

Parents of Thirteen Children Born In Three Years-- Carry the News to Teddy

Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 23.—Complaining that the railway station waiting room at Boynton, Okla., was without heat on a bitterly cold day, J. M. Jackson, filed a protest with the corporation commission and scrutiny of his allegations today brought the discovery that the Jacksons are parents of thirteen children born in three years. Their eldest, a son, is now 14 years of age, making the personnel of their progeny 140 in number. Five years ago the increase in the family became marked. Twins succeeded the twins in 12 months and in another year triplets again made their appearance but one year after the last triplets came five children on the same day. The five are still alive but the health of the whole family, declares Jackson, was impaired by the absence of warmth in the Boynton station waiting room. It is hinted that the commission will reprimand the railroad company.

MR. FRANKLIN WINS THE PRIZE

Mr. T. S. Franklin, district manager of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company of Raleigh, yesterday received a wire from Mr. Charles W. Gold, secretary, congratulating him on winning the forty dollar gold watch for the largest personal business, as manager. The watch is handsomely engraved.

News' Carrier Injured By Powder

Paul Chambers, aged 14, one of the News' carriers, was seriously hurt by the explosion of powder last night at 9 o'clock. His face was burned, and it is feared that one of his eyes was put out. Young Chambers' mother, Mrs. L. M. Chambers, lives at 1201 S. Tryon street. His father is dead. Just how the accident occurred could not be learned other than that he and other boys were having a Christmas frolic with fire crackers or powder which they had procured.

QUIET CHRISTMAS AT LENOIR. Special to The News.

Lenoir, Dec. 23.—Christmas in Lenoir this year will be celebrated in the quietest manner, with the exception of one day the ordinance prohibiting firecracker popping, which goes into effect Sunday night at midnight and terminates Monday night at the same hour. The different Sunday schools have arranged Christmas trees and treats for the smaller children. The Bible classes of the town have arranged to distribute provisions and Christmas cheer to the needy poor of the community, which will be taken up the middle of the week by committees from the different classes of each denomination.

WANT ANTI-RACING LAWS REPEALED.

New York, Dec. 23.—As a result of the statement of General Leonard Wood to congress that legislation hostile to horse racing in this country has hit at the efficiency of the cavalry department of the United States army by causing the removal of important studs to European countries, another attempt will be made to have the New York legislature repeal laws which killed horse racing. Turfmen have begun to figure the loss to the state and to interested persons through the death of the turf industry. At the present time more than \$11,000,000 worth of race course property is lying idle.

Planning for Jackson Day Banquet

Washington, Dec. 23.—The committee having in charge the arrangements for the Jackson day banquet, which will be held here at the Hotel Raleigh on January 8, 1914, under the auspices of the democratic national committee, the democratic congressional committee and the democracy of the District of Columbia, announces that the applications for tickets indicate this will be the greatest Jackson day banquet ever held.

It is announced that the following speakers have accepted and will be present:

Senator James A. O'Gorman, toastmaster; Norman E. Mack, chairman of the democratic national committee, Speaker Champ Clark, Alton B. Parker, Representative Oscar W. Underwood, William Hearst, Governor Woodrow Wilson, Robert Taylor of Tennessee; Governor Simon Baldwin, of Connecticut; William J. Bryan, ex-Governor Joseph W. E. F. of Missouri; Senator Francis G. Newlands, of Nevada; Governor Thomas Marshall, of Indiana; Senator Pomeroy, of Ohio; and James T. Lloyd, chairman of the democratic congressional committee.

Looks Like Civil War.

Tehran, Dec. 23.—The Mejliss has not yet ratified the action of the cabinet in dismissing W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer-general, in compliance with the demands of the Russian government. It is firmly believed here that this action means civil war within a few days. Mr. Shuster announced that he had received no notice of any action having been taken in his case and that he would continue to discharge the duties of his office until notified to the contrary. The news of the fighting at Tabriz and Resht has created great excitement in the capital.

