



1—Diplomatic corps in Rome received in private audience by the pope. 2—Scene on the Chicago Board of Trade when trading in cotton was started for the first time. 3—President Coolidge getting his supply of Christmas seals from Miss May O'Toole and Miss Emily P. Bissell.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Outstanding Features of the President's Message—More Economy Urged.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE'S message to congress, which resumed its work on December 1, is characteristic of the man. It calls for greater economy in government expenditures; recommends the further reduction of taxes, but not until after the close of the present year when it will be seen whether congress has kept within the budget; holds out the hope that his agricultural commission will be able to submit in time for action at this session some legislative remedies for the difficulties of the American farmer; voices emphatically the administration's disapproval of the pending security protocol of the League of Nations which would permit Japan or any other nation to attack the United States because of immigration restrictions; and says his own plans for a disarmament conference must await the outcome of the league's proposal to hold such a conference in connection with the agreement on the protocol. In this connection he observes that we shall have nothing to do with the league's conference so long as the adoption of that protocol is contemplated.

In discussing naval policies the President says our aim always should be the maintenance of the navy at the strength allowed by the Washington agreement, but that we should not engage in competitive building. In this section of the message Japan is informed that her protests against our fleet maneuvers in the vicinity of Hawaii next spring will be entirely ignored. But the President adds:

"I want the armed forces of America to be considered by all peoples not as enemies but as friends, as the contribution which is made by this country for the maintenance of the peace and security of the world."

American membership in the world court, with reservations, is again recommended, but the message says the country is not disposed to join the League of Nations. The war debts owed us by foreign nations, it declares, should be paid, the debtors being granted reasonable terms.

Concerning the disposition of Muscle Shoals the President says:

"I should favor a sale of this property, or long-time lease, under rigid guarantees of commercial nitrogen production at reasonable prices for agricultural use. There would be a surplus of power for many years over any possibility of its application to a developing manufacture of nitrogen. It may be found advantageous to dispose of the right to surplus power separately with such reservations as will allow its gradual withdrawal and application to nitrogen manufacture."

The interstate commerce commission, declares the message, should be empowered to apply pressure eventually on the railroads to bring about consolidation of the roads into a few great systems. The machinery for settling railroad labor disputes can be improved, but the requirements of the situation would be ignored if the public be deprived of a voice to avert a suspension of transportation by strikes.

Leaders in congress, both Republican and Democratic, approved the suggestion of the President that further reduction of taxes should be postponed until after the end of this fiscal year. His statement that surtaxes should then be substantially reduced was concurred in by Representative Green of Iowa, chairman of the ways and means committee. This is significant, for Mr. Green was one of the Republicans who opposed surtax reduction in the last session. It may be congress as a whole will yet admit the wisdom and practicability of the Mellon tax plan.

President Coolidge did not present his message in person. Instead it was read by the clerks of the senate and house, as was long the custom before President Wilson's time.

BEFORE sending in his regular message, the President transmitted to congress the annual message, with comments thereon. The budget figures show an estimated surplus for the fiscal year 1925 of \$67,884,489 and for the fiscal year 1926 of \$373,743,714. The estimates appear to show the possibility of a tax reduction of considerably more than \$300,000,000 annually, effective in the next fiscal year, provided no new expenditures are incurred.

The estimates provide for more than \$100,000,000 for federal aid to states prescribed by law. Mr. Coolidge comments:

"I am convinced that the broadening of this field of activity is detrimental both to federal and state governments. Efficiency of federal operations is impaired as their scope is unduly enlarged. Efficiency of state governments is impaired as they relinquish and turn over to the federal government responsibilities which are rightfully theirs. I am opposed to any expansion of these subsidies. My conviction is they can be curtailed with benefit to both the federal and state governments."

SECRETARY OF WAR WEEK'S annual report was even more dismal from the viewpoint of national defense, than that of the secretary of the navy. It shows that the United States is unprepared to repel invasion, not only of its outposts but even of the mainland. It reveals that the regular army is deficient in strength, provision for training of the citizen army is rudimentary, the air force is primitive and its planes obsolete, and the defenses of the Panama canal, the Hawaiian Islands, and the coasts of continental United States are wholly inadequate.

