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The Sunday Herald

and NEW MEXICO RURALIST

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UNITED PRESS N E A Service

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FIGHT IN CONGRESS FOR FARMERS JUST BEGUN—CAPPER

SOLDIER BONUS PROBLEM NOW POLITICAL ONE

Farm Bloc Presses Its War on Sales Tax

By CARL D. GROAT,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The bonus question tonight had resolved itself into a political problem—how to get the soldiers' vote—according to pro-bonus and pro-sales tax men. There was a further indication of this in a letter sent by Representative Farr and 20 other farmers bloc members to Chairman Fordney, of the ways and means committee.

This letter, advocating paying the bonus with proceeds of expected British war debt bonds, contained the broad hint that a sales tax would do some "sweeping here next fall," just as that issue "swept the conservative party out of power has December in Canada."

Further, it approved bonds not merely because they "will remove a grossly unjust proposal" (the tax), but because they will "prevent political overturning of congress."

Frankly After Votes.

Many men engaged in trying to shape up a bonus have said quite frankly the past week that they are "after the soldier vote." They make no secret of the fact that they oppose any plan excluding the cash bonus on the ground that it fails to meet "American Legion ideas" and that, consequently, they would lose the "soldier vote."

The farm bloc letter, while professing to be no threat, is only one of a series of incidents intended to scare bonus advocates away from the sales tax. It is held Fordney has been told, for instance, that a sales tax would put many representatives in an embarrassing situation and would mean their defeat if they voted for it. At the same time a vote against the bonus would kill them, they have said.

And that is the answer behind the latest switch against the sales tax, according to the men in the movement.

Such is the atmosphere surrounding the bonus. Its proponents have now reached the stage where they are figuring on a bill without a specific means of raising the money. Instead they would simply give an authorization to the treasury to pay the bonus out of available funds there or from proceeds of available securities (meaning British bonds when they come).

The letter argued that the sales tax would make soldiers themselves help to pay and would be slow in coming into effect, compared to the bonds.

C. of C. Poll Against Bonus.

"The bonus," says the letter, "should be passed without any obnoxious tax and should be passed without delay."

An analysis of the United States Chamber of Commerce bonus poll shows a big majority against any cash bonus, despite the American Legion campaigns for it. In the east, only Vermont and Mississippi voted for the bonus, while in the west such states as Texas, Utah, Arkansas, Idaho, Montana and California showed majorities against the bonus.

"The referendum of the United States Chamber of Commerce on the adjusted compensation bill is far failure from their point of view and a victory for the ex-service men," John Thomas Taylor, vice chairman of the American Legion executive committee, said tonight.

"Enemies of the bill have been fond of saying that the Legion membership does favor adjusted compensation, although repeated polls show that 98 out of 100 Legion members and other veterans endorsed the bill."

3 MORE BROKERAGE FIRMS FAIL; 15 IN LAST WEEK

Hundreds of Customers in Panic in New York City

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Fifteen more brokerage houses crashed in New York this week in the stock brokers' panic. Three were forced to the wall today.

Thousands of complaints from customers who allege they have been swindled are swamping the district attorney's office from all over the country. His probe of alleged illegal houses will go on, and may result in further failures. The rising stock market is held partly responsible for the series of collapses.

Hundreds of alarmed customers are crowding the offices of brokerage houses which they fear are on the verge of going under.

Bankruptcy petitions filed today were against Heatly, Robles & Smith, brokers; Reis & Sullivan, and A. R. Smith & Co., brokers.

Negro Is His Own Lawyer, Witness; Proves an Alibi

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Willie Cigs, three-dollar-a-day vaudeville performer of the Black Belt, up before Judge Kersten on a burglary charge, took charge of his own case today and presented an unshakable alibi.

"Where is your attorney?" asked the judge.

"No lawyer ain't going to hog this here act," Cigs said. "I'm gonna be my own lawyer. I'm only holding regret. I wishes I could also be my own jury."

