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LEAGUE CONFERENCE NOT OBJECTED TO

State Department Outlines Understanding of Proposed Discussion of Reservations.

Washington, D. C.—The American government has no objection to a conference of nations to discuss the American reservations to the world court, and does not understand that such a conference as has been proposed at Geneva would in any way constitute action on the reservations by the league of nations.

If the United States should take any part in such a conference it would be on the further understanding that it was not the purpose to consider any modification or interpretation of the reservations as adopted by the senate. An authoritative outline of official opinion made available at the state department included these observations:

It is not understood that the league claims any power or jurisdiction to pass upon reservations relative to the world court or has attempted to do so.

The situation simply is that the league council has suggested that the nations adhering to the world court send representatives to Geneva on September 1 to discuss these reservations, and this is not understood to be action by the league, but by the nations who must accept the reservations before the United States adherence becomes effective.

If these nations desire to take this course there could be no possible objection. It is immaterial to the United States whether each nation acts separately or acts after counsel with the others.

PRESIDENT'S FATHER BURIED AT PLYMOUTH

Plymouth, Vt.—Colonel John C. Coolidge, father of the president, was laid at rest Saturday on a bleak hillside covered deep in snow. They buried him among those of his kin who had passed before him, in the little town cemetery here. President and Mrs. Coolidge, their son John, representatives of nation and state, and a few relatives and lifelong friends stood in the snow at the graveside.

The funeral services were as starkly simple as the lives of these rugged dwellers in the Green mountain valleys. At the white farm house where Colonel Coolidge lived for many years and where Calvin Coolidge passed his boyhood, the brief burial services of the Episcopal church was read by Rev. John White of Sherburne, pastor of the union meeting house in Plymouth where the colonel worshipped.

GERMANY MAY WITHDRAW

Leader Criticizes Opposing Powers for Obstructionist Tactics

Berlin.—Foreign Minister Stresemann told the reichstag that Germany reserves the right to withdraw her application for entry into the league of nations in the event the decision of the new commission regarding reconstruction of the council does not correspond with Germany's expectations.

The league has been plunged into a grave crisis by the breakdown of recent negotiations for Germany's admission to a seat, he said in a formal statement. He frankly criticized the obstructionist tactics employed by certain powers at Geneva in keeping Germany from the council seat promised her at Locarno.

The reichstag approved the government's course at Geneva by a rising vote.

The outcome of the balloting was at no time in doubt, as not only the four governmental parties, but also the socialists had announced themselves in full accord with the government's course and with Foreign Minister Stresemann's speech upon his return from Geneva.

Portland Schools Lose Test Case

Portland, Ore.—Portland school authorities, Circuit Judge John Stevenson decided, have no right to hold over the heads of high school pupils the club of suspension or expulsion in forcing the pupils to sign pledges saying they will not join sororities or fraternities. Judge Stevenson's decision did not involve the legality of the law against secret organizations in the schools, but only the legality of the method of enforcement.

A MAN'S BODY IS FOUND IN THE UMATILLA RIVER

The East Oregonian reports the finding of a man's body in the Umatilla river above Pendleton Sunday morning, by an Indian named Johnson, who reported to the sheriff's office. The body was held by one arm, caught in a waterlogged tree. The body was badly decomposed.

An inquest was held and no marks of foul play could be found on the body. A search of clothing failed to reveal the man's identity.

Indications are, the county coroner said that the body had been in the river for two or three months. Mud and the action of the water during that time had made efforts to identify the man by his face or hands impossible, the coroner said and only clues which authorities have to work on is a description of the clothes he wore and a gold watch and chain, seventy-five cents in change in addition to the watch were found in pockets.

Theories advanced by the sheriff which were also held by the coroner and the undertaker were that the man was either thrown or fell from a train on the O. W. R. & N. tracks which follow the bank of the river for some distance at the point where the body was found.

