ROADS' RETENTION MAN ELECTROCUTED SECRETARY LANE'S ASKED OF WILSON HIGH-POWER WIRE IS STRUCK

Union Labor and Farmers Park Apartments, Dies Instant-Make Request.

RATE INCREASE FOREGAST

Delegation Informed President's Mind Still Open.

PEACE-TIME TEST URGED

Enactment of Legislation to Be De layed by Differences Between Senate and House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 -- President Wilson's mind is still open on the question of returning the railroads to private control, Secretary Tumulty today told a delegation representing union labor and farmers' organizations which called at the White House to present a letter asking the executive to delay return of the roads for two years.

This was the first authoritative expression on the subject which has come from administration quantage in Victoria, B. C. ome from administration quarters since the president informed con gress last May that he planned to RESTAURANT PRICES STAY relinquish federal control by Jan uary 1. The president, Mr. Tumulty said, would be glad to get the views of the labor and farmer representatives, who insisted that a fair test of government operation in peace time hould be given

Cummins Hears Request.

ing a final vote. Under the measure the roads would be returned to their owners within 20 days after the bill became law, but there was no prospect that final enactment of any rallroad legislation would be completed until well after the Christmas holithe senate and house.

Before going to the White House the union labor and farmers' delegation, which included Samuel Gomeration of Labor, and representatives of the railroad brotherhoods, called Picture Drawn During res committee. and asked that his bill be withdrawn. He indicated he would lay the request before the full committee.

The letter from the labor and farmdiately.

Rate Increase Predicted.

"Director-General Hines and memreflected in an increased cost of living of at least \$4,000,000,000 a year, possibly \$5,000,000,000. The American HOUSING CORPORATION HIT people cannot and should not stand such an increase.

"We respectfully request that you stop the rumors that you plan to return the railroads to private con-

amendment by Senator Jones, repub- the bill to dissolve the corporation. lican, Washington, designed to prevent foreign-owned railroads and rates on shipments to points within rates, such American goods are ship- house volunteer war workers. pend in bond through Canada to Pacific coast cities of the United FAMILY LOST IN SNOW States and also railroad-owned ship lines touching Alaskan ports. sidered briefly tonight, but went over

clauses, introduced by Senator Mc-clauses, introduced by Senator Mc-cormick, republican, Illinois, will be Williams, who started from Fall employes until 60 days after decisions Harney county may have perished by an arbitration board. The Mc- in the snow or that they are snow-

controversies within 90 days. Senator Cummins said American Creek. labor leaders were more opposed to the Canadian system than to the was informed that the family has provisions of the pending bill. The letter to the president was signed by the following farmers' representatives: George P. Hampton, resentatives: George P. Hampton, managing director of the Farmers' na-tional council, and Fred J. Chamber-lain, representative of the Washing-Oregon, Idaho and Colorado state

TIGER'S CONDITION GOOD and seizure" law as far as it pertains Last Bulletin on Premier Clemen-

ceau Reads: "Satisfactory." PARIS, Dec. 17 .- Tonight's bulletin on M. Clemenceau's condition reads:
"The premier's condition is very

Arthur N. Nicholson, Manager of

Arthur N. Nicholson, 23 years of ige, night auditor at the Multomah otel and manager of the Park apart ments. 355 Harrison street, was instantly killed by electrocution yes terday when he accidentally struck a high power wire with an iron but leading from the root of the apart-

Acting Harbor Master Prehn and Officer Ahern, of the harbor patrol. went to the scene with a pulmoto and an effort was made to resuscitate the man. Dr. H. F. Leonard was also called. The body- was turned over to Leo Goetsch, deputy oroner, who announced there would be no inquest.

Mr. Nicholson was standing on the fire escape at the apartment house and as the fire escape was wet it was a good conductor. When he struck the wire tenants in the apart ent house saw a flash. Assistance was summoned immediately and the police were notified.

Mr. Nicholson had been a resident of Portland for the past 19 years, coming to this city from Victoria He was for a time associated with the Portland hotel, later transferring to the Multnomah.

He is survived by his widow and daughter Dorothy, 8 years of age He leaves a mother and a brother

New York Houses Defeat

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 .- Representa in convention today decided that de-While the delegation was at the costs and losses due to prohibition White House the senate was speed- they would not increase prices to coning up consideration of the Cummins sumers, but would meet the situation railroad bill and apparently was near- by effecting economies of operation

members keep in business

pers, president of the American Fed- HEAD OF CHRIST IS "SEEN"

Spiritual Inspiration.

