

Farm Body Endorses Loan System

Organization to Ask for Opening of Foreign Markets, Practical Farmer in Cabinet and Better Transportation.

Meeting in Omaha Closes

The twelfth annual session of the Nebraska Farmers' congress closed here yesterday after the same officers who had served during the past year were re-elected and resolutions touching on marketing and legislative matters were passed.

The body went on record as favoring adjustment of foreign exchange and the opening of foreign markets by extending credit to European countries.

A general co-operative marketing system was favored and action of the Omaha Federal Land bank, in asking the limit on individual farm loans to be raised from \$10,000 to \$25,000 was endorsed.

Loan System Endorsed The Federal Land bank system of loans was also endorsed by the body, which recommended that congress recognize at once the "serious handicap of pending litigation which has resulted in the system's inability to render the farmers service."

A practical farmer for secretary of agriculture; better transportation facilities and rates by land; and recognition and representation of farmers on public boards and in conferences in proportion to their numbers to the total population were among the things for which the farmers resolved to ask.

The body favored the Volstead act legalizing collective marketing, a resolution favoring the "most stringent restriction of foreign immigration," and opposed the Ralston-Nolen bill which imposes a 1 per cent tax on all farms with a valuation above \$10,000.

Favor Bond Issues. After some debate the delegates voted in favor of the passage of an emergency act by the Nebraska legislature, giving different counties of the state the right to issue 6 per cent bonds for the purpose of loaning money through the banks to farmers on good security at 61-2 per cent to relieve the present stringency, with a time limit of one to five years on loans or bonds issued.

A resolution favoring the state ownership and development of water power in Nebraska was voted down. The body resolved that the "Chicago board of trade should be called upon to restrict at once the offer of short selling of grain as vigorously as they handled the excessive purchases last year," and the prohibition of short selling for at least 90 days.

Omaha Next Meeting Place. In this resolution it was asserted that at the present time there is not much cash grain pressing on the market and that it is very evident that the present "ruinous and confiscatory prices" are being forced by excessive selling of futures by speculators who buy no cash grain.

The next annual session of the congress will be held in Omaha, it was decided. Officers of the congress re-elected are: President, O. G. Smith of Kearney; vice presidents, Frank Tanshill of Norfolk, Charles Graff of Bancroft and M. K. Young of Havelock; secretary and treasurer, J. B. Grinnell of Papillion.

Speakers at the morning session yesterday were: J. O. Shroyer of Humboldt, Chancellor Samuel Avery of the University of Nebraska, and Dean Burnette of the State college of agriculture.

Lincoln Man Denied Extra Compensation

Lincoln, Dec. 16.—(Special).—The state compensation department has denied the application of Edward L. Simon of Lincoln for compensation from H. J. Catharow and the London Accident and Guaranty company for injuries received which he alleges are permanent.

Mr. Simon at the time of the accident in 1915 was awarded \$10 a month for 30 weeks and his application at the expiration was for the purpose of being declared permanently injured and entitled to a greater amount. The compensation commissioner denied the application when Simon refused to go to Omaha at the request of the defendants for an examination.

Strauss Will Be Made Chief of Asiatic Fleet

Washington, Dec. 16.—Rear Admiral Joseph Strauss, former chief of staff, is to be appointed commander-in-chief of the Asiatic fleet, with the rank of admiral, in recognition of his work in the laying of the North sea mine barrage during the war and its removal after the armistice. He will succeed Admiral Albert Gleaves, now in command in Oriental waters.

State Prisoners Escape Through 20-Inch Sewer Pipe

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 16.—Two prisoners, Roy C. Cunningham of St. Louis and B. M. Hogan of Kansas City, escaped from the state penitentiary through a sewer. The pair broke the lock on a trap over the sewer and crawled 454 feet through the 20-inch pipe to freedom. Two other convicts escaped in the same manner October 15 and are still at large.

Burlesque Parade Against "Blue Laws" Is Held in New York

New York, Dec. 16.—"Blue Sunday" was burlesqued on Broadway and Fifth avenue in a mournful parade sponsored by the International Sporting club, of which many society folk are members. Five floats were drawn by horses harnessed with crepe. Bandmen plodded their weary way at the head of the procession, playing "Gee, But This Is a Lonesome Town," and funeral dirges.

