

LAND BANK BILL IS UP TO CONGRESS

Joint Committee on Rural Credits Agrees on Measure Creating Agricultural Banks.

PERSONAL CREDIT PHASE LATER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—When congress reconvenes after the holiday recess, a land mortgage bill creating the official machinery for a system of agricultural banks entirely distinct and separate from the commercial banks will be ready for consideration by both houses.

This measure creates a system of twelve regional banks for the immediate use of farm borrowers everywhere in the United States at a low rate of interest and control of a central board at Washington.

The members of the sub-committee on personal credits have been participating in land mortgage loan proceedings and as the two sub-committees comprise the full joint committee, the agreement on the land mortgage bill involves its speedy submission to the senate and house.

The personal credits legislation, as a separate measure is not yet in sight although there have been some hearings before that sub-committee and some of the personal credits are taken care of in the land mortgage loan bill.

Measure on the naval appropriation bill will begin before the house naval affairs committee probably January 5, it was announced today.

The navy department's recommendation for provision in the bill for a dry dock at Norfolk, with a limit of \$1,500,000, is the principal dock problem in the naval plans.

Nearly Half Million In Stocks Stolen From Mail Wagon

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 25.—Four hundred thousand dollars in stock certificates were stolen from a registered mail pouch here late last night while in transit in a horse covered wagon from the Wilmington postoffice to the Pennsylvania railroad station.

Albert Johnson and Earl Johnson, negroes, the drivers of the wagon were arrested today. They are not related. The men are believed, according to the police, to be the tools of the robbers.

The securities were enroute to New York. Some of the steel belongs to the Dupont company and the remainder is the property of brokers in New York. The postal inspectors will not divulge the names of the brokers.

General Robles Takes Charge of Juarez Government

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 25.—Christmas in the Mexican town of Juarez, recently surrendered by officers of General Francisco Villa, was marked by the appearance of military and civil officials of the defunct Mexican government from El Paso.

General F. Elias Calles arrived from Sonora, and conferred with General Obregon and Mexican Consul Garcia. Calles stated that Carranza troops were to leave Naco, Sonora, today en route here to occupy Juarez.

Wants 7,500 More Men for Marines

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—An additional 7,500 officers and men are needed by the marine corps for adequate performance of its manifold duties in the opinion of Major General George Barnett, commandant, as expressed in his annual report made public tonight.

General Barnett recommends appropriation of \$20,000 for purchase of advance base material for the marine.

PLEA FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT HOME

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 25.—A plea for moral and religious education of the young but insistence that this task is the work of the home and of the church or synagogue were points emphasized in the address of Dr. Henry Berkowitz of Philadelphia, Chancellor of the Jewish chautauque society at its national meeting here tonight.

"Jewish people," he said, "having abandoned the system of segregating their children in parochial schools will never resort to it again. There is the alternative danger of having religious and moral instruction injected into the public school system. We believe that the separation of church and state should be inviolably maintained.

Use The Bee's "Wrapper" outline.

AMERICAN GIRL CHEERED BRITISH SINGING IN TRENCHES.



MISS DOROTHY BIGELOW

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—With the rumbling of cannon sounding in her ears, Miss Dorothy Bigelow, daughter of Foytney Bigelow, former minister to Germany and a granddaughter of the late John Bigelow, diplomat and author, sang to British soldiers in their trenches in France and make them temporarily forget the grimness of war and its accompanying horrors.

Miss Bigelow just returned to this country with her mother, but will return to England after the holidays. She has been studying singing and dancing in England for several years, and when the war started she and other young women arranged charity dances and entertainments for the benefit of the soldiers in the trenches.

"I did not see any actual fighting," she said, "but I did hear the roar of the big guns and saw the men coming back from the first line trenches. The poor boys seemed to enjoy my singing and appreciate my efforts to amuse them."

Sufficient Proof. A citizen was standing on a street corner looking a bit depressed when a friend sauntered along.

"What seems to be the trouble, old man?" solicitously queried the latter, extending the sympathetic hand. "You are a sight like and scenery."

"I have just had something of a jolt," answered the sad one. "I was bottledhead a silver service as the solid thing a few weeks ago and now I know that it is only plated ware."

