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FRANCE MUST REVISE NEW DEBT PROPOSAL

Commission Believes Initial Payments of \$25,000,000 Not Enough.

Washington, D. C.—France must revise its new offer for settlement of its war debt to this country.

This decision was reached at the second meeting of the American commission to study the proposal put forward last week by French Ambassador Berenger. Secretary Mellon will confer with the ambassador before negotiations are resumed.

Although France will be asked to modify its offer, it was emphasized by the American commission that the latest discussions have not been terminated.

One of the principal hitches is now how much France shall pay at the outset. Berenger proposes initial payment of \$25,000,000 annually but the commission is understood to desire higher payments.

It was generally understood that the total of the French offer was in the proximity of \$7,000,000,000, including interest payments over the 62-year period. This is almost \$1,000,000,000 higher than the Caillaux proposal.

One of the problems worrying the negotiators is believed to be an inclination of the French to insert some kind of a clause which would come to the aid of France in case the Germans defaulted in reparations. There has been no inclination on the part of the American commissioners even to consider such a proviso, which is held to be flatly against the policy of this government.

HOUSE MAY AMEND FARM RELIEF BILL

Washington, D. C.—The house agriculture committee voted to amend the Haugen farm relief bill by deferring for two years the imposition of an equalization fee on basic agricultural commodities to be used to stabilize prices.

Chairman Haugen announced that it also had been agreed to increase a revolving fund proposed in his bill from \$250,000,000 to \$350,000,000.

Under the measure as amended, agricultural prices would be maintained at the world market quotations plus the import tariff on each product. This would be accomplished the first two years by the revolving fund, which would come out of the treasury. At the end of two years the equalization fee would be levied automatically on the first sales of wheat, cotton, corn, cattle and swine.

The Haugen bill is one of three measures the committee has ordered reported. The others are the Curtis-Aswell commodity marketing bill and the Tinscher bill, supported by Secretary Jardine, which would afford government credits to co-operatives.

LEASE MUSCLE SHOALS

Joint Congressional Committee Urges Operation by Power Companies.

Washington, D. C.—Lease of Muscle Shoals for 50 years to the Alabama and 12 associated southern power companies was recommended by a majority of the joint congressional committee appointed to negotiate for the operation of the government's property by private interests.

A bill to authorize a lease to the power companies was filed in the senate and house with the accompanying reports. No discussion was provoked in the house, but Chairman Norris of the senate agriculture committee advocate of government operation of Muscle Shoals, made an effort to have the bill referred to his committee.

He was blocked by Senator Heflin, who sought to have it placed on the senate calendar so it could be called up for consideration at any time. Vice-President Dawes ruled in favor of Senator Heflin.

Lift Religious Ban on Y. W. Members.

Milwaukee, Wis.—Women of all religious faiths now may become members of the Y. W. C. A., following the passage of a membership clause to this effect at the ninth biennial convention of the organization here. It was the third voting on the proposal and it passed easily 1174 to 199. The present constitution restricts membership to women of protestant belief.

BADLY FRACTURED LEG MERRITT IS IN HOSPITAL

Elmer Merritt of this city is lying at St. Mary's hospital, Walla Walla, with a badly fractured leg. An X-ray examination revealed the fracture to be a most serious one, and located in the thigh. It is probable that reduction will have to be accomplished with the insertion of a plate. Merritt was engaged in assisting the Falconer forces in driving a band of sheep over in the valley, last Saturday, when a motorist drove pell mell into the sheep, crippling several. The car also struck Merritt with considerable force. Besides his fractured leg, Merritt was considerably bruised.

Henry Barrett was in Walla Walla Sunday, and went to see Mr. Merritt, who was resting as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

An attorney has been employed to look after Merritt's interests, as a damage suit is in prospect. The driver of the car is said to have been wholly to blame in the matter.

JUDGE WALLACE M'CAMANT QUILTS FEDERAL JUDGESHIP

Judge Wallace McCamant has resigned from the United States circuit court of appeals and resignation has been accepted, effective May 3.

Judge McCamant was appointed to the bench by President Coolidge, whom he placed in nomination for vice-president at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

Confirmation of McCamant's nomination was opposed by Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, who charged that McCamant, as a delegate to the national convention, had disregarded instructions of the voters of Oregon to support Johnson for the Republican nomination for the presidency.

PICTURE PROGRAM

For tomorrow night and Sunday the Standard is offering exceptionally entertaining programs at regular admission prices. Petite Colleen Moore will be seen tomorrow night in "Sally" one of the best photoplays of her career, and Sunday night Paramount shows a Walla Walla production, "Rugged Water," with Lois Wilson and Warner Baxter in the leading roles. The Wednesday night Western play, "The Deadwood Coach," featuring Tom Mix and Tony is a clean-cut bill of entertainment for old and young alike. Good comedies, news reels, etc.

