

BUSINESS BEING SLOWED BY PRELIMINARY HARDING

By David Lawrence
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Washington, Feb. 15.—Business is better, President Harding says, and offers figures and statistics to confirm his optimistic view. Hereafter his optimism about the business situation has been general in character and tinged with a vague hopefulness that the depression must sooner or later come to an end. Now, however, with a smile of happiness on his face, the president takes occasion to analyze the latest data received by the comptroller of the currency.

The president explained that his purpose was neither political nor partisan. Mr. Harding is no more anxious to claim credit for the better turn of business affairs than he is to take responsibility for the economic depression which became acute in the first six months of his term of office.

OLD CLAIM IS IGNORED

The day is passing when politicians are claiming that they are able by governmental effort to bring prosperity, when at the same time it has been demonstrated that the regular business of government does not always bear relationship to economic factors of world-wide extent. This does not prevent the politicians from making a claim to credit, but the shrewd leaders no longer try to take the credit for an upward turn in business conditions.

President Harding, however, has another object in making it plain to the American people that the data, in the possession of the government, shows a marked improvement in the credit situation. He wants to offset the apprehensions of the pessimist, who can create a psychological situation that will hurt business. There are still many business men in America refraining from doing certain things that would benefit themselves and the country, but who hesitate to account for the satisfactory showing. For this reason the government does not mind interpreting the business outlook.

IMPROVEMENT GRADUAL

The comptroller of the currency, whose duty it is to report regularly to the president, has had nothing to boast about for many months. The improvement has been gradual and steady, but it never could be called pronounced. When he found at least that the peak of the depression, so far as the banks are concerned, had been reached, and that the statement registered for the first time "a very substantial upturn in resources," he directed the attention of the president to his cabinet to it, and when Mr. Harding met the Washington correspondents he had copies of the statement for their information.

"It demonstrates," reads the statement of the comptroller, "that the process of liquidation has been proceeding at such an accelerated rate that it is fairly to be said that we are well on the road to getting the 'frozen credits' thawed out. In this regard, indeed, it is by far the most satisfactory showing that has been made since the phrase 'frozen credits' was invented."

EXPORT TRADE GROWS

Even more promising is the data available at the office of Eugene M. Brame, managing director of the War Finance Corporation. Not only is an improvement in agricultural conditions reported, but the regular export trade, export loans and other credits for domestic farm purposes are better than anybody dreamed would be the case. The beginning of export trade is noticeable. Foreign exchange rates have held back export trade. The passage of the bill permitting President Harding to negotiate with the allies for the payment of interest and principal on the war debt is expected to bring an even greater improvement in exchange, and consequently an export trade. Recent advances in the prices of agricultural products are attributed by many observers here to the appearance again of a "star" trade.

CREDIT SITUATION IMPROVES

The most interesting development of a political nature in connection with improved conditions—if, indeed, matters international can be called political—is the way the domestic credit situation as well as the upturn in the price obtainable for farm products has marched along with the improvement in exchange rates, which in turn are a reflection of better economic understandings between Europe and America. Although the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has its own special reasons for not wishing to go to the Genoa economic conference, the fact is that the minds of the administration would like to see the United States represented there. They think it would still further improve exchange rates and bring America the export trade she needs as an outlet for her manufacturing and productive enterprises. The relationship between political stability in Europe and American economic prosperity has been slowly but surely developed even among many who think that a policy of economic isolation was not only desirable but safe. The advocates of international cooperation are growing in number.

'SANDS' OFFERS TO SOLVE MYSTERY

(Continued From Page One)

"I am in receipt of letter dated February 14, 1932, postmarked Los Angeles, which by its language purports to have been dictated by you. I have read the letter and am unable to determine whether or not the letter is genuine, as I receive vast numbers of bogus communications, but I intend to treat it as genuine for the purpose of this communication. The letter states as follows: "I did not murder Taylor, but I know who did it," and inquires in substance that if you come forward and accuse yourself and establish your innocence of this crime, whether or not I will see you free. The letter further states: "If you will do this, Mr. Winchcombe, I will give you a large sum of money for your help in solving the mystery for you. You may answer me in any of the Los Angeles papers."

