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CORRUPTION IN THE VETERANS' BUREAU

Washington, Jan. 7.—Fraud and corruption existed in the veterans' bureau under the directorship of Charles R. Forbes, John P. O'Ryan of New York, general counsel for the senate veterans' committee, asserts in a report filed with the committee.

Moreover, O'Ryan charges that Forbes himself "was a leading actor in an established conspiracy to defraud the government" on hospital contracts and he names as other parties to the alleged conspiracy, C. B. Hurley, president of the Hurley-Mason company of Tacoma, Wash.; J. N. Thompson, a St. Louis contractor; the late James W. Black of Chicago, and Elias H. Mortimer of Philadelphia, the chief witness in the committee's public hearings.

Ewing Laporte of Pittsburgh, an assistant secretary of the treasury in the Wilson administration and E. L. Morse, prominent in Missouri republican politics, are assailed in connection with the purchase of Morse's homestead at Excelsior Springs, Mo., for a hospital at \$90,000. O'Ryan

charges that "this project was forced upon the public health service by the joint action of Laporte and Morse." Characterizing as "criminal" the sale of bureau supplies from the Perryville, Md., supply depot to the Kelly-Thompson company, of Boston, O'Ryan attacks Forbes and Lieut. Com. Charles R. O'Leary, U. S. N., in connection with the sale. Commander O'Leary at the time was in charge of the supply of the veterans' bureau.

O'Ryan charges that "fraud was committed" in connection with the sale of the Livermore, Cal., hospital site to the government by Lucien B. Johnson and asserts that Johnson's "sworn testimony as to the disposal of the profits was brazen in its obvious insincerity."

Under a sub-heading in his report, "Dishonesty and neglect in management," O'Ryan declares this opens up a very disagreeable chapter in the history of the veterans' bureau.

"No American can read it," he said, "without a feeling of disgust for the manner in which the great work of aiding the disabled was prostituted for self-aggrandizement and greed. The testimony of witnesses, the exhibits, the records of the bureau, tell a story of almost unparalleled waste, recklessness and misconduct."

FORMER SENATOR SPEAKS ON EUROPE

GILBERT M. HITCHECOCK SPEAKER AT SUPPER OF THE "HAPPY HUNDRED."

GIVES PERSONAL OBSERVATION

General Spirit of Distrust Largely a Matter of Government—Has Praise For the League.

The monthly supper of the "Happy Hundred" last evening at the parlors of the Methodist church brot as the guest of the organization and speaker of the evening one of the big men of the United States, former Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Omaha who gave the members of the supper party a few of his observations of his trip abroad.

The supper was up to the usual high standard and the diners were entertained by the soothing melodies of the Holly orchestra, composed of W. R. Holly, W. O. Kettleson, C. E. Ledgeway, Jack Ledgeway and Miss Minnie Klinger. During the course of the evening a number of songs were attempted but failed to hit the usual spirit of enthusiasm but were much enjoyed.

As the special guests from out in the county for the evening Louisville was the city selected and William F. Diers and Lee J. Mayfield were the two smiling representatives of the prosperous little Platte river city on hand to enjoy the occasion.

Special toasts were also offered and salutation given to Joseph P. Zetter, for fifty years a resident of this city, and James M. Robertson, the clerk of the district court and one of the most popular men in public life in the county.

While Searl S. Davis, the real and original booster, presided over the forepart of the evening's entertainment the task of introducing the speaker of the evening was delegated to Dr. J. S. Livingston, who in a few words of deserved praise presented Senator Hitchcock to the members of the party and was greeted by the audience standing.

Senator Hitchcock stated that the average traveler and particularly the American, returned from Europe with a spirit of pessimism as to the conditions there but from his observation the unfortunate condition seemed largely the matter of governments rather than the peoples as the hatreds of the past had been bred by the governments and that the present conditions were depressing in view of the splendid results of the war that had swept from power the three great empires that had caused much of the warfare of the past—Russia, Germany and Austria.

The operation of the League of Nations, crippled though it was by the absence of the United States, was the one bright spot in the whole European situation, the former senator stated. The absence of the United States had permitted France to undertake the great folly and crime of the Ruhr invasion that was driving France to bankruptcy and the German people to destruction and suffering.

