

COAL PROBE HALTS UNTIL WEDNESDAY

Charges Against U. S. Officials May Come Up Next.

PROFITEERING IS DEBATED

Senator Calder Says War Department Enabled Operators to Make \$8,000,000 During Shortage.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Senate investigation of the coal industry was suspended today until next Wednesday, but sharp criticism of the National Coal association and the government department came up on the senate floor when Senator Calder of New York, chairman of the investigating committee, brought recent disclosures into debate.

The New York senator gave notice that the committee would proceed next to clear up charges by George H. Cushing, managing director of the American Wholesale Coal association, that government officials had personally participated in coal profits during the period of shortage last fall.

Senator Calder, speaking on the senate floor, said the war department had enabled coal men to make \$8,000,000 in profits by buying 2,000,000 tons of coal during the shortage, and reported that D. W. Wentz, president of the National Coal association, took \$75,000 in commissions for purchasing a part of the quantity.

Profiteering Is Charged. Senator Pomerene, democrat, Ohio, demanded that the committee refer the matter to the department of justice, if it found that Colonel Wentz sold coal mined by himself for \$3.59 a ton while the government paid \$1.15 for its quota.

Senator Edge, republican, New Jersey, said that in fairness to the association president, the senate should note that he advised the war department against making the purchases and did not sell the government his own coal.

Senators Pomerene and Kenyon, republican, Iowa, exchanged remarks as to "common honesty" involved in coal dealings, while Senator Calder, charged that the coal association had influenced the interstate commerce commission, manipulated geological survey figures on coal production and collected \$1,000,000 from its members to maintain for three years the organization, the activities of which he criticized.

Coal Movement Discussed. "Our committee," said Senator Calder, digressing from a prepared address, "has found that more coal was moved on American railroads during July, August and September than ever before in the history of the country and at the same time a panic over shortage was created. During this period we have found that the war department sent out agents to buy coal at any price and that one agent alone secured a commission of \$75,000 for his services."

"Who was that agent?" asked Senator Pomerene, democrat, Ohio. "Colonel D. W. Wentz, president of the National Coal association," Senator Calder replied.

"And are the newspaper reports correct that this agent bought this coal for the government at approximately \$11 a ton while he was selling coal he mined himself for \$2.80 to others?" Senator Pomerene persisted.

Reports Declared Correct. "That is substantially correct," Senator Calder answered, "though the witness told us he did not sell his own coal to the government."

"Can the committee reconcile that course of conduct with any standards of common honesty?" asked the Ohio senator. "The facts should be referred to the department of justice or to the war department for court-martial proceedings if the man is in military service."

"You are setting too hard a task for our committee if you ask it to reconcile the conduct of some coal operators with standards of common honesty," interjected Senator Kenyon, republican, Iowa.

"In fairness to Colonel Wentz," said Senator Edge, republican, of New Jersey, "I want to say that he testified that when the war department or secretary of war came to him with this order, he advised them not to go into the markets and buy. We have several points to follow up in the matter."

LEAP FROM AUTO FATAL

High School Girl Dies in Hospital After Breaking Engagement.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—Vivian Howard, 15-year-old high school student of Ramona Acres, died in a hospital at Alhambra, near here, early today from a fracture of the skull received last night when she jumped from a moving automobile, according to reports on file in the sheriff's office here.

According to officers investigating the matter, her act, followed the breaking of her engagement to her by Earl Pyle, 17, grocery clerk of Ramona Acres. Pyle is in the county jail pending completion of the investigation.

The girl and Pyle were members of an automobile party entirely composed of young people, it was said.

MEXICO ANSWERS FRANCE

French Residents Asked to Assure Mother Country of Safety.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 23.—French residents of Mexico have been asked by Foreign Minister Hidalgo to lay before their home government statements of conditions prevailing in Mexico and the guarantees for their safety made by the Mexican government.

This action on the part of the foreign minister follows the receipt of a dispatch from Paris last night in which Georges Leygues, president of the council of ministers of the French republic, was quoted as saying he was less hopeful of French recognition of Mexico if full guarantees were not forthcoming.

FIANCEE WINS AS HEIR

Woman Betrothed to Nat Goodwin Awarded Apartment Contents.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Miss Georgia L. Gardner, who was engaged to become the sixth wife of Nat Goodwin, actor, is the rightful owner of the

contents of the apartment which belonged to Goodwin at the time of his death. This decision was handed down today by Surrogate Cohan, who at the same time ruled that Nathaniel C. Goodwin of Boston, the actor's father, as administrator of his son's estate, must file an accounting for a judgment of \$15,374 collected by the actor and turned over to the father before his death.

The decisions were made upon objections filed by Klav & Erlanger, theatrical producers, who sought to collect a claim of \$11,000 against the estate. Testimony was introduced to show that the actor gave Miss Gardner his personal belongings in appreciation of her kindness to him during his last illness.

CHOICE GIVEN PRISONER

Youth Prefers Jail Sentence to "Road to Hell."

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Judge Landis gave Roy E. Warner, aged 17, charged with cashing a \$17 check stolen from the mails, his choice of two paths today. "Do you want to go to hell," the judge asked, leaning over the bench, "or do you want to go along the narrow path? The road to hell is lined with beautiful scenery, but the other path is the better."

