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NATIONS MEET AT GENOA CONFERENCE

Gathering Opens With Clash Between the Russian and French Delegations.

Genoa.—The Genoa economic conference was formally opened Monday in the historic palace of St. George by Premier Facta of Italy.

Every nation that participated in the World war was represented with the exception of the United States and Turkey.

A clash over a disarmament proposal by George Chitchein, the Russian soviet foreign minister, which occurred between Chitchein and M. Barthou, France, threatened to disrupt the international conference shortly after it opened.

Russia, the status of which is one of the questions of supreme importance to be decided by the conference, came to the forefront soon after the opening of the great assembly. Speeches had been made by the presiding officer, Premier Facta of Italy; M. Barthou, representing France; Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain; Dr. Wirth of Germany and spokesmen of Japan and Belgium, all of a conciliatory nature and voicing adherence to the Cannes resolutions, upon which the present gathering is based.

George Chitchein, the Russian soviet foreign minister, in speaking for his delegation, announced their adherence to the resolutions and then declared that Russia was ready to support any proposals that would avoid war or lighten the burden of armament.

Mr. Barthou immediately protested and declared with some heat that France would absolutely refuse to discuss the question of disarmament at this conference.

Mr. Lloyd George hastened to intervene, and in his contention that disarmament could not be taken up, certainly not before a peace basis had been reached at Genoa, he was supported by Signor Facta.

Eventually the discussion on this point ceased and Mr. Chitchein said the Russian government would bow to the collective will of the conference.

Admission of the Russian and German representatives to the principal committee of the economic conference was strongly opposed by both French and Belgian representatives. Premier Lloyd George, together with Premier Facta and Foreign Minister Schanzler of Italy, intervened, however, and their conciliatory attitude finally resulted in the admittance of both the Russians and the Germans.

528 BANKS CLOSED DURING PAST YEAR

Washington, D. C.—During the calendar year 1921 a total of 528 state and private banks in the country were closed, according to a statement issued by Comptroller of the Currency Crissinger, summarizing bank failures for the year. However, he added, 163 of these banks were able to reopen or otherwise liquidate their liabilities.

The southern geographical division, Mr. Crissinger declared, was the most seriously affected in respect to the number of bank failures, there being 131. Failures to the number of 43, with liabilities exceeding \$12,500,000, occurred in the Pacific states.

Failures in states in which the depositors' guaranty system is in operation were: Mississippi, six; Texas, 36; North Dakota, 34; Nebraska, 22; Kansas, 11; Oklahoma, 22.

LOCAL NOTES

Little Mary Chaffee, age 5 years, while playing in the yard Wednesday fell and twisted her arm. She was taken to Berniston Dr. Hiseley, and the x-ray showed a fracture of the elbow.

Chief Atterbury and Roy Gilbreth passed the medical examination for membership in the lodge of M. W. A.

Lyle Blayden, returning from the ball game at Umatilla last Sunday drove into a concrete culvert while passing a truck and blew out a rear tire. No other damage was done.

Tourist travel has at last started, much to the joy of local garage men.

Messrs. Jenkins, Weston, Dillon, Packard and Crawford have purchased a P. and O. two way plow. Tuesday Mr. Dillon gave it a trial and reported it a jim-dandy.

Harry Crawford and Miss Naomi Runner motored to Umatilla Friday evening, where they acted as judges at a declamation contest.

Road work on the project is practically finished.

Mr. Dillon and Mr. Weston were at Willow Creek on Saturday buying dairy cattle.

Miss Pearl Carpenter left for Sage, Wyoming, on Saturday, for an extended visit with friends. Miss Carpenter plans to remain all summer, and perhaps part of the coming winter.

Misses Glatt and Price, and Chas. Barnes were visitors at the T. E. Broyles farm Saturday.

Chas. Goodwin has been very ill with inflammatory rheumatism.

Mrs. Edith Crawford was a Sunday dinner guest with the J. R. Johnson family.

Messrs. Tom Miller, Earl Cramer and Leon Kutzner motored to Harman Saturday.

Mrs. Eugene Commins, who was hurriedly taken to the Umatilla hospital last Friday night is rapidly recovering and will soon be with us again.

Mrs. Otto Mitchelen, and two children are visiting in Arlington.

T. V. Dempsy who has been farming the Gorham place has leased the Tom Hendricks farm, and moved his family on it Tuesday.

Are you eating Boardman Cheese? If not, why not?

NO SPECIAL MAY DAY PROGRAM THIS YEAR

There will be no special effort to develop a May Day program in the school this year. So much time has been lost in the lower grades from illness of pupils and teachers and owing to the freezing of the plumbing during the winter that it will take all the time the schools can use to complete the regular work. The little folks, who would give the May day program, have just finished drilling for Tom Thumb's Wedding and Easter exercises, and it would require constant drill from now to May Day, and the time cannot be spared.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS HAPPENING DURING WEEK

Plans for the construction of a \$100,000 apartment house were announced at Roseburg by George Kohlhagen, a local business man.

