

Fair Saturday and Sunday, not much change in temperature. Stage of water at Fayetteville yesterday at 2.35 feet, falling.

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SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18, 1920.

OLDEST DAILY IN THE STATE.

IMPORTANT MEASURES PENDING IN CONGRESS; SOME LIKELY TO PASS

Budget Law Probably Will Be in Operation in Short Time

ROW WITH HOUSTON Congress and Treasury Quarrel Over Farm Relief, But Some Help Likely

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The present session of congress has now gone far enough to make it possible to survey as a whole what is about to come out. In the first of all, the appropriation bills. The passage of these is the main business of the session. Probably most of them will be passed, but any one who has followed previous sessions of congress, will not be surprised if at the end of the session some of them have not been passed and left over for action by the special session that Senator Harding will call immediately after he has become President.

In addition, it is certain that a number of war-time measures will be repealed. The repeal of a law usually involves less trouble than the passage of a new one and this is especially true of war-time legislation.

Other than this, it is apparent that there are three measures that have the best chance of success in the present session. One is the budget bill. This legislation, which goes under a rather colorful name, is one of the most important bills that has emerged from congress in recent years. In fact, it is not an exaggeration to say that within the field of good management of the government, the budget bill is exceeded in importance only by the federal reserve act. The budget bill represents literally years of work and effort. In its perfected form, it was passed by both houses of congress in 1916. It has since been amended the bill to meet this objection and re-passed it. The senate, however, adjourned before getting around to re-consideration.

In the present session of congress the weight of leadership in favor of the prompt passage of the bill has been overwhelming and easily recognizable. It was one of the first bills that President Wilson signed. Although President-elect Harding gave his indorsement to a large number of measures, he refused to put himself on record in favor of any except the measure which he signed. He has since amended the bill to meet this objection and re-passed it. The senate, however, adjourned before getting around to re-consideration.

Two other subjects have engaged the attention of congress to such a degree that it is reasonably certain that some action will be taken on them. One is immigration. The overwhelming sentiment in the lower house of congress at least, is in favor of drastic restriction of immigration. The members of the house have been busy with this subject, and from other sources, notably from newspaper men and others now in Europe, who have written letters describing the character of the immigration that is now setting out for America and the fraud and other undesirable results of the exodus just preparing to leave Europe. That congress has been impressed by these arguments is clear. The senate seems somewhat less responsive than the house, but it also feels the necessity of immigration restriction.

Another subject that is very much to the fore in the minds of members of congress is financial relief for farmers and others who are embarrassed by falling prices. On this point there is a sharp conflict between congress on the one hand and the treasury department on the other. When the fall in prices began late in the summer, delegations of farmers and others representing the farmers' interest before the secretary of the treasury and asked for some form of relief that would enable them to get credit with which to carry their goods until the hoped-for time when they would be able to get better prices. The secretary of the treasury took the law as it now stands, and further urged the ground that it was undesirable to do anything.

UNIVERSITY IS RAIDED BY SMART BURGLARS

Students Lose Many Watches, Pins and Other Valuables and Some Cash

(Special to The Star) CHAPEL HILL, Dec. 17.—With the nerve and coolness of professionals, but with evident familiarity with their ground, burglars swept through five dormitories at the University of North Carolina Thursday night and stole approximately 30 watches, a number of pins, needles and several hundred dollars in cash.

They got away as clean as a whistle, and thus far no valuable clue as to their identity has been found. In nearly every instance the burglars entered rooms where two or three students were sleeping. In at least one room apparently they came through a window as the door was locked and showed no signs of having been tampered with. In half a dozen rooms students woke up while the stranger was in the room and questioned him as to his presence there. In each instance, he replied, "I beg your pardon, I must have stumbled in the wrong room in the dark."

At the fall examinations are on now and many students are up late, the reply did not seem unreasonable. The familiarity shown with the university buildings and the evident knowledge of the layout would indicate that the burglars were sure of their ground and the big scale of the job and the sheer daring, university officials said, indicated professional work.

