

Hunt's Daily Letter

(By Harry B. Hunt) WASHINGTON (SNEA Special)—President Coolidge's desire to transfer Secretary Hoover from the Commerce to the Agricultural Department, though it might not seem so on the surface, is evidence that he considers Hoover the ablest man in his official family.

Normally, the secretaryship of the Department of Agriculture is considered a position of second rank in the cabinet.

It is a job for some "farmer," either actual or theoretical. It never has been held to require the qualities of statesmanship supposed to be needed by the Department of State or the Treasury Department, for instance.

Yet in the judgment of the president the biggest problem now confronting the United States—bigger even than foreign affairs or taxation—has to do with the future of American agriculture.

And to tackle that problem he wants, as head of the Department of Agriculture, a man of the biggest possible caliber.

Hoover's four years at the head of the Department of Commerce, as well as his previous expert training in economic problems, are held to have fitted him especially for the particular need President Coolidge sees now in our agricultural affairs.

This need has to do with the commercial, or marketing, side of agriculture, rather than with the problems of production.

It is the lack of the farmer's ability to market to advantage, not any lack of ability to produce that is at the root of his troubles, Coolidge holds.

To develop a system and organization in the agricultural field that will eliminate present losses and wastes in distribution giving the farmer a bigger share of the consumer's dollar, is in brief the next secretary of agriculture.

For this job Hoover seems qualified beyond anyone else now in sight.

We hear a lot about "stand-pat" senators and congressmen, but little about "stand-pat" states.

States, however, usually reflect the same tendencies as their representatives.

(Continued on Page 5.)

PENITENTIARY TERMS GIVEN

VALE, Ore. (Special).—Bert Lawrence was sentenced to serve three years in the state penitentiary and his brother, Mollie Lawrence, was sentenced to two years by Judge Dalton Bligg of the circuit court here Monday as a result of their conviction of assault with a dangerous weapon upon Ralph Harvey at Ironside, 20 miles north of the railroad at Brogan, October 16. They are alleged to have put a rope around Harvey's neck and hung him to a cottonwood tree until he suffocated. He is reported bootlegging operations to the district attorney's office. The defense set up at the trial that Harvey had molested Bert Lawrence's wife and that the brothers were making him leave the country in order to do away with dissension in the Lawrence home.

LOS ANGELES REPORTS NO MURDERS DURING JANUARY

LOS ANGELES (AP).—Not a single murder had been reported within the city limits of Los Angeles in the 28 days ending at midnight Sunday night. There were 11 murders in November and 19 in December. Why January should be so singularly free from them is a question that is puzzling police statisticians. In January, 1924, there were seven murders and in each of the two previous Januarys there were eight.

Gas in Caisson Claims Lives of Four Workers

COLUMBUS, Ohio (By the Associated Press).—A small gas filled shaft, 47 feet deep, within a caisson of the new American insurance union building here claimed the lives of four men Monday. Three of the victims going to their deaths as heroes. A fifth man who went to the rescue came through unscathed and a few hours later a movement was started to reward him fittingly.

The dead: C. B. BROWN, 22, Greenwood, Ind.

JACK SMITH, New York city.

JOHN C. MCCARTHY, 48, New York city.

JOHN PETERSON, 22, Columbus.

All were steam fitters, employed

RELIEF FOR FARMERS IS MEET TOPIC

Coolidge Urges Enactment of Legislation at This Session

LEADERS CONFER WITH PRESIDENT

Recommendations by the Chief Executive Given at White House Breakfast Conference.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press).—President Coolidge today sought at a White House breakfast conference to pave the way for transmission to congress of the legislative recommendations of his agricultural conference.

Those attending the conference included ranking members of the senate and house agricultural committees, Secretary Fore, Senator Curtis and Representative Longworth, Republican senate and house leaders.

May Be Acted Upon Soon. Some of the legislative proposals of the commission are to be made public tomorrow and they might be enacted into law before adjournment of congress, the leaders said.

FARM ECONOMIC CONFERENCE TO BE MARCH 6-7

ELGIN, (Special).—The date for the economic conference was decided upon at a recent meeting of the Elgin graze and the agricultural committee of the Union County Chamber of Commerce. Dr. W. E. Pfy cut the work of the graze survey and also the purchased sire survey. This work is in preparation for the conference to be held on March 6th and 7th, at Union and La Grande, respectively.

