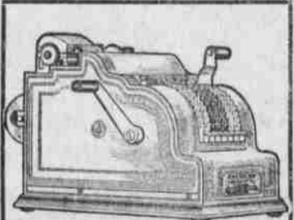


Farmers of the Neelyville district had a splendid corn crop this year. Six thousand bushels were recently shipped to DeSoto from where it will be sent to other markets.

Happiness is less apt to be a case of luck than pluck.

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NATION-WIDE ARMS PLOT EXPOSED BY ARRESTS

Alleged Head of German Secret Service in This Country and Others Apprehended.

By Associated Press New York, Dec. 18.—With the arraignment here today of Paul Koenig, said to be the head of the German Secret Service in this country, and Richard Emil Leyendecker, a New York art goods dealer, on a charge of conspiring to blow up the Welland Canal, Federal officers asserted they had in their hands the clew to a country-wide conspiracy to blow up munitions plants which already has resulted in the loss of many lives and destruction of millions of dollars' worth of property.

For several years Koenig has been the head of the detective force employed here by the Hamburg-American Steamship Company. The company, which is subsidized by the German government, was quick to come to his aid, and through a local surety concern supplied a \$50,000 bail for him and \$30,000 bail for Leyendecker.

Bank Clerk Confesses The arrest of Koenig and Leyendecker was coincident with the arrest by county authorities of Frederick Scheindel, a clerk in the National City Bank. Scheindel, detectives asserted, confessed regarding shipment of munitions to the Allies. This information was obtained through telegrams and letters received by the National City Bank, which has had a prominent part in the purchasing in this country of supplies for the Allies. Scheindel said he received \$25 a week from Koenig, police added. Scheindel told the police that he is a German reservist and that he acted solely from patriotic motives.

Scheindel was arraigned before a Police Magistrate on an affidavit charging him with suspicion in the larceny of documents and messages valued at \$100,000 from the National City Bank. He was held in \$25,000 bail for a hearing Monday.

Gave News of Shipments These secrets include important documents, cablegrams and information concerning the departure and arrival of munitions-carrying steamships leaving this port. Working from the Bank, he obtained inventories of the munitions cargoes and imparted this to German agents.

When arrested, the police found in his pockets a telegram relating to a 2,000,000 rifles to the Allies. "We knew," said one of the bank directors, "that one of the documents taken and placed in the hands of Koenig described exactly the shipment in No. 2 hold of the steamer Minnehaha, which was set afire by an explosion in midocean."

The Minnehaha was one of the vessels carrying a great cargo of valuable equipment to the Allies. It left this port July 1. When the steamship was several days out, on July 4, a terrific explosion took place. The vessel was set on fire and was compelled to put about to Halifax.

Another to Turn State's Evidence. Important evidence regarding Koenig's activities is understood to have Koenig and Leyendecker. Metzler who was arrested in connection with Koenig and Yeyendecker. Metzler also was employed by the Hamburg-American Line and acted as stenographer to Koenig. He was to have been arraigned with his chief and Leyendecker, but at the last moment it was announced by Assistant United States Attorney Wood, who is in charge of the case, that Metzler would not appear.

Later a high Federal official admitted that Metzler had offered to turn State's evidence and already had supplied the government with much valuable information.

Germans Seek to Free Metzler As soon as it was known that Metzler would not be arraigned two attorneys, acting for the Hamburg-American Line, went to the Federal authorities and asked permission to see him. This request was refused. The attorneys then offered any amount of bail to obtain Metzler's liberty. This offer also was refused. Metzler, who had been examined at police headquarters during the night, was taken away early today and no information would be vouchsafed as to where he was being held.

Another man held by the Federal authorities as a material witness against Koenig was George Fuchs, about whose identity the utmost secrecy was observed. Fuchs was taken into custody, but was not formally arrested and no garhawaTAOIN arrested and no charge was made against him. It was reported at the Federal building today that he was in reality a secret service agent, and that it was largely through his efforts that the alleged plot was uncovered.

Police Detective Suspended A new development occurred in the case late today, when Otto F. Mottola,

a police headquarters detective, was suspended after a hearing by Commissioner Woods. Mottola was summoned before the Commission after the police said they found his name in a notebook taken from Koenig. According to statements attributed to Koenig and Metzler, Mottola was employed by the former at \$3 a day to make investigations.

