

Wheat Growers Robbed by Tricks of Montana Elevators, Says Rankin

Attorney General Cites Market Reports of Other Grain Centers Tending to Show Classification of Grades of Wheat May Be Juggled for Profit by Buyers and Loss to Producers of State.

Special to The Tribune.

Billings, Nov. 16.—Charging that the grain growers of Montana are at the mercy of the elevators when they come to market their crop, Attorney General Rankin at a state hearing conducted by him and J. M. Davis, assistant commissioner of agriculture, on grain margins here Thursday, cited the grain quotations of The Great Falls Tribune to show that Montana elevators deprive the farmers of a considerable sum by a trick in grading.

The attorney general made this the big point of his drive for facts intended to show that the Montana farmers are not getting a square deal from the elevator and, in fact, are being cheated. He said that the elevator paid by track loaders and to shippers direct to Minneapolis to show that something was wrong in the home markets of Montana.

County Agent H. S. Brossard gave testimony that 20 cents a bushel more is being realized by sale in Minneapolis, and C. F. Borberg cited an instance where he and a number of other growers, by making up a carload of wheat for the Minneapolis market, had obtained 32 cents a bushel more than they could have obtained here.

Representatives of the elevators declared there ought to be some way of preventing newspapers from printing grain quotations, as their quotations are "detrimental to us," as S. J. Eppler, superintendent of the Occident elevator here, put it.

The big point was made during the hearing of the method of issuing storage tickets, and Mr. Rankin, declaring the practice in vogue at elevators is indefensible, developed a considerable portion of his examination of witnesses to this question.

Trick in Grading
Testimony showed that when a producer takes his grain to an elevator, it is graded, for instance, as No. 1 dark northern spring, and the stub which the farmer is allowed to retain bears this unqualified notation. But, the attorney general brought out, the elevator man takes advantage of several values above No. 1 grade, such as fancy, choice and fine, per bushel. This information relating to the description and value of the particular commodity of wheat the farmer does not get, the examiner contended, and the grower can regain with his storage ticket receipt nothing but ordinary "No. 1 dark northern."

The attorney general said he saw "a studied effort on the part of elevator men to keep the farmer from knowing of these higher classifications that their wheat might go into, bringing several cents more per bushel. He declared that it seemed highly unfair, in his opinion.

Mr. Rankin quizzed him on the earnings of the Occident elevators. He said he thought they earned not as much as 10 per cent, but wasn't sure. The attorney general set the figure at points successively higher, but Eppler couldn't say for sure that the elevators didn't earn that much. Finally he asked if he was sure that the elevators did not earn as much as 50 per cent on their investment, and Eppler said: "Yes, I'm damn sure of that; I'm sure of that; I'm sure they don't earn 25 per cent."

"Well, we'll have it 25 per cent," said Rankin. "I wanted to get a figure you were sure of. Mr. Rankin said that both the producing and tract buying questions, endeavoring as he said, to get some ideas on these points for possible new grain legislation.

He said it seemed to him that until the government established a fancy grade above its ordinary number one, there was nothing to be done about it. (Continued on Page Six)

RANGE CONDITIONS IMPROVE IN WEST, AVERS U. S. REPORT

Montana Conditions Better Than Month Ago, Says Federal Bulletin.

Denver, Col., Nov. 16.—General improvement through the west in livestock and range conditions during the month of October is indicated in the monthly report issued Thursday night by division headquarters here of the federal bureau of crops and livestock estimates.

Rain and snow coming on the heels of a comparatively extended period of lack of precipitation improved the open ranges in six western states sufficiently to offset the slight deterioration elsewhere in the west, the report declared.

U. S. SUGGESTION IS WATERWORKS PACKER MERGER

Government Reserves Decision in Proposed Combine of Concerns.

Armour Takes Plan to Washington; Would Involve \$200,000,000.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Governorment officials reserved decision Thursday with regard to the proposed consolidation of Armour & Co. and Morris & Co., two of the "big five" Chicago meat packing concerns, which was placed before them Wednesday by J. Ogden Armour. It was indicated there would be no final opinion for some days.

Meanwhile the various details of the consolidation plan and its probable effect on the industry as a whole and the producing end consuming public were receiving careful study at the department of agriculture. Chester Morrill, assistant secretary of the department, was in charge of the administration of the new packers and stockyards control act, held conferences with department experts on marketing and other related lines.

Mr. Armour had expected an early decision by the government. He had a half an hour conference with President Harding Thursday but declined to talk about it and no statement regarding it was forthcoming from the White House. So far as was learned, Secretary Wallace had not taken up the Armour plan with Mr. Harding.

Daugherty Not Acting

Attorney General Daugherty was confined to his apartment with a slight indisposition, but at the department of justice it was indicated that the question was not receiving immediate consideration since no plan in detail had been submitted.

Officials of farm organizations in Washington were watching developments in connection with the proposed consolidation. Gray Silver, for the American Farm Bureau federation, said the matter has been discussed with officials of his organization by those interested as a matter of information. He stated that the federation has not a word to say on the subject, but the department of agriculture has added that this did not mean necessarily that a hearing might not be requested.