"With your honor's permission, I calls my first witness, Mr. William Cigs, to the stand."

"Willie Cigs is not a bad citizen. He don't drink. He don't smoke. He don't shoot crap. He's only got one bad habit. He steals.

"I've been out of work. I'd rather steal than accept charity. I didn't steal those silk stockings of which I stand accused. I was calling on a widow lady and I bought them from her husband for eight dollars."

"But," interrupted the court, "if you've been out of work where did you get the eight dollars?"

"That's the point, judge. That's where my alibi comes in. At the time I am accused of stealing the stockings I was robbing a furniture store. That's where I got the eight dollars. The defense rests."

A verdict is expected when the jury finishes its bough.

NEW SENSATION FOR MOVIE COLONY IN DIVORCE CASE

Wife Charges Actor Coerced Her Into Living With Millionaire

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—Hollywood and Los Angeles movie circles were abuzz tonight with the latest sensation to develop in the "celluloid belt"—the Spottiswoode-Aitken divorce.

The action was instituted six weeks ago when Francis Spottiswoode-Aitken, white-haired dean of England's character actors, sued Mrs. Marion Avis Spottiswoode-Aitken alleging infidelity. The first "scandal bomb" to be tossed into the affair did not explode until today, however, when Mrs. Spottiswoode-Aitken filed counter charges alleging her husband had coerced her into living with Hay Weinstein, wealthy Santa Barbaran, so that he could extort money from Weinstein.

The couple have three children, noted for their beauty.

Spottiswoode-Aitken a few months ago rescued his babies when his home at Athens-on-the-hill was destroyed by fire.

A year ago the wife figured in a sensational attempt at suicide by drinking poison.

Neither Spottiswoode-Aitken nor his wife would comment tonight on the divorce action or its promised disclosures.

The Santa Barbara incident is one of the several assertions contained in Mrs. Spottiswoode-Aitken's startling cross-complaint.

Her husband approved of her relationship with Weinstein, she said and to agreement with him she went to reside with the Santa Barbara millionaire.

It was part of Spottiswoode-Aitken's plan she said, that he would approach Weinstein later and attempt an out-of-court settlement for "heart balm." Further, the wife charges, he beat her last November, continually called her names and ordered her to leave their home.

In his complaint, the actor accused his wife of frequent association with one Theodore Wilson, alleging that she travelled about with him to hotels and places of amusement and used his name as hers.

Both husband and wife ask the custody of their three children.

Railway Workers To Raise Fund to Assist Miners

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 25.—Definite steps by railroad workers of America to assist miners in the impending coal strike on April 1 were taken tonight with a call by W. S. Stone, chief of the Locomotive Engineers, for financial assistance of miners' families in the West Virginia fields.

Stone asked local divisions of the locomotive engineers for contributions to the miners' relief committee, which is doing welfare work in coal fields.

In a formal statement, Stone declared: "Unless relief is received within two or three weeks it will be too late, as many of the miners' families are destitute and starving."

All brotherhoods will subscribe heavily to the fund, labor leaders predicted.

This appeal is in direct line with the railroaders' pledge at a recent meeting with miners in Chicago, when full "moral and financial support" was promised mine operatives.

HARDING TO TAKE HAND IN COAL STRIKE

National Conference Is Planned to Avert Walk Out

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—A sudden change in the threatened coal strike situation tonight led administration officials to believe a means of settlement surely will be found.

A new plan has been formed which Secretary of Labor Davis and others are said to believe offers an amicable solution.

In pursuance of the new solution Davis has written individual coal operators and leaders of the union asking that they attend a national conference suggested by President Harding and thresh out their difficulties.

If this conference is successful—and both sides in the dispute openly declare their belief that it may be—individual settlements in the various districts will be proposed by the government.

Some opposition to this latter proposal is expected. Miners fear individual settlements might lead to ultimate dissolution of the national union, or at least prove a serious hindrance to its growth.