Countries Where "Peace" is Not Found On Christmas Day

London, Dec. 23.—When the Christmas Bells peal out their annual message of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men," tomorrow, there are many countries in which the glad tidings will not be re-echoed. Not in decades has Yule Tide found the world embroiled in such bitter struggle as it is today. Rebellion and famine are killing tens of thousands in China, and from present indications the ancient form of government will be overturned and a republic or constitutional monarchy established. Europe is in the most turbulent state since the Franco-Prussian war, Turkey and Italy are at each other's throats over the possession of Tripoli while Russia and England have apparently reached an agreement to divide Persia, despite the efforts of the treasurer-general W. Morgan Shuster. The Anglo-German relations have reached an exceedingly acute stage and while the possibility of an armed conflict seems exceedingly remote, European diplomats are not sparing any efforts to avert the catastrophe. In many respects the situation in China affords the most interesting study. For many centuries the superstitious Mongolian has been bowed down before the iron yoke of Manchu rule. Many attempts have been made to overthrow the despotic government, but each rebellion has been crushed, and most in its inception. The so-called foreign invasion, which has been going on for the past 10 years, however, has awakened the Chinese to the possibilities of their country, and has given them an insight into the method of the Western countries. Gradually they have begun to realize their position and frequent demands have been made upon the government by the people for more voice in its affairs. Prominent in this movement are a number of young Chinese, who have received their training in American universities, and have no patience with the ancient despotic form of government under which their fathers lived. The present rebellion began about two months ago with the revolt of nearly all of the southern provinces, and the capture by revolutionaries of a number of important cities. Since then thousands of lives have been sacrificed on both sides and millions of dollars worth of property destroyed. Famine has followed in the wake of the sword and it is fast swelling the ghastly list of victims. As yet the end is so where in sight, and the revolutionists up to the present, have the greater number of victories to their credit. In Tripoli the war that Italy launched upon with so light a heart has evolved into a strife that has cost the

lives of thousands and resulted in an expenditure that will cripple Italian commerce for many years to come, even should the fighting cease with the first streaks of dawn on Christmas day. The Turks have been enforced by countless hordes of Arabs, strung to the highest pitch of fanatical hatred against the Christians who are seeking to deprive them of their land and eliminate their religion from the desert cities that have rung for centuries with Mahomet's morning call for prayers. Today the cities of Italy are disturbed with rumors of discontent from those who viewed the invasion with normal eyes and a reactionary tide of popular anathema threatens the war office and throned with a steadily growing demand for a cessation of hostilities. It is not improbable that negotiations with the Port will be the ultimate result of this outcry against the ever increasing taxes that are thrust upon the citizens to pay the costs of war. In Russia St. Michaelmas will find millions starving in the northern provinces, and all attempts at rescue of the starving population that an investigation has been started to the end that blame may be placed in the right quarter. On the steppe of northern Russia, where the snow lies in deepening drifts, the roads are filled with refugees making their painful way to the camps provided for their sustenance, while beside the real forms of men and women who have become weak to make the journey. It is estimated that over ten million dollars will be needed for the work of rescue. In Persia the war cloud still hangs low, and though the Russian government is said to have mitigated its demands upon the struggling independence government, which would soon be without funds and when that occurred further wretchedness would result, including a grave possibility of the imperial army being disintegrated into plundering bands. Several American missionaries stationed in the province of Homan have replied to a communication from the American legation here that they see no reason necessitating retirement from their post, all the towns being peaceful. The American legation is not taking such drastic steps as the British, committee, which are American missionaries who refuse to leave the interior when ordered. —The throng on the square yesterday afternoon was so dense that policemen had to be stationed at each of the four crossings. Real New York rush.

ARE AMERICANS TO BLAME FOR CRIME WAVE?

Paris, Dec. 23.—Working upon the theory that an organized band of Americans is responsible for the crime wave which is sweeping Paris, Police Prefect Lepine today launched the most drastic campaign against lawlessness of recent years to round up the ring leaders.

While the search for the culprits is being conducted with great secrecy, it has become known that secret service agents of the French government are co-operating with the municipal police in an endeavor to run down the criminals. That American brains planned and American criminals carried out the murder and robbery of approximately \$50,000 from a bank clerk in the heart of the French capital on Thursday and the robbery of jewels, at first reported to be worth \$100,000, from the corpse of Mile Lanteme in a tomb in Pere LaChaise cemetery is a belief that has crystallized from the meager facts so far known. It has since been learned that the genuine pearls, which they had sought, were overlooked. At least, this is a police version.

Other burglaries, which have been reported to the police but which have not all been allowed to reach the public, are also attributed to this same band.

Morse's Fate Now Rests With President

New Orleans, Dec. 23.—"My temporary absence from the United States will not have the slightest effect upon any possible immediate action that may be necessary in the Morse case. The matter now rests solely with President Taft and it will not be necessary for him to consult me further at this time." Attorney General Wickersham made this statement to The Associated Press at noon today on board the steamer Atenas just before its departure for Colon. Mr. Wickersham said he and the president had given very thoughtful consideration to the condition of Morse's health and that the president would not find it necessary to consult him further in the event of any alarming change in the former banker's health.

