

EMPEROR OF JAPAN NOT IMPROVED AND DEATH IS EXPECTED

From Sick Room Comes the Report That Condition of Japanese Ruler is "Virtually Unchanged."

ROYAL FAMILY IS AT HIS BEDSIDE

In All Parts of the Country There is Feeling That Emperor Has Only Short Time to Live.

Tokyo, Dec. 18.—(AP)—A bulletin issued by the household department at 8 o'clock tonight said the condition of Emperor Yoshihito was "virtually unchanged." This is the first official report from the sick room since noon.

Although no one outside the royal family, members of the cabinet and their attendants know what is happening in the carefully guarded chamber of the royal villa at Hayama, where the Mikado is lying, the outside world today began to hear whispers of the ruler's passing. News-paper correspondents have been told that an "important announcement" is coming.

The nation is stilled with expectancy which always precedes such an occasion in the imperial palace. The cabinet has made its visit to the bedside. Battleships ride at anchor almost within sight of the villa. Day and night princes and princesses of the blood remain faithfully near the sick room, and other members of the royal family are at hand.

Two attempts at assassination, the Japanese name for self destruction, have been noted in the village within the last few hours. One of the nurses attempted to slash her throat with a razor, and a minor public official attempted suicide. This is taken as demonstration of grief for their ruler.

Yoshihito is still a young man as far as 47 of his years is concerned. He is 47. He has been ailing since 1921 when the capes of the state were lifted from his shoulders and set upon those of his eldest son, Crown Prince Hirohito.

GUTZON BORGLUM'S BAD LUCK FOLLOWS HIM

Is Not Well With His Project in South Dakota.

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Hard luck, that stalked upon Gutzon Borglum and descended upon him during his extended stay here last year, has followed the sculptor to South Dakota.

Friends of the sculptor here have received communications that all is not well with his Dakota Rushmore Mountain project and that financial difficulties were threatening to wreck the scheme as they did his Stone Mountain dream.

Borglum came to Raleigh after being appointed Stone Mountain sculptor. He set up a studio at the old state fair grounds and moulded a new model which he declared would be used for completing the heroic Confederate memorial on the Georgia mountain.

Then Augustus Lukeman was named his successor and Borglum packed up his models and departed for the west. He said when he left that he had several important commissions, one for a Turkish organization, but that he wished to carve a memorial in the side of a mountain.

He went to South Dakota and found a site on the Rushmore Mountain near Deadwood which he said would be ideal for carving busts in heroic size of four presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt.

Preliminary plans went forward rapidly and rosy reports of the progress of the memorial were sent out. Then came the question of raising the half-million dollars needed for the work. Progress slowed down and is now at a standstill pending new financial arrangements.

Seven Buried in Candy Factory. Philadelphia, Dec. 18.—(AP)—At least seven persons are known to have been buried in the wreckage of a huge water tank which fell through three floors of the T. H. Wunderlich candy factory here shortly after noon today.

Police, firemen and employees of the company, working frantically to remove the debris from the cellar of the factory which employs 700 workers, believe that at least twenty more victims are buried there.



Clear and Colder

Fair tonight, colder in the west; Sunday increasing cloudiness. Moderate north and northwest winds.

Death Is Expected

Thirty million dollars, some believe will be covered in next bond issue.



EMPEROR YOSHIHITO

HOW MUCH MORE FOR NORTH CAROLINA ROADS?

These recommendations will look to the appropriations of all state revenue in prospect for the next two years. Many people feel that the institutions and departments are getting enough under existing conditions, and that feeling will be strongly reflected in the coming session.

But there will be a different feeling in regard to road bonds, unless those who have observed developments during the last two years are mistaken. About half the counties of the state will want a bond issue of sufficient size to guarantee the repayment of loans advanced to the state for road building purposes.

Some counties will want a bond issue of sufficient size to guarantee the repayment of loans advanced to the state for road building purposes. The amount of advances made to the state by counties for road building purposes is around \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000, it is said.

