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SECRETARY MELLON FOR TAX REFUND

Coolidge and Mellon Both Opposed to Any Permanent Revision of Taxes.

Washington, D. C. — The White House has put a damper on talk of a difference of opinion between President Coolidge and Secretary Mellon over tax reduction.

The official spokesman declared the chief executive and the treasury secretary not only were as one in their advocacy of a refund in income taxes and in their opposition to a permanent tax revision, but that the subject had been discussed between them before Mr. Coolidge surprised the country by announcing his position.

Specifically the full force of the administration was said to lie against the latest proposal to repeal the automobile tax. The president feels that with congress appropriating \$30,000,000 a year for roads the federal government has a right to levy against automobile users.

Heretofore the demand for relief from the automobile tax has come largely from the democrats in congress, but a republican member of the house, Hudson of Michigan, has announced that he had prepared a tax bill that would repeal the levy, cutting \$75,000,000 from treasury receipts. He also proposes to reduce the corporation tax from the present 13 1/2 per cent to 10 per cent or lower.

Filibusters promise to be in order at the coming short session of congress with the possibility that an extra session of the new congress will be made necessary.

Four subjects — Muscle Shoals, rivers and harbors legislation, prohibition and the Lausanne treaty — furnish the vehicles for practically unlimited debate and it efforts are made to force them through, several of the more important appropriation bills are likely to be lost in the shuffle.

Not only has opposition to the administration plan for returning the treasury surplus to taxpayers through credit allowances on their payments next year been disclosed in republican circles, but democratic leaders have made considerable progress in preparing for a drive looking to enactment of permanent tax reduction instead of waiting, as Secretary Mellon advises, for a more complete demonstration of the law's operation.

FALL AND DOHENY OIL CASE ON TRIAL

Washington, D. C. — Trial of America's most famous criminal-political lawsuits—the conspiracy case against Albert B. Fall, former secretary of the interior, and Edward L. Doheny, multi-millionaire oil baron—finally got under way here Monday.

After nearly three years of delay, during which the defendants have resorted to every recourse that high-priced and able lawyers could invoke from the intricate rules of pleadings in vogue in District of Columbia courts, the two central figures in the naval oil lease scandals of 1923 will face a judge and jury.

Fall and Doheny, friends and fellow prospectors many years ago in Southwest mining camps, are charged with having conspired to defraud the government.

Fall, as secretary of the interior in President Harding's cabinet, is charged by the indictment with having fraudulently turned over to Doheny, through a conspiracy, leases for oil lands in the 30,000-acre Elk Hills, California, naval oil reserve.

Higher Institutions Exempt in Washington Fund.

Olympia, Wash. — Reversing an earlier opinion, Assistant Attorney-General Anderson held in a letter opinion to Mrs. Josephine Corliss Preston, superintendent of public instruction, that the teachers' retirement act applies only to employees of the common schools, and directed that any payments into the retirement fund made by instructors in the state university, state college and normal schools be returned to them.

The act creating the fund declares its provisions applicable to the "public schools," said Anderson, meaning common schools, and added that the phrase "school district" was used throughout, indicating that the legislative intent was to provide only for teachers in the lower grades.

ATHENA HIGH SCHOOL PERSENTS ANNUAL PLAY

On Friday evening, December 3, the Athena high school will present the three-act comedy "A Family Mix." The play is adapted from the stock company production of the same name. The cast, under the direction of Miss Bateman, has been working hard the past six weeks and everything points to a finished production.

"The Family Mix" is a rollicking comedy depicting the embarrassing situations of Mr. Robert Brown who has been for the past two years professing himself a married man and the father of a family. Deacon Smith, the administrator of the estate of Bob's aunt, believing in Bob's veracity has been sending him an allowance sufficient to take care of the needs of Robert's growing family.

