

SEIZURE MENACES BETHLEHEM PLANT

Chief of Shipping Board in
Fight Over Audit.

SCHWAB MAKES DENIAL

Steel Magnate Asserts He Received
No Money for Personal Use.
Testimony Is Corroborated.

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—Admiral Benson, chairman of the shipping board, had "determined to commandeer the yards of the Bethlehem shipbuilding corporation" if it were necessary to adjust the dispute over the audit of its books, Martin J. Gillen today informed the Walsh congressional committee. Gillen was a former special assistant to the chairman.

The Bethlehem concern, Gillen said, did not object to the audit, but to the employment of the firm of Parley, Morse & Co., in connection with the work. The auditing firm's employees, he added, had been barred from the corporation's yards after the audit was ordered. At a conference to bring about an adjustment of the difficulty, Gillen said, it was necessary to bring pressure to bear on both sides.

Schwab Voucher Up Again.

Gillen declared that the voucher for \$250,000, which the preceding witness, Colonel E. H. Abadie, former controller-general of the shipping board, had brought into the testimony, was discussed at the conference. The voucher, Colonel Abadie said he had been informed by the auditor, Parley, Morse & Co., was for the October, 1918, personal expenses of Charles M. Schwab, chairman of the board of directors of the Bethlehem shipbuilding corporation, and a former director-general of the emergency fleet corporation.

Gillen testified the item was "charged to profit and loss by the Bethlehem shipbuilding corporation," and was not charged in any way to the shipping board or the navy. The witness added that he had been informed at conference with the auditors that there was "nothing wrong with that item."

Steel Magnate Defended.

He declared further it was regrettable that "anything should arise which would in the least impugn the motives of men who had risen to positions of responsibility in their country." The witness denied that he forced the resignation of Colonel Abadie, the latter had testified, or that there was any ill-feeling between them.

Charles M. Schwab appeared before the committee and denied testimony given yesterday by Colonel Abadie, to the effect that Mr. Schwab's personal expenses for October, 1918, amounting to \$250,000, were charged to the shipping board.

Mr. Schwab declared the statements were "absolutely unqualified and maliciously false," and that he personally paid all his own expenses during his term of office as director-general of the emergency fleet corporation.

Salary Is Not Collected.

Mr. Schwab said that although he was supposed to receive a dollar a year salary, he did not collect that and for his traveling from shipyard to shipyard while at the head of the fleet corporation, he asserted he never received any compensation and did not want any.

Mr. Schwab admitted such a voucher as that presented by Colonel Abadie may have been paid to him, but declared it was not for the purpose claimed by Abadie, and no part of it was charged to ship construction.

His acceptance of the position as head of the fleet corporation, he said, was only at the urgent request of the chairman of the board and President Wilson. He declared he insisted that all matters connected with his own shipbuilding companies be handled by other members of the board.

Abadie Regrets Incident.

Colonel Abadie, who again took the stand, said he regretted the necessity for connecting Mr. Schwab with the voucher and said he hoped it was an error and that Mr. Schwab would be cleared.

EX-CAPTAIN, WOMAN HELD

(Continued From First Page.)

of "Mr. and Mrs. Barry" was revealed, and they passed the night in station cells. Pinkerton and Swisher were released after questioning, and to the protests of ex-Captain Cox the police replied that questionable company had been brought about the arrest with its subsequent developments, and that both must await federal investigation.

According to the story of ex-Captain Cox, told during the federal inquiry, both he and Mrs. Barry recently procured divorces in the California courts, intending to realize their own romance as soon as legal restrictions would permit his remarriage.

Arrest Narrowly Skirted.

While on a northern trip, he declared, he received a letter from Mrs. Barry, then at Los Angeles, telling him that she intended to visit her mother in Montana. He telegraphed to her and made arrangements for the Portland meeting.

Just prior to this meeting ex-Captain Cox narrowly skirted arrest, as a check transaction with one of the local hotels, where he cashed a \$100 check on a Los Angeles bank, telegraphic inquiry brought information that he had no account there, and he was said to have pawned a diamond ring for \$200 in order to compensate the hotel. The check transaction, of which information had been lodged with the police, was explained by Captain Cox to official satisfaction. He had advised his bankers in San Francisco, he said, to deposit funds for him in the Los Angeles bank, and his check upon that institution was challenged before the request was complied with.

