorney general alleges that one-half the \$37,500 alimony was claimed by Coakley as a contingent fee.

Counter Charges.
When these charges were first filed, Pelletier asserted that Mr. Allen had acted to discredit his candidacy for mayor, which he was planning to make public the next day. Pelletier withdrew from the mayoralty race on December 2.

On November 23, Pelletier attacked as unconstitutional the statute under

(Continued on Page Five.)

AD CLUB IS BACK OF THE LAWMAKERS

Passes Vote of Confidence at its Meeting This Noon in Attitude on Portland Fair.

By a standing vote amidst vigorous applause Ad club members today at the luncheon in the Foley hotel stood by the Union county delegation in the work of the recent legislature, which was called in special session for the purpose of placing some kind of a tax on the people of the state to finance the Portland 1925 fair.

C. E. Short made a talk commending the members of the Union county delegation and asked that a rising vote be taken as endorsement. The vote was unanimous and amidst applause members of the Ad club expressed themselves wholly in accord with the work done by the "faithful fourteen" of the legislature to prevent opening the doors of the treasury vaults for such purposes as financing expositions.

The program for today's luncheon had been arranged on the subject of irrigation and by special order of the club next Tuesday's event, which is to be a Royal Club-Professed Stock dinner presided over by C. D. Emahiser, will be largely given over to hear the story of the special session to be held by the Union county delegation.

Today J. G. Snodgrass brought up the subject of tourist camps and read an extract from a letter coming from the head of the Tourists Camp Organization in which was brought out opposition to so much free service being furnished by every city. The subject was of great interest to La Grande and a motion carried to have a representative of this city attend the meeting of the organization in Spokane on January 7th.

Liquidation Of The Dairymen's League Is In Sight Now

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Dec. 27.—Members of the Oregon Dairymen's co-operative league, voted overwhelmingly to liquidate and wind up the affairs of the organization. When all ballots were counted the vote for liquidation was 988 against 291. A committee of nine, three from each zone, was appointed to arrange for reorganization.

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Dec. 27.—With two-thirds of the ballots counted in the second referendum on the liquidation of the Oregon Dairymen's Co-operative league, 719 voted for liquidation and 242 against. Officers said that if this ratio continued liquidation would carry. The directors called a second election after the first one recently failed to bring out a representative vote. It is planned to distribute the organization's plants to local organizations in various parts of the state.

DIED ON DUTY.

(By Associated Press)
VERA CRUZ, Mex., Dec. 27.—Dr. Howard B. Cross, of the Rockefeller institute, who came here this month to open a laboratory to study yellow fever and malarial fever, died today of yellow fever. He contracted the disease 12 days ago while inspecting in Tuxtepec, the center of the yellow fever district.

RECEPTION TO BE REVIVED.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—President and Mrs. Harding will revive the new year's reception which was discontinued during the Wilson administration. They will receive the diplomatic corps, cabinet members and the public.

CONFERENCE SCOPE MAY BE WIDENED

Movement For World-Wide Dearming is Gaining Headway

JAPAN AND FRANCE STILL OBSTINATE

New Conference Arising Out of Impossibility to Whip Two Nations in Shape, May be in 1928.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The arms conference naval committee, which faces a perplexing situation in its efforts to agree on limitation of submarines, Monday night postponed its next meeting until Wednesday so that the French and possibly the Japanese might receive from home more definite instructions regarding the American compromise proposal.

All indications here, however, pointed to continued objection to the American plan by both the Japanese and the French. At the same time, the American and British appeared to feel that in offering to seal down their submarine fleet to 60,000 tons each, they had made a maximum concession in the interests of an agreement.

More to be invited. In these circumstances, more definite shape was assumed by the movement for a later conference, to be attended by more nations, for another examination of the submarine problem and for a future meeting of the great powers to assess the general possibilities of further armament limitations. There were indications that the plan for a world submarine conference would be put into concrete form quickly. The proposed new conference on the general subject of armaments probably would be held in 1928 or 1929 and provisions for it would be made in the treaty that is to embody the decisions of the present meeting.

