



Our Washington Letter

By W. D. Daley

Washington, Dec. 12.—Ostensibly, congress is providing the nation with a pleasant surprise. It has, to all appearances, buckled down to work. However, books should not be judged according to their covers. A casual survey of the first week's doings would indicate that the elections had a chastening effect and great things could be reasonably expected. That is the picture the world views today. Behind the scenes, in official Washington, conditions are decidedly different.

It is true that the elections brought out the political trimmers. Those who strayed from the fold have been humbled but not entirely subdued. In the cloak-rooms of the senate and house, where frank opinions are exchanged privately, the subject of enforcing party regularity is a favorite topic. Some honestly believe that the removal of so-called "insurgents" from majority posts on important committees, will help the two principal parties. Others are convinced that the banishment of Senator LaFollette and his friends from party councils was a grave political error. It is predicted that this public ostracism of the several senators and congressmen will pave the way for a legislative crisis after the holidays. The tangle may come when votes are required to pass the various appropriation bills.

Congress has been peaceful for a week—almost too peaceful. Political prophets say it foreshadows a snarl during the closing hours. If the malcontents, and they are quite numerous in the present body, become exasperated at the punishment meted out for their political transgressions, it is barely possible that they will seek revenge at a crucial hour. The appropriations bills, providing billions for the operation of the federal government, must be enacted into law before March 4 when the present session ends. Unless the majority can make the so-called "rebels" tractable by that date, an extra session will be required. And, the president does not favor the proposal to call another session in the spring.

Even the "regulars" among the Republicans and Democrats are not in harmony on major matters. While apparently united on the proposition that expulsion was necessary for party discipline, some ill feeling has developed because of committee assignments and patronage. Long ago, a sage said that man is so constituted that he detests whoever does not resemble him, or whoever refuses to share his political passions. Conditions have not changed. The average legislator here today is fond of saying that the end justifies the means. His choler rises, however, when a colleague is elevated to a higher post. It is amusing at times to note a legislator struggling between party needs and personal gain. Yet it is an ordinary event which leaves its mark on law-making in Washington.

A week has passed and there is no evidence of the congressional investigation mania returning to plague the country. Only one official inquiry is now on the boards. Senator James Couzens, Republican, of Mich-

igan, is continuing his probe of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Prohibition Unit. It is currently reported that he was inspired by personal motives. Secretary Mellon and the senator had an argument over tax matters. The investigation was the outcome of the disagreement between the two richest men in public life.

The time of the senate has been taken up with prolonged debate on the Muscle Shoals project. Several legislative propositions have been offered to dispose of the property in Alabama but there are no signs of agreement on any plan or any likelihood of an early compromise. Though President Coolidge has indicated that he would favor a quick disposition of the "white elephant" left over from the war, the various groups of legislative agents working on the matter continue an agitation which will make settlement difficult.

Congress must talk about something whether the subject is important to the nation's welfare or not. It seems reasonable to believe at this time that only appropriation bills will be enacted at the short session beginning March 4. There is a likelihood that serious attention will be given to the MacFadden branch banking bill as relatively little opposition has developed on this proposition.

Representatives of organized labor are working vigorously to bring about a rebuke to President Coolidge for his veto of the postal salary bill at the last session. This subject more than any other legislative measure is an unending source of bother and concern in the senate and house. The fact that the president vetoed the measure giving specific reasons for his action, brings out a delicate situation for senators and congressmen who were elected in November on promises to support the administration's legislative program. It seems that even the minority members are reluctant to take up the veto, at least until after the holidays. The postal salary bill provides marked increases in the pay of approximately 359,000 postal employees averaging about \$300 each. It is said that legislators from rural districts who were enthusiastic supporters to the postal salary bill before election, are now in a quandary.

Though there has been much talk about agricultural legislation at this session, the signs are against the proposition. If congress follows the president's recommendations it must await the report of the recently appointed agricultural commission. Chairman Haugen, of Iowa, speaking for the house agricultural committee, has made clear the fact that no drastic agrarian measures will be presented at this session. He takes the position that it would be folly to attempt haphazard measures when a scientific body, such as the agricultural commission, is now at work trying to find a way out for federal aid to farmers. Haugen was one of the authors of the McNary-Haugen bill which the president opposed at the last session. The bill ultimately failed because of the un-economic lines upon which it was drawn calling for heavy drains on the public treasury.

