

MOEUR LETTER DRAWS FIRE OF STATE CHIEFS

PHOENIX, May 15.—Display of considerable feeling marked an executive session of the state land board late today in which, it was stated, the attorney general of Arizona was authorized to investigate the authenticity of a letter signed "S. G. Barrow," and addressed to W. A. Moeur containing a reference to the cost of state land "besides the \$500."

Barrow, whose home is in Benson was said to have appeared in the meeting and to have declared the letter a forgery, though stating he had contributed \$250 to State Land Commissioner Moeur's campaign fund.

This money, it was said, was returned later, and a cancelled check was exhibited. Commissioner Moeur, called before the board, was said to have declared he would not resign under any circumstances and, especially when "under fire." Hearing of the matter was continued to 10 o'clock Monday morning. It was stated unofficially that two members of the board are favorable to the administration of the state land commissioner, while two others are opposed. Governor Campbell is the fifth member of the board and, if such a lineup prevailed thru an investigation, the governor would have the deciding vote.

BOARD TO HEAR TESTIMONY IN CASE OF MOEUR

PHOENIX, May 15.—Governor Campbell stated at tonight's meeting of the state land board investigating the state land department under the administration of Commissioner W. A. Moeur, that seven or eight complainants had communicated with him relative to the department and that he had notified them to appear before the board within 48 hours.

If they did not do so, he said, they would lose their day in court. The land board arranged for continuance of the hearing tomorrow at which time it was understood one of the persons to appear before the board would be John W. Gungl of Wilcox, Cochise county.

Tonight's session was brief. It was over before nine o'clock. One of the witnesses was the wife of A. F. Parker of El Paso, said to have been an agent for S. G. Barrow of Benson in negotiations for state lands. It was a letter addressed to Commissioner Moeur and bearing the name of Barrows as a signature which started the investigation of the land department. It mentioned payment of \$500.

Barrows has branded the signature as a forgery and declared he has nothing to do with the letter. Mrs. Parker said the signature did not resemble her husband's writing, saying the formation of certain letters lacked characteristics of her husband's style. Parker is understood to be in El Paso and it was not known whether he would appear before the board or not.

QUESTION MOTIVES OF PROSE

PHOENIX, May 15.—Prolonged discussions at times acrimonious featured tonight's meeting of the state land board in the supreme court chambers in continuation of the investigation of state land department matters affecting the administration of W. A. Moeur. At its conclusion a decision was reached to continue the hearing to next Monday night. Tonight's meeting was marked by

many sharp passages between Geo. Purdy Bullard, counsel for Commissioner Moeur and F. C. Struckmyer, counsel for the land board and particularly between Mr. Bullard and Attorney General Wiley E. Jones, a member of the board. Bullard sought to prove a conspiracy against Moeur existed, based on the next election three of the Democratic members of the board having announced their candidacies for the Democratic nomination for governor. It was intimated a member of the land board had opposed Moeur because the latter's friendliness toward the candidacy of Secretary of State M. H. Simms. Attorney General Jones objected to an inquiry into the reason a member of the land board might have for voting to eject the commissioner. Bullard replied that was a matter to be determined by the board. At the suggestion of Governor Campbell, the board retired. After its return, individual members were asked to state their views. Governor Campbell and Auditor Boyce sustained the position of Attorney General Jones thus creating a majority against probing the motives of a board member. Bullard then asked permission to file a protest against the qualification of Mr. Jones on the ground of alleged bias and was granted permission to file any kind of a protest he pleased.

John W. Gungl of Wilcox, testified a client of his who had made application for a lease on a section of state land adjacent to his homestead had been turned down in favor of a subsequent applicant. On being questioned, Gungl stated that the successful applicant was the owner of oil stock in "Mr. Moeur's company." Commissioner Moeur then said he was one of the organizers of an oil company which he believed was a meritorious enterprise and that he had invited many of his friends to get into it. He said everything in that connection was regular. It was brought out that only Governor Campbell and possibly Attorney Jones of the land board membership were not owners of oil stock of some kind. The inquiry was then turned back to land office matters.

