

GAS RATE INCREASE ASKED

Many Chinese Lose Lives In Mexicali Fire; Property Damage Five Million

GOVERNMENT WANTS WORD FROM PEKING

Nothing From Minister Shurman Received for Past Twenty-Four Hours—America Ready to Act

DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE ENTERED INTO

U. S. Government May Find Some Means of Making Payment, Report

SHANGHAI, May 31.—(By Associated Press.)—Relief workers of Tsao Chwang, the nearest point to the stronghold of the Szechwan train bandits, today reported the arrival of messengers from the brigands' mountain retreat with the information that the outlaws had not carried out their death threat against the foreign captives. The prisoners, it was stated, are all in good health, except G. D. Mason, the Italian lawyer of Shanghai who has been ill for a number of days.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—The Washington government had been without advice from Minister Schurman in Peking for more than 24 hours today when the cabinet met to devote the entire session to consideration of the plight of the foreigners including American citizens, held as hostages by Chinese bandits. In the absence of information as to what course the Peking diplomatic corps had determined on with relation to undertaking direct negotiations with the bandits for release of the prisoners the cabinet approved Secretary Hughes' action in awaiting recommendations from Minister Schurman to guide the course of the Washington government.

It was said emphatically at the White House that the administration had full confidence in Mr. Schurman and believed the country was fortunate in having a man of his judgment and experience to represent it on the scene of so critical a time. The first and only concern of the American government at the moment, it was added, was that the lives of the captives should be saved and their release unharmed produced.

While it is recognized the administration spokesman said, that to undertake direct negotiations with the bandits through the Peking diplomatic corps would be in effect to waive the question of the responsibility of the Peking government for the safety of foreigners in its territory, there would be no hesitation in following that course in the last resort to get the prisoners out of jeopardy.

Earlier dispatches from Mr. Schurman stated that the meeting yesterday of the diplomatic corps was for the purpose of determining whether direct negotiations should be opened with the bandit leaders. The American leaders at Yenchang advised headquarters of those seeking to have the foreigners liberated yesterday in official communications express their belief that further conversations be

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THEATRE EXPLOSION SPREADS DEATH AND CHAOS IN CHINATOWN

LOS ANGELES, May 22.—A special dispatch to the Los Angeles Times from Mexicali, Lower California, tonight stated 150 Chinese were missing after a fire there late today and tonight when property valued at \$3,000,000 was destroyed. Practically all of the losses were covered by insurance, the dispatch stated.

The fire was still spreading at 8 o'clock tonight despite the combined efforts of the fire departments of Mexicali and of Calexico and El Centro, Cal., and more than 1,000 persons were believed homeless.

The fire started when a motion picture machine exploded in a theatre here shortly after 4 o'clock this afternoon.

EVOLUTIONISTS SCORE VICTORY

William Jennings Bryan and Resolution Defeated By Church Assembly

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., May 22.—(By Associated Press.)—William Jennings Bryan was defeated and evolutionists scored a victory today when the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States defeated the commoner's resolution to bar schools permitting the teaching of the evolutionary hypothesis from use in the church funds.

The assembly adopted a substitute resolution offered by John Willis Baer of Pasadena, which in mild terms directed synods and Presbyteries to "withhold their official approval" from educational institutions "where any teaching or instruction is given which seeks to establish a materialistic evolutionary philosophy of life or which disregards or attempts to discredit the Christian faith."

The fundamentalists under Mr. Bryan's leadership, went down fighting in the most bitterly waged struggle the general assembly has been according to church historians, since Charles A. Briggs of Union Theological seminary was unseated more than 30 years ago because of his old testament criticisms.

In the final fight it was layman against layman, with Mr. Bryan against Mr. Baer in a debate that even reached an exchange of personalities. Mr. Baer, a California banker, and the only layman who ever has held the office of moderator, is chairman of the committee on education, which rejected the Bryan resolution in its report. Mr. Bryan is vice chairman of the committee.

The argument reached personalities when Mr. Baer, presenting his resolution declared Mr. Bryan "is as honest as he can be—but he is honest as he has been before."

Commoner Ejected
"I want to object to the statement made by Brother Baer," the commoner shouted when the assembly granted him 15 minutes to reply. "I don't want my democracy used against this cause. I don't want any republican to appeal to Republican prejudices by referring to my Democratic beliefs."

