

SENSATIONAL CHARGES MADE IN ANTI-ALLIES PLOTS AT SAN FRANCISCO

COUNTY OPTION TEST CASE OPENED IN BORDER CITY

Attorney General Lyndon A. Smith Restrains Council From Granting Liquor Licenses.

HEARING SET AT BRAINERD NEXT SATURDAY

Matter to Be Taken to Supreme Court; Decision Will Affect Many Cities.

International Falls, Minn., Dec. 14.—(Special to the Daily Pioneer.)—The International Falls city council was restrained last night by Attorney General Lyndon A. Smith from passing on applications for saloon licenses to Paddy Cusick, Charles Burnett and Fred Shaw.

Opens Test Case.

The action of the attorney general opened the test case of the county option law.

The hearing on the restraining order of the attorney general will be held at Brainerd next Saturday before Judge W. S. McClenahan. Whichever side loses in the matter before the court at that time will take the case to the supreme court.

The matter that is being tested is whether or not a home rule charter city is free from the restrictions of the county option law.

Has Charter.

Koochiching county in a county option election voted out the saloons August 3 of this year. International Falls is governed by a charter which provides that the city shall have the exclusive right to license and regulate the traffic in liquor and conditions under such licenses.

The action of the attorney general yesterday was expected for some time as the members of the council had stated that if the matter of licensing should come before the city council that they would grant the licenses.

Watched With Interest.

As there are a number of cities in Minnesota which are governed by home rule charters and who had their saloons voted out under the county option law the outcome of the case is being watched with much interest.

Judge Marshall A. Spooner of Bemidji is in charge of the case for the International Falls men who desire to have the law tested.

RED WING TO OPEN SEASON HERE

The Red Wing high school basketball team has accepted the challenge of the Bemidji high school quint and will play a series of games in this city Dec. 21, 22 and 23. This will open the season in Bemidji.

The Red Wing team is composed of practically the same men who last year won the state high school basketball championship.

The Bemidji team will be composed of Tanner, Johnson, Cameron, Graham, Bailey, Gainey, Warfield and Plummer. The last three men will act as subs.

BR-R; WINTER'S HERE; SIX DEGREES BELOW ZERO

Winter has settled in Bemidji. Today was the coldest day of the present winter season, the temperature at seven o'clock this morning being six degrees below zero. The temperature at two o'clock this afternoon was eighteen above zero.

FINAL HEARING IS HELD FOR DITCH 35

The final hearing was held today by Judge C. W. Stanton on the proposed judicial ditch No. 35 to be located in the Towns of Northern and Eckles. The proposed ditch is to be eleven miles long. It is expected that Judge Stanton will file a decision in regard to the location of the ditch in a few days.

The many phases of the movement to bring peace in Europe are to be discussed at a session of the League to Enforce Peace at Charleston, S. C., tonight. Former President Taft will speak.

Pioneer want ads are read.

Bemidji's Santa Claus Militant; American Toys

Trip Through Toy Stores Convinces One That Part of America Will Be Prepared for War.

MANY SOLDIERS, CANNON, RED CROSS DOLLS, SHIPS, ETC.

Hardware, Clothing, Drug, Variety, Book, Furniture and Music Stores Have Many Gifts.

The United States may be unaccountably unprepared for war, but at least it can't be said that Santa Claus is to blame. He has certainly done his share.

A trip through the toy stores of Bemidji and an examination of the Christmas goods will convince one that there is one part of America that is undeniably in an excellent state of military and naval preparedness. From present indications the Bemidji nursery will soon be in shape to repel any attack upon the nation's life, property and honor.

Santa Claus Militant.

Never within memory has Santa Claus been so militant. Anybody would think from the samples of wares shown hereabouts, that he was advertising a line of Krupp goods or traveling for the Bethlehem Steel company and carrying a side line for one of the big shipbuilding concerns.

There are soldiers without end, and bristling cannon and more warships and submarines and things than any boy or girl ever saw before. There are Red Cross dolls, too, with all the paraphernalia for the work of mercy. But there's no dove of peace, no evidence of pacifism.

Genuine American.

It is noticeable, too, that these warlike toys are for the first time genuinely American. Santa Claus may be a German saint or a German-American saint, but this year he isn't even using the hyphen. The supply of toys that formerly came from Germany has been greatly curtailed by the war. Santa seems to have established a lot of factories on American soil and used strictly American models. The soldiers and sailors look like natives. Their uniforms are familiar.

