

DOWN-AND-OUTER SAYS HE IS HEIR

Pisgah Inmate Declares \$5,000,000 Is Fortune.

HOME LEFT FOR ENGLAND

Man Without Money to Make Trip When Word Came.

CITY POOR TO BE HELPED

"Black Sheep" of Wealthy Family Promises to Return to Portland and Assist Unfortunates.

From an inmate in the Pisgah home, Woodmere, to heir to an estate of nearly \$5,000,000 is the sudden transition of S. W. Thorley, aged 42, according to a story he told to friends at the police emergency hospital last night on the eve of his departure for England, where, he said, he is going to claim his fortune.

Thorley said he was the son of a wealthy manufacturer of stock food in London. His mother died last September, leaving an estate totaling millions of dollars. He said he had been informed by the family solicitors that 1,000,000 pounds had been left to him.

At the Pisgah home it was said that the story of Thorley's being advised of the fortune coming to him has been known for nearly three weeks.

Family Sends Transportation.

It was also known that he had received transportation within the last few days with which to make the journey to England.

Thorley said prior to his departure for the east last night that he received notification of his inheritance on New Year's day.

Members of the family in London for transportation, he said.

Thorley told friends that he was known as the "black sheep" of a wealthy British family. He served in the British army in India and elsewhere, he confided, but finally came to this country as a remittance man.

He said he received \$500 a month from his family for several years, but this was shut off when he refused to return home and settle down.

Down-and-Out Home Promised.

"When I get the money I am going to return right here to Portland and found a charitable home for men and women who are down and out," he proclaimed. "I have roamed over the world and have had my full share of trouble. I believe in assisting the men and women who are down on their luck and intend to devote the rest of my life to assisting unfortunate people."

Thorley, who is a typical Englishman, said he would remain in England just long enough to get his legacy and then would return to Portland. His family, he said, are manufacturers of Thorley's Food for Cattle, and own the largest manufacturing institution of its kind in England.

STEAMER CALLS FOR AID

American Freighter Crippled by Storm in North Sea.

ROTTERDAM, Jan. 18.—In one of the heaviest gales in the North Sea for months, the 12,000-ton American freighter *Defiance* sent a wireless message yesterday asking that help be sent her in the dangerous waters 50 miles to the north of Terchelling. A number of tugs were rushed to her and a wireless said one had reached her and planned to tow her to Hamburg.

FIVE-DAY WEEK DECREED

Change Affecting Northern Pacific Mechanics Announced.

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 18.—Mechanical departments of the Northern Pacific railway will be put on a five-day week basis before the end of the present month, it was announced today by Charles Donnelly, president of the road, who delivered the principal address at the annual meeting of the local chamber of commerce tonight.

He said that the proposed change, for which "slow rail business" is responsible, would involve no decrease in pay.

MME. BRESHKOVSKAYA ILL

"Little Grandmother of Russian Revolution" Stricken.

PARIS, Jan. 18.—Madame Katherine Breshkovskaya, the "little grandmother of the Russian revolution," who came to Paris recently to attend the conference here of the remnant of the old Russian duma, is seriously ill in the Russian hospital.

She is suffering from a general breakdown and a heart affection.

22 FOODSTUFFS CUT 8 PER CENT IN MONTH

AVERAGE DECLINE COMPILED BY LABOR DEPARTMENT.

Reductions in Coal and Crude Oil Prices Also Are Announced by Companies.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—An average decline of 8 per cent in retail prices of 22 food articles in December as compared with November was noted today in statistics compiled by the labor department. Compared to December, 1919, the decrease was 19 per cent.

The products and decreases were: Oranges, 27 per cent; pork chops, 25 per cent; sugar, 18 per cent; ham, 13 per cent; bacon, butter and lard, 11 per cent; round steak, flour and bananas, 10 per cent.

Rates on increases were: Rolled oats 18 per cent, and storage eggs, cream of wheat and macaroni 9 per cent.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 18.—Price reductions ranging from 25 to 75 cents a ton were announced today by two large St. Louis retail coal companies. This is the second reduction announced here in the last month.

DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 18.—The price of Healdton crude oil was reduced 50 cents today from \$2.75 to \$2.25 a barrel, and Corsican heavy crude from \$2.50 to \$2.00 a barrel, according to the Magnolia Petroleum company. Downward trend of the market was given as the reason.

SUNDAY BASEBALL WINS

2567 For, 1160 Against Sport on Lord's Day at Yakima.

YAKIMA, Wash., Jan. 18.—Sunday baseball tonight won a victory in an informal election called by the Yakima school board upon the question whether the board should lease the high school athletic grounds to owners of the Yakima Pacific International baseball club without restriction as to Sunday games.