The arrests yesterday and today are said to be merely the forerunners of numerous other arrests which will extend throughout the country. Secret-service agents assert that Koenig had 27 agents in New York alone and probably between 300 and 400 scattered throughout the country.

The evidence against Koenig and Leyendecker will be laid before a special grand jury, which will be summoned late this week. In the meantime a hearing has been set before United States Commissioner Houghton for January 12.

A WHITE SQUIRREL

Mike O'Connell, proprietor of the St. Charles barber shop, who last week killed an albino squirrel, is having Al Huhn, the local taxidermist, mount it, after which it will be placed in the window of Mr. O'Connell's barbershop on Main street.

The white squirrel, which is one of the rarest animals in the country, was killed by Mr. O'Connell while he was hunting just below the Cape. Had he known the squirrel was of such a rare species, he said, he would have attempted to capture the animal alive.

The squirrel dog barked "treed" in a large hickory, and after a long vigil Mr. O'Connell noticed the tip of the squirrel's tail protruding from behind a limb near the top of the tree. At the long distance he mistook the animal for an ordinary gray squirrel, and fired. The shot frightened the animal, which moved slightly. The top of the squirrel's back was plainly visible. McConnell fired and the little white nut cracker came tumbling to the ground, dead.

"Well, what do you know about that?" exclaimed Mr. O'Connell to a companion. "I have killed the only white squirrel in the world."

When the hunt was over, the albino was brought to this city and placed on exhibit.

Around its eyes were rings of gray, a gray stripe running down the back, and encircling the feet. The head, except the eyes and ears, was snow white as was the belly and sides. On the right side just back of the front leg was a deep yellow spot.

Hunters, who examined the squirrel said it was the queerest freak they had ever seen. It was of normal size and natural shape. Its eyes were part gray and pink.—Cape Girardeau Tribune.

BILLS SEEK RECLAMATION OF ST. FRANCIS SWAMP LAND

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—If bills introduced in the House today by Representatives Russell and Missouri and Caraway of Arkansas are enacted into law several thousand acres of swamp land along the St. Francis River in Missouri and Arkansas will be drained and made fit for cultivation and the river greatly improved.

It is estimated that 5,000 acres of public land will be reclaimed by the proposed improvement and rendered highly valuable for agriculture.

The bills seek to obtain surveys of the low and overflowed lands along the St. Francis River to get estimates of the costs of the improvements.

All expenses would be advanced by the Government, the money to be returned from the proceeds of the sale of Government lands reclaimed.

If the proceeds are not sufficient to reimburse the United States, then the Secretary of the Interior is given the power to assess the benefits of other lands of private individuals and to collect any balance necessary to fully reimburse the Government.

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Because it does not contain opium or any other narcotic.

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There is no harm in a man's being in advance of his age, providing he has money enough to pay for his feed until his age catches up with him.—Chicago News.

OUR NATIONAL PARKS

Thousands. Visit Nature's Beauty Spots at Home Who Heretofore Have Gone Abroad.

Washington, Dec. 17.— Secretary Lane, in the forthcoming annual report, calls attention to the national parks as a valuable and undeveloped asset of the country. He says:

"The United States furnished playgrounds to the people of this country, which are, we may modestly state, without any rivals in the world. Just as the cities are seeing the wisdom and the necessity of open spaces for the children, so, with a very large view, the nation has been saving from its domain the rarest places of grandeur and beauty for the enjoyment of the world.

Visitors to National Parks "And this fact has been discovered by many only this year. Having an incentive in the expositions on the Pacific coast, and Europe being closed, thousands have for the first time crossed the continent and seen one or more of the national parks.

"During the year a new national park of distinction and unusual accessibility has come into existence. It crosses the Rockies in Colorado at a point of supreme magnificence; hence its title, the Rocky Mountain National Park. Through it, from north and south, winds the Continental Divide—the Snowy Range in name and fact. Two hundred lakes grace this rocky paradise, and bear and big horn inhabit its fastnesses. It has an area of 350 square miles and lies only 70 miles from Denver. Many hotels lie at the feet of these mountains and three railroads skirt their sides.

"This is Colorado's second national park, the other being Mesa Verde, where this department, with the assistance of Dr. Jesse Walter Fewkes, of the Smithsonian Institution, has uncovered during the last summer prehistoric ruins of unprecedented scientific interest.

"Oregon has but recently completed a great highway along the Columbia River.

