

HOOVER REFUSES TRANSFER

SOLONS FAIL TO WEAKEN PIERCE HO

Developments of Initial Week Are But Display of Noise; Governor in Best Position.

(By Harry N. Crain.)
Granting the truth of the assertion that Governor Pierce has little to gloat over, and even less to save his pre-cession apprehensions, it still cannot be said that his active adversaries in the legislative houses and the lobby can claim much greater satisfaction out of the developments of the first week of the third-third assembly.

Checking point against point, and stab against stab the first week of the session has amounted to little more than a fencing party with honors about evenly divided. Perhaps, even, a slight advantage may be accorded to the governor or, while his lining was short, confined to the hour and fifteen minutes he took him to deliver his message Monday afternoon, he planted more dynamite than the members of the two houses have been able to strew about during the entire four days they were in session.

Pierce Also Scores.

Without being in the least aggressive Governor Pierce laid a half score of ultimatums on the doorstep of the two houses that have not got them thinking. He told them quite plainly just what he thought of the very things they were thinking about, and now they are wondering whether they

COAST PORTS MEET TO ASK FEDERAL HELP

Portland, Jan. 15.—Representatives of fifteen port districts in Oregon met here today at the call of Governor Pierce, together with representatives of Washington and California, to draft resolutions asking congress to spend \$20,000,000 in part development on the Pacific coast.

George Rhodes of San Francisco and W. H. Peters of Grays Harbor were appointed by their governors.

Governor Pierce's own committee consists of L. N. Day of Portland, L. E. Bean of Eugene and Russell Hubbard of the Umpqua river district. Bean is presiding officer.

In addition to asking the legislature of coast states to memorialize congress for \$20,000,000 to improve coast harbors to a depth of 30 feet, the conference delegates sought to start a movement for a conservation policy which would provide for cutting of the western forests at once under a system of adequate reforestation instead of holding ripe timber in reserve until it deteriorates to a complete loss.

Another movement discussed was to demand that the federal government be required to pay taxes upon timber in the national forests on the same basis as taxes are required on privately owned timber, so as to relieve the burden of taxation in counties in which the bulk of the taxable property is locked up in government reserves.

Governor Pierce said that harbors could be made by building jetties at Nehalem, Tillamook, Yaquina, Siuslaw and Umpqua.

W. H. Peters of Grays Harbor, Washington, representing Washington, declared that money spent in improving Grays Harbor would eliminate loss of \$200,000 annually now caused by vessels being bound. In the time that it takes to get out the 45 million feet of timber tributary to Grays Harbor the saving in having adequate harbor facilities would amount to \$22,000,000, a sum sufficient to improve all the smaller harbors of the coast, he said.

George H. Rhodes, representing the governor of California, pledged his services in behalf of the movement and predicted that the legislature of California would memorialize congress in line with the recommendation of the conference.

OREGON LEADS ALL STATES IN PUBLIC DEBT

Increase in Indebtedness And Per Capita Debt Greatest in Union According to Census.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The public debt of the United States including that of the federal government and all of its subdivisions multiplied nearly seven times between 1912 and 1922, it was shown today in census bureau figures. At the end of December, 1922, the total was \$26,845,626,000, while at the same period in 1912, it was but \$4,850,469,000.

While the greatest increase appeared in the federal debt because of the war, the debt increase of states was nearly three-fold and that of municipalities and other subdivisions doubled.

The federal government in 1912 owed \$1,038,564,000, while in 1922 it owed \$22,155,886,000. The total of state indebtedness in 1912 was \$345,942,000 while in 1922, it was \$935,544,000. Other civil divisions owed \$3,475,954,000 in 1912, and \$7,754,196,000 in 1922.

All the figures represented net debt, the bureau explained, sinking fund and cash assets in possession of the indebted units of government having been subtracted from the total of their obligations outstanding.

The debt total in 1922 made the per capita obligation of each citizen of the United States, adult or child, \$283.70. In 1912 the indebtedness per capita was \$49.87. Apportioning out the items of per capita indebtedness, the report said that in 1922 the federal government obligations were responsible for \$203.78 of the total, the debt of states for \$8.64 and the debt of the municipal subdivisions to \$71.22.

The greatest proportionate debt increase was in the state accounts of Oregon, where the in-

POSTAL SALARY BILL UP THURSDAY

Washington, Jan. 15.—The senate voted today to give the administration measure proposing increases in postal salaries and rates the right of way next Thursday.

Keeping a promise made when the senate sustained President Coolidge's veto of the postal increase bill, Senator Moses, republican, Nev Hampshire, asked that a date be set for consideration of the double barreled measure and the proposal was supported by administration leaders as well as by most democrats.

