

"BIG FIVE" PACKERS AGAIN IN LIMELIGHT

House Agricultural Committee Starts Sixth Inquiry.

ANDERSON DEFENDS BILL

Tincher, of Kansas, Declares Packers Are Rolling in Wealth and Consumer Is Facing Want.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Opening another congressional inquiry into the packing industry and the activities of the "big five" Chicago packers, the house agriculture committee today heard Federal Trade Commissioner W. B. Colver and Representative Anderson, republican, Minnesota, author of a bill carrying out recommendations of the trade commission for regulation of the industry.

Some members of the committee demurred at the proposal to hold the hearing. Representative Rainey, democrat, Illinois, pointing out that five successive congressional inquiries had been held since 1914 while other members suggested that the exceedingly extensive records of previous inquiries, which cost the government \$2000 a volume and which are not sufficient basis for action. The vote, however, was 19 to 3 for holding hearings.

Sad State Declared.
Representative Tincher, republican, Kansas, declared that "the stock producers are going bankrupt, the packers are rolling in wealth and the consumer is facing want."

It was decided to allow advocates and opponents of federal regulation of the industry 20 hours each. Attorney-General Palmer then will be asked to explain the recent decree accepted by the "big five" Chicago packers, excluding them from handling other commodities than meats and allied products. After that the committee will decide as to further investigation.

Representative Anderson, arguing in support of his bill, said that present conditions necessitated divorcing the packers from ownership of refrigerating cars and stockyards, confining their business to the handling of meat products and establishing a federal commission to regulate them otherwise.

Mr. Anderson charged that the stockyards at Kansas City, Omaha, Chicago and elsewhere were owned or controlled by Armour, Swift, Cudahy or others of the "big five," and that it was this control, "to which the producers of the west object as it was used," he said, to destroy competition and to keep prices down.

Tendency Toward Monopoly Growing.
Resuming his argument at the afternoon session, Mr. Anderson said a growing tendency toward monopoly was indicated by the fact that in 1905 the "big five" slaughtered 55 per cent of cattle in interstate business, while in 1918 the percentage was 74.

"Concentration of industry," he said, "has been defended on the ground that it has resulted in the cheapening of meat to the consumer. I think I shall be able to show that the profits of the packer are greater now than they were in 1905 and that the margin between the producer and the consumer has increased."

Adjournment was taken with Mr. Colver a testimony uncompleted.

BREAKING FAITH IS DENIED

Herbert Hoover Shows Farmer Benefited Under Assured Price.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Denial that the food administration had broken faith with hog producers relative to maintenance of pork prices during the war was made by Herbert Hoover in a letter received today by Senator Henderson, democrat, Nevada, and read in the senate.

"The farmer," Mr. Hoover said, "realized fully \$2.50 per 100 more than he has realized this season in an unassured market. Under the plan used the packers and the distributors' profits were held to a definite margin and the consumer's costs were less than a year ago on higher hogs than they are today."

IRRIGATION PLANS MADE

Directors of North Unit Project Confer at Salem.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Directors and the secretary of the north unit irrigation district conferred here today with Percy Cupper, state engineer, with regard to starting development of the project. The district contains 100,000 acres of land and bonds in the sum of \$5,000,000 have been voted for improvement work. These bonds were recently held to be valid by the supreme court, thereby making it possible for the district to proceed with construction work as soon as the money is available.

The north unit irrigation district is a part of the Deschutes project, and is one of the largest undertakings of its kind launched in the state. The district is located in Jefferson county.

JAPANESE LEASE ESTATE

520 Acres Fertile Mid-Columbia Lowlands Pass to Orientals.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Members of the Hood River Anti-Asiatic association expressed surprise today on learning that J. W. Morton had leased a 520-acre estate, just west of the city, belonging to himself and children, to a partnership of Japanese. While it has developed that Mr. Morton was never a member of the organization, which pledged against sale or lease of real estate to Japanese, he was conspicuous at meetings of the association in his pleas for legislation against oriental immigration.

The place leased to the Japanese is chiefly Columbia river lowlands and is considered one of the most fertile tracts of the mid-Columbia. The lessees, who will pay an annual rental of \$1200 and taxes, amounting to about \$400 this year, will devote the place to truck gardening, it is said.

