

The Ferguson Forum

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INTEREST



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TAXES

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NO. 7

Jurors Who Let Criminals Off Lightly and Criticise Pardons Are Given Rebuke

Dallas, Texas, Dec. 15.—Jurymen who criticize a governor's pardon policy and at the same time give criminals light service, have little standing with Judge Claude M. McCallum of the 101st District Court here.

He told nearly 200 veniremen Monday that "juries in this county have been too lenient in their verdicts in criminal cases."

After giving the men a lecture on good citizenship, only 12 asked to be excused from jury service, whereas the usual number of excuses is about 50 on Mondays.

"Men go about criticizing the governor for pardoning criminals," said the judge. "Yet every time you as a juror vote a light sentence or give a suspended sentence in a criminal case, where you are certain the defendant is guilty, you are merely exercising a pardon power yourself."

While Judge McCallum was discouraging thus in his court, Judge Charles A. Pippen in his court was expressing similar views on crime prosecution.

Judge Pippen last week addressed the State convention of district judges at Fort Worth. Monday he verified reports of his speech as carried by the Associated Press and added a few remarks.

"Crime is getting the upper hand of society in this country," he told newspaper men and judges. "It is high time all our district judges, as well as our citizens who serve as jurors and our public officials, wake up to this fact."

Judge Pippen said he suggested at the Fort Worth convention it be made a criminal offense for a sheriff to approve a bond that was not proven to be worth its face value. He said the method of handling bonds is one thing that is encouraging criminals.

Dallas News Editorial Is Contradicted by Members of Texas Rail Commission

To the Dallas News:

In the issue of the Dallas Morning News of Dec. 9 there appeared an editorial headed "Tampering With the Transportation Act," in which you make the following statement:

"Our Railroad Commission has been asked on several occasions to favor the Interstate Commerce Commission with its judgment as respects the need and desirability of building railroads projected in Texas. It has, if the News' memory is not at fault, never complied with that request. Its sense of propriety—or perhaps its sense of prudence—has contended it with the smaller task of aiding in the taking of testimony, leaving the Interstate Commerce Commission to pronounce the judgment, unprompted by its suggestions."

The above statement is not only inaccurate, but just the reverse of the statement is true.

In every instance where the Texas Railroad Commission has been requested to make a recommendation to the Interstate Commerce Commission as to granting permits to construct new lines or to extend old ones, we have complied with that request, and urged granting of the permit by the Interstate Commerce Commission, and we are pleased to say that in every instance, except one, where we have made a recommendation, the Interstate Commerce Commission has followed our request and granted the permit, and in the one case where the Interstate Commerce Commission referred to the fact that the Railroad Commission of Texas had urged the granting of the permit, and in each of the four instances where we have made recommendations the daily press at the time carried a statement of the fact that the Texas Railroad Commission had recommended to the Interstate Commerce Commission the granting of the request, and we are confident that the Dallas Morning News carried each of those items, as it is rarely scooped by other papers of the State on such important matters.

The one case where the Interstate Commerce Commission declined to follow our suggestions was in the application of the Texas, Panhandle & Gulf Railway Company, asking for a permit to build from Seymour on the Plains. The case where we requested, in writing, the Interstate Commerce Commission to grant the permit, and it did so were: The Fort Worth & Denver Railroad Company to build from Estelline to Plainview and Lubbock; the Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railway Company to build from McBain to Floydada, and the Southern Pacific Railway Company to build into the valley. It might be worthy of notice to say that in each of three cases referred to above, where the Interstate Commerce Commission granted the permits, Examiner Bowles, who heard the Plains cases, and Interstate Commerce Commissioner Woodcock, who heard the Southern Pacific case in the valley, requested the Interstate Commerce Commission not to grant the permits and the Interstate Commerce Commission, disregarding their requests and requests, followed the recommendations of the Texas Railroad Commission.

However, it is fair to say that prior to our becoming members of the commission, we understand that it was the policy of the Texas Railroad Commission not to make recommendations to the Interstate Commerce Commission in such matters; but for the last two years, since we became members of the commission, we have taken the opposite view and we believe that it is our duty as Railroad Commissioners of Texas to do everything we can to further develop our great State and to be of as much service to the people of Texas as we can. And it is

now and has been for the last two years the fixed policy of the Texas Railroad Commission to make such recommendations and requests of the Interstate Commerce Commission as we think just and proper and we have uniformly done so. Residing here in Texas and being familiar with every locality of the State and with conditions here, we should be of some help to the Interstate Commerce Commission in solving these problems and we are trying to discharge that duty as best we can for the good of Texas.

Knowing that the columns of your paper are always open to the public and that you desire to disseminate the truth at all times, in fairness to the Texas Railroad Commission and that correct information may be given to the public, we therefore ask that you publish this statement, correcting the editorial to which we refer.

Yours truly,
RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF TEXAS,
C. V. Terrell, Commissioner.
Lon A. Smith, Commissioner.

Phinney Will Seek Return to Place as House Chief Clerk

Austin, Texas, Dec. 15.—Carl Phinney of Austin, chief clerk of the House of Representatives for the last three Legislatures, Monday announced his candidacy for re-election to the place in the Fortieth Legislature. Phinney was a page in the Thirty-Sixth Legislature, and was elected chief clerk of the Thirty-Seventh. He is serving at present as clerk of the House Investigation Committee and attending the University of Texas law school.

Klan Cross Set up by Norris' Friends on Meacham's Lawn

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 15.—A fiery cross was placed on the lawn at the home of Mayor H. C. Meacham here Saturday night, where it was allowed to burn to the ground, it was learned Monday.

Three weeks ago, it was learned from the same source, a similar cross was placed on the lawn in front of the home of City Manager O. E. Carr. Since the slaying of D. E. Chipp, Fort Worth lumberman, July 17, by Rev. J. Frank Norris, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, the Ku Klux Klan of Fort Worth has endorsed Rev. Norris and denounced the actions of Meacham and Carr in what was termed "oppression" against Rev. Mr. Norris.

Ku Klux in Texas Has Shelby Cox as New Grand Dragon

Dallas, Texas, Dec. 15.—Shelby S. Cox, who will retire as district attorney on Jan. 1, will assume the office of grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan of Texas on that date. Announcement to that effect was made after a long conference between Mr. Cox and Dr. H. W. Evans, the imperial wizard, and other Klan officials at the Adolphus Hotel.

Mr. Cox will succeed Lloyd P. Bloodworth of Fort Worth as head of the Klan in Texas. He will have his office in Dallas. He was not a candidate for re-election for a third term as district attorney. He was first elected four years ago and re-elected two years ago.

