

SEVENTY-THIRD YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1924

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## "FRAME UP" IS CHARGED BY FORBES

### Sizzling Attack Is Made By Former Director of Veterans Bureau in Two Statements Issued

### SAYS HE IS PREPARED TO NAME GUILTY PERSON

### "I Know Who Laid Plot and Day It Was Laid" Asserts Man Under Indictment

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Severely denouncing witnesses before the Chicago grand jury that indicated him for conspiracy and bribery in connection with his administration of these veterans' bureau Charles R. Forbes declared in two statements issued from his attorney's office today that he was a victim of a "frame-up" and that he was prepared to name a "high individual, unofficially connected with the government," who, he charged "laid the plot."

After an all-day conference with his attorney, James S. Easby-Smith, it was announced that the ground work for Forbes' defense was being laid and a list of witnesses being considered.

Papers should have been received on Forbes late today, but it was believed that arrangements had been made for him to appear voluntarily before a United States commissioner here to arrange bond. He would go to Chicago voluntarily, it was stated, and not oppose extradition.

"If ever there was a contemptible frame-up," Forbes said to newspapermen in the presence of his attorney, "I am the man that was framed and I know the exact day the plot was laid and the individual, unofficially connected with the government."

Forbes was particularly severe in his attacks on Elias H. Mortimer, named as the agent of Thompson and Black, contractors, and Brigadier General Charles E. Sawyer. He attacked Mortimer's testimony before the senate investigating committee and asked in one of his statements why he had not been indicted with himself and J. W. Thompson.

In his second statement in answer to questions put to him by newspapermen, Forbes referred to the visit to Chicago by Attorney-General Daugherty and questioned whether it was to assist the grand jury in returning indictments or for other reasons.

Replying to questions as to an alleged connection of Mortimer with the department of justice Forbes interposed:

"Why has he been on bail for nearly a year for conspiracy to violate the prohibition law returned in the United States district court in New York, with no action taken in the case since he gave bond on June 3, 1923, Colonel Tom Felder, Daugherty's associate in the Morse pardon case, appearing as his counsel?"

"Why has not the department of justice taken action against him and certain officials for conspiracy to violate the liquor laws, based on documentary evidence furnished by me to the department of justice eighteen months ago, the discovery of which was the first intimation I had of Mortimer's real character?"

Forbes charged that the "real crooks" were being shielded. He further charged that General Charles Sawyer's work in connection with the bureau's activities had "more to do with preventing proper administration of the laws for the relief of the ex-service man than all other causes combined."

Sawyer Attacked

He made a sizzling attack on the physician of the late President Harding, his charges ringing with invective and denunciation.

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### THE WEATHER

OREGON: Unsettled with showers Sunday; moderate northeasterly winds.

LOCAL WEATHER (Saturday)

Maximum temperature, 60. Minimum temperature, 38. Rainfall, none. River, 4.7 feet above. Atmosphere, clear. Wind, north.

## ELECTRIC CARS TO WEST SALEM ASKED; 300 SIGN FOR IT

The people of West Salem and vicinity are negotiating with the Southern Pacific company for an extension of electric street car service between Salem and West Salem. While no definite assurance has been given by Southern Pacific officials that the extension will be made, the people on the west side have been told that there is a good chance for them to get the line.

Mayor J. A. Gosser of West Salem said last night that he recently conferred with the traveling passenger agent of the Southern Pacific company relative to the project and was told that there was some chance. He advised Mr. Gosser to get a signed list of all the people in that vicinity who would use the service. The list has been in circulation for some time and has been signed by about 300 persons.

The electrification of the Southern Pacific track between Salem and West Salem across the Southern Pacific bridge would be necessary. It is said that no trackage would have to be built in West Salem and it is presumed that this would not be necessary in Salem.

## BONUS NEXT ORDER OF HOUSE BUSINESS

### Ways and Means Committee Plans to Hold Hearings and Report Bill

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The soldiers' bonus legislation was started on its way today, the house ways and means committee voting to begin consideration of such a measure immediately. Three days of hearing on proposals for payment of adjusted compensation to world war veterans beginning Monday, were decided upon, after which, Chairman Green announced, a bill would be whipped into shape. He expects the committee to report a measure to the house by next Saturday.

The program for the bill, after it has reached the house has not been outlined. Several appropriation bills, the Muscle Shoals, and the immigration measures, already are on the calendar.

Several bonus bills have been introduced, including the McKenzie measure, similar to the one vetoed by President Harding. Representatives Fish of New York and Andrews of Massachusetts, republicans, have submitted bills recently both making paid up insurance policies of 20 and 25 years, respectively, the principal feature. Payment of cash sums would be allowed where the veterans would not be entitled to more than \$50.

