

"OLD GUARD" WILL FIGHT BORAH PLAN

Administration Forces Line Up Solidly Against Proposal for Economic Conference — Point of Order May Settle Fate.

By Universal Service. Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—The whole power of the administration in the senate will be thrown into the fight to prevent adoption of the Borah proposal for an international economic conference. All the administration followers in the senate are lining up against it.

Senator Smoot, who was appointed by the president on the international debt funding commission, today joined the opposition forces, and Senator Medill McCormick, one of the "irreconcilables" in the league of nations fight, also allied himself with the opposition.

Senators Borah and France are the only members of the "irreconcilable" group who have endorsed the idea of an economic conference.

Before Senate Wednesday. A short, sharp fight over the amendment is looked for when it comes before the senate next Wednesday. A point of order against it on the ground that it transgresses the rule against engrafting general legislation on an appropriation bill, may cause it to be thrown out with a minimum of debate. Senator Lodge has stated that he will not interpose the point of order, although he will speak against adoption of the Borah proposal, but some other senator belonging to the administration group may make it, and the fate of the amendment then will depend upon Vice President Coolidge's decision.

Concerning the proposal, Senator Smoot said he did not believe another conference would accomplish anything. He added: "We know in advance what the nations want, and we are not in a position to grant it. They want us to cancel their debts. If we called a conference, invited these nations here, and then, when they came, turned down their requests, the situation would not improve a particle. The United States would be placed in an unfortunate situation. I am opposed to the amendment and do not think it will be adopted."

Senator McCormick, who has spent nearly two months in Europe investigating economic conditions, issued a formal statement in which he took the position that the reparations question is one which the nations of Europe must settle for themselves. He is opposed to having the question disposed of in a conference to which the United States would be a party, as proposed by Borah's amendment.

At the same time, he declared, the financial situation of many of the governments in continental Europe is so desperate and the economic condition of the people who support them is so serious that one may expect the gravest events before the end of the winter unless the victors in the late war act with wisdom, prudence and foresight.

Senator McCormick asserted that if the governments of Europe cannot agree upon a sound and realistic program for the definite and final settlement of the total sums of reparations which Germany shall pay and can pay, if they cannot agree among themselves and with bankers and investors upon a plan which will stabilize German currency, we may expect the franc and the lira to start down the declivity in pursuit of the mark, the crown and the ruble.

According to Senator McCormick the reparations settlement should include the following:

1. Priority of payment for the reconstruction of ruins of northern France.
2. A moratorium to Germany for several years, conditional upon an adequately secured bankers' loan to stabilize the mark, to balance the current German budget and to contribute to French reconstruction for this year.
3. Prompt withdrawal of the barbarous and semi-barbarous Mohammedan troops from the Rhine and the progressive withdrawal of other troops as the terms of the moratorium and reparations agreement are fulfilled by Germany.

ERECT GRANITE SHAFT FOR THE LOWLY SPUD

Universal Service. Berlin, Dec. 25.—Poets may sing the praises of pomegranates and tropical fruits, but the potato now has a monument erected in its honor. The granite table, erected by farmers on a piece of land in the Hartz mountains bears this inscription: "Here was made the first experiment in growing potatoes." The experiment was tried just 175 years ago. At the time few people consented to eat the food which this year will do more than anything else to stave off hunger in Germany. Its cultivation was started in Bohemia more than a century before the experiment was tried in Prussia.

MOROCCAN PROTECTORATE ESTABLISHED BY SPAIN

Universal Service. Special Cable Dispatch. Madrid, Dec. 25.—The cabinet has voted to establish a civil protectorate in the Spanish zone of Morocco. Former President Villanueva, of the chamber of deputies, has been named high commissioner.

Discovery of oil near Norfolk hospital for the insane in Los Angeles county, Calif., has made the property so valuable that the question of removal of the hospital is being considered.

NIGHT FLYING UP TO CONGRESS

U. S. Air Mail Officials Request More Funds For Carrying Out Ambitious Program.

BY WINDER R. HARRIS, Universal Service Correspondent. Washington, Dec. 25.—Upon a decision to be fought out in congress when the postoffice appropriation bill is taken up next week will depend the fate of the air mail service.

