

Hunt's Daily Letter

(By Harry B. Hunt) WASHINGTON (NRA Special).—Anyone wanting expert advice about "Keeping Cool With Coolidge" should apply to those distinguished journalists, George Harvey and William Allen White.

George and Bill were invited to spend a week-end with the president on a bit of a cruise in the good yacht Mayflower. Naturally they accepted. Such invitations aren't turned down out-of-hand, even in winter time.

But the Mayflower had hardly cast loose from her moorings with its distinguished cargo than the mercury started to fall. It dropped 60 degrees in the 20 hours covered by the cruise.

Of course neither Harvey nor White blames the weather on Coolidge. It was just a "coincidence," they say.

But both admit that "Keeping Cool With Coolidge" became a lot more realistic during the cruise than it did during the campaign.

Just as the air is full of all sorts of sounds in these days of radio, so one needs only the proper mechanism to enable him to pull a concert, a lecture or a bedtime story out of the ether.

Just so, also, is it full of ilimitable energy, needing only the proper apparatus to enable mankind to draw from it the power with which to run automobiles, propel steamships, drive power plants and perform all the myriad tasks for which man now harnesses steam and electricity.

Such is the claim of Garabed T. Terzian, who has been at the head of the "free energy" patent protection for an alleged "free energy" invention. This invention, which Girossian claims would at once relieve us of the necessity of damming rivers or digging in mines to obtain sources of power, would simply enable us to "turn in" the energy that has been stored up in the atmosphere since creation began.

The unusual thing about Girossian is that, unlike most inventors who seek special favors (Continued on Page 5.)

NOTE GIVEN MELLON ON WAR DEBTS

Negotiations Opened by France for Funding French Obligations

10-YEAR PERIOD TO PAY IS ASKED

Official Circles Believe, However, There Is No Chance to Settle on Such a Basis.

PARIS (By the Associated Press)—The French foreign office today confirmed reports that negotiations had been opened between Finance Minister Clemenceau and Secretary of the Treasury A. W. Mellon regarding the funding of the French war debt.

Clemenceau at a note Tuesday suggesting a ten year moratorium, giving an indication what the French government thinks France might be able to do toward payment. The note contains the first tangible propositions France has made toward settlement.

It is thought in official circles that Clemenceau's note cannot afford a basis for actual settlement, but will open discussion that may lead to a final agreement. It is at a note with similar propositions has been sent Great Britain concerning the funding of the French debt to Great Britain.

NO COMMENT MADE WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—France's formal submission of a plan for the settlement of her war debts has put a new phase on what has been a highly troublesome situation.

The Washington government desired to make no comment on the step, pending a careful examination of the French note, but there was manifest gratification that settlement discussions have produced at least a concrete proposal from Paris.

GOLDEN VOICES HEARD ON RADIO; THEATERS WORRY

NEW YORK (By the Associated Press)—With untold millions delighted with the first radio concert by John McCormack and Lucea Bori, theaters here, according to spokesmen, are facing a crisis as the result of the latest development of free amusement on the air.

They declared that the patronage of nearly every theater in the city was affected by the first appearance of the golden voices on the radio.

HANGING APPEALS ARE UP SALEM, Ore.—Arguments of attorneys in the case involving Arthur Covell of Bandon, Coos county, who is in the state penitentiary here awaiting execution for the murder of his sister-in-law, Edna Covell, will be heard by the state supreme court January 13. This was announced here by Arthur Benson, clerk of the court.

The case of L. W. Pearce, of Coquille, Coos county, who is under sentence to hang for the murder of his wife and James Caldwell, has been set before the supreme court on January 20. Pearce was charged with having committed the murders on December 27, 1922. Following conviction in the circuit court for Coos county Pearce appealed his case to the supreme court.

Grand Jury Begins Sessions. OREGON CITY, Ore.—The district grand jury began sessions here and may continue throughout the week, according to officials, who point out that there are a number of cases in which testimony must be heard. The members of the jury are C. C. Burland of Oregon City; foreman; W. L. Murray, Sherwood; O. M. Auvie, Canby; Annie C. Hart, Hubbard; J. E. Steier, Boring; Ella Barnes, Willamette; and Robert Jonsrud, Boring.