RE-APPORTIONMENT VOTED BY CAUCUS

Republicans of House Reject Tinkham's Resolution Aimed at South's Representation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Republican members of the house at a caucus tonight decided to pull through at this session of congress a bill re-apportioning the membership of the house to correspond with the 1920 census. The definite basis for the re-apportionment was understood not to have been decided on at the caucus, but most of the Republicans present were said to favor a reasonable increase in the house membership.

Drafting of a re-apportionment bill would be in the hands of the committee, of which Representative Tinkham, of Virginia, is chairman. Representative Tinkham already has prepared and introduced a bill increasing the house membership from the present 435 to 483, and this bill is expected to be the basis for the re-apportionment legislation.

The Segel measure would make the population basis for a congressional district between 218,000 and 219,000 in a district of approximately 218,000 as a standard. Under the measure no state would suffer a loss in its representation in the house and 25 states would gain representation. Representative Tinkham, of Massachusetts, urged the caucus to support his resolution directing the house committee to investigate to what extent negroes are being denied the vote in southern states and to recommend a decrease in the representation to the extent of disenfranchisement.

REQUEST INVESTIGATION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Workers Aroused by Recent Notices of Wage Cuts

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—A congressional investigation of the textile industry was asked in a resolution adopted today by the executive council of the United Textile Workers of America, which assembled here to consider the action of manufacturers in announcing wage cuts, effective this month.

Says Her Husband Was 'Lo Agent' of Slain Oil Millionaire

Mrs. Cutts Is Ready to Deny Story of Plot—Others Repeat It



Mrs. Ruth Walker Hamon, wife of Frank L. Hamon, of Sacramento, Cal., who has revealed her husband as the paid 'love agent' of Jake L. Hamon, millionaire oil man and politician of Oklahoma. For his services in becoming a 'convenience' husband to Clara Smith, in order that she might bear the name of Hamon, the wealthy uncle paid Frank Hamon \$100 a month, declared Mrs. Ruth Walker Hamon.

MAISON, Ga., Dec. 17.—The greater part of the state's testimony here today in the preliminary hearing into the death last June of Fred D. Shepard, alleged victim of a poison plot for his fortune, was devoted to efforts to corroborate the story told yesterday by his sister, Mrs. Alice Crandall, that Mrs. Annie Cutts told her husband was poisoned by his wife and the other three defendants.

New York Swept By Wave of Crime

Officials and Citizens Stirred to Desperate Methods By Mounting Record of Murders, Robberies, Holdups and Assaults

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—New York City's crime wave continued tonight while officials and individuals launched concerted movements to halt the rapidly mounting record of murders, holdups and assaults.

The latest crime was the holdup in the Bronx tonight of Carl Tiederman, aged 28, an automobile salesman. He was shot and seriously wounded. He was taken to a hospital where his condition is reported as critical.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Three squads of detectives with orders to shoot to kill, today searched the city following up "tips" which the police believed might lead to the arrest of the companions of Thomas Heavey of St. Louis, who was shot to death after he and one or more accomplices had held up a drug store in the busiest corner of the business quarter shortly before midnight last night.

Eight persons were under arrest tonight in connection with the holdup, which it was believed, was made primarily to obtain opium. They included a girl believed to have been Heavey's sweetheart and persons whose names appeared in a notebook in the slain bandit's pocket.

CONFIDENCE VOTED BY FRENCH LEGISLATORS

But Minister's Resignation Causes Sharp Questioning

PARIS, Dec. 17.—The chamber of deputies voted confidence in the government today, 493 to 45, after discussion of the resignation yesterday of Andre Lefevre, the war minister. General Castelnau, president of the army commission, interpellated Premier Leygues on the resignation of M. Lefevre, said:

"The case of former minister Lefevre would be justified if Germany were not disarmed. We ask the premier, 'is Germany disarmed or in a fair way of disarmament?' If not, why are you waiting to perform the operation, which this chamber has been requesting unceasingly the past year?"

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Edward V. Gamble, vice president of the Atlantic National bank of the city of New York, tonight fell or jumped from his office on the tenth floor of the bank building at 256 Broadway and was instantly killed.

