

OIL STOCKS SKYROCKET ON WALL ST.

Mexican Petroleum in Sensational Rise—Taxes Almost Eat Up Profits of Prairie Company, Senate Probe Is Told—Kansas Concern to Pay Dividend for Christmas

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—One of the most sensational price movements of the New York Stock Exchange in recent months took place today in the stock of the Mexican Petroleum company, which advanced nearly sixty points in less than three hours. Opening at 242, four points above yesterday's close, and a new high record for the year, the stock advanced in successive sales of 100 shares to 268, 275, 280, 285, 290, 300, 310 and 320.

Less than 15,000 shares of the stock are outstanding, the remainder having been converted into the stock of the Pan-American Petroleum and transport company.

Reports were circulated in the financial district that the sensational rise was in speculative anticipation of the announcement by the company today of the purchase of some property in the new Smackover oil fields in Arkansas, but no official confirmation of this was forthcoming.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Testimony showing payment by the Prairie Oil and Gas company of cash dividends totaling 192 per cent or \$34,000, in the last eleven years presented today by James E. O'Neill, its president at the senate committee inquiry into prices and conditions in the oil industry.

The outstanding capital stock of the company which produces, purchases and markets crude oil in Kansas, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, amounted during the eleven-year period to \$20,000,000, Mr. O'Neill told the committee.

The committee last week voted to increase its capitalization to \$60,000,000, he added, solely to capitalize the assets of the company which had increased greatly since 1910, when the stock was first sold.

In explaining the large total dividends declared since 1911, Mr. O'Neill said he wanted the committee to know that within the same period the corporation had paid approximately 16,000,000 in taxes, or within \$10,000,000 of the total of the dividends.

INDEPENDENCE, Kan., Dec. 21.—Stockholders of the Prairie Pipe Line company at the special meeting held here yesterday ratified the capital stock increase of 200 per cent. The increase is to be distributed to stockholders of record December 27.

A dividend of \$2 a share has been declared payable January 31, 1923, to stockholders of record December 27. This dividend will be payable on all stock, including the stock to be distributed as stock dividend.

TAFT OPERATED ON LAST SUNDAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Chief Justice Taft underwent a minor operation last Sunday at a hospital here but was said to have virtually recovered. He was receiving visitors and transacting court business at his home as usual.

The operation was for removal of a tumor from the bladder and was performed without an incision. As precaution the chief justice remained at the hospital until yesterday but his physicians said his condition had become virtually normal.

TURK AND GREEK ENVOY AT LAUSANNE, JAW EACH OTHER FIERCELY TO A DRAW

LAUSANNE, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—A wordy altercation between Ex-Premier Venizelos of Greece and Riza Nur Bey, Turkish nationalist delegate, caused Signor Fontana, president of the Near East commission on minorities to abruptly end this morning's session of the commission.

The dispute was over the question of liberty of emigration.

M. Venizelos bitterly attacked the

Burglar Identified By Heart Throbs By Robbed Doctor

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Harry Sinclair, arrested last night as a burglar suspect, has been identified by his heart throbs.

Thinking the prisoner's description tallied with that given by Dr. Henry Moeller, his son, also a physician, Dr. Moeller examined Sinclair with a stethoscope and declared the prisoner's heart beat was the same as that of the man he examined in his office Sunday.

Sinclair said he was an actor.

FARMERS SAVED BY WAR FINANCE BOARD CREDITS

He Is Also Good Pay, Report Shows—Livestock Industry Put On Feet, and Conditions Stabilized—Gradual Decrease in Applications.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The American farmer has demonstrated that when properly financed he can weather the worst economic storms, the war finance corporation declared in its annual report sent to congress today.

The report set forth that 41 per cent of the money advanced to the agricultural agency had been repaid either in advance of maturity or when due. Advances by the corporation saved the industry many millions of dollars the report declared, explaining that the corporation's officers believed its activity had proved as beneficial in the restoration of confidence as in the actual pouring of cash into spots where credit was tightest. The loans had made it possible for thousands of farmers to handle their products in an orderly fashion, it was added, and the confidence instilled in them through the knowledge that money was available acted as a stabilizer, the value of which the report said could only be estimated.

"It is impossible," the report continued, "to estimate the full effect of the aid given by the corporation to the livestock industry because calamities that are averted can never be measured. It is generally recognized however, that by providing as it did financing for more than 6,000,000 head of livestock, the corporation checked the demoralization in the industry, gave the stockman a breathing spell, stabilized the market and turned the tide away from disaster toward recovery and reconstruction."

