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## STATE HAPPENINGS TOLD IN BRIEF

THE HAPPENINGS OF A WEEK  
BRIEFLY TOLD FOR OUR  
BUSY READERS.

### BENTON COUNTY FARMERS ARE SIGNING CONTRACTS

About 90 Farmers, Representing Approximately 500 Bales, Enter Market Bureau.

Ashland.—Approximately 90 Benton County farmers have signed contracts in the Farm Bureau Cotton Association of Benton county. These signers represent a total of about 500 bales. The quota for this county is 1,195 bales, and J. W. Gresham, local banker, who is pushing forward the organization in this county, is anxious that the remaining number of bales of Benton's quota be pledged before the close of Victory Week.

W. C. Lasseter of the Progressive Farmer in his recent speech in this county called the attention of the farmers to the fact that less than one-fourth of the oil interests of the country controlled the price of oil; that less than one-fourth of the packing interests dictated prices in that line, and he reasoned that 25 per cent of the cotton should be able to favorably influence the price of that commodity.

Mr. Gresham, who is himself a farmer, is heartily in favor of the plan, and in the absence of a county agent, is putting forth every effort to make the campaign a success in Benton County.

### More Stills Captured.

Grenada.—Stills continue to yield to the search of the sheriff of Grenada County and most of the time it is a negro "caught with the goods," yet the impression seems to be quite general that in most cases a white man is behind the negro in furnishing the plans and whatever funds are necessary. There have been 20-odd stills captured in Grenada county since early in April last, and yet there is said to be marked evidence of more stills doing business.

### Award Temple Contract.

Clarksdale.—In competitive bidding Bob Ellis, local contractor, was awarded the contract for the construction of the Clarksdale Masonic temple, which will be built at a cost of more than \$33,000. The bid of Mr. Ellis was slightly above this figure and does not include the electric wiring, plumbing and heating, contracts for which will be let separately at a later date.

### Acquitted of Murder.

Greenwood.—Gayden, alias Red Sullivan, charged with murder in connection with the killing of his father-in-law, J. Z. Williams, in this city on Oct. 27, was freed on the murder charge, when Judge S. F. Davis sustained the defendant's motion for a peremptory instruction at the close of the introduction of testimony.

### 11 Tickets for Family.

Ita Bena.—A very interesting scene was witnessed here when two old negroes moved their families from Ita Bena, one family going to St. Louis, the other to an Arkansas point. One old negro purchased for the trip to St. Louis for himself and family 11 tickets, costing him over \$160.

### Car Presented Pastor.

Tunica.—Probably no citizens of Tunica were more thankful than were Rev. T. T. Williams of the Presbyterian church here, and his good wife, when the members of that church presented to Mr. Williams a car as a token of the members' appreciation of his service in the community.

### See Pool Success.

Jackson.—That Victory Week of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Cotton Association campaign will be put over was shown in the interest of the county "pop" meetings held in every county in the state where the cotton sign-up drive is being conducted.

### Remove Hotel Walls.

Jackson.—Work has been begun on removal of the old brick walls on the Norvell Hotel site, at Capitol and Congress streets, to make way for the new auditorium building to be erected on the rear of the lot at Congress and Pearl.

### Turkeys Sell at 30 Cents.

Blue Mountain.—Though their ranks have been considerably thinned out in this county for Thanksgiving, turkeys are selling in Tippah at 25 and 30 cents a pound.

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

By F. R. Birdsall

The newspapers of the state, in anticipation of what seems to be an unusually large number of county, legislative and beat candidates, are announcing that the rule of cash with the announcement will be rigidly enforced and that no announcement of any candidate for any office will appear unless paid for before the issue in which it is expected to appear is printed. Some of the newspapers, according to reports which reach the capital, that have shown courtesies in the past to candidates, have an accumulation of unpaid announcements. One or two of the editors of the state are talking about advertising those accounts for sale to the highest bidder. It is stated that this was done in another state once and the delinquents, especially those who desired to run again, paid their bills with interest and accompanied their announcements with cash as well as renewals for subscriptions.

As an evidence of the good feeling and fine fellowship between the people of Jackson and the great county of Hinds, Jackson and Hinds County united in building a magnificent auditorium and a splendid armory. In this armory will be a club room for the American Legion and the building, which will contain both the auditorium and the armory, will be an ornament to the capital city, and will furnish a splendid armory as well as an auditorium to accommodate all assemblages and conventions. Jackson has become, because of its accessibility, the great convention city of Mississippi. It is hoped to have the auditorium completed in time for the assembling of the press convention in May as well as for the meeting of the state teachers' association.