The vote was 55 to 10, or 16 more than the two-thirds required under the senate rule. If the bill is not disposed of on the day it is taken up, however, it must take its place on the calendar.

Talk of Referring Service Commission To Popular Vote

Reluctant to have the legislature assume responsibility for changing the system under which the public service commission functions by putting it under a fee system of their own accord, regular confident that if they pass the regular appropriation for that department it will be vetoed by the governor, members of both houses who are remaining here over the week-end recess are speculating as to the prospect of a compromise that will allow the commission to function until the people have been given an opportunity of expressing their will as to the future of this department.

Simply cutting off the appropriation for the commission and leaving it without means of carrying out the duties prescribed by law does not appeal to most of the legislators, nor are they entirely agreed as to the desirability of a

Triple Hanging Averages Murder Of Californian

San Quentin, Cal., Jan. 16.—Jack Ferdinand and John Sears, Los Angeles murderers, were hanged at the state prison here today.

The two traps of the gallows were sprung simultaneously. Ferdinand was pronounced dead in 13 minutes, but it took a minute longer for Sears to die.

There were approximately 150 witnesses. Four of the spectators were made ill by the scene and two of them collapsed.

The men went to the double trap with a steady tread and seemed to ignore everything about them. Previously Sears had refused a stimulant, saying that he wanted to go to his death "with a clear head." Ferdinand, however, accepted the stimulant.

Folsom, Cal., Jan. 16.—John Goregac, one of three men to be executed in California prison today for the murder of Charles A. Chapman in Los Angeles last year died on the gallows at the state prison here this morning. He went to his fate bravely. Jack Ferdinand and John Sears, convicted with Goregac were to be hanged at San Quentin state prison at approximately the same hour, 10 o'clock.

The crime for which Jack Ferdinand, John Sears and John "Smoky" Goregac were hanged today was the shooting to death of Charles Chapman, an insurance broker in Los Angeles on the night of November 27, 1923. Ferdinand and Sears were hanged at San Quentin and Goregac at Folsom prison. Ferdinand fired the shot that killed Chapman, the two other men having been convicted as accomplices.

The murder of Chapman came as the climax to a long series of robberies in the southern city. By a careful check of automobile rental agencies it was established that Jack Ferdinand, previously suspected as the perpetrator of the robberies, had obtained a car the night before. Officers arrested Ferdinand as he drove into the agency. The next day Sears and Goregac were arrested.

The suspects were tried together and found guilty of first degree murder on January 28, 1924.

BISHOP'S STONE PILLOW FOUND AT WILLAMETTE

A coastwise search for a marble slab which was used for a pillow by a Methodist bishop in early pioneer days, came to a successful conclusion at Willamette university this morning. The slab has been in the university museum for year, it is said by school authorities.

The bishop, whose name was William Taylor, used the slab not for any particularly religious reason, it is said, but because he had contracted a deadly fever while in Africa. The fever made his head feel hot, and it helped some to lie with the slab for a pillow.

W. S. Matthew, an author living at Berkeley, Cal., desired to write a book on the life of the famous bishop. He heard about the slab and set out in search of it, describing to use a photograph of it in his book. Among others asked was M. C. Wire, a retired pastor who is now living at Newberg, Or. Mr. Wire wrote a letter of inquiry to Willamette authorities, with the result that the photograph was taken this afternoon and will be forwarded to Berkeley next week.

The slab is of light colored marble, is approximately an inch thick, with a flat surface measuring about 6 by 10 inches.

Potash Bill Passes.

Washington, Jan. 16.—A bill designed to harmonize the methods of disposing of potash deposits on government land with the provisions of the oil and mineral leasing act of 1920, known as the general leasing act, was passed today by the house and sent to the senate.

The refunding bill provides that the board of directors of any irrigation district may issue negotiable coupon bonds, to be designated refunding bonds, for the purpose of refunding any or all of the bonded indebtedness of the district, whether due or not due, "or which has or may hereafter become payable at the option of the district or by consent of the bond holders, or by any lawful means, whether such bonded indebtedness be now existing or may hereafter be created."

\$250,000 GEMS OF KATZ SEIZED

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 15.—The district attorney's investigators today seized a collection of uncut rubies and diamonds valued at \$250,000 which were said to have been placed in a safety deposit vault under an assumed name prior to his death by Harry I. Katz, diamond broker, who was shot November 19 last.

The seizure of the gems reopens the investigation of the mysterious shooting of Katz as he stood in the doorway of his apartment, the district attorney announced.

More than two score persons have been questioned concerning the activities of Katz before his death. This led to the discovery of the vault laden with jewels.

The district attorney said that the death was formerly accredited to a revenge motive, now, however, he believes that some one who knew of the Katz jewel wealth killed the diamond broker, intending robbery.