The Andrew bill would allow compensation only to enlisted men while the Fish proposal would include officers up to the rank of captain in the army and lieutenant in the navy, the same as provided by the McKenzie bill.

Four options of payments would be allowed under the McKenzie bill: Adjusted service pay, vocational training aid; farm or home aid and adjusted service certificates. The latter plan would provide for insurance policies.

## SENATE RECEIVES REVENUE MEASURE

### Finance Committee Will Consider Bill Early During Coming Week

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The revenue bill will be taken up by the senate finance committee the latter part of next week under plans announced today by Chairman Smoot.

The bill was formally reported to the senate from the house and referred to the finance committee, by which it will be opened again to revision. However, not more than a month is expected to be consumed in consideration of the bill in committee.

During that time hearings will be held, but Senator Smoot is considering limiting each trade or industry to one spokesman.

Pending study of the Longworth compromise income tax schedule voted into the bill by the house, senate leaders were reticent in expressing opinions of the plan which provides for a maximum surtax rate of 37 1/2 per cent on the amount of incomes in excess of \$200,000.

### PLAYGROUND BURNED

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal., March 1.—The mountain fire today swept into the municipal playground and destroyed the pavilion.

## STOCK EPIDEMIC UNDER CONTROL

### Foot and Mouth Disease Quarantine May Be Modified in 15 Counties

OAKLAND, Cal., March 1.—Executives of the federal bureau of animal industry here and in Washington, and state experts stationed here in the campaign against the foot and mouth epidemic in central California made simultaneous announcements today that the epidemic is definitely controlled. Steps were taken to remove the provisional quarantine from 15 counties that adjoin the infection area.

Developments today were an order by army authorities barring all, but federally inspected meats and pasteurized milk from army posts in California and a small new outbreak in herds in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

George Radcliffe, chairman of the state board of control, conferred with the state and government experts today regarding the part the state is desired to play in the indemnification of the cattle owners whose cattle must be destroyed. Radcliffe estimated that the cost to the state would be \$500,000 in the event that there was no further spread of the epidemic.

G. H. Hecke, director of the state board of agriculture, and the other experts in charge of the campaign against the epidemic, renewed plans to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace that he move to modify or remove many of the embargoes placed throughout the country on California livestock and other items. Some of these embargoes were undoubtedly prompted by hysteria, Hecke said, and applied to goods from which there was no possible danger of contagion.

The veterinarians of the 15 provisionally quarantined counties were directed to examine all livestock in their respective jurisdictions as a first step toward the removal of the quarantine. Railroads have already been notified that they may remove milk and cream from those counties.

Slaughter of infected animals stopped today after having started two days ago.

## DOHENY IS REMOVED AS PARTY OFFICER

### Democratic State Central Committee Meeting Asks Withdrawal

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—A motion removing E. L. Doheny as second vice president of the organization was pledged today by the democratic state central committee, in meeting here. The motion also included a request to Doheny that he resign from the committee.

There was a loud chorus of "ayes" when the motion was put to a vote and also many "noes" but the affirmative vote carried easily.

The vote was taken after a debate in which Doheny was characterized as one of the ringleaders in the alleged corruption now being unearthed in Washington.

On the other hand pleas were made by certain members of the committee "until Doheny has had a chance to defend himself."

## SENATE VOTES INVESTIGATION OF DAUGHERTY

### Brookhart of Iowa Heads Group—Jones of Washington One of Solons Named on Committee

### RESOLUTION CARRIES WITHOUT ROLL CALL

### Justice Bureau of Investigation to Be First Point of Attacks, Report

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Headed by a republican insurgent of the La Follette group, Senator Brookhart of Iowa, a special senate committee will begin an investigation Monday of Attorney General Daugherty and his administration of the department of justice.

The inquiry, expected to rival the oil investigation in its ramifications, was ordered late today by the senate in adopting the resolution of Senator Wheeler, democrat, Montana. The vote was 66 to 1. Senator Elkins, republican, West Virginia, standing alone in opposition.

### Jones is Named

The choice of Senator Brookhart for chairman came in a spectacular climax to two days of bitter debate. He was nominated by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, leader of the republican insurgents, after having been selected originally by Senator Wheeler. The regular republican organization, defeated in its effort to retain control of the committee and contented itself with nominating Senator Moses, New Hampshire, and Jones, Washington, while Senator Robinson of Arkansas, the democratic leader, nominated Senators Wheeler and Ashurst, Arizona, as committeemen. No other nominations were forthcoming after a long and dramatic pause and the senate, as agreed upon by Senator Wheeler, after conferences with Senators La Follette and Robinson, went through without a roll call. Privately, republican leaders said they regarded it as useless to oppose the insurgent-democratic coalition.

