

Current Comment

Burbank's Blunder.

With scores of banks in Iowa whose permanent solidity is unquestionable, W. J. Burbank, former state treasurer, chose as state depositor two of the three institutions that recently have been closed in Des Moines.

True, the executive council approved Burbank's disposition of funds and his surety bonds, but the members of that body must largely rely on the treasurer of state for the exercise of good judgment in his handling of the public funds.

More than a million dollars of the taxpayers' money is tied up because this political misnomer, who wanted to be governor, doesn't know enough to come in out of the rain.

Home Brew's Toll.

The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment—whatever that organization may be—produces some figures by which it seeks to show that Volsteadism is dangerous.

According to the statistics of this association, at least three thousand persons are killed in this country each year by home-made liquors, while six thousand more are seriously and permanently disabled.

There is an inclination to believe that these figures may be too conservative, but that fact doubtless will not dismay prohibition supporters, who would have no difficulty in showing that Volsteadian victims are few in number as compared to those who were killed or permanently injured as the direct or indirect result of the unhampered use of liquor in pre-prohibition days.

Ruthenburg To Pen.

C. E. Ruthenburg, who has candidly admitted that he opposes out particular kind of government and favors the present Russian system, but who binned his hope for immunity from punishment on the very Constitution that he condemns, has found that speech is not always free in this country.

Yesterday Ruthenburg was sentenced to serve from three to ten years in the Michigan state prison. He had been convicted of violation of the Michigan criminal syndicalism law. With others, he was arrested for participation in a communist meeting in Berrien county in 1922.

He did not resort to Russian statutes in his fight for liberty; he fell back on his constitutional privileges and American laws. He will do no more harm for a time.

We Get Another Attorney General.

At a time when the department of justice would seem to require the earnest and constant attention of a competent and experienced leader, there comes another change of pilots. For the second time within a year, President Coolidge is looking for a new attorney general. He has appointed the incumbent, Harlan F. Stone, to the supreme court.

Mr. Stone receives a nice position for life, if he wants it that long, but the country must be patient while a new man gets experience in one of the most important of the cabinet offices. Daugherty made a mess of his high position and had to retire in confusion and disgrace. Stone was heralded as the man who could put the office on the high plane it should occupy. Before he has had time to accomplish anything he is removed. Possibly it is because he is a better lawyer than administrator that he receives the new appointment.

Those who feel that the United States needs a forceful, determined, efficient man as attorney general will hope that such an individual may be selected for the cabinet post and permitted to "stay put" at least for the next four years.

When Do We Fight?

Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick, chief of the army air service, yesterday told a house of representatives committee that the United States is not properly equipped with aircraft to defend itself against a major military offensive. He says the first act of a billigerent would be to sweep our air force out of the way because "we

COURT JURY GETS SCHRAEDER CASE

MAY HOLD PART OF SPRING TERM IN NEW BUILDING

Marble Setters, Just About Done; Electrical Fixtures Are Being Placed.

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

A part of the March term of the district court may be held in the new Linn county court house, judging from progress being made in completing the building.

County officials at first thought it would be possible to open the March term in the building, then adjourn for two weeks while the court records and offices were moved from Marion, but this may not be possible, the courts, said today.

Painters have completed several of the rooms and decorators are at work in the courtrooms. Many of the electrical fixtures are in place, including two of the three large chandeliers in the center dome. Heating, plumbing and ventilating fixtures are in place throughout the building.

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Charge Monopoly In Phone Business

Stockholders Chicago Firm File Suit Against American Telephone And Telegraph Company.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—(By Universal.)—Charges of bringing a monopoly to the telephone business were filed in the circuit court here against the American Telephone and Telegraph company, large stockholders of the Chicago Bell Telephone company and the Western Electric company.

The action was brought by John J. O'Leary, wealthy broker, and John Bell, minority stockholder in the Chicago Bell Telephone company which recently changed its name to the Illinois Bell Telephone company.

In addition to requesting an injunction to restrain the American Telephone and Telegraph company's attempts to perpetuate the alleged monopoly, the suit asks for an accounting of millions of dollars allegedly rightfully belong to the Chicago Bell Telephone company.

The minority stockholders ask that the Chicago Bell Telephone company purchase the stock of the American Telephone and Telegraph company be made to account for a profit of \$10,000,000 as a result of the sale which occurred in December, 1920.

Cancellation and revision of contracts between the Chicago Bell Telephone company and the American Telephone and Telegraph company be made to account for a profit of \$10,000,000 as a result of the sale which occurred in December, 1920.