Woman Will Open Texas Legislature

For the first time in the history of the Republic or the State of Texas a regular session of the Texas legislature will be opened by a woman. Mrs. Emma Grigsby Meharg, secretary of state, appointed to that position by the first woman governor of Texas, Miriam A. Ferguson, has announced that she will discharge the duty imposed upon her by the constitution and open the Fortieth legislature, January 13, 1927. She resents the suggestion that she will shirk that duty and says she is not under the handicap of a weak voice as some newspaper correspondents have intimated. She made her position plain in a statement to the press the other day and there will be no deviation from the usual and legal course of procedure when the Fortieth legislature is opened because a woman happens to be secretary of state.

"This is a duty imposed upon the secretary of state and as I have not failed in any duty imposed upon me as secretary of state, I shall not fail to open the Fortieth Legislature," Secretary of State Meharg said.

"I did not ask for the honor of opening the legislature. The duty is fixed by law and I am going to fulfill my duty. I think it is presumptuous for newspaper men to predict that because of a weak voice that I shall not open the legislature. As a matter of fact, I have a strong voice for a woman and if necessary I shall use it."

Mrs. Meharg said that she had heard the opening sessions of the legislature were rather riotous, but that she believed that the solons would exhibit the customary Southern courtesies to women to her on that occasion.

Girl Bank Bandit Had Job in Dan Moody's Office and Was to Act Angel in Play

Austin, Tex., Dec. 14.—Mrs. Rebecca Bradley Rogers, charged with robbing with firearms the Farmers National Bank at Buda, Texas, Saturday, was granted bail in the sum of \$5,000 today in the Travis district court. The order was made after the state had introduced testimony of bank employees who identified the girl as the robber, and of Sheriff George Allen of Hays county, who arrested her, and who said she made a statement to him which led to the recovery of a large part of the money taken.

The University of Texas girl, who up to the time of her arrest was a stenographer in the department of Attorney General and Governor-elect Dan Moody, will have to remain under this bond until the February term of court in Hays county when the grand jury convenes. Defense witnesses at the hearing testified as to the good reputation of the girl.

It was learned today that Mrs. Rogers had been selected to play the part of one of the angels in a Christmas cantata at a local church during holiday Sunday school services.

Austin, Texas, Dec. 14.—Accompanied by her husband, Otis Rogers, Mrs. Rebecca Bradley Rogers, charged with robbery Saturday of the Farmers National Bank at Buda, appeared Tuesday before Judge Calhoun in 53rd district court.

She is seeking bond which was refused Monday at San Marcos by Justice of Peace Ramsey in whose court the robbery with firearms charged was filed.

Rogers sat with his wife as one of her two attorneys. Mrs. Rogers conversed several times with her husband, and each time he smiled reassuringly.

Many of the former classmates of Rogers in the University of Texas law school were in the crowded courtroom.

Rogers and the girl were secretly married more than a year ago at Georgetown, when both were students.

F. K. Jamison, cashier of the Farmers National Bank at Buda, was the first witness.

E. G. Neighbors, Hays county, and J. D. Moore, Travis county district attorney, represented the state. Jamison said a girl entered his bank Saturday about 11 o'clock. She represented herself as a reporter for the Beaumont Enterprise, intent on gathering data on crop conditions. He said she took notes on a small pad, and talked to a number of bank customers.

He said he gave the girl permission to use a typewriter back of the railing, and in front of the vault.

"I had gone into the vault and when I came out, she pointed a gun at me and told me to stand where I was," Jamison said.

"What did you do?" District Attorney Moore asked.

"I stopped," Jamison said hastily, causing much merriment among the spectators, and a slight smile to play on the girl's face.

"She ordered Raymond Howe, the bookkeeper, and the only other person in the bank, to come over to the bank vault door where I was standing."

"She was standing about five steps from us. She ordered me to open the vault, never taking the gun off me. She said she wanted the cash in the bank."

"I opened the vault. She took \$1,200 in five-dollar bills. There were quite a number of one-dollar bills, but she did not seem to be much interested in these. She put the \$1,200 in her hand bag. She asked if there was enough air in the vault to sustain us for thirty minutes and I told her I thought so. She was standing in the door and stepped out of the vault. The pistol was a blue-steel automatic and looked awful big to me."

Jamison identified the defendant as the girl, pointing her out.

J. R. Howe, bookkeeper, also pointed out the girl, identifying her as the bank robber.

Sheriff George Allen of Hays county testified that he received a de-

scription of the girl and said he said he saw her about 6 p. m. Saturday at the home of Mr. Thorp and took her into custody, returning to San Marcos with her. His brother accompanied them to Buda, the sheriff said, and the girl went on to San Marcos alone. Judge Calhoun overruled John Coffey's objection to the girl's statement to Sheriff Allen and he instructed him to tell the story.

"My brother got out of the car at Buda, leaving the girl and I alone in the car," Allen said. "As we drove out of Buda, she laughed and said, 'Mr. Allen, I've got a lot to live down, but not as much as those two men, who let a little girl hold 'em up with an empty gun. In fact, I feel sorry for them. They ought to leave the country.'"

"I asked her what she had done with the money and she told me this story."

"After I left Buda I saw a motorcycle cop coming toward me. There was a little boy with a bandaged arm near the road and I picked him up. The cop looked us over carefully but let us get by. I let the little boy out of the car and took the Del Valle road. I was stuck on the Del Valle road and pulled out. After I came to town, I went to a confectionery and got a candy box, in which I put the money, purse, and gun. I went to a department store and had the box wrapped. I took it to the downtown postoffice and had it addressed to myself at the University postoffice station at Austin."

"I had the package insured for five dollars and told the post office clerk I had an iron in the package."

"I figured I would get the package about Tuesday, because I thought it would be forwarded from the university station to the capitol station, where I received my mail."

Allen said he got the package in a candy box from Dan O. Wilson, assistant postmaster, at about 2:30 in the morning.

Georgetown, Tex., Dec. 14.—County Judge F. D. Love of Williamson county, united Rebecca Bradley, Austin girl charged in Hays county with robbery of the Farmers National Bank at Buda, and Otis M. Rogers of Amarillo in marriage, October 23, 1925, according to records in the county clerk's office here. J. D. Hall, chief clerk, announced Tuesday. The license was obtained under the names of Elsie Bradley and O. M. Rogers, Mr. Hall said.

Take Lesson From Jackass; Make Noise, Jim Ferguson Tells Young Lawyer Class

By TRUEMAN O'QUINN, In Beaumont Enterprise

Austin, Texas, Dec. 15.—Though among last week's earlier events and now considered as old news on the University of Texas campus, the biggest thing of last week's seven days was the annual banquet of the law students. The thing that made it so big this year was the fact that former Governor James E. Ferguson was a surprise speaker at the affair.

