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The 70th Congress Convened Monday

President Still Opposes the McNary Bill in His Message.

Washington, D. C.—Facing a host of problems and a number of controversies, political and otherwise, the 70th congress convened at noon Monday for its first session.

Hardly had the bang of the gavel called both houses to order before the long impending Smith-Vare election battle broke in the senate and shoved into the background the consideration of a host of legislative tasks that the new congress will be called on to tackle.

Even in the house, where stricter rules call for more regular procedure, came an indication of discord and political confusion ahead. After some debate a resolution was adopted to investigate the eligibility of one of its new members, James M. Beck of Pennsylvania, a republican, elected to fill William S. Vare's seat and chief counsel for Vare in his senate contest.

President Coolidge transmitted to a congress seething with political conjecture, a legislative message which revealed him as hewing to the line his administration has maintained on such all important issues as farm relief, taxation, flood control, foreign relations and national defense.

Self-Denial Asked

Coupled with his recommendations for action by congress on these and many other questions, the president called for a "stern self-denial" on the part of the people so that national expenditures may be kept within bounds.

Standing out in the message was a reiteration that the president still stuck to his guns in opposition to the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill, with its equalization fee provision, but he suggested that a federal farm loan board with a revolving fund might be used to build up co-operative marketing and aid in disposing of the nation's surplus crops.

Likewise Mr. Coolidge again pledged his complete support to Secretary Mellon's tax plans and took occasion to warn the makers of the tax laws against "special interests, too often selfish, always uninformed of the national needs as a whole, with hired agents using their proposed beneficiaries as engines of propaganda."

Expand Navy

Expansion of the navy, development of the merchant marine, Mississippi flood control legislation, Boulder canyon dam, legislation, disposition of the Muscle Shoals problem, a railroad consolidation measure, waterways development, and strict prohibition enforcement, all were recommended by the president.

Senators and representatives find now that the tax revision bill has been put in shape for house action, a number of the annual appropriation measures are ready to be reported and a good start has been made on flood relief, one of the most important of all the problems that face the new congress.

Since house rules permit limitation of debate, there will be little difficulty in getting the important bills through that body, but there will be a wholly different story when they reach the senate. Many of the bills, including the tax measure, undoubtedly will be rewritten there.

Political questions will enter into the consideration of practically all legislation, and in this pre-presidential campaign session political speeches, wherein the republican administration will be attacked and defended in turn, necessarily will slow up the legislative machinery.

Reclamation Interests West

Of foremost interest to advocates of reclamation and more rapid land settlement are the Columbia basin project in Washington and the Deschutes project in Oregon, which contemplates the expenditure of many millions of dollars and the opening to settlers of tremendous new acreage. The Umatilla rapids power project is coupled with them in discussions for through it water to irrigate lands in both Oregon and Washington would be provided, as well as cheaper power.

Austrian Civil Control to End.

Paris.—The council of ambassadors has decided to end the civil control of Austria on January 31 in view of the manner in which Austria has carried out her disarmament agreement. Civil control replaced interallied military control.

The Coast Radio Contest Winner On His Way East

Oregon State College.—Ted Roy of Pilot Rock, winner of the Far Western division of the Antwater Kent radio audition contest in San Francisco, is a popular campus tenor. Roy now is assured of a trip to the national finals in New York city and will receive one of the five final prizes, the highest of which is \$5000 in cash, together with scholarships and contracts.

Congratulations showered in on Roy and Professor Paul Petri, director of the music conservatory here, who accompanied him, from friends throughout the Northwest. Roy has studied under Professor Petri in his three years here. His achievement in winning first place among the men in competition with nine other state champions, is considered particularly notable in that he carried both the popular vote and the decision counted 40 per cent in the final choice.

Roy will leave early next week for New York to sing in the finals Sunday, December 11, in competition with but four other district winners. Final decision will rest entirely with a group of nationally known music critics rather than upon popular vote, although the concert will be broadcast over the national network extending from coast to coast.

Prizes in the final contest include \$5000, \$2000 and \$1000 for first, second and third places, respectively, as well as two-year scholarships in some Eastern conservatory. In addition, each will be given attractive three-year contracts to sing for the Atwater Kent company if the company so chooses.

