

THE CISCO DAILY NEWS

Phones 80 and 81.

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DAILY BIBLE THOUGHT

A SAFE INVESTMENT:—He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.—Prov. 19: 17.

A MURDER A DAY IN TEXAS FOR JULY.

There has been a record of a murder a day in Texas since July 1. If the average is kept up for the month all time record for Texas killing may be made. Texas had 164 homicides in the six months period ending July 1. San Antonio led the state with a total of 18; Houston was second with 16; Dallas, third, with 15; Fort Worth, fourth, with 5; Kilgore, the oil town had 4; Galveston, Port Arthur, Austin, Laredo and El Paso showed with three each on the list. Dallas had six bloody murders in two weeks. Judge Charles A. Pippin impaneled a new grand jury. He urged city and county police "to put a stop to the crimes from which our streets are running red with blood. Thieves, bandits, and killers are running amuck in our city." Judge Pippin let it be known what he would do if he were a law enforcement officer. He shot his message straight from the shoulder:

"If I were a sheriff or chief of police, I would let no man working for me sleep until the guilty person had been found. I am criticizing no one. I am just speaking frankly to you. Someone is murdering our people night after night and day after day and something must be done. It will help some if you men can conduct your investigations thoroughly and do everything possible to help solve these crimes."

There are many good men and women in Texas who are opposed to capital punishment. They have a holy horror of taking human life on the gallows or by the electricity route. What of the victims of the redhanded slayers? What of the widows and the children who are left behind? Capital punishment will cease in Texas when redhanded murderers and hijackers are broken on the rack of the law.

NEWTON D. BAKER A MODEST MAN.

National Committeeman Scott Farris of Oklahoma made an interesting announcement to the democrats of the Southwest and the entire nation for that matter, when he said that he had received word from Newton D. Baker of Ohio that the distinguished Buckeye democrat would not be a candidate for president in the next campaign unless Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed that he would not run.

Newton D. Baker was as close to Woodrow Wilson as any member of the cabinet of Wilson for eight years. He is one of the ablest lawyers of the nation as well as one of the ablest of the democratic chieftains. New York and Ohio may furnish the national standard bearers of the party next year but as Senator Tom Connally has said: "The national convention will nominate the ticket." Scott Farris is a Wilson democrat, he was a member of the Wilson congresses and hasn't retired from politics. He never misses a national convention, he is a regular, and it is said that he will play an active hand in the game in presidential election year.

CICERO MURRAY AS A PROPHECY.

Cicero Murray of Oklahoma, a kinsman of the governor, is the chairman of the petroleum committee of ten oil producing states. Cicero held a session of this committee at Amarillo. He said prorotation of East Texas fields is still a big problem. He predicted that the price of crude would go up in 10 days, if Governor Sterling would call a special session of the legislature to curtail production in the field, and that the present price of crude would be \$1.00 a barrel if the East Texas field had been properly handled.

It is pathetic, isn't it? If Cicero was a Mussolini of the petroleum industry he would work miracles almost in the twinkling of an eye. As he isn't a Mussolini, why the oil industry may go to the damnation bow-wows. Thomas Cranfill, widely known in the Texas oil fields, has repudiated the Texas rail commission plan. He disclaims all responsibility for the commission method. His plan was thrown in the wastebasket. Now rank failures faces all concerned. If Producer Cranfill knows whereof he speaks—or guesses.

