

## ENGLAND MAY CANCEL DEBT FRANCE OWES

Premier Bonar Law States That British Government Is Willing to Consider Question.

## 2 YEAR MORATORIUM FOR GERMANY DESIRED

Reparation Conference, Discouraging at First, Shows More Unity

LONDON, Dec. 9.—(By the Associated Press)—The clouds that overhung the reparations conference last night have been partly dispelled by today's proceedings. The four premiers, Bonar Law, Poincare, Thomsen and Mussolini, held two meetings lasting five hours. There was nothing approaching an agreement, nor had any agreement been expected from one day's deliberations. The chief result was something more nearly approaching an understanding in the positions of the two principal nations, Great Britain and France, than had existed at any time during the past few weeks.

## Want German Moratorium

M. Poincare offered in behalf of France acceptance of a two-year moratorium for Germany, provided satisfactory guarantees are forthcoming; these guarantees embraced measures of economic control of the Rhineland industries and partial occupation of the Ruhr district with a division of soldiers to collect customs on the coal output. M. Poincare did not consider this program would be regarded as military action against Germany.

Premier Bonar Law's reply, which came in the afternoon, after M. Poincare's exposition of France's attitude in the morning, surprised the French because it indicated that Great Britain might, under satisfactory conditions, abandon the attitude laid down in the Balfour note and cancel the French debt to England.

## Cuno Proposal Given

Mr. Bonar Law's opposition to military measures to compel Germany to pay the reduction of the German indemnity to approximately forty billion gold marks was discussed.

Premiers Poincare and Mussolini were the chief speakers at the morning session. The Italian premier is reported to have advanced some proposals, the nature of which has not yet been revealed.

Karl Bermann, German financial expert, arrived today and presented Chancellor Cuno's proposal to Premier Bonar Law. The plan is said to embrace allied participation in German industries instead of an external loan. American cancellation of European debts to that country was one of the topics touched upon in the morning.

## U. S. Has No Suggestions

It can be stated on the highest authority that the Washington government has no suggestion to make to the allied premiers in connection with their meeting in London.

American Ambassadors Houghton and Fletcher and Senator McCormick whose presence in London is referred to in the British press as having some connection with the conference, all went to the British capital on their own volition.

The presence in London of the two ambassadors and Senator McCormick just on the eve of the meeting of the premiers was said in official quarters to be a mere coincidence.

## MAN WHIPPED

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 9.—Elliott Clarke, an ice man, was seized at his home tonight by a band of unmasked men, carried to the outskirts of town and severely whipped.

## THE WEATHER

OREGON: Sunday, rain west; snow east portion.  
LOCAL WEATHER: (Saturday)  
Maximum temperature, 44.  
Minimum temperature, 40.  
Riv. 6.1 feet above normal level.  
Rainfall, 1.54 inch.  
Atmosphere, cloudy.  
Wind, south.

## EDITORIAL

The present situation:  
The workers in the Willamette University Forward Movement are reporting that the people of Salem reveal a large desire to "Let George do it." Many seem to think that the movement is preordained to succeed and that they will therefore give as little as possible. Many others have their sights too low and are sincere in subscribing small sums. A few, a remarkable few, decline to show any interest.  
Salem has pledged \$125,000 to date toward its expectation. An equal additional amount will not only complete our obligation but probably save the day.  
Southern Oregon is doing remarkably well, and eastern Oregon is making good progress, but Salem and Portland are letting the line sag. Portland awaits Salem's evidence and will match us.  
Salem needs to give \$125,000 more in ten days. That means several large gifts, many in the thousand class and many more that are smaller. We are not yet whipped; we do not believe we will be, but we are defeated unless every one comes in with a pledge that will represent his real ability.  
The situation is serious. Salem should know it and act.

