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# THE TRI-CITY DAILY GAZETTE

VOLUME XLII. NO. 30.

LEAKSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1923.

PRICE: TWO CENTS

## 13 Lives Lost in N. Y. Tenement Fire

### President's Eleventh-Hour Appeal Fails to Move Insurgents

Washington, Feb. 19.—An eleventh hour appeal from the White House to House republican insurgent leaders, urging an agreement with organization republicans on the Mellon income tax rate schedule, failed to break the deadlock between groups as the income rates of the revenue bill were taken up in the house. Republican leaders admitted the vote would be close with democrats united for the Garner plan, and with insurgents still holding out against the treasury rates; and threatening to vote with the democrats if their compromise is not accepted.

Demand for the resignation of Attorney-General Daugherty suddenly has become one of the most acute of all questions growing out of the oil scandal.

There were indications that some important developments could be expected shortly. Protests against Daugherty's continuance in office have come to the White House from several new sources and were before the President when the cabinet met for its Tuesday session.

Daugherty remained silently defiant and the cabinet meeting passed without announcement of his resignation.

Department of Justice officials insisted he had no intention of surrendering to his critics, but senators who have taken the lead in advising the president to ask him to retire, remained confident their advice would be followed.

Daugherty insisted after the cabinet meeting that the question of his resignation had not been discussed and declared he had no statement to make while House officials also declared the cabinet had not discussed the question and added that Daugherty had not submitted his resignation.

The Senate Oil Committee undertook to run down a story of heavy speculations by high government officials in stocks of the Sinclair Oil company's before and after the Sinclair interests leased Teapot Dome.

H. H. Benkard of the New York brokerage firm of J. P. Benkard and Company, his personal attorney, S. D. Bowers, and A. H. Cook, office manager, conferred with the committee in executive session and it was decided to send expert accountants to New York to examine records of the firm of Harry Payne Whitney, New York financier, who also had been subpoenaed and was expected to appear today, but the committee received no word from him and efforts to locate him in Washington proved unavailing.

Coolidge regards business generally as in a healthy condition and believes the American people can feel safely that the great bulk of the country's business is carried on without any suggestion of wrongdoing.

Charges that Chairman Ad-

John Wilson returned to South Boston, Va., yesterday after visiting his mother for the week end.

#### LETTERS EXCHANGED BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF NAVY EDWIN DENBY

(By Associated Press)  
In a statement made public late today, Secretary Denby discussed his resignation and pointed out that the deferred date of his resignation was a matter of time for any impeachment proceedings against him.

"Therefore," he added, "anyone who says that I am resigning for fear of impeachment simply lies."

Referring to the President's recent action in rejecting publicly the advice contained in a senate resolution requesting him to call immediately for Mr. Denby's resignation, the naval secretary said in the statement:

"The President has stood up manfully for right and justice. The sportsmanlike thing for me to do is to relieve him of the further embarrassment of continued political maneuvers and partisan political trickery."

He challenged investigation of his acts in connection with the leasing of naval oil reserve lands "before any unprejudiced tribunal" and declared his conviction that it could not be proven "that my action was not beneficial both to the government and the navy."

Following is the text of President Coolidge's letter, dated today:

"My Dear Mr. Secretary:

"Your resignation has been received. I am conscious that you have tendered it from a sense of public duty. It is with regret that I am to part with you. You will go with the knowledge that your honesty and integrity have not been impugned. I treasure and reciprocate your expressions of friendship. I shall remember the fine sense of loyalty which you have always exhibited toward me with much satisfaction and always wish you and yours contentment and success."

"Very truly yours,  
"CALVIN COOLIDGE"

Secretary Denby's letter of resignation, dated February 17, is as follows:

"My Dear Mr. President:

"Heretofore I have verbally expressed to you my deep appreciation of your strong message in regard to the Robinson resolution.

"No one appreciates better than I how difficult your situation has become. I fear that my continuance in the cabinet would increase your embarrassment. Therefore I have the honor to tender to you my resignation as secretary of the navy."

"As there are a few pending matters which should receive my personal attention, I suggest that my resignation be accepted as of the date of March 10, 1924."

"It will always be gratifying though to me that neither you nor any one else has at any time advised me to resign."

"I assure you again of my appreciation of the many courtesies you have shown me and of your last great act in refusing to accede to the demand of the senate that you ask my resignation."

"With cordial regards to you and Mrs. Coolidge, and best wishes always, I am,

"Very sincerely yours,  
"EDWIN DENBY."

Miss Leone Eggleston left today for Los Animos, Colo., where she will spend several months with her aunt Mrs. O. Doyle. She accompanied Mrs. Doyle and little daughter home. Mrs. Doyle has been visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Eggleston and other relatives for several weeks.