Involved in the same decision is the United States' opportunity to lead the world in the development of aviation as an agency of commerce in peace and a vital element of national defense in war.

The postoffice department, it was disclosed Monday has put it squarely up to the House appropriation subcommittee drafting the bill to grant sufficient funds to achieve the benefits the air mail service sees ahead for the nation, or cut it out altogether.

Experimental, So Far. Under the limitations imposed by the scanty funds allowed since the service was inaugurated three years ago, officials of the department pointed out, the carrying of mail by airplane has been purely experimental. Its only contribution to the science of aviation has been recording of air currents and other atmospheric conditions and the laying out of an air route across the continent from New York to San Francisco.

About all that the government could hope to accomplish in this direction has been done, it was declared. Night flying, however, still is a field practically unexplored, except for stunt flying. And therein lies the basis of the impending crisis on which the fate of the service hinges.

Night Flying Urged. Officials of the air mail branch, with the backing of the postmaster general, and the administration, it is stated, urged that an appropriation of \$1,500,000, in addition to the amount allowed for the current year, be granted for the fiscal year beginning next July 1 for practical development of regular night flying. With this fund it is proposed to establish a regular hour transcontinental air mail service, which will tend towards making the service self-supporting. Under the projected schedule the flights from New York to Chicago would be made by daylight; from Chicago to Cheyenne by night; and from Cheyenne to San Francisco the second day.

CLERK MURDERED ON OAK PARK BENCH

Sat In View of Crowd of Skaters—Police Search for Tall Stranger.

Universal Service. Chicago, Dec. 25.—Edward J. O'Day was found dead on a bench in Douglas park Monday. His throat was cut from ear to ear. The authorities started a search for a stranger, seen with the slain man an hour before he was found dead.

O'Day was employed as a clerk by the American Express company. He was not working Monday and went to the park during the afternoon.

The bench where the body was found was in plain view of a crowd of skaters. A number of persons told the authorities they had seen O'Day enter the park with a tall man wearing a dark overcoat. No knife was found near the body. The stranger is believed to have cut O'Day's throat and fled unobserved.

NATIVES PROTESTING VACCINATION ORDER

White Settlers Fear Uprising In Southwest Africa and Flee to Towns.

Universal Service. Cape Town, Dec. 25.—Compulsory vaccination of natives in southwest Africa is causing alarm among the tribes. German settlers at Ontjo, where the whole white farming community has trekked into town for purposes of defense, fear a rising.

The negro chief says the reason for the unrest is because they recall the vaccination experience of 1904. At that time the natives, who were on the verge of starvation, were concentrated and fed by the Germans, who seized the opportunity to vaccinate all of them.

The many deaths at that time were attributed by the natives to vaccination.

RUNAWAY HORSE SWIMS 36 HOURS IN COLD RIVER

Boston, Dec. 25.—A Boston horse qualified as a long distance swimmer when it was rescued from the Charles river after spending 36 hours in the water.

The horse had run away and dived through a draw bridge over the Charles river, leaving wagon and cargo jammed between the rails.

TURKISH ENVOY RESENTS ANGORA'S INTERFERENCE

Universal Service. Lausanne, Dec. 25.—Ismet Pasha, resenting the interference of the Turkish nationalist assembly at Angora with his efforts to agree to Near Eastern peace with the allies, has dispatched Hassen Bey to the Moslem capital. Hassen was instructed to tell the assembly that unless it relieves Ismet from the flat orders not to cede any disputed points, peace is impossible.

ARMY SURGEON ACCUSED AS BIGAMIST.



Capt. Charles Pike, of the United States Army Medical Bureau, is shown enjoying his dinner in the Crown Point (Indiana) jail, where he was held on charges preferred by the father of his present wife, Mrs. Frances Helle Pike, that he is a bigamist. "Mrs. Marjory Pike" alleges she is the common law wife of the army officer. Despite her father's action, the present Mrs. Pike rushed to her husband's defense and later obtained his release on bond.

