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U. S. TO ENTER ARMS CONFERENCE

\$50,000 Voted to Pay Cost of Delegation to Meet at Geneva.

Washington, D. C.—Plans for American participation in the parliamentary disarmament discussion at Geneva crystallized into a definite project when the senate adopted without debate the resolution providing \$50,000 to pay the expenses of an American delegation.

The house already had approved it, and the next step will be communication to the council of the league of nations of an official acceptance of the invitation to take part and announcement by President Coolidge of the personnel of the delegation.

Minister Hugh Gibson, at Berne, Switzerland, will head the American delegation, and Rear Admiral Hiliary P. Jones and Brigadier General H. A. Smith, who have been in collaboration with state department officials in preparation of instructions, now are slated for appointment as chief technical advisers. They will have the assistance of other officers of both the war and navy departments, and will be authorized to draft military or naval attaches now abroad for services.

SOVIET WOULD TRADE GEMS FOR MACHINERY

Moscow.—Soviet Russia is ready to turn her crown jewels into American tractors and machinery. Negotiations are in progress for the sale of the vast collection of gems to American and other foreign jewelers, but it is realized that private buyers can take only a negligible portion of these treasures because of their enormous volume. The government, therefore, is prepared to exchange the remainder for American agricultural machinery, locomotives and other products Russia urgently needs.

"We want to turn the glitter of our 25,000 diamonds into the glitter of American steel," said one high official to the correspondent of the Associated Press. "These magnificent jewels were bought by Russia's former tyrants with the sweat, toil and trial of our peasants; we desire now to give them back to the peasants in the form of implements with which to till the ground or machinery for industries. We have already turned millions of military bayonets into ploughshares; we wish now to turn the imperial jewels, which are a dead asset, into tractors."

U. S. NOW READY TO JOIN

Entry Now Subject to Approval of 49 Nations.

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge will put the United States into the world court without delay. Secretary of State Kellogg was instructed by him to approach the 49 member nations at once with diplomatic feelers to ascertain whether they will permit the United States to join with the reservations of adherence by the senate.

The refusal of a single state to accept those conditions would prevent the signature of the United States to the protocol and statute now deposited in the headquarters of the league of nations at Geneva.

Leaders of the pro-court forces expressed confidence that the present members of the court would find acceptable the reservations and declarations of policy in the resolution of adherence.

Adherence of the United States to the world court with reservations was approved by the senate, 76 to 17.

The vote brought to an end one of the bitterest fights the senate has had since the memorable struggle over the league of nations.

Everett Postmaster Dies.

Washington, D. C.—James M. Vernon, 77, postmaster at Everett, Wash., died here. He was visiting his son, Leroy T. Vernon, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Daily News. James Vernon was born in Zanesville, O. Burial is to be at Mount Vernon, O.

States May Try U. S. Dry Agents.

Washington, D. C.—The supreme court upheld the rights of states to try under state laws federal prohibition agents who kill citizens. The decision was rendered in a test case brought by the state of Maryland.

ATHENA WON CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Athena clinched the championship honors in the Umatilla County Basketball league Wednesday night, by winning from the Helix "Red Devils" by the score of 31 to 23, in a game "het up" with more free throws than in any contest ever played before on the Athena floor.

Referee Landreth saw a total of 27 fouls, netting 37 throws. He gave 33 throws to Helix, and they converted 15 points from them. He donated three of the thirty-seven fouls to Athena, netting four throws, of which three points were converted.

It was surely a foul night for Athena, and only the fact that the team was going well from the start, is all that put the result on the right side of the score board.

The first half ended 22 to 5 for Athena. In the second half Helix made three of her four field goals of the entire game, but more regularly cracked for free throws through the hoop for 11 points.

Geissel and Harden tied for high score for Athena, at 8 each, and Cook led for Helix with 8. Athena wins the championship cup, now on display at Steve's store, and will end the season in a game with Adams on the floor of the new gym in that town, next Wednesday night.

