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GLOWING REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION WORK

January Contracts Disclose Six-Year Record.

Washington.—A six-year record for award of contracts for construction of public works and utilities in 37 states was announced by Robert P. Lamont, secretary of commerce, in making public January statistics obtained from private and official sources. The value of such contracts awarded last month, it was disclosed, amounted to \$112,065,200, an increase of 118 per cent over the December total.

Julius Barnes, chairman of the national business conference survey, reported to President Hoover that, "The business is on the upgrade and the danger of a long depression seemingly over. He reported 44,000,000 persons are now employed in the United States."

"According to the records of the F. W. Dodge Corporation of New York," Secretary Lamont announced, "construction contracts for public works and utilities in January, 1929, covering 37 states, were valued at \$96,522,000 against \$72,039,000 for January, 1928; \$58,566,000 for January, 1927; \$32,922,000 for January, 1926; and \$37,929,000 for January, 1925." Prior to 1925, the most comprehensive figures available covered a small number of states.

"Contracts for public works and utilities awarded in 37 states during December last year were valued at \$51,920,000 against \$72,361,000 in November and \$85,116,000 in October. During July, 1929, when all monthly records for peace times were broken, public works and public utilities construction reached the total of \$194,547,000."

"Contracts awarded for all classes of construction during January, 1929, were above the December totals, being \$123,955,200 and \$116,368,100 respectively. During January, 1929, awards for all classes reached \$49,187,000."

"In the field of private construction, 'commercial buildings' registered an increase of about 62 per cent in January over December, the figures being \$33,392,100 for December and \$54,052,200 for January. Offices and stores account for about 70 per cent of the construction in this field. An increase of slightly over 10 per cent was recorded in contracts awarded for hospitals and institutions, and 14.9 per cent in construction for social and recreational purposes."

"Railroad construction, highways, bridges, and sewage systems, were the leaders in the field of public works and utilities."

"Contracts awarded for industrial plants and for residential buildings declined substantially in January, compared with December. The secretary Lamont also pointed out that complete figures reaching the department recently from the governors of several states confirmed the department's estimate that expenditures for the building and maintenance of public works and public utilities proper this year would total or exceed \$7,000,000,000."

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

The senate adopted an amendment by Senator Duff (Rep., Va.) to increase the tariff on salt from 15 to 25 per cent.

The independent office appropriation bill carrying \$552,000,000 for the miscellaneous services of the government was passed by the house.

The shipping board authorized the sale of five steel cargo vessels to the Amtorg Trading corporation, commercial agents of the Soviet Russian government.

Counterfeits of the new small-sized \$20 federal reserve notes bearing a picture of Andrew Jackson have been found, according to a warning issued by the Treasury department.

The senate immigration committee gave its approval to the Harris bill to place immigration from all countries of the western hemisphere, except Canada and Newfoundland, on a quota basis.

Aeronautic exports from the United States in 1929 consisted of 354 airplanes valued at \$4,574,450, compared with 162 planes valued at \$1,759,653 in 1928, the Department of Commerce announced.

President Hoover has endorsed the plan that next April 13, Thomas Jefferson's birthday, be specially marked by proper celebration of the founding of religious freedom.

Noted British Contralto Dead
London.—Mrs. Louise Kirkby Lunn, one of the greatest living British contraltos, died here after a long illness.

Woman Gets \$10,000 U. S. Job
Washington.—President Hoover's appointment of Miss Annabelle Matthews, an attorney in the internal revenue bureau, to be a member of the board of tax appeals was confirmed by the senate. She will receive \$10,000 a year.

Woman Would Be Governor
Los Angeles.—Mrs. Clara Shortridge Foltz, woman attorney, has declared herself in the Republican primary race for the governorship of California.

\$100,000,000 FOR SCHOOLS



Henry Ford.

Fort Myers, Fla.—Henry Ford has announced his intention to devote the rest of his life and \$100,000,000 of his fortune to the founding of schools. He said he had not yet decided on the number or location of the schools, but that some of them would be large institutions and that they would be situated in various parts of the country. A desire to do all in his power to help the young men of the country find their places in the world, he said, was the inspiration for his plan.

