

JAILED PASTOR BLAMES GOSSIP

Navy Will Start Big Ship Test

Coolidge Asks Survey Into Relative Merits of Cruisers and Planes in Sea Warfare.

Wilbur to Be in Charge

Washington, Sept. 20.—At the direction of President Coolidge, Secretary of the Navy Willbur today inaugurated a survey to determine the relative effectiveness of battleships and airplanes in national defense.

This was the upshot of Willbur's hurried return to Washington from the Pacific coast, whence the president summoned him.

Orders for the inquiry were given this morning in an hour's conference at the White House, where the problem of maintaining and developing the navy was discussed in exhaustive detail.

So anxious is the president to get an authoritative opinion on the air-ship-battleship controversy that he called Willbur back to duty so that the inquiry might be completed without delay and recommendations for appropriations if such be deemed necessary, incorporated next month in the supplemental naval budget.

World Fliers Watched. The sudden determination of the administration to push the development of aircraft was the outcome of the successful circumnavigation of the globe by army fliers, now winging their way to the Pacific.

President Coolidge believes the world flight indicates clearly that aircraft will be the chief arm of national defense in the future.

As the first step in his inquiry, Willbur has received from his aide, Capt. Walter R. Gerard, who is in charge of aviation during the last fleet maneuvers, a report on the coordination of aircraft and battleships. Gerard recommended that the battleships be kept in first class condition and that aviation be given the necessary appropriations to carry on supplemental work.

Weeks Thanks Navy. Secretary Willbur's belief in the need for surface craft was strengthened by a letter he received from Secretary of War Weeks, thanking the navy for the assistance rendered the American round-the-world fliers, especially in crossing the north Atlantic.

The flight was only made possible, Weeks said, "by the combined efforts of all those who were asked for their aid."

In addition to studying the air-ship-battleship problem, Willbur will make a survey of the whole naval establishment to determine whether the navy is being maintained at the standard set by the Washington naval treaty, that is, at a strength equal to that of the British navy.

Willbur has declared that the American navy has dropped below this standard.

Discussing his speeches on the Pacific coast, which have been the subject of considerable comment, since he was ordered home, Willbur denied any reference to America and Japan as "antagonistic civilizations."

He declared that it was his opinion that peace on the Pacific had been assured for many years by the four-power treaty. He also denied that he had questioned the constitutionality of the national prohibition act, explaining that he pointed to this law in a speech at Catalina as one which might be happily enforced if the powers of the United States supreme court were to be curbed.

Wilbur in Conferences. After a conference with the president, Secretary Willbur went to his office at the Navy department where he busied himself for the remainder of the day in conferences with his associates there on naval questions, including that of the budget which had brought disagreement with the budget bureau.

Captain Gherardi's memorandum to the secretary said: "Aviation advance does not justify us in allowing our 18 battleships or any of them to deteriorate, using money thus saved to build up aviation."

"Three types of aircraft," he said, "should be developed: (A) flying boats for long range scouting and bombing; (B) amphibians and single pontoon planes for spotting and for close protection of the fleet against submarine or destroyer attacks; (C) twin pontoon planes for torpedo planes but these should be considered as secondary to the first two."

Norris Homecoming. Grand Island, Neb., Sept. 20.—The local committee in charge of the homecoming meeting of Senator George Norris, at which he will deliver the opening address of his regular campaign, is providing the largest hall available. Chairman O. A. J. Hobbs, Jr., of the local republican committee, will preside.

Neilhart Starts Tour. Geneva, Neb., Sept. 20.—John G. Neilhart, post laureate of Nebraska, has been secured by the Geneva Women's club to give a reading from his works the evening of October 16. Mr. Neilhart will start on a tour of the west at that time, giving his first program at Geneva.

Two Sisters Are Cretans Girls, Third Enters Convent; Praise Mother for Letting Them Plan Own Careers



ETHENA CONDOURIS (At right) BOBBY & BETTY CONDOURIS



New York, Sept. 20.—It's a wise mother that knows her own daughter these days. But Mrs. Lillian Condouris of Brooklyn has three daughters—and knows them well.

There is Ethena, 24, eldest of the Condouris girls. Ethena has always been a quiet, deeply religious nature, indifferent to worldly pleasures. And for the last year she has been in a convent.

And then there are Betty, 18, and "Bobby," 16. They heard over the radio that a famous theatrical producer wanted 108 new faces in this season's "Vantiles." Why, they asked each other, should their pleasing personalities not suit Carroll's purposes?

