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HARDING DELIVERS HIS FIRST MESSAGE

Executive Insists on Full Protection of All Rights of United States.

Washington.—President Harding in his first address to congress announced that he would approve a "declaratory resolution," by congress, "with qualifications essential to protect all our rights," would end the "technical state of war against the central powers of Europe."

The president added, however, "that it would be idle to declare for separate treaties of peace with the central powers on the assumption alone that these would be adequate, because the situation is so involved that our peace engagements cannot ignore the old world relationships and the settlements already effected, nor is it desirable to do so in preserving our own rights and contracting our future relationships."

Unreservedly Against League.

Although declaring unreservedly against "the existing League of Nations," the president said:

"The wiser course would seem to be the acceptance of the confirmation of our rights and interests as already provided and to engage under the existing treaty, assuming, of course, that this can be satisfactorily achieved by such explicit reservations and modifications as will secure our absolute freedom from inadvisable commitments and safeguard all our essential interests."

An association of nations, the president said, could not be founded until the world was at peace.

Repeal of Excess Profits Tax.

Discussing readjustment of taxation, President Harding said that the country did not expect and would not approve of a shifting of tax burdens, but was more interested in "wiping out the necessity for imposing them." The government, he said, was committed to the repeal of the excess profits tax and to abolish the "inequities and unjustifiable exasperations" in the present tax system.

Discussing tariff revision, the president reaffirmed his belief in the protection of American industry.

"It is our purpose," said he, "to prosper America first. The privileges of the American market to the foreign producer are offered too cheaply today, and the effect of much of our own productivity is the destruction of our self-reliance which is the foundation of the independence and good fortune of our peoples. Imports should pay their fair share of our cost of government."

Agriculture, the president said, was menaced with prices at pre-war normals and being further endangered by high cost of transportation from farm to market through the influx of foreign farm products.

Emergency Tariff Urged.

While he urged emergency tariff revision immediately, he spoke of permanent revision later.

Discussing the railroad question, President Harding said there would be "an avowed foundation on which to rebuild" if it could be understood that "congress was no sanction for government ownership," and "does not levy taxes upon the people to cover deficits in a service which should be self-sustaining." Railway rates and costs of operation, he said, must be reduced because freight rates had mounted until "commerce is halted and production discouraged."

Development of good roads and inland waterways, the president said, were collateral subjects with the transportation question, and besides indorsing federal aid to highways, he urged congress to formulate a consistent program.

PARTY LINES ATTACKED

Washington Non-Partisans Aim Referendum at New Laws.

Olympia, Wash.—Executive committee members of the non-partisan league filed two referendums against election-law amendments which the last legislature aimed at their tactics of electing the candidates on the republican ticket.

Chapter 176 is opposed because it requires a challenged voter to make oath of party affiliation and make affidavit of at least two years' previous affiliation with the same party. Chapter 177 requires a voter to take oath that he will support his named party in the primaries.

O. A. C. BOY SEES GRIM TRAGEDY

Starving Chinese Clamor For Garbage Thrown From Diner.

Conditions too appalling for description and misery too awful to look upon were witnessed only six weeks ago in the famine districts of North China by W. A. Sellwood, Y. M. C. A. secretary and graduate of O. A. C., who has just returned from 18 months' service in Russia and China, and who travelled 10 days, covering 800 miles, through the famine-stricken section from Peking near the northern boundary, to Nanking, near the Chinese coast.

"That ten-day journey was one long horror," said Sellwood. "I am haunted yet by the memory of the drawn, despairing faces and the pitiable cries for food of the starving, half-naked men, women and children who crowded under the train windows, lifting up their arms in desperate supplication to us, every time the train slowed up or stopped. There are 45,000,000 Chinese confronted with starvation in the famine district, and the daily death rate is 15,000 a day. Typhus and pestilence are adding their toll to that of wholesale starvation, and conditions are simply beyond any adequate description."

