

EXPOSITION BILL WAITS ON SIGNING

Mr. Ritner Undecided as to Approval of Action.

LEGALITY TEST EXPECTED

State Committee Soon to Delve Into Situation.

FAIR IS HELD POPULAR

Mr. Meier Expresses View People of Oregon Would Vote Overwhelmingly for Project.

1925 EXPOSITION SITUATION IN BRIEF.

President Ritner of state senate undecided as to whether he will sign measures passed during special session last week. Without his signature they cannot leave his office except by court procedure.

If he does not sign, it is probable Secretary of State Koser will be asked to place measures on ballot for May election, and if he declines because of legal points, a friendly suit likely will be initiated at once to settle the question.

Julius L. Meier, chairman of state-wide exposition board, contemplates calling board together soon to lay before them the situation as it exists and to ask their advice on future action. Mr. Meier declares himself of the opinion that the people of Oregon want the exposition and will overwhelmingly endorse it if given the chance.

With Roy W. Ritner, president of the state senate, undecided as to whether he will sign measures enacted at last week's special session of the Oregon legislature authorizing the 1925 exposition and providing a gasoline tax to finance it to the extent of \$3,000,000, advocates of the great fair project are adjusting themselves to the situation and preparing for the next step.

Whether Mr. Ritner signs the measures enacted by senate and house concerning what a constitutional question has arisen because of the fact that there were but 29 members present and voting and because the vote lacked one of the required number, as construed by some lawyers, there will be action to have the courts decide the issue, it is believed. Advocates of the exposition express the belief that the signature will be affixed and that Louis E. Bean, speaker of the house, will place his name to the bill and resolution and that they will go to the governor, who is expected to act promptly, favoring the fair.

Court Action Expected.

Unless Mr. Ritner signs, it is believed the court action must come at once, for the measures cannot go out of his office for any other than legal proceedings. Advocates of the exposition hope for a legal decision, one that, lacking the signature of President Ritner, it will be best to apply to Sam A. Koser, secretary of state, to place the measures on the ballot to be voted upon at the primary nominating election next May. In case Mr. Koser, for legal reasons, does not place the measure upon the ballot, action to mandamus him would be taken, according to plans now forming. Of course, all of this would be done in a most friendly manner, simply to determine the constitutional question as to the validity of the senate's action in adopting the resolution and gasoline bill by a vote of 15 to 14. This would bring about a decision and every effort would be made to facilitate its announcement by the courts.

President Ritner Undecided.

How the validity of the exposition measure is to be determined is a matter which legislators discussed yesterday.

President Ritner explained yesterday that he has not decided on a course of action. He may or may not sign, depending on further deliberation.

"I may ask the opinion of the attorney-general and abide by it," said Mr. Ritner. "I may sign the resolution and gasoline bill with a note stating that there were but 15 votes for it and that I ruled that 16 was a constitutional majority and that an appeal was taken from the decision of the chair and that the chair was not sustained. Then, again, I may refuse to sign and thus give friends of the exposition an opportunity to mandamus me.

"Senator Eddy informed me that I could sign the measure without affecting the validity of one way or another, but as Senator Eddy was one of the supporters of the measure, I will seek elsewhere for opinion, although Senator Eddy's views may be perfectly correct."

Five Days Given for Signings.

Insofar as the speaker of the house is concerned, there is no reason why

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GAS IN TUNNEL KILLS TRAINMAN; 3 INJURED

Freight Crew Overcome in St. Johns Tube.

Engine Is Found Standing Still; All Victims Rushed to Hospital; Rest Out of Danger.

One man was killed and three injured in a gas-filled tunnel between St. Johns junction and Portland on the C. & N. line late last night. George W. Walker, conductor, 72 Sixth street North, died from asphyxiation. The other men who were at St. Vincent's hospital out of danger were Edward Vonada, engineer; I. W. Hall, fireman; and R. L. Banta, brakeman.

At 5:45 P. M. the train was found stalled at the east end of the tunnel. An investigation was conducted which found the three men unconscious in the cab of the engine. Walker was found at the rear of the train, which was still in the tunnel. All were rushed to the hospital immediately. Efforts to revive Walker were unsuccessful, although a pulmonary was used. His companions responded to first aid treatment and their conditions were announced as not serious.

