

THE OMAHA MORNING BEE

NEBRASKA EDITION

Johnson Is Accused of Antagonism

Architect on Closing Day of Capitol Probe Says He Balked Former State Engineer in Ambitions.

Findings Are Held Back

By P. C. POWELL, Staff Correspondent The Omaha Bee, Lincoln, April 9.—Legislative investigation of charges made against Bertram G. Goodhue, architect, by George W. Johnson, former state engineer, ended today with a 20-minute argument by Goodhue and Johnson. A decision will not be made public for several weeks.

Goodhue, in his argument, asserted that Johnson had been balked by him in an attempt to become general supervisor of the state house building. "He wanted to obtain sub-bids, assemble these himself, purchase material, and construct the building for the state," Goodhue said.

"I leave you to judge where in his charges, Mr. Johnson is being guided by motives of the purest devotion to the state, or is wreaking his personal revenge, is venting upon me his personal malice, for disappointing—shall we say?—legitimate ambition.

"This world of men and affairs exists only upon a basis of confidence. Before confidence was attained and established as the great working principle governing human relations, creatures—hardly human beings—used to sneak about trying to hat each other over the head when the other wasn't looking.

"Now, no business transaction takes place, no human intercourse of any sort occurs, except upon this basis of confidence, and to confidence every reputable architect is entitled. Gentlemen, I am sorry to have to say, but it seems to me confidence is precisely the thing that has not been accorded me as your architect.

"The present investigation proves, or seems to prove, that at least one individual, your former state engineer, has not regarded me as able, willing, and glad to work with my clients to the end that your state house should be what it should at the least expense consistent with good design, good material and good workmanship.

Johnson's antagonist. "I early felt Mr. Johnson's antagonism. Throughout, he has enjoyed every possible advantage of position, personal acquaintance, access to all documents, down to keeping the minutes with his own hand, even including it would seem from the evidence before you, the privilege of violating the United States mail.

Priest Sought on Rum Charges Surrenders

Denver, April 9.—Father Walter A. Grace, former pastor of the Shrine of St. Anne at Arvada, sought by federal authorities in connection with the alleged forgery of whisky permits, walked into the office of United States Marshal William A. Dutton shortly after 4 this afternoon and surrendered to the authorities.

A search which became nationwide began several weeks ago after the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of Father Grace.

Shortly after surrendering, he was arraigned before United States District Attorney Granby Hillier and committed to jail in the sum of \$2,500. The bond was made returnable June 15.

Harding to Make New World Court Campaign Issue

President Determined to Make United States Member of League Tribunal if Possible.

Washington, April 9.—President Harding's five weeks of joyous vacation in the south appear to have hardened his determination to do all that is possible to make the United States a member of the court of the league of nations.

It will be his issue in the campaign of 1924, if he should decide to be a candidate. It will be the major topic in the speeches which he is to deliver to the country in his tour next June. It will be the item of chief importance which he will lay before congress when it reconvenes in December.

Authoritative information to this effect, coming through official channels, was the most significant incident of the president's first day at his desk since his return.

Believes Plan Winner. The president left no doubt in the minds of his callers that he believed he would win on the court proposal. Frankly, the White House is of the opinion that while the greatest bloc of opposition to the league of nations covenant came from the west, the sentiment in that section of the country is now strongly supporting the league court proposal.

Announcement of the president's plans for the big events within the party, and a possible split. It will lead inevitably to a bitter and prolonged fight in the senate, which may possibly be carried to the presidential contest. Most of the republican leaders in the senate are lined up in opposition to the president's proposal.

Reorganization of the republican national committee is also probable as a result of the president's determination. The present chairman, John T. Adams, belongs to the irreconcilable group.

Will Try to Dissuade Harding. Senator Watson and other republican leaders in the senate still cling to the hope that they will be able to dissuade the president from forcing the court proposal upon the party as an issue. Watson is to see the president on Wednesday, and Lodge is expected to see him during the week.

Term in Pen Last Act in Nelms Case

Five-Year Term for Victor of Sisters.

Washington, April 9.—When Victor E. Innes completes a five-year term in the federal penitentiary, to which he has just been sentenced by the United States district court at Atlanta, for using the mails to defraud, he will have settled the score, as far as the courts are concerned, in one of the most baffling of crime cases this country has known.