MERIT RECORDS AWARDED

HOT LAKE (Special).—Threat of Dr. Pfy's purchased Holsteins have been given records of merit by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America. Phymere Poles Mateior has done especially well. This purchase almost doubled the amount required of her to secure record of merit. She is two years, four months and twenty-six days.

Flint Proud of Literature.

HELSINGFORS, Finland (AP).—To demonstrate that Finland has a large native literature, a fair of the printing trades was recently held here. The Flint boat of being the most literate nation in the world. They point with pride to the fact that their little country has 75 bookshops in the cities, 219 in the country, 409 bookstall agents and some 329 newsstands.

PUZZLE ANSWER

8-123

SENATE REDUCES POSTAL RATE ON READING MATTER

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press).—Advancing its consideration of the postal pay and rate increase bill Monday, the senate approved a number of items, including one fixing a rate of 14 cents a pound on reading matter of all publications but stopping work on the measure for the day upon reaching the controversial proposal for revision of some rates on second class mail.

In fixing the reading matter rate at 14 cents, the senate approved a reduction of one-half cent a pound from the rate now paid by general publications and placed them on a parity with religious, scientific and educational periodicals, which already enjoy the lower rate. At the same time, it rejected a recommendation of the postoffice department that the rate for general publications be increased to 2 cents a pound.

A provision increasing the rate on private and account post cards from one to 2 cents was approved, but proposals to advance the rate to 14 cents on postal cards and on letters mailed where free delivery is not established, as recommended by the department, were rejected.

A determined fight against the proposed advance on the advertising matter of publications subject to second class zone rates is in progress. Several amendments designed to eliminate the recommended increases were introduced Monday with others proposing decreases in the present rates.

Crane Used in Rescue. Suddenly a huge crane swung

(Continued on Page 5.)

Moro Outlaw Leader Shot In Skirmish

Pagumpatan, Wanted for Murder, Slain in Battle with Filipino Constabulary.

MANILA (By Associated Press).—Pagumpatan, notorious Moro outlaw, who has terrorized the populace of the Lanao province, was shot to death today with seven confederates when they barricaded themselves in a fortress and fired on officers.

The outlaws used home made guns and bolo knives in their defense.

"'Twas a neat job," said a telegram from the constabulary giving an account of the battle. "There were no casualties among the attacking constabulary."

Pagumpatan was sought to answer a murder charge.

COMMERCIAL CLUB BACKS HUNTER BILL

Measure Concerning Transient Livestock Is Approved

TWO AMENDMENTS IN RESOLUTION

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Unanimous approval of the bill introduced in the Oregon house of representatives by A. R. Hunter, member from Union county, and C. A. Hunter, of Wallawa county, with two amendments, was recorded by the members of the chamber of commerce today at the weekly luncheon of the organization held in Odd Fellows hall.

The bill, as has been printed in the Evening Observer's columns before, provides for a 60-40 per cent assessment of taxes from livestock owners who move their animals into Union and Wallawa counties during the grazing season, with 60 per cent going to the home county and 40 per cent to the receiving county.

The amendments called for minor changes in the bill.

GENEVA (By the Associated Press).—Leaders of the international opium conference decided in a private meeting today that a central board to supervise all international narcotic drug traffic should be appointed by a special group of powers, including the United States.

The central board will function at the league of nations headquarters with the United States paying a proportionate share of the expenses.

U. S. CONSIDERS TAKING PART IN WEEHAWKEN CASE

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Speaking before the regular semi-annual meeting of executive and administrative officials of the government, Mr. Coolidge declared that if congress sustained the current budget recommendations for expenditures, he would be able next fall to promise a further cut in taxes. The president expects a surplus of \$375,000,000 in the fiscal year 1926 and on that basis he suggested further tax relief should be granted. He warned, however, that any new and unnecessary expenditures would upset the plans of the treasury now seemingly assured of success.

Improvement Work Halted. CAPITAL HILL, Ore. — The bridge and sidewalk repair committee of the Capital Hill Improvement club, which was to have met with pick and shovel, has postponed its work until Sunday, February 1. This was decided on when inclement weather was forecast.