Close physical examination was made by the coroner for marks of violence which would indicate whether the man had been murdered. An examination of the head and face showed no fracture of the skull, bullet or knife wound. The body was also free from any marks of violence.

Condition of the hands made attempts to get fingerprints impossible. The only identifying mark that could be found was the absence of three teeth on the lower right jaw.

The man wore a heavy green woolen sweater, which the action of the water had rotted partly away, a khaki shirt and a pair of khaki breeches. Leather puttees and almost new tan shoes with rubber heels were also worn. In the hip pockets a pair of worn kid gloves and a pair of canvas gloves were found and a pair of pliers.

The man is believed to have weighed between 160 and 170 pounds, was five feet eight inches tall and had an abundant head of hair which was probably dark brown.

CHAS. BARROW DEAD

Charles Barrow, for many years a clerk in the Mosgrove Mercantile company store, when it was operated in Athena, died Thursday of last week, at Dayton, Washington, aged 76 years. Mr. Barrow was employed in the Mosgrove store at Dayton. He had been in failing health for some time.

TAKING UP RAILS

The Walla Walla Valley Traction company, owners of the street car lines in Walla Walla, which have been put out of commission by auto buses, have sold the rails and will remove them from the streets.

HERMISTON WON

Hermiston high school debaters won over Pendleton high, in the declamatory contests. The Hermiston team's next debate will probably be with The Dalles team.

Income Collection More than Planned

Washington, D. C.—The treasury announced that income tax returns for March, the first to be collected under the new revenue law, probably would exceed by \$20,000,000 the original estimate of Secretary Mellon.

Damages Awarded for Two Deaths

McMinnville, Or.—Damages of \$11,500 were awarded Edith and Matilda Hamilton, administratrices of the estates of George O and Frank E. Hamlin against James S. Trent by the jury. George and Frank Hamlin, Portland men, died from buckshot wounds received on the night of September 15, 1925, from the gun of Trent, who believed they had been in his watermelon patch.

Oregon Fair Board Job Filled

Salem.—Frank B. Ingles, prominent wheat grower and livestock raiser of Dufray, Wasco county, was appointed a member of the Oregon state fair board to succeed Wayne Stuart of Albany, who recently left the state.

Charles W. Elliot Reaches 92d Year

Cambridge, Mass.—Dr. Charles W. Elliot, president emeritus of Harvard university, was 92 years old Saturday.

HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADE WINNERS IN THE CONTESTS

The results of the High school oratorical contest held in Athena last Friday evening.

Humorous—1st, Ralph McEwen, Athena; 2nd, Margaret Calder, Weston.

Extemporaneous—1st, Ray Dudley, Athena; 2nd, Robert Tozier, Helix.

Dramatic—1st, LaVone Pittman, Athena; 2nd, Deana Lieualten, Adams.

Oratorical—1st, Hazel Parris, Helix; 2nd, Granville Cannon, Athena.

Grade winners

The winners in the grade declamatory contest held in the school auditorium Thursday of last week were:

Division F—Dramatic, Barbara Lee, Athena; Humorous, Jane Kemler, Adams; Patriotic, Aaron Douglas, Athena.

Division E—Dramatic, Billy Ashworth, Weston; Humorous, Billy Coe, Helix; Patriotic, John Kirk, Athena.

The winners in the contests held here will represent this section in the county declamatory contests to be held in Pendleton the second and third of April.

DROPPED DEAD

Thomas Mosgrove, 70, dropped dead in front of the Farmers and Merchants bank at Walla Walla about 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, presumably of apoplexy. He has been in fair health lately though about two years ago he had a very serious sick spell. Mr. Mosgrove was one of the best known men in Walla Walla and served as postmaster, as warden of the penitentiary and as receiver of the land office. He had lived in Walla Walla since 1880.