FARMER'S RIGHTS

Co-operative marketing offers no permanent solution for the troubles of the farmers, declared A. R. Shumway, candidate for the republican nomination for senator, who spoke at a Pendleton meeting. Farmers are equally as justified in seeking government assistance as are other industries, he declared, and until the president is given some western education along this line little help can be looked for.

GOOSE CHASING FUTILE

The proverbial "goose chase" has become a reality on Blalock wheat ranches. The geese are wild and the chasers are the farmers. Thus far they have been unable to keep the big birds off their fields. The birds fly out low from the nearby islands, seemingly aware of the protection afforded them by the state. Estimates of damage vary from half the yield down to none.

PREACHED AT HELIX

Evangelist Hutton, who is holding a series of meetings at the Christian church in Athena, accompanied by singer Fairbanks and a number of Athena people, drove out to Helix Monday evening, and preached to a congregation there. Mr. Hutton and Mr. Fairbanks may hold a meeting at Helix, at the conclusion of their work in Athena.

WITH WILKINS PARTY

The newspaper correspondent, Fred L. Earp, with the Wilkins party in the Arctic north, spent his boyhood at Weston, a son of D. D. Earp. Young Earp began his newspaper career with the Walla Walla Union and of late years has been on the Seattle Times staff.

WARM WEATHER

A change from cool weather, with frosts last week, to warmer temperature is noted generally over the Northwest this week. Wednesday, thermometers registered 90 in Athena.

FARM RELIEF BILLS MAY GET THE RIGHT OF WAY

Consideration by congress of farm relief legislation is expected to begin early next week.

The agricultural committee representing three bills requested that they be given right of way as soon as possible and were told by Representative Tilson, the Republican leader, they probably could be called up Tuesday. Four days general debate in prospect.

Carrying out the program it adopted 10 days ago, the committee reported the Haugen bill to stabilize prices with a revolving fund of \$375,000,000 and collection and equalization fee on basic commodities after two years. The Tinscher proposal to carry out Secretary Jardine's plan with an appropriation of \$100,000,000 for loans to farmers' cooperative associations and the Curtis-Aswell measure to form national commodity marketing associations, financed by the farmers.

None of the bills commanded a majority in the committee, which defeated, 15 to 5, a motion to have them reported separately, with a record vote on each. The vote to represent the three concurrently was unanimous.

Coming after more than two months of hearings, the procedure represents the committee's final move on farm relief this season, except for passing for action on the floor.

It calls for the Haugen bill to be brought up under a special rule making the other two measures in order as substitutes, thus giving the house an opportunity to vote on all three.

SQUIRRELS EAT ONIONS

The pestiferous ground squirrel is the fly in the ointment of prospect that is just now worrying Tom Norman, with his two-acre onion patch. The rodents come scurrying out of the city park, dig up an onion here and there, eat the center out and scamper away, only to return on their ruinous rampage. Norman hopes to declimate the park colony of rodents with shotgun bombardment and poisoned food.

KANGAROO RATS

Considered as unusually rare for this section of the continent, three specimens of dipodomys ordii, Columbian, more speakably known as the Columbian Kangaroo rat, were captured near Attalia, in Walla Walla county, last week by Dr. Leo K. Couch of the United States biological research office.

BLUE MOUNTAIN LEAGUE

The Pendleton Bucks defeated the Indians in Sunday's Blue Mountain league game by a score of 9 to 4, while Walla Walla was trimming Pasco 7 to 4. Neither Pendleton or Walla Walla has been defeated this season, and these two teams meet Sunday, while Pasco and the Indians come together for the first time.

UNEARNED CRITICISM

By FRANCIS H. SISSON
Chairman, Public Relations Commission American Bankers Association

There has been some disposition to criticize the administration of the country's banking system for the sudden collapse of prices and curtailment of credits in 1920 and 1921, and the subsequent financial difficulties of the farmers. As a matter of fact, what ever blame may attach to bankers must be for the too generous financing.



In many cases, of speculative investment in farm property during the period of inflation. If any just criticism could be directed at the manner in which the Federal Reserve System functioned in this situation in the opinion of many it would be that the Reserve banks delayed too long in raising the rediscount rates. An earlier effort might have stayed the process of inflation.

The collapse of 1920 was by no means confined to agriculture, and was the inevitable sequel to the inflation period. All branches of business suffered in this period of reaction and perhaps none more than banking against which this criticism has been leveled. The financial situation of the farmers was greatly aggravated by the fact that the high land values and high prices of agricultural products had led many farmers to incur obligations based on the inflated values. If the farmer was victimized at all, indeed, he was the victim of too much rather than too little consideration. The real progress which has been achieved in agricultural finance in recent years lies more in the intelligent distribution of farm credit than in volume.

