

NO MORE RAISES IN RENTS!

On the Issue of Americanism There Can Be No Compromise

The Seattle Star

7TH LATE EDITION

Entered as Second Class Matter May 3, 1898, at the Postoffice at Seattle, Wash., under the Act of Congress March 3, 1879. Per Year, by Mail, \$1 to \$5

VOLUME 23

SEATTLE, WASH., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1920.

TWO CENTS IN SEATTLE

Betty Cinnamon on Stage

Helps Soldier Bonus Bill



Miss Betty Cinnamon in one of her costumes designed for the veterans' show, "Kick In."

Miss Betty Cinnamon, Seattle winner of the Ziegfeld national beauty contest, will take a leading part in the veterans' bonus bill show, to be given at the Metropolitan October 22.

Miss Cinnamon was one of the six contestants over whom the national judges were tied. The final Ziegfeld winner, Edith May Leuenberger, a Wisconsin girl, is now in New York, training for a part in the new Ziegfeld musical and beauty show.

But Miss Cinnamon isn't going to let the national judges' tie appreciate her charms keep her off the stage. She has a dance specialty for

the veterans' show, and takes a leading part in two musical numbers, "Hello, Seattle Veterans," and "For They're All Sweeties." She's part of the pony chorus.

"Kick In" is the name of the veterans' production. It is given under the auspices of American Legion posts and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to raise funds for putting over at the coming election, referendum No. 2, the soldiers' bonus bill.

The show will be in two parts. The first is "Armistice Night in France," showing the doughboys in celebration. The second is a musical revue with a pretty girl cast.

Going Up!

(The Seattle Star gained 11,749 in daily circulation in the year ending October 1, making its leadership undisputed. Every other Seattle paper, according to its official circulation figures, lost circulation, the loss of the second paper, The Star's closest competitor, being over 14,000.)

Some of the Reasons Why

6-Circulation Speed

EVERY MORNING at 9:30 a Northern Pacific train leaves for points north, carrying Seattle newspapers to Bellingham, Vancouver and points between and beyond.

But there are no Stars on that train when it leaves the King station.

Every morning at 9:30 a bell clangs in The Star's pressroom and one of the big presses starts grinding out the second edition. (It's then 1:30 in New York, 12:30 in Washington, 11:30 in Chicago, evening in Europe, and a good share of the news from world news centers is in.)

The edition of The Star that's printed at 9:30 goes on the train that leaves Seattle at 9:30. The first papers off the press are

loaded into an auto van, which then starts swiftly for the north. In the meantime that Northern Pacific train is gathering speed.

But the train slows down at Interbay. The Star's van is careening out Eastlake ave.

The train slows down at Fremont. The Star's van is nearing University bridge.

The train slows down at University station. The Star's van is there, waiting—unless there has been a traffic jam down town or something else to hold it back.

If the driver, passing over University bridge, sees that he can't make the station in time to get his Stars aboard, very well—

He speeds on thru Ravenna to Keith, and there he meets his train.

That's why readers in Northern Washington get later news in The Star than in any other paper.

And that's a sample of The Star's circulation methods.

Our readers will recall our experiments with airplanes for crossing Lake Washington and reaching points on the Sound when there is news of particular importance in those localities.

The Star prints nearly twice as many editions as any other Seattle paper. We do this because we want every reader to get the latest news it is possible for us to give him.

(Tell your friends about The Star. Tell them they can have it delivered, by mail or carrier, anywhere in the state of Washington for fifty cents a month.)

Good News

Butter Drops 2 Cents.

Two cents knocked off the whole-sale butter market Friday brought cubes down to 57 cents and bricks to 58 cents a pound. Overproduction, brought about as a result of the closing of condenseries when they found their foreign market gone, is advanced as the reason for the decline in price. Cream now goes into the churn instead of cans.