More than 3600 votes were cast between 1 and 9 P. M., the count showing 2567 for Sunday games and 1160 against. A number of ministers and church workers were active at the polling places and feeling ran high, especially during the closing hours of the voting.

VETERANS ARE REASSURED

Misapprehension Concerning Insurance Act Corrected.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Internal revenue bureau officials today sought to correct the impression that ex-service beneficiaries under the War-risk insurance act must pay income tax on amounts received in excess of \$1000 a year in the case of unmarried men.

Only pensions and pay of retired officers not on active duty were taxable, it was said.

DANISH DISTRESS GROWS

Unemployment Increasing; Market Glutted With Imports.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 18.—Danish industries are facing a critical situation, a majority of large concerns working half time and others being closed. Unemployment is increasing and the market is becoming glutted with foreign made goods.

A section of the Danish press is demanding either protective measures or suspension of imports.

2-CENT PIECE FAVORED

Roosevelt Coin Is Recommended by House Committee.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—A Roosevelt 2-cent piece is favored by the house coinage committee, which today reported favorably a senate bill authorizing the coin.

The committee's report said there was "genuine need" for a 2-cent piece, and coinage of one would be "a fitting manner in which to honor the memory of a great American."

DYNAMITE HALTS FIRE

Windows in Houses All Over Le- bam, Wash., Shattered.

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 18.—Windows in houses all over Lebam were broken early this morning when dynamite was used to prevent the spread of a fire. The town Y. M. C. A. building was blasted.

The flames destroyed a mercantile establishment and threatened the business district of the town.

FORD GAINS 1619 VOTES

One-Third of Ballots in Michigan Senatorial Election Recounted.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—About one-third of the ballots in the Michigan senatorial election of 1918 had been recounted tonight by the senate privileges and elections committee.

Henry Ford had made a net gain of 1619 votes over Senator Newberry, who was elected by about 7500 plurality.

CLOUDBURST FLOODS HILO

Damage in Hawaiian City Is Esti- mated at \$100,000.

HILO, T. H., Jan. 17.—A cloudburst Sunday flooded sections of Hilo, damaging stores and other property to an extent estimated at \$100,000. One hundred and fifty persons were rendered homeless.

The rainfall at Kilauea volcano registered 21 inches in 24 hours.

\$5 FLAT AUTO TAX IS NOW PROPOSED

Greater Levy on Gasoline Sales Suggested.

SPECIAL MESSAGE INDORSED

Boys' Training School May Get Quarter-Mill Tax.

ROOSEVELT IDEA FOUGHT

Spending \$2,500,000 Road Bonds Before Funds Are Matched by Congress Is Opposed.

STATE HOUSE, Salem, Or., Jan. 18.—(Special)—Indorsement of the governor's special message suggesting that the quarter-mill road tax be abolished and the money turned over to the Boys' Training school; a proposal to make motor licenses a flat \$5 and greatly increase the tax on gasoline sales and opposition to spending \$2,500,000 of road bonds for the Roosevelt highway were road matters which came into prominence today.

Other road matters, dealing with general legislative policy, will be taken up Wednesday afternoon by the roads and highways committee meeting in conference with R. A. Booth, John B. Yeon and W. A. Barratt, members of the state highway commission.

Governor's Idea Approved.

At a meeting of the house committee on roads and highways, it was the unanimous opinion that Governor Olcott's idea, contained in his special message, should be approved. The governor suggested that the quarter-mill road tax levy be abolished and the money turned over to the boys' training school.

Representatives Carter, Korell and Burdick were selected as a deputation to confer with the governor and inquire whether his office or the road committee should prepare the needed measures to carry out the executive's programme. The governor placed the entire matter in the hands of the roads and highways committee.

Three bills will be introduced to bring about the desired change. The first bill will abolish the quarter-mill road tax, which was originally the only source of funds for road-building in Oregon prior to capitalization of the motor license fees.

Two Other Bills Proposed.

A second bill will transfer the quarter-mill money to the general fund and the third bill will specify appropriation for a sufficient proportion. (Concluded on Page 6, Column 3.)

CONFERENCES OVER; HARDING RESTS SOON

TRIP FOR FLORIDA TO BE STARTED TOMORROW.

Selection of Cabinet and Writing Inaugural Address Will Be Mixed With Vacationing.

MARION, O., Jan. 18.—President-elect Harding has completed his conferences on the policies of his administration and will leave Thursday night for St. Augustine, Fla., where he will arrive Saturday to pass most of the time remaining before his inauguration.

A two weeks' houseboat trip in Florida waters will follow his arrival there. Virtually all of February he will live at a St. Augustine hotel, mixing golf and relaxation with the work of final preparation for the presidency.

During the houseboat expedition, which is to be devoted mostly to fishing, the president-elect will be the guest of Senator Frelinghuysen of New Jersey. Several other senators and friends will be in the party.

