

Prediction Rain
Maximum yesterday 63
Minimum today 54

Maximum 36
Minimum 15.5

Daily—Fifteenth Year.
Weekly—Fifty-Third Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1924

NO. 266

SENATE FOR ANNULMENT OIL LEASES

U. S. Senate, By Unanimous Vote, Adopts Resolution of Senator Walsh — Changes Voted Down—Sen. Lodge Disapproves Denby's Action, But Opposes Attack On Him.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—After adopting the Walsh resolution directing the president to proceed with suits for annulment of oil leases and debating for three hours the Robinson resolution requesting the resignation of Secretary Denby, the senate adjourned late today without taking action on the latter measure.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—A subpoena will be issued immediately requiring E. L. Doherty to appear before the senate oil investigating committee tomorrow. Chairman Lenroot announced today when Senator Reed, democrat, Missouri, demanded in the senate that the California oil magnate be subjected to a searching inquiry as to whether he has paid directly or indirectly any money to any official. Senator Reed said he understood Mr. Doherty, who has been here waiting to appear before the committee, was about to leave Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The resolution demanding the resignation of Secretary Denby was taken up today by the senate after the Walsh resolution proposing annulment of the Sinclair and Doherty oil leases had passed unanimously.

Final action was taken after all efforts to modify the language of the resolution so as to eliminate direct charges that the leases were entered into without authority and in violation of the law had been voted down.

The vote was unanimous on the final roll call. Eighty-eight senators cast their ballots.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—A movement to attach the Robinson resolution calling for the resignation of Secretary Denby to the Walsh oil lease annulment measure was made today immediately after the senate convened. The amendment was sponsored by Senator Trammell, democrat, Florida.

Immediate opposition was voiced by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, the republican leader, who declared he would "resist very strongly" such a declaration by congress. There was only one way by which the legislative branch could remove a cabinet officer, he said, and that was by impeachment.

Lodge Scores Denby
Senator Trammell withdrew his amendment after several other members had expressed a conviction it would delay action on the Walsh resolution.

Senator Lodge described the Trammell proposal as "an attempt to force the hands of the president in the exercise of a discretion which is his alone." He agreed that Secretary Denby should have resisted the efforts made to influence him to agree to a transfer of oil reserve to the interior department and continued:

"I do not approve of the public statement which the secretary of the navy made the day before yesterday. There is no evidence yet in the hearings or elsewhere, however, which demonstrate or show in any way that he (Secretary Denby) is other than an honest man, however mistaken and however wrong he was. There is no proof that would stand a moment in any court that he was guilty of anything more than very mistaken judgment—lack of competency if you choose to call it so."

3 PORTLANDERS INJURED WHEN SEASIDE BUS COLLIDES WITH A TOURING CAR

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 31.—Four persons were injured, one seriously in a triple collision on the Linnton road near here today. All those injured were in a seaside-bound bus.

According to the police, the bus, outbound, was traveling about thirty miles an hour when a truck loaded with iron pipe, started to back across the highway. The bus, in an effort to evade the truck, swerved to the left hitting an inbound car. The truck

Incendiary Fire in Negro College May Result in Two Deaths

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, Jan. 31.—Nine students were injured, two probably fatally in escaping from a dormitory during a fire at Wilberforce university near Xenia today. The fire is said to have been of incendiary origin.

The dormitory was destroyed with a loss of \$30,000. Wilberforce university is a partially subsidized state school for negroes.

One hundred men were quartered in the dormitory and many were forced to jump from second story windows to escape the flames.

OIL TRANSFERS WERE INITIATED BY SEC'Y DENBY

Judge Advocate Gen. of U. S. Navy Absolves Secy. Daniels of Blame—Not Sure Cancelling Contracts Would Benefit United States.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Secretary Denby "initiated" transfer of the California and Wyoming naval oil reserves to the interior department, Rear Admiral Latimer, judge advocate general of the navy, told the house naval committee today.

The admiral said Mr. Denby had told him he had initiated the transfer after investigating the field and consulting with various experts.