BLUE MOUNTAIN LEAGUE

W. H. Schroeder has been reelected president of the Blue Mountain baseball league and Leslie Gibbs of Pendleton, secretary. An organization meeting was held at Pendleton Sunday and La Grande, Pendleton and Walla Walla representative voted to enter. Baker likely will not be in this year but Cove, Oregon, and Pasco are both anxious to join the league and one or the other will be selected.

NELS PETER JOHNSON DEAD

E. C. Rogers is in receipt of a letter from Alberta, announcing the death there on February 11th, of Nels Peter Johnson, a former resident of the Weston community. He is survived by his widow and nine children, four sons and five daughters. Many friends in this part of the county will be grieved to learn of Mr. Johnson's death.

KILLED WHILE PLOWING

Roy Evans, about 23, was found dead at 6:30 o'clock Tuesday evening under a tractor he had been using in plowing a field eight miles northeast of La Grande at the foot of Mount Emily. His body was cold when discovered. Apparently the tractor struck some projection and turned over on him, killing him instantly.

PASS NOT OPEN

Snoqualmie Pass will not be opened to traffic until April 1, J. W. Hamilton, Washington state highway engineer, announces the rotary snow plows met for the first time at Hyak. The pass opening is only about six feet wide, and it would be too dangerous for automobiles to attempt to go through.

THE RICHARDS CHOP MILL BURNS IN MORNING FIRE

In one of the hottest fires experienced in Athena for a long time, the Richards chop mill was totally destroyed early Saturday morning. The fire alarm was given at 3:30 a. m., but by the time water was turned on, the entire building was a mass of flames throughout.

William Hoggard, who was operating the mill under lease, was awakened in his home across the street by the glare of light through the window, and he rang the fire bell, giving the first alarm.

Fortunately the wind was in the right direction to prevent nearby buildings from destruction, and at any time during the conflagration, had the wind changed, either Jensen's blacksmith shop or the buildings in the block north on Main street, would undoubtedly have caught fire.

The wind carried sparks and burning embers as far east as the Kirk barn, where straw was set on fire, but prompt action on the part of Mr. Kirk extinguished the blaze.

Mr. Richards' loss on the mill plant is placed at \$8000, with \$5000 insurance. Mr. Hoggard's loss in grain and feed is covered by insurance. Floyd Pinkerton lost about 40 tons of barley not insured. Other farmers including McBride Brothers, lost grain in the fire.

The destruction of the plant is complete, with the possible exception of salvaging two boilers. The entire machinery equipment of the plant otherwise, is a total loss.

Mr. Hoggard arrived at the scene of the fire in time to save his car, which was standing in a shed adjoining the mill.

PICTURE PROGRAM

Tomorrow night, the Standard presents, "As No Man Has Loved," a wonderful photoplay based on the story, "The Man Without a Country," at regular admission prices. Get your seats early for this one. Sunday night will be shown Zane Grey's epic, "Code of the West." You know what the story is, see it photoplayed by a brilliant cast headed by Owen Moore and Constance Bennett. The mid-week picture for Wednesday night is "The Beloved Brute."

EXMERCHANT DEAD

Robert Lewis, former merchant of Echo and well known throughout Umatilla county was found dead in his bed at the McKay dam Monday morning. Death came during the night and probably while he was asleep, heart disease is believed to have been the cause of death.

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THE DOKKIES OWNED THE OLD TOWN LAST EVENING

The Dokkies owned Athena last evening, turned their tiger loose n'everything.

Beginning with a street drill by the Pendleton patrol, and a banquet in the dining room of the Christian church, which was served by the ladies of the church, far into the night when the expiring squawk of tyros pierced the chilly night air, the Dokkies, a ryebald bunch that is always getting circumspect Pythian Knights into all kinds of trouble, had everything their own way.

Those who are supposed to be in on the outside of things are blaming one John Peterson, for the Dokkie attack on Athena last night.

