

WASHINGTON SIDELIGHTS

Harding Annuls Army Harness Contract



WASHINGTON.—Contracts for the disposal of surplus army harness, valued at \$25,000,000, were obtained by a conspiracy among temporary officers of the army, according to Attorney General Daugherty. Acting on the advice of the attorney general, President Harding has ordered the War department to declare the contracts null and void. The following statement was issued:

"These contracts were entered into by the former director of sales, with the approval of Secretary Baker, and provided that the large accumulation of stock of surplus military harness and accessories were to be turned over to the United States Harness company, to be reconditioned and sold or sold in its original condition upon a profit-sharing basis.

"The grounds for the recommendation of the attorney general upon which the President acted were that these contracts had been entered into in violation of sections of the criminal

code prohibiting officers and employees of the government from having any interest in government property or contracts.

"The facts developed by the attorney general led to the conclusion that these contracts had been entered into as a result of a conspiracy on the part of certain former temporary officers of the army to obtain possession of these military supplies."

The individuals involved in the action of the President, Secretary of War Weeks and Attorney General Daugherty, are former Col. George B. Goetz of Ranson, W. Va.; former Maj. Joseph C. Byron of Hagerstown, Md.; former Capt. Axel F. Cochrane, and former Capt. Henry C. Benke, all of whom held emergency commissions during the war.

In July, 1920, the four men in question, it is charged, prevented the sales to the public. In September, 1920, the United States Harness company was formed, and on September 24 the contract between the company and the War department, which turned over all the surplus harness and saddles to the company, was signed.

Prior to this an option upon this surplus had been given to the company, and following its execution Goetz resigned his commission and signed the contract with the War department as president of the United States Harness company. His associates were officers of the company.

Denby: No More Navy Bean Spilling

NO CENSORSHIP, but—Secretary of the Navy Denby issued a general order relating to public utterances and writings of navy employees. There will be limitations concerning utterances on questions such as foreign relations, war plans and confidential matters.

After setting forth the exception the Denby order says:

"Nevertheless, unrestricted utterance or publication of fact and opinion may divulge information which it is not advisable to make public, and may constitute an offense against military discipline as conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline."

"For information and guidance of the naval service this order enumerates some of the limitations which come under the naval regulations."

"(a) Articles bearing on the foreign policy of the government. (b) Articles offensive to foreign governments. (c) Open discussion of war plans, proposed or approved strategic and tactical plans, or of new developments in naval material not yet made public.

"Navy regulations of 1920 prescribe the method of caring for 'secret and



confidential' material. They forbid praise or censure of other persons in the naval service; state that the motives of others must not be impugned; prescribe the methods of redress for wrongs, and covers appeals. Regulations also exist for guidance in correspondence.

"Any communication intended for the public should be composed only after mature reflection. In a spirit of good taste and good temper, and in a seemly and proper manner.

"A signed copy of any article by any person in the navy on professional subjects must be in the hands of the Navy department at the time of publication of communication. The author will be responsible for any statements made."

Washington Club of Clubs for Women



THE Woman's National foundation, recently organized here as a means to focus the interest of the women of the country in co-operation with women's organizations has bought a \$1,000,000 tract of land in the heart of the Connecticut avenue residential district and plans to erect buildings costing about \$3,500,000. Mrs. C. C. Calhoun, president of the foundation, has described its objects in an address to its 30 founders, and says, among other things:

"One of the objects of the foundation is simply to invite clubs and club members who desire to feel that they have a club of their own at the nation's capital. We are not going to attempt to subordinate any club, but

the foundation will supplement their work and add to it. In this central club we shall have everything that will be a convenience, including a swimming pool and gymnasium, rest rooms and a good restaurant; in fact, a club that will provide the greatest comforts at the most reasonable prices to members.

"Then we plan a theater or open house. Our auditorium will not in any way interfere with the plans for the George Washington memorial, which is to be the much-needed convention hall with space for patriotic societies' headquarters. We shall have, also, an open-air auditorium or sylvan theater."

It is the purpose to establish centers or branches of the foundation in every part of the country, so the most remote village or farmhouse may have a proprietary interest in the club or clubs in Washington.

There will be a board of 40 governors with the president, six vice presidents and an executive committee to direct the work of the organization. The vice presidents include Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, Mrs. James Carroll Frazer and Mrs. John Hays Hammond.