MRS. BRAINERD WILL TESTIFY AGAINST BETTY

“XX---KISSES” From Murderers' Row

ROY WOLFF SENDS THEM TO MOTHER

She Blames His Troubles on the Fact He Always Wanted to Work

BY LEE J. SMITH
YAKIMA, Wash., Oct. 15.—The boy who was never a child is how the mother of Roy Wolff, condemned to die on the gallows at San Quentin, Cal., October 22, for the killing of Elmer Greer, near Bakersfield, Cal., describes her first born.

“He just grew up too quick,” she told me here in her home.

He was a real puzzle during the 17 years Mrs. Margaret Wolff and Fred Wolff, the boy's father, struggled to rear him. There are seven boys and three girls in the family. There is nothing unusual about any of them save Roy, and however science might classify him, those who know him best say that he is a mystery.

“WORK HIS DOWNFALL,” SAYS MOTHER

At the age when most boys shirk work, Roy contracted habits of industry which his mother, strangely enough, avers brought about his downfall.

“His father was in the coal and wood business in Seattle when Roy was growing up,” she explained. “Roy was strong for his age, and while other boys were interested in toys, Roy was crazy about horses and wagons. He got to be such a help to his father that he let Roy stay away from school. I can manage him,” he used to say, and for that I must always blame him.

“When Roy was 12 he could deliver an order of coal all by himself. He was proud of his strength and his job. Saloons were open then, and Roy would go up to the bar with other teamsters, who thought it a good joke to treat him like a man. But he wasn't a drunkard or a sport.

WRITES ABOUT PRISON LIFE

“He was just like a baby about some things.”

“What he wanted, he took.”

“He liked machinery, always, and from prison he writes to me about this machine or that on the ranch and advises us what automobile is best for our work.”

Mrs. Wolff showed me a bundle of letters, received week by week from Roy in his death cell. They are just letters any boy of 12 might write. They relate with gusto the news of prison doings; a ball game, the serving of lemonade, letters from the many persons who are writing to him and to the authorities—some trying to save his soul, some his neck, some both.

CHILD “KISSES” FROM CONDEMNED CELL

At the close of each letter is written, “Lots of hugs and kisses, mama.” The kisses are represented by several rows of lanky cross marks. Child kisses from murderers' row!

Mrs. Wolff did not weep or smile as I talked with her. It was as though her last tear had been shed. The worn, dark face is stamped with a fixed impression of determination. Her boy must not hang. There must be a God who understands, she told me, almost fiercely.

“Has the state of California, which will speed any necessary amount to convict and execute a” (Turn to Page 2, Column 3)

Doctors Are Mystified by Mayor of Cork

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The United Press assigned Webb Miller of its London staff to make a personal investigation of the circumstances under which Lord Mayor Terence MacSwiney of Cork is conducting his hunger strike at Brixton prison, England. This was done in view of the fact that the news had been before gone without food 64 days, and many physicians had pronounced a prolonged fast impossible. Following is Miller's report on his investigation.

BY WEBB MILLER
(Copyright, 1920, by the United Press)

LONDON, Oct. 15.—Death only can or will prove definitely whether Terence MacSwiney is fasting his life away or whether he is taking nourishment in the hope that some turn of fate will release him from prison without making him a laughing stock.

A personal investigation at Brixton prison, where the lord mayor of Cork today began his 64th day of fasting, yielded this information: Friends and relatives vehemently declare that the only sustenance given MacSwiney has been a thin cracker each morning in communion.

Prison officials and attaches of the home office refused to talk, declaring it is the policy of the government to maintain silence. Irish officials admitted, however, that if the government were able to obtain evidence of feeding they doubtless would be glad to announce it to the world in the hope of halting the mayor.

POLICE GUARD BARS PRISON ENTRANCE

A heavy police guard halts newspaper men at the gate of Brixton prison. I was unable to cajole them into allowing me a glimpse of the interior. At the home office I was received courteously but with the statement that nothing could be said regarding MacSwiney.

Muriel MacSwiney, the lady mayor-elect, talked with me on behalf of the relatives. She talked impersonally of her husband's death as a thing assured. There were no signs of worry or grief, only indignation that there should be a thought of her husband's courage in carrying out his death strike.