The interest on these bonds are now being paid by county tax. County taxes are levied against property. By transferring these bonds from the counties to the state, the interest charge would automatically be taken off the property tax and put upon the state's special highway fund, derived from automobile licenses and the special tax on gasoline.

Nobody believes that representatives from these counties will be satisfied with a bond issue in any amount below that which will make it possible for the state to take over these loans, in accordance with the understanding at the time they were made. Nor are the counties which did not make advances expected to agree to a bond issue that, after the repayment to the other counties, will leave nothing for the development of the state highways in which they are vitally interested.

Those not talking of thirty million dollars bond issue have figured it out that this will be sufficient to take care of the loans and provide for the continuance of the road construction program in those counties which have not made loans. But if it is found that it will take forty million dollars, it will be a mighty task to prevent the legislature from authorizing the amount.

North Carolinians are "solid" on good roads. The state has already expended \$110,000,000 in such construction, and the interest on bonds in this vast amount are being taken care of and a sinking fund provided for the retirement of the issues at maturity, without a cent of taxation against property.

Davidson May Play in Larger Cities. Charlotte, Dec. 17.—Davidson College officials hope to perfect arrangements to have Davidson play a football game at Greensboro, Charlotte, Asheville and possibly another big city each year. Coach Monk Younger said here today.

Greensboro and other cities are urging us to play on a five per cent basis," he declared.

Commenting on the annual game in Charlotte the coach said it looked foolish to give a big financial guarantee to Charlotte for the game when other cities wanted games.

Younger would not say whether he would return to Davidson next year, explaining that he had not decided.

Langley Is Paroled. Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—John W. Langley, former congressman from Kentucky, was paroled today after serving one year of a three-year sentence imposed upon him on conviction of conspiracy to violate the prohibition law.

PRISONERS ESCAPE SUFFOCATION WHEN FIRE DESTROYS JAIL

Can of Disinfectant Exploded and Filled Second Floor of Jail With Dense Smoke.

CAUSE OF FIRE IS NOT KNOWN

Prisoners Trapped on Second Floor for Hours When Fire Was Found.

Statesville, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Three prisoners in the Irwell County jail, one of them a woman, had a narrow escape from suffocation early today when fire started under a stairway leading from the first to the second floors. Explosion of a 5-gallon can of disinfectant was the first warning, and officials said they had been unable to determine the cause.

Dense smoke from the burning disinfectant filled the cells but eight prisoners on the first floor did not suffer nearly as badly as those on the second.

Firemen called to the scene found the stairway, the only means of escape from the second floor, red hot. They soon managed to cool it enough, though, so they could make their way to the upper floor and rescue the prisoners.

When carried out, the three on the second floor were almost suffocated.

IS PATRONAGE BEING SOLD IN THE SOUTH?

Question Will Get Attention of Senate Judiciary Committee.

Washington, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The oft-repeated charge that federal patronage is being sold in southern states today was made the special order of business for a meeting of the Senate Judiciary committee next Monday.

At that time a resolution by Senator Harris, Democrat, Georgia, demanding a congressional investigation will be considered.

Senator Harris is not a member of the committee, but has the support of several of the members in his stand, and Chairman Norris himself has expressed the view that the scope of the inquiry should be broadened to include other states than those in the South.

A substitute for the Harris resolution will be offered by Senator King, Democrat, Utah, who yesterday also demanded a broadening of the inquiry.

The charges of patronage bartering furnished a subject for considerable debate in the House last year, and democratic members of the southern group were vigorous in denouncing conditions they said obtained in the filling of local offices and the activities of local political leaders, in connection with appointments.

THE COTTON MARKET

Opened Steady at an Advance of 3 to 4 Points—January Up to 12.34.

New York, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The cotton market today opened steady at an advance of 3 to 4 points in response to relatively firm Liverpool cables, which there was a renewal of yesterday's buying on talk of comparative small private ginning returns to December 13th.