Cafe Changes Hands The Oregon Trail Cafe, which has been owned and managed by Mrs. Grace Shannon for several months, has been leased by her to C. H. Hatfield, and the new owner is now in charge. Mr. Hatfield is an experienced restaurant man and will be able to conduct the business in a thoroughly efficient manner that will meet good patronage. He has made some changes in the personnel at the cafe and will give the business his personal supervision.

HOGS SLUMP TODAY PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Cattle steady today. Hogs 25c-50c lower. Light weight 114-117.5c. Eggs and butterfat steady. Butter 40c.

U.S. Building Totals Nearly Six Billions Total building operations in the United States for the year 1924 were approximately \$5,750,000,000, according to the estimate of S. W. Straus & Co., based on official reports from 250 cities and towns.

The year 1924 has been the largest building year in the history of the country in point of financial requirements," the report states. "Last year the volume was \$5,590,000,000, but aggregate operations this year, based on the amount of permits filed and building permits issued in the 250 leading centers, exceeds the 1923 total by about 1 1/2 per cent. In 1922 the gain over the previous year was 24 per cent.

Great Gain. "Inasmuch as building costs averaged about 3 per cent less in 1924 than in 1923, the gain in actual new construction work was correspondingly larger than the increased financial outlay would indicate."

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Takes Oath



George H. Dern, above, was inaugurated governor of Utah today. He is the second Democrat and second non-Mormon chief executive this Republican and Mormon stronghold ever has had.

LAND MARINES AT NANKING

PEKING (By the Associated Press)—The Chinese government has proclaimed a general civil war amnesty, specifically exempting, however, former President Tsao Kun and his parliamentary followers.

SHANGHAI (By the Associated Press)—It is reported that a detachment of American marines have been landed at Nanking to protect foreign residential districts following looting by a bodyguard of Chi Shieh Yuan, former military governor of Kiangsu, of a number of large silk stores, causing a loss of \$800,000.

General Chi is a refugee here.

TIENTSIN (By the Associated Press)—General Lin (Ching Lin), military governor of the Chihli province has given troop commanders in the area where soldiers raided a train last Tuesday until next Monday to find the culprits. The commanders will be executed then if the guilty are not found. Lin says, adding that he will pay the losses of the foreigners as a result of the holdup.

HORSES ROAM WITHOUT FOOD

HALEWAY, Ore. (Special)—Hundreds of horses are roaming the range throughout the hilly section between Halfway and Baker half finished, some mere walking skeletons, unable to find other food or cover. Great droves of hungry animals, driven from the snow-covered hills to the valleys below, crowd the highways, at times nearly causing accidents to auto stages and trucks.

Hungry droves of jackrabbits also are making themselves conspicuous by encroachment on haystacks and other feeding places. Recent feet of snow is reported on the mountains above. "Corncups," residents of Hichland report the heaviest fall of snow in years.

Auto Hits Locomotive; Letter Suffered More

STOUX FALLS, S. D. (AP)—When Homer Thompson, Sioux Falls youth, saw a train coming he threw on the brakes of his car and skidded until it met the engine head on. Thompson drove his car home but the engine had to be towed.

The railroad runs through the residential district slowly until it gets beyond the city limits. When the car and locomotive came together, the car slid back as the engine moved forward and the only damage to the automobile was a battered fender. The locomotive cracked a wheel and had to be pulled to the shops.

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Post Office Board Fires Six Officials

Departmental Investigation Also Results in Discharge of Senate Employee.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Six responsible postal officials in as many cities throughout the country have been suspended from duty, an employee of the senate postoffice committee has been discharged and the clerk of the house postoffice committee has resigned as a result of an official investigation into the use of money to influence postal pay legislation.

The officials suspended are members of the legislative committee of the National Association of Postal Supervisors and hold some of the most important positions in the postal service. They are:

Peter McGury, acting superintendent of mails, New York city, who has been in the service 27 years.