The effect of the corporation's activity on the livestock industry was typical of that on many other phases of agriculture, it was added, and satisfaction with the assistance rendered had been expressed to the corporation in countless ways.

"Large as is the number of advances made by the corporation," the report said, "it falls far short of indicating the numbers of farmers who benefitted from them; for even those farmers who have had no financial assistance directly or indirectly, have nevertheless been helped by the improvement in the credit situation in their own communities."

"Neighboring districts and in the country as a whole by the stabilization of markets for the many products of agriculture the condition is the same."

The report added that the gradual decrease in the number of applications for loans further indicated the general

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INVISIBLES AFTER GRAND DRAGON OR'GON PROVINCE

Knights of Portland May Revolt Against Gifford—Confidential Roll 'Sucker List' for Oil Stock One Charge—Appeal to Imperial Wizard.

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—A concerted movement on the part of up-state members of the Ku Klux Klan to oust Fred L. Gifford, grand dragon of the organization in Oregon, has come to a head, according to reports in circulation here today.

Rumblings of discontent, charges of mismanagement of Klan funds and assumption of authority in violation of the bylaws of the organization, which have been heard in scattered sections of the state since the days of the primary campaign, were combined in demands forwarded to the imperial wizard at Klan headquarters in Atlanta, asking that Gifford be ordered to step down and likewise out.

As an alternative proposal, some 3000 members of the organization in the state have agreed that unless Gifford goes out there will be perfected an independent organization of Klansmen, according to the statement of one of the members of the movement.

The new organization would be allied with a national organization of dissatisfied Klansmen, in about five states of the union, who, because of similar situations within their local Klans have resorted to uprisings similar to the Oregon one.

It is reported that a meeting was held Sunday in Portland, at which representatives from all sections of the state gathered in secret session. The reading of formal charges against the grand dragon was taken up. There followed a discussion of additional rumors, reports of fake oil stock sales in which members of the Klan had used the confidential lists of Klansmen for "sucker lists," of other alleged irregularities both in the organization itself and outside, using the fraternity as a means unto an end.

Three well known men, former leaders in the organization and holders of high offices in the Klan, have signed affidavits which will be forwarded to Atlanta supporting the demands made by the up-state delegations, according to authoritative sources.

What the Atlanta headquarters will do is problematical, members of the Klan say, although some predict that Gifford will be supported and an open split in the organization in this state will follow.

Members decline to mention possible candidates for the position of grand dragon of their new organization, but say that their present interest lies solely in clearing the deck of the incumbent.

WASHINGTON ASKS FOREST POLICY

SEATTLE, Dec. 21.—Proposed legislation designed to give the state of Washington a definite forest policy, including state aid for reforestation and modification of present tax laws, was discussed at a conference of forestry experts, lumbermen and loggers operators here today under the auspices of the state development bureau of the Seattle chamber of commerce.

The proposals were turned over to a joint meeting of the resolutions and advisory committees of the conference for re-drafting and presentation to the conference later.

RUSSIAN MASSES STARVING AGAIN

GENEVA, Dec. 21.—Russia will have a shortage of at least one million tons of cereals this winter, according to the international committee of Russian relief, headed by Dr. Fridtjof Nansen. Reports to the committee from Russian sources declare that, as a result of this shortage, food relief will be required for 8,000,000 people, while the soviet themselves cannot support more than 2,250,000.

The importation into Russia of at least a million head of livestock, especially horses which have decreased fifty per cent, is considered necessary to re-constitute the economic system.

Age Liquors 40 Years in a Few Minutes



Professor Charles Henry of Sarbonne, France, and the apparatus he has perfected by which he ages liquor in a few minutes. He uses Rumford's apparatus by attaching wires to the faucets at both ends of the barrel as shown above. Then he shoots a powerful electric current of from 60,000 to 120,000 volts through the liquor. The tremendous shock instantly removes all impurities without harming the flavor and the liquor is aged to the same degree it would be if it were 30 years old.

WOMEN CLUBS PROTEST FAT'S FILM RETURN

Los Angeles Federation Reiterates Its Stand—'Complete Oblivion' Sought By Minneapolis Clubs—Hays and Lasky Given Copy.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 21.—W. A. Steffen, president of the Minnesota Motion Picture Theater Owners association, embracing 400 theaters in the state, announced today that the ban on Arbuckle pictures still existed, so far as his organization was concerned.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 21.—Roscoe C. (Fatty) Arbuckle, comedian, today was making ready for his return into motion pictures after January 1, while members of the Los Angeles district Federation of Women's clubs announced they "could not recede from their opposition" to his plans.