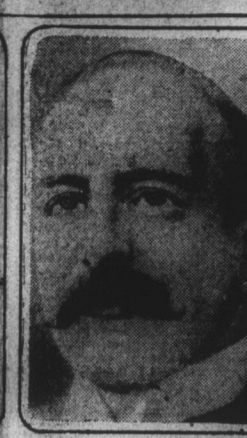
Connections were among the early buyers of winter months. Offerings were light, and prices worked up to 12.25 for January and 12.72 for May, or about 7 to 8 points higher. Private cables said the advance in Liverpool was due to covering, with Manchester Bombay buying in anticipation of bullish ginning figures, and also was improved demand for fancy cotton goods in Manchester.

Cotton futures opened steady: Dec. 12.45; Jan. 12.20; March 12.45; May 12.68; July 12.80; October 13.11.

Ripples in the News Stream



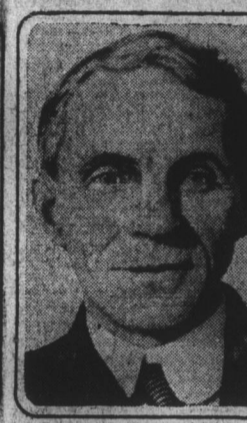
SILAS H. STRAWN



SIR ALFRED MOND



SOL BLOOM



HENRY FORD

The administration disavowed opinions on China expressed by Silas H. Strawn, former American diplomat in China. World business has outgrown free trade, Sir Alfred Mond, British industrialist, declared. Representative Sol Bloom, of New York, demanded a congressional investigation into accusations against the "international Jew" made in Henry Ford's magazine.

WHERE IS GOVERNOR MCLEAN AT PRESENT?

Left Capital Friday Without Telling Public of His Destination.

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Where is the Governor of North Carolina? This is a question that has mystified newspaper men for two days, following the finding of a brief—very brief—note left in the press basket in the outer office of the Governor Friday.

The note to the effect that Governor A. W. McLean would be "out of the city Saturday and Sunday."

Naturally, desiring to know why the Governor was going to be out of the city, where he was going and what he was going to do—the first questions newspapers men always ask—they started on a still hunt Friday to locate the Governor before he got away. But to no avail.

No one at the Governor's mansion could be found who knew where the Governor was nor where he was going. Neither did anyone at his office in the capitol know, even Mr. England, his private secretary—at least, he wouldn't tell.

And this morning the situation remained unchanged, as still no one could be found who knew where the Governor was or where he was going.

No Definite Plans For Offices of Southern.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railway, told the presidents of Washington's three trade bodies who visited him today that no definite plans had been made for the future of the railroad headquarters.

Coolidge Honors the Father of 28. Washington, Dec. 17.—Leander C. Gentile, of Atlanta, today was honored by President Coolidge and the house of representatives as the father of 28 children.

Gentile, who is 65 years old and weighs 250 pounds, was presented to the President by Representative Upshaw, Democrat, Georgia.

When Upshaw presented the Patriarch to the house, Gentile was applauded vociferously.

INDICTMENTS RETURNED AGAINST ELEVEN MEN

Wake County Men Charged With Flogging White Merchant and Negro.

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Indictments were returned against eleven Wake County men in the Jones-Green flogging case today.

There were two indictments, but they both named the same eleven men. One indictment had to do with the alleged whipping of E. A. (Dolly) Jones, county merchant. The other indictment had to do with the alleged joint whipping of Jones and Sam Green, his negro helper.

Those indicted: Edward Robertson, John Hamrick, Dr. J. R. Hester, Leland Rogers, Deputy Sheriff Clyde Weathers, Paul Roberts and Supervisor G. E. Belcher, of the Wake county road. White Ramsey and Benny Weathers.

The indictments charge secret assault, and that these men allegedly disguised themselves and attacked Jones and Green "with firearms, clubs and lashes, seriously injuring them and placing them in jeopardy of their lives."

TEN MEN INDICTED FOR WAKE FLOGGING

Two County Officers and a Doctor Said to Be Among Men Who Attacked Dolly Jones.

Raleigh, Dec. 17.—Ten wake county citizens, among them two county officials, were indicted by the grand jury this evening in connection with the double beating reported by Dolly Jones and Sam Green, and the last leaked tonight.