The lineup:

Athena 31	Helix 23
Logan 6.....F.....Nelson 7	
Geissel 6.....F.....Cook 8	
Harden 8.....C.....Tosier 1	
L. Pinkerton.....G.....Ergeson 2	
Dudley 6.....G.....King 5	
Kretzer.....	
Hodgen.....	
J. Pinkerton.....	

BASKET BALL TRIP MADE BY ATHENA HI SCHOOL

Coach Logan and his basket ball squad consisting of Dorsey Kretzer, Dean Pinkerton, Arthur Taylor, Dalberth Taylor, Dale Stephens, Ronald Lieualen, George Gross, Fred Radtke and Leonard Geissel arrived home Sunday.

The game with Hay at LaCrosse was a good game until the last quarter when Hay scored 13 points to Athena's nothing. The game ended 9 to 26 with Athena on the short end of the score.

In the game with Winona, the first half ended 5 to 3 in favor of Winona. The final score was 5 to 7 in favor of Athena, with the basket that won the game coming during the last 30 seconds of play.

In the game with Endicott, Athena probably showed the best style that was shown on the trip. The first half ended 14 to 3 in favor of Endicott. The second half the boys snapped out of it and out played them to the end of the game. In the second half the score was 9 to 5 in favor of Athena. Altho' this gave Endicott the game by a score of 19 to 12, there might have been a different story to tell if Athena had played in the first half as they did in the second half.

Every one who made the trip had a very good time. The boys and coach Logan as well as the entire school, wish to thank Mr. Kirk, Mr. Radtke and Verne Dudley who so willingly offered their cars for the trip as soon as it was mentioned.

EDUCATIONAL EXPOSITION

Representatives from Athena high school have been invited to attend the third annual Educational exposition at O. A. C. February 19, 20, and 21. The exposition is intended to give educational guidance to high school students who are planning to enter institutions of higher learning. The college proposes to stimulate student thinking to the end that more careful consideration will be given the selection of a course which the student plans to pursue, than would otherwise be the case.

AGED MASON

J. H. Christy, reputed the oldest member of the ancient, free and accepted Masons in Seattle, died today. He was 96 years old. Christy crossed the plains by ox team in 1865 and homesteaded near Salem, Oregon. In 1870 he moved to Vancouver, Washington.

MRS. KONASEK DEAD

Mrs. Mary Francis Konasek, mother of E. W. Konasek, formerly Northern Pacific agent in Athena, died at her home in Walla Walla, Saturday morning.

DEMAND FOR WHEAT MAINLY FROM EAST

The demand for wheat for export account has fallen off during the week. The few buyers in the market limited their bids for white wheat to \$1.64 and some who were recently buyers have turned sellers. No new foreign business has been reported in either wheat or flour and with the domestic flour and feed trade likewise slack, the mills are showing hardly any interest in wheat. Inquiries continue to come from the southeast for soft wheat, but the specified kinds and qualities are not abundant. Most of the business worked in the interior with the southeast has been in flour. The northwest trade with that quarter to date in both wheat and flour is figured to equal about 1,000,000 bushels. As the farmers are believed to be holding 35 per cent of the crop, this amount does not make much impression on the surplus. Bids on the Portland board were little changed.

The opinion prevails in the grain trade here that the American market is on a firm foundation in spite of the occasional reactions and most of the dealers are convinced that prices will ultimately be considerably higher.

Carload shipments of wheat to St. Louis, were made this week by the Farmers Grain Elevator company, of Athena.

AIR MAIL RATES GIVEN

Announcement is made that special postage rates for the Pasco-Elko and the Seattle-Los Angeles air mail lines, will be 10 cents for each ounce or fraction of an ounce on routes 1000 miles or less. Fifteen cents will be the rate on routes of more than 1000 miles and less than 1500 miles, and 20 cents on routes more than 1500 miles, direct air mileage to control in each case, with 5 cents for each ounce or fraction of an ounce additional for each air mail zone or part of such zone the mail is carried over government-operated air mail routes. Such postage includes any necessary transportation to and from the contract air mail routes, except by air mail.