In France the conditions to the outer eye was that of prosperity, contrasted with that of Belgium where the cheap money values had not resulted in the raise of the wages of the workmen. In France many of the cities and villages destroyed in the war had been rebuilt and industry was busy, the nation was raising great crops but inquiry showed the government of the nation was drifting to wreck and bankruptcy thru the enormous expenditure that their policies made necessary and half of the revenues of the nation were used to pay the interest of the debts of the nation. The debt of France at this time was greater than that of all the nations before the world war.

The participation of the United States in the League of Nations at the time that it was started would have made a clear and satisfactory settlement of the reparations problem between Germany and the Allies and with which the French government would have been unable to

seize the Ruhr section of Germany and cripple the industrial life of the Germans so that today the 70 million people were uncertain of what their fate would be and their government shaky and unstable. The vote of this country could have prevented the French invasion.

The speaker also pointed out a number of the achievements of the league in the short time that it had been in existence, the settlement of the Finland-Swedish dispute over islands in the North Sea, the preventing of war between Poland and Germany over the boundary disputes and last that of the Greece-Italy trouble, the outgrowth of the killing of members of the international commission to fix boundaries. Senator Hitchcock told of his personal visit to Geneva when the council of the league was trying the Italian-Greece trouble and how through the work of Sir Robert Cecil, the English representative the agreement was reached that finally resulted in the withdrawal of the Italian forces and the payment of the claims by Greece into the league of nations.

Another of the instances of the successful work of the league was in the rebuilding of Austria. In that country at the close of the war the government was unable to function and the league appealed to, and Dr. Zimmerman of Holland sent to Vienna to handle the finances of the country who succeeded in stabilizing the currency there and by means of the loans made by other nations and guaranteed by the league members had made Austria the one really effective country as far as soundness of finance was concerned.

Another phase of the participation in the league was the fact that thru this means lay the only settlement of the European problems and which would allow the needy countries to purchase our crop surplus and make this nation more prosperous.

The address of Senator Hitchcock was one of the ablest that has been heard in this city and he made clear a great deal that has been in the League of Nations question and to show the present trend the speaker pointed out that two presidents had recommended participation in the world court which had been erected by the League of Nations at the Hague for the adjustment of the problems of the world powers.

NEW MAPS OF COUNTY

The newest maps of Cass county, compiled from the list of land owners of the county in April of this year, are now on sale at the Journal office and the Bates Book and Stationery store and at the very low figure of 50 cents each. These maps are of large size and bear in them the location of each of the farms in Cass county with the name of the owner, the highways, schools and the different towns of the county. They are valuable to the traveler over the county and as well as a matter of reference to any person and should be in every home so that a clear knowledge of the geography of the county can be secured.

Big line of foot balls at the Bates Corner Book and Stationery Store.

PUBLIC AUCTION!

I will sell at Public Auction at my place two miles east and one-half mile north of Cedar Creek; nine miles west and one-half mile north of Plattsmouth, on—

Wednesday, January 16th commencing at 11 o'clock a. m., with lunch at noon, the following described property:

Live Stock
One roan mare, 10 years old, wt. 1,250; one black mare, 9 years old, wt. 1,250; one black mare, smooth mouth, wt. 1,250.
One milk cow, fresh soon; one good milk cow, fresh about May; one Holstein cow, dry now; one heifer, fresh in May or June; one milk cow, fresh in March.

Farm Machinery, Etc.
One King & Hamilton corn elevator, 34 feet long; one P and O 2-row machine, new; one 2-section harrow; one Tiger press drill; one P and O wide tread lister, new; one mining farm charger, one large water tank; one 1-h. p. gas engine; one Stanley & Sons piano, a dandy; five or six tons prairie hay; one horse power rig for elevator; one Deering McCormick disc, 16x16; one 14-inch walking plow, new; one heavy cultivator; one broadcast Champion seeder; one check row corn planter; one hay rack; one buzz saw; one power washing machine; one McCormick mower; one butchering table; one hay sweep; one McCormick binder, almost new; one 16-inch Moline sulky plow; one 2-section harrow; one P and O cultivator; one 2-row stalk cutter; one St. Joe combined walking lister; one air motor wind mill, 40-ft.; two gas barrels; one cream separator, Empire No. 42; three sets of work harness and other articles not mentioned.

Terms of Sale
All sums of \$10 and under, cash. On sums over \$10 a credit of six months will be given, purchaser giving bankable note bearing eight per cent interest from date. No property to be removed from the premises until settled for.