Dr. J. R. Hester, of Knightdale; P. E. Belcher, of the road force, and Deputy Clyde Weathers are the big three against whom the beaten witnesses make accusation. They and seven others are in the grand jury list of indicted, according to an official tonight. The others are Bennett Weathers, Edward Robertson, J. St. Hill, Wiley O'Neal, John Hamrick, Leland Rogers, T. Ramsey and Paul Robertson, all white.

Takes Hours to Count His Fortune in Small Change.

New York, Dec. 17.—John M. Reiss, a nephew, has been awarded a fortune that runs into the heavy-weight class, requires three hours to count and 15 cash bags to hold it. It consists of \$4,481.07 in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, found in the room of Mrs. Tillie Reiss, who is in Bellevue hospital for observation.

FIRST WITNESS OF DEFENSE TESTIFIES TO AID M'DERMOTT

Clinton A. Koontz Directly Opposes in Testimony Several Witnesses Presented by the State.

NO CONSPIRACY, DEFENSE ARGUES

Motion to Dismiss Case Overruled After State Had Rested Case During the Day.

Canton, O., Dec. 18.—(AP)—The state completed its presentation of direct testimony in the trial of Patrick Eugene McDermott, charged with the murder of Don R. Mellet, Canton publisher, at 9:30 a. m. today.

Motion by defense to have stricken from the record all reference to McDermott's alleged fellow-conspirators, Ben Rudner and Louis Mazer, was overruled by Judge E. W. Diehl.

The defense claimed that the state had not proved its contention that conspiracy existed between McDermott, Rudner and Mazer against Mellet. The motion was made immediately after the state had rested its case, after more than five days had been taken up in presentation of state testimony.

The state's final witness was called to the stand at the opening of court today. He was William Brumme, salesman, of Massillon, who told of seeing S. A. Lengel, deposed Canton police chief, at Ben Rudner's hardware store in Massillon in June.

Clinton A. Koontz, employee at Rudner's hardware store in Massillon, the first defense witness, testified he never had seen McDermott in the store, and did not know him. He also denied that S. A. Lengel, deposed Canton police chief, had been in the store.

State witnesses have testified Lengel came to the store several times prior to the murder, and talked with Rudner.

When D. G. Zill, Massillon carpenter, took the stand, the defense again brought in McDermott's double, Eddie Rudner, Ben's younger brother. He said the man whom he saw with Rudner on the morning the murder had been Eddie Rudner, and not McDermott.

Zill had identified McDermott in the work house as Rudner's companion the Sunday night before the murder when McDermott and Rudner are alleged to have visited Canton police headquarters.

"He looks all the same to me as the other boy," Zill said. Zill, Rudner and the contractor person had a "traffic mixup" that Sunday night, and the defense contends that was the reason for the trip to headquarters.

THINK VETERANS LOAN WILL BE POPULAR

Grist Predicts Many Veterans Will Take Advantage of State Loan.

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—"I predict that within 30 days after the Federal Loan act goes into operation, that applications will be filed for loans aggregating at least \$250,000," said Frank D. Grist, commissioner of labor, and member of the advisory board, just before the board met Thursday to consider the act.

The men who had made formal application for the post of commissioner of the fund.

Enthusiasm seems to be growing with regard to the act. Frank Grist, who was instrumental in both the writing and passage of the act, is most enthusiastic over the outlook, and says that he has received from 15 to 20 letters from veterans inquiring about the measure and how soon loan funds would be available and he predicts that as soon as the act goes into operation, he will be informed about the measure and know that it is in active operation, that the funds for loans will be in great demand. Mr. Everett likewise is becoming more optimistic, and he announced that he is going into the work of administering the fund on the assumption that it will go into work out satisfactorily. The members of the advisory board are also interested in seeing the act become effective along the lines for which it was intended.

Although those who are skeptical of its usefulness, and who see in it no advantage for the former service men, Grist, his chief proponent, holds that it offers distinct advantages over loan associations and other institutions making long time loans, in that it permits loans up to 20 years without renewals, and at a rate of 6 per cent interest, with no fees or premium charges. A table has been prepared for submission to the advisory board showing that on the maximum loan of \$3,000 for 20 years, the cost, both interest and principal, is but 27.50 a month for the first six months, then \$27.13 for the second six months, the monthly payments steadily decreasing until they amount to only \$13.04 a month for the last six months of the loan.

