

EMPLOYMENT ON GREASE IN FEBRUARY

Chattanooga Leads Nation in Percentage of Employed; Detroit Up.

Mountain States Report Prospects for Better Conditions.

Washington, March 16.—The number of persons employed in the United States continued to decrease during February, the department of labor's employment service announced Wednesday night in its monthly survey of the unemployed.

The employment service made no attempt to estimate the size of the nation's army of jobless workers, but its figures show that 1,423 firms, located in the 85 principal industrial centers of the country, had in their employ February 28, a total of 1,626,358 workers as compared with 1,643,233 on January 31. This was a net decrease of 16,235.

Denver Jobless Less.

Denver, Colo., with a decrease of 24.9 per cent on the basis of the service's report, led the 36 cities in which the number of employed was less at the end of February than at the close of the preceding month.

The percentage of employed showed the greatest increase in Chattanooga, Tenn., amounting to 67.7 over January.

Prospects for a bettering of conditions were reported from the mountain states, although little change was experienced during the month.

In Colorado the trend of employment was slightly downward and the number of jobless was slightly increased in Montana.

The number of idle workers was reported to have grown in the Pacific coast states but organized efforts to ward semi-public and public works are to bear fruit possibly this month.

TROOPS GUARD FLOODED CITY

Walla Walla, Wn., March 16.—Members of Battery A, Washington National Guard, Wednesday night were ordered out to act as special police to guard points of danger in the city and to aid in safeguarding traffic through the sections of Walla Walla inundated because of heavy rains Wednesday.

Flood waters have caused much damage to property and the city of Walla Walla has been washed out. Over a foot of water covers some of the lower sections of the city.

Damage is expected to run into thousands of dollars. Great loss was suffered by farmers in the vicinity of Walla Walla whose newly planted fields were flooded.

After several hours let-up, heavy rain began falling late Wednesday evening, adding to the possibility of further damage.

Rail Labor Board Renders Decisions Affecting Workers

Chicago, March 16.—Firemen on locomotives weighing from 250,000 to 300,000 pounds were granted the proportionate increase in pay allowed by Decision No. 2, the wage award of July, 1920, in a decision handed down by the railroad labor board Wednesday.

The dispute was presented by the firemen's union against the Southern Railway and the board ruled that the increase of 1.04 cents a mile increased grants by Decision No. 2, should be added to the rate of 5.37 cents established by the Lane commission's award.

Engineers and firemen on the Los Angeles and Salt Lake railroad are not entitled to increases in pay over the rates established by the Lane commission's general order Number 27, the United States railroad administration, according to another ruling.

Clara Hamon's Counsel Spring Surprise; Waives Right to Plead; Jury Charged on Self Defense

Move Follows Lengthy Argument by Special Prosecutor for Conviction; Court Withholds Ruling Day.

Ardmore, Okla., March 16.—The defense in the trial of Clara Smith Hamon, charged with the murder of Colonel Jake L. Hamon, sprang a surprise late Wednesday when it waived its right to argue the case and asked that it be sent immediately to the jury and court adjourned until Thursday morning when a ruling on that procedure will be made.

H. H. Brown, of Ardmore, special prosecutor in the case, had made a motion to place an embargo on Hamon when William P. McLean, of Fort Worth, Texas, arose and said: "The state has opened argument of its case and it has closed it."

The state was unopposed for the move and N. Prince Freeling, state attorney general in charge of the prosecution by appointment of Governor J. B. Robertson was not in the court room.

Looks up Law.

The court withheld a ruling on the proposal until Attorney General Freeling could reach the court room and immediately after he had said that he wished time to look up the law on the matter, the court ordered the overnight adjournment.

"If the court please," said Attorney General Freeling, "I do not care to argue this case myself, only as a matter of duty, but I do want time to pick out the law on the subject and lay it before the court."

The sudden waiving of its right to argue would have cut off Attorney General Freeling's closing appeal for conviction had the court permitted it.

Judge Unprepared.

Wednesday night Judge Thomas W. Champion of the Carter county district court, said he heretofore had been the practice to dispense with arguments when counsel so elected in minor cases.

The court was unprepared to say Wednesday night what his ruling Thursday morning would be. He said, however, predicted that the defense would continue pleas to the jury and that Attorney General Freeling would close the case.

The attorneys are not under a time limit but it generally was said by the eight attorneys involved, only four of whom will speak if it is ruled the argument will be heard, that the case would be in the jury's hands by the noon recess Thursday.

Three Degrees of Murder.

