

Defense Flays Government in Trial of Forbes

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Refutation of charges that Charles J. Forbes, sought during his term as director of the Veterans' bureau to influence the awarding of hospital contracts to favored firms, was offered in defense testimony today in the trial of Forbes and J. W. Thompson, contractor, for conspiracy to defraud the government.

Harold W. Briening, assistant director of the Veterans' bureau, in charge of fiscal operations, testified that Forbes had sought during his term to leave all hospital construction projects in the hands of army and navy engineers and the bureau's planning committee.

The defense continued its attack on the government's case today with six witnesses. Five of them called as character witnesses, testified the reputation of Elias H. Mortimer, chief witness for the prosecution, for truth and veracity was not good.

Major Martin on Stand. Major Frederick Martin, commander of the United States army world flight, was the first witness.

Robert S. Bishop, Washington representative of the Detroit Steel Products company, also testified about Mortimer's reputation for truth and veracity.

Bishop told of an incident in the Occidental cafe, Washington, in October, 1922, when a friend called Mortimer, among other things, "the biggest fourth-year in Washington."

Major Martin was asked to identify a letter signed by Newton D. Baker, former secretary of war, relating to a charge against Capt. Leo V. Lannen, growing out of alleged irregularities in air service contracts in 1918.

Major Martin testified the charges against Lannen had been "instigated by Mortimer," and that an investigation had been "completely exonerated" Lannen.

The Baker letter was not introduced in evidence.

Buffalo County Now Digging Itself Out of Record Snow for December

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Kearney, Neb., Dec. 29.—Pioneer settlers of Buffalo county, who have lived here a half century or more, fail to recall any December during which so much snow fell and such low temperature prevailed.

Snow started December 4, falling to a depth of 14 inches. Several light snows followed. High winds revealed for days, forming huge drifts everywhere. Temperatures hovered constantly around the zero mark, 23 below being the lowest.

Drifting snow paralyzed transportation on the highways. Single track lanes have been opened on practically all main-traveled roads, but miles still remain unbroken. Rural mail carriers have been striving desperately to keep up service but some of the routes were not served for days.

In Center township the mail persons furnished their carrier with hot lunches in appreciation of his efforts. The volume of holiday shopping suffered greatly. Many merchants mailed goods by parcel post. It is feared that the roads will be in bad shape all winter and that snow will be in evidence until spring.

3 Dozen Stocks Reach New High in Session Here

New York, Dec. 29.—Industrial stocks went on a bull bazaar at the opening of today's stock market, which marked the opening of the third dozen issues were lifted to new peak prices for the year during the first hour under the leadership of United States Steel, common, which touched 121, the highest price in seven years.

Lowering of the renewal rate on all money to 4 per cent, establishment of the highest price in five years by sterling exchange, the unexpected post-holiday demand for stocks last week and the encouraging trade reviews brought a flood of buying orders into the market from all sections of the country.

Coppers were again in brisk demand, Anaconda, Chile, Kennecott, Inspiration, Cerro de Pasco and Nevada Consolidated smashing their previous 1924 high records.

Other stocks to be elevated to new high levels were Republic Steel, Famous Players, Columbia Gas and Electric, Pacific Gas and Electric, Radio Corporation, New York Air Brake, American Can and Foundry, Railway Steel Spring, United States Cast Iron Pipe, International Paper, Chicago Pneumatic Tool, Simms Petroleum, Park & Tilford and Otis Elevator.

With the first batch of buying orders had been absorbed, and the upward movement showed signs of slowing up, a wave of profit taking swept over the market, carrying Baldwin down 3 points, Texas Gulf Sulphur 2 1/2 and American Locomotive, General Motors and a number of others off a point or more.

AIRPLANE SPEED RECORD BROKEN

Etampes, France, Dec. 29.—Aviator Doret today broke the world's speed record for 1,000 kilometers (621.38 miles), flying the distance over a 50-kilometer course in four hours, 30 minutes and 22 seconds, an average of 221.7 kilometers (about 137.75 miles) per hour.

RADIO

Program for December 30, (Continued from page 10). WSB, Atlanta (429): 8.30 soprano, piano; 9.45 orchestra.

