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# THE CONCORD DAILY TRIBUNE

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

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## Two M'Lean Employes Examined During Day

### John Spurgeon and John F. Major Asked About Private Wire McLean Had From Washington to Florida.

### PRIVATE MESSAGES ALL DESTROYED

### Major Says For This Reason They Cannot Be Given to Committee.—Fall Did Not Use Private Wires.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 1.—John Spurgeon, managing editor of the Washington Post, was the first of the employees of E. B. McLean called for questioning today about the private wire the publisher had installed between his office here and Palm Beach.

Spurgeon could throw little light on the matter, telling the committee he had nothing to do with the installation of the wire, and had no information on the subject.

Spurgeon had wired Mr. McLean mentioning a $100,000 loan to A. B. Fall and in response to questions asked Mr. McLean told him about the loan and told him to print it like any other news if it came out.

John F. Major, author of most of the now famous McLean telegrams, next was questioned. He said Mr. McLean's private wire was installed in the Post's telegraph room along with the other wires, including a New York and a Cincinnati wire.

Copies of the messages sent on McLean's private wire between Washington and Palm Beach had been destroyed, Major said. He said they were destroyed each night. He described them as private messages concerning McLean's newspaper and other business.

The purpose of the wire, the witness said "was to keep McLean in daily touch with events in this country and Europe."

Asked why the leased wire was installed at that particular time, Major said it was the cheaper method of communication because of the volume of traffic.

"To the best of my recollection, No," Major said when asked if A. B. Fall ever sent or received messages over the private wire. His recollection refreshed by Chairman Lenroot, Major said he had shown the chairman a telegram from Fall relating to McLean's appearance before the oil committee.

Excusing Major temporarily, the committee went into executive session to examine additional telegrams and records of long distance telephone calls.

**Burns Will Be Questioned.**

Washington, March 1.—William J. Burns, chief of the Department of Justice investigation bureau, will be summoned by the oil committee to explain whether code messages sent to E. B. McLean's employes in Florida were in a cipher used by the department's secret agents.

He also will be asked whether Mr. McLean himself is not carried on the books of the department as a secret agent at a nominal salary.

Mary Duckstein, who once was secretary to Mr. Burns, and who now is on the department's roll of secret agents, also will be called by the committee, and asked whether she signed the code message sent to Florida over the signature of Mary.

One of the code messages so signed and placed before the oil committee was addressed to W. O. Duckstein, one of McLean's confidential men. He is the husband of Mary Duckstein.

Mr. Burns said today he understood the code employed in this message was used at one time by the Department of Justice agents.

He desied, however, that he ever had had any communication with McLean in Florida and said he did not know the basis on which the message from Mary Duckstein to W. O. Duckstein as it has been deciphered, mentions Burns as interesting himself in McLean's affairs.

This message was sent on February 2nd, and was endorsed in red "charge Post for WOD" with the initials ADM affixed. Arthur D. Marks is business manager of the Post. Committee members would not discuss this situation today beyond saying that Mr. Burns and Mrs. Duckstein would be questioned.

**A New Trail Discovered.**

Washington, March 1.—A new trail that appeared to lead directly into the Department of Justice was uncovered today upon further inquiry by the oil committee into the famous McLean telegrams.

It turned out that one of the messages was sent in one of the old Department of Justice codes by Mary Duckstein, formerly secretary to Wm. J. Burns, chief of the Department's bureau of investigation.

Mrs. Duckstein still is listed among the department agents, and the message sent, when deciphered, appeared to say that Burns was concerning himself about the McLean investigation. The message was adressed to W. O. Duckstein, Mary's husband, and one of McLean's employees at Palm Beach.

When Burns is summoned to the stand, the committee will ask him not only about the telegram but whether McLean himself is listed as a secret agent of the Department entitled to a copy of the code book.

Burns today denied that he had anything to do with the oil scandal, but declined to deny the report that McLean was on his list of agents.

**WHAT SAT'S BEAR SAYS.**

Generally fair tonight and Sunday; no change in temperature.

### LONGWORTH TAX BILL PASSES THE HOUSE

**Bill Finally Adopted 408 to 8. Cuts Incomes Payable This Year by 25 Per Cent.**

Washington, Feb. 29.—By a vote of 408 to 8 the revenue bill was passed late today by the House.

As sent to the Senate, the measure carries an income tax schedule offered by Representative Longworth, the Republican leader, as a substitute for the Democratic rates. This was adopted 216 to 199 after the House had refused by a vote of 261 to 153, to reinsert in the bill the original Mellon schedule.