The alternative plan which is outlined on unquestionable authority is sure to avert a national strike, it is believed. Proponents of the plan say it will not cause disintegration of the national miners' organization because even the operators recognize the necessity of some of the national agreements.

However, they say, individual circumstances in various bituminous fields make it practically impossible that the same agreements be thrust on every area.

It is admitted that some districts might fail to reach an agreement, but it is pointed out the majority of them probably would and a solution and the strike call could be issued only in those districts where no agreement is found.

OPERATORS ACCEPT CONFERENCE INVITATION

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 25.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers will meet the general policy committee of the anthracite coal operators in New York on March 15, in an effort to avert a strike.

S. B. Warriner president of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company and chairman of the operators' committee, announced tonight he had written John L. Lewis, president of the miners, accepting his invitation to a conference.

Coal prices must come down and a corresponding reduction in miners' wages must be made, in Warriner's opinion.

"The labor cost in mining anthracite coal," he continued, "is a very large part of the total cost. The miners have got to share in bringing down the total cost. We propose to meet with the workers and discuss the matter with them. We hope that we will arrive at some agreement. However, the situation is a very difficult one, in view of the action taken at the Shamokin convention."

Warriner said that no official demand had been made to the coal operators, although it was understood that the miners were going to demand a 20 per cent increase in wages.

The meeting of the general policies committee of the anthracite operators in Atlantic City was held solely to consider the general labor situation, Warriner said.

Flappers Make Best Mothers, Educator Says

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Flappers make the best mothers, Miss Eleanor N. Adams, noted girls' educator, said tonight.

One need have no fears for the race as long as the modern girl flaps, according to Miss Adams.

"I am very optimistic about the girl of today," Miss Adams said. "She will undoubtedly make a better mother than the girl of 10 or 20 years ago.

"The so-called flapper has learned to analyze, to understand. She will make a much more intelligent mother than was her own mother.

"Ma did some flip-flapping back in her day," Miss Adams said.

"The excessive pompadour, the merry widow bat, the 'Boston dip' waist and 'balloon' sleeves of mother's girlhood days really makes the modern girl appear very tame."

Miss Adams, who speaks from the experience as president of Oxford college, the oldest girls' school in the country, "Psyched" the flapper for the United Press as follows:

"The flapper flaps because of group nerves. Many of the girls who now attend colleges come from the farms or small towns. To keep from losing her identity in the larger group on the campus she goes in for exaggeration, which explains the 'social grotesques' of the day."

CHINESE TO GIVE TAYLOR MURDER CLEW

Phones Sheriff's Office He'll Tell All He Knows

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—"I am Wong Lee, the man you want to question in connection with the Taylor murder. I call on you presently, tell you what I know about Harry Fields and Taylor affair."

This calm, fearless voice over the telephone speaking in excellent English with but slight intonation tonight gave the sheriff's office high hopes that a real lead has developed in the movie murder.

The call was put in to Deputy Sheriff Frank Dewar, in charge of the Chinatown squad which has been combing the district for two days searching for the drug leader accused by Harry Fields, drug fiend held in Detroit in connection with the murder of the film director.

Dewar and his squad had located the house and had waited 24 hours for him to return. They finally decided that he had been warned by the Chinese intelligence system and had fled the city. The phone call came just as they were on the verge of giving up.

The informant said he was on his "place" in the San Fernando valley and would come to Los Angeles soon and tell everything he knew in connection with the Taylor tragedy, but refused to be hurried or hurried over the phone. He mutterered what he wanted to and then hung up.

Officers placed credence in the call and decided not to wait for the man but began combing the San Fernando valley.

FEAR OF HANGING CLOSES FIELDS' MOUTH

DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 25.—Fear of hanging has closed Harry Fields' mouth tighter than all persuasion of the police and sheriffs endeavoring to add to his tale of the murder of Wm. D. Taylor at Hollywood, California.

