PONZI PAYS OUT A MILLION IN A DAY

(Continued from Page One.)

a story that had an ending. Friends came and brought more friends and these friends brought more friends, ad infinitum.

"Investigation of my business affairs impended. Naturally the news became general. I did not wait for the authorities to come to me. I went to them and invited them to investigate. For instance, they sent two police officers down to look me over. Each invested a few dollars and each made 50 per cent on his investment in forty-five days. They let their earnings ride and they are due for another harvest.

"I made millions of dollars. It was simple. Suppose you came to me and gave me a thousand dollars to invest. I purchased international postal coupons in Spain, we'll say. For one American cent or the value of that cent I purchase a coupon that is redeemable for 5 cents here. That makes 400 per cent profit. Your thousand dollars makes 400 per cent profit . I pay you 50 per cent profit. and there you are . I make 350 per cent on your money."

Here it must be explained, however, that on July 2 the authorities at Washington, hearing that some such transactions were going on, passed a rule that no one person could redeem more than ten such coupons—50 cents' worth. Any excess offered at any post office had to be referred to Washington for approval. Moreover Washington let it be known that they were noticing no great speciation in these international postal coupons and that the total redeemed did not exceed more than about $8 worth a day. Ponzi was reminded of this.

"Ah, there you have come to it," he exclaimed. "There you ask me for my secret. Well I shall not tell you or any other persons. That is my business. How I get them, how I dispose of them and such things are my business. It is enough to assure you that there is nothing illegal.

"As I said, I had made millions. I purchased the controlling interest in a large trust company. I opened offices in Portland, Manchester, Portsmouth, Burlington, Lawrence, Lowell, Fitchburg, Brockton, Plymouth, Fall River, Taunton, Framingham, Milford Providence, Woonsocket, Pawtucket, Hartford, Meriden, New Haven, Bridgeport and down in New Jersey in Bayonne and Clifton. Soon I should have opened a great office in lower Broadway, New York.

"The peak of my business was reached in May, just two months ago. When I decided to suspend for the time being while the authorities satisfy themselves that there is nothing illegal about it I was taking in about $250,000 a day in my Boston offices and about the same amount through the branch offices. That made $500,000 a day, and there is not one man who can say that I did not keep my word or who can say that every dollar he invested with me is not his for the asking, provided he does not want to wait the 45 days.

"I came to America when I was 17 years old. I had precisely $2.50. My family is a good one and I was educated in the University of Rome. Thirty-eight years ago I was born in Parma, Italy. I started for New York to make money. I had the equivalent of $200 when I started, but I was inveigled into a card game with men who played cards for a living. As I say, I landed at the Battery with just $2.50. I hadn't a relative in America I got a job at real 10 and 12 hours a day manual labor there in New York, and believe me, I worked. I lost that job and got another from a contractor. I had to carry iron and cement. I began to float around and fetched up in Pittsburgh, where I worked in a grocery store and in a cheap restaurant.

"I decided I was losing my objective or losing sight of it. I had come to make money. I decided to get busy and relegated the mere holding of a job to second consideration. Each job I took was with the idea of looking it over and seeing whether it was worth anything—if it promised any future. If it did not I chucked it. I was young.

"I turned up in Boston in 1917. In January, 1917, I went to work for the J. R. Poole Company, merchant brokers here on South Main street. My salary was $16 a week. You may be interested to know that I am the company today and propose incorporating it for $10,000,000. I married in February, 1918, Miss Rosa Guecco, a Boston young woman. And that is all, I think. Merely, I happened to discover something before any one else did. It might have been you. It might have been my neighbor. It might have been a great banker. But it wasn't. It was Ponzi.

"The authorities heer as silent. They are too puzzled to have time for words. Ponzi smiles at their discomfiture. He has given his record to them and it is for them to discover his secret, for surely the man has a secret. He has many agents, but the activities of the agents are as mysterious as Ponzi's.

"I think I should have cleaned up $3,500,000 this week had I not suspended," he said this afternoon. "I think the United States is butting in upon a perfectly legitimate proposition. I know it is legitimate. I think they're butting in. Why should it concern the Government what my secret is so long as I have twice as much money in reserve as is needed to settle all possible claims upon me?

"I can tell you this much. I am not redeeming these international reply coupons in this country. I have never said that I am doing so and I never shall say so. And I am perfectly well aware that France, Italy and Roumania have issued orders to suspend payments, but that does not stop me from doing business in those countries.