In his charge to the jury Judge Champion pointed out the three degrees of murder under the Oklahoma code: murder with a sentence of life imprisonment or electrocution; first degree manslaughter, with a sentence of from four years to life imprisonment, and second degree manslaughter with a minimum fine of \$1. He also made it plain to the jury the matters of self-defense, excusable homicide, and dying declaration.

Paving the way for Attorney General Freeling's closing argument and at the same time asking that the young defendant be convicted, Mr. Brown spoke one hour and fifty minutes.

Recently he pointed to Mrs. Jake L. Hamon as she sat weeping in her mourning costume and the defendant asked that the jurors in their own minds compare the two, the one with a look of goodness and honesty in her face and the other "painted face," well coiffured and who, from this witness seemed to you like a dove.

"Schooled" Story.

Mr. Brown asserted that Clara Hamon's story of the shooting of Mr. Hamon, uncle of her former husband, and with whom she had lived eight or nine years, was told from the witness stand Tuesday in a schooled, tragic voice.

A contract between Colonel Hamon and Clara, introduced as evidence Tuesday and in which she came to work for Colonel Hamon for \$25 a week subject to discontinuance on two weeks' notice, provided that should a child, boy or girl, be born of their relationship, the child should be named after the father and recognized by the father, and share in the Hamon estate after the colonel's death, also was made known by the special prosecutor.

MONTANA SOLONS ABSENT AT CONFAB ON WOOL EMBARGO

Washington, March 16.—No Montana congressmen were in the party of western senators and representatives that called on President Harding Wednesday and asked him to put an embargo on unmanufactured wool.

President Harding told that a million pounds of wool was arriving in the United States a day and was destroying business in the West.

The whole question will be threshed out with Secretary Wallace.

Grand Jury Says 4 Looted Morris Bros. Bond Firm of \$2,255,000

Portland, Ore., March 16.—Four indictments, charging misappropriation of a total \$2,255,000 were served Wednesday on persons figuring in the collapse of the bond house of Morris Brothers, Inc.

Those accused by the grand jury: John L. Etheridge, former president of the wrecked bond house; Mrs. Stella Etheridge, his wife; Fred S. Morris, founder of the concern, and Forbes B. Pratt, secretary.

The charge read: "Larceny by embezzlement. Etheridge is implicated in each of the four indictments; Morris is named in two of them and Mrs. Etheridge and Pratt in one each."

Morris Also Implicated.

One indictment charges Etheridge and Morris with embezzlement of \$100,000 which was placed on deposit at a Forest Grove, Oregon, bank and immediately turned over to Morris directly by means of payment to Miss Henrietta Morris, sister of Fred Morris.

Etheridge, Morris and Pratt were indicted in a second true bill charging they engineered a deal whereby \$25,000 in stocks of the Rogue River Water Co., the property of Morris Brothers, was turned over to Miss Morris in February, 1919 for \$1.

Mrs. Etheridge Accused.

A third indictment against Etheridge concerns alleged duplication of assets.

Etheridge and Mrs. Etheridge were accused of embezzlement of an additional \$100,000 in bonds. These bonds, the grand jury asserts, Etheridge took from the assets of the firm, placing \$25,000 of them in a safety deposit box here and \$75,000 in a box at Tacoma, Wash.

DROUTH LOANS READY MONDAY

Fargo, N. D. 16.—Loan application blanks were received Wednesday at the agricultural department office established here to distribute \$2,000,000 in federal relief loans among drouth-stricken farmers of the northwest.

These were relayed at once to the drouth-stricken areas.

Plans for the loan distribution in Montana will be completed Monday, when Mr. Warburton will meet with extension officials of the State Agricultural college at Bozeman, he said Wednesday night.

Governor Davis, of Idaho, today telegraphed Mr. Warburton that loans are needed in some sections of that state, the latter said. Authorities in Washington state also have expressed a desire for assistance. North Dakota and Montana had been the only states generally mentioned up to this time, as including the drouth-stricken areas.

'Gas Box' Succeeds Electric Chair

Reno, Nev., March 16.—If Governor Emmet D. Boyle signs the "humane death" bill which passed the senate Wednesday, lethal gas will be used for inflicting the death penalty in Nevada.

Court Charges Jurors on Manslaughter and Homicide and Brought Out Different Points of Justification

Ardmore, Okla., March 16.—The charge of Judge Thomas W. Champion to the jury in the trial of Clara Smith Hamon, for the alleged murder of Colonel Jake L. Hamon consisted of thirty-four articles in seventeen typewritten pages. The court charged the jury on homicide and manslaughter in the first and second degrees, and brought out the different points of justification.