In a last attempt to obtain a full

WOULD USE TRUTH SERUM ON FIELDS

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—One of the "truth serum" discoveries from Texas country doctor was recommended tonight by Under-Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz for the purpose of determining the truth of the story of Wm. D. Taylor's murder, told by Harry Fields in Detroit.

This serum, according to its inventor, paralyzes the imagination and makes it impossible for the subject to tell a falsehood. It has already been used with success on Texas criminals who confessed under its influence.

The changing account which Fields, confessed dope addict and forger, gives of the murder is being seriously doubted by the authorities both here and in Detroit. A good shot of the "truth compelling" compound might solve the enigma of Fields' confession. The underworld man has been in Chicago in conversation with the investigation and expressed himself when the suggestion of using this serum on Fields was made to him.

"I think it would be a good idea," declared Biscailuz, district attorney who made the experiment in two cases claimed it worked perfectly.

"If they would try it on Fields we might get the truth. If we could eliminate his story as a hop-head's dream, it would help a lot with the investigation. But as we are unable to satisfy ourselves that Fields is an addict and not liar, we have to work on the assumption that he is telling the truth."

Serum Will Work, Says

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 25.—Harry Fields, at Detroit, will tell the truth about his knowledge of the William Desmond Taylor murder, if he is given "truth serum," otherwise known as twilight sleep, Dr. Eugene House, the "country doctor" of Ferris, Tex., who discovered the new human test, told the United Press tonight.

"You can tell Detroit and Los Angeles authorities that three tests we have made on Texas criminals have been 100 per cent perfect," House said. "I will work on Fields, and I am willing and anxious that the tests be made."

(Good information as to the motives caused by Fields' "confession" of the murdered of Taylor, District Attorney Irving J. Coffin, has wired Los Angeles authorities asking that they provide the dope fiend immunity from capital punishment for the part he maintains he had in the movie director's death.

"I expect to do a prison sentence for my part in the affair, but I won't hang," were Fields' final words to his questioners tonight.

SEEK TAYLOR'S JEWELS IN CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Search for the slayer of Wm. D. Taylor, Los

(Continued on page eight.)

Riding Teacher Has Given Miss McCormick "The Ring"; Says He's Only 44 and is Seeking Farm Home For Bride-To-Be

Hopes to Settle Down on Little Estate in Switzerland After His Marriage to Heiress of 17; Does Not Wish to Live in United States.

ZURICH, Switzerland, Feb. 25.—Miss Oler has already given Miss McCormick "the ring."

The livery stable proprietor of Zurich, in his first interview with an American correspondent today, told the United Press that the ring which he plighted his troth with the Chicago heiress was on Miss's third finger, so far as he knew.

Max showed the United Press correspondent a replica of the engagement ring. It is a gold band ring with the Oler family armorial shield on which is an inverted crescent moon with a star inside each tip and three mountain ridges beneath.

After a trip through Switzerland in search of an estate where he can settle down with his wife to a life of gentleman farming, Oler today talked freely of the approaching nuptials.

"First of all you can see I'm not 17," he said with a laugh. "I'm just 44."

Talks Freely.

The horseman, who was attired in a stylish well knit figure with booted legs of a cavalryman, took the lead in the interview.

"I expect we shall be married here at Hasel next summer," he said. "Miss McCormick and her father are coming over and I shall be ready to meet them."

Oler speaks English with a slight difficulty. He is most fluent when speaking of his bride-to-be.

"Miss McCormick is not like most society girls," he said. "She loves outdoors, animals and fresh air.

"I shall be very pleased to become an American citizen if necessary, but I would like to remain in your country. I prefer the life of a gentleman farmer now. I have just returned from a trip inspecting some property in French Switzerland near Lausanne. I made no selection because everyone is anxious to sell.

Max said he did not believe John D. Rockefeller would oppose the marriage.

No Relatives in U. S.

Referring to his own relatives, Max said he had been deluged with letters and cables from persons of his name, trying to claim relationship but that none of them had proved real Olers.

He denied that his family was German.

"I have no relatives in the United States, nor outside of Switzerland."

