

JARDINE OPPOSED TO MORE PROJECTS

Against Federal Reclamation Expansion at This Time.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Agriculture Jardine has joined his cabinet colleague, Secretary of Interior Work, in opposing further expansion of federal reclamation at this time. Where new farm lands are to be provided, the need for them should be very clear before the enterprise is undertaken, he says in his annual report.

Jardine's comments imply that much land now farmed would be better used by turning it back to the forest or employing it for grazing. The policy of giving settlers on federal reclamation projects from 20 to upwards of 40 years to repay construction charges without interest constitutes an extensive subsidy to agricultural expansion, he believes.

"Many of the conditions which appear to justify government promotion of land settlement in the other countries do not apply to the United States," Jardine announces. "Yet our homestead laws continue to promote the settlement of land unfit for settlement, and since the beginning of the agricultural depression there has been continuous agitation for new irrigation projects."

He believes that private capital should be able to promote reclamation where a project is clearly feasible, and that federal funds should not be used, except under very unusual conditions, to accomplish what private capital will not venture to undertake on account of the doubtful profitability of the enterprise.

COMMERCE CHAMBER RAPPED BY MELLON

Washington, D. C.—The chamber of commerce of the United States was charged by Secretary Mellon with having presented a surprising misconception of facts and an argument hardly worthy of a business men's report in urging a \$400,000,000 reduction in taxes.

Mr. Mellon wrote to Lewis E. Pierson, president of the chamber, in a continuation of the controversy that has arisen between the administration and the chamber over the size of the tax reduction to be made by the congress which began sessions Monday. The treasury favors a \$225,000,000 reduction, while a slash of \$235,000,000 is proposed in the revenue bill drafted by the house ways and means committee.

In assailing the chamber of commerce program Secretary Mellon followed the lead of President Coolidge, whose view that the chamber was advocating an unwarranted reduction was disclosed recently at the White House. After this the chamber reiterated its demand for a \$400,000,000 tax cut and defended its course in advocating it.

GOLD COINS DISTRIBUTED

Millions to Go Into Christmas Stockings in United States.

New York.—Santa Claus will drop some \$100,000,000 in gold coins into Christmas stockings in the United States this year, federal reserve bank officials estimated following the demand for \$20,000,000 in gold coins in New York.

The custom of giving gold coins as Christmas presents puts a heavy strain on the federal reserve machinery and on the banks that supply their clients with the coins.

The approach of Christmas also means the appearance of \$1,000,000 worth of \$2.50 gold pieces. This coin is not minted except on special occasions, but because of the demand 400,000 of them have been ordered struck off for the Christmas rush. Because of their scarcity and the value placed on them by collectors, very few of the \$2.50 pieces ever are seen again. The demand for them always exceeds the supply, officials say.

Committee Meets at National Capital.

Washington, D. C.—With its eyes turned on the election year of 1928, the republican national committee assembled here Monday. The primary purpose of the gathering of the committeemen is to choose the city to which will go the honor of holding the national convention next June.

Will Offer Filipino Independence Bill.

Washington, D. C.—A Philippine independence, to follow the holding of a constitutional assembly and the negotiation of international treaties for neutralization, will be introduced in the 70th congress as early as rules permit, Senator William King, democrat, Utah, said.

H. MASON DAY



H. Mason Day, vice-president of the Sinclair Exploration, who was arrested in Washington charged with conspiring to influence jurors in the Fall-Sinclair case.

COURT WILL UPHOLD CITY OIL TRADE

Washington, D. C.—The supreme court indicated that it would decide in favor of Lincoln, Neb., on a suit brought by the Standard Oil and other oil companies to prevent the city from operating gasoline and oil filling stations.

The court, by refusing to hear counsel for the city, indicated that in its view municipalities could engage in selling gasoline and oil to their citizens at cost without violating the federal constitutional rights of privately owned filling stations.

Counsel for the private oil companies insisted that the competition from the city had resulted in making their business unprofitable, and denied that there was any emergency or public welfare which warranted the municipality engaging in the business.