RUSSIA FEARS SHORT WHEAT CROP IN 1930

Hoards Grain; Little Is Sold Outside of Country.

Riga, Latvia.—Large exports of grain, especially of wheat, from Russia are not expected by Baltic grain merchants. They report that the huge grain reserves which the Soviet grain trust is alleged to have stored are being held because of a threatened grain crop failure this coming summer.

Since the beginning of the year less than 10,000 tons of Russian grain have been exported into Europe, 70 per cent of this consisting of rye, oats and barley. Considerable rye was recently purchased by the Riga grain merchants, and a similar delivery is expected within a few days. But the promised exports of wheat have failed to materialize. What amount of grain Russia has exported to the Near East and Mediterranean countries is not known.

The shipment of \$2,500,000 worth of platinum from the depleted reserves of the Moscow state bank, which passed through Riga last week en route to New York, is viewed here as further confirmation that the Soviet government is not willing to export grain during the present crisis, when it is attacking the richer classes of Russia—peasantry, confiscating their possessions and forming other peasants into communal farms. Russia has only begun its campaign to reorganize farming, and as a result agriculture is completely disorganized. The Moscow press mentions that the soaring price is likely to be cut by 50 per cent because of a lack of seed grain.

Another significant item is contained in the Moscow Krasnaya Gazette, which publishes an official government decree giving a list of articles which Russians are permitted to receive in packages from abroad for their personal use. The list begins with flour, grains, rice, sugar, dried vegetables, milk, meat, fish, products, and even caviar are mentioned. Small amounts of clothing, footwear, cosmetics, silver and gold objects are also listed, and each recipient is entitled to receive a bar of soap. Emphasis is placed on food articles, revealing that the Soviet government does not expect to increase the present rations.

Legge Favors Licensing Farm Product Dealers

Washington.—A statement from Chairman Legge of the farm board, approving the Summers bill to place commission merchants, brokers and dealers in perishable agricultural products under federal control, was placed before the house agriculture committee which is considering the measure.

Expressing the opinion that the proposed law would suppress unfair practices among such dealers in the terminal markets, Mr. Legge wrote that this would "enable co-operative associations handling perishable products to obtain greater returns for their members."

"The proposed legislation, therefore, should supplement the work of the farm board," he added.

The bill would authorize the secretary of agriculture to license dealers, commission merchants and brokers, and would provide penalties for unfair conduct.

Would Cut Officials' Salaries
Hastings, Neb.—A group of about 125 farmers met here and organized a taxpayers' league and advocated reduction of salaries of public officials. It was proposed that the governor's pay be reduced to \$2,500 annually.

Mexican Woman, 132, Dead
Mexico City.—A Mexican dispatch reported the death of Senorita Maria del Carmen Alvarez, whose age was given at one hundred and thirty-two. Her memory was clear until the end.

FINDS STATE BANKS WELL SUPERVISED

Bankers Body Sees Less Politics in Banking Departments With Better Facilities in the Hands of the Responsible Officials.

A survey of state banking departments by the State Bank Division, American Bankers Association, discloses a distinct tendency the past five years to take bank supervision out of politics, to increase the discretionary powers of bank commissioners, to lengthen their terms of office, to supply them with adequate forces of qualified examiners and to relieve banking departments of duties foreign to banking, says a recent statement issued by the association.

"We have consistently urged that the office of bank commissioner be a free from partisan politics as the judiciary itself and that it be divorced from all other functions of state government," the statement says. "Further, that his term of office be made more secure and lasting, with sufficient salary and power granted to attract and retain the services of men of outstanding executive ability, courage, resourcefulness and successful banking experience."

"Five years ago the first survey of state banking departments by the division demonstrated the need for improvements. On the basis of data now in hand it is evident that, through the revision of statutes in many states, rapid steps are being taken in the right direction. One by one the states are coming to recognize the primary importance of strong, competent banking departments. The demand for increasing the effectiveness of banking departments is beginning to be met."