For weeks, Percy E. Foreman, president of the law school, who hails from Livingston, Texas, had been telling the newspapers that three big speakers would be at the banquet—Judge William Hawley Atwell of Dallas, Attorney General-elect Claude Pollard of Houston, and Chief Justice C. M. Cureton of the Texas supreme court.

They all spoke, delivering addresses that showed evidence of having been prepared over a period of days, and were applauded by the 300 law students and lawyers who sat in the dining halls of the Driskill hotel that night. D. A. Frnak of Dallas, former student in the university, also spoke.

But no one expected ex-Governor Jim even to be present. When asked by a newspaper reporter if Dan Moody would be there, Dean Ira P. Hildebrand of the law school said, "Yes, he has been invited." The reporter said, "Will Jim Ferguson be there?" The dean stormed, "NO!"

But Jim was there. Percy Foreman rose in all the dignity of his large person and in the eloquence of that chautauqua tongue of his and introduced Jim Ferguson who could, Percy said, "make a great speech upon any occasion."

And the interesting thing about it all is that Jim Ferguson did make a great speech. He eclipsed even the sharp-witted Judge Atwell and the jovial Judge Cureton. And the new attorney general-elect did not stand a chance because he chose to give biography rather than wit and wisdom and the other stuff a banquet wants.

A sleeping jackass stood tied to a post in the banquet hall as Jim Ferguson stood up to speak. The donkey was the mascot of the junior law class, which in university circles is known as the J. A. class, a title given first year law students years and years ago by Judge Simkins.

"Some of you may wonder," Jim Ferguson said, "what significance there is in the presence of the jackass. Each of you may have a different opinion. I see this important lesson in his presence: There is virtue in the noise of a jackass."

"Some of you may recall or know from hearsay that way back yonder sometime in the past I became a lawyer and even threatened to practice law. I learned that lesson—There is virtue in the noise of a jackass. And, my young friends of this law school, I warn you that when you get away from the university and go into practice, until you learn the virtue of noise, you will be a failure. Unless you have the attributes of a jackass, you are a gone flunkusky."

"No matter how much knowledge from the books you may have gleaned, unless you have that great virtue of the jackass—the virtue of making a noise—you are doomed to failure. Bray once in a while and the people will begin to recognize your qualities. Be a jackass in that respect—make a noise."

"The lawyers' chances of making a success in life are fewer than those of any other professional men. Less than 15 per cent of the practicing lawyers in the United States ought to be trusted with any case. And 75 per cent of the lawyers who get a license to practice are dead right failures within five years after they start. Less than 5 per cent of the doctors, for example, make less than \$2500 a year within the first five years."

"So I tell you that from a meal ticket standpoint, the lawyer has the poorest chance of any other professional man to make a success in life. If you can't make money at your profession, why stay in it for the love of the profession? Do something else to make a living and love law on the side."

"A great many lawyers have sense enough to be good lawyers, but they are simply too lazy to make a success. And them that God Almighty didn't give sense enough to be lawyers, it is no use for them to work, for they'll never make successes."

"You hear people say today that the trusts have all the good lawyers. Now, young men, that's a lie. A capable lawyer, my friends, is the most independent creature that walks the face of the earth. No one wants to control him. He is his own lord. His own master."

"Lawyers are necessary evils. But I see the greatest field in the legal profession of today that has ever been in any profession. I urge you to qualify yourselves to be lawyers, and you can render the greatest service a man can render to the greatest nation in all the world."

With those words ringing in the ears of all those present, Jim Ferguson sat down and the house went into a huge uproar of applause. The noise was a considerable contrast to the light clapping that swept over the gathering when Ferguson got up to speak. Jim Ferguson had made another great speech.

He had swayed an audience that has little cause to love him. And he was speaking to an audience that he has little cause to love. His very presence had been a surprise to all those there—except, perhaps, the keen manager of the banquet—Percy Foreman of Livingston.

High Tariff Will Be Asked on Canned Beef From Congress

Washington, Dec. 15.—An effort will be made at the next session of congress to secure a higher tariff on Argentine canned beef, which at present can be marketed in the west at prices lower than the local product, Senator Capper (Rep.), Kansas, said.

Not only in Kansas, but throughout the west, he said, there is a feeling that the higher cost of production, aftermath of the war, puts the farmer and stock raiser at a decided disadvantage by comparison with other lines of production where excess can be passed along to the jobber or other middle man.

Apparently the Argentine farmer can afford to sell his cattle at a price which enables American packers with plants in that country to pay costs of transportation and the present import tariff and still undersell the American stockman, he said.

Joe Green's Estate Valued at \$750,000 Is Left to Relatives

Taft, Texas, Dec. 15.—The will of Joseph F. Green, who died here Nov. 20, was made known today. The entire estate, consisting of about \$750,000, is to be left intact and is to be administered by trustees for a period of 27 years. Mrs. May F. Green, wife, Mrs. John W. Hunt and John W. Hunt, daughter and son-in-law, and Mary Anna Hunt, Lela Fay Hunt, Mary Lou Hunt, John W. Hunt Jr., and Jannie Hunt, grandchildren, are to be the principal beneficiaries of the will. An annual amount is left for the upkeep of the cemetery where Mr. Green is buried and \$100 a month for 27 years for the budget of the Presbyterian church, of which he was a member. Mrs. May M. Green, John W. Hunt Sr., Edward N. Tutt, A. C. Tutt of San Patricio county and Walter P. Napier of Bexar county are named as executors and trustees of the estate.

Forum's Christmas Greeting

The Christmas-season is at hand and the Forum extends its greetings to the whole people of Texas with feelings of deepest appreciation for the many evidences of friendship and co-operation given it through the nine years of its existence and wishes for each and every loyal citizen of Texas a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Following our custom of observing the holiday, the Forum will not be issued next week but the regular weekly issue will be resumed with the issue of Thursday, December 30.

May joy and peace be the portion of all.

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PREDICTS FALL OF KU KLUX.

Dr. Edwin Mims, professor of English in Vanderbilt University recently who was principal speaker at the annual dinner of the New York Southern Society, predicted the early fall of the Ku Klux Klan mania. Dr. Mims was not wholly laudatory of the south and found much to criticize but he eulogized the resentment of truth southern people to the Ku Klux and the growing sentiment against lynchings. In this connection he said:

"There is a South that practices and justifies lynching and another South that believes it is unjustifiable under any and all circumstances and is resolutely determined to put an end to it.

"Georgia, that has furnished far too many instances of the first point of view, recently has sent to the penitentiary for terms ranging from six years to life imprisonment the leader of a mob. All honor to Judge Reed for his courageous maintenance of the majesty of the law! May South Carolina now follow suit and punish the mob that lynched negroes!