After becoming a member of the cabinet, the witness explained, Mr. Denby became convinced of the necessity of taking prompt action to prevent further depletion of oil in the navy's reserves, but had no organization in his department which could function to that end.

Admiral Latimer said that even if it were proven that the Doherty and Sinclair leases were "tainted with fraud and corruption," it might be poor policy for the government to cancel them.

"If the government would lose money," he added, "the government would merely be cutting off its nose to spite its face to throw up the contracts. If, however, the contracts are not to the best interests of the public they should be revoked."

Questioned by democrats on the committee Admiral Latimer said he did not pass on the legality of the transfer of naval oil reserves to the interior department or of the contracts with Doherty and Sinclair at the time they were effected.

He steadfastly declined to be drawn out as to whether he believed the leases as a whole were legal.

Did Sinclair Make Money?
Representatives Vinson and Britten engaged in an argument as to the \$100,000,000 Doherty and Sinclair had been reported as saying they would make out of the leases.

Mr. Britten declared Mr. Vinson could not produce a statement under oath that either of the operators had made the assertion.

"I accept your challenge," retorted Mr. Vinson, "and will produce the statement at the next committee session."

Representative Stephens, republican Ohio, declared Mr. Vinson had been unfair in predicating his questions and "that fraud and corruption are still to be shown." He said he had informed Sinclair would make little or nothing out of the Teapot Dome lease.

"If he claimed he would make \$100,000,000," continued the Ohioan, "he did so to sell stock. If Sinclair made money he did it out of the sale of stock and those who invested are holding the bag."

"If Teapot Dome is returned to the government, will the United States be under obligation to reimburse persons who bought stock in the Sinclair company handling it?"

Admiral Latimer, when the examination was completed, said:

(Continued on Page Eight)

3 KILLED BY MADMAN IN WASHINGTON

Sheriff's Posse Closing in On Crazy Farmer Who Ran Amuck Near Ephrata, Wn., Last Night — Brother Is Badly Injured

EPHRATA, Wash., Jan. 31.—A sheriff's posse was believed to be closing in this afternoon on Owen Hudson, wanted in connection with a series of shootings in a farming district about twelve miles northeast of here, which resulted in three deaths and the serious injury of another person. Hudson was believed to be in Dry Coulee, not far from the scene of the killings.

Glen Pugh, shot at his own door at 10:30 last night, died on a train this forenoon enroute to Spokane to receive surgical attention. Ira Slaten was shot and instantly killed at his home at 2 a. m. today and his wife, who declared their assailant was Owen Hudson, was shot and is in a serious condition from loss of blood.

When neighbors went to the Hudson home in search of Owen, they found his brother, Earl, shot dead. Owen Hudson is believed to have become suddenly deranged.

Pugh was shot from behind a barricade of empty boxes in his back yard at 10:30 last night when he appeared at the door. At 2 a. m., the Owen Hudson had left some legal papers a few days ago. When Slaten appeared, it is declared, the intruder leveled a pistol at him and pulled the trigger, the weapon missing fire. He shot again, it is declared, the bullet entering Slaten's head and killing him instantly.

When Mrs. Salten appeared the man shot her through the right arm and fled.

The trail of the slayer was believed to have been picked up in Dry Coulee and a posse was thought to be closing in on him.

TAX REDUCTIONS MAY BE APPLIED ON 1923 INCOMES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Secretary Mellon regards as practical and favorable the plan of the republican members of the house to make the proposed income tax reductions effective on the 1923 payments which taxpayers will remit to the government beginning March 15. He believes the step would entail no difficulties on the treasury.

Under the optional plan of paying taxes in four installments, probably 90 per cent of the taxpayers take advantage of the privilege of retaining moneys that might otherwise be turned into the treasury in a lump sum on the first taxpaying date. The mechanics of dealing with a retroactive reduction, in Mr. Mellon's opinion, would be largely a paper transaction, consisting of the placing by the treasury of a credit to the taxpayer on future installments.

Little cash rebate, he believes, would be involved.