"I helped this nation get prohibition. Did you do any more, Brother Baer? Was I mistaken in that fight? I helped this nation get woman's suffrage. Did you do any more than I and was I mistaken then? I want you to know I have been engaged in eight great national reforms in the last 25 years. Was I mistaken in those issues?"

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FLATS SAID FILLED WITH MOONSHINERS

Representatives of Liquor Industry Said to Abound in Chicago Apartments

CHICAGO, May 22.—Every flat or apartment building in the city of Chicago houses at least one representative of the liquor industry, the Chicago Daily News asserted today in a story in which it averred that liquor was the biggest single business, legitimate or otherwise in the United States today.

Every apartment building in the city has at least one tenant who is a buyer or seller of liquor, it asserted. This, the newspaper stated, does not cover the thousands of other places where liquor is bought and sold, saloons, soft drink places, drug stores, cigar stores, candy stores, pool rooms, roadhouses and many other places for retail sales.

The story stated that 25,000 smugglers trafficked between Canadian shores on the Detroit river and across a small town, about 10 miles below Detroit, carrying daily an estimated total of 100,000 gallons of liquor over the river.

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The flames drove hundreds of poorer classes of Mexicans and Chinese from their homes which collapsed behind them in ruins, as they dragged their meager belongings from the fire.

Pedro Gonzalez, operator of the moving picture machine, is among the dead.

Members of the audience, including one woman, were seen to fall in the theater as the flames burst from the machine, which was located near the front of the building. There was no rear entrance, and many are believed to have lost their lives in the rush to escape.

Chon Fook, a Chinese merchant died of heart failure in the street from over exertion after dragging his trunks from a burning building where he had lodgings.

The fire centered in the Chinese business quarter of the city, where hundreds of Chinese had sleeping quarters and it is feared many of the Chinese were trapped in cellars and sub-cellars.

The fire was checked at 8:30 tonight.

SCHOOL PLANS ARE APPROVED

Bids for New Buildings to Be Opened By District Board June 2 and 4

On June 2, bids will be opened for the building of the new Grant junior high school in north Salem. The plans were definitely approved last night, with the specifications, at the meeting of the school board. Architect W. C. Knighton of Portland has 15 sets of the plans and specifications ready for contractors who wish to bid. The bids are to be advertised for today.

June 4, at noon, at the high school office the bids will be opened for the new high school addition, the plans for which were definitely approved last night. The specifications will be ready within two days. Architect F. A. Legg announced. The call for bids will be advertised for today.

13 Classrooms Provided
The junior high school building is to be erected to the eastward of the present wooden structure. It will contain 13 class rooms, and one large study room and assembly hall, 30 by 66 feet, which is to seat more than 400 pupils. There are other facilities, such as locker rooms and toilets and various needed storage and working rooms. It is believed to be an excellent design, that gives exceptional lighting and ventilation service, with no wasting for "gingerbread" ornamentations or trouble-making maintenance. The specifications call for slate blackboards and for the corridors and stairways covered with canvas-over-plaster, which is a slightly modern and apparently indestructible wall covering.

The high school addition will be built to match as nearly exactly as possible, the present building in color and general style. There are 14 class rooms, with the boys

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BONAR LAW SUCCEEDED BY BALDWIN

Rise of Labor Party in Power Held Cause of Unexpected Appointment—Is Graduate of Trade

LONDON, May 22.—(By Associated Press.)—Stanley Baldwin, chancellor of the exchequer, is the British prime minister in succession to Andrew Bonar Law. He having followed the constitutional practice and ascertained the views of the conservative leaders through the medium of his secretary, Lord Stamfordham, who had been busy since Sunday in necessary consultations, the king came to town today and without further delay, offered the vacant premiership to Mr. Baldwin, who accepted.

That a man comparatively new in politics thus comes to the first position in the nation's councils, passing over well-tried and experienced statesmen, like Marquis Curzon and the Earl of Balfour, indicates the change which has taken place on the political stage with the rise for the first time in the country's history of the labor party to the position of his majesty's opposition in parliament.

Graduate of Trade
Of necessity, the labor party is not represented in the house of lords unless the presence of peers like Lord Haldane, who has great sympathy with the labor party, and is looked on as one of the certain ministers, should the labor party within the near future be in a position to form a government, may be said to give labor a slight standing in the lords.