Complications arise when the Deacon pays Bob a visit and Bob is forced to find a wife and a family on short notice. Before the tangle is finally straightened out he finds himself the possessor of three wives and a half of dozen children — all to the bewilderment of the poor Deacon. The horror of Miss Campson, the old maid, and the trials of Jobson, the hired man, with a negro baby add some amusing incidents to the plot. The cast of characters is as follows: Ethel, Bob's sweetheart..... Edna DeFreee

Sally, the maid and Jobson's wife..... Belle, Anderson Miss Campson, an old maid..... LaVone Pittman Louisiana Johnson, a colored lady..... Lucille Smith Robert Brown, the hero and center of "The Mix"..... Dorsey Kretzer Deacon Smith, administrator of the estate of Bob's Aunt..... Granville Cannon Jobson, the hired man..... Clifford Wood James, the chauffeur..... John Kirk

AMERICAN LEGIONNAIRES MAY GO TO GERMANY

At least one Athena member of the American Legion is contemplating attending the international convention of Legion Posts at Paris, next September. C. L. McFadden who served over seas, intends to go and will be accompanied by Mrs. McFadden. It is expected that they will be joined on the trip by Dr. and Mrs. Smith of Portland, who formerly resided in Athena.

American legionnaires, who attend the Paris convention, next year, are going to find the road to Berlin easier going than eight years ago. Word is received that American Legion visitors will be permitted to travel in Germany at 25 per cent reduced fare and all frontier formalities have been waived for the "Yanks."

DECORATED BY THE QUEEN

Recounting the recent visit of Queen Marie of Rumania in Spokane, the Colfax Gazette tells of her interest in a well known woman of this county, Mrs. Earl Dudley, now of Colfax. During the late war, Mrs. Dudley served as a Red Cross nurse in the country of the Queen, and at one time with other nurses, took tea with the royal lady. Mrs. Dudley was in Spokane during her visit and was recognized and received by her, the Queen recalling that she was among the nurses who were decorated by her for their services among her people.

ASTORIA CRANBERRIES

The Press acknowledges receipt of a box of Astoria cranberries from the Dellmoor cranberry marshes, owned by J. S. Dellinger, publisher of the Morning Astorian. The Dellmoor cranberry marshes, located in the northwest corner of the state, can be designated as one of the show places of Oregon. There are 49 acres planted to the red berries, 30 acres of which are now in full bearing.

COUNTY AGENT HERE

Walter Holt, the new county agent was in Athena Wednesday, where he spent the day in making the acquaintance of farmers here. Mr. Holt delivered an address before the Kiwanis club at Walla Walla at noon, returning to Athena, afterward.

SELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Goff of Newberg, are in Athena, visiting at the home of their daughter, Mrs. R. B. McEwen. Mr. Goff recently sold his interests in the local telephone system at Newberg. His services as manager of the system have been retained by the new company.

Limited Jumps Rails Wreck Kills Fireman

Another train wreck was added to the list that have occurred in the vicinity of Cayuse station on the Umatilla river, when the Union Pacific Continental Limited, No. 26, west bound, crashed into a boulder that had rolled from a cliff to the track, shortly after midnight, Monday.

When the speeding engine's pilot struck the obstruction, the tender and engine buckled, catching Fireman R. A. Rettig of La Grande in the gangway, and crushed him to death instantly. Engineer J. H. Snodgrass was thrown through the window of the cab and escaped with a mere scratch on the thumb.

The rock rolled on the track at a point a half mile east of Cayuse, near the spot where several years ago the Overland Limited, No. 18, with Fred Schilke at the throttle, was wrecked when the big locomotive struck its nose in a bank when a small trestle weakened by rains, sunk beneath the weight of the machine, seriously injuring Schilke, killing his fireman and a tramp who was riding the front end of the train.

Engineer Snodgrass says the Limited was entering a 400-foot straightaway, and he had a clear track ahead, when suddenly from a cliff above, the rock rolled in front of his engine. He barely had time to apply the brakes when the pilot struck. The train was saved from going over a 40-foot embankment into the river, when fortunately the big engine careened into the bank. The tender buckled over toward the river, the baggage car following it, and the smoker also was derailed. The remaining coaches kept to the rails, and the only reason for the passengers knowing of the wreck was a series of violent jerks experienced in the sudden halt of the train.