A man with ball and chain rode the first float for "riding in transit on Sunday." On the next a whipping post ceremony was applied on one who "whistled on Sunday," and on the third float was a husband in stocks "for kissing his wife." Two boys were put in a cage for "fishing on Sunday" and the last float showed a man at the pillory "for smoking on Sunday."

Similar parades will be held daily next week, the leaders announced.

Fate of Doctor In Murder Trial Rests With Jury

Touching Scene Follows Plea To Give Dr. Fields' Small Daughters Their Daddy For Christmas.

The jury which heard the evidence in the trial of Dr. L. S. Fields, charged with murder while performing an illegal operation, retired for deliberation at 5:15 yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Fields was taken to the county jail to remain until the jury comes in. All yesterday afternoon was taken up in arguments to the jury, B. M. Robinson, one of Dr. Fields' attorneys, apologizing to the jury, judge and state's attorney for one statement he made. He had declared to the jury that "the date on Ruth Ayer's letter of August 3 might have been changed."

Statement Denounced. County Attorney Shotwell leaped to his feet and denounced this as an unwarranted statement, the judge agreed and the apology by Mr. Robinson followed.

When Attorney Matt Gering for Fields begged the jury to "give his two little girls their daddy for Christmas," the two little Fields girls began to cry.

The trial of Dr. L. S. Fields on a charge of murdering Ruth Ayer, 19-year-old Highways Center, Neb., girl, by performing an operation August 3, began in District Judge Troup's court last Monday morning.

State's Evidence. The state's web of evidence against Fields included testimony by Dr. W. R. Strickland that he administered the ether to Ruth Ayer, while Fields performed an operation the night of August 3 at the home of Mrs. Minnie Deyo, 2704 North Sixty-fourth street, and a letter written by Ruth Ayer, August 3, mentioning Dr. Fields' name and that the operation was to be performed that night at a nurse's home.

Fields offered an alleged alibi in defense. He admitted that he performed an operation on Ruth Ayer at the Deyo home the night of Thursday, August 5, but said this was merely a "curement."

Fields also admitted that after Ruth Ayer died, he did not notify the coroner or any one else except the undertaker, although he knew an illegal operation had been performed upon the girl.

Two Workmen Believed Buried When Dome of New Church Caves In

Long Beach, Cal., Dec. 16.—The dome of the new First Christian church, under construction here, fell just after most of the workmen had left for lunch. Two were believed caught in the wreckage and police and firemen were called to extricate them.

The church, which was planned to cost \$250,000, was to have been finished about January 15. A large number of workmen were employed on the construction, but only 15 were indoors when the crash came. Thirteen of these were extricated. The missing two were believed to have been buried in the wreckage.

The collapse of the dome was believed to have been caused by the application of 16 yards of concrete that had just been placed.

Philippine Independence Is Advocated in U. S. House

Washington, Dec. 16.—Philippine independence was advocated in the house by Representative Frear, republican, of Wisconsin, who declared the United States should not continue its hold of the island by armed soldiers, "just as we have maintained an army in Russia, a force of marines in Santo Domingo and Haiti, in our peculiar governmental system of regulating the affairs of the world."

Mr. Frear said a recent visit to the islands with a congressional delegation had convinced him that the Philippine government had fulfilled the conditions set by congress for granting independence.

Power Co. Starving Exposed Says

New York Accountant Testifies in Hearing That Income Does Not Yield Fair Return on Investment.

Mayor Questions Report

The city council was told yesterday afternoon, during the hearing of the application of the Nebraska Power Co. for increased light and power rates, that this company was being starved to death.

W. J. Henderson of New York, expert accountant with H. C. Hopson Co., made that statement and then proceeded to give a demonstration of his statistical exhibits, copies of which were handed to the mayor and each city commissioner.

Henderson testified during the entire morning session and resumed his task in the afternoon, encountering a rigid examination by the city officials and others who are interested in the hearing.

Fell Short on Returns. During the afternoon session Mr. Henderson presented statements of operations for a period of nine months, from January 1 to September 30 of this year. During last January, he asserted, the company received a net income equivalent to a fair return on a valuation of only \$5,160,892, against a valuation of \$15,934,000 to which the J. G. White Co. of New York testified earlier in the hearing. On the same basis of valuation, the witness added that during September the company earned no return, notwithstanding that improvements have been made this year to the extent of \$1,000,000.

Henderson stated that during the nine months in question the company fell short \$964,359 of earning a fair return on value of its property, and carrying that showing to the end of this year, the amount would be \$1,285,812, basing his return at 9 per cent.

