

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

The Weather	
Prediction	Rain
Maximum yesterday	37
Minimum today	34
Precipitation	19

Weather Year Ago	
Maximum	43
Minimum	36
Precipitation	04

MEDFORD, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1922

NO. 239

## EX-WILSON OFFICIAL IN FRAUD NET

**Benedict Crowell, Assistant Secy. of War in Wilson Regime and Six 'Dollar a Year' Men Indicted for Defrauding U. S. Government on War Contracts.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—(By the Associated Press)—Benedict Crowell, assistant secretary of war under the Wilson administration, and six "dollar a year" men associated with the council of national defense, were indicted here today by the special grand jury investigating war frauds on charges of conspiracy to defraud the government in construction of war time army camps and cantonments.

The others indicted are: William A. Starrett, Morton C. Tuttle, Clements W. Lundoff, Clair Foster, John H. McElhannon, James A. Mears. The indictment charges a conspiracy to maladminister existing laws and regulations; to control the giving of contracts to friends, associates and clients under the cost plus which it is charged resulted in a loss to the government of millions of dollars and reduced the morale of labor.

**First Big Salvo.**  
The indictments are the first big salvo in Attorney General Daugherty's attack on many war-time contracts which the department of justice holds after exhaustive investigation, to be fraudulent. Others are expected to follow, and it is estimated that the amounts involved when the attorney general's full program is under way, will run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

Today's indictments came as the result of consideration by the grand jury of a mass of evidence which the attorney general has been gathering for eighteen months. It was presented by former Representative McCulloch of Ohio, now a special assistant attorney general.

The indictments charging 47 overt acts and applying to all named alike, charge that contractors, their agents, architects and officers of the government entered a conspiracy to set up a system profitable to the contractors and prejudicial to the government and to control the giving of contracts to friends, associates and clients, past and prospective.

**Cost Plus Plan.**  
The emergency construction committee of the council of national defense, the indictments charge, was used as the vehicle for carrying out the alleged plan. The government charged that the alleged conspirators used their membership on the committee to influence unlawfully other officers of the United States in the plans and policies for carrying out the war-time protection plan; to attain the cost plus system; to eliminate usual safeguards for the government and to defeat checking up and supervising the contractors.

The indictments further charge that the alleged conspirators used their positions for their own gain and assisted contractors in evading the true intent of contracts and in collecting large and unjustifiable fees. As a result of the conspiracies, the indictments allege, the United States government lost millions of dollars, the morale of labor was reduced and the government was deprived of protection during the emergency construction period.

It is further charged that during 1917 and 1918 the alleged conspirators held daily meetings to plan and carry out the details of the alleged conspiracy and even secured the removal of other officers of the government who hindered the carrying out of the plans.

Specifically, those indicted are charged with violation of section 37 of the United States penal code, which provides a fine of \$10,000 or two years imprisonment or both; of various other sections of the revised

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## Loafing to Divine Sarah Means Death, To Act Wednesday

PARIS, Dec. 30.—(By Associated Press). Whether Sarah Bernhardt that she would return to the stage next Wednesday can persuade her physicians that she is ready for the opening performance of "Un Sujet de Roman," seems problematical.  
"If I rested too long I would not live," she asserted. She explained that she had promised Zacha Gutrey, author of her new play that she would be ready to act Wednesday.  
"I shall be there," she added, "you can bet on it."

## JUDGE COKE OF MARSHFIELD IS NEW U. S. ATT'Y

**President Harding Nominates Coos Bay Man to Take the Place of Lester Humphries, Resigned—Olcott to Name Successor.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—President Harding today nominated John S. Coke to be United States attorney for the district of Oregon.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 30.—John S. Coke, appointed United States district attorney for Oregon, has been circuit judge in Coos county. His home is at Marshfield. He is a republican. He succeeds Lester W. Humphries, a democrat. Judge Coke was appointed to the circuit bench by Governor G. E. Chamberlain, having previously been a state senator from Coos county.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Senators McNary and Stanford joined in recommending Judge John S. Coke of Marshfield as federal district attorney for Oregon to succeed Lester W. Humphries, resigned. Their joint letter to Attorney General Daugherty naming Coke was sent to the department of justice yesterday. Governor Olcott will fill the state circuit court vacancy caused by the retirement of Coke.