In answer to this communication I wish to say that Mr. Sands will surrender himself to any of the police authorities or to me, and establish to my satisfaction his innocence of this crime and untangle this mystery for you. I will move a dismissal of the case of embitterment now pending against him and set him free.

"Thomas Lee Woolwine," "District Attorney, Los Angeles county," MAY BE HOAX

The purported letter from Sands may

SUPPORT FOR 1925 FAIR IS PROPOSED BY SAN FRANCISCO

By Ben Hur Lampman
(Special to The Journal)

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—Men who were officials of the old Panama-Pacific exposition here in 1915 were taken back again today for a few reminiscent glances to the frolicsome scene, under the glittering brilliance of the Tower of Jewels, to the works of art, the concerts and the prodigious national and industrial exhibitions.

They lived again—these San Franciscans—through that gala opening day when thousands of persons in cars and on foot made their way to the exposition gates and passed in, laughing and singing.

The holidays of holidays were brought back to memory by the arrival here of Julius Meier and party, on their way around the world to tell about the 1925 exposition in Portland.

San Francisco still holds a dear sentiment for her exposition.

She has extended to Portland—sentimentally and for business reasons—a congratulatory hand and an offer of aid in the coming world fair in Oregon.

Charles C. Moore, who was president of the San Francisco fair, said to Meier: "We will spontaneously support the Oregon fair, both for sentimental and practical reasons. Our attitude is caused by a community of interests and that fraternal spirit which exists between exposition cities. True, the fair is to be held in Oregon; but, first of all, it is to be a great American institution."

What will be the economic outcome of the fair in Oregon is a question debated by many. Here is Moore's opinion:

HARDEE GREETS MEIER

"I have never known a man so bold as to deny the benefits that accrued to California from our exposition. These benefits are active today. You in Oregon approach the fair under more favorable conditions. We had a handicap of a World War which had begun in Europe. Your fair will be held with the nations more than ready for international acquaintance and trade."

Thodore Hardee, who was an executive of the Lewis and Clark fair, and who now is regional director of the federal bureau of economic geology, enthusiastically greeted the Meier party.

"I remember the instant reaction of Portland to the fair there in 1905 and the similar reaction of me at all through Oregon," said Hardee.

FAIR ATTRACTS MANY

Joseph M. Cumming, former executive secretary of the Panama-Pacific exposition, believes one of the greatest benefits from fairs is in the great number of conventions brought to the exposition city. Portland, he said, already holds a high rank as a place for conventions, and after the 1925 fair, he believes, it will lead the world in this respect. Nine hundred conventions were brought to San Francisco by its exposition, he pointed out.

Meier and party leave Tuesday for the Tayo Maru for Honolulu. They will be entertained there by the Chamber of Commerce. Then they will leave for Oriental ports.

STATE BANK PLAN OF REORGANIZATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TODAY

Plans for the reorganization of the State Bank of Portland will be presented to State Superintendent of Banks Bramwell at a meeting of the directors of the bank late this afternoon, according to announcement made today by officials of the concern.

"Sufficient capital has been subscribed by stockholders to place the bank on a sound basis," said Hugh Gruwell, cashier of the State bank, and we have every reason to believe that the plan proposed will be acceptable to the state superintendent of banks."

Intents of the depositors of the State Bank of Portland are fully protected by the assets of the bank, according to Gruwell. The bank closed Thursday morning following the withdrawal of \$100,000 by depositors Wednesday, and its condition is being investigated by O. B. Robertson, state bank examiner.

Eggert-Young Buys Sixth Street Site

The property at 127 Sixth street, tenanted by the Winthrop-Hammond clothing store, was sold Friday by Henry B. Chase to the Eggert-Young company for the consideration of \$33,000. The property consists of 25 by 100 feet of ground space covered by a two-story building. The Winthrop-Hammond company holds the building on a lease expiring January 1, 1932. The Eggert-Young company operates a shoe store at 129 Third street and will occupy the Sixth street building early in January.