The trip will carry the president-elect as far as Palm Beach or Miami, Fla., with several stops to try the various golf links. The trips ashore will be brief and far between, however, and during most of the voyage Mr. Harding expects to write his inaugural address and to select a cabinet as completely as possible from the ordinary currents of national life.

At St. Augustine he will receive some callers, but will give most of his working hours to "consideration of the first acts of his administration. Selection of a cabinet is the problem that must be solved and he also must write his inaugural address and formulate the recommendations for a tax reform that he is to make to a special session of congress. In addition, it is likely he will determine the form of the voyage, the diplomatic approaches to the great powers on an association of nations.

Whether he will return to Marion has not been definitely indicated. Heretofore he had intended to go direct from St. Augustine to Washington to take the oath, but the people of his home town want to send him to the capital with a farewell demonstration.

Mrs. Harding will not accompany her husband to Florida but will go to St. Augustine later, probably after the houseboat trip has been finished.

She will leave Friday or Saturday for Washington, where she will pass several days arranging personal matters, including disposition of the Harding residence.

With their departure they will give up their house in Marion, which made history as the "second of the front porch campaign." It has been leased to a Marion citizen and the house in Washington is to be sold, if it is not rented to Vice-President Coolidge.

George B. Christian Jr., the president-elect's secretary, will go with him to Florida, but an office force will be maintained at Harding headquarters next to the Harding residence here, until late in February. Then the records will be moved to Washington.

Indications are accumulating that Mr. Harding will decide finally on nearly all of his cabinet selections in Florida. Those close to him believe (Concluded on Page 2, Column 2.)

DOT AND DASH CALL SAVES MAN IN VAULT

"AM LOCKED IN." PRISONER TAPS TO WATCHMAN.

Philadelphia Treasurer's Aide Trapped at Closing Time; Mouse, Also Locked In, Died.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18.—Locked for nearly six hours in a hermetically sealed concrete and steel vault in the city treasurer's office last night, a knowledge of the Morse telegraph code probably saved the life of Arthur Brenner, assistant city treasurer, it became known today.

A mouse also locked in failed to survive. Brenner entered the vault five minutes before closing time yesterday, hunting for an every drawer, while he was there, the big steel doors swung shut. He shouted for help without attracting notice.

The lights went out automatically as the doors shut. Brenner was on a balcony in the rear. He felt his way down, pulled open every drawer and piled the books on the floor to get the maximum amount of air and then slept for a while, with his face as near the bottom of the door as possible. When he awoke his hand came in contact with a wooden slat, and remembering that a night watchman, hunting for a warrant, while he was there, the big steel doors swung shut. He shouted for help without attracting notice.

"Will get help," came the answer from the watchman, who immediately telephoned for a man who knew the vault's combination.

IOWA CAPTURES CONCLAVE

Next Great Gathering of Shriners Will Be in Des Moines.

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 18.—Ellis Lewis Garrison, imperial potentate of the Mystic Shrine, today announced that the next meeting of the Shriners of North America will be held in Des Moines, Ia., June 24, 25 and 26. Plans to make the session a purely business meeting have been abandoned, Mr. Garrison stated, and the various temples will be present with their bands and patrols as in the past.

The meeting of the Shrine in Portland last June chosen Atlantic City as the seat of the 1921 session, but the officers of the order canceled that place on account of excessive hotel rates.

Des Moines was finally chosen over Savannah, Ga., Los Angeles and other cities.

STEPHENS ASKS ECONOMY

Sweeping Changes Proposed to California Legislature.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 18.—Sweeping changes intended to simplify and render more economical the discharge of the duties of the state were outlined by Governor Stephens today in a special message to the legislature.

Eight bills accompanied the message. They provided for the consolidation of many state boards, commissions and other agencies in the interest of economy.

Indiana Opposes Bill.

The most ardent support of the measure appeared to come from states which will lose one of its legislative memorialized congress today to defeat the bill, despite the result of reducing the Hoosier representation.

Under the Siegel bill, Oregon would receive one additional representative and Washington one. Washington, however, receives an additional member either way.

Explaining his opposition to the bill in the house this afternoon, Representative McArthur said:

"I am against any and all proposals to add to the membership of this house. Our present membership of 45 is, in my judgment, altogether too large for real deliberative work and even the most casual observer must admit that this body is unwieldy, and that much of its business is transacted amid scenes of disorder and confusion. The pending measure proposes to add 10 members, and if it should become a law, the orderly transaction of legislative business will be beset with even more difficulties than at present.

Responsibility Declared Shirked.

"Another point which we should consider in connection with this legislation is the constantly growing tendency to shirk individual responsibility. The larger the lawmaking body the less the individual member feels his responsibility, and the more he is tempted to pass it along to the leaders. By adding 45 members to the already large and unwieldy house we will simply take another step in the direction of centralized authority and removal of representative government from contact with the people.