Railroad men expressed the opinion that the train probably stalled in the tunnel and the crew unable to obtain a supply of fresh air were overcome by the gas in the coal smoke which clogged the atmosphere.

The 13-ton tunnel is more than a mile in length and it requires almost ten minutes for the slow-moving freight trains to pass through. An official inquiry will be conducted tomorrow.

OLD "EXAMS" DISCREDITED

System Archaic and Must Go Overboard, Says Educator.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Grades handed out to high school and college students on their final examinations frequently depend more on the temper and digestion of the grader than on the contents of their examination papers. B. D. Wood, assistant to Dean Hawkes of Columbia university, declared yesterday in a report on educational research conducted at the university.

He cited the case of one examination paper, graded as a test by 114 teachers. It received marks all the way from 23 to 92 per cent. Another paper, graded by 142 teachers, showed a difference of opinion ranging from 54 to 88 per cent.

The old type of examination, he declared, has been found archaic and unfair and must be thrown overboard. In its place he urged substitution of "a method which takes care of principles of mental measurement and which makes use of modern technical devices."

POSTMEN WORK TODAY

One Mail Delivery to Be Made Over Entire City of Portland.

One mail delivery will be made throughout the entire city today. At the postoffice windows will be open from 8 o'clock in the morning to noon for receiving and delivery of parcels. Money order and postal savings departments will remain closed.

Business houses generally will be closed for the day. All the leading downtown stores, grocery stores, railroad offices and freight depots, banks and a large number of private offices will be closed throughout the day. All city, state and federal offices will remain closed.

The central library will be closed with the exception of the reading room, which will remain open from 2 o'clock this afternoon to 9 o'clock tonight.

The public schools of this city will remain closed until Tuesday, January 3.

TRAIN WRECK INJURES 13

Seven Mail Clerks and Six Passengers Among Victims.

MONTGOMERY CITY, Mo., Dec. 25.—Thirteen persons, including seven mail clerks, were injured and a score of passengers received a shaking up when an east bound Wabash passenger train, Kansas City to St. Louis, was derailed by a broken rail two miles west of here.

The engine and nine coaches, including the mail and express cars, were derailed. The engineer and fireman jumped just before the engine went into the ditch and received minor injuries.

RUSSIAN COUP IS FEARED

Austrians Say They Captured Orders to Regain Territory.

VIENNA, Dec. 24.—The Austrian military authorities today announced that they had intercepted secret orders signed in Budapest by M. Banffy, the Hungarian minister of foreign affairs. It was said that the papers ordered the terrorist bands in west Hungary to prepare for the recapture of the Hungarian territory evacuated prior to the plebiscite.

MAJOR BADLY WOUNDED

Shot Said to Be Self-Inflicted in Unexplained Manner.

DENVER, Dec. 25.—Major Earl Coyle of Fort Logan was found shot and seriously wounded in his quarters at the post early today shortly after he returned from passing Christmas eve with other military officers.

Colonel R. J. Reaney, commander at the fort, announced that the wound had been self-inflicted in an unexplained manner.

FIFTY-MILE GALE HITS CALIFORNIA

Vessels Drag Anchors in San Francisco Bay.

FERRYBOAT STRIKES PIER

Near Panic Results, But None of Passengers Is Hurt.

SEVERAL LAUNCHES SUNK

Trolley Traffic Hampered, Wires Entangled and Buildings Are Unroofed.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—Christmas and a 50-mile gale arrived together along the central California coast. Vessels in San Francisco Bay were blown from their moorings and several that had put to sea turned about face and sought again the comparative safety of their harbor berths.

The ferry boat Garden City, in the trans-bay service of the Southern Pacific company, was blown against the pier of the Key Route ferries. There was a near panic among the passengers, but no one was injured. Ferry service between San Francisco, Oakland and Alameda was suspended at intervals while the gale whipped the waters of the bay into waves which harbor men said were the roughest within their recollection.

Trolley traffic in San Francisco and to a lesser degree in the cities across the bay was hampered by obstructions which fell across the wires and tracks.

Wire Trouble Results.

