

DOZEN 'BEST MINDS' MEET WITH HARDING

Discussions Range Far and Wide Among Problems.

CABINET TALK REVIVED

Charles G. Dawes and Henry Wallace, Both Mentioned for Places, Confer With Leader.

MARION, O., Dec. 20.—President-elect Harding's conference on the policies of his administration ranged far and wide today among the nation's foreign and domestic problems, and gave him the benefit of advice from upwards of a dozen of the "best minds" he has invited into consultation.

Two of those with whom he has talked about domestic questions have been persistently mentioned for cabinet positions, and their coming stimulated speculation about the possibility of their appointment to the next president's official family. They were Charles G. Dawes, Chicago banker, and Henry Wallace, Des Moines, Iowa, an editor of farmer publications. With the former Mr. Harding talked of financial conditions and tax reform and with the latter discussed farmer relief.

Senator Shields Also Is Met. John K. Shields, Tennessee senator and democratic member of the foreign relations committee, as well as an irrefragable opponent of the Versailles treaty, conferred with the president-elect about the plans for an association of nations, and gave his approval of the general principles proposed by Mr. Harding for an international court.

The league question also was discussed by the president-elect with Samuel McCune Lindsay, professor of social legislation at Columbia, who said he would confer with the president-elect on the new administration were being laid on a sound foundation.

The question of Mr. Harding's early resignation from the senate was the subject of a conference between him and Senator-elect Frank B. Willis, whom Governor Cox has agreed to appoint to the vacancy.

No Decision Is Reached. It was said afterward that no decision was reached and the friends of the president-elect took his delay as meaning that he probably would not retire till the new republican governor of Ohio takes office early in January.

Among other callers during the day were Governor Sprout of Pennsylvania, W. W. Atterbury, vice-president of the Pennsylvania railroad, and Michael Gallagher of Cleveland, an official of the Hanna interests, all of whom talked about financial and railway conditions. Mr. Atterbury was in charge of the American railways in France during the war and has been regarded as one of the world's leading experts on transportation. He said he viewed American railway conditions with a pessimism that Mr. Harding had a competent understanding of the problem.

Harding Is Invited South. Representative Siemp, republican national congressman from Virginia, also saw the president-elect, but said he came merely to make a delayed report on the conduct of his campaign in the south. In addition, he invited Mr. and Mrs. Harding to spend January and February at White Sulphur springs or some other Virginia resort.

After his talk with Mr. Harding, Senator Shields said he did not gather that a very concerted plan had been formulated for a peace league, but was confident Mr. Harding had chosen wisely in working toward a codification of international law and a world court rather than toward any sort of military alliance.

The Tennessee senator added that he did not expect the Harding plan to require a surrender of any part of American sovereignty.

Cabinet Talk Is Vague. There was no evidence that anything definite regarding cabinet appointments had been discussed between the president-elect and Mr. Dawes or Mr. Wallace. Mr. Dawes said there was no significance in his call except he had been asked to give advice about reduction of government expenses and its relation to taxation, and had been gratified to learn of Mr. Harding's thorough grasp of the situation.

Mr. Wallace said that he only had been summoned to talk of means to relieve the agricultural situation and that he considered Mr. Harding's interest sympathetic and his views on the subject sound.

Some of Mr. Harding's closest friends believe he still has an open mind upon most of the cabinet selections and that none has been determined upon finally. Even those tentatively assigned may be shifted to other posts as cabinet material and fitted into the general scheme of the new administration, and no definite offers of cabinet portfolios are expected to be made by him, until he has canvassed the wide field thoroughly in his conferences here.

BEND MAN KILLS HIMSELF

Ill Health and Lack of Work Lead to Suicide.

BEND, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Despondency caused by ill health and the immediate prospect of unemployment prompted the suicide here last night of Oscar Wicklund, 22 years old.

Wicklund sat on the edge of the bed in his tent house, tied one end of a string to his toe, the other end the trigger of a single-barreled shotgun, placed the muzzle against his forehead and discharged the piece. His skull was shattered to bits, coroner's jury gave a verdict of suicide.

10-YEAR-OLDS ROB MAIL

Boys Alleged to Have Taken More Than \$1000 From Boxes.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 20.—Telegraph boys in Phoenix, 10-year-olds, were arrested in Mesa, 18 miles southeast of here, this afternoon by United States Marshal Dillon on a charge of robbing the mail postoffice.

The marshal said the boys had taken more than \$1000 in checks and money orders from postoffice boxes in the last three months.

