

FIRE SWEEPS MOVIE COLONY

JOHNSON WILL OPPOSE BORAH PEACE PARLEY

First Break in Senate "Irreconcilables" Noted—Two Formerly Held Steadfast Allies.

WATSON WOULD FIGHT AGAINST AMENDMENT

Many Favor "Reservations"—Cancellation of Debts Is Discouraged

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The proposal of Senator Borah, Republican of Idaho, for an economic and disarmament conference to be called by President Harding was assailed tonight by Senator Johnson, Republican of California who said in a public statement that the plan would "dump into America's lap the economic ills of Europe and the reparations middle."

Two Once Allies

Senator Johnson's statement was the first outward evidence of a breach in the ranks of the senate "irreconcilables" over the Borah proposal now pending on an amendment to the naval appropriation bill. Senators Borah and Johnson were steadfast allies throughout the long fight against the league of nations and on many other questions of foreign and domestic policy they have acted together. Others of the irreconcilable group were reported tonight to be opposed to Senator Borah's amendment which is to come before the senate when it reassembles next Wednesday and Senator Johnson's public attack was interpreted as meaning that Senator Borah had not consulted with colleagues before offering the proposal.

Harding Noncommittal

The administration's attitude toward the bill has not been disclosed, but senate Republican leaders expected to confer with President Harding before it comes to a vote. Senator Watson, Republican of Indiana, discussed the amendment with the president today, but said he did not learn Mr. Harding's position. After his White House visit, however, the Indiana senator said he would not support the amendment in its present form, but would favor "reservations," declaring against cancelling Europe's debts to America and also against commitments under the treaty of Versailles.

The Democratic position on the plan also is in the making. Most of the Democrats have been expected to give it their support, although some have said previously they decided an European economic conference in this country would be impractical. In other Democratic quarters the Borah plan is hailed as an endorsement of the Democratic position for American cooperation in European settlements.

Long Debate Expected

Prolonged discussion of the Borah and similar amendments is predicted generally. Senator King, Democrat of Utah, has a conference amendment pending, and the bill already contains a loose provision requesting the president to call another naval limitation conference to deal with small vessels and aircraft not regulated by the Washington naval treaty.

EUGENE GETS MEET

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 23.—The state convention of the Farmers' Union for 1923 will be held in Eugene in December, according to announcement of Lane county members who returned today from the state convention at Lebanon.

THE WEATHER

OREGON: Se. day fair except rain in northwest portion.

LOCAL WEATHER

Maximum temperature, 53. Minimum temperature, 35. River 4.5 feet above normal level. Falling. Rainfall, .93 inch. Atmosphere, partly cloudy. Wind, south.

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

CLEMENT C. MOORE

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter,
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustrous midday to objects below;
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:
'Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
Oh, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!'
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So, up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys,—and St. Nicholas too.
And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof,
As I drew in my head and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face, and a little round belly
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump,—a right jolly old elf—
And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And then all flew like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight:
'Happy Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight!'

WILL H. HAYS STANDS PAT

Protests from Pulpit on Arbutuckle Avail Little—Believes Action Fair

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—First refusal to reconsider his decision granting Roscoe Arbutuckle a chance to return to the films was contained in a message today from Will H. Hays, chief of the moving picture industry, to the session of the West Lake Presbyterian church and various Los Angeles pastors who have protested against any further screening of Arbutuckle comedies.

Believes in Fairplay

Mr. Hays' message to the churchmen, which closes with "kindest personal regards and best wishes for a happy Christmas to you all," says in part:

"Everything which I said last Sunday night is reiterated and emphasized.

"At that time I declared and do now assert and have always and shall always insist: 'Any evil which is in motion pictures can be removed, and all the good retained at the place where the pictures are made, at the time they are made by the men who make them and no film is possible.'

"The purposes of our association are: Establishing and maintaining the highest possible artistic and moral standards of motion picture production, and developing the educational as well as the entertainment value and the general usefulness of motion pictures.

Would Give Chance

"This is no reinstatement of Arbutuckle nor any attempt to reinstate him. Neither you nor I can do that. This is simply a declaration that I shall not stand in the way of this man having his chance to go to work and make good if he can.

"I neither sponsor him nor stand in his way, but in a spirit of Christian charity and American

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DARING THEFT MADE IN N. Y.

Robbers Smash Window in Jewelry Store in Broad Daylight and Escape

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Descending from an automobile into the midst of the throng of holiday shoppers on Upper Broadway, three men tonight smashed the window of a jewelry store with a brick wrapped in towels and escaped with seventy-one diamond rings which they snatched from trays in the display windows. The rings were valued at \$16,000.

