

OIL PLANT BURNING FOLLOWING BLAST

Coolidge Is Lacking in Leadership

—JOHNSON.

California Senator Scores President for "Hesitancy" in Teapot Dome Investigation. Slemp Also Criticized

What was characterized as "President Coolidge's lack of leadership" furnished the main theme in a political address delivered here Monday night by Hiram Johnson, republican candidate for the presidency.

For instance, he asserted the president attempted to dictate to congress what it should do on the Mellon plan, without effect. He held that Coolidge observed a policy of hesitancy in matters relating to the oil scandals and the Denby and Daugherty exposures.

"An excuse is being made for the policy of Mr. Coolidge, that he had inherited troubles and undesirable men," the senator said, "from the Harding administration. It is certain, however, that he did not inherit them, who had been thoroughly exposed and discredited before Mr. Coolidge became president."

The California senator referred to the character of the campaign that will be waged by the Coolidge managers until the close of the contest in Nebraska. He asserted that many important speakers, like Leslie M. Shaw, will be sent throughout the state, defending and excusing the oil leases and other Washington scandals, and that the payment of money by Doehny to Fall was a friendly act.

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Civil War Veteran Dies

Glanwood, Ia., March 24.—W. R. Cooper, 80, who died at his residence here March 21, was buried today in Glenwood cemetery. Mr. Cooper served in the 15th Iowa regiment in the civil war. He celebrated his birthday anniversary, the day before his last illness began.

The Day in Washington

Curtis D. Wilbur took up his duties as secretary of the navy.

Navy advisers from Honduras predicted early collapse of the de facto government.

The house shipping board investigating committee laid further plans for procedure.

Illness of Senator Wheeler, democrat, Montana, caused a postponement of the Daugherty hearings.

The interstate commerce commission ordered a rehearing on its order for installation of automatic train control devices.

A senate committee began investigating charges by Senator Heflin, democrat, Alabama, of land frauds in the Lower Rio-Grande Valley of Texas.

The house immigration committee in a report on the Johnson bill declared immediate cancellation of the gentlemen's agreement with Japan would be justified.

Shirts From the Senate Laundry



House Launches Air Craft Probe

Committees to Be Appointed for Purpose of Investigating Alleged Fraud.

Washington, March 24.—The house today authorized two more investigations—one into the aircraft industry, the other into alleged duplication of government bonds at the bureau of engraving and printing.

By viva voce vote a resolution by Representative Nelson, republican insurgent leader of Wisconsin, providing for appointment of a special committee to conduct the inquiry, was adopted.

Investigation of the army, navy and air mail services, as well as of the aircraft industry generally, is proposed in the resolution, which was presented several weeks ago by Mr. Nelson after he charged on the house floor that corruption could be proved in the industry in its relation to the government.

NEW SENATE QUERY OPENS

Washington, March 24.—Another senate investigation made a bid for public attention today when a special subcommittee of the committee on postoffice and post roads was called together to inquire into alleged land frauds in the Rio Grande valley of Texas, with Will H. Hayes, former postmaster general, summoned as the star witness of its opening session.

Senator Heflin, democrat of Alabama, who introduced the resolution authorizing the inquiry, has charged that B. E. Cressler of Brownsville, republican national committeeman from Texas, was instrumental through conferences with officials here in having an investigation of alleged frauds dropped.

Four World Flight Planes Overhauled

Seattle, Wash., March 24.—Three of the four army aircraft for the next stage of their journey around the world is progressing rapidly at the Sand Point aviation field near here where they landed last Thursday. All the planes will be fully overhauled and repaired and fitted with pontoons by Thursday, it is expected. Their tests will then begin and they will take part in an air circus planned as a benefit for the army relief fund. Early next week they will hop off for Prince Rupert, B. C., a 650-mile jump.

District Speakers Chosen.

Wakefield, Neb., March 24.—Three speakers were selected at a sub-district declamatory contest held here to represent the Wakefield district in a final contest to be held at Wayne, April 15. Twenty persons took part in what was declared to be the largest declamatory contest ever held here.

The winners were Hazel Brogden of Laurel, Howard Jacobsen of Hartington and Margaret McQuiston of Wakefield.

Horse Comes Into Own for One Day in Wilber

Wilbur, Neb., March 24.—The horse and buggy came back into its own for one day in Wilbur Saturday, when 501 teams and single driving horses and rigs were counted hitched on side streets. The number is the greatest since the automobile became popular here.

The weekly merchants sales contest was the attraction which brought farmers to town and had roads made the use of horse and buggy necessary.

Stand on Record.