Article 11 was paid especial attention in connection with the Clara Hamon case. It follows:

Dwells on Article 11.

You are instructed, gentlemen of the jury, that homicide is excusable when committed by accident or misfortune, or in doing any lawful by lawful means with usual caution and without any unlawful intent.

Second, when committed by accident and misfortune and in the heat of passion upon a sudden and sufficient provocation or upon a sudden combat, provided that no dangerous weapon used, and that the killing is not done in a cruel or unusual manner.

Homicide is Justifiable.

You are further instructed, gentlemen of the jury, that homicide is justifiable when committed by any person in the following cases: First, when resisting an attempt to murder a person or to commit any felony upon such person.

Second, when committed in the lawful defense of such person, or when there is a reasonable ground to apprehend a design to commit a felony or to do some great personal injury and imminent danger of such design being accomplished by the person so killed.

Right of Self-Defense.

In this case the defendant, Clara Smith Hamon, in support of her plea of not guilty claims as a justification for such homicide that she acted in self-defense of the person named in the indictment, Clara Smith Hamon, pleads that she did the killing, but that same was done to prevent the doing her serious harm. It is the right of every person to act in the defense of her own person where she is assailed in such a manner that it reasonably appears to her that there is an imminent danger or that she is in imminent danger of serious personal injury. You are instructed that a killing upon the plea that she acted in self-defense, there must not only have existed at the time of the killing, reasonable ground to believe a design on the part of the deceased to either take the life of the defendant or to do her some great personal injury, but in addition there must be reasonable ground to believe that there was an imminent danger of such design being carried out.

Dying Declarations.

You are instructed, gentlemen of the jury, that dying declarations are admissible in evidence and to be considered by you under the rules that govern in determining the credibility of witnesses who testify from the stand.

If after considering all the evidence in the instructions which you will understand are to be considered by you as a whole, you have reasonable doubt of the guilt of the defendant, then you will acquit her, but in the event, after consideration given to the evidence in this case and these instructions, you do entertain a reasonable doubt as to such offenses of which you do not entertain a reasonable doubt, yet whatever doubt may be entertained by you, arising from the evidence and these instructions, as applied to it, such doubt must be resolved in favor of the defendant.

Mrs. Hamon Escapes.

It's not a case of Jake Hamon, a case of Mrs. Hamon, or the Hamon estate against the defendant, but a case of the state against the defendant, Mr. Brown said.

As Mr. Brown referred to Hamon's alleged dying statement to the Rev. T. J. Irwin, quoting Hamon as having said, "Well, preacher, she got the old man instead of the old woman," Mrs. Hamon, the widow, sobbed aloud. She continued to cry as Mr. Brown talked, pointing to the jury. Mr. Brown asked the jurors to make their own comparison.

cannot let this defendant go free," Mr. Brown said, "you cannot let the rest of the world that a woman killed a man in Oklahoma, brazenly faced a jury and go scot free."

DeValera Gives Out Interview

Extreme Care Is Taken in Escorting Scribe to Sanctum Sanctorum.

Gives U.S. Impressions; Not Religious Question as Thought Here, Says

Dublin, March 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—Eamonn DeValera, leader of the Republicans and "president of the Irish republic," gave a personal interview Wednesday to The Associated Press correspondent. This is the first interview he has accorded to any newspaper representative since his return from the United States to Ireland.

If any proof of the extraordinary precautions taken by his devoted followers to insure his protection were needed, it was afforded by the extreme care taken in escorting the correspondent to and from the presence of the Irish leader, an hour after leaving Mr. DeValera, the correspondent was under the closest surveillance not only from his escort, but as it seemed from everybody in Dublin.

In the course of the conversation, which lasted three-quarters of an hour, Mr. DeValera told of the impressions he had brought back from America, and remarked:

Taboo Religious Issue.

"The saddest thing there to me was to see the Irish question treated by so many people as if it were a religious wrangle. It is not a religious question, even insofar as the differences here between the north and south of Ireland are concerned."

He spoke bitterly of the "English government's lack of principle and statesmanship."

"Ireland," he said, "is trying to win by playing on human weakness. As a matter of fact, though it does not realize it, England is playing not the weakest but the strongest quality of the Irish people—their spiritual quality. The young men of Ireland are saying to themselves: 'At best the duration of life is only 70 years. We must all die, so why not die bravely?'"

Never, perhaps, as by dying in such a cause as Ireland's could we do so much for the world."

Leader in Good Health.

"England may try to contend that men like those executed in Mountjoy were murderers. She will find it much harder than she imagines to get the world to accept that view."

