

France Glad at Promise of U. S. Aid

Official Circles Worried Over Question of Reparations—Await Attitude of Harding on Proposed Plans.

Germans Make Payment

Paris, Dec. 17.—(By A. F.)—The allied reparations commission received a German treasury bond to the amount of \$2,087,364 gold marks in settlement of the last monthly payment due December 15, according to the schedule agreed upon last August for meeting Belgium's reparations claim.

These payments were supposed to be for 60,000,000 gold marks each, due the 15th of each month since August. The discrepancy between the letter and the amount received was represented by credits given Germany for certain deliveries in kind.

It was said at the Quai D'Orsay that no official communication had been received from the American government and that French official circles would wait more definite information before commenting upon President Harding's supposed plans.

A high official, however, admitted that the French government was sufficiently worried over the question to welcome any sort of real help.

Loan to Germany.

The whole question, he declared, was as to the nature of the help the United States is disposed to give and the dispatches indicate it is merely a loan of money to Germany, or at any rate, giving Germany credit so she will not be obliged to send money abroad to buy raw materials and food.

But the Germans have billions of gold marks in credit abroad which has been accumulating ever since the armistice from the immense profits any nation deriving from its exports. Their heads of industry and even the German government, admit the fact; therefore the reason may be asked, why is it necessary to loan money or extend credits for foreign purchase?

It would be interesting to know, continued the authority, whether the good will Germany is taken into account in the new plan and whether its authors have reflected that putting Germany on her feet is not the only thing required, but that it is necessary she be convinced her treaty obligations must be fulfilled.

Administration Silent.

Washington, Dec. 17.—A stone wall of official silence still surrounds administration purposes and official results connected with the German reparations deadlock.

The one hint allowed to escape from the lips of responsible officials today was negative at best. It implied that decisions as to the government's course still were being made and was coupled with a warning that most of the published conjectures as to that course had gone wide of the mark.

Paris dispatches, saying that Premier Poincare had been sounded off informally with a view to Washington intervention toward ending the reparations knot, afforded a glimpse of the method Secretary Hughes is employing to bring American influence to bear. This "informal" method of approaching the problem, a White House spokesman said, cannot be conducted "on the stage."

Interest Aroused.

The Paris dispatch did not draw officials here from their entrenchments of silence. But it aroused great interest, insofar as it reflected the official attitude in Paris toward the general principle of American helpfulness in the emergency.

In view of the situation that brought about the Anglo-French reparations deadlock at London, it seems obvious that any American overtures must be predicated upon knowledge that they would be welcome, both in London and Paris. It is that preliminary stage of negotiation which new ideas in progress. Diplomatic usage would not sanction an offer of good offices or help in any other form until it was certain it would be accepted.

Theater Owners Organize Co-Operative Corporation

New York, Dec. 17.—Formation of the Theater Owners' Distributing corporation, for purposes of co-operation among independent owners throughout the country, was announced today. It has an authorized capitalization of \$5,000,000.

Directors Include Sydney S. Cohen

New York; William A. True, Hartford, Conn.; Harry Davis, Pittsburgh; L. J. Dittman, Louisville, Ky., and W. D. Burford, Aurora, Ill.

Plans Made to Harness Water Power in Quebec

New York, Dec. 17.—Development of a water project designed to produce 1,200,000 horsepower by harnessing the sources of energy in Lake St. John and the Saguenay river in the province of Quebec has been undertaken by American and Canadian interests, it was announced. The project's principal backers, it was said, are James B. Duke of New York, holder of large tobacco interests, and Sir William Price, head of Price Brothers, Ltd., a large Canadian print paper manufacturing firm. A corporation capitalized in Canada at \$25,000,000 has been formed.

No Traces of Foul Play Found in Death of Woman

Madill, Okl., Dec. 17.—County officers have failed to find any tangible clue to substantiate the theory that Mrs. A. M. Chastaine, 39, was murdered before her home one mile east of here, was burned.