Members of the republican national committee, Secretary Lockwood and other republican leaders are defending Doheny and Sinclair Oil leases were made in the Senate by Harrison, Democrat, Miss. Acceptance of Denby's resignation by Coolidge also, was criticized by Harrison who said it conflicted with the President's New York speech.

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#### CHARGE TWO PRESIDENTS MISLED ON BONUS BILL

(By Associated Press)

New York, Feb. 19.—Charges by Thomas W. Miller, Alien Property Custodian, that a "high Treasury official" admitted that department estimates on the bonus were "juggled" to deceive, and by Representative Benjamin L. Fairchild, Republican, of New York, that Secretary Mellon "misled" the late President Harding and "now is misleading President Coolidge," were made at bonus meetings under American Legion auspices Sunday.

Mr. Miller did not name any official of the treasury, but Representative Fairchild specified that the head of the Treasury had "misled as to the deficit of over \$600,000,000, which prevented President Harding, perhaps more than any other feature, from signing the bonus bill."

"As it turned out," he added, "they were \$300,000,000 ahead."

The Parent-Teacher Association of the Leaksville Graded School will give a Silver Tea Friday night at 8 o'clock at the School Auditorium. All teachers and parents are invited to attend.

#### ANOTHER N. Y. WOMAN FOUND BOUND AND GAGGED IN ROOM

(By Associated Press)

New York, Feb. 19.—Olga Morton, youthful estranged wife of Frederick Camp, bank employee, was found unconscious today in her West 46th St. apartment, gagged and bound in a manner exactly like that used by the robber-murderers of Louise Lawson, actress, who was found strangled to death in her studio rooms February 8. Miss Morton was revived and is in a serious condition.

Miss Morton, like Miss Lawson, was found by her negro maid, her hands tied with silk stockings, a face towel used as a gag and a bath towel thrown over her head. She was lying face downward in the doorway leading from the parlor to the bedroom.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE TO MEET THURSDAY

The County Commissioners have been called to meet at Wentworth on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 10 o'clock. Chairman Thomas R. Pratt issued the call although he will not be there as he is in a Baltimore hospital. He does not know when he will return.

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#### THE TALE OF A BRIDGE (Series No. 7)

It is amazing how some men can forget the truth. When one of the speakers at the citizen's mass meeting last June declared that the Fishing Creek bridge would cost \$200,000, this writer consulted the records and found that the order read not to exceed \$50,000. Later a contract was let for \$39,675 for the same bridge so it is very plain that the facts are being misrepresented.

Frank A. Vanderlip made a speech last week in New York State in which he cast serious reflections on the good name and honor of the late President Warren G. Harding. When questioned as to the facts, he admitted the speech was based only on rumors. But it seemed the popular thing to leap into publicity and crawl on the oil-scandal band-wagon.

So it is with the Fishing creek bridge, lies no matter how big as long as they are told against the bridge, are all right with some people. We hear men say that the bridge will be blown up if built. The county commissioners have heard that these things are being said. Talk of lynching the commissioners was heard at one of the mass meetings, and yet, if the records are examined they will show that it was not the present Board who contracted the indebtedness of Rockingham county. The present commissioners elected with the largest majority in the history of the county, are made the scape-goats in a factional fight within the democratic party for control.

For several years a considerable number of citizens have been demanding the facts about the financial condition of the county. They did not get the facts until the present Board ordered an audit of the county's books. The commissioners did not know how the county stood and it is doubtful if anybody knew. An audit was ordered and the howl started for spending the county's money in that way. It has since turned out that the auditors found enough of the county's money that would have been lost to pay for the audit. Then a new system of bookkeeping was started and for the first time, probably, the county has an up-to-date system. Does this look as if the commissioners were crooks?

And now Reidsville is saying that the new jail which was ordered built by the grand jury will cost \$100,000, but then this is in keeping with what they told us back yonder before the days of prohibition, that after the country went dry we would not need any jails. The township jail should be built for about \$10,000. And Reidsville does not say a word about Recorder's court fines in Leaksville township going into the county school fund while the fines at Reidsville go into into the Reidsville school fund.

Why not stick to facts, even if they may some times pinch?

#### LONDON FIREMEN PRAISED

(By Associated Press)

London, Feb. 19.—London fire fighters were complimented by Chief Collinson of Chicago before his departure for the United States.

"I know some brigades," he said, "that would be left gasping after seeing one of yours get away to a fire and run through the traffic."

#### FIRE DESTROYS ANCIENT GERMAN COURT THEATRE

(By Associated Press)

Neustrelitz, Mecklenburg, Feb. 18.—The former Neustrelitz court theatre, with a history dating back to 1731, recently was destroyed by fire. Nothing but the walls of the old building remain, but a movement has been started to erect a modern theatre.