Questions from Chief Justice Taft and other members indicated that the court was impressed with the idea that municipalities could engage in such business under former decisions of the court.

GENEVA PARLEY ADJOURNS

Preparatory Arms Conference to Meet Again in March.

Geneva, Switzerland.—The preparatory disarmament conference, which opened November 30, adjourned after soviet Russia had suffered a defeat in selection of the date for the next meeting. Russia wanted the commission to meet again January 10, but the commission put the date off until March 15.

Soviet Russia during the conference challenged the entire world to disarm. The Russian delegation offered to destroy her land, sea and air forces, provided other nations would do the same.

Indiana Governor Must Face Trial.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Governor Ed. Jackson of Indiana and his two co-defendants must stand trial on charges of conspiracy and bribery returned against them, Special Judge Oscar H. Montgomery of Seymour, Ind., refusing to quash the indictment.

100 Homes Razed by Forest Flames

Los Angeles.—Leaving the embers of 100 homes valued at \$500,000 in its wake, the devastating forest fire which swept through the Verdugo mountains for more than 36 hours was brought under control after burning over 10,000 acres.

Coolidge to Attend Convention in Cuba

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge let it be known that he has decided to attend the Pan-American convention in Havana, Cuba, about January 19.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.32½; hard white, \$1.30½; federation, soft white, western white, \$1.27½; hard winter, \$1.25½; northern spring, \$1.26; western red, \$1.23½.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$16.50@17; valley timothy, \$16.50@17; eastern Oregon timothy, \$20.

Butterfat—49c.

Eggs—Ranch, 34c.

Cattle—Steers, good, \$9.25@10.25.

Hogs—Medium to choice, \$8.25@9.75.

Lamb—Medium to choice, \$11@12.50.

Seattle.

Wheat—Soft white, western white, \$1.27½; hard winter, \$1.25½; western red, \$1.23½; northern spring, \$1.26½; bluestem, \$1.34½; dark northern spring, \$1.43; dark hard winter, \$1.37.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$25; timothy, \$28; P. S., \$22.

Butterfat—54c.

Eggs—Ranch, 26@35c.

Cattle—Steers, choice, \$9.25@10.25.

Hogs—Prime, \$9.75@9.90.

Spokane.

Cattle—Steers, good, \$9.50@10.

Hogs—Good, \$9.15@9.25.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers.

The first snow of the season fell at Baker last week.

J. R. Geddes, 77, one of the most widely known men in the Mill City section, died at his home there last week.

Eleven road districts in Coos county last week voted special taxes ranging from \$500 to \$74,000. The election was lost in four districts.

Eight acres on the Charles K. Spalding farm near Dayton yielded 647 sacks of potatoes. They are of the Burbank variety and are well matured.

Arrival of eight prisoners at the state prison last Wednesday has increased the population of that institution to 626, the highest in its history.

Clarence Gilbert, Portland attorney, was appointed by Governor Patterson as a member of the state child welfare commission, succeeding the late Rev. J. G. Tate.

While celebrating Thanksgiving at the home of his grandparents, near Sandy, Lennis Henry Haselwander, 18 months old, drank lye from a can and died next day.

Work of rocking the Santiam highway between Shea hill and Cascadia has been called off for the winter. The contract lacks about 12 days' work of being completed.

J. J. Baumgardner, 92, pioneer blacksmith of the Umatilla country, died at Pendleton last week after a three weeks' illness. He crossed the plains by ox train in 1862.

Several of the logging camps in the vicinity of Astoria have been shut down as the result of damage sustained to camp equipment and rail lines in recent storms.

A 7 per cent increase in the postal receipts in Eugene during November, 1927, over the receipts during the corresponding month of 1926 was announced by D. E. Yoran, postmaster.

Approximately 102 blocks of pavement were laid in Salem during the present year by the municipal paving plant, according to a report prepared by Walter Lowe, street commissioner.