RIVAL CLAIMS FOR SANTIAM WATER AIRED

Irrigation Controversy Between Reclamation Corporations and Farmers Threshed Out.

The Santiam irrigation controversy was threshed out at a hearing before State Engineer Rhea Luper yesterday and last night, and the engineer, who has the task of making a decision as to whether a permit to appropriate water shall be granted Henry G. Porter and others against the protest of two reclamation corporations, has taken the case under advisement. The hearing was not concluded until about 10 o'clock last night, and in the neighborhood of 20 witnesses were called.

Porter and about 15 others recently filed application for authority to appropriate waters of the river, and land on which they would use the water would include some of that in the project of the Willamette Valley Irrigated Land company and the Santiam Reclamation company. The claims of the two concerns involve rights acquired by W. L. Benham in 1912. He entered into a contract with the Willamette Valley Irrigated Land company, and this contract provided that if at the end of seven years they had not completed development of their rights, such as were not developed should revert to him. At the end of that time he enforced this provision of the contract and the courts returned such rights to him. The affair continued in litigation of various kinds until 1924.

BILL HART'S WIFE TELLS WITH TEARS OF FAMILY ROWS

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 16.—Widow Westover Hart took the witness stand in court here today in her suit to break the separation agreement with her husband, William S. (Bill) Hart, film star, and told for the first time the inside story of their domestic troubles.

Between fits of crying, while her husband looked on stoically and her baby boy frolicked in his nurse's lap nearby, the former screen actress told of Hart's frequent denials that he met a girl from him and her repeated refusals on her baby's account.

They were married, she said, in December, 1921, and all went well until May Day, 1922, when, following a disagreement between her and Hart's sister, Mary, he told her: "If that's the kind of stuff you are going to pull I don't want you in the house."

Her husband, she testified, had had \$400,000 and that he would create a trust fund of \$250,000 to provide an income for herself and another \$100,000 to take care of the expected child.

Mrs. Hart retorted that she did not believe in divorce, she said, and that she would not handicap her child by starting him in life with divorced parents.

Then, she testified, Bill dramatically declared: "I owe nothing to posterity."

Several times, she continued, her husband urged her to go to Reno and obtain a divorce, but she refused, and their relations became so strained that at times he denied her their home. On such occasions, she said, she went to her mother's.

Mrs. Hart is attempting to break that provision of the trust fund settlement which bars her from returning to the scene.

EXPLOSION KILLS SIX 20 KIDDIES FATHERLESS

Princeton, Ky., Jan. 15.—Twenty children were made fatherless yesterday when an explosion in the Diamond Coal company's mine No. 1 killed six men, who composed the powder gang.

Eighty-five miners left the mine an hour before the explosion.

Senate to Go On Record on Gun Elevation

Washington, Jan. 16.—The senate would be placed on record as to whether guns on American battleships are to be elevated to give an equal range of fire with those of the British navy, under an amendment offered today to the naval appropriation bill by Senator McKellar, democrat, Tennessee.

LOWELL FAVORS DOLLAR A YEAR LAW ENFORCERS

Portland, Or., Jan. 16.—"The legislature will find prompt response among the people if it enacts a code creating a law enforcement board, non-partisan in character and consisting of three persons of the type of the 'dollar-a-year' man who served the government during the war," Judge Stephen A. Lowell of Pendleton declared before the annual convention of the county judges and commissioners at the court house.

Such a board, the speaker said, should be clothed with authority to advise with the sheriffs of the various counties as to enforcement problems, to investigate those officers who are neglectful of duty, and when the results of such investigation warrants, to set in motion the legal machinery to remove the delinquent officer. Likewise the board ought to have power extending to the incorporated cities; to the end that it might advise and assist the peace officers with attendant authority of investigation, he said.

All fines arising from criminal prosecutions, the speaker said, should be converted into the treasury of the board to be used by it under proper accounting to the auditor of the state, the balance at the end of the year to be returned to the counties in proportion to the amounts given.

Oregon's tax for strictly state purposes is lower than that of other western states, and lower than that in most states in the union, despite the claims of some office seekers who mislead the public to further their own political ambitions, T. B. Kay, state treasurer, declared in his address before the convention.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM GAS BY MOVIE CROWD

Croton, Neb., Jan. 16.—Thirty children and five adults narrowly escaped death from the effects of carbon monoxide gas in the Star theater here last evening when the exhaust pipe leading from the gasoline engine which was being used to light the theater, became clogged. The performance terminated just in time to save the audience.