The Longworth substitute, which was supported by Republican insurgents who previously had thrown their lot with the Democrats, provides for a normal tax reduction to two per cent. on incomes below $4,000 to 4 per cent. on incomes between $4,000 and $8,000 and to six per cent. above $8,000. It also would cut by one-fourth the present surtax rates, making the maximum 37 1-2 per cent. on incomes exceeding $200,000. No increase in existing personal tax exemptions will be allowed.

The House also approved a proposal for a flat reduction of 25 per cent. on all personal income taxes payable this year. Two unsuccessful efforts were made to eliminate this provision.

Specific rate changes carried in the bill will not become effective until tax payments are made next year on income and profits of 1924, except those made in the excise levies which would go into effect 30 days after enactment of the law.

**What Bill Provides.**

In addition to the new income tax schedule, major provisions of the bill as approved today are:

A 25 per cent. reduction in taxes on earned incomes, all incomes under $5,000 being defined as earned for purposes of this reduction.

Repeal or reduction of many of the miscellaneous or excise taxes, involving about $120,000,000 in revenue annually.

Tightening of the limitations of capital loss and gross income deductions which, it is estimated, will yield about $60,000,000 revenue annually.

Increases in the estate tax rates of about 38 per cent.

Institution of a gift tax with the same rates as carried in the estate tax.

Creation of aboard of tax appeals to decide tax disputes between the treasury and tax payers.

Opening of the income tax returns to inspection by certain congressional committeemen.

House leaders admit that the bill unhoubtedly will be altered in important particulars by the Senate.

### INDICTMENTS RETURNED AGAINST CHAS. R. FORBES

**Former Chief of Veterans' Bureau Must Face Court.**

Chicago, Feb. 29.—Charles R. Forbes, former director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, and John W. Thompson, contractor of Chicago and St. Louis, were named in four indictments returned today by the Federal grand jury which has spent a month investigating charges of waste, graft and debauchery in connection with Forbes' administration.

Forbes and Thompson were named jointly in two indictments, charging conspiracy to defraud the United States government. Forbes was named alone in a third indictment on a charge of accepting a bribe, and Thompson in a fourth charging that he had indirectly given a bribe.

In a special report which accompanied the indictments, the grand jury indicated that other sensational developments involving alleged graft had been uncovered, but because they were not within the jurisdiction of the court had not been pursued.

"We do not fell," the special report said, "that it would subserve the best interests of the government for this jury at this time to make public the details of these transactions. This jury feels that it will suffice to report that they involve:

"1. Speculation by one or more officials of the government whereby it has been asserted that official infromation was sued for purposes of speculation.

"2. That certain sums of money were paid to two members of Congress.

"3. That possession of a file of one of the department for about a month was had by persons having no official connection with such departments.

"4. That money was accepted by certain individuals (not attorneys) for the purpose of obtaining clemency for prisoners through their intimacy with officials.

"5. That money was collected by certain individuals (not attorneys) for obtaining through such intimacy permits for intoxicating liquor."

The indictments charge that Forbes, while director of the veterans' bureau, received a bribe of $5,000 and certain additional emoluments on agreement to award contracts for government work to the contracting firm of Thompson & Black, of which Thompson and Jas. W. Black, deceased, were the heads.

An Australian club-swinger recently swung a pair of Indian clubs, three and one-half pounds, for 107 hours continuous!—and then went into a fiit of delirium.

**EVERY DAY IS WASH DAY FOR SOME**

## EIGHT KILLED IN EXPLOSION TODAY

### Twelve Others Are Believed to Be Dead.—Explosion Occurred at New Brunswick, N. J.

(By the Associated Press.)

New Brunswick, March 1.—Eight persons are known to have been killed and twelve more are believed to be dead, while about 100 persons were injured in an explosion that destroyed the storage building of the Aminite Co., on the property of the Nixon Nitration Works at Raritan, near here, today.

One entire family of five living near the Aminite building, was wiped out by the force of the blast.

The building contained 1,000,000 gallons of ammonia nitrate in storage and about 15 tank cars which held 90,000 gallons each of ammonia nitrate, which was in a process of crystallization. The cause of the explosion is not known.

The known dead are: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dumas and their three children.

John Meseroll, a blacksmith, employed by the company.

Joseph Adams, who died in the Middlesex general hospital.

An unidentified woman.

