

Current Comment

This Is Less Doleful.

We are so far ahead of anybody else in naval aviation that it will be them a long time to catch up. Thus spoke Rear Admiral W. G. Moffett, U. S. N., chief of the bureau of aeronautics, when addressing the special house of representatives committee investigating the aircraft situation. His assertion was supported by Secretary of the Navy William D. Clegg.

The executives based their optimism not on physical strength alone, but on superiority of design, material and efficiency. Other nations have larger air navies. Uncle Sam's machines are the best, his fliers the best expert. The navy has 840 planes of all kinds, but only 224 might be relied on for real service under war conditions. On the other hand, we have the men to handle an air fleet many times larger, and industrial equipment that speedily could augment the number of available planes.

Post-War Strain.

Yesterday Ramsey MacDonald, British labor leader and former premier, left London enroute to the West Indies and Panama for a much needed rest. He has been on the verge of a nervous breakdown following his strenuous experience in Europe's most important office and the campaign in which he suffered defeat. He is leaving England to recuperate.

MacDonald's physical collapse is not surprising. Only a few men like Lloyd George, for example, have been so constituted, mentally and physically, that they could stand the strain incident to post-war political and economic developments. In America two great leaders have been killed by that strain, while Germany, Russia, Italy, Japan and France likewise have paid their tolls. There are limits beyond which the mind and heart can not be pushed, and they were reached in the Fall of 1914.

One Release.

This is the season when sentimentality has its inning, and prisoners in federal penitentiaries always have benefited from executive clemency. Mr. Coolidge, it seems, is going to establish a precedent by giving only one man his liberty.

John Rohrer, prisoner at Leavenworth, was a seider in 1915, member of the legation guard at Shanghai. When the World war broke out he became restless and deserted, starting toward the scene of hostilities. Followed by Chinese policemen, he mistook them for bandits and killed one of them. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. The warden at Leavenworth reports that Rohrer's record as a prisoner is incomparably better than any other. His sentence will be commuted to twenty years, and he is immediately eligible to parole.

When only men of this type are the recipients of executive clemency there will be some curtailment of crime. Too much sentiment and too little sense in the administering of punishment has added materially to the criminal crop.

Real Gifts.

More than twenty millions of dollars was realized in Wall street yesterday by the sale of many thousands of shares of common stock in the Eastman Kodak company. The stock was put on the market as a means of raising funds with which to provide the twenty-five million dollar gift recently made by George Eastman to educational institutions.

Nowhere in the world may be found to education be found that are at all comparable to those made by wealthy Americans. The Rockefeller influence in this respect is inestimable, reaching into many nations. Mr. Eastman set aside a quarter of a million shares of stock with which to meet the obligation he voluntarily assumed in behalf of the educational advancement of America's youth.

Equality Of Women.

Some women take themselves too literally when the Constitution makes them the equal of men. Los Angeles citizen, T. W. Woodward, may not hereafter be too favorably inclined toward constitutional amendments.

Attacked by a man and woman whose purpose was robbery, Woodward offered resistance. He got the best of the man, who fled. But the woman stuck to her knitting, clubbed Woodward over the head with the butt of her revolver and got away with his five hundred and fifty dollars in currency.

Again, there is Oscar Wetner, Chicago furniture dealer, who asks an annulment of his recent marriage because he did not know when or where he took the lady. Enjoying himself at a party, he faintly remembered the presence of a woman who was attentive. When he regained consciousness, so he says, it was the next day and the woman was his wife. He wants help.

ANDERSON WILL BE RE-ARRESTED

Hight Case To Jury Tonight

SWIFT VERDICT AND CONVICTION IS PREDICTED

Final Witness To Testify, Followed By Lawyers' Pleas To Close The Case.

MOUNT VERNON, Ill., Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Hearing of evidence in the joint trial of Lawrence M. Hight, former clergyman and Mrs. Elsie Sweetin, for the poison murder of her husband, Wilford Sweetin, was concluded at noon today. Each side was given four hours for arguments and a night session was ordered so the case might go to the jury tonight.