Surveys are being made for a new power line from Albany to Dallas, which will be constructed by the Mountain States Power company.

Governor Olcott in a letter urges the people of Oregon to join in the observance of the 100th anniversary of the birth of General Ulysses Simpson Grant.

The new rail automobiles which will carry approximately 30 passengers each, and a new locomotive have been ordered by the Mount Hood Railroad company.

In spite of the fact that the brood crop is coming on slowly, more than 40 cars have been shipped out of the Umpqua valley to date. Weather conditions have caused the heads to ripen slowly.

J. L. Wilson, formerly engaged in the lumber brokerage business in Eugene, was arrested at Duluth, Minn., on a warrant charging him with forging the indorsement to a check for \$417.88 and cashing it.

Negotiations are under way for the purchase by Frye & Co., Seattle packers, of the packing interests of Swift & Co. in Portland. It is said. The Portland plant is valued at between \$2,000,000 and \$3,500,000.

More snow is on the ground near Crater Lake, in Crater Lake National Park, at the present time than for a number of winters past, according to men who have been within a few miles of the park boundary lately.

Improvements on the highway between Independence and the connection with the Salem-Dallas highway are in progress. The road, which is unpaved except for about two miles out of Independence, is being leveled.

Crews have begun removing old houses from a seven-acre tract purchased by the Oregon Nature Lovers' club on the Columbia river highway near Hood River, and the work of building a clubhouse will be begun next week.

Money due the state as the result of loans from the common school, rural credit, agricultural college and University of Oregon funds aggregates \$7,570,676.87, according to a report prepared by George G. Brown, clerk of the state land board.

That the Oregon Electric Railway company is surveying for an extension of its line from Eugene to Springfield, and that agents of the company are already negotiating for right-of-way, was an unconfirmed rumor afloat in Eugene and Springfield.

Many thousands of dollars' loss from wheat smut may be saved to Oregon farmers by practicing the findings of the state experiment station as reported in a new bulletin, "Wheat Bunt Problem in Oregon," just published and now ready for distribution to growers.

Following the recent announcement of Governor Olcott that he would not make an active campaign to succeed himself at the republican primary election in May, but would remain at his desk and continue to conduct the state's business, Salem friends of the executive have started a sort of a booster organization in his behalf.

Under the influence of the good weather of the last few days farming operations throughout the central Willamette valley have been speeded to the maximum. Spring plowing, delayed several weeks because of unfavorable weather conditions in February and March, is now under way in almost all communities.

The Dalles' new \$125,000 municipal auditorium was formally dedicated Friday.

The Columbia river is beginning to rise from the melting snow near the headwaters.

Federal farm loans totaling \$67,900 have been made in the Boardman irrigation district.

The annual county fair of the Canby high school took place in the high school gymnasium Friday night.

The Eugene hospital, with a capital stock of \$50,000 and headquarters in Eugene, has been incorporated.

L. H. Compton, warden of the state penitentiary announces that the population of the institution now totals 474.

Extensive logging operations are under way now on a big tract of timber in the Santiam national forest near Detroit.

H. H. McSherry, 41, logger of Gladstone, was burned to death in his room in the Northwest apartments in Portland.

The public service commission will hold a hearing in Klamath Falls Thursday on the proposed increase in insurance rates.

A fortunate discovery prevented what might have been a disastrous accident on the Lewis & Clark railroad, near Astoria. Fishplates had been placed on top of one of the rails and fastened with a chain, apparently with the intent of wrecking a train.

There was one fatality in Oregon due to industrial accidents during the week ending April 6, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission. The victim was Howard Gayne, mechanic of Portland. A total of 326 accidents were reported.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company's rate of return in Oregon for the year 1921, as shown by the report of the corporation filed at Salem, was 2.21 per cent. The same figures interpreted by the commission indicated that the rate of return was 2.23 per cent.

Because of the adverse vote on the bonds referred to the voters of the district at a special school election Saturday, the Reseburg school board has been forced to discontinue the departments of music, manual training, domestic art and teacher training in the city schools.

General reduction of taxes in Oregon through the initiation of several measures to be submitted to the voters at the general election in November was the program outlined at a meeting at Salem of the so-called committee of seven of the tax reduction clubs of the state.

The proposal of the Oregon Trunk Railroad company to abandon approximately 29 miles of its track between Metolius and North Junction probably will meet with considerable opposition, according to information received at the offices of the Oregon public service commission.

H. O. Brown, for seven years manager of the Eugene branch of Allen & Lewis, Portland wholesale grocers, was indicted by the Lane county grand jury on a charge of embezzlement, pleaded guilty immediately afterward and was sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary.