Three Killed by Explosion

Van Buren, Ark., Dec. 17.—Three men were killed and two seriously injured when the boiler of a sawmill exploded.

Kansas City Attorney Says Modern "Jazz" Is Protest Against Order

St. Louis, Dec. 17.—An attorney's definition of "jazz" was given by John T. Harding of Kansas City, Mo., during a speech delivered this evening at the closing of the convention of the Missouri State Bar association.

"Jazz is a protest against order," Mr. Harding declared. "A rebellion against custom, against religious conservatism, it worships force, it despises law, it repels the decalogue, it denies Christ and stonies the prophets of peace, it reaches all the way from the dance halls of the Fljis to the blood-stained capital of Poland, it invades the stage, the press, the studios, the homes of labor, counting houses and only the nude savage quarantined in the jungle is immune."

Wealthy Denver Man Found Dead; Case of Suicide

Body of John H. Porter Discovered on Happy Canyon Near Sedalia—Had Been in Ill Health.

Denver, Dec. 17.—John H. Porter, Denver capitalist and financier, reported missing to the police Saturday night, was found dead with a bullet wound in his head today on the Happy Canyon near Sedalia, Colo. A revolver was found beside the body.

Mr. Porter, who was heir to the fortune of many millions left by his father, the late Henry M. Porter, left his home in his automobile at 10 Saturday morning, saying he was going on a "short ride." Saturday night, when he failed to return, the police were notified and a search began.

The body was found by a party of Mr. Porter's friends, who motored to Sedalia in search of him, and was removed to Castle Rock, county seat of Douglas county, by the coroner, who, following an investigation, pronounced Mr. Porter's death a case of suicide.

Mr. Porter, who was 46 years old and a member of the investment banking firm of Boettcher, Porter & Co., was one of the most prominent men in financial, business, social and club circles in Denver. His father, Henry M. Porter, was for years rated as one of the wealthiest men in the state.

Mr. Porter had been in ill health for some time, according to relatives, who said they believed the act which caused his death was due to despondency.

Strong Labor Vote Cast in Australian Election

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 17.—A feature of the general elections has been the strong labor vote throughout the Commonwealth, but the actual results cannot be known at present, owing to the incompleteness of the count and the need to await allotment of the various preference votes. Although Premier Hughes, who is leader of nationalist party, is safe, some of his ministers and prominent lieutenants are in danger of defeat.

Wrongly Addressed Mail Costs \$1,740,000 Annually

Washington, Dec. 17.—The postoffice department estimated that a waste of \$1,740,000 annually results from wrongly addressed mail.

A survey just completed reveals that the average number of letters received at postoffices daily with improper addresses was 375,831, and that the salaries of postal employees resulted to recipients of this mail amounts alone to more than \$1,992,000 a year.

Jewels of Lillian Russell Sell for Total of \$47,314

New York, Dec. 17.—Jewels and other belongings of the late Lillian Russell, which were sold Friday at the American Art association galleries, brought \$47,314. Acting as a buyer for William Fox, Otto Bernat, agent, made some of the most important purchases, among which was a platinum chain and a minko crown, the chain connecting 25 large, and 285 small diamonds, and the cross one large and 25 smaller stones.

Wallace Reports Progress Against Cotton Weevil

Washington, Dec. 17.—Steps taken by the Department of Agriculture to combat the cotton boll weevil have brought about a situation "more favorable than ever before," Secretary Wallace informed Senator Harris of Georgia in a letter made public today by the senator.

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Harding Pledges Support to Bonus for Ex-Soldiers

President Informs Veterans He Will Back Measure if Means of Financing Can Be Found.

Cincinnati, Dec. 17.—A direct message from President Harding pledging his support to a bonus for service men providing a feasible means of financing the burden can be found, was presented by Col. C. H. Forbes, director of the veterans' bureau at Washington, before a joint conference of national and state executives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars today.

