

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO LET CONGRESS ACT ON BANKRUPTCY LAWS

Facts Presented to Legislators as to Referees' Fees Speak With Loud Voice.

ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN

Department Will Gladly Aid if Congress Initiates Measures Designed to Correct Abuses in System.

Washington, Jan. 12.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—When Attorney General Gregory in his recent report called attention to the fact that some referees in bankruptcy have for as long as 16 years averaged an income of \$14,000 and \$15,000 a year, and compared the magnificent returns with the \$6000 salaries of the judges who appoint them, a practical hint was given to congress that a law should be passed to correct such abuses.

So far as can be learned, the department of justice does not contemplate any immediate further action, such as framing or suggesting a bill. The facts stated in the report speak with a loud voice, and the report was addressed "to the senate and house of representatives."

It is known, however, that the department of justice lacks sympathy with the system that enables a bankruptcy official, appointed by a federal judge, to draw \$14,000 or \$15,000 a year, as he does in a few cases, or from \$5000 to \$10,000 in the numerous other cases. The department will gladly assist in the preparation of an amendment that will conform to the congressional view of what proper compensation would be, if such a bill starts down the congressional ways.

Substantial Reforms Effected.
The department may feel a little delicacy in suggesting just what lines such legislation should take. Furthermore, the present attorney general has effected very substantial reforms by making careful investigation to ascertain the facts, and then calling attention to referees and of the judges who appointed them to practices which are either questionable or clearly illegal.

As a result the report of bankruptcy cases last year showed a large saving in "other expenses and costs," where much of the padding was found. Efforts on this line are being continued. In some cases, it is predicted, there will be a "revolution" in the fee and expense accounts shown by the next annual report. Some of the "fattest" districts are being tried out by making expense meaner expense. Instead of using it as a cover for arbitrary and "estimated" expense.

The fact that reforms and checks have been introduced is an account for the fact that the department of justice has stopped at this time by merely directing attention to what has been going on. At the end of another year it will be easier to tell exactly how much has been accomplished by administration action and how much can be accomplished only by new legislation.

It is conceded that the law is partly, perhaps largely, at fault. After the department of justice has done its best in correcting abuses, it will still mostly certainly be found that some of the referees are still earning far more than senators and representatives.

One of the helps to a better understanding of the subject is a change made in the report form for referees. It has been found that the forms heretofore in use fail to give the information needed. They have tended to cover up information rather than to give it. Items were lumped together under general and rather meaningless headings. An expert audit and a long investigation were required to segregate the items to know the actual operations of the office.

The new report forms are expected to show exactly where the money goes. It will become possible to locate an inordinate expense without hiring an accountant, and the amounts paid the referee for his services will be definitely and severely shown.

By letting in the light it is likely that a considerable share of the covered-up practices will disappear. The estates of bankrupts will be the gainers.

VIGOROUS SUPPORT IS GIVEN PHELAN BILL BY PORTLAND INTERESTS

Washington, Jan. 12.—Vigorous support is being given the senate (Phelan) bill for oil and metalliferous land leasing by Portland manufacturing interests.

OUTFIT YOURSELF ON CREDIT AND PAY NOTHING DOWN!

You Are Welcome to This Privilege if Your References are Satisfactory to Cherry's Credit Department.

Cherry's Clothing Store has announced an unprecedented offer to men and women of repute. You can furnish satisfactory references. Such folks may outfit themselves from Cherry's entire stock of men's and women's wear WITHOUT MAKING A SCHEDULE OF FUTURE PAYMENTS. You may arrange with each customer. But you will NOT be required to make a payment when you make your purchase. If you give the store's credit department reference with any reputable credit company would require.

The unparalleled offer applies, as stated, to everything in the store—coats, suits, dresses, furs, etc. for men and women who desire to outfit themselves in every stylish material, cut and color. So you see it means just this: YOU CAN GET MONEY ON NEW CLOTHING AND GET THE ENTIRE CASH PAYING A PENNY CASH WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS.

Of course, CHERRY'S reserve the right to terminate this unusual offer at will. For the time being, however, find for the FIRST time in the history of the store, an opportunity NEVER OFFERED IN PORTLAND BEFORE to men and women who desire to outfit themselves in every stylish material, cut and color, for a time being, short of money.