"This contest is the most constructive and democratic that has ever been held among singers, to my knowledge," said Professor Petri. "Many contests have uncovered good singers and provided them scholarships, but this is the first that actually launches the successful contestant on a career. That is something that takes money, and is not provided in ordinary contests."

Junior Class Will Share in Proceeds

The junior class of Athena high school will share in the proceeds from a special picture showing at the Standard Theatre, next Wednesday evening, December 14, when the college play, "The Quarterback," featuring Richard Dix, will be presented. This is an annual custom of the Standard Theatre in presenting the juniors with funds to defray expenses of giving the senior class banquet.

Tomorrow night the Standard presents those irrepressible screen comedians, Charles Murray and George Sidney in First National's screen knockout, "Lost at the Front."

Sunday night, Metro-Goldwyn's newest picture release, "Becky," starring Sally O'Neil and Owen Moore, will be the offering, in program combination with Pathe Review and other short reel subjects.

The New Mayor Takes Office Reins

Two officials elected at the city election November 8, Mayor Stephens and Councilman Shick, were sworn into office Tuesday evening. Councilmen-elect Dell and Rogers were absent and will be sworn in at the next meeting of the council.

The outgoing mayor, Homer I. Watts, when he relinquished the office Tuesday night had served five consecutive terms. In his remarks on retirement from the office, Mr. Watts talked on practice of economy in city affairs. When he took the office in November 1923, the city's indebtedness was over \$100,000, and during his administration the indebtedness has been reduced to approximately \$57,000, according to figures given the Press at the city recorder's office.

A complete report of the city's finances will be published in the Press in January, when the annual report of the city treasurer is made.

A Touch of Winter

With a slight fall of snow on the ground and the thermometer registering in the twenties above, the Athena district is experiencing its first touch of winter. Snow fell Monday night and was followed by a cold wave. In the middle west snow storms of blizzard intensity, accompanied with zero weather, are prevailing over a large area.

Condon Slayer Takes Own Life

Ray Ferguson Kills Miss Richmond, Wounds Her Girl Friend.

After slaying Miss Viola Richmond and seriously wounding Miss Raimy, a girl friend, with a shot gun, Ray Ferguson a farm hand, was found dead by his own hand in a school house, west of Condon near where the crime was committed.

In a jealous rage, Ferguson, who was riding with the two girls in his car, Friday night, attacked the young women with a hammer, after stopping the machine on pretense that he had a flat tire. They escaped from the car and ran into a field. Ferguson pursued them and instantly killed Miss Richmond with his shot gun, and seriously wounded Miss Raimy.

After shooting, Ferguson ran his car through the field, deserted it at the head of a canyon. Poses hunted two days for him, tracking him to the John Day river. Evidently, after eluding the posse, the murderer backtracked to the scene of the shooting, and went to the school house and blew his brains out.

The body was discovered on the day funeral services was held for his victim at Condon.

Miss Richmond was the daughter of John Richmond, who formerly farmed in this county, near Myrick station, and the granddaughter of the late Neil McDonald of the Pilot Rock district. The body was brought to Pendleton for entombment. It is thought Miss Raimy will recover since the buckshot have been successfully removed from her back.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Johnson are spending the week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Catron.

Steiner and Korell Take Oath as New Solons of Congress

Washington.—Walking arm-in-arm to the vice president's desk with his senior colleague, Senator McNary, Frederick Steiner took the oath of office as senator from Oregon shortly after the senate met today.

Smith of Illinois, who was made to stand aside upon objection of Norris of Nebraska, came in the list of new senators just ahead of Steiner, and proceedings were delayed for a time by the reading of the Norris resolution declaring Smith not entitled to a seat. As soon as this incident closed, Steiner's name was called to join a group headed by Shortridge of California, who is beginning a new term, newly-elected senators being mustered in groups of four to receive the oath.

Franklin F. Korell, Portland's new member of the house, received the oath of office in the house without incident along with his reelected colleagues, Hawley and Sinnott. Hawley is beginning his 11th term and Sinnott his eighth.