Kidnap



Mrs. Margaret Henderson

Mrs. Margaret Henderson was returned to Hudson, N. Y., on charges of escaping jail, where she had been sent for kidnaping her son from a family that had adopted it.

During her disappearance she had been nursing blind children at an institution.

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Grist contends that it is possible, by taking advantage of this loan fund, for a veteran to build a home costing \$5,000 that would be much better in every way than any house he could rent for \$27 a month, with the additional advantage that at the end of the 20 year period, the house will belong to him outright, with no incumbrances.

ONE KILLED, FIVE HURT WHEN BOILER WRECKS BIG PLANT

The Ward Lumber Plant at Rocky Mount, Was Entirely Destroyed by the Boiler Explosion.

SEARCHING RUINS FOR MORE BODIES

Work Is Impeded by Extremely Cold Weather.—Nearby Buildings Were Damaged by the Blast.

Rocky Mount, Dec. 18.—(AP)—One man was killed, five injured and one is missing as a result of a boiler explosion at the Ward Lumber plant here this morning. Part of the boiler was hurled through the roof of the Southern Distributing Company building, 250 feet away, setting fire to that building. Both structures were destroyed.

Firemen were combing the ruins for the bodies but were impeded in their efforts by the extremely cold weather. The Southern Distributing warehouse was still ablaze at 11 o'clock, but firemen admitted the fire was out of control.

None of the injured men had been identified at the local hospital where they were rushed, pending arrival of company officials.

The force of the explosion shattered window panes in several adjacent buildings.

Workers in the Atlantic Coast Line freight depot near the scene of the disaster were shaken up by the blast and one clerk was reported to have suffered severely from the shock.

NOTHING NEW TODAY IN THE SMITH CASE

Senate Drops Matter Until Illinois Man Decides What He Will Do.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 18.—(AP)—Quiet reigns today in the Washington and Illinois sectors in the fight centering around Governor Small's appointment of Frank L. Smith to succeed the late Senator William B. McKinley for the fourth-months short session of Congress.

The senator-elect, who came to Chicago with Mrs. Smith for a Christmas shopping tour, said he had "nothing to say" regarding his appointment and would "not have anything to say until I feel it is incumbent on me to do so."

In Washington the issue was temporarily cast aside by the Senate, pending word whether Colonel Smith would accept the commission. The Senate bill came when Sen. Ashurst, Democrat, Arizona, announced that he would defer action on his resolution to prevent Mr. Smith from taking the oath "if and until Smith presents his credentials." This stopped Republican leaders who were prepared to fight consideration of the resolution until Colonel Smith has made known his decision.

Colonel Smith planned to return to his home in Dwight, Ill., today, after explaining that he had not received either the commission of the short or to the long term, but that they probably had been forwarded to his office at Dwight in his absence.

Asked point blank "are you going to accept the appointment?" his reply was a smile.

While the senator-elect was uncommunicative, Senator Deneen of Illinois, said at Washington he would be "surprised" if Smith declined the appointment because of the condition of his health. Senator Deneen stated, however, that he had not communicated with Colonel Smith.

Washington dispatches indicated a new element in the situation in recording that a number of senators, particularly those from the South, were inclined to proceed cautiously because a refusal to accept Smith's credentials might strike a blow at the theory of "state's rights." The fight on Smith, has centered around contributions to his primary fund in his campaign for the less session of Congress, while the short session commission is simply a state appointment.

A man in Beliefs Falls, Va., who has over 40,000 maple trees set out in rows on the side of a hill, plans to run the sap by pipe lines to storage tanks at the foot of the hill. In this way, he expects to save the expense involved in the usual method of gathering.

PAT FILLUM, R.I.P.

THIS BARTENDER USED TO PASS OUT BOTTLES TO TAKE HOME THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. 6 DAYS LEFT FOR CHRISTMAS.