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The Athena Press

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HARMONY DECLARED BIG OBJECT OF U. S.

American Loan to Germany at Present Held "Idle" Talk.

Washington, D. C.—Adjustment of the reparations dispute between London and Paris is the crux of the European tangle, in the American viewpoint, as stated here on competent authority. Talk of any American loan to Germany was described as "idle" until such an adjustment had been made.

It also was made clear that the question of allied war debts to the United States was not viewed in Washington as involved in the Anglo-French differences as to the amount Germany can pay. Beyond this official spokesmen refused to go in outlining what the Washington government had in mind. There was no hint as to the purposes or progress of informal discussions with allied leaders, which have been indicated both here and abroad to be under way.

With the field of operation thus narrowed, however, it was evident in official talk that administration hopes that American influence can aid in the European situation were quite generally believed to be based on possibilities that may result in bringing British and French thought into harmony as to Germany's present economic plight and capacity to pay.

In this connection it is known that in some diplomatic quarters one impression prevails that American participation in some form when the council of plenipotentiaries resumes its sessions in Paris January 2 is to be expected.

U. S. INTERVENES TO SAVE PATRIARCHATE

Lausanne.—America again intervened in the Lausanne conference when Ambassador Washburn Child, addressing the sub-commission on minorities, declared that the United States vigorously disapproves of the proposed removal of the Greek patriarchate from Constantinople.

"The proposal to abolish or remove the patriarchate from Constantinople," said the ambassador, "is vigorously disapproved by large bodies of Americans. We point out that the patriarchate was confirmed not by foreigners, but by Turkey herself. Intolerable injustice will be done if it is abolished. We have adequate evidence for this viewpoint in telegrams from large bodies of our population."

Lord Curzon, in his note to Ismet Pasha on the Mosul question, declared that aside from the fact Mosul received a mandate from the league of nations and therefore only the latter has a right to restore it, there are racial, political, historical and strategic reasons why England cannot give back Mosul to the Turks.

TO ADVISE LOWER FARM TAX

Commission Will Recommend to Legislature a 20 per cent Cut.

Portland, Or.—In a direct attempt to relieve the burden of the farmers of Oregon, the state tax investigation committee decided to recommend to the legislature amendment of the tax laws so that farm lands and improvements thereon be assessed not to exceed 80 per cent of that now borne; this reduction to be effective until there is a revaluation of all the property of the state.

The recommendation is one of the most sweeping that the committee will submit in its report to the legislature next month.

There is but one opinion in the committee on an income tax, and that is the advisability of such a measure. There has been a difference of opinion as to whether there should be a flat rate or a progressive rate. The committee, by majority, favors the former.

Missoula, Mont., Jarrred By Quake.

Missoula, Mont.—A slight earthquake was felt here at 9:55 Monday night. Residents were awakened, pictures shaken from walls and dishes rattled.

Supreme Court Justice Pittney Resigns.

Washington, D. C.—Associate Justice Pittney of the supreme court has sent his resignation to President Harding.

Mr. Pierce Finds Many Pie Hunters

"I have 250 applications for jobs and there are only about five jobs with pay worth while that I have at my disposal, for most of the positions are under control of the state board of control, of which I am only a member," said Walter M. Pierce, governor-elect.

"I have 25 applications for appointment on the highway commission," continued Mr. Pierce, "but I give you my solemn word that I do not know today who the highway commissioners will be. I have many applications for one of the appointments I have to give, but the man I have in mind for the place has not asked for it, nor does he even suspect I am thinking of him. I had more than a dozen earnest applications for private secretary, and the boy I selected had not asked for the place."

"Four years ago I really wanted to be governor. Now I am not so keen about it. There are some big problems to meet and I am going to try to solve them. My election was just luck. I was standing in the right place when the lightning hit me."