Yet the veil of mystery that has remained impenetrable for nine years may never be lifted to clear up the disappearance of Mrs. Eloise Nelms Dennis, pretty young divorcee, and her sister, Miss Beatrice Nelms, beautiful young business woman of Atlanta, the last trace of whom was lost when they boarded a train at New Orleans for the west in the summer of 1914.

Completes Prison Term. Only a few weeks ago Innes completed a seven-year term in the Georgia state prison for defrauding Mrs. Dennis. He was immediately released for using the mails to carry out those frauds. It is for this that he must serve another five years. His wife, Mrs. Ida May Innes, also served two years in the Georgia penitentiary. She is now reported dying in Oregon.

But what became of the Nelms sisters, daughters of an old Georgia family, remains a mystery. Capt. Fred A. Ward, chief of the Portland (Ore.) office of the bureau of investigation, Department of Justice, arrived in Washington today from Atlanta to add the final chapter to the records of his nine years' work on the case.

Arrested in 1914. Watt first arrested Innes, who had been a deputy United States district attorney in Nevada, and his wife, at Eugene, Ore., in August, 1914, after a nation-wide search for the missing Nelms sisters.

The search began when, early in July, 1914, Mrs. John W. Nelms, mother of the girls, received a "death note" mailed in San Francisco. The note, purported to have been written by Mrs. Dennis, said she had murdered her sister, intended to kill her brother, Marshall Nelms, and to drown herself.

Mrs. Nelms communicated with the Department of Justice and federal agents were put on the trail. Marshall Nelms was located in San Francisco and he took up the search also.

Women Start West. It developed that Mrs. Dennis, some time before, had entrusted some \$20,000 to Innes to invest for her. Later, when she called for an accounting, which was not forthcoming, she started west to see Innes and demand a settlement. She was accompanied by her sister.

Minimum Wage Law Declared Illegal

Washington, April 9.—The United States supreme court this afternoon handed down a decision disapproving of the fixing of wages by statute and declared that the District of Columbia minimum wage law, a statute similar to those in effect in a number of states, is unconstitutional and invalid.

United States Steel Grants Wage Increase

Day Laborers Given Voluntary Boost of 11 Per Cent, Effective on April 16—150,000 Men Affected.

New York, April 9.—The United States Steel corporation today announced a wage increase of 11 per cent, effective April 16, for day laborers employed in the manufacturing plants of its subsidiary companies, with an equitable adjustment for other classes of labor in those plants. More than 150,000 employees are affected and the increase, it was estimated, will add approximately one-half a million dollars to the weekly payroll. A number of independent companies immediately announced a similar increase for day laborers.

Employers of the mining, transportation and miscellaneous properties of the United States Steel corporation are not affected by the increase. The new rate of pay for day laborers will be approximately 40 cents an hour.

Competition for Labor. The increase closely follows those in the textile, copper mining and certain building trades. The increase was regarded in Wall street as inevitable because of the sharp competition for unskilled labor.

Chairman Elbert H. Gary and Charles M. Schwab, chairman of the United States and Bethlehem corporations, respectively, repeatedly have called attention to the shortage of unskilled labor, which they blamed on the respective immigration laws now in force.

Manufacturing plants of the United States Steel corporation are now working at 92 per cent of capacity. New business booked this year, the corporation has announced, exceeds the rated maximum capacity of the subsidiary companies.

Prices of steel products have been advancing steadily since the early part of last year, the increase for a number of standard products ranging from 1 1/2 to 6 1/2 per cent.

Independent Raises Wages. Pittsburgh, April 9.—The Jones & Laughlin Steel corporation, one of the largest independent in the country, late today announced an increase of approximately 11 per cent in the wages of common labor, meeting the advance earlier in the day of the Carnegie Steel company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel corporation.

The advance affects about 15,000 employees. Wages of other employees will also be revised upward, the announcement said.

Maybe if They'd Try Scalding They Could Get a Few More Pin Feathers



Bomb Wrecks Ruhr Canal

Inland Waterway Traffic Tied Up by Carefully-Planned Explosion.

London, April 9.—An anonymous personal friend of Lord Carnarvon wrote to the Morning Post that one of the tragedies of the lord's death is that he endeavored to avoid mosquitoes all his life. Carnarvon died as the result of a mosquito bite in Egypt.

The friend said Lord Carnarvon would never revisit an excellent hotel in Paris because he was once bitten by a mosquito there. Wherever he went he would call on a chemist and purchase a lotion to be applied in case there were mosquitoes about.