"There is a South that boasts of an original contribution to the Nation in the organization of the Ku Klux Klan, and a South that believes the Klan is un-American and un-Christian and that holds out the helping hand to every race and creed.

"There is a South of ecclesiastical demagogues who would put in libraries and laboratories as a warning to its scholars 'Thus far shalt thou go and no farther,' and a South of enlightened prophets who would follow truth wherever it may lead and whatever it may cost.

"Strongholds of passion and prejudice cannot be overthrown by some sudden blast of a trumpet; they yield only to the constant siege of intelligence and education."

STAGGERING FIRE LOSSES IN TEXAS

October losses by fires in Texas are reported as having reached the staggering total of \$787,963.45. At this rate the losses in this state alone in the year 1926 will amount to \$9,450,000. The victims of the greater portion of these losses are citizens and property owners who would howl their heads off if asked to submit to an additional tax levy. Yet they must pay for these tremendous losses by increased insurance rates to the companies, which must, if honestly conducted, protect themselves against such wanton destruction of property. Then again there are many instances when these losses are not protected by insurance and the destruction of uninsured property means the taking out of consideration that amount of taxable property and the consequent addition to the tax and insurance burdens of those whose property remains to be taxed and insured.

The Houston Chronicle in an editorial comment upon this staggering loss in Texas in a single month reminds its readers and the public that the "National Board of Fire Underwriters publishes a small magazine entitled 'Safeguarding America Against Fire,' and Fire Marshal Holton of Texas puts forth a very instructive magazine under the same title. It deserves to be widely circulated and thoughtfully read.

"It reveals that there is a fire in the United States every minute. One dwelling house burns every four minutes. Four warehouses, five schoolhouses and 15 hotels burn every day. Forty lives are lost each day by fire, or over 15,000 lives a year, and 17,000 people are injured in fires every year.

"The magazine points out the most frequent causes of fire and carries special warnings against danger of fires during the Christmas holidays, and with great care shows how such fires generally occur, and what is said is in harmony with long experience. The magazine is doing a most useful work."

Subscribe for the Forum and the truth will come to you.

Fourteen persons, including the sheriff, have been indicted in Willacy county for peonage.

That girl bandit from Austin evidently received excellent training in the holdup game before she sallied forth to play the role on her own account.

England has erected a monument to a Texas soldier who enlisted in the British army long before the United States entered the world war. It is not necessary to say that the Texan so honored did distinguished service and had been decorated for bravery before his death.

There is a new grand dragon in Texas. His name is Shelby Cox, who will soon retire as district attorney at Dallas. He succeeds a Baptist preacher, who has been on the job since a San Antonio man saw the wisdom of getting out or losing a job of greater import.

To what sad fate is Texas coming when a girl of 100 pounds weight with a gun with a single cartridge in it can back several sturdy men into a bank vault and easily drive away with what money she could reach? The ghosts of Sam Bass and the Collins boys must writhe with envy over the exploit of a slim and trim Austin girl.

The use of Christmas seals on mail going to foreign countries is forbidden by the international postal agreements and it will be well for persons sending mail into foreign countries to restrain their Yuletide enthusiasm and so keep their mail from coming back to them or going to the dead letter office whence eventually it may be returned to them next summer. Watch the postal regulations if you are in earnest about sending Christmas remembrances through the mails.

The latest discussion that is attracting attention in the country is whether legs or eyes are the chief attraction of woman. A New York paper which conducted a questionnaire on this subject has published a symposium of replies that show that the majority of those who were brave enough to send in their opinions, favor bewitching eyes and provocative lips as assets superior to shapely legs among a woman's assets. After all what's the use? Mere man always is bewitched and he never stops to reason whether it is eyes or legs that bewitch him.

Critics may assail Chaplain Dickson because he has called attention to glaring errors in alleged books of history prepared for use in public schools, but his citation of official records will dispel the thought that he is captious in the matter. He wants truth told in history and really we see no reason why a textbook intended for school children should not tell the truth. It may have been noted that the comments of Chaplain Dickson included mention of erroneous statements made by two alleged Texas historians whose books are being used in Texas schools.

Recent figures given out from Washington tell us that the total deaths of Americans in battle and from wounds received in battle in the world war aggregate 50,150. When we contemplate that the slaughter in the world war was the greatest ever known in human conflict and then turn to the statistics of automobile deaths in this country every year we are forced to the conclusion that the world war must take a minor place in the records of factors which annihilate human life. The loss of little more than 50,000 human lives in a conflict in which the United States had part approximately eighteen months shrinks into insignificance beside the aggregate of human lives taken in automobile accidents in a single year.

THE JOINING OF CHURCH AND STATE.

Under the caption above the Chicago Tribune of December 12 gives the world an editorial which is one of the ablest presentations of the danger of union of church and state that has been written in years. It is logical, clear and filled with forcible sentences which breathe the true spirit of the American republic. One need be neither prelate nor jurist to appreciate the full meaning of what is written and none but fool or fanatic will question the correctness of what has been written. Here is the Tribune's editorial and it is worthy of careful and thoughtful reading by every one who feels a patriotic interest in the preservation of liberty and the permanence of American institutions:

"At the opening of congress Senator Bruce of Maryland said that the separation of church and state in the United States is becoming a dead letter. There are no bishops sitting in congress by virtue of their ecclesiastical office, and the churches, although exempt from taxation, are not supported by it. Nevertheless, the sectarian influence upon and interference with legislative processes has carried organized churches into politics and into government, as organizations.

"The purpose is to produce conformity by law, and not by persuasion. It is the province of the clergy to work by precept, persuasion and example for the maintenance of right living and in the services of worship. The matters with which the clergy has particularly to do do not fall within the scope of law in a free country. They are in essence matters of belief and opinion in which freedom is necessary and to which law is inimical.

"The early history of religion was one of coercion. People acquired liberty by getting away from that. A difference was made between acts in which they must conform to the state and acts and opinions which were guided by their conscience or their will. The church was the repository of their conscience.

"Early American clergymen did not want to give Quakers freedom of belief and worship. There was a bit of trades unionism in that. The New England ministers were authoritative persons. The government was theocratic. The franchise was restricted and contained within the church. The Quakers did not need ministers and were thought to threaten the political system, the position of the minister, his authority, and his livelihood. Consequently they were tortured and driven out.

"In a free country people should be very careful how they use law. At this period of human development it is not necessary to break ground for fundamental laws. They have all been evolved out of human experience. Laws for the general regulation of human conduct do not need the explorer, inventor, or discoverer.

"New laws regulating conduct will nearly always be found coming from people who seek to require obedience from other people who do not grant it out of their own conscience or opinion. Many of these codes of conduct are matters of church discipline where they properly regulate persons subscribing to the doctrines of the church.