"Something must be done to save Oregon or the whole state will be on its back, like Astoria. I intend giving some of my ideas in my inaugural message. It contains a lot of dynamite. Yes, I will talk of commissions, for in reading the messages of the late Governor Withycombe and Governor Olcott I see they talked of commissions and so will I follow their example."

Discussing the highway situation, which played a prominent part in his speeches toward the end of the campaign, Mr. Pierce says that "the programme must continue; the gaps must be built and the pavement must be kept up. Yet where is the money for these things to come from? I don't like bonds. Where is the money we must have to meet the federal co-operation? Can the gasoline tax be raised?"

"I'll tip this much from my message—I want the 4-mill state road tax retained and not diverted. I want the market road law continued, for the market roads are to be needed in the future more than ever."

Mr. Pierce is a firm believer in a paid highway commission and says he will recommend salaried commissioners, to be appointed by the governor, in his message. The amount of the salary he will leave for the judgment of the legislature to designate, but he says that he believes the laborer is worthy of his hire, and he will see that the paid commissioners work. Reports from Seattle and other places that engineers are being sounded out in behalf of Mr. Pierce to see if they will consider being the state highway engineer for Oregon, the governor-elect stamped as utterly without foundation insofar as he is concerned.

Mr. Pierce does not want the compensation act damaged, and so says, plainly, although he is aware that assaults are being planned on it.

MISS COPPOCK BURIED

The funeral of the late Miss Mattie Coppock was held Saturday at 1:30 in the Methodist church, with Rev. W. S. Payne of Weston conducting the services and preaching the funeral sermon. Interment was made in the Keys cemetery, and owing to the snow-blocked roads, the funeral cortege was conveyed entirely in sleighs, the hearse being a horse drawn sled. The cold was extreme, and only a few could make the trip to the cemetery. A large number attended the services in the church and the tributes of flowers were many and beautiful, attesting the love in which Miss Coppock was held by all who knew her. She will be missed in church and social circles, as well as in the home where she so faithfully served all her active life.

COUNTY FORGER PARDONED

K. C. Amann, sent up for five years for forging endorsements to Umatilla county road warrants, while acting as secretary to the county roadmaster, was pardoned last Saturday by acting governor Ritner. The pardon made by Ritner, did not have the endorsement of either Prosecuting Attorney Keator, or the trial judge, Gilbert W. Phelps. It is reported from Salem that Amann, on whose behalf influences have been at work for his release, ever since he was convicted, was given a conditional pardon by Ritner, the understanding being that he is to pay back the \$10,000 he stole from the county, in installments.

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH A SPLENDID SCHOOL PLAY

One of the best comedies ever given by local talent, was presented by Athena high school at the auditorium last night to an appreciative and greatly pleased audience. The characters were well sustained and the acting did credit to the cast and the director, Miss Morgan.

The leading parts were well acted, and the cast as a whole, balanced up very satisfactorily. In the leading roles, Leon Kretzer, as Mr. Ralston; Veltan Read, playing the part of Van Duesen; Brooks Anderson, as Bennet; James Hodgen, as Donnelly; Byerly Hodgen, as the Bishop; Sadie Pambrum, in the role of Gwendolyn Ralston, and Ruth Hutt, as Mrs. Ralston, were at their best and did better work than they ever did in any school play in the past.

Walthia Haynie was fine in the role of Ethel Clark, and as flappers, Blanche Wilson and Leota Johnson in the parts of Mable and Sable Jackson, "brought down the house" time and again. Genevieve Rogers was splendid as the maid.

The proceeds will be used to defray the expense of publishing the Athena High School Annual. The gross receipts amounted to \$103.00 and after expenses are paid, about \$70.00 will accrue to the fund.

"HUMAN HEARTS" PLAY FOR CHRISTMAS NIGHT

"Human Hearts" with its powerful cast, including House Peters, George Hackathorne, Mary Philbin, Edith Hallor, Russel Simpson and Ramsey Wallace, is the big super-special picture, dedicated to the mothers of the world, by Universal, and the date selected for its screening at the Standard Theatre, is on Christmas night.