A telegram of inquiry has also gone out to Alex Sweek to ask if he intends to quit his land office job in January. The senators desire to select his successor immediately if he is preparing to resign, but they are not quite certain that reports of his impending resignation are correct. If these reports are incorrect, they say, he will not be disturbed until his term expires next August.

## Murderer Entrenched, Defies Pursuing Posses

SANTA FE, N. M., Dec. 30.—John Looney of Rock Island, Ill., charged with murder and other crimes, is entrenched in sand dunes near Farmington, N. M., according to reports quoted by Sheriff Wynn. A strong posse with federal officers co-operating will attempt to capture Looney, it is reported.  
The United States marshal's office here declined to confirm the reports.

## Influenza in Virginia

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 30.—West Virginia health department officials here today were advised of an influenza epidemic at Princeton, W. Va., where 300 cases have been reported.

## Will New Year Bring Forgiveness To Fallen Movie Idols? Perhaps



**"Wally" Reid AND HIS LITTLE SON WALLACE, JR.**  
LOS ANGELES—When a movie king or queen loses his or her crown with a crash, must it lie in the gutter? Or can it be picked up again and donned quite as if nothing had happened?  
A storm of protest met the proposed return of "Fatty" Arbuckle to the screen, indicating part of the public, at least, has not yet forgiven or forgotten his part in the riotous party at which Virginia Rappe, beauty, met death.  
The movie contract of Mary Miles Minter, whose passionate love letters to the slain movie director, Wm. Desmond Taylor, were bared during investigation of his murder, has "not been renewed," her former employers say. Mabel Normand, also drawn into ugly notoriety of the Taylor case, is "not working," either.  
When Wallie Reid, latest idol to fall, recovers from influenza will the public forgive and forget? A more lenient attitude toward Reid, who voluntarily put up a brave fight to conquer booze and drugs almost at the cost of his life, is expected. But only Time will tell.

## ASTORIA THANKS CITY OF MEDFORD FOR ASSISTANCE

Expressing warm gratitude of the people of Astoria for the recent donation of \$500 cash to the relief fund for the city, voted by city local city council, Mayor Gates is in receipt of letters from W. S. Gilbert, chairman of the general relief committee, and Committee of Ten, and C. R. Higgins, chairman of the Astoria bankers' relief committee. Chairman Higgins writes:

"On behalf of the Committee of Ten I wish to express the heartfelt thanks for this generous gift. In common with all other amounts received the committee will use its very best efforts to properly disburse this money, and as I glad to state that we have inaugurated a complete auditing system so that there may be no confusion in the handling of the funds."  
Chairman Gilbert writes:  
"In behalf of our city, now in ashes, I wish to express our very high appreciation of the wonderful spirit of Medford, and to thank your people, in behalf of our people, for the very substantial aid rendered.  
The draft (that for Medford's \$500.) will today be placed in the hands of Mr. C. R. Higgins, chairman of the finance committee of bankers, through which committee all of our funds are handled.  
"Our situation is extremely critical. While there is no one suffering, yet we are facing the tremendous responsibilities of both relief and reconstruction. The response of our neighboring cities to Astoria's need has been most encouraging and has gone far to put spirit into our people and to set us on our way again. Astoria will rise, but we are facing a difficult situation, which will become more and more trying as the winter goes on.  
"Thanking you again in behalf of our people, and assuring you of our eternal bond of friendship to you," etc., etc.

## The Daily Bank Robbery

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Floyd Nolan of Memphis, Tenn., and Lewis Austin, of Tulsa, Okla., were held by Federal Commissioner Hitchcock today for a hearing January 6 on complaint of Frederick Watson, British consul, who asked they be extradited to Canada to face the charge of robbery on December 15 of \$40,000 from the Royal Bank of Canada at Mount Forrest, Ont. Both men, federal authorities said, have served terms in Texas jails.

