

RIOT IS STAGED IN LEGISLATIVE HOUSE

Oklahoma Lawmakers Have Inkwell Battle.

SPEAKER FLEES FROM SCENE

Democratic Majority Invited to "Come On" by Republicans.

ONE MAN KNOCKED OUT

Chairman of Republican State Committee Is Victim—Disorder Is Caused by Substitute for Late "Grandfather" Law.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 18.—Tumultuous scenes occurred in the Oklahoma House of Representatives late today while the members were voting on a section of an election law designed to take the place of the famous "grandfather law," which was recently declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court, because it in effect disfranchised the negro population of the state.

Partisan feeling over the new measure finally culminated in an outbreak, precipitated by charges of corruption and the passing of the life between members, during which ink bottles, paper weights and other fixtures of the members' desks were used as weapons and a set battle seemed inevitable. Democrats moved and advanced toward the Republicans and Socialists.

Republican Chairman Knocked Out. Arthur H. Geisler, chairman of the Republican state central committee, was rendered unconscious by Representative Louis E. Bryant, of Big Heart, Osage County.

The proposed law is the product of a Democratic caucus. It had passed the Senate and was up for final passage in the House late today, with Republican and Socialist members offering vigorous opposition.

Geisler was on the floor through the courtesy of a visitor's permit issued him as Republican state chairman. Representative Paul Nesbitt, Democrat, of Pittsburg, had voted in favor of the proposed law and as he announced his vote Representative Sams, Republican, taunted Nesbitt with being "unfair" to Republicans.

Hard Words Exchanged. Nesbitt replied that he was raised in a section where the Republicans had overridden him with corrupt practices and that he had no desire to be fair to Republicans.

"They probably took you for the crook that you are," shouted Sams. "If you make that charge you are a liar," replied Nesbitt.

Sams arose in his seat and shouted toward the Democratic side of the House "Come on."

In an instant every Democratic and Republican member of the House was on his feet. Ink bottles and paper weights were fired back and forth between the belligerents.

The Democratic members advanced through the aisles toward the Republican members and the Speaker of the House, A. C. McCrory, left his chair and rushed out of the legislative hall.

Democrats in Majority. The Democrats greatly outnumbered the Republican combatants and after the harmless volley of books had been thrown the melee died out of its own accord.

Representative Tom Hensley, Democrat, went to the "side line" and was engaged in conversation with Geisler. When Hensley walked away Bryant stepped up to Geisler and said: "What right have you to be talking to a Representative on the floor of the House?" Geisler replied: "Box pardon, what is your name?" whereupon Bryant hit Geisler in the face, according to witnesses, knocking him to the floor and rendering him unconscious for a few minutes.

Bryant became lost in the crowd that rushed around Geisler. No further disturbances occurred.

President Wilson recently pardoned two Oklahoma election officials who were convicted in Federal Court for enforcing the "grandfather test" and there are two others now on trial in Federal Court at Guthrie.

The election bill passed the House, 53 to 24. It is expected to be approved by Governor Williams.

The registration section of the bill was being voted on when the disorder occurred. This also passed the House, 50 to 24. No ballot was taken on the emergency clause. Speaker McCrory announcing that the strict party vote on the bill showed that the necessary majority to put the measure into effect at once could not be obtained.

HORSE BUYING IS CEASING

British Army Agent Says Business Will Soon Be Closed.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 18.—Major-General F. W. Benson, of the general staff of the English army and in charge of the purchase of all horses and mules for British forces, declared here today that no American horses for war use had been bought since last November, and that the affairs of the remount service in this country would be closed within a short time.

Major-General Benson will make a final trip to Lathrop, Mo., an important horse depot.

BETROTHAL BRINGS SONG AT COLLEGE

STUDENTS CELEBRATE ENGAGEMENT WITH UKELELES.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—University students were awakened last night about the midnight hour by the blended voices of men and women singing "I Love a Maiden," accompanied by the strumming of ukeleles.

It was members of the Delta Gamma sorority and Phi Delta fraternity serenading in celebration of the engagement of Miss Helen Wiegand, a Delta Gamma junior from Portland, and Roger Jayne, a Phi Delta Theta junior from Grinnell, Ia. Both are prominent in student affairs and are popular among the students. Miss Wiegand is a graduate from Jefferson High School, of Portland.