### Chamberlain Heard

Upon the adoption of the Wheeler resolution, attorneys for the attorney general, Paul Howland of Cleveland and former Senator G. E. Chamberlain of Oregon, sent formal letters to each member of the special committee requesting the privilege of being present at all hearings, of examining all witnesses, of presenting independent evidence, of having processes issued for witnesses and of presenting oral and written arguments. They gave assurances of the assistance of every agency and facility of the department of justice. Chairman Brookhart said tonight that the committee would meet Monday to draw up a plan of procedure and would proceed "as speedily as possible in its long task, which is expected to take weeks, if not months."

There are masses of papers to be waded over in a preliminary way," said Senator Brookhart. "It is hoped to begin the hearings in a few days, probably some time next week."

While definite procedure is yet to be determined, members indicated there would be no formal complaint, with stated specifications drafted and filed, as in the house impeachment proceedings a year ago against Mr. Daugherty, but that various charges and complaints would be taken up as they developed with committee members and in the hearings.

### Burns Is First

The first field of inquiry is expected to be the department of justice bureau of investigation, headed by William J. Burns, in connection with the activities of its agents in several parts of the country.

Virtually unlimited jurisdiction to investigate affairs relating to Mr. Daugherty and the department of justice is given under the senate resolution. Before adoption of the resolutions, its provisions objected to by several republicans, were eliminated by Senator Wheeler. The preambles had charged to act in the federal trade commission, the oil lease, and the anti-trust cases, but Senator Robinson and Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, pointed out that the resolutions text was broader than the preambles which might restrict the inquiry.

## SATURDAY IN WASHINGTON

The soldiers bonus bill was taken up by the house ways and means committee.

The house appropriations committee recommended appropriation of \$153,696,567 to enable various government departments to wind up the fiscal year without deficits.

The tax revision bill was received in the senate from the house and it was said public hearings would be held on it soon by the finance committee.

Reports were received at the state department indicating that the revolutionary situation in Honduras was serious, with American marines and steamers landed at Coiba to protect American life and property.

Charles R. Forbes, indicted by a Chicago grand jury, declared he would go to that city voluntarily as "the first step" in his complete vindication of charges concerning his administration of the veterans' bureau.

The senate oil committee again considered secret messages sent by confidential agents to E. B. McLean in Florida and heard several McLean employees.

Managers of telegraph companies at Three Rivers, N. M., where Albert B. Fall's ranch is located, were subpoenaed by the senate oil committee.

The Wheeler resolution calling for an investigation of the administration of Attorney General Daugherty was adopted by the senate and Senator Brookhart, Iowa, was nominated president of the committee of inquiry.

The senate oil committee decided to summon William J. Burns chief of the bureau of investigation of the department of justice for examination as to whether code messages sent to E. B. McLean's employees in Florida were in a cipher used by the department's secret agents.

## LETTERS SENT BY MAIL CAUSE ARREST

### Portland Woman Charged With Sending Poisoned Candy to Rival

PORTLAND, Or., March 1.—Mrs. Nettie K. Lindley, recent bride of a port engineer, was arrested here today on a federal warrant based on grand jury indictments charging her with having sent poison and improper letters through the mail.

The complaint charges that Mrs. Lindley, then Miss Nettie Clubine, mailed a box of candy containing poison to Miss Millie Wassensmiller, who has since become the wife of Prof. Paul Hillman, a teacher in Zion Lutheran school here.

Miss Clubine and Hillman, it is charged, had been friends prior to the professor's engagement to Miss Wassensmiller. Jealousy is the motive ascribed to Miss Clubine in sending the poison and a number of objectionable letters to her alleged rival. A return address on the box of candy which indicated that it should come from Hillman, aroused Miss Wassensmiller's suspicion because it was erroneous, according to officers who investigated the case. As a result Miss Wassensmiller did not eat it, and subsequent examination disclosed the poison.

The alleged acts on which the indictments are based took place early last year. Since that time Miss Wassensmiller has married Hillman and Miss Clubine has married Lindley.

## FINAL FLASHES

### BRUSSELS, March 1.—(By the AP.)—Princess Louise of Belgium died at Wiesbaden today from double pneumonia after an illness of 14 days.