Pet Collie, Lost In Des Moines, Home After Long Jaunt

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

There's rejoicing among the kiddies in the neighborhood of the home of Elmer Young, 327 F avenue west, today.

"Shep," their collie favorite, is back, after being lost in Des Moines since last October.

Pitifully scrawny from months of exposure, hungry and with a limp in one foot, he hobbled up to his old master yesterday morning, and with something of a triumphant gleam in his eyes held out his paw to his "sheep." He does all the tricks which only a good pet can, walks on his hind legs, rolls over, shakes hands, and obeys all commands like a human. He can even pick out Mr. Young's car from all the rest, when it is down town, and jumps in and waits for his master.

He is now under the care of a veterinary, previous to romping again with his little friends in his old surroundings.

Says Navy Is To Slow To Run Away From Fleet

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 6.—(By International News.)—America's great battle fleet of super-dreadnaughts is neither prepared to fight nor run away, William B. Shearer, millionaire naval expert, declared here today.

The fighting speed of the battle fleet of the United States, Shearer charged, is only ten knots an hour compared with the speed of twenty-two knots an hour demonstrated by the Japanese fleet in last October's maneuvers.

"Peace demonstrations of the apparent efficiency of airplanes operating against battleships, Shearer said, would have shown that the aircraft are not effective. He described the airships as an "outer shell" around the vitals of the sea fighting force.

An adequate navy and airship base on the Pacific coast were advocated by Shearer as the first steps to be taken to obtain national security.

SHAW'S PLAY BANNED

MOSCOW, Jan. 6.—Bernard Shaw's play "Saint Joan," has been closed at the soviet theater by the censor.

Omaha Dry Raiders To Be Arrested For Illegal Practices

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 6.—(By International News.)—Harry M. Snodgrass, 26-year-old St. Louis highway robber, who through the miracle of radio, was reborn as "King of the Ivories," while behind the penitentiary walls, steps into a new life as a radio personality.

Widow Contests Will Of Gompers; Accuses Step-Son

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(By International News.)—A contest over the will of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was filed here today by the widow, Mrs. Gertrude Gompers, 41, who married the labor leader three years before his death.

Mrs. Scott Relates Stories Of Egg Nog Parties At Capital

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

ALPENA, Mich., Jan. 6.—(By Associated Press.)—The homes of members of congress and army officers were popular diversions around Christmas time, Mrs. Edna James Scott testified today in the divorce suit brought by her husband, Representative Frank D. Scott.

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(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

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Today In Washington

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President's agricultural commission presses consideration of relief measures for cattle industry. Meeting of house military affairs committee called to hear Secretary Weeks on legislation to recognize achievement of world flyers.

STONE GOES TO HIGHEST COURT FROM CABINET

Coolidge Names His Attorney General To Succeed Justice McKenna.

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(By International News.)—President Coolidge today was facing the task of filling the fourth vacancy that has occurred in his cabinet since he came to the White House and for the second time it is the attorney generalship.

Before him were a score of names from which to select the man who will succeed Harlan Fiske Stone in conducting the government's legal business. Announcement of his choice probably will not be made until the senate has acted on Stone's nomination to the supreme bench, but that action is expected today or tomorrow.

The field of those whom the President has under consideration, it is said, has narrowed to five, with perhaps the leading figure that of Charles E. Warren of Detroit, former American ambassador to Japan and Mexico, participant in the rule committee of the Cleveland republican national convention and nationally prominent lawyer.

Warren just before Christmas, was a White House visitor. No limitation was forthcoming at the time as to the nature of his visit. In view, however, of the speed with which Coolidge appointed General Stone to the chief justice of the supreme court, it is assumed that he will be a strong contender for the job.

Boost Jim Good To Succeed Stone In Coolidge Cabinet

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Mr. Good's friends said today his activity in the last election was worthy of some reward by the President.

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In a bill filed before the district supreme court, Mrs. Gompers alleged that a second will, executed by her husband just prior to his death, in which she was cut off with dower rights, was due to "fraud, coercion and undue influence, exercised by Samuel J. Gompers, her step-son."

Through her attorneys, the widow asked that the court refuse to allow the second will probated.

Gompers left two wills, one dated several years ago, making his wife the sole heir, and a second document, executed only a few weeks before his death in which he hinted at domestic infidelity and left his wife only the legal requirement.

Samuel J. Gompers, the son, is the executor.

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CONFERENCE ON DEBTS WILL BE HELD IN MARCH

Churchill Plans To Invite America To Take Part In The Proceedings.