It was revealed this morning that "Buck's" fraternity brothers became "wise" to what he was going to do when he went "calling" last night and waited patiently on a street corner until he made his homeward appearance. He was seized and the serenade celebration followed.

LIPTON YACHT IS ARMED

Erin Converted Into Auxiliary Cruiser for Patrol Duty.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Sir Thomas Lipton's steam yacht, the Erin, which has often been in American waters as a tender to Sir Thomas's challenges for the America's cup, is now an auxiliary cruiser in the British navy attached to the fleet that is guarding the North Sea against submarines.

This information was contained in a letter received here from Sir Thomas in which the yachtman said that he is recovering from a long illness, and intends soon to leave England for the United States and Canada.

LOSS OF SUIT ADVANTAGE

Attorney Melvin, Acquitted, Demonstrates Value of Patents.

If the letter received by Attorney P. E. Melvin after the jury had retired yesterday in the suit against him for recovery of money invested in two patents had arrived sooner, there probably would have been no suit.

The jury found for the defendant in the suit of Mrs. S. C. Leo, wife of a Chinese physician. As the verdict was read Attorney Melvin handed a letter to Circuit Judge Gastenbein. This said that the patents had been guaranteed and that \$5000 had been offered for an option.

CAPTAIN REEVES TO COME

Navy Officer Known Here Will Bring Marblehead.

Captain Joseph M. Reeves, United States Navy, who was in command of the cruiser Milwaukee during the cruise of the Oregon Naval Militia to Honolulu in 1914, has been detailed to command the cruiser Marblehead and will bring her to this port for the use of the Naval Militia, according to information which has been received by Lieutenant-Commander Blair, Oregon Naval Militia.

The cruiser is expected to arrive about the middle of March.

GRAND OPERA HAS DEFICIT

Musical Chicagoans Foot Deficit of \$98,000 for Season.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Grand opera in Chicago this season cost the exorbitant sum of \$385,000, according to Charles G. Dawes, president of the Central Trust Company and one of the directors of the association.

Mr. Dawes today expressed satisfaction with the management of the "financial returns of the season, on which comments had been made because of the resignation yesterday of Bernhard Ulrich as business manager.

CARTOON BRINGS BIG FINES

British Government Resents Drawing of Drunken Soldier.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The proprietors of the Weekly Journal-Bystander were fined £100; the ex-editor, Vivian Carter, £50, and Lieutenant Bernard, cartoonist, £50, today for publishing a cartoon depicting a British soldier lying intoxicated beneath a tree and clasping a bottle of rum. Beneath the cartoon were the words, "Reported missing."

The charge was brought under the defense of the realm act, on the ground that publication of the cartoon was prejudicial to discipline and recruiting. An appeal was entered.

MAIL DELAYED 40 DAYS

Parcel Congestion in California Town Still Growing.

AUDITORIUM BIDS BELOW ESTIMATES

Tender by Seattle Concern \$317,400.

HANS PEDERSON IS LOWEST

Oregon Labor and Materials Must Be Used.

BONDS ON HAND \$565,000

No Ornamentation Need Be Omitted, Though Figures Given Do Not Include These—Rushlight & Hastdorf Low on Plumbing.

Portland's Auditorium probably will be built by Hans Pederson, a contractor of Seattle.

In bids for the superstructure opened yesterday by City Auditor Barbur, the Seattle firm, with a bid of \$317,400, was found to be not only nearly \$100,000 less than estimates made some time ago as to the probable cost, but was about \$27,000 less than the next low bid. Rushlight & Hastdorf submitted the lowest bid for the plumbing work, in the sum of \$27,877.

The bids are astonishingly low, in the judgment of men well posted on the quotations for building materials. The city accordingly will be able to erect the structure at far less cost than was figured originally, and for considerably less than the total bond issue authorized by the voters in 1911.

Bonds Expected to Bring Par. The total bond issue was \$600,000, of which \$355,000 remains unsold. It is believed in bond circles that the issue will bring almost par, so that there will be approximately \$565,000 available for the structure. It is estimated now that with the extremely low bid for the general contract the structure can be erected and furnished for not to exceed \$450,000 or \$475,000.

Ten bids were submitted for the general contract, and eight for the plumbing contract. Of the 10 superstructure bidders, only one was from outside Portland. This happened to be the Seattle concern, which submitted the lowest bid.