The Irish leader is in excellent health, but his friends in America would hardly recognize him, for he is well known as a side-car of a motorcycle and down goggles, which he wears in detail, but he looks extremely fit and conveys the impression of being free from any sense of personal danger.

The volunteer who conducted the correspondent to Mr. DeValera's residence said that, despite the protests of his friends, he never left his house, working strenuously daily from 7 o'clock in the morning until 11 at night. The intensity of his concentration was shown Wednesday by the inventor of the "Irish cap" and its righteousness and his declaration that Ireland is keeping alive the flame of the high principles for which the late war was fought.

Interview Surprise.

The interview was a complete surprise. Until 15 minutes before it took place, the correspondent had no intimation that it would be accorded.

A questionnaire for submission to the president through the same channels as were used in the submission of the questionnaire of last January had been prepared and the correspondent was proceeding to the rendezvous for that purpose, when suddenly he was invited to climb into a side car of a motorcycle and down goggles, which he wore in detail, but he looks extremely fit and conveys the impression of being free from any sense of personal danger.

Wires Cut in Dublin.

Telegraph and telephone wires were cut on an extensive scale during the last 24 hours, causing the suggestion to be made that some movement on a large scale was being arranged. Linemen were held up as they left the central offices and their equipment taken to prevent them making repairs. Thus far, however, there have been only the usual scattered shooting.

A tailor of Keonagh, county Longford, was taken from his work today and shot dead. A card with the words "shot by the Irish Republican army for spying," was attached to the body.

A constable was shot dead in North Kerry and a woman, into whose house the body was taken, died of shock.

Dining Car Menus Cut 15% in West

San Francisco, March 16.—All western railroads have agreed to a general reduction in dining car menus ranging from 15 to 25 per cent, it was announced here Wednesday by the Southern Pacific Co.

CUTS IT TO ONE AGAIN; WHITE BRANDS G.O.P. AS FALSE TO ITS PROMISES

Republicans Have Fooled People With System of Increased Taxation Charges Fergus County Solon in Vigorous Attack Upon Effort to Put Higher Tariff Upon State's New Industry.

By WARREN W. MOSES Staff Correspondence

Helena, March 16.—Tax of one per cent upon the production of oil, one per cent and no more, was the ultimatum of the senate Wednesday afternoon when it took up for consideration the house measure imposing a 3 per cent tax in which the house was carrying out the mandate of Governor Dixon. The demands of the governor for a tax greater than that provided by the assembly in its regular session were rejected by the senate after one of the most interesting and enlightening debates that has taken place upon the floor of the senate chamber during the 72 days that body has been in session.

By an overwhelming majority as shown by the vote of 32 to 20 the senate adopted an amendment reducing the rate from 3 to one per cent and then by a vote of 40 to 11 concurred in the measure as amended. The vote:

Ayes—Anderson, Booth, Burgess, Burdette, Church, Clark, Coburn, Cole, Connelly, Cooper, Cowan, Craig, Dearborn, Donlan, Edwards, Esp. Galloway, Gibson, Greening, Haaland, Haley, Hazelwood, Hendon, Hendrickson, Jensen, Kirton, Larson, Leuthold, Lewis, Long, McCone, Page, Parker, Paul, Siegfried, Slattery, Stewart of Meagher, Stewart of Deer Lodge, White, Yatala.

Noes—Dixon, Foster, Greenup, Griffin, Harms, Joad, Lowe, Loy, Malin, Pauline, Rorvik, Total 11.

Absent—McKay, Mears, Kenney, Total 3.

The fight which has been made by those supporting the oil industry during the past 10 days appears to have weakened the strength of the administration in the senate and thus the anti-administration forces were able to defeat the governor in one of the principal reasons which he had set forth for the calling of the extra session.

The debate of the question was enlivened by several eloquent talks and was featured by Senator B. C. White of Fergus county by an attack upon the governor in which he expressed his resentment at what he declared to be an attempt of the governor to "enforce his will upon the legislative body of the state."

White Makes Fur Fly.

Senator White after quoting the message of the governor to the effect that if few bills were introduced and the legislature completed his business for an early adjournment the people "will call you blessed," charged the Republican party with complete failure to carry out its promises of reform and retrenchment.

"I charge upon the floor of this senate that the Republican campaign promises have not been kept," he shouted. "You have fooled the people with your system of increased taxation."

Stewart did not miss the opportunity to tell the senate that he "was not one of the nine apostles, nor was he one of the 'five' referring to the vote trading charge and added that he was acting "without intelligent conviction" in taking the present action in the alleged vote trading investigation.

Goes to Conference.