SUSPECT TAKEN IN \$900,000 ROBBERY

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 15.—(I. N. S.)—Edward J. "Red" Barker, known to police as a "Thick Lip," "Fried Egg" and "Eddie Minion," was arrested here today as a suspect in the \$900,000 Toledo, Ohio, Liberty bond robbery. He is held on an indictment charging assault on a federal officer, and will be turned over to federal officials.

Seton Family Back From European Trip

Washington, Feb. 15.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—Waldemar Seton, son of the late Senator John Seton, returned from Europe, where he has been for a day or two, after reaching New York Sunday from Europe. The Setons left Portland last November and have visited England, France, Germany, Sweden and Norway. It was Seton's first trip to his Swedish homeland in 40 years.

Ex-Coast Man Kills Self in London

London, Feb. 15.—(I. N. S.)—Charles Percy Smith, former manager of the Palace hotel in San Francisco, was found dead by his London apartment today from a bullet wound in the head. The police announced that Smith had committed suicide. Friends said he had been living in fear of blindness.

Judge Kuykendall of Klamath Bench Out

Salem, Feb. 15.—D. V. Kuykendall of Klamath Falls today tendered to Governor Olcott his resignation as circuit judge for the Thirteenth judicial district, comprising Klamath county, effective immediately. No reason is assigned. Judge Kuykendall was appointed by Governor Witherspoon, October 26, 1925, to succeed Judge Nolan, who was elected to the position at the following general election, serving six years.

Rain Is Predicted For Pacific States

Washington, Feb. 15.—(U. P.)—Weather forecast for period from February 20 to February 25 inclusive: Pacific states: Considerable cloudiness, rains, normal temperature.

VANCOUVER MARRIAGE LICENSES

Vancouver, Wash., Feb. 15.—The following marriage licenses were issued Friday: Wesley M. Meyer, 21, and Tamme Hanks, 18, Portland; Haney G. Burnett, 24, and Marjorie F. Rothery, 21, San Francisco; Robert L. Simpson, 28, and Zedna M. Messinger, 23, Buxton, Or.; George W. Hilliard, 24, and Ella Nutting, 24, Portland; William Fay Eddy, 24, and Edythe Taylor, 22, Portland.

SEATTLE COUNCIL DROPS CHARGES OF ROBBERY IN BONDS

Seattle, Feb. 15.—(U. P.)—Charges that the city was robbed of thousands of dollars by an "inner-ring of bond dealers" here were dropped by the city council last night after investigations into the sale of \$2,250,000 worth of Skagit power bonds.

E. W. Hesse of the firm of D. D. De Luca & Co., San Francisco contractor, refused to appear before the council to substantiate his charges that other contractors would have bid \$500,000 lower than Storrie & Co., the successful bidder.

The committee reported that the De Luca firm failed to submit a contract on the tunnel project because it could not raise the necessary bond.

JUDGE LANDIS QUILTS BENCH FOR BASEBALL

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When the judge remained on the bench he administered his baseball duties. It came to a head with an effort to censure him in congress.

Although the judge had intended to leave the bench eventually, he refused to quit under fire and remained on the job long after he had planned to quit. Practically all criticism of his holding both jobs had died down at the time of his resignation.

The judge's illness was first noted following his attendance at a meeting of organized baseball heads in the East. He returned here and appeared on the bench only once. He stayed at home for several weeks, only coming to the office when absolutely necessary.

TAKES DIRECT ACTION

Although physicians found nothing organically wrong, they advised him to take it easy until he had regained his full strength.

One of his most recent official acts, which was characterized by Landis, led to the dismissal of John V. Clinch, an assistant United States district attorney. Evidence presented in a bootlegger's case before the judge was insufficient to warrant indictment, although no indictment was returned.

Investigators were unable to find the reason. Landis called the principals into court, told them to tell the truth and found out about the case. He then told the bootleggers to a politician to obtain the "no indictment" finding of the grand jury.