Brick Hurling

The robbery was carried out with the utmost daring. Parking their expensive looking car in the line of automobiles which stood at the curb, two of the bandits fashionably attired, strolled nonchalantly toward the jeweler's display window, leaving a third companion at the wheel.

A dozen persons were inspecting the jewels behind the glass, when one of the new arrivals quietly drew from under his arm what appeared to be a parcel—the brick wrapped in towels. Before any of the pedestrians realized what was happening the parcel was hurled at the window, shattering the thick plate glass, and making the gems readily accessible.

Alarm Too Late

Gathering up two trays containing the seventy-one valuable rings, the bandit pair quietly withdrew to the curb, climbed into their car and disappeared into the stream of traffic along the brilliantly lighted thoroughfare.

Two customers and eight clerks were in the store when the robbery occurred. Too late, however, to frustrate the robbery or enable the police to prevent their escape, the clerks gave the alarm.

HOOVER ADDS SUM OF \$100.00 TO CAMPAIGN

Check for Willamette University Endowment Comes from Commerce Sec'y

"Just to show my sympathy, I enclose a small subscription for Willamette university," reads a letter received yesterday by Dr. H. E. Morris from Herbert Hoover. The check inclosed was for \$100.

Secretary of Commerce Hoover stated in the letter that he was a member of endowment committees of two other colleges, to say nothing of several relief commissions, "until my income is absorbed."

A number of small subscriptions have been received since the actual campaign closed Thursday night. Many of these come from over the state, while a few are local, one for \$50 having been received yesterday.

CHEMAWA YOUTHS WILL WRESTLE

Indian School Expects to Put Out Championship Team This Season

Salem Indian school at Chemawa is putting wrestling on its regular athletic course this year. Ellis White, former captain of the Salem high school wrestling squad and one of the best heavyweights ever developed in this part of the state, is coaching the team, giving the grapplers three nights a week. They are said to be developing rapidly into a team of rare ability.

The Indian lads, with only a little coaching, took on a series of high school meets last year that practically gave them the intercollegiate championship on their record. They decisively defeated Salem high and the Oregon City team. They had only a light schedule, but they made the most of it while it lasted. They had some men who with proper coaching looked capable of world championships within their weight classes; fast, hard, powerful little men who looked able to win anywhere in the world. Not many of last year's team are back in school this year, though Bryson, one of their best, is to return after the holidays.

A series of meets is being arranged to include among others the freshmen from both O. A. C. and Oregon, Oregon City high school and some matches from the Portland schools.

On Christmas day, as one of the student studs at the school, the Alaska Indians are to meet the wrestlers from "the states." While several of the champions of last year were from Alaska, they were not all from Polarbearland, and the states team is expected to put up a vigorous defense.

300 Prisoners Released in Dublin in Fortnight

DUBLIN, Dec. 23.—(By the Associated Press)—Nearly 300 prisoners have been released in the past fortnight, it was stated at Free State military headquarters today. Although the majority of them were given their freedom in the last few days it was in no wise a Christmas arrangement.

The course of signing a pledge not to bear arms against the government had been opened to all prisoners for a considerable time, the officials said.

Peasants Believe New Star of Bethlehem Here

ANGERS, France, Dec. 23.—The superstitious peasants in this district who are preparing to celebrate Christmas, are mystified by a huge bright light which has appeared in the heavens for the past two days and are asking "is this a new star of Bethlehem?"

The light has a varying appearance, now like a luminous star and again like small crescent of the moon. The official meteorological services are puzzled and thus far have been unable to explain its prolonged presence, although attributing it to a meteor swarm.

COUNTY AGENT SUPPORTED BY FARM BUREAU

Marion County Organization With 700 Farmer Members Will Back Proposal Here to Limit.

MOVE IS DECLARED TO BE ECONOMICAL

Progress Toward Greater Membership and Better Financing Reported

The Marion County Farm Bureau, with 700 members at present and a campaign in sight to increase the membership largely, is preparing to back with all its might the proposal of a county farm agent.

A meeting of the bureau, held Saturday at the Chamber of Commerce rooms, devoted most of its time to this matter of a county agent. In eastern Oregon, where the bureau is very strong, the county agent is found to be the ideal executive for the better-farming work and most of the counties have such public officials.