POSTMASTER GENERAL NEW submitted to the senate an expert analysis of the costs of operating the postal service, in compliance with a resolution calling for information bearing on the proposed increase of salaries of postal employees. The report showed that a net loss of nearly \$40,000,000 was sustained by the government in this service during 1923. More than one half of the excess of gross expenditures over receipts was found to be chargeable against second-class mail, including newspapers and magazines. Only first-class mail and postal savings were operated at a profit.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE and Mrs. Coolidge, traveling in an ordinary sleeper, made a flying visit to Chicago to attend the International Live Stock exposition. They were in the city only about 12 hours, in which time the President, besides viewing the fine stock, made two brief addresses at a luncheon and a dinner. Mrs. Coolidge was entertained by prominent Chicago women, but accompanied her husband to the stock yards for the exposition.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MELLON announces an issue of 20 to 30-year 4 per cent government bonds. The treasury offers \$200,000,000 in the long-term securities, but will allot additional bonds to the amount that third Liberty bonds (4½%), treasury notes of series A-1925, and certificates of indebtedness maturing March, 1925, are offered in payment. While the bonds are exempt from normal income taxation, only \$5,000 face amount are exempt from the graduated additional income tax, commonly known as surtaxes, and excess profits and war profits taxes. The bonds are subject to estate and inheritance taxes. They are exempt from state and local taxation.

IF THE recommendations of the President and the desires of many leading congressmen are followed, the income tax publicity clause in the tax law will be repealed. Meanwhile the test cases are going against the government. In Kansas City Federal Judge Reeves quashed the indictments against the editor and managing editor of the Kansas City Journal-Post, holding that the act, as construed by the government in prohibiting the publication of tax lists by newspapers, was in violation of the first amendment to the Constitution, which provides for freedom of the press.

P'UTARCO CALLES was inaugurated President of Mexico, and next day he received Samuel Gompers and a large number of delegates from the American Federation of Labor who journeyed to Mexico City to attend the ceremony. One result of this visit, according to prominent Mexican politicians, will be to give a death blow to socialism and radicalism in that country. The radical leaders there have been creating a lot of trouble, the Russian minister doing his share, but they are now entirely discredited and organized labor in Mexico is said to be determined to rid itself of the Communists.

ESTHONIA'S government, which recently suppressed an attempt to seize Reval by Communists sent from Russia, is trying and executing the Reds as fast as the field courts can work. The plotters expected to be supported by the workers, but the latter proved loyal and helped to rout the Reds. To handle the situation more effectively, General Laidoner was made military dictator. Investigation of the affair compromises the local Soviet delegation seriously.

The Esthonian government received official assurances from Latvia and Poland that it would be supported by troops, if necessary, to combat Bolshevik aggressions. Both Latvia and Poland are increasing their garrisons along the Russian frontier. The Finnish government, the most conservative in northeastern Europe, is ready to offer help to Esthonia, should the Bolsheviks take the offensive.

PREMIER ZIWAR PASHA and the Egyptian government have yielded to all Great Britain's demands consequent on the murder of Sirdar Stack and Lord Allenby's forces have suppressed the mutiny of troops in the Sudan. So, for the present, the commotion in the land of the Nile is over. It is believed the stern measures taken by the British have paralyzed the group of malcontents in Cairo known as the "murder gang."

LEO KORETZ, the clever swindler who took about \$2,000,000 from his friends in Chicago months ago and then fled, and who was discovered recently in Nova Scotia, was brought back home, pleaded guilty and received a prison sentence. He seems to have spent all the money he obtained and his victims, none of them poor, appear not to be vindictive.

SOVIET Russia has gone back to "wetness." The council of people's commissars has issued a decree permitting the manufacture and sale of liquors and cognac up to a strength of 30 per cent alcohol, which is only 5 per cent below the pre-war strength. This step is taken to increase the public revenues and to stop the illicit sale of alcohol.

CITIZENS of Peking were much worried by the withdrawal of Marshal Chang's forces and the gradual entry into the city of the troops of General Feng. It was believed Chang retired to avoid an armed conflict with the "Christian general." Wu Pei-fu, still busy toward the south, is reported to have blown up the Hankow-Peking railway bridge over the Yellow river, the longest bridge in China.