Cherry's Store is conveniently located at 289-31 Washington street, in the Pittcock block. (Adv.)

terests, seconded by the Portland Auto club and business interests generally. T. Wilcox, in a telegram to Senator Chamberlain, declares that restriction in California oil production has caused a serious advance in the price of oil, and Julius L. Meier wired that section of the confusion existing in oil of vital importance to coast interests.

Charles T. Early, general manager of the Oregon Lumber company, calls attention to the use of fuel oil in lumber and logging operations, and the importance of securing an adequate supply. C. F. Adams says Oregon business interests are seriously interested in the legislation. The Portland Auto club emphasizes the importance of oil products in the automobile industry.

Daniels Opposes Measure.
C. E. S. Wood and R. W. Montague assert that the government should never have parted with title to valuable oil bearing lands, but urge that this should not lead to disregard for the equities of the oil men who in good faith have gone ahead and developed the California fields.

These, and other similar telegrams, have been referred by the senate to the public lands committee for its consideration in connection with the con-sideration of the Phelan bill, which is a substitute for the Ferris bill passed by the house.

Secretary Lane backs the Phelan bill. Secretary Daniels opposes it. Western senators on the committee, after conferring with Daniels, declare they have lost all hope of securing his assent to any bill that recognizes equities of the California oil men, and so are preparing to fight the bill through without regard to the navy department, which is supported by propaganda of the Navy league.

The latter organization has adopted the slogan of private individuals have valid claims that should be compensated, "but under no circumstances should any of the oil be taken for private use."

Relief Affects Little Land.
Their contention that all the oil is needed as a reserve for the navy is combated by Senator Pittman, who declares that the relief features of the bill, for the benefit of those who introduced their claims prior to the withdrawal, affect only 6000 acres in one reserve, 1 per cent of the oil lands available for the navy.

Senators Pittman, Phelan, Clark, Works, Sterling and Smith of Arizona are particularly incensed by the stand taken by the navy department and they have combined in issuing peppy statements, accusing the navy department of assisting in the circulation of "false statements" concerning the needs of the navy and the equities of the men who have put large sums into the California fields, believing their title secure.

Postal Run May Be Divided.
Washington, Jan. 12.—The postoffice department has under consideration covering the long runs of rail-ways postal clerks between Portland and Pocatello, and Senator Chamberlain recently made inquiry concerning reports that some of the clerks may be required to change their residence from Portland.

The department has replied that the plan has not yet been fixed upon, but division of the run is deemed desirable, both for the postal service and the clerks themselves, as it is not believed that clerks should be called upon to work from 21 to 25 hours continuously, as they do on the Portland-Pocatello run. The department is moving to reduce such long hours wherever they are found throughout the country. Before final action is taken, it is stated, every possible consideration will be shown the clerks as to their places of residence.

MUNITIONS PLANT IS DAMAGED TO EXTENT OF TWELVE MILLIONS
(Continued From Page One.)

near the big munitions plant was pitted with shell holes, any one of which was big enough to bury a dog in. The Delaware & Lackawanna railroad tracks were torn up for a distance of two miles. Rails were twisted and ties were blown out of place.

Early reports that a number of men were killed proved to be erroneous. Later reports declared about 18 men "missing," but Mayor Clay declared all had been accounted for.

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ALBANY CITY COUNCIL ELECTS ITS OFFICERS FOR ENSUING YEAR

All Incumbents, Including Municipal Attorney Olliver, Retain Their Billets.

Albany, Or., Jan. 12.—The Albany city council elected officers Thursday for the coming year. Street superintendent, F. N. Wood; city engineer, John R. Penland; city attorney, Victor Olliver; city teamster, J. D. Kennedy; engineer, John P. Warner; auto truck driver and night officer, J. Q. Rogers, were all re-elected.

The only man to be let off was S. C. Worrell, night police, who is succeeded by N. McKee. In naming the new officers, the council was closed in secret session most of the afternoon and again in the evening. No reason was given for Worrell's failing to be re-elected.

The council was presented with a petition signed by over 500 voters asking them to look into the matter of municipal ownership of light, power and water plants. A committee of citizens interested themselves in the matter, and water rights were filed on Roaring creek, about 40 miles east of Albany. This is being contested, however, by William Leard, who has a sawmill on this stream, and has previous rights.

Two were killed. Michael Welske was struck by a train and killed as he fled under the rain of shells from the scene.