Delinquent Taxes Wickham Seeks Delay in Taking U. S. Depositions

Bluffs, Financier, Hurt in Crash, Says He Is Unable to Attend Hearing in Suit. Attorneys for E. A. Wickham, County Bluffs financier who was seriously injured in an automobile crash on Christmas eve, filed an objection in federal court Monday against taking the depositions in Des Moines Tuesday in a suit filed against Wickham asking \$217,700 alleged to be due the plaintiffs from Wickham as profits on wartime construction contracts.

The objection declares that Mr. Wickham's condition will not enable him to be present at the taking of depositions, and that he can give his attorneys no assistance in the matter. The suit was filed by L. W. Drennon, W. D. Jamieson and James J. Drennon, who are attorneys for the construction of the Fort Omaha balloon school, the Memphis (Tenn.) air field and the Lake Charles (La.) cantonment.

The commissioners set aside \$20,000 for improvements at the City Auditorium and agreed on other items as follows: Municipal court, \$3,800; to meet deficit in street lighting fund, \$16,000; to reimburse miscellaneous fund \$3,500 account recent health department emergency appropriation; \$3,800 for compensation money paid out by public improvements department; for installation of traffic signal system, \$11,000; for building department, \$7,500.

The balance will be appropriated Tuesday morning to clear up various items and about \$8,000 will be placed in the judgment fund. Start Year Better. The practical effect of this action means that the various departments will start 1925 with \$2,500 more than was expected until the city legal department gave an opinion that delinquent tax collections could legally be appropriated for general expense.

The city council will meet next Monday morning to determine the municipal budget for 1925. The conference Monday morning brought out a few pointed remarks from Commissioners Hopkins and Hummel. Hopkins serves notice. "I want to serve notice on you commissioners right here that unless adequate appropriation is made for maintenance of the comfort stations at South Omaha, Florence and Benson for next year, these places will be closed," said Hopkins.

It is all very well for Joe Hummel to go out and open these places and then leave them to maintain out of my department funds. They opened these places at a meeting and called it 'Hummel hall' and Joe Hummel told the people all about it. "Now, John, do as I do in my department; when the funds are low we close down some of the places. We run our department according to the funds we have," Hummel replied.

TECUMSEH FAIR DATES CHANGED

Tecumseh, Dec. 29.—Presuming that the Nebraska state fair in 1925 would be held the first week in September, as it has been for a number of years, the managers of the Johnson county fair had set the show here the second week in September, expecting to follow the Lincoln show next year.

The dinner will be given at Hotel Fontenelle by Walter W. Head, president of the Omaha National bank, a member of the capital commission. He has invited 150 Omaha business men to take dinner with the members of the commission.

The members of the commission are Governor Bryan, chairman; William Hardy, Lincoln; W. H. Thompson, Grand Island; Roy Cochran, state engineer, and Mr. Head.

BANDITS KIDNAP HOUSE MANAGER

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 29.—Four armed bandits early today kidnaped Spivey Cardas, manager of the New Grand Central theater, and compelled him to return to the theater and open the safe for them. They escaped with \$5,000.

Girl Believed Planning Leap From Toll Bridge "Just to Scare Someone"

Minnie Young, 16, was taken into custody Monday afternoon after she had been pacing back and forth along the center span of the Douglas street bridge. She told police that she had "just been trying to scare somebody."

John Croft, bridge policeman, took the girl into custody after he had noticed her leaning over the railing, apparently trying to find an open channel in the icebound river. He believed she was contemplating suicide. The girl denied she had planned to throw herself from the bridge, but Croft took her to the police station, where she first refused to give her name. Later she gave her name and said she was employed as a domestic in the home of Dr. T. J. Dwyer, 528 South Thirty-seventh street.

France Balks on War Debts

Washington, Dec. 29.—The American government regards with considerable apprehension France's conspicuous ignoring of its war debts, and it was indicated strongly here today that the United States will shortly take steps to obtain from France a clear and unequivocal statement as to whether or not it intends to pay the \$4,000,000,000 borrowed here.

The highest officials of the administration made it clear today that they consider the statement of the French finance minister to parliament on Saturday as constituting little short of direct repudiation, and it is probable that a note will soon be dispatched challenging the views that Chairman Clemential expressed. Secretary Hughes Adds.

