

Nebraska Men Aid in Probe of Federal Graft

Jefferis and Reavis Both Are Active in Investigation of Alleged Harness and Salmon Conspiracies.

By E. C. SNYDER.
Washington Correspondent Omaha Bee.
Washington, June 16.—(Special Telegram.)—President Harding's annulment of the War department's contracts with the United States harness company for the disposal of surplus harness, on the advice of Attorney General Daugherty, and the transmission of the so-called "salmon case" to the Department of Justice by Secretary Weeks of the War department, brings into the limelight two members of the Nebraska delegation, Jefferis and Reavis. Both were active, earnest and conscientious investigators of expenditures made by the War department during the war as members of the special committee of the house appointed to make the investigation during the 65th congress.

Representative Jefferis was largely instrumental in bringing out the facts with reference to the harness situation and the contract entered by the department with certain firms for the purchase of the surplus. So searching were his questions to the witnesses that they attracted the attention of the law officers of the government with the result that the maha congressman spent days in sifting over the mass of evidence with special representatives of the Department of Justice.

Must Show Conspiracy.

Jefferis has contended all along that it was not enough to show collusion between certain former army officials and firms, but that a conspiracy must be established, otherwise it would be well-nigh impossible to make a case. He pointed in this feature with the assistant attorney general until finally they decided to recommend the action taken by the president today in cancelling the surplus harness contract. This, it is believed, is the forerunner of the litigation which may send several individuals to jail for an extended period.

Congressman Reavis was charged with investigating the automobile purchases during the war and their sales after the war, which brought outspoken denunciation from the public, especially when he showed by photographs how many of the finest makes of motor cars had been permitted to go to rack and ruin through gross negligence. Reavis also developed the so-called "salmon case," which originated in Omaha, Congressman Jefferis handling the case originally and turning it over to his colleague, into whose province it fell by reason of subcommittee assignments.

Probe Salmon Case.

It will be recalled that a salmon famine existed in Omaha during the latter stages of the war and efforts were made to purchase the salmon from the War department had in storage at the government supply depot. A commission merchant got permission to investigate the salmon, after charges had been made that it was bad, and found that at least 90 per cent was edible. The War department, however, was obdurate against its sale and finally it was shipped to another city at government expense when wholesale grocers were permitted to purchase it at a price far above that which the salmon packers had paid the government in taking it off their hands.

Sometime ago nine members of the special committee appointed to investigate expenditures in the War department during the war of which Representative Graham of Illinois was chairman, had a conference with the president, Jefferis and Reavis being members of the delegation.

Affected Election.

They both laid the matter before the chief executive, evidence of what they believed constituted a conspiracy in certain contracts, and stated that while the league of nations played no small part in determining the result of the last election, they were of the opinion that the revelations brought out by the special committee also contributed not a little to the result.

President Harding, greatly impressed by the statements of the lawyers on the committee, took the matter up with the cabinet and then the attorney general got busy. President Harding's annulment of the contract made by former army officials with the United States harness company to take over all the War department's surplus harness is the opening gun in what may prove to be a series of sensational suits in which conspiracy to defraud may be charged and substantiated by jury trial.

Grain Exchange Bill Is Killed In Illinois

Springfield, Ill., June 16.—Agreement not to call up in the Illinois house the Lantz grain exchange bill, which in effect would put the Chicago board of trade under state supervision, and let it die was reached last night by leaders of proponents and opponents of the measure. A companion bill, which would curb trading in futures, did not reach the house.

The Lantz bill, which had been passed by the senate, was favored by the Illinois Agricultural association and several leading farmers' organizations.

\$19,000 Verdict to Owner Of Property Damaged

A verdict for \$19,845.84 was won by Mrs. Isabelle S. Humphrey of Rapid City, S. D., in District Judge Goss' court against the George Stiles Construction company and the Skinner Packing company on the ground that the wall of Mrs. Humphrey's building east of the cold storage plant recently built by the Skinner concern was caused to settle to such an extent that the building was rendered unsafe for use. It was occupied by the Yellow Taxicab company. Settling of this wall was caused by excavation for construction for the cold storage plant.

Here's Little Laura, She's Free Woman Now



Mrs. Laura Anson, wife of Dr. John F. Anson, former Omaha dentist, was awarded a decree of divorce in Los Angeles, according to word reaching Omaha Wednesday. Mrs. Anson, who has been appearing in motion picture plays, intends to continue in that work, she said. The Ansons formerly lived at 5010 California street. Mrs. Anson told the judge her husband was "tired of married life."