Within an hour wrecking crews were at the scene. Engine and tender were separated after the baggage car had been lifted over by huge cranes, and the body of Fireman Rettig was released.

SOME CORN YIELD

What is undoubtedly the highest corn yield in Walla Walla county this year was produced by M. M. Williams, Lowden, Washington, pioneer corn and alfalfa grower. A quarter of an acre, measured, harvested and weighed under the supervision of County Agent A. W. Kasten, produced 1,775 pounds of ear corn, or 101 3-7 bushels per acre.

CAN BE TAKEN

Automobiles being purchased on the installment plan, with title remaining in the motor company, were held by the supreme court to be subject to forfeiture by the government when used in the illegal transportation of intoxicating liquor. The decision was in a case from Alabama. A somewhat similar proceeding has come up from Washington state.

O. A. C. DEFEATS OREGON IN MUD WALLOW, 16 TO 0

The O. A. C. Orangenemen smothered Oregon in a desperately fought game Saturday at Corvallis, 16 to 0. The game was played on a field that was little else than a mud wallow, but it was a real game, and "Pete" McFadden, who witnessed it, has been wearing an O. A. C. smile that won't rub off, since his return home.

For the first time since Oregon and the Oregon Aggies have met in their annual game extending over a period of 32 years, the Corvallis institution was able to win on its own lot from the Webfooters. The final score was 16 to 0, with the Orangenemen having all the best of the argument through most of the second half. Three blocked punts, an intercepted pass which was turned into a touchdown, and a beautiful place kick from the 25-yard line by Schulmerick, were largely responsible for the Aggie scores.

Immediately after the game, the Aggie players, accompanied by the coaching staff, led by Head Coach Schissler, left Corvallis for Milwaukie to meet Marquette Thanksgiving day. On their return trip the Corvallis party will take in the Army-Navy game at Chicago.

The Orangenemen have wound up their most successful conference season since 1907, when they won the championship.

RAY BARTLEY, PENDLETON TRAPPER DIES ON LINE

Ray Bartley, 28, of Pendleton, succumbed to hardship and exhaustion on his trap line, near Bone Springs in the Blue Mountains, Monday evening of last week. Bartley, in company with his trapping partner, Archie McCampbell, was returning from Salmon river to the main camp, when he collapsed on the trail and expired. The body was brought down from the mountains to Weston, Thursday, from where it was taken to Pendleton for burial.

Bartley was trapping with Archie McCampbell in the Blue Mountains. The weather was intensely cold and snow was two feet deep. It is thought that Bartley died of exposure or heart disease. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Bartley, two sisters and two brothers survive, and reside at Pendleton.

BEN HILL VICTOR

Mayor Ben F. Hill of Walla Walla topped his two opponents by a wide margin in the city primary election Tuesday, W. E. McCroskey being second and E. J. Cantowine, third. This means that Hill and McCroskey will go on the final ballot December 6, when the city's next mayor will be selected.

ATHENA TURKEY SHOOT

Athena scatter-gun enthusiasts held a little turkey shoot over the Athena traps Wednesday afternoon. Henry Collins, Guy Matlock and John Hamley of the Pendleton gun club came up and shot with the local shooters.

McNary Plans A New Bill For Agriculture

A simplified McNary-Haugen farm relief bill will be introduced on the opening day of congress by Senator McNary, Republican, Oregon, and pressed for a final vote.

In making this announcement, the Oregon senator, who will be confirmed as chairman of the senate agricultural committee, when congress meets, declared the same principle of the old bill was retained, but the administrative machinery would be simplified. He predicted the measure would draw more support at the short session than ever before, as the farmers of the west and south, were demanding relief from low farm prices. As chairman of the agricultural committee, he will be in a position to hold the measure more forcibly before the senate.

