

VETERANS BUREAU GRAFTER RELEASED

Col. Charles R. Forbes Completes Term in Prison At Leavenworth

LEAVENWORTH, Kas., Nov. 25.—(AP)—Colonel Charles R. Forbes, former director of the United States veterans bureau, completed service on a two year term in the federal penitentiary here and was released at midnight. He was met by a friend and left immediately for St. Louis.

Col. Charles R. Forbes, under whose administration of the United States veterans' bureau millions of dollars were alleged to have been wasted through graft and mismanagement, leaves the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas., a confessed pauper.

Declaring he was unable to pay the \$10,000 fine imposed in Chicago when he was sentenced to two years in prison for defrauding the government, Forbes elected to take a pauper's oath and to spend 30 additional days in the penitentiary to satisfy the court's judgment.

Had the former director of the veterans' bureau paid the fine he would have been freed October 27, in the expiration of his sentence. His term automatically was reduced 144 days for good behavior. A parole had been denied him.

Forbes was assigned to work as a draftsman and architect at the prison, but was incapacitated at various times by Bright's disease. He had not fully recovered from a stroke of paralysis when he was committed March 20, 1926.

Once an army officer with a distinguished record in France, a confidant of a president and the chief of a government agency supervising the expenditure of nearly half a billion dollars a year for the relief of veterans of the World War, Forbes was sent to the penitentiary on conviction for accepting money in a conspiracy to defraud the government in the letting of contracts for veterans' hospitals.

Testimony that debauchery, whiskey and extravagance existed under his administration of the veterans' bureau was given at his trial in Chicago before a congressional investigating committee in Washington.

Forbes was appointed director of the bureau by President Harding. The contracts mentioned in the charges were let to a St. Louis firm owned by James W. Black and John W. Thompson. Both Black and Thompson are dead. The latter was convicted with Forbes but died before he was ordered to prison.

Charles E. Cramer, one time general counsel of the veterans' bureau, also was named as a party to the conspiracy. He died more than a year before the trial.

W. H. McMiller, the government's chief witness and self-confessed "go-between" and "fixer," testified concerning corrupt transactions with Forbes, described in both parties given by the bureau director and charged that Forbes had broken up his home. Mrs. McMiller later obtained a divorce in Philadelphia.

The trial of Forbes and Thompson consumed nine weeks. Neither defendant took the stand to deny McMiller's testimony. The principal overt act alleged was the payment of \$5,000 to Forbes by McMiller in a Chicago hotel, June 20, 1922. McMiller testified he was acting for Black.

Judge Evan A. Evans in an opinion when the United States sustained the conviction, summarized the conspiracy as follows:

"The scheme contemplated the selection of sites and building of various hospitals; the submission of bids that would include in each one \$150,000 for certain of the officials and a further division of the profits; the insertion in the bids for a provision calling for early completion of the buildings so that Forbes could let the contract to Black and Thompson through they were not the lowest bidder."

Forbes contended he was a victim of circumstances and of McMiller's personal animosity.

Forbes was a drummer boy in the marine corps at the age of 12. He served two years and then at the age of 22 enlisted in the signal corps. He deserted, returned and was reinstated, was promoted to a sergeant in the Philippines and received an honorable discharge.

After his army experience he engaged in the construction business in the Pacific northwest, going later to Hawaii where he rose to be commissioner of public works. There he first met Harding, who as senator from Ohio was making a tour of the islands.

When the United States entered the world war, Forbes was commissioned a major. He served overseas, won a distinguished service medal and was made a lieutenant-colonel. After the war he went back to the construction business. After Harding's election he appointed Forbes to the veterans' bureau post.

Girl Smokers Age Early, Says College Professor

WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE, Nov. 25.—Smoking is very harmful to girls, declares Dr. N. C. Covington, associate professor of physiology at the state college. It is not only unbecoming, but makes them look old before their time, he contends.

