

PHOENIX ACTIVE ON EVE OF NEW ADMINISTRATION

(By C. P. Glragl.) Phoenix, the capital city of Arizona, and the industrial center of the great Salt River valley, regarded in the light of a barometer of existing conditions about the state at large reflects a brilliant vision of better times ahead.

In Phoenix may be found the "pulse" of the state, politically, of course, but industrially as well.

Enthusiasm, inspired by actual progress, marked every angle of the recent annual convention of the Arizona Industrial Congress held in that city, every industry in the state being represented at the gathering.

Twelve states, Sonora, Mexico, and the District of Columbia were represented at the annual convention of the Arizona Industrial Congress, it was revealed when the register of the convention was checked.

The states represented were, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nevada, Texas, Vermont, Montana, Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Washington and California.

Heads of Arizona's industries submitted convincing proof that the state has weathered the darkest hour and now stands on the brink of the glorious sunrise of prosperity.

The mining industry has made greater strides toward a return to normalcy than probably any other, but, taken as a whole, the goal of pre-war standards is in sight.

Farmers Have Learned

The farmers of the Salt River valley have learned a costly lesson, and are rapidly retracing their steps to the path from which they strayed. Bales of cotton, three autumn old, and unpicked fields tell a vivid, though mute, story of a gigantic blundering.

The alfalfa fields, the herds of contented cows, and all those things that were crowded out in the frenzied program which terminated in the farmers taking the count from King Cotton, are once more taking their place in the valley of the North American Nile.

Flow shares are now uprooting the dried stalks of the one-time fields of "white gold," and by spring the grim reminders of former folly will have been, for the greater part, eliminated. Cotton will always be grown in the Salt River valley but the "King" prefix will be lost through the increased acreage of diversified crops.

Orange trees and other citrus plants which were left to live or to die are now being carefully nursed in the hope of reviving the spark of life.

More Farmers

Those farmers who, for their own satisfaction perhaps, will persist in vindicating their own poor judgment by passing the buck for their failures to the Salt River valley in general, are leaving the state, but their number is being more than augmented by new arrivals from other farming sections of the country, and they are not coming into Arizona to raise cotton.

At Maricopa yesterday morning, a veteran farmer of northern Arkansas accompanied by his family and his children's families, sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, were waiting for the stub to complete their long journey to the Salt River valley. Driven from Arkansas, where he had farmed all of his life, by the eternal gamble with alternate and sometimes consecutive years of drouth, this veteran and his little colony were looking ahead with keen anticipation to the possibilities that lay before them in a valley of fertile soil and irrigation canals that are always full. The old veteran was "bep" to the cotton situation, and will follow his lifelong principle of raising diversified crops.

He had evidently made a success of farming in Arkansas, despite drouths, and the Salt River valley apparently had, after a careful investigation, satisfied him of greater possibilities to the extent that he moved, families, bags and baggage. Farmers of this type, those who can content with drouths and yet get by, are a valuable addition to any farming community, and the fact that this one man, rich in experience of a life time spent in that line, should choose the Salt River valley after scouring the whole country in iron-clad scrutiny speaks more than words can be made to say for the future progress

of that valley.

**Business Reviving** As the result of improved conditions throughout the valley, the city of Phoenix is enjoying a consistent increase of business activity. The wartime inflation has taken its place in history and the "hang over" is being steadily wiped out. Business reorganization to conform with substantial readjustment is working out well.

**Political Bees Busy** Politically, Phoenix is like a beehive at the time of the year when the drones are "kicked out."

The "ousting" process to be launched by the incoming administration the first of the year, is said to be complete to the details and drawn up after a careful investigation into the various departments of state government to be effected, with the result that under the proposed programs many "official capacities" created for "official convenience," will cease to be, and there will be nothing dramatic or impressive to mark their relegation to the "has been" heap.

Various state institutions will be revamped and thoroughly inoculated with economy serum; many subtitled servants will be shorn of their "handles," and an even greater number of "secretaries," "assistants," etc., will be forced to learn the art of hammering the Underwood to replace numerous stenographers.

Consolidation of official duties is the program in the main.

On this one phase, Governor-elect Geo. W. P. Hunt is determined. Speaking of present conditions in these various departments, he outlined the vast array of official capacities now being enjoyed by those favored ones who were allowed to dip their fingers into the pie, and emphatically declares that they must go.