Parker Pleads Guilty Sentenced to a Year Paroled from Bench

William Parker, indicted under the name of William Harper for assault with a dangerous weapon on Harry Christianson, hotel proprietor at "Stroft", appeared in circuit court today, changed his plea from not guilty to guilty, and was sentenced by Judge Kelly to one year in the county jail and parole from the bench. One condition in "parola" was that he is not to return to Detroit, or to that section of the state. To this Parker readily agreed.

District Attorney Carson presented no opposition to the parole. In fact he stated that the story Parker told when asking for parole was substantially correct, and that there was an appearance on the part of witnesses for the state that they had no wish to prosecute the man.

Parker, or Harper, was arrested following a fighting scrape in the Detroit hotel in which Parker used a knife on "cut up" Christianson and two men named Brown and Gearin.

Parker, in telling his story to the court today declared that he went to eat supper at the hotel where he regularly boarded. He said after supper he started out into the lobby where two men were playing on string instruments. He stopped for a minute

MATRICIDE AS TO FATE INDIFFERENT

Pleasure Loving Girl Remains "Full of Pep" In Jail—Shows No Sign of Repentance or Sorrow.

San Francisco, Jan. 16.—Pleasure loving Dorothy Ellingson, 16 year old confessed slayer of her mother, Mrs. Anna Ellingson, maintained today the emotionless, yet inscrutable mask of indifference that has characterized her attitude since her arrest early yesterday morning. The girl was charged with 12 hours of pitiless questioning today the girl was still "the life of the party" just as she had been a short time after the murder when she danced at the apartment of a friend while her mother lay in their home shot dead during a flare of anger.

In a written statement, Dorothy has admitted shooting her mother last Tuesday night after the latter had upbraided her for continued incursions of the city's night life and her apparent desire for "jazz parties" to the prejudice of everything else.

Both father and brother confronted the girl in the city prison, the former sorrowful and pleading, the latter stern and unyielding. The brother, stricken by the enormity of the crime, repudiated the advances of his sister when she sought to embrace him in the cell, with the cry "don't touch me! You killed our mother!" the young man swept her from him.

The police today had rounded

MEXICANS FREE AMERICAN CREW

Washington, Jan. 16.—Dr. W. F. Lorenz, chairman of the Wisconsin state board of control, the captain and members of the crew of the wrecked schooner Ruth of Peninsula, Fla., have been released from jail by Mexican authorities at Progreso, Yucatan.

Word of the release which was reported to have taken place yesterday was received at the state department from the American vice-consul at Progreso.

Previous advices received by the department said the men were arrested on order of the port captain at Progreso charged with filibustering.

Investigations showed the charges unfounded.

TANTRUM BRINGS DIVORCE SUIT

J. H. Donaldson declares in a divorce complaint filed yesterday in circuit court that Virginia Donaldson, his wife, went into a tantrum on January 13, which lasted all that night and into the next day and during the tantrum among other things told him that she wanted a real man for a husband and that some day she intended to get one. Then, he declares, she hurled books at him, evidently as an intellectual treat, that she yelled and screamed, pulled things up around the house, and incidentally by her tantrum, he says, she threw their two year old baby into a wild fit.

The next day, Donaldson declares, while he was at work, she took the child and left, threatening to take the infant into Washington.

He wants temporary as well as permanent care of the child, according to the complaint, and also a divorce.

An attorney for one of the parties stated today that the couple had gotten together last night, settled up their grievances and all will be well. The complaint still stood unaltered today, however.

CONFERENCE ON ARMS UNCALLED

Washington, Jan. 16.—Conditions in Europe still preclude any move by the United States toward another arms conference in the opinion of President Coolidge.

The Washington government consequently is making no further move toward the calling of such a conference.

The White House today authorized a flat denial of published stories that an arms conference would be called early in the spring.

Mr. Coolidge still feels that the United States should await the outcome of the move by the league of nations to bring about limitation of armaments and should do nothing in the matter until the success or failure of that move is developed.

AGRICULTURE PORTFOLIO PASSED UP

Hoover Offered Farm Job By Coolidge But Prefers To Remain Head of Commerce Department.

Washington, Jan. 16.—President Coolidge has tendered the post of secretary of agriculture to Secretary Hoover, but Mr. Hoover replied that he decided to remain at the commerce department. With the president's approval Mr. Hoover today issued this statement:

"In view of the press reports, it seems to me desirable to state that the president did me the honor to suggest that I consider transfer to the post of secretary of agriculture.

"He expressed his belief that the present need of that department was an administration in which emphasis should be given to the solution of the farmers' marketing problem.

"To this I fully agree. Nevertheless, I feel that in the future as in the past the greatest contribution that I could make to the improvement of the farmers' position lay in the advancement of measures that make for the reduction of costs in our whole distribution system and in helping to bring about improvement and stability in the general industrial and commercial situation both at home and abroad. The farmers' problem is a problem of the nation as a whole.

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