

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF MARINE URGED BY BUSINESS MEN

By Robert J. Bender
(United News Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, Nov. 26.—A new "department of commerce and marine" to embrace under one cabinet head the present "department of foreign and domestic commerce" and the United States shipping board, has been recommended to President-Elect Harding for consideration.

Among those sponsoring the idea is Edward N. Hurley, formerly chairman of the federal trade commission and chairman of the United States shipping board during the war. A number of other prominent business men in both parties have united in suggestions to the same end. The idea involved in the recommendation is to coordinate the two agencies to prevent overlapping of effort and commensurate waste.

WEAKNESS POINTED OUT

Soon after Hurley's appointment by President Wilson to the shipping board he voiced the need of a more closely knit organization with more direct connection with the cabinet and the president. He is understood at that time to have recommended that eventual consolidation of the department of commerce and the shipping board would be the best solution of the problem. But in the rush of war work, no steps to that end were taken.

Revelations developed from the probe of the shipping board, now being conducted by a congressional committee, show how loosely the shipping board is now drawn and how out of touch its ramifications are with the executive branch of the government. As it stands it is a reservoir from which political debts can be piped out almost without end. And as such it is held by many leaders in both parties, as well as responsible business men, to be a dangerous institution to any administration.

THREE ADVANTAGES SEEN

Those suggesting the combining of the present commerce department and the shipping board stress three fundamental points:

First—Much of the data compiled by the department of commerce is vital to the shipping board and vice versa. The two departments from now on, particularly, will be functioning to much the same end. Duplication of effort could and should be eliminated, with the ensuing saving in cost to the government.

Second—The American merchant marine is an institution that has assumed a foremost position of importance in the nation's business and for that reason should be presided over by a member of the cabinet in constant touch with the president.

AUTHORITY TO BE CENTERED

Third—There would result a concentration of authority and responsibility which would tend to prevent the merchant marine problem getting out of hand as it has since the war ended and becoming prey to the manipulations of individuals.

As a result of its investigations the senate committee now probing the work of the shipping board is expected to make some concrete suggestions for re-organization, possibly to the forthcoming congress, and while it is doubtful that he will do so at this late date it is possible President Wilson may make some recommendations for such consolidation of the commerce department and the shipping board as has been suggested. The same proposals which have been put up to President-Elect Harding have been put up to President Wilson.

Engine Gets Away While Being Moved; Man's Leg Broken

Kelso, Wash., Nov. 26.—Bernie Linn of this city suffered a broken leg at the Ostrander Railway & Timber company camp when a donkey engine, which was being snubbed down a hillside, got away, a line striking Linn's leg, causing two compound fractures. The donkey engine turned over but was not materially damaged.

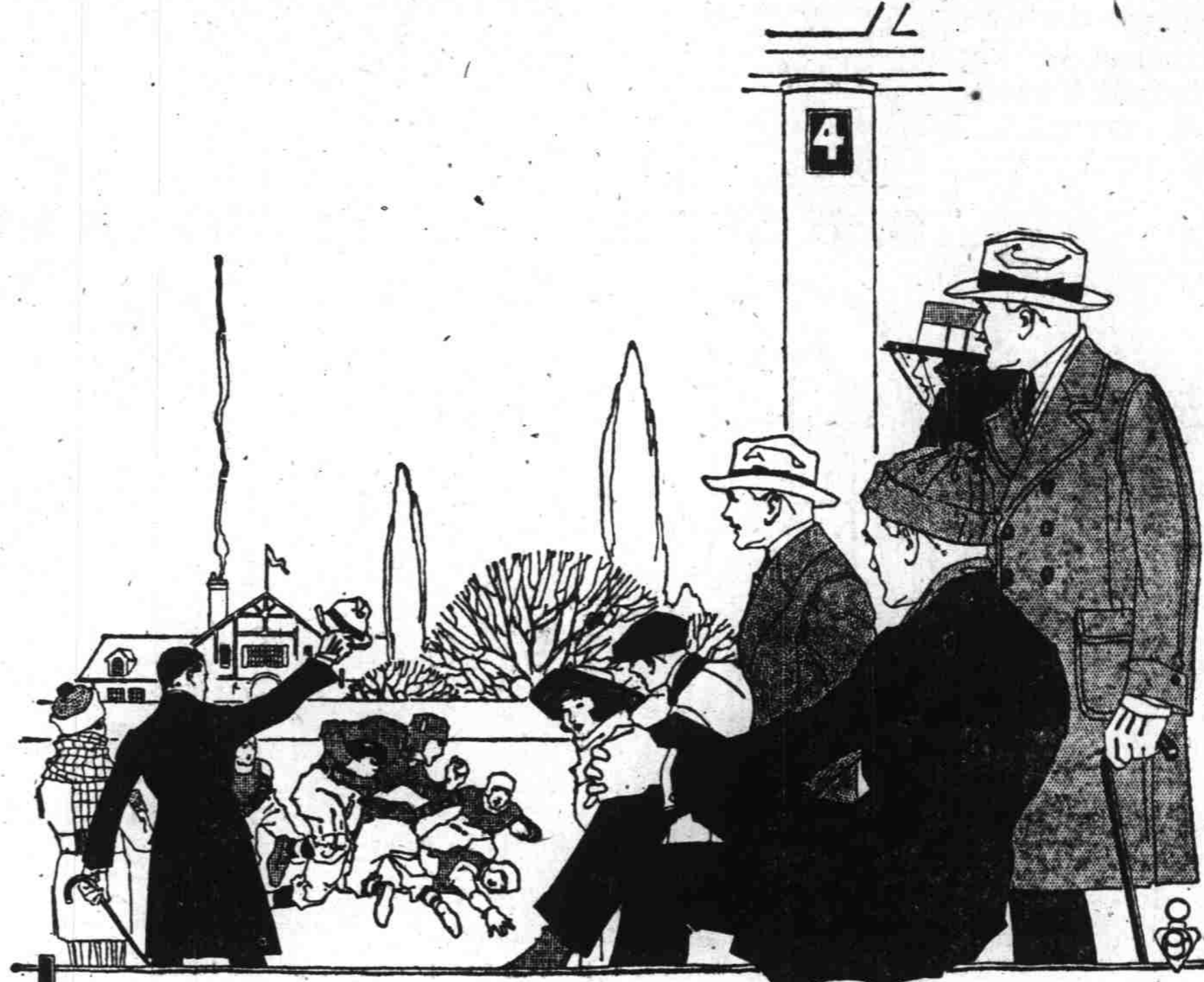
The city council has declared the Mosher pool hall a public nuisance and ordered it closed. Mosher was fined Saturday for having intoxicating liquors and a short time previous was found guilty of selling cigarettes to a minor.

Roseburg to Have Militia Company

Roseburg, Or., Nov. 26.—George A. White, adjutant general of Oregon, during a brief stop in Roseburg, said a militia company will be organized here in the near future, either a machine gun company or infantry company. The old Fourth company of Roseburg was discontinued after the war.

French Cruiser Ordered to Greece

(By Universal Service)
Paris, Nov. 26.—The French cruiser Lorraine has been ordered to proceed at once to Piræus in order to safeguard French interest in Greece until internal disorders over the succession to the throne are settled.



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Arrive Corvallis	7:40 P. M.	Arrive Eugene	8:45 P. M.

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