

# Fierce Battle With Smugglers

Customs Guard Has Desperate Fight With Rum Runners on Mexican Border.

## WIFE TELLS OF ENCOUNTER

Knives and Pistols Were Used in Battle in Brush on the Banks of the Rio Grande—Automobile Is Riddled.

Hidalgo, Tex.—One of the most desperate single-handed encounters which ever took place between a United States customs officer and a gang of Mexican smugglers on the Rio Grande border fell to the lot of Dick McConnell, a government river guard here, a few nights ago. McConnell, accompanied by his wife and two little daughters, was riding in an automobile along the Rio Grande, near town. Leaving the car, McConnell started toward the river bank. He had gone but a short distance when he was fired upon from ambush.

A bullet knocked off his hat. He rushed toward the spot from which the bullets were coming. He returned the fire as he ran into the brush and there came upon the two Mexicans. One of them grabbed him by the back of neck and a scuffle ensued, during which he received knife wounds and had his pistol holster cut to pieces. He drew a small gun, which he carried in the holster under his shirt, and fired at his assailant, whom he killed, and the body fell into the rapidly rising Rio Grande.

Mrs. McConnell, who was in the car at the time of the attack, gave the following account:

### Wife's Account.

"I and the children were in the back seat of the car when we drove up near the river bank, near the small boat ferry landing. As my husband got out of the car and started to go down the bank there came a flash of a gun, almost in his face, and his hat

fell off and something struck the car. Dick jumped back, pulled his automatic and began to shoot. Again and again came the flash and something struck the car again. The children and I could see the man who was shooting at my husband backing down under the bank and my husband walking toward him, shooting.

"They both disappeared under the bank when we heard a noise like men fighting or struggling. I was getting nervous and did not know what to do. We heard three more shots and I heard some one yell out in Mexican. Shortly after my husband came to the top of the bank holding his hands to his face and told me to drive to Deputy Collector J. R. Clark's house and bring him and also a lantern. I drove as fast as I could and returned with Clark and the lantern.

"We found my husband's hat near the car with a bullet hole in the top

## \$63,000,000 a Month for Amusement in America

Washington, D. C.—Approximately \$63,000,000 is spent in America each month for amusement, according to the Treasury department. Movies, theaters, circuses and amusement parks are receiving the money. Last year it was \$79,000,000 a month.

of the crown. On the river bank we picked up a long-bladed knife. Lying partly in the water was a felt hat with three bullets in it. Near the boat was a sack containing seventeen quarts of tequila.

"Upon returning to the car we found where three bullets had pierced the cowl, one of which passed through and hit the steering wheel, breaking a part of it off. One of the bullets piercing the cowl, but spending its force against the iron dash, was picked up by Deputy Collector Clark and was said to be from a .45. The other hit the side of the cowl and glanced off."

## WILL BUILD AERIAL HARBOR

Corporation at Gothenburg, Sweden, Prepares Plans for Joint Municipal Field.

Gothenburg, Sweden.—This city, with its extensive marine shipping facilities and its new free port, is now preparing to build an aerial harbor. It will have all the facilities required by sky pilots, an up-to-date service department and the latest conveniences for landing and taking off.

A corporation has been formed to build the air station and operate it in conjunction with the city authorities of Gothenburg. It is proposed that the city shall have the privilege of buying the company's shares in the enterprise after ten years and thus take over full control of the air port.

## Youth Made a Minister.

Reading, Pa.—Converted at eight years, preaching for the last two years at his home at Pottstown and ordained a minister recently at the age of sixteen is the remarkable record of Ira Bechtel, one of the new ministers accepted today at the annual conference of the Holiness Christian church, meeting at Birdsboro.

# Airplane Search for Grain Pests

Remarkable Survey Being Conducted in Texas by U. S. Agricultural Department.

## RUST SPORE BEING SOUGHT

Annual Loss in Wheat Alone Due to Stem Rust is Estimated at 64,000,000 Bushels—Mexico Believed to Be Source of Spore.

San Antonio, Tex.—One of the most remarkable surveys ever made under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture is now in progress in Texas. It is that of searching the air for the spore that causes rust on growing wheat and oats.