"Nicotine harms girls more than boys because the nervous system

of the former sex is more delicate," Dr. Covington explained. "Smoking affects the nerve endings in our entire system and acts with a paralyzing effect upon the emotions for a short time. Just where the nerve attaches itself to the nerve ganglion receiving the impulse is where the nicotine takes effect."

PRISON REVOLT FAILS; SIX LEADERS ALL HELD

(Continued from Page One)

The mess hall, also for the first time since yesterday morning. They were not, however, served in one group, prison authorities not desiring to risk a new riot. The prisoners were not fed until late afternoon because it was impossible for prison authorities to set up the kitchen forces and cook a sufficient supply sooner. When the revolt broke out all kitchen preparations and other work was halted and it required several hours to get things moving along in anything near an orderly manner.

Rooms Blood Stained
Warden Smith does not expect the prison to be back on its routine schedule until Monday or Tuesday. The library room and cell house where the men took refuge in their revolt and where the subsequent wholesale killings took place, must be cleaned before it can be used. And until this is accomplished all but the farm and garden frusts prisoners must stay in their cells, except to be freed by small groups at meal times.

Tonight all was quiet in the cell houses. Warden Smith reported he had not heard any complaints or expressions of animosity by the prisoners against the leaders of the revolt, which cost everyone their Thanksgiving dinner and in addition brought a night of cold and hardships to more than a thousand others.

Prosecution Looms
While the warden was busy straightening out his house and family, District Attorney Neil McAllister, with Guy P. Johnson and Horace Frye, his assistants, were investigating the activities of the six leaders in the revolt.

The prosecutor and his aides questioned the sextet at length, and while Anthony Brown, the actual leader and the terror gunman, admitted firing the shot that wounded Walter Neil, turnkey, in the leg, all were very "close mouthed" about the entire affair.

All denied knowledge of the cause of the death of Guard Ray Singleton, who was hit over the head, stabbed and finally brutally mutilated and disemboweled.

Conspiracy Charged
McAllister announced the six men, including Roy Estokes, Los Angeles burglar; James Gleason, Alameda robber; Robert E. Burke, Sacramento robber; Albert Stewart, Los Angeles forger; James H. Gregg, Fresno murderer, will be charged with conspiracy to commit murder as the outgrowth of the shooting of Neil and the killing of Singleton. This charge carries the death penalty if a jury convicts.

McAllister hopes to file a formal complaint against the men the first of next week and arrange an immediate preliminary hearing at Folsom. If held for trial before the superior court the prosecutor announced no time will be lost in bringing them to an early trial.

Murder Inside Hinted
While McAllister is going ahead with this work, the bodies of the nine convicts killed in the riot are being examined by Warden Smith and Coroner James Garlick of Sacramento, to determine whether some could have been shot down by the leaders to enforce their riot orders.

Warden Smith announced he has definite information that George Baker, serving life under a sentence imposed in Alameda county, was killed by Brown's revolver, but whether the shooting was accidental or intentional is not known.

Shot in Back
Baker dropped with a bullet in his back just after Turnkey Neil had been shot in the leg by Brown when the guard slammed the door shut in the faces of the rushing mob of prisoners. The first shot wounded Neil, but Brown's second missed and it is believed by Smith that this is the one that caused Baker's death.

Warden Smith in his talks with the convicts has uncovered added information proving there was a wholesale delivery contemplated. Smith announced that it was the intention of the revolvers to take him with them in their dash for liberty, which came to naught as none of them even reached the inner yard.

Brooks Methodist Ladies To Give Play December 2

BROOKS, Nov. 25.—(Special).—A play entitled "Too Much Borrowing" will be given in the Brooks Methodist church on Friday evening, December 2, by the Brooks Ladies Aid society. Admission is free. After the play the ladies will sell their bazaar articles and have a cooked food sale.

H. Goode, principal of the Brooks grade school was one of the speakers at the Marion and Clackamas county federation of clubs which was held in Salem recently.

Mrs. M. L. Jones of Labish Meadows was reported ill the past week.

Corvallis.—Plans made to rebuild Whiteside theater damaged by fire.

