

Maximum yesterday.....47
Minimum today.....33
Precip. Sat. and Sun......97

Rain.

L. A. MYSTERY SOLVED, WOMAN IS FOUND

KIDNAPPED WOMAN IS RETURNED

Mrs. Gladys Witherall Is Found Unharmed, Prisoner on a Lonely Sheep Ranch—Kidnapers Arrested, Confess to Crime—Grudge Against Father-in-Law Cause.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 31.—Mrs. Gladys Witherall, who disappeared from her home here last Tuesday, was found early this morning, a prisoner in a small house on a sheep ranch eight miles east of Corona in Riverside county about 70 miles southeast of Los Angeles according to a telephone message to the Associated Press.

Mrs. Witherall was unharmed. Two men who gave their names as A. J. and Floyd Carr, cousins, were arrested. The discovery of Mrs. Witherall and the arrest of the two Carr men were effected by Los Angeles police and deputy sheriffs who started for Los Angeles with the woman and the two men.

The officers said the Carrs confessed they had ill feeling toward the woman's father-in-law, A. J. Witherall, because of a transaction involving a boat, and that they kidnaped Mrs. Witherall both to obtain revenge and ransom money, of which, it was said, they had demanded \$20,000.

Hello Girl Is Hero A telephone operator's quickwittedness led to the discovery of Mrs. Witherall and the Carr's arrest. The operator received a call for the residence of O. S. Witherall and delayed making the call until the police had been sent to the pay station where they arrested A. J. Carr just as he was concluding a delayed conversation which he had promised relatives in a letter sent them Saturday.

The police said they found chloroform and other articles in his automobile they believed had been used in decoying the woman from home.

At the police station, A. J. Carr, it was said, confessed that he had spent Saturday night outside of Los Angeles afraid to communicate with the Witheralls as he had agreed by letter, Floyd Carr, according to the confession of his cousin, was the leader in the kidnaping.

The police said A. J. Carr told them that Floyd went to the Witherall home last Tuesday night and told Mrs. Witherall her husband had been injured in an automobile accident and was calling for her.

Woman Chloroformed

Floyd Carr, according to the police, escorted her to an automobile where A. J. Carr was waiting. When she became suspicious the two men chloroformed her. They took her to a small house on a sheep ranch and put her in a room with only a cot and two blankets. Mrs. Witherall told the men who rescued her the men brought her candy and treated her "with every respect."

The police and Mrs. Witherall's husband and father started for the kidnapers' house at 2 o'clock today, prepared for any emergency. The officers surrounded the house and after closing in on it smashed the door and windows. A man said to be Floyd Carr was caught off his guard and handcuffed.

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AMERICAN SHIPMENTS TO ARGENTINE VALUED AT \$45,000,000 ARE HELD UP BY EXCHANGE

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 30.—Advancing exchange rates and decreasing prices during the past few months have resulted in a dispute over the payment of between \$10,000,000 and \$45,000,000 of American merchandise, which is either tied up in the Argentine customs house, or is on its way to this port. This statement was made by Horacio B. Varla, a prominent commercial lawyer, who last night addressed the second annual banquet of the United States chamber of commerce here.

Senator Varla discussed the possibilities of solving the conflict between American exporters and Argentine buyers over the acceptance of this merchandise and payment without loss. He declared the solution was to be found only in private agreements between the interested parties, each accepting necessary losses. The danger of the United States losing its advantageous position in the foreign trade thru the lack of an international policy was dwelt upon by Jorge Mitre, director of LaNacion. He praised the work done by the chamber in bringing pressure to bear for the purpose of preventing the passage of the Fordney emergency tariff bill by the United States congress.

Secy. Colby Refuses to Do Ghost Dance With Hiram Johnson

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—"People of western states are entitled to know and know now," what disposition of the Japanese settlement problem is made in the tentative Shidehara-Morris treaty, Senator Johnson, republican, California, declared today in a formal statement. He reiterates that the treaty in effect repealed the California alien land laws. "If Senator Johnson expects to do a ghost dance on this subject he's got to do it without me as a partner," Secretary Colby declared today in an informal statement replying to the California senator's latest statement on the proposed American-Japanese treaty.

CITY CHARGED THREE TIMES VALUE OF R. R.

Grand Jury Holds Purchase of Traction Co., by Seattle Poor Business and Terms of Contract Can Not Be Fulfilled by City.

SEATTLE, Jan. 31.—The terms of the contract by which the City of Seattle purchased the municipal street railway system from the Puget Sound Traction, Light and Power company for \$15,000,000 in municipal utility bonds cannot be fulfilled and the city is entitled to equitable relief through the courts, the special grand jury investigating the purchase declared in its report made public today. The report asserts the lines are worth approximately \$5,000,000.