If it was this fact of non-representation of labor in the lords which ruled Curzon out as a possible prime minister, in the opinion of the majority of the leaders.

The new prime minister, like his predecessor, has graduated from trade, and also like Mr. Bonar Law, from the iron trade. Neither of these men was trained for politics, but adopted politics after a successful commercial career. This also is a departure to some extent from British traditions, the statesmen in the past being recruited to a very large extent from the ranks of the aristocracy or the legal profession.

Among the surprises of the day was the announcement that Sir Robert Stevenson-Horne had con-

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NEGRO THOUGHT ROBBER, KILLED

Ethiopian Sends Final Shot Crashing to Own Heart, \$2,000 Found

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio, May 22.—A negro, who officials are convinced was one of two who robbed the High-Russell branch bank of the Citizens' Trust and Savings company at Columbus, was shot four times by Patrolman Dan Garrett here late today, in a running duel. With one bullet left in his revolver, the negro sent it crashing through his heart and toppled over dead.

Garrett was wounded in the left shoulder.

Two thousand dollars in bills were found in the pockets of the negro's clothes, who was identified by cards in his pockets as N. C. Stewart, 138 Jackson street, Phenix, Ariz. The two negroes who robbed the Citizens' bank obtained about \$4,000 and police believe they divided the loot and separated.

Evolution of Jazz to Be Shown by Mr. Hawley

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Public:
Have you ever stopped to figure how a certain class of music originated and evolved to our present day "Jazz"?

On Wednesday, May 23, at 8:45 p. m. I am offering for your kind consideration, one of my newest novelty concerts, entitled: "The Evolution of Jazz."

The Evolution of Jazz, is an exposure of how that certain class of music has been brought to the present stage, called "Jazz."

I have dug into the history of lively music, mostly used for dancing, and brought out what I have found to be the five stages of that class of music evolving to our present day, Jazz. In closing the concert I will give you two ways for you to decide, "What Will the Future Be?"

Remember me at the Oregon theatre Wednesday nights. Yours for Musical Enjoyment, Charles W. Hawley, Jr.

Watch for Friday Bargain Page
There'll be something there for you. Perhaps just the thing you need most.

The Oregon Statesman Friday Morning

JOYRIDER SENTENCED TO MORGUE

One of Survivors of Happy Party Which Ends Disasterously, Views Bodies

SPOKANE, Wash., May 22.—Chester Holt, aged 22, one of the survivors of a "joy ride" party on the Apple Way, near here, Sunday morning, in which two of his friends were killed, was sentenced today to go to the morgue in custody of deputy sheriffs and view the bodies of those killed, by Justice Mann, of the district court. He admitted guilt to a charge of furnishing liquor to the party.

Justice Mann declared fines and imprisonment in cases of this kind almost futile and admonished Holt to talk others of the results of so-called "wild parties." Holt was given a sentence of 60 days in jail, of which he is to serve 15 days and pay \$25 in addition to viewing the bodies.

GREEKS, TURKS STILL HOSTILE

Venizelos Unable to Solve Problem; Pasha Is Held in Confinement

LAUSANNE, May 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—No compromise to the deadlock of Turco-Greek reparations was found today at the Near East peace conference. M. Venizelos, head of the Greek delegation, spent a feverish day consulting with various conference leaders in discussing ways and means in an endeavor to ameliorate the situation. This afternoon, tired but smiling, Venizelos emerged from the hotel elevator. He was surrounded immediately by a group of newspaper correspondents who desired to know the trend of affairs. A Turkish correspondent asked the former premier if he was optimistic or pessimistic.

"The two knots in a handkerchief," Venizelos replied. "One represents Mr. Optimism and the other Mr. Pessimism. Put the handkerchief back in your pocket and pull it out quickly and see which knot comes out first. That

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OIL OPERATORS GIVE SELVES UP

Two More, Charged With Using Mails to Defraud, Surrender Selves

FORT WORTH, Tex., May 22.—Two more oil operators charged with use of the mails to defraud, surrendered to the United States district attorney this afternoon.

S. Shalcross surrendered and was arraigned before United States Commissioner George W. Parker and made bond in the sum of \$20,000. Richard Rader made bond of \$10,000 for appearance in the Robert and Gordon Ingalls case.