Applications

The Governor-elect, who maintains his headquarters at the Ford hotel, is constantly besieged by persons who seek patronage or privilege, some even going so far as to demand the removal of certain appointees of the present administration who will hold over lawfully, though it be fair or unfair. Each applicant for every position desired seems to nurse the conviction that his particular application is more worthy than the others.

For the office of state game warden there now repose on the desk of the Governor-elect upwards of 150 applications from every county in the state. Those for other positions are in proportion and in some cases even greater.

The Governor-elect is not, however, passing lightly on these applications in spite of their great volume, but is giving consideration to all of them, with the result that he is at his headquarters far into the night.

When the Governor-elect has satisfied himself as to any applicant's qualifications and when summed up they are in accord with those which he expects there is no further hesitancy in announcing the appointment. It is made forthwith and the matter is closed.

Despite reports brought back to Cochise county some time ago that gaining entrance to the Governor-elect's office called for considerable formality, this is not true. Anyone can walk in and everyone will be heard. There is not the slightest trace of any formality in connection with a visit to Hunt's headquarters.

All those who visit these headquarters are not seeking patronage, many dropping in for a brief chat and to extend their felicitations to the incoming administration.

At the Capitol

The state house is a scene of bustling activity, preparation of annual reports and other matters of state business keeping the various organizations on the go.

Coupled with this is the preparation for the coming session of the Sixth Arizona legislature which will convene the second Monday in January.

On the Scene

A number of members of both houses are already on the scene, and candidates for chairman of the house and speaker of the senate are feeling out the situation with respect to their aspirations.

According to rumors now afloat about the capitol, W. D. Claypool, Fred Colter, Milford Winsor and several others have tossed their som-

beros into the ring for the speakership of the senate. However, the matter is a trifle premature, but it is conceded that the three gentlemen above named are the outstanding possibilities.

In the house everyone wants to be chairman, with the possible exception of the Republican members.

Capitol Crowded

Those in Cochise county who have howled loud and long about the crowded condition of Cochise county's administration building should slow up their pace a bit as they go through the state house. Here is real congestion, and with the coming session of the legislature, larger than ever before, it is a problem of juggling offices to accommodate the state solons.

The office of the corporation commission, one of the most congested, and handling a great volume of work has branched out into the corridor of the first floor.

To the average layman looking over the annual reports of the corporation commission it would be easy to underestimate the actual amount of work connected with this department.

At the present time there are 32,955 corporations qualified to operate in the state of Arizona. Of this number 27,392 are domestic organizations and 5,563 foreign. While a number of these are inactive the greater part are still in existence. From January 1, 1913 to June 30, 1922, a total of 7,749 corporations have been formed in this state.

Under the law these corporations are required to file annual reports with the corporation commission, but a great many of them have persistently failed to do so, and on account of the sad lack of a sufficient appropriation to force the filing of such reports, the state of Arizona is a heavy loser inasmuch as the filing fee of these reports amounts to \$20 each.

F. J. K. McBride, secretary to the commission, is preparing to ask the coming legislature to appropriate \$10,000 to enable this department to force the filing of these annual reports.

According to Mr. McBride, an average of 25,000 corporations owe annual reports for 9 years, this depriving the state of over \$4,000,000 in revenue.

He conservatively estimates that approximately 10,000 of these corporations are still in existence and if they file their annual reports according to law the state will derive \$200,000 annually. At the present time the revenue accruing from these reports which are filed is only \$27,250 per year, leaving an annual loss to the state of \$172,750.00, due to the negligence of these corporations to file their reports.

It is planned, in asking the legislature for a \$10,000 appropriation, to also offer an amendment to the law which now prohibits a blanket action against the delinquent corporations.

Some of the largest mining companies, banking institutions and mercantile establishments in the state do not file their annual reports, with the result that the state of Arizona loses thousands of dollars a year through countenancing this negligence.

Should the legislature see fit to grant this appropriation all those corporations which have since gone out of existence will be cleared from the records of the corporation commission and many new incorporators will jump at the opportunity of reviving these old concerns rather than incorporate new organizations and be forced to pay the heavy federal tax on new incorporations.

It remains to be seen what the legislature will do with this matter, and whether or not they will favor the expenditure of \$10,000 to force the observance of what is now a sadly abused statute, and at the same time bring in a large sum of revenue.

Cochise county has found it profitable to institute blanket suits for the collection of back taxes, and the state of Arizona would also be the gainer by taking steps to collect tax revenue that is its just due.