The report says the grand jury found no evidence of corruption, or that any city official profited by the deal, which was completed in March, 1919. It did find, however, according to the report, that "the negotiations leading up to the deal were characterized by slack business methods on the part of the mayor and city council." No indictments were returned. The grand jury began investigation of the purchase of the lines last November, following publication of charges by Mayor Hugh M. Caldwell that the city had been "honeycombed" out of several million dollars. The city council voted an appropriation of \$10,000 to be used by the mayor in conducting an investigation, results of which were submitted to the grand jury.

After asserting that the value of the lines is approximately \$5,000,000 the report declares that if the city of Seattle completes the purchase according to the contract, the people will pay a total of \$23,752,550 in principal and interest and that by the time the payments are completed it will be practically necessary to re-produce the system. An addition loss of \$3,750,000 will result from the discontinuance of the two per cent gross paid to the city under private ownership, and in taxes, \$4,601,280, making a total over all of \$32,102,830, the report asserts.

CONVICTION BERGER IS REVERSED

Supreme Court Holds Judge Landis Should Not Have Heard Suit After His Eligibility Attacked—Justices Day, Pitney and McReynolds Dissent.

BERGER UNREPENTANT

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 31.—"The conspiracy has failed and I have nothing to retract from anything I have written or said about the war or about those who pushed us into the war," declared Victor L. Berger today when apprised by the Associated Press of the decision of the United States supreme court in its reversal of the decision in the case against Berger who was tried before Judge Landis of Chicago on charges of violating the wartime espionage act.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Conviction of Victor L. Berger and four others, members of the socialist party for violation of the espionage act was reversed today by the supreme court on the ground that Judge Landis should not have heard the suit after his eligibility had been attacked.

Those convicted with Berger in the federal court at Chicago were Adolph Germer, national secretary of the party; William F. Kruse, editor of the Young Socialists Magazine; J. Louis Engdahl and Irwin St. John Tucker. Berger and the other four were convicted under the section prohibiting attempts to cause insubordination and disloyalty in the naval and military forces. Sentences of from ten to twenty years imprisonment were imposed.

The appeal was brought to the supreme court on the ground that Judge K. M. Landis had shown "personal bias and prejudice" against the defendants because of their nationality. The court divided 6 to 3, Justices Day, Pitney and McReynolds dissenting.

Dissenting Opinions. Mr. McReynolds added to the dissenting opinion a strong approbation of Judge Landis' sentiments as merely showing his detestation of the "Hunish warfare which was being backed by competitors in America under our too indulgent laws." The majority opinion held that the affidavit of prejudice filed by Berger against Judge Landis was sufficient to have caused his withdrawal from the case and that Judge Landis himself was not justified in passing upon the affidavit.

Justice Day, who filed a dissenting opinion, held, however, that the mere filing of an affidavit should not be accepted as sufficient evidence of the unfairness of the judge. The Berger affidavit should not be taken at "face value," he said, because the "facts" therein had been made solely on "information and belief," and no attempt was made to substantiate them. The effect of the court's decision is to remand the cases to the appellate division which will issue orders for a reversal and a new trial before some other federal judge.

DENY M'ADOO TRIP MEXICO, POLITICAL

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 31.—William G. McAdoo, former secretary of the United States treasury, is not coming to Mexico on a mission of a political character, a high official of the foreign relations department said last night. He stated further that Mr. McAdoo was a representative of American stockholders of the National Railroad company and would take part in the negotiations with the Mexican government regarding the return of the national lines to their owners.

Sleeping Sickness, London. LONDON, Jan. 31.—Fifty-five cases of sleeping sickness have been reported here during the past four weeks. This is a large increase, only twenty-three being reported in the previous period of four weeks.

President Refuses to Commute Debs' Sentence of 10 Yrs.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—President Wilson refused today to commute the ten-year sentence imposed upon Eugene V. Debs for violation of the espionage act. The president disapproved a recom-



Eugene V. Debs

mendation of the department of justice that Debs' sentence be commuted to expire next February 12.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Commutation of the sentence of Eugene V. Debs, effective next February 12, has been recommended to President Wilson by the department of justice, it was learned today at the White House.

REDUCE COST R. R. OPERATION OR GO UNDER

Genl. Atterbury, Chairman of R. R. Labor Committee Declares Wages Must Ultimately Be Reduced—Abrogation Agreement Asked.

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—Bankruptcy threatens the railroads of the United States unless they are assured immediate means for a reduction in operating expenses, the railroad labor board was told today by the Association of Railroad Executives, General W. W. Atterbury, chairman of the labor committee of the roads' organization made the prediction. The executives assured the federal officials that if there was immediate abrogation of the war time national agreements involving working rules and conditions they would not seek a reduction of basic wages for at least three months after the order becomes effective, saying the interval would be used to test out the efficacy of economies which might be instituted free from the limitations of present agreements.