Found Between Mattress And Springs of Bed

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—George W. Case, Jr., a prominent lawyer who gave the name of "John Smith" when arrested Tuesday night after being found between the mattress and the springs in a bed in the apartment of Miss Sophie Bories at 318 S. Broad street, to which he had gained access through a rear window, failed to appear for his hearing today and was declared a fugitive from justice by Magistrate Haggerty. His \$500 bail, furnished by a surety company, was forfeited. Case was seen leaving his apartment with an ulc case about the time his name was called in the police court. He said he was going to the Broad street station but refused to site his destination. Magistrate Haggerty expressed doubt that he could have held Case if he had appeared inasmuch as he was arrested as a "suspicious person" but had not been accused from any one from the apartment house.

SPARTANBURG ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

An interesting meeting of the Spartanburg Poultry Association was held in the offices of Chas. W. Anderson on Magnolia street yesterday afternoon, at which officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Gabriel Cannon, president; Chas. W. Anderson, 1st vice president; F. M. Dessauer, 2d vice president; C. W. Ballenger, 3d vice president; E. B. Lmond, secretary - treasurer.

The executive committee is composed of the above named officers; together with the following: Dr. E. E. Heintzsch, Dr. J. E. Edwards, E. T. Cantrell and Jas. A. Chapman, Jr.

The date for the next annual poultry show was fixed at this meeting. It will be held in this city January 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1914, a year from the coming January.

The executive committee was instructed to secure for judge of the next show H. P. Schwab, of New York state, who acted as judge of the last show, and whose services were highly satisfactory.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR BIG LOAN SUSPENDED.

Peking, Dec. 23.—Negotiations between the group of international bankers and the imperial Chinese government for a loan are suspended for the present. The ministers of the four interested nations—the United States, Great Britain, Germany and France—for political reasons invited the Japanese and Russians to consider whether they would co-operate in the loan. The Russian charge d'affaires showed no inclination to do so, and the representatives of the other powers feared that a boycott of foreign merchandise would result.

While all agreed that the money should not be advanced for military purposes, certain of the ministers argued that there was only one recognized government, which would soon be without funds and when that occurred further wretchedness would result, including a grave possibility of the imperial army being disintegrated into plundering bands.

Several American missionaries stationed in the province of Homan have replied to a communication from the American legation here that they see no reason necessitating retirement from their post, all the towns being peaceful.

The American legation is not taking such drastic steps as the British, committee, which are American missionaries who refuse to leave the interior when ordered.

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Sentiment Of Congress Favors Federal Appropriation For Improvement of Highways

(By SIDNEY ESPEY)

Washington, Dec. 23.—Conventions, associations and nearly every conceivable sort of organization have been for many years bending their efforts toward the improvement of the highways of the United States, but so far little progress other than a national agitation, has been made.

Primarily, the things which the agitation is intended to stimulate, namely, a substantial appropriation, is still lacking. The only appropriation for promotion of the good roads movement now operative is that which maintains the office of public roads of the department of agriculture.

This office, even, has not been dignified by the name of "Bureau." For some reason congress has been exceedingly reluctant to appropriate money to be expended for the construction or aid in the construction of highways. Rivers and harbors, all branches of agricultural activities, commerce, labor and scores of other industrial enterprises have had a liberal share of the public money, while the coffers of the land have been practically thrown wide open to the army and navy and the pensions.

The roads, however, have been utterly neglected by the Federal government, in this country. In the insular and foreign possessions money has been lavished on roads, it being deemed a military necessity, but the main-land has not, the belief being peace need no subsidy along this line.

In the individual states, road improvement has gone forward it is true, but wholly without federal aid, and principally in those states where the automobile interests have stimulated the improvement.

With the present agitation for good roads, which emanates from the farming classes, has a liberal itself heard, and with a bill providing for the creation of a department of highways to be introduced at the present session of congress, the voice of the people bids fair to be heard at last. Champ Clark, speaker of the house in a recent speech stated that both houses of congress looked upon the road question favorably and probably would vote a large sum of money should a suitable bill be presented to them.

It will not be the first time that congress has taken the roads of the country under its wing, but not since the building of the Great National road from Cumberland, Md., to St. Louis, Mo., has any considerable amount of federal money been expended on roads in this country.