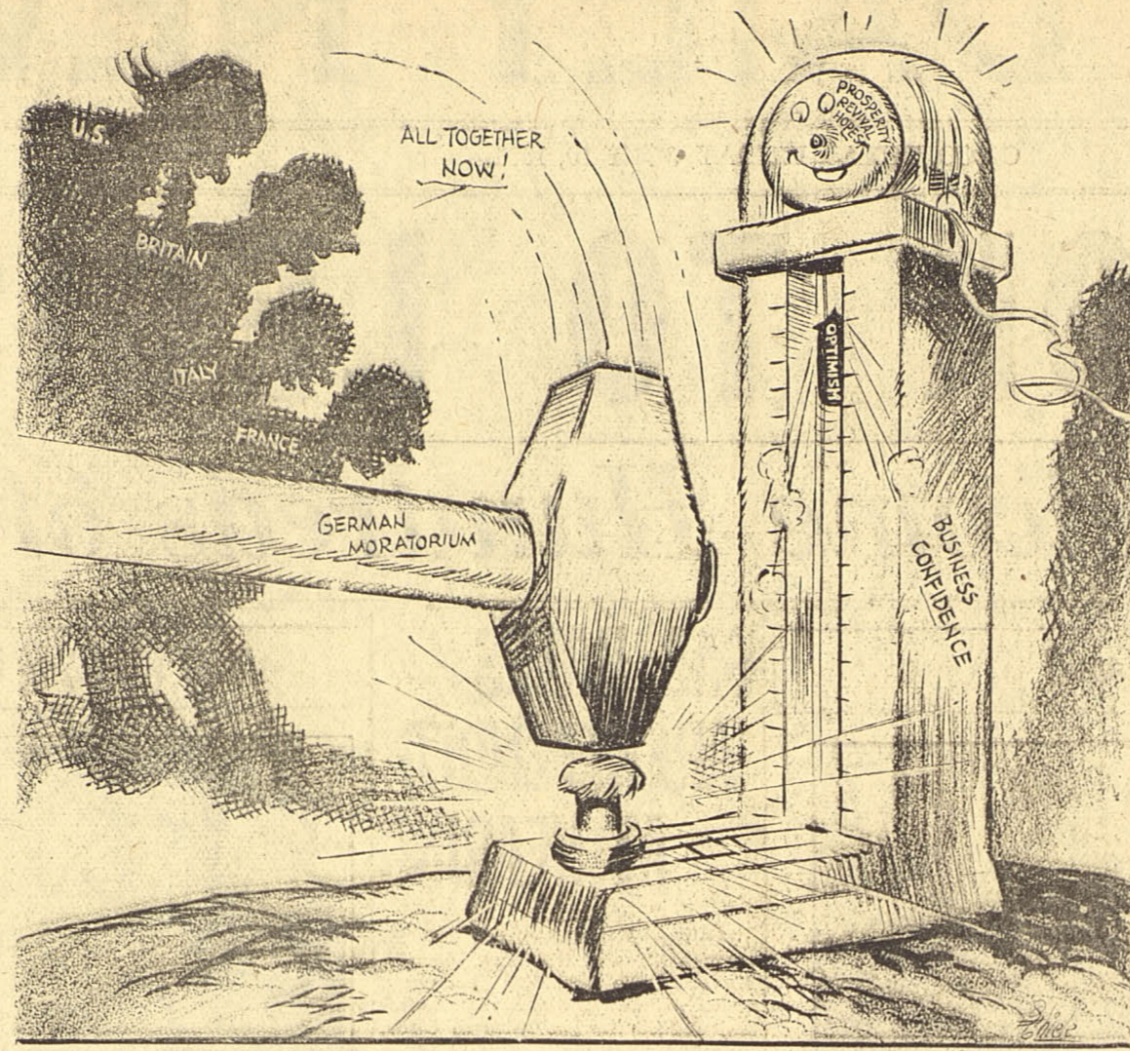
Rail Commissioner Neff is pot shooting all concerned with his trusted blunderbus, and East Texas crude is selling at the very low level of 10 cents. Man is a fantastic creature at best.

A KANSAS TOWN IN THE PICTURE.

Chanute is a very progressive and prosperous Kansas town. Chanute must be alone in its class when it comes to the payment of city taxes. For the second successive year its city commissioners have announced that there are no city taxes to pay. They adopted a budget calling for expenditures of \$122,610.50, which is \$3000 more than last year. They said the gas and water and electric plants owned and operated by the city, will yield \$102,560.50 profit. Additional income from other sources than taxes will permit them to balance the budget. Chanute retired \$90,000 of bonds of last year and has \$220,000 cash in its treasury. Last year also the municipality purchased a \$10,000 fire truck and began construction of an underground conduit system for electric power. The water system is the only municipal utility with bonded indebtedness.

There appears to be something new under the municipal taxation sun. Chanute made the discovery. Municipal taxes in Texas cities and towns are increasing at a rapid rate. Property values in many Texas cities and towns are decreasing at a rapid rate. Chanute must have an extraordinary citizenship and very wise municipal directors.

Over the Top, 1931!



Gas Rates---

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

excess of the requirements to be made upon it." He admitted that the present summer demand is slight but asserted that the expected winter demand will absorb the available output.

The Lone Star came into this territory six years ago by taking over the gas operations of the Texas company which were disappointing to that concern. Chase said in a review of conditions under which Cisco has been receiving its gas supply. "Since we took it over there has not been one hour that Cisco has not had a continuous, abundant supply of gas."

He asserted that fields in this vicinity cannot be operated profitably under present conditions except that they are operated jointly for oil and gas. He supported this argument with the claim that most of the wells are short-lived and the gas production exhausts quickly. This statement was subsequently challenged by Mr. Wright who mentioned gas wells which have been producing continuously for many years with only a normal decrease in output.

An interposition by Comm'r George Fee to the effect that gas bills in Cisco are getting higher and higher drew Mr. Chase's prompt denial. "Most people imagine their bills are getting higher," he declared. He said that his company had investigated this charge in numerous individual cases and found it baseless.