GIRLS RETURNED HOME

Mother Waits in Portland to Get Children Father Kidnaped.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—Elsie and Frances Adams, 6 and 8 years old respectively, taken by their father from the Madrona Presbyterian Sunday school last Sunday, will be reunited with their mother in Portland tomorrow morning. Mrs. Adams left Seattle at midnight to meet her daughters who were put aboard a train for the north Tuesday morning following the arrest of the father, Joseph D. Adams, at Sacramento. Adams will be released when the Sacramento police are informed that the children are again in their mother's custody.

Adams telegraphed Mrs. Adams Tuesday beseeching her to obtain his freedom and asking her to return to him, offering to forward money for her to travel to San Francisco to meet him.

SPOKANE PLANS MEMORIAL

Movement Started for \$1,250,000 Municipal Auditorium.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 24.—Preliminary arrangements for submitting to a vote of the people a proposition for the erection here, with funds raised from a tax levy, of a \$1,250,000 municipal auditorium as a memorial to men and women who served in the world war, were made today by the executive committee of the memorial auditorium association.

Another meeting of the council, the auditorium committee and a committee representing the local post of the American Legion is to be held later, at which the form of the proposed city charter will be decided upon. Before the amendment is submitted, petitions bearing 15 per cent of the voters of the city probably will be required, it was indicated.

CITY TO RUN ARMY STORE

Walla Walla, Wash., Mayor Instructed to Sell to Public.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—The city commissioners today authorized Mayor D. F. Powell to go into the store business to the extent of purchasing a quantity of surplus army stores which will be sold to the public. A. R. Roberts will be in charge of the same, which will be at no cost to the city.

The Retail Merchants' association approved the plan and asked the city to take up the proposition. Roberts agreed to purchase any surplus at the end of the selling period. The goods will be here in a week or ten days.

CLUB ELECTS SECRETARY

H. O. Frobach to Succeed Will G. Steel at Medford.

MEDFORD, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—H. O. Frobach, secretary of the chamber of commerce at Three Forks, Mont., has been selected to be the new secretary of the Medford chamber of commerce to succeed Will G. Steel, who has left Medford to take charge of the Eugene chamber of commerce.

The advent of the new secretary will mark the inauguration of a new policy in the Medford commercial club through which the activities of the organization will be greatly extended.

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CHAMBERLAIN FILES ENTRY

RE-ELECTION AS OREGON SENATOR IS SOUGHT.

Declaration of Candidacy Sets Forth Policy for Stabilization of Country.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—The declaration of candidacy prepared by George E. Chamberlain, who seeks re-election as United States senator from Oregon, was received at the offices of the secretary of state today. In his declaration Senator Chamberlain says:

"Strive for world peace, and such legislation by congress as will stabilize the agricultural, industrial, commercial and social life of our country and hasten the restoration of normal pre-war conditions; for legislation for the proper care of those who have successfully fought the wars of our country; for co-operation between the federal and state governments in road construction; improvement of our rivers and harbors and reclamation of arid lands; for the establishment of aviation stations and the protection by airplane of national forests, as well as forests in private control in co-operation with the owners thereof."

After his name Mr. Chamberlain asks that the following be printed: "My country, its preservation and the perpetuation unimpaired of its institutions."

SHIP INJUNCTION SIGNED

Formal Order Includes 29 Former German Liners.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Associate Justice Bailey of the district supreme court today signed the formal order of injunction against the shipping board to prevent the sale of 29 former German liners. The court consented to the request of the shipping board that the ship Suwanee, which has been sold for \$2,000,000, be excluded from the order of injunction.

William Randolph Hearst, who brought the proceeding, furnished a bond of \$10,000 to indemnify the shipping board against loss. No notification of an appeal was given by counsel for the shipping

board, but it was said that a special appeal may be taken later.

OIL PRODUCERS BLAMED

Refineries Operating Below Capacity, Is Charged.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—Charges that the Pennsylvania oil producers are responsible for the present high cost of gasoline in Pennsylvania were made today by C. D. Chamberlain, general counsel for the National Petroleum association, in an address at a conference of western Pennsylvania oil refiners.