How Bank Commissioners Are Chosen
The office of bank commissioner is now operated as an independent department of state government in thirty-four states, the bankers find. In two states the bank commissioner is elected at general elections. In one he is appointed from eligible lists of the civil service and in another, he is selected by the banks. In one state the bankers' association elects a list of five names from which the governor appoints one as superintendent of banks. In another he is appointed by the State Corporation Commission and in another by the State Banking Board.

"Terms of office of bank commissioners have been lengthened in several states during the last five years," the report says. "In 23 states the term is four years, in one, five years, and in three it is six years and in some the term is indefinite. A short term is condemned on the grounds that the commissioner has insufficient time to become thoroughly conversant with his field work. A longer term permits his rendering useful service through capitalizing his experience. Five years ago the average length of service was less than three years, while now it has risen to five years."

Higher Standards Required
"Signs of an awakening to the necessity of making successful banking experience a qualification for bank commissioner are evident. While eleven states report no banking experience necessary, the majority require experience of this sort, ranging from two to five years. Twelve states now have banking boards, with powers ranging from acting in an advisory capacity to full power over all state banks to issue and reject charters.

A healthy sign is the number of reports which disclose that the commissioners have full power to appoint bank examiners or that these appointments are made from civil service lists. This power is now granted to the commissioner by twenty-seven states. Three require that selection be from civil service lists. Commissioners are still made in a few states of political pressure in the appointment of examiners, but the contrary seems to be true in a growing number of states. The most capable commissioner cannot successfully perform his duties unless he is able to command the services of efficient, honest examiners. The safety of depositors is dependent on their work, and their appointment, fitness and compensation are highly important. The number of examiners has increased 25 per cent in the last five years."

BANKERS TO HOLD GREAT CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, has been designated for the 1930 annual convention of the American Bankers Association. This organization, which numbers about 20,000 banks with \$55,000,000,000 in assets, is annually the nation's most important financial event. The attendance ranges between five and ten thousand.

Cleveland is especially significant in the history of the Association's educational traditions since it was in this city, when the organization last met there in the year 1899, that the original resolution was presented looking to the formation of an educational section. This subsequently resulted in the American Institute of Banking in which are now enrolled 35,000 bank men and women engaged in the study of the technical and scientific phases of the business.

ALBANIA ABOUNDS IN ROMAN RELICS

Rich Finds Dug Up in Fields by Scientists.

Rome.—When King Zogu of Albania presented to Premier Mussolini some time ago the superb marble head of the "Goddess of Butrintum" discovered in his kingdom, he was doing more than an act of courtesy. His act emphasized the growing importance of Albania as a rich treasure house for archeologists.

The small Balkan country of Albania has recently taken its place in the classical tradition of European countries because of the rich finds of Hellenic and Roman architecture and sculpture which have been discovered there.

Italians have found the traces of their forefathers in this small, mountainous land. The Italian archeological mission, led by Dr. Luigi Roventi, has unearthed antique treasures of great importance in that part of Albania which in Roman times was known as Epirus, or rather, former part of it.

Find Relics Under Earth
Hidden under many feet of rough, uncultivated land, as archeologists suspected for centuries, there have been excavated ancient temples, Roman baths, an early Christian basilica, the ruins of a Byzantine period, a valuable collection of Greek and Roman statuary and other monuments.

For more than 900 years Italian archeologists have been searching for countless treasures of Greek and Roman civilization were hidden in the soil of Albania. The first archeological expedition from Italy left Rome in 1918. Neither had much success, partly owing to the troubled state of the country, which made exploration difficult and partly owing to lack of adequate financial and technical equipment.

It remained for Duca di Salaparuta, another partly successful archeological expedition in the year 1924, to bring to light the treasure of old Butrintum. The mission so many centuries ago, the Italian mission, in the zone of Butrintum, a number of life would be required to complete the task thoroughly.