"If Government prohibition of speculating in these coupons is declared I shall go on making money. Let the Government find out how I cash the coupons. I am not called on to tell. I repeat, I made a great discovery and then found out how to work it."

He was asked whether he feared the possible action of the international postal conference in October.

"Why should I?" he replied with a great show of surprise. "By October I shall make between $30,000,000 and $40,000,000."

The rioting has subsided in the vicinity of Ponzi's office. In front of the old "Bell in Hand," once a famous tavern in Pie alley and now pressed into service by Ponzi as a place where his clients can come to get their money back, he has posted the following notice:

"Beware of speculators. A syndicate of money sharks are buying up the notes of the Securities Exchange Company at small premiums for the purpose of holding them and collecting 50 per cent. interest.

"They all know my notes will be paid. I warn the public against disposing of their notes at a loss. I shall pay everything in full.

"CHARLES PONZI."

POVERTY IS PLEA OF TROLLEYS

(Continued from Page One.)

the day that the company derived the greater portion of its revenue. The jitneys should be curbed during the rush hour as the Connecticut Company cannot live on the leavings of the jitneys."

Chairman Higgins of the Public Utilities Commission read a letter from Mayor Fitzgerald of New Haven which favored a five cent fare for New Haven and also stated that the public had lost confidence in the Connecticut Company.

Judge Noyes, chairman of the board of trustees then remarked feelingly that he did not see how the public could lose confidence in the trustees none of whom had any personal interest in the property and who were doing their best under the orders of the court to serve the people.

Mayor Wilson, City Attorney Comley and Alderman Arthur Brown of the fair fare commission were present from this city, and practically every town and city in the state were represented.

George D. Watrous of New Haven, and Joseph F. Berry of Hartford appeared as counsel for the company. The Connecticut Company delegation at the hearing included Judge Noyes, Leonard M. Daggett and Morgan B. Brainard, trustees; President Lucius Storrs, General Manager John K. Punderford, assistant to President W. J. Flickinger, V. S. Curtis and Thomas J. McGreevy. The towns protesting were represented as follows: Judge Alex Arnold for Manchester, Judge William L. Bennett for New Haven, N. C. Downs of Stamford, F. L. Sparks for Meriden.

BUSES TO STAY ON THE STREETS

(Continued From Page One.)

drivers' licenses which have been issued since Sunday. A number of drivers secured licenses yesterday and a few registrations for new machines were taken out. The number of new registrations has not yet reached the amount which was expected by the department officials.

SOLDIER TELLS FINE SCHEME TO LOOT VETS

Washington, July 29.—Testimony tending to show that Daniel E. O'Keefe, a lawyer of New Britain, Conn., exacted 50 per cent. from a number of wounded soldiers of the late war in connection with the war risk frauds, was presented Tuesday to the federal grand jury at Washington. Four of the alleged victims told their stories to the grand jurors. The witnesses also implicated Aloysius A. Young of New Britain as the man that sought them out and sent them to O'Keefe.

George E. King of Waterbury received a check for $1,342, he says, out of which he paid O'Keefe one-half. Julius Rastow of Bristol was entitled to $947 for his disabilities, but gave one-half, he said, to O'Keefe. Vincent Rosenfitz of New Britain had a claim of $600, but received only one-half. He said that O'Keefe, when asked what it would cost, told him that others were paying 50 per cent. and he consented to the same figures.

Clifton T. Gibbons of New Haven said he was approached by a man calling himself Burke, but who, he learned later was Young, who demanded one-half for securing the claim of $800 due Gibbons. Burke or Young sent him to O'Keefe, who accompanied the witness to Washington. Gibbons consulted his brother, who referred the matter to a detective at New Haven. When Gibbons received his check he declined to pay O'Keefe's alleged demand but later gave him $25 he said.

Assistant United States Attorney Arth, who is conducting the investigation, said that the government has evidence of a number of such frauds on veterans of the world war living traced to O'Keefe. To avoid the expense of bringing a large number of witnesses to Washington, he selected the four witnesses presented Tuesday

The names of the war risk employes connected with the alleged transaction of O'Keefe and Young are William F. Salisbury and David M. Griswold.

The quartet will be charged, if the grand jury returns presentments, with violating sections 35, 37, 113 and 117 of the penal code. The first two sections refer to conspiracy to defraud the United States and the others to bribery and attempted bribery.