The back tax suits in Cochise county have been watched with interest throughout the state and other counties are now preparing to institute action to force their delinquents to pay up.

Other Departments Busy

Other departments in the state house are busy with their reports and routine matters.

The state tax commission is kept hard at work and is cooperating with various counties in equalizing tax levies and aiding the county governments in the assessment and collection of taxes.

Assessors Meet

The assessors of the 14 counties of the state met with the tax commission in the capitol Tuesday and Wednesday at which meeting the assessors and tax commissioners bent their efforts to the facilitation of tax matters. These conferences are held annually and are of great assistance to the assessors in the prosecution of their work.

Stocking Up?

There seems to be considerable comment around the capitol and other political gathering places regarding the actions of the outgoing administration in distributing their patronage to the smallest crumb before the grand exodus on January 1. According to these reports, everything that can be acquired from the sympathetic or otherwise deserving is being taken on, and many of the new officials will find themselves thoroughly equipped for some time to come. This action, it is said, is not well received on the part of the newcomers, who would much prefer to use their own judgment in matters of this kind, and do not appreciate having the outgoing show them so much consideration.

But, taken in its entirety, there seems to be a general feeling that all is fairly well in and about the capitol city, and that which is not, soon will be.

All is well for all but those who must go with the going—but that's a different story.

CRACK DRIVERS ENTICED FOR PHOENIX RACES

PHOENIX, Dec. 20.—Determined to see the auto racing game in Arizona come into its own, motor dealers and well-known pilots throughout the state are getting ready to make the New Year's day racing program on the state fair grounds track at Phoenix something to furnish comment for days afterward.

The New Year's day events—four big auto races, a 19-mile motorcycle event, and two novelty speed numbers—marks the initial effort to put racing in the limelight in Arizona. Preparations being made for the affair give promise of one of the most thrilling and fastest speed feats ever witnessed on a state track.

Application blanks have been received from the American Automobile association, under whose regulations the races will be conducted, and the entry lists are now open. Drivers whose performance behind the wheel have landed them in the money positions in many past hard-fought road and track events in Arizona are limbering up their machines to give Old Man Speed and the fans a rare run for their money.

Preliminary indications point to at least 20 of the best known drivers in the state being in the lineup when the New Year's day events open. Dealers in Phoenix and other cities of the state are engaged in constructing special cars built for speed and speed only, and machines which burned the track in the state fair races this year are being rebuilt to make them faster.

Under the direction of the association, work has been started on a general renovation of the mile oval at the fair grounds. Necessary repairs are being made, banking renewed and other improvements looked after to have the track in the pink of condition for the big day. The Phoenix oval is only a matter of a fraction of a second behind the fastest mile course in the United States. With several weeks of preparation given the drivers, coupled with the fine condition of the track, some new dirt circuit speed records are expected to be hung up.

HOME FOR XMAS

Rhessa Cornelius, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rhessa Cornelius, of Tombstone, is home from the University of Arizona for the holidays.

Secretary Weeks Explains First Cav. Removal

DOUGLAS, Dec. 21.—The removal of the First Cavalry from Camp Harry J. Jones to Marfa, and Fort Clark, Texas, is being made upon recommendations by the commanding officer of the Eighth corps area, J. W. Weeks, secretary of war, informed George E. Buxton, of the Chamber of Commerce here, in a personal letter. Following is the letter, which explains the reason for the removal from the standpoint of the war department.

"Mr. George E. Buxton, President, Chamber of Commerce and Mines.

"Dear Sir: Referring to the personal call of Hon. Ralph H. Cameron, United States senate, in connection with your telegram of the 11th instant, requesting him to use his efforts to have existing instructions revoked, which contemplate the transfer of the First United States Cavalry from Camp Harry J. Jones, I desire to advise you as follows:

"The decision of the war department with reference to transfer referred to was based upon the recommendation of the commanding general, Eighth corps area, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, which involved a general redistribution of the troops along the southern border. This action was considered necessary due to the reduction in the size of the army and the decreased appropriations for its support during the current fiscal year. In making his recommendations the commanding general of the Eighth corps area necessarily had to take into consideration the needs of the entire border, at the same time utilizing to their capacity other stations where the buildings are of a more permanent nature than those at Camp Harry J. Jones.