Bedford, Ia., March 24.—Taylor county democratic convention adopted resolutions, deciding to let the administration of the last 12 years speak for themselves. Delegates were chosen to the state convention, to be held in Davenport April 3.

Bossie Sold Coal at \$9, City Claims

Records Show Sales at \$8.50 and \$7.50 a Ton, Accountant Testifies at Audit of Books.

Ex-City Clerk to Explain

What became of the money collected by the municipal coal department for 200 tons of Kentucky coal at \$9 a ton?

Mayor Dahlgren, who accuses Claude F. Bossie, former city clerk, with embezzlement of \$2,982, says the records in the city clerk's office show 200 tons of Kentucky coal sold.

Charles Stenica, accountant retained by Commissioner Dan Butler, reported at Monday's audit that Bossie's accounts up to December 31, showed coal at \$8.50 and a few tons at \$7.50, but no sales at \$9.

Bossie declared he would explain the Kentucky coal feature at the proper time, but the explanation was not forthcoming yesterday.

The shortage that is alleged to exist in the city clerk's office is the difference between the number of tons of coal delivered as reflected by the payrolls of the haulers and the duplicate slips of orders taken at the city clerk's office.

Accountant Stenica declared the haulers had been paid for 5,925 tons delivered, as against 4,754 tons sold and paid for.

Bossie admitted he kept no detailed records of deliveries made by haulers.

EIGHT KILLED IN SHIP CRASH

London, March 24.—Eight persons were reported killed, one steamship was sunk and another beached in a collision between the United States liner American Merchant and the Alblon liner Mantua off Thames Haven today.

The American Merchant was on her maiden voyage, bound for Tilbury. She was beached after the accident.

The Mantua, crushed amidships, was sunk.

According to first reports only two members of the Mantua's crew were killed. A later dispatch from Gravesend to the Standard put the dead at eight. In addition, several were injured.

SHIPPING BOARD QUIZ RESUMED

Washington, March 24.—Investigation of the shipping board and emergency fleet corporation was resumed today by a special house committee, with several members of the board and the corporation on hand to answer questions relative to pending steps affecting the government's merchant fleet.

BANDIT TRIO GETS \$15,000 IN CASH

Washington, March 24.—Three masked men today held up the superintendent and cashier of a Piggy Wiggly store on Pennsylvania avenue and escaped with a bag containing between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in cash.

Nebraskan to Be Head of Fort Berthold Indian Agency

Table Rock, Neb., March 24.—H. F. Marbel, recently superintendent of the Southern Pueblo Indian agency, Albuquerque, N. M., has been transferred to the superintendency of the Indian agency at Fort Berthold, S. D. Marbel is the only son of M. H. Marbel of Table Rock, a Nebraska pioneer.

Marbel, before his appointment to the Indian service, was in the newspaper business, publishing the Elk Creek Sentinel and the Humboldt Leader.

Opinion on Ice Cream Price Discrimination Is Sought

Lincoln, March 24.—The attorney general was asked today to give an opinion whether discrimination in cream prices is punishable under the Nebraska uniform price law or the anti-discrimination law.

Many complaints have been received of cases where cream sold at competitive points brings a price higher than paid for the same quality at non-competitive stations nearby.

Bobbed Hair to Make Race of Bald-Headed Women, Says Report

New York, March 24.—Bobbed hair is a sure means for causing baldness and it won't be many years before the world is filled with bald headed women, Joseph Byrne, editor of a beauty magazine, said in addressing the annual convention of the American Master Hair Dressers association today.

Girl School Teacher Dead, Father Seriously Burned in Oil Blast

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Chester, Neb., March 24.—Leota Brunbaugh, 19, teacher at the Mount Zion school near here, is dead and her father is in a critical condition as the result of burns sustained when Miss Brunbaugh threw kerosene on supposedly dead coals in the kitchen range.

The father, with Leota and a younger daughter, had driven to Belleville, Kan., and on their return Brunbaugh built a fire in the range and went out to the barnyard. Leota, assuming that the fire had gone out, picked up the kerosene can and poured its contents upon the coals.

At once she was enveloped in flames.

Her father, rushing to her assistance, was seriously burned.

The tragedy in the Brunbaugh home is the second within a week, a 17-year-old brother having died six days ago from injuries.

A 12-year-old daughter is left at the home and three married sons live in the vicinity.

Sinclair Cited for Contempt by Committee

Action Follows Refusal to Appear Before Body Inquiring Into Teapot Dome Scandal.

Washington, March 24.—The United States senate today held Harry F. Sinclair, multi-millionaire oil magnate, who leased Teapot Dome for ex-Secretary of the Interior Fall, to be in contempt of congress.