After a trip through the Bemidji stores one feels that after Christmas morning, then, the country will be safe. Just ask any young Bemidji commander of a company of infantry or a battalion of artillery or a submarine flotilla whether the United States need fear any power on earth.

Other Presents Displayed.

Other than toy shops, however, there are many Christmas presents being displayed in Bemidji stores.

Hardware stores, clothing stores, drug stores, variety stores, book stores, furniture stores, music stores, jewelry stores, candy kitchens, green houses and grocery stores, too, are all tagging their windows, show cases and display counters with all the attractive and enticing articles that the inventive brains of Americans ever concocted.

One need not wonder long nor look far for either the most practical or the novelty kind of goods.

Drug Store Presents.

Among the proper and appropriate Christmas gifts in the drug stores are stationery, dresser sets, manicure sets, smoking sets, shaving sets, perfumes and many small items of practical and useful designs. Dishes of cut glass and rare and beautiful quality are also in the list of enhancing commodities.

Hardware Offer Variety.

Hardware stores have joined the competition of the variety stores this season by placing in their stock toys of all sorts and description. Aluminum ware, carving sets, library lamps, sleds, toboggans, skis, guns, jack knives are to be included in these stores' stocks, all of which are extremely tasty presents for any

member of the family.

Clothing Gifts Unique.

The clothing stores, both in the women's and men's departments, have abundant unique holiday gifts. In the women's department anything from a hair ribbon to the most expensive party gowns may be found, while the men's division is overflowed with tidy and welcome presents in the form of neckties, stockings, laundry bags, collar boxes, gloves and small jewelry necessities.

Jewelry articles, ivory dresser sets, flowers and books of every shape and form as well as pennants, pillow tops and furniture are among the most presentable gifts offered by the other concerns. In fact, to list all the possible and appropriate gifts would more than fill the columns of this paper, and the only difficulty the gift-seekers find is to make a choice from the sundry items on display and sale.

TO BUILD DIKES ON RED LAKE RIVER

Steps Taken by County Commissioners to Relieve Farmers in Thief River Falls District.

Thief River Falls, Minn., Dec. 14.

The first active steps to insure temporary relief for the settlers along the Red river east of this city who suffer from flood waters, have been taken by George Walker, I. Helseth, Chairman P. C. Wood of the county commissioners and John Bordewich, who went to Neptune on a tour of investigation. The trip was made at the request of Chairman G. Halvorson of the special committee appointed by Senator O'Neil of the Commercial club drainage committee.

River Makes Bend.

At the town of Hickory the river makes a wide bend. It is apparent that at some time in the past the river's course was through a gully leading off from this bend, say the investigators. At present, water from the river flows through this gully and onto the adjoining land, later emptying into a slough.

In the opinion of the committee the construction of a dike, temporarily, or until action is taken by the government, will do away with this flooding and make possible the reclamation of land at present under water. This dike could be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$500.

Commissioners to Meet.

The plan of contributions by those who will be affected has been suggested, and the special committee will leave in a few days to consult with the farmers. The dike, in order to be effective, would have to be 400 feet long and four feet high, with sufficient width to withstand the water in time of floods.

The board of county commissioners will be consulted when it meets Dec. 20, and will be asked to make an appropriation covering a part of the cost.

TREASURER MAKES NOVEMBER SETTLEMENT

Earl Geil, county treasurer, late yesterday afternoon completed the November settlement. The distribution of the settlement is being figured today in the office of the county auditor. The amount of the settlement is \$102,425.

Max Breitung, Dr. Herbert Kienzie, Englebert Bronkhorst, Robert Fay and Walter Scholz, recently indicted in connection with alleged activities to destroy munition ships of the Allies, pleaded not guilty in New York yesterday.

AUSTRIA AND U. S. CONFER ON NOTE

Governments Hope Settle Incident by Confidential Negotiations.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Informal negotiations between Austria and the United States have been begun to reach a settlement of the Ancona incident. The governments hope by this method to open an avenue for amicable adjustment of the matter.

Ambassador Penfield today conferred with the Austrian foreign office. Officials do not expect a definite reply from Austria within a fortnight.

NOTE CAUSES ANGER IN AUSTRIA, SAYS PRESS

London, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Amsterdam says:

"Reports from Vienna say that the American note concerning the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona has caused intense anger in the Austrian government and a diplomatic rupture is considered probable. The question before Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, is only whether a rupture with the United States would not force Berlin to a like step.

"Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier, has been summoned to Vienna to discuss the situation with the government."