### MEXICO, Mo., March 1.—The Rev. Asa Q. Burns pleaded not guilty and waived reading of the information charging him with having shot Howard Conger of Lincoln, Neb., on a street here last afternoon when arraigned late today before a justice of the peace.

### VERA CRUZ, March 1.—(By the AP.)—Press dispatches from Mexico City say that General Jose Dominguez of the federal army has occupied Puerto Mexico, and that the rebel generals, Torruco and Castillo, are embarking for Fronteras.

## OIL INQUIRY LEADS DIRECT INTO TANGLE

### William J. Burns Department Will Be Questioned Regarding Messages Sent By "Mary"

### COOLIDGE CHALLENGED TO GIVE EXPLANATION

### "Quick and Easy Access to White House" By McLean Subject of Attack

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The long, long trail of the oil inquiry led today into the department of justice.

A cipher message signed "Mary" and found among the celebrated McLean telegrams, carried it there and the oil committee immediately made plans to follow it wherever it may go.

From William J. Burns, chief of the department's bureau of investigation, Mrs. Mary Duckstein, a special agent of the department and others, the oil investigators will seek to learn:

The truth about reports that Edward B. McLean, publisher of the Washington Post, and a central figure in the inquiry, is himself a department of justice agent and in possession of the department's code.

### Questions Unanswered

Whether Burns directed Mrs. Duckstein to send a message to her husband, who is one of the McLean employees, saying that the "McLean investigation is under way by special agents of the department of justice" and that he believed the "information is important."

How Duckstein and other representatives of the publisher came into possession of a copy of the code.

Whether all of the code messages found in the McLean file of telegrams, are like the "Mary" message, in cipher code once used by the bureau of investigation.

Expressing his willingness to tell the oil committee all he knows, Burns said he understood the code employed in the "Mary" message was used at one time by agents of the justice department. "The department of justice," he said, "never had anything to do with the oil scandal or Teapot dome. I never gave any tips to McLean. The only telegram to McLean that I know about was all right. It contained no tips of any kind."

Burns would not deny the report that McLean was on the roll of special agents of the bureau of investigation at a nominal salary of \$1 a month and that he had been furnished with an official badge and a pistol.

After learning that the "Mary" message was in a one-time department of justice cipher, Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana, the dominant figure of the oil investigation sent to the department an official copy. At first his request was refused on the ground that his agent was not sufficiently identified and the senator then wrote a formal letter to the department.

A formal subpoena for Burns was withheld, Senator Walsh saying that he would be "invited" to appear in the course customarily followed in the case of the government officials after the committee resumes its hearing next Tuesday.

### Daugherty Charged

Advertising to the code matter in the senate, Senator Caraway, democrat, Arkansas, charged Attorney-General Daugherty with responsibility for use of a department of justice cipher in telegrams sent on behalf of McLean.

"I would like to ask the president himself," said Senator Caraway, "whether he had any communication with those people in Florida. He owes an explanation to one hundred million people as to why McLean had any right to 'quick and easy access to the White House.'"

The oil committee examined John F. Major, author of most of the McLean telegrams, and John J. Spurgeon, managing editor of the Washington Post, as to McLean's private wire to Florida, but got little additional information. Closing the committee room doors, the investigators examined a new batch of telegrams and records of the Chesapeake and Potomac tele-

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## NIPPON PRINCE TWICE DEAD AGAIN LIVES

### Aged Japanese "Elder Statesman" Mourned by Nation Shows Signs of Life

TOKIO, March 1.—(By The Associated Press)—Prince Masuyoshi Matsukata, whose death was announced yesterday and for whom the entire nation went into mourning, is alive today and has a bare chance of recovery, according to statements made by his physicians this morning. The prince was pronounced dead at 11:15 o'clock yesterday morning when his heart and respiration stopped. Shortly thereafter however, he began to show faint signs of life.

By what the physicians pronounce a "miraculous recovery" Matsukata who is in his ninetieth year, slowly came back to life. The astounded physicians worked over him separately and in the afternoon he had so far regained consciousness that he was able to acknowledge by the pressure of his hand the presence of viscount Makino, the emperor's messenger. This morning he took some nourishment and slept for a time.

All the Tokio newspapers but two carried stories of the prince's death, together with lengthy obituaries.

Matsukata, one of the two surviving members of Japan's famed genro or "elder statesmen" official advisers of the emperor was reported to have been killed in the earthquake of last September. Recently he became seriously ill and a Tokio dispatch to London, February 27, announced his death. The demise of the prince was again announced in February.