LAWNS TRAMPLED

A herd of mules, carelessly driven through the streets of Athena Wednesday afternoon, did considerable damage to lawns and parkings on Fourth street, particularly at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, at the corner of Adams street, where the lawn and newly made parking was badly trampled. It is said the herd was not driven by the owner, but was allowed to roam at will in following a led horse.

HARBINGERS OF SPRING

The usually accepted signs of approaching spring have already appeared in Pasco. Meadow larks have been singing for some time and ground squirrels are reported active. Up the river a few miles from Pasco last week a rattlesnake was killed.

THORN HOLLOW ROAD WORK STARTS SOON AYS COURT

At the Athena Commercial Association meeting Tuesday evening, local road matters were discussed, among other topics of interest to this community.

The county court went on record sometime ago, when they assured members of the Athena Commercial Association that in connection with the Thorn Hollow grade, the completion of the extension of the Wild Horse market road through Eagle Hollow, and the continuation of the Adams road from the Duffy school house to connect with the Thorn Hollow grade, would be completed at one sitting of the county rock crusher and road-working equipment at that point.

Members of the county court say that Thorn Hollow road work will begin soon. The East Oregonian quotes statements made by members of the county court, as follows:

"A market road south from Athena down the Thorn Hollow grade is to be constructed this spring, according to an announcement today by the members of the county court. Construction work will begin immediately so that the road can be completed in time for what hauling this fall.

"Petitions asking for construction of the road were presented to the court about a year ago. Money to do the work was not available at that time. The petition was probably the largest ever presented to the county court, according to Judge Schanep, and contained about 1,000 signatures.

"The right of way has been secured over all of the deeded land, and steps have been taken to procure the right of way through Indian lands.

"The road will eliminate the present steep grade from along the river north and will give wheat farmers an easy grade over which to haul their crop to market. Quite a volume of potatoes will also be hauled over the road. It will be between five and six miles long and will be constructed by the county with its own force."

WILL PLAY IONE

Wilbur Harden, manager of the High school basket ball team, is arranging a game for Friday night February 12, with Ione high school for both boys and girls teams. In the game with Walla Walla they went behind \$20, in expenses and guarantee, and would appreciate it if the community would turn out and support the High school teams.

COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION

The Athena Commercial Association held a well attended meeting Tuesday evening. The usual business routine occupied the attention of the members. The Association will sponsor the Athena community program to be broadcast from station KOWW, Walla Walla, Friday evening, February 19.

INTERIOR OF FERNDALE SCHOOL IS DESTROYED

Early Tuesday morning the interior of the cement Ferndale school two miles north of Freewater, was destroyed by fire. The blaze evidently originated in the furnace room, and though the Freewater fire department arrived soon after discovery of the fire, it was unable to save anything.

The building was erected in 1909 and it is estimated could not be replaced for less than \$20,000. Insurance in the sum of \$13,500 was carried. A \$400 fire escape had just been installed.

The school board met and took steps to prepare three classrooms in the Ferndale hall. The primary building across the street from the burned structure will, by the addition of one room, accommodate three classes. The insurance company will replace all books destroyed, which will remain the property of the district.

TWO ORATORICAL CONTESTS TO BE HELD THIS YEAR

A meeting of the principals of this section was held in Athena, January 29, for the purpose of making arrangements for the sectional oratorical contest. The following arrangements were made:

There will be two separate contests this year. The grade contest is to be held at 7:30 p. m. March 18, and the high school contest will be at the same hour on March 19. Both contests are to be held in the new gymnasium at Adams. A charge of 25c for all adults will be made. There will be no charge for school children. Any profit after expenses are paid will be pro-rated to the various schools taking part according to the number of contestants.

