



From The New York Times of November 7th, 1920

**Harding's Favorite Story Book**

President-elect Harding says: "One of my favorite authors is Edgar Saltus. I suppose I have read his 'Imperial Purple' two or three times, but last night when I took it to bed with me I reread the whole thing and I didn't get to sleep until after 1 o'clock." This happened just two nights before Senator Harding was elected President.

**"The Imperial Orgy,"**

which is about the lusts, madneses, and orgies of the Russian Tsars, from the First to the Last, is even more vivid and colorful than "Imperial Purple," which was about the Csars. "The Imperial Orgy" is undoubtedly the most fascinating book Mr. Saltus has ever written.

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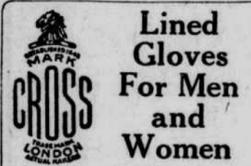
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**MILLER SEEKS IDEAS FROM MANY GROUPS**

Talks With Mayor Hylan on Use of Voting Machines in City Polling Booths.

**INDEPENDENTS SEE HIM**

Next Governor Hears Views on Ballot Reform and State Reconstruction Work.

Judge Nathan L. Miller, Governor-elect, is seeking every shade of opinion on the problems of government that confront him. Proof of this fact is that on Tuesday night, he learned yesterday, he was a dinner guest with a group of Independents interested in governmental reforms, while yesterday he discussed proposed changes with practical politicians.

Late in the afternoon he argued a case in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court and this morning goes to Albany to appear in the Court of Appeals. He will return for further conferences on the State government on Monday.

Jacob A. Livingston, Kings county leader, was among the first to talk to the Governor-elect. He had previously called upon Mayor Hylan at the City Hall, where, it is understood, he talked about the possibility of the city using \$400,000 for supplies alone for next year, to say nothing of salaries of the election officials. Mr. Livingston, who is a Commissioner of Elections, is said to have expressed the opinion that while voting machines would be expensive to install, they would be cheaper in the end.

**Opposes City Convention.**

Mr. Livingston apparently has changed his mind about the extent to which there should be a return to nominating conventions. Last week he was represented as favoring a city convention. Yesterday, it was reported, he told the Governor-elect it would not be wise to restore any other than State and Judiciary conventions. From his talk with Judge Miller Mr. Livingston got the impression that he did not favor consolidating the two public service commissions, but rather a reorganization of the commission in the First Department, with more authority.

Mr. Miller did not discuss the possibility of increased fare legislation, but the Kings county man explained it "would be a mistake to put through any legislation which would bring about an increase in the cost of transportation in New York city." Franklin B. Lord has been interested in the technical end of ballot reform matters and State reconstruction programmes, both in the City Club and the Citizens Union. Among them were Raymond V. Ingersoll, secretary of the City Club, and Robert Moses, chief of staff of the Smith Reconstruction Commission, who was able to explain the technical side of the work of that body. Most of those present were for direct primaries, but they found the Judge firmly opposed to the system and bent upon a return of the convention system. They were pleased, however, to find that the Governor seemed to have no sympathy with those who are advocating the abolition of the Massachusetts ballot and a return to the old party emblem.

**To Combine Collections.**

Among others who conferred with the Governor-elect yesterday were Justice E. R. Finch, an expert on ballot matters; former Gov. Charles S. Whitman, Borough President Henry H. Curran, Senator Schuyler M. Meyer and George D. Pratt, Conservation Commissioner, whose term expires in April. Some items left out of the original tabulation of State budget requests have brought the grand total up to \$229,000,000, it was learned yesterday. It has been estimated that the State revenue next year cannot reach more than \$120,000,000, which is \$5,000,000 less than the first estimate. As a matter of economy, as well as good business, it is probable that the collection of all State revenues will be placed in the hands of a single department, taking away all collections from the Comptroller's office as well as from that of the Secretary of State.

**RENEWS OFFER OF YACHT TO HARDING**

President Directs Daniels to Place the Mayflower at His Disposal.

**TO BE READY AT NORFOLK**

Will Await President-Elect in Hampton Roads for His Trip to Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—By direction of President Wilson Secretary Daniels placed the Presidential yacht Mayflower at the disposal of President-elect Harding to-day to complete his trip from Panama to Washington. The Secretary sent a radiogram to Senator Harding on the steamship Pastores en route to Norfolk, informing him that the Mayflower would be at Hampton Roads Saturday when the Pastores is due there, and that President Wilson would be happy to have Senator Harding use the vessel for the passage to Washington. The message said:

"The Mayflower will be in Hampton Roads upon your arrival, and the President will be happy to place it at your disposal, as he understands you are coming to Washington from Norfolk." It was assumed that the Mayflower would be ordered to lie at anchor in Hampton Roads after conveying Secretary Colby to that port Saturday, preparatory to his trip to South America. The President previously offered Senator Harding the use of the Mayflower and also of a battleship for his journey when he learned that the Senator intended to go to Panama on his vacation trip. Senator Harding declined the offer, saying his arrangements already had been made.

