

COMING CONVENTION OF MOST IMPORTANCE TO THIS STATE NOW

Arthur C. Spencer Calls Attention at Astoria Jollification to Conference.

BLUE OVERALLS WANTED

Speaker Says Men Not Afraid to Work Needed to Develop Oregon.

Arthur C. Spencer, general attorney of the O-W. R. & N. railroad, was one of the speakers at the state decision celebration banquet in Astoria last night.

"Let me call to your attention," said Mr. Spencer, "that while you are very naturally absorbed by consideration of the decision and its effects, an even more important event is approaching."

"I refer to the Oregon Irrigation, Drainage & Rural Credits conference, which is to be held at Salem on March 3."

"The work which that conference will take up is of fundamental importance to the state."

"If it solves the problem of putting the state properly back of irrigation and drainage, it will solve the problem of production and population. It will make the people who have the nerve to go out on the land feel that the great state of Oregon is back of them, interested in their success and sympathetic with their hardships."

"These people can do nothing without the backing of the state. While I do not stand committed to any particular plan of procedure, there can be no doubt of the importance and possibilities of the conference."

Mr. Spencer, in a personal statement, expressed his hope that the Portland Chamber of Commerce will become active in respect to the conference, and do everything in its power to cooperate in making the conference a success.

Blue Overalls Wanted.

"Some of the paths that are followed lead only back to the starting place," he said. "Sometimes there seems to be more regard for decoration than utility; and what we need in Oregon development now is not blue ribbons but blue overalls."

J. W. Brewer, president of the Oregon Irrigation conference, said that formal permission has been secured to use the hall of the house of representatives at the statehouse in Salem for the conference. He said that as delegates are appointed by organizations participating in the conference they are personally communicated with to learn if they will attend. The operation of the Salem Commercial club has been asked in arranging local features of the conference. All prospective delegates are invited to attend the conference sessions, in order that they may be informed of the problems.

Portland Woman Is After Maintenance

Los Angeles Court Compels Jefferson A. Davis to Deposit \$125 to Pay Mrs. Davis' Expenses in Action.

Los Angeles, Feb. 23.—(P. N. S.)—Mrs. Margaret E. Davis of Portland will come to Los Angeles, expenses paid, to prosecute her separate maintenance action against Jefferson A. Davis, whom she alleges she discovered living in Los Angeles under an assumed name, with the woman with whom he eloped 16 years ago.

Judge Wood has ordered Davis to deposit \$125 with the court to defray the woman's expenses.

According to allegations set forth in her complaint, Mrs. Davis had not heard from her husband since 1906, when she discovered him living in Los Angeles a few months ago under the name of J. A. Phillips. Phillips filed a petition asking permission of the supreme court to change his name from Davis to Phillips, and to this Mrs. Davis filed a protest, in addition to filing a suit for separate maintenance.

Mrs. Margaret E. Davis lives at 1193 Corn avenue, the Davis of Portland since 1912. Mrs. Davis is to retain custody of her 6-year-old daughter. The child was taken from a divorce decree granted to Victor Leon by Circuit Judge Henry B. Quinn. News was received from Salem today to the effect that Chief Justice Moore of the state supreme court has reversed the decision of Judge McGinn and has granted the little girl to her mother.

Mother to Have Custody.

After a legal battle that has waged since 1912, Mrs. Davis is to retain custody of her 6-year-old daughter. The child was taken from a divorce decree granted to Victor Leon by Circuit Judge Henry B. Quinn. News was received from Salem today to the effect that Chief Justice Moore of the state supreme court has reversed the decision of Judge McGinn and has granted the little girl to her mother.

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House Irrigation Committee Named By Ben Selling

Ben Selling, speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, announced this morning the committee that will represent the house at the Oregon Irrigation, Drainage & Rural Credits conference at the statehouse in Salem, March 3. The committee consists of Ben Selling, Portland; William G. Hare, Hillsboro; Robert M. Standfield, Portland; William P. Elmore, Brownsville; J. T. Hinkle, Hermiston.

BRANDEIS DESERTED HIS CLIENTS, CLAIMS AGENT OF 55 RIVALS

Boston Attorneys Send Representative to Continue the Fight Upon Nominee.

Washington, Feb. 23.—(U. P.)—Three new charges, alleging desertion of clients and double dealing, were made today against Louis D. Brandeis, supreme court nominee, by Adelin Fox, representing 55 Boston attorneys, before the senate sub-committee investigating the case.

Fox charged that:

"In 1906, Brandeis acted for a committee of stockholders against the Equitable Life Assurance society officers, and within nine months appeared for the company in opposition to a stockholder, George Peters."