Prisoners Cancel Jail Break, Present Jailer With Surprise Stocking

Universal Service. Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 25.—Turned by the spirit of Christmas from a daring and well planned jail break, 10 prisoners in the county jail Monday presented Night Jailer C. A. Patton with a "gift stocking" containing 15 hack saws and handles. As evidence of their good faith the prisoners showed Patton where rivets had been cut from bars in preparation for a Christmas escape, but the men in the tank decided to refrain from making any actual attempt to get away.

Night guards were attracted to the tank, where "Little Mac," notorious robber, is being held awaiting trial, by shouts and cries. Arriving at tank No. nine they were laughingly requested to have Night Jailer Patton call around for a Christmas present that had been prepared for him.

When Patton answered the summons he was presented by "Little Mac" with a black silk stocking containing the saws and handles.

Dangling from the stocking was a jumping Jack Santa Claus, carved from part of a chair. A note pinned to the unique figure read: "As a true observance of the proper Christmas spirit, we herewith present our compliments because of the kindness that has been shown us in the past.—The men in tank No. nine."

Arrest of Santa Claus Included In Christmas Day Thrills In Paris

BY BASIL D. WOON, Universal Service Correspondent. Special Cable Dispatch. Paris, Dec. 25.—Christmas was not without its thrills in Paris. The thrills included the arrest of Santa Claus, thereby disclosing the very latest idea in the art of burglary. The arrest Monday morning of a burglar in the garb of Santa Claus, including the well known flowing whiskers, brought about the return of a sack full of booty, including a pearl necklace, belonging to the Marquise De Nay. The necklace had been presented to the burglar by the little son of the marquise in the belief that he was making a gift to the real Santa.

FIRE LOSS \$250,000 IN CHICAGO BLAZE

Flames Destroy Part of Live Stock Exchange Building and Valuable Records.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 25.—Fire starting in a cloakroom in the Live Stock Exchange building, in the stock yards, Sunday burned out the third floor and a part of the second. The building, originally erected in 1866, was built by the "Big Five" packers for use as their offices, and was the first live stock exchange in the country.

Later, when the big companies established offices down town they maintained branch offices in the yards and let space in the building to commission houses.

The loss, according to Everett C. Brown, president of the live stock exchange, will be \$250,000 for the building and at least as much more for the records and papers destroyed.

SEATTLE PUBLISHER DIES.

Seattle, Dec. 25.—Erastus Brainerd, famous editor and publicist and for many years publisher and editor in chief of the Seattle Post Intelligencer, died here of pneumonia, at the age of 67. He is survived by a wife and two daughters, Betty Brainerd, feature writer for a New York newspaper syndicate, and Mrs. H. R. Wahoske, of Great Falls, Mont.

JAILED WOMEN GET "FAGS." New York, Dec. 25.—Cigaretts for women as well as men were distributed to the prisoners at Raymond street jail Monday. Warden Honecke laughed when he was asked about it and said: "Why not? I'd rather see women smoking cigarettes than using coke. If the men get tobacco, why not the women too?"

WOMAN DIES SUDDENLY. Miller, S. D., Dec. 25 (Special).—Mrs. A. J. Ferguson, 75 years old, was found dead in her bed Monday morning by her husband. She had been apparently in fairly good health. Death resulted from a heart attack.

LINCOLN'S CODE.

I do this very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything; if the end brings me out wrong, ten thousand angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

Which of Two Ways? From the Des Moines Register. Roosevelt has recently been quoted by James Bronson Reynolds, president of the American Institute of Criminal Law, as to what America ought to do in the Near East. Mr. Roosevelt said to him after a conference with some Armenian bishops:

"I sympathize deeply with the cause of Armenia. I believe I was the first to make the statement that in the massacres of 1895 and 1896 the Armenians killed by the Turks outnumbered the killed on both sides in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. But more kind words such as these men have received everywhere are valueless. What they need and what alone will help them is to send a fleet of battleships to Constantinople. To such a protest alone the Turks will listen. Unfortunately you know and I know that the Senate will not sanction such action."