At the offices of the National Grange it was stated that no official information respecting the proposed consolidation had been obtained. Benjamin C. Marsh, of the Farmers National council, announced that he was writing to Secretary Wallace and Attorney General Daugherty, asking full information concerning the Armour plan and suggested that there be more of a direct approach through legislation and less of packer control of the government.

MARY LEFT A LOT IN EUROPE



Having got down to 119 pounds by plenty of sleep and no fattening foods or drinks, Mary Garden returned radiant from Europe.

CONGRESS TO SPEED SHIP SUBSIDY BILL

Favored Treatment Planned in House for Administration Product.

Washington, Nov. 16.—There was a suggestion from some republican quarters Thursday that the administration ship subsidy bill—certainly as regards the manner of its consideration in the house—might be passed along for termination by a party conference.

Reports that the merchant marine committee, which framed it, would ask opportunity for consideration of any for a rule giving right-of-way without amendments except those presented by the committee itself, provoked some outspoken opposition within the party. This bridge, however, has not been reached.

The rules committee early next week will be expected to give the bill privileged status, but it was said there had been no agreement as to form, measure or tariff bill. The bill was passed by the house under an air-tight rule preventing any except committee amendments and the customary motion to recommit. Some republicans from middle west states are reported to have declared opposition to that sort of a rule for the shipping bill and it was because of these expressions that the suggestion for a conference was proposed.

Representative Mondell, the republican leader, discussed the legislative program Thursday with the president. Mr. Mondell said that the principal message to be taken up at the special and regular session were ship subsidy, appropriation, rural credits and possibly some changes in the transportation act.

The appropriations bill will not be ready until the December session. First of these will be the treasury bill with its appropriation for prohibition enforcement, over which there may a lively fight.

3 DIE IN FIRE AS 'MOONSHINE' STILL EXPLODES

Blast From Illicit Liquor Plant Blows Out End of a Building.

Chicago, Nov. 16.—A mother, her baby and a child from another family were burned to death and six other persons were injured, perhaps fatally, in a fire which broke out in a three-story building after a huge "moonshine" still in the basement exploded late Thursday night.

The first floor of the building was occupied by a grocery store owned by Jacob Verdoni, who, with his wife and three children, lived in the rear. The second floor was tenanted by Joseph Bottino, his wife and six children. In the basement were two stills, one reaching the ceiling in the front end, a smaller still was in the rear.

The front and rear of the building were blown out when the big still exploded. Then the floor of the grocery store fell in. Firemen said the buildings on each side prevented the damaged building from collapsing.

Immediately after the explosion, the building was enveloped in flames, trapping the occupants, whose screams were heard for blocks.

The dead: MRS. JACOB VERDONI, 31, and her 15 months' old baby. ANTOINETTE BOTTINO, aged 13.

Youth Shots Self in Despondent Mood; Left Note to Mother

Billings, Nov. 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—Chester Campbell, 20, shot himself through the right temple Wednesday afternoon in a hotel room and died in a Billings hospital at 9 p. m. He had been missing from his home in the Clark hotel since Wednesday morning.

The young man was discovered by a chambermaid at 8 o'clock. Half a bag of candy was lying on the bed beside the body and a note to his mother was found on the dresser. It began, the police say, by declaring: "You are the best mother on earth and I hate to tell you goodbye." The note stated that he was sorry he "had to do this," but he was tired of living.

LLOYD GEORGE LICKED AT POLLS; LABOR NOW SECOND BRITISH PARTY

Conservatives Have Majority of 80 in Parli- ament; Former Premier Pulls Through Election With 50 Followers in House of Commons; Decline of Liberalism Balanced by Laborites.

London, Nov. 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—The long drawn out fight between former Premier Lloyd George and Sir George Younger has for the time ended with a victory for the chairman of the unionist party. Younger and his adherents staked their political fortunes at the famous Carlton club meeting, which smashed the coalition and sent Lloyd George into the wilderness on the conviction that the country was ripe for a return to straight party politics and in the firm belief that the nation would support their conviction by sending the conservative to the house of commons with a good working majority.

Their confidence has been justified. Wednesday's elections have returned a parliament with almost the same overwhelming predominance of conservatives as the last parliament elected in 1918 on a wave of grateful enthusiasm to Lloyd George as "winner of the war."

Radicals of Italian Parliament Conquered for First Time.

Rome, Nov. 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—Benito Mussolini, in a dramatic first appearance before parliament as premier, Thursday announced his foreign and internal policies and warned his adversaries that the fascist government had come to stay. He affirmed its strength to enforce law and order against one and all, even against an illegal coup by his followers, and he demanded full powers and full responsibilities.

The fascist leader proclaimed a policy of action, not words. He set an example, for he spoke for only half an hour, and was frequently applauded and cheered.