Arthur Conan Doyle, who in his lectures on spiritualism repeatedly has coal mining industry of the country (times on spiritualism repeatedly has coal mining industry of the country (times on spiritualism repeatedly has coal mining industry of the country (times of the country tures on spiritualism repeatedly has coal mining industry of the country declared he has been in communica- and it was his department that sup- itiated. ers' delegations to the president said tion with the spirit of his son, writes plied Fuel Administrator Garfield proponents of the Cummins bill to the Daily Mail describing "a most with the information on which the ciaimed that the president planned marvellous" head of Christ which, he strike was being settled. to return the roads by January 1 and says, was drawn in a few hours under that some legislation providing for spiritual inspiration by Mrs. Spencer, such return must be enacted imme- daughter - in - law of Viscounters

He asserts that Mrs. Spencer nor bers of the interstate commerce com- pression, and he affirms that the pic- ends of politics was of course dismission have shown clearly that the ture, now exhibited at the Walker tasteful to Mr. Lane, who has played gon, as a soldier's settlement project

Congressman Charges Organization With Extravagance.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Charges trol and that in view of the changed that the United States housing corconditions and unrest you establish poration in revising salaries of its public confidence by advocating that officers moved the majority of them the period of government operation upwards were made in the house towe continued for at least two years," day by Representative Clark, demo-The senate tentatively accepted an crat of Florida, in opening debate on

"Grafters are grafters, whether democrats or republicans, and you ship lines from discriminating against will find them about equally divided American carriers by cutting their in this housing corporation," he said. Extravagant expenditures had been the United States. Senator Jones ex. made; Representative Clark said, on plained that the amendment is aimed construction of emergency buildings especially at certain Canadian rail- and dormitories during the war, parroads, over which, because of reduced ticularly those in Washington, to

The anti-strike provisions were con-

Start Across Mountains. A substitute for the anti-strike That L. E. Williams, his wife, three considered tomorrow. His plan is Creek with a four-horse team and similar to the Canadian law and wagon on November 3 to cross the would prohibit strikes or lockouts of Cascade mountains on the way to Cormick plan also would require the bound somewhere in the mountains, arbitration board to dispose of all is the belief of their friends and acquaintances in Eugene and Fall

> Sheriff Fred G. Stickels yesterday not been heard from since.

SEIZURE LAW IS UPHELD Illinois Statute for Liquor Search

Held Constitutional.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 17 .- Contitutionality of the Illinois "search to hunting out and confiscation of Hquor illegulty possessed, was upheld today by the state supreme court. The court held invalid that part of the law which provides for the destruction of liquor and other confiscated property without due notice be-There will be no further bulleting, ing given owners.

JOB IRKSOME ONE ENGINE AND CARS CRASH 20 WASHINGTON TOLD INDUSTRY

Wish to Quit Wilson Cabinet Long Known.

TEAM WORK HELD DIFFICULT

Many Points Clear.

RETIREMENT SOON LIKELY

Report of Resignation Premature but Secretary Makes No Denial of Desire to Get Away.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash ion today of the announcement of the resignation from the cabinet of Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the in erior, served to emphasize as news what has been common gossip in Washington for more than a year In denying this afternoon that his esignation had gone to the president, Secretary Lane offered no contradiction of the statements as to the reason for his proposed retirement, which the unauthorized announce-

ent carried. It has been generally understood or a long period that Secretary Lane had not been in agreement with the dministration on many matters. Himself a big man of broad experience, it has undoubtedly been difficult for tives of 5000 New York restaurants him to work in harmony at all times inet who were not selected a unse of their special qualification

Clash With Baker Recalled.

One of his first disagreements was of justice. with Secretary Baker early in the Joseph Burger, president of the war, his criticism of some of the ad united restaurant owners' association. ministrative acts of the secretary said a resolution to increase charges war being in harmony with what was had been defeated. An earlier report the common opinion at that time said the restaurant men had decided While other cabinet members have upon a 10 per cent rise to become ef- been quick to shout "me, too," to fective January 1. Mr. Burger said every new pronouncement of their days, owing to differences between the association had collected \$100,000, chief, Mr. Lane has always reserved which will be used to help smaller his judgment and later approved or maintained elience as his wisdom dictated.

There is no doubt that the latest ecasion for his displeasure was the manner of settling the coal strike. the cabinet who had any detailed or expert knowledge of the coal mining

Lane Naturally Displeased.

To have the plan of settlement offered by the fuel administrator on the advice of the secretary of the inmally has no power of artistic exreturn of the railroads will involve an increase in freight rates of close to \$1,000,000,000. This increase will be anity that ever has been conceived."