BOUGHT TESTIMONY, REPLY IN POISON CASE

Mrs. Cutts Is Ready to Deny Story of Plot—Others Repeat It

MAISON, Ga., Dec. 17.—The greater part of the state's testimony here today in the preliminary hearing into the death last June of Fred D. Shepard, alleged victim of a poison plot for his fortune, was devoted to efforts to corroborate the story told yesterday by his sister, Mrs. Alice Crandall, that Mrs. Annie Cutts told her husband was poisoned by his wife and the other three defendants.

Mrs. Cutts herself will take the stand if she dares to use any witness, and will deny that she ever made such a statement or knew of such a plot, according to a statement tonight by Eldredge Cutts of Fitzgerald, Ga., her husband, who is one of the attorneys representing her.

Charges that the present Mrs. Elmer came to Perry, Ga., nine months before her marriage to Shepard in Jacksonville in December, 1915, and by inquiring learned he was wealthy and that his father had been "very wealthy" were made by the state through testimony of T. E. Anderson, who the defense sought to show in cross-examination that evidence in the alleged poison plot had been "bought up" by the expenditure of "thousands of dollars."

Solicitor Garrett, tonight expressed the opinion that the state might conclude its case late tomorrow with testimony by members of the Turner family, former tenants on the Cutts farm near Abbeville, regarding alleged conversations with Mrs. Cutts.

The defendants, Mrs. Pauline Elmer, her son, Ernest Hopson; her sister, Mrs. Ione Henry, and Mrs. Cutts smiled frequently at each other today as Mrs. J. Mayor Bryan, in her testimony, and other witnesses declared Mrs. Cutts had repeated in their presence the plot story as related yesterday by Mrs. Crandall.

Mrs. Crandall, who returned to the stand today, denied that the motive caused her to seek to involve the members of Mrs. Elmer's family in a poison plot. She said she only furnished L. P. Whitefield, an Atlanta detective, several hundred dollars for expenses in the investigation and declared she had asked the solicitor not to arrest Mrs. Cutts. "I felt very grateful to her," said Mrs. Crandall.

For giving me the information, J. Whitefield told J. W. Bloodworth, Perry attorney, that he had spent "fifteen thousand dollars on the case," according to the latter's statement on cross-examination, and added "if it comes up, I won't need any more."

Other testimony by the witness who took the stand today included reiteration of the account of the last week in Shepard's life, his drinking and quarrels between Shepard and his wife, and of liquor he drank. Fred Crandall, nephew of the dead man, told of drinking some liquor the night Shepard was taken to a Macon hospital and from which Crandall said he became seriously ill. He said the liquor came from a bottle in Shepard's automobile.

He also related what Mrs. Cutts had given him of danger to himself and his mother, as did other witnesses for the state.

Leaders Agree Upon An Emergency Tariff

Applies to Cotton, Wheat, Wool, Beans, Potatoes, Livestock and Meat

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Congressional leaders decided today that the way out of the maze of farmer relief bills was enactment of an emergency tariff to run for one year and to act as an embargo against imports. It would apply to beef, cotton, wool, beans, potatoes, livestock and meats.

Agreement of the legislative leaders was reported at a joint conference of members of the senate finance and the house agriculture committee at which the determination also was reported to press the proposed measure to speedy passage.

British Commander Orders Irish to Surrender Firearms

Peace Discussion Resumption Now Sought At Dublin—Shooting of Inspector Leads to Wholesale Raid of Downtown Section



General Sir Nevill Macready, commander of the British forces in Ireland, who has set December 27 as the date when all arms, ammunition and explosives held by civilians in the area under martial law must be given up. General Macready, before taking command in Ireland, was head of the London police department.

DUBLIN, Dec. 17.—Two monasteries were raided by the military and police in Dublin this morning. They arrested two priests, one of them, Father Dominic, who was chaplain to the late Terence MacSwiney.

Cork Fire Ended Peace Discussion

Resumption Now Sought At Dublin—Shooting of Inspector Leads to Wholesale Raid of Downtown Section

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Seek to Renew Parity DUBLIN, Dec. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—Out of the crop of rumors circulating in Dublin today regarding a renewal of efforts toward peace between England and the Sinn Fein organization, these emerged an interesting report that the military authorities in Ireland actually began negotiations last week for a conference to arrange a truce.

