

## PRESIDENT HOLDS SECRET MEETING

Conference at White House Believed to Bear on Peace.

## GATHERING FOLLOWS "NEWS"

Democrats Oppose Discussion of Mr. Wilson's Talk, But Republicans Insist on Being Told Views.

Washington, D. C. — Five Democratic leaders of the senate, three of them members of the foreign relations committee, had a long conference with President Wilson at the White House Wednesday night. Afterward all of them refused flatly to talk.

In the conference were Chairman Stone and Senators Pomerene and Saulsbury, of the foreign relations committee, and Senators Walsh and Hoke Smith. The President is much interested in the efforts of Senator Cummins and other Republicans to force an open debate on his peace address, and it was in this connection that the senators were called to the White House.

It is understood the subject was discussed only generally and that no attempt was made to agree upon any plan of action.

The legislative program was talked over and the President is said to have urged the importance of passing water-power legislation before the end of the session.

There have been suggestions that, in order to prevent interference with legislation by daily discussions of the Cummins resolution, which would set aside next week for debate, the administration might favor either fixing a limited time for the debate now, or an agreement to postpone it until the senate holds its extra session after March 4.

London—The American ambassador at Berlin, James W. Gerard, was called to the foreign office Wednesday, whether he was summoned by the Imperial chancery for a conversation respecting President Wilson's address to the senate, says a Berlin dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company by way of Amsterdam.

The conference lasted for more than an hour and later the ambassador sent a long wireless message to Washington "at the urgent request of the German government."

In parliamentary circles, says the correspondent, President Wilson's speech is generally considered a last move for peace and that, if it is unsuccessful, the President will be obliged to side finally with one of the belligerents.

### Arkansas Now Bone-Dry.

Little Rock, Ark.—While 600 men sang "How Dry I Am," Governor Brough signed the Arkansas "bone-dry" bill at the annual dinner of the Little Rock board of commerce Thursday. All state officials and members of the legislature were guests at the dinner. Express companies were rushed delivering orders for liquor. One local telegraph company reported it handled 800 telegrams from Little Rock ordering liquor Thursday.

### Government Buys Rifle Range.

Washington, D. C. — The secretary of war has decided definitely to purchase a tract of land in the vicinity of Linnton, Ore., for a rifle range for the use of troops stationed at Vancouver barracks. Secretary Baker made this announcement Thursday to Senator Jones and Representative Johnson, who called to urge him to purchase a tract adjoining the Vancouver military reservation.

### Beer Output is Curtailed.

London—To reduce the consumption of foodstuffs by breweries, Baron Devonport, the food controller, has decided that the quantity of beer to be brewed for the year beginning April 1 shall be restricted to 70 per cent of the output of the previous year. This means that only 18,000,000 barrels of beer will be produced, about half the output of the year preceding the war.

### Hogs Bring Record Price.

St. Joseph, Mo.—A high record in hog prices was established here Thursday, when the market reached a top of \$11.40 a hundred pounds. The next highest price since the market was established was Wednesday with the price \$11.25.

## CHILDREN SLAIN AND BURNED

Father Arrested When Evidence Indicates Murder of Offsprings.

Tacoma, Wash.—Four small children were brutally murdered at Auburn Sunday as they lay in their beds. The room and beds had been saturated with kerosene and then the house set on fire.

Their father, S. A. Hewett, a Northern Pacific brakeman in the railroad yards at Auburn, was placed under arrest by the King county sheriff and taken to Seattle following the gathering of a crowd of nearly 1000 persons, among whom there was considerable talk of lynching.

Hewett's story is that the four children retired as usual to their beds Saturday night, but during the night one was taken ill. He went to attend the little one, taking a kerosene lamp, which he left burning on a chair between their two beds. Being restless, he said he took a walk, returned later

## Counsel for "Leak" Inquiry.



Sherman L. Whipple, just chosen counsel for the committee of the house of representatives in the "leak" investigation, is a leading New England lawyer who has had many important cases. He is distinctly a trial lawyer. Mr. Whipple was born in 1862. He is a graduate of Yale.

and fell into a sound sleep, from which he was awakened by flames crackling all about him. Unable to reach the children, he said he rushed to a neighbor's to give a fire alarm and then returned, and with a garden hose tried to quench the flames.