No more powerful picture could possibly have been selected for the holiday season, than "Human Hearts," breathing as it does the spirit of heart interest born of "peace on earth, good will to man." Once seen this master picture of the Universal studios the picture that has received more columns of press notice than any other will live with you always. The prices of admission for this picture will be 10c, 35c and 50c, war tax included.

For tomorrow night, Saturday, the Standard offers Paramount's recent release, "Beyond the Rocks," starring Gloria Swanson and Rudolph Valentino. Here is a big up-to-date picture with two of the world's greatest screen artists in the leading roles, purchased so that it will be shown at regular prices. There will be no show at the Standard Sunday night, so that all can afford to see "Beyond the Rocks" and "Human Hearts."

PECULIAR CHILD DEATHS

Four young children have suddenly died in Yamhill county, from a peculiar ailment, resembling influenza, recently. Aside from a slight form of cold, the infants appeared well otherwise. The fourth death occurred at Newberg, when Mrs. Herrington found her babe dead beside her.

State Help For Astoria Promised

A score or more of representatives and about a dozen senators of the next Oregon legislature assembled in Portland, Monday afternoon, in conference with Acting Governor Ritner, Governor-elect Pierce and the committee of 10 from Astoria, and indicated their willingness to do what is possible in the way of state aid for the rebuilding of a street through the stricken city, reports the Journal.

Those present were not pledged to a definite program of procedure, but a committee of five was appointed to outline such a plan, after it confers with Governor-elect Pierce, the state highway commission and the Astoria relief committee. This report is to be forwarded to Milton H. Klepper, who was chairman of the meeting, and he may call a meeting of the legislators to further consider it.

This action followed a general discussion of the situation and the declaration that if aid is not extended to the unfortunate city it will go bankrupt. Governor-elect Pierce, who was greeted with hearty applause, declared that one of the saddest things in the history of Oregon has happened to Astoria, and that he is in full accord with the idea of state relief.

INTEREST IS KEEN IN BASKETBALL ACTIVITY HERE

With the opening of the basketball season here, in which three practice games have been played during the past week, keen interest has been developed.

Coach Basler starts the season with what is perhaps the strongest lineup for basketball, the Athena school has ever put up. In addition to four of last year's crack quintet, Shick is coming strong in Geisse's position, and there is good material in the second team to draw from in emergency.

In the practice games played during the past week the team has shown up well. It defeated Adams 29 to 17, and the Helix town team, 52 to 22. On a return game with Adams, Athena lost by the close score of 27 to 28. Adams got the hop-off this season by starting practice early in the season, while the other schools were at football. She has a good team and by all means should enter the conference for the scheduled games beginning the first of the new year.

The games being played at present have no standing in the conference games. Coach Basler has a much better schedule lined up for this year than he had last season. The schedule includes games with Walla Walla, Baker and Pendleton. It is expected that Athena will play Walla Walla a game next week.

ON CHECK CHARGE

Luther G. Stumbaugh, well known in Athena, is held in the county jail on a bad check charge. He has not yet had his preliminary hearing.

H. P. MILLEN PNEUMONIA VICTIM BURIED WEDNESDAY

H. P. Millen, sufferer from an attack of pneumonia of only a few days, died Monday morning at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Harden, on Jefferson street.

Mr. Millen contracted pneumonia early last week, and Dr. McKinney of Weston was called to attend him and later a trained nurse was secured at Pendleton. Despite everything that could be done for the patient he gradually grew worse until the end.

The funeral services were conducted at the home by Rev. Russell of the Christian church, and at the grave by the Knights of Pythias. The Christian church choir sang at the services, and beautiful floral offerings were made by the Knights of Pythias and friends.

