

Washington Sidelights

Would Lease Power of Muscle Shoals

WASHINGTON.—Despite the failure of congress to pass a bill providing for disposal of hydro-electric current generated at Muscle Shoals, plans have been made by the War department for the leasing of this power as fast as it is developed.

In a letter sent to the special Muscle Shoals committee appointed by President Coolidge the War department outlined its plans and asked for the views of the committee on the proposed policy.

If the department plans receive the approval of the committee, bids will be asked immediately for the sale of the power. In this connection, it was pointed out that owing to a shortage of rains in the vicinity of Muscle Shoals there will be a big demand for power this fall.

In the letter two plans for the sale of the power were outlined. One would be to sell the current as fast as it is developed by the War department to the highest bidders under contracts revocable at any time.

The other would be for the sale of the power developed by the steam plant combined with the power devel-

oped from the hydro-electric plants to one bidder with some sort of provision in the contract for the availability of the power for the partial operation of nitrate plant No. 2.

In this connection it is pointed out that while one of the plants will be ready July 1 it will be several months before it will be operating efficiently. The four plants now being constructed at Wilson dam will ultimately develop 100,000 horse power.

When the first one is completed the government would theoretically have 25,000 horse power to sell. But because of the tests of the machinery and unavoidable difficulties, it is not likely that that amount of power will be delivered for at least six months.

The other three units will be ready January 1 and within six months after that time it is expected that the full 100,000 horse power of the development will be available.

The Muscle Shoals commission, of which former Representative John C. McKenzie of Illinois is chairman, was appointed by President Coolidge to study the question and report to him next fall.

Too Many Kinds of Money; Not Too Much

A STUDY by treasury officials of the problem of the government's paper-money expense has led to the tentative conclusion that the public is being supplied with more denominations in the various kinds of such money than it needs.

Assistant Secretary Dewey, under whose direction the study is being made, believes it is time to correct this result of a topsy-turvy development of the nation's currency over many years by eliminating some of the denominations. If the bureau of engraving and printing's present paper-money output of twenty carloads annually could be concentrated on fewer denominations, it would mean a material saving through quantity production and less confusion to the public.

"Without making it too difficult," the assistant secretary continued, "it may be explained that the treasury is now turning out five general kinds of paper money—silver certificates, United States notes, gold certificates, national bank currency and federal reserve currency.

"With the latter two we are not

concerned in this study, but just consider the denominations of the first three kinds. They are issued at five, six and eight denominations, respectively, making a total of nineteen types of 'old-fashioned' money issued directly by the treasury."

Mr. Dewey then pointed out that if some way were found to eliminate denominations of the silver certificates, for example, so as to leave only the one and—banc of the superstitious—the two-dollar bill, the necessity for making three types of bills would be eliminated and by the process he thought the average citizen might get a little better acquainted with the silver certificate.

Some officials who have gone into the subject favored reducing the United States notes to one denomination—the five—which would eliminate five denominations of money. Then, the famed yellowback, from the price of bills, the \$10,000 note, down to the more or less familiar "ten spot," would be allowed to remain the same with its range, including also the \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$5,000 note to care for all needs above the small denominations.

"Career Men" in Diplomatic Service

FRANK B. KELLOGG, secretary of state, is the embodiment of a new idea of diplomacy, and his direction of the foreign affairs of the nation is significant of a new deal all around. Washington is just beginning today to realize that "dollar diplomacy" is a thing of the past, and there is the suggestion that the United States, consciously or unconsciously, is building up a diplomacy of the Old World. In other words, the United States rapidly is falling into the custom of the old countries of creating and maintaining professional diplomats.

"Career men" they call them at the Department of State—men who have started at the foot of the diplomatic ladder and are climbing slowly but surely into the front rank of the country's representatives abroad.

Such a career man, Warren Delano Robbins of New York, who has been counselor of the embassy in Berlin, was gazetted recently as counselor of the embassy at Rome. Eventually Mr. Robbins is to become a minister.