Herman Bicktre was struck by a shell. His back was broken. But for the fact that fuses had not yet been attached to the high explosive shells, the property damage in the vicinity of the plant would have been much heavier and the loss of life would probably have been great.

Upward of 800 men, women and children were cared for by the authorities of Jersey City and other surrounding towns last night. All were routed from their homes at Kingsland immediately the fire and explosions started. Some slept in schoolhouses, others in private homes and many women were cared for at hospitals.

500,000 Shells Destroyed.
In all about 500,000 shells were destroyed, the last of an \$83,000,000 order the company had taken from the Russian government, which would have been finished this week.

Mayor Clay of Kingsland, the county authorities and officials of the company started an investigation today. Clay declared it had been virtually established that the fire and explosions were caused by an electric wire falling into a vat.

With the issuance of orders for the people of Kingsland to leave their homes, the police were instructed to shoot down possible looters who refused to surrender upon demand. About 50 arrests were made, most of whom were merely suspects and were released today.

Council Thanks Benson.
The council has extended a vote of thanks to S. Benson for his actions in getting congress to donate to the city property adjoining Benson park which is now to be a part of the park.

Senate Passes Bill To Stop Liquor Ads

Bankhead Measure Provides Heavy Penalties for Mailing Publications With Such Matter Into Dry States.

Washington, Jan. 12.—(I. N. S.)—Prohibition won another victory yesterday when the senate without rollcall passed the Bankhead bill amending the postal law to close the mails to newspapers and other publications carrying liquor advertisements into territory having laws prohibiting such advertising. The bill now goes to the house.

An amendment directs the postmaster general to make public from time to time, in suitable bulletins or public notices, the names of states in which it is unlawful to advertise or solicit orders for liquor.

The bill fixes a maximum first offense penalty of two years' imprisonment and a fine of \$1000 for anyone mailing or attempting to mail publications containing liquor advertising for delivery into states forbidding such advertising.

"Five years' imprisonment is the penalty provided for second or subsequent offenses."

CONTEST INSTITUTED IN PENDLETON TO SET ASIDE WILL OF WOMAN

Estate Valued at \$20,000 Left by Insane Woman Is Subject of Litigation.

Pendleton, Or., Jan. 12.—Alleging that his grandmother, Lucinda Russell, who died in the Eastern Oregon State hospital last September, was insane at the time her will was made, William Welch of Gilliam county has brought contest proceedings. The estate is valued at about \$20,000 and under the will William Russell of Athena and children of David Russell, secured a bulk of the property. Edward Russell, another son, was cut off with \$100, but contestant alleges William has promised him a third interest if he will not join in the contest. The petition asks

that the will be declared void and the estate be equally divided into four parts.

City Wins Damage Suit.
Pendleton, Or., Jan. 12.—A jury Thursday returned a verdict for the city of Pendleton in the \$2600 damage suit brought by Mrs. Mary Evans, wife of C. S. Evans, for injuries sustained when she fell on a Main street sidewalk. She alleged there was a defect in the sidewalk, for which the city was responsible.

Express Agent Is Promoted.
Pendleton, Or., Jan. 12.—B. Parlett, who has been agent of the American Express company in this city for several years, has been promoted to the position of traveling agent between The Dalles and Huntington. He will succeed F. B. Rhodes, who has been transferred to Seattle. O. P. Huff of Portland will be the new local agent.

Bank Changes in McMinnville.
McMinnville, Or., Jan. 12.—B. P. Rhodes, former county judge, has been elected a director of the United States National bank of this city. At the McMinnville National bank, Harrison Bewley of Portland will take a position on the bookkeeping staff on February 1.

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FAMOUS BONANZA MINE SITUATED IN SUMPTER VALLEY SOON TO REOPEN

Old Shaft Is Being Retimbered With View to Extensive Operations in Spring.

Sumpter, Or., Jan. 12.—An encouraging feature of the future outlook of Sumpter from the mining point of view is the resuming of active operation at the Bonanza mine. This is one of the most famous mines of the state. At one time it was sold at a figure upward of \$500,000, and it has a record of having produced more than \$2,000,000 of gold.

The mine was just being put in successful operation after having been idle for a number of years. It is being operated by Spokane capitalists, who in the past year have spent fully \$100,000 in getting the mine on its feet again.