Charles E. Bolton, justice of the peace at Courtland, was the first witness of the night. He testified about 30 unsuccessful applicants for state land purchases or leases were preparing to bring suit against the land department on various grounds. Bolton also made reference to "dummy entries" relating one alleged instance, in which, he said, a cattleman had gone to Gleason and secured signatures of 45 men about town to lease applications, with power of attorney vested in himself. The cattleman, Bolton said, originally intended to get 50 names but fell five short and said he would be content with 45 sections of land which was all he really needed. Bolton said he did not believe Commissioner Moeur was aware of the dummy entry practice in this instance.

ARIZONA CROP REPORT FOR MAY 1, 1920

PHOENIX, May 15.—Despite the late season, general crop conditions in Arizona May 1 were very encouraging, according to the Federal crop report just issued by L. H. Harrison, Arizona field agent for the U. S. Bureau of Crop Estimates. Arizona farmers report that spring plowing was 85 per cent completed by May 1, while the amount of spring planting done by May 1 was 75 per cent. Range pastures are reported in excellent condition. Livestock came through the year with fewer losses than usual. Heavy reductions are reported in the wheat, hay, and farm pasture acreage, while the cotton acreage is reported more than twice that of last year.

Wheat acreage for the state is estimated at 34,000, compared with 49,000 acres last season. The condition of the crop on May 1 was 94 per cent of normal, which compares with 95 per cent last year on May 1; and 80 per cent, the 1918 May condition. Maricopa county reports a condition of 91 per cent; Graham 95; Pinal 97, Gila 90; and Pima 95. For the United States as a whole, the present prospect is for a very small crop of winter wheat. Based on a condition of 79.1 on May 1, the forecast is for

a crop of 484 million bushels. This is 248 million bushels less than was produced last season.

Cotton prospects on May 1 were not very encouraging, due to the late season. While much replanting has been necessary, the crop shows about an 80 per cent stand with the condition rapidly improving as a result of more favorable weather. A preliminary estimate places the acreage of the American-Egyptian variety at 21,000 acres, which compares with 81,000 one year ago; 72,000 acres two years ago and 33,000 acres three years ago. Maricopa county reports 185,000 acres; Yuma 13,000 acres; Pinal 10,000 and Pima 5,000. The state acreage of short staple is estimated at 29,000.

The acreage of alfalfa and other tame hay shows a marked decline due to the preference for cotton. The acreage for the state is reported at 118,000 as against 169,000 acres last year. The acreage to be used for pasture is estimated at 35,000, compared with 85,000 acres in 1919. The heaviest decline is reported from Maricopa county, which reports 10,000 acres for hay and 15,000 acres for pasture, a decline of 49,000 acres in hay and 20,000 acres in pasture. The present situation is proving unfavorable to the dairy and other stock interests in some sections of the state. For the United States, the acreage of tame hay is estimated at 597 per cent of 1919. The condition is placed at 84.4 per cent of normal, compared with 94.3 last year and 59.6 in 1918.

The Arizona cantaloupe acreage is estimated at 2,500 which compares with 4,500 in 1919; 2,300 in 1918 and 2,000 in 1917. The commercial crop is confined largely to Maricopa and Pinal counties. Pasture conditions May 1 were 94 per cent of normal. This compares with 92 last year, 81 in 1918 and 88, the 10-year average condition May 1. For the United States, pasture conditions May 1 were 79.8 compared with 90.3 last year and 84.5 the 10-year average.

Due to the excellent condition of the winter ranges, and favorable weather conditions, stock generally came through the year in better condition and with fewer losses than usual. Cattle losses for the state are reported at 15 per cent from disease and exposure, compared with 5.6 per cent, the 10-year average. Sheep show a loss of 25 per cent from disease and 2.8 per cent from exposure as against 2.5 per cent from disease and 4.2 per cent from exposure, the 10-year average mortality. The number of lambs that died from disease and exposure is estimated at 5 per cent, compared with 8.2 per cent, the 8-year average.

SMALL POX DANGER

PHOENIX, May 15.—Six counties reported 29 cases of smallpox to the State Board of Health during April. This indicates a slowly increasing spread of the infection due, without a doubt, according to the State Board of Health, to the failure of citizens to get vaccinated. During the first three months of the year there were 50 cases reported.

Quarantining of cases that may be discovered offers a small measure of protection. Even under the most favorable circumstances, cases frequently wander about infecting numbers with whom they come in contact before the breaking out of the rash makes their predicament apparent. This is particularly true of the slight character of cases that have so far been the rule throughout Arizona. Had these people been vaccinated, they would not have taken the disease themselves and, as a matter of course, would not have been able to have given it to anyone else.