Examination of the children's charred bodies, the coroner said, revealed the fact that their skulls had been crushed in, while the mattresses on which they lay were saturated with blood.

Behind a little trundle bed on which slept the only girl of four, Myrtle, aged 6, was found a blood-stained hammer, and in the room an empty bottle labeled chloroform.

Under the bed in which the three boys lay was found a blood-stained pillow slip.

The other three children, Ephraim, aged 10; Arthur, aged 8, and Clarence, aged 5, were found in one big bed.

After the fire the father handed to a neighbor, Frank McGilvray, an envelope containing the insurance policies which it is said he had taken out recently for his children and which had been saved from the fire.

### Oregon Troops Ordered Home.

Portland—"All Oregon troops on the border ordered home."

This telegram received Sunday afternoon from Senator George E. Chamberlain, by Major W. W. Wilson, acting adjutant general, is the first announcement that has been made of the decision of the government to recall from the Mexican border the last of the Oregon contingent which was called out seven months ago, and which has been in continual service ever since.

### Radio Covers Wide Span.

San Diego, Cal.—The new naval radio station at Chollas Heights, which was recently opened gave a demonstration of its power Monday when the operators on duty talked with Arlington, Va., station, Darien, Panama, Nome, Alaska, and Honolulu, and overheard French operators at work on the island of Papeete, in the South Pacific. They concluded by exchanging the time of day with operators at a radio station near Melbourne, Australia.

### Villa Is Militant.

Washington, D. C.—No official information is at hand as to whether Villa or Carranza troops are to occupy the territory left vacant by the Americans, but the belief is strong here that Villa, who is credited with having a force of at least 8000 well-armed men and who is now said to be at least four times as strong as when the American troops crossed the border, will make a desperate effort to take the territory.

## COWBOYS FIGHT WITH MEXICANS

With Aid of Utah Cavalrymen, Invaders Are Repelled.

## OPENED FIRE ON AMERICANS

Villa Forces Said to Have Occupied Pershing Outposts—Smugglers to Operate on Withdrawal

Tucson, Ariz.—According to telephone advices from Justice of the Peace Hogano, at Arivaca, Ariz., about 40 miles south of Tucson on the border, fighting was in progress all day Friday at a place called Stonehouse between Mexican troopers and American cowboys.

According to the report, the trouble started when the cowboys attempted to drive their cattle away from the boundary line and the Mexicans opened fire. The Americans retreated and were reinforced by a part of E troop, Utah cavalry, who at once returned the fire of the Mexicans.

Eighteen American troopers, with plenty of ammunition, were dispatched to aid the troops already there.

The fighting was started by the Mexicans, according to the American version of the affair. The cowboys, retreating, kept up a running fire as they returned northward, and the Utah cavalrymen went to the aid of the cowboys.

Advices received here said no further trouble was expected, and that ample forces were at hand to protect the border. The Mexican cavalrymen, numbering 20, attacked in open formation, and toward the end of the melee had been pretty well scattered.

The small mining camps in that part of the county are protected by employees. It was not ascertained whether or not there were any casualties among the Mexicans.

El Paso, Tex.—Forces of Francisco Villa have occupied El Valle, Chihuahua, abandoned by General Pershing's outposts, according to apparently reliable information received in army circles.

It was said Villa had established headquarters at Meadera and was preparing to occupy Casas Grandes as soon as Pershing should abandon field headquarters at Colonia Dublan.

Smugglers are planning to use the withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico as an excuse to smuggle quantities of goods across the border without the payment of the export duty to the Carranza official here.

## Oregon Man Sees Placing of Fatal Bomb in San Francisco

San Francisco—Frank C. Oxman, wealthy cattleman of Durkee, Or., sprung a sensation Friday in the trial of Thomas J. Mooney for the preparedness parade bomb murders here last July, when he testified that he saw Mooney and Warren K. Billings, another of the alleged bomb conspirators, place a suitcase on the sidewalk at the exact spot where the explosion which killed 10 persons occurred a few minutes later.

Oxman, appearing for the first time as a witness, whose entry into the case was unsuspected by the defense, corroborated in practically every detail the testimony of John McDonald.