The board of supervisors of Sunflower County, which has spent several millions of dollars for good roads, has appointed guards to protect the lives of reckless drivers of motor cars by regulating the speed and preventing accidents at abrupt turns of the road. These guards will also enforce the regulations against logging outfits and other heavy vehicular traffic, which in violation of load limits and tire regulations and wet roads, violate the ordinance along these lines and destroy magnificent highways. It is reported that other supervisors in various counties may follow the example of Sunflower in order to safeguard life and protect the highways.

The question is often asked what constitutes libel with reference to liberty of speech and freedom of the press in Mississippi. The state constitution declares that the freedom of speech and of the press shall be held sacred; and that all prosecution for libel, that proof may be given in evidence, and the jury shall determine the law and the facts under the direction of the court; and if it shall appear to the jury that the matter charged as libel is true, and was published with good motives and with justifiable ends, the party shall be acquitted.

It is reported that a number of women will be candidates for seats in both the State Senate and House of Representatives in the primary election, and perhaps in some counties there will be women candidates for county superintendents of education and other county offices. Adams County has a woman county superintendent of education, Miss Pitts, who was appointed first to fill a vacancy and at the election to fill the unexpired term she outran all of her opponents.

Indications point to the fact that there will be an unusually large number of candidates for the various state offices. Under the constitution the auditor and treasurer cannot succeed themselves or each other immediately, nor can the governor succeed himself. Only one governor has gone from the executive chair to the United States Senate since the constitution of 1890 made the governor ineligible to succeed himself. This was A. J. McLaurin of Rankin.

The argument in the case of Excell Coody, appointed by Gov. Russell to succeed Thomas M. Henry, state insurance commissioner, removed by the governor for alleged embezzlement, will take place in the supreme court on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

### 966 Women Registered.

Indianola.—At the request of Gov. Lee Russell, Circuit Clerk J. R. Key of Sunflower county made a report that the number of women who have registered at the several precincts of the county totals 966.

## NEW REPARATION PLANS REJECTED

ALLIED PREMIERS ARE UNIT IN  
NOT ACCEPTING.

### CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION

Italian Declares a Concrete Offer for German Payments Will Be Made, But Refuses to Outline What Form Note Will Take.

London.—The German proposal for a re-arrangement of terms for the payment of reparations has been rejected by the London conference.

The British tried to keep up their policy of a closed door to the last, only giving out bare statements that the conference had discussed the proposals from Germany and would continue the discussion.

The French also revolted, but less radically than the Italians. Premier Mussolini received correspondents from all over the world and declared the German proposals absolutely were impossible to be accepted and all members of the conference agreed on this view. He declared a definite rejection will be sent to Germany.

Premier Mussolini declared the whole tone of the conference was very cordial and all the members agreed that the questions of inter-allied debts and reparations were inseparable. If reparations were not paid by Germany debts also must be unpaid.

In reply to a question what about American debts, he said a memorandum also had been made of definite, concrete proposal for payment by Germany, which Premier Poincare said was interesting and worthy of examination. Premier Mussolini refused to outline these proposals, but he said they included only economic and not military sanctions.

In conclusion he said if the London conference was successful, as seemed likely, there would be no need of a Brussels conference, except a gathering of experts to arrange a few details.

Premier Poincare also gave his opinion of the German proposals, and while he was more cautious than Premier Mussolini, he indicated that they were entirely unacceptable to France.

### TWO CROSS OCEAN TO WED.

Norwegian Girls Journey to Mobile and Marry Seamen.

Mobile, Ala.—Miss Karey Maria Braavig of Christiania, Norway, and Miss Anna Anderson of Sandefjord, Norway, traveled 6,000 miles to Mobile from their homes to become the brides of Capt. O. Wroldsen, master of the Norwegian fruit steamer Vora, and John K. Hansen, chief engineer of the same vessel.

### FAR EAST WAR LOOMS.

Chinese and Russians May Fight Over Chinese Eastern Railway.

Tokyo.—Official reports and rumors reaching Tokyo indicate serious trouble in North Manchuria, with a possibility of war between the Reds and General Chang Tso Lin. The Chinese Eastern railway, which both claim, is the bone of contention, and the Russians may attempt at an early date to forcibly occupy it.

### NOMINATIONS RETURNED.

Harding Sends Back Name For South Carolina Marshal.

Washington.—President Harding has returned to the senate several nominations which failed of confirmation at the recent special session, including that of Joseph W. Tolbert, of South Carolina, to be federal marshal in the western district of that state.

### NO MORE EXECUTIONS.

Greece Will Fine and Punish Former Military Leaders.

Athens.—The trial of those involved in the Asia Minor debacle will continue, and minor officials and officers are being interrogated. It is believed the sentences of those found guilty of treason will be fines and imprisonment.