A radio station, KNHS, has been established in an English class at the Newberg high school. The announcer and company are members of Mrs. Hamilton's second-term English students.

Salem's business district this year will be dressed in holiday attire, as the result of action taken by the Salem Ad club at a meeting last week. Fir trees and evergreens will be used exclusively.

The largest mountain bobcat ever seen in Oregon was shot recently by Joe Schurtz, who lives near Ontario. The animal attacked Schurtz while he was riding in his car on the Morton island road.

William Lawrence Monroe, 15, junior in the Roseburg senior high school, and a star player on the Roseburg football team, died from blood poisoning as a result of an injury received in a recent football game.

The Cherry City Baking company, whose buildings and equipment were destroyed at Salem recently, has started construction of a new plant to cost \$100,000. The new buildings will be fireproof, while the equipment will be of the latest and most modern design.

A total of 185,959 pupils were enrolled in the schools of the state in the year 1926, according to a report prepared by C. A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction. The high school enrollment was 41,258, while the elementary school enrollment was 144,701.

The Corvallis-Waldport highway, which has been blocked because of a slide on Alsea mountain, is now open to traffic, according to announcement by the state highway commission. The Roosevelt highway is open north of Newport to the Siletz river, but is blocked by a slide between the latter point and Taft.

Three hundred and forty-seven miles of road will be added to the state's oiled highways next year. This action was decided upon by the highway commission last week. This will make the total mileage of oiled roads in Oregon 1325. It will cost \$740,000 for this work. The commission also voted to spend \$3,898,000 for the maintenance of the state highways next year.

Traffic accidents have taken a toll of one killed and 23 injured among Portland's 50,000 school children since school opened last September 4, according to figures released by Harry P. Coffin, Portland manager of the National Safety council.

The assessed valuation of all property in Oregon, including public utilities, for 1927 is \$1,122,925,200, as compared to \$1,110,677,348 for 1926, an increase of approximately \$12,250,000, according to figures compiled by Earl Fisher, state tax commissioner.

Portland's postal receipts for November totaled \$242,501.88, showing a gain of .7 per cent over the same month last year when the figure was \$240,641.68, according to announcement of Postmaster Jones.

The population of Medford is shown to be about 13,000, according to the annual census of the Medford school district, just completed, which shows 3276 persons in the district between the ages of 4 and 20 years.

An expensive bet was won at Oregon City recently by B. J. Harris, local mill worker, who wagered with friends that he could get a billiard ball into his mouth. He succeeded, but the services of a physician were needed to remove the ball, and the 50 cents won by Harris will hardly meet the bill.

Kay & Smith, ranchers of the Coquille Valley association, own the two Jersey cows with high tests shown in the association report filed with Harvey S. Hale, Coos county agricultural agent. Twenty-seven herds were on the test during the past month, including 886 cows with a total milk production of 314,942 pounds.

Governor Patterson has extended for a period of one month the reprieve issued to James Willos, who is under death sentence for the part he played in the slaying of two guards during a break at the state penitentiary in Salem in August, 1925. The reprieve issued to Willos will expire at midnight, December 31.

The rural school districts of Thurston and Davis, ten miles east of Eugene, will be consolidated and the children living farthest away from the consolidated school will be transported by motor bus. The people of both districts have cast favorable votes for the plan and a new school building is expected to be erected at Thurston.

Pilot Butte, which served a useful purpose in the early days of Oregon as a landmark by which the covered wagon could steer its course in crossing the central Oregon country, is the property of the state and will be maintained as a park, dedicated to the memory of Terrence H. Foley, prominent resident of Bend, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1925.

November's exports from the Portland district were valued at \$9,527,407, marking a gain over those for the same month last year, when the tabulations totaled \$8,401,187. While not up to the showing for October, which was \$11,906,853, it registers a high mark compared with corresponding periods and is another outstanding month so far in the 1927-28 season.