Discovery of an unusually large lode of pottery clay in the mountains of the Oregon Coast range, said to assay mostly aluminum and silica and to contain small portions of other minerals, has been reported by Peter Timm of Portland, who made the discovery while on a hunting trip.

WHY THE SCHOOL DOESN'T FURNISH LIGHT TO CITY

A subscriber asked us last week why the school didn't furnish free water and light to the city. Here's an answer from one who knows more about the situation than your editor.

There was a query in a recent issue as to why the school should furnish free light and heat for all sorts of community meetings and yet could not furnish water for the town. The question might be answered in one way, as follows:

From the time the Little Old Red School House was the meeting place of the Danial Webster Literary and Debating Society, the idea has been steadily growing that the school should be a community center, meaning that all meetings of educational civic and entertaining features contributing to the general culture and enjoyment of the community should be held in the school house. This idea has come to be an established tenet of our educational system especially in communities like Boardman where there is no other suitable place to hold such gatherings. Naturally at such times the building must be lighted and heated. No one will deny that fact, but why free?

Simply because it is a part of the general community business, payment for which is contributed by assessment on every taxable dollar in the district. Every man who pays a tax contributes to the upkeep and support of the schools, which, if used only for school day purposes, five days in one week, four fifths of the population of the district would get no use of the buildings they have built and kept up, and not counting Sunday, one sixth of the days the buildings would be entirely idle. The use of the school buildings freely to every man, woman, and child for educational, civic and cultural uplift is the modern ideal. The law makes two exceptions, however. Religious organizations and secret societies given the regular use of the buildings must pay the upkeep. To all other meetings, it is free, under the discretion and regulation of the board as it should be.

But why not free water? Simply because the case is in no way parallel. A water system is a public utility like electric, gas, telephone, street railways. No school has ever entered the public utility field, it being unwise, and contrary to the functions for which the school is established. It would furthermore be a case of discrimination, favoring a few who happened to live near the school, at most, not over one fifth of the total population of the district. The proposition is not changed, even if the water should be paid for and the duty of the school simply the pumping. It is still invading the field of public utility. According to all practice, there are two ways of handling a public utility—through private or municipal ownership—never through the public school system. It has troubles enough of its own.

ALL TEACHERS ELECTED

The school board met in regular session Saturday afternoon and filled the one remaining vacancy in the school faculty by the election of Miss Blanche Powell of Irigoin to a position in the grades.

GOETHALS INDORSES IRRIGATION PROJECT

Gravity System From Pend Oreille River Advised In Official Report.

Olympia, Wash.—General George W. Goethals finds the Columbia basin irrigation project in this state feasible from an economic and engineering standpoint by using a gravity supply from the Pend Oreille river and that it can be constructed in six years for a total cost of \$264,170,361, or \$146.56 an acre.

This is the conclusion reached by the noted engineer in his report, made public here by D. A. Scott, state director of conservation and development, after he had made an extended personal investigation and study of the project to determine the feasibility of the Columbia river pumping project and the Pend Oreille river gravity system.

Nearly 2,000,000 acres will be reclaimed through use of the Pend Oreille river diversion, it was estimated.

"The Columbia basin project is as much a national one as were the Panama canal and the Alaska railway, and will, if completed, add much more to the national wealth than either of the others mentioned. The work should be provided for and carried out as were these other two national projects—by direct appropriations," declared General Goethals.

Because of its larger area, greater assurance and reliability of operation and its smaller acre cost, General Goethals advised adoption of the gravity system. It will, he says, irrigate 1,753,000 acres by direct flow, with an additional 91,000 acres that may be reached by a pumping lift of less than 150 feet, and 137,000 acres that may be utilized by pumping at slightly higher lifts.

L. H. Compton, warden of the Oregon State penitentiary since February, 1920, has announced that he had submitted his resignation to Governor Olcott to become effective May 1. Governor Olcott announced that he had decided to appoint J. W. Lewis, present deputy warden, to succeed Mr. Compton.

The first carload of lumber ever milled in transit in Lane county was manufactured by the Walters-Parks Lumber company of Eugene. The lumber was shipped by the Nebraska Bridge & Lumber company of Coombs to an eastern railway company, stopping in transit at the Eugene plant to be milled.

Fifty thousand dollars additional for forest fire prevention in the Pacific northwest will be available this year, according to a telegram to the Eugene chamber of commerce from United States Senator McNary. The withdrawal of the army aero service from this duty has necessitated the additional money.

More than 1000 acres of land will be devoted to flax growing in the Willamette valley this year, according to reports issued by the Willamette Valley Flax & Hemp company. The \$50,000 necessary for organization has been subscribed and work on the several plants of the organization will start at an early date.

Deschutes county Friday experienced an "old-fashioned spring cleaning" as far as matters Volsteadian were concerned. Fines in justice court netted out to offenders, who without exception pleaded guilty to charges of manufacturing or possessing moonshine, netted \$1400 and jail sentences amounted to 23 months.