PROFESSOR TELLS "WHAT AILS US"

Bloomington, Ind., July 29—Speaking here at the closing session of the rural educational conference on the subject "What Ails Us," Professor G. I. Christie, of Purdue University, asserted that there were "too many diamonds and not enough alarm clocks; too many serge suits and not enough overalls."

As an inducement to keeping the boys on the farm he advocated closer and more friendly relations between city business men and the farmer, stating that the farmer cannot compete with the business man in the payment of high wages, which has caused an acute shortage of farm help.

Some people don't have to cultivate a garden as they possess an automobile, some capacious bags, and have the dark of the moon carefully figured out.

Advertising Is Silent Salesman Says Expert

Chicago, July 29 — In an address before the "Sixth Business Builders' Conference," attended by 400 retail merchants of the middle West yesterday, G. R. Schaeffer, advertising manager of Marshall Field & Co., said:

"Fundamentally advertising is a very simple matter. We define it as printed salesmanship. It represents to a million people at one time what your salesman represents to one person in individual conversation. It gives information concerning your merchandise and your service. This, of course, is its common use But it also should be used to inform the public concerning the policies of your institution and in this way to create good will and build confidence.

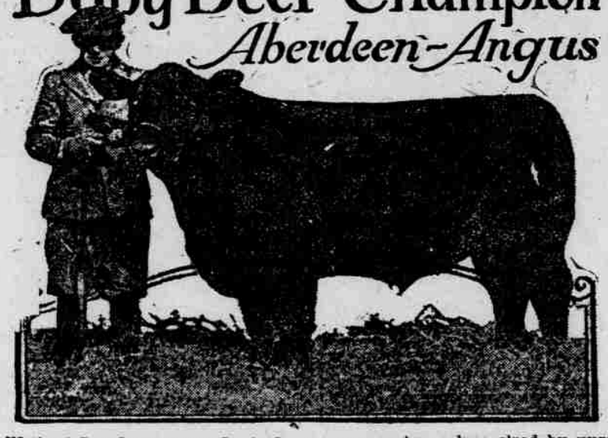
"Essentially, however, advertising is the multiplier of individual selling effort. Just as the character of the impression of your store is made by a salesman, so it is made by advertising. A poor salesman will make a poor impression; so will poor advertising. Good advertising, like good salesmen, will bring business and prestige to your store. Just as you desire the best in salesmen you should desire the best of advertising.

"Use the daily newspapers. Advertise your goods not one day but every day. A newspaper is the invited guest to the home of every worthwhile family. The merchant who does not make use of good advertising in the newspapers in his business promotion limits his progress to individual conversation. It is surprising to find how many merchants ares till in this class—even in metropolitan cities. The fact that so many merchants have not advertised has spelled the Aladdin success of mail order houses.

"It is interesting to note on the other hand how many merchants even in very small towns have built up businesses of large volume, extending the radius of their trade territory to and even through competing trade centres. Surely the many well known instances of successes which have been achieved in this way should be a sufficient incentive to all progressive merchants to make a thorough study of the subject.

"Advertising is, of course, an expense. But so are salaries for salesmen. And you must bear in mind that good advertising will do the work of many salesmen. It will economize the time of the salesmen you have and make them more efficient. Also, good advertising reaches people that your salesmen cannot. Moreover, that kind of advertising which builds good will and confidence is a definite investment; it increases your assets and brings dividends, for good will is just as surely a capital stock asset as merchandise."

Baby Beef Champion Aberdeen-Angus



[National Crop Improvement Service.]

THE American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' association, believes in building manhood by offering prizes for beef. As the old song goes:

"A bunch of bully babies,
Raise a bunch of baby bulls."

$3,500 in cash prizes and gold watches will be given to boys and girls winning with this breed during the coming year. This is an increase of $2,500 over the 1918 appropriation. Two states, Wisconsin and Minnesota get $100 each for their state shows and $35 gold watches for grand champions that carry Aberdeen-Angus blood.

Any local show that puts as many as ten calves sired by purebred Aberdeen-Angus bulls into a show, may get an appropriation of $25 for prize money, and a $25 gold watch for grand champion over all breeds.

The girls will receive $35 Swiss wrist watches, while the boys will receive open-faced gold watches, the value depending on the size of the show.

Mr. Charles Gray, secretary of the association at Chicago, has prepared an illustrated booklet so that any youngster who wishes to enter may know the full details. The booklet is free.