James M. Greig, postal cashier, Boston, in the service 17 years.

Peter Wiggle, acting postmaster, Detroit, in the service 24 years.

Harvey M. Tuttle, assistant postmaster, Springfield, Ohio, in the service 25 years.

J. J. Fields, superintendent of mails, Louisville, in the service 32 years.

William Sansom, assistant superintendent of delivery, Chicago, in the service 36 years.

Senate Employee Discharged. The discharged senate employee was E. H. McDermott, assistant clerk of the senate committee, who is detailed in a report of postal inspectors as the central figure in the arrangement by which he received \$2000 to work for the interests of the association of postal supervisors.

Fred C. Riedel, clerk of the house committee, was declared in the report to have been presented with a "gift" of \$1000 by the supervisors' association and he announced Thursday that because of the unhappy notoriety connected with the investigation he had resigned.

The investigation, the results of which were announced in a statement by Postmaster General New, was undertaken by the postoffice department after Mr. New had conferred with President Coolidge. The postmaster general's statement reveals for the first time the facts in connection with the postal legislation charges "hoax" investigated by the department of justice. The justice department inquiry, however, resulted only in the announcement by Attorney General Stone that no law had been violated.

SHEPHERD TO LAUNCH SUIT

CHICAGO. (By Associated Press)—Fifteen minutes after the chemist's report on the examination of the body of William Nelson McClintock, "millionaire orphan," is submitted to Coroner Oscar Wolff, William D. Shepherd, who raised the 21-year-old boy and is his chief heir, will begin action against those who asked that the inquiry be started, he announced Thursday night.

"I am now ready to act," Shepherd said. "My first move will be in the form of damage suits for slander against the investigators of this inquiry and the terrible insinuations that have been hurled in my direction. I have gathered sufficient information on which to base my suits. I shall pursue them to the finish and I will make those people pay. Thursday was an extremely happy New Year's for me because I knew I had already been cleared of these foul suspicions," he said in a 1909 word statement.

William McNally, coroner's chemist, spent Thursday in making the final tests of his investigations.

INVESTIGATION ENDS CHICAGO (By the Associated Press)—The coroner's chemist found William N. McClintock, "millionaire orphan," died of typhoid fever, the coroner announced today. The findings corroborate those of a pathologist employed by William D. Shepherd.

"We consider" the coroner's statements complete exoneration of Shepherd," said Ralph Stoll, Shepherd's law partner.

Wishing And Getting

OF all the good friends that wish you a Prosperous New Year today, your own wish for that very thing is probably the most sincere.

If you are in business in the La Grande territory, advertising in The Observer can play an important part in providing that prosperity. We are always glad to be of assistance in solving your advertising problems.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

Cross-Word Hosiery Is Latest Popular Style PARIS (AP)—The cross-word puzzle stocking in the latest craze to strike the Paris hosiery world. When the first really cold days of winter came silk stockings of zossamer texture were gradually discarded and many women adopted very fine hand-made angora wool stockings.

The novelty has found good customers among American women, but French women say it is hideous.

OFFICIALS TAKE OATHS IN EVENING

New Commissioners to Be Sworn in at Special Session Tonight

COUNTY HEADS TO BEGIN WORK SOON

New Sheriff and School Superintendent Will Take Office on Monday

The new city commissioners, namely: Charles Playle, R. P. Landis and A. T. Hill will officially take office this evening at a brief session which will be largely in the nature of an installation.

H. E. Brownson, president of the city and retiring commissioners, C. J. Black and Sherwood Williams will open the meeting and the new commissioners will then be sworn in after which Messrs. Brownson, Black and Williams will leave them in possession.

The first act of the new commission will be to elect the city president from among their number. After this first move the official appointment of the city manager and the municipal judge will take place at a regular municipal business session to be held on Monday.

County Officers in Monday. The county officers are scheduled to begin work next Monday. The charter provides that retiring officers stay on the job until three days after the first of the year and this provision is being complied with at the court house.