Although there was never any indication that Clinch received the money, authorities believed the evidence unearthed sufficient to warrant his suspension pending an investigation of the case. Landis, the son of a prominent Indiana family, was on the federal bench for nearly 17 years. He assumed the office on March 28, 1909.

Previously he had practiced law in Chicago, coming to this city in 1891. He served two years as private secretary to Secretary of State Gresham before becoming judge.

He was educated in public schools of Loganport, Ind., and received his law degree from the Union College of Law in Chicago in 1891.

Landis' chief pride is in his family of a son and daughter and the grand-children.

MORE WORK NEEDED

During the war he was intensely patriotic in his support of the government. His son, Reed, made an enviable record as an aviator with the American forces. On his return to this country he married and now has two children in whom the judge has always taken great delight.

Judge's resignation was taken in sporting circles here to mean that he feels that he has "made good" on the baseball job and has raised it to a higher plane. He is known to feel, however, that the time has come when he has done in cleaning the sport and will go at the work more intensively when he leaves the bench.

The judge's work as baseball commissioner, as well as his activities on the bench, were characterized by absolute fearlessness and strictness in holding players and managers to the rules.

MABEL WILBER IS BRIDE; MARRIED TO C. C. WILSON

Portland friends of Mabel Wilber, former leading woman of the Alcazar players, and C. Vivian Everett, who for several years was managing owner of the Alcazar playhouse, will be interested to know of their marriage in New York. Rumors of the wedding have been discussed for several months, but the confirmation has now been received by friends in the city.

Miss Wilber was brought to the city from New York to sing the lead with Alice Fleming, then leading woman of which Mr. Everett was then manager. Closing the season abruptly in Portland, Miss Wilber and her husband left for Los Angeles, she having filed suit for divorce from her husband, Madison Corey, former newspaper man and manager of the Hotel Benson as Mrs. C. C. Wilber.

The marital adventures of Everett, who was a real estate broker for several years in Portland, included his marriage to Alice Fleming, then leading woman at the Baker theatre, a divorce a few years later, and a secret marriage to Miss Ruth Gates, who followed his former wife to Los Angeles, where she was a company, of which Everett was manager. Following this second marriage, Everett took her to the city and married her, then leading woman of the Alcazar playhouse, and his former wife, Alice Fleming, became leading woman here, while Ruth Gates was in a stock company with Everett and his former wife, Alice Fleming.

Everett is engaged in the real estate and brokerage business in New York at the present time.

Six Nuns Fight Fire While Six Others Save 100 Children

Chicago, Feb. 15.—(U. P.)—Heroic work by 12 nuns during a fire at the Holy Family convent here today saved the lives of 100 children and prevented heavy damage.

The children, all under 12 years of age, were being taken to bed at the third floor of the home when the Sisters Superior noticed heavy smoke coming from the attic.

After their agitation from the children, the sisters summoned the squad of half a dozen nuns and directed them to get the children dressed quickly and out of the building. The other half dozen nuns remained in the building to fight the fire and sent the attic to attempt to extinguish the flames.

Flames burst through the ceiling as the nuns used the ladder to reach the fire department had been sent in, by the time the first apparatus arrived, the sisters had the fire extinguished. Working bravely, they reached the flames, facing the scorching heat without flinching, they poured the chemicals on the blaze and checked it with a loss of \$500.

Specialist on Birth Control Barred by Japanese Legation

(By United News)

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—Mrs. Margaret Sanger, president of the American Birth Control league, who arrived here yesterday en route to the Orient, is not going to Japan to deliver a series of lectures to the Nipponese on birth control and to establish a number of birth control clinics.

The Japanese consulate tonight issued the following statement:

"The Japanese consulate here has been informed by the department of home affairs, through the office of the foreign affairs, not to give the passport of Mrs. Margaret Sanger."

The Japanese office feels that the promulgation of the doctrine of birth control is not opportune at this time. The Japanese consulate here has been informed by the department of home affairs, through the office of the foreign affairs, not to give the passport of Mrs. Margaret Sanger.