LIQUOR SHIP IS CAUGHT

Coast Guard Crew Finds Armed Force Aboard British Boat.

SHATTLE, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—After running down a British

fish purse seine vessel off the Ballard city dock in the early morning hours, Coastguard Lieutenants, masters of the coastguard cutter Scout, boarded the vessel in the face of a heavily-armed Japanese crew. He found six cases of liquor on board, being brought from British Columbia to Seattle, according to reports to customs officials. The vessel was a 29-ton craft, and was slipping into a safe landing place down the sound when sighted in the fog by the coastguard cutter nosing about for prowling craft. The cutter gave chase, swinging out its guns for a shot across the bows of the fleeing purse seiner. After a short chase, the British boat hove about and lay waiting for a boarding party. It is known, have been lying in wait for several weeks for the landing of Christmas liquor cargoes in the vicinity of the place where the British boat was overhauled.

COURTHOUSE NOW REVIVED

KLAMATH TAXPAYER TRIES TO BLOCK \$50,000 LEVY.

Petition Asks Injunction Against Assessment to Complete Building—Tax Also Target.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Application has been filed by Frank Ward, taxpayer, for an injunction against the proposed tax levy of \$50,000 for construction of the Hot Springs courthouse.

The petition is based on the ground that the recent supreme court decision giving J. M. Dougan, contractor, judgment against Klamath county, legalized the Main street courthouse, and that it is adequate and suitable building. There is no need for expending further money in courthouse construction, the petition avers.

The \$50,000 item was included in budget estimates published by the county court December 10. The date for adopting the budget is January 3. Final ruling on the injunction suit is expected before that date. Judge Calkins of Medford will hear the petition.

Harrison Allen of Portland, A. E. Reames and C. F. Stone, attorneys for J. M. Dougan throughout the protracted litigation, represent the petitioner.

Injunction against the levy of \$14,000 for the maintenance funds also is sought on the ground that the amount is exorbitant in comparison with former years and no reason is given for the increase.

Admiral Clark Regrets Defeat of Chamberlain.

Commander of Old Battleship Sees Great Loss to Nation.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Chamberlain is very proud of a letter received since the election from Rear Admiral Charles E. Clark, who commanded the battleship Oregon in its memorable voyage around the horn in 1892 to engage in the brilliant victory over the Spanish fleet off the coast of Cuba. The admiral, who is a republican, says:

"While, like a great majority of my countrymen, I am proud of the outbreak and the great triumph of the 2d, there comes a really bitter feeling in my heart that it should have involved the great and good spirit of the nation who, all feel, stood four-square against all the winds."

"You know that name Oregon is dear to me and one of the great pleasures that came in recalling it was the knowledge that her people felt a loyalty to you beyond that of party. Truly you can feel that the mantle that the senators Fryrus told of descends to you by right of inheritance. I trust the good state will honor you again when the national apprehension has abated and in any event, it means no financial loss to you; also that you enjoy the thought that so many of your countrymen, irrespective of party, feel that in your reversal a real one has come to the nation. Up here so many say, 'Grand, but what a pity that Chamberlain of Oregon had to go.' With every good wish, your sincere friend."

The letter was written from the Boston navy-yard.

LABOR TO GET FAIR DEAL

Seattle Meat and Fuel Dealers Decline on Policy.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—No attempt will be made to take advantage of the oversupply of labor by the Seattle Retail Meat Dealers' association and the Seattle Retail Fuel Dealers, this policy having been determined upon at recent meetings, said Harold Moore, secretary of both organizations, today. He added that no reduction in wages in these two lines was expected at this time.

At the meeting of both organizations reports were given showing that there were many more men seeking work in both lines than there are places. This is especially true in the coal yards, where men have offered to work at a figure substantially under the scale now being paid.

Community Tree Is Planned.

ASHLAND, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The Ministerial association of Ashland, at its last meeting, arranged for the second annual community Christmas tree, the evening of December 24. A handsome evergreen tree will be placed on the Plaza by the fountain, where it will be decorated and brilliantly lighted. A programme of Christmas carols and hymns, with short addresses will be given and the entire public of Ashland and valley has been asked to turn out.

Bandit Leader to Hang.

LETHBRIDGE, Alberta, Dec. 20.—Tom Bassoff, convicted murderer and head of a bandit gang which for several weeks last summer terrorized the countryside of Alberta, will be hanged next Wednesday morning. The department of justice at Ottawa has announced that no reprieve would be considered.