"This shows that additional revenues of nearly \$1,300,000 are needed and the trend since last January has been steadily downward," he said.

Expenses Increase. Applying the figures to the cost of the property, as shown in his own reports to the council, Mr. Henderson stated that on a basis of 9 per cent return, the company should have earned \$408,736 additional during the first nine months of this year, to have received a fair return, according to his contention. He also declared that during last July the operating expenses were \$80,000 more than during last January, notwithstanding that the income was less during the former month. He said the company's records showed an unbroken trend of increased expenses.

Mayor Smith offered statements which he had been rendered by the city during last January, showing monthly operations during 1919, and he raised the question of whether the net monthly earnings this year have not been more than during 1919. Mr. Henderson replied that the mayor's figures were not comparable with those offered at this hearing.

Raise in Rates Necessary. "I wish to state that the figures I have offered in my exhibit show that during the first nine months of this year, a rate increase was necessary to yield additional revenues of \$408,736, this being 9 per cent on the cost of the property," said Mr. Henderson.

Most of the time of the hearing yesterday was spent in going into technical details of accounting methods and exchange of opinions as to this work.

State Contracts Show Decline in Prices

Lincoln, Dec. 16.—(Special).—In awarding contracts the board of control has been able to obtain supplies for state institutions at considerable reduction from the prices which governed contracts let three months ago.

The January contracts show flour for which the state paid \$3.30 a hundred last October is now contracted for at \$3.85. Other changes are, corn meal, \$4 to \$2.40; bran, \$1.90 to \$1.35; sugar 27 1/2c to 23c; rice 8 1/2c to 6c; sugar, \$15.50 to \$9.43; beef, \$12.50 to \$11.67; ham, \$3.50 to 22 1/2c; men's shoes, \$5.50 to \$3.50; women's shoes, \$3.95 to \$3.05; coffee falls from 28 1/2c last July to 17 1/2c.

Bluffs Aviator Nearly Loses Life in Flames

A. J. Nielsen, Council Bluffs aviator, narrowly escaped death in a fire which destroyed an airplane and damaged his aero building at Main street and First avenue yesterday afternoon. He was washing a propeller with gasoline when the explosion occurred which started the fire.

The ship and instruments in the room were instantly enveloped with flames and Mr. Nielsen barely succeeded in escaping from the fire trap and closing the door behind him.

Two automobiles and one airplane were burned and another ship was seriously damaged before the fire department got the flames under control. Insurance will total only \$2,000.

Senate Committee to Take Up House Immigration Bill

Washington, Dec. 16.—The house bill barring nearly all immigration for one year will be taken up by the senate immigration committee next Tuesday under a call issued by Chairman Colt. The committee has received many telegrams and letters requesting hearings and urging prompt action.

Senator King, democrat, Utah, in a brief address in the senate favoring immediate action to restrict immigration, said he understood that the senate committee would hold hearings, but that it was not planned to have them begin until after the holidays. The senator said he would urge immediate hearings.

Three New Jersey Boys Sentenced to Receive No Christmas Gifts

West Orange, N. J., Dec. 16.—Christmas this year is to be a joyless festival for three West Orange boys of 10 to 12 years, who were sentenced by City Recorder J. B. Lander to receive no holiday presents, take no part in any Christmas festivities and go to bed at 6:30 every evening for a month, including Christmas eve.

The youngsters, who appeared in court accompanied by their parents, were convicted of breaking into a school and stealing pencils and on other occasions tinkering with the automobile of Rev. Alfred Roy Ehnman.

Cole Denied New Trial and Docket Is Clear

Federal Judge Refuses to Cite Judge of Lower Court, Attorney General and Governor McKelvie for Contempt.

Grand Island, Neb., Dec. 16.—(Special Telegram).—Judge Bayard Paine, after passing on the latest motion of Attorney John M. Priest in the Cole-Grammer case, cleared the entire docket of unfinished motions and overruled the motion recently filed for a new trial, a motion for permission to withdraw the plea of guilty by Cole, another for a change of venue and finally the motion for a stay of execution because it was impossible to provide a transcript of the proceedings of December 11.

County Clerk Haggstrom organized a force and completed the transcript in two hours, expressed it to Lincoln and the attorney general was advised that it would be in that city for the supreme court's review by 4:30 p. m.