"Labor prices have not declined with us," said Chase. "We are paying the same prices for labor as before and we have not reduced a single salary. The Lone Star is experiencing the same trying situation that other concerns are experiencing. A reduction of rates now would require reduction of wages and of prices in the field and this country is in an unfavorable condition for general reductions. Such a policy would prove, I believe, almost as disastrous as the present slump in the oil industry."

"It would be an interesting experience to see you go through with such a plan as Judge Wright suggested," he referred to Mr. Wright's opinion that there are plenty of producers who would, if assured of a market here, willingly enter into a contract, fortified by an adequate bond, to supply gas to Cisco's city limits at 20 or even 15 cents a 1,000 cubic feet. He scouted the idea of tying into "two or three wells". Declaring that the concerns in Cisco have a large investment in gas appliances and equipment than the West Texas Utilities, he estimated this investment at \$300,000. He asserted that it would be one of the most harmful things that a city commission could do "to jeopardize this investment by tying it to a gas supply of only one or two wells."

"Big Supply"
"How large is the area upon which you depend for gas?" he asked. "Cisco has access to practically every gas field in the state. Is that worth anything to you? I don't think that you can ever depend upon this immediate area, large as it is."

Mr. Chase quoted figures he had compiled upon the Lone Star's average expenditure in this section over a period of three years. According to his figures the Lone Star during that period paid an average per year of \$969,455 for wages; \$2,116,630 for gas purchased from wells other than Lone Star operations; \$123,245 for rentals and royalties; \$306,000 for materials, supplies and miscellaneous; \$113,000 in ad valorem taxes alone, representing a total of \$3,628,470. A big part of this, he said, went into the local trade.

"Practically everything in the nature of developing natural resources in this section is going to depend upon the Lone Star Gas company," he declared. "The oil industry is in a deplorable condition and it is going depend upon some one company to keep conditions alive because if they ever get completely dead it may be years be-

fore they are revived. The Lone Star is trying to develop this country and it is giving this section the most serious attention of any that we are interested in. The only way that we can relieve the situation here is by cutting all along the line and making conditions worse than they are now. I believe that conditions are going to get better within a few months, however.

"It is ridiculous to think of getting a gas supply from two or three wells. People have the mistaken idea that all we have to do is punch a hole in the ground and there is the gas. But somebody has to keep drilling and producing these wells. Exclusive of the drilling and operating cost, our statistics show that it costs us 4 and one-half cents a thousand feet simply to maintain connections with our wells."

"Rate Is Low"
"You gentlemen do not know what a fair rate is. You couldn't know. You don't know anything about the business. On the basis of a fair return our rate is low. The Texas Railroad commission, I understand, will within the next few months begin an appraisal of our properties. We shall be glad to have them do that. It will show that we are not making what is considered a fair return. The best proof of the fairness of our rates is that we are not making any money. We want you people satisfied and we are willing for you to send an auditor to our offices and see if we are not telling you the truth."

P. W. Campbell, traffic manager of the West Texas Utilities company, speaking first, declared that the net return on his company's gas distribution investment in Cisco, before depreciation charges, bond interest or dividends were paid was about \$5,140 on the average over a 10 year period. He presented the commission with a statement setting forth the investment, gross revenue, expenses and so forth year by year for a 10-year period, and invited the commission to pursue the figures into the W. T. U. offices by an audit of the company's records. On the basis of the net return from the gas business here, he and Judge J. M. Wagstaff, general counsel of the company, declared that the W. T. U. had gone into the red in Cisco for the past nine years.

"Unfair Tactics"
Judge Wagstaff warned against

turning from a certain supply of gas as was available through the Lone Star, to "wildcat" supplies. He declared that while Cisco could give franchises to competing gas companies to enter the field that competition of the character supplied by these companies would be unfair both to Cisco and to the W. T. U. and Lone Star in that the competing concerns could hit into the most thickly settled portions of the city with an uncertain supply of gas from a few wells, forcing the company already in the field to serve outlying portions of the city.

"If you permit another company to enter," he said, "you ought in fairness to yourselves and to us to make them conform to the same conditions you impose upon us."

Judge Eugene Lanford asked Mr. Chase point blank as the hearing neared an end, if that since the purpose of the hearing was to determine whether or not the rate could or would be lowered, the Lone Star's attitude is it will not reduce the rate.

"You are correct," said Mr. Chase. Judge Lanford then mentioned examples of economic suffering in Cisco and declared that he is willing to join other citizens in burning wood rather than back down in a fight for lower rates.