BERLIN, Dec. 16.—Dr. Rail W. W. Bond street, is "the no politics at any time in the administer of the interpretation of the finest head of the founder of christitional assembly today:

"The attitude of the board he requested that parents can be informed. Ministration of his office. He regarded that he house at a conference today the with Secretary Lane, with Secretary Lane, with Secretary Lane, this course except Mr. Jack, who has the course except strike settlement as uncalled for and

COOS TRESTLE FALLS PROTEST CAR FAMINE FINLEY OUSTED AS

IS 'PRACTICALLY PROSTRATE. FEET; BOILER EXPLODES.

Way, Jumps 30 Feet to Mud Flat; Injury Is Slight.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 17 .- (Speelivered for a period of from 25 to lumber industry "practically prosyears went down today with a ecomotive and three cars of coal, at point opposie Englewood, and Engineer Enoch Holland, the only perwhile clearing ice from a water pipe Disagreement With Chief on son on board, escaped with only a few

As the train moved from solid on to the trestle, Engineer Holland felt the structure giving States railroad administration. on which the engine and cars fell. He struck a support and landed about 30 feet from the trestle on a mud flat. The engine and two cars went into the marsh and the boiler of the engine exploded. Mr. Holland had been engineer on the train for nearly 20

The property belongs to the Reynolds Development company, but operated by George Doll.

ngton, Dec. 17.—Premature publica- U. S. MAY SELL BUILDINGS

Bill for Disposal of Many War

Structures Passes House. WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Without a issenting vote the house passed and sent to the senate today a bill ordering the sale of housing facilities erected by the government during the relieve congestion in many abolishes the United States housing bureau, transferring the properties to Companion of A. H. Janes Fires at the treasury for sale to private per

Debate on the measure centered argely in an attack on the housing oureau. Charges of profligate exthe senate public buildings commitee was investigating with a view to today determining where it should recommend prosecutions by the department

PYTHIANS TO MEET CHIEF

Supreme Chancellor to Attend Convention Opening Today.

THE DALLES, Or., Dec. 17 .- (Spe. sial.)-The 20th annual district con vention of the Knights of Pythias will open here tomorrow with the of ficial visit of Charles S. Davis, of Denver. Colo., supreme chancellor, The Dalles being the first city to receive Chancellor Davis in this state. He will later pay visits to two other

A class of 125 will be in-

USE OF SWAMPS PRESSED Oregon Delegation Asks Klamath Project for Soldiers.

STATE BIOLOGIST

Driver, Feeling Structure Give Telegram Demands Assignment of Experienced Railroad Man to Handle Coast Traffic.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 17 .- Telesial.)-A 20-foot trestle over which grams alleging that a car shortage oal from the Libby mine had been has rendered the Pacific northwes trate" and unable to handle the "heaviest volume of the most attractive business ever offered were sent by the West Coast Lumbermen's association of Seattle today to Secretary Tumulty, the Oregon and Washing ton members of congress and Washington (D. C.) officials of the United

Approximately 30 large mills in Oregon and Washington have been forced by the car shortage to close AD CLUB VOICES PROTEST down, according to reports reaching the association headquarters here Mills are closed at Everett, Eugene Beilingham, Astoria, Brighton, Albany, Naturalist Asserts Proposal to Sub-Hoquiam, Falls City and other points,

he association has announced. The telegrams asked "that if the oads are to continue under government control that there be some per n in the car service department a Washington, D. C., who has a knowldge of the traffic problems of this ection or who will at least pay attention to the suggestions and recimendations of the railroad men of his region who have made themselves proficient in the handling of the northwest traffic affairs by years of daily contact, study and experi-

industrial centers. The measure also HUNTER · SHOT FOR CAT

Bushes, Kills Friend.

PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 17 .- (Speclai.)-Ashley H. Janes, 25, rancher of the southern end of the county. penditure of government funds were was shot fatally yesterday by his ing. The Portland Ad club at its nade, and assertion was made that hunting companion, Edward Warner, according to word which reached here

The two men, both experienced woodsmen and hunters, were out een making inroads in their stock. According to the report here, on the way back, Warner fired into a clump of moving bushes, the shot striking Janes 'who died instanly. Janes leaves a father and five

FAMOUS LIBRETTIST DIES

"Madame Butterfly," Passes.

LONDON, Dec. 17 .- (Special.)-Sir situation. It is the business of his and officers are expected at the con- cini, Mascagal, Clica, Glordano and were written by Illica, who also, aided by Giacosa, developed the libretto

of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly." Illica had been ill for several years and unable to write

GERMANY EXPECTS CLASH The action taken was approved by people how to give the census data WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Utilization Possibility of Revolutionary Ris- in the matter.

ings Seen by Minister. BERLIN, Dec. 16 .- Dr. Karl W. W.