What with her eldest wishing to renounce the vanities of the world and her youngest desirous of embracing those same vanities, Mrs. Condouris must have had some sleepless nights. For years since her husband's death, she has supported her family and carefully brought up her daughters—five altogether. Here were two extreme types of careers before them, when you remember that she would have liked the girls to lead more usual lives. But, then, Mrs. Condouris remembered that this is the day of self-determining daughters—and she gave in.

Ethena should go away, untroubled, and the youngsters should dance for a living.

"Mother is so good about everything," Betty said today. "She hated to see Ethena go off forever, but she saw each one of us do what we like it will make us happy."

"Mother has brought us up to think about doing something and looking out for ourselves—that's all crazy about stage life being dangerous. So she made no fuss, really when we told her we wanted to apply to Mr. Carroll for places in the 'Vantiles.' She often went to rehearsals with us, and we loved to have her along."

No, they hadn't any good picture of sister Ethena, who went to the quiet of a cloistered world of prayer and devotion. She had never cared about having pictures taken. But "Bobby" and Betty are bubbling over with glee. Betty does most of the talking. Her bob is bushier and more carefree than the sleek one of "Bobby" herself, who is demure and has a lisp.

"I'm going to take singing lessons when the show starts, to try to become a leading lady in musical comedy," Bobby wants to be a great dancer. She took lessons at the Metropolitan opera house ballet school.

"But no matter how far we get on the New York stage, we will hop back to Brooklyn every night. I'm crazy about it here. It's as exciting as a foreign country to me," says Betty.

"It's home here; that's why we intend to stay. New York is too businesslike to rest in."

Betty at first admitted and then denied that she wants to be "a Sophie Tucker, Jr.," a duplicate of a singer she greatly admires. At least she has peg enough to emulate her idol.

"Bobby" and I would be near each other in the show. She is taller than I am. Yes, we have bushels of admirers. Oh, no, I am just fooling. Only a few.

"I shall never marry."

"I intend to," the demure "Bobby" piped up. "Just to be different."

"Bobby" and Betty will go to the convent at Peekskill to visit their sister, Ethena, who has already given up the world's vanities, as soon as they can arrange to get away between "Vantiles" rehearsals.

"I don't think mother wanted her to go, but she wouldn't say a word to stop her," Betty said thoughtfully. "Not a word all the last year since Ethena made up her mind. Well, each one of us gets her own way, and we should appreciate our wonderful mother, don't you think so?"

Whether or not the daughter will live away from the world or those who remain among its pleasures will finally be happier cannot be decided at the beginning of their widely divergent paths. Mrs. Condouris realizes that most young people now demand the right to do as they wish, no matter if it be toward or away from vanities that they turn.

Methodists Cut Mission Funds, Ministers Told

Appropriations for Year Cut 25 to 30 Per Cent; Foreign Workers "Carry on" Under Hardships.

Clarinda, Ia., Sept. 20.—"The foundation of benevolence" of the Methodist church is drying up," declared Dr. R. E. Diefendorf, in announcing a cut of 25 to 30 per cent in the appropriations for the world service program at the Des Moines conference session here today.

"Christians in the orient are denying themselves the necessities of life in order that the major part of our program may go forward," he asserted. "We have sent men and women to the front line trenches, and we must stand behind them."

The conference elected the following to the world service council of the church: Bishop F. T. Keeney, E. M. Evans, C. D. Crissman, E. A. Moore, S. Grant Lewis, P. N. Willis, E. M. Edmundson, Frank McDonald, T. R. Watts, Herbert Wilkinson, F. C. Okey, C. S. Buchtel, Frank Bean, R. S. Beall, G. W. Shalmer, J. S. Ellis, W. P. Wortman, A. F. Smith, D. J. Shenton, John Hahn, H. R. Wright, Mrs. G. R. Melick, Mrs. H. H. Hollingsworth, E. D. Samson, John L. Hillman and Z. C. Thornburg.

A group insurance plan will be presented by district superintendents at the next quarterly conference.

J. E. Hummers of Hancock was retired by the conference.

Trio Sue Father for Sum They Invested in Residence

Columbus, Neb., Sept. 20.—Hannah, Elmer and Catherine Lemmerman of Creston have filed suit in county court against their father, William Lemmerman, for \$399. They maintain that they advanced more than \$1,000 toward the purchase price and paying taxes and improvements on a residence property in Creston, and that their father agreed that when they should cease to occupy it as their home he would sell the place and reimburse them for the money advanced. They say he has refused to make the agreed accounting.