**IN JAIL, SHE BLAMES COLLEGE EDUCATION**

'Billy Black' Says She Had to Steal on \$8 a Week.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Chicago, Dec. 1.—Miss Alla Weisberg, sometimes known as Billie Black of Chicago and New York, with her expensive fur coat, handsome tan shoes, brown silk stockings, college education and everything, is a guest at the county jail to-day.

Her suite was prepared for her immediately upon her arrival from New York this morning in the custody of Police Matron Anna Lillard, who arrested her there last week after a search of several months. The prisoner is charged with taking \$7,000 from the funds of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of Chicago, where she was employed as cashier.

The girl was caught in an expensive apartment on East Fifty-second street, New York, according to the police matron. She was living there with her mother.

"I took some money all right, but I didn't take \$7,000," Miss Weisberg said when put into a cell. "What else is a girl with a college education going to do when she can only get \$8 a week working?"

**27 OFFICERS START WAR COLLEGE CLASS**

Admiral Sims Presents Medals to Heroes at Newport.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Newport, R. I., Dec. 1.—Twenty-seven officers reported for duty at the War College to-day to begin the new class for the year. Admiral William S. Sims in simple exercises presented Distinguished Service Medals to Rear Admiral Henry A. Wiley and Commander William T. Conn, Jr., Navy crosses were presented to Capt. Frank H. Clark and William R. Sayles.

Rear Admiral Charles P. Plunkett reported as Chief of Staff to Admiral Sims and Col. Ben H. Fuller, Marine Corps, for duty in the command. Those to take the course are Rear Admiral, Wiley, Capt. Frank H. Clark, Orton F. Jackson, Stephen P. Graham, William F. Scott, Roscoe C. Moody, John M. Luby, Luther M. Overstreet, Edward B. Fenner, William P. Cronan, Hilary H. Royall and William R. Sayles, also Commanders Wilson Brown, Stephen C. Rowan, Walter S. Anderson, Felix X. Gygas, Bert B. Taylor, Frank C. Martin, James K. Tracey, Marine Corps; Major Holland D. Smith, Marine Corps; Col. Joseph P. Tracey, U. S. A.; Lieutenant-Commander John Boedeker, Coast Guard.

**\$15,500,000 PAID FOR TELEPHONE PROPERTY**

Chicago Company Takes Over Central Union in Illinois.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—More than 200,000 subscribers were added to the service of the Chicago Telephone Company in an order issued to-day by the Public Utilities Commission approving the purchase of the Central Union Telephone Company in Illinois. The stipulated purchase price is \$15,500,000.

The Central Union Telephone Company supplies local telephone service to towns and villages in the State outside the eight counties directly adjacent to Chicago.

The Chicago Telephone Company plans to reorganize under the name of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company. By the time the transfer is completed, six months from now, the company will have approximately 1,600,000 subscribers, officials told the commission. The Central Union Telephone Company is selling its property in three States to raise \$40,000,000, the amount of its indebtedness to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. The Utilities Commission was told that the company expected to raise \$24,000,000 from the sale of its property in Ohio, and from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 in Indiana.

**COOLIDGE OFFERS TOAST WITH PINCH OF SNUFF**

Bows With Other Boston Scots to Anti-Wine Edict.

Boston, Dec. 1.—The cup that cheers was replaced by the snuff that exhilarates when the Scots' Charitable Society revived an old custom at its annual banquet last night to take the place of anti-prohibition toasts. Scotch snuff from a silver mounted ram's horn was passed about the tables.

First to take a cautious pinch was Gov. Calvin Coolidge, Vice-President-elect, who was the chief guest. From him the horn went down the banquet board. Sneeze followed, and handkerchiefs were quite generally displayed.

Soon afterward Prof. Charlton Black of Boston University related an anecdote directed to despondent victims of the Eighteenth Amendment. It was the warning of an old Scotchman to his son against too liberal use of snuff, with the statement that "I've been drunker on snuff than I ever was on whiskey." The guests sneezed again, and then the speakers had their say.

**FOREIGN WAR VETERANS' TAX**

Must Pay Poll and Bonus Charges in Massachusetts.

Boston, Dec. 1.—Men who fought with foreign forces in the world war and now live here must pay part of the bonus given by the State to its service men. This was the announcement to-day by City Collector Frank S. Deland of his attitude toward the reported decision by organizations of British and Canadian veterans to refuse to pay the State bonus payment charges. Warrants for the arrest of delinquents will go out in a fortnight, Collector Deland said, adding that he had no choice under the law but to proceed against men of the 1,000 foreign veterans now resident here who refuse to pay as he would act against any other citizens.

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FORMERLY  
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**SALVADOR TO BAR LUXURIES.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—To alleviate the financial situation the Government of Salvador will prohibit after January 1 a number of luxuries and essentials, said advisers received to-day by the Department of Commerce. The prohibited articles include passenger automobiles, bicycles, motorcycles, shoes, wooden and wicker furniture, trimmed hats, silk manufactures, tobacco, beer, champagne and other sparkling wines.

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