Game Commission Acts Because of Friction.

OFFICE IS DECLARED VACANT

Attempts to Bring Harmony Repeatedly Fail.

mit Resignation Blocked; Trouble Is of Long Standing.

as state biologist of the Oregon fish for trial in Seattle the day after Bill and game commission. This action ings died. was taken at a meeting of the commission held in Portland December 11, but was not made public until yester-

Mr. Finley was removed from of fice, it is announced, because he was unable to work in harmony with nembers of the commission. The statement is made also that he was to have been given an opportunity to esign had he so desired, but this he failed or declined to do. The office of state biologist has been declared

vacant, effective December 31. Mr. Finley last night protested that he had been dismissed without a hearneeting yesterday passed a vote of protest against the action of the commission and telegraphed Governor

Olcott to that effect. earching for a bobcat which had sole reason for Mr. Finley's removal, send all available fire apparatus and In an official statement issued yesterday by F. M. Brown, secretary of the commission, and written under the direction of the commission.

Office Declared Vacant

"At a meeting of the fish and game miles. ission held December 11, adurned from December 10, Commis-State Biologist Finley continuing in men have been employed at the arservice, a matter which had been under consideration for some time," tions since the signing of the ar reads the official statement. "It was mistice, manufacturing powder. ROME, Dec. 17.—Lugui Illica, Italy's inability of Mr. Finley harmoniously oday. In all he gave the words to with the ideas and policy of the board SEATTLE TO PAD CENSUS Three hundred visiting members 50 operas, including works by Puc- that the office be declared vacant Absentees and Transients to Be

January 1, 1920. "Messrs Fleischner and Jack designated a committee to consider the advisability of filling the office.
"It was also voted that Commis-

Luck of Burmony Regretted.

MRS. BILLINGS WINS \$15,000 TACOMA CASE

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Defense Scores Foster-Father of Deaf and Dumb Girl Alleged to Have Been Wronged.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 17 .- Minnle E. Billings, widow of Orville Billings, acoma capitalist and politician, wor per suit in the federal court here today, when a jury brought a verdict in her favor for \$15,000 which Mrs Billings was attempting to collect from a life insurance company.

The jury was out but a few minites and its finding is taken also as a verdict that Billings did not com mit suicide as contended by attorneys for the insurance company, but me death through the accidental disharge of his own revolver.

The case has been on trial here for two days following a recess of severa reeks due to a juror's illness, and has excited considerable interest, as Billings was widely known in the Pacific aorthwest. Exhaustive evidence was presented

by both sides and the defense in at tempting to prove its suicide allegation dragged into the case a crimina William L. Finley has been removed action which was to have come up

Counsel for Mrs. Billings in closing his argument bitterly acored W. H. Utter, foster-father of the deaf and dumb girl who it was alleged had been wronged by Billings. The depending action which had caused Billings to take his own life April 22,

ARMY SHELLS EXPLODE

Northern New Jersey Shaken; At senal Takes Fire.

DOVER, N. J., Dec. 18 .- An ex osion of loaded ammunition at Picatinay arsenal shook northern New Jersey last night a few minutes be fore midnight. Government officers Lack of harmony is given as the at the arsenal telephoned to Dover to a few minutes lates wire communi cation with the arsenal was cut off. It could not be ascertained if there was any loss of life. Flames at the arsenal could be seen for several

At 1:15 this morning shells were exploding at frequent intervals in the oner sack brought up the subject of burning arsenal. Several hundred senal, which has maintained opera-

Counted If Chamber Can Work It. SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 17 .- Determined to see that every Seattle the war risk bureau, the public health sioner Stone and Governor Olcott be resident is counted in the coming service and the vocational education advised of the action and that they census, chamber of commerce of board "to function satisfactorily." be requested to express their senti- ficials today launched a campaign ments for record. This was done intended not only to educate the them, the board being in full accord but also to get all residents who may be leaving Seattle during the first part of January.

A course in census information may "When Mr. Finley was notified of be introduced in the schools in order "We must reckon with the possi- this course except Mr. Jack, who has ticket sellers and railroad men have

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S — Maximum temperature 37 degrees; minimum, 30 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain; moderate southeasterly

National. Legion points out war risks failure.

Early action on treaty is likely, as both parties express desire for compromise, ignoring president. Page 6; Congress to hold army to 280,000. Page 2. Government retention of railroads asked by delagation of labor and farmers. Page 1

in consumption of par-United States court starts investigation of alleged coal mine conspiracy. Page 6.

Berger is opposed by "good government league." Page 2.

Pacific Northwest. shortage. Page 1.