It is estimated that the annual loss

in wheat alone due to stem rust is approximately 64,000,000 bushels. It is the theory of some agricultural scientists that the source of the spore which causes this enormous loss is in Mexico or perhaps South America and that it drifts through the air to the wheat fields of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and other states.

### Airplane Search in Progress.

During the last two weeks an airplane search for the spores has been made at high altitudes above San Antonio. For this purpose an airplane from Kelly field is used, with Lieut. T. R. Booker as pilot and Wallace Butler as scientist.

Armed with a "spore trap" Mr. Butler has made six exposures at varying altitudes on each aerial journey. These plates have been sent to the office of cereal investigation for examination. Thus far no reports have been given out of the findings.

Anyone who walks through an oat field in this part of the state now will come out with his shoes covered with a yellowish powder which has brushed off from the innumerable little yellow leaves.

This powder any farmer will tell one is rust, in this case the leaf rust of oats. Every little yellow spot on the leaf is a pustule of leaf rust, each pustule being made up of from one to several thousand tiny seed bodies or spores which are pushed up through the epidermis of the leaf from a sort of root structure or mass of threads which are growing within the leaf. These threads are very minute and can be seen only by the aid of the microscope. The spores which are borne in such multitudes on the ends of little branches from these threads are also microscopic in size. The powder on the shoes after a trip through the oat field consists of millions of these spores.

### Dew Helps.

When one of these spores falls on a drop of dew or other moisture on a leaf of oats it soon sends out a little root-like projection which, curling around this way and that, finds its way into the breathing pore or opening in the epidermis of the leaf and so gets into the leaf tissues. In due time it becomes the mass of threads which again send up the mass of spores, and so the process is repeated with favorable weather conditions about every two weeks.

## THIS CURFEW HITS PARENTS ALSO

Held Guilty With Children in Violation of Ordinance.

City "Dads" of South Dakota City Believe Parents Are Largely to Blame for Children Running About Streets at Night.

Sioux Falls, S. D.—The city of Lemmon, S. D., has one of the most unique curfew ordinances in existence anywhere in the United States. The parents are held equally guilty with the children for violations of the curfew. The ordinance provides that boys and girls under seventeen years of age must be off the streets and at home after 9:30 o'clock each evening. If they are on the streets or other public places after that hour they must be accompanied by their parents or some authorized guardian.

The city "Dads" believe that parents are largely to blame for their

children running about the streets at unseemly hours of the night, and therefore placed a provision in the ordinance making the parents responsible with the children for violations of the provisions of the ordinance.

Some of the parents who have been in the habit of permitting their children to remain away from home until quite late at night have regarded the ordinance as of no interest to them, and as a result when their children were found running at large after 9:30 o'clock at night the parents themselves were required to appear in court and explain why their children were not required by the parents to be home by 9:30 o'clock.

At one time several parents were in court on the charge of permitting their children to violate the curfew ordinance, and in each case a small fine was imposed, with the admonition that further violations by their children would subject them to heavier fines.

The city authorities now have given notice that the curfew ordinance means just what it says and that it will continue to be strictly enforced, regardless of whose children may be affected and that neglectful parents will be taken into court no matter how prominent they may be in the community.

## ALBANIA HAS NO PUBLIC DEBT

Occupies Unique Position Among European Nations—Monetary System Based on Gold Deposits.

Genoa.—Happy Albania is the term which has been applied to that country, for it is stated that it occupies the unique position among European nations of being the only country which has no national debt and has a gold monetary system.

Mehedi Frasher, the head of the Albanian delegation to the conference here, in an interview indicated that all would be well with his country, "if only we are left in peace for a little while."

# NEBRASKA NEWS IN CONCISE FORM

State Occurrences of Importance Boiled to a Few Lines for Quick Perusal.

The city library at University Place contains over 10,000 volumes.

Bloomfield has voted to raise \$27,000 to be expended in local improvements.

In a recent drive in Omaha, young women raised over \$3,500 by the sale of poppies.

James McPhillips a farmer near Lindsay has just sold his place for \$275 an acre.

Nearly 5,000 members attended the state Sunday school convention at its session in Fremont.

An attendance of 5,000 is expected at the National Weather League which meets at Omaha in July.

Nebraska Elks are in session at Columbus. Nineteen lodges are represented at the meeting.

A tornado struck the neighborhood of Henry in Scottsbluff county and destroyed a number of farm homes.