LEONID KRASSIN, the first ambassador of soviet Russia to France, arrived in Paris to take up his duties, and was given a noisy welcome by 5,000 Communists. Red flags were displayed and fiery speeches made and the "Internationale" was sung. One Communist deputy said: "The world revolution has at last reached Paris." The radicals in Paris had yet another opportunity for demonstration the other day, when the ashes of Jean Jaures, the slain Socialist leader, were transferred to the Pantheon.

THE Federal Council of Churches met in Atlanta, Ga., for its quadrennial convention, with Dr. Robert E. Speer of New York presiding. The report of the general secretary said there has been an increasing movement on the part of the churches to work together and to do the things which they cannot accomplish working alone. The spiritual significance of the work of the federal council was stressed.

News of Montana

Brief Notes Concerning the Treasure State

Safecrackers At Miles.—Sheriff and police offices in the surrounding towns and cities have been advised to be on the lookout for three safecrackers who operated at Miles City Wednesday night, Dec. 3, knocking off the dials of a couple of safes in local business houses. A fruit house and a lumber concern were visited by a trio of men who have been in the city and are believed to have driven through Forsyth early Thursday morning, according to information received by Sheriff H. Farnum.

Charged With Stock Poisoning.—Charged with attempting to poison his neighbor's livestock Lewis Kline, Simms farmer, was arrested by Deputy Sheriff H. L. Hansen. The arrest is in echo of a long feud over land between Kline and E. E. Oxley, the neighbor whose cattle Kline is charged with attempting to poison, officers say. Oxley complained to the county attorney's office that Kline dumped large quantities of gopher poison over the range in places where Oxley cattle would be likely to eat it.

Teacher Wins Judgment.—After being out but a few minutes a district court jury at Polson awarded Cecil LeClaire a judgment against school district No. 28 for salary up to May 31, 1923, and interest at 8 per cent since that time. The case arose over the action of the school board filling Miss LeClaire's position without notifying her in the fall of 1922. When Miss LeClaire returned from her vacation and found she had been summarily dismissed, she brought suit for her salary.

Reducing Delinquency.—Musselshell county is gradually reducing its delinquent tax total, the receipts from this source in November, the best month, totaling \$17,542. Since August of this year more than \$40,000 has been paid to County Treasurer Oscar Jenkins and he predicts that few taxpayers will be delinquent this year. Another indication of returning prosperity is the fact that a large percentage of taxpayers are satisfying their tax bills in one payment.

Montana Defeats Oxford.—The University of Montana defeated the team representing the University of Oxford, England at Missoula Dec. 8 in debate, Montana taking the affirmative side of the question, "Resolved that the referendum is an essential part of representative government." At the close of the debate a vote of the audience was taken to choose the winner, 581 voting for the affirmative and 185 for the negative.

Five Years for Stealing Cattle.—Kenneth Bramblett, when arraigned in the district court before Judge H. J. Miller at Big Timber, entered a plea of guilty to the charge of stealing four head of cattle from the John Welrsma herd, at Rapelje. He was sentenced to serve from five to 10 years in the state penitentiary. Bramblett had no attorney and waived time for pronouncement of sentence.

Dies in Mine Accident.—Alfred Anstey, 27, was instantly killed Dec. 5 when a cage and skip full of ore, which was being hoisted at the Mountain View mine of the A. C. M. company, pulled into the sheave wheel, broke loose and crashed through the roof of the ore chute in which he was working. Anstey was unmarried and lived at the home of his mother.

Five to Ten Years.—After having been found guilty of manslaughter, Charles Collins, confessed slayer of William LeClaire, a breed Indian, was sentenced by Judge Theodore Lentz at Missoula to not less than five years nor more than 10 years in the penitentiary at Deer Lodge.

Bonding Company Pays.—With the payment of \$35,443.44 to Park county through its board of commissioners by the Royal Indemnity company, the amount of the deposit of the county in the Northwestern bank has now been made good and the county's interest is now the property of the bonding company.

Rosebud Taxes Paid.—Taxes were paid up in Rosebud county this year better than last year, according to G. G. Davis, county treasurer, although the majority of the taxpayers waited until the last week of grace to settle their account. More than \$200,000 in taxes has been registered to date.

Killed By Falling Tree.—Louis Strand, age 35 years, was fatally injured at a logging camp west of Missoula Dec. 7 when his skull was fractured by a falling tree. He died on the way in to Missoula when being brought to a local hospital.