Henry Sanders, Jr., Owner.
Col. W. R. Young, Auctioneer
Bank of Commerce, Clerk

DR. H. C. LEOPOLD
Osteopathic Physician
Eyes Tested and Glasses Fitted
Union Block Phone 208
PLATTSMOUTH

BIG BROTHER PLAN APPLIED TO RAILROADS

HIGH COURT SAYS MUST YIELD EXCESS EARNINGS TO AID THE WEAKER LINES.

OPINION BY CHIEF JUSTICE

Former President Taft Outlines the Points of Law Involved in the Transportation Statute.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Provisions of the transportation act requiring railroads to divide with the government their excess earnings, were sustained today by the supreme court.

The attack upon the constitutionality of the recapture clauses was brought on by the Texas-Cross-Creek Railway Co. of Texas, but when the case reached the supreme court nineteen of the most important railway systems of the country joined in it.

Describing the transportation act as legislation intended to build up a system of railroads prepared to handle promptly all the interstate traffic of the country, and as aimed to give the owners of the railways an opportunity to earn enough to maintain their properties and equipment in a state of efficiency, Chief Justice Taft declared, in delivering the opinion of the court, that the railroads of the country had been placed more completely than ever under the fostering guardianship and control of the interstate commerce commission.

Reviewing the increased jurisdiction conferred by the recapture act, the commission, the court pointed out that the commission's functions were no longer limited to the fixing of reasonable rates and the prevention of those which are discriminatory.

"The Key Provision"

The clauses of the transportation act which provide for the recapture of excess earnings were declared by the court, "the key provision of the whole plan." The uniformity of rates decided upon as the most helpful to the weaker railroads would enable those of average efficiency, the court said, to earn the prescribed maximum return. By the recapture clauses the chief justice stated, congress is "enabled to maintain uniform rates for all shippers and yet keep the net returns of railroads, whether strong or weak, to the varying percentages which are fair respectively for the main trunk lines."

The law operated, the court pointed out, to require the railroads which earn more than the prescribed maximum to hold the excess "primarily to preserve their sound economic condition and avoid wasteful expenditures and unwise dividends." Those which earn less will be given help, the court explained, to obtain credit through a fund made up of the part of the excess earnings held by the government.

Not Unconstitutional

Referring to the contention of the railroads that the recapture of excess earnings is an appropriation of their property in violation of their constitutional rights, Chief Justice Taft stated that under the transportation act the carrier is only a trustee for the excess over a fair return.

"Though in its possession," he said, "the excess never becomes its property, and it accepts custody of the product of all the rates with this understanding. It is clear, therefore, that the carrier never has such a title to the excess as to render the recapture of it by the government a taking without due process."

The railroads are in no position to assert, the court added, that any excess earnings belong to the shippers and not to the government. Such a claim, it explained, can only be decided by the court, when made by the shippers.

Rates as now made were declared by the court reasonable from the standpoint of the shipper. The excess in earnings caused by the discrepancy between the standard of reasonableness for the shipper and that for the carrier, due, the court stated, to the necessity of maintaining uniform rates, may properly be appropriated by the government for public use.

TWO GET PRISON TERMS FOR FRAUD AT NORTH PLATTE

Clerk and Omahan Sentenced While Souder's Term Not Fixed—May Get Another Trial.

North Platte, Neb., Jan. 7.—A. S. Allen, former clerk of Lincoln county, was sentenced to serve from 1 to 5 years in the state prison today, by Judge J. L. Tewell on a charge of forgery and embezzlement in connection with the alleged shortages in the funds of Lincoln county. Allen was also fined \$1,237.92 on a charge of embezzlement and \$1 on a charge of forgery.

Carl R. Goucher, salesman for the Omaha Printing company, who was charged with aiding and abetting forgery, in that he persuaded Allen to make out checks for fictitious amounts, which he (Goucher) is said to have cashed, was sentenced to from 1 to 10 years in the state prison at hard labor and pay a fine of \$100 and the costs for prosecuting his case. His attorneys are now preparing an appeal to the supreme court.

Samuel M. Souder, former county treasurer, who recently was tried on a charge of arson in connection with the burning of the old Lincoln county courthouse, and who was found guilty just before Christmas, was scheduled to be sentenced today, but on the motion of counsel for the de-



Right in Line!

An extra pair of trousers is right in line this time of year. And our Dutchess Trousers are such big values that they stand at the head of the line. They help you to extend the usefulness of a faithful coat and vest. Many choice patterns in mixtures, stripes and plain shades to select from. Prices tempered to the times,

\$3.75 to \$7.50

C. E. Wescott's Sons

"ON THE CORNER"

fense it was postponed until after arguments for a new trial have been heard by the trial court.