Will Get Executioner. Lincoln, Dec. 16.—(Special).—Attorney General Clarence A. Davis announced at noon today he had recommended to Governor McKelvie that Alton B. Cole and Allen V. Grammer be executed as soon as an official executioner can be procured.

Warden Fenton, of the state prison, when questioned, declared it would take three days to secure an executioner from Massachusetts.

Denies Contempt Plea. Alton B. Cole, under sentence of death, lost a chance for clemency at the hands of Judge T. W. Woodrough, of the United States district court yesterday when the judge refused to consider a request of John M. Priest, Lincoln, Cole's attorney, that he cite Governor McKelvie, Assistant Attorney General Mason Wheeler and District Judge Paine (Turn to Page Two, Column One).

British Censor All Cable Messages Says Western Union Head

Washington, Dec. 16.—All American cable messages, leaving Great Britain are now being held up for examination by the British intelligence authorities, Newcomb H. Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph company, testified today when recalled before a special senate committee investigating cables and the advisability of legislation restricting them.

The new British censorship laws have been imposed, Mr. Carlton said, for the purpose of throwing light upon "internal disturbances in Great Britain and I presume more particularly with reference to Ireland and Bolshevikism."

Mr. Carlton added that he was not sure whether in-bound cables from the United States also were being held for examination.

Shock Unusually Severe

Washington, Dec. 16.—An unusually severe earth shock, estimated to be 2,800 miles in an east-westerly direction from Washington, was recorded early today on the seismograph at Georgetown university.

The recording of the shock began at 7:25 a. m., the maximum intensity was reached at 8:07 a. m., and it still was in progress at 9:50 a. m., but subsided a few minutes later.

The disturbance was described by Rev. Father Francis A. Tondorf, director of the Georgetown seismological department, as the worst recorded here in two years.

San Francisco Gangster Put on Trial for Attack

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—Edmond (Spud) Murphy, a pugilist, went to trial here today on a charge of having assaulted Jessie Montgomery, 17 years old, in a shack which was the headquarters of a gang early Thanksgiving morning. Four other members of the gang are awaiting trial and three alleged members were lynched at Santa Rosa last week after three peace officers had been murdered.

Murphy failed in his efforts to obtain a change of venue. A large detachment of police was placed on guard in the halls and in the room where Murphy went to trial. Admission to the court room was by card.

Murder Suspect Held

Tucson, Ariz., Dec. 16.—H. C. Willer, wanted in Los Angeles in connection with the murder of Mrs. Fay Sudow, found dead near the coast city Sunday, was arrested here late last night by Tucson police. Willer admits his identity, but denies any connection with the murder.

Compulsory Farm Education--- If the Farmer Has His Way



Earthquake Puts Seismograph Out of Commission

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 16.—An earthquake shock so severe that it temporarily put out of commission two instruments was recorded on seismographs at the University of Washington here today. The disturbance, estimated to have centered about 2,800 miles in an east-westerly direction from Seattle, began at 4:24 a. m. and reached its maximum intensity at 4:48, when two recording needles were displaced.

Heavy Tremors Recorded at University of Washington—Sharp Shocks Registered at Harvard.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 15.—An earth shock which was termed a "smasher" was recorded at the Harvard university seismographic station. The tremors started a six-inch gong to ringing in the station at 8 a. m. and feeble shocks still were recorded at 11 a. m. It was estimated that the disturbance was about 3,446 miles away, with direction doubtful. The distance was said to include both Alaska and Peru.

Nebraska Can Save 33,000 Starving European Children

Nebraska can either "kill" or "cure" 33,000 starving European children this winter, according to G. W. Wattles, state chairman of the Nebraska division for European relief. A cure can be effected by subscribing \$330,000, Nebraska's quota. Otherwise, Wattles declared, the children must die. It will cost \$10 to save one European child, Wattles declared.

Telegraphers Strike In Mexico Has Been Averted

Mexico City, Dec. 16.—A general strike of railway telegraphers and station agents, which was called yesterday, has been averted. Several demands made by the men have been granted and others will be submitted to arbitration, these demands including recognition of the union, wage increases, shorter hours and indemnities for personal injury.

Record Confiscation of Moonshine Made in Iowa

Sioux City, Ia., Dec. 16.—What is said to be one of the largest liquor raids in Iowa was executed last night at a house here. J. L. Morrow was arrested and is being held for investigation. Forty gallons of whisky, 1,250 gallons of sour mash, three stills and some coloring substance were seized.