Mayor J. T. Berry presided at the hearing. Representatives of the Lone Star present were Mr. Chase; Rcy C. Coffey, of the legal department, and W. C. Grant, advertising manager.

West Texas Utilities company representatives were Price Campbell, president; P. W. Campbell, traffic manager; Judge J. M. Wagstaff, general counsel; A. W. Brehan, Abilene district manager, and P. P. Shepard, Cisco district manager.

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GOLFERS FACE STIFF COURSE AT PORTLAND

By JAMES S. SHEEHY
United Press Staff Correspondent
PORTLAND, Ore., July 10. — Western Amateur Golf champion John Lehman, along with about 200 other entrants, will face a stiff test when the annual Western amateur is played this year over the Portland Golf club course, July 13-18.

The course is 6,425 yards long, has about 50 traps, and water hazards may be encountered in 19 different places. Par is 35-37.

A hole by hole description follows:

No. 1. Par 4 (397 yards) — A trap on the right of the fairway down about 165 yards will catch a short tee shot, but a well-placed shot will carry well down a slope with an iron to the green.

No. 2. Par 4 (425 yards) — The drive is from an elevation and must carry an irrigation ditch about 125 yards out. The green is flat and large.

Long Straight Drive

No. 3. Par 4 (333 yards) — A long, straight drive will open the way to the green, which is a dog leg to the left, well trapped.

No. 4. Par 3 (135 yards) — A mashie-niblick will carry on a green surrounded by deep traps.

No. 5. Par 5 (495 yards) — The fairway leading from the tee is down hill. A hooked or pulled drive will go out of bounds over a fence. The green calls for a shot up a high bank.

No. 6. Par 4 (352 yards) — A stiff, straight tee shot is required here on a rising fairway. The pitch must be firm, as the green is well up on a side hill.

No. 7. Par 4 (335 yards) — Looking down a steep hill, the drive must be at least 220 yards to be in good position to pitch over a formidable looking lake in front of the green.

Trapped and Ditched

No. 8. Par 3 (205 yards) — A straight, long iron or a spoon will be required here. A trap, trees and a ditch await near the green.

No. 9. Par 4 (362 yards) — Homeward bound, slightly uphill with rough on the right. A 220 yard tee shot leaves a fairly stiff iron to a trapped, rolling green.

No. 10. Par 5 (512 yards) — Let out a full drive here. The green is not severely trapped.

No. 11. Par 4 (376 yards) — Here is the companion water hole of No. 7 but the tee shot is over about 110 yards of water on an uphill fairway. The green is on an elevation.

No. 12. Par 3 (210 yards) — The shot is off a high tee to a green some distance below, guarded by a ditch, traps, rough and trees.

No. 13. Par 4 (368 yards) — Trees on right and left will catch vagrant drives. Not a hard par 4.

No. 14. Par 4 (396 yards) — The drive is through a narrow fairway. A sloping, rolling green makes this a very difficult par 4.

Long Shots

No. 15. Par 5 (500 yards) — The fairway slopes abruptly to the right. It takes two tremendous shots to reach this par 5 in two.

No. 16. Par 3 (357 yards) — A straightaway shot down a fairly wide fairway. A ditch and traps guard the green.

No. 17. Par 3 (125 yards) — An easy par 3, provided the pitch clears a small canyon in front of the green.

No. 18. Par 5 (522 yards) — There will be very few golfers to reach this hole — the longest on the course — in two shots. It takes a cliff approach after two woods when the wind is against the player. The green is tricky.

France to Give Back Warships

PARIS, July 10. — The French government has announced that the Ministry of Marine was prepared to give back to the Soviet Russian government the twelve former Tsarist warships which have been turning up rust in the blue waters of Bizerta harbor, Tunisia.

The Moscow government was reported to be preparing to ask France to return the warships. France would be more than pleased, for Bizerta Harbor is none too big and the presence of the old warships congests the harbor.

The fleet includes one first-line battleship, one cruiser, one auxiliary cruiser, five destroyers and four submarines.

These vessels were used to evacuate the Wrangel army, carrying them from Crimea to Tunis, where they were split up, the soldiers and officers scattering over the world while the warships were interned.

Since that time the ships have been unattended and it is doubtful if they could ever be made seaworthy again. The wooden decks have rotted under the African sun and rains, the bottoms are covered with barnacles and the sides are red with rust. The boilers and engines have rusted and fallen apart.

The French government will reply to Moscow that there is no objection to Soviet sailors taking the vessels over, but Russia must bear all the expense of returning them to a Russian port.

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There are many weeks of Summer still to come during which this merchandise will be desirable and useful for you to have, especially at the extremely low prices at which it is offered. For us, however, it is too late in the season — our stocks must soon be ready for Fall Openings. So—again—All Summer goods must go!

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