In the conference were the members of the national council of administration and the department commanders of the veterans' organization. Immediately following Col. Forbes' address and a discussion which resulted in strong approval of a sales tax with foodstuffs exempted, as a means of raising the necessary revenue to finance the bonus.

C. Hamilton Cook, Buffalo, national commander of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, who was attending the conference by invitation, said that his organization would take immediate action to support the resolution.

The American Legion, which is the largest of the veterans' organizations, was not represented at the meeting.

Col. Forbes called President Harding by long distance telephone shortly before going into the conference and in the course of his address, referred to his conversation with the president.

"I called him up because it was suggested to me that the bonus might be touched upon," he said. "I wish you knew the pulse of Harding. I wish you knew his innermost thoughts. I wish you knew how he loves the ex-service men."

Air Mail Pilot Lost in Rockies

Henry Boonstra Missing Between Salt Lake and Rock Springs; Last Seen Friday.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 17.—Henry G. Boonstra, lost pilot on the Salt Lake-Rock Springs division of the air mail service, is believed to have been seen near Porterville, Utah, 36 miles northeast of Salt Lake, late Friday afternoon.

A blizzard was raging at the time. Communication by telephone to the office of the superintendent of the western division of the air mail service here, reports the aviator was in some difficulty and appeared to be seeking a landing.

Seven planes, sent out on scouting expeditions today, returned at dusk this evening with no favorable reports. Basing their opinions on the reports from Porterville, local air mail officials believe that Boonstra is somewhere in the almost inaccessible snow covered mountains near that town.

Sister of C. M. Wilhelm Dies on Visit to Omaha

Mrs. Frank K. Hill, sister of C. M. Wilhelm of Orchard & Wilhelm, died at Methodist hospital following an operation.

Mrs. Hill was married in 1873 to Dr. Frank Hill at Lima, N. Y., and moved with her husband to Rockport, Ill.

After the death of her husband six weeks ago Mrs. Hill came to Omaha for a visit, and while here the operation was performed.

She is survived by a son, Fred C. Hill, president of the Hill Motor company of Omaha, and a daughter, Mrs. Stevens, who is now here.

Passengers Landed Safely

St. Johns, N. F., Dec. 16.—One hundred and twenty passengers of the steamer Prospero, which ran aground on Small Island, near Green's Pond, on the east coast of New Foundland Saturday night, were safely landed this morning.

The vessel, which is owned by the New Foundland government, was refloated later, with numbers one and two hogs damaged.

Oklahoma City Shivers

Oklahoma City, Dec. 17.—Six degrees above zero, the mark registered at 6 this morning by government thermometers here, is the lowest temperature Oklahoma City has experienced in December since 1920, and the coldest so far this winter.

A Bird's-Eye View

of "for sale" signs representing some of the best real estate buys in Omaha and suburbs, as given today—and every day in the "Want" Ad columns of The Omaha Bee, saves trouble, time and money for buyers.

Are YOU looking over these real estate bargains?

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Nicodemus "Rarin" to Go

Oklahoma Mayor Who Tapped Natural Gas Company Line to Save Freezing Town Not Worried by Threatened Court Action.

Drumright, Okl., Dec. 17.—Mayor W. E. E. Rarin, who Friday brought word that he would tap the gas line of the Oklahoma National Gas company without authorization of the company, says he is ready to back up his action to the limit.

Mayor Nicodemus said he was not worried about thoughts of court action from the company.

"Do you suppose that any court in the world would see a town of 5,000 persons suffering from the cold?" the mayor asked. "I'm rarin' to go. Let 'em hop to it," he exclaimed, when told that officials of the gas company would hold a conference Monday to determine upon a course of action to force the city to sever its unauthorized connection with the company's lines.

A meter was installed when the line was tapped and the gas being used by the city is being measured, so that an adjustment can be made later, he said.