Howel Powell Millen was born in Ohio, September 26, 1847 and died in Athena, December 18, 1922 at the age of 75 years, two months and 22 days. He had been a resident of Athena for 32 years, making his home continuously with Mr. and Mrs. Harden, whom he had known for many years prior to coming to Athena.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT BAPTIST CHURCH

A Christmas program will be held at the Baptist church on Christmas night, at which time Christmas services will be held. The program follows:

- Opening hymn Congregation.
- Invocation.
- Short address and appropriate Scripture, by Pastor Johnson.
- Dialogue by little tots.
- Recitation, Rachel Smith.
- Drill by Mrs. Markeley's class.
- Recitation, Harold Atkins.
- Dialogue, Anne and Mildred Cudney.
- Vocal solo, Mrs. Markeley.
- Distribution of goodies to the kiddies.

OTHER SURVIVORS

The Press was in error last week in making the statement to the effect that Mrs. Jacobs, now visiting friends in Walla Walla, was the remaining survivor of the Whitman massacre. The error is corrected by announcement of Mrs. R. E. Stewart, who names as other survivors: Oscar Canfield, St. Maries, Idaho; Helen Saunders Church, Albany Oregon; Mary Saunders Copely, Riverside, California; Matilda Sager Delaney, Eugene, Oregon; Elizabeth Sager Helm, Portland, Oregon; Gertrude Hall Denny, Portland, Oregon; Nancy Osborn Jacobs, Portland, Oregon; Phebe Saunders McKay, Oakland, California; Mina Kimball Megler, Astoria, Oregon.

TWO BRITISH MEDALS

The Tribune reports that Joe Despain of Pendleton, who served as a corporal in France with the 47th Canadian infantry, who holds one of the longest records in the northwest of service at the front with 27 months to his credit, and who was wounded four times, yesterday received two medals from the British war department.

Cut Farm Tax 20 per Cent, Plan

As an aid in relieving the burden of the farmer, the state tax investigation committee at its closing session Monday at Portland, adopted a resolution urging that farm lands and improvements thereon be assessed at a rate not to exceed 80 per cent of that borne.

The committee, which was appointed under a legislative act of 1919 to investigate the state tax system and if possible find new sources of revenue, completed its work at the meeting Monday. All that remains is to submit its report with recommendations for transmission to the coming session of the legislature.

About the only new source of revenue found was the tax on personal incomes. A bill will be drawn up which will provide that all residents of Oregon shall pay a certain per cent upon their incomes above certain exemptions. The rate of the tax is to be on the flat basis instead of a graduated one. The conclusion of the committee on this item was not unanimous. Governor-elect Pierce, a member of the committee, advocated a graduated scale.

As a means of reducing the tax burden the committee will recommend a radical change in the assessment laws, centralizing the assessing power, in the state tax commission. The state tax commission is to be given authority over county assessors in the matter of securing uniform assessments and determining values.

An ultimate development is to be the taking of the office of assessor from the ballot and making it an appointive one based on merit.

It is also proposed in the recommendations of the committee to have a survey and classification of lands made and a cruise of timber for assessment purposes.

Another recommendation is strict financial supervision of the expenditure of public funds. A statistical department is to be created in the office of secretary of state, which will have jurisdiction over all tax subdivisions of the state, including school and road districts. The tax supervising and conservation commission now in vogue in Multnomah county is to have its counterpart in every county of the state. Counties will be required to have a uniform system of accountancy and provision is to be made to see that after a county budget is adopted it is lived up to.

In the matter of taxing natural resources the committee will recommend that no severance tax be imposed on lumber, taking the view that it would be a handicap on the lumber industry in competing markets. This recommendation of the committee was voted against by Governor-elect Pierce, who is in favor of a severance tax and will probably so recommend in his message to the legislature.

FIND \$500 IN GOLD

Father investigation by Coroner Chamberlain of the ruins of the home of Mrs. Magdalene Walsh, which was destroyed by fire Saturday night, at Walla Walla, resulted in the discovery of \$500 in gold in a partly burned dress in a clothes closet. This accounts for \$965 of the \$2000 which was said to have been kept by Mrs. Walsh on her premises. Mrs. Ed. Brown of Seattle, daughter of Mrs. Walsh, believes that there was no foul play connected with the burning of the house.