TWO WIVES BATTLE FOR ESTATE OF INVENTOR



Two women who claim to have been legal wives of Herbert Meisterknecht, eccentric mechanic and inventor who was murdered recently at his Highlands (N. J.) home, are engaged in a court battle for his fortune. They are Mrs. Susan Meisterknecht, of Yonkers, N. Y., and Mrs. Sophie Meisterknecht, with whom the inventor was living when he was shot down while at work in a shop at his home. Police are hunting a man alleged to have made threats against Meisterknecht's life. Photos show Mrs. Susan Meisterknecht and daughter, Martha; Meisterknecht, and the window of the inventor's workshop through which the death bullets were fired.

Rumania's "Iron Man" Given Funeral Honors

BUCHAREST, Rumania, Nov. 25.—(AP)—Amid every sign of national grief and mourning, the body of Premier Ionel Bratianu was removed today to the Antonaum palace where it will lie in state until his funeral Sunday.

Despite wintry weather, the public flocked reverently to view the remains of the dead patriot, for he is recognized as a great patriot even by newspapers that opposed his general policy. The press of all shades of opinion have voiced their profound grief over the death yesterday of the man who had dominated Rumanian politics for so long.

Political Armistice Called
Tranquility continues everywhere, a sort of political truce being tacitly observed until after the funeral. This means only that no active steps are being taken to reorganize the government but this does not prevent many informal talks and conferences by the various party leaders and organizations on the subject of the future government, which seems to be shaping in the direction of a coalition.

The dead premier's younger brother, Vintila Bratianu, meanwhile is carrying on the necessary duties of administration and at a cabinet council today, called to arrange details of the funeral, he described negotiations that had been opened with leaders of opposition parties for the formation of such a coalition. When he left the council M. Bratianu appeared optimistic. He told press representatives that negotiations for a national cabinet were progressing favorably.

BUCHAREST, Rumania, Nov. 25.—(AP)—Premier Ionel Bratianu, arch enemy of the exiled former Crown Prince Carol, died yesterday.

The dying prime minister was comforted in his last hours by a visit from Carol's mother, the Dowager Queen Marie.

Ionel's younger brother, Vintila, quickly appointed by the regency, rules in his stead with the army in readiness to deal with any demonstrations by sympathizers with Carol. He will be acting premier until after the funeral which has been set for Sunday.

Death Follows Operation
The 63 year old premier died from a complication of ailments, after an operation intended to relieve throat trouble. His death is believed to have been hastened by the recent failure to convict Mihail Manoilescu, of plotting to restore Carol to the throne, as the acquittal was hailed by his opponents as a victory for Carol in his desire to return to Rumania from France.

Bratianu underwent an operation yesterday for an abscess of the throat due to tonsillitis. A silver tube was inserted in his windpipe to aid in breathing. Late in the night however, the premier almost strangled, his temperature went up, and he experienced considerable pain.

Has Delirious Spells
In a last heroic effort to save the "iron man" of Rumania, surgeons had removed a diseased gland in the left side of the lower jaw. When the surgeons started to shave his beard he demurred at first, and then yielded. He was delirious at times but recognized those around him although too feeble to speak to them. Members of the cabinet were at his bedside and Queen Marie, who visited him in the evening, kept in constant telephonic communication with those at the bedside.

The premier, who recently had influenza, suffered a recurrence of nephritis, (inflammation of the kidney) after the operation. Later

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MR. COOLIDGE

Matter of Treaties With Other Nations Affected By Constitution

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—(AP)—Anxious to discuss with world powers proposals for the outlawing of war, President Coolidge feels nevertheless that the constitution of the United States presents a serious difficulty in the way of a binding treaty.

It was recalled today at the White House that as the constitution places with congress the responsibility of declaring war, Mr. Coolidge believes congress cannot therefore, be deprived of this power by any treaty, but he does think a treaty expressing a declaration of policy is possible.

Conversations Wanted
The president indicated a desire to engage in conversation with other nations about such treaties, believing considerable good would come from public concentration upon the subject.