Only the Rich Use Phone in Tokyo TOKYO (AP).—Under regulation of the communications department new telephone subscribers must bear the entire cost of installation of telephones, which in Tokyo will amount to from 1,500 to 1,700 yen.

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SALEM MAN DIES IN SUFFOCATION

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High L. D. S. Officials Narrowly Escape Death

TWIN FALLS (AP).—Elder Melvin J. Ballard of the council of 12, L. D. S. church; L. P. Kirkwood, president of the Twin Falls stakes, L. D. S. church, and Mrs. Kirkwood and J. A. Barrett of the Barrett Automobile company of this city narrowly escaped serious injury and possible death when the closed car in which they were driving from here to Shoshone Tuesday evening slipped off the ice covered road near Barrimore, about 20 miles north of here, slid half way down a 25-foot embankment and caught fire. All of the occupants of the car escaped through the window at the rear from which Mr. Kirkwood broke out the glass. The car was entirely destroyed.

Peace Chairman to Speak. CAPITAL HILL, Ore. — Chinton S. Howard, chairman of the world peace commission, who is delivering a series of lectures in Portland, will address a mass meeting of Capital Hill citizens in the high school building. His subject will be "The Cause of War and How to Cure It."

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Sun Yat Sen Again Said To Be Dead

TOKYO. (By the Associated Press).—Dr. Sun Yat Sen, one of China's most noted political leaders, is dead at Peking, according to a dispatch received here today by a Japanese semi-official news agency.

DAVID BELASCO DRAMA STAGED

With the Neighborhood Club rooms crowded to capacity last evening the presentation of David Belasco's drama "Madame Butterfly" was excellent. Preceding the play the Monday Musical chorus sang "At the Ten House," by Harlequin, directed by Mrs. E. L. Holmes. Mrs. J. Donald Meyers accompanied her at the piano.

Each member of the cast was perfect in her role and the play was sincerely appreciated by everyone present. Mrs. Lester Stoddard as Madame Butterfly showed much dramatic ability, and other members of the cast did equally well in the interpretation of their role. Mrs. Lynn Wright acted as Suzuko, the maid; Mrs. Lee Warnick as Sharpless, the American consul; Mrs. L. H. Russell, Mrs. Kowah, a marriage broker; Mrs. Dick Claycomb, Hamori, a wealthy Japanese merchant; Mrs. Lowell Williamson, Lieutenant Pinkerton; Mrs. Walter Ledman, Mrs. Pinkerton, and little Anne Stoddard, trouble. Little Miss Stoddard was excellent in her role for a child her age. The stage and lighting effect for the play was beautiful.

At the end of the second scene Mrs. A. L. Richardson, accompanied by Mrs. W. W. Berry, sang the aria from the opera "Madame Butterfly," "One Fair Day," adding much to the effect of the drama.

Much credit is due Mrs. Donald Pogue for her untiring work in directing the play. Mrs. Pogue has much ability along this line and it was through her work that "Madame Butterfly" was so successful. She was assisted by Mrs. G. S. Birnie.

At 7:30 o'clock the regular business meeting of the Monday Musical was held, which proved to be one of the most interesting meetings of the organization.

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LINNVILLE NAMED

SALEM, Ore. (By the Associated Press).—Dr. Linnville, federal prohibition investigator for Oregon, is expected to be called tonight by the prohibition investigation here.

CHINA WARNED BY NATIONS

PEKING (By Associated Press).—Foreign representatives today presented a note to the foreign office emphasizing the Chinese government's responsibility for protection of lives and property during renewed fighting in the Shanghai vicinity.

The fighting, the communication declared, "has already proved a real cause for both foreign and Chinese population." The note urgently requests the government to telegraph orders to conflicting forces that no troops will be allowed within the neighborhood of the foreign habitations.

TURMAN CASE IS POSTPONED

COUNSEL FOR 20 of his victims, appeared with six of his clients at the district attorney's office with documents which he said would prove that he made his high borrowings on the strength of promises of profits, not interest.

NEW YORK (By the Associated Press).—The case of Moses Turman, who has sought confession he committed forgery totaling \$1,300,000 in repaying a \$10,000 loan, was adjourned to Wednesday when he appeared before Judge Keating Monday for pleading an indictment.

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