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

PARIS, Jan. 6.—(By Associated Press.)—Plans for an inter-allied debt conference at Brussels next March, to which the United States probably would be invited to send a delegate, are declared to have been formulated by Winston Churchill, British chancellor of the exchequer, who is due to arrive here this evening at the head of the British delegation to the conference of allied finance ministers which opens tomorrow.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—(By International News.)—The British foreign office was disappointed by refusal of the United States to allow the American war claims to be arbitrated, it was said today in diplomatic circles here.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Churchill departed today for the allied conference in Paris. He intimated he did not expect the Paris conference to reach any concrete agreement, but that out of the Paris conference will come an inter-allied conference to settle all war debt controversies.

The foreign office looks to the Paris conference also to clarify the American war claims situation, it was said.

Pending the result of the Paris conference there will be no British action to the American note.

Proposals that an allied debt conference be called in Brussels in March or April will be considered, it was said, but a final decision has not yet received official sanction, the foreign office said.

PLAY WAITING GAME

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(By Associated Press.)—The French government appeared today to have resolved (itself again today) into awaiting attitude on the part of the Washington government for possible further light on the suggestions as to a re-opening of negotiations presented in the memorandum of French Finance Minister Clementel.

While execution of M. Clementel's personal policy is being communicated to Ambassador Harlick has not altered the attitude here to accept it as a hopeful sign, it has, on the other hand disclosed no concrete proposal for retarding the French debt strike, which is being held in the launching of formal negotiations. It has, in fact, provided no elaboration of French views on the question beyond what has been known to the American delegation through his conversations with Ambassador Jusserand.

With the possibility of more light being thrown on the situation by further advice from Ambassador Harlick, it was believed any decision as to an informal request by the treasury secretary for specific details from M. Clementel, on his suggestion would be held off indefinitely at the state department, that the informal nature of the French suggestions did not warrant the calling of a special meeting of the American delegation funding commission to take them up.

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Gov. Nellie Ross To Swing Axe On State Expenses

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Jan. 6.—(By Associated Press.)—Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, America's first woman governor, today got down to the tasks that face her as executive of the state of Wyoming.

Her routine called for an early appearance at the executive chambers where she will continue her work on her message and budget recommendations to the state legislature which convenes Jan. 13.

While Gov. Ross has refused steadfastly to reveal just what the nature of the budget recommendations will be, it is generally understood in Wyoming political circles that they will include for public school retrenchment in state expenditures, the axe falling most heavily on state house employees and salaries.

Announcement of a four-year appointment of the first official act of the new governor. She selected as her secretary Edward B. Almon and named Miss Ruth Harrington as her private secretary. Both served in similar capacities during the administration of her husband. Two other appointments also were made.

Leningrad Is Hit By Floods, Damage Placed At Millions

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

LENINGRAD, Jan. 6.—(By International News.)—The ominous warning booming of the Kronstadt fortress guns for the first time in the sun today and Leningrad surveyed a countryside made desolate by floods.

The danger is not yet passed, for the people of the city. Damage was estimated today, totaled \$3,000,000.

Various sections of the city are entirely under water.

The city cemetery was inundated and many graves and mausoleums were washed away.

At Peterhof, the palaces and parks were flooded and several fishermen lost their lives.

At various places in the country, the water is eleven feet deep in what hitherto was dry land.

GERMANY AROUSED BY ALLIED MESSAGE

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

BERLIN, Jan. 6.—(By International News.)—A storm of protest has been aroused in the German press by the allied note, explaining the delay in the evacuation of Cologne.

The ambassador's note asserted the allies hold proof that Germany had not lived up to the Versailles treaty, but had continued the manufacture of arms and munitions in quantities far above those permitted by the treaty.

The only exception to the general protest today was the Voerwaerts, which said:

"Compliance with allied criticism and redressing of their grievances, it is felt, is the only way towards a solution."

The nationalist press, on the other hand, assails the government's weakness and urges an immediate and complete withdrawal with "flagrant violation of the Versailles treaty. They point out that Germany's silence may be taken for the reluctance of guilty conscience.

"The lying Anglo-American press," "Fogelblat calls the note a "clever pretext."

"Germany, the organ of, Chancellor Marx, says it "reveals a policy of brutal force."

Alfonzo Amused By Ibanez' Attacks On The Spanish Throne

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

LONDON, Jan. 6.—(By Universal.)—Actually Ibanez is far from being neutral the attack on him by Blasco Ibanez, and is treating all threats jocosely.