With agencies now functioning for the provision of ample credits for the American farmer, his enduring success depends upon the wisdom and foresight with which he meets the problems of production and marketing. More than ever before, his activities must be regulated with reference to world conditions, and his profits, like those of the manufacturer or merchant, will reflect the measure of his success in adjusting his activities to these conditions.

Turks Arm for Clash With Italy.
London.—Turkey's new levy of army conscripts is causing general speculation and is regarded in various quarters as giving substance to recent rumors of contemplated Italian or Italo-Greek aggression at Turkey's expense.

LAND GRANT CASH

An advance of \$5,000,000 by the federal government to certain counties in Oregon as their share from the sale of public land grants in that state was urged before the house public lands committee by Representative Hawley, republican Oregon, daily.

So far reports of Athena anglers who have fished the Umatilla, spell poor luck. For some reason or other, the 60,000 trout liberated from the hatchery ponds, do not take kindly to bait or fly.

THE HAUGEN MEASURE CHANGES WERE UPHELD

Application of the most debated feature of pending farm relief legislation, the equalization fee on agricultural commodities, would be withheld for two years under an amendment to the Haugen bill, has been adopted by the house agriculture committee. At the end of that period, the fee would be levied automatically on wheat, cotton, corn, cattle and swine.

Meanwhile, the measure would require the proposed federal farm board to maintain the price of each basic product at the world market quotation plus the import tariff. During the two years, any losses involved would be borne by the federal treasury and to assure an adequate revolving fund, Chairman Haugen said he would move to raise the appropriation from \$250,000,000 to \$350,000,000. Members indicated there would be no opposition to this.

The amendment was accepted by the middle-western farm organizations supporting the corn belt plan, the main features of which were embodied in the Haugen bill. In a statement sent to the committee their representatives explained they had not sought the change, but if the committee considered it desirable, they would not oppose it.

BUILDING AN ELEVATOR

Alex McIntyre is building a grain elevator at Waterman Station, on the Northern Pacific, north of Athena. The new elevator will have capacity to store 37,000 bushels of bulk grain. In addition to elevator facilities, Mr. McIntyre will install equipment for rolling and steaming barley. He owns considerable acreage of farm land tributary to Waterman Station. The new elevator will be completed in time to take care of this season's grain crop.

WALLA WALLA FAIR

The dates of September 9, 10 and 11 were tentatively selected for the Walla Walla County fair this fall at a meeting of the fair board, when officers of the board were named and other matters relative to the project were considered. Dr. H. A. Tripper was elected general chairman of the board, to be assisted by C. B. Auker, as vice-chairman. Charles Baker was selected as secretary of the body.

KILLED UNDER TRACTOR

F. L. Kelly of Hermiston, operating a tractor in highway surfacing work on the Old Oregon highway lost control of the tractor he was driving at Emigrant hill Tuesday morning, backed over an embankment and was crushed beneath the machine suffering injuries from which he died while he was being rushed to St. Anthony's hospital at Pendleton.

BOARDMAN BERRIES

The first ripe strawberries of the season are reported at Boardman.

STANFIELD ASKS THAT TAXES BE REPLACED

The senate public lands committee has opened a hearing on a bill introduced by Senator Stanfield, Oregon, to appropriate \$5,000,000 to eight counties in western Oregon and one in Washington to take the place of taxes the counties would have received during the last ten years on land reinvested in the government from grants to Oregon and California railroads.

Two million four hundred thousand acres of land with a taxable valuation of \$22,500,000 is involved. The land was granted to the railroads in 1860 with the understanding that the railroads were to sell the land to settlers at \$2.50 an acre. This was not done, and under the Chamberlain Ferris bill passed in 1916, the government bought it back at \$2.50 an acre according to the original contract.

SNIDER WEEDER PATENTED UNITED STATES AND CANADA

J. F. Snider, inventor and manufacturer of the Snider weeder, has received his patents on the machine for both the United States and Canada says the Weston Leader.

The Snider weeder meets immediate favor from the farmers wherever introduced, and much activity in its manufacture and sale will follow the issuance of the patents, which clear up any doubt as to the legal standing of the Weston invention. It will be extensively introduced in the big Alberta farming region, and J. F. Hanson and company of Fremont, Nebraska, are making and selling many of the machines in the Middle West.

The output of Mr. Snider for the present season from his small factory in Weston will be upwards of 200 weeders. The demand indicates that he would have sale for many more. He conducted a demonstration near Walla Walla Tuesday and the farmers present were much taken with the device.