High School News Notes

By Irene Jay

'Who's Crazy Now' Given Before Student Assembly

A very clever play was presented before the assembly Friday afternoon. The skit, entitled "Who's Crazy Now," was given by the following people, Eleanor McReynolds, Mary Day, Howard Knapp, Syd Young, Howard Rimer and De Monte Seybold. Miss McReynolds, an old maid, advertised in a magazine for a husband and Howard Knapp answered the call. Syd Young, an escaped convict, stepped in and caused complications. Mary Day, as the negro maid, was a huge success and Howard Rimer, as policeman and Monte Seybold as truck man were equally as good.

P. O. Crawford Gives Talk Before High School

The third of the lectures provided by the Rotary club was given Thursday forenoon by Mr. P. O. Crawford, who is affiliated with the Oregon-California Power company. He spoke about choosing engineering for a life occupation. He told of his past experience and it was an inspiration to the students.

He left these as high lights of his speech: Never be satisfied with your present position in life; build a broad, strong foundation, and always learn the fundamentals of everything perfectly.

Basketball Season Starts with Much Interest

Basketball season has started in earnest. This is the first year we have had a boys' team and we are expecting great things from them. The girls are showing great interest and Coach Brown has great hopes for them.

WRANGEL'S FLEET IS IN FRENCH HARBOR

Paris, Dec. 13.—(U. P.)—A fleet without a flag, lying in the Port of Bizerte, in the northeast corner of Africa, may soon weigh anchor as a negligible naval factor and steam into international relations, ruffling the smooth waters of European peace. It is the Wrangel flotilla, which took refuge in a southern French port at the time of the Wrangel debacle before the victorious soviet legions.

The arrival of the fleet caused France considerable annoyance, and has been a heavy expense ever since. When Wrangel's men were driven to the sea, they boarded the boats they had appropriated from the estate of old Russia and headed for friendly havens. France had been very sympathetic with the Wrangel cause so when the troops arrived here they felt quite at home and many landed and remained. Then France was faced with the problem of the alien navy, which she solved by arranging to have the crews remain aboard and take care of the ships and armament. But now France has recognized the Russian soviet state, which claims authority over everything that belonged to old Russia. This claim naturally includes the navy, and it is expected here that the soviets, in adjusting differences between the two countries, will demand that the ships be turned over to them. They will probably also refuse to reimburse France for what the navy has cost her, and they may even refuse to extend amnesty to the faithful crews. Under such circumstances, can France in honor surrender the ships?

Other nations are vitally concerned. If Russia gets the fleet she will have the supremacy of the Black Sea, and also the Eastern Mediterranean. The Greek navy is very feeble, and the Turks have practically no navy at all, so they naturally view with alarm the idea of Russia getting these boats again. Roumania and Bulgaria are very interested, each thinking of their own interests and each jealous of the probable naval strength of the bolsheviks. The situation is such that old-time diplomats are recalling the famous line of Kipling, "There will be trouble in the spring."

The fleet includes two cruisers, one of which, the General Alexeief, launched in 1914, is of 23,000 tons and has some very effective armament. This vessel would be a formidable man-of-war in any Russian water. The other cruiser, the General Kornilof, has a displacement of 6,575 tons, and is over twenty years old. The auxiliary cruiser L'Almaz displaces 3,300 tons. There are seven destroyers, six of which are comparatively modern, al-

Reports Show More Names on the Honor Roll

Last week ended the second six weeks of school and the reports were again given out. A decided increase in the number of names appearing this week on the honor roll will be noticed. The list is as follows: Seniors, Milt Green, Stanley Lawton, Donald Nelson, Lawrence Schmidt, Aubrey Walker, Milton Whorley, Syd Young, Alberta Ausland, Catherine Carrell, Bertha Ford, Juanita Goff, Anna Hendrickson, Jean Herron, Dot Lundberg, Ruth Newman, Marjorie Snider. Juniors: Lavern Batman, Bill Brockley, Harold Larson, Harold Mansfield, Hollister Miller, Frances Bahm, Helen Bunch, Bessie Falvey, Edna Griffin, Margaret Hammerbacher, Alice Harvey, Marjorie Palmer, Grace Patton, Wilma Sheely, Ellen Smith. Sophomores: Orval Jess, Luther Lucas, George Perry, Inatta Barrell, Pauline Harden, Esther Hawkins, Katherine Howard, Ivy Murphy, Geneva Oils, Olive Overton, Doris Patrick, Marian Pater-son, Maud Starns, Helen Wise. Freshmen: Duncan Neilson, Constance Baker, Beryle Conklin, Ruth Farmer, Cella Frye, Julia Gigler, Dot Harper, Margaret Hooper, Alma Longworthy, Marie Moon, Marie Strack, Marian Turner, Buena Wet-terbe, Lillian Williams, Cora Witham, Julia Wright.