According to this report, which is accepted as true by those in close touch with the developments, the overtures came from the Republicans and one meeting was held to consider the preliminary.

Then came the Cork fires which are said to have incensed the Republicans that they broke off the discussions. Intermediaries were sent, trying to induce them to meet again with the military authorities.

Castle Fortified DUBLIN, Dec. 17.—In order to prevent surprise attack at points considered vulnerable, Dublin castle was being strongly fortified today. On the northwest corner of the castle, the street was closed and barbed wire barricades were placed.

Inspector Shot Dead DUBLIN, Dec. 17.—(By The Associated Press.)—The entire business section of Dublin was raised by the police this evening following the shooting of District Inspector O'Sullivan of Dublin castle. The inspector was passing a fancy fair in Henry street, accompanied by a Miss Moore, to whom he was engaged to be married.

Inspector O'Sullivan died in a hospital an hour after the shooting. He was fired upon by two masked civilians.

COTTON EXPORT COMPANY LAUNCHED TO SAVE CROP

Federal International Banking Company Starts With Subscribed Capital of Seven Million Dollars—Directors Nominated

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—The federal international banking company, with a subscribed capital stock of \$7,000,000, was formally launched here today at a meeting of the campaign committee.

'LIBERALS' AROUSED BY POINDEXTER BILL

Several Solons and Labor Leaders Confer On Plans For Co-Ordination

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—A series of conferences attended by several senators, representatives and labor leaders was begun today for the announced purpose of achieving better co-ordination of the liberal forces of the country with their representatives in the house and senate.

Senator LaFollette, Republican, was understood to have figured largely in initiating the conferences as an immediate result of the senate's passage yesterday of the Poindexter anti-strike bill, while its foes were "on watch."

Plans for fighting the Poindexter bill when Senator LaFollette's motion for reconsideration of the senate vote comes up and formation of a "bureau of legislative information" to watch the interest of the "liberals" were said to have been among the subjects broached at today's conferences which, it was announced, are to continue for several days in an effort to determine a definite course of action. No specific legislative program, however, was said to be contemplated.

Names of those participating in today's meeting were withheld temporarily, but among those reported in attendance in addition to Senator LaFollette, were Senators France, Republican, Maryland; Walsh, Democrat, Maryland; and Representative Fear, Republican, Wisconsin, and others of the house "labor group." Others participating, it was announced, were heads of the railroad labor organizations and leaders of other progressive organizations.

A statement given out by William H. Johnson, president of the international association of machinists, through Senator LaFollette's office said that the conference "grew out of the fact that the leaders of the railroad labor organizations were meeting at this time in Washington to discuss various problems and the time was thought to be opportune for a general discussion."

When the senate fight to overturn the passage of the Poindexter bill would be made had not been determined, the president-elect, Senator LaFollette who is prepared with the backing of the railroad and other labor influences to make a vigorous fight with the aid of Senator Fear, Republican, California, and others, was busy studying procedure precedents in view of important parliamentary questions involved. Some thought that the controversy might be "blow-torn" but others believed that it would go over until next week at least.

Charge Ill-Treatment Of Disabled Soldiers

Witnesses Tell House Committee of Alleged Oppression in Many Institutions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—After hearing charges of ill-treatment and improper housing of disabled ex-soldiers, 10,000 of whom were reported to be suffering in state hospitals and poor houses, the house committee on public buildings voted today to report favorably the bill authorizing the government to lease a proposed \$3,000,000 hospital to be erected in New York City by the state government.

Under the bill as approved, the government would pay the state an annual rental of 10 per cent a year on the costs of construction.

Estimates were submitted showing that the annual rental would total an actual cost of \$3,000,000 in the ten-year lease period specified in the bill.

H. H. Raage, of the national legislative committee of the American Legion, who appeared before the committee to discuss the conditions of disabled service men in state and county institutions, charged that New York state was profiting to the extent of \$300,000 a year on 800 totally disabled men farmed out to its state institutions by the federal government. He asked that all ex-soldiers be placed in federal hospitals.

Surgeon General Cumming, of the public health service, said reports of a similar nature had reached him.