So far smallpox cases have been reported from the following counties, Apache, Gila, Graham, Maricopa, Mohave, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai and Yuma. No cases have been reported from Cochise, Coconino, Greenlee, Navajo and Pima. The State Board of Health gives notice that there is only one certain safeguard against the discomfort and disfigurement of smallpox and that is vaccination.

MIAMI—Recent copper strike in Van Dyke mine proving boom to district.

BURNED CHILD DIES OF HURTS

BISBEE, May 15.—Florence Virouque Lieben, seven-year-old daughter of Mrs. Alameda Shearer, of 93 Youngblood Hill, died at the Copper Queen hospital Saturday night at 8:45 o'clock from burns received when her dress caught fire from a gas range Friday morning.

From all accounts she was watching a neighbor washing her baby and accidentally backed into the stove. The folds of her dress caught fire and she became frightened and ran out of the house. Before she could be stopped she had received such severe burns that she died 30 hours later, at the hospital.

"DROWNED" BOY WALKS IN JUST AT HEIGHT OF SEARCH FOR HIS BODY

PHOENIX, May 15.—After dragging with rakes the canal at Twelfth and Taylor streets for half an hour yesterday afternoon in an effort to locate the body of a small boy reported to have been drowned there, Deputy Sheriffs Jim Troutman and W. C. Hastings were much surprised when a brother of the supposed drowned boy espied him coming down the street.

He gave no evidence of having been in the canal. The report, it is said, was originated by an Indian girl who said she had seen Raymond fall into the canal.

CHANGES IN BANK

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Cochise County State Bank held in this city today, the vacancies occasioned by the resignation of Mr. K. N. Coplen and Dowell Kohl, cashier and assistant cashier respectively, were filled by the appointment of Mr. L. G. Palmestock to succeed Mr. Coplen and Mrs. T. S. Staphakos to succeed Mr. Kohl. Both Mr. Coplen and Mr. Kohl have accepted positions with the Riggs Bank, which will be opened shortly at Wilcox. Mr. Coplen as active vice-president and Mr. Kohl as assistant cashier.

This afternoon Mr. Coplen left for Los Angeles on a business trip for the new Wilcox institution, expecting to be absent for several days.

REPAIR WORK BEGUN UPON APACHE TRAIL

PHOENIX, May 15.—Work on improving the Apache Trail began Monday, when a force of men, scrapers and trucks was sent out by the Auto Transportation company to a point near Government Wells. Extensive improvements will be made on the highway, according to officials of the transportation company, which eventually will be made one of the finest roads in the state.

Judson King, an official of the Union Auto Transportation company, is supervising the work of reconstruction.

NEW TRAFFIC ORDINANCE ENFORCED TOO SOON

TUCSON, May 15.—Alleged traffic ordinance violators turned the tables on the machinery for the enforcement of the new ordinance and had a laugh at their expense when the discovery was made about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon that the ordinance had been put into effect twenty-four hours too soon. At that time to alleged violators had been reported and about a dozen had been fined by Judge Cowan, police magistrate.

F. C. Bernard, city attorney, found out about 3 o'clock that the ordinance had been put into effect yesterday. He immediately notified the police that the thirty days allowed for the publishing of the ordinance did not expire until midnight last night, so that May 11 and not May 10 was the first day. Chief of Police Hopley immediately notified his traffic officers of the ruling and all the cases were thrown out.

Judge Cowan issued a notice to all persons who had been fined that the money would be refunded immediately. He said every effort will be made to find every person fined.

JEROME—Bisbee Co. connects with Arizona power line. PHOENIX—Jewish societies to build home.

TO INSTALL RADIO STATION AT AJO

AJO, Ariz., May 15.—Ajo is to have an army radio station, to be used as an airplane patrol in connection with the aerial mapping of the border, just being started here.

The equipment for a standard station has been shipped from Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, and three army men have arrived here and are prepared to start the installation of the station upon its arrival. The station will be maintained at this point for about six months.

UPHOLDS DRAINAGE BONDS

PHOENIX, May 15.—Upholding the action of the board of supervisors Judge Stanford in the superior court today declared legal the \$400,000 bond issue for drainage purposes issued by the directors of the Buckeye drainage district, No. 4. The court order was issued on petition of directors of the district some time ago.