"Please be assured that the military requirements of Douglas, Arizona, and vicinity have been carefully considered and provided for to such an extent as the existing strength of the regular army and facilities will permit.

"In view of the above it is regretted that favorable action cannot be taken by the war department in accordance with your request.

"Very truly yours,  
"JOHN W. WEEKS,  
"Secretary of War."

Instructed Verdict In Damage Case Against Bisbee

J. H. Bryant, colored, of Bisbee, to recover \$300 alleged by him to have been tendered to Officer Al Mooney as bail money for the release of persons arrested in Bryant's place of business a year ago, and which was declared forfeited by Police Judge John W. Hogan of that place because of the non-appearance of the defendants to answer charges preferred against them was begun in Judge Lockwood's department of the county court this morning.

The suit is against the City of Bisbee and Judge Lockwood has ruled that a peace officer is without authority to receive bond money for the release of anyone. Attorneys Alexander Murray and Frank E. Thomas represent the plaintiff and City Attorney John Sanders represents the City of Bisbee.

At the conclusion of the suit Judge Lockwood instructed the jury to return a verdict in favor of the defendant.

COUNTY ATTORNEY IS PREPARING NEW CASES

County Attorney John F. Ross is busy in the preparation of several criminal cases to be brought to the present term of the criminal court when it re-convenes on December 29. A special venire of jurymen is expected to be called to try these cases.

Snowflake—Approximately 310 car loads cattle leave local depot.

MEXICAN OFFERS FORD AS FINE FOR SPEEDING

DOUGLAS, Dec. 21.—"I'll leave my Ford car and bring the other \$5 tomorrow," an Agua Prieta Mexican told the police yesterday after he had been fined \$10 for speeding at the rate of 25 miles an hour up G avenue. Chief Bowden appraised the car and then told the Mexican to bring \$7 back with him.

Motorcycle Officer Robarth arrested the Mexican, who gave his name as Gonzales, on G avenue. The car was sputtering and rattling up G avenue at full speed, spitting everything but tobacco juice, the fenders waving up and down like a buzzard's wings and every now and then a screw or bolt dropping off.

"She's a good car for the shape she's in but—" opined Chief Bowden.

Bandits Rob Auto Driver and Throw Him Out of Car

Sheriff John Montgomery, of Phoenix, called up Deputy Sheriff Harry Rafferty from that place about three o'clock this morning, warning him to be on the lookout for a party of auto bandits who held up the driver of a Packard Twin-Six automobile just outside the city of Phoenix about midnight Wednesday and after robbing him threw him from the car and escaped in the direction of the Mexican border.

The Maricopa county sheriff stated the license number was 15263. He failed to furnish Rafferty with any further details and nothing has been thus far learned of their whereabouts.

COUNTY ASKS STATE BOARD FOR \$15,000

PHOENIX, Dec. 19.—The case of the Maricopa county highway commission and Twohy Brothers company against the Arizona Eastern company for a reparation of approximately \$15,000 paid to the latter for switching charges will be submitted to the Arizona corporation commission on briefs within the next 30 days. This decision was reached by the commission after a two days' hearing of the complaint in their office at the capitol building.

The complainants allege in their petition for reparation that the charge made by the railroad company of \$20 an hour for the time consumed by the train crews in placing carloads of material at the various setup plants of the contracting company is excessive, unjust and discriminatory, and ask that the commission award them reparations for the sums paid the rail company for this service since the hard road building program of the county was started.

DAVE FOSTER IS BATTLING HARD FOR HIS LIFE

BISBEE, Dec. 20.—"Dave" Foster, of the Copper Queen hotel staff, and one of the most popular hotel employees in the southwest, is making a remarkable fight against pneumonia in the Community hospital, Riverside, Calif., according to word received by friends in Bisbee yesterday. His condition yesterday, it was said, was serious, but hopes were entertained that Foster would successfully pass the crisis.

One reason for "Dave" Foster's popularity with the hundreds of persons who each year register at the Copper Queen hotel is his good-natured willingness to do almost anything within reason for the accommodation of his friends, and "Dave" counts every guest at the hotel as a friend. About a week ago a friend became seriously ill and physicians declared he must be taken at once to California. "Dave" volunteered to accompany him. Shortly after seeing his friend safely in a sanatorium Foster contracted pneumonia. He was hurried to a hospital and relatives notified. Mrs. Foster left at once for Los Angeles and has since been at her husband's bedside.