Secretary Kellogg is committed to

the new idea. He may be said to be an expression of the new idea in his present station, for he has been promoted from an ambassadorship to head of the State department. This is in line with the policy of Old-World diplomacy. The promotion of Mr. Kellogg marked a new epoch in American history. Whether he will remain long at the department, or whether other Presidents will follow Mr. Coolidge and select ambassadors to head the cabinet, are questions which only history can answer.

It is a fact, however, that for the first time within recollection there is a man in the State department come fresh from diplomatic service and diplomatic associations in the Old World.

Washington is wondering what will be the eventual effect of the new American diplomacy—the creation of ministers from counselors of embassies and the promotion of career men or professional diplomatic representatives all along the line. Heretofore ministers and ambassadors have been appointed for political, personal or commercial reasons.

Octagon House to Get Artistic Marker

OCTAGON HOUSE, at the corner of New York avenue and Eighteenth street, closely identified with many incidents in the early history of the national capital, is to be more distinctively marked by the American Institute of Architects, which acquired the property several years ago and has used it as its headquarters ever since.

Leading artists have been invited to devise a suitable marker for the building, the winning design to be selected at the national convention of architects in New York city.

The sturdy old building is considered one of the best surviving examples of the Eighteenth-century type of American Georgian or Adam period style of town house. It was designed by William Thornton, one of the pioneer architects of the United States, who also designed the main Capitol building, which formed the nucleus of the present structure, and also the plan of the University of Virginia. He came to this city with his family from Philadelphia in 1793. He held the of-

fice of commissioner of patents for several years, and died here in 1828. His ashes rest in the Congressional cemetery and his tombstone bears the chiseled motto, "Deo Spes Meo."

The land on which the Octagon house stands was acquired by Col. John Tayloe, a wealthy land owner of Virginia, from Gustavus W. Scott for \$1,000, and he arranged with Mr. Downing for the erection there of a winter home for his family. During its construction, which began in 1798 and occupied three years' time, General Washington, who was a personal friend of Colonel Tayloe, showed great interest in the work.

From the time of its first occupancy until the death of Mrs. Tayloe, wife of Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, son of the original owner, in 1855, Octagon house was celebrated on both sides of the Atlantic for its generous hospitality.

Its most eventful experience, however, was its occupancy by President Madison and family for nearly a year after the burning of the White House by the British during the War of 1812.

State Has Tax Preference Over Nation

THE Supreme court has handed down two important tax decisions. In one it was held that states have the right to prescribe in their inheritance-tax laws the method of determining the market value of property transferred, and to provide that no deduction shall be made from this value in computing the state tax for any inheritance or estate tax paid to the federal government.

This ruling was made in a case brought from California by the executors of the estate of Henrietta Pierce Watkinson, and was considered of wide importance not only to states, but to beneficiaries under wills, because of its material bearing increasing the amount of money states can collect under inheritance tax laws. It was delivered by Justice Stone among the first he has handed down since his appointment to the bench.

Explaining that the gross estate in question exceeded \$1,800,000, Justice Stone pointed out that California received \$37,899 more taxes under the stipulations of its law than it would

have received had the federal tax been first deducted.

Asserting that there is no constitutional guarantee of equality of taxation, the justice declared the power of states to discriminate in fixing the amount and incidence of taxation upon inheritance was undoubted.

The second decision held that any gain in value must be taken into account on taxes under the 1918 revenue act upon securities purchased before March 1, 1913, and sold in 1919.

The court, in deciding a case brought by the government against the estate of James J. Flannery, held that the gain and not the market value on March 1, 1913, the time fixed in the law for determining value, or the purchase price, must govern in such cases.

In 1919 Flannery sold some stock which he had purchased prior to March 1, 1913. When his executors reported on the transaction they claimed that the profit which had been made was not taxable income because the revenue act of 1918

Morgan's Riflemen



The Riflemen to Arnold's Rescue at Saratoga



General Daniel Morgan

150th Anniversary of Famous Fighting Corps Organized by Second Continental Congress

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY years ago this June there began the chain of events which brought into existence one of the most remarkable types of irregular troops in American military history. The corps of rangers they were officially designated but history knows them best as Morgan's riflemen. On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental congress passed a resolution that "six companies of expert riflemen be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland and two in Virginia; that each company shall march to join the army near Boston to be there employed as light infantry under the command of the chief officer of that army."