Boys and girls won championships in six states last year with Aberdeen-Angus calves.

Republicans To Meet On Merritt Day

Chairman Roraback of the Republican state committee has decided to honor Congressman Schuyler Merritt by holding the meeting of the Republican state committee for the purpose of naming a date for the state convention at Danbury on August 4. That is the date upon which the Republicans of the Twenty-fourth district will honor the Fourth district congressman. It is to be known as Merritt day and the Merritt event will be held at the Danbury fair grounds on that day.

The following is a copy of a letter sent out to members of the state central committee by Chairman Roraback:

"There will be a meeting of the Republican state central committee at the Republican club rooms, corner of White and Main streets, Danbury, on Wednesday, August 4, 1920, at 1:30 o'clock p. m., daylight saving time, for the purpose of designating the time and place for holding the next Republican state convention for the nomination of candidates for presidential electors, United States senator and state officers, and also to fix the date for holding caucuses, or primaries, in the several towns for the selection of delegates to said state convention and to the several congressional, senatorial and probate conventions."

There will be ample time for the committee meeting before the dinner, as the latter event is not scheduled to begin until 3 o'clock. An effort is being made to secure a prominent speaker for the dinner.

U. S. OBJECTS TO JAPAN BEING ON SAGHALIEN

Tokio, July 29—(By A. P.)—The Japanese government has received a communication from the United States pointing out that America is unable to recognize Japan's occupation of the northern half of the island of Saghalien.

It is considered likely that Japan, after mature deliberation will forward an answer to Washington in an attempt to clarify official opinion there and remove any misunderstanding of Japan's position.

There are indications that Japan is passing through another "nervous crisis" concerning her relations with the United States. Numerous interpellations have been made in the diet about the American attitude. While the important newspapers are counselling their readers to keep cool it is apparent that a certain amount of apprehension exists concerning the result of the Congressional inquiry in California. The Japanese, however, seem convinced that it is being conducted with the utmost fairness and attention is being called to statements that a number of Americans have come forward spontaneously to testify in favor of the Japanese

Among the incidents which have tended to fan anti-American feeling was the publication here of the reports that the burning of Japanese stores in Marysville, California was possibly the act of anti-Japanese elements. Articles also have been printed declaring that Americans were engaged in attempts to steal Japanese maps, and these hove resulted in increased surveillance of American tourists.

With regard to the Marysville affair the foreign office today gave out a cable message from Consul General Ota in San Francisco that the fires started July 21 in an automobile garage owned by an American and that three or four Japanese houses were burned. The consul general called attention to reports that were current classing the case as incendiarism due to underselling of white merchants by Japanese merchants in Marysville, and consequently resentment on the part of the former, but he added that the police denied that this was the fact. The consul general concluded by declaring:

"It is unbelievable that the case was one of incendiarism connected with anti-Japanese agitators."

To the consul general's message the foreign office in its statement adds a denial that any of its officials had made statements to the Japanese press that they thought the fire the work of anti-Japanese agitators.

There seems no foundation whatever for reports of map stealing.

DOORN DISPLAYS NO INTEREST IN FORMER KAISER

Doorn, Holland, July 29 — Doorn has already begun to display the same lack of interest about the former Emperor William or his doings as was displayed at Amerongen.

Only the village busybodies, who like to gossip about everything, speak of him at all and they, of course, try to make mysteries of everything they hear, whispering the stories which, usually, are children of their own fancy.

This makes it doubly hard for anyone to find out what really is going on, and at the same time accounts for the numerous rumors that come from Doorn now and then. William's immediate staff is so close-mouthed that few real facts slip out, and the few gossips so prolific, on the other hand, that almost anything might be true, or everything false.

The Dutch police, who guard the House of Doorn and all of its approaches, are very zealous and nearly every foreigner who dares to approach the gates, is either arrested or sharply questioned.

REDDING

Redding, July 29—On Aug. 8 there will be held at Putnam Park a local affair of two-fold significance, one phase being an anniversary commemoration of the "Welcome Home" extended the returning soldiers last year and the other a Redding Day observance, by which is meant a demonstration designed to express and foster the spirit of neighborliness and community solidarity. The general arrangements are in charge of the committee, headed by Lieut. Charles H. Ward, which so successfully arranged last year's welcome celebration. A religious tone to the event will be imparted by the participation in the program of the pastors of the local churches who will figure prominently in the afternoon exercises. Full details have not yet been planned but the morning speaker will be Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford, formerly of New York and now of Ridgefield, who is to make an address at 11 o'clock. A basket picnic is next in order. The afternoon exercises are to begin at 2 o'clock and will comprise talks suitable to the occasion by the clergy and others.