Farmer Support Asked

It has not appealed quite so strongly to the Marion county court, which took the ground that the farmers themselves had not spoken decisively in favor of the expenditure. The bureau is now planning to secure the farmers' endorsement of such an appointment, beginning with its own membership, and spreading to commercial clubs, cooperatives and whatever organized or unorganized influence can be enlisted. The bureau believes that a capable county agent is an economic investment in any county.

Five years ago, when the State Horticultural society met in Salem, the delegates from one of the great fruit-growing counties of southern Oregon insisted that their county agent, an especially capable expert, had been worth \$300,000 a year to their county. That's a lot of money but they stuck to their figures and all over the state the bureau claim a profit like in kind though not always so remarkable in figures.

The meeting discussed briefly the State Chamber of Commerce plan to advertise the products and develop the markets of Oregon outside the state. This was taken up at length at the recent state farm bureau convention in Portland.

Plans for a better financial standing and increased business activity for the county zone were discussed. They will be elaborated upon at the next meeting in January. The bureau expects to get on better financial basis and carry on a more aggressive campaign of farm-marketing betterments.

Sidney Miller of Woodburn is president and H. G. King of Salem, route 6, is the secretary of the Marion county zone.

GERMANY THANKS U. S. FOR GIFTS

Ebert Acknowledges Private Financial Relief for Teuton Needy

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—President Ebert, in a Christmas communication, cordially acknowledged private financial relief for the United States for the benefit of Germany's children, invalids and needy. The reports received to date indicate that the foreign donations for this cause far outstrip those of last year.

The New York Staats Zeitung alone collected \$45,000 for Germany and \$15,000 for Austria, these sums being converted respectively into 500,000,000 marks and 100,000,000 marks. Street collections in Chicago and Philadelphia netted liberal sums.

Other generous contributions were received from South America, Norway, Holland and Switzerland.

DOG AND MAN SHARE COVER AT STATION

Wanderer and Four-footed Pal Snooze Together, and Have for Four Years

"Can ye give me and me pal a bed?"

The question was put to Chief Moffitt at the police station late Thursday night. It came from a "floater" who had wandered in to escape the cold night air. Apparently he was alone.

The chief looked surprised.

"Who's the pal?" he asked. The floater pointed to the floor.

By his side was a little brown shaggy dog with wistful eyes. The chief found a vacant cot for the wanderer. Early in the morning the night sergeant had occasion to enter the jail. A strange sight was there for him. Huddled up on the small cot lay the "floater" and his little four-footed friend, sound asleep. Only the little animal's head and forepaws were visible above the covers. His body, man-like, was stretched out in the same manner as his master.

In the morning someone asked the knight of the road how long the two had been traveling together.

"Oh, about four years," he answered. "We always travel together and sleep together."

The floater's name, according to the police book, was George Anderson. His little friend forgot to register.

MRS. HELEN LEARY MODIFIES STORY

Declares She Did Not Witness Girl's Murder—Found Weir With Body

PORTLAND, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Helen Leary, police officers said tonight, has modified her story of the alleged murder of a girl on a houseboat here last September by Cash Weir, 65-year-old riverman. She now declares, according to the officers, that she did not witness the murder but that she found Weir in the houseboat with the girl's dead body. She fought Weir, she said, and blackened one of his eyes. Her original story of the disposal of the girl's body by Weir and his son, Capt. Earl Weir, remained unchanged.

The two Weirs were still being held in jail tonight, the father charged with murder and the son with being an accessory after the fact. But the officers said Mrs. Leary's modification of the original story had weakened the case.

WEATHER TO VARY FOR CHRISTMAS

Alaska Shivers With Zero Temperature and South America Swelters

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Christmas weather will be observed in various manners throughout the world, depending to a large extent upon the temperature which will vary from zero in Alaska to balmy summer weather in South America.

The thermometer stood at 80 degrees today at Colon, Panama, and swimming parties and outdoor church services will apparently be in order there on the holidays.

Similar and even higher temperatures were reported from some South American countries and from southern Europe. On the other hand, bob-sleds and skates are expected to be in evidence in some western and northern states of this country with the mercury at the freezing point.

Across the Atlantic, London reported a temperature of 46 degrees while it was 40 degrees at Paris and 38 at Copenhagen. Temperatures in the United States today ranged from 76 degrees at Los Angeles and 62 degrees at Jacksonville to 32 degrees at Salt Lake City and at Buffalo, N. Y.

MANY PRODUCTIONS DESTROYED, 1 HURT, LOSS IS \$350,000

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—Fire at Universal City, a suburb, late today destroyed 1,100,000 feet of film at the Universal studios, gutted one building and resulted in the injury of one man. Damage was estimated at \$350,000, including the value of the motion picture film.