## Daily Report on the Crime Wave

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 30.—Armed bandits today held up the paymaster of the Perry Cap and Screw company and escaped with the \$20,000 weekly payroll. The paymaster, just returned from a bank with the money heavily guarded by an armed escort, was caught off his guard by the sudden raid.  
A second pay roll robbery was staged half an hour after the Perry company holdup, when two robbers halted an automobile carrying the Buick Automobile company paymaster and a clerk, threw the two men out and escaped with a \$7000 payroll.  
Old Man Burned to Death  
ARDMORE, Okla., Dec. 30.—An aged man believed to be E. A. Cole of Proleville, Okla., was burned to death and property estimated at \$100,000 was lost in a fire in the business section here today which destroyed a rooming house and two stores.

## ARREST 3 BOYS FOR 'HIJACKING' MOONSHINE CAR

Atwood Vann, George England, and Boyd Brandt, youths of from 18 to 20 years of age, are out on \$250 bonds, charged with "hijacking" the booze auto of Thomas Bryan, arrested a week or ten days ago for having liquor in his possession. Bryan was arrested by the police, when he left his booze laden car in Hittson's garage. The youths were employed in the place.  
It is alleged by the sheriff's office, that the accused trio of young men "beat the police" to the liquor and took six sacks of whiskey and gin, totalling in the neighborhood of 50 bottles. This left in the car, 32 cases of whiskey, gin and champagne, valued at \$3000 at the present price of hooch. The police swooped down on Bryan, while he was asleep in the car.  
According to Sheriff Terrill, the youths were arrested when "booze showed up around town." The official admits he was "tipped off" to the alleged "hijacking" by a fellow whose name I won't tell you. There was also a shrinkage in the known quantity in the car, and what the booze showed.  
Around this side issue of the booze seizure, ugly rumors involving the police have been swirling, and Sheriff Terrill branded them as "lies, and not a speck of truth in them."  
Dann, England and Brandt have been arraigned, and their hearing will be held as soon as District Attorney Hawley Moore is able to attend to his official duties.

## President Harding and Pope Scored By Irish Radicals

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—Turkey was extended a vote of commendation while the president of the United States and the Pope were tacitly criticized at a meeting last night held here under the auspices of the State Association for Recognition of the Irish Republic. The meeting was attended by more than 3000 sympathizers of the Irish republican army and was addressed by accredited representatives of De Valera's army. A resolution was adopted expressing sympathy with the "republican" forces and their "struggle for freedom."  
Turkey was commended for expressing regret after the recent executions in Ireland which action it was declared "stood in strange contrast to the action of the president of the United States and the head of the Catholic church."

## HUGHES FOR CONFERENCE FINANCIERS

**Secy. of State Declares International Commission, Including Americans, Might Well Be Appointed to Settle Reparations—France Replies, Intimating Opposition.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Disclosure by Secretary Hughes in his New Haven speech last night of the belief of the Washington government that an international commission of financiers, including Americans, might well be called in to recommend a method of settlement for the reparations crisis, apparently leaves the next move in the hands of the allied premiers.  
The American suggestion, Mr. Hughes specified, was offered as an alternative in the event that the premiers at their Paris meeting next Tuesday, fail to find a basis for adjustment of their views "among themselves."  
Secretary Hughes' address and Senator Borah's withdrawal of his navy bill amendment requesting the president to call an economic conference, combined with regard to the effort of the American government to be helpful in the reparations tangle.

## France Scaptilic.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—(By the Associated Press)—France has made an intensive study of the reparations question for the last four years and is convinced that Germany does not want to restore her financial stability if such a step means payment in full of a reasonable war indemnity. Such is the authoritative tone of the official comment on the speech of the American secretary of state at New Haven last night.

## England Pesimistic.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Public opinion here is not very sanguine of the success of the Paris gathering of premiers more especially since it is seen the French government is disposed to take advantage of Germany's timber default to press for military sanctions which it is a foregone conclusion the British government will not countenance. The belief is that Germany's timber default only amounts to a matter of about 100,000 pounds, which it is considered Germany could settle by a cash payment and that therefore, France is seizing on a small technical default for action.

The attention of the British public really is much more centered on the outcome of the mission of Chancellor of the Exchequer Baldwin to the United States and the growing prospect of the United States taking an active share in Europe's economic difficulties.  
The Weekly Nation, discussing American developments says: "Even now the deciding factor at Paris may not be London but Washington."