J. P. O'Brien to Take Up Railroad Duties

J. P. O'Brien, general manager of the O. W. R. & N., will return tonight and resume his railroad duties after an absence of two months during which he has been recuperating from a severe attack of pneumonia. O'Brien became ill following the Cello wreck due to exposure to the elements. During the last week in December he left for Southern California. He spent his enforced vacation at Coronado beach and Arizona and Northern Mexico cities.

NO GIVEN JAIL SENTENCES; ADMITS NARCOTICS SALES

Fourteen alleged narcotic peddlers appeared before Federal Judge Bean this morning to enter their pleas to indictments and have their cases set for trial. Two pleaded guilty and were sentenced to terms in the county jail.

Anthony Abonima, an ex-service man, was given nine months after he pleaded guilty to selling 10 bundles of drugs to an addict and a federal narcotic agent. He went into the business because he was without work and thought this would be an easy way to earn a living. His attorney, John D. Mann, explained to the court.

On Kee, an aged Chinese, was given six months for selling two cards of smoking opium for \$1 each to an officer and a drug addict.

The following transactions took place in the other cases before the court: O. Egan given until next Saturday to enter his plea to the indictment; Jim Yee, pleaded not guilty, and trial set for February 21; Lee Hing, given until Monday to plead; Dewey Webb, given until next Saturday to plead; Eugene Rumbin, pleaded not guilty, trial set for March 1; Ole Smith, pleaded not guilty, trial set for next Thursday; Bert Swaney, pleaded not guilty, trial set for next Saturday; George H. Root, pleaded not guilty, trial set for next Saturday.

BROTHER GETS JUDGMENT OF \$1500 AGAINST HIS SISTER

John E. Berger of British Columbia won a judgment of \$1500 against his sister, Mrs. M. B. Harkness, in Circuit Judge Gaten's department Friday afternoon, the jury remaining out only 15 minutes. There were seven women on the jury.

Berger claimed that many years ago he lent his sister \$1500. Mrs. Harkness replied that he had given her money, but that it was to pay her for furnishing him with a "grab-bag" for the Klondike gold rush in 1894.

150 WOMEN "DRAWN"

Out of 250 names drawn from the jury list by Judge Fourer, Friday afternoon, for the March jury panel, 150 were of women. The first drawn was Mrs. Hazel F. R. Lehmann, the second Mrs. Alice M. Swank and the third George H. Root.

Harding to Submit Ship Subsidy Plan During Next Week

Washington, Feb. 15.—President Harding will submit to congress next week the administration plan for subsidizing the shipping industry.

Leaders in congress already have given their sanction to the plan, it was learned at the White House today. It embraces a plan for export tonnage subsidies amounting to \$30,000,000 annually. In addition, the plan contemplates certain preferential railroad rates on cargoes of mail and mail matter.

It is not unlikely that the president will submit his recommendations at a joint session of congress.

Home Beautification Week Recommended

Observance of "Home Beautiful" week, April 3 to 8, inclusive, was officially recognized today in a proclamation issued by Mayor Baker. The proclamation is Mayor's message that all citizens cooperate in plans to promote home ownership and home improvement. The Portland realty board will observe "Home Beautiful" week with a "home beautiful" exposition at the Auditorium, where educational exhibits will be displayed in construction methods and the home as a place for home building and home furnishing.

Statutory Charges Filed Against Son Of Dancing Master

Statutory charges against Malcolm Ringer, 19-year-old son of Montrose M. Ringer, dance hall proprietor, have been filed in municipal court by Deputy District Attorney John Mowry. The case involves a 16-year-old girl of the Mount Scott district.

When the affair first became known to the parents of the girl, semi-civil action was started with a warrant charging the boy with being the father of an illegitimate child. Under the Oregon law, conviction of this charge would require him to furnish bond to assure the care and education of the child for at least 10 years.