### Shell Plant Planned.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Daniels Saturday began preparing to meet the British government's refusal to permit Hadfields, Limited, to manufacture projectiles for the American navy, by making ready to equip a government plant to do the work. Secretary Daniels conferred with Charles M. Schwab, of the Bethlehem Steel company, whose bids were rejected by the Navy department.

Mr. Schwab is understood to have told the secretary that the Bethlehem Steel company would exert every effort to furnish supplies for the navy, and desired that the department should consider that plant as an asset of the Nation.

### Fall Kills Auto Thieves.

Seattle, Wash.—Andrew Bechtel and Lee R. Erland, each 22 years old, who, according to the police, had been repeatedly accused of stealing automobiles, were found dead in a 30-foot ravine near Bothell, 15 miles north of Seattle. Their bodies were pinned down by an overturned automobile, which had been stolen from in front of a downtown hotel in Seattle. The police said that Bechtel and Erland had been in police court often lately.

## Marine News

Portland Yard Closes Contract for Two Big Wooden Ships

Portland—Gaston, Williams & Wigmore Steamship corporation, of New York, one of the best known Eastern maritime firms, has contracted with Joseph Supple for the construction of two wooden vessels that will be built on the East Side, on property under lease to Mr. Supple from the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railroad, north of the Hawthorne bridge approach and handy to his present plant at the foot of Belmont street.

News of closing of contracts was received Wednesday, though it has been known for weeks that negotiations were under way, and Mr. Supple, with Fred A. Ballin, associated with him as designer of the ships, left for New York two weeks ago. Mr. Ballin is the designer of a special type of a composite vessel, wood and steel being used, while Mr. Supple has had a strong leaning toward a wooden vessel with a double planked hull, the first planking next to the frames being laid diagonally to afford strength. Both have been submitted to prospective purchasers, but the builders had declined to close except at figures that would insure the new yard a profit. In this case it is believed by their friends that the move means the plant will be extensive, as well as permanent, for considerable business is looked for.

### Steel Yard Humming Now.

Portland—Since the dove of peace has spread wings over the plant of the Northwest Steel company, following the strike early this month, reorganization is being rapidly worked out and it is estimated that all but about 100 men who went out are again on the payroll.

Those remaining idle are mostly helpers and places are to be made for some when the force is increased or others resign.

### Balfour Fleet Augmented.

Portland—Lumber to make up the next cargo of the schooner Camano, now on the way to San Francisco from Gilbert Islands, has been purchased by Balfour, Guthrie & Co. from the Eastern and Western mill. The schooner is one of those bought last year by Balfour, Guthrie & Co., and she will be dispatched for the West Coast.

## NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Portland—Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.66 per bushel; club, \$1.62; fortyfold, \$1.63; red Russian, \$1.58.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$36.50. Barley—No. 1 feed, \$39.00.

Flour—Patents, \$8.40; straights, \$7.60 @ 7.80; valley, \$7.90; whole wheat, \$8.60; graham, \$8.40.

Millfeed—Spot prices: Bran, \$26.50 per ton; shorts, \$30.50; rolled barley, \$42@43.

Hay—Producers' prices: Timothy, Eastern Oregon, \$19@20 per ton; valley, \$15@16; alfalfa, \$15@16; valley grain hay, \$12@13; clover, \$11.00.

Butter—Cubes, extras, 35@37¢; prime firsts, 37¢; firsts, 35¢@36¢. Jobbing prices: Prime extras, 42¢; cartons, 1 cent extra; butterfat, No. 1, 41¢; No. 2, 39¢, Portland.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, current receipts, 33@34¢ per dozen; Oregon ranch, candled, 35@36¢; selects, 38¢. Poultry—Hens, 17@18¢ per pound; springs, 16@17¢; turkeys, live, 18@20¢; dressed, 23@26¢; ducks, 20@22¢; geese, 12@13¢.

Veal—Fancy, 14¢@15¢ per pound. Pork—13@13¢ per pound.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 90¢@1.10 per dozen; tomatoes, nominal; cabbage, \$3.25 per hundred; eggplant, 25¢ per pound; lettuce, \$2.50 per box; cucumbers, \$1.50@2.00 per dozen; celery, \$5.50 per crate; cauliflower, \$2.50, squash, 1¢ per pound; peppers, 25¢; sack vegetables, \$1.25; sprouts, 1¢ per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon buying prices, \$2.00@2.25 per hundred; sweet, \$4.