Between 35 and 40 productions were included in the destroyed prints. The negatives from which the prints were made were saved.

CHEER GIVEN MANY HOMES

Workers of Salvation Army Distribute Baskets to Poor in Salem

Christmas cheer was brought to many yesterday through the Salvation Army. The organization was used as the distributing agent by many. Among the many who helped distribute the Christmas baskets all reported that the poor who received the baskets freely expressed their gratitude.

Each basket contained sugar, rice, beans, corn, celery, jar honey, canned fruit, potatoes, apples and roast beef or chicken and in some cases there was also butter and bread, coffee and milk.

About 90 baskets were sent out and there are a few who have sent in their names since the distribution, and Captain Holbrook says they will not be forgotten.

People Are Loyal

The newspapers, according to Captain Holbrook, were a great help in making the day's festivities a success and he says that he feels grateful to the good people of Salem who stood by the Salvation Army in its efforts to reach all the needy in the city. There was not a name of a person given in but that was personally visited and efforts were made to provide for all. There was a big gathering at the hall for the big Christmas tree that was a success from every point of view. Candy and fruit were there for all and it was a happy gathering of kiddies and how they did cheer when Santa made his appearance.

The program was given by the Salvation Army Sunday school and the children played their parts well.

Program Given

Captain Henry J. Morris acted as chairman of the evening and the following program was rendered: Loyalty class, "Silent Night"; recitation, Collin Morris; dialogue, "Mr. Cigarette"; Solo, Grace Barker; recitation, Harry Todd; song, "Sunshine"; class; recitation, Louisa Mayou; solos, "The Dear Little Baby," "Beautiful Christ"; recitation, Mary Albright; recitation, Francis Mayou. There were a number of other songs and recitations by Tommy Todd, the Barker family, Audrey Jefferies and Fanny Shultz.

The goodly amount of provisions that were given to the Salvation Army shows, says Captain Holbrook, that the people of Salem have not forgotten the work of the organization.

Needs Not All Met

Mrs. Captain Holbrook is a welfare worker with a vast experience having always shown that she knows how to reach the hearts of the poor and needy and is always willing to give her best for their help and comfort. And as long as there are goods to distribute they will be given and the Salvation Army officers in the city will do their best to see that all is done to alleviate distress regardless of the cause.

There is still some need for furniture and baby clothes.

CARS COLLIDE

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Several persons were shaken up when two passenger trains were involved in a minor accident at Mossville, Ill., today but no one was seriously injured, according to officials here today. One train was derailed by the other as it was taking a siding.

GROCER KILLED

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 23.—Orville P. Walby, was shot and instantly killed tonight by a robber, who paused to take about \$95 in small change before he fled. Walby was standing behind a counter, his hands raised in the air, when the gunman fired. The bullet struck the grocer in the heart and he died instantly.

1 MER ROUGE MAN ARRESTED

Former Deputy Sheriff Believed Connected With Death of Men

BASTROP, La., Dec. 23.—With a tenesness unequalled so far in the kaleidoscope developments of the last few days, citizens of this community tonight learned of an arrest this afternoon on a murder charge in connection with the death of two men presumably of the hands of a white robed and masked mob. T. J. Burnett of Sykes, La., was the man arrested. The arrest here is believed the forerunner of many more. Burnett is a former deputy sheriff.

Guns Mounted

Machine guns were mounted on the jail this afternoon, and those arrested will face the opening hearings, ordered today by the attorney general, under guard of state troops.

The Monroe national guard on duty at Mer Rouge in connection with the efforts to locate the bodies of Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards, alleged victims of the mob, are on route here to join the New Orleans machine gun company and the Alexandria infantry company tented on the courthouse and jail square.

An inquest was conducted behind closed doors at Mer Rouge this afternoon over the bodies cast up by Lake LaFourche yesterday after unidentified dynamiters had made an effort to remove them from their watery grave of four months.

New Orleans pathologists conducted an autopsy to determine how the men came to their deaths and declared the examination revealed that the men had been flogged and some bones broken before they died.

Trouble Expected

The bodies were turned over to relatives and friends today. The dead men were members of families who were pioneers in this parish and their acquaintanceship is numbered by the hundreds.

Many believe the surrender of the bodies to the kin and the departure of the troops may kindle the outbreak between the hostile camps created at Mer Rouge since the August kidnaping.

Trouble started in Morehouse last summer when an alleged attempt was made to assassinate Dr. B. M. McKoin, former mayor of Mer Rouge.