### Better Late Than Never.

Chelsea, England.—Thirty years after they took out a marriage license they were married, Mr. J. Thomas Whitfield discovered a mistake and had the legal ceremony performed.

## WOMAN WINS NEW SUFFRAGE POINT

COURT NULLIFIES COMMON LAW  
RIGHT OF HUSBAND.

### AFFECTS HER PROPERTY

Wife Controls Personal Belongings Just the Same As If She Were Single—Husband Cannot in Any Manner Control.

Nashville.—The married women's emancipation statute of 1919 was construed by the supreme court so as to entirely abrogate and nullify the common law right of a husband to appropriate to his own use the personal property of his wife without her consent and to reduce to his own possession her choses in action.

Since the enactment of the statute, the supreme court held, a married woman holds her own property just as if she were not married, and the only way the husband can acquire her property during coverture is by purchase or gift, just as he may acquire the property of a stranger.

This holding of the supreme court was rendered in the case of Tellico Bank and Trust Company vs. Loomis, from Loudon county, in a written opinion prepared by Justice Green.

The bank undertook to subject to the payment of Loomis' debts certain money in his hands as the proceeds of a sale of valuable farm belonging to his wife, and was defeated in the effort on proof that the husband had been permitted by his wife to hold and manage her property for her, but had not given it to him.

The debt in question was created prior to the acquisition of the property by Loomis, otherwise, the court observed, the wife might have been stopped from asserting her ownership of the property if Loomis had been extended credit on the facts of his possession of her property, and apparent ownership of it.

### CASH YOUR WAR STAMPS!

Former State Director Urges Holders to Start Turning Them In.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—T. R. Preston, former Tennessee director for war savings, has addressed a letter to the holders of securities throughout the state to the effect that they would mature January 1, and that payment of interest would cease at the time.

Mr. Preston says that it will be necessary for the people to begin at once to turn their stamps into the banks which have arranged for their redemption, otherwise there will probably be congestion in January.

### MUST BE PROGRESSIVE.

Young Republicans Insist on New Ideas in Party.

Washington.—Declaring the republican party in New York "appears to have lost contact with the people," Representative Luther Mott and Hamilton Fish, Jr., of that state, announced they would request George K. Morris, republican state chairman, to call a conference with a view to lining it up behind "certain progressive measures."

"The younger element in the party will not follow or remain in, if the old reactionary leaders and policies dominate," said a statement by the two representatives.

### "RUSSIA WILL RECOVER."

Gov. Goodrich Thinks Nation Will Emerge From Bolshevism.

Washington.—A gradual change through the orderly processes of evolution and not by counter revolution, will Russia emerge from her present condition, declared former Gov. Goodrich of Indiana, speaking here before the Conference on Public Opinion and World Peace. An official government investigation of conditions in that country was made by Mr. Goodrich last year.

### Catches Hawk With Hands.

Summerville, Ill.—Grappling with a huge chicken hawk as it was making away with one of the barnyard flock, Mrs. Albert Blister beat the feathered thief to death with a club.

### Hard Luck Follows King.

Rome.—A member of the court of ex-King Constantine is authority for the statement that the Greek ruler lost \$5,000 playing poker the day after he abdicated.

## REDS DROP HOSTILE ATTITUDE AT MEET

SUDDENLY COME INTO LINE ON  
STRAITS PROPOSALS.

### TURKS OFFER NEW PLAN

Agree to Many Points in the Allied Note, and Prospect for Some Sort of Agreement Seems Brighter.

Lausanne.—Georges Tchitcherine, the Bolshevik foreign minister, abandoned his previously extremely hostile attitude regarding the Dardanelles question at a recent peaceful session of the Near Eastern conference and expressed approval of the Turkish proposals for regulation of the straits, with the reservation that he must see the actual words of the sections covering the various points at issue before he could give full approval to them.

Japan spoke for the first time on the straits problem. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese representative, said that he was entirely in accord with the words of Richard Washburn Child, the American ambassador, concerning the straits and liberty of commerce in the Black Sea. He also said he had listened with great delight to the statements of Ismet Pasha, on behalf of Turkey, who had approached the difficult problems in a sympathetic and conciliatory manner. Baron Hayashi, the British foreign minister, had assured him that a solution of the straits question was nearing.

Lord Curzon opened the session with a long detailed review of the points on which the Turks differed from the entente plan and replied to questions on which Ismet Pasha had asked further information. His address indicated that most of the questions on which the entente and the Turks differed were proper subjects for informal discussion by military and naval experts, and expressed the opinion that such discussion would bring forward the necessary technical information which would undoubtedly form the basis for agreement.