"In Russia I have seen corpses stacked up like cordwood, and many other things very shocking to people who live comfortable, well-ordered lives here in the United States, but these were nothing to the tragic things that were visible on every hand all along the 800-mile journey through the famine districts of north China. The corpses were not stacked up in orderly fashion as in Russia. The survivors are too weak and wasted to undertake any such task, and those who perish are left to lie where they fall, or are rolled into streams nearby. Almost at any time we could look out and see bodies floating in the streams or lying about on the ground. It is a common thing for famine victims to succumb while digging for roots to eat, and the mute evidence of this last futile effort to secure some morsel that will sustain life a little longer, is visible on every hand; the dead bodies of men, women and children may be seen lying beside the hole in the ground that has been dug with sticks, or with the wasted claw-like hands of the starving. Long ago all dogs, cats and even rats have disappeared in this land of horrors, except for a few wild, half-crazed dogs that are dreaded by the emaciated human creatures because they fight so tenaciously for food and sometimes attack the children in their desperate hunger. Everything eatable has been eaten except leaves, roots and grass, and these are rapidly being exhausted. Where there are trees the bark from these is also used, and most of the trees are dying as a result. This vegetation is ground up into a sort of meal, and made into a kind of cake by mixing with water. It is baked when fuel can be obtained. Millions of Chinese are living on this diet alone."

"One of the most pitiable incidents of the journey was the wild clamor all along the railroad at points where the garbage from the dining car was dumped daily. Knowing approximately where to expect this garbage to be dumped, thousands of gaunt, starving creatures gather for hours in advance and await the passing of the train. The railroad company, to prevent the frantic people from throwing themselves under the wheels in the struggle for this garbage, have built fences two or three feet from the train, and the rails are emptied outside this fence. Policemen stand guard along the fence to hold back the older and the better-nourished people while the children and the weaker adults are let through to get the first pickings."

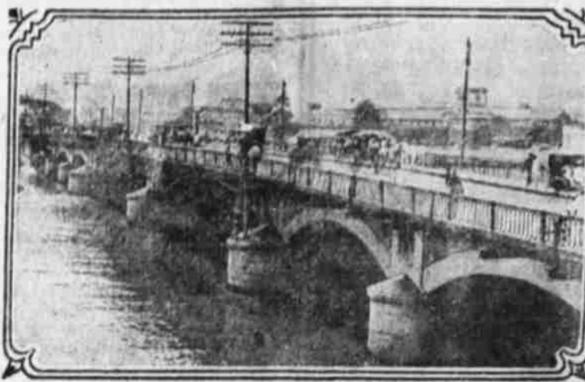
Sellwood also tells of a desperate Chinese mother who tried to sell him her little three-year-old daughter for 50 cents. Recognizing the face of an American at the window of the train, this woman crowded to the front, holding up the child in her arms, and imploring him to buy it. It was explained to Sellwood that all Chinese mothers in the famine section are eager to sell their children, particularly to Americans, as this means that the child will be fed and have a chance to live, also that the returns from the sale will also mean a little food for the children that are left and for themselves.

Postal Employees to Carry Guns.

Washington.—Six shooters are being added to the equipment of postal employees and a standing price of \$5000 has been put on the heads of mail robbers, under Postmaster General Hays' "wild and woolly" West program for bringing to an end the wave of robberies affecting the postal service.

Cash for chickens. J. R. Reynolds.

A Passing Landmark of Old Manila



This is a photograph of the famous old Bridge of Spain, Manila. It is now a departed landmark of the Philippines, for its place has been taken by one of the finest bridges in the entire Orient, the new Jones bridge.

The Jones Bridge is named in honor of the late Congressman W. A. Jones of Virginia, author of the Jones law of 1916 which promised the Filipinos independence upon the establishment of a stable government.

The old Bridge of Spain is called "the mother of Manila's bridges." The original bridge was built of pontoons sometime between the years 1590 and 1600, being known as the Bridge of Boats. The stone bridge shown above was built about 1630. It was twice damaged by earthquakes, and was once partly demolished by a flood.