Twenty-five small buildings at one time used by the employees of the Nixon works, but which were unoccupied today, were destroyed. Fire which followed, attacked two other buildings, and fire departments from surrounding towns were rushed to the scene. Blazing sections of the exploded building were scattered to all parts of the Nixon property, so that the fire soon became general.

### SOLIER BONUS BILL IS TAKEN UP TODAY

**Is Given a Clear Slate for Immediate Action by the House Committee.**

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 1.—The soldier bonus bill was taken up by the House Ways and Means committee today and given a clear slate for immediate consideration.

The committee voted to open a 3-day hearing on Monday and then to proceed with preparation of a re-drafted bill. Chairman Green said he expected the measure to be reported next Saturday.

Despite his 51 years, Stanislaus Zbyszko, the veteran Polish wrestler, is declared by physicians who have examined him to be as physically fit as an athlete half his age.

### FRENCH CHAMBER SCENE OF BATTLE

**Free-For-All Fight Between Deputies Causes Suspension of the Sitting.**

Paris, Feb. 29.—Blows and kicks were exchanged in a turbulent session of the Chamber of Deputies today. The disturbances ended only by a suspension of the sitting and the forcible expulsion of the belligerents by chamber attendants. The trouble occurred between Socialist groups headed by ex-Premier Painleve and Royalists and members of the Right.

The violence was precipitated by the Royalist deputy, Magne, repeatedly shouting "curs" during M. Painleve's discussion of the Caillaux case, which was brought up in a debate on internal affairs.

M. Handel, who was Clemenceau's chief of cabinet, had held the floor for several hours with an interpellation digging up personal incidents that enraged those involved.

After a frequent exchange of compliments, M. Painleve's supporters charged across the chamber and the fight followed. Premier Poincare watched the disturbance for several minutes and then the sitting was suspended.

### THE COTTON MARKET

**There Was Renewed General Selling at Opening Due to Weak Cables.**

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, March 1.—There was a renewed general selling in the cotton market at the opening today, owing to weak Liverpool cables, a favorable weather map, and the failure of the reported improvement in the demand for cotton goods to create more buying power. First prices were easy at a decline of 13 to 49 points, and old crop months broke 73 to 88 points during the first fifteen or twenty minutes. Stop orders were uncovered on the decline, which carried May contracts off to 28.30 or into new low ground for the present movement. Covering was active at the lower prices, and caused rallies of some 10 to 20 points, but selling continued active and the market was very unsettled during the first hour.

Cotton futures opened easy. March 28.50 to 28.40; May 28.70 to 28.61; July 28.00 to 2810; Oct. 25.60 to 25.70; Dec. 25.27.

**Closed Weak.**

New York, March 1.—Cotton futures closed weak: March 27.95; May 28.20 to 28.29; July 27.50 to 27.58; October 25.20 to 25.22; December 24.90 to 24.95.

Indiana university has a one-legged wrestler who is declared to be able to hold his own on the mat with the best of the student grapplers.

Statistics indicate that there are about 45,000 retail lumber yards in the United States.

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with this bank you get every feature of safety, service and convenience which makes for satisfaction in the handling of your banking business.

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CONCORD, N. C.

## FORBES DECLARES HE WELCOMES CHARGES

### Says Trial Will Give Him Chance to Get Case Before Court Where He Will Get Justice.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 1.—Chas. R. Forbes, former director of the Veterans Bureau, declared in a statement today he welcomed indictments returned against him yesterday in Chicago. He said he looked upon them "with a clear conscience because they will permit me to present my case before a fair court of justice, and a jury of my peers."

He characterized the accusations against him as a "Hell-engendered conspiracy against my honor and integrity."

Forbes said he would "interpose no technical objection to a trial," but on the contrary would go to Chicago voluntarily "as the first step toward my vindication."

The former director added that he was "not going to Florida," despite the fact that "other men now charged publicly with crimes against the government, have been reported as hiding behind the screen of ill health."

Forbes' attorneys made plans today to summon about forty witnesses for the defense including Mrs. Carolina Voteau, sister of the late President Harding. They would not indicate what evidence would be sought from her.

### ONE KILLED, 20 HURT DURING EXPLOSION

**Accident Occurred in Explosive Building of Nitration Company.**

(By the Associated Press.)

New Brunswick, N. J., March 1.—One man was reported killed and at least twenty injured men were brought to a local hospital today after a nexplosion of the TNT building of the Nixon Nitration Works at Nixon, near here.

A call from Nixon for the Raritan Arsenal and the Raritan township fire departments was made shortly after the explosion. Windows for a mile around the scene were crashed in, and in many instances doors were blown from the hinges.