There was good reason for congress calling upon these colonies for "expert riflemen," for their citizens had been among the first to push across the Appalachians and it was a Pennsylvania gunsmith, one Dechert or Dercher (Deckard or Deckard he is also called) and his apprentice, Mills, who put into the hands of these frontiersmen the weapon which made them famous—the long rifle. So while the New Englanders were still clinging to the clumsy old Queen Anne musket or the Brown Bess, the men of the southern colonies were scornful to shoot a squirrel anywhere except through the head. And what they could do to a squirrel was not so difficult to do to any redskin who would block the course of empire westward.

One of the first to respond to the call of congress was Daniel Morgan of Frederick county, Virginia. He had been a wagoner in Braddock's army and he still bore on his back the marks of a British lash because he had knocked down a lieutenant who had struck him with the flat of his sword. Small wonder that Morgan was anxious to repay these "doings of old King George," as he called those scars!

Within ten days after receiving his commission Morgan had raised a company and early in July, 1775, he started from Winchester. His marching orders were simple—"A bee-line for Boston, boys!" Within twenty-one days he covered the distance of 600 miles without losing a man through sickness or desertion and offered to his excellency, George Washington, the services of 96 expert riflemen "from the right bank of the Potomac, sir!"

By the end of August all of the rifle companies, 1,400 men in all, had arrived in the camp at Cambridge. Pennsylvania had sent nine companies instead of six and these nine companies were formed as one battalion under the command of Col. William Thompson of Carlisle with Edward Hand as lieutenant colonel. Their captains were the following: James Chambers, Robert Cluggage, Michael Doudel, William Hendricks, Abraham Miller, George Nagel, James Ross, Matthew Smith and John Lowdon.

In Lowdon's company were two men destined for later renown. One was a 19-year-old, red-headed, Irish lad who became Capt. Sam Brady, chief of rangers on the Pennsylvania and Ohio border, hero of "Brady's Leap" and a dozen other hair-breadth escapades. The other was five years older than Brady. He was somewhat under the average height, but well-built and muscular, lean of flank and swift of foot, a typical black-haired, dark-eyed Celt, and no history of the New York frontier during the later days of the Revolution would be complete without mention of Tim Murphy, the "Scout of the Schoharie."

In one of the Maryland companies, led by Capt. Gabriel Long, was a frontiersman named David Elerson, or Ellison, who had already proved himself a daring fighter and a dead shot in the wars on the Virginia frontier. But he won even greater fame, both in fact and in fiction, as the boom companion of Tim Murphy. The other Maryland company was commanded by a man of tragic history, Capt. Michael Cresap, a name familiar to every school boy who has ever recited that which ends, "Who is there to mourn for Logan? Not one!" History has long since absolved Cresap from the guilt of the murder of Logan's family, but so long as this famous bit of Indian oratory is preserved, the chief's mistaken accusation will cast a shadow upon the fame of a gallant riflemen who died before he had a chance to distinguish himself in the war for independence.

Such were the outstanding figures in this group of stalwarts whom Washington welcomed into his army. For it was such stark hunters and bush fighters as these that he had led ten years before in the fateful Braddock expedition and it was through their cool daring and stubborn fighting qualities that he had been able to save a remnant of the British army from slaughter.

Take a look at Murphy, Elerson and their mates as they swagger along the streets of Cambridge

under the suspicious eyes of the Yankees who regard these restless, unruly backwoodsmen as only a little more civilized than the savages with whom they so often fought. They are dressed in flannel shirts, cloth or buckskin breeches, buckskin leggings and moccasins. Over these they wear fringed hunting shirts, made for the most part of brown linen, some of buckskin and a few of linsey woolsey, held in at the waist with a belt in which are carried the tomahawk and the long knife. There, too, hang the powder horn, scraped until it is almost as transparent as glass, and the bullet pouch containing the small lead balls, 40 to 60 to the pound. On their heads rest small round hats or coonskin caps. On these, or spread across the breasts of their hunting shirts, appears the legend which Patrick Henry's stirring speech has given them—"Liberty or Death!"