MOUNT VERNON, Ill., Dec. 23.—(By International News.)—Today Elsie Sweetin and the Rev. Lawrence M. Hight, her pastor-lover, are making their prayer in their trial for the murder of Elsie's husband, Wilford, in order, the state charges, that their relations might be given the same respectability, was virtually completed when court convened this morning.

Cross-examination of Dr. Frank R. Fry, state alienist, who yesterday testified in support of the state's defense and pronounced Hight legal, sane and perfectly able to distinguish right from wrong, occupied but a few minutes and then the opposing attorneys began their concluding arguments.

By arrangement, these will occupy eight hours, four hours having been allotted each side. Then will come the charge to the jury by Judge Elsie and the jury's verdict. The jury will be in the hands of their fellow townsmen, the "bread and butter" jury, which will be called to pass on the case, and the defense begged for mercy.

Hight Will Not Talk

Hight, his attorney, Nelson Layman, announced today, will not address the jury as had been planned. The reason for the change was not announced, but it was believed Layman preferred to let the jurors judge Hight's sanity. The state alienist's testimony rather than present him before them and let his own rambling words indict him as a moron, or refute the testimony that he is the mental capabilities of a child of 10.

With the case going to the jury almost on Christmas eve, the opinion was general here today that the verdict will be swift. And in the little groups which gather about the court house daily to discuss the strange case, it was virtually conceded, it was here, but little hope of a night sentence.

Coolidge To Pick Agriculture Head Shortly, 'Tis Said

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(By International News.)—President Coolidge expects to select a new secretary of agriculture within a short time, it was said at the White House today.

For this purpose, Mr. Coolidge is holding the post of assistant secretary open so that his nominee may first be appointed assistant secretary, affording him an opportunity to familiarize himself with conditions before succeeding to the secretaryship on March 4 when the present secretary, H. T. Gore, retires to become governor of West Virginia.

ATTENTION, ADVERTISERS

The Evening Gazette will not be published Thursday, due to it being Christmas. Advertisers are requested to get their copy for Friday's paper in this office not later than 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

Kato Is Pleased With Situation Between Nations

TOKIO, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Responding to official expressions from the United States and American editorial opinion as cabled here regarding Japanese-American relations, Premier Kato tonight told the Associated Press of his appreciation of the earnestness displayed by President Coolidge and Secretary Hughes, said Premier Kato. "In denouncing the naval propagandists to enroll Japan and America we are hardly less grateful for the extraordinary expressions of cordiality used in welcoming the new ambassador to the premier said.

"We are not misled by the vicious activities of irresponsible groups of individuals in either country. We know the United States desires peace, we know Japan desires peace. Japan is not contemplating war against any country nor preparing in secret nor overtly for war."

Death In Holiday Rum Sent To Iowa

DUBUQUE, Dec. 23.—(By International News.)—Death in the form of strychnine lurks in alcohol and whisky shipped here from the east to supply the holiday demand, according to Dr. D. C. Steelsmith, city health director, who said he analyzed four samples of the liquor. The stuff would prove a killing dose, he said.

ONE KILLED IN HOLDUP

PARIS, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—A Paris holdup today resulted in the death of a man. The victim was a 40-year-old man, who was shot in the chest by a bandit. The bandit was captured and is being held for trial.

BAKER PAPER CO. IS SOLD TO R. R. EPLER

\$83,000 Is Involved In Deal; Transfer To Be Made On Jan. 1; Baker To Live In Florida.

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)—A local business transaction of more than usual interest and one of the biggest of the year is the sale by Ward Baker, president and George A. Mills, secretary-treasurer of the Baker Paper company, 616-618 South First street, of their interest in the business to R. R. Epler, vice-president of the company. The sale will be effective Jan. 1, when Mr. Epler will become the head of the company and take full charge.

Aviator's Body Will Be Sent To Kansas Today For Funeral

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—In a flag-draped and power-decked plane, the body of Clarence Gilbert, who lost his life in line of duty for the government, was brought to Chicago today for a funeral. The body, which rested today at the airport, was to be brought here at 3 p. m. and placed on a train bound for Kansas. Gilbert had wanted to go home to Kansas for Christmas, and he will have his wish granted in death.