Discoveries Are Important
The list of discoveries is long and important. The site of Butrintum, an ancient city, is being excavated. The site of the Roman baths, the site of the early Christian basilica, the site of the Byzantine period, the site of the Greek and Roman statuary and other monuments.

Artist Doesn't Require Poverty, Prince Claims
Stockholm.—An artist does not need poverty or a noble existence to develop his talent, says Prince Eugen of Sweden, brother of King Gustaf and himself one of Sweden's foremost landscape painters.

Writing in a Göteborg paper, the royal artist recalls that there have been many great artists who have not suffered from material want, and that others who have fought against hardships and difficulties would have been still greater had they been freed from economic difficulties.

The prince says that he himself has the greatest of all his royal birth and public position as a hindrance to his art, and that a prince should or should not be an artist.

"From my point of view," he says, "the work is its own reward. When I have finished a picture and see it hanging on the wall, it interests me less than when I am working on it. Above all, I want to be treated as a real painter."

"I have studied and worked hard. My artistic ability may be only me, but I am a professional craftsman, not an amateur."

Suicide Effort Fails
Philadelphia.—A young girl's attempt at suicide was thwarted when the taxicab in which she was riding swayed at the moment she pressed the trigger of her revolver, diverting the bullet intended for her heart.

Dog Fosters 3 Pigs
Cashmere, Wash.—Lapsie was taken broken when her pups were taken away. She crawled into a box that contained three little pigs that were being raised on a bottle and immediately became their foster mother.

Infant Doubles His Height in Two Days
Boston.—The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John Thorne had doubled his height in two days, according to Dr. Mark Ritner, in charge of the case. At birth the child weighed two pounds, one ounce and was only seven inches tall. Two days later he was fourteen pounds tall and weighed six ounces more than at birth.

Envey to Poland Dies
Los Angeles.—Alexander P. Moore, sixty-six, recently appointed United States ambassador to Poland and former publisher of the Pittsburgh Leader, died in a hospital here after a long illness.

Mayer, Ex-Chief Kill Each Other
Mexico City.—Jose Angel Trujillo, mayor of Toluca, Jalisco, and Juvenal Munoz, former rebel chief, shot each other to death in a pistol duel in the main plaza of that town.

U. S. TO AVOID ALL EUROPEAN MUDDLES

Security for Peace First, Robinson Asserts.

London.—Resumption of the five-power naval conference on limitation of war equipment, following the adjournment necessitated by the temporary withdrawal of the French government, is expected soon to bring definite action. There have been expressed here fears that the conference will fall far short of what was originally expected, and that a satisfactory agreement between the five nations is impossible.

London.—Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas, one of the United States delegates to the naval conference, listed seven principal points in a recent address on "What the United States Expects of the London Conference."

Chief among these points was the second, which is taken as an official admission on the part of Washington, which approved the speech, that the conference results will not be as great as previously expected.

The senator delivered his speech in the Abraham Lincoln room of the Hotel Savoy to the American Correspondents' association. He said in part:

"There exist in the United States groups holding diverse opinions touching matters pertaining to the good will. These groups embrace members designated as 'pacifists,' 'internationalists' and 'big navy' champions."

"With these thoughts in mind the following seems true:

"First.—The American people realize that permanent peace is inseparable from confidence in security."

"Second.—They believe that prevention of competition should be extended to all forms of combat vessels and that when limitation has been assured, it will help in arranging for reductions which would be impossible unless all nations are limited."

"Third.—Our people anticipate extension of the arrangement in the Washington treaty for capital ships so as to establish the same relation, substantially, between the United States, Great Britain and Japan in cruisers, destroyers and submarines as now exists with regard to capital ships."

"Fourth.—They believe that when limitation of cruisers, destroyers and submarines is in plain sight further reductions in battleships below the Washington treaty plan will be desirable."

"Fifth.—Our people comprehend the futility of the submarine's attack on the surface fleet, and quite generally condemn bombardments from the air."

"Sixth.—American opinion supports a policy of reducing naval armaments."

"Seventh.—The people of the United States quite generally adhere to the traditional policy of our government to avoid, if possible, involvement in European politics."