Ousting of the Inefficient Army Officers

SECRETARY WEEKS has ordered the heads of all branches of the army to eliminate officers who do not measure up to standards of military efficiency. Officers who cannot give satisfaction in one branch will be tried out in some other, and those who fail to measure up in any of the positions will be subject to retirement on small pay or discharged under the provisions of a recent law. In an explanatory statement the War department says:

"The basic principle in making assignments is to have the right officer in the right place. The best interests of the service should always be paramount in deciding this question, and it usually requires a study of the officer's whole record to determine it.

An officer receives his base training in the branch in which he is commissioned, and must be fit for duty in his branch in peace and war. Should he not show fitness for any branch, then his case will be brought to the attention of the annual classification board.

"There is now a law providing for the elimination of inefficient officers, and the blame must rest entirely upon



the army if we retain this class of officers on active duty."

The new orders issued by Secretary Weeks may serve to bring to a head a situation that has existed ever since the War department began to carry out the provisions of the recent law having for its object this elimination of "unfit" officers.

Under the new army law many officers have been placed on the retired list or dropped. Cases of some are pending in the civil courts and others have appealed to the President to examine the evidence upon which they have been eliminated. There is little likelihood that any of the officers who have appealed will obtain reinstatement.

TOOLS NAMED FOR ANIMALS

Not Always Easy to Trace the Connection, Though Sometimes It Is Plainly Apparent.

There are quite a number of tools which are named after animals, and it is interesting to find out the connection between the instrument and the animal after which it is named. In some cases the connection of ideas is evident and it is obvious why the tool is so named, observes a writer in London Answers.

The "monkey wrench," for instance, which is a spanner with a movable jaw, capable of adjustment, can, by a little stretch of imagination, be thought to possess some likeness to a monkey's profile and, true, it deals with "nuts."

The "donkey engine," which is capable of lifting great weights, may be considered similar in disposition to the animal noted for its stubbornness and strength. We can see how the mechanical "crane" got its name. In the distance it looks somewhat like that long-necked and long-legged bird.

It is also natural that in a country like the United States, where large herds of cattle are found roaming wild, the wedge-shaped iron frame in front of a locomotive should be called "cow-catcher." The carpenter's "horse" is naturally so called because it has to carry so much on its back.

The derivation of the tailor's "goose" is not very evident, but no doubt some long-forgotten, imaginative and poetically minded tailor, in a burst of inspiration, called his smoothing iron a "goose" and the name has been used ever since by his more practical successors.

The trivet used to support a vessel over the fire, with its long, thin legs, is naturally called a "spider," and it is obvious why a spiral instrument or iron screw is called a "worm." Also we can all see why the large iron poker which, being made red hot, is used for lighting fires, is called a "salamander."

It is not easy, however, to see the connection between a crab—a flat, clumsy animal—and the pillar used as a winch; and why a capstan is called a "crab" is difficult to imagine. Again, the bar of iron sharpened at one end and used as a lever for raising weights is named a "crowbar," for no evident reason, and I would gladly take my hat off to the man or woman who can explain to me the derivation of the name "buck-saw," "catboat" and "bullwheel."

Flying Gas Cloud.

A cloud of glowing gas has been discovered flying through space at a speed of 1,125 miles per second.

Readers may be relieved to know that it is traveling away from us, but even if it were coming our way there would be nothing to fear, as many thousands, perhaps millions, of years must elapse before it could reach us. —How it manages to remain intact while traveling at such a dizzy speed is a mystery. Equally mysterious is the manner in which it was able to get up such a speed.

The most probable explanations are that it has been shot from some gigantic sun belonging to a universe of stars far beyond those we can see, or that it is a gradual accumulation of gas or gases which ultimately will be formed into stars such as we see around us at night.

Copper and Calcium in the Air.

It is reported that Prof. Hartley of Dublin has photographed, in ordinary air, spectroscopic lines due, among other things, to copper and calcium. It is believed that they arise from fine dust consisting of these substances, projected into the atmosphere by road vehicles, and by smoke and the sparks of trolley wires. It is from the latter that copper is supposed to come. The quantity of copper thus found is excessively slight. Indeed it is only the delicacy of the tests that renders it appreciable. Lines due to lead, carbon, iron, manganese, nickel and magnesium have also been detected, but the quantity of these substances is even less than that of the calcium and copper, the lines of which are always prominent in the spectra.

Wireless Storm Warnings.

American mariners are to receive storm warnings by wireless from all parts of the world under arrangements perfected by the shipping board with most of the high-power radio stations in different countries. Managing agents and masters of shipping board vessels were notified that the warnings would be sent broadcast on schedules furnished by the ship's radio operators. Because of the number of vessels still on the seas without radio equipment, the warnings are to be passed on from ships receiving them by other means when such vessels are sighted.—Scientific American.

He Was Engaged.