"They may appear merely as moral and not as religious ideas and yet represent the judgments of one organized body. If people are brought to conformity and into association by persuasion, there is a free country. If they are brought into this attitude by coercion of law, liberty is gone.

"When the organized churches enter politics and government they do so to obtain state authority for their ideas. The minister then becomes a politician, and he seeks to obtain what he wants in matters of belief, opinion and conduct not by persuasion exercised from his pulpit but by acts passed in the legislature.

"Politics in its best form is expedient and compromising. It gains ground by yielding ground. We have recently seen in this state that many clergymen were willing to sacrifice considerations of public morality in government to the expediency of putting a dry vote in the United States senate. It is true that other ministers opposed them and took the higher ground, but they were of the minority. The methods of church and state are so opposed in their essentials and in their principles that the introduction of the church in politics produces a degeneration in both.

"Ministers who seek to gain objects which should not be sought in politics do not retain uncompromised the ideals and standards of the churches. There is thus a breakdown in the true forms of government and another in the proper influence of the church. The separation of church and state is justified by experience.

"When churches seek to establish certain rules of conduct by political action and legislative enactment they have entered a field which may have no limit. They have certain profound convictions which, as they perceive them, vitally affect life. It is bound to seem superlatively desirable that all men should be brought to see the light and to live in conformity, and that this shall be accomplished by law if necessary.

"It is not true that the church effort thus far has been confined to support of ideas of public morality generally agreed upon. The sumptuary law imbedded in the constitution involves a matter of personal habit and self-discipline, and the fundamentalist laws touch matters of religious belief.

"The organized political activities of the churches, the legislative lobbies of religious bodies, and the activities of religious 'grand juries' supported by large political funds, give great concern to Americans who hope to have their country retain its traditions and its influence as a place of individual liberty under proper laws.

"There are persons who cannot understand the difference between a proper law and an improper one. They find in the ability to pass a law a moral justification for its existence and a grant of sanctity to its enforcement. As people of such opinion increase, the value of all law is injured and liberty under the law is threatened."

The tax reduction program went by the board. Still it served its purpose as political propaganda and will be resurrected when another campaign is opened.

The manicure girl who became the bride of a millionaire octogenarian is now a participant in the division of his estate to the extent of nearly half a million dollars. That is pretty good compensation for her brief period of married life with the old man.

Law is law and justice is justice. A lot of fanatical folk in an eastern state started a crusade to close movie picture houses Sunday. The movie men retaliated by filing complaints against their persecutors under a law, just as valid as that under which the movie men were arrested. Now the rigidly righteous are confronted with a situation which is entirely within the law and must choose whether they will back up or stop business in their town.

Texas lost a loyal and enthusiastic friend when C. N. Whitehead, president of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railway died in New York December 9. He was a practical railroad man who had worked up from the ranks and a great part of his service had been given in Texas. Since his elevation to the presidency of the road in whose service his apprenticeship was spent, he had made several visits to Texas and on each occasion had made known plans for development and expansion that showed his deep interest in making Texas greater. His death at the age of 48 years is to be deplored and all Texas mourns a friend.

Now the timid packers of the United States are clamoring for a higher tariff on canned beef. They pretend to fear competition from Argentine. Their plea seems to be based on the fact that Argentines can sell cattle cheaper than packers can buy American cattle and so the American packers with packing plants in Argentine can buy, kill and pack beef cheaper and pay transportation costs to the United States and undersell their own products in this country. Granted! Would patriots want to admit such a situation? Are they more Argentine than United States? The difference does not benefit to buyer of a can of beef for the reason that the packer charges at a rate based on United States conditions and not on his cheaper Argentine advantages.

Diary of Czar's Officer Solves Secret of Suicide of Crown Prince Rudolph

Berlin, Dec. 15.—The first authentic and official reports about Europe's greatest royal mystery, the death of Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria-Hungary and the beautiful Baroness Marie Vetsera at the hunting castle of Mayerling, January 29, 1889, have just been given to the world by the diary of Count W. N. Lamsdorf, former director of the Russian foreign office.

The diary has been published by "Zentralarchiv" and is in the Russian language only.

Setting at rest all the many weird versions that have been circulated about the tragedy of Mayerling ever since it occurred thirty-seven years ago, the official Russian reports, based on the testimony of the last letters of Crown Prince Rudolph himself, confirm the popular version that the crown prince ended by suicide.

But they also assert that Crown Prince Rudolph did not die because of his love affair with the Baroness Vetsera, which "played no special role" in the matter, but because of a "terrible scene" between Emperor Franz Joseph and Rudolph which drove the son to his death. The diary also states that the "terrible scene" was about, if it was not about, Baroness Vetsera, as had been assumed, remains unsolved.

Extract from the diary follows: Petersburg, January 18, 1889.—"Towards noon, the official on duty called me to the telephone. The ministry of the royal court inquired whether the rumors that the heir-apparent to the throne of Austria-Hungary had died were true. I informed the minister that the foreign office up to this hour had received no official information from Vienna.

At nine o'clock in the evening a telegram arrived from the Russian ambassador in Vienna, Prince Lobanoff, which brought the news that the crown prince had been found dead in his bed early in the morning. It was believed that death had been due to a hemorrhage. Shortly afterwards the directors of the foreign office, Giers, called for me and showed me a telegram which the czar had received from Emperor Franz Joseph. The telegram contained this remark in the czar's own handwriting: 'What a terrible accident!'

This telegram which had left Vienna 18, 30, at 4:35 in the afternoon, read: 'With the greatest sorrow I inform you of the death of my son Rudolph which occurred today at Archduke Rudolph had ended through suicide. When the director of the foreign office returned from an audience with the czar he related that the czar was convinced that the death of Crown Prince Rudolph had come as a result of a duel.

"Crown Prince Rudolph was no woman-hater and he was surely caught in a trap and had to stand a duel. Why should he have gone to Mayerling with two witnesses two days before the court hunting party? I don't believe it was a suicide. Emperor Franz Joseph telegraphed that the crown prince had died on account of a stroke of apoplexy. I suppose this telegram was intended to prevent any rumors."

The director of the censorship, Giers, showed me a bundle of telegrams which confirmed the fact of the crown prince's suicide. It developed that despite the strictest medical prohibition, the crown prince had passionately indulged in alcohol, that he drank wine with pleasure and especially a mullish champagne. The director of the English legation learned from the English legation that the Russian censorship forbade the publication of these telegrams, of course. The minister of foreign affairs, Giers, is very much concerned because the court has decided to hold a ball the next week. At this ball the ladies are to appear in black gowns. The czar asserts that such balls have been held at the Russian court before.