Plumbing Figures Close. The next to the lowest bid was by Boyalohn-Arnold Company, of Portland, which submitted a figure of \$244,475. This was \$27,075 higher than the bid of Hans Pederson.

In the plumbing contract there was only about \$1000 difference between the low bid and the next to the low bid.

The superstructure as called for in the general contract includes the erection of all parts of the building except the excavations, the plumbing, heating, ventilating, electric wiring and installation of the vacuum cleaning system. The contract calls for the use of Oregon labor and materials.

In the general contract proposals were submitted on 10 alternate plans (Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

LAD SUSPECTED OF THEFT IS SUICIDE

BOY, 18, TAKES POISON WHEN ENGAGEMENT IS BROKEN.

Lawrence Mitchell, of Lents, Dies at Home of Fiancee Just as Arriving Officers Arrive.

Jilted and under suspicion for an alleged theft from a barber supply company for whom he worked, Lawrence Mitchell, 18 years old, of Lents, took poison last night at 9 o'clock at the home of his fiancée, Miss Marion Brownell, 1062 East Twenty-eighth street North. He died soon after.

He was in the last struggles of death when Deputy Constable Mesurefsky and Nate Laugotte, one of his employers, arrived at the girl's house to arrest him on a charge of having taken minor supplies from the firm.

According to the report made to the police, young Mitchell had been told by Mrs. E. Brownell, mother of the girl, that he could not wed her daughter until he was cleared of the impending charges against him. The girl, too, had jilted him, and it was in an endeavor to pass one more evening in the girl's presence that he went to her home and begged to visit with her, apparently cognizant of the fact that his arrest was imminent.

Two notes, one to Miss Brownell, who is about 18 years old, admonishing her "to be careful with whom she went," and that "he couldn't live without her," and a long missive to his mother, to the effect that "the girl is not to blame" and "not to worry," had been prepared by young Mitchell before his death. His mother is Mrs. Maud Billings.

3000 VISIT WHITE HOUSE

Wilson Hold Reception for Senators and Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The annual White House reception to the members of the Senate and House was attended tonight by nearly 3000 persons.

Speaker Clark, of the House, and Senator Clark, President pro tem, of the Senate, led the line of those received by the President and Mrs. Wilson.

Only one more White House function remains on the season's formal social programme, which will be brought to a close March 3 with a reception in honor of Army and Navy officers.

ACID PLANT IS BLOWN UP

Four Killed, Dozen Hurt, in Explosion at Syracuse.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Four persons were killed, at least a dozen others were injured, some seriously, and heavy property damage was caused by an explosion tonight in the split rock plant of the Semet-Solvay Company.

The plant, which was developed since the outbreak of the European war, is one of the largest in the country engaged in the manufacture of peric acid, which is used in explosives and synthetic dyes. It has been heavily guarded day and night.

Woman, 60, Sentenced to 16 Years. WINTERSET, Ia., Feb. 18.—Sixteen years in the Penitentiary was the sentence today given by Judge Applegate to Mrs. Ida Meyer, the 60-year-old woman who earlier in the week was convicted of complicity in the murder of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Ethel Meyer, last July.

FRUIT MEN MEET TO HEAR FEDERAL PLAN

Northwest Shippers Session in Spokane.

GOVERNMENT IS REPRESENTED

Supervision of Apple Marketing Proposed.

GROWERS INITIATE IDEA

Bureau Officials Present Scheme to Improve Conditions, Based Upon Survey of Field—Equitable Distribution Is Sought.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Fruit shippers representing practically every important marketing agency of the Northwest went into session with representatives of the federal Bureau of Markets and Rural Organization at 1 o'clock this afternoon at the Davenport Hotel, hearing a proposal from the Government representatives that Federal supervision of marketing methods and information be established.

The Bureau of Markets representatives are C. E. Bassett, C. W. Moorman and W. H. Kerr, who arrived in Spokane Thursday from Washington, D. C., where they had a conference with Charles J. Brand, chief of the bureau, on the proposed method of supervising the marketing of Northwestern apples. The plan has been placed also before the Federal Trade Commission.

Shippers Formulate Plan. The plan was formulated first at a meeting of shippers in Spokane January 12.