ENTIRE EAST COAST IS STORM BOUND

Trains Are Stalled in Snow Drifts; Wire Communications Are Interrupted.

New York, Dec. 14.—The entire east coast is storm bound. Trains are stalled in snow drifts and wire communication has been interrupted. Northwest gales continue, with a drop in temperature.

The storm which in the last 24 hours brought to the North Atlantic seaboard and the Great Lake regions the first heavy snowfall of the season is off Sandy Hook, N. Y., and is moving northeastward.

New York city reported the greatest wind velocity, with a maximum of 64 miles an hour.

No unseasonable temperatures were recorded in the storm area, but a cold wave in the northwest today sent the mercury there to low marks for the season.

One Killed in Philadelphia. Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—One man was killed, several were seriously injured, and there were numerous minor accidents as the result of the snow storm which swept the eastern section of the state yesterday. Traffic was only slightly impeded.

ENGINEERS ON C. N. THREATEN STRIKE

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 14.—Engineers and firemen of the Canadian Northern railway today voted to strike as a result of the company's refusal to accept the arbitration board's report on the findings on wages and hours of labor.

DEER'S HORNS LOCKED; ONE DEAD; OTHER ALIVE

International Falls, Minn., Dec. 14.—The heads of two buck deer with their horns locked were received here from Waukana, where they were secured by a hunter during the big game season. One animal was dead from a broken neck when the two were discovered and the live one killed. The horns cannot be separated and will be mounted as they were found.

BULGARS PURSUE ALLIED TROOPS TO GREEK BORDER

Violent Artillery Battles Reported Along Frontier; Report Says Teutons Enter Greece.

TO DEMOBILIZE 50 PER CENT OF GREEK TROOPS

Pursuit of Allies Continues; England Buys Fast Motor Boats to Chase Submarines.

Athens, Dec. 14.—Violent artillery battles are being fought along the Serbo-Greek frontier. The Bulgarian shells are falling into Greek territory but no material damage has been reported.

One dispatch from Salonika declares that small Bulgarian detachments have advanced five miles into Greek territory. This has not been confirmed.

French and English wounded have been arriving in Salonika during the past 24 hours. It is said that the loss is less than 500 men during the past two days' fighting.

Newspapers announced today that Greece will demobilize 50 per cent of her troops under an agreement just entered into with the Allies.

BULGARS CUT OFF FRENCH TROOPS

Berlin, Dec. 14.—Pursuing the fleeing expeditionary forces down the Vardar valley the Bulgarians have cut off a body of French troops from the English and have slaughtered a large number, according to an official report. Among the French prisoners taken was the commander of a battalion. It is reported that the pursuit of the Allies is continuing.

BRITISH BUY FAST MOTOR BOATS

New York, Dec. 14.—Fast motor boats, valued at \$48,000, intended for use by the British navy in chasing submarines, were shipped from this port during the week ending December 4, according to statistics made public today by the foreign trade department of the National City bank. This is said to be one of the largest shipments of American motor boats since the beginning of the war.

CONSCRIPTION TO PREPARE ARMY

Bill Introduced in Senate for Compulsory Military Service.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The attention of the administration was turned today to what the United States thinks of conscription to prepare a citizens' army.

Heated discussions precipitated today by a compulsory service measure introduced by Chairman Chamberlain into the senate military committee. It is believed that a big army is impossible without compulsory services.

The house democrats in a caucus last night agreed to support a resolution designed to extend the life of the present emergency tax, without change until December 13, 1916, or for one year.

MAKES FINAL PROOF FOR CLAIM NEAR KELLIHER

John Beliveau this morning filed his final proof of claim on 33-155-30, north of Kelliher.

Read the Pioneer want ads.

G. O. P. NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS

1916 Campaign is Launched; Several Cities Bid for National Convention.

BULLETIN.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The Republican national convention will be held June 7. The present national committee was selected by a unanimous vote. Chicago claims to have a majority for the national convention.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The G. O. P. here today launched its 1916 campaign. The Republican national committee met to select the time and place for the national convention, following the meeting last Tuesday of the Democratic committee.

Presidential booms overshadowed the actual business of the Republican leaders. Political lightning rods were hoisted. Sentiment regarding the 1916 standard bearer was expected to largely crystallize at today's conclave.

Honolulu Wants Meet.

In selecting the convention city the committee had before it bids from Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Honolulu.

Bids of \$100,000 for the convention, with certified checks, were on hand to back up the invitations, with San Francisco bidding \$200,000.