The question is, if there was an obligation to send battleships to maintain order and secure life, is there any obligation to act as empire if the opportunity offers, to tender our good offices in a civilian way to secure the same thing? In other words, when Kemal suggested that America be asked to umpire the whole straits controversy and fix the rights of the people, what should have been the response of the United States? Or when we were asked to accept a mandatory over Armenia and to make ourselves responsible for the protection of certain fixed boundaries, what should have been our response?

Roosevelt had no hesitation about saying that we should send battleships. As a matter of fact, wherever there has been trouble we have sent battleships—not yet enough to get us into war, but enough to get us into trouble if one of them should be damaged. Sending battleships is the old way of maintaining international relations. It always has ended in war, and nobody can foresee a time when it will not end in war. In our day it has been proposed to set up a new way. Many good people believe that international conferences and international co-operation, and a little spirit of good will and disposition to get along—together under law—fairly agreed upon will solve the most serious problems.

At least as we come to our Christmas season which is dedicated to the new way, why should we not consider doing things differently from the way they have been done in the past? They have been done so badly in the past that the future could not be worse. Nobody can think of anything worse for the future than another such war as we have just had.

Why is not everybody ready to try the new way? Why is not the United States ready to celebrate this Christmas season by saying that we will join with everybody in any plan to organize the world for civil administration? The world is going to pieces today because the United States will not lend a hand. And yet everybody knows that if we do not lend a hand in the end we shall send battleships. Who contemplates this persistent talk that we must be ready for the next war with satisfaction? And yet—who is moving to avoid the next war?

The Mussolini Family.

Italian Correspondent, of Philadelphia Ledger. When Benito Mussolini borrowed a frock coat and went to the quinal palace in Rome to be awarded the premier of Italy, the life of his wife and three young children underwent no corresponding change. She whom we would call the first lady of the land, after the queen, of course, did not go to Rome to see her husband's triumph, nor did the children. The family remained home in Milan, where, it seems they will continue to remain for at least some time to come, the premier keeping in daily touch with his wife by telephone.

"Bruno" will come home for Christmas," Bruno, the youngest Mussolini, a boy of 4, told me.

I am told that when Signor Mussolini kissed Eda, his oldest child, goodbye, he asked her if she did not want to go to Rome to live and study.

"No, no," she answered, "I don't want to leave Milan. I want to stay here at home."

That feeling seems to be shared by the others. Signor Mussolini might have been going to Rome as a simple deputy to a session of parliament, for all the apparent difference it has made to the family.

When I went to the unpretentious apartment house in the Foro Bonaparte, where the Mussolini family has occupied for the last four years, a few rooms on the top floor, there came childish shouts from the stairway and the 4-year-old Bruno came clattering into the court yard. A slip off the old block, the tow-headed Bruno of the mischief sparkling eyes. Vivacità should be his name.

It was his debut in the black shirt his father has made famous, for all the children had appeared that day for the first time in the Fascist costume. At his breast the tri-colored ribbon of Italy was pinned; in his hand he carried a Fascist club, bedecked with more of the national ribbon. A mighty club for a lad of his age, but he wielded it vigorously, thumping on the pavement.

"Fang! bang! Communist!" he shouted gleefully—but it turned out that he really was looking for rats and mice.

Senator Pepper, of Pennsylvania, finding that some of his campaign fund was left after the election, is returning it to the givers. This is a previously unheard of proceeding. But in view of the Pennsylvania republican machine's well known appetite for money, one wonders how much the senator succeeded in collecting in the first place.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, professor of English at Cambridge university, England, finds Shakespeare's wit "cheap and disgusting." Well, people will be laughing over Shakespeare's wit when Sir Arthur is for gotten.

ERIE'S FLAG. From the New York World. So many readers have inquired as to the official flag of the Irish Free State that The World asked Tim Healy, governor-general of the new commonwealth, for an authoritative answer.

He replied that the tri-color—orange, green and white, without embellishment of emblem or arms, is still the official flag. "The shade of green in the flag is almost a blue."

MER ROUGE TALKS NOW IN WHISPERS

Citizens of Louisiana Town Await Uncertainly Developments In Kidnaping Cases.

