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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS FROM OVER THE NATION

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY of the American Legion passed the 2000th mark by nine before the close of February and was still going forward at the rate of more than fifty units a week. Meanwhile the Legion is moving at the rate of approximately forty posts a week, with a total of 10,141 posts.

The Minnesota Department of the Auxiliaries, with 149 units, has now displaced the Massachusetts Auxiliary in membership. Massachusetts is second, then follow New York, Iowa and Pennsylvania.

In percentage of gain within the last three weeks, the Ohio Department leads the Legion, Missouri, Texas, Illinois and Oklahoma follow in a close order.

By arrangement between the American Legion and Bureau of Commercial Economies, the most complete and valuable collection of educational and travel motion picture films in existence will be placed at the disposal of Legion posts for free exhibition. Legion members will order films from agencies which will be sent to all Legion posts. The films will be loaned from a number of distributing centers, which will be designated in the catalog. Only thousand-dollar tickets are embraced in the films, which have been taken in all parts of the world.

An American Legion button stopped a bullet, which struck Giacomo Scala, a Legionnaire of Newark, N. J., and probably saved his life. Scala was an innocent bystander at a dispute between four men during which the gunfire started.

Wearing his army gas mask, Roy F. W. Smith, commander of the American Legion at Foxcroft, Mass., braved the smoke and flame of a fire in the town hall to rescue two American flags from post headquarters room. Clutching the flags, he groped his way back through the hall, feeling his way out by a string that he had tied to the back door on entering the building. Mr. Smith served as a chaplain with the Canadian Black Watch.

An ex-serviceman with eight bars on his Victory medal was recognized by Argonne Post of the American Legion at Des Moines, Ia., in a membership campaign. George H. Baker, the ex-serviceman, Legionnaire No. 238, a supply train attached to the 1st Field Artillery of the French Army, took part in the Somme defensive battle. Major Baker, Noxon, Champaign, Mo., also served in the Somme and also served in a defensive battle.

Foreign posts of the American Legion have been asked to contribute to the Federal Board for the Relief of American Veterans in Europe. American Legion veterans in France, Belgium, Italy and Belgium posts are provided with recreational facilities. The posts and non-combatant personnel in this country and those in other countries, under which the American Legion is providing for the welfare of the American veterans in Europe, and this country by a time distribution plan paying a stipend to each veteran paying a stipend to each veteran so trained.

The first convention of the Women's Auxiliary of the Virginia Department of the American Legion will be held May 12 and 13. It was held at a meeting of the Legion's executive committee. More than 100 women members were obtained for the Legion in Virginia between January 1 and February 12.

Player piano, phonograph, radio and Sibelius pianos are among the prizes in a membership contest which the Texas Department of the American Legion started. Prizes will be paid in the proportion of number of members obtained to the population of the community.

The Women's Auxiliary unit of Murphy Major-Sloan Post No. 284 of the American Legion at Atchison, Kan., is the first colored auxiliary in Kansas and one of the first to be organized in the country.

Job applicants and employers are listed in a card index, according to their

abilities and needs by Nashville, Tenn. Post of the American Legion, which has been successful in obtaining employment for many war-veteran men.

Backed by the American Legion organization of the state, a bill providing for the extension of payment of taxes by veterans has been passed by the Wyoming Legislature. All ex-servicemen in the state, whether or not they enlisted from Wyoming, will benefit from the bill.

Essay contests on the subjects of Lincoln's Gettysburg address and the application of Washington's Farewell Address to present-day conditions in America were held in Spokane, Wash., high schools by Spokane Post of the American Legion, which rewarded the winners with prizes.

The latest endorsement of the American Legion for a labor organization came from Nevada, where C. W. Farrington, state organizer of the American Federation of Labor, and a number of labor leaders pledged the cooperation of their organization with the Legion in its fight against real-estate.

SILVER DOLLARS STRUCK FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS

(By The Associated Press.)
PHILADELPHIA, March 1. — For the first time in several years silver dollars, 56,000 of them, were struck during February at the Philadelphia mint. The demand for fractional currency showed marked decrease and no other silver was coined on domestic accounts. There were struck, however, 2,238,000 nickels and 7,772,000 pennies.



PENN CREW AND COACH: The University of Pennsylvania varsity eight is probably the first of the Eastern college crews to take to the water this season. This photo shows the Penn oarsmen out for a practice row. Insert, Joe Wright, head coach.

WAGE REDUCTIONS BECOME EFFECTIVE

ATLANTA, Ga., March 1. Wage reductions on the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic Railway became effective today through an order granted in federal district court here yesterday by President R. L. Bugg, as receiver for the road, which consented to a 10-per-cent reduction of a recalcitrant first Friday.

Announcement of the granting of the order was followed last night by a request from W. M. Martin, chairman of the joint union committee, for a conference here this afternoon with Colonel Bugg, which he immediately granted. The wage order signed by Judge S. H. Sulley provided that an application on wages might be heard by him on the wage question and decision of the employees regarding such action was expected to follow the conference.