That time road building became a necessity to territorial expansion and development and it behooves the government to establish a national highway over which the citizens of the East might drive their ox-teams and

Insurgent Faction of Elgin Butte Board Win

Elgin, Ill., Dec. 23.—The struggle for supremacy in the directorate of the Elgin butte board between the "regulars" and "insurgents" ended today in a quiet but decisive victory for the "insurgents" faction which elected all their officers.

No action was taken on the proposed abolition of the quotation committee. The directors will meet January 8 to perfect organization of the new board. The new president is Charles H. Potter, of Elgin.

THE PILGRIM PATH

Up the rock-set, age-old pathway, deep-worn by the weight of pain, In the cool, sweet beauty of morning, bathed in a summer rain, Surging onward blindly noon-drawn, far from beyond our ken, A tide is ebbing and flowing of the lonely souls of men. O restless sea of human hearts, O sweeping on forever! Seeking for truth in emptiness, finding fulness never!

Glory of foam-flecked river dashed into crystal spray, Grandeur of mountain and forest, with a young bird's roundelay; Glory of sun and shadow of white-wreathed, sudden rain, Down gleaming leaf and mighty cliff, to the misty, dreaming plain. O shining flood from God's own heart, flowing down forever! Seeking to feed thy children's need, finding answer never!

Rugged and steep winds the pathway, and the crowding mass toils on With paper prayers and incense-stick, till faith and hope are gone; Bowing to least or dam of clay, dust with the dust of time, To human gods of ancient days in the temple's gloom and grime. O need of body and spirit, seeking, yearning ever! Groping for gods in hazy dreams, finding fulness never!

Oh, we of fairer, brighter days than dawn on Ome's Mountain! We of a stranger, steeper way, washed by costlier fountain— Find we God in the pilgrim path? Is Christ our very brother? Do we see his smile in cliff and flower? Or do we look for another? The love of God! The face of Christ shining on forever! O joy and might of sacrifice, falling, fading never!

Or do we yet, with the moon-drawn throng, grope in the fog of dreams? The tiger-crouch by the beast of self, or chase fantastic gleams. Of man-gods—Pride and Ease and Fame—the demons of cringing fear. Giving to God an incense stick, a paper prayer—or a tear— O drooping priests by Form's crude shrine, cease ye drooping never!

Yes: they will cease when that lonely heart next us is our ever neighbor; When sacrifice is joined with joy and love is more than labor. When God is near in the humble Christ and He in each crippled brother, We shall reach the Golden Summit's crest by helping on each other. So shall we then be satisfied, growing, growing ever. Service and love and more of life! Fulness! Joy forever!

prarie schooners in order that they might become the pioneers of the west. But when that work was accomplished an apathy settled down upon congress as far as the road movement was concerned. Nothing further was done. The time has now come when the people of the farming communities are demanding that the work be taken up anew and the construction of highways proceed.

Gen. Floyd King, who served as the chairman of the first inter-oceanic canal committee which ever sat in this country to consider the feasibility of the digging of an artificial waterway to connect the two seas, has evolved a scheme upon which is based a bill which Senator Cullom introduced in the senate last session.

The bill provides for the construction of seven National highways leading from Washington to seven cities: New York City, Chicago, Seattle or Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Miami, which is near the end of the Florida Peninsula.

These roads would cost one hundred and forty-eight million dollars, Gen. King and Senator Cullom point out that the Panama Canal is costing nearly five hundred million and question whether the latter enterprise will be of greater benefit than the system of seven roads.

The plans include the extension of the seven road system by the construction of ramifications, to be built by the states which they are to traverse. The roads themselves are to be built partially by the states and partially by the government.

The new department of highways, if created, will become an important factor in the department of the rural districts. Its head, who will have the title of secretary of highways, will be a member of the president's cabinet. The office of public roads, as it now exists, is little more than an experimental laboratory for the testing of rocks suitable for road building. Its director, Logan Weller Page, is a scientist and has bent most of his efforts during the administration as the head of the office since 1905, in making tests and gathering information concerning the needs of different sections of the country, already so well known.

It is proposed to federate the many good roads associations throughout the country into one large body and maintain a lobby at the capital to exert all possible influence toward procuring legislation favorable to the general policy and the specific project of the seven road system.

If the congress believes that the system provided for in Senator Cullom's bill is planned on too gigantic a scale, efforts will be made to secure lesser concessions, but the advocates of the good roads movement are determined to get some sort of federal aid.

BLOODSHED MAY COMPLICATE SETTLEMENT.

London, Dec. 23.—The bloodshed which has occurred at Tabriz, Resht and other places in Persia threatens to complicate the final settlement of the Russo-Persian difficulty as it is likely to delay the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Persian territory.