BY SAM BLAIR, Universal Service Correspondent. Mer Rouge, La., Dec. 25.—This tiny town lolled under a tepid sun Monday—waiting.

There was little of the Christmas spirit evident. Little knots of men loitered along the single street. Mostly they talked in whispers. There were a few who laughed.

The town and all of Morehouse parish, of which it is a part, are waiting.

They are waiting for the public hearing that will be conducted January 5 at Bastrop, the parish seat. They are waiting for whatever evidence this hearing may develop against those responsible for the slayings of Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards, who vanished August 24, after they had been kidnaped by a band of hooded men, and whose headless bodies floated to the surface of Lake La Fourche here last Friday night.

Uncertainty Prevails. Some are waiting to learn whether this evidence will justify suspicions which already have been breathed against certain of their townsmen.

Admitted members of the Ku Klux Klan are waiting to ascertain whether the evidence will identify members of that organization with those who committed the murder.

As yet waiting for the formal announcement at the hearing of the reports of the New Orleans pathologists who examined the bodies of Daniels and Richards. In the words Monday of Attorney General A. V. Cocco: "When these reports and our other evidence are presented, there will be a prodigious revision of sentiment on the part of persons who up to now have been tolerant towards the situation."

Evidence of Torture. Morehouse parish has had its murders before.

But most of those who wait on the street corners here already know what the New Orleans pathologists will report. In spite of efforts at secrecy many saw the bodies of the men before their burial Sunday. And it did not require a pathologist to determine the direct action at the time of the slayings.

Murder is one thing. Torture is another.

That's why Attorney General Cocco said further to this correspondent: "There is an ancient statute in our Louisiana code which gives the state the right to a change of venue where it appears that an unprejudiced jury cannot be drawn.

"This statute might be invoked in this case, but I don't believe it will be necessary. No American can listen to the evidence we've gathered and fail to give the state a just decision."

White Population Divided. Whether or not it will be shown that Klansmen made up the hooded band responsible for the murders, many of the residents throughout the parish believe some Klansmen are implicated. Therefore, the white population of the parish is divided—pro and anti-Klan.

Since the killings of Daniels and Richards, according to William B. Stuckey, for eight years a state senator and an open opponent of the Klan in the parish, a great many former Klansmen have resigned—or publicly proclaimed their resignations. Mr. Stuckey and certain others have contemplated the possibility of reprisals against the witnesses after the public and court hearings. They also threaten to organize "Klan disciplinary" action against themselves after the state troops, now on guard here and at Bastrop, are removed.

"Should reprisals be started," Senator Stuckey, announced, "a call to arms will be sounded. There are 500 good Americans in and near this town who hope that the orderly process of law will be observed."

The senator refused to go on record as to whether an anti-Klan organization for fighting purposes already had been perfected here.

Witnesses against alleged members of the mob that kidnaped Daniels and Richards have been brought secretly and at night from all parts of the 750 square miles of the parish to the office set up here by the department of justice operatives. They will be rushed into the machine gun protected courthouse at Bastrop and held under guard while they tell their stories.

One witness, Berry Whetstone, a white resident of Mer Rouge, is now being protected at the state penitentiary at Baton Rouge. Whetstone's possibility as a state's witness became known and it was at his own request that he was given the sanctuary of a steel cell behind prison walls. His testimony is expected to be extremely valuable. He chanced by a group of the hooded band just before the kidnaping of the men later murdered. He saw the features of many who had for a time removed their masks. He recognized most of those whose faces he glimpsed. When the white sheeted mob found him, they compelled him to attend them as water carrier. It is believed he witnessed some of the deprivations inflicted upon Daniels and Richards before they finally were put to death.

GERMANY TO OFFER NEW PLAN ON REPARATIONS

Universal Service. Berlin, Dec. 25.—It was learned from unofficial sources today that the German government is preparing a new plan for settling the reparations problem. The proposals are expected to be submitted for the consideration of French, British and Italian experts in Paris on December 23 and will be ready for submission to the premiers' conference at Paris, January 2.