Twenty-seven land owners in the district had filed answers to the petition, attacking the validity of the bonds. After today's decision by Judge Stanford, counsel for the 27 land owners gave notice that a new trial would be asked.

ENTOMOLOGIST IS NAMED TO HANDLE COTTON PROBLEMS

PHOENIX, May 15.—The quarantine against cotton boll weevil and pink boll worm will be rigidly enforced as the result of L. J. E. Lauderdale of Yuma, assuming the duties this week of the newly-created office of cotton entomologist. Thirty-five inspectors will work under his direction and their duty will be to carry out the quarantine orders issued by the commission of agriculture as amended last March. These amended orders prohibit the importation of cotton seed except under the special authorization of the state entomologist.

Lauderdale has been acting as assistant entomologist at Yuma, which position will be filled by R. E. Russell, formerly in charge of inspector work at that point.

FIND TEQUILLA IN BOTTOM OF CAPTURED CAR

BISBEE, May 15.—With four gallons of tequila concealed in the false bottom of a Ford, Eugenio Castro was captured last night by Police Sergeant Hill Ruff and Jailor Tex Barton after a chase from the Slag Dump garage to the Grand Theater, at the end of which Ruff made a flying leap from the car in which he was pursuing into Castro's car.

The police had been watching for Castro for some time. Receiving information that he had just crossed the line with his car, Ruff waited for him on Naco road near the Slag Dump and Barton at the police station. Castro refused to stop when the policemen halted him. Ruff jumped into a passing car and pursued him.

The liquor was carried in flat galvanized tanks made for the purpose. A two-gallon tank that had been fastened underneath the machine with wire had sprung a leak and all the liquor had leaked out.

According to the police Castro will be held for the federal officers.

ELECTRIC POWER GIVES WATER TO THE GILA VALLEY

YUMA, May 15.—Electric power generated in the Sierra Nevada mountains of eastern California now is being used for pumping for irrigation on farms in the south Gila valley, ten miles east of Yuma.

The largest development in that section is on the ranch of 640 acres owned by J. H. Maxey. There is expectation that in a couple of years at least 10,000 acres will be under cultivation, mainly in cotton.

The entire valley, to a point near Gila Bend, a distance of about 100 miles, constitutes the largest tract in Arizona capable of irrigation by pumping. There is expectation that the electric system will be continued eventually to Gila Bend and thence to Ajo, at the latter point to furnish power for the New Cornelia mines and reduction works.

NORTHERN ARIZONA SHEEPMEN AIDED BY BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Stanley P. Young, predatory animal inspector of the U. S. Biological Survey cooperating with the Arizona live stock sanitary board in the eradication of predatory animals, returned to the Phoenix office yesterday after a six weeks trip into northern Arizona where he demonstrated the new forms of government strychnine now used extensively in poisoning stock-killing pests.

Late in March Mr. Young placed a crew of government poisoners to work along the Little Colorado river on the southern end of the Navajo reservation, and the poisoners in this crew bent their efforts to poison the coyote drift thereon which swoops down onto those important sheep ranges lying to the south. Due to the excellent cooperation given by the stockmen many good reports have come in regarding the number of coyotes poisoned. Not only were the government poisoners successful in poisoning coyotes and bob-cats, but also found in traveling their poison lines each day, that a goodly number of wild dogs were poisoned as well.

These dogs had no doubt at one time been domesticated, but due to neglect and being allowed to shift for their own means of obtaining a livelihood eventually turned wild, and when such is the case, such dogs become the worst stock-killing varmit that the government forces have to contend with. Time and again, especially in the crevices found in Canyon Diablo, the dogs were found dead, having made dens in these crevices and after taking the poisoned baits would crawl into the dens and die.

The poisoning work done in the northern part of Arizona by cooperating stockmen and the government is of utmost importance at the present time because of the fact that many of the sheepmen are now having large flocks of sheep lambing, besides the cattlemen producing this year's crop of calves, and it is on the new-born stock that the wild dogs bob-cats and coyote get in their deadly ravages.

Because of the splendid cooperation of the stockmen with the biological survey, and the excellent results obtained by the poisoning methods, it is anticipated that a large poisoning campaign will be inaugurated the coming fall on these infested areas in Arizona where so much depredation as a result of the varmints is from time to time reported to the Arizona headquarters here at Phoenix.