## ADmits POSSESSION OF LIQUOR; FINED

### Released From Card Playing Charge — Booze Complaint Filed by Officer

S. Crittenden, arrested with two other men and three women late Friday night in a downtown hotel room, pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing liquor late yesterday in justice court. He was fined \$100 by Justice Kuntz. His two companions, W. M. Clifton and M. Chenoweth, were also charged with possession of liquor in the complaint sworn to by Officer Olsen, who made the arrest Friday night, and John H. Carson, district attorney.

The other two men were released following the plea of guilty entered by Crittenden, who took the blame for ownership of the liquor.

The party had just been released in police court, where they were tried under the new card room ordinance passed by the council. Immediately after they were released by Police Judge Poulsen Officer Olsen placed the men under arrest and took them to the justice court for hearing.

## MENTION MICHIGAN GOVERNOR FOR JOB

### Groesbeck Is One of Those Being Considered for Denby's Position

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Governor Groesbeck, of Michigan, was added today to the list of those understood to be under consideration by President Coolidge for appointment as secretary of the navy in succession to Edward Denby who will retire March 10.

Governor Groesbeck has been mentioned several times in connection with possible vacancies in the attorney generalship.

Although it generally is believed in Washington that Mr. Daugherty will retire at the conclusion of the senate investigation it is not thought the president would desire to consider at this time the filling of a vacancy to occur at some indefinite future date.

In addition to Governor Groesbeck, the names of former representative Patrick H. Kelly and James E. Davidson, republican national committeeman, have been mentioned as Michigan men possibly under consideration to succeed Mr. Denby, himself a resident of Michigan.

### RAIN NEEDED

DEL MONTE, Cal., March 1.—A heavy rainfall before March 10 is essential to prevent injury.

## FORTY DEAD; MANY INJURED IN EXPLOSION

### T.N.T. Plant of Nixon Nitration Works Litterly Blown Off Ground—Noise Heard for 60 Miles

### SOLDIERS MOBILIZED TO ASSIST RESCUERS

### Uninjured Unable to Tell Cause and Injured Unable to Answer Questions

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., March 2.—Fire, which started when an explosion wrecked the TNT plant of the Nixon Nitrate company, killed upwards of a score of persons, and destroyed the little town of Nixon, was under control at 1:45 o'clock this morning. The flames stopped spreading within 100 yards of buildings in which large quantities of celluloid were stored.

At 2 o'clock searchers abandoned until dawn their search for missing bodies believed to be buried under the smoldering wreckage and most of the out-of-town fire companies stopped for their home stations leaving state troops and a small squad of firemen on guard.

At 2 o'clock this morning 18 bodies had been recovered. The best information was that at least six men were missing with the possibility that eight more also could not be accounted for.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., March 1.—The bodies of 15 persons recovered from the ruins of the TNT explosion and celluloid fire which today destroyed the plant of the Nixon nitrate works, the ammonite company and the town of Nixon, had been identified tonight. Eight of the missing also had been named and 29 of the most serious injured identified.

Reports of survivors that a score of victims of the blast lay buried in the ruins of the wrecked buildings led authorities to believe the death list would amount to 40 when a final check was obtained. The total number of injured, including those under treatment at four hospitals is expected to reach 100.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., March 1.—Forty persons dead and a hundred or more injured, was estimated tonight as the toll of an explosion in the TNT plant of the Nixon Nitration works. Flames showered through 40 buildings of an adjoining celluloid works and demolished the little industrial town of Nixon. An accurate check on the number killed was impossible.

As many of the victims, dead and dying, as could be removed from the blazing ruins were taken to a half dozen hospitals and hastily equipped emergency morgues. Their bodies were so mutilated and burned that only a few were identified. By nightfall 12 bodies were reported recovered and seven had been identified tentatively. Spurred by reports of survivors that a score still lay buried beneath the burning debris, soldiers joined firemen, state police and citizen volunteers in hoisting a fight and beginning an all night attack upon the twisted masses of wreckage.

### Plant Was Leased

The explosion occurred at 11:30 a. m. in the ordnance salvaging plant. The nitration works had been leased to the Ammonite company for the treatment of army TNT to be used as agricultural fertilizer.

The building two stories high, 300 feet long and of hollow tile construction, literally was blown from the earth along with the men believed to have been in it. The shock was felt for 60 miles, shattering windows, lifting roofs and toppling chimneys in many cities. On Staten island buildings rocked as if an earthquake. The single destructive blast crushed 40 buildings of the Nixon company's celluloid novelties manufacturing works which surrounded the TNT plant and razed as if by shellfire the encircling dwellings of 200 or more whose little son-

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