Patriotism, the community spirit and religious endeavor in the broader sense of the term are expected to furnish the inspiration for the platform outgivings. It is also designed to have plenty of good music, vocal and instrumental.

Four young men from the Rogers & Peet recreation camp opposite Putnam Park, marred the camp's previously good record by a demonstration of hoodlumism last Sunday afternoon when they bombarded with stones one of Albert Williams' tenement houses, breaking most of the windows. The house was vacant, but inside was stored a ton or two of ground grain in an uncovered bin. Fragments of the shattered glass fell into this, virtually ruining it for the stock feeding purposes for which it was intended. Mr. Williams and a neighbor happened upon the scene while the culprits were still there and herding them back to their own reservation, lodged a complaint with the camp superintendent. The latter expressed profound regret for what had been done, but referred the complaint to Duncan Gay, who, he explained, had final local jurisdiction as to the camp's affairs. When interviewed by Mr. Williams, Mr. Gay was also apologetic and regretful, but said that he must confer with Frank R. Chambers, head of the Rogers & Peet Co., before undertaking to effect a settlement. He was sure that Mr. Chambers would do the right thing and Mr. Williams, expressing a like confidence, forbore to further press the matter until Mr. Chambers should be heard from. The camp was started about 15 years ago with the purchase of about 70 acres from the moribund "Old Put" club and has since served as an outside resort for the employes of the Rogers & Peet clothing firm, who come in relays of about 40 at intervals of two weeks during the summer. As before stated this is their first public offence.

The Men's club has appointed a committee composed of its officers, with S. C. Shaw, H. C. McCollam, E. P. Sanford and George Pattison, as additional members, to arrange for three open forum or public meetings at each of which a speaker of national prominence will be heard upon some topic of national interest. The first of these meetings will be held within a few weeks.

Rev. Charles W. Shelton, D. D., was the speaker at the union service held in the Episcopal church last Sunday evening, his theme being "Church Union and Work." He expressed the view that while a union of the Protestant denominations in the service of a complete merger was neither practicable nor desirable, there could and should be a union based on the principle of family relationship, thereby insuring a retention of personality with mutual endeavor toward the accomplishment of a comon aim with responsibility for service as the dominating incentive. Responsibility he defined as ability to respond. The attendance was large and the singing excellent.

A week or two ago three horses belonging to the new owner of the Gorham farm on Sunset Hill disappeared from their pasture field and were not located until several days afterwards. It was then learned that, guided solely by their instincts, they had returned to their former habitat in Fairfield. In thus regaining possession of their old quarters they did damage to the amount of about $50, which the owner paid to get back his property.

The condition of the town roads is not what it should be although better than has been the case in some previous years at this season. Because of defects pointed out by the inspectors and not remedied the selectmen, at their July meeting, held up the pay of all three contractors. As little in the way of remedy has since been done these bills are likely to go over from the next meeting also. Regarding the cross road from Lonetown the situation is rather peculiar. Plans to have it rebuilt by contract fell through as did later plans for the day's work method. The road is in the district of Contractor Banks who has done no work upon it of any kind. A suggestion has been made that his future operations consist entirely of gravelling, the town assuming half the cost for the sake of the permanency thereby obtained.

From its Bethel end the trunk highway is finished for a distance of about three-quarters of a mile, leaving about a mile for the finishing process before Putnam Park is reached. The work would have been much further advanced but for the delay in obtaining oil, the deliveries having been restricted to two car loads owing to car shortage and labor troubles. The State highway department is now endeavoring to hasten delivery as the stoning part of the construction work has mostly been completed as far as Pine Tree Corner, something more than half the length of the line to be built. It now looks as if the close of the season would not find the road advanced beyond the Corner.

Miss Blackwell of the Ridge has in hand plans for the production of the cantata "Esther," based on the Biblical story of that name, the proceeds from the performance to go to the organ fund of the Episcopal church. The fund is designed as a memorial of the late James Gregory, for many years organist of the church, and a start towards raising it was begun several months ago upon the initiative of Eleanor Dayton. The performance which will probably be given towards the latter part of next month will engage the efforts of our best local talent.