President Jessup's Condition Is Good

IOWA CITY, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Maximum temperature in the north twenty-four hours for President Walter A. Jessup of the University of Iowa, who is confined to a hospital with an attack of typhoid fever, has fallen to 100.3 degrees and the president's condition remains satisfactory. The temperature drop, since his illness was diagnosed as typhoid fever last week, is nearly three degrees.

PASSES BUCK IN TIGHTENING UP HOOGH LAW

Uncle Sam Wants Local Officials To Get The Little Fellows Next Year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(By International News.)—Responsibility for local enforcement of prohibition laws during 1925 will be passed to the county and state authorities, while the federal forces concentrate their efforts on the big fellows, whose operations run into the realms of high finance.

Irish Free State Defies Britain On Rights Of Treaty

GENEVA, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—The Irish Free State defiantly today repudiated its obligations to the league of nations. It declared it was unable to accept the British contention that the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921 was not subject to the league's jurisdiction.

Discuss Means Of Enforcing Law In Jersey Rum Scandal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—The situation of the office of United States District Attorney Winne of New Jersey, was the subject of a conference today by Attorney General Stone with Mr. Winne, Assistant District Attorney Van Riper and Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, assistant attorney general, as participants.

Eva Tanguay III Cancels Her Dates

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Eva Tanguay is to be brought to New York today from Providence, R. I., where she collapsed last night while appearing in vaudeville.

Colder Tomorrow, Weather Man Says

DES MOINES, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Another drop in the temperature is in prospect for Iowa by tomorrow, while most of the state was expected to see further snowfall today, the weather bureau here announced this morning.

Feed Birds To Save Them From Death

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—In an effort to save thousands of birds facing starvation in all parts of the state as a result of the cold weather, E. B. Burgh, state game warden, today sent out an order to all deputy game wardens to direct the warden to buy grain to feed the birds if necessary.

Snow And Warm Weather Arrive To Aid Mr. Claus

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)—"Snow, snow, beautiful snow. Step on a lump, and away you go." This little verse was appropriate this forenoon when the snow storm still was in progress, and the humor is justified because reports from the Chambers street company indicate the sub-zero weather has passed on at least for the present.

For the first time in more than a week, the mercury failed to reach zero last night and stood at 6 degrees above until midnight when it began to warm up, and at 8 a. m. today the official reading was 13 degrees.

2,000 ATTEND CHRISTMAS PARTY

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)—More than 2,000 children were guests at the Christmas party given by the Evening Gazette and the Palace theater, last morning.

Edith Gould Must Pay For Stockings

PARIS, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Edith Kelly Gould must pay for the sixty-eight pairs of silk stockings she bought in October, 1918, and which she never wore.

Don't Be Tardy

only 1 Shopping Day till Xmas

POOR FAMILIES TO GET CHEER ON CHRISTMAS

Toys for Children and Food, Coal to Go In to Every Cheerless Home for Holiday.

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)—Not a child without toys, not a home that is cheerless, not an aged person forgotten, not a cupboard bare nor a coal bin empty, not a hearthside unlighted by the glow of Christmas love—that is the goal held out for Cedar Rapids, as the benevolent spirit of Christmas broods over the city, and directs the activities of those who are working toward just such an end.

Stores Are Open Tonight, Tomorrow Night For Shoppers

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)—Today and tomorrow are your last chances for Christmas buying. If you don't conclude your purchases by tonight, you will be in the evening, for all the stores will be open tonight and tomorrow evening.

Widow Loses Her Money

But in her excitement and joy at the prospective purchase, she lost the money. She turned to the Social Welfare league, and told her sad little story between sobs. Later a league worker casually repeated it to one of the league's members.

Deluge Of Children Descend On Theater For Gazette-Palace Show This Morning

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Bandits Rob Bank Messenger At Des Moines Of \$7,000

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Southern Pacific Keeps Agreement With Engine Men

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—The Southern Pacific railroad company today, by its general manager, advised the railroad labor board that it had agreed to a party for the request for suspension of the settlement made by it with its engine service employees.

Britain Wants To Talk Disarmament

LONDON, Dec. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—The British government today asked the dominions to agree to a special meeting of the imperial conference in March to consider the league of nations protocol for disarmament.

FRANCE WANTS MORE TIME TO PAY WAR DEBTS

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