In opening the session Lord Curzon said he was glad the Turks had accepted the principle of demilitarized zones on the straits, provided they were assured adequate protection; that the Turks had accepted the principle of free passage of warships and merchant men in time of peace or war, and also in principle an international commission to regulate commercial navigation. He also added that the Turks had laid down the basis of the regime they desired to see applied to the straits, and that it seemed possible to harmonize this with the entente views.

The Turks withdrew their suggestion that the powers should not be allowed to maintain warships in the Black Sea.

### CALLS FOR INFORMATION.

Capper Wants I. C. C. to Report on Railroads' Excessive Earnings.

Washington.—A resolution calling upon the Interstate Commerce Commission to furnish information as to the failure of railroads to turn into the treasury one-half of any excess earnings above six per cent as provided by the transportation act was introduced in the senate by Senator Capper, of Kansas. The commission is requested to furnish the senate not later than January 1, full information relative to earnings of the railroads, regulations under which the excess earnings should be turned into the treasury and steps which the commission proposes to take to enforce the provision of the act.

### How Many Ships Scrapped?

Washington.—Without discussion the house adopted the Frothingham resolution calling on the navy department for information as to the number of warships scrapped or disposed of by the United States and other nations participating in the arms conference.

### Many Die in Quake in Japan.

London.—A serious earthquake at Kishu, the southernmost of the three principal islands of Japan, is reported in a Tokyo dispatch to the Central News. Many persons are said to have been killed or injured and hundreds of houses were destroyed.

### Three Students Burn.

Waterville, Me.—Three students of Colby College were burned to death when fire destroyed one section of North College, the original college building erected in 1820.

## \$15,000,000 FIRE LAYS CITY IN RUINS

HUNDREDS HOMELESS, BLOCKS  
BURNED IN ASTORIA.

### OLDEST TOWN IN OREGON

Banks, Newspaper Plants, Hotels, Stores, Theatres and Many Business Houses Swept Away. Flames Spread.

Astoria, Oregon.—The business district of Astoria, the oldest city in Oregon, is in ruins, hundreds of persons are homeless and property loss estimated around \$15,000,000 was caused by fire here. For 13 hours the flames burned an ever-widening path through the city.

Banks, newspaper plants, hotels, stores, theatres and numerous business houses were wiped out. According to Fire Chief E. B. Foster the fire got out of control because it burned beneath the buildings' underpinning upon which the business section was built. He attributed the disaster to failure to fill in the space beneath the piling. Dynamiting was resorted to in an effort to stay the fire.

Norris Staples, automobile man and president of the Bank of Commerce, dropped dead of heart disease while the fire was at its height.

The body of C. J. Smith, a transient, was found hanging under the sidewalk on the water front, but whether he had ended his life because of the fire or for other reasons the police were unable to determine. He had spent the night in a lodging house nearby.

Thirty blocks were wiped out. Many homes in the older residence district were destroyed and about 50 families living in an apartment house were made homeless by the destruction of that building. In addition to these many persons rooming in the destroyed area lost all their personal property.

A committee of citizens met at the call of Mayor Bremner and planned immediate relief measures. They were assured of help from Portland and Seaside. Every restaurant and hotel had been destroyed and stocks of goods had been wiped out, so there was prospect of immediate want. Portland bakers sent bread and Seaside opened the hotel there to receive those without shelter, and a large number of cottages at the beach resort also made available. Homes in the residence district also were thrown open to aid and feed the needy.

The Y. M. C. A. building, which was outside the fire zone, was opened as the headquarters of all welfare agencies.

The Astorian recently moved into a new building which was swept by the fire. Mr. Dellinger said three of his typesetting machines had been saved, but the rest of the plant was destroyed, including the files of 50 years.

Telephone exchanges and telegraph offices were burned. Communication with the outside was maintained through the day by means of a long-distance line temporarily set up at the city hall.

The hotelkeepers of Oregon, in session at Portland, donated \$5,000 for relief and railroads offered free transportation and other aid.

### BENCH WARRANT ISSUED.

Federal Court After Bergdoll Should He Receive Pardon.

Philadelphia.—A bench warrant has been issued by Federal Judge Dickinson, for the arrest of Edwin R. Bergdoll should he receive a pardon for the remainder of the four years' sentence he is serving in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas, for evading army service during the war. A plea for Bergdoll's pardon was made a few weeks ago and a decision is pending.

### Grain Elevators for Bulgaria.

Chicago.—The American grain elevator plan will be introduced into Bulgaria at an approximate cost of \$10,000,000, and work will get under way during 1923 building season, the McDonald Engineering Company of Chicago announced.

### Holden Elected Chairman.

Chicago.—Hale Holden, president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, has been elected chairman of the new executive committee of 24 of the reorganized Association of Railway Executives.