## SEARCH FOR PLANE STARTS

Aeronautical Forces Combine in Effort to Locate Missing Lieutenants

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Dec. 9.—The most comprehensive aeronautical search instituted by the government since the air forces of the army and navy combined in efforts to find Lieutenants Cecil H. Connolly and Frank Waterhouse several years ago in Lower California, was put into effect today in an effort to clear up the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Colonel Francis H. Marshall and Lieutenant Charles L. Webber.

No Word Yet  
As dusk approached, however, no definite word regarding the fate of the two officers who left Rockwell field Thursday for Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in a de Havilland plane, with Webber as pilot, had been received in San Diego, and another day's search was planned.

At noon today five de Havilland airplanes from the twelfth observation squadron stationed at Fort Bliss, joined the Rockwell field aircraft forces at Tucson. Before one p. m. nine military airplanes, extending in a line estimated to be nearly 1 mile wide, swept southeast from Estrella, Ariz., where the missing plane was reported seen, and covering the territory that had not yet been covered in the search.

Forced Landing Thought  
Reports reaching Rockwell field today convinced officers here that the plane carrying Colonel Marshall and Lieutenant Webber had made a forced landing in the long sweep of foothills extending southeast of Estrella.

## DALLAS ATTORNEY MAY GET OFFICE

Fletcher of Independence Is Said to Be Slated for Highway Committee

L. D. Brown, attorney of Dallas is the latest to loom up as a candidate for appointment on the state highway commission when Governor-elect Pierce takes the wheel of the ship of state.  
Brown is a member of an old Democratic family and is said to be well enough fortified financially that the time necessary for a highway commissioner to give to work of the state without salary would not worry him.  
Others who have been mentioned for the commission are C. E. Spence of Oregon City, William Pollman of Baker and C. E. Gates of Medford, while reports come from Pendleton that a coteries there is urging E. B. Aldrich, editor of the East Oregonian, for a place on the commission.  
D. A. Elkins of Eugene, it is said, is a candidate for appointment on the state industrial accident commission. He is a Democrat and campaigned hard for Pierce.

D. E. Fletcher of Independence, Polk county representative in the legislature, it is said, is to be appointed chairman of the roads and highways committee in the lower house if K. K. Kubit is elected speaker, which is an apparent certainty.

## BURCH GETS FREEDOM BACK

After 3 Trials for Murder and One for Insanity is Adjudged Harmless

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 9.—Arthur C. Burch, formerly of Evanston, Ill., had his freedom tonight after standing trial three times for murder and once for insanity. The jurists on the murder charge all disagreed and the alienists at the insanity hearing did likewise but the weight of expressed belief of the latter was that Burch was sane or harmless if insane, so his freedom was restored to him.  
Burch said he did not know what he would do.

Tried Three Times  
The action today completed a long chapter of trials all based on the murder of J. Belton Kennedy, a young broker, who was shown down on the steps of his summer cottage in Beverly Glen, about 18 months ago. Burch and Mrs. Madalynne Obenchain were indicted for the crime. Burch was tried three times to disagree. Mrs. Obenchain was tried twice, both those juries also disagreeing.

Mrs. Obenchain was recently freed when the district attorney dismissed the murder indictment. Burch was held for an insanity hearing on the petition of his attorney, Paul W. Schenk. Mr. Schenk and the Rev. W. A. Burch, father of Arthur, both testified today they believed he was insane, and gave instances of what they said were unusual conduct. The alienists who examined him divided on his sanity and Judge Bertram A. Weyl, presiding, held that the question seemed to resolve itself in Burch's favor, and directed that he be freed.

## LOEW GUILTY OF SKINNER MURDER

Jury Congratulated by Judge on Decision—Termed Just and Fair

GREELEY, Colo., Dec. 9.—Bert J. Loew, was found guilty by a jury in district court here tonight of first degree murder for the death of his sister-in-law, Miss Edna Fern Skinner of Leroy, Ill., last July 2.  
Judge Bradfield congratulated the jury on their verdict. He declared they had brought in a just and fair finding in the case.  
Under the instructions given to the jury Judge Bradfield first degree murder was the only which could be brought in except acquittal.