Brandeis acted as an attorney for a Mr. Stewart against the officers of the Gillette Safety Razor company, in alleging mismanagement, and then within a few months aided the Gillette concern against his former client."

Brandeis aided a Mr. Harriman to get control of the Illinois Central railroad from Stuyvesant Fish in a deal which led Colonel Roosevelt to call Harriman an "undesirable citizen," while simultaneously attacking the Boston & Maine railroad for practices in which it was alleged he had aided Harriman."

Fox said that he would produce a witness to prove that Brandeis personally appeared for Harriman, despite his denial before the Massachusetts legislature."

Police Association Holds Annual Ball

Over 400 Couples Attend Dance Last Night; Proceeds of Nearly \$1000 Go to Sick and Injured Fund.

The annual ball of the Portland Police Beneficial association was given at Coliseum hall last night, with more than 400 couples on the floor.

Proceeds of the ball go to the fund for sick and injured policemen and nearly \$1000 will be placed in the treasury.

Captain H. A. Circle of the second night relief association presided, and with his daughter, Miss Esther, led the grand march. Sergeant Fred West and Miss Sibyl Davis were also leaders in the opening event of the ball.

The police band gave a concert previous to the dancing, when an orchestra of 12 pieces furnished music. Sergeants Ennis, Jenkins and Brothers were in charge of the floor, and Sergeant E. A. Thatcher and 32 "bartenders" served refreshments.

Four Departments Investigate Wreck

Crash on New Haven Road May Have Been Caused by Disregarded Signal System—Inquiry Will Be Secret.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 23.—(I. N. S.)—Investigation to determine responsibility for the wreck on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad near Milford yesterday, in which 10 persons were killed and 80 injured, was begun here today by four different departments. The investigators were handicapped in their inquiry by the fact that the three employees most closely concerned with the crash were killed.

Coroner Mix announced today that the request over the bodies of the wreck victims will be secret. News paper men will be excluded.

Overhead signal wires on the New Haven line were put out of commission by the storm of December 14, and had been restored only in a temporary way, it is believed, by railroad men this disorganization of the signal system may have been responsible for the disaster.

The temporary wires laid upon the ground, replacing the overhead struts leveled by the storm.

CITY COUNCIL WANTS PEDERSON TO BUILD PUBLIC AUDITORIUM

Efforts by Chamber of Commerce and Others to Permit Withdrawal Futile.

BIDDER WOULD RETIRE

Contractor Will Go Ahead With Work, However, If City Insists; Willing to Cover Loss.

Although strenuous effort was made to have the city allow Hans Pederson, Seattle contractor, to withdraw his bid for construction of Portland's proposed auditorium and have the work done by local contractors, the city council today unanimously decided to hold Pederson to his bid.

This means that Pederson will have to do the work of his \$200,000 certified check filed for performance of his contract. It is probable that Pederson will accept the contract, as Harrison Allen, attorney representing Pederson, told the council that if the city held him to his offer he would comply.

While Pederson's bid was for \$217,400 with the alternate bids of his accepted the cost of constructing the auditorium would be about \$330,000. The next lowest bid is \$344,000.

In asking to be allowed to withdraw both Mr. Allen and Mr. Pederson said that in compiling the figures the engineer had made various mistakes. They cited the price on the brick work, saying that their offer on the brick was \$23,000, while the prices submitted by other contractors ranged upward to \$45,000.

Commissioner Dieck pointed out, however, that Bulham & Shelley, also bidders on the job, had made a price of \$23,109 on the brick work. Mr. Allen stated that if this was the case, then that firm, too, had made a mistake.

Plea Made for Local Firms.

Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers' association, the Builders' Exchange and the Building Trades council urged that the contract go to local firms, but their pleas were without avail.

"Mistakes were made in Mr. Pederson's bid," said Mr. Allen, "and I believe that, in justice to him, he should be allowed to withdraw without further feeling his certified check against the city. If he is not on anything of that sort, it compelled to take the contract, however, he will accept the loss, without a whimper."

It is recommended that the contract go to Pederson. Commissioner Baker said that a bid precedent would be allowed to the contractor would be allowed to withdraw.

"Everyone was given a fair understanding of the specifications," he said, "and, after Pederson submitted the lowest figure, he allowed him to withdraw now would be unfair to the people."

Financing Contract Is Left.

A. S. Hines, representing the industries and manufacturers' bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, said that his bureau wanted the work to go to Portland contractors and asked that Pederson be allowed to withdraw.

Eugene E. Smith, representing the Building Trades Council, said that he thought a mistake had been made if the city required Pederson to comply when mistakes had been made in his bid. He said that local contractors are entitled to the job, said Smith.