“We wouldn't be able to feed Terry, even if we wanted to,” she declared. “Prison officials watch us too closely. One of us is at the bedside day and night and always there is a nurse there. Most of the time a doctor is with us, too.”

“They keep food at the bedside. Milk and broth are in sight at all times in the hope that he will yield.”

“Besides, what would be the use of eating now? It would only keep him alive a few days. We have given up all hope of his release. He is determined to continue the fast until death.”

“His eventual death will prove to the world that his will has not weakened.”

Prison physicians are doing everything to keep MacSwiney alive, his wife said. His room is kept at high temperature, hot water bottles are packed about his emaciated body and he is bathed three times daily, while careful examinations are made and reports on his condition filed with the home office.

Physicians have warned MacSwiney's relatives not to excite the man. “He is a martyr,” confident that MacSwiney is a martyr, meet the cynical comments of non-sympathizers with the assertion that there is no data to show how long a man can live without food if he is given scientific care. They express the belief that the prisoner can live several weeks longer, but all are confident that eventually he will die.

RED MENACE IS SEEN IN COAL STRIKE

Nation-wide Walkout of Miners Starts Tomorrow

BY CHARLES M. McCANN
LONDON, Oct. 15.—British coal miners will strike tomorrow. Executives of the miners' federation officially announced today work will cease Saturday in accordance with a strike notice originally voted for September 27, and twice postponed to permit negotiations.

English officials feared they faced revolution today, under the guise of a coal strike.

The basis for the hints of revolution lay in the fact that the main demand of the miners has been for nationalization of the industry—seen by the public as the first step toward the introduction of another form of government and the overthrowing of parliament.

Adding to the rumors of a deeper meaning than a mere demand for increased wages, were reports of “red” activities in various parts of the United Kingdom. Bolshevistic agents are known to have operated in Scotland and to have rounded up large bands of followers. The possibility Russian influence would be felt in the strike was admitted by government officials.

The Board of Trade today ordered an embargo on coal exports, effective immediately.

Sir Robert Horne, president of the board, declared the government had decided to make no further effort to reach an agreement but that any advances from the miners would be welcomed.

The quick application of an export embargo was taken to mean the government saw no hope of preventing the strike. Officials in the transport and food departments hastened to complete their arrangements before the coal supply was choked off. Petrol stations were stored as during the railway strike and provision was made for distribution of foods and other essentials.

MANY FACTORIES WILL SHUT DOWN

It was believed many factories would be compelled to shut down immediately. The matter of closing non-essential factories at once was under discussion.

Officers of the triple alliance, which includes the miners, said nothing as to what their policy would be. The entire coal controversy has centered around nationalization. At the apparently submerged for a time while ballots were taken by the miners on the wage question, it continually bubbled to the surface.

The controversy has raged now for more than 18 months, beginning early in 1919, when the miners demanded nationalization of the industry, wage increases and shorter hours. A strike was averted at that time when Premier Lloyd-George appointed the “Sankey commission.”

RENTS

IN SEATTLE, as everywhere else, the normal trend is toward lower prices.

Merchants are willing and anxious to charge less for their goods. Manufacturers welcome the opportunity to scale down costs. Producers are trying wherever they can to effect a saving in the expense of distribution. Very little of this has come as a result of government interference. Most of it has been due to widespread feeling among the public that costs MUST come down—that prices MUST be reduced, and that everybody must co-operate to bring about a sane dollar.

There are a few profiteers still profiteering, as The Star's recent campaign against too high restaurant prices proved. But the low-price sentiment is the rule. Everybody seems to have it. With one exception:

LANDLORDS!

COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN MADE to The Star that rentals on dwelling places and business locations have been raised all the way from 35 to 60 per cent.

The Star has investigated many of these cases and found the complaints to be true. Many times we have been tempted to excoriate individual landlords whose sudden raises in rents seemed particularly inexcusable.

Each time the excuse has been made that “everybody's doing it,” or “the fellow who owns the place next door has made a higher raise than mine,” or “it would be unjust to pick on me when there are others just as bad.”