## Sheep-Killing Dogs Are Causing Damage to Flocks

SILVERTON, Or., Dec. 9.—(Special to The Statesman.)—It is reported by farmers and sheep raisers in the South Silvertown district that sheep-killing dogs have been at work and doing a great deal of harm recently. Recently the dogs have molested the flocks belonging to E. Comstock and F. B. Knight. It seems that three dogs have been going in a group, and as sheep-killing dogs often travel far from home, it is difficult to find the owners.

## WAR PREMIER ENDS TALK TO AMERICA

Clemenceau Says Every Aim Accomplished — Expects U. S. Back With France and England.

## PROCEEDS OF TOUR GO TO COLLEGES

Final Message Delivered to Delegation Forum in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 9.—(By The Associated Press)—Georges Clemenceau, the grizzled French war premier today ended his "formal" speaking mission to America before the Delegation Forum in the Academy of Music with the broad intimation that he believed he had accomplished all of the three purposes for which he forsook his cottage by the sea in France. Of two of them he evinced no doubt. He was confident he had convinced America that France was not a militaristic nor an imperialistic nation. He was equally sure he had spread conviction that France intended to pay her debt to America—not immediately perhaps, but ultimately.  
Quotes Harding  
He quoted a paragraph from President Harding's annual message to congress yesterday as an indication that the third point—bringing America back to the side of France and England—also was being accomplished. The paragraph was the president's comment on the four power pact, which the executive said had brought "a new confidence in the maintained peace" and which he suggested "might be made a model for like assurance, wherever in the world any common interests are concerned."  
"I told your chief," Clemenceau continued, "that when he pondered on what I had said to him I believed his feeling would find its way toward us and I believe it has. But I don't know what the diplomats will make of it."

Modes Vary  
It was again his "peace message," that Clemenceau delivered to the representative audience that faced him in the gayly decked academy of music.  
But it was a plea for peace based on France's ideals, and these ideals, he declared, France would defend to the last drop of her blood even if she had to defend them alone.  
All the five "formal" addresses he made before were blended in this last one. Now he was the fiery Tiger flashing defiance against France's enemies; now the advocate carefully stating his case; now an old man pleading for his native land that she be not misunderstood.  
Several times he was interrupted by applause. At the end he was given a long ovation.

Clemenceau plans to spend tomorrow resting at Cresnon, on the crest of the picturesque Allegheny mountains, resuming his journey Sunday evening in time to reach Chicago Monday morning.

Colleges Get Proceeds  
In memory of his student days in the United States, Georges Clemenceau will give the proceeds of his lecture tour to the American field service fund fellowship in French and American universities. The Tiger today so advised Representative A. Platt, Andrew of Massachusetts who organized and directed the field service, the agency through which hundreds of young Americans gave aid to France before the United States entered the war.  
When the war closed, it was decided that the names of 127 men of the field service should be perpetuated by the creation of a like number of scholarships, by which young American university men could be sent to French universities and young Frenchmen to American universities. A total fund of \$3,500,000 is the object, but so far only \$500,000 has been obtained and only 30 scholarships have been created. Like the Rhodes scholarships, one of the objects was to stimulate friendship between the nations.

## NATION NEEDS HORSE SENSE SENATOR SAYS

Beveridge Finds Multitude of Things Wrong in Hectic Existence of Country

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—Radicals, reactionaries, foreign propagandists, high taxes and government interference with business were blamed for America's troubles by former United States Senator Albert J. Beveridge in an address at the annual banquet of the Indiana society here tonight. A "permanent revival of plain horse-sense and straight out Americanism," brought about by the "common action of plain American men and women," is needed, he said, "to meet the situation."

## MERGER BILL IS RUMORED

Eugene Men Said to Have Plan to Create Board of Five Governors

A consolidation bill which would eliminate seven state offices and put five in office to take over the functions now performed by the seven is said to be brewing for introduction at the coming session of the legislature.