55,000 Tons of Sugar. Grand Island, Neb., Sept. 19.—An output of 55,000 tons of sugar is expected for the 1924 campaign in the Grand Island factory of the American Beet Sugar Co., according to manager Denman. Harvesting began September 22.

Man Estate for Probate. Geneva, Neb., Sept. 20.—A petition has been filed in county court for the probate of the estate of Charles Mau, 80-year-old pioneer of this county, recently deceased. The estate includes personal property valued at \$175,000 and a half section of land.

Straw Vote at Fair Gives Coolidge Clear Majority

Fairbury, Sept. 18.—A straw vote was taken Wednesday at the county fair on educational day with a large percentage of the attendance favoring Coolidge; 567 for Davis and 426 for La Follette. The total vote, 2,172. The labor vote seems to be divided.

Crippled Man, 50, Injured by Auto Driven by Woman

Hugh Atherton, 50, 1112 North Seventeenth, who has had only one leg since an accident a year ago, may lose his remaining limb as a result of an automobile accident Saturday.

Indiana Cop Not Omaha Jean La Rue

Abandoned Bride's Trip to Fort Wayne Turns Out to Be Wild Goose Chase.

Police Now Puzzled

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 20.—"No sir, he's not the man I married."

With these words spoken in no uncertain terms in city court here today by pretty Mrs. Dorothy Miller La Rue, abandoned wife of a few hours, who came here from Omaha in an effort to identify Clifford Sterling, erstwhile city police officer, as the man who took her for his third wife without the formality of divorcing two previous women.

Arriving in this city Friday Mrs. La Rue was immediately taken in charge by Policewoman Florence Wadden, who went with the Omaha girl and Sterling's second wife, formerly Miss Melinda Bender of this city, to a local hotel where the two supposed wives of the former policeman compared notes throughout the evening.

It was apparent from the very outset, according to police, that the Omaha woman had come to the end of a wild goose chase in the search for her erring spouse as she said that the man whom she married on short acquaintance had been the theatrical "buck and wing" dancer whereas Sterling was a former railroad car and far removed from this type.

Sterling's release from the fugitive charge against him in Omaha, however, was not to prove the end of the maze of red tape in which he is bound and a warrant charging him with child neglect, filed by the former Miss Bender, was served upon him immediately the court had given his decision, the charge having been filed in superior court here while federal officers, present at the trial, intimated that they were in possession of a warrant charging violations of the Mann act which Sterling is alleged to have violated through the marriage to the Bender girl under the name of Jean La Rue in Waukegan, Ill.

Should Sterling escape from the charge just filed it indicated that the federal charge might be brought against him. Police detectives who have been working on the case and Detective Fred Palmitag of Omaha, were puzzled today by the fact that while Sterling was pronounced not to be the man sought there, it was known that he was in that section of the country at the time of the alleged marriage while the coincidence of the names used in the marriage to the Bender girl and the Omaha girl were admittedly "peculiar."

One criminal case remains on the September docket, that of George Buckley, Fremont, is charged with attempting to rob a bank at Hooper last spring. Buckley is alleged to have tied up the assistant cashier of the bank while he was about to gather up his loot, the victim escaped and spread the alarm. Buckley fled and was pursued by a posse that brought him to bay on the edge of town after a charge of buckshot had forced him to halt. Buckley will go on trial Monday morning.

BRYAN SPEAKS TO FARM BODY

Aurora, Neb., Sept. 20.—Without naming parties or candidates, Governor Charles W. Bryan, democratic vice presidential nominee, ran the gamut of outstanding questions of the campaign in an extemporaneous address here today before a large farmer audience. He addressed a Nonpartisan meeting of the Hamilton County Farmers' union, which held its ninth annual picnic at the county fair grounds, and spoke as a man "who never had time to discuss theories," but as one who was "interested in applying business principles to government."

Governor Bryan dwelt primarily on agriculture but took occasion to pay tribute to the women voters of the county. He lauded the work of the Farmers' unions in wiping out the middle men, to attack the building up of party machines, both state and national, for patronage purposes and to call upon the people to demand of each candidate that appeared before them to outline specifically his views on "progressive" issues.