"Sorry to hear that, old fellow," returned the friend. "But you may be mistaken."

"Oh, no, I'm not," was the mournful rejoinder of the sad one. "The service was on the sidewalk the other night when burglars broke in, but they never touched it."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Chicago Lawyer Dies from Automobile Gas Poisoning

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Eugene M. Humphrey, a lawyer, is dead at his home here today of what physicians term "petromortis," or automobile gas poisoning. According to physicians, it is the first fatal case in Chicago from that cause.

An idea of the violence with which "petromortis" attacks its victims was given today by Dr. John D. Ellis, head of the department of occupational diseases of Rush Medical college.

"The thing is new to science in some of its aspects," said Dr. Ellis. "Persons who are subject to vertigo may be attacked when in a close, small garage.

Dr. Connell Again Warns Parents to Guard Children

The records of the health department show that for the month up to Saturday morning ninety cases of scarlet fever were reported to the office. During the last week there were thirty cases, a material increase over previous weeks of the month.

These cases are well scattered over the city, showing that no particular community is immune.

The health officials are maintaining their vigilance and are anxious that physicians report all cases promptly.

Health Commissioner Connell repeats his suggestion that parents keep their children segregated for a while and thus minimize the dangers of contagion.

Beginning the first of the year the health office will adopt a new system of making weekly reports of all contagious diseases, a copy to be sent every week to the chief surgeon of the department of health at Washington.

The health commissioner feels that with the co-operation of citizens and physicians the scarlet fever situation may be kept checked and he wishes to emphasize the importance of preventing the spread of disease through mingling of children. He explains that one case may spread contagion to many victims in a short time.

ST. JAMES' ORPHANAGE HAS BIG XMAS TREE

A Christmas tree celebration was held at St. James' orphanage Christmas night. A big Christmas tree was loaded down with good things for the children as well as decorated with all kinds of pretty bright tree fixings.

The knights of Columbus have had charge of this event for twelve years and this year's entertainment was even better, if that is possible, than ever before.

The committee in charge consisted of E. W. Simeral, John A. Bennetts, Dr. W. M. Riley, A. E. Henley, T. J. Donohue.

VOLUNTEERS GIVE OUT XMAS BASKETS

(Continued from Page One.)

vagging his tail, smiling, shaking hands with his special friends, wishing Merry Christmas with his eyes, and beaming good will on everybody. He was dressed up for Christmas with a big pink ribbon which Miss Alice had tied tastefully around his neck.

It took nearly two hours to give out all the Christmas cheer, and when the last needy person had gone on joyful way, when all the toys and baskets had disappeared, then there was another celebration upstairs.

McCormicks Celebrate.

This was the family celebration of the McCormicks. A tiny Christmas tree was there and about it and under it a perfect sea of presents.

A handsome revolving office chair had been smuggled up while the major was busy downstairs and had been carefully covered with a shawl. It was a complete surprise when the major came up and it was presented to him as a gift of the comrades in the Volunteers to their leader.

Altogether it was the greatest Christmas the Volunteers and their poor have ever had.

VAUGHAN FAMILY JOINS IN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Christmas day at the home of Mrs. E. J. Vaughan, 2781 Meredith avenue, was made doubly glad by reason of a fruit and toys. A gold watch came to him from friends, too, and was presented with a fitting speech and accepted with a pleasant response.

"Eleven children joined in a Christmas dinner. Their names are C. C. W. M., F. N. and G. C. Vaughan; Miss Mollie Vaughan and Mesdames F. D. Miller, J. T. Nichols of Bluefield, W. Va.; J. V. Harrow, V. W. Sabu of Oseca, Minn.; C. G. Nelman and L. E. Green.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Celebrates

A Christmas tree that touched the highest point in the ceiling, splendidly decorated and lighted with many-colored tiny electric lights, marked the celebration of St. Mark's English Lutheran Sunday school last evening in the church at Twentieth and Burdette streets.

An elaborate program, participated in by the children of the primary and intermediate departments, was enjoyed by an audience that filled the church to capacity.