Fire losses in Portland dropped from \$3.01 per capita to \$2.07 during 1927, says Fire Marshal Edward Grenfell's report. The estimate is based on a population of 250,000 for both 1926 and 1927. Total loss for 1927 amounted to \$725,581.77 against \$1,054,481.01 for 1926. The fire department responded to 2028 alarms in 1927 and 2185 in the preceding year.

November was the cloudiest month of the name since official records were begun in Portland in 1871. The sun was hidden by clouds 95 per cent of the time, there having been only 14 hours and 36 minutes of sunshine, out of a possible 284 hours and 6 minutes. One day was partly cloudy and the remaining 29 were cloudy; on 24 of these days rain fell in measurable amounts.

There were three fatalities in Oregon due to industrial accidents during the week ending December 1, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission. The victims included: Robert K. Young, Portland, loader; Edward Hansen, Oregon City, bucker, and Frank A. Bunda, Portland, saw operator. There was a total of 705 accidents reported to the commission during the month.

A request that the new day school for Indian children at Burns be expanded into a boarding school, presented to Charles H. Burke, commissioner of Indian affairs, by Senators McNary and Steiwer and Representative N. J. Sinnott of Oregon, was given little encouragement by that official. Commissioner Burke explained that additional expenditures for Indian schools is frowned upon at present by the budget bureau.

That L. Madovich, a logger, went through 41 years of life with his digestive organs in his chest and his heart on the right side of his body, was disclosed at a post-mortem performed at Astoria following his death last week. Madovich, apparently, was normal. His stomach was where his heart should have been and the heart was high up on the right side. His lungs were exceptionally small, the left one being only slightly larger than an ordinary teacup.

Tommy Fields of near Redmond last week rode a horse which raced to its death, breaking its neck when it jumped a ditch and tumbled through a wire fence. The boy was pinned under the horse, but escaped without injury.

Total number of school children in Lane county as enumerated during the late census is 15,988, according to revised figures announced by E. Moore, county school superintendent. This is an increase of 127 over the number counted last year, the census of 1926 showing 14,941.

E. S. BARNARD



E. S. Barnard, who was elected president of the American baseball league to succeed Ban Johnson.

OREGON FARM HAND SLAYS GIRL FRIEND

Condon, Or.—Viola Richmond, daughter of John Richmond, farmer, was shot to death and her friend, Velma Raimey, school teacher, was wounded seriously by Ray Ferguson, 20, hired man on the Hay creek ranch adjoining the Richmond holdings.

Miss Raimey had been visiting at the Richmond home and Ferguson was driving the two girls to the Raimey home, a few miles distant. He stopped the car and remarked that a tire was flat. A moment later he attacked the girls with a hammer. They fled through a fence and Ferguson drove his car through the fence after them, shooting the Richmond girl with a shotgun, virtually blowing off the top of her head.

The Raimey girl stooped over the body of her friend and Ferguson turned the gun on her, wounding her in the shoulder. The wound is not believed to be serious if no complications result.

After being shot, the Raimey girl ran down hill to the home of V. E. Cushman, a mile away, and Ferguson fled.

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

Herbert S. Hadley, educator, former Governor of Missouri and one time on the brink of a vice presidential nomination, died after a long illness in St. Louis.

Foreign securities floated in the American investment market for the first eleven months of this year totaled \$1,494,000,000, or \$175,000,000 more than for the entire year of 1926, the treasury announced.

Economic progress during 1927 has brought Americans to the highest material living standard this country, or any other country, has ever known, Secretary Hoover declared in his annual report to the president.

Premier Baldwin's recent statement that the Russian government has not yet given assurances of non-interference in British internal affairs was countered in a statement made in Geneva by M. Litvinoff declaring that a condition of mutual non-interference in internal affairs has been fully accepted by the soviet government.

Paris Puts Curb on American Divorces

Paris.—Determined to halt a growing avalanche of divorce suits by Americans, the ministry of justice ordered the civil court of Versailles to hold up pending cases until the exact status of plaintiffs, the length of their residence in Europe and their reasons for being here could be ascertained. The suit of Bainbridge Colby, former secretary of state, is among those affected.