Although he will not complete the draft of the measure until after he has conferred with heads of the leading farm organizations, Senator McNary has decided to ask for an appropriation of \$250,000,000 to set up expert machinery to sell surplus crops under the management of a board to be appointed by the president, from the 12 federal land bank districts.

The government would not stand to lose anything under this plan, he said, as the sum would be paid back out of an equalization fee assessed against the producers.

The president would have a free hand in naming the board, the members of which would devote their whole time to the business at a salary of \$10,000 a year.

Senator McNary has received assurances of the support of other members of the senate and house in his demand for farm relief legislation at the coming session.

FOREST SERVICE FILMS

Representatives of the United States Forestry Service and the Oregon State Forestry Service, showed a film of moving pictures and a set of colored slides, to the members of the school at 2:30 last Friday. These pictures showed Pacific northwest scenery, wild life, mountains, streams and lakes. The purpose of showing these pictures was to create a better knowledge of Oregon's natural resources and to develop a need of conservation through fire prevention.

OREGON LETTER MEN

Beryl Hodgen, of Athena, will receive his second letter in football at the close of the season, according to an announcement made by Virgil Earl, director of athletics. Twenty-three letters will be awarded this year, the largest number in this sport given by the University at any one time. In order to win a letter in football a man must either play one straight half in a conference game or must play in three different halves for a total of thirty minutes.

MRS. LOUISA WAGNER CALLED BY DEATH HERE MONDAY

Mrs. Louisa Wagner, widow of the late Andrew J. Wagner, died at her home in Athena, Monday, after a serious illness of several weeks duration. Funeral services were held at the home Wednesday afternoon, interment taking place in Athena cemetery.

Mrs. Wagner was a pioneer of the Athena vicinity, having come to the farm home north of the city in 1875. Louisa A. Morgan was born June 5, 1850. At Hedrick, Iowa, December 22, 1870, she was united in marriage to Andrew J. Wagner, who preceded her to the grave February, 4, 1911. They crossed the plains in 1875, settling on the homestead where she spent the remainder of her life, with exception of the last few years.

She is survived by the following children: Mrs. Thomas Ervin, Portland; Mrs. Adam Raymond, Fresno, California; Mrs. Jake Creighton, Colfax, Washington; Mrs. William Bush, Mrs. Frank Sanders and Mr. Ace Wagner of Athena. She also leaves eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

NEW OREGON LAND FINDS HOMES FOR SETTLEMENT

Progress is bringing new blood to Oregon's farm lands as marked by the annual report of the land settlement department of the state and Portland chambers of commerce, directed by W. G. Ide, which shows that during the fiscal year ending September 30, 909 families have been located on farms in various parts of the state, and that the money invested by these newcomers totals \$2,999,718.

The program of the land settlement department has been in operation for the past three and one-half years, during which time 2,228 families have been placed on Oregon farms directly through the efforts of the department. According to Mr. Ide, the initial capital investment of this body of settlers is \$8,697,440.

In the work of securing the proper growth and development of Oregon by getting its farm lands occupied and used, the cooperation of realtors and commercial clubs in the various counties of the state is proving a great factor. That every section of Oregon is organized for action to make this work effective is shown by a portion of the annual report which shows 28 counties accounting for the distribution of these homeseekers.

THE REBAKAH CONVENTION

The district convention of the Rebekahs, held at I. O. O. F.-K of P. Hall in Athena Tuesday forenoon, afternoon and evening of this week, was attended by over 100 visiting members and delegates. The business session was held in the forenoon and afternoon, and in the evening initiatory degrees were conferred on two candidates by the Pendleton degree team. Grand lodge officers, President Dora Sexton of The Dalles, and Vice-President Etta Sanderson of Freewater, attended the convention. The banquet was held at the Christian church.