Changes Made. The greatest change will be in the sheriff's office when Jess Broshars of Elgin who assumes the duties of county sheriff will bring with him two new assistants. These are Amos Helm, first deputy, better known as "Spud" Helm, who will replace J. J. Broughton and Hugo Klinghammer who will take the place held by C. P. Holbrook.

Several are applying for the position of county traffic officer. K. A. Sayre, new school superintendent, is now attending a superintendent's conference at Astoria but a typewritten slip on his door informs the public that he will return as "soon as possible."

Although Mrs. Florence Ince, county treasurer, has been occupying the office for some time by appointment her first term by election, began this morning.

W. W. Stevens, the only new man on the county commission will be present for the first county court meeting of the year next Wednesday. Mr. Stevens, a resident of Union succeeds J. F. Hutchinson also of Union.

FAST TRAIN IS PROPOSED

SALEM, Ore.—The Union Pacific, Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroad companies have joined in a proposal to operate a limited train between Portland and Seattle, according to information received at the offices of the public service commission here. The formal application for permission to operate the train was filed with the Interstate Commerce commission.

The earnings of the new train will be pooled between the three railroads, according to the application.

The new train will reduce materially the running time between the Portland and Seattle terminals.

Paper Changes Name HALSEY, Ore.—The Halsey Enterprise, published here for many years, became the Rural Enterprise with the publication of December 24.

SUSPECT IS BOUND OVER. ROSEBURG, Ore.—Donald J. Ritter, accused of altering a \$1 bill and passing it as \$10, who was arrested in Medford, waived examination when arraigned before United States Commissioner Hopkins here, and was bound over to the federal grand jury, bail being fixed at \$2500. Ritter was alleged to have implicated two other men in the case and a hunt for them was begun.

A changed bill passed at the Liberty theater in this city, resulted in Ritter's arrest.

GRACE EDGINGTON WEDS. BEND, Ore.—Grace Edgington, for several years alumni secretary of the University of Oregon, was married here to Leon Beck Jordan of Portland.

Mrs. Edgington has been making her home in Sisters since last spring when she resigned her position at the university.

The bride was attired for the wedding ceremony in a trim hiking outfit. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon, where she taught in the school of journalism for a time and was acting dean of women at the university for a time in the spring of 1923.

Shepherd After "Traducers"



W. D. Shepherd, foster-father of the late "millionaire orphan," William N. McClintock, will ask legal vindication against "his traducers," whom he says cast suspicion over the death of his ward for mercenary purposes. This picture was taken upon his arrival in Chicago from Albuquerque, N. M., where he has been since McClintock's death.

PETERSONS TO LEAVE MONDAY

Adjutant and Mrs. C. A. Peterson, in command of the Salvation Army work for Union and Willowa counties will say goodbye to La Grande and its people Sunday before leaving this territory for other fields. Their three children will accompany them.

The adjutant and his wife were asked to come here two and a half years ago to stay only a short time to try and build up the army work. When the adjutant viewed the situation he realized that justice could not be done with what he had to work with for a short time. He had been here for a short time, he and his wife set about planning a new building and securing funds for same. The plans met with success as a view of the Fir street building will mutely testify.

To Attend Conference. The Petersons will go from here to Los Angeles to a Salvation Army conference and there he will receive an appointment to a southern California city which has not been definitely selected yet.

The farewell service will be held Sunday night and they will leave the following morning. Before leaving they wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to the community for all that has been accomplished during the past two years.

Two Caldwell, Idaho Bank Effect Combine

CALDWELL, Idaho. (Special).—The Western National and Caldwell Commercial banks have consolidated under the name of the Western Commercial bank. Capital and surplus of the new institution aggregates \$120,000, with resources of more than \$1,250,000, it was announced. The combination was effective Thursday.

CHILD DIES OF BURNS

PENDELTON, Ore. (Special).—Leslie Hall, aged two, son of Maurice Hall and of the late Mrs. Hall who lost her life in a fire at her home on McKay creek December 13, died at St. Anthony's hospital Tuesday, succumbing to burns received in the same fire which caused his mother's death.