FROM "OVER THE HILL"

Wednesday, April 20, the citizens of Athena and all others interested, will gather at the cemetery for the purpose of a general cleanup of the grounds and premises.

Dr. and Mrs. F. D. Watts are visiting in Spokane.

Fred Gross left Wednesday for a visit to Midvale, Idaho, where he holds land interests.

The Athena-Weston Post American Legion announce a dance for Saturday night, April 23rd.

Miss Belle Pambrun spent the week end at her home south of Athena, from Whitman, where she is attending school.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Robie of Gibbon, died Tuesday and was buried in the Athena cemetery yesterday.

J. J. Gross came up from Brownsville this week, and is attending to various matters of business. With Mrs. Jennie Gross, he motored to Walla Walla and back Monday.

E. A. Bennett is back from Pasco and has decided to remain permanently in Athena and do painting and decorating. The position he was to accept in Pasco did not materialize.

Mr. and Mrs. Omar Stephens and son Dale and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Rogers and daughter Genevieve went to Walla Walla last evening to hear the Godowsky concert, given in that city.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Hansell of Lewiston, Idaho, died yesterday, at the age of two months. The remains will be brought here for burial, which takes place tomorrow.

Deputy Assessor W. T. McLeod went down to Pendleton Tuesday to check up his work with the county assessor. Mr. McLeod still has some territory to cover, before finishing his season's work.

Aside from making splendid grades in his school work, Dudley Rogers has found time to plant a garden. He has by permission, pre-empted a surplus portion of Billie Pinkerton's Jefferson street lot.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Haworth will leave Athena today by automobile for their ranch near Spokane, where Mr. Haworth will do his spring plowing. They expect to return to Athena this fall.

Everett Zerba went to Walla Walla last week end, where he submitted to an operation for a painful affection of the ear and head, which had afflicted him for some time.

Mrs. Henry A. Barrett was called to Portland Tuesday by a message stating that her sister, Miss Jessica McEwen was obliged to submit to a surgical operation for acute appendicitis. The patient underwent the ordeal successfully, so it is reported.

Second honors in the slogan contest for Pendleton, recently closed, were won by Mrs. E. C. Prestbye of this city, with the suggestion of the motto: "We Together Will." First honors were taken by Clem McCoy of Pendleton, who was awarded the \$25 for the slogan, "Progress With Pendleton."

Manager Nick Williams will bring his Moose Jaw league team to Athena Sunday afternoon for a game with the local nine. The Moose Jaw team is having its spring training workout at Pendleton and is playing at

other towns in the county as fast as games can be secured. The game here Sunday will be called at 3:30, owing to the Moose Jawites having a set-to with Milton-Freewater earlier in the day. The game will give Athena fans an opportunity to size up the home players in action against a fast team.

J. M. Ferguson, a pioneer of this county and father of W. S. Ferguson, of this city, died at his home in Pendleton Saturday afternoon at the age of 78 years. Death was the result of injuries received two years ago in an automobile accident. The funeral, which was held Monday, was largely attended, many old residents of the county being present.

At the annual meeting of the Commercial club, Tuesday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, W. S. Ferguson; vice-president, W. P. Littlejohn; secretary, Harold Haynie; board of managers were retained and the new committeemen will probably be announced by the president at the next meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Richards were in Walla Walla Saturday, and while there took occasion to visit several Athena people who were hospital patients, among them Postmaster C. O. Henry, Miss Carrie Sharp and Mrs. E. H. Caton. Miss Sharp has since been brought home. Mrs. Caton is getting along as well as could be expected.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pinkerton were over Tuesday from their farm near State Line, and visited at the Will treasurer, F. S. Le Grow. The old Pinkerton home in Athena. They brought their two little grand children, children of their late daughter, Mrs. Pearl Johnson, whom they will raise as their own. The son-in-law, Arthur Johnson, resides in Walla Walla.