"This should be connected by road with Mount Hood and a portion of the present forest reserve converted into a park. The limits of Sequoia Park, in California, the home of the great redwoods, should be so extended as to include the Kern River Canyon, a most practical project today; but to-morrow may be too late, because of the lumber interests. The Grand Canyon is not yet of the park system, although as part of a national forest it comes under the control of the Department of Agriculture.

Like Foreign Lands

"There is no reason why this nation should not have its public health and scenic domain as available to all its citizens as Switzerland and Italy make theirs. The aim is to open them thoroughly by road and trail and give access and accommodation to every degree of income. In this belief an effort has been made this year as never before to outfit the parks with new hotels which should make the visitor desire to linger rather than hasten on his journey.

"One hotel was built on Lake McDermott, in Glacier Park, one is to be built immediately on the shoulder of Mount Rainier, in Paradise Valley, another in the valley of the Yosemite, with an annex high overhead on Glacier Point, while more modest chalets are to be dotted about in the obscure beauties of the inner Yosemite.

"It is a land of forests, snow and glaciers.

Developing Yellow Stone Park

"While as years have passed we have been modestly developing the superb scenic possibilities of the Yellowstone, nature has made of it the largest and most populous game preserve in the Western Hemisphere.

"If Congress will but make the funds available for the construction of roads over which automobiles may travel with safety (for all the parks are now open to motors) and for trails to hunt out the hidden places of beauty and dignity, we may expect that year by year these parks will become a more precious possession of the people, holding them to the further discovery of America and making them still prouder of its resources, esthetic as well as material."

A box supper was given at the Millheim district school on last Wednesday night, and the affair was well attended. The proceeds footed up, the snug sum of \$51.32 was realized. The reason for such extensive receipts was due to a voting contest. The contest was for the most popular young lady, and like all such contests costs the participants quite a nice sum of money. Miss Bangert received the highest number of votes and in accordance with the contest was declared the most popular lady present. It was Miss Bargart who received the 50c box of candy from which \$39.70 was realized. And there are still some people who howl about hard times.—Perry County Sun.

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OUR NEED OF SHIPS

If there is anybody who does not realize the importance of the shipping problem to the United States Chamber of Commerce will open your eyes.

This statement shows that this country pays about \$300,000,000 a year into the coffers of foreign ship owners. Out of about 26,000 vessels registered in the United States about 3,000 are in overseas trade; and this number contains many sailing ships of small tonnage. Of big, serviceable merchant ships the United States has less than 7 per cent of the world's tonnage, while Great Britain has 60 per cent.

This condition has not arisen from any unwillingness among Americans to invest in ships. American money has built many of these ships sailing under foreign flags, and American shipyards, even on the Great Lakes, are now building steamships to be owned abroad and sailed from foreign shores, thereby contributing to the outgo of American money for ocean freight charges. Congress is now in session, and this question will certainly appear again, as it has been appearing for many years, with the subsidy lobby on hand and armed for an assault on the Treasury. The American people, realizing the need, as they now do, and abhorring subsidies, as they always have, ought to get behind the Administration and support its plan for putting American ships on the seas without putting unearned money into anybody's pocket.—St. Louis Republic.

Civilized Warfare

"Gen. Pablo Gonzales, commander of Mexico City for the Defacto Government, received a telegram to-night that the head of Gen. Juan B. Hernandez, former intimate friend of President Porfirio Diaz and relative of Gen. Huerta, was being shipped to him from Esperanza, State of Vera Cruz, as a Christmas present."

The above paragraph is not a bon mot from the dark ages, but is taken from a special from Mexico City under date of December 10, 1915, A. D. It is but another illustration of the wonderful humanizing and Christianizing influences of war as it is now conducted.

That Christmas present was formerly on the shoulders of an 80-year old man, who fell on the field of battle, only to have his remains transported in such a cruelly barbarous manner. Wonder how much longer inhuman barbarity will be permitted to continue? It is almost destructive of civilization.

John Monzyk of Washington, Franklin County, Mo., who has been here for several days buying corn cobs from different farmers in the vicinity of Sikeston and Portageville, having purchased enough sacks to make two car loads from two points, went home Wednesday afternoon. He expects another car load each from Sikeston and Portageville in a few days. The cob pipe factory at Washington, Mo., is the largest in the world and they employ 112 men per day.—Sikeston Herald.

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