Reports from New York City said the explosion shook the down town district there.

### SPECIAL APPROPRIATION GETS RECOMMENDATION

**House Committee Would Appropriate $153,696,587 to Cut Out Deficits.**

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 1.—An appropriation of $153,696,567 was recommended by the House appropriations committee to enable various government departments to wind up the fiscal year without deficits.

The individual items include $13,850,622 to enable the coast guard to recondition 20 destroyers, and buy 325 fast motor boats for use against rum runners.

The committee also approved appropriations of $326,000 for repairs and alterations at the Ellis Island immigration station, and $450,000 for factory buildings at the Leavenworth penitentiary.

**The Fight on Henry Ford's Offer.**

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 1.—Opponents of Henry Ford's offer for Muscle Shoals today laid plans for the fight they will wage next week in the House against the McKenzie bill which provides for acceptance of the bid.

Books for the Teacher Training School for March 16-21 have come and may be purchased at the Musette.

## AMERICAN MARINES SENT ASHORE TO SEE DEVELOPMENTS

### Ordered Ashore at Ceiba, Honduras, Due to the Continued Disorders There.—Thirty Men in the Party.

### DESTROYER HAS GONE TO SCENE

### One American, a Negro, Has Been Wounded.—Situation So Serious All Ships Are Being Kept Ashore.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 1.—Continued disorders at Ceiba, Honduras, where American marines were landed yesterday, has prompted Rear Admiral Dayton to send thirty additional men ashore. An American destroyer has been ordered from Kingston, Jamaica, to Puerto Cortez on the Atlantic Coast of Honduras where the situation also is disturbing.

One American, a negro, has been wounded at Ceiba.

Admiral Dayton now has about seventy marines and blue jackets ashore at Ceiba. His reports indicate the situation is so bad he deems it wise to keep his ship offshore.

The request from Puero Cortez for a naval vessel was transmitted to Admiral Dayton by the consul and relayed to Washington. The trip from Kingston will take about two days.

### SENATORS, BEWARE!

**Daugherty Says if They Don't Resign He May Have Somthing to Say That Will Interest Them.**

Special to Philadelphia Record.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—"If a bunch of those useless Senators down in Washington don't resign before I leave Chicago, I may have something to say that will interest them." It was with this hint of reprisals that Attorney General Daugherty met newspaper men today. Nervous, irritable, with a haggard appearance, he showed the effect of the strain and squeeze of Teapot Dome.

The attorney general shook off all questioners and isolated himself in his room. Telephone communication was ordered cut off.

He had an air of disdaining the Senate investigation and ridiculing the demands for his resignation. At the federal building he was in better humor. He said he had not yet decided whether or not to carry his case to the public, as he intimated recently in a letter to Senator Pepper, of Pennsylvania.

"If I do carry my case to the public and make speeches throughout the country, my first speech will be in Memorial Hall in Columbus, unless I am compelled to speak in Washington," he said. "I will be talking them to my home city and to my home people."

He stated he had received more than 3,000 telegrams in the last two days complimenting him on his refusal to resign under fire. He quoted one of them, which said:

"A winner never quits, and a quitter never wins."

Attorney General Daugherty, on leaving for Florida tonight, announced that he had retained George E. Chamberlain, former United States Senator from Oregon, and Paul Howland, Cleveland attorney, to represent his personal interests in the oil investigation. Daugherty's statement, in the form of a telegram to Senator Willis, requested Willis to again advise the Senate that he had not opposed the passage of the Wheeler resolution.

### NEGRO CONVICTED OF MURDERING JOHN FESPERMAN

**Jury Finds Alex Rodman Guilty After Deliberating but Sixteen Minutes.**

(By the Associated Press.)

Charlotte, March 1.—Alex Rodman, a negro, charged with killing John Fesperman, a deputy sheriff on February 16, today was found guilty and sentenced to death in the electric chair. The jury was out sixteen minutes. Judge Stack sentenced Rodman to die on April 17th, and his attorneys noted an appeal. Rodman was immediately removed to the state penitentiary at Raleigh.

Fesperman was killed during a rain.

**Large Rotary Wheel Starts on Its Rounds.**

Greensboro, March 1.—The large Rotary wheel which is to circumnavigate the thirty-eighth Rotary district has started on its rounds, it was made known today by the governor of the district, Jaul W. Schenk. The wheel started at Leaksville-Spray, in the northern section of the district and will go the complete round of the clubs in the district. From Leaksville-Spray the wheel goes to Winston-Salem and so until the circuit has been completed. The wheel will finally become the property of the club that secures the most new members during the time that it is in the possession of the wheel.