Misses Ida Melcher, Martha Shultz and Marea Meyer had charge of drilling the children in their parts. The primary children sang Christmas songs and spoke "pieces" and dialogues.

Charles Puls, superintendent of the school, presided and made a felicitous address.

Miss Rachel Shultz, organist, played the accompaniments to most of the songs. Sixteen girls of the intermediate department sang "Beautiful Star," and the church choir, under the direction of Arthur Melcher, sang "Silent Night."

Big boxes of candy and oranges were distributed to all the children and special boxes of chocolates were presented to members of the choir and others prominent in the work.

The pastor, Rev. L. Groh, was remembered with a special gift, as was also Victor Enholm.

One Killed as Three Fire Trucks Crash

BEAUMONT, Tex., Dec. 25.—One man was killed and three injured here today in the collision of two automobile fire trucks which crashed together at high speed while answering a fire alarm.

Robert Glass, aged 27, met instant death. Of the injured Lieutenant George Raftery was the most seriously hurt, but he is expected to recover.

Australia Completes Great Wheat Deal

MELBOURNE, Australia (Via London), Dec. 25.—A wheat deal just completed with the British and French governments involving nearly £2,000,000 sterling and the price is above 5 shillings a bushel.

A sale has also been made to Italy. A cargo for South Africa has brought the record price of 5 shillings 5 pence.

Examines Stocking at Fire; He May Die

BALLINGER, Tex., Dec. 25.—R. L. Harwell, Jr., 11 years of age, was fatally burned while inspecting his Christmas stocking at a fireplace in his home here early this morning. His nightgown caught fire from the grate.

Peruvian Bark in Distress. SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 25.—Callie, a Peruvian bark, stripped of its sails and drifting southward toward the rocks on the Washington coast, was reported in distress tonight, one and a half miles southeast of Cape Beale, Vancouver Island.

THOMPSON-BELDEN & CO. The Fashion Center of the Middle West Established 1886

Great Clearance Sale Monday of All Our Trimmed Hats

We are determined to make a final clearance of every Winter Trimmed Hat in our Entire Stock.



Three hundred in all. Small, Medium and Large Hats. All the wanted colors and up-to-date shapes and trimmings. Hats That Were \$10.00, \$12.50, \$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00 and \$25.00. At These Low Prices, \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50, \$5.50. Millinery Section—Second Floor.

Highly Recommended

If you are in the throes of a funeral problem you will find that we are highly recommended. We offer you the services of a competent staff of experts who will arrange a well conducted, properly appointed burial that will meet with your commendation.

BLACK BROADCLOTH CASKETS, FROM \$30 UP. Horse or Auto Lady Attendant Drawn Funerals Resident Parlors Omaha's Only Independent Undertakers STACK & FALCONER Douglas 887. 24th and Hagney Sta.

Julius Orkin DOUGLAS 1508-1510. Unlimited Assortments Unquestionable Styles Unapproachable Prices. ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE STARTS MONDAY MORNING AT 8 O'CLOCK Our Entire Stock of Ladies' Suits, Coats and Dresses Sacrificed for Quick Clearance. This sale is the most important one ever announced by this store, the recent enlarging of our establishment—virtually compelling us to carry a much larger stock than ever before—all bought within the last three months. Think of buying these up-to-the-minute styles at the sale prices quoted below. We expect, and have made preparations for, a record-breaking attendance at this sale.

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE Menu and Musical Program Cabaret Features and Dancing. Reservations Must Be Made in Advance To Insure Proper Attention. WELCOME THE NEW YEAR AT THE PAXTON HOTEL RICHARD KITCHEN, Manager. THE OLD RELIABLE Metz Beer Wm J. SWOBODA RETAIL DEALER PHONE DOUGLAS 222 OMAHA NEB

Christmas Greetings. The Day of days is at hand! Welcome the joyous time, clad in gay holly and mistletoe, radiating good cheer and a generous spirit, symbolic of the renewal of all that is best in man. On this glad anniversary of the birth of Him Whose life was devoted to Mankind, we are wishing you a merry Christmas and a most happy and successful New Year. Omaha Electric Light & Power Co. GEO. H. HARRIES, President. These greetings, although a day late because of a mistake of the printer, are none the less sincere.