Onions—Oregon buying prices, \$5.50 per sack, country points.

Green Fruits—Apples, 75¢@1.50 per box; pears, \$1.75@2.50; cranberries, \$10@11 per barrel.

Hops—1916 crop, 5¢@9¢ per pound. Wool—Eastern Oregon, fine, 24@30¢ per pound; coarse, 33@36¢; valley, 33@41¢; mohair, nominal.

Cascara Bark—Old and new, 5¢ per pound.

Cattle—Steers, prime, \$8.00@8.50; fair to good, \$7.00@8.00; cows, choice, \$7.35@7.50; medium to good, \$6.50@7.00; ordinary to fair, \$5.75@6.25; heifers, \$4.00@7.50; bulls, \$3.75@6.00; calves, \$3.00@9.00.

Hogs—Heavy packing, 215-250 pounds, \$10.80@10.95; light butchers, \$10.80@10.85; light packing, 170-190 pounds, \$9.85@10.00; rough heavy, \$9.00@9.25; pigs and skips, \$9.35@10.00; stock hogs, \$8.50@9.00.

Sheep—Lambs, \$10.75@12.00; yearling wethers, \$9.00@10.00; old wethers, \$8.75@9.75; ewes, \$6.75@8.50.

## TO PRODUCE BABY BEEF

First Essential of Ticklish Business Is Quality.

Only Successful When Stock, Farmer and Man Behind Both Are Adapted to Risky Undertaking—Feed Is Important.

The production of baby beef is a very ticklish business. It is successfully done only when stock, farm and the man behind both are all adapted to a very risky undertaking. The whole object is to turn twelve to sixteen month-old calves off as prime fat



Registered Shorthorns.

steers, weighing 1,000 to 1,400 pounds in much less time than required for general steer raising. The whole thing means quality animals to start with. It means offspring from strictly beef strains, like Shorthorn, Hereford, Angus or Galloway. Really no other breed need apply in the production of real baby beef, says a writer in Baltimore American. Both mothers and offspring must be abundantly fed so as to keep these young things steadily on the gain, eating to their full capacity, from birth to market.

The calves must nurse their dams and be given an abundance of nutritious grain from the very start, both while on pasture and when in winter quarters. Concentrated feeds in addition to clover and alfalfa are absolutely necessary during the winter months. Long nursing on the dams or an abundance of milk or skim milk with grain is necessary. This all means that splendid, well-bred stock is to be used only. It means also that you have got to have ideal farm conditions, an abundance of the very best pasture and legume hays, silage and grain feeds.

### Can Be Done in East.

There is no reason why baby beef cannot be made in the East, except that labor is expensive or that farms have not been farmed to produce highest quality legumes and other grasses for pasture. Besides this, the production of grain is more expensive as a rule in the East, thus contributing to high costs in making beef. You see the regular average pasture, with the regular average method of feeding, will not produce topnotch baby beef. I do not mean to say that we cannot reach a point where raising baby beef may not be profitable in the East; not that, but we have got to get ready for that sort of farming first.

## WEED IS MOST UNDESIRABLE

Keeping Ahead of Noxious Plant Requires Knowledge and Perseverance on Part of Farmer.

A good deal has been said about weeds and all will agree that they are most undesirable. No one cares to grow them in crops and yet they grow, and that luxuriantly, if unrestrained. Keeping ahead of the weeds requires perseverance and a correct knowledge of the best way to keep them down.

## GENERAL FARM NOTES

Keep the pigs growing all the time.

Marketing is an art, and a specialty.

Keep the lambs growing; a stunted lamb never makes a good sheep.

Plan the season's work during the winter months. It will pay you.

Celery may be banked with earth or boards to cause it to bleach well.

The manure spreader is not a passing fad. It is a labor-saver and has come to stay.

Get a standard breed and see the difference it makes in your poultry keeping experience.

Clear the garden of all weeds and refuse. This material only harbors insects for next year's trouble.