B. J. Perham, sales manager, represented the North Pacific Fruit Distributors. The Spokane Fruit Growers' Company was represented by P. R. Parks, general manager, and L. J. Block, sales manager. Wilmer Selig, of Hood River, Oregon, was present as general manager of the Hood River Applegrowers' Association, and F. E. Siggels represented the Yakima Valley Fruitgrowers' Association. Wenatchee shipping agencies and the Northwest Fruit Exchange, of Seattle, also were represented.

Meeting Opens Late. The meeting had been scheduled to open at 9 o'clock this morning, but was postponed because of the late arrival of coast shippers.

At the request of numerous growers, shippers and business men of the Pacific Northwest, Messrs. Bassett, Moorman and Kerr were detailed to make a survey of the conditions surrounding the marketing of the fruit products of the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana with a view to making suggestions for a more equitable distribution and economical marketing of these crops.

The representatives of the office then proceeded to draw up a plan which (Continued on Page 3, Column 4.)

HIGH SCHOOL BOY CONTROLS STRIKE

LAD THROWS L. W. W. OUT OF HALL, TAKING COMMAND.

South Addresses Workers in Seven Languages, and They Follow His Advice for Order.

ANSONIA, Conn., Feb. 18.—Joseph Grohol, a youth just out of high school and who speaks seven languages, holds the balance of power tonight in the strike situation here, where more than 4000 persons are idle as the result of a strike of 2500 employees of various mills of the American Brass Company.

Grohol was able to control men of 11 nationalities and he was made chairman of a committee that will officially present plans to company officials at a meeting tomorrow. He is not an employee of the concern, but addressed a mass meeting of the strikers tonight urging the necessity of peace and order.

The manufacturers appealed today to Governor Holcomb for state troops, but the Governor decided that the situation did not warrant such action at present.

An unidentified man who said he was an organizer of the Industrial Workers of the World addressed the crowd. Many did not understand him and there was much confusion. Grohol then ordered the speaker to leave the hall.

When he failed to do so, Grohol threw him from the platform. Speaking in various languages Grohol suggested that a committee be named to have full charge of the dispute. This was done.

SHIP THOUGHT LOST SAVED

Fort Bragg Passes San Pedro in Tow for San Francisco.

SAN PEDRO, CAL., Feb. 18.—The steamer Fort Bragg, which was given up for lost when it went on the rocks last November off San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, proceeded northward to San Francisco from here today in tow of the steamer Arctic, after making an unsuccessful attempt to reach the drydock at Long Beach, Cal., where repairs were to have been made.

It was found that the Fort Bragg's keel was broken, but otherwise the vessel was undamaged.

LOUISIANA FLOODS GAIN

Eight Parishes in Eastern Part of State Are Under Water.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 18.—Eight parishes in Eastern Louisiana are flooded by overflows, backwater or breaks in the levees in the Mississippi, Arkansas and Atchafalaya, Red and Black rivers.

Moorehouse and Richland parishes, in the northern part of the state, have been overflowed in sections by water from breaks in the Arkansas. A large portion of Concordia Parish and the lower section of St. Landry are inundated.

SACRIFICE IS OFFERED

Bryan's Brothers Would Step Aside in Race for Governor.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 18.—Charles W. Bryan, Mayor of Lincoln, who recently announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Governor, said in a statement today he was willing to withdraw from the race if some member of the party committed to the prohibition amendment would volunteer to make the fight. Any one of five men whom he named would be agreeable to him, Mayor Bryan said.

Mayor Bryan is a brother of W. J. Bryan, ex-Secretary of State.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 57 degrees; minimum, 47 degrees. TODAY'S—Fair, easterly winds.

America has few military secrets. Page 2. German policy regarding armed merchantmen attacked by Republicans. Page 3. Senate ratifies canal treaty with Nicaragua. Page 3. Army aviation scandal charged before Senate committee. Page 3. Small scandal acted in Senate committee. Page 12. Rapid work on Portland postoffice indicated by McCord's request for larger assurance. Page 16. Berlin expected to contend previous assurance referred only to unarmed vessels. Page 16.

Domestic. Berry says Seals are stronger than ever, despite loss of stars. Page 12. Columbia five easily defeats Jefferson. Page 12. Pacific Northwest. Fruit men at Spokane consider Federal market supervision. Page 1. Tug war breaks out at La Grande. Page 6. Old hotel register of pioneer Cliff House at Oregon City uncovered. Page 7. Urgent plea for lumber freight cars is sent East. Page 8. Schooner Annie Larsen declared to have been in plot to aid rebellion in India. Page 15. Oregon students celebrate engagement of fellow students with serenade. Page 1. "Husband" proves to be woman. Page 15.

