

CALIFORNIA LEGION TO MEET, SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Aug. 9.—San Diego expects World War veterans from all parts of California to attend the 1920 convention of the state department of the American Legion which will be held here August 22-25.

Governor William D. Stephens is one of the speakers on the program. Entertainment features include a ball, theatre parties and a sightseeing trip to Tijuana, Lower California.

The convention will elect officers for the coming year, choose delegates to the national American Legion convention and select the next year's meeting place. Among the subjects scheduled for discussion are the war risk insurance, the Red Cross, the Boy Scout movement and vocational training.

WILL INSURE THE COWS AND HORSES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Life insurance for cows, sheep, pigs, horses and other livestock on the farm has been provided for in Italy by government decree. In the past, the Italian farmer carried all his livestock insurance with local mutual benefit insurance companies, which were unable financially to protect him against abnormal death rate due to plague or other calamity. Under the new decree branches of the National Institute for Local Insurance of Livestock will be opened in all important centers, and its large funds will be available for insurance against normal as well as abnormal losses.

ITALY WILL BUILD MAMMOTH DRY DOCK

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—The largest dry dock on the Mediterranean is planned at Naples.

Recent decrees of the Italian government authorizing the construction of this dock and a smaller one at the industrial port of Bala-Averno provide that work must begin within six months of the official date of the declaration of peace.

Besides the dry docks, it is planned to transform Lake Averno for the use of shipyards, and to build a canal connecting the lake with the port of Naples proper.

The Italian government will within a period of 50 years pay about half of the cost of the work and at the end of 60 years the property automatically becomes government property.

PRIVATE WURST PROVES BEST MARINE

QUANTICO, Va., Aug. 7.—Despite the seeming handicaps of his name and stature Private C. R. Wurst carried off premier honors at a special inspection held at the marine barracks here, to determine the most soldierly marine of less than one year's service at this post.

When Brig. Gen. Smedley D. Butler, commanding the sea-soldier brigade, halted in front of Wurst and ran an appraising eye over his five feet and four inches of height and his ballast of 119 pounds, he handed the palm to the youngster who will reach voting age on October 19.

Private Wurst is a native of Elizabeth, New Jersey, enlisted at New Orleans on May 25, and in addition to his new won honors is an instructor-examiner in the steam engineering schools of the marine corps institute under General Butler's supervision.

WEST POINT TRAINING SCHOOL AT CAMP LEWIS

TACOMA, Wash., Aug. 9.—Army orders, received at Camp Lewis, near here, specify that a training school for soldiers who desire to enter West Point shall be established at the camp immediately. The school will prepare all soldiers of the western department of the army who desire to take the military academy entrance examination.

Ninety men are allowed to go from the ranks to West Point each year if mentally and physically qualified.

DEADLOCK IN WAGE DISPUTE IN COAL FIELD

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Aug. 9.—The campaign of the United Mine Workers to organize the 5,000 miners in the Mingo county bituminous coal field has precipitated a situation which each side declares can only end when it has won complete victory. In the conflicts growing out of this move 12 or more persons have lost their lives. Wages, apparently, form a secondary consideration, the battle being waged around recognition of the union and the right to mine owners to employ private detectives in and around the mines.

"The men and the operators could get together and settle this thing were it not for the question of the mine guards," said Charles F. Keeney, president of district No. 17, United Mine Workers, who is in command of the union forces. "But in their present temper these men are not to be fooled with. Right now this situation is a powder mill."

"There is not a mineguard in Mingo county, and there has not been for years," said George Bauserwine, secretary of the Coal Operators' association, of Williamson. "Private detectives are employed as other corporations employ detectives for intelligence work in and around their properties. They are not used for guarding the mines."

The question of wages hinges on the scale paid in the Kanawha field. The union leaders declare that adoption of this scale would increase the earnings of the miners in Mingo, while the operators insist that their miners, under the scale now in force, are being paid more than it is possible for the Kanawha miners to earn. However, little attention is being paid to that phase of the controversy. Recognition of the union is the big issue.

The Mingo field includes all of Mingo county and the mines along the Kentucky side of Tug river, a shallow narrow stream which for miles in this region forms the boundary between Kentucky and West Virginia. High mountains rise abruptly on each side of the river, their sides covered with a heavy growth of bushes. Along the mountain sides are the drift mines from which comes the coal, and nestling in the narrow valley are the little towns where live the miners and their families.

Fully 75 per cent of the miners in the region are native born, many of them the descendants of pioneers who entered the county more than 100 years ago, and who are proud of their lineage. Some foreign-born miners can be found in the camps, while numbers of negroes are employed. Often the miner owns a small acreage, for which in the planting and harvesting, he will abandon the mines.