A BIRTHDAY DINNER

Thursday of last week a birthday dinner was served at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Crabill in honor of Mrs. Frank Brown, Mr. James Huggins and Mrs. Crabill. Mrs. Ray O'Harra and Mrs. Huggins assisted Mrs. Crabill in serving the dinner. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown of Holdman, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Crabill of Helix, Miss Rachel Barnes and Bud Crabill of Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. Ray O'Harra and little son Willard of Weston, Mr. and Mrs. James Huggins, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McPherrin, Johnnie Hovey, Mrs. Janet Sleeman and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Crabill.

PIPE BEING REPLACED

The new four-inch pipe for replacement of the line leading from Current street south on Second street to Darwin street, and thence west to First street, arrived Monday, and is being laid in the ditch. The old pipe line, when excavated was found to be in bad condition, and the cause of much loss of water. Work on the ditch leading across the flat to the pumping station has commenced. Eight inch steel pipe will replace the old main, there.

"MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY"

The Standard Theatre management desires to call particular attention to the photoplay which will be presented tomorrow night, "As No Man Has Loved." The play is based on the well known story, "The Man Without a Country." It is a fine special production, will be shown at regular admission prices and comes direct to the Standard from the American Theatre at Walla Walla, where it has had a big run this week.

DOMESTIC ART

The girls of the Domestic Art class of Athena High school have a very creditable display of dresses, tastefully arrayed for public inspection, in a show window of the Mosgrove building, on Main street.

FOR JURY DUTY

Two women, Mrs. W. P. Remington and Mrs. Minnie Stillman of Pendleton, have been drawn for jury duty at the next term of the circuit court. From Athena, W. H. Keen and Ralph McEwen will serve.

STANFIELD BILL MODIFIED TO INSURE ITS PASSAGE

Designed as a substitute for pending measures which have caused much controversy, a new bill to regulate and stabilize grazing on public domain has been agreed upon by Chairman Stanfield of the senate public lands committee and Secretaries Work and Jardine.

However, after passage of the act, no entries could be made in grazing districts under the stock-grazing homestead act or the 320-acre homestead laws.

The measure has the same intent and purpose as the original Stanfield bill and, as described by the Oregon senator and the secretaries, it would perpetuate the right of grazing, subordinated only to the greater and more important uses of the area and would give "an increased and valuable stability to the livestock industry, which is in the interest of the general public welfare."

Public lands in Wyoming would be omitted from operations of the modified bill, which would be applicable to such lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

The bill says: "The use of these lands for grazing shall be subordinated to the development of their mineral resources, to the protection development and utilization of their forests; to the development and utilization of their water resources and to their use for agriculture, either with or without irrigation, and to such other lawful use as may be of greater benefit to the public."

Chief provisions of the bill are: Creation of grazing districts by the secretary of the interior after formal petition by a majority of the livestock raisers to whom the district would be available.

Enlargement of districts, including the exchange of lands between the federal government and the states for that purpose.

Exclusion by the secretary from such districts of lands no longer valuable for grazing purposes or more valuable for other purposes.

Authority for the interior secretary to fix "moderate" fees, 10 per cent of which may be used annually for range improvement by the government and 25 per cent of which would be paid to the state in which the districts are located for use of the public schools and public roads.

Grantees could be authorized by the secretary to construct fences, buildings, corrals, reservoirs or other range improvements, but such fences would be so built as to permit the ingress and egress of miners, prospectors or others entering the ranges on lawful missions.

A grazing board would be created in each district, to be composed of three residents, elected by livestock raisers using lands, the duties of the board being to advise and co-operate with the secretary of the interior in administering the act.

ACCUSED OF BURGLARY

James Audett and William Thompson are accused of burglary in the second degree in an information filed in superior court at Walla Walla Tuesday by Prosecuting Attorney A. J. Gillis. They are charged with burglarizing the Cummins garage at Touchet, March 8. Audett was arrested in Portland Saturday and brought to the Walla Walla county jail. Thompson has not yet been apprehended.