David Dunne, representing the Manufacturers' association, and O. G. Hines, representing the Builders' Exchange, also urged that the contract be awarded to Portland firms.

The council awarded the contract for the plumbing to Rushlight & Heston, lowest bidders, for the plumbing work. Their price was \$27,877.

COUNCIL ASKED TO RESCIND

Misrepresentation in Petition Signatures Is Set Forth.

Charging that signatures to the remonstrances against the extension and widening of Benton street through Miller's addition had been secured through misrepresentation, several property owners appeared before the city council today and attempted to have the council rescind its following action of indefinitely postponing proceedings.

They were told by the council that the only way that proceedings could again be started would be for property owners to circulate petitions asking for the commencement of new proceedings.

FIGHT AGAINST SNOW COSTLY

Amount Spent Cleaning Streets Totals \$6474.

A total of \$6474 was expended by the department of public works in the direction of Commissioner Daly in cleaning the snow from the streets of the business section during the storm Tuesday and Wednesday.

In all 270 blocks were cleaned of snow while the total tonnage removed from the street and dumped into the river was \$8,437.5. The report covers the activities of the city in the recent storm exclusive of the work of Commissioner Dieck and Baker in opening up streets outside of the business district.

Cottage Grove Mill Increases Its Pay

Cottage Grove, Or., Feb. 23.—That there has been an improvement in lumber conditions here will be indicated to the employees of the J. H. Cottage mill in their next pay envelope when they will be paid at the rate of \$2.00 a day instead of \$1.75, as was the case. This rise is effective from February 15.

Timber Case Hearing Now On at Kalama

Kalama, Wash., Feb. 23.—Hearing was resumed today in Judge Darch's court after one day of rest in the case of the Mountain Timber company vs. Pacific States Fire Insurance company of Portland, Ore. The case was given to the consideration of copies of telegrams in connection with the case passing through the local office of the Western Union Telegraph company.

Naidyne Baker and L. Metzger Married

Wedding Performed at Residence of Bride's Parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Baker, This Afternoon.

Coming with only a few days' previous announcement to her closest friends and relatives, the wedding of Miss Naidyne Baker and L. Metzger, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Baker, and Louis Bernard Metzger, took place this afternoon at the residence of the bride's parents, 1140 East Thirtieth street, North.

Rev. Oswald Taylor of the Grace Memorial Episcopal church read the ceremony in the presence of about 50 relatives and friends. Bernard Metzger, a cousin of the bridegroom, and Miss Lucille Abbott of Centralia, Wash., attended the couple, and Mr. Baker gave his daughter in marriage.

CARD SIGNED CRONES

MAILED HERE FEB. 18,
POLICE HUNT FOR HIM

Chicago Detectives Say Signature Appears Genuine; He Threatens Bishops.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—(U. P.)—The police chief Healy believes the Crone letter from Portland may be a fake, although the signature was a good likeness of Crone's handwriting. Healy, however, feared that Crone is in Portland and fearing for the safety of the bishop, he has warned the Portland authorities of the poisoner's threat.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—(U. P.)—That Jean Crone, poisoner, may be in Portland, Or., is indicated today by receipt of a postal card by Chief of Police Healy, purporting to be signed by the missing anarchist.

Dated Portland, February 19, but bearing a Portland postmark of the 18th, the letter read:

"Chief Police, Chicago—I see you're still after me. Why don't you come after me. Maybe I can give you some soup. Look out for something to happen here soon. I wish I had got the old bishop and Judge in the soup, but maybe I get him yet. I'll get some bishop here I guess. You look. My true print. I always go with him on his trips. Whoever arrests me will blow up with me. JEAN CRONES."

Signature Appears Genuine.

Chief of Detectives Hunt said today the signature on the Portland card is apparently correct, and that the handwriting is similar to that on the New York letters. The spelling, he noted, was different, however.

The police think that the Crone letters are dated a day ahead to deceive the police. The letter is one of a series received since Crone disappeared after the poison banquet tendered to Archbishop Mundelein, Governor Dunne and other leaders at the University club.

Other letters mailed in New York Times and claimed that the Crone was working near that city.

Afterward New York police heard that Crone was in New York, but every effort to trail him was unavailing.

"This may be a joker's work," said Chief Healy, "but you never tell."

May Have Remained Letters.

The other Crone letters contained foreign idioms, though they were not so misspelled as the Portland letter. One theory of the authorities is, that Crone himself may have written not only the New York letters, but also the Portland missives, as well as the letter from here or a nearby city for posting.

Still another theory, aside from the possibility that the missives were the work of a joker, was that a crank or anarchist associate of Crone might be seeking to throw the police off by having the council rescind its following action of indefinitely postponing proceedings.