Badge Recently Requested.

Operatives of a private detective agency, who sought light upon ex-Captain Cox at the time of the check

transaction, said that he recently approached one of their number with a proposal to procure a police or detective badge, offering \$250 for the star. He explained, laughingly, that he wished to "put something over" on some bootleggers, evidently intending to order a consignment of whisky, flash the badge of office, and frighten the whisky purveyors into leaving their refreshments in order to escape arrest.

Those who knew Captain Barry overseas rated his father as a millionaire timberman of West, Cal., and said that the son has long borne the reputation of being the black-sheep of the family. When entered at the police station, ex-Captain Cox and the woman gave their names as R. B. Barry and Mrs. Louise Barry—under which they were registered at the local hotel. Police said they were not advised as to the true name of the woman known as Mrs. Barry.

"If neither knew nor care who he is," said Captain of Inspectors Circle, commenting on the case. "I have heard that he sat in courts of martial law while in the service. If so, he should have known how to conduct himself in civilian life. Whether he is the son of a wealthy man or not, so far as I am concerned the charge against him will be pushed."

Pair Have Long Records.

P. D. Pinkerton, alias "Pinky," and L. H. Swisher were said by federal officials to have lengthy records as particularly smooth and evasive bootleggers. It was said that a year ago, in New Orleans, they swindled an Italian resident of \$1500 by selling him "water whisky"—otherwise colored water masquerading as bourbon.

Rumor in police circles also had it that Pinkerton, who recently returned to Portland, where he once served a county jail term, was plucked for \$18,000 in a north-end dice game, fortnight ago, when the "talkative burglar" failed to lure "Lady Luck."

ACTOR BEING HUNTED

(Continued From First Page.)

Times," said Mr. Nelson. "It is evident that the man is not Billings. On the theory advanced by Mr. Nelson, the 'Talkative Burglar' robbed his home. Of this there is no doubt at all. Then the 'Talkative Burglar' called him by telephone and arranged to return the diamond ring in return for the \$100. But it was the pal of Billings, according to Mr. Nelson's identification, who met Mr. Nelson and got the money, but failed to return the ring."

Gillen said the only victim of the "Talkative Burglar" who got a good look at the man during his burglary operations. The night the Nelson home was entered, the "Talkative Burglar" started into the bathroom, the door of which is of glass. "His image was plainly visible to Mr. Nelson, who told the police detectives at the time he would be able to identify the man if he were ever captured."

He insists, however, that the man who entered his home is not Billings. Therefore, Billings cannot be the "Talkative Burglar." Billings is said to have been the one who returned the jewelry to the Nelson home. If this is true, his identity as "the shadow" becomes probable through the similarity of the two samples of handwriting.

If this is the case, it is a situation which is baffling the entire police bureau, and one which the best detectives on the force have thus far been unable to fathom.

Billings Has Record Here.

George Billings, who is now the object of a nation-wide search, through the positive belief of the Portland police, will undoubtedly be the "talkative burglar" who used the "shadow" and the "Talkative Burglar" have woven about themselves in the operations covering the last month has a criminal record in Portland. He is also known to have served prison terms in both California and Washington prisons. Billings disappeared from Portland in 1906, according to the police, and is not thought to have been here again until this winter.

Until he was arrested, Billings left the city about the time of the "Shadow" and the "Talkative Burglar" were in a house conducted by V. J. McGill, 127 1/2 Second street. Billings was said to have returned to Portland with various theatrical enterprises, but not to an extent that would have yielded him very great returns.

Police in investigating his case since he became implicated as a result of Mr. Nelson's experiences have ascertained that he served an enlistment in the United States navy under the name of Joe Brady.

Fearlessness Is Noted.

From his first appearance at the Nelson home December 13, the "Talkative Burglar," according to Detective Captain Circle, has made some of the richest hauls in burglary records of the city, starting Portland people at intervals varying from a week to two or three days. In each case his deliberate methods and absolute fearlessness in effecting his escape left no doubt as to the identity of the robber.