This plan, it appears, is being cooked up in Eugene. The departments that are the target of the move are the state industrial accident commission, the state public service commission and the state labor department.  
Calls Them Governors  
The proposed measure would create a board of five officials, to be known as a board of governors, to take over the work now done by the three accident commissioners and the one labor commissioner. The five would be appointive by the governor of the state. It is rumored that the primary object back of the measure is to create more patronage for the state executive and to build up a Ku Klux machine.

The proposed board of governors would have a well paid secretary. It is said that Ed. Turnbull, a newspaper man of Eugene, is slated for this position should the program go through.

The three members of the present state industrial accident commission receive salaries of \$2600 a year each, the three public service commissioners receive \$4000 a year each, the secretary receives \$3000, and the combined salaries of all officials and employes in the department is about \$39,000 a year, according to the Oregon Blue Book.

The state labor commissioner receives \$3000 a year and \$4750 annually for one deputy, traveling expenses, additional clerk hire, printing and other expenses.  
What of the salaries of the proposed board of five governors would be has not been made known.

## NEGRO LYNCHED

MORRILTON, Ark., Dec. 9.—Less Smith, negro, who was shot and probably fatally wounded Deputy Sheriff Gran Farish, when he attempted to arrest the negro this afternoon, was taken from jail and lynched here tonight.

## CULVER FILES HIS REPORT ON ROAD BUILDING

County Court Follows to Letter Program Outlined Three Years Ago When Bonds Were Voted.

## PAVED MARKET WAYS NOW TOTAL 64 MILES

Location of Four Plants Facilitates Construction Operations

Three years ago Marion county adopted a five-year market road program, issuing \$850,000 in county bonds to apply on the project. From this sum, and the moneys that were estimated to be raised through regular taxation, the county expected to build 150 miles of good market roads, and keep all the other roads in good running order.  
The third year of the program has just come to a close, and on Saturday night Roadmaster W. J. Culver filed his annual report, covering this third year's work.  
Program Closely Followed  
It will interest every taxpayer to know that the original program has been lived up to, to the letter. The roads are not all built, but the costs for the year just closed show that the county is living absolutely within its means and standing by its original cost estimates. It was figured then that the roads would cost \$15,000 a mile for grading and hard surfacing. They have cost that, almost to the cent, the negligible difference being a saving instead of a higher cost. This is in the face of the fact that costs have materially increased since the first estimates were made; they were far higher in 1920 and 1921, but even so, the average has fallen inside of the original estimate. That cost of \$15,000 a mile for the quality of hard surfaced road built in Marion county is believed to establish a new low record in the west, if not in the United States. That is about the finest part of the whole story—the best roads built for the least money.

Pavement Totals 64 Miles  
The county now has 64 miles of paved market roads, on 31 of the 34 officially designated market roads in the county that cover 150 miles. Of this paved road mileage 24.05 miles was paved this year, from the four county-owned plants at Salem, Stayton, Mt. Angel and Scollard.

This 24.05 miles of paving this year cost \$9159 per mile for the paving alone, exclusive of the cost of grading and draining. Grading is always done the year before paving, to have the roadbed thoroughly settled and drained before putting on the hot stuff. The roadbed is given a heavy foundation of rock or coarse gravel before the hot top dressing, the unpaved "topeka mix" formula of bitulithic concrete, is laid for a finish. This coating is four inches thick, but tests running back for seven years in Marion county show that the road stands up with the best roads laid un-

(Continued on page 6)

## DECLARES "KU KLUXERS" PUT HIM ON TRIAL

William Allen White, Free But Resentful, at Least Wanted Parade

EMPORIA, Kansas, Dec. 9.—The state's case against William Allen White, Emporia editor, charged with violating the industrial court law by placing a placard in the window of his newspaper office, was dismissed this afternoon in district court, Judge W. C. H. Harris, presiding. Mr. White appeared at the court with his attorney.  
In dismissing the case Judge Harris declared the rumors arising from the state's refusal to bring the case to trial had done White an injustice and the judge flayed the administration of Governor Henry J. Allen for the way in which it has been handled.  
"This case was commenced maliciously or recklessly, without investigation of the facts to ascertain whether the prosecution was justified," the judge said.  
White, in a statement after the hearing, declared he had been "Ku Kluxed," and "by a court that did not have the guts to pull out their shirt-tails and give a Ku Klux parade."