Thirty-eight Epworth league chapters were represented at the district convention at David City last week.

Forest Bartlette, 13 years old, was drowned while swimming with some companions in the Blue river at Fairbury.

Raymond Smith lost his life when he dived into the Elkhorn river at a shallow point near Valley, breaking his neck.

A petition is being circulated at Lodgepole for the erection of a \$90,000 school building. A levy to raise \$19,000 was voted.

Lodgepole is becoming the largest hog shipping point in that section of the state. Thirty cars have gone out within a few weeks.

Jefferson county is to have its first rural paved road. It is being constructed on the federal road between Fairbury and Hebron.

First cultivation of corn has begun in the vicinity of Norfolk, and farmers report that in six weeks they will have the new corn laid by.

The fifteenth annual encampment of the United Spanish War veterans just ended at Hastings elected Bruce Newton of Omaha as commander.

Seventy-three men and women who have passed 70 made merry at the second annual Sunset social tendered them by the Nelson Commercial club.

Harry Jennings Lamb stepped into a deep hole while bathing in the Elkhorn river near Arlington and was drowned before companions could reach him.

Arrangements have been made to provide for outdoor meetings of all the Pawnee City churches combined on Sunday evenings during the summer.

With a membership of 371, the McCook lodge of the Degree of Honor claims to be the banner organization of the state, in cities of similar population.

The proposed community hall for Nebraska City for which bonds in the sum of \$100,000 were voted in October, 1920, will not be built in the immediate future.

Richardson county and surrounding territory is suffering the greatest pig mortality in years, due to round worms, according to Joseph L. Worrell, county agent.

Following a test run the new munny power plant at Pawnee City has been accepted by the city. The plant supplies several towns in this section of the state.

Fire starting, it is believed, from a bolt of lightning during a thunder shower, destroyed the machine and cattle shed on the farm of George Luther, near Hooper.

The largest crop of alfalfa grown in the Franklin vicinity for years is now being stacked. Wheat, which for a time looked like a half crop now is making excellent headway.

A large barn on the farm of George Spadt, near Friend, occupied by the H. L. Wood family, was destroyed by fire, together with a fine span of mules, some harness, hay and grain.

Wheat in the Platte valley was blown down badly in many places by the severe wind and hail storm of last week. Farmers were of the opinion that much of it would revive.

The diamond jubilee of the Evangelical Lutheran synod of Missouri and other states was celebrated in York with nearly 4,000 in attendance. Seventeen counties were represented.

Charles W. Pool, secretary of state from 1913 to 1918, will file as a democratic candidate for the same office.

Authorities at Broken Bow are mystified over the discovery in a high clay bank on Woods Brothers ranch, five miles from that place, of a human skeleton. The bones indicated that the body had been buried in a sitting position.

The Rev. John Albert Williams of St. Philip's church has just celebrated the thirty-first anniversary of his entrance upon the ministry in Omaha all of the time having been spent in that place.

Hall tore a patch several miles long and a mile wide near Star, doing extensive damage to growing crops and fruit trees.

Corn and fruit come in for encouraging remarks, while wheat, oats and alfalfa are deemed disappointing in the weekly crop report for Nebraska, issued by G. A. Loveland, United States meteorologist.

A windstorm of tornado proportions visited a section of the country northeast of O'Neill. Trees were blown down and outbuildings wrecked. The wind was preceded and followed by a heavy rain.

Adams citizens have gone on record in favor of the installation of a waterworks system to cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The town board will call a special bond election in the near future.

William Kuhlman, a well known cattleman of Chester, topped the Kansas City market recently, and with a mixed load of Herefords, secured the top price of the year, \$9.05 per hundred weight.

The State Department of Trade and Commerce announces the reopening of the Farmers bank at Crawford under an entirely new management and with its cash reserves fully established.

The Columbus light and power company is receiving coal from New Mexico at a price double that usually paid, to augment the fast disappearing supply laid in at the outset of the strike at a cost of \$12,000.

The 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. George Wenzel, residing near Nebraska City, got his hand under a rocking chair with the result that the hand was so badly mangled that one finger had to be amputated.

Miss Nancy Pennoyer of Central City, a graduate of the college of business administration, University of Nebraska, has been awarded a \$500 prize for post-graduate work because of her excellence in mathematics.