Telephone, telegraph and fire alarm lines were disrupted. Small buildings were unroofed, windows broken and advertising signs displaced. One of several accidents reported to the San Francisco emergency hospital resulted when a heavy sign on Market street, the city's main thoroughfare, fell and crushed C. Brownfield, a pedestrian. It was said he will recover. One of the vessels to drag her anchor was the whaling power schooner Carolyn Francis, which was headed straight to sea when finally the anchor became entangled in the telegraph cables between San Francisco and Yuba Island in the center of the bay.

As the day advanced the gale subsided and the sun peered from behind low-lying clouds.

Christmas Plans Observed.

Weather conditions did not interfere greatly with observance of the Christmas holiday in the manner that had been planned here, for beyond usual yuletide services in the churches and the distribution of gifts by charitable organizations, the preparations all were for the "old-fashioned home Christmas" with no outstanding public ceremony.

At Martinez, across the bay from San Francisco, several launches were sunk and larger craft dragged their anchors.

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SANTA LEAVES BABIES IN 4 HOMES OF CITY

Part of Cherished Christmas Carol Repeated.

Warren Gamaliel Harding Tells World He Is Here; Yuletide Brightened by Finest Gifts.

The first part of that cherished yuletide story, "The Birds' Christmas Carol," in which the birth of Christmas day of Carol Bird is recounted, was repeated in at least four Portland homes yesterday, perhaps in more, when the finest gift of all, and as regards the upkeep the most expensive except automobiles, was brought by Santa Claus instead of the stork.

A canvass of Portland hospitals discovered the births of four Christmas babies, and the nurses in several instances were called to their rooms there were possibilities of additions to the list. All four of the new arrivals were doing splendidly and were, in the language of babies, telling the world they were here and here to stay.

One of the four is named for the president. He is the eight-pound son of Mr. and Mrs. William Harding, 1374 Division street, and in honor of the president will carry the name Warren Gamaliel. The father said he is a distant cousin of President Harding.

The first of the four arrivals came at 1 o'clock in the morning. This was the daughter of George Aina and Allice Cox of 505 Everett street. At 2:30 o'clock a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. S. Vistica, 394 Stanton street, at Emanuel hospital.

The second maternity home a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Pratt, 113 East Thirty-fourth street, later in the morning.

Almost a Christmas baby was the son born to Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Roberts, 544 East Forty-third street North, who arrived within a few minutes of midnight on Christmas eve. The father is a partner of the Roberts Motor Car company.

When the office nurse in one hospital was asked if any Christmas babies had been born there, she replied that none had, but that some nice New Year's babies were expected.

WAREHOUSE IS BURNED

Farmers' Buildings in Redmond Destroyed by Flames.

REDMOND, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—The Farmers Warehouse & Milling company's buildings burned to the ground last night. The fire was discovered in the basement at 11 o'clock and was supposed to have originated from a stove used to heat the potato warehouse.

The volunteer fire department and citizens were unable to save the buildings. Some grain and wool were saved.

19 BANDITS ARE KILLED

Cavalrymen in Matapera Territory Clash With 250 Outlaws.

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 25.—Nineteen bandits were killed many wounded when a group of more than 250 outlaws clashed with cavalrymen in Matapera territory of Santa Cruz, according to official dispatches published by the government organ, La Epoca, today.

The reports added that 193 bandits were made prisoner by the troops, who also took 2000 horses.

OVATION GIVEN DEBS AS HE LEAVES PRISON

Offender Goes to Report to Daugherty.

Debs Say Socialist Plans to Go to Terre Haute After Washington Visit.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 25.—Eugene V. Debs, several times socialist candidate for president, was released from Atlanta penitentiary at 11:30 o'clock this morning, the balance of his ten-year sentence for violation of the espionage act having been commuted by President Harding.

Debs left an hour later for Washington, his release having been conditioned, he said, upon his reporting to Attorney-General Daugherty. He refused to issue a statement or comment in any way on his case.

Debs reached Washington about 7:30 A. M. Monday.

An ovation was given Debs as he emerged from the prison. The roar from the crowd was echoed from within the walls as the many friends he had made shouted good-bye. Debs paused and waved his hat to a group within the prison before entering an automobile to go to the station.

Friends of Debs said he planned to go to his home in Terre Haute, Ind., when his business at Washington was concluded.