It was regarded certain that the Republican convention will be held a week after the Democratic meeting, or about the middle of June. A week may intervene between the conventions.

The G. O. P. mobilization today had many aspects of a reunion of the Old Guard. Discussion of Progressive amalgamation, prospects of Roosevelt's return to the fold and overtures to the progressives was rife.

Many Veterans.

Much in evidence were Boies Penrose, William Barnes, Jr., Charles B. Warren of Michigan, Senator Smoot, former Governor Saunders of Tennessee, former Senator William Murray Crane and other veteran warhorses.

FORD PEACE SHIP TO ARRIVE TONIGHT

New York, Dec. 14.—Unless delayed by a storm, the Ford peace ship Oscar II will reach Christiania, Norway, late tonight, officials of the Scandinavian line today, asserted when last reported the Oscar II was maintaining its schedule but it is possible that its arrival may be delayed 24 hours by storms.

BRICKLAYERS ELECT OFFICERS AT BRAINERD

Brainerd, Minn., Dec. 14.—Bricklayers in convention here today elected A. E. Hilker of Austin, president, and L. Nicholas of North Mankato, secretary and treasurer. Rochester was chosen as the next convention city.

WILSON PARDONS THREE ON LIQUOR CHARGE

Crookston, Minn., Dec. 14.—President Wilson yesterday afternoon signed pardons for W. F. Peterson, Otto Kilen and S. B. Gillan, former saloonkeepers, who were sentenced to Fergus Falls in the United States court in November to sixty days in jail and a fine of \$100 for shipping whisky in the Indian territory. Half their time had been served.

Three hundred socialists are meeting today at Wichita, Kan., in state convention.

BRITISH SPY ADMITS PLOTTING WITH GERMAN ATTACKES

J. P. VanKoolbergen, Civil Engineer, Arrested; Confesses to Destroying Munition Ships.

ADVISES CANADA OF TEUTONIC SPY'S ACTIONS

Consul William von Brincken and Two Others Are Indicted on Conspiracy Charge.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 14.—The most sensational charges yet made in anti-Allied bomb plots was reported today to have been confessed by J. P. VanKoolbergen, civil engineer here, while in the alleged employ of German Consul Bopp.

Koolbergen claims to have been promised \$100 bonus for every allied munition ship destroyed. He claims to have received \$500 to go to British Columbia to destroy the Canadian Pacific's bridge to delay troop movements.

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When Fay and others were arrested in New York on similar charges Koolbergen told him to "lay low." Koolbergen, despite his German name, admits he is a British spy and that he was intending to double-cross his alleged employers. He stated that he went to British Columbia and told the authorities of the plot to destroy the bridge. To continue the intrigue, it was announced that the bridge had been destroyed.

Three Indicted. Baron George Wilhelm von Brincken, C. C. Crowley, a detective employed by the consulate, and Margaret Cornell, said to be a secret agent in Crowley's employ, were indicted here yesterday by the grand jury on two counts each.

The first count charges conspiracy to interfere with and destroy commerce between the several states of the union and the United States and foreign countries; the second count charges use of the mails to incite arson, assassination and murder.

Bail was fixed at \$5,000 on each count in the three indictments. Counsel for the defendants, all of whom had been arrested previously, promised to appear in court tomorrow.

Baron von Brincken and Crowley were previously charged in commissioner's warrants with conspiracy to interfere with and destroy commerce and they had been at liberty on \$10,000 bail, while Mrs. Cornell, arrested as a detained witness, gave \$1,000 bail.

EMPLOYES OF CHICAGO BELT LINE STRIKE

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 14.—A thousand employees of the Chicago Belt line struck today and threatened to tie up the traffic of a dozen railways. No train is moving on the entire line.

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY OFFICIALS TO PRISON

Duluth, Dec. 14.—Joseph T. Nelson and Gust L. Wedna were today sentenced to seven years in prison for embezzling county funds. They were both employed in the county treasurer's office.

WISCONSIN CITY DESTROYED BY FIRE

La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 14.—Necedah, Wis., seventy miles west of here, is burning. The fire started from an overheated furnace in a department store this morning. Six blocks have already been destroyed. Fire departments of surrounding towns have been rushed to the scene.

The personal income tax as paid during the last fiscal year was paid by 357,515 individuals, who turned into the government \$41,046,162, according to the annual report of the commissioner of internal revenue, made public today.

SCOOP THE CUB REPORTER

Only Eleven More Days Till Christmas

By "HOP"



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