Fremont's new Methodist church was used for the first time last Sunday. Regular Sunday school and church services are to be held in the new auditorium. The church is said to be one of the finest in this part of Nebraska.

A resolution has been adopted by the Columbus board of supervisors calling a special election to authorize the sale of the old court house and the grounds. The election is to be held with the primaries on Tuesday, July 18.

William Gross of Wisner was elected president of the Nebraska Hampshire Breeders association at its recent session at Norfolk, at which over fifty breeders from western, eastern and southern parts of the state were present.

E. L. Jenkins, treasurer of Jefferson county has renounced to D. B. Cropsey state treasurer, the state portion of tax collected in May. The amount was \$56,341.80 an unusually large amount for Nebraska's share of one month's collections.

Probably 200,000 hens will be kept on Johnson county farms this summer, which, at an average of thirty eggs for four months at 2 cents each, would return an income that would equal \$120,000, according to J. F. Purbaugh, county extension agent.

Head Track Coach Henry F. Schulte has been appointed assistant director of athletics at the University of Nebraska. He has coached teams which, wearing the Scarlet and Cream, have won the Missouri Valley track championship during 1921 and 1922.

Roy Cruzan, a farmer near North Loup, was painfully injured, while restoring the boxing in a piece of farm machinery the melted rabbit metal being used exploding in the mould, splashing the hot metal over his nose, eyes and face, producing severe burns.

Gilbert Swanson living near Lindsey, owns what is probably the heaviest bunch of steers ever fattened in Nebraska. The steers will all weigh in the neighborhood of 2,500 pounds, and Mr. Swanson has had them on feed for 18 months, buying them in Omaha.

The Shelton Hardware Co. store and Gumprecht and Merdinger's grocery and meat market were broken into and goods and money to the amount of three or four hundred dollars taken. A number of shotguns, shells and small articles of hardware were taken.

A wind, rain and hail storm that struck northeastern Holt county was the worst of its kind ever seen in that neighborhood. The hail was a foot deep on the level and drifts averaging three and one-half feet deep could be found. Nearly every farmer in the vicinity suffered heavy loss.

Ord and Valley counties experienced one of the worst storms in twenty years last week. A four and a half-inch rain fell in Ord in forty-five minutes, flooding the streets and filling the basements of the business houses and residences. Old-timers could not recall an equal to the downpour.

Two young ladies from across the sea, Wietse Wierstra and Jantze Zylstra, arrived in Omaha a few days ago, and were married to John and Albert Blaw of that place. The two couples were sweethearts in far off Holland, and will make their home in this new land.

The Maywood district fair association will hold the annual summer race meet July 4-6. The greatest number of horses in history is entered.

Miss Ella Herron last term taught the grandchildren of some of her first pupils in the Burchard public schools. She completed thirty-five years' service in the primary department with the termination of the 1922 season.

When the shell stuck in a shotgun exploded while his brother was trying to dislodge it, Albert Klein, of Wolbach, received the full charge in his body, as he was plowing fifty feet away. He will recover.

Dr. Robert F. Gilder, archeologist, with the aid of a number of trained assistants, have unearthed for exploration a semi-underground prehistoric dwelling on the Schwartz forty-acre tract, near South Bend, where many rare objects of stone, bone and pottery have been recovered at a depth of eleven feet from the surface.

After having clutched for several hours a pipe which ran above her, in order to keep her head out of the water, Mrs. George Kurb, 72 years of age, of Blair, wa: released from a cistern into which she had fallen. She was almost exhausted when found.

# WORKING GIRLS LOOK HERE

Read What Mrs. Lucas Writes Concerning Her Troubles, Which May be Just Like Yours

St. Louis, Mo.—"I had troubles that all women are apt to have, with pains in my back, weak, tired, nervous feelings and a weak stomach. I had been this way about a year and was unable to work or stand on my feet for any length of time. My husband's aunt told me how much good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound had done her and begged me to try it, so I did. All my pains and weakness are gone, my stomach is all right and I do my work at home and also work for Swift's Packing Company. I recommend your Vegetable Compound to my friends and you may publish my letter as a testimonial."—Mrs. LULU LUCAS, 719A Vandever St., St. Louis, Mo.

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