## To Have Definite Plan.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—(By the Associated Press)—Prime Minister Bonar Law will take to the Paris conference of premiers a complete plan upon which the British cabinet passed judgment yesterday in the hope of obtaining an agreement for a final settlement of the reparations question. It was said in official quarters today.  
Details of Mr. Bonar Law's reparations plan were not available, but it is believed it will set down Germany's total obligations at approximately one-third the Versailles treaty figures.  
The British desire that the French give Germany a fair trial under the new scheme, which, if it is not productive of the desired results, would be supplemented by French schemes involving coercive methods.  
It was stated in official circles this forenoon that it was believed the speech delivered by Secretary of State Hughes in New Haven last night would be helpful to the Paris conference.

## SEC'Y OF NAVY AROUSED OVER SHIP SITUATION

**Secy. Denby Asks \$6,500,000 to Modernize U. S. Fleet—Action By Other Powers On Navy Pact Renders Action Imperative.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—A supplementary appropriation of \$6,500,000 for modernization of battleships was requested of congress today by President Harding who transmitted a letter from Secretary Denby, declaring that as a result of the arms conference decisions the nation must adopt a new policy regarding its capital ships if they are to be maintained at a standard of efficiency comparable to that of similar vessels of foreign powers.  
Ultimately, the secretary said, the work of modernization would cost \$30,000,000, but he did not go into details as to the specific changes of building policy proposed nor as to the information which has reached Washington regarding the steps taken by other powers to make more effective the battleships left them under the Washington treaty.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The \$125,000,000 naval appropriation bill was passed late today by the senate.  
Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, did not offer his amendment for a world economic conference, and the senate did not discuss nor change the house provision requesting the president to negotiate for a further naval limitation agreement.

## BOY ASLEEP FOR WEEK, CAN'T BE AWAKENED

WENATCHEE, Wash., Dec. 30.—According to word received here by Chief of Police Peterson today, Johnny McCann, Conlee City, is in the grip of a sleep that has continued since last Sunday night, despite efforts to awaken him. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. McCann, pioneer residents of Conlee City. The boy is a student at Whitman college, Walla Walla. He arrived home Sunday to spend the holidays.

## OREGON PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TAKES LEAD IN U. S. PHONE ACTION

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 30.—By pamphlets mailed today to public service commissions of all the states of the union, the Oregon public service commission took the initiative in seeking to have the United States department of justice obtain an interpretation by the United States supreme court of the Clayton anti-trust act as it relates to telephone and telegraph companies.  
It is contended by the Oregon commission that the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, a subsidiary of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, is a common carrier and subject to section ten of the Clayton act, and that application of this section of the act would solve the commission's difficulty in reducing rates.  
The telephone company holds it is not a common carrier.  
The public service commissions of the various states have been requested to notify Newton McCoy, chairman of the Oregon commission concerning their attitude toward the action proposed by the Oregon body. When these answers are received, the Oregon commission will memorialize the United States department of justice for action on the dispute, it is said.

## FOOTBALL SCORES

STANFORD STADIUM, Dec. 30.—End second quarter: Pittsburg 10; Stanford 0.  
PHOENIX, Ariz.—The Arizona state water commissioner granted a permit for construction of a \$40,000,000 power dam on the Colorado river at the mouth of Diamond creek.

## IOWA SHERIFF AND DEPUTY ARRESTED FOR THEFT \$30,000 WORTH OF BOOZE

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 30.—Warrants were issued today for the arrest of Winfred E. Robb, Polk county sheriff until January 1, and his brother, Deputy Sheriff George Robb, in connection with the theft of \$30,000 worth of liquor from the Polk county jail liquor room last Wednesday night. Both are in custody.  
The charges against Sheriff Robb were filed by William McMurray, Polk county jailer, after McMurray had been locked out of his own jail under the sheriff's orders and after McMurray's son had been arrested by orders of Assistant County Attorney Seeburger for alleged complicity in the liquor theft.  
McMurray charged that on August 8, Sheriff Robb sold more than 70 quarts of whiskey to L. S. Hill, proprietor of the American Printing and Lithographing company, and prominent democratic politician.  
"It's an atrocious lie," said Hill.  
He admitted, however, that he had tried to obtain liquor from the sheriff's office, but declared he had been unsuccessful.  
Mr. Hill declared he knew of no reason why Jailer McMurray should name him in connection with such a liquor transaction.