

DIRECT PRIMARY FACES ATTACK

State Legislatures of the
Middle West Expected
to Take Up Issue

CHICAGO, Dec. 28. (AP)—The direct primary method of nominating candidates for office, which has fought a few preliminary battles over the country for its existence, will do some final sparring in the legislative ring of the middle west when the biennial business of making and unmaking laws starts in January.

Issues as varied as a heavy tax on tobacco to effect a reduction in the real property tax, to entire reorganization of state government, face assemblies of the various states, but the primary law is up in front for consideration.

Indiana Seeks Repeat
Indiana will be asked to repeat the law outright.

The Ohio assembly probably will be asked to submit a constitutional amendment modifying the statute.

In Illinois, the fate of the law is in the hands of the supreme court, and if it is held unconstitutional, the fight will be thrown into the legislature for its re-enactment.

Holding into the assembly another important subject will be issues pertaining to the automobile and revolving around it.

Iowa is going to try to bond the state for \$100,000,000 for funds to pave roads. A proposed two-cent gasoline tax in Illinois has caused a furor of discussion in advance of the legislative session. In Minnesota, Ohio, and Indiana, where gasoline taxes have been in existence for two years or more, efforts will be made to increase the tax.

Income For Property Tax
There will be a struggle in Wisconsin to abolish the personal property tax and substitute an income tax.

A heavy tobacco tax to reduce real property burdens is proposed in Michigan.

The Ohio legislature's biggest problem is to devise ways and means to prevent the state from going broke. There will be an estimated deficit of \$5,000,000 July 1, next, and additional revenues of \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 annually must be provided if the state's bank balance is to keep up with its expenditures.

Sound Currency Conditions in Europe Nearer

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. (AP)—Stabilization of the Belgian currency on a new gold basis, a remarkable recovery in the French franc late in the year, the return of the Japanese yen and the Norwegian kroner to within a short distance of parity, and substantial improvement in most of the other foreign currencies signaling a world-wide movement toward more stable monetary condition in 1926.

At the close of the year the outlook for sound currency conditions was brighter than at any time since the war, largely due to the cumulative effects of a constructive program supported by international bankers and the foremost economic authorities of all countries.

Within the next year, it has been predicted by financial experts, the French franc and the Italian lira will join the other European currencies which have gone back to the gold standard. Revaluation probably will be necessary, as it was in Belgium. Recent developments have indicated that attempts were being made to ascertain the true levels of these exchanges.

The Belgian monetary program, effected with the aid of a \$100,000,000 international loan in October, unquestionably gave a powerful impulse to stabilization plans in other countries. Previously, both Belgian and French francs had gone through the most troubled, some days in their checked histories, plunging to record low levels in a mid-summer slump.

HE DIDN'T LIKE IT

NEW HAVEN—One product of Yale's new dramatic department is too much for Professor John Archer of the divinity school. After the first act of "Chicago" at a public theater the professor left, saying that while the play might be distressingly true to life, the stench might be kept from the nostrils of these eastern public, "Chicago" is a satirical comedy, written by Maurine Watkins, a student.

ON THE STAGE

HOBOKEN, N. J.—Charlotte E. Mills is on the stage—in a melodrama entitled "Who is Guilty?" She refused a substantial minor role and now her part consists of a certain speech in which she says:

"My mother was a good woman. Please try to think kindly of her."

Northwestern University has to take some of the sting out of a child's visit to the dentist. A children's playroom, resembling a garden, has been installed in the dental clinic, where various amusements take the child's mind off the "dental."

Count Salvi testified that after his marriage to Millicent Rogers he couldn't find work. Funny, we didn't see any mention of the security of jobs in the Coolidge message.

Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, wife of the British prime minister, confessed that her greatest ambition is someday to back all her household linen with an appropriate "H."

"BABY MYSTERY" IS GIVEN SOLUTION, U.S. Death Rate

Same in 1925 As
In Year Before



Lucille Oberlander, 2, 14th child of a Twin Falls, Idaho, family of 15, missed riches because Howard Hamilton Hart, Berkeley, Cal., millionaire, was not at home when Mrs. Ethel Sheldon, 26, wife of a Twin Falls dentist, left Lucille at his residence. The "baby mystery" was solved when Mrs. Sheldon appeared and told her story.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.—The department of commerce announced that 1,219,919 deaths occurred in 1925 within the death registration area of constitutional United States, representing a death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 population—the same as the rate for 1924.

This death registration area in 1925 comprised 46 states, the District of Columbia, and 24 cities in non-registration states, with a total estimated population on July 1 of 192,108,000, or 89.4 per cent of the estimated population of the United States.

The principal decreases in death rates in 1925 were from measles, from 2 to 2.4 per 100,000 population, pneumonia, all forms, from 38.5 to 34, and tuberculosis, all forms, from 49 to 47.

Increases in rates in 1925 were for influenza, from 25 to 29 per 100,000 population; diphtheria, from 17.5 to 18.6; nephritis, from 9.9 to 10.6; and diarrhea and enteritis, under 2 years, from 28 to 32.

HILGARD PERSONALS

HILGARD, (Special)—Ed Hilgard returned home from Menasha, where he has been cutting logs, for the week end.