The treasury has had no opportunity to estimate the total reduction to government income but some officials made the guess today that it would range around \$200,000,000 on the payments around the 25 per cent reduction all along the line on tax rates is agreed upon, as suggested by the ways and means committee.

RUMOR DAUGHERTY AND DENBY TO QUIT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Congressional discussion and executive consideration of the oil land leasing question has served to fill Washington with more rumors and counter-rumors than the capital has known before in many a day.

Most persistent of these reports involves the possible retirement of Secretary Denby and Attorney General

Daugherty from the cabinet.

Reports that the two cabinet members had submitted their resignations to President Coolidge several days ago and that the president had refused to accept them were disseminated widely today, but were both branded as untrue by C. Buscom Stemp, secretary to Mr. Coolidge.

Mother Silent in Alleged "Drug Plot"



New York—Above at the left is shown Helen F. French, the heiress figuring in the alleged drug plot for which she is suing for a million dollars damages. With her is Hazel M. York, the trained nurse who aided Miss French to escape from the New Jersey salt-tartum where she charges she was being forcibly detained. The girl's mother, known as Mrs. Helen F. French, and also as Mrs. William Stevenson, remains silent in the face of the extraordinary charges made by her daughter.

STATE GASOLINE TAX YIELDS AN ENORMOUS SUM

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—The state tax on gasoline and distillate collected during the year 1923 amounted to \$2,046,964.33, according to a statement prepared by Secretary Sam A. Koser today.

Taxes were remitted on 72,789,723 gallons of gasoline and 3,814,155 gallons of distillate. Of the total collected the sum of \$746,968.08 resulted from the operation of the original law imposing a tax of one cent per gallon on gasoline and one-half cent per gallon on distillate, while \$1,299,996.25 was returned under the later law which up to May 23, 1923 provided for an additional rate of one cent per gallon on all kinds of motor vehicle fuels, the additional tax after that date being two cents per gallon.

According to Mr. Koser's statement, gasoline sales during 1923 represent an increase of more than 27 per cent over those of 1922, distillate sales having increased approximately 47 per cent.

It is estimated that the administration expenses in connection with the motor fuels taxes are less than those incident to the collection of any other state tax. Since the original law became effective in February, 1919, the state has received a total revenue of \$5,040,746.70, the expenses of collecting this amount having been but \$8,780.35. This means that the "overhead" has been confined to about .0017 per cent.

Of the amount collected under the law of 1921 there has been returned up to January 26, 1924, the sum of \$119,562.19 to operators of farm tractors, motor boats, commercial cleaning establishments, etc., pursuant to the provision authorizing refunds of taxes on such motor vehicle fuels as are used for purposes other than in the operation of motor vehicles upon the public highways.

Motor vehicle taxes are distributed to the state highway fund becoming available for the construction and maintenance of state highways.

ATTEMPTED RESCUE PILOT ROCK SHERIFF MAY PROVE FATAL

PENDLETON, Ore., Jan. 31.—The citizens of Pilot Rock searched frantically for hours this morning in an attempt to locate John Bradburn, town marshal whom they believed had been kidnapped or killed by a band of thieves who last night stole \$1400 worth of merchandise from stores in that city. Bloodhounds were employed in the search and the excitement was at its height when suddenly the marshal appeared in the midst of his fellow citizens. He knew nothing of the robbery and had been serving papers at McKay dam. However the sight of his excited fellow townsmen, deputy sheriffs in quantity and numerous bloodhounds proved too much for Mr. Bradburn, who is advanced in years, and he collapsed and is now in a serious condition.

The bloodhounds are now being employed in a search for the thieves though no trace of them has as yet been secured.

Oregon News in Brief

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 31.—Miss Martha Wheelodon, aged 27, suffered a deep gash in her scalp and a fractured left ankle when she was struck by a street car as she was crossing a street last night. She was taken to the hospital.

ASTORIA, Ore., Jan. 31.—The Astoria street railway system was put on the bargain counter yesterday and offered to the city, the Port of Astoria, or any other agency which might care to operate it, at only the salvage value of the property.