There was only one dissenting voice in the senate's action. It came from Senator Elkins, republican, of West Virginia, who admitted dealing in Sinclair oil stocks. The vote was 72 to 1.

Washington, March 24.—Harry F. Sinclair, millionaire owner of the Teapot Dome oil lease, this afternoon was formally cited to the senate for contempt for refusing to answer questions propounded by the senate public lands committee investigating the leases of ex-Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall.

It was the first time in years a senate committee had chosen such drastic means to require a witness to testify, and the senate sat in profound silence as Senator Ladd, republican of North Dakota, chairman of the investigation committee, read the committee's citation.

When Ladd had concluded, Senator Walsh, democrat of Montana, the chief prosecutor in the oil probe, recommended to the senate, that Sinclair be certified for contempt to the United States attorney for the District of Columbia and held for action by a federal grand jury.

The text of the citation sets forth that Sinclair, when called before the investigating committee on March 22 refused to answer questions. This refusal, the citation holds, is not only in contempt of the committee, but also in contempt of the senate itself.

HONDURAS REBELS GAINING STRENGTH

Washington, March 24.—Early collapse of the de facto government in Honduras and ultimate success of revolutionary forces headed by General Ferrera was predicted today in dispatches to the Navy department.

ARGENTINE ARMY HEADS IN DUEL

Buenos Aires, March 24.—General Justo, the Argentine secretary of war, fought a duel Sunday with General Dell, commander of the first division of the army. General Justo was wounded and unable to continue the duel.

Indian Nurse Appointed at Winnebago Reservation

Lincoln, March 24.—Mrs. Abbie Boucher, a full blooded Winnebago Indian, was appointed Indian nurse at the Winnebago Indian reservation. Governor Bryan announced today. She will receive a salary of \$150 a month.

Her work will be educational and advisory, centering around attempts to reduce the infant mortality among the Indians.

Mrs. Boucher has taken a four-year course in nursing in Illinois.

Board to Give Hearing on Rock Island Assessment

Lincoln, March 24.—Rock Island railroad excess assessment hearing will be held before the board of equalization.

The Nebraska supreme court recently handed down a decision holding that the Rock Island assessment of \$10,000,000 was excessive.

The equalization board must, therefore, it was announced, either increase all other assessments or reduce the assessment of the Rock Island.

Superior Man Drops Dead.

Superior, Neb., March 24.—J. P. Hostie, 65, resident of Seymour for the past 30 years, dropped dead as he entered the lobby of the Farmers' State bank here. He had suffered a slight stroke of paralysis eight months ago. Hostie was dead when a physician arrived.

The only surviving member of the family is a wife by a second marriage, living here.

Dixon Debaters Win.

Newcastle—Dixon county debaters won from Cedar county debaters when the Ponca High school team met the Hartington High school team at Hartington and argued the immediate question. The vote of the judges was two to one in favor of Ponca.

Blaze May Cost Life of Foreman

Clothing Ignited in Explosion Which Blows Off Roof of U. S. Oil Company Works.

Second Plant Threatened

Fire originating from an explosion of undetermined origin destroyed the yard plant of the U. S. Oil company, Eleventh and Seward streets, at 3 Monday afternoon and perhaps fatally burned Axel Swanson, 25, yard foreman for the company.

More than eight lines of hose were laid from six hose companies responding to the two-alarm fire. The blaze broke out with a terrific explosion which, according to witnesses, blew

Ambulance Hit by Street Car on Way to Hospital

The ambulance in which Axel Swanson was being rushed to a hospital crashed with a street car between Douglas and Farnam streets on Sixteenth street. The car was wrecked and the front vestibule of the street car was badly damaged. Swanson suffered no further injuries.

The ambulance was going south on Sixteenth street and, after crossing Douglas street, swung wide to pass a Swift & Co. truck. Clifford Drefahl, driver, went too far across the street and hit a north-bound car head on.

The Swift truck was driven by C. Anderson, Drefahl reported.

Force of the shock tore off one rear wheel from the ambulance and badly damaged the entire machine.

The police ambulance was called and took Swanson on to the hospital where his condition is reported critical.

the roof of the plant's office building high into the air. A flame-enveloped, to the street where Knowles, employe of the Sinclair oil company, and C. H. Van Nostrand of the Van Ness Construction company attempted to extinguish the flames. He was removed to Nicholas Senn hospital where his condition is reported as critical.

On the way to the hospital, the ambulance carrying Swanson, who ran from the blazing office with his clothing in flames, collided with a street car.

Sinclair Plant Threatened

Oil pouring from burning barrels in the office, flowed into the street, and for a time threatened the plant of the Sinclair company. It gave off dense clouds of thick, gray smoke, which quickly collected a crowd of spectators.