On the Friday evening when the great strike had been planned to take place an old lady got into an omnibus. She handed the conductor her fare and said, anxiously: "Are you coming out this evening?"

The conductor shook his head and answered with great politeness: "I'm afraid I can't, mum. I've got to get home to my old woman."—London Tit-Bits.

The Good Old Days.

Do you know that it wasn't so long ago that when a clothier sold a pair of pants the crease had to be pressed out before the customer would wear 'em? The good old days were days of baggy knees and patched seats, but there was considerable attendance upon the prayer meetings then.—Houston Post

JAPAN CAUSES HITCH IN PLANS

TOKIO NOT WILLING TO DISCUSS FAR EAST QUESTIONS AT PROPOSED CONFERENCE.

SETBACK DISARMAMENT

NIPPONESE FEAR DISSENSION WILL FOLLOW IF PACIFIC PROBLEM IS TAKEN UP.

(Western Newspaper Union News Service.)

Washington, July 15.—Japan is ready to enter the disarmament conference, but withholds assent to an unrestricted discussion of Far Eastern questions as a part of it.

The viewpoint of the American government is that a solution of the Far Eastern question is a necessary accompaniment to any disarmament program. Thus develops the first hitch—if a hitch it turns out to be—in President Harding's plan to remove the causes for heavy armaments and then reduce the armaments themselves.

American officials, however, are optimistic that a way will be found for a satisfactory conference to which Japan will be a party and for a program of armament reduction acceptable to all.

The Japanese reply to the preliminary question of whether she would receive an invitation to such a conference came to the State Department through the American embassy at Tokio. Its text was not made public and department officials declined to reveal its contents except to say that it expressed approval of the disarmament discussion but did not agree to a consideration of Pacific problems.

During the day, however, it became known that the attitude of the Japanese government was known to the government here. This attitude is that the disarmament question is a vast one in itself, and that if other questions are introduced into the field of discussion the conference may be so broadened as to endanger its success. Japanese officials are said to feel this to be particularly true if the questions so introduced are to affect the delicate balance of diplomatic relations in the Orient.

There is manifest in Tokio a belief that such a debate might open up a Pandora's box of troublesome diplomatic intricacies, which would set for Mr. Harding's conference a task of readjustment even greater than that attempted by the peace conference at Versailles.

The alternative, in the belief of Japanese statesmen, would be to agree beforehand on exactly what questions will form the subject matter of the discussions.

To this is opposed the opinion of American officials that if the nations first agreed to come into the conference, whatever limitations appeared advisable could be fixed by general assent afterward.

Smoking Cars for Women.

Montreal.—Smoking compartments for women are to be provided on the Canadian Pacific railroad trains. In making the announcement, a company statement said the equality of the sexes should be recognized in traveling.

Hawaiian Air Commandant Killed.

Honolulu.—Major Sheldon H. Wheeler, commandant of Duke field, the army air base here, and Sergeant Thomas A. Kelly were killed when their airplane crashed a moment after taking off for a practice flight.

To Investigate Postal Rates.

Washington.—The House postoffice committee voted to investigate for itself the whole question of second class postal rates. A subcommittee for the purpose was named, consisting of Representatives Ramseyer, Iowa; Hardy, Colorado; Kelly, Pennsylvania; Republicans; and Bell, Georgia; Parish, Texas, Democrats.

Navy Yards on Five-Day Basis.

Washington.—All navy yards and shore stations will be put on a five-day week basis of operation temporarily. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt announced in an effort to prevent so drastic a reduction of personnel as otherwise would be necessary under the reduced appropriations now available.

Airplane Restores Speech.

Indian Head, Sask.—An airplane flight proved the means of restoring the power of speech to Wilfrid Verner, a young farmer, who had been unable to talk since he had been kicked on the head by a horse a year ago. At a picnic Verner took a ride.

Burning Airplane Kills Four.

Oakland, Calif.—An airplane from the Jacuzzi Brothers airplane factory in Berkeley fell at Modesto, killing the pilot and three passengers. The airplane was piloted by Bud Coffey, a commercial pilot, and the passengers were Giocondo Jacuzzi, builder of the machine, and John Kauke and A. MacLeish, employees of the Jacuzzi works. The machine caught fire in mid-air and in falling struck a high voltage electric wire. The occupants of the machine were burned almost beyond recognition.

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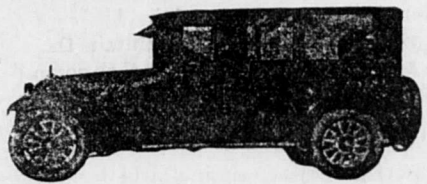
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