This salvage value would be \$60,000 or \$70,000. The valuation of the system, as fixed by the state tax commission is \$262,000.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—Mrs. William Ragsdale, 50, of Dallas, had her right leg cut off just below the knee this morning when she was run down by the Salem-Dallas motorcar of the Southern Pacific inside the city limits of Dallas.

Mrs. Ragsdale was standing on the main line track waiting for a logging train on a parallel switch to pass when the motor, which was backing down the track, ran her down.

Too Much Oil for Bok.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Because public interest is centered on the naval oil inquiry the senate investigation into the Bok peace award was postponed again today by the propaganda committee until next Monday.

POSTOFFICE HALTS SAVINGS SALES TO HELP OUT BANKERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Sale of treasury savings certificates by postmasters in seventeen middle-western states has been suspended by Postmaster General New until further notice, with the approval of Secretary Mellon of the treasury in order to assist in the present financial stress among the small banks of those states.

Postmasters in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Idaho, Arizona and Montana were ordered to discontinue the sale of the certificates.

The order supplements one issued January 19 which ordered discontinuance of advertising and soliciting of subscriptions. The order does not affect acceptance of deposits in the postal savings system.

DRY OFFENSIVE TO BE STARTED TOMORROW

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Plans for a nation-wide "prohibition offensive" will be worked out in the meeting tomorrow in New York of the committee of 1900 formed to carry on the work of the conference held here last October just prior to the governors' conference on law enforcement.

The committee, it was announced, will make arrangements for law enforcement campaigns in all the larger cities from each of which deputations will be sent to smaller cities and towns to conduct similar gatherings, which in turn, will delegate committees to carry the campaign to villages and small communities.

Governor Pierce Is First Man to Pay State Income Tax

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 31.—Governor Pierce yesterday paid his income tax under the new state income tax law, amounting to \$77.49. The only income listed was the governor's salary of \$7,500 a year. He claimed exemption of \$2,400 for his wife and one child. The governor said that a separate return would be made for the Pierce farming operations which are under the firm name of Pierce and Pierce, and which, the governor said, will show a loss.

LOVE NOTES OF COCO COLA KING READ IN COURT

Affectionate Missives Penned By Atlanta Millionaire to Mrs. De Bouchel, Introduced As Testimony in \$500,000 Breach of Promise Suit.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 21.—Reading of letters said to have been written to Mrs. Orlinda DeBouchel of New Orleans by Asa G. Candler, soft drink magnate of Atlanta was expected to be continued today by the trial in United States district court here of Mrs. DeBouchel's \$500,000 breach of promise suit against Mr. Candler.

These were dated early in the spring of 1922, up until this time and following their meeting in November, 1921 at the Confederate Veterans reunion held here. Mr. Candler corresponded with Mrs. DeBouchel, as a letter stated, "for culture and pastime which being done, I found myself admiring you."

Later in the spring another letter stated that Mr. Candler had investigated "the manner of woman" Mrs. DeBouchel was, and after ascertaining "from every available source, I learned of your excellency, good breeding and personal charm," he penned, "I unconsciously loved you."

Then came the proposal which Mrs. DeBouchel, according to a letter from Mr. Candler accepted, after she had obtained a divorce from Adolphe Roquet, in Reno in 1921.

In June, 1922, Mr. Candler wrote he had suffered on learning that "sweetness" physical condition was poor. "By a competent surgeon," this letter stated, "a diagnosis was made, appendicitis was indicated, continually since you have experienced more or less pain. You are mine, I am very unhappy because of the above situation."

My "Precious Sweetness"
One month later to "my very precious sweetness," the Atlanta capitalist wrote "the cards are engraved and the envelopes are being addressed in my office. I am having your marriage ring made to fit my little finger. Is that the right size? Send me a string measure in your next letter."

The engagement secret leaked out in August and also dark clouds over the romance began to gather. In a letter dated August 19, Mr. Candler wrote: "The announcement of no citizen's wedding has ever caused as much talk and produced as many letters of every kind as has mine."

"I know that there has gone to New Orleans from Atlanta a prominent citizen," the letter stated, "who is greatly disturbed about my marriage to you, as you have been described by these bad Atlanta papers."