Souder, according to evidence presented by the state, set fire to the courthouse in order to hide alleged discrepancies in his accounts. More than \$70,000 in bonds, cash and other negotiable certificates were reported to have been missing from the treasurer's office after the fire was put out.

Allen pleaded guilty before the others were placed on trial and it was largely through his testimony that the state convicted Goucher. The state contended that Goucher had cashed a number of the checks which were made to the Omaha Printing concern in payment for articles purchased from it by Lincoln county.

In order to hide his defalcations to the company, Goucher is said to have persuaded Allen to make out other checks which were sent to the Omaha company. When examiners representing the Taxpayers League of Lincoln county examined the books it was found that Allen was short approximately \$847 in his accounts. He and Goucher then were charged with embezzlement and forgery.

A SLY COYOTE THAT Baffles All Hunters

Louisville nimrods as well as every kid in town old enough to "pack" a gun, have trailed on numerous occasions a big, bushy tailed coyote that makes his home in the vicinity of the Murphy stone quarries. He is as sly as a fox and thus far has baffled every effort of the hunters to get close enough to him for a shot.

He is frequently seen at close range by people who do not happen to have a gun and seems to lead a charmed life. He is said to be extra large and has taken an Airedale dog belonging to Andrew Alden as a companion and they are frequently seen together. A short time ago the pair were seen one bright moonlight night at the home of Wendell Heil. It was about 2 o'clock in the morning when Mr. Heil chanced to look out of his bedroom window and they were endeavoring to reach a bacon rind that had been thrown out and chanced to cling to a tall rose bush in the back yard. Mr. Heil watched them for some time, but did not know what they were in quest of until he went out the next morning and found the bacon rind still clinging to the rose bush.

Paul Phelps and Fat Wilcox were out after him Monday, but failed to get in range of Mr. Coyote, although they saw him sneak out of a brush patch and disappear over a hill—Louisville Courier.

TROTZKY IS REPORTED TO BE ACUTELY ILL

Moscow, Jan. 7.—An official bulletin says the acuteness of the malady of Leon Trotsky, the Russian soviet war minister, which resulted from an attack of influenza and from which he had suffered since November 5, makes it desirable that he immediately cease work and take absolute rest in a milder climate. The bulletin says that although the catarrhal influenza from which the patient has been suffering since November 5 and which affected the upper breathing channels, has somewhat ameliorated, a feverish condition still continues and his temperature today was 100.4.

DISCUSS PASSES ALREADY ISSUED

Railroad Representatives and the Commissioners to Confer on Possible Abuses.

So far as the state railway commission is informed, all of the railroads except the M. & O. will be represented at the conference Tuesday morning over the pass question. The law permits railroads to issue transportation without charge to employees and dependent members of their families, but the commission is of the opinion that a possible abuse of this privilege has been perpetuated.

The railroads are required to supply each month a list of all passes issued, and in these the commission has found what, on the face, seems to be stretching the privilege a bit. It wants to know just how far this dependence matter can go, whether there is any real justification for issuing, for instance, a son-in-law a pass on the ground that he is dependent for his continuing to exist on his wife's father.

It is expected that incidentally a discussion of the status of the district court of Lancaster held it up on an injunction, but the rail-

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ALL COATS IN THIS STORE HAVE BEEN REDUCED 25 PER CENT

These garments were marked right at the start of the season—way below city store prices. And they have not been marked up to take care of the reduction. Pick your coat—deduct one-fourth—and the coat is yours. A small payment down will hold your coat until Pay Day.

\$16.50 to \$30.00
FOR COLD WEATHER

Sheep lined coats.....\$12 to \$16.50
Extra heavy wool sox.....35c and 50c
Scotch caps.....\$1.50
Heavy underwear.....\$1.75 and \$2
Flannel shirts.....\$1.50 to \$3.50

Philip Thieroff
VALUE-GIVING CLOTHIER

-Mask Ball-

21st Annual Mask Ball
Saturday Night, Jan. 12th, 1924
F. O. E.
Coates Hall
Four Cash Prizes—Good Music!

ADMISSION
Gentlemen 68c, tax 7c—total 75c
Ladies 31c, tax 4c—total 35c
Ladies in Costume Free
Everybody Welcome!

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Implements and Farm Machinery, Tractors, Harness and Hardware!
Everything that You May Want at the Very Best of Prices!
Agents for the QUICKMEAL LINE of GUARANTEED RANGES!
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