The State department's concern over the matter was early manifested today by Secretary of State Hughes sending to the Treasury department for all the data bearing on the French loans in this country. He conferred also with Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Wadsworth, the foreign loan expert of the treasury, as well as secretary of the American debt fund organization.

Vigorous dissent was voiced by administration officials to the proposition advanced by M. Clemential for a "general pooling" of war debts by the allied countries, and his recommendation that the costs of the war be apportioned among them on the basis of "ability to pay."

This would only mean, it was pointed out, that the United States would bear the burden of billions of dollars. Money in Common Cause. M. Clemential told parliament that the money that France borrowed during the war went into a common cause of winning the war. Administration officials challenged the correctness of this statement today by pointing out that one-fourth of the total debt was contracted by France after the armistice was signed. The United States treasury gave in excess of one billion dollars in exchange for demand notes after November 11, 1918.

The money that went into foreign loans during and after the war, it was emphasized, came from the sale of Liberty bonds. The American government is now paying millions of dollars annually in interest to holders of these bonds, and getting no interest from the debtor nations, save Great Britain.

If these war loans are repudiated, it means, one administration official emphasized, that the American taxpayer will have to put up the money to redeem the bonds. Scully Estate Pays \$6,517. Taxes in Marshall County. Wymore, Dec. 29.—The Elizabeth Angella Scully land interests of London, England, through their local representative and manager, V. R. Johnson, of Beatrice, have just paid their taxes in Marshall county, Kansas, south of here, and according to treasurer's records, the total tax for 1924 on the total holdings of 8,200 acres owned in Marshall county, amounted to \$6,517. The total assessed valuation of this land is nearly \$500,000.

The Scully estate owned 23,700 acres out of the 522,900 acres in Wagon county, all of which was purchased in the early days. Boy Burglar Paroled. York, Dec. 29.—Lewis Milligan of Loup City, who has spent the last four weeks in the York jail waiting for room to be made for him at the state reformatory, has been paroled by Judge Cooper to the sheriff of Sherman county on the understanding that for the next year he will keep good company and be constantly employed in some useful occupation under the direction of his father. Milligan was sentenced to a year at the reformatory for breaking into a York cafe. School Bonds Carry. York, Dec. 29.—The bond issue election in school district No. 12, in which York is located, aroused but little interest, owing to extremely cold weather. Less than 200 votes were cast and there were but 13 votes against the proposition. The new bond issue refunds the present one of \$200,000.

CORONER HOLDS UP HIS REPORT

(Continued from page one). line of investigation, they removed as guardians of young McClintock.

Shepherd makes threat. Shepherd, who returned here Friday from a business, N. M., to personally direct the investigation which he says must clear his name of "all insinuations and imputations in connection with Billy's death," today charged that the matter had been made the subject of a legal investigation through the machinations of an enemy.

"The state's attorney's investigation of me is over, as far as I am concerned," Shepherd said. "When it is all over, I shall bring one of my own. I want special action that which would come out of a civil suit, and the only place I can get that is from the grand jury. I do not want vengeance or money."

This action, he confidently declared, will follow immediately the publication of the formal report of the autopsy in the body of young McClintock. Shepherd declared that he was satisfied that the report will confirm his version of the McClintock physicians that the young man died of typhoid fever.

Shepherd also intimated that he would seek a reassignment of the provisions of the McClintock will under which he received bulk of the estate after Miss Isabelle Pope, fiancée of "Billy," has been assured an income of \$8,000 a year.

Fund for Miss Pope. Shepherd declared that he intends to carry out the wishes of his ward by creating a trust fund for the payment of Miss Pope's annuity, although the will did not specify it, but that upon her death the annuity would be applied to charity.

This action would also break the legendary "curse" which has hung over the McClintock millions ever since they came into the hands of American families a generation or so ago, through the death of an English nobleman.

"I want this fortune to lose its identity on the death of my wife and myself," Shepherd declared, "and it will go to many charities, as Billy intended it."

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NEBRASKA NEWS Nubbins. Beatrice.—Earl Penner and Miss Alone Thoman, both of this city, were married here. Mr. Penner is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Penner. The bride is a daughter of Mrs. A. F. Thoman, old residents of Beatrice.

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