

## Current Comment

### Effective Work.

Five bandits robbed a bank in a Michigan town and made their getaway into Indiana. When the alarm was spread one of the men who took up the chase was just a plain farmer, name of Smith. He and two companions spotted the bandit car, chased it, overhauled it when it halted so that its occupants might ask their way.

The bandits shot one of Smith's friends. Smith brought a double-barreled shotgun into action, blazing away through the windshield of the bandits' machine. The bad men were wounded so severely that their capture was easily effected a few minutes later.

Smith's method is one of the best when it comes to making bad men think twice before indulging in demonstrations of their badness.

### This Is Different.

Fifty-one men were killed in a mine explosion at Sullivan, Ind., last Friday morning, and not all of the bodies have been recovered. The rescue work has produced numerous heroes, and accounts of the catastrophe have been on the first pages of the newspapers for three days.

The interest in the accident (that took fifty-one lives is not one-half of one per cent as great as that demonstrated in the entombment of Floyd Collins, who lost his life in a Kentucky cave. The Collins incident was a little unusual. Mine explosions, with heavy losses in human life, have become quite ordinary. We have them every few months. It is the unusual that interests the public.

### Now He's Broke.

Osborne Wood, son of Leonard Wood, governor general of the Philippines, was credited a few months ago with being a shrewd young man. He had so wisely interpreted cabled reports of the New York Stock market as to invest humble amounts that are reported to have netted him several hundreds of thousands. That was when he was in the Islands with his father.

After "cleaning up" young Mr. Wood, who is a married man, decided to see the world. His wife accompanied him for a time, and they were seen in various resorts, where he lost steadily and heavily. His fortune is gone. One report has sworn out a warrant for his arrest. He owes a large hotel bill and is without funds.

Beyond a doubt Lieutenant Wood, as he thinks things over, wishes he never had heard of Wall Street and that he might be back in service in the Islands, with his wife and with honor. Wood was evaded a short time ago; now he's pilled.

Money puts long ears on many a man who might amount to something without it. For example, there is the Cedar Rapids resident who likes to boast of the fortune he inherited and who, when solicited last week by a woman worker for the Community Chest, walked to his front door, opened it and remarked, "Here's the door."

### Aircraft Probe Ends.

With a suddenness that is comical because its cause is so obvious, the congressional investigation of Uncle Sam's air force comes to an end, just as it promised to grow even more interesting and enlightening.

The administration decided that the house aircraft committee had done far enough, that Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, assistant chief of the army air service, had said more than enough, and that it was time to call the investigation off before the public, which is the real boss of the administration and which says all the bills, learned too much about actual conditions.

Messrs. Weeks and Wilbur, civilian heads of the army and navy departments, have won their point; just in time to preserve what little dignity was left them by General Mitchell. The general knows considerable about the army and the navy, and he speaks from experience, and hundreds of airmen who knew him when things were hot in France vouch for his efficiency. In a debate on the subject of the army and navy departments would make the secretaries look rather foolish.

Mr. Weeks was to have appeared before the investigation committee today. General Mitchell offered to prove that he could sink a battleship with an airplane, and the committee had arranged to ask permission for the test. Then everything came to a halt. The taxpayers would have demonstrated that the navy department is spending needless millions for battleships, ships that will be helpless under enemy planes. Many gentlemen are interested in continuation of the shipbuilding program, and by no means all of them are public officials. It is to their interest to have Uncle Sam build battleships, whether or not they are any good. And, as for the professional old-timers of the navy itself, it is to their interest to have the battleships because what they know about aviation you could not get in your eye, and they don't want to lose their jobs, their bureau's office offices, their gold braids, etc.

# COOLIDGE IS FOR PREPAREDNESS

## Gen. Wood's Son Under Arrest

### PASSES CHECK TO PAY LOSSES AT GAME TABLE

Young Man Who Once Made Clean Up In Wall Street Is In Bad In France.

### EXPLAINS DISAPPEARANCE.

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Feb. 23.—(By International News.)—The mystery of the strange disappearance of Lieut. Osborne Custer Wood, son of Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, was explained today by Wood himself.