Simpson At New Post.—Alva E. Simpson, successor to J. C. Whitman as superintendent of the Custer national forest reserve with headquarters in Miles City, has arrived from Missoula and assumed active charge of his new duties.

Two Die in "Freezer."—Two unidentified men were found dead in refrigerator car on the Oregon Short Line at Butte Dec. 4.

May Fight Tax Levy.—A number of taxpayers from Saco in Phillips county, have paid their taxes under protest, because the schoolboard in the Saco district has raised the tax levy this year from 19 to 38 mills. This was done because no provisions had heretofore been made for retiring their bonds, which will soon be due and, the law requires that a levy be made sufficient to maintain a sinking fund to retire bonds when due. It is reported that an attorney has been hired and that a hearing will be asked before the county commissioners.

BRUTAL AX MURDER REMAINS A MYSTERY

Police Unable to Apprehend Fiend Who Killed Billings Man and Wife

Police officers of Billings have been unable to find a clue to the murder of Neils Anderson and his wife, Anna, who were brutally murdered with an ax in their barber shop. A close check-up of all known characters in Billings who might throw any light on the crime is still under way and word has been sent to all neighboring communities to be on the watch for suspicious characters.

The inquest held under the direction of Coroner Frank Smith brought forth no new developments. The verdict reached was that the Andersons met their death at the hands of an unknown person or persons.

Four children, the eldest 10 years of age, survive the murdered couple. Anderson was 43, his wife 30. He was born in Sweden; his wife is a native of Pelreay Rapids, Minn., where her parents are believed to reside. The funeral services were held Thursday morning with interment in Mountview cemetery at Billings.

MILWAUKEE RAILROAD LIKELY TO ABSORB NORTH & SOUTH

The steps to be taken in the completion of the North & South railroad, the route of which extends from Casper, to Miles City, depends in a large measure upon the outcome of lawsuits amounting to \$1,500,000 which will be opened in Buffalo, Wyo., December 10.

The suits are brought by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company and the firm of Robert Brothers, Peterson, Shirley and Gunther, of Omaha, general contractors of the North & South against the receivers of the railroads and the railroad company together with the Reliable Security company, backers of the project. The Milwaukee and the contractors ask for mechanics' liens against the railroad property, to satisfy claims of \$1,450,242 for alleged balance due for work, mats furnished and anticipated profits, equipments and rental of equipments.

If the claimants are successful, the liens will absorb the present value of the railroad.

Attempted Bribery

An information charging attempt to bribe a witness was ordered filed by Judge Theodore Lentz in district court at Missoula, against Felix Dumontier, who was acquitted on a liquor charge Dec. 5.

Judge Lentz' action resulted when Bud Holliday, witness for the state at Dumontier's trial, appeared Thursday after failing to show up Wednesday. When asked by the judge to explain his absence, he said that he was drunk and that he had secured the liquor from Dumontier. Further questioning brought the allegation by Holliday that Dumontier not only had given him the liquor but also had offered him \$100 to stay away from the trial. A jail sentence of 30 days was imposed on Holliday.

Loses Compensation

By a margin of just two days, the widow of Andrew Dent, killed July 31, fails of being his beneficiary. The state industrial accident commission has awarded his compensation to his three minor children.

Dent was employed by the Huttieff & Marquis company in the lumber woods near Evarro, in western Montana, when he was killed. The commission found that, two days previous to the fatal accident Mrs. Dent had secured a decree of divorce. The decree had not been recorded at the time of the death but the commission decided that, so long as it had been granted, she was no longer his wife.

Dismiss Complaint Against N. P.

Approving a refund of \$628.63 made by the Northern Pacific Railway company, the state railroad commission has dismissed the complaint of the Davis-Daly Copper company of Butte against the railroad. It was alleged that the Northern Pacific charged the Davis-Daly company more for hauling approximately 50 carloads of stulls from western Montana points to Butte than the rate on stulls from these points to Rocky near Butte.

Jump Proves Fatal

Lester Reese, youngest son of Thomas Reese, a Gallatin county pioneer, who was injured internally at his ranch near Sedan Dec. 1, when he jumped from a wagon as his team was running away, died at the hospital at Wilsall.

Killed By Hayrack

Ralph Myrick, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Myrick of Stevensville, was instantly killed in an accident there where a load of hay on which he was riding tipped over and he was crushed under the hayrack.