The cut in wages amounts to 10 per cent of increases granted since 1917 for skilled labor but is inoperative for common labor as the order permits the receiver to pay common labor whatever is necessary to hire it in such localities as the road needs it. The 10 per cent reduction in increases since 1917 has been sought for two months by the road from the United States railway labor board.

GIBBONEY WAS DROWNED

MEXICO CITY, March 1. — Chrono-Gibboney, the Philadelphia attorney, was drowned off the coast of Campeche, it is declared in a statement made by Robert Markley, an American, which was made public by the Mexican foreign office yesterday. Markley asserted he saw the foundering of Gibboney's vessel and his subsequent drowning.

HIRAM JOHNSON STAR IN BIG NEW YORK FIGHT

California Senator's Appearance in Contest Between New York City Administration and Public Service Corporation in Matter of Raising Rates Will Give Fight a Dramatic Element

NEW YORK, Mar. 1. — The first real hand to hand battle over Governor Miller's program for a state-controlled traction system for New York city will be fought on a capital hill in Albany tomorrow when the legislature's Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on a bill, now pending, designed to empower a state public service commission to allow traction companies to increase fares over 10 per cent.

The argument probably will hinge on whether a state can constitutionally intervene and alter a contract between a city government and traction companies, even in the presence of extenuating circumstances, on which the arguments of opponents of the bill will be based.

The fight over how to furnish transportation for this city's 6,000,000 inhabitants, with an additional floating population estimated at 600,000 which changes daily, has been smoldering for more than three years. It had incipient possibilities soon after America entered the war, when rising prices brought subway and elevated companies here to claim they were not making money on the five-cent fare stipulated in the 40-year contracts between them and the Public Service Commission, entered into in 1914.

Throughout these years the city, which under the state law held a power of approval of contracts between traction companies and the Public Service Commission, has been committed to the policy of a fixed fare, regardless of whether the roads were making money. The policy was to make up the deficits by taxation in order that the riding public might have cheaper fares.

The bill now pending provides for the appointment by the Governor of a state public service commission with power to investigate traction problems and to fix a fixed fare, regardless of policy of local municipal governments, if the economic situation involved warrants a change of fare.

On this point two antagonistic and antagonists of the bill will clash.

A dramatic element will be added by the appearance of United States Senator Hiram W. Johnson, of California, who has been retained by the New York city administration to fight the bill.

It is understood today he would have a preliminary opinion on the constitutionality of state intervention in city contracts between municipalities and traction companies.

Proponents of the bill, on the other hand, it is understood, will argue on the advantage to the city of altering the contracts and on the fact that the present contracts are made with the public service commission, a state body, subject to the approval of the New York city Board of Estimate. They will distinguish between power of "approval" and power of "control and direction."

They will further argue, friends of the bill said today, four main points in the

New York state constitution, as follows:

1. That the city is an agency of the state.

2. That the police power of the city ultimately resides in the state legislature and has not been waived by that body.

3. That rate-making is an exercise of police power.

4. That any exercise of any police power by any agency of the state is revocable by the state.

Proponents of the bill claim that these points of the state constitution have been upheld in numerous cases not only by state courts but by the Supreme Court of the United States, over a period of more than 50 years.

The only new point raised in revision of the contract now in force is whether a state can disregard fare contracts by a city when the city has invested capital in the roads in question.

At the time these contracts were entered into the city of New York borrowed \$250,000,000 to invest in a construction of new lines. Those favoring the bill, however, claim that this point does not change fundamentally the state's power in rate-making.

The contracts now in force stipulated that the city build new lines which the companies agreed to equip and operate, dividing profits equally between the city and the companies, after certain specified sums were set aside for operation expenses, sinking funds and amortization of the lines. Through this amortization process it was agreed that the city should come into full possession of the lines at the expiration of the contracts. Now the companies claim the lines are not making enough money to put aside these sums, that the amortization plan is a dead letter in the contract and that millions of dollars must be taken from taxation to pay interest on the \$250,000,000 the city borrowed to build the extension to the lines.

New lines are sorely needed, now, the companies claim, and neither they nor the city has money to build them. To increase the fare, they claim, will enable the city to release its \$250,000,000 for construction of new lines, which will encourage the population to spread out, increase the city's debt limit and reduce interest and costs more than enough to offset the increase in fare to the riding public.

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GALLERY No. 10 ART KEEPS UP

(By The Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, Mar. 1. — Art is keeping tight up behind the head today.

Attendance at the 27th annual of the Chicago Art Institute, the 100th anniversary of the world's first museum, closed in the world's first museum, the University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., Monday, Feb. 29, 1932, on reports.

Public attendance at the Institute was 127,000. Attendance figures for each last year's club in 1930 and 1931 were 117,000 and 174,000.

This was nearly 10,000 more than the previous year. Visitors on a recent Sunday totaled 15,800. In membership the institute is first in the country. Mr. Dough reports. It has trained 12,600. The museum's income, he said, is between a quarter and a half million dollars. Its endowment amounts to about \$1,500,000.

The University of Chicago's Institute of Fine Arts, which has acquired a total of 14,000 volumes, while the Harvard University devoted to architecture has 27,000. Attendance figures for each last year's club in 1930 and 1931 were 117,000 and 174,000.

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