Pendleton Hospital Gets 102 Patients

Relieving the congestion in the population at the state hospital for insane at Salem, 102 patients from the institution there were transferred to the Eastern Oregon hospital at Pendleton last week, the patients being taken to the eastern Oregon institution in three cars in the care of a number of attendants from the Salem hospital.

The transfer gives the Eastern Oregon institution a population of 1036, the first time in its history that this population has exceeded 1000, and leaves little room for the care of additional patients without crowding. The population of the Salem institution, which had reached a high peak of 1890 is reduced to 1788 by the transfer. Fifty-two men and 80 women were included.

Alaska and Hawaii Join at U. of O.



Group of Oregon co-eds, including one from Hawaii and one from Alaska. Left to right—Eleanor Boomer, Portland; Dorothy Davidson, Waimea, Kauai, Hawaii; Florence Hurley, Enterprise; Mildred Carolyn Johnson, Kuskokwim, Alaska.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene.—"East meets West" is common enough, but when the zero dress of northern Alaska appears alongside the ventilated grass garb of tropical Hawaii, we see adventure. Here, at the University of Oregon, by chance, are two girls, Dorothy Davidson, born in faraway Waimea, Kauai, and with her, Mildred Carolyn Johnson, of Butte, Montana, who recently returned from the desolate Kuskokwim river country in the Alaskan interior.

Halfway between the Alaskan and Seward peninsulas the little school-marm labored at teaching an Alaskan school the mysterious pot-locks of the English language. Here is a story of glare-ice and blinding snow, of Mahanui dog teams, cold, rain-lashed fogs of Northern lights, and the death-toll of spring thaws on the Kuskokwim.

Dorothy's story deals with pineapples, with warm-colored hibiscus flowers, and sun-flooded sand dunes.

The blonde bobs of both girls contrast vividly with the shiny black hair of the natives in both countries; and both stories tell of the white man's economic and cultural struggle among these branch-children of Asia.

Miss Davidson's home is on the Hawaiian coast within sound of the continual lapping of waves, and always before her, she had a panorama of the varied blue tints of the water. She grew up, and went to Lihue, thirty miles away, to the high school that is farthest west of any in what is technically the United States. Here, in the little town surrounded by plantation and sea, she and nine other white students clashed with 390 orientals.

Dorothy loves the land of her birth; the colorful Waimea gorge, like our own Grand Canyon, and the restless sugar-cane fields. She loves the vivid, short-lived hibiscus, with its delicate blossoms that live only for a day, and the sensitive Cereus that blooms only at night.

The petite Mildred loves the Alaskan atmosphere. Even though her experience was one of hardest work and economic difficulty—such as finding the water pitchers frozen tight of mornings—something about the country grips her. In night school she had old men and women who wore their stringy hair down over their shoulders; in day school she taught the alphabet to busy youngsters with scriptural names.

Many other experiences make up the background of memories in the education of the two blonde girls who are continuing their studies at the University, where they are both freshmen. "I should love to go to Alaska," Dorothy told her companion when the two met for the first time. "And I," Mildred replied with her courteous little smile, "have always wanted to go to Hawaii."

Give Farmer Fair Deal, Says Capper

Danger to Nation Seen in Continuance of Present Policy.

Philadelphia.—Sounding a warning against continuance of the "sectional disparity" of the east and west lest the whole United States become economically imperiled, Senator Capper of Kansas, in an address here made a plea for congressional alleviation of the ills of the agricultural western region. He spoke at a luncheon of the Rotary club.

"There are two possible methods of relief for the present condition in the west," the senator said. "Either lower the tariff on what the farmer buys so he can get the benefit of lower prices on goods made in Europe; or extend the aid of the government in disposing of our surplus farm products abroad so that the excess will not disastrously depress the home market."

There is no hatred among the farmers of the west against the industrial east and its "present era of prosperity," the senator asserted. Rather, he said the west wants a "square deal" from congress in the way of bringing the country to an economical level, either up or down.

"The west wants to raise its level to that of the prosperous east. It has no desire to depress the business of the east by bringing down commodity prices."