Ultimately, however, it was stated, there would be need for a reduction in basic wages if the cost of operating the road is to be cut to a point where rates may be reduced.

Ask Abrogation As a measure of immediate relief the roads asked the board to abrogate at once the agreement fixing the basic rates of unskilled labor at 39 to 48 1/2 cents an hour. They argued that this was a higher rate than was being paid other industries and that it operated to the disadvantage of other employers particularly farmers. The roads proposed that rules and working conditions in effect December 31, 1917 be re-established.

"Many railroads are not now earning and with present operating costs and traffic have no prospect of earning, even their bare operating expenses," said General Atterbury. "This leaves them without any net return and unable to meet their fixed charges." He said that the emergency might be met either by an advance in freight and passenger rates or a reduction in operating expenses.

Appeals to Labor Board "The labor board can prevent this" (Continued on Page Six)

OFFERS BILL TO PROTECT DEPOSITORS

Representative Sheldon Introduces Measure to Guarantee Bank Deposits in State Patterned After Washington State Law—Not Compulsory—Effects State Banks.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—Representative Sheldon of Jackson county today introduced a bill for the guarantee of bank deposits, patterned almost exactly after the Washington state law. It applies only to state banks unless a national bank sees fit, by its own action and with the permission of the treasury department, to come under the benefits of the law. Provision is made for a guaranty fund administered by a commission composed of the governor, state bank examiner and three state bankers to be appointed by the governor. The law would not be compulsory upon the banks.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—To cut off the income aside from salaries that is now received by county officers, especially sheriffs and clerks, through the collection of certain fees, will be the purpose of a bill to be introduced in the committee on county and state officers, or possibly by Senator Bell individually. The collections of these fees are not accounted for. The proposed bill would provide for an accounting and will require that the money so received be turned over to the county treasurer. The measure will follow a recommendation of the special committee of the 1919 legislature, which investigated the salaries of the county and state officers and reported to the present session.

Regulate Insurance. SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—A bill aimed to regulate all insurance companies was introduced today by Representative Hyatt of Union and Wallowa counties. The bill provides for a standardized insurance policy form and provides standard regulations for all companies.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—Senator Ryan is preparing a bill which would provide that school districts, cities, towns and other municipalities issuing bonds shall offer them to the state before advertising them for sale on the general market. The state would be the preferred purchaser if it offered par or better. The expense of advertising the sales of bonds would be eliminated should the bill pass.

WHISKEY LAUNCH FACES SEIZURE

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 31.—Customs officials are watching for the launch Mary, which, according to Colonel Irby, collector of customs, left Victoria B. C., recently for San Francisco with 500 cases of whiskey. The Mary, Irby said, is one of a fleet of mysterious vessels plying between this port and Victoria in an illicit liquor trade which has gained vast proportions. The steamer Bear was dispatched from Seattle Saturday to apprehend the whiskey runners, who, Irby declared are numerous. He said the launches slip in through the Golden Gate at night with lights extinguished and make their way to some secret landing place where the cargo is discharged. It was estimated by Irby that over 1,000,000 worth of whiskey is being smuggled into San Francisco monthly from the northern port.

MAINE GOVERNOR DIES SUDDENLY

AUGUSTA, Maine, Jan. 31.—Frederic H. Parkhurst, governor of Maine, died today. He failed to recover from a diphtheritic infection under the tongue, with which he was attacked three weeks ago. Apparently he was improving until late last night when he took chills and became unconscious. Death followed today.

Three Robberies in East Net \$129,500; 1 Killed, 3 Wounded

DETROIT, Jan. 31.—Three detectives were shot and seriously wounded today by three bandits who held up and robbed the Morton bond company's office in the public square downtown. At the hospital, it was said two of the detectives probably will die. The bandits escaped with \$10,000 in Liberty bonds.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The Commonwealth National bank at Roanoke, Va., a village 100 miles from here, was robbed today of cash and securities totaling \$119,000 and then set on fire.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 31.—Miss Gretchen Brandt, 37, was found beaten and stabbed to death today in her room at the home of her brother-in-law, with whom she made her home. The head was crushed and there were numerous knife wounds on the body. Robbery was believed to have been the motive, \$500 worth of jewelry being missing.

INVESTIGATE INTO SANITY OF PORTUGEE

Officials Discover That Manuel Francis Former Well-to-do Resident of Yreka, Cal.—Had Been Given Up as Victim of Murder.

A hearing is being held this afternoon on the sanity of Manuel Francis, the young man of Portuguese nationality, who was arrested a week ago Sunday in his chicken coop home on the former Dunlap place on Siskiyou heights, for breaking into two places and stealing food. He had made the henry his home since last August.