One thing that seemed certain, however, was that either the last of the Times letters or the Portland letter, or Crone, inasmuch as the third Times letter was mailed in New York at about the same time as the Portland letter.

Bishop Sumner in Southern Oregon

Bishop W. T. Sumner is now in Southern Oregon on administrative sacrament of confirmation to classes. So far as his secretary in Portland knows, he has received no warning of communication of the state to the bishop.

Bishop Sumner is at Sutherlin today, and will go from there to Roseburg, Oakland, Riddle, and on February 27, will meet Bishop Peter T. Rowe, Episcopal missionary bishop for Alaska, at Medford. Bishop Rowe will spend two weeks in the Oregon diocese making missionary addresses. He will make two addresses in Portland March 5. Bishop Sumner is expected to return next Wednesday.

Anarchist Ruse, Says Clark

Chief Clark and Captain Bate were read the dispatch regarding the letter mailed to the Portland police by Jean Crone, the Chicago soup poisoner. Both said the letter had received no word of any kind from the Chicago police. Chief Clark expressed the opinion that if there had been anything sent to Chicago from Portland, it was a ruse on the part of local anarchists to throw the police off his trail.

Says Crone Left Country

Washington, Feb. 23.—(U. P.)—The department of justice today received an anonymous letter, dated at Chicago, and apparently written by a prominent anarchist, who stated that Jean Crone, the soup poisoner, left the United States by ocean liner a week ago.

Vancouver Marriage License

Vancouver, Wash., Feb. 23.—A marriage license has been issued at the office of the city clerk to a couple, E. Bethea and Miss Georgia Sampson, both of Washington. The groom gave his age as 23 years and the bride 15 years.

SECOND FLEET FOR THE PACIFIC IS ADVOCATED BY ADMIRAL BADGER

Panama Canal Has Not Yet Made It Easy for Fleet to Pass Through.

COAST IS DEFENSELESS

Obsolete Battleship and Some Third Class Cruisers Only Are Given by the Navy to Guard Coast.

Washington, Feb. 23.—(U. P.)—The helplessness of the Pacific coast, due to inability of a fleet to pass through the slide-blocked Panama canal, was disclosed to the house naval committee today by Representative Stephens of California. He charged that the navy discriminates against the west coast, leaving only an obsolete battleship, a dozen cruisers of the third class and a few submarines to guard it against possible danger.

Creation of a second fleet, sufficiently strong to control the Pacific, was counseled by Admiral Badger of the general staff.

Fleet for Pacific.

"I favor another fleet large enough to dominate the Pacific, and superior to the fleet of any possible opponents," the admiral said. "We must have two fleets to adequately defend both coasts. It has been the policy of the general staff to keep our fleet in the Atlantic so the its whole strength would be intact."

As for the Panama canal situation, he declared:

"We had supposed that the canal would make it easier for the fleet to reach the Pacific ocean, but it has not done so yet."

Mare Island Yard Outriders

Representative written of Illinois interposed with the question: "Was the general board advised a year ago of the fact that the Panama canal would not properly place the fleet?"

"I do not know, as I was not a member then," replied the admiral. "Any other fleet would be constructed, but I think it would make necessary creation of more facilities for building and repair than now exist."

Needs of the Navy.

Washington, Feb. 23.—(I. N. S.)—Admiral Badger told the house naval committee yesterday that the five year program would not increase the present rate of naval construction.

He asserted that Secretary of the Navy Daniels had asked the general board of the navy for a program based on an expenditure of \$100,000,000 a year.

The board recommended the building of 25 dreadnaughts, 10 battle cruisers, 10 light cruisers and three battle cruisers were to be laid down the first year. Under the general board program, he said, the program would have been completed in seven years.

"In view of this fact," said the admiral, "the proposed program is in no way an advance of the present plan of building two battleships a year."

The navy needs immediately, Admiral Badger said, six battle cruisers carrying 18 14-inch guns. He said that these ships should be provided without waiting to increase the number of dreadnaughts in the fleet.

France and United States Tied.

The new dreadnaughts to be constructed, Admiral Badger told the committee, should be equipped under the navy's plan with 10 15-inch guns, in five two-gun turrets.

Asked by members of the committee where the United States navy stood in naval strength among the nations of the world, Admiral Badger declared that England was first, Germany second and the United States and France tied for third place. This estimate, he said, was based upon the naval strength of European nations prior to the present war.

Naval construction in Europe since then has been kept a close secret, he said.

More Submarines Needed.

The American navy, Admiral Badger said, should be second in the world.

