

GORGAS STEAM PLANT IS SOLD

PURCHASED FROM GOVERNMENT BY ALABAMA POWER COMPANY.

HENRY FORD'S OFFER UPSET

Must Make Revised Offer For Muscle Shoals if He Bids For Remainder of Project.

Washington—Henry Ford's much controverted offer to buy Muscle Shoals was wholly upset when the government sold to the Alabama Power Company the Gorgas steam plant, a part of the property—at a price of approximately \$2,500,000.

This development forces a revised offer from Mr. Ford if he wishes to bid for the remainder of the project. He previously had informed Congress that unless the Gorgas plant were included in the sale his bid did not hold.

Political observers who have professed to see some connection between Mr. Ford's offer for Muscle Shoals and the presidential boom which bears the manufacturer's name, predicted that the next development would be reverberations in the coming session of Congress which, possibly, might develop into something bearing a relation to the coming pre-convention campaign.

Some time ago the war department notified Mr. Ford that the department of justice and the judge advocate general of the army had held valid its contract with the power company which required the government to either move the plant from the power company's land or sell it to the company. Ford's engineers in Detroit wired the war department a request for another extension, which the power company declined to grant, and Secretary Weeks came to the decision that under the circumstances, it was more advantageous to the government to sell than move.

The actual price paid was \$3,472,487.25, sum agreed on in appraisals by the ordinance division of the war department and experts of the federal power commission. The war time construction cost was \$4,750,000. Secretary Weeks found that if the government were to remove the plant it would realize only the junk value, and that meanwhile there would be economic loss and injury to industries using power in Alabama and other southern states, whereas a sale to the company meant the government would recover almost the original cost.

When Mr. Ford was summoned to Washington some time ago and informed of the contract with the power company, Secretary Weeks left the way open for a revised bid to exclude the Gorgas plant, and Mr. Ford was given to understand the war department would credit him with the proceeds of the sale, and thus reduce his initial payment of \$5,000,000 to approximately \$1,500,000. Some doubt was expressed as to what view Congress might take at the proposal to sell the remainder of the Muscle Shoals property for that sum, inasmuch as the junk value of the whole project had been estimated by army engineers to be \$15,000,000.

Way Out of Ship Problem Blocked. Washington.—President Coolidge has been advised by members of the Shipping Board that a thorough canvass of the situation has failed to develop any suggested plan of operating the Government's merchant fleet, which offers hope of escaping a deficit and continued deficit.

Computation of the various factors which enter into marine transportation "place a fixed differential" of 35 a ton against American ships, the President was informed, and this handicap will be met regardless of the method of operation.

—SUBSCRIBE TO THE SCOUT—

DUVALL HELD ON MURDER CHARGE

Will Be Tried in November Term of Macon County Superior Court

FRANKLIN, Sept. 24.—Robert Duvall, charged with the murder of Charles Rogers near here recently, and Everett Hampton, only eye-witness to the shooting scrape, are being held in the Macon County jail for the trial in November of the Superior Court.

Duvall is alleged to have fired five shots into the body of Rogers, as the culmination of a quarrel on the public road about ten miles from Franklin. It is claimed by Duvall that Rogers started at him with an open knife and that he shot in self defense.

It is stated that bad feelings had existed between the two men for some time. Duvall and Hampton were riding in an automobile when they met Rogers, who was on horse back. A quarrel took place and the pistol was brought into play.

Postell

A large number of our people attended the Sunday School Convention at Shoal Creek Saturday and Sunday. They report a fine time.

Walter Brown and family left here for Etowah, Tenn., last Sunday where Mr. Brown has a position.

Mattie Wilbur of Etowah, Tenn., spent a few days here last week visiting friends and relatives.

We appreciate the interest the parents are taking in the school and were glad to have several visit our school Friday afternoon. An invitation is open at all times to those who are interested in our school and the cause of education.

The box supper at the Clark school house was a grand success. A large crowd attended and all seemed to enjoy the exercises. The fund raised will be used for supplies for the school.

A number of people from the section attended the funeral of Rev. H. Postell, who was laid to rest in the Liberty cemetery Sunday.

We are sorry to hear of the serious illness of Sherman Verner. He was attacked with pneumonia last week. We are hoping he will be out among us again real soon.

Two of our boys spent last Saturday hunting in the Payne Mountains. The result of their hunt was a muffed terrapin. Come on, boys, you may get the game next time.

Mr. Walter Brown and family left the other day for Etowah, Tenn., where Mr. Brown has a position.

Motor Car Output Record is Made.