W. C. Sanford will be the host for the next meeting of the Men's club which is to be held at the Community house on the evening of Aug. 21.

A car carrying four boys became ditched and stalled near Putnam Park Tuesday afternoon, and one of the passengers crawled under it in an effort to learn by the aid of a lighted match, what the trouble was. A flash of flame followed and directly the machine was all ablaze. Thomas and James Delaney came to the rescue and succeeded in putting out the fire after the machine had been considerably damaged.

A supper and dance for the benefit of Evening Star lodge of Bethel was scheduled for this (Thursday) afternoon and evening at the Sanford school grounds with Mrs. Mary Peterson as manager and caterer.

Disassembling his Ford car on Monday to ascertain what had put it out of commission Joseph Busser found the interior mechanism partly wrecked by a fold of heavy wire which had been inserted by some unknown person of malicious intent. He says he would like to know who the individual is, but for the sake of all round tranquility it is perhaps as well that he doesn't know.

The appeal of Fire Company No. 1, for subscriptions with which to motorize its equipment is meeting with a satisfactory response, nearly $200 having been contributed up to date.

A. B. Frost and family have moved into their new residence near Five Points.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Walbridge have gone to Cape Cod for a week's visit with Mrs. McWilliams, sister of Mr. Walbridge.

The Countess Turczynowicz has returned to her home at the Ridge after successfully filling lecture engagements in Western cities covering a period of about two months.

GERMAN OFFICERS WISH FOR RETURN OF FORMER DAYS

Berlin, July 27.—No one in Germany sighs more fervently for "the good old days" of the Kaiser than the former army officer. Forced off the government payroll by the reduction of the army, untrained for work other than soldiering, and so generally disliked by the population that he has difficulty in finding any kind of employment, the officer's lot in democratic Germany is a hard one. His pre-war world, in which he strutted about as the privileged pet of his emperor, has been utterly destroyed.

Many have been reduced to extreme financial straits. The middle-aged ex-officer gets a pension of 3,800 marks a year, but that is only about a fifth of the amount required to maintain a family. So urgent is their need that a movement has been set on foot to form an ex-officers' association for the purpose of inducing the government to provide them with land and subsidies.

A former officer, dolefully discussing with the correspondent the plight of himself and his fellows, remarked that the expression once current in the United States. "There's no good Indian but a dead Indian," applied precisely nowadays to the German public's attitude toward the officer class.

Private soldiers bear out this statement. "At the beginning of the war," one said, "the troops were fond of their officers, who ate the same food, carried their own packs, and shared the hardships of the men. But most of the regular officers were quickly killed off, and those left were sent away from the lines for staff and other duties.

"Their places were taken by reserves, who were an entirely different lot. They had to have special kitchens and milk and plenty of wine. They refused to march with the troops, always riding in automobiles, and making the men carry their packs. They were bullies and tyrants, and the men grew to hate them. The civilian population felt the same way. I was in Belgium when the armistice was signed, and when we withdrew to the Rhineland the people there were willing enough to provide lodgings for us privates, but they refused to have officers in their homes. Those fellows now are only getting what's coming to them."

In a number of cases ex-officers have found themselves inadvertently applying for work to the very privates they once commanded. These former soldiers, business men and shopkeepers, take keen delight, it is said, in turning down their old superiors. Many of the young ex-officers are taking up engineering and other technical lines, starting at the bottom of the ladder as manual workers in overalls.

After the first revolution it was a risky thing for an officer to appear on the streets in uniform. They were emboldened by the Kapp coup last March and since then have been showing themselves in increasing numbers, especially student reserve officers, who are easily identified by their pale faces slashed with fresh sword cuts received in duels.

UNITED STATES WAGES CAMPAIGN AGAINST FIRES

Washington, July 29.—Seldom, if ever, does the government advise speculation, but the Department of Agriculture says:

"If you have got to gamble, take a 'flyer' on the stock market or play the ponies, but don't take a chance on fire." It gives this advice in a circular in its campaign against forest fires.

"It never pays to take a chance with fire," says the circular. "The biggest fires in history were started by those who didn't think the woods would burn. Be as careful of fire as you are of powder; it's just as dangerous."

RUMANIAN QUEEN GIVES LESSON TO LUXURY BUYERS

Paris, July 29.—The Queen of Rumania taught luxury buying folk a good lesson recently when she entered an antique shop. She picked up an amber statuette and asked the price. "One hundred and twenty pounds," was the reply. "That's too much for me," said the Queen and her daughter Princess Elizabeth, who was with the Queen, added: "They must think we are Americans."