Pre-War Prices

"The Complete House-Cleaning Plant"

The Royal, with its attachments, is a complete house cleaning plant that cleans everything. Its use means a thoroughly clean, bright home, free from the menace of germ-laden dirt, when used on:

- Rugs, Walls, Floors, Castings, Hardwood Floors, Picture Mountings, Upholsters, Draperies, Furniture, Curtains, Bed Clothing, Cushions, Mattresses, Clothing, Etc., Numerous Other Uses.

ROYAL ELECTRIC MAID

CLEANS BY AIR ALONE

133 Tenth Street, Near Alder. Let the Electric Maid Do Your Work. Phone Broadway 4024.

Pre-War Prices

Rates \$1.00 Up

Special Weekly and Monthly Rates

New Perkins Hotel

Portland, Oregon

EXPRESS COMBINE MAY BE PERMANENT

Interstate Commerce Commission Grants Authority.

MINORITY PROTEST FILED

Majority Holds That Public Interest Will Best Be Promoted by Consolidation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Authority was granted today by the interstate commerce commission for permanent consolidation of the transportation business and properties of the Adams, American, Wells Fargo and Northern express companies into the American Railway Express company. The commission said it is its belief that the public would best be served by one consolidated company serving all lines with equal rates.

The permit granted by the commission was based on an application filed by the four express companies last March. Hearings were held by the commission in August.

The commission divided on the question of permitting the express consolidation, effected by the railroad administration as a war measure, to be made permanent. Commissioners McChord and Meyer dissented from the majority and presented a minority report written by the former.

"Monopoly," Says Minority. The consolidation, the dissenting report asserted, "creates a monopoly" and "destroys every semblance of competition."

The other members of the commission declared they were of the opinion and "find that the public interest will be promoted by the consolidation."

"It will now be practically impossible," declared the report written by Commissioner McChord, "for another company to enter the express business in competition with the consolidated express company. We can, of course, regulate the rates and certain practices of the American Railway Express company, but we will have no control over its attitude toward the public. We do not require it to render to the public that efficiency, courtesy and fair dealing which competition compels."

"In my view that the time has come when the carriers should give serious consideration to the conduct of the express business themselves. That business has reached such proportions that it is now a parasite on the freight traffic of the railroads."

War Merger Recalled. Commissioner McChord also dissented from the majority opinion in that the commission had the power to prescribe in what manner the consolidation may be effected, and not merely grant its petition for a consolidation.

The report of the commission recited that with the outbreak of the war the express companies included in certain consolidation should be formed into the American Railway Express company and took over the express business of the country as the agent of the director-general of railroads and that while 33 states appeared to protest against the continuation of this combine, the protests were based on inadequate service performed by the joint express companies, which the consolidated company admits was poor, due to labor shortages.

The commission accepted the contention of the companies that service was performed more efficiently under the combined management than could have been possible under separate management. The commission ruled that suits pending against various companies must be settled by the courts and not by the interstate commerce commission.

Claim Action Deplorable. While "deplorable" the treatment accorded by certain express companies to claimants of damages and the practice of only accepting service in suits at their offices in New York, the commission held it could not pass upon that phase of the claim.

RATE LIFT HITS PRODUCERS

California Growers Consider Shipping East by Water.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—Most of a \$20,000,000 freight rate increase on California agricultural products must be met out of the net profits of producers, according to figures given at a conference of co-operative marketing associations here today called to discuss the feasibility of shipping east by water instead of by rail.

Fresh deciduous fruits, except pears

and apples, cannot be shipped by water without refrigeration on account of their perishable nature. Secretary Fred N. Bigelow of the state market commission announced, and several months must elapse before refrigeration facilities can be provided in steamers.

Undercharge Claim Denied.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—North Dakota supreme court today declining carriers the right to recover from shippers undercharges resulting from the enforcement of statutory freight rates on lignite which later were held to be confiscatory were sustained today by the supreme court. The opinion was rendered in appeals brought by the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railroad.

Spain Is to Be Warned

ATTEMPT TO STRANGLE FOREIGN BUSINESS RESENTED.

United States and Other Governments Ask Reconsideration of New Schedules of Taxes.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Representatives of the great powers in Madrid led by Colonel Joseph Willard, American ambassador, have prepared a warning to Spain to the effect that they will take drastic steps to strangle foreign enterprises in Spain through high taxation and other means, it was announced here today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Spain has been asked by the United States and other governments, including Great Britain and France, to reconsider new schedules of taxation to be made permanent. Commissioners McChord and Meyer dissented from the majority and presented a minority report written by the former.

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RATES TO BE COMBATED

CALIFORNIA INTERESTS ACT AGAINST RAIL TARIFFS.