The speaker claimed eastern industry must depend to a large degree on the purchasing power of the west, and added:

"Sectional misunderstanding and lack of economic balance brought about the civil war. Sectional disparity in 1927 threatens the position of America as the world's most favored, most prosperous nation. United, the east and west stand, but divided against each other by lack of understandings they are bound to fall into economic peril, gravely menacing to both sections."

"This country cannot permanently remain half prosperous, half unprosperous, any more than it could continue half slave, half free. There is no room in America for the clash of sectional political blocs and the farm problem is not a political issue, though it may become one."

School Budget Adopted By Narrow Margin

LA GRANDE.—In a close though quiet election, La Grande school voters adopted the budget for 1928 and also sanctioned an increase of more than the 6 per cent limitation. The new budget calls for expenditures of \$121,664.20 compared with \$115,594 in 1927.

The difference provides for payment of \$5000 more annually on outstanding bonds. The budget carried 104 to 100 and the 6 per cent measure 101 to 97.

"Clubbing a Husband" Pleases the Audience

The drama given by the Loyal Glensiers class of the Christian church Sunday school, at the school auditorium, last Friday night, was a success in every particular.

Each character seemed to be well cast and the portrayal of the parts was all and more than could be expected of amateurs. The neat sum of \$62.00 was realized.

Louisa Winn Passes

Mrs. Louisa Winn, widow of the late William B. Winn, died of paralysis November 26, 1927, at the home of her son, Charles Winn, on Couze creek, reports the Weston Leader. Although 92 years old she had been apparently in excellent health up to the hour of her death. An early pioneer of this section Mrs. Winn was held in high esteem. She is survived by a number of sons, among them Frank and Charles Winn of Couze creek. Funeral services were held Thursday forenoon in Milton and interment was made in I. O. O. F. cemetery at Weston.

Mrs. H. I. Watts pleasantly entertained the bridge club ladies and two guests at her home last Friday afternoon, at her home on Third street. Mrs. Dell held high score, and Mrs. Michener won the consolation. A very delectable two-course luncheon was served by the hostess.

Veteran Loan System Is the Same as it Heretofore Existed

A recent news statement from the army recruiting office in Portland has caused many World war veterans to believe that their adjusted compensation and paid-up insurance certificates may now be used for loans up to 90 per cent of the face value of the policies.

To correct this misapprehension, Kenneth L. Cooper, regional manager of the Veterans' bureau, calls attention to the fact that there has been no change in the law nor in the manner of making loans thereunder. He said:

"Loans values are divided into five age groups, and are printed on the face of each veteran's certificate, showing the exact loan value for the holder's age for each dollar which the certificate represents. These loan values increase yearly."

At the end of the second policy year the loan value ranges from 8 to 11 cents, according to age.

"At the end of the third year, beginning next January in many cases, the loan value increases to a range from 11 to 14 cents a dollar."

"The 90 per cent loan value is not reached until the end of the 19th year. The policy matures and is payable in full at the end of the 20 years from date of issue."

"Oregon has a population of approximately 40,000 ex-service men and women. Up to June 30, 1926, the Veterans' bureau had issued 30,000 adjusted compensation certificates in the state, having a cash value on maturity of nearly \$32,000,000."

"The Portland regional office has made 5700 initial loans, aggregating a little more than \$600,000. Allowing for a few hundred loans made by banks throughout the state, it appears that about one in five veterans has borrowed money on their certificates."

From the figures obtained from the Veterans' bureau, the army recruiting office statement that some 51,000 veterans in Oregon have failed to apply for their adjusted compensation appears to have been widely in error."

Flax Industry Continues Increase in Oregon State

Three thousand Willamette valley acres have been contracted for flax growing next year, Colonel W. B. Bartram of Salem, superintendent of the flax industry in the state, told members of the agricultural committee, Portland Chamber of Commerce, says the Oregonian.

Thirty pulling machines—said to be more than are in operation in any district in the world—will be used in Oregon next year. Automatic scutching machinery, which will increase the salvage 25 per cent, will be in use.