DAIRY INDUSTRY IN POOR SHAPE FIGURES REVEAL

PHOENIX, May 15.—Stating that indications at present are that feed will have to be shipped into the Salt River valley this year, into a district which once supported many of the finest dairy herds in the country, experts yesterday declared that the dairy industry in the valley is in a critical condition and probably the worst situation it has ever been.

That the dairy industry is in a more dangerous condition this year than last is evidenced by the fact that this year there are only 40,000 acres of valley land planted to alfalfa, as against 85,000 last year; and that this year there are but 12,000 acres of pasture land, compared with 35,000 in 1919.

The dairy situation in the Salt River valley for sometime has been a subject of considerable concern among those who think of the future, and not altogether of the present. The decline of the dairy industry here has been simultaneous with and in large part due to, the rise of cotton in the valley, until now men thoroughly informed on the subject declare the dairy industry in critical shape.

PHOENIX REALTY INCREASES

PHOENIX, May 15.—Valuation of city real estate here for taxation purposes has been increased 20 per cent. It was announced by the city assessor today. This conforms to a similar increase on real estate within the county and does not apply to improvements, it was stated.

PRELIMINARY WORK ON CHARLESTON DAM

J. N. Curtis, Jr., one of the working committee of three appointed last week to start preliminary work on the Charleston dam project was in Tombstone today obtaining signatures to the petition asking that the board of supervisors create an irrigation district. Mr. Curtis reports that the farmers in all three districts down the river are eager to sign the petition in order that it may be presented to the board. It is hoped to have it ready for presentation at the meeting of May 17th. As soon as the board creates the district an election will probably be called to ascertain whether or not a bond issue would be desirable. If so, as soon as the state law is changed to allow issues of the amount that will be required to float the project, an election will be called to vote the bond. Almost everyone interested in the project feels sure that definite preliminary steps for the consummation of the Charleston Dam and laterals, has been taken and more optimism is in evidence throughout the whole San Pedro Valley, than has ever been displayed before.

PHOENIX CONTINUES CENSUS UNDER RULE MADE IN WASHINGTON

PHOENIX, May 15.—Acting on the suggestion of Federal Census Supervisor Sam Bradner, the chamber of commerce of Phoenix has obtained from the director of census at Washington an extension of time in closing the Phoenix census. Supervisor Bradner had heard that many persons in Phoenix had not been enumerated. More than 100 such persons reported at the chamber of commerce today and filled out information blanks. The chamber announced that it was known many hundreds of Phoenix people were still unregistered and urged them to notify the chamber. Employers and others were urged to inquire among their employees and find if any of them had been missed by the census enumerators.

DEFECTIVE BALE POT COSTS ARIZONA COPPER CO. \$25,000

TUCSON, May 15.—A defective bale on a smelter pot cost the Arizona Copper company a verdict of \$25,000, in the federal court yesterday when judgment was rendered by the jury in the case of Charles Roy Buckley, about nine o'clock last night, after two days' trial in which the plaintiff was represented by James R. Dunsenath and L. Kearney.

According to the testimony, Buckley was employed in the smelter at Clifton as a swapper. It was his duty to grab the swinging pot of molten copper as it came down the room. According to the testimony, as he grabbed it, the bale broke, precipitating the molten copper down upon the unfortunate youth, who is only 22 years old, burning him about the head and body, nearly cremating him alive.

The case was presented by Mr. Dunsenath and his associate yesterday morning and went to the jury after three o'clock. The verdict was rendered about nine o'clock last night. The defendants were given five days to appeal.

CATTLEMEN REPORT BLACKLEG IN STATE

PHOENIX, May 15.—That blackleg has broken out in the state is the word received at the livestock sanitary board. Letters are arriving from many sections of the state where cattlemen have interests to the effect that cattle are infected. Demands are made for vaccine.

"In nearly every letter the livestock sanitary board is assured of the cooperation of the cattlemen in the use of vaccine, advocated by the board, in stamping out the mesacc," said Ed Stephens, secretary of the board, yesterday. Mr. Stephens added that thousands of dollars' worth of cattle have been lost by blackleg. Dr. R. J. Hight, state veterinarian, is in Safford at present in the interests of the cattle industry.

NOGALES—300 carloads of sugar from Sonora refinery to be released in United States.