Coos treatle falls: engineer saved. Page 1.

Mrs. Blillings wins \$15,000 Tacoma suit.

Page 1.

Constructed the simplified and training should be simplified.

"All men receiving vocational training should have their mainte-

Historic structure at Willamette univ almost totally destroyed by

Washington action on prohibition amend-ment stands. Page 7.

Commercial and Marine.

Potatoes in northwest severely damaged by cold wave. Page 25.

Corn higher at Chicago, owing to advance in sterling exchange. Page 25. oast guard cutter batters way through ice pack for Rose City and Curacao, which arrive in stream. Page 19.

Portland and Vicinity. Woman, charged with robbery, defies own losis should be considered as 'totally lawyer and judgs. Page 17.

Apartment house manager killed by electrocution. Page 1. Lucas' "psychology" denounced as bogus by Cregon university educator. Page 16.

Old world wars on, despite Porta's "bumpoff" prophecy. Page 10.

WAR RISK FAILURE

Speedy Action by Congress Is Demanded.

SPECIFIC NEEDS SET FORTH

Passage of Watson and Sweet Bills Desired.

FULL POWER TO BE USED

Bureau Chiefs Are Questioned, and Told Present Care of Disabled Is Not Satisfactory.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Speedy #cion was demanded in congress on all atters affecting the government's dealings with former service men, in esolutions adopted tonight by naoual and state offices of the Amerian Legion at the conclusion of three-day conference with officials of he war risk insurance bureau. The esolutions also warned congress of the imperative necessity of providing elief for men who have met with inastice through the inadequacy of aws under which the present insurince and compensation regulations

re administered Throughout the afternoon session in evident spirit of concern was evidenced that the legion's power musbe exerted if the nation is not to undergo again the burden of pension The pension system was characterized as unnecessary and unjust, and as adding a burden on the oming generation which the taxpayers of these years should shoulder

Specific Complaints Made. Brigadier-General Lord, director of

inance of the war department; V. M. amkin, chief of the rehabilitation dirision of the federal board for vocaional education, and Surgeon Lavin er, representing the public health service, appeared and were questioned closely in regard to the activities of heir departments. Specific cases rere employed in rapid succession by the legion delegates in developing complaints of inefficiency and illusration of changes in administrative ractice requested by the former serv-

ssured government officials the legion had no specific complaint against them, but that such must not e interpreted to mean the legion did not recognize failure on the part of

At the conclusion of the discussion,

delegates summed up their views of needs for the former service men, as demonstrated by their study of the situation as follows: Passage of Bills Asked.

"The Watson and Sweet bills should e passed by congress forthwith. "The bureau of war risk Insurance, federal board for vocational educaresign. All the members agreed to congregations to assist. Hotel clerks, tion and the public health serviceers of coal, who are more numerous (Concluded on Page 12, Page 2)

a contract with private interests to the names of people who leave the for 30 years.

blitty of revolutionary risings this not yet been heard from. This agreeter agencies dealing with ex-service winter. We know how to deal with the names of people who leave the for 30 years. especially the sections of the two latf the unified agency should be

placed in each state. "The following modifications regarding insurance should be adopted; "Premiums should be payable through the local postoffices. Restrictions based on relationship of heneficiaries should be removed. The amount of the insurance under both Secretary Lane's position in Wilson cabinet admittedly irksome one. Page 1.

Lansing awaiting reply from Mexico.

Page 3. option, then at the option of the bensficiary. A partial disability benefit

should be paid under all policies. Disabled Provided For. "That all disabled persons having war risk insurance while in the hospitals, or while receiving benefits under the war risk insurance act, or while training, should have the payment of all insurance premiums remitted during the continuance of their embermen protest against car disability and training, and that all forms used should be simplified

"All men receiving vocational regon property valued at nearly billion. nance pay in full and a vocational training official should be perma-nently stationed at every hospital day. Page 8. where disabled ex-service persons are being cared for, to give personal and individual information. Immediate and adequate steps should be taken to reach all persons at present entitled to vocational training and not Oregon feetball squad to leave for Pasa-dena today. Page 15.

McCredie goes on with 1920 plans, Page 15.

McCredie goes on with 1920 plans, Page 15. Swimming center may be transferred to training to all who are entitled to Vancouver, B. C. Page 18. it: recreational features should be added to the vocational training pro-

gramme. "Substantial increases in all pres-

"Persons suffering from tubercu-

L. Finley removed as state biologist. should make a far more liberal pro-WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Franklin

Santa Claus' candy supply this year will be limited one. Page 13.

Leonard Wood presidential campaign is launched by Oregon supporters. Page 4. (Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)