Debs was accompanied to Washington by his brother, Theodore, who had been in Atlanta for several days; Miss Lucy Robbins, of the American Federation of Labor; Miss Celia Rotter, a member of the Debs freedom conference and newspaper men.

For 48 hours, friends of Debs had kept watch over the prison expecting his release despite reports from Washington that his commutation of sentence did not become effective until after midnight Saturday. Warren Dwyer and Debs had breakfast at the warden's residence and Debs later returned to the institution.

Just before Debs was formally released the warden issued orders permitting newspaper men to enter the prison where they were shown the dining room and kitchen and the Christmas dinner being spread for the 2200 inmates. They entered the warden's private office and greeted Debs before he left.

At the railroad station Debs decided that the party would ride in a day coach and would donate the Pullman fare to the Russian relief fund.

"I left 2300 men back there and they all should be given their liberty," he said, "they are all my friends."

He also declared he would work for the release of what he characterized as "political prisoners."

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 25.—Attorney-General Daugherty said tonight he expected Eugene V. Debs, who was released from the Atlanta penitentiary today, to call at the department of justice to discuss the commutation of his sentence by President Harding.

When Debs was in Washington recently, it was decided, Mr. Daugherty said, that in the event Debs was released or his sentence commuted, that it might be well for him to come to Washington for a final conference.

There was no reason, however, the attorney-general added, that Debs should be formally obliged to come here as was indicated by the released socialist leader when he stepped from the prison in Atlanta.

One Killed in Revolver Duel.

MILLEN, Ga., Dec. 25.—One man was killed and two severely wounded here today in a revolver battle which resulted from a controversy of the closing of a road.

FARM INFLUENCE STRONG IN SENATE

Prestige of Group Increasing Constantly.

REPUBLICANS YIELD TO BLOC

Important Institution Rising in American Politics.

HAND TAKEN IN TARIFF

Alliance Is Result of Economic Conditions and Distress That Is Striking Farmers.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.
(Copyright, 1921, by the New York Evening Post Inc. Published by Arrangement.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—The "farm bloc" has come to have, here in Washington at least, a term with a meaning quite as definite as the terms "Republican party" or "Democratic party." In fact, those senators who compose the center of the farm bloc and give it leadership and guidance come together more often and act together more solidly than do the republican senators or the democratic senators. Further yet, the farm bloc is usually a growing institution. Its strength and prestige increase with every issue that comes up.

The leadership of the republican party, which is supposed to dominate the senate but does not, is in a state of constant yielding to the farm bloc. President Harding and a member of his cabinet, Secretary Weeks, have in public addresses spoken critically of this form of group action in congress, but the republican leaders within the senate and house do not fight it. At least they do not fight it vigorously or successfully. Their more frequent and obvious tendency is to let it have its way.

Tariff Largely Up to Bloc.

Just now, as the important tariff legislation is about to emerge from the senate finance committee, it is apparent that Senator Penrose does not feel strong enough to take any course other than largely to let the farm bloc write whatever tariff it chooses to write.

Since this is a new and important institution in American politics, it will be interesting and useful to consider the story of its inception and growth. For that purpose, the best possible beginning is a brief statement of business conditions in the farming states from which these senators and representatives come, and whose economic and political ideas they represent. For such a statement there is no source more authoritative or compact than to quote a few detached sentences from the just issued annual report of Secretary Wallace of the department of agriculture. Secretary Wallace paints this picture of the farming conditions which have caused the senators and representatives from farming states to seek economic remedies through government action and to act together politically toward that end. He says:

"The purchasing power of the principal farm crops of the year 1921 at the present time is lower than ever before known. In times past some of these crops have sold at lower prices per sale unit expressed in dollars and cents, but probably never before have our farmers generally been compelled to exchange their crops per sale unit for such small amounts of the things they need.

Loans Prove Undeal.

"The unprofitable year of 1920 compelled large numbers of farmers to borrow heavily to meet the excessive needs of production, which could now be paid out of crop proceeds. The unprecedented drop in prices of farm products in 1920 came as a stunning surprise to the majority of farmers. They had expected some decline, but nothing so severe as what actually happened. Consequently for a time they tried to avoid heavy sacrifice and continued their borrowing. Their bankers shared their belief that the situation would adjust itself and were willing to lend, but prices went lower, and these loans, together with loans previously made, soon added volume to that mass of frozen credit which we have heard so much talk during the past year.