Organization Formed for Purpose of Getting Cheaper Transportation for Products of State.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—Representatives of California co-operative marketing associations decided at a conference here today to form an organization to be known as the California Producers and Shippers' Transportation association, to devise means for meeting burdens cast upon agricultural interests by increased freight rates.

Shipping by refrigerator ships through the Panama canal to the Atlantic seaboard was one method discussed figures being given to show that a saving of \$2,000,000 on railroad freight charges of \$25,000,000 could be made in that manner, and an appearance before the interstate commerce commission to ask railroad rate adjustments also was proposed.

Canners and other shippers of California food products, as well as the co-operative associations themselves, are to be asked to join the new organization.

P. D. Decamp of the Yakima traffic and credit association, Yakima, Wash., and Arthur A. Goldsmith of Spokane, of the Washington and Idaho Wheat Growers' association, convened the representation from the northwestern states at the conference.

FEED PROVIDED FOR ELK

State Acts Before Getting Appeal of Portland Antlered Herd.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—More than 3500 members of the Portland lodge of Elks, through Ben Norden, exalted ruler, today appealed to Governor Olcott to take some action to avert the extermination of the herd of elk in Wallowa county, which, according to recent press reports, are threatened with starvation.

In the absence of the executive, Don H. Upjohn, private secretary to the governor, conferred with A. E. Burghdoff, state game warden, who said that steps already had been taken to protect the elk from starvation through the removal of fences which now restrict the animals from grazing on the lowlands along Snake river. With the removal of these fences, Mr. Burghdoff said, plenty of feed would be available.

Kelso Speeder Is Fined.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—W. Huntington of Kelso was fined \$15 and costs for speeding in Vancouver today. The fine was imposed by Cedric Miller, justice of the peace, upon Mr. Huntington's pleading guilty. William Spivey Jr. was fined \$29 and costs of \$3 for selling intoxicating liquor. The fine was paid by William Spivey Sr.

Searchers Seek Missing Hunter.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Searchers were combing the hills tonight for Fletcher Decker, employed by the California-Oregon Power company at Keno, near here. Decker went hunting Sunday morning. He failed to return last night and this morning searching parties were organized.

Graceful Walking in Cantilever Shoes

Good-looking, skilfully designed, the Cantilever Shoe permits a graceful carriage by distributing the weight properly and supporting the arch comfortably.

The heel is of moderate height, the shank flexes with the instep. You walk with a natural grace, for the foot is unrestrained.

Shoes that conform to a fleeting style seldom conform to the foot. The feet, which provide the foundation of the body, grow more or less deformed in pointed shoes with French heels; and the movements of the body reflect the distortion of the foundation.

KLAMATH FARMERS MEET

Many Courses and Demonstrations on Convention Programme.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Klamath Falls farmers opened a four-day convention here today under auspices of the county farm bureau. Courses in tractor operation and repair, farm accounting, animal husbandry and farm management, with practical demonstrations, will be given daily. The annual business meeting and dinner will be held tomorrow.

Among others here for the convention are George Mansfield of Medford, president of the state farm bureau; O. M. Plummer, manager of the Pacific International Livestock show; H. A. Lindgren, director of animal husbandry; and L. J. Allen, state club leader of the Oregon Agricultural college, Corvallis.

Read The Oregonian Classified Ads.

I Make a Specialty of Perfect Fitting Glasses.

The lenses are accurately centered before the eyes—the mountings fit the nose comfortably and the features are studied in order that the size and shape of the lenses may look well.

In fact, you are here given the benefit of more than twenty-one years' experience in testing the eyes and making Perfect Fitting Glasses.

GLASSES MADE IN MY OWN SHOP ASSURE YOU OF ACCURACY AND COMFORT.

DR. WHEAT

EYESIGHT SPECIALIST

Suite 207, Morgan Building

Entrance 244 1/2 Washington St.

MOTHERS FRIEND

For Expectant Mothers

Used by Three Generations

5075 First Street, Berkeley, Calif.

Christmas Records

Beautiful Christmas records now on sale (\$1 each) at Oregon Elks Music House. Orders by registered mail promptly attended to. Add 10c for each record if sent by parcel post.

2508—Kiddies Christmas Frolic.

2509—Kiddies Christmas Frolic.

2510—Kiddies Christmas Frolic.

2511—Oh! Holy Night.

2512—Oh! Holy Night.

2513—Oh! Holy Night.

2514—Oh! Holy Night.

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2516—Oh! Holy Night.

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