Two hens in Sam Hutt's poultry yard occupied the same nest. One is a diminutive bantam, and nestled under the larger hen's wing. When the latter left the nest the bantam followed her. The two are now inseparable. The larger hen regards the bantam, and the latter seemingly regards itself, as a newly-hatched chicken.

Edward Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Foster of Union, former residents of Athena, where the young man was educated in the public school died Monday afternoon at his home in La Grande of tuberculosis. Besides his father and mother, the deceased leaves a wife and one child. He was in the employ of the railroad company for number of years, and was a member of Dolph Lodge A. F. & A. M., of this city. The lodge was represented at the funeral, which was held yesterday at La Grande, by N. A. Miller and Read Hill.

With a down town window beautifully decorated with the stars and stripes and trophies of the World War, and for the center piece the splendid phonograph put up for disposal on the share-selling plan by Athena-Weston American Legion Post, the driving for selling shares is now in full swing.

Postmaster C. O. Henry was taken critically ill Saturday as the result of an obstruction of the bowels, and

CORN COBS ARE DIET OF HUNGRY CHINESE

Oregon Nurse Writes That Misery Stalks Through North China.

That a steady diet of ground-up corn cobs and sweet potato vines is not conducive to an ideal physical condition is attested by Miss Marie Rustin, graduate nurse, well known in Oregon, who is now in charge of the Taylor Memorial hospital, under the management of the American Presbyterian mission at Paotingfu, China.

In a letter written by Miss Rustin less than eight weeks ago to the members of the Sangrael Christian Endeavor society of the First Presbyterian church in Portland, Miss Rustin tells of the appalling conditions throughout North China, where 45,000,000 men, women and children are confronted with starvation and where 15,000 are dying daily. Miss Rustin has been at Paotingfu for about three years and for many months past, like all other mission attaches and relief workers in China, has been concentrating all efforts on the task of lessening the suffering of the famine victims.

While Paotingfu is on the outskirts of the great drought-ridden famine district, just south of Peking, Miss Rustin writes that even there all the missions and relief stations are literally swamped with the supplications of many thousands men, women and children who are half-clad in thin rags, weak from undernourishment and struggling desperately to keep alive on roots, bark or anything that offers sustenance. "The situation in the heart of the famine section, she says, is simply beyond the imagination."

"We are doing all we can," writes Miss Rustin, "here in our hospital trying to build up the weakened bodies of famine sufferers who come to us in frightful condition. We are getting patients who have been trying to live on ground-up corn cobs and sweet potato vines. We have all been asked to give until it hurts, and now that it has grown so cold we do not dare to think of freezing, starving thousands right at our door. In going to a soup kitchen where we feed 670 people twice a day, I was surrounded so by the poor creatures that I thought they would crush the life out of me before I could get in and coming out it was the same way. They are so hungry and cold they are desperate. Personally I have gone without \$3 worth of milk a month that I used to use, do not eat butter at all and have only eaten bread once a day for the last three months, in order to give to the famine poor. Through this personal sacrifice I have the joy of knowing that three girls who might have been sold have been saved from a life of shame and misery and that one man will be kept alive for five months."

"A friend sent me a check the other day and I was able to save a girl from being sold and she will be put in school. Things are being started to help these poor souls, but there is a long, hard pull until the harvest time. You can all help by giving to the China famine fund and share in the great opportunities of saving life and opening the way for Christianity, for the Chinese people will surely be interested in what we have to tell them of the gospel if we are good to them now in their great trouble."

was removed to Walla Walla for treatment, after Dr. Keylor had been called in consultation with Dr. Sharp.

After the arrival of the patient at the hospital, it was found that an operation was unnecessary, much to the delight of family and friends.

Mr. Henry is now progressing toward recovery so it is reported, and will soon be able to return to his home in this city. Cleve Myers and J. E. Jones, rural mail carrier, have been assisting Mrs. Henry with the postoffice duties.