"The supply of crude oil in Pennsylvania," he declared, "is below the refining capacity of our plants. The producers have the oil in their pipes, but are holding it for further advances. Unless they sell, we will either close or bring in crude oil from western states."

BOUNDARY ROWS AIRED

Clash Between Agriculture and Interior Departments Bared.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—A dispute between the agriculture and interior departments and other interests over boundaries for the proposed Roosevelt National Park in the giant redwood district of California, was aired today before the house public lands committee.

Secretaries Meredith and Lane sent letters favoring establishment of the park, but expressing disagreement over boundary lines fixed in the bill

of Representative Elston, republican, California.

Restaurant Employee Burned.

T. F. Mott, an employe in Bab's restaurant, 326 Stark street, was burned badly about the face and hands last night by a gas explosion in the basement of the restaurant. He said he lighted a match to look for a leak in the gas stove. The explosion did no damage to the restaurant. Mr. Mott was treated at the emergency hospital. He later went to his home at 351 Knott street.

Shingle Concern Installs Sprinkler.

KALAMA, Wash., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—The Columbia shingle company of this city has let the contract for installing a sprinkler for fire protection, which will cost \$12,000. Experts are now installing the system. It will be impossible for a fire to get any headway as any unusual heat will start the sprinkler, extinguishing an ordinary fire.

Fish Concern Adds Storage Room.

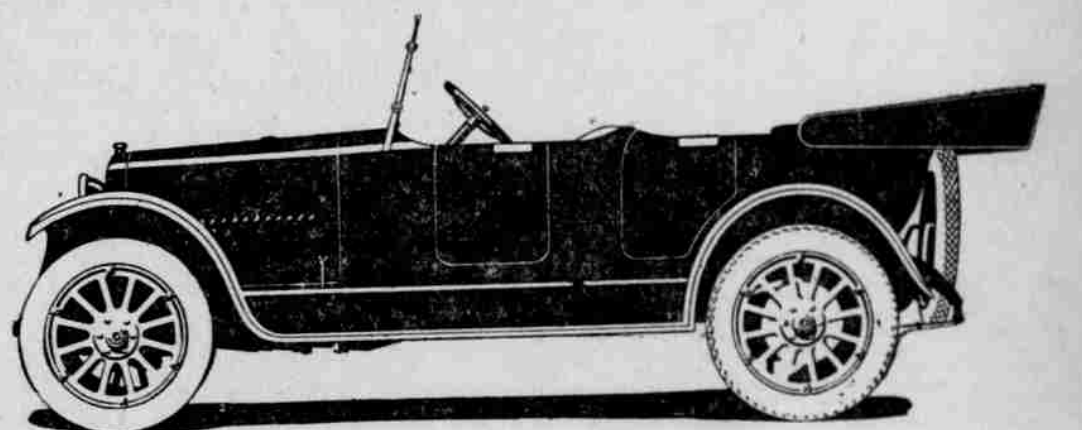
KALAMA, Wash., Feb. 24.—(Special.)—The Doty Fish company of this city is building an addition to its storage rooms which will have a capacity of six carloads. The total capacity will be 21 car loads. The Doty Fish company ships about 50 carloads of fish each year besides supplying the canneries with 500 tons of fish.

NASH
See the
NASH SIX

at the Show

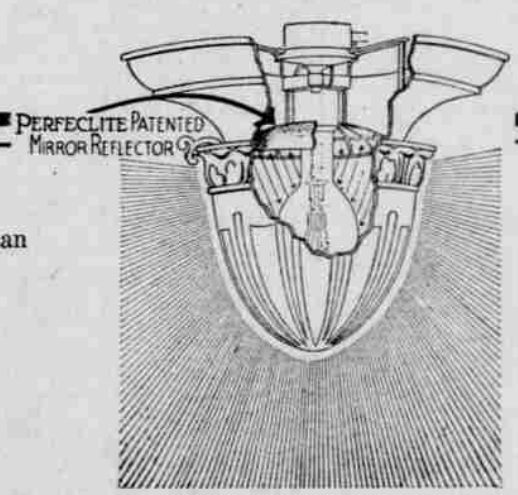
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