THE EASTER CANTATA

Regular rehearsals of "The Resurrection Story," an Easter cantata, to be given at the Christian church, on Easter Sunday evening, are being held by the cast, under direction of Mrs. R. B. McEwen. The presentation of this cantata is on a large scale, the united choir of the city, the Etude club and other singers are included in the cast.

PIERCE WILL RUN

Governor Pierce says that he expects to file with the secretary of state this week his declaration as a candidate for the democratic nomination for re-election as governor. He said he would file by paying the \$100 fee and not by petition. He is working on his platform.

CARNIVAL DANCE

Athena-Weston American Legion Post will give a Carnival Dance at Legion Hall tomorrow evening. The Jolly Joy-Maker's orchestra will furnish the music.

HEARINGS ORDERED ON DRY QUESTION

Wets and Dries Each to Receive Six Days in Which to Present Arguments.

Washington, D. C.—Public hearings on the prohibition question were ordered by the senate judiciary committee.

Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana, alone opposed the recommendation of a sub-committee of five in favor of open hearings. The sub-committee will conduct the hearings, giving six days to the wets and an equal number of time to the dries.

The hearings will be confined to five modification measures before the committee. One would amend the 18th amendment so that states which were wet before the prohibition amendment would again be wet, with the government manufacturing, selling and distributing liquor.

Three of the other four measures proposed to legalize beer; one for 4 per cent beer, one for 2.75 beer and the other for beer "non-intoxicating in fact." The fourth would remove restrictions on prescription whisky.

Senator Means, republican, Colorado, is chairman of the sub-committee and the other members are Goff, West Virginia, and Harrell, Oklahoma, republicans, and Reed, Missouri, and Walsh, Montana, democrats.

AUTOS COST AMERICA 14 BILLIONS YEARLY

New York.—America's automobile bill including cost of cars, insurance, upkeep, gasoline and numerous other items of expense, totals more than \$14,000,000,000 annually, the bureau of industrial technology estimates in a report made public here. Future orders obtained by the bureau showed that it costs the average automobile owner more than \$700 a year to own and operate his car.

The average retail value of cars, including accessories, was found to be \$1000. Of the present output, at the rate of 4,000,000 automobiles annually, approximately \$250,000,000 worth are exported.

Demonstrating where "the automobile dollar" goes, the bureau prepared a table showing that costs of cars and accessories now stand at approximately \$3,750,000,000 annually; depreciation was estimated at \$2,500,000,000; upkeep, repairs, \$2,000,000,000; drivers wages, \$1,500,000,000; gasoline, \$1,200,000,000; garages, \$900,000,000; taxes, \$825,000,000; interest on investment, \$500,000,000; tires, \$618,000,000; oil, \$300,000,000, and insurance, \$300,000,000.

LIQUOR SCANDAL IN CAPITOL

Case of Rum Dropped in House Office Building

Washington, D. C.—Charges and counter charges during recent prohibition debates concerning bootleggers frequenting the senate and house office buildings received added point when reports spread that a man had dropped a case of liquor in the house office building and fled.

While police authorities disclaimed knowledge of the reports, prohibition enforcement agents indicated that they were true and that a sufficiently accurate description of the man had been obtained for a warrant to be issued. The man was said to have become frightened by the approach of a police officer.

Present Mackintosh's Name for Place

Washington, D. C.—Senator Jones and Representative Miller, republicans, Washington, urged President Coolidge to appoint Judge Kenneth Mackintosh of the Washington state supreme court to the federal circuit court in San Francisco. The vacancy was caused by the refusal of the senate to confirm nomination of Judge Wallace McCannott, Portland, Ore., who is serving under a recess appointment.

League Officials Like U. S. Stand
Geneva.—Satisfaction was voiced in league of nations circles over dispatches from Washington that the state department seems convinced the league does not wish to inject itself into the world court problem, but merely to point out a possible channel of settlement by the members of the court acting in concert.