May Investigate Alleged Power Lobby

Washington, D. C.—Charges that a gigantic lobby has been organized here by public utilities interests to defeat the Boulder dam and open Muscle Shoals to private exploitation may precipitate a demand for another senatorial investigation at the coming session of congress.

Oregon Counties Receive Huge Sum.

Washington, D. C.—A total of \$6,022,433 was paid Oregon counties during the fiscal year 1927 under the Oregon and California tax refund act, Secretary of Interior Work announced in his annual report. The amounts claimed by 18 counties totaled \$6,741,466.

Champion Steer Sells for \$2479.

Chicago.—California Stamp, grand champion steer, owned by the University of California, was sold at the International Livestock show for \$2,235 a pound. The steer weighed 1056 pounds and the total purchase price was \$2479.

THE 70TH CONGRESS CONVENED MONDAY

Session Faces a Host of Problems and Political Controversies.

Washington, D. C.—Facing a host of problems and a number of controversies, political and otherwise, the 70th congress convened at noon Monday for its first session.

The republicans again have a majority in both the house and senate, but due to defections in their own ranks, particularly in the senate, they will lack the ability to put through the entire legislative program which President Coolidge will propose in his annual message.

There will be no difficulty for the republicans to organize the house, with the re-election of Nicholas Longworth of Ohio as speaker, but the republican old guard in the senate has a problem on its hands in seeking to pacify the western independents who have submitted a legislative program and demanded assurances of early action upon it.

While a good start has been made on the legislative program, especially by house committees, none of many measures with which the new congress will have to wrestle will find particularly easy sledding once they have left the barrier in the house. This will be due in a measure to the extremely narrow division between the republican and democratic membership in the senate, where the balance of power is held by the western independents, who have their own firm ideas as to the precise form the major measures should take.

Tax Bill Ready

Senators and representatives find now that the tax revision bill has been put in shape for house action, a number of the annual appropriation measures are ready to be reported and a good start has been made on flood relief, one of the most important of all the problems that face the new congress.

Since house rules permit limitation of debate, there will be little difficulty in getting the important bills through that body, but there will be a wholly different story when they reach the senate. Many of the bills, including the tax measure, undoubtedly will be rewritten there.

Political questions will enter into the consideration of practically all legislation, and in this pre-presidential campaign session political speeches, wherein the republican administration will be attacked and defended in turn, necessarily will slow up the legislative machinery.

House Functions Serenely

While the house will begin to function in a more or less serene atmosphere, the senate found a fight on its hands right at the start over the question of permitting the seating of Senators-elect Smith of Illinois and Vane of Pennsylvania, republicans, both of whom are under fire because of expenditures in their primary campaigns.

Assurances were given by Senator Curtis of Kansas, the republican leader, that there would be votes at the coming session on the three measures western independent republican senators desire acted upon. The subjects are farm relief bill, the bill dealing with the issuance of injunctions by federal courts and a resolution for an investigation into American activities in Central and South America.

A legislative program for the Pacific northwest which will occupy much of the time of the members from that section for the whole of the new congress has already been mapped out and will be worked into individual bills to be introduced early in the session.

Reclamation Interests West

Of foremost interest to advocates of reclamation and more rapid land settlement are the Columbia basin project in Washington and the Deschutes project in Oregon, which contemplates the expenditure of many millions of dollars and the opening to settlers of tremendous new acreage. The Umatilla rapids power project is coupled with them in discussions for through it water to irrigate lands in both Oregon and Washington would be provided, as well as cheaper power.

Two measures of general importance will be closely followed in the northwest. They are the farm relief bill, the provisions of which have not yet been decided upon, but the progress of which will be directed in large part by Senator McNary, and the proposed revision of the merchant marine act, of which Senator Jones will be the guiding spirit.

Austrian Civil Control to End.

Paris.—The council of ambassadors has decided to end the civil control of Austria on January 31 in view of the manner in which Austria has carried out her disarmament agreement. Civil control replaced interallied military control.