MINING FIGHT IN WEST VIRGINIA GROWS SERIOUS

Question of Wages Takes Second Place In Bitter Struggle.

Both Sides Insist on Complete Victory

Recognition of Unions and Employment of Guards Cause of Trouble

Williamson, W. Va., July 28.—The campaign of the United Mine Workers to organize the 5,000 miners in the Mingo county bituminous coal field has precipitated a situation which each side declares can only end when it has won complete victory. In the conflicts growing out of this move 12 or more persons have lost their lives Wages, apparently, form a secondary consideration, the battle being waged around recognition of the union and the right of mine owners to employ private detectives in and around the mines.

"The men and the operators could get together and settle this thing were it not for the question of the mine guards," said Charles F. Keeney, president of District No. 17, United Mine Workers, who is in command of the union forces. "But in their present temper these men are not to be fooled with. Right now this situation is a powder mill."

"There is not a mine guard in Mingo county, and there has not been for years," said George Bausewine, secretary of the Coal Operators' Association, of Williamson. "Privtte detectives are employed as other corporations employ detectives for intelligence work in and around their properties. They are not used for guarding the mines."

The question of wages hinges on the scale paid in the Kanawha field. The union leaders declare that adoption of this scale would increase the earnings of the miners in Mingo, while the operators insist that their miners, under the scale now in force, are being paid more than it is possible for the Kanawha miners to earn. However, little attention is being paid to that phase of the controversy. Recognition of the union is the big issue.

The Mingo field includes all of Mingo county and the mines along the Kentucky side of Tug river, a shallow narrow stream which for miles in this region forms the boundary between Kentucky and West Virginia. High mountains rise abruptly on each side of the river, their sides covered with a heavy growth of bushes. Along the mountain sides are the drift mines from which comes the coal, and nestling in the narrow valley are the little towns where live the miners and their families.

Fully 75 per cent. of the miners in the region are native born, many of them descendants of pioneers who entered the county more than 100 years ago, and who are proud of their lineage. Some foreign-born miners can be found in the camps, while numbers of negroes are employed. Often the miner owns a small acreage, for which in the planting and harvesting, he will abandon the mines.

In some places the miners live in brick cottages, each having its garden plot and front porch. Such a village is Bordertown, where early this month miners were fired upon from the mountainside while going to work. In other villages the houses are of frame construction, each set in its own garden plot, and for which the miners pay at the rate of two dollars per month per room.

Williamson, the center of the region, is pleasantly placed in the valley, with substantial buildings and good stores. The Mingo county court house is one of the best structures, but the city hall also is a complete office building, while there is in course of construction a theater which will cost $250,000. The 8,000 residents of the town very generally enjoy the prosperity which has come to the coal trade in the past few years.

Early in the year the movement to organize the United Mine Workers was inaugurated by President Keeney from district headquarters at Charleston, and organizers were sent into Mingo county. They met with such success that a demand was made upon the operators for the enforcement of the Kanawha scale and recognition of the union. This demand the operators refused, and the union called a strike. The order, mine operators say, was answered by from 1,500 to 1,800 miners, but the union officials put the figure higher.

The companies, through their lawyers, took the position that the houses built for the miners who had gone on strike reverted at once to the owners.

The miners, in some instances, held that if the companies wanted the house of a man they must obtain possession of it by due process of law.

Numbers of miners were evicted from company houses, and it was for that purpose private detectives, "mine guards," the miners term them, were sent to Matewan, June 19, and where in the fight which followed the eviction of five families, 10 persons were killed.

Many miners, however, moved from company houses without protest, and the United Mine Workers established for such persons tent colonies along Tug river near the places of their former employment. There the strikers and their families live in army tents, and there they declare they will stay until the strike has been settled and they have returned to work.

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

The old time hero saved someone from drowning, but the modern hero makes a home run in the ninth inning.

The old timers can't understand why the modern boy wants to be out evenings, when he should be reading history under the parlor lamp.

Some men who say advertising isn't read, will always drop into the barber's shop frequently so as to get a chance at the paper.

The modern bathing suit leaves abundant pasturage territory for the American mosquito.

Anxiety is expressed by many of the girls because their checkerboard skirts are not conspicuous enough.

Aviation is being encouraged with $1,000,000 worth of prizes, not to speak of various artistic and costly monuments.