The Italian delegation has issued its long awaited statement. This contains proposals to the effect that the Italian delegation is prepared to consider a naval holiday in capital ship building as well as the entire abolition of this class of warship; that it is ready to promise not to exceed in auxiliary tonnage the figures of any other continental European power, and that it is disposed to consider the total abolition of submarines.

Ask Hoover to Express His Views on Business

Chicago.—President Hoover has been invited to write his views on economic stabilization in a message to be read at conferences to be held here, March 27, under the sponsorship of the National Management congress, the National Industrial exposition, the American Management association and the materials handling convention of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

2 Candidates, Same Name, Printed on Same Ballot

Knoxville, Tenn.—It seems certain George L. Burnett is going to win. Two men of the same name have qualified as candidates for the Republican nomination for the county highway commissioner. Primary board officials said the names must go on the ballots with no titles or identification other than the identical names. Voters foresee all sorts of complications.

Australian Wheat Market Pool Plan Is Announced

Canberra, Australia.—A plan for stabilization of the Australian wheat industry, which includes a marketing plan to be controlled by a pool, was announced by the minister of markets and transport. The board in each state of the commonwealth would join in a guarantee to the grower of 4 shillings per bushel for the first year.

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MAY LOSE CONTROL



John L. Lewis.

Chicago.—A move to reorganize the United Mine Workers of America and wrest control of the International organization from John L. Lewis, the international president, has been launched by the Illinois mine union group which has been fighting Lewis and others. A call for a reorganization convention in Springfield, Ill., March 10, was issued.

SAYS U. S. BUSINESS IS ON SOUND BASIS

Chamber of Commerce Makes Report on Conditions.

Washington.—A "high degree of business solidarity" is reflected in recent reports to the national business survey conference, it was announced by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

The reports which come from among 170 trade organizations indicate, the chamber announced, that "the effort to advance certain activities with a view to general business stabilization is well sustained and in some instances strikingly effective."

"Information from these and other sources," the announcement continues, "reveals that construction programs are being accelerated, that advantage is being taken of the present seasonal lull in a number of industries to make improvements and repairs, and that plans for future activities are going forward without interruption."

"Telegraphic reports to the National Electric Light association from 85 per cent of the industry, submitted to the business survey conference, indicate that total expenditures for new construction to be made in the first quarter of 1930 will be \$198,000,000. This is 10 per cent in excess of similar expenditures for the first quarter of 1929 and reflects acceleration of the construction program."

"Orders for equipment and materials in the first quarter of 1930 will total \$150,000,000, also an increase for this period."

"For the year 1930 orders for equipment and materials will total \$435,000,000, and expenditures for new construction \$400,000,000."

Chicago.—A comprehensive highway pavement program, to be carried out in Cook county during the years 1930, 1931 and 1932, was made public by the joint committee of the Chicago Association of Commerce and the Chicago Regional Planning association. The program calls for an aggregate expenditure of \$22,443,000 in the three-year period.

Fight on Bogus Trade Schools by Engineers

Chicago.—A nation-wide campaign against fraudulent trade and correspondence schools will be started immediately by the American Association of Engineers, according to an announcement from the organization's Chicago headquarters.

Plans call for appointment of a committee of leading engineers to co-operate with state and federal officials in exposing spurious mail-order schools, particularly in Chicago, New York, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Detroit, Washington, Milwaukee and St. Louis.

"A five-year investigation by the association revealed that of 3,000 to 4,000 menagerially paid instructors with 20 or more high-pressure executives drawing large salaries," said the announcement. "Stock companies broadcasting synthetic education in any of 200 subjects were capitalized in any of \$10,000,000 and may have had 100,000 students, usually drawn from small towns in western and mountainous sections."

Decrease 11 More Meatless Days
Riga, Latvia.—Eleven additional meatless days each month were proclaimed over the Moscow radio by the council of national commissars. Sale of meat and meat products was also prohibited in private shops.