However, he does not see the way clear for a general conference of the nations on the subject of outlawing war. If treaties are to be negotiated, he thinks they should be made separately between governments.

In this connection, Chairman Borah of the senate foreign relations committee today advocated that the principle of the proposed treaty to outlaw war between France and this country be extended to negotiations with all other leading world powers, including Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Germany. There are indications that a general office of these nations on this subject would be desired by some congressional leaders.

Silent About Copper
While there was no direct comment at the White House in the proposal of Senator Capper, republican, Kansas, that America enter into a treaty agreeing to abstain from trading with any nation waging aggressive warfare, it was indicated that the president saw dangers in such a policy.

Definition of the word "aggressor" was seen as the stumbling block and it was felt that the necessity of determining which nation was the aggressor would be apt to lead this country into actual hostilities.

A similar view has been expressed by some members of congress.

ARTS BALL GETS GOOD RECEPTION AT CHICAGO

(Continued from Page One)

That the traffic congestion would not admit of a horseback ride, decreed that Lady Godiva should appear in a gilt picture frame.

Lady Godiva, announced the committee as ticket prices jumped from \$3 to \$15, will wear nothing except long blond tresses and possibly an embarrassed expression. Miss Hightower, in private life Mrs. Melvyn Hesselberg and the mother of a child, has told curious reporters however that she is an artist and that a nude causes her no more embarrassment than an unclothed cow.

SUICIDES BEFORE GLASS

Twenty-Four Year old Theater Director Dies at Own Hand
VIENNA, Nov. 25.—(AP)—Seated before a mirror and with a copy of Oscar Wilde's "Dorian Gray" on his knees, Wolfram Werner, 24, brilliant director of the city theater at Innsbruck, took poison and watched himself die. The book was opened at a page where suicide was being discussed.

Two more cases of infantile paralysis were reported here today, making ten cases in the city. Joan Buddha, 7, and Natalie Henry, 5, were the victims.

World's Greatest Tenor Pleases Salem Audience

By Rozella Bunch
Such a concert as Salem music lovers have seldom had the privilege of hearing was given last night at the Elsinore theater by Edward Johnson, the world's greatest tenor, and his able accompanist, Mr. Blaire Neale. Mr. Johnson took instantaneous possession of the audience that filled the theatre.

Opening the evening's program with an Italian group, this superb singer proceeded to English song, to French, and back once more to Italian.

The audience was delighted with every number of the varied program and wild with enthusiasm clamored without stint for encore after encore. Not less than three encores followed each group arranged for the evening, the artist returned to the stage with his charming smile and gracious manner and winning a lasting place in every listener's heart.

His opening number, an aria, "La Fleur Que Tu M'Avais Jetée" from Carmen was delivered with finesse, impassioned eloquence, with style, and imagination.

Blair Neale, accompanist for Mr. Johnson, also captivated his delighted audience with his two piano groups.

The first two numbers of the opening group were from Chopin and the third "Rhapsody G Minor" Brahms; all played with a masterful touch and complete understanding.

His second group included the "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso" by Mendelssohn which was executed with exquisite technique, as were the numerous encores which he so pleasantly granted.

The audience was particularly delighted with the beautiful singing of the familiar ballad, "Who is Sylvia," (Schubert) by Mr. Johnson.

A group of German melodies followed and the fourth group opened with the "Passerby" sung exquisitely in French.

"A Page's Road Song" was so beautifully sung, ending as it does with exquisitely clear tones, that the audience begged to hear it once again, the request being graciously observed by the consummate master of the art of singing.

"To Athens" also won prolonged applause for it was sung with the personal quality that glorifies all of Mr. Johnson's singing.

The audience was unsatisfied even with two closing encores and finally were appeased with the timely hint, "Go on Home," a negro ballad written by Lily Striehn.

The singing last night of Edward Johnson was truly magnificent. Mr. Johnson scored a complete triumph and Salem music lovers can only hope to hear more of Mr. Johnson's sublime art in the future.

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