Once when in South America he was invited to a duck shoot and when all in the party had been badly stung Carnarvon borrowed a horse and hurried to the nearest railway station explaining: "I would never remain five minutes in a place where I am liable to be bitten by mosquitoes."

Victor B. Smith Joins Omaha National Bank

Victor B. Smith, until recently managing editor of The Omaha Bee, has been appointed manager of the new business department of the Omaha National bank and the Omaha Trust company.

Walter W. Head, president of the Omaha National, stated that with Mr. Smith at the head of the department he was very hopeful for the future development of the service to new customers and to affiliated institutions.

Lord Carnarvon Lived in Constant Dread of Bites From Mosquitoes

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Woman Commits Suicide Because Mate Flew Arrest

Santa Ana, Cal., April 9.—The flight of her husband to avoid arrest several months ago prompted Mrs. Margaret D. Moon, 21, to swallow poison, she told doctors while they made a futile attempt to save her life. The tragedy occurred in the presence of her father, Samuel Woodridge, former Colorado supreme court judge, in their home in Garden Grove, near here, Sunday afternoon and the motive became known today.

Mrs. Moon smiled as the doctors used needles and other means to halt the poison in its course to her heart. She explained that George N. Moon, her husband, fled December 5 to avoid arrest in connection with affairs of a food store in Garden Grove. She said she could not live through the dependency growing out of it. She died within an hour after taking the poison.

Hotel Room Held Salesman's Home

Judge Wappich Discharges 14 Men Arrested in Raid by Trapp.

Judge W. P. Wappich held in central police court Monday that a hotel room is a traveling salesman's cave, and discharged 14 men who were arrested for gambling after a raid on a room in the Millard hotel at 11 Saturday night.

"The salesman's life is one of lonely toils," C. A. Allen of Eighth St. argued before the court, "and 20 of us have informally organized a club. When we meet here we pass the time by playing cards in our rooms—our homes."

Testimony showed raiding officers had no search warrant and the judge decided they had no right to enter Allen's home.

Omaha Moose in Drive to Double Membership Here

Omaha lodge No. 99, Local Order of Moose, is promoting a membership campaign in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the founding of Mooseheart, the home and school maintained for more than 1,100 children four miles north of Aurora, Ill. This drive for members will be continued until June 20.

Dr. Ernest E. Benson will head a delegation of 25 Omaha Moose to Mooseheart in June when nearly 10,000 members from all over the country will make this annual pilgrimage. Among them will be President Harding, who is a member of the order, and Secretary of Labor J. J. Davis. The objective of the Omaha lodge is to double its membership before June 20.

Jury to Try Claridge Impaneled

Blair Banker, Charged With Falsifying Reports Determined to 'Fight It Out'—Townsperson Loyal.

Blair Banker, Charged With Falsifying Reports Determined to 'Fight It Out'—Townsperson Loyal. Jurors Are All Farmers.

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Blair, Neb., April 9.—Selection of a jury for the trial of E. H. Claridge, former president of the defunct Banking House of A. Castetter, was completed at 3:30 this afternoon.

Joseph Wardell, a stockbuyer, who questioned regarding his suitability to serve on the jury, declared he has been "approached" concerning the case, since he was called as a juror.

"Are you the Wardell who welcomed Mr. Claridge back to Blair and offered to give him half a section of land?" asked Assistant Attorney General T. J. McGuire, who is prosecuting the case against Claridge.

"No, that was my brother, Jim, who died," Wardell said.

Show Friendship for Accused. Five other jurors called were "struck off" because they either expressed some prejudice in the case, or a great feeling of friendship for Claridge.

The information filed by the state against Claridge contains eight separate counts, all materially the same. In brief, Claridge is charged with making false reports to the state banking department.

The information alleges that on four occasions while he was president of the Banking House of Castetter, Claridge subscribed to and published a false report of the amount of assets and liabilities of the bank, "with intent to deceive J. E. Hart, secretary of the department of trade and commerce."

Reports False, Claim. The first of these reports is alleged to have been made at the close of business December 14, 1912, when loans and discounts were given at \$1,047,657.74. The information alleges this report was false, because certain assets reported as being among the assets were not the property of the bank.

Senator Sterling Naved on Senate Silver Body

Three lines—three times—ten dimes

Great Northern Valuation Cut by Commerce Body

Priest Derides Spirit Pictures Shown by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Man Dies From Wounds Inflicted by Woman

One Dead, Five Hurt in Blast

The Weather

Meeting Delayed in Hope of Having Edison and Ford Here