"During the prosperous years land rents went up rapidly, doubling and trebling, and in some cases going even higher. It was human nature that renters should prefer to pay cash rent in a time of good farming profits. The drop in prices for crops in 1920 caused many of these renters to lose not only their labor for that year, but their savings as well.

Young Farmers Ruined.

"Many young farmers who had saved several thousand dollars during the prosperous years were induced to buy farms on contract at the price peak, making small payments down, with provision for yearly payments of interest and of the principal on pain of forfeiture of all claims previously paid. The sadly unprofitable year of 1920 wiped out thousands of these fine young men, and the even worse year of 1921 will finish more of them."

Those were, and are, the conditions which caused the senators and representatives from the states most affected to be acutely responsible to

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WAR SEA CAPTAIN HELD AS GRAFTER

Ex-Officer Says Charge Is Result of Bill Vouchers.

High Costs During Hostilities Is Blamed for Suspicion That Country Was Swindled.

Captain Fred Kornick, 50, shipmaster and master of the transport Amarell during the war, was arrested by Detective Hyde and Bier yesterday as a fugitive to be held for the United States marshal at Seattle. His arrest resulted from the congressional investigation of 1920 into war graft, and he was alleged to have participated in shady transactions while master of the Amarell.

Kornick said that in all probability he was under indictment for a violation of Section 157, army regulations, in that he was suspected of having, as master, signed vouchers for excessive amounts in payment of bills. He readily admitted that he had expected arrest, saying that he was a fugitive. He said he came to the west coast to stand trial, as the Amarell was under the western department with headquarters at Seattle.

"Many of our supplies had to be purchased at war prices that now appear to have been excessive, especially in view of the difference in exchange between national money," he said. "My arrest is a technical procedure, and I am sure a trial will result in acquittal. I never obtained a dollar through signing any of the vouchers. I am ready to return to Seattle tonight to face my accusers."

While Kornick was master of the Amarell he said he made 11 trips across the Atlantic with troops. He was arrested in a lodging house at Third and Madison streets.

GIFTS PILED INTO CELL

Mrs. Obenchain Gets Everything From Toilet Water to \$1000 Bill.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 25.—Christmas gifts ranging from a bottle of imported toilet water to a \$1000 bill arrived today at the county jail cell occupied by Mrs. Madalyn Obenchain, jointly indicted with Arthur C. Burch for the murder of J. Beiton Kennedy.

They totaled 167 separate gifts, it was stated, but the names of the donors were not made public.

HORSE RIDER FALLS DEAD

Body of Husum, Wash., Business Man Found on Highway.

WHITE SALMON, Wash., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Edward Bradley, garage owner and blacksmith of Husum, was found dead on the county road about a mile south of the town of Husum Friday morning at 10 o'clock. He was seen passing a neighbor's house about an hour before riding a horse, the dead body when found.

The horse was standing near the dead body when notified.

5 PLANES LOST IN FIRE

Damage in Mail Service Blaze Is Estimated at \$200,000.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Five airplanes of the government mail service were destroyed by fire at the United States government field at Maywood today. Damage was estimated at \$200,000.

The fire was believed to have been caused by crossed wires in one of the planes.

CHINA PREMIER NAMED

Liang Shih Yi Appointed in Presidential Mandate.

PEKIN, Dec. 25.—A presidential mandate was issued today appointing Liang Shih Yi premier of China. His successor Chiu Yun Peng, who with his ministers resigned a week ago.

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REVIEWS THAT REVIEW IN OREGONIAN ANNUAL.

In The Oregonian annual edition, to be issued next Monday, January 2, there will be real reviews of the year's progress in all of the major fields of industry throughout the state.

Painstaking articles on a large number of highly important subjects, written by recognized experts, will be published.

A great many tables, containing figures of much value and deep interest, will be included. These supplement the detailed articles.

This edition is rich in colorful pictures, portraying the magnificent scenic attractions of Oregon, but there is sufficient text to tell in detail the story of the state's development and the future outlook to make it of great value to the prospective settler.

Many of the most beautiful illustrations are in colors. The edition will carry an entire eight-page section on the 1925 exposition.