Three Sentenced at Alma for Robbery of Store, Home

Alma, Neb., Sept. 20.—Judge William A. Dilworth sentenced Harry Knight to serve a term of from one to five years in the state penitentiary for the robbing of a Broadway Geachin store at Orleans. Knight's companion, who entered a plea of guilty at his preliminary hearing in county court, received a sentence of from one to three years.

Elisha Terry, who entered a plea of guilty to the charge of housebreaking and larceny at the home of William Jackson, was given a sentence of one year in the state reformatory at Kearney.

Escaped Trusty Returned to Bedford From St. Joseph

Bedford, Ia., Sept. 18.—Frank Spurgeon, who escaped from the local officers last April while serving a year's sentence on a liquor charge was brought back from St. Joseph, Mo., today. He was captured by police of St. Joseph. He was a trusty at the jail last spring and made his escape while taking care of the lawn.

Added to Milk Fund. Two additional contributions have come in to the Free Milk and Ice Fund since it closed recently. This makes the total as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Total \$1,448.69

Christian Worker Says Lena Lapidus to Have Chance to Shape Career

New York, Sept. 20.—Lena Lapidus, pretty young Omaha girl who was found sleeping in a Broadway temple, hungry and penniless, is going to get her chance to do what she wants with her life, according to Mrs. Helen Bradley, head worker of St. Barnabas' house, where Lena was given refuge.

"Lena is a perfectly normal girl and has lots of brains," said Mrs. Bradley today. "If she has talent for the stage she will go on the stage. If she wants to go to college, St. Barnabas will secure her a scholarship. She is not going back to Omaha."

Mrs. Bradley said the stories that Lena went abroad because she was in love with her dramatic teacher, who was in England, had excited Lena very much. She said her charge was going to rest quietly until she was ready to decide her own future.

Death Rides With Auto Racer



This racing car, driven by Joe Boyer, carried death as a passenger in recent race at Altoona, Pa. Boyer was killed in smashup.

Youth Nabbed by Hooper Posse to Trial on Monday

Uehling Robber Pleads Guilty—Gets 3-Year Term; Two Others Are Sentenced.

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Fremont, Neb., Sept. 20.—Max Ross, charged with the robbery of Larson Brothers store at Uehling was sentenced to spend from one to three years at the penitentiary today by District Judge F. W. Button upon Ross' plea of guilty. Leroy Heasley and Frank Keller pleaded guilty to the theft of an automobile owned by Dr. F. H. Berhemke, Fremont. Both were ordered to spend from 12 to 14 months at the state penitentiary.

Ross with three other men who are now serving terms admitted carrying away a large quantity of merchandise from the Uehling store last winter. A portion of the plunder was recovered. Heasley and Keller abandoned their stolen car at Ames where they were arrested shortly afterwards.

One criminal case remains on the September docket, that of George Buckley, Fremont, is charged with attempting to rob a bank at Hooper last spring. Buckley is alleged to have tied up the assistant cashier of the bank while he was about to gather up his loot, the victim escaped and spread the alarm. Buckley fled and was pursued by a posse that brought him to bay on the edge of town after a charge of buckshot had forced him to halt. Buckley will go on trial Monday morning.

Chicago Slayer Given Reprieve

Chicago, Sept. 20.—Bernard Grant was given a reprieve by Governor Len Small today. Grant was under sentence to hang October 17.

The reprieve is good for 90 days. Before it expires, the governor will have acted on Grant's application for a full pardon.

The governor, in reviewing Grant, indicated he would entertain an application for a commutation of sentence of Walter Krauser if the supreme court affirms the decision of the trial court which found him guilty of murder and sentenced him to hang.

Krauser and Grant were convicted of killing Ralph Sanders, a police officer, during the robbery of a tea store.

The movement to save Grant and Krauser was started after Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, slayers of Robert Franks, escaped the death penalty.

Grant was overjoyed tonight when told of the governor's action.

"You don't know how good that message sounds," he said when the governor's message was read to him.

Grant has maintained his innocence since the hour of his arrest. When he saw the gallows drawing nearer and nearer, with no chance to save himself, he grew frantic. He could scarcely eat or sleep.

SIoux CITY MAN DROWNS IN RIVER

Madison, Wis., Sept. 20.—Harold Ellsworth, 55, of Sioux City, Ia., and E. Christoferson, 38, were drowned in the Yacarsa river here today when the automobile in which they were riding plunged off a bridge.

Ellsworth, authorities here said, leaves a widow and 10 children at Sioux City.