Warner chose the straight and narrow road which led to jail until January 5 to give him time to "think things over," as the judge said.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian, Main 7970, Automatic 560-35.

POST ROAD AID POPULAR

HIGHWAY ENGINEER SAYS 47 STATES WANT MEASURE.

Federal Assistance Declared to Be Particularly Sought by Western Commonwealths.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Practically all states are intensely interested in the passage of the bill introduced in congress by Representative McArthur of Oregon, providing for a continuance of post road aid under the present system, which carries an appropriation of \$100,000,000 a year for three years for post road purposes and \$10,000,000 annually for 10 years for forest road construction, according to Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, who returned here last night from Washington, where he attended a conference of state highway officials from all sections of the United States.

"All of the states endorsing the McArthur bill interviewed their respective senators and representatives, and the consensus of opinion indicated that the measure would receive the approval of congress. It was thought by some of the senators and representatives interviewed, however, that the bill would limit the appropriations to a period of two years, and that the sums asked would be reduced. Should the bill pass, Oregon will receive 1.5 per cent of the money appropriated.

western states made a determined fight to obtain indorsement of the McArthur bill. Forty-seven out of the 48 states represented at the conference went on record favoring the McArthur measure and a continuance of government assistance in road construction.

ALL GOTHAM HICCOUGHING

Epidemic Attributed to Colds, Not Convivial Bouts.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—A hiccough epidemic, the result of colds this time instead of convivial bouts, now has New York in its grip, druggists said today.

Spasmodic contraction of the diaphragm after a cold causes the hiccoughs, it is said, and the ailment is believed to have been brought over from Paris, where it has been prevalent.

The seizures are said sometimes to last 24 to 40 hours.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

ATTACKS ANGER IDAHO

OPPOSITION TO IRRIGATION PLANS DISLIKED.

Stand Taken in East Declared Comical if Not Dangerous to Water Needs.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Attacks made on the plans of Idaho and other western states interested in the reclamation of lands because they proposed to utilize the waste waters within national parks, especially the Yellowstone, and divert it to barren lands so that they may be reclaimed and become farms, has aroused great indignation among public men in this state.

Articles appeared in the Saturday Evening Post and other magazines

alleging that the plans would rob the parks of many beauties, especially their rivers and lakes. Particular stress was laid on the measure introduced in congress by Representative Smith of this state. It provides for the creation of the Fall River project. Water for irrigating purposes is taken from Fall river and is impounded in a reservoir comprising 8000 acres. The land proposed to be irrigated constitutes 200,000 acres.

To those familiar with irrigation problems in Idaho the opposition to the Fall River and other park projects would be comical if it were not for the fact that the propaganda being carried on in the east against them may block the west from reclaiming present waste lands. It is a known fact there is more water going to waste in the Snake river alone than would irrigate millions of acres, while using waters originating in national parks will in no way injure them.

Masonic Lodge Elects Officers.

MONTESANO, Wash., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Officers of Wynocche

lodge No. 43, Free and Accepted Masons, were elected last night as follows: W. T. Drips, worshipful master; R. S. Callow, junior warden; Y. M. Matthews, junior warden; A. D. Devonshire, treasurer; D. G. Cloud, secretary. Appointive offices are to be filled at the time of the installation, which will be on January 4, when a joint meeting with the Eastern Star chapter will be held.

COURT RECALLS BOYHOOD

Santa Claus to Remember Lads Sentenced to No Gifts.

WEST ORANGE, N. J., Dec. 23.—In recalling the days when he, too, was a boy bent upon pillaging jam larders and mother's pies set out to cool, Recorder Lander's heart softened today and he issued an order that brought joy to three West Orange youngsters.

Hailed before the recorder, a trio of mischief-makers was sentenced to receive no Christmas presents, to

take no part in Yuletide celebrations and go to bed at 5:30 o'clock each night for a month.

Citizens intervened, protesting that the punishment was too severe. Tonight the sentence was suspended over Christmas eve and Christmas, and Santa Claus was notified.

MULE ROUTS MILK THIEF

Farmer Substitutes Animal for Gentle Cow.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23.—A "terrific racket" last night in the barn of A. Johnson, a farmer near here, announced that a milk thief had met his Waterloo at the business end of a farm mule.

Johnson had planted the mule in the stall of a cow which the thief had been milking at night. When the farmer reached the barn last night, shotgun in hand, he found a battered milk pail, a wrecked milking stool, a hat, but no thief.

Christmas Chocolates

assorted, at the lowest price of all

25c

the pound

Assorted Hard Candies

29c pound

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Lipman Wolfe & Co.

"Merchandise of Merit Only"

Lipman Wolfe & Co.

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If You Know Not What to Purchase

Buy a Merchandise Bond!

The Supreme Last-Minute Gift

—Merchandise Bonds will satisfy to the nth degree the person upon whom they are bestowed.

—There are hundreds and thousands of people who put off buying Christmas presents until the 61st minute and then find themselves at the disadvantage of not only having no time to make purchases, but greatly undecided as to what they are going to give. Often, as a result of this, they purchase useless gifts with which they themselves are not pleased and which do not please the people for whom they were purchased.

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—Because society has put its stamp of approval on such excellent gifts; because they make last-minute gift-giving pleasurable and easy, and because they delight the recipients, they make unquestionably satisfying Christmas gifts.

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