The police failed to find him on this warrant and immediately another warrant charging a more serious offense was sworn out to allow extradition in case he left the state.

Police, deputy sheriffs and operatives of the women's protective bureau have been unable to find young Ringer in the city.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION FORCE IS REDUCED

Telegraphic communication this morning from Washington instructed R. P. Bonham, chief of the United States immigration service in Portland, to reduce his force by one fourth until July 1, when the new appropriation is available.

This will result in each employee of the office taking an enforced furlough without salary for one month.

This action is being taken because the appropriation is so nearly exhausted that it is impossible to continue the service unless a deficiency appropriation is passed.

"The immigration service brings into the government several million dollars more than it costs to run it, through the collection of head tax from aliens," commented Bonham.

MUCH MONEY COLLECTED

Last year the service collected something like \$5,500,000, of which only about one fourth was allowed for the operation of the service. The purpose of this head tax was to make the service self-supporting and so that the immigration laws might be adequately enforced. Yet congress does not give us but a fraction of the money the service collects.

"The immigration law is will, of necessity, have to be inadequately enforced because of depleted, and to some extent, demoralized service, just at a time when greater attention than ever is needed against smugglers."

"The taxpayer has never contributed anything to the immigration service. We have collected everything from the alien, and we have collected more than is needed to maintain the service."

WILL NOT PROTEST

Bonham said he would make no protest as the commissioner of Seattle is of the opinion that "Honesty is the best policy," or some other equally well known altruistic statement," he said. "Congress is to blame, not the executive department. There is no occasion whatever for it. The purpose of the head tax was to protect the interest of the alien and also to protect the country from the influx of aliens. And now this head tax proceeds is denied us and the service must become lax and demoralized because of inadequate funds."

"About two or three men from the Portland office will be let off each month from now until July."

Dr. Parrish Confers In Los Angeles on Narcotics Crusade

Los Angeles, Feb. 15.—(U. P.)—Dr. George Parrish, city health officer of Portland, Or., and an expert on narcotic control, was in conference with Los Angeles health officials here today.

It is rumored that Dr. Parrish is to investigate the Hollywood "dope situation," but the doctor denied that his visit was anything more than a pleasure trip.

Dr. Parrish is, however, one of the originators of the most successful system yet evolved for combating "dope" distributing agencies, and the report persisted that he had been sent for to engineer a large scale anti-dope crusade in California, said to have been under consideration.

\$118,738,573 Bill Signed by Harding

Washington, Feb. 15.—(I. N. S.)—President Harding today signed the treasury department appropriation bill carrying \$118,738,573 for the collection of taxes and for prohibition enforcement during the fiscal year 1932-33.

The judge has always taken a great interest in the power of Congress in the house-of-door man. He has been in constant attendance at baseball games for years. He often adjourned court when some crucial game was being played, in order that he might witness it.

He keeps his summer home in Michigan and enjoys several weeks there each year.

PRESIDENT HARDING SURPRISED BY RESIGNATION OF LANDIS

Washington, Feb. 15.—(I. N. S.)—The resignation of Judge Landis from the federal bench at Chicago came as a distinct surprise to President Harding when the announcement of Landis' proposed retirement was made to him at the White House by the International News Service.

Landis' letter of resignation has not yet been received at the White House, but the belief was expressed by officials that the Chicago jurist's desire to give his entire time to the game of baseball would be fulfilled by the prompt acceptance of the resignation by President Harding.

600 Business Men Attend Smoker of Portland Chamber

The Chamber of Commerce smoker, which was held in the main dining room of the Chamber of Commerce Friday night, was one of the most successful social functions ever held by the organization, and approximately 600 business men gathered for the evening's entertainment.

Before the opening of the special feature program the visitors visited an old-time bar, which was arranged in one end of the room of the chamber, and tobacco were distributed. Features of the evening were selections by the telephone music quartet, three reels of motion pictures, light-of-hand performances by Juhaz, "the man of mystery," Oriental dances by Miss Slight and other vaudeville acts. The program was concluded with three four-round boxing bouts.

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