This information was disclosed by an authority in British diplomatic source. According to the informant, King Alfonso at a recent private dinner at which among others the Duke of Alba was present, he said:

"Ibanez proves that there is at least one Spaniard who possesses a quality which most of you lack. He is a business man."

If Ibanez were the king of Spain was a fine man and the Spanish monarchy a fine thing, who would print it? He must be in print. "Actually Ibanez has not been in Spain in the last twenty years save for rare short visits. Through the government's supervision of book sales we know that less than 300 copies of his "Four Horizons" were sold in Spain. As far as distributing his newest books from airplanes in Spain is concerned, it is ridiculous on the face of it. Any alien airplane flying unauthorized over any country may be shot down."

From the same source it is learned that the real leaders of the movement for a republic in Spain are tremendously disgusted with Ibanez. According to them, his widespread denunciation of King Alfonso has caused the king's popularity to increase a hundred per cent among the people at large in the last two months. He was badly crippled by pneumonia.

WIDOW AND HER KIN EXAMINED BY INQUISITORS

Second Bullet Hole In Man's Clothing Gives Case New Twist Today.

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

Probe by the Linn county grand jury into the death of Armstrong "Jack" Schraeder, whose body was found New Year's day, near the home of his estranged wife, was suspended to begin this afternoon when five witnesses were subpoenaed to appear before that body.

Three of the witnesses, it was learned from an official source will be Mrs. Schraeder, widow of the dead man, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Curless, 3124 Sidney street, Cedar Rapids. The fourth was home since using Schraeder for divorce in November Schraeder's frozen body, lying face downward, one hand clutching a cap belonging to his three-year-old son, was found in a vacant lot near the house. Others subpoenaed are neighbors, it is said.

New Developments Today. Developments in the mystery murder case today followed the recovery last night of a second bullet hole in Schraeder's overcoat. This new found hole, bearing a powder burn, in the right sleeve and situated where the theory has been advanced that the bullet was hurled in a vacant lot near the house. Others subpoenaed are neighbors, it is said.

The hole made by the shot that killed Schraeder was in the right breast of his overcoat. A piece of dead garment was more carefully examined. It was thought to be the only one. Finding a powder burn, it was thought to be the only one.

More details of Schraeder's murder trouble were learned from a neighbor, Mrs. Schraeder, according to his estranged wife, was something of a shock with the other women. This often aroused her ire and she tells of a quarrel which she supposed date spoiled for him.

"He came home one night, shaved himself twice and used a lot of powder and got all dolled up in a silk shirt and a pair of slippers," she said. "I got mad and told him he didn't need to think I was going to stay home all day and all evening alone while he was out running around with a bunch of girls of his own mind, and then went after him ripping that shirt off his back. I spoiled the date anyway, she added triumphantly. Mrs. Schraeder later in the questioning admitted however, that her husband after sulking in the doorway, went somewhere to spend the evening.

Call Him Yain. Both Schraeder's widow and his mother-in-law declared he was vain about his appearance, especially his face, oftentimes shaving twice and using cosmetics.

Mrs. Curless, Mrs. Schraeder's mother, believes that her son-in-law would himself not go on for a long time for trouble he got into in Council Bluffs, and because he was sick and without money. She excuses the fact that the suit of his overcoat was a piece of old cloth, and that he was not fired into his head, by saying that he would hate to spoil his features.

Information obtained by Coroner T. A. Vowral from William Amos drew at Marshalltown, was that Schraeder left the home of his mother there Wednesday noon, carrying a revolver and intending to see his parents in Cedar Rapids. This would tend to establish the fact that Schraeder had a gun when he went to the home of his father-in-law, though what became of it still is a mystery.

Because of his statements about the water and her parents did not attend the services.

Brewer Files His Contest Against Seating Brookhart

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(By Associated Press.)—Notice of a contest against the election of Senator Brookhart, republican, Iowa, was filed in the senate today by Luther A. Brewer, former republican independent candidate in the Iowa senatorial election.

Brewer charged fraud and irregularity in the election; defeat of the will of the voters in eliminating marked ballots, and lack of legal qualifications by Senator Brookhart, because of his statements about the soviet form of government of Russia.

House Considers Deficiency Bill

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(By Associated Press.)—The house bill introduced today to take up the emergency deficiency bill reported yesterday. Of a total of \$37,117,000 carried out of the bill \$10,000,000 would be available for refund of illegally collected taxes. Consideration of the bill will be resumed tomorrow.