TO START NEW SEARCH FOR MISSING BALLOON NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Two army airplanes will be sent to Albany from New York tomorrow morning to search for the naval balloon A-5595, missing since it was reported from the Stockway navy air station five days ago.

BRYAN ASSERTS FAITH IN PRESIDENT-ELECT, HEARD ON ASSOCIATION

Gerard and Reed Also Discuss International Problem With Mr. Harding

CORDIAL MEETING

Nebraskan Believes Harding to Be Man Whom the People Will Trust

MARION, O., Dec. 17.—With his plan for an association of nations assuming more definite form, President-elect Harding today into his confidence today three conspicuous Democrats, William Jennings Bryan, James W. Gerard and James A. Reed, and asked their advice and their aid in fashioning a program beyond which the country can unite.

All three came as invited guests of the president-elect, and their consultations with him were surrounded with an air of warm cordiality. Afterward Mr. Bryan, taking the lead in expressing gratification at the day's developments, declared his faith in Mr. Harding as an honest and conscientious public servant whom the people would trust.

The former secretary of state also announced that he had found himself in agreement with the president-elect on "fundamentals" and added that he took a hopeful view of the conference here to evolve a plan for world peace.

Mr. Gerard, a former American ambassador to Germany, joined with Mr. Bryan in expressing satisfaction at the scope of the association of nations conference.

Senator Reed reserved judgment of the outline of an association laid before him by the president-elect, but declared himself delighted that one so irreconcilably opposed to the Versailles covenant and to foreign entanglements generally should have been invited to Mr. Harding's council table.

None of them would discuss in detail the subjects touched on in their talks with the president-elect, but it became known that something more than a scattered collection of suggestions was offered for their scrutiny.

It is understood, although Mr. Harding is still in far from complete agreement with leading men have given him the basis of a scheme of world co-operation which he is hopeful will be practicable and acceptable to the majority of parliamentarians.

In all of his conferences from now on it is expected that opinions will be sought in his talks today, Mr. Harding is understood to have declared particularly that the proposal should have the approval of parliamentarians.

After his conference with Mr. Bryan, the president-elect accompanied his guest to a meeting of the laymen of the Marion presbytery and delivered from a pulpit a pointed and short sermon on the need for a national consecration to the religious tenets of the fathers. He declared that in the present world turmoil and that in the search for a way to end war, no scheme so much needed as a deep-seated religious faith.

If the suggestion that the association of nations plan be divested of all partisan politics, Mr. Harding found himself in perfect accord with Mr. Bryan, who made an active fight to keep the league issue out of the recent campaign, advocating acceptance of the Versailles covenant, but it after it became apparent that a reserved ratification was impossible.

It was not revealed what part Mr. Bryan recommended for the Versailles covenant in the new association plan. The former secretary of state, however, only a honest man," said Mr. Bryan after the conference, "but I believe he is a man whose purpose is to do what he believes is best for the American people. It is not expected, of course, that everybody will agree as to what is best, but I believe that if a man wants to do that and if that is all of his purpose, the people will trust him and be hopeful."

The former secretary was a luncheon guest of the Harding home, and Senator Reed was entertained by the president-elect and Mrs. Harding at dinner, and remained in conference in Mr. Harding's office until late at night.

At one of the bitter Democratic opponents of many of President Wilson's policies, and as a leader in the fight against the Versailles treaty, the Missouri senator spoke for an element hitherto unrepresented in the Marion consultations.

Mr. Gerard, although invited here to discuss the plan in the light of his experience during the war, also presented a plan in behalf of the American committee for the independence of Armenia. Mr. Harding made a close study of the Armenian situation several months ago as head of a senate foreign relations sub-committee, and Mr. Gerard said he expressed a keen interest today in steps for Armenian relief and political advancement.

COUNTY SURPLUS TOTALS \$800,074, REPORT SHOWS Auditor Completes General Balance Sheet For 1920

The general balance sheet of assets and liabilities of New Hanover county, completed yesterday by J. A. O'Connell, county auditor, shows that the county had a surplus of \$801,074.23 at the end of the fiscal year, November 30.