All efforts to save the child's life proved unavailing, according to a report from the hospital. His burns were serious and though he seemed to improve for a time, they were of such a nature that the child was unable to withstand the effects.

ROBINSON FOR TARIFF PROBE

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—An investigation of the tariff commission was asked in a resolution offered today in the senate by Senator Robinson, Democratic leader.

The inquiry will be conducted by the senate finance committee to determine whether any pressure was brought on tariff commission members in connection with the recent sugar investigation. The resolution went over for a day.

OREGON LABOR OUTLOOK Good, Asserts Gram

SALEM, Ore. (Special)—The employment outlook in Oregon for 1925 is good, according to C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner.

"An optimistic feeling pervades the industrial life of Oregon and employers generally are confident that 1925 will be a prosperous year," Gram declares in a statement issued Wednesday. "Indications are that there will be a greater demand for skilled labor in the next 12 months than was required this year."

"It is conservatively estimated (Continued on Page 5.)

NEW POSTAL RATES BILL IS PASSED

Senate Acts Favorably on Administration Measure Today

SECOND CLASS RATE DOCTORED

Two Cents Per Ounce Rate Proposed Increase Is Shunted for One and One-Quarter Cent Rate

WASHINGTON (AP Press Time Flash)—An appropriation of \$200,000 for the beginning of developments of the Yale irrigation project in Oregon was requested today of congress by the budget bureau.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The senate post office committee today approved the administration bill providing for postal salary and rate increases. The rate increases recommended by the post office department were repositioned so second class mail will be charged considerably less than was originally proposed.

The bill would be effective April 15th of this year to February 15th, of next year.

Plan Hearings. The postal bill provides for the creation of a joint congressional committee to conduct hearings on rate increases and that it report to congress by the first week of the next regular session.

The new measure provides for a flat cent and a quarter a pound rate on all second class mail devoted to reading matter, instead of two cents as proposed by the post office department.

BLOCKS ACTION. WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Characterizing the federal trade commission investigation of the so called "power trust" proposed by the Norris reauthorization as a "fishy expedition," Senator Edge, Republican of New Jersey, again blocked immediate consideration today of the reauthorization in the senate.

FIRE MENAGED TWO HUNDRED

LEWIS, Del. (By the Associated Press)—The Clyde liner Mollack, with 200 passengers aboard that proposed by the Norris reauthorization, as a "fishy expedition," Senator Edge, Republican of New Jersey, again blocked immediate consideration today of the reauthorization in the senate.

The fire spread rapidly and the passengers were prepared to leave the vessel. The last radio report said the fire was controlled and that passengers would land at Lewis. No casualties were reported.

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SCHOOL FUND LOSS IS HIGH

SALEM, Ore. (Special)—Losses to the state's irreducible school fund through bad loans will reach \$800,000, in the opinion of J. V. Starrett, special investigator for the state land board, in his final report to the board. He thinks \$500,000 will be lost from the original bad loans and \$300,000 from loans that have become impaired.

Starrett, who admits that it is impossible at this time to estimate accurately the losses which the school fund will suffer, points out that the heaviest of these losses will fall in Harney, Malheur, Wallowa, Klamath and Lake counties in the order named. In Harney county alone, Starrett declares, the state stands to lose \$100,000 as a result of bad loans from the school fund, while the losses in both Malheur and Wallowa counties will run close to those in Harney.

Starrett says that these losses are, however, small compared to the total amount of the school fund, which is estimated to be \$10,000,000. He compares the losses suffered by the school fund through the sale of school lands in the early days of the state for a mere pittance.

Public Fund Looted. "The history of our nation holds no instance which will exceed in actual footing of the public school funds the experience of the school fund in Oregon," Starrett's report declares.

"Men high in public life in Oregon today founded their fortunes by robbing the children of the state, legally, it is true, for the legislature passed a law compelling the sale of these lands for a pittance. But even after this iniquitous law was repealed and lands should have brought fair prices, timber and agricultural lands were sold for a pittance."

(Continued on Page 5.)

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