**Says Church Is No Place For Long, Solemn Face.**

Atlantic City, March 1.—"You are out of touch with life if you think it is out of place to laugh and be happy in a house of worship," Francis H. Green, of Pennington, lecturer, told the congregation of the new Central M. E. Church last night. "We all know and despise the persons who succeed in putting a damper on every joyous occasion. If you go around from day to day with a long, solern face it is because you have not learned how to live," said the speaker.

The pneumatic tire was invented by a Scotch engineer, Robert W. Thomson, in 1844.

## FOUR CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATION IN JOHN FORD MURDER

State Library

### Ransome Killian, Effie Grice, Essie Beattie and Joe Orr Named In the Latest Warrant Issued.

### ARTHUR CROWDER IS ALSO HELD

### His Alleged Confession Led to Latest Developments.—Prisoners Are Lodged in Charlotte Jail.

(By the Associated Press.)

Gastonia, N. C., March 1.—A warrant charging four persons, including two women and a man arrested here last night and held as material witnesses with the murder of John Ford, of Lincoln county, on November 7, 1920, has been sworn out by F. B. Ford, father of the dead man, it was announced here today. The fourth person named in the warrant is Joe Orr, of Charlotte, son of a former Chief of Police of Gastonia.

Sheriff G. R. Rhyne, of Gaston county, left for Charlotte this morning to arrest Orr, and took with him Ransome Killian, of Lincolnton, who, with Effie Grice of King's Mountain, and Essie Beattie, of Gastonia, was arrested last night. Rhyne's attorney today secured a writ of habeas corpus from circuit Judge Stack at Charlotte in an effort to have Willian released.

The arrests in the cases were brought about by the alleged confession of Arthur Crowder, who was arrested in Decatur, Ala., and who was brought back here yesterday. Killian and the two women were in the automobile with Ford when the latter was killed. They claimed two negroes held them up, robbed them, killed Ford and attacked the girls. Two years later, however, the Beattie girl, who was seriously wounded, charged the father and uncle of the Grice girl with the crime, and they were tried but the jury disagreed.

Arthur Crowder also was taken to Charlotte. He was expected to testify in the habeas corpus proceedings.

**Free Scholarships Offered.**

(By the Associated Press.)

Raleigh, N. C., March 1.—The George Peabody College For Teachers at Nashville, Tennessee, has offered a number of free scholarships to be distributed throughout the Southern Sttaes, for the summer quarter for 1924, according to an announcement received here today from the authorities of that institution. The value of the scholarships is $25 each and they are non-transferable.

Four scholarships, says the announcement, will be given to each of the following states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

The awards of the scholarships, states the announcement, are tto be made solely upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education in the respective states. Other conditions of the awards are:

1. No scholarship is available in any state until public announcement shall have been made of its offer through the press of said state.

2. The Scholarship is not available unless notice of its award shall have reached the office of the College before June 1, 1924. If the person to whom the scholarship is awarded does not enteer at the beginning of the quarter, the scholarship will not be available to anyone already enrolled.

3. In making the awards the superintendents should bear in mind that preference should be given to graduates of normal schools, colleges, or universities.

4. The scholarships are not to be awarded to the students who are in attendance at Peabody College during the Spring term of 1924.

5. To become eligible applicants for the scholarships must agree and declare their intention.

I to remain in Peabody College the entire summer quarter, June 9 to August 29.

II. To pursue not less than ten credit hours of work throughout the entire summer quarter.

3. To fulfill all conditions and requirements for credit in the courses they pursue.

**With Our Advertisers.**

You can now get a beautiful living room suite at the Bell & Harris Furniture Co. formerly $125. Read about this bargain in a big half page ad. today.

The telephone number of J. M. Small, the painter and decorator is 303J.

Read the new ad. today of the Cabarrus Savings Bank.

When you deal with the Citizens Bank and Trust Company you get every feature of safety, service and convenience.

Rent a Ford and drive it yourself. All new cars, open or closed. See J. D. Boyd or Phone 508.

The buying power of the many Parker stores makes possible the low prices made on footwear by the Parker Shoe Store here.

**Western Union Managers Summoned.**

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 1.—Managers of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies at Three Rivers, Nek Mexiico, where Albert B. Fall's ranch is located, wr subpoenaed today by the oil committee.

The first 1 to 0 score in the annals of professional baseball was the result of a game played between the Chicago and St. Louis teams in 1875.