Postponement of the naval committee meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday is understood to have resulted from a request by the French delegates, who have not yet heard the verdict of their home government on the American plan to fix American and British submarine strength at 60,000 tons and to make a status quo arrangement for France, Italy and Japan.

(Continued on Page Five.)

SHIP OWNERS TO ASK AID OF THE U. S.

Subsidy for Merchant Marine is to be Proposed Meeting Early Next Month.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—A final conference of officials of leading marine transportation companies with the shipping board's special subsidy committee has been called for January 5 to pass upon a tentative plan formulated by the committee, providing for the subsidizing of the American merchant marine to insure its maintenance.

The committee was formed at the suggestion of President Harding. The plan when finally approved will be submitted to the president, who is expected to adopt some of its provisions in a message to congress. In its present form, which committee members stated was not official and was subject to change, the plan proposes both direct and indirect aid, the former through direct version of 19 percent of import customs as bonuses to American ship operators and the latter through establishment of a revolving loan fund of one hundred million dollars.

Other suggestions are understood to include:

That the shipping board sell its remaining fleet as rapidly as possible at prices not to exceed the prevailing world market price.

BASKETBALL LEAGUE MAY EXPAND NOW

The city basketball league in the near future will very likely have another member. At present the Hall Room Boys, Stoddard Brothers, Lingerling Five, the Perry quintet and the Cougars comprise the members but efforts are being made to get the American Legion team of Union to join. The Legion team is anxious to become a member and in all probabilities only the time taken to go through these mere formalities of joining before the league will embrace the Union team.

DECREE MODIFIED

SALEM, Dec. 27.—The supreme court modified the decree in the Union county case of Edward Crosson, plaintiff and appellant, against Brooks Camp, defendant and cross appellant. The controversy arose over a lease of land.

Fair Promoters May Take Legal Action to Force Signing Fair Bill

IRELAND IS IN FAVOR OF TREATY

(By Associated Press)
LONDON, Dec. 27.—Sentiment throughout Ireland, say dispatches to London papers, is overwhelmingly in favor of the Irish peace treaty. Reports indicate that 90 per cent of the people of 26 counties in southern Ireland want the pact ratified.

SCHOOLS DEFEAT ARMY.

(By Associated Press)
MEXICO CITY, Dec. 27.—Less will be spent by the Mexican government in 1922 for the army and more for schools than ever before. The army budget for 1922 calls for \$124,583,859 or more than \$30,000,000 less than the 1921 budget. The estimate is based on a standing army of 50,000 men to which strength the various units are now being rapidly reduced.

The 1922 budget includes an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the development of aviation. The appropriation for schools is \$50,000,000.

BOISE DOPE SELLERS TAKEN

Announces Refusal.

PENDLETON, Dec. 27.—Senator Roy W. Rittner, president of the state senate, will not sign the Portland fair measure unless required to do so by court action. He announced this position shortly after his arrival home.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

DEBS TO WAR AGAINST WAR IS ANNOUNCED

Socialist Leader Just Released From Penitentiary by President Harding to Make World Crusade.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—War against war is to occupy Eugene V. Debs, freed from the federal penitentiary at Atlanta Christmas through executive clemency. Debs announced today.

KAMELAN PASSED ON LAST SUNDAY

John F. Somers, resident of Kamela, passed away at his home Sunday morning. He had been ill for several days preceding his demise. He fifty-seven years of age and is survived by a wife living at Kamela, and two brothers living somewhere on the coast, their exact whereabouts unknown. The funeral took place this afternoon from the Bohnenkamp chapel and he was laid to rest in the Masonic cemetery.

Australian Butter Forces Price of Product Lower

(By Associated Press)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—Two shipments of butter from Australia and New Zealand, over a million pounds, hammered the already low price of extra choice butter to 41 cents today. A week ago butter was quoted at 47 cents.