The czar insists that the ball be held. Giers called the attention of the czar to the fact that the funeral of the crown prince is scheduled for Tuesday and that the ball is scheduled to take place three days after the funeral. But the czar insisted that the ball be held. Today the grand duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt arrived with Princess Alice (later Czarina Alexandra Fedorovna) and the Hessian heir-apparent.

March 19th, 1889: Today Giers turned over to me a strictly private letter which had arrived from our attaché in Vienna, Prince Kanistat. The letter was very interesting in my opinion, although it repeats much that is already known from the letters of the Russian ambassador in Vienna. The relations between the ambassador and the attaché are not very friendly, and therefore each of them sends a separate report. The letter of the attaché comes from a well-informed source. He received his information from the most intimate friend of the crown prince, the Count Szechenyi.

Several days before his death, Crown Prince Rudolph wrote a letter to Szechenyi, and greatly regretted that the latter could not visit the crown prince on account of illness among his children, for the crown prince wished to speak to him very urgently. The description of the catastrophe is more or less the same as the version of Prince Lobanoff. On the chair beside the bed on which the crown prince and Vetsera lay, dead, were found several letters among them one addressed to Szechenyi.

Emperor Franz Joseph, who did not believe in the suicide, sent his personal physician, Dr. Widerhofer, to Mayerling. When he heard the full truth his anguish knew no limits. He fell to the floor in convulsions of despair. When he came to himself he called for Count Szechenyi and gave him the letter of the crown prince. Szechenyi asked the emperor

or insisted that Szechenyi read the letter first. After Szechenyi had read the letter he showed it to the emperor. In this letter the crown prince declared that he must die, regretted that he had had no opportunity any more to speak to his friend and bade him to order his papers, for which purpose he enclosed the key to his writing desk. The letter was written several minutes before the death of the crown prince. In the writing desk Szechenyi found three letters dated Monday, January 28th—a proof that the suicide had been determined upon before. One letter was to the emperor, another to the crown princess, and the third to the archduchess Marie Valerie. These letters, according to the declaration of the emperor, contained the information that the crown prince had decided to die.

The suicide made a terrible impression on Empress Elizabeth. She was convinced that Crown Prince Rudolph was congenitally affected by the Witschach blood and that he had committed suicide in an attack of insanity. Szechenyi told me that he had never noticed any signs of monomania. Szechenyi told me that he doubted that the suicide had been committed in a moment of insanity, and that the emperor also did not play a special role in it. It was said that a terrible scene had taken place between the emperor and the crown prince which had driven the crown prince to his death.

Witching Eyes and Kissable Lips Win Over Shapely Legs

New York, Dec. 15.—Bewitching eyes and provocative mouth hold a greater charm for men than shapely legs, in the opinion of some of New York's feminine notables.

They are quoted in a symposium by the New York American which was prompted by its understanding that Dr. Marie Charlotte Degollere Davenport of Vienna said in Washington:

"Girls, cultivate your legs above your mind. They are your most important asset. They count over education, intellect and culture."

Dr. Davenport, who is 102 years old, was reported as displaying a pair of trim ankles in explanation of her winning a husband 47 years her junior.

But Ann Pennington, exponent of the black bottom dance and advertised possessor of the shapeliest legs in the world, disagrees with the centenarian physician.

"It's only in the dancing world that legs are a girl's best asset," she says. "Mine are mine, of course, if you know what I mean."

Louise Hunter, Metropolitan Opera soprano, also disagrees with Dr. Davenport.

"I am glad if I have good-looking legs," she said, "but they would not get me into grand opera alone by any means. It's talent and brains and character that a woman must cultivate most today to get ahead."

Beryl Halley, professional model, however, partly agrees that shapely legs constitute a woman's greatest charm.

"For the flapper type, legs count most," she said. "All men love a pretty ankle. A girl who is not good-looking otherwise can have lots of admirers by wearing dainty pumps over silk stockings and legs and showing them."

Madame Frances Alda, famous prima donna, also a possessor of beautiful legs, acknowledged that "all women are a bit vain about showing pretty legs," but said that in the olden days the most fascinating beauties held their admirers by mystery and subtle charm.

"Have we any woman today showing legs to her knees who is more lovely than they were?" she asked, and answering the question herself she said, "I don't think so."

Dr. Mary Halton, physician, also fails to agree with her sister in the same profession.

"A sweet smile, a provocative mouth, a pair of soft veiled eyes, these are greater feminine attributes than legs," she said. "With them a girl gets farther along in the world, even if her legs are like barrels."

Plan for Irrigating 3,200,000 acres in Valley Is Launched

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The biggest program for the development of the Rio Grande Valley yet attempted was launched here Monday when County Judge Lamar Gill of Willacy County, County Agent Oscar Dancy of Cameron County and R. T. Stuart of Harland County conferred with Congressman John N. Garner, reclamation Director Elwood Mead and others. The program is:

1. Building of a series of power dams in Mariscal Canyon to irrigate 3,200,000 acres of land on either side of the Rio Grande, in Texas and Mexico.
2. A 35-foot harbor at Point Isabel.
3. Extension of the interoceanic canal to Brownsville and Harlingen.

The Texas delegation together with Senators Sherman and Mayfield held a long conference with Senator Hiram Johnson and Representative Swing California author of the Boulder Dam project bill.

The Boulder Dam project is similar to that of the Mariscal project. The Mariscal project will require a treaty with Mexico to provide for the equitable distribution of Rio Grande waters. Extension of the interoceanic canal from Galveston to Corpus Christi is carried in the rivers and harbors authorization bill which is to be taken up in the Senate Tuesday, having passed the House last summer.

Sambo, Pet Dog of Governor's Daughter Is Lost From Mansion

Austin, Dec. 15.—"Sambo," the battle-scarred veteran Spitz, guardian of the executive mansion, and for 12 years the companion of Miss Dorrance Ferguson, daughter of Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, has disappeared.

Coming to the mansion when Governor James E. Ferguson was at his height in the political life of Texas in 1915, this dog, then a small bit of white fluff and roset nose, wagged his friendly tail into the life and hearts of the Fergusons. He became the self-appointed and vigilant guardian of his little mistress. He followed in the retreat of the Fergusons to their home in Temple, after the spectacularly unexpected removal of the governor, and waited his post as guard of the homestead in a dogish manner.

As the comeback of the Fergusons was staged in 1924, and the white sheets were rent from parading klansmen, this dog strode back to the executive mansion to greet his mistress at sinister persons, and was his shaggy tail as his mistress, now a grown young woman, smoothed his yellowing and ragged coat of hair.

Sambo patrolled the mansion grounds up to a few weeks ago; until his aged mistress eyed him and discerned a glint from persecutor. As the closing days of the woman governor's administration rapidly began to pass he growled at all persons, until he satisfied himself by sniffing at their clothes, that they were friendly. If not, he snapped at them with his blackened and rattling old teeth.