WILL DUMP APPLES

Ten thousand carloads of apples are to be dumped into the Columbia river by the farmers of the Washington state, while consumers in Eastern cities are now paying 10 cents apiece for the same fruit, according to a telegram from John Quincy Adams, president of the Farmer's union of that state, which was read in the senate by Senator Smith W. Brookhart, member of the Progressive Republican group.

SUICIDE AT MILTON

William Prentice, a laborer and resident of Milton for 30 years, committed suicide Wednesday by shooting himself in the head with a revolver. His health is given as the probable cause.

WOMEN ELIGIBLE

The act of 1921 making women eligible to jury duty in this state is constitutional, according to an opinion written by Justice McBride and handed down by the supreme court today.

SCIENTIST DEVELOPS UTILIZATION OF WOOD

Oregon Professor Develops a Salvaging Process For Waste Material.

Eugene, Or.—One of the most outstanding contributions to science yet made by a University of Oregon man that admits of practical use in the Pacific northwest and elsewhere became public in the announcement that O. P. Stafford, head of the university chemistry department, has perfected a process for utilizing waste wood to obtain a superior grade of charcoal and wood distillation products used in a number of basic industries.

Because of the great quantity of cheap waste wood material available in the northwest, it is believed that the lumber industry and other enterprises will be keenly interested in Professor Stafford's success. Heretofore it has not been commercially practicable to utilize mill waste in the carbonization and wood distillation industries.

By the Stafford process a fine grade of charcoal can be obtained as well as the usual by-products of carbonization, acetic acid, acetone and wood alcohol, basic in the manufacture of such articles as dye, paints, varnishes, celluloid, smokeless powder and artificial leather.

ENGLAND CANNOT PAY DEBTS, SAYS PREMIER

London.—Prime Minister Bonar Law emphatically stated in the house of commons the impossibility of Great Britain paying the American debt while receiving nothing from Germany, France or Italy. He said he was convinced such a policy would reduce the standard of living in this country for generations.

The prime minister said there was almost no hope of a solution of the reparations question unless Great Britain and France acted together. He hoped both governments would utilize the interval before the reassembling of the premier's conference on January 2 in finding some common method of dealing with the problem.

The British government, he declared, could not look with equanimity upon any action by an ally which would have the effect not of reducing reparations but of making it more difficult, if not impossible, to obtain them. This was taken as a reference to the French proposal for occupation of the Ruhr.

POLISH PRESIDENT IS SLAIN

Artist Regarded as Crazy Kills Chief Executive.

Warsaw.—Gabriel Narutowicz, first president of Poland, was assassinated while visiting an art exhibition.

He was killed by an artist named Niewadomski, who fired three shots. Every shot took effect.

Niewadomski, the assassin, has long been regarded by his associates as mentally deranged and his act is looked upon as due to the motivation of his disordered mind rather than as the result of a definite plot against the life of the newly elected president.

President Narutowicz had just concluded an address formally opening the picture exhibition when Niewadomski stepped up to the platform in the line of people shaking the president's hand and fired three shots at close range.

The president dropped fatally wounded while the crowd pounced upon the artist assassin.

Denver Mint Guard Shot in Robbery.

Denver, Colo.—Three bandits shot and probably fatally wounded Charles Linton, a federal reserve bank guard, and escaped with about \$200,000 in currency of \$5 denomination, which was being loaded onto a federal reserve truck in front of the Denver mint. The funds were being transferred from the mint to the local federal reserve bank.

Harding For Bonus, Veterans Assured.

Cincinnati, O.—Assurances that President Harding would support a bonus for ex-service men, provided a feasible means of financing the bonus can be found, was given Colonel C. R. Forbes, director of the veterans' bureau at Washington before a joint conference of national and state executives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars here.