The socialists and communists, numbering 118, who have greeted every succeeding government with violent and noisy demonstrations of opposition, set in the chamber Thursday silent and subdued. Old leaders, like Giolitti, Orlando, Salandra, Facta and Sonnino, saw their power wrested from them; they were relegated to second place without uttering a single objection and some of them were among the hundreds who congratulated Mussolini as he concluded.

The premier's entrance to the crowded chamber was hailed with cheers. The points of his speech meeting with special approval were his declaration that he did not need a majority in parliament, his tribute to the king, his reference to the army and the insistence upon order and tranquility in the country.

The premier then went to the senate and delivered the same speech, being greeted with no less enthusiasm.

KILLED BY OWN GUN

Miller, S. D., Nov. 16.—Jurin Gortmorker, 23, was killed near here Thursday when a shotgun he was using to hunt rabbits was accidentally discharged.

INDEPENDENCE FOR EGYPT AND SUDAN TO BE ASKED AT PEACE PARLEY; TURKS ADD DEMANDS

Lausanne, Nov. 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—Real independence for Egypt and the Sudan, with the evacuation of the British troops and no special privileges there for Great Britain, is the demand of the Egyptian people, which will be placed before the Lausanne peace conference, Hassib Pasha, head of the unofficial Egyptian delegation, told The Associated Press Thursday. His statement revealed the fact that Egypt, if the Egyptians have their way, will form one of the problems of the conference.

BULGARIAN PLANS

Lausanne, Switzerland, Nov. 16.—The establishment of Dedaguchatch as a Bulgarian seaport on the Aegean sea and release from the burden of caring for a half million refugees are the chief Bulgarian aims at the Lausanne conference, according to Premier Stambouli, who gave an interview to The Associated Press Thursday.

WANT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Lausanne, Nov. 16.—Great Britain has nothing to do with the caliphate, in the opinion of the Indian Mohammedans, and should not interfere in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire. This contention is set forth in a telegram forwarded to Andrew Bonar Law, the British premier, by the committee of the caliphate of Bombay, and made public here Thursday by Djelal Eddine Arif Bey, representative of the Ankara government in Rome.

WOULD MAKE GREECE PAY

Paris, Nov. 16.—Ismet Pasha, head of the Turkish delegation to the Lausanne conference, told The Associated Press Thursday that the nationalists expected to obtain reparations from Greece as well as payments for the allied occupation of the last four years.

RECTOR'S LETTERS TO MURDERED WOMAN SOLD FOR \$1,000; STATE HAS SECRET EVIDENCE AS 'TRUMP'

New Brunswick, N. J., Nov. 16.—Original letters said to have been written by the Rev. Edward Hall to Mrs. Eleanor Mills, who was killed on September 14, are to be turned over to the authorities, Friday, by Miss Florence North, attorney for Charlotte Mills, daughter of the slain woman. It was announced Thursday night by Special District Attorney James Mills, widower of the choir leader. Thursday received \$500 of the \$1,000 which Miss North is said to have obtained through the sale of the publication rights of the letters.

Detective Mason also announced that the prosecution would present to the grand jury testimony of two more witnesses whose stories never have been made public. The stories of these witnesses, he said, were considered "trump cards" in the case, which would almost surely result in the returning of indictments.

Blind Bridesmaids and Musicians Serve as Winifred Holt Weds

New York, Nov. 16.—Miss Winifred Holt, her wedding march played by blind musicians, and attended by four sightless bridesmaids, was married Thursday to Rufus Graves Mather, of Princeton, N. J., in the Lighthouse, one of the refugees she established for the blind.

SHELLEY PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO CHARGES OF ACCEPTING BRIBE

Former Prohibition Director
Enters Plea Through His
Attorney.

Butte, Nov. 16.—(By The Associated Press.)—O. H. P. Shelley, former state prohibition director for Montana, pleaded not guilty in the United States district court Thursday to the charge of bribery contained in indictment returned by the grand jury here Tuesday.

Lost Wife and Car; But Wait! He Found 'Em Both Next Day

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 16.—Walter Harrison, 25, of Loogootee, Ind., Wednesday night misplaced his wife and automobile, but Thursday was united with both after police had assisted him. Touring from Indiana to California, Harrison arrived here and left his wife in a hotel while he went in search of a garage. He found a garage, but forgot where the hotel was, and starting back to the garage, for his automobile, forgot the location of the garage. He then appealed to the police.

PROBE BRANDING OF MAN

Hagerstown, Md., Nov. 16.—Officers here are making a rigid investigation of the attack upon Edward Fisher, a railroad man, who was kidnapped in Hagerstown Tuesday night by eight men, purported to have been members of the Ku Klux Klan from Waynesboro, Pa., taken in an automobile to a field outside of the city and branded on both cheeks and his forehead with the letter "K."

FOOTBALL MISHAP FATAL

Waverly, Ill., Nov. 16.—High school football caused the death of the second Waverly high school player in two years Thursday. Glenn Shearburn, 14, died of blood poisoning, caused by a wound on his left elbow, sustained in a game here Saturday.