Whether he crawled off to die, his mistress does not know, but she is saddened over Sambo's disappearance. She has given up hope of his return, since the police have failed to find any trace of him.

Ragged old Sambo wore a nickel studded collar, with his name, name of his mistress, Miss Dorrance Ferguson, and his address, "executive mansion," engraved on his license tag.

50,150 Americans Die in World War Battles and 182,674 Wounded

Washington, Dec. 15.—Battle casualties of the United States forces in the World War numbered 50,150 deaths and 182,674 wounded, disclosed in a report released by the adjutant general's office. Total casualties amounted to 244,713.

Of the battle deaths, 37,568 occurred in action and 12,942 resulted from wounds received in action. Accidental wounds and deaths were not considered in compiling the statistics. The records show 5,016 cases of shell shock were treated.

More than 33 per cent of the wounded were gas casualties. Of a grand total of 206,545 wounds suffered by 195,551 individuals, 127,228 were caused by gunshot, 68,975 (33.40 per cent) by gas, 9,436 by shell, 229 by air raid, and 164 by bayonet.

The total battle casualties of the Thirty-third division were 6,864, with 691 soldiers and officers killed in action. The first division with 22,320 casualties, including 3,730 deaths, led the list by divisions.

Monument to Texan Will Be Reared by British Government

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 15.—A monument will be erected by the British government for Pvt. Leol McGale, 17-year-old San Antonio boy, who was awarded a posthumous decoration for gallantry in action in 1918 as a member of the famous Canadian Black Watch. The monument will be erected at Quarry Wood Cemetery near Bourlon Woods, according to a communication from the British War Department received by David A. McGale, 201 East Rische street, brother of Private McGale.

Young McGale was studying for the priesthood in the American College at Rome, Italy, when war was declared between the United States and Germany. Leaving his studies, he embarked for home and on his arrival in Boston applied for enlistment in the United States army. Rejected because of his youth and failure to make required physical tests, he went to Canada, where he was accepted.

One month later he was sent to England where he spent two months in a machine gun school near London and was then sent as a replacement to France.

On his arrival he was assigned to the 72d Battalion, Canadian Infantry, serving through eight major engagements during the fall of 1917 and the heavy fighting around Ypres and Baupenne during the spring of 1918.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (British), for gallantry in action four days before his death, when he, as the only survivor of a patrol of eight men, returned to his lines with two German prisoners.

Private McGale was killed by machine gun fire during a counter-attack Sept. 27, 1918, in the course of the battle for the capture of Bourlon Wood after his battalion had pushed the Germans from their own front line.

McGale was a native of Massachusetts but had lived the greater part of his life in San Antonio. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leol McGale, died when he was a small child. A brother, James McGale, who served during the closing days of the war at Camp Dix, has since died, leaving one brother, David McGale, Jr., of San Antonio, the only surviving member of the family.

Monkey Still Lives After Organs Go to Six Human Patients

Moscow, Dec. 15.—Prof. Rosanoff, who treated Nicolai Lenin, has succeeded in transplanting various organs of one monkey to six human patients suffering from "Addison's disease," epilepsy, and other ailments. Results of the experiment are not yet certain, but the patients are still alive; so is the monkey.

Legendary Gold Mine Near Llano Believed Found; One Vein of Which Shaft Hits

On the extreme Western point of the famous Packsaddle Mountains, 15 miles from Llano, W. P. Bankston and G. W. Burton of Austin have discovered the historic old gold and silver mine worked by Don Bernando de Miranda in 1778, according to a story published in the Houston Sunday Chronicle.

Several years ago Burton, who was spent much of his life as a miner in Mexico, became interested in stories of legendary once rich vein of ore on the Packsaddle range. It is said that this mine was the source of the great Spanish wealth in Texas and it has been the subject of many freestone stories of lost mines and buried treasures.

From these tales thousands of persons have spent years of their lives searching for these lost mines in vain and the discovery of the old mine a few weeks ago thru the work of another 49 rush to Central Texas.

Don Bernando de Miranda in his written account of his mine, the records of which are now on file in the University of Texas library, states in one place: "I located and worked on the main Almaraz a deposit of mineral, lead, silver and gold. The vein being rich and running in every direction. I took pains and worked the ore, smelting it in the valley at the place."

"From the old records written by Don Miranda," Burton said, "I decided the mine must have been on top of the mountain."

"There is a legend that the Indians and Spaniards had a battle on the Packsaddles years and years ago. It is said by some that the Indians, in an endeavor to conceal the mine after they had found it, all the Spaniards, filled the shafts with dirt and rocks and made the mountain top look the same all over. Others say that the Spaniards, when they saw they were going to be overpowered, filled their mines up so the Indians could not find them. The Spaniards, old timers have told me that their fathers had said the tops of these mountains were at one time covered with human bones. If this was so, then there must have been a fierce battle waged here. Now all these stories find me a mine. The shaft I have found gives all evidence that at one time some one really did fill the old shaft with dirt and rocks."

"I began working around these mountains about seven years ago. There are the ruins of the old Spanish smelters in the valley below here and this gave me encouragement. Also from the rock all over the mountain chain a mossy green formation thrown off by mineral lead and silver, a kind of cancer is seen. But until about a year ago I could not find strong enough evidence of the real mineral ore to get the financial backing needed to sink a shaft to the base of the mountain. There have been so many reports that the old mine was found that people were afraid to back new adventures."

In his work in the old silver mines in Mexico, Burton became familiar with the fact that the Spaniards marked their mines so they could return to them should they get lost. As another evidence that they

marked their mines in Texas Burton found a mine shaft a few years ago from a map found in a soapstone quarry.

One day Burton found a spoon about seven inches long cut in the bark of a cedar tree. Other signs he has found are those of arrow heads, spears or tunneling bar, spears, spikes, initials, straight lines, blazes, X marks, dots, daggers and axes. One of the most interesting is that of an X mark and five dots. The dots mean a certain distance of the mine and the X mark means that the direction is exactly opposite to that shown by the dot direction.

The old story says the mine was just left of the Old Spanish Trail and that is exactly where the present one is located and the shaft is only a few feet from the tiny cross first discovered by Burton. At a depth of about 100 feet a vein was struck and has widened from about an inch to over three inches at 70 feet.

Burton found that in four different places signs pointed directly to the spot where he sunk his shaft. In two places the signs pointed a tree where a notch was found in the trunk. A rifle barrel in this notch points straight at the point in the mountain where the tiny cross was found.

Mining is now done by pick, shovel and blasting powder. A hoist, bucket and engine brings the dirt from the shaft and it is dumped right over the edge of the mountain. At a depth of 40 feet the first pocket was found and it tested about \$200 a ton. At a depth of 60 feet a second pocket, testing \$800 a ton, was found. Burton hopes to strike the main ore bed about 100 feet or at the base of the mountain. A smelter is now being built.