It has developed since his arrest that Francis is a former well-to-do resident of Yreka, whose mysterious disappearance from his home there last summer had caused grave apprehension among his friends and others. He had, and still has \$2900 on deposit in one bank of that city and \$900 in another bank, and was supposed to have had considerable cash on him when he disappeared. In fact, it was thought that he had been murdered for his money, and when he could not be located, the ground all about his home was dug up, it is said, in the hope of finding his body.

It also develops that some time before his disappearance his head had been badly injured through a fall, and this injury is thought to have affected his mind and led him to wander to Medford and live the life of a vagrant, when he had plenty of money to clothe, house and feed himself properly.

When the account of his arrest published in The Mail Tribune, reached Yreka his friends were overjoyed to find that he was alive and they immediately began to investigate into his case and interest themselves in his behalf. Hence the sanity hearing of this afternoon.

Liberty Bonds. NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Liberty bonds closed: 3 1/2's 91.90; first 4's 87.00 bid; second 4's 86.30; first 4's 87.20; second 4 1/2's 86.25; third 4 1/2's 85.20; fourth 4 1/2's 86.60; Victory 3 3/4's 97.35; Victory 4 1/4's, 97.25.

ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY BILL FOR \$2,500,000 BOND ISSUE DEFERRED BY STATE SENATE

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—The Norblad-Hall bill, providing that the \$2,500,000 bond issue authorized by the people at the special election of 1919 for the construction of the Roosevelt military highway, be made effective without the contingency of an equal appropriation from the federal government was deferred today when it came up for third reading because of the absence of Senator Hall. It was made a special order for 2:30 o'clock tomorrow. Senator Dennis' bill empowering circuit judges to remand back to the juvenile court the cases of minors con-

AUTO THIEF IS CAPTURED IN MEDFORD

Man of Many Aliases, Who Escaped From Train in Wyoming Last October, Arrested by Deputy U. S. Marshal Pace, From Whom He Escaped.

Deputy United States Marshal S. F. Pace is a very tall man and has a lengthy memory, that is why Lloyd F. Keffer, alias L. E. Denn, L. G. Knox, and J. Franklin, aged about 32 years, for whom the federal authorities have been searching over the United States for months, and who arrived in the city from Eugene Sunday afternoon and registered at a local hotel as J. Franklin of Omaha, is again behind the bars.

The man of many aliases escaped from Pace's custody last October by jumping through a window of a fast moving train in Wyoming, while he was being taken back to Shreveport, La., for trial, following his arrest in Astoria.

Keffer, it is alleged about a year ago, stole a valuable auto from Streeverport and drove it to California where he sold it and disappeared. He was finally traced to Astoria by the federal authorities and arrested. Then Pace started back with him for Shreveport. No trace of him was ever gained following his escape from the train, until he showed up in Medford Sunday afternoon.

Pace happened to be at the depot when he caught sight of the much wanted man walking with other men to the Hotel Holland from the train. That is he thought he looked like his escaped prisoner. Early in the evening, not finding the man at the hotel, he started to walk the streets, hoping to catch sight of him again. He finally saw Keffer on West Main street, waited until he entered a cigar store, and followed him in, meeting him face to face and making sure of the identification. The recognition was mutual and Keffer was at once placed under arrest and will be taken to Portland tonight by Pace.

Several traveling men who arrived on the same train with Keffer from Eugene, say he had been stopping at a hotel there under the name of DeFrank for several days. On the train he related that he had won \$150 in a poker game at Eugene the other night. "Are you a traveling man," his audience inquired, and Keffer replied that he was not.

"We know it," excitedly exclaimed the chorus, "for in these days no traveling salesman lives who has any money to gamble with." (Continued on Page Six)

THREE FIREMEN KILLED IN PROVIDENCE FIRE

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 31.—Three firemen were killed and eighteen seriously injured when a wall of the building collapsed during a fire early today. Two of the injured are expected to die. The property damage was estimated at \$150,000.

Trapped on the roof when flames suddenly covered the front wall, a company of firemen were hurled into a fiery pit. Their comrades in the streets were showered with blazing debris but they rushed into the ruins and brought out the living and the dead. The building, of four stories, was owned by a realty company.

SALEMAN'S RIGHTS TO INTERVENE AND PROTECT HIS RIGHTS WAS PASSED

Senator Hume today moved reconsideration of his parole board bill, which was defeated in the senate Friday, but on motion of Senator Joseph the motion was tabled. A bill by Senator Ellis extending to third persons interested in litigation further rights to intervene and protect their rights was passed. Senator Hume's bill extending to children of a parent killed while in industrial employment the right to sue for damages if the other parent dies before having opportunity to bring suit, was passed in the senate.