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## To Examine Son's Body For Poison

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Exhumation of the body of Dr. Oscar Olson, brother of Harry Olson, chief justice of the municipal court, who has prosecuted the investigation of the death of William McClintock, millionaire orphan, will be ordered in connection with that case, says the Chicago Tribune today.

### THIRD PARTY TO ADOPT PLAN OF BATTLING BOB

To Build Up State Organizations On Geographical Lines; Labor Not In It.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Delegates to the convention of the Conference for progressive political action, who Saturday decided to form a new national party, after the adjournment of their convention, yesterday concluded their meeting here by adopting plans for organization of states and allotting representation in a national convention to be called later.

## DRAIN TO ADDRESS IOWA LEGION MEN

### Commander Talks Tonight Before 1,000 Post Officials; Dick Little; Gov. Hamill Also On Program

DES MOINES, Feb. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—A patriotic demonstration was staged in the Iowa house of representatives today in which National Commander James M. Drain of the American Legion, participated, commemorating the anniversary of George Washington's birthday. A special bugle and drum musical program was given by members of the 40 and 8, Argonne Post, Des Moines, of the Legion.

### DES MOINES, Feb. 23.—(By International News.)—The fifth annual meeting of the commanders and adjutants of the Iowa department of the American Legion opened here today.

### National Commander James A. Drain of Washington, D. C., arrived this morning from Chicago accompanied by Richard Henry Little, Chicago columnist, and "Melody" Drygalski, assistant to Little. All three will appear on the conference program.

### Immediately after Drain's arrival, he was entertained at a breakfast at the Des Moines club. The Iowa Legion officials attending the breakfast were Ben A. Webster, Mason City, state commander; James F. Barton, Des Moines, state adjutant; Hugo Schnabel, Des Moines, commander of Argonne post, Hanford; MacNider, Mason City, post national commander; Bert L. Holligan, Davenport, past state commander; Harry

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## CANDIDATE



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Citizens interested in the educational welfare of the city have urged Kenneth Lindsay, 2047 Grand avenue, to become a candidate for school board director and he has consented. Mr. Lindsay is a prominent civic leader and interested in the development of the local school system.

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## SALVAGE BEGINS IN RUINS OF FIRST AVENUE FIRE; BIG TASK AHEAD; NET LOSS ABOUT \$35,000

### Owners Of Property Have Not Decided On Rebuilding Plans; Realty Stockholders To Meet Soon; Chamber Of Commerce Finds Temporary Quarters In Y. M. C. A. Bldg.

While workmen began the tedious task of salvaging scorched and water-soaked property from the ruins of the Chamber of Commerce building, owners of the building and establishments damaged in the fire which wiped out half of the business block at the northeast corner of First and Second streets early Sunday, estimated that the total property loss will run about \$213,000, the total insurance carried, \$178,000, and the net loss at \$35,000. Plans for rebuilding the structure can not be determined for almost a week, owners said today.

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## First Avenue Fire At Its Height



The photograph was taken about 4 o'clock Sunday morning when the First Avenue fire was at its height.

## Prominent Banker Of Nebraska Dead

HAYLOCK, Neb., Feb. 23.—(By International News.)—Funeral services for Orley F. Hoffman, 65, veteran Haylock banker, secretary of the Haylock Painter company, will be held here tomorrow preliminary to shipping the body to Omaha for cremation. Hoffman's death followed a lingering illness.

## King George Out Of Danger; To Take Trip For Health

LONDON, Feb. 23.—(By International News.)—King George passed a comfortable night and his condition today was so favorable that his physicians decided that an official bulletin would not be necessary. It may be ten days before the king will be able to leave for the south of France.

