

SECRETARY MELLON SAYS U. S. FACES IMMENSE DEFICIT

Washington, April 19.—Government finances are in the worst jam they have been in since the war. Secretary Mellon estimates the total deficit for the fiscal year beginning July next at nearly half a billion dollars.

President Harding is deeply concerned over the situation. He may read an special message to congress in an effort not only to secure great economy on existing appropriations bills, but to head off the deficit.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Harding's only choice to prevent the passage of the bonus bill, or any other measure which further drains the treasury, lies in the message setting forth the financial situation explicitly.

Mr. Mellon, however, has already disclosed the painful facts, so that from a political viewpoint, Mr. Harding will not be able to erase the impression thus far made by the announcement.

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HAYS SURPRISES FATTY ARBUCKLE

Los Angeles, April 19.—(U. P.)—A complete surprise, in fact a shock, was the way "Fatty" Arbuckle today learned that he had been named as the man who had been under contract to the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors, Inc., to make a picture of the life of the late President.

The return of the comedian to the studio in which he made his first picture, "The Boat" in 1914, was a surprise to all.

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Mother Comes Back From Visit to Save Baby From Flames

While Mrs. Able S. Berlant, No. 179 Hamilton avenue, was visiting her mother's home next door Tuesday evening, a gas stove set fire to curtains in the kitchen, the flames spreading rapidly.

The woman, startled by the smoke and flames, entered the kitchen and snatched the baby from its crib, which was already threatened by the fire.

After she had carried the baby to safety, she returned and shut off the gas, and again fled from the house with two sanitary beds. One of the beds was dead.

As soon as she could collect her thoughts, Mrs. Berlant remembered her jewels were hidden in a cup over the stove. Her husband, who in the meantime returned to find his house in flames, rescued the valuables.

Before the blaze could be controlled it had swept through the ceiling and destroyed much of the roof. Mrs. Marshall Roberts estimated the damage at \$500 to the building and \$300 to furnishings.

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HECKER IN ALL RIGHT, BUT HE GOT WITH A FAST CROWD IN PORTLAND

City Grappler Hugh Brady left this morning for Albany to take charge of the dragging. Two sets of apparatus were being used, one from the Portland police and another rigged from pole poles and barbed wire by Sheriff C. M. Kendall of Linn county.

The bottom of the river where the body is said to have been dropped is smooth mud, covered with gravel, making a surface over which an object may readily be slid by the force of water.

Drugging was begun late Tuesday after the elder Hecker showed police where the body had been shoved from the bridge.

The party of searchers left Portland at about 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. In the first automobile were, besides Hecker and his father, Chief of Police J. Shinn, Captain Harms and Ryan.

The searchers were surprised when the elder Hecker motioned for the car to stop 100 yards from the bridge and then walked straight to slightly past the center of the bridge, where he pointed with his foot to a blood stain and said: "This is the place."

That the body had been shoved over the bridge's edge under the guard rail instead of having been isolated over it, was indicated by a sweeping away of mud between the blood stains and the bridge's edge.

Whether the murder was committed on the bridge is doubtful, as blood stains were found in both the front and back seats of the car, which would tend to show that Bowker may have been slain while riding in the front seat with Hecker, who then dragged the body into the rear seat.

At midnight Patrolmen Forken and Stratt arrived with grappling hooks from Portland. They dragged until daylight. Later Inspectors Kilgusmith and Malter arrived to assist.

Sheriff Kendall formed another grappling crew at daylight and operated from a motorboat owned by the Veal Chair factory of Albany. John Firestein, employe of the company, ran the boat.

Hecker was seen in Albany the night of the murder by three persons, according to the latest evidence. L. M. Coleman, a friend of the accused, who lived one block from the Albany hotel where Hecker rented a room, said Hecker carried a peackick from him early Monday morning.

"He called at my house at about 3:30 and said he wanted a coat as he was driving to Portland," said Coleman. "He wore no overcoat then."

"What became of the light spring overcoat which Hecker wore when he left Broadway and Stark street with Bowker is just one of the many mysteries of the case. The coat has not been found. Coleman's peackick was found among Hecker's effects in Portland."

After a telephone conference between District Attorney Stanley Myers and L. G. Lawelling, district attorney of Linn county, Myers announced that until it had been established where the murder was committed, Hecker would be held by the Multnomah county authorities, who would continue the gathering of evidence.

Some evidence would indicate that the crime might have been done in Multnomah, Clackamas or Linn county, Myers said.

CAST VICTIM FROM BRIDGE, SAYS HECKER

San Francisco, April 19.—(U. P.)—The body of the victim of the Hecker murder was cast down to the river near the bridge on Tuesday night.

There the case stands today after a futile dragging of the river near the bridge on Tuesday night.

It was Bowker murdered for \$1400 he is known to have had with him when he left in company with Hecker in a borrowed automobile from Broadway and Stark streets at 7 o'clock Sunday night.

Young Hecker is said by residents of his home town to have lost as high as \$2000 and \$3000 in poker games in Albany and may have had heavy gambling debts.

If, on the other hand, Bowker's money is found with the body, the robbery motive will be exploded.

Did they quarrel? Did Hecker slay Bowker during a quarrel? This, it seems from his apparently thoughtless and hurried way to conceal trace of his crime, may be the defense.

While the search for the body continues Albany reserves opinion either for or against the native son until more evidence is uncovered.

The feeling in the town may be summed up in the words of one resident who said:

"Hecker is all right, but he got in with a fast crowd in Portland."

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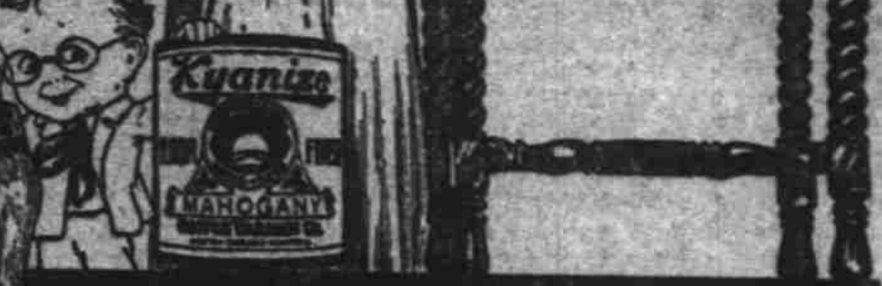
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FRANK BOWKER FORMERLY WAS MARSHFIELD RESIDENT

Marshfield, April 19.—Frank Bowker, the missing Portland musician supposed to have been murdered, formerly lived in Marshfield. He was a member of the Coos Bay Concert band, which existed here some years ago, and when he lived in Marshfield had a wife and two children.



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Advertisement for Bungalow Aprons and Women's Silk Hose. Promotes specially priced aprons and silk hose.