The vision of a "city beautiful" to replace the one zone up in smoke filled the minds of the men who gathered to plan the reconstruction and to avoid a "shack town" springing up on the ashes, they made provision for the erection of temporary structures outside the burned area under permits issued by authority of a committee which took charge of the entire local situation.  
"Shack Town" Gone  
The relief work was well in hand today and with supplies coming from Portland and nearby towns there was no prospect of physical suffering. To provide meals for such as could not be accommodated in the homes of the city, national guard forces today began serving meals from two self-sufficient kitchens in one of the buildings which escaped the flames. First meals were served this afternoon.  
Insurance adjusters established headquarters in the grand jury room at the court house and sent out notices to all fire sufferers to send in their claims. No official estimate of the aggregate loss was made, but the general opinion of business men who were familiar with local conditions was that the loss would be around \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 with \$15,000,000 as a possible maximum.

## WAS TRICKED INTO WEDDING

Wife of N. J. Ford, Charged With Plotting His Death, Claims Deception

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 9.—Charges that she was tricked into marriage with N. J. Ford of Dearborn by visions of great wealth and generosity and that she has been "driven so nearly frantic" by actions of her husband that at times she suffered loss of memory and responsibility, will be the defense of Mrs. May Blenn Ford, charged here with plotting her husband's death.  
Claims Jitney Relation  
Mrs. Ford is in jail here in lieu of \$25,000. She is alleged to have offered a local detective, who posed as a gunman, \$20,000 to kill Ford and burn the body. The woman told newspapermen today she intended to tell the jury "everything about my unhappy married life and let that story be my defense."  
According to her story, Ford claimed to be a near relative of Henry Ford, when, if he was "it would take a geologist to discover it." After he had painted a picture of wealth and luxury, she stated, she was taken to her husband's Dearborn farm to live.  
"My husband refused to let me wear good clothes because he feared other men might smile at me," Mrs. Ford said. "He called me 'fat tub' and spoke to me like he did the heifers on his farm. His brother struck me during a quarrel and then followed the divorce bills and an injunction to drive me from the farm."  
Detectives Pry About  
"Ford hired detectives to peek into my apartment. They nearly drove me frantic. I feared I would be kidnaped so I couldn't testify at the divorce trial."  
Mrs. Ford, asked if she went to an apartment here to make arrangements with the supposed gunman to have her husband killed, answered:  
"I remember nothing, nor could any woman so persecuted."  
"My twin brother, a business man from Fort Wayne, is coming to help me," the woman said. "We have money, friends, everything. It will be a great trial."  
Date for the trial has not yet been set. Mrs. Ford entered a plea of not guilty when arraigned on a charge of attempted murder.

Heavy Power Lines Are Being Rebuilt at Dallas

DALLAS, Or., Dec. 9.—(Special to The Statesman.)—The Mountain States Power company has a gang of men at work here rebuilding some of the heavy power lines. The number of unshingly poles on Main street has been cut down considerably and where there were formerly five and six poles to the block there are now but three. The poles are to be painted white after the changing of the wires has been completed, thus adding to their appearance on the main thoroughfares of the city.

## REBUILDING OF ASTORIA UNDER WAY ALREADY

Plucky Men Gather to Plan Rebuilding — Visions of "City Beautiful" Fill All Minds.