Colonel Bartram said Oregon is the only place in the world where all three of the operations required for flax production and manufacturing are done by machinery.

Returns per acre to flax growers last year averaged \$62, the speaker said. Riddle Bros. of Monmouth had 80 acres, 30 of them formerly in wheat, in flax, and their average quality flax brought them \$79 gross per acre. The largest per acre crop in the state was grown at St. Paul; 36 acres produced 144 tons of first quality grain and brought \$5600.

"Producing flax," said Colonel Bartram, "teaches farmers good farming, because it requires intensive cultivation, and that brings the same good results with flax that it brings with other crops. Flax, instead of being hard on land, increases fertility. One man got 40 bushels of wheat per acre on land following the previous year's sowing to flax."

"German, Austrian and Russian farmers do best with flax," Colonel Bartram went on, "The Mount Angel district seems to be one of the best for production. Most of the Oregon grain is being grown around Salem, in Marion county, but it also is being grown in Washington, Linn, Yamhill and Polk counties."

Colonel Bartram, said it would take 40,000 acres of flax to supply the amount that is now being imported into the United States in various forms. This year 225 tons of the manufactured product were shipped to Belfast, Ireland, and 265 tons to New England states.

Jardine Opposed To More Projects

Against Federal Reclamation, Expansion, at This Time.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Agriculture Jardine has joined his cabinet colleagues, Secretary of Interior Work, in opposing further expansion of federal reclamation at this time. Where new farm lands are to be provided, the need for them should be very clear before the enterprise is undertaken, he says in his annual report.

Jardine's comments imply that much land now farmed would be better used by turning it back to the forest or employing it for grazing. The policy of giving settlers on federal reclamation projects from 20 to upwards of 40 years to repay construction charges without interest constitutes an extensive subsidy to agricultural expansion, he believes.

"Many of the conditions which appear to justify government promotion of land settlement in the other countries do not apply to the United States," Jardine announces. "Yet our homestead laws continue to promote the settlement of land unfit for settlement, and since the beginning of the agricultural depression there has been continuous agitation for new irrigation projects."

He believes that private capital should be able to promote reclamation where a project is clearly feasible, and that federal funds should not be used, except under very unusual conditions, to accomplish what private capital will not venture to undertake on account of the doubtful profitability of the enterprise.

COMMERCE CHAMBER RAPPED BY MELLON

Washington, D. C.—The chamber of commerce of the United States was charged by Secretary Mellon with having presented a surprising misconception of facts and an argument hardly worthy of a business men's report in urging a \$400,000,000 reduction in taxes.

Mr. Mellon wrote to Lewis E. Pierson, president of the chamber, in a continuation of the controversy that has arisen between the administration and the chamber over the size of the tax reduction to be made by the congress which began sessions Monday. The treasury favors a \$225,000,000 reduction, while a slash of \$236,000,000 is proposed in the revenue bill drafted by the house ways and means committee.

In assailing the chamber of commerce program Secretary Mellon followed the lead of President Coolidge, whose view that the chamber was advocating an unwarranted reduction was disclosed recently at the White House. After this the chamber reiterated its demand for a \$400,000,000 tax cut and defended its course in advocating it.

GOLD COINS DISTRIBUTED

Millions to Go Into Christmas Stockings in United States.

New York.—Santa Claus will drop some \$100,000,000 in gold coins into Christmas stockings in the United States this year, federal reserve bank officials estimated following the demand for \$20,000,000 in gold coins in New York.

The custom of giving gold coins as Christmas presents puts a heavy strain on the federal reserve machinery and on the banks that supply their clients with the coins.

The approach of Christmas also means the appearance of \$1,000,000 worth of \$2.50 gold pieces. This coin is not minted except on special occasions, but because of the demand 400,000 of them have been ordered struck off for the Christmas rush. Because of their scarcity and the value placed on them by collectors, very few of the \$2.50 pieces ever are seen again. The demand for them always exceeds the supply, officials say.

Will Offer Filipino Independence Bill.

Washington, D. C.—A Philippine independence to follow the holding of a constitutional assembly and the negotiation of international treaties for neutralization will be introduced in the 70th congress as early as rules permit.