Across their arms are thrown with careless ease the weapon which gives them their name, the long rifles which soon made them the marvel of the Continental army and the terror of the British. Despite all the bosh that has been written about the deadly aim of these old-time sharpshooters—such as lifting the head of a nail at 100 yards, shooting out a squirrel's eye or placing one bullet on top of another in a target at the same distance—it is true that the accuracy of these old flintlock rifles in the hands of such men as Tim Murphy and his kind was marvelous. Many a British soldier learned to his sorrow that it was not safe to show his head within 200 yards of these "d-d widow and orphan makers," as they called the riflemen, and the statement of a contemporary historian that "while advancing at a quickstep the riflemen could hit a mark seven inches in diameter at a distance of 250 yards" does not seem so impossible of belief. At any rate, such wonderful stories of their feats were carried across the Atlantic that one rifeman, who was taken prisoner during the siege of Boston, was carried to England and exhibited there as a great curiosity.

Unruly and undisciplined as the riflemen were, nevertheless they gave a good account of themselves in innumerable ways during the siege of Boston until the British evacuated that city in March, 1776. In the meantime, three companies—Morgan's Virginians and Smith's and Hendricks' Pennsylvanians—accompanied Arnold and Montgomery on their ill-fated expedition to Quebec. Hendricks was killed in the assault and Morgan and nearly all of the riflemen were captured. On January 1, 1776, the new army organization began and the battalion of Pennsylvania riflemen became the first regiment of the Continental army. Under the command of Colonel Hand this regiment distinguished itself particularly in the Battle of Long Island and during the subsequent fighting in New Jersey until "a Hand Rifleman" became almost a title of distinction as did "a Morgan Rifleman" later.

In June, 1777, Washington, convinced by his experiences both in the French and Indian war and in the recent campaign that a corps of sharpshooters composed of frontiersmen trained in woods fighting might easily be the deciding factor in the war, decided to organize such a corps. The material was at hand in the rifle companies which had joined him at Cambridge and which were now parts of various regiments in the Continental line. By this time Daniel Morgan, through an exchange of prisoners, had returned to the army and he was placed in command of the new "Corps of Rangers" with Richard Butler of the Ninth Pennsylvania as lieutenant colonel and Capt. Joseph Morris of New Jersey as major. The captains of the companies were Samuel J. Cabell, Gabriel Long, James Parr, Hawkins Boone (a relative of Daniel Boone), Matthew Henderson, Van Swearingen, Captain Knox and Thomas Posey, who later distinguished himself as a brigadier general under Wayne in the Indian war of 1793.

Washington's opinion of the value of such a corps was soon justified in the way in which they harassed the British army under General Howe as he retreated toward New York, and the riflemen behaved so gallantly as to win special mention from his excellency in a letter to congress in which he spoke of "their conduct and bravery where they

constantly advanced upon an enemy far superior in numbers and well secured behind redoubts."

Then the threat of Burgoyne in the North became so ominous that Washington decided to send the riflemen to the aid of General Gates. He believed that the presence of these daring bush fighters, who knew how to fight the savages in their own way, would put a stop to the outrages of Burgoyne's Indian and Canadian allies and restore confidence to the distracted inhabitants of the invaded region. Again his belief was justified for Morgan began harassing Burgoyne as he had done to Howe. "The terror inspired by his name among these allies led to a general desertion and, in having Morgan's men, Gates now enjoyed all the advantages which the British general had derived at the opening of the campaign from the legion of Canadians and Indians," writes one historian.

More than that, the riflemen proved their worth in pitched battle, as well as in desultory sniping attacks on the British camp, the only difficulty being that they were, if anything, too full of fight. On the bloody field of Freeman's farm their assault was so impetuous that they soon became widely scattered as they engaged in their characteristic style of individual combat, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that Morgan assembled his men again by use of his turkey-bone whistle and led them again into battle as a unit.