Heiress, and Horseman She Will Wed

Mathilde McCormick, 16, daughter of Harold McCormick (shown above), president of the International Harvester Co., and granddaughter of John D. Rockefeller, and Max Oler, 44, owner of a livery stable at Zurich, Switzerland, whom she will wed.

Dynamite Blast In Chicago a Plot, Says Fire Marshal

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Explosion of 50 tons of dynamite which caused $1,000,000 damage to a quarry of the Consumers company at McCook, Ill., was the result of a plot, R. M. Perbohner, state fire marshal, charged tonight.

Perbohner intimated the blast was the result of labor troubles. The official said residents of McCook saw lights moving in the direction of the quarry an hour before the explosion last night.

$45,000 Jewel Robbery at Hotel

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 25.—Levi Kane, travelling salesman for the Michael Jewelry company of New York, reported to police tonight that jewelry valued at between $45,000 and $50,000 was stolen from his room in his room at the Hotel Statler today.

Flu Is Still on Decline, Health Officer Reports

The wave of influenza which struck the city recently was still on the decline yesterday, according to Dr. O. C. Wise, city and county health officer.

The health department announced that only eight cases were reported during the day and it was believed that some of these were not entirely fresh cases.

Dr. West is to leave for the Chilili district where it was reported that several cases of diphtheria had broke out. The health officer said he was inclined to doubt the truth of the diphtheria reports but would make a thorough investigation.

Announcement of Prize Winners in The Herald's $100 George Washington essay contest will be found on Page 6 of this section.

ANGLO-FRENCH PACT TO BE SIGNED IN A FEW DAYS

Lloyd George and Poincare Agree on Points in Dispute

BOULOGNE, Feb. 25.—Premier Lloyd George and Premier Poincare before his departure for Paris tonight for the Anglo-French agreement would be signed within a few days.

The agreement was approached today and the terms of agreement were concerted by the conference between Lloyd George and Premier Poincare of France.

The conference was most successful, Lloyd George declared upon leaving the council chamber.

He said he foresaw no difficulties in the way of an Anglo-French defensive pact.

It is understood Lloyd George intends to introduce the idea of a series of conferences and pacts founded on the Genoa, to be held at the Genoa economic conference, which will help prevent peace in Europe.

Agreed On All Points.

A communique issued after the premiers had departed announced that they "agreed on all points."

It said both were confident the British-French entente would produce fruitful results and that no difficulty of a political character would hinder Anglo-French cooperation in the economic reconstruction of Europe and consolidation of peace.

The premiers discussed all Anglo-French questions, the communique stated.

Besides postponement of the Genoa conference and a pact to guard a working arrangement for an Anglo-French defensive pact, the premiers were reported to have promised a joint plan of Lloyd George's for a Middle East settlement to Europe.

The French prime minister was said to have suggested to Poincare that the Genoa economic conference where they agreed should be postponed until April 15, be used to form the foundations for a 10-year agreement among nations of Europe to lead lead armaments and devote the energies of each toward rehabilitation and reconstruction instead of competitive armaments.

First Meeting.

This was the first meeting of the new statesmen since Poincare became premier.

The French premier desired that the meeting be held in strict privacy, and requested Parisian journalists not to follow him to Boulogne.

An agreement was made to keep secret the meeting place, but scores of camera men and reporters were here when the premiers arrived for their conference shortly before 3 o'clock.

Lloyd George and Poincare were closeted for three hours. They left their advisers and experts outside, having with them only the

MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING MOTHER, 95, BROTHER, 70

Kansas Farmer-Bachelor Is Held for Sanity Hearing

BURLINGTON, Kan., Feb. 25.—Harry Wright, farmer-bachelor of near Waverly, stood to have demonstrated his sanity or insanity and their trial for hearing in county seat was held for a probate court hearing on an insanity charge here tonight. The bodies of the two aged people were found terribly mutilated, each of the brother's two bad been stabbed.