The Oklahoma Natural Gas company, he declared, was supplying gas to the Oklahoma Gas & Electric company, the latter company generating electric power here for a number of surrounding towns. There was no reason why the company could not supply other Drumright consumers, he contended.

The mayor dispatched letters to the state corporation commission and the Oklahoma Natural Gas company, explaining his action.

Polish Parliament to Name President Next Wednesday

Gen. Sikorski Assumes Premiership—Body of Narutowicz to Be Buried After Election.

Warsaw, Dec. 17.—(By A. P.)—Marshal Joseph Pilsudski, former provisional president of Poland, has been appointed chief of staff of the Polish army. He replaces General Sikorski, who has assumed the premiership.

The assassination on Saturday of President Narutowicz has aroused the sense of patriotic duty among all the political parties, and the formation within a few hours of a new cabinet, through the efforts of M. Rataj, who automatically became president when Narutowicz was assassinated, and of General Sikorski, who was called to the premiership, has given the people a feeling of security. The immediate smoothing of parliament for next Wednesday to elect a new cabinet, has strengthened this feeling.

The body of President Narutowicz was embalmed. It will be taken Tuesday to the ancient royal palace, where it will lie in state during a great public ceremony. The funeral will be held after the election of the new president.

Narutowicz visited the art exhibition, where he was assassinated, against the advice of Premier Nowak, who told him it would be dangerous to expose himself.

The president was shot while he was conversing with a British military officer, William G. Max-Muller. Mr. Max-Muller had just offered congratulations to the president.

Many arrests have been made, principally among the veterans of General Haller's army, in connection with disorders and suspected plots that have assumed a new seriousness now that President Narutowicz has been assassinated.

There is general mourning throughout Poland, owing to the assassination of Narutowicz.

Woman Hit by Taxi Seriously Injured

Mrs. E. Jemick, 2812 Leavenworth street, is in a critical condition at the Lord Lister hospital as the result of being run down by a Yellow taxicab at Sixteenth and Farnam streets.

She suffered severe bruises on the head and face and possibly a fracture of skull.

According to witnesses, the taxicab struck her as she stepped from the sidewalk to board a Farnam street car.

The taxi driver was Frank Williams, 320 South Twenty-sixth street. He was arrested and released on furnishing a \$1,000 bond.

Two Outlaws Killed

Manila, P. I., Dec. 17.—Two outlaws were killed in a constabulary soldiers were wounded when a band of 15 Moros attacked the constabulary detachment on Seculan Island, in the Sulu group, it was announced in a telegram received at constabulary headquarters here. The Moros were repulsed and the entire company of constabulary pursued them into the mountains.

To Aid Zion Movement

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 17.—The Southwestern Keren Hayseed at a conference here today, decided to raise \$350,000 in this district to aid the Zion movement. The district comprises Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Southern Illinois.

"I'm City Broke Now"

Nebraska "Tornado" Is Calmed by Soo City Cop Declares Lyons Giant

Sioux City, Ia., Dec. 17.—"I'm city broke now," Melvin Felix, 26-year-old giant of Lyons, Neb., declared as policemen led him to the bull pen of the city jail early today.

Felix, who is 6 feet 5 inches in height, created a reign of terror on a Burlington passenger train while en route to Sioux City. It is charged, it is alleged he bested the train crew and several passengers.

Sioux City police were notified that a Nebraska "tornado" was on the way. Two bluecoats formed the reception committee to meet him when he stepped from the train.

"Bring your police force," Felix shouted and swung viciously at Patrol Driver Frank Wheelock. Wheelock dodged and turned the bad man "upside down" with a right to the giant's jaw.

Up like a flash, the giant turned on Patrolman Marcus Crost. Again Wheelock uncocked a "haymaker" and sent him sprawling. As the giant slowly arose his feet Wheelock delivered the "knockout."

Federal Court Will Hear Rail Tax Suit Today

Commissioner Osborne and Attorney Complete Case—Phone Company to Seek Rate Increase.