Order Boulder Dam Speed
Washington.—The senate and house committees on irrigation gave blanket authority to Secretary of the Interior Wilbur to begin letting contracts for power from the Boulder Dam project.

WIFE AIDS ESKIMO TO HANG HIMSELF

Tribe Considers Act Man's Own Business.

Edmonton, Alta.—Despondent and fearful because he imagined he had been deserted by fellow members of his tribe, a fifty-year-old paralyzed Eskimo, living in a snow house near Ellice river, northwest territories, committed suicide with the assistance of his wife and in the presence of other members of his household, according to details of a weird case which was recently investigated by Royal Canadian mounted police officers.

The man, one Mukhagluk, became paralyzed in the spine and hips and was unable to support himself. When his son-in-law, Konatyak, left camp the aged paralytic became convinced he was being abandoned and announced his intention of killing himself.

For three days in succession he demanded a loaded rifle, and when this was denied him he attempted to choke himself with his fingers. Finally, on the fourth day, he prevailed upon his wife, Kalaryuk, to tie a double strand of heavy cotton twine to a pole stretched across the roof of the snow house.

Mukhagluk then crawled along a snow bench to the suspended twine in the center of which he fashioned a noose, slipped it around his neck and hanged himself.

Meanwhile his wife and other members of his family remonstrated with him verbally but made no physical attempt to restrain the head of the household from his contemplated act. The northern tribes believe that no one should interfere with a man's actions so long as they affect nobody but himself.

The police decided that no arrests should be made after they had made a full investigation of the case.

Home Never Like This, So He Remains in Jail

Minneapolis.—A little soft music, professor—A song of sweetness and light and contentment.

Enter a man completely satisfied with the city workhouse—in spite of an opportunity for freedom.

Arrested on a minor charge our hero was sentenced to serve 90 days in the corrective institution where the decorative railing for the Third Avenue bridge was made and sundry products of manual labor take shape in the hands of prisoners. He was not given the opportunity of paying a fine.

Friends sought to have his term made as pleasant as possible and asked that he be assigned to the courthouse kitchen.

Still not satisfied, his friends sought to have the sentence changed from imprisonment to a fine. The judge that sentenced him finally relented, suspended the sentence and imposed a fine.

Delighted, the friends went to the workhouse to break the good news. The object of their brotherly efforts looked awfully disinterested.

"No, thanks," he said, "I'm going to stay here. I've got a good job."

"Hex" Doctor's Lotion Is Blamed for Death

Reading, Pa.—Possibility that a "hex" doctor's prescriptions of an inflammable skin lotion caused the death of Mrs. Harry MacDonald, thirty-four years old, found dying from burns in her home recently, led Dr. E. H. Amersil, coroner, to begin an investigation.

At first Doctor Amersil believed death was accidental, but when he discovered that nothing else was burned, he investigated.

Anthony Braun, the woman's father, stated that Mrs. MacDonald had been visiting "hex" doctors for several weeks and he believed that one of them had given her a fluid to place on her skin, which he believed may have been inflammable.

Nebraska Has Bible Dating Back to 1737

Wauneta, Neb.—Mrs. George Theobald of Wauneta is the possessor of a Bible translated by a Martin Luther and compiled in 1737. The tome has been in the possession of Mrs. Theobald's family for 194 years. It is made of parchment and is bound with wood and leather. It is in an excellent state of preservation. Brass bands protect the covers which bear the marks of heavy rings that once hooked the Bible to the pulpit of some old church.

Discover White Russians Drawing Soviet Pensions

Moscow.—Investigations of the pension bureaus in various cities have revealed that some men who fought against the Soviet government have for years been drawing stipends as patriotic war veterans. Because of the chaotic conditions during the civil war period it is frequently difficult to establish on which side people fought. Some "whites" have thus managed to find a place in the red pension lists.

Leipzig University Is Holding Overflow Lecture

Leipzig.—In popular lecture courses at the University of Leipzig, which more people want to attend than can be accommodated in the ordinary lecture room, provisions have been made for overflow meetings in nearby rooms to which the lecturer's voice is carried by means of loud speakers.