The following day he warned Mrs. DeBouchel not to give out any interviews or to distribute any pictures and added, "whatever may come to prevent our marriage will not hinder my devotion to you. My heart is yours, my love for you is the ruling passion of my life." Attorneys intimated early today that introduction of these letters and several depositions would complete the plaintiff's case, which will come probably before court recesses late today.

SECRETARY HUGHES DECLARES TEAPOT OIL LEASES NEVER CAME UP IN CABINET

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—A suggestion in the senate yesterday by Senator Norris, republican, that Secretary Hughes, a former member of the supreme court, should have called attention to the "plain illegality" of the leases when they were discussed by the cabinet was followed today by the issuance of this statement by Mr. Hughes:

"The questions of the legality or propriety of the oil leases now under discussion in congress were never brought before the cabinet for its discussion. My opinion upon these questions was never sought or expressed either in or out of the cabinet. If the oil leases were ever referred to in cabinet meetings, and I do not recall that they were, it was certainly only by way of general reference and without requiring any responsible action, which of course, I should not have been willing to take without examination of papers and statutes. Having plenty of work in the department of state, I had no occasion to consider these questions of law and fact involved and I have not been called upon to take any responsibility in the matter."

RIOTS BRING DISSOLUTION OF JAP DIET

Unprecedented Scenes of Violence Mark Session of Japanese Parliament — Water Flasks Thrown, Fists Fly — Wrecking of Trains Cause of Disorders—Police Called.

TOKIO, Jan. 31.—(By Associated Press). The imperial diet was dissolved today following scenes of the greatest disorder in which water flasks were thrown and fists used. The disturbance resulted from attempts of the opposition to interpellate the government regarding the attempted wrecking of a train at Nagoya carrying opposition leaders to Tokio.

The turbulent scenes which occurred in the lower house made further business impossible. The outbreak came shortly after the representatives had taken their seats upon the resumption of the diet session.

Interpellating the government in connection with the train wreck, in which three prominent opposition leaders escaped injury although the locomotive of their train was derailed, the opponents of Premier Kiyoura and his newly installed cabinet demanded that the premier reply personally.

Kiyoura declined to reply. Great disorder immediately followed, amid which Kenjiro Komatsu, minister of communications and a member of the house of peers, attempted to reply to the interpellations. In the confusion an agitator, not a member of the diet, rushed to the platform and thrust Komatsu aside. A riot followed. The legislators used water containers as missiles and several engaged in fist combat.

Hostilities continued until the speaker of the house hastily declared a temporary adjournment which was followed by dissolution of the diet.

Police Are Called In
Six rallies were held in Tokio by the opposition this afternoon. The police, strengthened by the addition of an extra force, were maintaining a close watch over proceedings.

The tense political atmosphere attending the resumption of sessions of the diet today was further heightened by an attempt to wreck a train carrying Viscount Takahashi, K. Inukai, leader of the nationalist party and Y. Ozaki, former minister of justice.

The three are leaders of the allied opposition parties, they were on their way to Tokio from an opposition party rally at Osaka. They escaped injury, although the locomotive of their train was damaged by logs and stones piled on the track near Nagoya.

The incident was one of a series marking the bitter fight between the newly formed cabinet under Premier Kiyoura and opposition leaders, both sides using ruffianism as a weapon.

Within the past 48 hours political "bullets" known to the Japanese as Soshi, attempted to fire the homes of elder statesmen; Matsuki and Saionji at Okita; Hirata at Zushi and Viscount Ito in Tokio.

These noblemen are blamed by their political foes responsible for the attacks, for the formation of a "privileged class cabinet," under Premier Kiyoura, upon which so-called democratic elements are waging a bitter battle.

The political situation in Tokio is the tensest that has existed in years and an augmented police force is guarding the diet.

Death Toll of the Automobile

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 31.—Silas F. Kratz, 55, run down yesterday morning by an automobile said to be driven by Reginald R. Irving, died at the hospital this morning. Irving is held in the city jail in lieu of \$1,000 bail.