Lincoln, Dec. 17.—By working night and day the past week, State Tax Commissioner W. H. Osborne and Hugh Lamaster, attorney for the state board, have completed the case they will present in federal court at Omaha tomorrow, when three railroad companies—the Burlington, the Northwestern and the Minneapolis & Omaha—ask for relief from the tax assessment made against them.

At the same time the Northwestern Bell Telephone company will argue for the right to raise its rates, which the state railway commission has denied.

The three railroad companies will ask for a lowering of approximately 40 per cent from the assessment against them made by the state board of taxation. They claim they are assessed at more than their full value, while lands are returned at 68 per cent or thereabouts of their actual value. They are prepared, it is asserted, to submit a number of affidavits to support their claim of underassessment of lands and some to show they are over-assessed.

The defense of the tax commissioner and the state board has not been divided, further than an assessment in general, and the railroads conform to that on other property.

America Gaining in Foreign Trade

Volume of Exports Gradually Increasing, Commerce Bureau Director Reports.

Washington, Dec. 17.—American business has just gone through "one of the most crucial periods in the history of the nation's foreign trade and has gained some ground against the inroads of a recovering European competition," Dr. Julius Klein, director of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce declared, in the annual report of the bureau, made public today.

The American exporter, he said, has firmly grasped the opportunities presented and is entrenched in the world markets in a better fashion than ever before.

Dr. Klein's remarks concerning the broadening scope of this country's foreign trade were based partially on a gradually increasing volume of exports together with a remarkable increase in the interest in foreign trade as reflected by a 400 per cent increase in the number of inquiries received by the Department of Commerce for information on world markets in all lines.

The number of requests for foreign trade information are coming at the rate of 4,000 a day now, as compared with 1,000 a day a year ago.

The great interest shown by American business men in foreign trade must not be allowed to wane, Dr. Klein declared, adding that every business man, either large or small, would enable him better to meet new and changed conditions wherever there are markets.

Water Proves Too Chilly for Woman Bent on Suicide

Chicago, Dec. 17.—Two days of wandering along the shore of Lake Michigan and the Chicago river and drainage canal cured Miss Lillian Forrester, 21, stenographer of Columbus, of a "suicidal complex."

Today she appeared at the office of Dr. John L. Murphy, psychoanalyst, who has been diagnosing her self-destruction ideas for two months, and announced that the water was too cold for drowning.

"I'll never kill myself," she told Dr. Murphy. "Death in those icy waters seemed too terrible."

Police had been hunting for her for 43 hours.

Former Secretary of Labor Heads Development Firm

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 17.—Several thousand acres rich in coal and timber are to be developed by a corporation headed by former Secretary of Labor Wilson in Kentucky and Tennessee. A railroad approximately 25 miles long is to intersect this vast property. It will extend from Pine Knot, Ky., to either Woodbridge or Pleasantview, Tenn.

State Prepares to Continue Herring Mine Riot Trial

Marion, Ill., Dec. 17.—(By A. P.)—With four of the five defendants already pointed out as having been seen with guns during the Herring riots when 20 unarmed nonunion miners were slain, the prosecution today prepared to continue the presentation of its case at the opening of the second week of the trial Monday.

New Liner Launched

New York, Dec. 17.—A new Hamburg-American liner, the Albert Ballin, which is scheduled to enter service between the German city and New York in May was launched at Hamburg Friday, said a cablegram received by the United American line agent of the concern in this country.

The Deutschland, a sister ship of the Albert Ballin, is now under construction at Hamburg and is expected to be completed in 1923.

Negro Born in 1807 Dies

Missoula, Mont., Dec. 17.—"Uncle Joe Wells, a Negro, who said he was born in Louisville, Ky., in 1807, died Friday. He came to Missoula about 20 years ago and owned a small mining property near here.

Opera Star Not Worried by What Others Think; Interested in Career

Paris, Dec. 17.—(By A. P.)—"I am intensely interested in my operatic career and not in what people say or think about me," said Madame Ganna Walska, to The Associated Press today. She will sail for the United States January 3, for a two-months concert tour, accompanied by her husband, Harold F. McCormick.