BOOTLEGGER GIVEN A FINE

Several cases were brought up before the local police court today. Russell Dahlstrom was assessed fifteen dollars for being intoxicated. Bill Evans forfeited five dollars for having no license or lights on a car he was driving. H. H. Jordan was fined fifteen dollars for disorderly conduct and J. Nathan was fined one hundred dollars for having liquor in his possession.

Dollar Watch Firm Forced Into The Bankrupt Court

(By Associated Press)

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—An involuntary bankruptcy petition was filed in federal court here today against Robert H. Ingersoll and Brothers, manufacturers of Ingersoll watches. The liabilities are stated at three millions and the assets, exclusive of good will, at two millions.

(By Associated Press)

SALEM, Dec. 27.—The supreme court upheld the conviction of George Howard of Vale, convicted of first degree murder of George H. Sweeney.

(By Associated Press)

PORTLAND, Dec. 27.—Wheat was \$1.02 to \$1.08 today.

Opportunity May be Given Supreme Court to Pass on Legality

FAIR ADVOCATES DISCUSSING PLANS

Question Whether 15 to 14 is Majority Vote of Senate Proves Hard Nut to Crack.

(By Associated Press)
SALEM, Dec. 27.—Louis Rean, speaker of the house, announced today in effect that he would not sign the exposition measures enacted by the special session. He said he would not sign until Rittner had signed, and Rittner has stated he will not sign.

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Dec. 27.—Mandamus proceedings against President Rittner of the senate to attempt to force him to sign the exposition measures voted on by the senate Saturday are being considered by the fair promoters today. The vote on the measure was 15 to 14 and President Rittner refused to consider the measure passed by 15 votes on the ground that the normal number of senators is 30, requiring a vote of 16 in favor to pass instead of 15.

The mandamus proceedings would give an opportunity to the supreme court to test the validity of the 15 to 14 majority, which Attorney General Van Winkle advised Rittner was not sufficient, holding that 16 votes were necessary notwithstanding that the senate had only 29 active members owing to the recent death of Senator Hume.

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(Continued on Page Eight.)

BULLETINS

(By Associated Press)
HONOLULU, Dec. 27.—The University of Oregon defeated the University of Hawaii in football yesterday, 47 to 0.

(By Associated Press)
PASSIAC, N. J., Dec. 27.—Too poor to marry, Thomas Brands, mill clerk, and his sweetheart, Matilda Hiss, a stenographer, aged 17, ended their lives with poison early today.

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Dec. 27.—Cattle were 50 to 75 cents higher today, choice steers being \$7 to \$7.50. Hogs were up 25 cents, prime lights being \$9 to \$9.25. Sheep were weak, eggs weak and unsettled and butter weak.

(By Associated Press)
SACRAMENTO, Dec. 27.—Thomas Grace, over 25 years bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, died today after an illness of several months. He was aged 81.

(By Associated Press)
SALEM, Dec. 27.—The supreme court upheld the conviction of George Howard of Vale, convicted of first degree murder of George H. Sweeney.

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O. A. C. Students to be Hosts at Dancing Party

The O. A. C. students and alumni who are to be hosts to all their friends at a hop to be held in Rex Hall tomorrow evening, wish it understood that all students or graduates of any high school, college or university, and all friends of the institution are invited and urged to attend this function.

Elaborate preparations are being made and the decorations will be carried out in orange and black, the college colors. As programs are to be used, this color scheme has also been used on them, which are printed in black, with an orange "O".

Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Andrews, Mrs. Ellen I. Stoddard, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Reynolds are the patrons and patronesses for the evening.

This dance is an annual affair and the local O. A. C. people, among them being over 30 students attending the school this year, promise that there will be plenty of pep and an enjoyable evening.



Tonight and Wednesday rain or snow.

Venison Feed Will Be Held Tomorrow Evening

Tonorrow night at 7:15 sharp in the Foley hotel the sportsmen of La Grande and vicinity will meet with the odor of venison tickling their nostrils. It will be one of the biggest and promised to be the best venison feeds ever given in La Grande by the Pin, Wing and Fleet foot club. About 125 are expected to attend.