Then followed the Battle of Stillwater in which Tim Murphy had such a spectacular part. On October 7 Burgoyne made a desperate attempt to cut through the cordon of American troops. General Frazer, with 500 picked troops, led the advance and was soon hotly engaged with Morgan's men. Seeing the skill with which Frazer was handling his men, Morgan called to him 12 of his best marksmen. "That gallant officer yonder is General Frazer," he said. "I admire and respect him, but it is necessary that he die." The sharpshooters opened fire but Frazer was untouched. Then Tim Murphy's rifle spoke and Frazer fell mortally wounded. Frazer had been Burgoyne's most valuable subordinate and his death proved to be the turning point in the Saratoga campaign. Burgoyne's surrender, the decisive event in the Revolution, followed soon afterwards. It was Murphy, too, who was among the first to reach the side of Benedict Arnold when that impetuous officer led the attack on the Hessian redoubts at Saratoga where he was wounded and nearly captured.

After the Saratoga campaign the riflemen rejoined Washington at Whitemarsh. Late in November they were ordered to the command of the Marquis de Lafayette and in one of his engagements with Cornwallis won this praise from the great Frenchman: "I never saw men so merry, so spirited, so desirous to go on to the enemy whatever force they might have, as this corps." A few days later they again distinguished themselves at the battle of Chestnut Hill by defeating the British with heavy loss. Major Morris was killed in this battle and Captain Posey succeeded him.

Then the riflemen settled down with Washington for the terrible winter at Valley Forge, although there was little rest for them. They were constantly engaged in scouting expeditions and harassing the British foraging parties. At about this time Morgan returned to his home in Virginia to recuperate his health and the command devolved upon Major Posey. He returned the following spring, however, and led the riflemen to further honors in the Battle of Monmouth. Soon after this battle Morgan gave up the command of his corps which was broken up, the various companies being assigned to different regiments.

But the riflemen, as individuals and small units, won even greater distinction in the fighting with the Tories and Indians in the Mohawk valley and in General Sullivan's expedition which broke the power of the Iroquois confederacy. Chief among these were Tim Murphy and Dave Elerson, especially Murphy, and such were his many deeds as the "Scout of the Schoharie," taken with his feats at Saratoga, that Tim Murphy has come to be regarded as the typical Morgan riflemen. He settled in New York after the Revolution and is buried in the cemetery at Middleburgh, where a monument was erected several years ago to bear witness to his fame and the fame of Morgan's riflemen, of which he was so representative.

Man the Only Enemy Moose Has to Fear

Of all the larger wild animals of America, the moose is perhaps better fitted to hold his own than is any other species.

The moose is afraid of little excepting man. Man only, biologists say, can exterminate or seriously injure the moose. Out in Wyoming, where the elk are starving every winter, the moose grows fat. He can feed in deep snows and on sparse vegetation where

most other animals would starve. A sportsman writes in the Kansas City Star.

He knows how to take care of himself. The moose has a peculiar hind leg. He can lift his rear hoofs almost as high as his back when they are thrust forward and up. His hips are almost double jointed, it seems, and those rear legs work like locomotive pistons. This peculiarity enables

moose to walk in drifted snow or in mud so deep that it would at once mire almost any other animal. He can run in snow which would make walking difficult for most other animals, even though they might be as large as he is.

In the forests he steps over windfalls which deer must leap over. When he runs in the woods he does not gallop or jump, but travels in a long, swinging trot, simply stepping over anything that comes in the way. The moose is a browsing animal and

can live in the winter on the tender bark of trees, twigs, dried willows and other food which such animals as the elk starve on.

The moose can only be destroyed by man. He has the rest of his enemies well in hand. He is too important an animal, one too symbolic of great forests and past wildernesses, to be killed.

Nearly 100,000 students have taken courses at the University of Chicago since it was established and about 20,000 have received degrees.

Do you Ever Fairy Tale

LIBERTY OR DEATH

Timothy Murphy Monument

Easily Explained

Gloves Didn't Agree

Too Many Words for Me