The special city election for which due notice has been given by the City Council, will be held next Tuesday between the hours of 8 a. m. and 8 p. m.

The purpose of the election is to vote on an amendment to the city charter, which provides for street and sewer improvements and the procedure in the sale of bonds therefor, conforming to the requirements exacted by bonding companies from all cities and towns that bond for such improvements.

Also the voters will ballot on a \$10,000 bond issue for funding purposes. This bond issue is to take up and liquidate the city's general outstanding indebtedness, including improvements to the water works system and the new lighting plant.

Laundry work done at home. Mrs. R. R. Riley, S. Broad street.

67TH CONGRESS IN FIRST SESSION

Is First Under Complete Republican Control to Meet in a Decade.

Washington.—The sixty-seventh congress assembled promptly at noon Monday at the call of President Harding for its first session, expected to continue probably until fall.

This congress is the first controlled by the Republicans to meet under a Republican administration in a decade. The senate previously had been organized at its special session, which began last March 4, but the house proceeded to its organization by re-electing Frederick H. Gillett of Massachusetts, over Claude Kitchin of North Carolina, Democrat, by the overwhelming Republican majority.

Frank W. Mondell of Wyoming was re-elected Republican leader, while Representative Kitchin became the Democratic leader.

Senate galleries also were crowded, the overflow extending far outside of the doors. Two new senators, Peter Norbeck of South Dakota and Hol O. Bursum of New Mexico were sworn in by Vice President Coolidge.

Bills introduced in the house included the emergency tariff, repeal of some war taxes and proposals for new ones, soldier bonus and soldier relief, federal budget, restriction on immigration and federal road building.

Chairman Fordney of the ways and means committee, presenting the service men's bonus proposal, which provides for alternatives between cash payment, land settlement, insurance, vocational education and home building, left out taxation proposals, but Representative Gallivan, democrat, Massachusetts, put in a duplicate of the bill as it passed the house last session.

Immigration restrictions, decided on by the last congress in enacting a bill limiting annual entrance of aliens to 3 per cent of the total residents of each nationality, as found by the 1919 census, was proposed by Chairman Johnson of the immigration committee. His bill duplicated that which President Wilson gave a pocket veto.

Representative Young, republican, North Dakota, introduced the emergency agricultural tariff, as it was passed in February. Its effective period was fixed as six months after enactment instead of ten as in the vetoed measure of the last session.

Abolition of the railroad labor board and repeal of sections of the transportation act under which it operates was proposed by Representative Thatcher, republican, Kansas. His bill would empower the interstate commerce commission to perform functions now assigned to the board.

Tired.

No matter how "hard up" you may feel, you are rich in comparison with the starving peoples of China and Armenia. You know that you can easily help fill a few plates on the big relief table. Fifteen thousand people are dying in the Chinese famine district. But for the accident that you were born on this side of the globe, one of them might have been you—Weston Leader.

Well said. But for the fortune of birth in a favored zone, one of them might have been you, or yours. The American public is tired of drives—so it is often said—but it will be yet more tired before famine gives way to plenty, death to life, or a chance for life, and chaos to order, in less fortunate parts of the world.

Tired? Of course everybody is tired. But others are even more tired of hunger, destitution, disease, and all the horrors that go with famine and destruction. Being tired is no excuse for closing either ears or pockets to the cries and needs of helpless people.—Morning Oregonian.

Seattle Paper Changes Hands.

Seattle, Wash.—The Seattle Post-Intelligencer has announced editorially transfer of controlling interest in the newspaper from Clark Nettleton to John E. Perry, a Seattle attorney. Mr. Perry will become president of the Post-Intelligencer Publishing company.

Ex-Kaiser's Wife Dies in Holland.

Doorn, Holland.—Ex-Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany died here after a long illness.

Forest Protection Week May 22.

Washington, D. C.—The week of May 22 was designated in a proclamation by President Harding as "forest protection week."