After Will H. Hays, titular head of the motion picture industry, announced here yesterday that Arbuckle might have another "chance to make good" the Los Angeles district adopted a resolution affirming a previous one opposing his reappearance in motion pictures.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 21.—A meeting of the city federation of women's clubs has been called to consider the reinstatement of Roscoe Arbuckle in motion pictures.

Mrs. Charles Siegenbaum, chairman of the moving picture committee of the federation today declared that the organization would oppose the return of Arbuckle.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 21.—"Complete oblivion," as far as the public is concerned, is demanded for Roscoe Arbuckle, film comedian, in a statement today by the fifth district federation of women's clubs. A copy of the statement was sent to Will Hays, chief of the motion picture industry, and Jesse Lasky, vice-president of the corporation which formerly distributed the Arbuckle films.

TRADEMARK SOLVES DOUBLE MYSTERY

CHIPPWA FALLS, Wis., Dec. 21.—The name of "Nordman brothers Elmwood, Wis.," on a jacket found on a dead man in Everett, Wash., apparently has solved a double mystery the suicide of a man giving the name of John Nelson at Everett, Wash., and the mysterious disappearance of William DeLong of Dunn county.

Several weeks ago DeLong left his wife and nine children, driving away with his automobile. The family later received a letter from him, asking that money be sent for return transportation to Elmwood, Wis. This was telegraphed to DeLong but no reply was received and finally word came that a man giving the name of John Nelson had committed suicide at Everett, Wash.

ASTORIA SAFES IN FIRE OPENED, SHOW CONTENTS INTACT

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 21.—Approximately 80 per cent of the 150 safes opened in the business district of Astoria, wrecked by fire December 8, preserved their contents intact, according to J. Frank Pudcell of Portland, who is heading the safe opening activities under the committee of ten. About 75 safes still remain to be opened. No attempt to open the vaults will be made until after January 1. When a time is set the work will be done simultaneously so that no bank may have an advantage over another.

More than 275 licenses to engage in business in the city have already been issued, according to the police department.

There will be more Christmas celebrations here than ever. The three big ones to be conducted by the Portland Elks with the aid of the Astoria lodge, will be accompanied by many church and lodge celebrations.

CHILDREN JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21.—Christmas day in Bethlehem will be marked this year by an unusual pilgrimage of children to the little church of the Nativity. Five hundred Armenian boys and girls from the American Near East relief orphanages in Jerusalem will march to Bethlehem with gifts made by them in their industrial schools, which they will place in the Grotto where tradition says Christ was born. The gifts are of wood and metal.

WIFE ACQUITTED OF SLAYING SPOUSE

MOUNT HOLLY, Dec. 21.—Mrs. Doris Brunen was acquitted and her brother, Harry C. Mohr, was found guilty of murder in the first degree in connection with the slaying of the former's husband, "Honest" John T. Brunen, circus owner. The jury recommended that Mohr be sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor.

BUTLER CONFIRMED SUPREME BENCH

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The nomination of Pierce Butler, St. Paul attorney, to be an associate justice of the United States supreme court finally was confirmed late today by the senate. The vote was said to be 61 to 8.

Turkey Prices Drop When Big Shipments Hit Portland Markets

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 21.—Turkey prices broke here today fully three cents from yesterday afternoon when buyers were paying around 37 cents for the best birds. Best offers from the trade were down to 33 and 34 cents.

The break was due to a deluge of poultry into this market the last three days. One large commission firm has shipped out twelve tons of dressed poultry since Sunday.

Prices in the retail market have dropped from 45 cents to 40 cents a pound.

CHARRED BODIES LOST AVIATORS FOUND ARIZONA

Cowpuncher Finds Wrecked Machine at Indian Oasis Near Tucson, Southern Pacific Agent Reports—No Official Confirmation.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—The charred bodies of the missing aviators, Colonel Francis O. Marshall and Lieutenant Charles Webber, have been found on the Pablo Indian reservation about 75 miles west of Tucson, Ariz., the Southern Pacific railroad offices here were advised this afternoon in advices from Tucson.

