

DEBT PROBLEM SOLUTION SEEN

Both Sides Work Toward Settlement

Initial Terms, However, Are
Still to be Arranged at
Conference

(U. P. Leased Wire to The Bend Bulletin)
WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—A high official of the American debt commission today swept away doubt concerning the success of the French debt negotiations, declaring both sides are "working toward a settlement."

While no joint session of the French and American commissions is yet definitely scheduled, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, Secretary Hoover and Senator Smoot met Finance Minister Caillaux and three members of the French mission at noon to discuss the "safeguard clause."

The American commission, it was said, is awaiting word from the French government as to whether they will agree to maximum annual payment of \$130,000,000, \$140,000,000 or \$150,000,000. The amount, it is understood, depends upon arrangement of initial terms and the granting of the safeguard clause which would permit suspension of payments in the case of future French financial difficulties.

The Americans have balked at the French version of the proposed clause and at the noon meeting today a mutually agreeable text was to be sought.

Larson Jewelry Store Will Dispose of Stock

Established here nine years ago, the Larson Jewelry store is going out of business, according to an announcement made this afternoon by Mrs. A. P. Larson, in charge of the store since her husband died here one year ago.

Goods in the store are to be disposed of at an auction, starting Saturday morning. The auction will continue until the entire stock is sold. This stock includes a large supply of goods purchased by Mrs. Larson in June. It was too late to cancel the order when she decided to go out of business. Christmas goods are included in this stock.

Regret that she has been forced through ill health and over work to leave the business field in Bend is expressed by Mrs. Larson, who is grateful for the past patronage of the Bend and Central Oregon public. After disposing of her stock of goods, Mrs. Larson plans to make her home in Bend, having other interests here. Providing her health permits, she also plans to visit in Europe.

Wormwood Scrabble, one of England's famous prisons, was built entirely by convict labor, even to the drawing of the plans. The prison contains nearly 1,500 cells. The total number of bricks used was 25,000,000, and every brick was made by convicts.

Only Woman "Bulldogger"



The only woman "bulldogger" in the country is said to be Mrs. Fox Hastings, Pendleton, Ore. Each year she throws a bull at the rodeo there.

Mrs. George W. Wightman, the former Hazel Hotchkiss of California, donor of the Women's International trophy, has won more titles than any other woman tennis star in America.

During the past year dust explosions in mills and factories in the United States resulted in the loss of 45 lives and the destruction of property to the amount of \$3,000,000.

MAFALDA

By John Goodwin

"I will not insult you," said Bell scathingly, "by discussing the performance of a stage struck child as though it were evidence that could condemn or acquit a prisoner in a court of law. Mafalda Seaton gave her testimony frankly, and every word of it, despite the closest questioning, supported Jill Seaton's innocence. Do you believe that Mafalda, if she had known anything about the crime, would have been fool enough to betray her sister or herself by giving a subsequent dress rehearsal of it to an audience?"

Bell leaned his hands on the table and looked fixedly at the jury.

"You will notice," he said deliberately, "that the prosecution, whether consciously or not, has attempted to fit all the evidence to this very story which was acted by Mafalda Seaton! Whether it is a police theory, or whether the treasury, at a loss for anything better, has allowed its imagination to be captured by it, they have adopted it, filled in its many gaps by any circumstantial evidence available and presented it to you as a case against the accused."

"I claim that there is no evidence whatever that Jill Seaton dealt the wound that killed Brough, or that directly or indirectly she caused his death. Why should she? Do you believe for one moment that a feeling of revenge or a sudden passion of resentment drove this gentle girl to commit such a deed? You have seen her in the witness box, she gave her testimony with the most transparent honesty, making every admission of the pitiful circumstances by which an unhappy fate has forced her to stand her trial on this monstrous charge, and of which I am confident you will acquit her triumphantly."

There was a scattered but growing volley of applause as the famous K. C. resumed his place at the table. The noise was swiftly suppressed.

Bellhouse, before he spoke, waited for dead silence. His acute, thoughtful eyes searched the faces of the jury.

In a clear, incisive voice that held their attention from first to last he recalled the evidence against Rialto Pete and riddled all the weak points in it, with less eloquence than Kerton Bell had shown, but with greater skill. His was the heavier task of the two, a task well nigh hopeless, but he acquitted himself admirably. But he dwelled on the incredible insult to Gaete. In the offer Brough made him at their first meeting, and the fight that resulted from it.

"The trouble was," said Bellhouse grimly, "that Brough took this young man to be as low minded and dishonorable a scoundrel as he was himself. Had Gaete been such a man as that, a man who would trade on a woman's honor, no doubt he would have fallen in with Brough's views. He resented it so deeply that there was a standing fight—a deadly fight, and Gaete confessed that he drew a knife. For that act of folly there is no defense, an act done upon the spur of the moment by a hot tempered man with southern blood in his veins, a man driven to madness by a dreadful and unendurable affront."

"But it must not be assumed that because that thing happened during the quarrel in the tavern, therefore Gaete must have killed or attempted to kill Brough the next time they met. Neither in reason nor in law is such a conclusion for a moment jus-

table. "Now to the encounter on Babbitt's wharf. Here I have a word to say upon the case put forward by my learned friend, the counsel who has so ably defended Jill Seaton."

"In his defense, he has not by one word or syllable, or one item of evidence, attempted to clear Jill Seaton of the charge brought against her, by throwing the onus of guilt upon Gaete. Had such a line of defense been capable of any proof whatever, it would have been his duty to take it without hesitation."

"He did not do so, because no such proof and no such argument exists. His defense of Jill Seaton was absolutely fair, clear and straightforward, a masterly presentation of the facts, and I am in entire agreement with it. More than this, I say that every argument and every fact urged in support of Jill Seaton's innocence applies equally to Pietro Gaete."

"Members of the jury," said Bellhouse slowly and emphatically, "I put it to you that neither the police nor the prosecution have got to the bottom of his affair. I submit that the hand which killed Brough was not the hand of Gaete, neither was it he who robbed Brough, either dead or living, of the money which he carried on his person. It is not for me to suggest to you the alternative who actually committed that deed. I am not a policeman. But the evidence that the prosecution has advanced against Gaete is evidence which ought to convict no man."

"You have seen Gaete in the witness box. I will take it upon me to say that the impression he made was a favorable one. I ask you to believe that he spoke the truth. He has given his evidence frankly; he attempted to keep back nothing that might prejudice him. One thing alone the prosecution was able to bring to bear against him heavily—the stolen 200 pounds that were changed at the bank."

"That charge was supported by one single witness, an elderly man with weak sight, who made a rash and uncorroborated statement. Why, gentlemen, such evidence should not convict a dog!"

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"You heard Gaete's story. If he made freely admissions that might seem to tell against him, do not those very admissions convince you that he was speaking the truth? How easy for him, if he choose, to give an account of that meeting on the wharf that would exonerate him! Who could contradict it? Would not a guilty man have refused all admissions and prepared a story about his encounter with Brough that would have thrown a very different light on it? Gentlemen, it is not, the innocent, it is only the guilty who have need to prevaricate and to lie. (To be continued)"

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