When he broke into the A. P. Henningsen home in Mount Scott early December 22 he forced Mrs. Mary E. Butner, a nurse, sleeping in an upstairs chamber, and questioned her closely before proceeding to ransack the sleeping rooms. In three other robberies credited to him by the police, the "Talkative Burglar" displayed the same demeanor. At the home of C. O. Pick, 7750 East Yamhill street, he engaged in a lively verbal tussle with Mr. Pick. On the same morning he entered the H. S. Tutthill home, 1611 East Salmon street.

Careful Search Is Made.

Both these robberies netted him far less than his usual amount of plunder and his search was even more careful than before. It was that morning, too, that the mystery of the "Talkative Burglar" came very near being uncovered. He left one of the houses, the owner afterward reported to the police, he covered the "Talkative Burglar" at point-blank range with a revolver, but he fled and failed to pull the trigger. The home of C. M. Christensen, 224 Floral avenue, late in December, was the last burglary officially accredited to him by the police, although numerous burglaries since that time have worked in a similar manner.

One remarkable feature of the "Talkative Burglar's" operations has been that none of his loot, save the package returned to the Nelson home, has been recovered. Police have been handicapped in tracing him for this reason. He has seldom taken anything but money or diamonds, however.

Legion Asks Aid for Insane.

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—Need for caring for ex-service men who have lost their reason was presented to the state military hospital commission by a resolution passed Thursday.

Unemployed to Get \$250,000.

DETROIT, Jan. 21.—An appropriation of \$250,000 for the relief of needy unemployed was voted by the city council.

S. & H. Green Stamps for Cash.

Holman Fuel Co. Main 253, 550-21. Adv.

WHOLESALE HOUSES REPORT TRADE SLOW

Retailers Buying for Immediate Consumption.

PRICE TREND DOWNWARD

Business Conditions in Various Cities in Twelfth Federal Reserve District Reported.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 21.—Customers of wholesale houses, with few exceptions, in all lines, are buying at present for immediate consumption, and not for stock, according to a report of wholesale and retail trade conditions in the 12th federal reserve district made public tonight by the Federal Reserve bank of San Francisco.

During December, 1920, the general trend of prices was downward in all lines, the report said. Collections, the statement added, in December were on a par with November of the same year.

Sales in retail stores in December were reported 15.3 per cent less than in November, 1920. Collections, the statement added, in December were on a par with November of the same year. Current prices were from 10 to 20 per cent lower than in December, 1919.

Table accompanying the report compared conditions of business during December, 1920 and 1919, in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, Spokane, Salt Lake City and Sacramento. In the eight cities net hardware sales decreased 17.9 per cent; drygoods sales, 19.6 per cent; grocery sales, 19.6 per cent; drug sales increased 2.9 per cent; shoe sales decreased 40 per cent; stationary sales increased 13.9 per cent; furniture sales decreased 37.5 per cent, and automobile tire sales decreased 5.3 per cent.

According to the tables, retail trade in the eight cities was 10 per cent lower in December over November, 1920. For the district, sales in 1920 increased in all lines over sales in 1919. Merchants reported prices as down; one drygoods firm reported "heavy declines"; all wholesale grocers had more or less of a decline; shoe stores reported slight reductions, with prices 20 to 30 per cent below peak levels; wholesale dry goods houses reported high-grade bond papers firm, with slight declines in wood base papers, and tire dealers said price-cutting sales were the order of the day.

John U. Calkins, governor of the federal reserve bank of the 12th district, today said the "buyers' strike" would not come to an end until an equitable relation had been established between producers' prices and consumers' prices. He said the "strike" was a "tremendously effective" factor in the present curtailment of business.

BUILTING BOOM HELD BACK

High Cost of Materials Is Held Main Obstruction.

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—Two hundred building material men from all parts of the country, in conference to devise means for starting a national building boom, today agreed on the object of bringing down rents were told by speakers today that there could be no general building revival until the prices of building materials went down.

H. C. Baldwin, building expert from Wellesley Hills, Mass., told the conference that while there would be a slight increase in building this winter, there would be no return to normalcy by the fall of 1922 or the spring of 1923.

"There can be no building boom until the prices of building materials are stabilized," he said. "People will

not build homes for fear that prices may come down and investors will not lend money on a declining market. They will wait until they are satisfied that they will get the most for their money."

There was no decrease in rents while building prices remain as at present, G. M. Reynolds, chairman of the board of directors of the Continental & Commercial bank, said. "Building prices now are 100 to 200 per cent higher than they were in normal times," he said. "While such a condition exists rents will stay up."