In some places the miners live in brick cottages, each having its garden plot and front porch. Such a village is Bordertown, where early this month miners were fired upon from the mountainside while going to work. In other villages the houses are of frame construction, each set in its own garden plot, and for which the miners pay at the rate of two dollars per month per room.

Williamson, the center of the region, is pleasantly placed in the valley, with substantial buildings and good stores. The Mingo county court house is one of the best structures, but the city hall also is a complete office building, while there is in course of construction a theater which will cost \$250,000. The 8,000 residents of the town very generally enjoy the prosperity which has come to the coal trade in the past few years.

Early in the year the movement to organize the United Mine Workers was inaugurated by President Keeney from district headquarters at Charleston, and organizers were sent into Mingo county. They met with such

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success that a demand was made upon the operators for the enforcement of the Kanawha scale and recognition of the union. This demand the operators refused, and the union called a strike. The order, mine operators say, was answered by from 1,500 to 1,800 miners, but the union officials put the figure higher.

The companies, through their lawyers, took the position that the houses built for the miners who had gone on strike reverted at once to the owners.

The miners, in some instances, held that if the companies wanted the house of a man they must obtain possession of it by due process of law.

Numbers of miners were evicted from company houses, and it was for that purpose private detectives, "mine guards" the miners term them, were sent to Matewan, June 19, and where in the fight which followed the eviction of five families, 10 persons were killed.

Many miners, however, moved from company houses without protest, and the United Mine Workers established for such persons tent colonies along Tug river near the places of their former employment. There the strikers and their families live in army tents, and there they declare they will stay until the strike has been settled and they have returned to work.

WILL STOP PILFERING OF PINEAPPLE FIELDS

HONOLULU, T. H., Aug. 1. (By Mail.)—Honolulu police officers have started a campaign against tourists who rob pineapple fields under the guidance of taxicab drivers. The principal scenic road around the island of Oahu runs through the pineapple belt, and, police report, several taxicab drivers have been giving their tourist passengers permission to pick all the "pines" they want.

BIRD PRESERVE ON SALT LAKE

OGDEN, Utah, Aug. 9.—Through the efforts of the Weber County Rod and Gun club with the co-operation of the government, a large resting ground for migratory birds will be provided soon upon the shores of the Great Salt lake, near here.

The government has sent three men to Utah to work out the question of boundaries. Irving C. Emmett, acting federal game warden, and two assistants will spend 90 days in Ogden and vicinity preparing the reserve.

It is planned to have all the unsurveyed land in Boxelder county surveyed and set aside as the reserve. The reserve will also take in the west shore of the lake, which is said to be the greatest resting ground for birds in the United States. Inspection of the district has shown the largest variety of water fowl ever found on any inland body of water. There are sea gulls, pelicans, cranes, geese, snipes and hundreds of other varieties.

In connection with the reserve the federal agents will gather statistics on filling and holding of private duck clubs. No additional ground will be permitted to be added to the clubs' grounds. The greater part of the clubs are located along the Bear river near its mouth.

The plans for the reserve have been before the Weber County Rod and Gun club for about a year. It was efforts of Alfred T. Hestmark, president of the club that the organization secured the game reserve or sanctuary, containing 150 square miles, set aside east of this city taking in three scenic canyons, Ogden,

Weber and North Ogden. In the mountains and streams of the reserve the rod and gun club expects to have beaver, deer, elk, mountain sheep and mountain goats and wild land fowl.

TREES BURNED TO DESTROY INSECT PEST

YUMA, Ariz., Aug. 9.—Yuma people have witnessed something that reminded them of burning down the house to get rid of the mice, though they recognized it had a scientific reason back of it. It was the burning of every date palm at the state experimental station.

By the use of an electric torch, every palm was burned to the stump in order to get rid of a destructive scale. According to agriculturalists at the station, there was no way of dealing with the pest effectively. Now only bare stumps mark the place where last year a \$7,000 crop of dates was harvested from four acres of palms.

LEAVES INSURANCE FUND FOR HORSE

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 9.—Kniplow, a 13 years old stallion, was the beneficiary named in the \$10,000 war insurance policy carried by Harry K. Thurman, of Memphis, Tenn., and his aunt, Mrs. Mary Mitchell, of Buffalo, is complying with the terms of the policy. Thurman died in action overseas.

The facts in the case came out when Mrs. Mitchell sought to have Kiplow placed among the mounts of Troop J, state guard, in the armory here. She said Thurman was much attached to the horse and having no near relatives who would suffer through his death, he decided to provide for the animal's care in case he did not return. The surplus above the cost of the horse's keep goes to Mrs. Mitchell.

Kniplow is suffering from a sprained tendon but is recovering and is expected soon to become a part of Troop J's outfit where he is a great favorite.

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