"It will be a chance for some of my American friends to see what a splendid singer I have," interjected Mr. McCormick.

Mme. Ganna Walska said her American concert tour would begin soon after she lands. She will not sing in New York city, but will give concerts in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis. Then she will tour southward, as far as Florida.

French Papers Criticise Plan to Aid Europe

Paris Temps Says U. S. Proposal Conceived Exclusively in Interest of Germany.

Paris, Dec. 17.—(By A. P.)—The reported plans of the United States for the rehabilitation of Europe, "conceived exclusively in the interest of Germany," says the Temps, in an editorial that reflects the viewpoint of a majority of the French newspapers. Skepticism and resentment predominate in these secondary reflections on the situation, and there are a few words of welcome for the proposition, as in the case of the opposition newspaper, L'Ouvrier, which expresses pleasure over the interest of the United States, "even if it has no immediate practical results."

The Temps says the plan looks as if it had been drafted by the Germans rather than the Americans, and suggests that the Germans, after elaborating an agreement with American bankers, make a proposition to the allies for the payment of reparations and then the allies will see if they can make the concessions that are asked.

Severe Critic.

M. Beauriville, in La Liberté, is the most severe critic of the reported project.

"If the United States seriously wished to save Europe from financial chaos," he says, "their first care should be to annul the claim they have against the allies." He sees in what he calls Washington's move, simply an effort to prevent occupation of the Ruhr by France and asks: "Is this the only result of the money the Americans would lend will be asked for, some day, just as they already demand, the billions they advanced the allies for a common war?"

Belgian Papers Critical.

Brussels, Dec. 17.—(By A. P.)—Reports of contemplated action in the United States looking to the reconstruction of Europe, have been received with much adverse criticism by the Belgian newspapers. The Nation Belge says it would be Belgium and France who would bear the burden as they would have to abandon their liens on Germany. The Vingti-Eme Siecle considers the plan as a feeler and expresses astonishment that America should show confidence in Germany's intentions to pay reparations.

Head of Defunct Bank Pays Depositors in Full

Chicago, Dec. 17.—(By A. P.)—Residual funds who lost money in the failure of the Commercial and Savings bank in June, 1914, received unexpected Christmas presents when their mail brought checks for the entire amount due them.

C. J. Holland, former president of the bank, mailed the checks—totaling \$688,000—funds he had saved since the liquidation committee completed its work in December, 1917.

When the bank, a private institution, failed in 1914, it had liabilities of about \$30,000. The assets finally realized approximately \$23,000. Mr. Holland told the liquidation committee that he would make good the difference, no matter how many years it took.

Letters From German Ligor Firms Seized by U. S. Agents

Minneapolis, Dec. 17.—Ten thousand letters from German mail order liquor concerns were seized at the Minneapolis postoffice during the last week by postal inspectors, following the issuance of "fraud orders" by the Postal Department in the case of eight mail order firms.

"The undelivered letters at the postoffice now are similar to the ones which were sent by a German concern several months ago," said R. M. Hudall, postal inspector. "The Germans, in advertising circulars, offered formulas for making beers and wines for \$1 and specifying that the remittance be American money. Many have been deceived, believing that they will obtain real liquor."

Scotch in Baby Bottles Served at Dinner, Rumor; Dry Sleuths on Trail

Boston, Dec. 17.—Two investigations of a banquet on Thursday night of the New England Road Builders association at which Scotch whisky is alleged to have been served in nursing bottles to the 1,000 diners were underway. Prohibition Agent James P. Roberts said that several members of his staff had been assigned to the task of determining who was responsible for the alleged serving of liquor. He said that this investigation was preliminary to a grand jury probe.

All inquiry also is being conducted by the city police. The information gained, it is said, will be turned over to the federal authorities.

The Weather