John M. Kirby, president of the Lumber Manufacturers' association, said that manufacturers of most building materials had "not kept pace with the price reductions made by lumber manufacturers."

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FORT WALLA WALLA SOUGHT AS HOSPITAL

Congress Asked to Devote
Property to Soldiers.

BILL CARRIES PROVISION

Treatment of Nervous and Mental Cases Among Disabled Men Purpose of Big Project.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 21.—Old Fort Walla Walla, at Walla Walla, Wash., will become a hospital for disabled soldiers if congress acts favorably upon a provision placed in the general hospital bill soon to be reported out of the house committee on public buildings and grounds.

This provision was placed in the bill today by the committee, through the efforts of Representative Summers of Washington, who has been making a fight to this end for several months, backed by American Legion posts in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and the legislature of Washington state, which is understood to have adopted a memorial in support of the project.

The bill provides for the transfer of the buildings and grounds of Fort Walla Walla from the custody of the war department to the treasury department, "to be used for hospital purposes." As a hospital, the purpose is to have it devoted entirely to the treatment of nervous and mild mental cases, especially the cases of veterans suffering from shell shock, which are more numerous now than tuberculosis cases.

The location of a hospital at Walla Walla, near the Legion posts of the northwest have argued, would complete the facilities for taking care of sick and disabled veterans in that section, there being only two hospitals at this time—one at Boise and the other at Portland. As the proposed institution would specialize in the treatment of a large number of disabilities, Representative Summers said it would not overlap the work of the other two hospitals to any great extent.

Fort Walla Walla has not been occupied as an army post since 1910. In that year an effort was made to have congress turn the grounds over to Whitman college, but organized labor at Walla Walla made such a bitter fight on the proposal that congress did not act.

There are 10 buildings on the military reservation, including two large brick barracks, which, it is said, could be used for hospital purposes with small cost for remodeling.

A. C. Rundle of Prosser, Wash., arrived here today with the electoral vote of Washington state, which was presented to the vice-president as president of the senate. Mr. Rundle formally was presented to vice-president Marshall by Senator Jones and Representative Summers.

"While the package was sealed so that I could not see what it contained," said Representative Summers, "I feel confident that when it is opened at a joint session of the senate and house at 1 o'clock on Tuesday, it will be found to contain seven votes for Harding and Coolidge."

EX-PRESIDENT IS IN JAIL

State Department Denies Report That Cabrera Is Mistreated.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Reports that President Cabrera of Guatemala is being "maltreated" by the present Guatemalan authorities are unfounded, declared a report from Acting Secretary of State Clegg today, transmitted to the senate today.

The department confirmed, however, statements that Cabrera was in prison, and that since his confinement his home had been looted of property estimated at from one to several hundred thousands of dollars.

UNCLE SAM BOOTLEGGERS

Contraband Liquor Found Cashed in Government-Owned House.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Contraband liquor was found today in Uncle Sam's own bottle. A quantity of bottled goods was seized in one of a block of houses owned by the treasury department.

The occupants were arrested but pressed no defense, and were taken to proceed under the law providing for prosecution of the owner of property where liquor is sold.

MRS. EVANS GETS IN BAD

(Continued From First Page.)

struck to support them as tending toward centralization and economy. The situation created by Mrs. Evans is deeply deplorable," commented Mrs. C. W. Hayhurst, who is the representative in the council of the Parent-Teachers' association. "There is no question but that she exceeded her authority. But we must keep in mind the principles of our organization and the good that it has done and try to avoid bickering and internal wrangles."

Course Is Held Mystery.

"It was clearly understood that Mrs. Thompson was to represent our council at Salem and I cannot understand why Mrs. Evans pursued the course she did. I am hoping that she will be able to explain the incident."

Members of the legislative council of Oregon women's clubs, delegated to voice the sentiments of state memberships, are the following: Mrs. Sarah Evans, League of Women Voters; Mrs. L. T. Merwin, collegiate alumni; Mrs. Millie R. Trumbull, consumers' league; Mrs. Mary Mallett, W. C. T. U.; Mrs. Alexander Thompson, State Federation of Women's clubs; Mrs. C. W. Hayhurst, Parent-Teachers' association.

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