Washington—Record production of automobiles and trucks this year was shown in figures made public by the Commerce Department. For the first eight months the production totals passed those for either of the entire preceding two years. Based upon reports from 151 manufacturers, the department's report showed that up to September 1 the factories this year had turned out 2,431,063 passenger cars and 258,774 trucks, including fire apparatus and street sweepers. The entire output last year was only 2,333,414 passenger cars and 244,557 trucks, while the 1921 totals were 1,919,916 and 147,168 respectively.

Germany Fearful of Red Outbreak.

Berlin.—Although the abandonment of passive resistance has not yet been decreed, its official termination is believed to be not far away and already there is speculation as to the attitude of the Nationalist and Communist groups. Each opposes surrender, the former asserting through its leaders, Dr. Dietrich, that it "will have no part in any scheme of capitulations," while the Communists declare that to give up Ruhr fight would be a concession to capitalism, both German and French.

Making His Get-a-Way

By MORRIS SCHULTZ

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LUCIUS GRIGGS, president of the Ninth National bank, was smiling as he sped in his car along the pike at four in the morning. He had already put twenty-eight miles between himself and Royceville, and had plenty of time to catch the limited.

In his suitcase he had a hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which he had abstracted from the bank vaults. There had been not the slightest difficulty about it. He had sent the watchman away on some well-reasoned errand, had abstracted the money, and walked out. The theft would not be discovered until eight o'clock. Plenty of time! Oh, plenty of time!

He was thinking of the little paradise he had planned for himself in Europe. At the same time he knew that if he had the chance, he would replace the money and go back to Royceville.

But that was impossible, for he could not send old Martin away again, at five in the morning.

Five o'clock—six. It was growing light. Griggs was heading for a mountainous district, beyond which lay the large town where he meant to catch the train. He saw another car approaching the single road from the Royceville direction. The two roads joined into one that went straight through the pass.

And as he watched it a singular fear began to come over him that this car was in pursuit of him.

It was a foolish idea, only it was going at such a rate—and why should anyone be traveling from Royceville at that hour of the morning?

Moreover, it looked to Griggs as if the two cars would reach the fork of the two roads simultaneously.

Making his calculations, Griggs slowed down. He wanted the other car to get ahead of him. Then he would be able to shake off that absurd fear of his.

To his dismay the other car began to slow down perceptibly, too. Thereupon Griggs threw on speed. The other car slowed down still more.

Griggs became frantic. It was evident now that the other car was in pursuit of him and wanted him to be first at the pass. He slowed down still more, and the other car, after making transparent efforts to maneuver, threw in a burst of speed.

The result of all this maneuvering was that the two cars seemed likely to reach the pass together. Griggs began

to crawl. He was willing to face his pursuers if necessary, but he was not going to get ahead of them and be at their mercy.

He saw red. He was desperate, frenzied. He no longer cared what happened. He saw his little paradise melting away. Why had he been such a fool as to steal the money?

He would have given all the world if he could have been happily back in his home in Royceville as on the evening before.

The second car was rapidly approaching the fork of the roads. After a moment's indecision it suddenly made a spurt, reached the intersection of the two roads, and stopped. Griggs saw the two detectives in it, and he no longer doubted.

And, filled with madness, he made a wild dash toward it. He saw the two men stand up, heard cries of alarm, saw their futile effort to draw out of the way, and then, with a shout of triumph, he had driven his machine full into it.

There was a smashing and splintering of chassis and tonneau. Griggs was whirled high into the air. Yet even in that last desperate moment he was aware of a third car with two men seated in it, approaching at a wild speed along the road behind him.

He opened his eyes to find himself looking at the interior decorations of his bedroom. At first the events of the night seemed only like a wild dream. Then he remembered.

He groaned. Of course they had brought him to his home, under guard. He was being healed, to stand his trial. He was ruined, disgraced, and the penitentiary loomed before him.

The nurse was bending over him. "Hush! You mustn't try to talk. You are too brave a man to imperil your recovery."

"You must tell me . . ."

He listened incredulously to her story of the bank robbers who had blown the empty safe after his departure and fled in their car, of his own heroic act in sending Martin away because he suspected, of his pursuit and capture of the robbers and the money single-handed.

He sank back tremulously on the pillow. The little paradise was here, in Royceville, after all.

Sunburned? MENTHOLATUM cools and soothes the parched skin.

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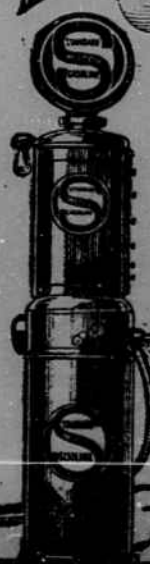
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