## MAXIMUM LOSS IS SAID \$15,000,000

Insurance Adjusters on Job to Take Care of All Fire Claims

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 9.—(By the Associated Press)—Rain fell from leaden skies today on the sodden ruins of Astoria's business district, helping the firemen to quench the smoldering remnants of the blaze which Friday wiped out the heart of this century-old city, but neither rain nor the gloomy aspect quenched the spirit of Astoria's leading citizens who vigorously attacked the job of rehabilitation.  
The relief work was well in hand today and with supplies coming from Portland and nearby towns there was no prospect of physical suffering. To provide meals for such as could not be accommodated in the homes of the city, national guard forces today began serving meals from two self-sufficient kitchens in one of the buildings which escaped the flames. First meals were served this afternoon.  
Insurance adjusters established headquarters in the grand jury room at the court house and sent out notices to all fire sufferers to send in their claims. No official estimate of the aggregate loss was made, but the general opinion of business men who were familiar with local conditions was that the loss would be around \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 with \$15,000,000 as a possible maximum.

All Accommodated  
The relief work was well in hand today and with supplies coming from Portland and nearby towns there was no prospect of physical suffering. To provide meals for such as could not be accommodated in the homes of the city, national guard forces today began serving meals from two self-sufficient kitchens in one of the buildings which escaped the flames. First meals were served this afternoon.

Insurance adjusters established headquarters in the grand jury room at the court house and sent out notices to all fire sufferers to send in their claims. No official estimate of the aggregate loss was made, but the general opinion of business men who were familiar with local conditions was that the loss would be around \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 with \$15,000,000 as a possible maximum.

## FIFTY BOYS JOIN DE MOLAY ORDER

Salem Youths Escorted to Portland Last Night for Initiation Work

Fifty Salem boys, between the ages of 16 and 21 years, went up to Portland Saturday night to be initiated into the De Molay order, the Salem branch of which is just now being instituted. The De Molay organization is a branch of the Masonic order, founded by some far-seeing "Big Brothers" who felt that the boys of that age needed something better than the undirected associations of the street.  
It started at Kansas City, and has assumed national proportions almost like the "flu" or a popular song or the war spirit after the Lusitania. It is open for the boys of Masonic families, or for others who want companionship and help. It has an imposing

## College-bred Waiters—That's the New Idea; School to Open In Salem Friday of This Week

College-bred waiters—yum, yum! Dainty, soft-voiced, capable lassies to take order for ham and eggs and serve them so beautifully that they look like turkeys and truffles; sly-like, sensible-slipped young women who can make chuck steak seem like parterhouse, and the worst cook's atrocities pass for culinary marvels—  
That's what the government is going to do for the hotel-eating and boarding-house-devouring people of Salem. Uncle Samuel finds that "Say it with a smile" hotel fare will be a good thing for his national digestion. The forgetful, slam-bang waiter and waitress have been simply driving the nation to dyspepsia and nervous distraction by not knowing the psychology of hashing and biscuit-shooting. He's a-going to remedy it at once, through his industrial college.  
The first course in federal-supervised table-waiting is really an assured thing for Salem. It begins Friday of the coming week, and they are to have two sessions a week until they learn it all. There has for a long time been a serious shortage of good waiters, and the sometimes poorly served public has been as had a "waiter" as the waiters themselves. There is a graceful art in knowing how to serve a table, an art that can be taught, and learned. It is held by the Smith-Hughes vocational training department, that table-waiting is a real profession that is worth training for. So the Salem course is to be started.  
They open for business at the Marion hotel next Friday afternoon, from 2 until 4 o'clock. One of the big dining establishments of Salem is sending all its helpers. And it is understood that a number of other than those now regularly employed will take the course, to be ready for sudden calls for trained help in civic emergencies.

## How Would You Spend \$50.00 for Christmas?

Salem's Leading Merchants  
Are going to help you solve this problem, and earn the \$50.00.  
For the solution see page 6, Second Section.