The names of contestants, selections, and divisions shall be in the hands of the sectional director by March 12. The speaking order will be determined by lot. The drawing will take place at the Athena school at 4:30 p. m., on March 12. Mr. Hadley is sectional director.

ANY OLD TIME

Oregonian: Just to see the football game which is to be played this afternoon, three enthusiasts have motored to Portland from Umatilla county. They are J. A. Murray, P. H. Rounds and Glenn Dudley, all of whom are registered at the Benson from Pendleton. This trio drive to Portland or Eugene or Corvallis any time there is a big game listed.

SAW HIS SHADOW

February 2 is the day when the fabled groundhog is supposed to come out and decide whether it's time for Old Jack Frost to put up his playthings or set the winter lovers up for another round. Superstition has it that if he sees his shadow there's to be six more weeks of winter. He had plenty chances to see his shadow here, so look out for a spell of winter weather, something we haven't had, so far.

COMMUNITY KOWW PROGRAM RECEIVES PLEASING TRIBUTE

If cooperation is an important factor in community affairs surely Athena should forge ahead in such undertakings.

This was emphasized last Friday night when Athena sponsored a program broadcast from station KOWW at Walla Walla.

The Jolly Joy-Maker's orchestra and the Etude club arranged the numbers and were ably assisted by other local talent. R. B. McEwen proved an able announcer his voice carrying well, and his Scotch stories "getting over" to the many listeners. M. L. Watts gave an interesting talk of fifteen minutes on his home town, Athena.

Mr. Al Johnson made the hit of the evening with his old time dance music, played on the instrument he used to amuse his fellow travelers when crossing the plains.

Considerable interest was evinced in the prizes offered. Preston-Shaffer Milling company presenting a sack of flour to the most distant listener who wired or wrote in to the station. This will be decided today. Herman Hoffman of the Ford Garage presented a vacuum tube to the person sending in the cleverest telegram, Mrs. Mike Gray of Starbuck, being the winner.

F. L. Zerba garage presented aerial equipment and a tube to the person sending in the first telegram, this prize falling to J. E. Caplinger of Salem.

R. A. Thompson garage presented a tube to the lucky number in the drawing held at the end of the concert.

Congratulatory telegrams and telephone messages from different parts of the country were received to the number of 80 during the evening. Among them were distant friends and relatives of the participants. Among those from whom messages were received were, Captain Presthby, Kallispell, Montana; Sim Barnes Weston; Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Hawks, Bonners Ferry, Idaho; John F. Hirsch, Dickerson, North Dakota; Woodward & Goff, Newberg, Oregon; J. E. Caplinger, Salem, Oregon; Mildred Winslip, Milwaukie, Oregon; Harry Siebers, Newtymouth, Idaho; Alva Blalock, Bend, Oregon; Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Stone, The Dalles, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Swaggart, Portland, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Beckner, Pilot Rock, Oregon; Dan Thompson, Petersburg, Alaska; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gillis, H. A. Dowd and family, Washuena, Washington; Miss Jeannette Miller, Marshfield, Oregon.

Word has been received that a great deal of interest was shown by neighboring towns, Weston's Memorial Hall being packed to hear the concert by way of an Atwater Kent radio owned by Sim Barnes. A confectionery store at Milton was filled, a group of about seventy-five people enjoying the program there. The Standard theatre at Athena was filled to the doors. Hoffman's garage accommodated about forty-five and groups were also entertained at the Thompson and Zerba garages in addition to many radio parties given at private homes.

Mr. F. C. Moore owner of the station was so well pleased with the program and the snap with which it was presented that he has invited the Athenians to be present at the dedication on next Wednesday night and to present several numbers on that occasion.

They have also been requested to put on a two hour program Friday evening, February nineteenth. This program will be sponsored by the Athena Commercial club. A committee consisting of R. B. McEwen, Henry Dell and Grant Presthby has been appointed to take charge of arrangements.