The old mine now belongs to Frank

Moore of Pittsburg. Frank Dodson is the manager of the mine and has a force of men retimbering the old shaft, preparatory to starting underground work in the spring on an extensive scale. The Bonanza shaft is the deepest one in the state, being more than 1200 feet deep.

The scarcity and high price of cyanide is having its effect upon eastern Oregon mining, and if it should continue for any length of time it is hard to say how far reaching this effect will be. The Cougar mine near Granite has been closed down because of inability to secure cyanide for reducing ore, and it will be three or four months before work can be resumed there.

Price of Cyanide Is High.
Dealers in cyanide will not agree to fill the mine's orders in less than 60 days, and then the best price that can be obtained is \$1 a pound. In normal time 35 cents a pound is considered a high price for this chemical.

It is considered quite a blow to the mining industry at this time to have the Cougar mine close. The shut-down puts 50 men out of employment. The mine was just being put in successful operation after having been idle for a number of years. It is being operated by Spokane capitalists, who in the past year have spent fully \$100,000 in getting the mine on its feet again.

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Double Economy January

Popular Sheet Music, 4 for 50c

Welcome Honey to Our Old Plantation Home; Sunshine of Virginia; How's Every Little Thing in Dixie; Put on Your Slipper and Fill Up Your Pipe; Mammy's Cole Black Rose; There's a Little Bit of Bad in Every Good Little Girl; Whose Baby Are You Now? She Sang Aloha to Me.

—Messanina Floor.

At the Height of the Wearing Season, the Most Radical

Final Reductions on Girls' Apparel

Effective Saturday, in the Fourth Floor Section.

All Misses' Coats Reduced

\$8.95 to \$11.50 \$12.50 to \$12.95 \$15 to \$28.50

\$5.95 \$7.95 \$9.95

—Every coat in our stocks included—fancy mixtures, cravenettes, etc., for school and dress wear. Also styles for little women, sizes 13 to 17.

All Suits

For Misses and Small Women

That sold to \$37.50

Reduced to One Price,

\$14.95

All Children's Coats Reduced

To \$6.00 Coats To \$8.95 Coats

\$3.98 \$5.95

To \$10.00 Coats To \$17.50 Coats

\$6.95 \$9.95

—Our entire stock of fine quality zibeline, corduroy, velvet and wool plush coats for children 2 to 6 years.

All Children's Imported Hats

1/2 Price

Serge and Charlie Dresses

Reg. to \$13.50, reduced to \$7.95

Reg. to \$8.95, reduced to \$4.95

—Serge and Charlie dresses, in most attractive styles, sizes 6 to 14 years.

Clean-up Girls' Skirts \$1.69

That sold up to \$3.75

—Serge, fancy checks and plaids; lengths 22 to 28 inches.

—Fourth Floor

Best Suits

\$6.50 to \$20.00

With two pairs Pants

—Suits with style, and the wearing qualities that can't be equalled. Beautiful mixtures and overplaids, in grays, greens, browns, tans.

—All sizes, 6 to 18 years.

"Armorclads" \$5.00

With two pairs Pants

—They've become famous, because every boy that buys an Armorclad comes back for another. Sizes 6 to 18 years.

For Saturday Only

200 pairs of best

Boys' Corduroy Trousers \$1.19

—Fourth Floor.

C. B. and W. B. NADIA CORSETS

Reg. \$1.75 and \$2.00

\$1.49

—New models in these famous makes of corsets in low, medium and medium high bust, with medium and long hips. All sizes, but not all sizes in all styles.

BRASSIERES

Very Special

50c

—Cleaning up an assortment of our best models—best selling brassieres. Hook front styles and cross-back styles, lace and embroidery yokes, made of fine cambric.

—Fourth Floor

Regular 50c to 75c

Ribbons

8-inch Satin and Taffeta

39c Yard

—Great assortment of colors, also fancy designs for all uses.

—First Floor

Final Disposal

Odds and Ends and Broken Lines Women's

Neckwear

Selling to \$1.00

33c

—Flannel and organdie vests, separate collars, collar and cuff sets, that need little freshening up to make them just the thing for Spring wear.

—First Floor

Regular 50c to 75c

Ribbons

8-inch Satin and Taffeta

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Sipman Wolfe & Co.

Merchandise of Merit Only

At the Height of the Wearing Season, the Most Radical

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Effective Saturday, in the Fourth Floor Section.

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