## ESTIMATED LOSS

Property	Fire Loss	Insurance	Net Loss
1. Building, fronting 100 feet in First Avenue, owned by First Avenue Realty company	\$75,000	\$60,000	\$15,000
2. Equipment, Chamber of Commerce	15,000	11,000	4,000
3. Merchandise, Naso Fruit Store	8,000		8,000
4. Equipment, Woodford Bobette and Beauty Shop	5,000	2,000	3,000
5. Merchandise and Equipment, Remington Typewriter Company	2,500	2,500	
6. Furniture, Dr. S. H. Miller	2,000	2,000	
7. Merchandise, Peoples Store	3,000	3,000	
8. Building, Henry Smulekoff	7,500	7,500	
9. Merchandise, Henry Smulekoff	1,000	1,000	
10. Woerlerhoff Shoe Store, merchandise	30,000	30,000	
11. Philip Liebman, merchandise	25,000	25,000	
12. W. L. Fowler Electric company	35,000	30,000	5,000
13. Postal Telegraph company	5,000	5,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$213,500</b>	<b>\$178,500</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>

## Tri-State Credit Men Meeting Today

OMAHA, Feb. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—The joint convention of the Tri-State conference of credit men, composed of the states of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, opened here this morning. The sessions will continue until Tuesday night.

## 2 Killed, 11 Hurt In Railway Crash

FREEMONT, Ill., Feb. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Two persons were killed and eleven injured, one seriously, when two cars on the Rockford interurban electric railroad collided, fourteen miles east of here yesterday.

## Cure For Paresis Found By Doctor

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Paresis, or general paralysis of the insane, hitherto regarded as incurable, has been cured successfully at the Manhattan state hospital for the insane on Ward's Island, by inoculating with malaria germs. It has been announced by Dr. Henry A. Bunker, Jr., and George H. Kirby.

## Feeble-Minded Lose Right To Marriage Under Senate Bill

STATE HOUSE, Des Moines, Feb. 23.—(By Associated Press.)—Lists of persons who have been inmates of state institutions for the feeble-minded will be compiled quarterly by the state health department, over to all county clerks who are required to check the lists when issuing marriage licenses, under a bill passed by the senate this morning. The bill is designed to prevent the marriages of other persons who are mentally defective. Provision is made, however, for the issuance of licenses to persons whose names are listed but who have obtained proper authorization from the courts. The senate also passed a bill by Stoddard of Woodbury, to place the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house on the same basis with respect to payment of their salaries. Other bills to be considered here this morning. The compensation for these officers heretofore has been paid only after the omnibus bills become effective after the session closes, while other members are paid as the session progresses. Action on a dozen bills on the senate calendar was deferred today, the plan being to put most of them over until after the week's recess which begins with adjournment Wednesday.

## Smoke Retards Work

"I directed a line of hose in the basement, and we might have had the fire under control, but a door separated the two parts of the basement under the electric company and the telephone company and the smoke was so dense we could not get close enough to the closed door to get the hose through."

"In my opinion the fire started under the center of the basement under the telephone company. We could say nothing from our position in the basement so I directed the men outside and they chipped a hole through the wall in the back of the telephone offices to direct the water on the flames."

"Water on the electric wires shorted them and soon we discovered sparks shooting from the light sockets on the second floor in the Chamber of Commerce. Gas caused by the smoke filled the building and as soon as the windows were knocked out by the streams of water, the gas admitted the whole structure seemed to burst into flame."

Chief Kennedy said within thirty minutes after the alarm was turned in the Chamber of Commerce building was doomed. He said it was not unusual for burning buildings to fill with gas from the smoke and cited several instances where structures collapsed from the weight of the gas. When the fire gained so much headway it was impossible to save the building, Chief Kennedy directed the firemen to "wet down" the "Woodford shoe store and the action probably saved the rest of the block from being razed."

Fred J. Simon, captain of station No. 2, was reported to be recovering today from injuries to his lungs and eyes suffered at the start of the fire when he was overcome by smoke and carried from the burning building in an unconscious condition. He was taken to St. Luke's hospital but was released yesterday.

Simon led his squad of firemen into the basement of the electric company in an effort to get at the furnace. Disabling the furnace, he intended to stop the smoke and when he started for the door he staggered and fell.

Joe Stanek, one of the members of Capt. Simon's crew, stumbled and fell on the stairs and the fire ignited as he was leaving the building.

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