"How many ships would be necessary to make the United States navy equal to that of Great Britain?" asked the committee.

"We should have 40 dreadnaughts, 15 battle cruisers, 25 scout cruisers, 200 submarines, 250 destroyers and 100 auxiliary vessels," said Admiral Badger.

Admiral Badger disagreed with other naval officers who have appeared before the committee on the subject of submarines. He asserted that the navy should continue its present policy of building submarines for the subject of submarines.

This country, he said, has no use for the 800-ton submarine of the German U boat type.

Prices in Turkey Are Rising Beyond Belief

London, Feb. 23.—(I. N. S.)—The subject of the Danish officer of a merchant vessel, who has just returned from Constantinople, is that prices of nearly everything in Turkey now surpass belief. The people are glad if a few dollars can be bought at double the usual price.

Coal and coke no longer are obtainable, and wood, the only fuel on the market, has risen in price 200 per cent.

A gallon of petroleum is worth \$5. There is the greatest difficulty in obtaining bread, salt and flour, prices of which have been quadrupled. Sugar is 500 per cent dearer and rice is about 1000 per cent higher.

One nation is suffering owing to the millions of sheep in Turkey; but that soon will become expensive, says the official, on account of the heavy exports to Germany.

New German Fleet Commander

London, Feb. 23.—(I. N. S.)—Vice Admiral Reinhardt Scheer has succeeded Admiral von Pohl as commander of the German battle fleet, according to advices received here today. Admiral von Pohl was retired on account of ill health.

CHAMBERLAIN'S O. & C. BILL TO GO INTO HOUSE

(Continued From Page One.)

railroad, the state and the nation, brings the land into settlement and use, and discourages speculation.

Hawley's Bill Is Looking.

For the time being the Hawley bill is looking ground. The committee, as far as its sentiment can be sound, ed, dislikes the Hawley plan because it lacks safeguards against speculation and fraud and gives no return either to the state or the nation for the many millions of timber wealth embraced in the grant.

Nor does it appear that any considerable number of the committee desire to take the timber land into the forest reserve. Out of 20 members, 12 are from the states of the far west. The claim of Oregon to a fair share in any surplus from sales is not likely to be disregarded.

If the government departments were to come forward, urging that the lands be thrown into the forest reserve, the story might be different, but that is not the situation. While the committee is in session, the official views of other departments, it is known that no such position is assumed, and the committee may not appear in the final recommendations. The idea is based on the theory that the interior department would place trusts on the market for four time to time only as there appeared to be a demand for timber products and consequent advantages of sale.

Personal of the Committee.

The house public lands committee is well equipped in legal talent, and also has a good representation of newspaper men. Twenty members are lawyers and some of the others have legal education. Consequently there is much pondering over the supreme court decision in an effort to gain light or what may be done.

McLennan of Texas, Chatham of Oregon, Gandy of South Dakota and Hamilton formerly practiced law. McClintock of Oklahoma is a merchant, Timberlake of Colorado a banker and farmer, La Follette of California is interested in banking, lands and livestock.

YAQUINA SURVEY IS URGED ON ENGINEERS BY ENTIRE DELEGATION

Washington, Feb. 23.—The entire Oregon delegation today presented the petition of the Yaquina bay survey before the army engineers, urging a reversal of the unfavorable report by the district engineer. Yaquina is a small town on the coast of Oregon, and the survey or all, and half of the improvements cost also. The delegation is confident the survey will be ordered at an early date.

Washington, Feb. 23.—"We own 600,000 feet of timber and will build mills as soon as harbor is improved," says a telegram received by Congressman Hawley from F. R. Fendleton of the Portland Lumber company, Biquiam, Wash., referring to the effort to secure a government survey and improvement of Yaquina bay, Or.

Mr. Fendleton asserts that the lumbermen must have waterway improvements before they can market their lumber, and will pay for it themselves if the government will not help, but must have a government survey before this is done.

Judicial Reform Bill.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Legislation for judicial reform in the United States courts in the form of preventing reversals on appeal for slight errors not affecting substantial rights is looking up. The senate judiciary committee has reported Senator O'Gorman's bill to the present.

The bill is similar to the Dupre bill in the house, still in committee, in support of which Everett F. Wheeler of the New York bar made a telling appeal as a representative of the American bar association.

Gillnetters' Petition Denied.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The war department has turned down a petition by gillnet fishermen, submitted through Senator Lane, asking for a discontinuance of the prohibition on the Sand Island military reservation in the Columbia river.

The department declares that local investigation shows the leasing system is beneficial to the fishing industry as a whole, and if fishing is not carried on in the shallow waters, much of the productive waters covered will be lost to the industry.