The bill was amended to include a new tax on the oil industry, so well. The bill now was to come before the house passed it with a 3 per cent tax.

With McKay in the chair, consideration of the bill was taken up in committee of the whole. Larson moved to amend the bill by striking out 3 per cent and inserting one per cent. He contended that a 3 per cent tax on the oil industry in its present stage of development would lead outsiders to believe that a radical sentiment prevailed in Montana and that two years hence the tax might be 10 per cent, said foreign capital would keep clear of the state.

Siegfried wanted to know how big the oil lobby would be two years hence, in view of its present size when the industry was "merely in its infancy."

Want Outside Capital.

Edwards contrasted prospecting for oil in Montana with prospecting for oil in Oklahoma where, after 14 years, a tax of 3 per cent was levied. He listed a number of other taxes. "Later he spoke again and insisted a 3 per cent tax in Montana, along with the other taxes that are levied would mean the highest tax in the world," he said.

White spoke of considerable length and charged that the Republican majority had not kept the promises of retrenchment made to the people last fall. "Such a burst of enthusiasm," exclaimed Sir Philip, "preparing to resume his subject. 'Really, I'm convinced there is much interest in my subject.'"

Scouts Honor Harding, Honorary President

Washington, March 16.—President Harding was formally notified Wednesday of his appointment as honorary president of the Boy Scouts of America.

GERMANS MUST PAY OUT OF PROFITS, ASSETS

'Long Live the U. S.' Greets Briand's Reference to Allies' Unity.

Teuton Deposits in American Bank Run Into Many Millions.

London, March 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—The German reparations bill, providing that the levy of 50 per cent on German goods, shall not be effective until conference 51, passed the committee stage in the house of commons early this morning, without vital change.

Paris, March 16.—(By the Associated Press.)—In the chamber of deputies Wednesday Premier Briand summarized the work of the London conference and the whole house, with the exception of the socialists, and communists, applauded him enthusiastically.

The deputies particularly favored the premier's declaration that "Germany must pay not only from profits but from her assets" and for his reference to the big German industries that no longer published their balance sheets because their profits were scandalous.

Cannon Trained on Essen.

"Our soldiers are at Dusseldorf, Duisburg and Ruhrort, with cannon trained on Essen to show them something," the premier exclaimed. His words were almost drowned in the applause.

Mr. Briand said the chamber had asked him to maintain a united front by the allies, and he had done so. At this point a voice from the socialist benches cried: "Long live the United States!"

Auroil's Move Cheered.

Referring to Deputy Auroil's proposal of Tuesday looking to the formation of an international economic office for reconstruction and economic revival, with financial backing from the United States, the premier said that the only reply to had to make was that everything possible had been done toward the solidarity of the allies, and the efforts were continuing. He gave the British prime minister credit for being the first to propose the German reparations in the United States.

Regarding the duration of the occupation of the new territories, M. Briand declared the soldiers would remain until the question of reparations, disarmament, and the trial of accused German officers were definitely settled.

Berlin Amasses Credits IN U. S. NATIONAL BANKS

Washington, March 16.—(By the Associated Press.)—Inclusion by the allied reparations commission of the American Federal Reserve banks as an optional depository for German indemnity payments, brought from treasury officials Wednesday night the news that the commission possibly had two purposes in view.

First, to enable the German government to call upon "vast credits" which it is said to hold through private agencies in the United States.

Second, to employ in favor of the allied government the tremendous difference in exchange rates.

Individuals Hold Funds.

Information gathered by the reserve banks was said to show that since the armistice Germany had been amassing credits in United States national banks, holding the funds in the names of individuals. No approximation of the amount could be obtained, but officials said the sum would run into many millions.

There had been no intimation given the United States government that its banking system might be employed as the reparations note forwarded to Berlin Wednesday suggested, officials stated. The mere fact that this government's banks would serve as practical neutral territory so far as reparations were concerned was not accepted as the full reason for the commission's proposal, although the reserve banks have acted as depositories for several foreign governments since the beginning of the war.

GRAN MARKET PLAN INDORSED

Columbus, Ohio, March 16.—Representatives of executive committees of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Ohio Grange, and farmers grain dealers Wednesday, adopted formal resolutions endorsing the plan and principles of the grain marketing plan of the committee of 17 of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Five delegates are to be appointed tomorrow to attend a meeting in Chicago, April 6 when the plan is to be voted upon in national meeting.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 16.—Resolutions favoring the grain marketing plan of the farmers' marketing committee of 17 were adopted at a state convention of farmers' delegates here Wednesday when four delegates to a national conference in Chicago, April 6, were chosen.