Furniture in the house was found broken and demolished and piled on top of the bodies.

Wright was found wandering along the road.

Escaped Convict Reported Surrounded In Hills by Posse

TAHLEQUAH, Okla., Feb. 25.—Jenny Wade, escaped convict from the Oklahoma state penitentiary who shot and killed deputy sheriff with a shotgun, was the last night in the Hills today after he had been reported "really surrounded" Chandler Collins, a member of the posse, secretary, stenographer and secretary.

Although speeds of the proposed Genoa conference has been mentioned to be the first subject discussed by the premiers, it was expected that the question of Anglo-French defensive pact will be reopened.

In France it is felt that second postponing the joint military action in event of German aggression will do more than anything else to weaken existing confidence in the entente. French political observers believe Americans, perhaps for years to come, would be benefitically influenced by such a pact.

Hope For Treaty.

It was hinted at the Quai d'Orsay that Poincare would be able to come back with the completed treaty in his pocket, whether having made the compromise which Lloyd George demanded of Briand. The treaty as proposed by the British premier at Cannes was unbearable from the French point of view, and the conditions were considered impossible.

French objection to Lloyd George's draft of a defensive pact was fourfold. It was for too short a period—10 years. It failed to specify what "unprovoked aggression" on the part of Germany meant. It did not specify the nature of the aid to be given France if she were attacked. It did not provide for reciprocal protection.

NEW CHAIRMAN OUTLINES LAWS TO BE ASKED

Credits Bill and Enlarged Farm Bank System on Program

By LAWRENCE MARTIN,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The farm bloc's next task is to put through congress a great mass of permanent program of farm welfare, Senator Capper, Kansas, chairman of a new committee, said tonight.

"The idea formed as a temporary organization to meet an acute crisis, now enters the second phase of the fight," said Capper. "We were hard pressed to get to be permanently. Our program of emergency legislation is almost completed.

"Experience and economists have come to realize that it is not enough to pull the farmer out of the hole he must be set on firm ground and helped to go forward. That is the idea of the job now. It is not a sectional job, for what benefits agriculture benefits the whole country."

Farm Bloc Program.

The bloc's program of permanent agricultural legislation has not been worked out fully. The program as it stands:

1—A rural credits bill, setting up additional machinery for "personal credit" for farmers. This is to bridge the gap between 60 and 90 day paper and long term farm mortgage loans.

2—Enlargement of the farm land bank system, to make it of greater aid to farmers in the acquiring and improvement of land.

3—Transportation. This involves wrestling with the great railroad problem, the increasing of transportation facilities where possible through inland waterways.

4—The truth in fabrics bill, calculated to force shoddy to be labelled shoddy and wool as wool, so that both the producer and the consumer may be protected.

There are other measures and many details to be worked out, Capper said.

Credits Bill Before Congress.

The rural credits bill is already in congress. The bloc shortly will formally put behind the Lenroot-Anderson bill, worked out by the house and senate agricultural committee. Governor Harding in the federal reserve board has given this measure his approval.

"The farmer and the consumer," said Capper, has to deal with a banking system devised primarily to meet the needs of commerce. They usually can be satisfied with short time paper. The farmer has one turnover a year at most whereas the business man has many. The economist may have one in 100, 180 or three years. They need a system that will help them. That is what we will try to work out.

"The question of credits is a fundamental of any big national farm policy such as the bloc hopes to put through."

Escaped Convict Killed in Battle With a Posse

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—Willie Knowles, one of the three convicts who escaped from San Quentin penitentiary Thursday, was reported tonight to be surrounded in the hills near Petaluma by a posse headed by Sheriff Hiram W. Hayes.

Knowles was discovered in a barn by a farmer near Petaluma earlier in the day, but succeeded in escaping when he convinced two "peelers" farmhands that he had gone into the barn to lie down because he was suffering from the "flu."

No trace has been found of Richard Talmo and Frank Chase, the two other convicts.

Turn to Page Seven!

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