FAVOR NORMAL

According to Roy Ritner, republican candidate for joint representative, people of the east end of the county are in favor of a normal school for Eastern Oregon. Ritner attended a joint meeting of the Milton-Freewater chambers of commerce at which action was taken in the appointment of a committee from the two towns, consisting of Bruce Shangle, R. E. Bean and Victor Chastain.

PASCO-ELKO MAIL

Air mail service between Pasco and Elko will be resumed well in advance of the limit set by the postoffice department. The planes will be flown over the route daily for a week or more in tests in order that there be no further delays. Contractor Varney received a 60-day postponement of service when the first day's operations developed motor trouble.

WHEAT HEADING OUT

Reports come from ranches south of Athena to the effect that wheat is heading out. Nearly all Federation growth is at the boot stage. Early fall sown Federation on Mrs. Morton's place, farmed by Til Beckner is heading and also a field of E. A. Dudley's wheat is at this advanced stage of maturity. An early harvest is anticipated.

FROST NIPS PLANTS

Tender plants were nipped by frost in the Walla Walla valley last Friday night, but little if any damage resulted to fruit trees. Early garden plants, strawberries and other small fruits were damaged by the frost in the Spokane district. In Athena and vicinity, low places were visited by frost, but no material damage resulted.

A FINE CAR

Of the new models placed on the market this year, none present better appearance in finish and style, or give more satisfactory road performance than the Studebaker product. One of the models, the brougham, an especially fine car, was recently delivered here to Marion Hansell.

A SECOND QUAKE

A second slight earth quake, following that of Saturday, April 3, was felt here shortly after 5:30 Friday morning. Three distinct shocks caused windows to rattle. The quake lasted for about five seconds, and seemed to be from east to west in movement.

COMMITTEE FINISHES PROHIBITION HEARING

Both Sides Confident That They Had the Better of Argument Over the Volstead Act.

Washington, D. C.—Amid bursts of applause from partisans and sighs of relief from senators, the final curtain fell on the colorful prohibition drama which has been staged for three weeks before a senate judiciary sub-committee.

The senators, several of whom frequently assumed leading roles, retire now to the wings to discuss alike the fate of the proposals of the wets to modify the Volstead act and the propositions of the dries to put more teeth into that law.

The wets never entertained any hope of immediate victory in congress, but assert they have accomplished their purpose of giving the facts about prohibition to the country. The dries believe they have had the better of the argument and will get enacted most of the bills they sponsor.

The prohibitionists ended their case with the declaration by Director Andrews that he did not favor loosening the liquor laws to allow light beer.

Andrews' statement was adduced by the dries to rebut the declaration drawn from him last week that he believed light beers for home consumption would aid law enforcement.

CONGRESS HOPES TO QUIT BY MAY 15

Washington, D. C.—Senate and house leaders emerged from a breakfast conference at the White House with two things in mind—holding down appropriations and adjourning. House leaders even saw prospects of quitting for the summer by May 15, and some of the senators thought it would be possible to finish up the legislative program early in May and then consider the impeachment of Federal Judge English of Illinois.

The guests got the very definite impression that the president thought appropriations had gone about far enough for this session, and Representative Tilson, the republican floor leader, expressed the opinion that it would be best for congress to adjourn and go home, inasmuch as "we have no money to spend."

It was gathered from expressions of the leaders that farm relief legislation which would place an immediate tax on the treasury would have a rocky road to travel, but none would say definitely whether the pending measures came in this class.

Another bill which some of them expect to be vetoed is the measure to increase the pensions of disabled Spanish war veterans. The president now has this measure and is seeking the opinion of Director Lord of the budget as to how it will affect government finances.

ROOSEVELT URGES REPEAL

Prohibition Blamed for Crime on "Gigantic Scale."

New York.—Theodore Roosevelt, son of the late president, urged the repeal or modification of the Volstead act and the substitution of local option in various states.

Speaking before the bureau of advertising of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, Roosevelt asserted that the prohibition enforcement act "has brought about low violation on a more commercialized and gigantic scale than our country has ever known before."

When Mr. Roosevelt was a candidate for governor of New York in 1925 he was endorsed by the state Anti-Saloon league.

Roosevelt said that he is opposed to the return of the saloon. "I am convinced," he said, "that the repeal or modification of the Volstead law does not predicate the return of the saloon. That can be prevented by enactment."

Riff Conference Ends in Failure.

Camp Bertraux, Morocco.—The armistice conference broke up after a seven hours' sitting with the French, Spanish and Riflian delegates in complete disagreement. The opening of the official conference at Oudjda, whereby it was hoped to terminate the Moroccan strife and bring peace to the land, has been postponed, without date.

The Queen of May