Red Cross Appeals For Relief and Aid In Pueblo Flood Zone

Chicago, June 16.—Upon the American Red Cross rests the responsibility for securing and administering relief to the homeless and suffering in the Pueblo flood. J. F. Keating, chairman, Pueblo chapter, American Red Cross, appealed for aid to central division chapters in the following message sent to Walter Davidson, manager: "Our needs pressing and great. All relief agencies and authorities here have agreed that all contributions for Pueblo's aid should be made to and handled by the American Red Cross."

Directly on receipt of this message Mr. Davidson advised the 748 chapters in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana and Wyoming to forward contributions, previously made, at once to James L. Fieser, Red Cross headquarters, Pueblo, direct, or to the central division headquarters for immediate forwarding. Appeals for further assistance must be made if the \$300,000 necessary for rehabilitation is to be reached.

Grain Commissioner Of Missouri Takes Possession of Office

Kansas City, Mo., June 16.—T. J. Hedrick, newly appointed state grain and warehouse commissioner, declared himself in possession of the office late today after James Bradshaw, removed by Governor Hyde, had refused to surrender the keys or recognize the governor's removal order. Mr. Hedrick placed police on guard at the office and ordered new locks fitted to the doors tomorrow.

The police commissioners had telephonic instructions from Governor Hyde to oust Bradshaw, using force if necessary. The removal of Bradshaw was the result of a hearing conducted by the governor on charges that Bradshaw had been irregular in his conduct of the office, in that he had used state funds for private traveling expenses. Mr. Hedrick was appointed with instructions to take over the office immediately without awaiting the result of Mr. Bradshaw's announced appeal to the supreme court.

Rescuer in Platte Flood Tragedy Dies

Grand Island, Neb., June 16.—A third victim is added to the Platte river flood tragedy of Monday in the death of Mrs. Ed Hamilton, from the shock and complications resulting from her going under. The little son of Mrs. H. C. Gillespie, aged 9, had gone in wading and was soon engulfed. Mrs. Gillespie, the frantic mother, leaped into the river after the boy and went down. Mrs. Hamilton, sister of Mrs. Gillespie, in an attempt to rescue the other two also went down but was located by two young men, brought to shore, and apparently saved. For a few days Mrs. Hamilton seemed to be slowly recovering, but several complications from the nervous shock and from sand and water in the system resulted in death early today.

Union Pacific Trains Will Carry Hoboes Free

Cheyenne, Wyo., June 16.—The train crews of both the Union Pacific and Colorado Southern trains out of Cheyenne have been instructed to permit hoboes to ride uncollected in the future until further orders. It was explained that tramps are becoming so dangerous that it was thought better to let them ride and thus avoid trouble.

Voluminous Handkerchief Is Latest Fad in Paris

Paris, June 16.—A voluminous handkerchief a yard square and of the same color and design as the blouse and veil is the latest Paris fad. The women tuck or pin the center of the handkerchief in a side pocket, not a breast pocket, leaving the long ends of the handkerchief hanging out six or eight inches.

Two Boys Nominated

Washington, June 16.—(Special Telegram.)—Congressman Andrews today nominated Hugo Schmidt of Grand Island as a midshipman at the naval academy and Rollo VanPelt of Hastings to take the examination for cadetship at West Point.

Banker Wants Property Lists From Borrowers

President of State Association Urges Measure to Protect Bankers—Optimism Convention's Keynote.

A recommendation that every borrower of money of more than \$100 be required to make a statement of his property holdings and liquid assets, at least once every 12 months, was made by J. M. Flannigan of Stuart, president of the Nebraska Bankers' association, in the opening session of this year's convention, at Happy Hollow club yesterday.

Flannigan hopes to make the requirement nation-wide. He has already taken up the matter with the national comptroller of currency and with the state banking board. Optimism dominates the meeting which more than 500 bankers are expected to attend. "Financial conditions are greatly improved and co-operation all along the line will give us the key to success," said Mr. Flannigan. "Bankers depend on farmers and farmers depend on bankers. Our interests are identical and each best serves himself by serving the other."

He paid a tribute to the bankers of the east, whose loyalty to the west never wavered during all the stringent period, he declared. He also praised the Federal Reserve bank, and the state banking board, with whom, he stated, Nebraska bankers were in perfect accord.

Worst of It Passed.

F. H. Davis, president of the First National bank, voiced the same sentiments in his address of welcome. "I believe we have seen the worst of it in the nerve-racking past year and that some relief is in sight." Mr. Davis advocated, however, continuation of the policy of gradual liquidation.

"This burden is upon bankers throughout the country and we can not hope to avoid it. Obligations must be paid, our agricultural products must be sold and the few that may be so fortunate as to be out of debt should turn part of their property into money to assist in building up depleted deposits.

Entertainment Arranged.

"This plan, if generally adopted, is the only one that will bring back prosperity and the beginning of another era of good times."