Some students deserved special mention because of exceptionally high grades. The following received a grade of 95 or above in all their subjects:

Barbara Hofmeister, Louise Howard, Russell Johnson, Dorothy Barnes, Catherine Dobbie, Louise Holman, Lucian Lucas, Vernon Trimble, Lillian Fosbery, Virginia Reid, Kathryn McVicar, Ruth Mosher, Leora Patton.

though they are small. They were laid down just before the war. The fleet includes three small torpedo boats and four fairly modern submarines, two launched in 1916 and one in 1918, two gunboats launched in 1916 of 1,100 tons each and several lesser craft.

Length of Month Differs

There are three kinds of months in the computation of time. The lunar month is 28 days by law, but not by actual facts. It varies, sometimes being 29 1/2 days, though it may differ as much as six hours in the length of time.

DEL NORTE COUNTY, CALIF.

Great Development in the Near Future is Seen Here

That Del Norte county has room for development goes without saying. There are thousands of unimproved acres in this country that can be made productive and many blades of grass be made to grow where one grows now. We have a great deal of cut-over lands that are subject to redemption and a high state of cultivation. It is a natural scenic country and well adapted to such uses as would make a Swiss mountaineer glad.

There are wonderful possibilities right here at home and our men of affairs ought to turn their time and attention to making a study of ways and means to improve this region. Heretofore there has been no apparent effort made to secure permanent settlers and home builders, but merely to permit people to come—and go. Every time a man comes here he is an asset, and every time one moves away the county loses. If an effort were made to secure home builders instead of floaters, the county would soon show the results. The more real home owners we can secure and keep, the better it will be for all those already here with their money invested.

If our native Americans will not take to the soil and hew out homes, make the land smile and grow crops, then let us look to the kind of people who will—Americans of foreign birth, who are used to digging and working and developing homes—Swiss, German, Scandinavian, and others who love the mountains, vales, streams and forests, and know how to hew homes out of the primeval forests and bush. There are thousands of such already in this country and they would come here and buy lands if the information were placed before them.

Printing pamphlets and promiscuously scattering them is not an effective method of securing such people. You will have to have an organization and every man here join in a co-operative campaign to work for a common end for the common good. When such people



"THE TEN COMMANDMENTS" SHOWING AT THE RIVOLI THEATRE TOMORROW (SUNDAY)

begin to come, they must be treated right and welcomed, and thus others will follow. Such people are easily assimilable and in one generation they will be as ideally American as any of the other native born.

Wisconsin, with its German and Dutch farmers, has been developed into a very wealthy dairy state. Minnesota was developed principally by the Scandinavians. The swamps of northern Indiana and lower Michigan were redeemed and made to bloom like gardens by thrifty Dutch settlers who plunged in celery culture, making worthless lands valuable, now selling for hundreds of dollars an acre.

In Switzerland the farmer does not ask about the fertility of the soil, but merely wants a site for his proposed farm—he will see to its fertility. Every bench that will hold soil is cherished and the soil built up as one would build a house or other structure on a plot of ground in this country.

Such hardy and thrifty people would hail this country as an ideal spot to build homes and farms. They would make good on land that the

average American would starve to death on.

There are tens of thousands of such people in these United States and they can be secured for this region with a well-directed campaign of publicity and co-operative encouragement.

Our country will produce many things that have never been tried here, but which ought to be tried. There is no doubt that fruit, berries and vegetables of every description can be grown in large quantities, but as lumber has been one of the chief sources of wealth, not enough attention has been given other sources.

The rugged hills that are not capable of cultivation are loaded with mineral wealth of undiscovered and undeveloped possibilities. Much of the lumber cut here could be turned into a finished product instead of being shipped out in an unfinished state.

Gold was the incentive of many of our first settlers' migration to this state, yet there has been more wealth taken out of the soil in the form of farm products than all the

mineral wealth of the golden state. In other words, those who delved into the soil to make it produce food stuffs, have produced a greater wealth than those who sought the gold. The same holds true of every part of the country. We all live off the soil, and the soil is our most profitable source of existence. Study the soil for more than what may be found under it, and you will discover it contains untold wealth, gives employment to more people than the mines, and will help sustain more happy homes and people than all the El Dorados ever discovered.

It should be a matter for commercial clubs, chambers of commerce and other such bodies to make a real study of the productivity of the soil and ways and means to secure the wealth lying at their feet.

There is room in this county for five or ten thousand more people. It is an old country, and during its existence there have been thousands of people coming—and going. Why let them go? Keep them. Help them to help themselves.—Crescent City Courier.

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