Paroled Convicts Return to Prison

Charles Worth and Frank Gilstrap, paroled convicts from the state penitentiary at Deer Lodge who were arrested some time ago, when they were found to be carrying concealed weapons will be sent back to the state prison to serve out the remainder of their sentences. It was declared by the prison parole board that the two men had broken their parole. The men will be sent back to Deer Lodge as soon as a warden from the penitentiary arrives in Livingston to take the men in charge.

State Capital NEWS

COMMISSION DENIES ROUNDUP MAN PERMIT

Two applications to operate—motor vehicles in public service were denied by the Montana railroad commission in orders issued Dec. 9.

An application by Matt Kuchan for permission to operate between Roundup to Mine No. 4, and several intermediate points was denied and he was ordered to stop operation of any public carrier service outside the town of Roundup.

An application from E. H. Blankenburg to operate a public carrier between Glendive and Fairview was refused but a certificate for license granted to J. A. Blankenburg over the same territory was confirmed, with the understanding that he furnish adequate and satisfactory service and observe closely the commission's regulations.

OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMS NEW LAWS IN EFFECT

The three measures adopted by the people of Montana at the election November 4, became laws Dec. 9 when Governor Dixon officially proclaimed that the measures had received majorities as certified to him by the state canvassing board.

The measures are: Metal mines tax, a constitutional amendment defining qualifications for county superintendents, and an act permitting the state to accept gifts for its institutions.

The repeal of the presidential preference primary law also becomes effective.

The fifth measure voted on, the soldier bonus, was defeated.

SEEKS TO IMPROVE CARBONATED DRINKS

Efforts directed toward the raising of the standard of soft drinks manufactured in Montana are being made by G. D. Wiles as director of the division of food and drugs of the state board of health. Mr. Wiles has just returned from eastern Montana where he gathered samples of carbonated drinks, also bringing in samples of other manufactured products. Purity of contents and proper labeling are factors of first importance in the state's supervision of carbonated drinks.

CONVICTION OF BUTTE DRUGGIST IS UPHELD

Conviction in Butte of Charles Finley, a druggist charged with having sold morphine without a doctor's prescription, is upheld in a decision of the state supreme court written by District Judge Frank P. Leipe of Glendive, sitting in place of Associate Justice Albert B. Galen, who is ill. The opinion was delivered Dec. 8. Ten assignments of error were cited in the appeal.

80,000 AUTOMOBILE LICENSE PLATES FOR 1925

By January 20 the state will receive about 80,000 automobile license plates for 1925, it is announced by Charles T. Stewart, secretary of state. The issuing of licenses will begin the first of the year. Next year's plates will have a red background and white numbers. This year's purchase for the next season represents a little more than 7 per cent increase over the number of licenses used in 1924.

WARNED TO KEEP CANDY CLEAN

Candy offered for sale must be kept clean and must not be on open display, is the warning sent out by the state board of health with the plan especially of protecting the public against Christmas candy which is not sanitarily kept. Candy or other confections kept in open barrels or boxes where people can handle it is dangerous to health, the board believes.

MAN PAID \$1,239 FOR LOSS OF EYE

C. C. Peterson, who in the employ of the Montana Central Elevator company at Harrison, October 19, 1923, got a wheat beard in his right eye, losing the sight of the eye, has been awarded a lump sum settlement of \$1,239 by the state industrial accident board. The insurance is carried by the Hartford Accident and Indemnity company.

NAMES COMMISSION TO ADJUST COUNTY DEBTS

Governor Dixon has appointed the following men as members of the commission to adjust the debts of Pergus and Petroleum counties, as provided by statute: John A. Wilson, Stanford; J. Otis Mudd, Winnett; E. K. Chendle, Jr. It is probable that the first meeting will be held at Winnett in about ten days.

MRS. COIT APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR DIXON

Governor Dixon has appointed Mrs. Eleanor Coit of Big Timber a member of the executive board of the state vocational school for girls. She will fill out the unexpired term of Mrs. Lora O. Edmunds of Absorkee, who has left the state, and her term will expire April 21, 1925.

FIVE CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO BAR

Five candidates who have just taken the state bar examination at the capitol have been admitted to practice law in the courts of Montana. They are: John W. Kelly, Butte; Marcus O'Farrell, Butte; Floren M. Hammon, Savage; Bennet H. Smith, Billings; Louis M. Dyll, Helena.