According to a dispatch from St. Petersburg today the Russian government does not intend to attempt to adjust the matter by making a proest to the Persian government but will itself undertake the punishment of those who it alleges were responsible for the attacks on the Russian troops.

—Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Graham and family of Greenwood, S. C., and Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Graham of Wilmington and Mr. H. L. Graham of Goldsboro are spending the holidays with their sister, Mrs. C. E. Motte.

Democratic Plan for Economy Stands In The Way Of Large Appropriations for Battleships

(By JONATHAN WINFIELD)

Washington, Dec. 23.—Democratic plans for governmental economy and a desire to improve the navy along the line of auxiliary and secondary vessels, will result in the refusal of congress at this session to make appropriation for the construction of more than one new battleship may be eliminated this year from the authorized naval building program, particularly in view of the fact that the House passed the Sherwood "dollar-a-day" pension bill, which, it is estimated, will increase the annual expenses of the government from \$28,000,000 to \$35,000,000.

The secretary of the navy in his annual report has recommended the construction of two huge and costly battleships. At the same time he has shown the necessity of having many additional auxiliaries and accessories which constitute what is known as the secondary and defensive navy. These auxiliaries consist of colliers, repair ships, ammunition ships, hospital ships and so forth, while the defensive types are the scout cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows that there is a great deficiency in these secondary vessels as well as a shortage of men with which to man the great battleships, but in effect, he purposes to make this deficiency greater by urging the construction of two more costly battleships.

It is the purpose of congress, at least so far as the House is concerned, it is the House which initiates all the big appropriation bills to accept what the secretary of the navy says about the necessity for smaller craft, and to equip the navy with these rather than to follow his recommendation for battleships. Secretary Meyer, they point out, recommends the construction of battleships, but makes an argument for auxiliaries and accessories. They intend to take the argument rather than his recommendation, particularly as in doing so they not only effect an economy, but they believe that they will improve the efficiency of the naval establishment for the reason that the battleships now in the navy are ineffective and incapable of doing all that is expected of them and all that they are capable of, unless they are supplemented with the secondary ships of smaller construction.

A Dreadnought, such as the secretary of the Navy recommends is the name of a battleship. A battleship which carries all-big-guns; that is, she relies almost exclusively on her main batteries to the exclusion of guns of smaller calibre, although a few rapid fire guns are carried. Formerly, naval vessels carried what is known as intermediate batteries, but these have gone out of style with that suddenness which characterizes navy whims. The cost of a Dreadnought has been a frequent source of speculation on the part of members of congress, as the navy department, whether intentional or otherwise, has made it almost impossible to delve into the complicated estimates carried mostly in large totals, to arrive at the figures for

a particular item. Secretary Meyer however, has estimated that the two Dreadnoughts which he recommends will cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000, or approximately \$12,500,000 each. This is the largest single item for which the government appropriates, and it has staggered the democratic economists.

In consequence, the plan is for the construction of smaller craft, particularly as their need is pointed out by view of the shortage of the navy, and also to man new ships. In his report the secretary of the navy publishes an interesting table showing the manner in which the navy has grown top-heavy by the building of big battleships to the neglect of the auxiliaries such as colliers, colliers, destroyers, submarines, repair, ammunition and hospital ships. There are now in commission 33 battleships which, in order to be effective, require a certain number of secondary vessels. On the basis of 33 battleships Secretary Meyer shows the deficiency in other ships is 12 colliers, 32 destroyers, 22 submarines, 3 hospital ships and in like proportion various other supply vessels, ammunition and miscellaneous vessels. "Like a painted ship upon a painted ocean," is what Senator Hale, for many years chairman of the senate committee on naval affairs, characterized a battleship without colliers, and in like manner, it is maintained, these great battleships are ineffective unless they have the picket ships such as destroyers and submarines which are calculated to guard and protect them for the enemy's torpedoes.

The House members have also gone into the matter of cost of maintenance and made comparisons between battleships in this respect and the smaller craft which comes under the classification of auxiliaries and accessories. They have found that the up-keep of a battleship annually with its scores of officers and then to twelve hundred enlisted men is one million dollars a year. The destroyer which costs originally only \$750,000 is manned by four officers and ten to twelve hundred enlisted men only \$85,000 a year, and the submarine which costs originally only \$500,000 is manned by one officer and about twelve men, costs about \$25,000 for maintenance.