Settings of the trials in the oil cases were announced by the district attorney today. Defendants indicted in the General Lee case will be tried May 28. On June 4 three defendants in the Hog Creek Carruth case will come to the trial. The Frederick A. Cook et al case will be tried September 3 and defendants in the Reverse case will be tried October 1.

KIMBALL CHORUS DARES US TO DO OUR WORST; WE DO; FOLKS, HOW D'YE LIKE 'EM?

By CHARLES J. LISLE.
The rest of the chorus, however, is of real quality. Lacking the virile bigness of the great baritone, there is much really fine harmony in the other parts of the program. If all the hills were precipitous mountains there would be no roads; if all the trees were giant redwoods there would be no fishing poles or firewood for the traveler. The serviceable voices of the average singer build the great oratorical, sing the songs of the church, croon the lullabies that make life worth the living, and Prof. D. W. Riddle has taken a number of unextraordinary voices and built them into a delightful singing organization. They sing with spirit, precision, understanding. It ought to be part of a preacher's business to know music; but these preachers know it better than so many of their cloth!

Miss Kathleen LaRaus appeared in one solo number which was delightfully rendered. She sings with understanding that makes it a pleasure to her audiences. Also there were some interesting specialties, one of these being a violin number, Minuet in G, (Beethoven) played by E. G. Ranton. He could take his fiddle and his long-tailed coat and hit the vaudeville stage for practically his own figure.

Ralph Thomas gave a dramatic reading from "Quo Vadis" that had the whole crowd ready to shoot the emperor if he didn't let the prisoners go. One could almost see the muscles stand out on the giant Trusse and hear his whistling breath as with his bare

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WANT TO SELL A COUPE? Try a Statesman Want Ad

The Results Will Surprise You

Below is one of the Want Ads. appearing in today's Statesman Classified Columns.

One a Day. Will it be Yours Tomorrow?

LATE 1920 FORD COUPE SHOCK absorbers, foot pedal, large steering wheel, etc. for quick sale, \$900 take it. Terms 6151.

EVERYBODY LOVES "OLD GLORY."

A THING OF BEAUTY AND A JOY FOREVER

SEE FLAG ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 3

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SALEM PLANT LOSES MONEY; ALLEGATION MADE TO OFFICIALS

Rate of Return in Last Five Years Less Than One Per Cent, and Return of 5.3 Per Cent Declared Necessary if Utility is to Continue—Proposed Higher Schedule Filed With Commission.

Authority to increase gas rates in Salem is asked by the Portland Railway, Light & Power company in an application and new tariff schedule filed yesterday with the public service commission.

The company points out in its application that it had sustained losses in the last five years which will make it impossible for the utility to function much longer if it cannot receive a better return on its investment. It is shown that in the last five years the rate of return on the plant's valuation as made by the public service commission, plus additions and betterments, has been only four-tenths of 1 per cent. An increase in rates sufficient to make the return 5.3 per cent is asked.

Rates Compared
The present rates for residences and commercial lighting and heating, 24-hour service are:
Minimum charge 75 cents per month.

First 10,000 cubic feet per month at \$2 per 1000.
Next 10,000 cubic feet per month at \$1.90 per 1000.
All over 20,000 cubic feet per month at \$1.80 per 1000.
Discount for prompt payment 10 cents per 1000 cubic feet.
The new rate asked for residence and commercial lighting and heating, for 24-hour service is:

First 200 cubic feet per month for \$1.
Next 3800 cubic feet per month at \$2.20 per 1000 cubic feet.
Next 6000 cubic feet per month at \$2.10 per 1000 cubic feet.
Next 10,000 cubic feet per month at \$2 per 1000 cubic feet.
Over 20,000 cubic feet per month at \$1.90 per 1000 cubic feet.

The minimum charge allowed would be \$1 a month per meter. As discount for prompt payment a cash discount of 10 cents per 1000 cubic feet would be allowed on bills paid on or before 10 days from date of bill, provided, however, that no bill would be reduced to less than the minimum charge.

Where the service pipe is already installed a charge of \$5 would be made to cover the cost of installing a meter, testing the meter and installing appliances.

Five-Year Record Shows
Submitting figures for the last five years, the company shows the following figures relative to operative revenues:

In 1918, \$1078.66 loss; 1919, \$1109.88 profit; 1920, \$7088.73 profit; 1921, \$849.36 loss; 1922, \$1753.02 loss. For the first four months of this year the figures are: January, \$1277.60 loss.

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