PROGRAM MADE HIT

In speaking of the Athena community program at Moore's radio station in Walla Walla, Friday night the Walla Walla Union says: "Mr. Moore stated that the program by Athena made a big hit Friday night eighty telegrams and phone calls were received, points from Alaska, California and North Dakota sending in messages. One 'listener in' telegraphed from North Dakota that the program came in fine. This man's brother, who was playing the piano at the time, was pleased to hear it. The North Dakota man was unaware he was listening to a relative."

TAX RECEIPTS UP WITH LOWER RATE

1925 Revenue From Income Levy Exceeds 1924; Other Sources Lower.

Washington, D. C.—Despite generally lower levels of tax rate in effect during 1925 the federal government received a greater volume of taxes than it did in 1924. Official figures for the two years, made public by the bureau of internal revenue, showed total receipts of \$2,694,257,246 for 1925, compared with \$2,688,045,620 for 1924, or an increase last year of \$6,211,626.

The revenues from sources other than the income tax failed to go forward under the stimulus of reduced taxation. The income taxes, however, yielded \$1,825,704,135 last year, a gain of \$24,599,724 over 1924. Miscellaneous receipts dropped from \$886,941,208 in 1924 to \$868,553,100 in 1925.

Total receipts from Oregon taxpayers dropped from \$9,559,027 in 1924 to \$7,790,999 in 1925, but the decline was more notable in the instance of income taxes alone, which dropped \$7,915,120 in 1924 to \$6,448,030 in 1925, or almost \$1,500,000.

Receipts of miscellaneous taxes from Oregon fell off some \$300,000 from \$1,643,907 in 1924 to \$1,342,969 in 1925.

Receipts from the state of Washington, including Alaska, by the 1925 preliminary figures were \$14,492,578, as compared with \$18,558,892 the year before. Income tax receipts dropped from \$75,336,347 to \$12,168,725, and receipts from miscellaneous taxes from \$3,222,634 to \$2,322,853.

ALUMINUM PROBE ASKED BY WALSH

Washington, D. C.—Senate investigation of the Aluminum company of America, in which Secretary Mellon is a large stockholder, is recommended in a report submitted to the judiciary committee by Senator Walsh, democrat, of Montana.

The proposal is made the senator says, because of "doubts aroused as to the vigor and good faith of the department of justice," in the conduct of its inquiry to establish whether the Aluminum company has violated a federal court consent decree entered against it in 1912.

Besides recommending what would be a third government investigation of the Mellon company within four years, Senator Walsh asks that the senate direct the federal trade commission to turn over to it all the evidence furnished by the Aluminum concern and which the commission withheld from the justice department on the grounds that it is "confidential."

WILL PRESS TAX MEASURE

Senator Smoot Predicts Final Vote by Saturday Night.

Washington, D. C.—The tax reduction fight in the senate, centering on proposed repeal of the inheritance tax and discontinuance of the publicity of income tax payments will reach a showdown this week.

Expressing confidence that the senate would approve the compromise between republican and democratic regulars, as embodied in the finance committee's report on the bill and including repeal of these two provisions, Chairman Smoot of the committee predicted a final vote would be reached by Saturday night.

If action is not obtained by Saturday night, Senator Smoot said he would press next week to speed up the work. Under this program, leaders expect to assure final enactment of the bill by March 15, when first income tax installments are due.

Governor Hartley's Secretary to Retire

Olympia, Wash. — Announcement was made by A. R. Gardner Monday of his resignation as secretary to Governor Roland Hartley, effective not later than March 1. In his letter of resignation Gardner, who is of frail physique and has had considerable illness recently, states that "it is now apparent that the next 12 months will call for a performance beyond my physical powers," and that in fairness to the governor, and to his family and himself, he considered it his duty to give up the secretaryship to some one better qualified and more able to carry on during the remaining three years of the administration.