Notwithstanding the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy for two Dreadnoughts, there never was a time since the democrats came into power that they were willing to authorize more than one of these big ships a year, and many republicans have joined with them and taken the same position. In view of the fact that the navy is always popular with the people, it has been thought that one battleship might be provided for, but now in view of the heavy drain upon the treasury incident to the pension bill it is said that there may be no provision for battleships at all. Instead those in charge of the matter are talking of making the navy more effective and providing what they believe to be better defense by building smaller boats which effect economy in construction and also in maintenance.

Investigation Begun Into Immense Land Frauds In The Florida Everglades

(By RODERICK CLIFFORD)

Washington, Dec. 23.—"Fall Guya" find sympathy only in the dictionary. Folks all over the United States are ready to grin at the man who is easily separated from his money. Almost everybody has in some secret drawer just how much money he has saved, and just how much his investments will not be worth some day, and all of this leads to the point where the great and good department of agriculture and the omnipotent government of the country takes a hand in what some investors declare to be the most shinningly successful scheme for extracting money from the fraternity of the gullible and that scheme in Florida lands.

From the time that sleek salesman, with conversation and arguments confined to the superlative in adjectives, first sold the farmer at Oshkosh shares in a scheme for the propagation of alligators, in the swamps of the Everglades, to the launching of thousands of different fruit land and reclamation plans recently, is a far cry, and just how much money has been scattered by promoters not overly conscientious, can be approximated only by the universal desire in every man for "something for nothing."

The United States postal authorities can take care of plans like the alligator propagation scheme, usually through fraud orders, but it has become necessary for the government to inquire into the possibility of such schemes as the draining of the Florida Everglades, and their transformation into what Paradise was before Milton wrote "lost" after it. If this is not feasible the public will be adequately warned to put a time lock on its coffers at the mere mention of most of the Florida schemes.

The action of the government in instituting an investigation of such schemes rises in a governmental state of mind closely related to that individual attitude which makes municipal inebriate asylums necessary for the weak-minded and feeble, and which leads Andrew Carnegie to give away libraries and Nathan Straus milk laboratories. Some folks, must be guarded against themselves and investments in hastily pictured stock certificates are just as bad, statistics show as a craving for liquor or the idiosyncrasies of the weak minded.

Almost everything has an agricultural aspect and regulating the crop of greens grown from the fertile soil of gullibility, will fall into the province of "Farm Jim" Wilson, the government's gentleman farmer.

But aside from the general aspect of the case, the charge made to the department of agriculture that the state of Florida has, through the suppression of facts concerning the Everglades, loaded its name to the victimization of more than 50,000 persons throughout the United States, has brought about a pending investigation by the committee headed by the secretary of agriculture.

having to do with the expenditures of the department of agriculture. The investigation which promises to become one of national importance, was brought about by the recent action of 12,000 purchases of Everglade lands from the Florida Fruit Company, who began suit to prevent that company from distributing money from buyers, until promised improvements and drainage of the land is made.

An injunction was obtained, and a hearing on this order is expected to bring to light the whole Florida real estate movement which has figured so extensively in investments in the past few years.

Just what will become of the matter is entirely beyond forecast at the present time, it is declared, however, to the committee of the house of representatives that the land companies in Florida have as yet taken no real steps toward fulfilling their obligations to drain the swamp land. Upon their future action, of course, depends whether or not the Florida land deals will be the greatest investment or the greatest swindle in history.

More than a million acres of land are connected with the activities of the promoters. There are several companies who are pushing the land or the market. There is hardly a city of any size in the United States that has not in its business districts show window filled with the blackest of young soil from which is sprouting young cocoon trees, banana plants, orange and lemon trees, while about them are piled stalks of sugar cane.

This is the "visual evidence" that the soil of Florida is perhaps the greatest fruit producing medium known. But government experts who are interested in this matter declare that the burden of proof will rest with the land and companies to show that they can and have reclaimed everglade lands to make it as productive as the naturally arable soil of Florida.

Then, too, the committee of the house of representatives want to scrutinize the part that the department of agriculture, innocently or otherwise is playing in this land deal.

The land boomers and their agents charge the department with having suppressed the report of Maj. J. O. Wright, engineer of the department who was assigned to investigate the Everglade lands. This report, the boomers claim, was generally favorable to a drainage project, and to the Everglade lands as investments. The other side, that on which the investors who hold the beneficial stock certificates stand, claim that the department has suppressed information which would have been valuable in warning investors and saving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

—Mr. J. R. Nix, of the Liles-Nix Company, leaves tonight for Florida where he will spend the holiday season.