George Ranch spent the night at the Frank Sanford home Sunday night. He was on his way to La Grande to visit his sister, Mrs. Joel.

Mrs. P. Y. Young was a La Grande visitor Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Sanford and son, Gerald were Christmas shopping in La Grande last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Amel Abel and Bert Abel were shopping in La Grande last week.

Mrs. Howard Stubbins was Christmas shopping in La Grande last week.

Jack Cox was in La Grande on business last Wednesday.

Mrs. Ed Salting was Christmas shopping in La Grande last Thursday.

Dan Chandler, of Elgin, was here Thursday night. He was on his way to the Menasha logging camp with four teams of horses.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Young, spent Christmas at the Ben Young ranch.

The Hilgard school had a program and Christmas tree Thursday afternoon.

To have survived 10 forest fires in more than 200 years only to fall victim to the lumberman's axe was the fate of a fir tree in the Blackfoot valley of Montana.



A letter from the Royal Coal Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, Claude C. Pratt, La Grande, Ore.

We have your good letter of Dec. 15 and are pleased to note what you say in regard to our Royal coal. We appreciate very much the business you are getting us and assure you that your orders will receive our prompt and careful attention at all times. The high quality of our Royal coal is unquestioned and we know your customers will like it. Even the most discriminating users of coal will be satisfied with its outstanding characteristics which prove it to be a high-grade coal.

It heats readily, burns with intense heat, does not clinker, is low in ash yet it has that long-lasting quality which is so desirable. Once your customers have given it a trial they will insist on it at all times, favoring you with unsolicited repeat orders throughout the season.

The Albion Fuel Company of Portland, Oregon, who has been handling Royal for almost 19 years, started out with a small trial car and now they are one of the largest fuel dealers at that point, handling as high as 4 and 8 cars per week.

Royal coal means satisfied customers. There is no substitute for high quality and first class preparation. You can carry out an extensive solicitation for orders for Royal coal with an assurance of satisfied customers in La Grande.

Thanking you for your continued patronage, we are,

Yours truly,

ROYAL COAL SALE CO.,
F. S. Ballie, Pres.

P. S.—Another car of Royal coal due to arrive at \$10.80 delivered, \$9.80 where you haul it yourself. The per hundred furnish your own sacks and take it away. Cash, bank, scales for your trucks and wagons at your convenience. We're busy.

Claude C. Pratt
Lumber Co.

"The Poor Man's Friend"
Near Foundry, Phone Main 218
No Sunday Business.

LOTTA'S HEIR?



Still Searching For Gold Said Left by Pirate

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 28. (AP)—The fabulous pirate's gold of Jean Lafitte, notorious buccaneer, still lures treasure hunters to the marshes of southern Louisiana.

A century has not diminished the search for Spanish doubloons and pieces of eight supposed to have been cached by the freebooter somewhere along the great coastal stretch southwest of New Orleans. So avid have been the diggers on the plains from Barataria and Grand Terre to the Texas border that in several sections, plots of land resemble deserted shell-holed battlefields.

On Pecan Island, in Vermilion parish, six miles from the Gulf of Mexico, trees have been uprooted and bones, pottery, arrowheads and other relics removed from the Indian mounds there, but no treasure has been found. Excitement prevailed among residents of the Vermilion bay section a little more than a year ago, following the report that a treasure trove had been unearthed but the find never materialized.

Piracy Disputed.
Lafitte, most authorities agree, died in Sihan, Yucatan, in 1826, although some say he perished at sea nine years earlier.

The romantic figure of Gulf coastal tradition always contended engaged in piracy. He claimed that he had authority from the republican party of Mexico to cruise southern waters and make life hard for opponents of the political body. General Morales, president of a revolutionary party, is reported to have given Lafitte a ship to aid him in obtaining assistance for the "patriotic" cause. The vessel was said to have been presented by Colonel Ellis P. Bean, acting in behalf of Morales.

Lafitte, according to tradition, dealt in slaves in Louisiana and Texas. He also smuggled goods, including silks and liquors, which were transported to the interior in wagons and by boats that plied the rivers and bayous. Tangible evidence that Lafitte and his men ever buried any treasure is lacking.

One out of five saw the Seaquest centennial free, says a headline. So four people did pay to get in.

That should make the law iron clad.

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IT ISN'T A HOME WITHOUT A TELEPHONE



DOES a Telephone Bell ever ring for you?

If it doesn't, you are missing something.

Friends and acquaintances want to call you—but they can't.

You want to talk to them, but it's inconvenient to go to a public phone.

Why not install a Telephone of your own?



HOME INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE CO.

AND YOU CAN HAVE ONE FOR A FEW CENTS A DAY!

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Call
Main 24

And a copy will be delivered at once free of charge.

For change of address, please do not notify carrier boy only—call the office direct, giving old and new residence, and you will avoid errors in service.

The Evening Observer
Main 37



—NEA, New York Bureau
WHEN MEMBERS OF THE YOUNGER SOCIAL SET of Philadelphia rehearsed for their charity ball recently, these three girls consented to pose. They are (left to right) Gwendolyn Roberts, Linda Gordon Donelson and Marie Bealey.