POLICE SEEKING RED-HAIRED BOY

South Omaha police were asked Saturday to look for Frank Vacek, 15, who has been missing from his home, 4214 South Thirty-third street, since September 15.

He is said to have the reddest hair of any boy in South Omaha.

The Weather

Table with 4 columns: Date, High, Low, Wind. Forecast for Sept 21-26.

Clergyman Insists He Is Innocent

Case Against Minister Rests on Chemist's Analysis of Stomach of Miner; No Motive Established.

Raps 'Wagging Tongues'

By HARSY F. REUTLINGER, International News Service Staff Correspondent

Mount Vernon, Ill., Sept. 20.—Rev. Lawrence Hight, Ina, Ill., pastor formerly charged by a coroner's jury with the murder of his wife, Anna, by poisoning, and suspected in connection with the death five weeks ago of Wilfred D. Sweetin, Ina miner, under similar circumstances, withstood a withering cross-examination late today in the jail here where he is a prisoner.

Question after question hurled at the minister by Sheriff Grant Holcomb, Coroner Jesse Reese and State's Attorney Thompson, failed to shake his protestations of innocence and he declared the man who poisoned his wife and Sweetin should hang.

Rev. Hight steadfastly maintained that he is a friend to Mrs. Sweetin, but not in any greater degree than to any other member of his flock.

It is generally conceded here that the case against the minister depends on the finding of the Chicago chemist examining the vital organs taken from Sweetin's body. If poison is found, the admitted friendship between the minister and Sweetin's widow will be held up by State's Attorney Thompson as making the evidence more than circumstantial. Now, the world fliers, continuing on to El Paso, according to a message received here from Kent, Tex., approximately 150 miles from El Paso.

The scout plane, which had been sent along to take photographs of the flight was not damaged in the flight, the report said.

The world fliers passed Kent at 5:17, central standard time, and continued toward Sierra Blanca, 90 miles from here, where they are to be met by six planes from Fort Bliss.

"Broken-Hearted But Happy."

"I am broken-hearted, but happy," said Rev. Hight after the examination. "Why should I be otherwise? The Lord is with me, the whole world can be against me. That would matter little."

Rev. Hight has talked freely since his arrest. He willingly posed for a picture for newspaper men. He wears clerical black with a black string tie. Slightly bald with graying hair, of medium build and height, he looks the typical country parson.

"Call me Hight," he requested of a reporter as he repeated the story of his trouble.

"My trouble shows the trials of living in a small town where gossip rules," he said. "For 13 years I have served God before all. I know not of what they speak."

He repeated the story of his conversion as he followed the plow 11 years ago.

"The call came and I answered it," he declared. "Now I'm just a typical circuit preacher, ministering to my little flock, scattered far and wide. I serve six little towns here as best I can."

Blames 'Wagging Tongues.'

Sweetin became a member of Rev. Mr. Hight's church the Sunday night before he died on August 23. Ten days before his death he and his wife went to Benton. There they ate some ice cream that made both of them sick. Mrs. Sweetin has been sick since that time. Promaine poisoning was given as the cause of Sweetin's death, but since the death of Mrs. Hight, and because the minister had visited him during his illness, the body was exhumed to be tested for poison.

Mrs. Bertha Bumpus, Sweetin's sister, is caring for the widow.

"Wagging tongues caused the whole thing," she declared. "Never in their whole married life did I know them to have a cross word. I don't take any stock in all the talk going around here."

C. C. Sweetin, father of Wilfred, says he suspects no one in connection with his son's death.

Members of the district conference of the Methodist Episcopal church to which Rev. Mr. Hight belongs, are suspending judgment until he is cleared or convicted.

"We feel that he was arrested mainly on rumor," said District Superintendent G. C. Hall, after talking with the accused minister in his cell. The conference is to meet next Wednesday at Carbondale, but unless something definite is learned in the meantime, the organization is expected to take no action in the case.

Burlington Announces Lincoln-St. Louis Change

Tecumseh, Neb., Sept. 20.—The Burlington has announced a change in passenger train service on this line, effective September 28. At that time the present Lincoln to St. Louis passenger trains, Nos. 19 and 23, will be taken off. Local passenger trains will be run between Lincoln and Table Rock in their stead.

Abolishment of County Assessor Office to Polls

Bloomfield, Neb., Sept. 20.—People of Knox county will vote on the proposition of abolishing the office of county assessor in this county, action taken by the board of supervisors being favorable to the submission of the question at the coming election. There is much opposition to the employment of a county assessor.