A cow puncher, the advices stated, came upon the bodies near what is known as Indian Oasis. The bodies lay in the wreckage of the fliers' machine. It is not known whether Colonel Marshall and Lieutenant Webber were killed when they crashed to earth or burned to death afterwards.

The message to the Southern Pacific said:

"Some cowboy found the bodies of two aviators near Indian Oasis. Both apparently were burned to death. About 75 miles south of Tucson on Papalo reservation. No railroad there. It is on a wagon track. Suppose airplane fell to ground and aviators burned to death."

Searching airplanes landed several times at Indian Oasis, near where the bodies are reported to have been found, Colonel McNab said. The aviators reported information that an airplane had been seen in that district but believed they had traced it further south by later reports. It was a result of tracing of this plane that the search was carried into Mexico, McNab said.

NOGALES, Ariz., Dec. 21.—Colonel A. J. McNab, commanding operations out of Nogales in the search for Colonel Francis Marshall and Lieutenant C. L. Webber, had not received any word of the discovery of the aviators' bodies at 2:30 this afternoon.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 21.—Colonel Meyers, commanding officer at Fort Huachuca, stated over the long distance telephone at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon that he had received no reports of the discovery of the bodies of the missing aviators.

Lady Rhonda Divorced. LONDON, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—Lady Rhonda was granted a divorce today from Sir Humphrey MacKworth on grounds of misconduct and desertion. The petition was not defended.

DAUGHTER OF ASHLAND FAMILY CLAIMS SHE SAW GIRL SLAIN THRU KNOTHOLE

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 21.—Police inspectors announced early today after long questioning of Miss Helen Leary, a waitress, aged 20, and Cash Weir, a riverman, aged 63, that they were unable to reach any definite conclusion as to the accuracy of a story told by the woman to the effect that she had witnessed through a knothole of a houseboat on the Willamette river here the killing of an unidentified girl, aged about 15, by Weir, September 23 last.

Both are being held pending further investigation and police were endeavoring to find Earl Weir, son of the riverman, for his version of the alleged affair.

SEARCH LAKE FOR VICTIMS MASK BAND

Threats Follow Operations of Militia in Louisiana Probe—Diver Seeks Wagon Wheels Used to Weigh Down Bodies—Reports Enemies May Interfere

MER ROUGE, La., Dec. 21.—The detachment of Louisiana National Guardsmen that late yesterday dragged a part of Lake LaFourche, about eight miles from here in an effort to locate the bodies of two men reported to have been murdered by a band of masked and white-robed men last August, following the kidnapping of five prominent Mer Rouge citizens, were unsuccessful in their efforts. It was learned today when a second detachment was dispatched to the lake.

Captain W. W. Cooper, commanding officer, said:

"I am in honor bound not to reveal our destination. You know, of course, that the work of dragging the lake is going forward."

Captain Cooper has given orders to his men to prevent attempts of outsiders to interfere with diving operations. Reports were in circulation that enemies of the movement would interfere.

A chart prepared by special investigators, showing the location in the lake where the bodies, presumably weighted down with wagon wheels, were thrown and other information is in the hands of those conducting the dragging and diving operations.

MER ROUGE, La., Dec. 21.—Search of the bottom of Lake LaFourche for the bodies of Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards, missing members of a party of five Mer Rouge citizens who were kidnapped by masked men on the night of August 24 while returning from a good roads meeting at Bastrop, was begun today by divers, protected and assisted by a detachment of company G, Louisiana National Guard, which arrived here yesterday from Monroe.

Two iron wheels of a farm wagon, which were lying on the bank of the lake are said to have disappeared the night of the kidnapping and authorities believe that these may have been used as weights to hold the bodies beneath the surface of the water.

An expert diver employed by the state authorities arrived here last night with his diving equipment.

Official information received by Governor John Parker that threats had been made against representatives of the state investigating the kidnapping of Daniels and Richards, was one of the many unconfirmed reports circulated here as the reason for the sending of troops to this place.

The threats, it was said, came from persons in Morehouse parish.

CHICAGO LANDMARK MENAGED BY FIRE

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Fire broke out late this afternoon in the Dearborn passenger station, formerly known as the old Polk street station. All available companies were summoned to save the old structure.

The fire started in the offices on the third floor of the station and drove nearly 200 employees out. The blaze spread through the structure threatening to destroy it. A half hour after the general alarm had been sounded one wing of the station had been destroyed. At that time it appeared that the building with its ancient clock tower virtually would be destroyed.