The Neustrelitz court theatre was founded by the dukes of Macklenburg who were known for their interest in artistic affairs. It was opened with performances by a troop of "ducal actors." The last of the Macklenburg dukes, who was dethroned as a result of the revolution, took care of his theatre in a way that made it one of the best standard stages in Germany.

#### REPUBLICAN FACTIONS IN HOUSE FAIL TO AGREE

(By Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 19.—House consideration of the tax bill reached the amendment stage yesterday with insurgent and organization Republicans still split over income tax rates and democrats feeling they can control the vote to put over the substitute schedule.

Under an agreement reached when the measure was taken up last week, general debate ended at 4 p. m. Reading of the bill under a rule which permits the offering of amendments with discussion limited, then was begun.

By a vote of 140 to 67 the house rejected the first amendment offered — by Representative Frear of Wisconsin, Republican insurgent—which would have authorized the federal government to tax state and municipal securities.

The income tax rate section will be considered today with vote likely on another amendment by Mr. Frear, which would not disturb the present 50 per cent surtax but would cut normal tax rates in half, and on a proposal of Representative Garner, Democrat, Texas, to halve normal tax rate and reduce the surtax minimum to 44 per cent.

#### MILLER-MELLON BONUS CLASH BRINGS A CALL FOR CONGRESS PROBE

(By Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 19.—Andrew W. Mellon, secretary of the treasury, and Thomas W. Miller, alien property custodian, both heading departments of the Republican administration, clashed today in a battle over the bonus that was overshadowed only by the fast flying reports of changes in President Coolidge's cabinet.

As loggerheads with Mr. Mellon over the question of compensation, Mr. Miller started the argument last night, and when a truce was called tonight, the air had been filled with statements; President Coolidge had received from both parties to the controversy outlines of their cases, Representative Rainey, Democrat, Illinois, had brought it up in the House, and Senator Harrison, Democrat, Mississippi, had formally demanded a congressional investigation.

Colonel Miller was quoted as having said in New York that he had been informed by a "high treasury official" that the treasury had "juggled" figures as to the cost of a soldier's bonus in such a way as to try to defeat it. Today he added to that statement a long list of what he termed to be discrepancies in treasury estimates and took occasion to say the former service men were becoming "wrought up" over the situation, which should be settled. Later, however, he said he had made no charges that Secretary Mellon had "juggled" figures.

#### Weather

Rain Tonight and Wednesday. Unchanged temperature

#### GHETTO BLAZE BURNS FIVE-STORY TENEMENT WITH MANY KILLED

Fire Flares Up Staircase Fanned by Draft and Snuffs Off Escape For Eight Families.

(By Associated Press)

New York, Feb. 19.—13 lives were snuffed out in a few minutes in a fire believed to have been of incendiary origin which early today swept from the basement to the roof of a five-story tenement in the heart of New York's lower East Side Ghetto.

Seven of those killed were children. The blaze was unequalled in rapidity in the annals of the fire department. It flared up the staircase, fanned by a draft from the tenement's front door, blocking the escape of eight families who occupied the building.

Some of those in the two upper stories met death before they could even try to dash through the roaring furnace. Others managed to reach safety by seemingly impossible means. Several were severely burned while others were injured in falls and while trying to jump to safety.

#### ALASKANS CROSS MARTEN WITH CAT FOR FINE PELT

(By Associated Press)

Whitney, Alaska, Feb. 19.—An animal that is a cross between a marten and a cat is being produced for its luxurious pelt by "Shorty" Hunter and "Shorty" Wenkler, well known "sourdoughs" of this region.

The two trappers say the new animal has the delicate pile of the marten and the long silky fur of the cat. They hope to offer a fur resembling the Russian sable in various colors, including tortoise-shell.

Full-blooded Persian cats are being used in the experiment. The hybrid is double the size of a marten. The correspondent saw one in the possession of Wenkler. The creature has the domestic qualities of the house cat, but hops about like a marten.

#### LONDON SEEKS INSURANCE AGAINST FALLING FRANC

(By Associated Press)

London, Feb. 19.—The recent persistent decline in the value of the French franc, and the unsatisfactory condition of France's finances, has caused a good deal of worry to business people here who have investments in French securities or trade connections with that country.

Many of these people have recently been insuring against the franc going to 200 to the pound sterling, and have taken out policies at the rate of 30 guineas a hundred pounds. Insurance houses consider the rate not excessive for a twelve-month policy, considering the manner in which foreign currencies have been fluctuating of late.

Miss Ruth Robertson is home from college spending the week end with her mother on Monroe Street.

Mrs. G. H. Clark will entertain Mesdames G. C. Gammon, E. L. Fulcher, R. P. Ray, E. B. Moss and J. G. Farrell at six o'clock dinner this evening.

Rev. W. L. Sherrill and wife will return hom from Charlotte Friday, where they have been for some weeks on account of Mr. Sherrill's health. Mr. Sherrill expects to preach Sunday.

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