Commercial and Marine. Spices scarce in domestic market and prices soaring. Page 17. Wheat higher at Chicago on large foreign buying. Page 17. Stock prices gradually recover from recent decline. Page 17. Retail and jobbing trade is increasing. Page 17. McCormicks order huge lumber carrier. Page 16. Portland and Vicinity. Auditorium bids far below estimates. Page 1. Women's day in Oregon politics is here. Page 13. Child welfare law day is here. Page 13. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 17.

PLOT IS BARED FOR REBELLION IN INDIA

Schooner Annie Larsen Plays Part.

MUNITIONS TO AID UPRISING

Official at Aberdeen Learns of Failure of Mission.

PLAN IS UPSET BY STORM

British Vice-Consul Sends Word From Shanghai of Attempt by Steamer Maverick to Take Supplies to Aid Rebels.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Dr. R. P. Hunter, who as United States surgeon for this port was responsible for the discovery of munitions of war on board the schooner Annie Larsen, seized here recently by the Federal authorities, has received details of the plot in which the Annie Larsen was to take a part and which, he declares, had to do with the starting of a rebellion in India.

Information concerning the plans comes from British Vice-Consul C. E. L. Agassiz, according to Dr. Hunter. It tells of the conviction at Shanghai, China, of Sildmond Hay Abbas and his son, Oswald, natives of India, for procuring arms to incite a rebellion, and of their being sentenced to serve 15 years and two years, respectively, in prison. They were in charge of the steamer Maverick, owned by Captain Jensen, when that vessel was seized by the British with a cargo of contraband. The steamship Maverick and the schooner Annie Larsen were working in conjunction, but because of a storm became separated, the Larsen coming to Grays Harbor and the Maverick landing in the Dutch Indies, where she was interned.

The Maverick loaded with "knock-down" submarines, a large quantity of rifles and ammunition on the Pacific Coast and put to sea, stopping, according to the Vice-Consul's statement, to Dr. Hunter, at Johnson's Island, one of a coral group in the South Pacific. She was there to await the Larsen, which was to load rifles and ammunition at San Pedro.

The Larsen made the rendezvous, but running out of water before the Maverick arrived—the latter being delayed longer than expected at her loading point—was forced to sail to a Mexican port. There a clash with the Mexican revolutionists occurred when the Mexicans demanded the Larsen's war munitions and the United States cruiser Yorktown escorted the Larsen to sea, after which she was driven northward before a storm, and finally put in here. It was this Mexican trip that created the belief that the Larsen was a Mexican filibuster.

ONLY 1 JAILED SINCE JAN. 1

The Dalles Makes First Arrest Under Prohibition Regime.

THE DALLES, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The city jail of this city was used for the first time this morning last night, when it held a real drunk, the first since the prohibition law went into effect.

The Police Court docket was scratched for the initial time since December 31 with the name of J. C. Sullivan, who was arrested last night for drunkenness. He pleaded guilty today and was fined \$5. His case did not indicate anything in the way of a "blind pig" here. He bought alcohol for "rheumatism" at a drugstore and applied the remedy internally.

MARINER AGE LIMIT IS CUT

Government Seeks to Increase Number of Available Officers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—With a view of increasing the number of officers available for American merchant ships, the United States Steamboat Inspection Service today reduced the age limit for officers from 21 to 19 years.

No change, however, was made in the amount of experience necessary before an officer's license can be obtained. The fact that an unprecedented number of merchantmen are building in the United States and a lack of officers to fill commands was brought to the attention of the service some time ago by shipowners.

JURY NOT OBTAINED YET

Two Days Spent Examining Veniremen at Baker.

BAKER, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—After two days of legal battles by attorneys in the case of James Macomb, charged with the murder of Leonard Goul, no jury has been obtained. The second venire was exhausted and a third called. The defense exhausted nine of its 12 peremptory challenges and the prosecution only two.

A good-sized crowd again filled the courtroom, despite the fact the legal battle was without sensation for the outsider.

The questions asked by the defense were again based on the opinion of prospective jurors concerning insanity.