C. Q. Chandler of Wichita, H. E. Moss of Lincoln, secretary of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce; A. N. Mathers of Gering, and S. J. Weeks of O'Neill were among yesterday's speakers.

A woman's auxiliary may be formed during this year's meeting, according to Miss Maud May of Fremont and Mrs. Albert Schantz. Mrs. J. R. Cain and Mrs. L. M. Lord are active in the movement.

Program for Today.

Harry T. Atwood, Chicago lawyer and author, will be chief speaker at this morning's session of the Nebraska Bankers' association convention at Happy Hollow club. "The Constitution Our Safeguard," is his subject.

J. H. Puelicher of Milwaukee, president of the American Bankers' association, talking on "Banking Education," and Merton L. Corey of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha on "Financing the Farmer," are high spots on the program. J. C. French of the Stock Yards National bank will give a report of the protective committee and T. L. Mathews of Fremont, for the Blair committee.

Election of officers for the state and representatives on the national board will take place.

The new council will meet in the afternoon at Happy Hollow to organize for next year.

Today's entertainment for the delegates includes a buffet luncheon, automobile drive, base ball game and golf, an afternoon tea at the C. T. Kountze home and an outing at Krug park tonight.

Menlo Veteran Dies As Result of Harsh Treatment Overseas

Menlo, Ia., June 16.—(Special.)—Lawrence Cavanaugh died at his home here of diabetes, contracted as a result of harsh treatment received while he was in a German prison camp overseas. Cavanaugh was taken prisoner soon after being assigned to duty on the front. It was several months before he was released, his health shattered. He was invalided home, but his condition was such that he gradually grew worse until his death a few days ago. He was buried here with military honors.

Unveiled Bronze Tablet For Soldiers in Ravenna

Ravenna, Neb., June 16.—(Special.)—Flag day was commemorated in Ravenna by unveiling the handsome bronze tablet erected to the memory of the soldier boys. Six names, with the star before them indicating that they had answered the final summons, and the names of 140 who returned home, are engraved on the tablet, which was donated by the women's canteen organization.

Alexa Stirling Eliminated From French Golf Tourney

Fontainebleau, June 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—Miss Alexa Stirling of Atlanta, American woman golf champion, was eliminated from the women's French open golf championship tournament today by Miss Joyce Wethered, the English player, who won by 5 up and 4 to play.

"It Didn't Rain and It's Still Hot," Mourns W. Man

"It didn't rain and it's still hot," was the mournful cry of Meteorologist Bobins yesterday. "I'm predicting fair and continued warm tonight and tomorrow, so I suppose it'll rain and get cold. Oh, well!"

Middlemen Blamed For High Cost of Meat

Cleveland, June 16.—Responsibility for the high price of meat was placed on middlemen and retailers by E. C. Brown, president of the National Live Stock exchange, at the opening of its 33d annual convention today. He declared that although basic prices had dropped 66 per cent since October, the price to the housewife has been reduced but little. "The great difference existing between basic and retail prices," he said, "can be remedied only by co-operation of the middlemen and retailers with the producers in eliminating causes that stand in the way of our return to normal business." The speaker intimated that producers have been making every effort to lower the price of meat, but their reductions have been taken up by middlemen and retailers in profits before they reach the consumer.

Grain Credit to Be Available for Farmers Soon

Hoover Announces Preliminary Work on Financing Scheme Is Now Completed.

Washington, June 16.—Secretary Hoover announced last night that preliminary work on a plan to make storage certificates on grain available to the farmers as credit collateral has been completed by the conference called by himself and Secretary Wallace. "The plan was considered by all parties to the conference to be practical and to promise great advantages," Mr. Hoover said. "It was agreed that the plan requires no federal legislation and differs entirely from all other plans hitherto proposed, as it revolves upon insurance of the certificate as to quantity and grade by the liability companies and provides freedom of movement of commodities from local to terminal warehouses if congestion requires. It supplements and in no way replaces or competes with farmers' co-operative storage and marketing plans. "The farmers' representatives on the one hand, and the elevator warehouse and insurance representatives on the other decided to develop at once the matter in detail with their various associations."

Lineman Electrocuted

Mitchell, S. D., June 16.—George Webber, 32, a telephone lineman, was instantly killed today when he came in contact with an electric light wire carrying 2,300 volts.

Washington, June 16.—Representative Porter of Pennsylvania, in his official capacity as chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, protested today to Secretary of the Navy Denby against Admiral Sims' anti-Irish speeches. He told the secretary that while he felt that congress should take no action in the controversy, he looked to the Navy department to take effective measures to silence the admiral's outbursts. Mr. Porter made the point that Admiral Sims' views, as expressed in his recent London speech, were doubly obnoxious because of the fact that the admiral is head of the naval war college. He contended that an officer holding such views was unfit to direct the instruction of naval officers.

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