For a time, also, tank cars filled with oil, standing on tracks nearby were threatened, but firemen succeeded in diverting the blazing steam from them.

The building where the explosion occurred, is a one-story frame stucco structure. The roof was completely torn from the walls by the force of the explosion.

Swanson, the foreman, is the only man known to have been in the place at the time of the explosion. A. J. Knowles, across the street in the Sinclair office, heard the blast and rushed into the street. He braved flames which already were enveloping what was left of the office, and dragged out Swanson. The latter was so badly burned that patches of skin dropped from his body when he was brought into the open air.

Soot Under Control

Efforts of firemen were devoted to keeping the blaze from spreading to the giant oil storage tanks near the building, and also to save the plant of the Sinclair company.

It was feared that if the flames reached one of the tanks, an explosion might result which would shake the entire section of the city where the yard is located.

The fire was reported under control at 3:30 p. m. Myrtle and Morris Miller, owners of the U. S. Oil company, were unable to give an estimate of the loss.

Gas Cars Moved.

Firemen and scores of bystanders pushed five large cars of gasoline a block down the tracks out of range of the fire at the risk of their lives.

The first water played onto the big tank turned into steam on account of the extreme heat.

Firemen believe the fact that the wind was from the south saved a good part of the property. The fire is to the north of the tanks, stucco buildings at the time of the explosion were W. E. Rishling, Frank Bengner and Alex Applegate.

Swanson, who was severely burned, is plant manager. A brand new Ford car belonging to Swanson that was standing in the garage was totally destroyed.

A 700-gallon tank wagon that was in the building at the time of the fire was also destroyed.

Firemen were hampered in fighting the fire by a gas feed from the big tanks in the yard that was leaking and causing flames to reach the men.

Office of the works was entirely demolished. The Miller brothers, who were at the scene of the fire, moved the safe that was in the office to the street.

BRITISH TO HOP OFF ON WORLD FLIGHT

By Universal Service.

London, March 24.—In the presence of Brig. Gen. Lord Thomson, secretary of state for the British attempt to fly around the world will begin tomorrow, weather permitting.

The leader of the adventure, which, on account of the virtual collapse of dates, competes with the attempt made by four American flyers in long distance flying and who now possesses nearly every available distinction in the war flying services.

With him are Flying Officer Penderleith and two engineers.

The world fliers will start from west to east, making their first landing at Lyons. Other stages of the flight will be to Brindisi, Athens, Cairo, Bagdad, Besra, Karachi, Calcutta, Rangoon, Burma, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Aleutian Islands, Vancouver, Toronto, St. Johns and home ward.

AMBASSADOR FROM MEXICO SELECTED

San Antonio, Tex., March 24.—Albert J. Paul, minister of finance in the cabinet of President Oregon of Mexico, has been officially designated ambassador to the United States, according to word received here today from Mexico City.

Leon Salinas will succeed Paul as minister of finance.

Woman Is Candidate Against Her Husband

Shenandoah, Ia., March 24.—Mrs. Walter Hooker is competing with her husband for the office of city treasurer in the Blanchard municipal election, March 31. Mrs. Hooker is a candidate on the woman's ticket, headed by Elva Bean for mayor.

Guide Rock Pioneer Dies.

Guide Rock, Neb., March 24.—Mrs. E. J. Moore, 69, a resident of Guide Rock for the past 33 years, has died at a Hastings hospital and burial will be here. The family came from Illinois and settled on land near here in 1891. The survivors are the husband of Guide Rock, and one son, Frank B. Moore, president of Rider business college, Trenton, N. J. One son, Everett, died here last August.

Jugoslav Cabinet Quits.

Belgrade, Jugoslavia, March 24.—The Jugoslav cabinet, headed by Premier Pachitch, handed its resignation to the king today. All the ministers belong to the radical party.

8 Dead in Wreck.

Paris, March 24.—Eight persons were killed and 11 injured at Metz today when the Ostende Basle express crashed into a freight train.

The Weather

For 24 hours ending 7 p. m. March 24.

Precipitation, Inches and Hundredths.

Total since Jan. 1, 2.47; excess, .09.

Hourly Temperatures.

8 a. m. ... 44

9 a. m. ... 45

10 a. m. ... 46

11 a. m. ... 47

12 noon ... 48

1 p. m. ... 49

2 p. m. ... 50

3 p. m. ... 51

4 p. m. ... 52

5 p. m. ... 53

6 p. m. ... 54

7 p. m. ... 55

8 p. m. ... 56

9 p. m. ... 57

10 p. m. ... 58

11 p. m. ... 59

12 noon ... 60