SEASON'S FIRST SNOW

The first snow of the season whitened the ground Friday, when an inch fell in the valley and several inches in the foothill districts. It is reported that in the Toll Gate vicinity, at the summit of the Blues, over two foot of snow has fallen. Ordinarily, the amount of snow now in the mountains presages a normal depth of several feet before the winter is over, which will insure moisture for the water sheds during spring and summer months.

PIONEER WOMAN DEAD

Mrs. J. E. Arkell, pioneer Pendleton woman, died at the family home in that city, Sunday evening, at the age of 68 years. She had lived in Pendleton for more than 36 years, and is survived by her husband and four children.

FOG DOWNS AIR MAIL

Leon Cuddeback, pilot of a Pasco-bound mail plane, became bewildered in a heavy fog Monday forenoon and made a forced landing at Walla Walla. He completely lost his bearings. The mail was dispatched to Pasco by rail.

C. F. KENNEDY DEAD

Charles Franklin Kennedy, a resident of Umatilla county since 1885, died at Pendleton, last Friday. He was a well known resident of Pendleton, and is survived by his wife and four children.

ANDREWS PROPOSES WHISKY MONOPOLY

Big Corporation to Manufacture Medicinal Liquor is Suggested.

Washington, D. C. — Immediate creation of a private corporation to manufacture medicinal whisky and to take over all existing supplies of this liquor will be asked of congress by General Lincoln C. Andrews, in charge of prohibition enforcement.

He said it was imperative that the corporation immediately set about the distilling of whisky lest the present supply of about 15,000,000 gallons be exhausted at the end of five years, which time, he estimated, will be necessary for the new stock to age.

Secretary Mellon, who joined President Coolidge in vetoing a previous proposal that the government take over the supplies of medicinal liquor, has endorsed the new plan.

While the law now authorizes the internal revenue bureau to make provision for replenishment of the medicinal stock, Andrews asserted that "no thoughtful citizen would want to place upon a government official the embarrassing responsibility of deciding what whisky distilleries shall be authorized to manufacture 3,000,000 gallons of whisky and to require him to undertake to supervise the manufacture.

"The one best practical solution to remedy all these conditions, seems to be that congress shall by enactment set up a private corporation which will be, in fact, a beneficial monopoly."

MILWAUKEE ROAD PUT UP FOR SALE

Butte, Mont. — After months of litigation, which followed its receivership, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway was upon the block Monday for sale to the highest bidder.

Only one bid totaling \$140,000,000, was made at the public sale. The bid was made by representatives of the reorganization committee and will be submitted to the federal court in Chicago on December 13 for approval.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, reputed to be one of the most progressive in the country because of its first electrified line through the Rocky mountains, went into bankruptcy March 18, 1925. The crisis in the road's financial affairs came after the road built its trans-continental line, went through the disorganizing war period, spent huge sums in electrification and then faced decreasing revenues because of Panama canal competition.

The new reorganization plan proposed by the Kuhn-Loeb-National City combination calls for a readjustment of the road's whole financial structure, which bankers claim will effect the complete financial rehabilitation of the road.

FOREST FIRE COST \$621,735

Reports Show Loss of 225,000,000 Board Feet of Oregon Timber.

Salem, Or. — Approximately 225,000,000 board feet of merchantable timber under the jurisdiction of the state forestry department was destroyed by fire during the past season, according to a report prepared by the state forester.

The report showed that the losses in the yellow pine region of eastern Oregon were heavier during the past season than for many years. This was due to continued dry weather, abnormal low humidity and high winds. Of the total net loss of timber reported during the season 60 per cent of the destruction was in eastern Oregon.

Cuba Begins Work on Maine Memorial

Havana, Cuba. — Reconstruction of the monument erected by Cuba to the memory of the Americans killed in the explosion of the Battleship Maine has been started. The monument was wrecked during the hurricane which struck Havana, October 20.

N. P. Official Dies in Wreck

Lake Park, Minn. — Dan C. Pettit bone of St. Paul, general baggage agent of the Northern Pacific railway was killed here when a passenger train crashed into the rear end of another train.