Treasury Certificates Largely Oversubscribed

Washington, Dec. 16.—Secretary Honston announced the oversubscription by \$200,000,000 of the two issues of treasury certificates offered last week. The total subscriptions aggregated more than \$700,000,000, the secretary said, for the combined issue, which was for approximately \$500,000,000.

Harbour Weeps When Attorney Makes His Plea

Jim Harbour, on trial in district court at Council Bluffs for the murder of George Mikesell, wept yesterday as his attorney, J. J. Hess, in his plea to the jury, described how Mikesell assaulted Harbour, broke up his home and stole his wife and child from him.

Mikesell married Mrs. Harbour seven days after she obtained a divorce from her first husband. She testified against her former mate in the present trial and their daughter, Delphia, 11, also took the stand against her father.

The shooting occurred June 2 near Treynor, following a quarrel between the Mikesells and Mr. and August Sierck, by whom Harbour was employed, over pasture rent for a mare the Mikesells had left at the Sierck place.

Character witnesses yesterday testified that James Harbour has always been a law-abiding citizen and that George Mikesell and his wife never had a good reputation.

Argument for the defense was closed yesterday afternoon. C. E. Swanson, county attorney, will make final plea for the state this morning and the case will go into the hands of the jury, probably before noon.

Outbreak at Manila Follows Shooting of Constabulary Man by Native Police Officer.

Manila, P. I., Dec. 16.—Four Americans and seven Filipinos were killed here last night during a riot within the walled city between enlisted men of the Filipino constabulary and the Manila police.

The riot was a result of the shooting Tuesday night of a constabulary man who was reported to have attacked the Filipino policemen with a knife.

The riot occurred at the Luneta police station, just outside the walled city, and then proceeded within the walled city, where poisonous firing between the police and constabulary took place.

Police reserves with riot guns rushed to the walled city where hundreds of shots were exchanged. The Filipinos killed a patrol wagon driver and six bystanders. Four Filipinos were wounded.

The wounded personnel of the constabulary forces is composed entirely of Filipinos, officers by Americans and Filipinos. The organization numbers 6,000 and is stationed in various provinces of the Philippines for police purposes.

Rioting ceased when Brig. Gen. Rael Crane appeared on the scene with Chief of Police Bopp. "Every precaution has been taken to prevent a repetition of the affair," said General Crane. "The constabulary men surrendered without a murmur when I appeared with Chief Bopp."

Col. Lucien R. Sweet, inspector general of the constabulary, declared that this latest trouble between the constabulary and the police resulted from the arrest Sunday of the wife of a constabulary private by the police. "Her clothing was torn and the circumstances were such as to make any real man's blood boil," he said.

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Capitalist of Denver Suffers From Paralysis

Denver, Colo., Dec. 16.—Crawford Hill, Denver capitalist and club man and widely known in financial circles throughout the country, is dangerously ill at his home here today, following a stroke of paralysis late yesterday. Mr. Hill is 58 years old.

Three Children Perish, Two Others Injured in Fire

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 16.—Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Selzkoff of near Glendale, Ariz., were burned to death and two others severely burned when their home was destroyed by fire last night while their parents were visiting a sick neighbor.

Bulgarian Envoy Recalled

Washington, Dec. 16.—Stephen Panaretov, Bulgarian minister to the United States, was recalled by his government and will leave for home within a short time. Until his successor arrives here Dr. Plessinoff, secretary of the legation, will act as charge.

Cotton Gin Burned

Corsicana, Tex., Dec. 16.—A cotton gin belonging to Smith & Massey, seven miles south of here, was destroyed by fire of unknown origin last night. The loss was estimated at \$15,000.

The Weather

Forecast. Friday fair and somewhat colder. Hourly temperatures: 5 a. m., 38; 6 a. m., 38; 7 a. m., 38; 8 a. m., 38; 9 a. m., 38; 10 a. m., 38; 11 a. m., 38; 12 noon, 38; 1 p. m., 38; 2 p. m., 38; 3 p. m., 38; 4 p. m., 38; 5 p. m., 38; 6 p. m., 38; 7 p. m., 38; 8 p. m., 38; 9 p. m., 38; 10 p. m., 38; 11 p. m., 38; 12 midnight, 38.

ARE YOU IN THE BEE MOVIE STAR CONTEST? See Page 5.