"The question of economy should also be given consideration before we vote on this bill. The present congress is now in the process of restoring many departments of the government to a pre-war basis and by limiting appropriations to the various departments will force them to drop thousands of clerks and other employees from the rolls at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Measure Called Poor Economy.

"Most of these clerks and employees draw comparatively small salaries. The country applauds the action of congress in reducing expenditures, but will the country say if congress, after discharging these thousands of low-salaried clerks, proceeds to cast economy to the four winds by creating 45 offices that pay \$7500 per year.

"I have heard the partisan argument that the pending bill, should it become a law, will automatically give the republican party a gain of 19 (Concluded on Page 1, Column 2.)

NORTHWEST WARS ON BIGGER HOUSE

McArthur Leads Fight on More Members.

SEATS WOULD BE GIVEN 48

Vote Will Be Taken Today; Support Believed Scant.

IDAHOANS IN OPPOSITION

Sudden Showing of Strength by Foes Upsets Forecasts That Followed Republican Caucus.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 18.—Increased membership in the house from 45 to 48 as provided for in the Siegel bill, will receive scant support from the northwest states when a vote is taken tomorrow.

Not one word was said in its behalf by any representative from Oregon, Washington or Idaho during the debates this afternoon, while on the other hand Representative McArthur of Oregon was one of the leaders of the opposition. He has been organizing the opposition for the last ten days and today directed the most of the opposition floor work in the house.

Representatives Hadley, Summers and Webster of Washington declared several days ago their opposition to the Siegel bill and Representatives French and Smith of Idaho are frankly against it. The Oregon delegation is solidly opposed.

Defeat of Bill Predicted.

"We will beat the bill tomorrow and have 50 or 75 votes to spare," Representative McArthur said tonight.

The strength of the opponents of the measure was surprising when the debates began today. It had been taken for granted in most quarters that the action of a republican caucus some time ago approving the Siegel bill assured its passage. Therefore the developments of this afternoon were not expected.

One of the first to speak against the bill was Representative Fairfield, republican, of Indiana, a state which will lose one of its representatives by failure to make the house increase. His opposition was a hard blow to the friends of the bill. There was one surprise, however, in the other direction, when Champ Clark, democratic floor leader, spoke for the bill after he had several times been quoted as opposed. His state, Missouri, loses two representatives if the increase fails.

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ONE SEAPLANE SAFE, OTHER SUNK AT SEA

NC-6 ON BEACH AT CIGANTE, NICARAGUA.

NC-5 Found and Crew Rescued Men Have Exciting Experience in Tropical Forest.

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, Nicaragua, Jan. 18.—The United States navy seaplane NC-6 is lying on the beach at Cigante, a few miles from here. The seaplane has two holes in her hull, but her engines are undamaged and the machine can be repaired easily.

The tug *Gannet* arrived from Nicaragua, having searched all the bays and inlets. This tug brought word that the seaplane NC-5 had been found by the tender *Munford* last Sunday, which rescued the crew and then sank the plane.

Lieutenant Combs in command of the NC-8, and Machinist Hickthier had a thrilling experience after leaving the NC-6, when they went in search of their own plane. They were lost for a considerable time in tropical forest and were threatened by armed natives.

JAPAN'S ACTION WATCHED

Senators Deeply Interested in Navy Building Programme.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Present and projected naval expansion by the United States and other powers was discussed briefly today by the senate naval committee with Admiral Coad, chief of naval operations. Members were said to have evinced special interest in Japan's building programme.

Chairman Lodge issued a call today for a special meeting Thursday of the senate foreign relations committee for further consideration of the resolution of Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, proposing a conference of the principal naval powers in an effort to agree upon curtailment of naval construction.

Senate leaders said the Borah resolution probably would be amended and reported favorably.

SUPPLIES SOLD FOR SONG

Shipping Board Goods Worth \$244,000 Go for \$80,000.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—Excess clothing for United States shipping board officers and crews, stored at Boston and valued at \$244,000, was sold for \$80,000. Byron C. Baker, district controller for the board at Boston, today testified before the Walsh congressional committee investigating the board's affairs.

The witness told the committee he had protested to a superior officer against this sale, but without result. In reply to questions, Baker said he had been advised by telephone by Alford Tweedall, general controller at Washington, not to answer questions of policy and opinion affecting the general organization or the general officers of the shipping board.

OLDEST ELK PASSES AWAY

Illinois Lodgeman Was Boyhood Chum of Lincoln.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 18.—Colonel William T. Baker, 96, said to be the oldest member of the Order of Elks in the United States, died here this morning.

He was said to be a boyhood chum of Abraham Lincoln.

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