There's something in that. The Star has no desire to work injustice on any person whose fault is no worse than that of others in the same position. A dozen times in the past two months we have regretfully desisted from calling attention to grasping landlords who made unreasonable and extortionate demands in rent. There has been no place to draw the line.

We had one slashing editorial in type about a man who boosted rents 40 per cent, when we learned of another who had boosted them 50 per cent. We were figuring on roasting this chap, when, two days ago, a business man brought in documents showing how his rent on a Second ave. store building had been boosted SIXTY per cent.

THE STAR now calls a halt.

Rents have gone too high. They should go no higher. No more rents should be raised. The Star is going to publish on this page, and in no uncertain terms, the facts about landlords who send rents sky-rocketing FROM THIS DATE ON.

We don't much blame a business man who hesitates about slashing prices after receiving in his morning's mail a notice to the effect that his rental will be increased by some \$1,000 a month.

Such a raise is inexcusable. Nothing warrants it, except the landlord's belief that his victim will PAY rather than MOVE.

IT MAY BE OBJECTED that landlords who HAVEN'T raised their rents will be injured, to the benefit of those who HAVE, if the boosting process stops now.

The Star thinks not. The Star thinks their properties will be rapidly filled by the business firms and families who move OUT of the places where rents are TOO HIGH.

All our readers whose rents are raised after today, October 15, are invited to lay their cases before the Court of Public Opinion—thru The Star.

SISTER TOO IS WITNESS FOR STATE

Said to Have Made Sworn Statements Telling How Baby Was Concealed

Mrs. Erastus Brainerd, mother of Betty Brainerd, will be a witness for the state against her daughter if Miss Brainerd is extradited from New York and brought back here to be prosecuted for the kidnaping of Baby Bobby Stagg, it was stated by the sheriff's office today.

Mrs. Henry Wahaska, sister of Betty, with whom Mrs. Brainerd is living at 2317 19th ave. N., also will be called to testify against the defendant newspaper woman and society favorite, it was said.

Both mother and sister are said to have made sworn statements in the presence of Captain Strickland, sheriff of Tacoma, and Deputy Sheriff Herbert Beebe and Deputy Prosecutor John A. Frater, admitting that Bobby Stagg was concealed in their home after the kidnaping and before he was spirited out of the state.

It was Mrs. Wahaska, it is said, who removed Bobby's dress and changed it after Betty and George Stagg, the child's father, had left him at the Wahaska home after bringing him from Tacoma in Betty's car.

When the dress had been taken off, it is said, Mrs. Wahaska's statement advanced that she also was called to testify against the defendant newspaper woman and society favorite, it was said.

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There are 1,000 ways of halting extradition on legal technicalities, said Prosecuting Attorney Fred Brown today, and William Traversa, Tacoma attorney, said he could be relied upon to push every stumbling block in the way of extradition that is possible.

Strickland, it is said, plans to go before Gov. Smith, of New York, upon his arrival at Albany, the state capital, to argue the matter of extradition. The governor can grant or refuse the extradition, at his discretion.

If it is granted, Brown said, there is still the possibility of its being defeated in the courts.

Deputy Sheriff Beebe, who is in close touch with Strickland, said in his opinion Strickland had taken enough evidence East with him to convince New York authorities that extradition is warranted.

“If they won't let Strickland bring Betty back,” Beebe said, “he is prepared to bring charges against Edmund Saxe, of New York, and John Cohen, of Richmond, Va., in connection with the kidnaping. Others will be arrested here. But we look for no such trouble. Strickland went to get Betty, and he'll get her—and Bobby Stagg.”

LADY LEAVES HER LOVELY LOCKS ON AN EASTLAKE CAR

Some fayre lady, inordinately proud of her ostermoor-like coiffure, wept bitter tears Friday when she left most of her unattached hair on an Eastlake car. Street car officials are of the opinion that the lady should not carry her foliage around loose, but announce that if she will apply to the “Lost and Found” department, she will receive her aloft.