Going down in the shaft, one notes that the air is filled with a white vapor looking like smoke. The air is tainted with a damp, cool, lead color. The white smoke, the evaporation thrown off by lead ore, which goes out into the air either by crevices or through the rock and dirt. This is the cause of the green formation on the rock surface. This evaporation seeks the lines of least resistance and when it is found in the rock the larger percentage of it goes by this route. When a large cavity occurs in the rocks this formation fills this and forms pockets such as Burton and Bankston discovered in their shaft. Somewhere in the base of the mountain lies a main ore body from which this evaporation of mineral is taking place.

"I have found gleams in several caves around here," Burton said, "and several old Spanish coins have been found. The formation here is almost exactly the same as the famous Durango mines in Mexico. There is almost every kind of mineral here in these mountains, and there is a possibility of this region becoming one of the greatest mining districts in the United States. It has taken years of painstaking work and has cost many a hard day's work. We believe to be the lost mines of the seventeenth century. And if this is it, many old tales will be proven or disproven within the next few months."

Wants Recognition of Calles in Mexico by Washington Recalled

Washington, Dec. 14.—Withdrawal by the United States of recognition of the Calles government in Mexico was advocated today by Representative Boylan, democrat, New York, in a public statement.

"Rear Admiral Lattimer's statement that Mexican interests are coming at the importation of munitions into Nicaragua in violation of the United States arms embargo and to be supplied to the faction fighting a government recognized by the Coolidge administration," he said, "should be sufficient proof to Secretary Kellogg that Mexico holds the greatest contempt for the United States and is not afraid to show it."

"For months Mexico has flouted this country's wishes, but this clearly shows that the bolshevistic Calles government is prepared to go to extremes to express its light opinion of the United States. On Jan. 1, 1927, unless our state department adopts a definite and strong policy and adheres to it, Mexico will put into effect laws confiscating American property and affecting American citizens adversely."

"At no time has the present administration boldly and aggressively insisted upon upholding of American rights in Mexico. It is clear that Ambassador Sheffield has not enjoyed the complete confidence or support of his own state department. His complaints to the Calles government 'Why is Mr. Kellogg so silent and submissive? Is he waiting for a miracle, or for the bankers to tell him they have got out from under?'"

Bodies of Youthful Robbers to Be Laid Beside That of Dad

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 13.—The bodies of two youthful robbers today on the way to lie beside that of their father in Dublin, Tex., while their victims struggled for life in a Fort Worth hospital.

Don Wilson, 18, confessed robber of several persons, died last night. His brother, Jack, 21, companion in the escapades, died Friday night. The boys were shot in attempting to hold up N. C. Buchanan, 34, and a woman companion.

The younger Wilson hoisted his brother into the Buchanan automobile and took him to a hospital after the Friday night shooting. Their father, N. P. Wilson, was a former Dublin constable.

Buchanan today was making a slow fight against his wounds.

Fines Imposed on 84 Arrested in Counter Attack of Movie Men

Irvington, N. J., Dec. 15.—An overworked recorder's court in the Newark suburb Tuesday levied fines of \$2 each in 84 cases of the 98 cases brought before it by arrests of persons charged under an old vice and immorality act with breaking the Sabbath.

Those fined included storekeepers, reporters, taxi and trolley men, barbers, a pinocchio player and one youth who "did fiddle for merriment."

Ten of the remaining cases were taken under advisement by Recorder Stoddard, and December 21 was set as the date for the hearing of charges against four bus and trolley operators who demanded trial by jury.

Managers of motion picture theaters brought about the wholesale arrests in reprisal for the arrests of the managers two weeks ago under the same old statute, and resultant fine of \$1 each for operating on Sundays.

Herbert Kruttschnitt, manager of a gasoline filling station and one of yesterday's victims, demanded a writ of habeas corpus and a writ of mandamus against Ernest P. Biro, counsel for the movie men, and his two associates.

Kruttschnitt contended that Biro and his men were working yesterday and therefore violating the law when they went from place to place buying cigarettes, cigars, candy and what not, as evidence on which to demand arrests. Stoddard has taken Kruttschnitt's case and that of the warrants he demands under consideration until next Monday.

In addition, the recorder must decide whether reporters are engaged in "worldly employment of business, ordinary or servile labor." One of the eight arrested yesterday pleaded not guilty when arraigned today, contending that his work did not come within the forbidden provisions of the act, and all cases against newspapermen were included in those taken under advisement.

Shaw Glee Over Rumpus Stirred by Refusal of Award

London, Dec. 15.—It's up to the Swedish Academy, said George Bernard Shaw in a telephone interview with the Associated Press today in which he was informed that his rejection yesterday of the money prize connected with the Nobel literature award was interpreted in Stockholm as tantamount to rejection of the entire award.

"I'm not worrying," the dramatist added. "Let them do that—but I am certainly going to be the most interested front row spectator in the discussion of the award. The committee around the question of giving prizes to writers."

Asked if he agreed with Sinclair Lewis who refused the Pulitzer prize on the ground that prizes were bad for literature, Shaw snapped: "I don't agree with anything."

He said he wanted to see the whole subject thrashed out in the press. Also he was thankful for Lewis' action, because it had called his attention to the Pulitzer prize which he had never heard of before.

He would not have taken it he was against the idea of offering awards, but felt sure a general discussion among the press and public would be most interesting.

The famous dramatist was in an excellent mood today, feeling so splendidly, in fact, that he told his interviewer over the telephone from his Adelphi Terrace flat, overlooking the Thames.

Shaw, it must be understood, hates telephones nearly as emphatically as Rudyard Kipling and Sir James Barrie, the latter of whom has his telephone number registered in his butler's name.

All telephone calls to the Shaw home are usually answered by his housekeeper or secretary. Shaw does not care for interviews, either, and to make certain there are no intruders, has an iron gate in front of the entrance to his flat.

But he is intensely curious, and was much more curious than usual this morning—so curious in fact that his secretary could not quite satisfy him after the interview had been taken to her on the phone saying he had an interesting dispatch from Stockholm.

The secretary was told that the Stockholm message was of much interest to Shaw, but was not told what it was all about.

"It is a long dispatch," the secretary asked.

"Yes, quite lengthy," she was told. "Well, wait a moment I will see what Mr. Shaw is doing."

Then a few seconds later a voice thundered over the wire: "Bernard Shaw speaking. What is it, anyway, that you have from Stockholm?"

He was told briefly that the Swedish reaction to his letter accepting the prize money was that it was tantamount to declining the entire award.

"Well, well," he chuckled. "It appears as I had started something. I certainly didn't intend to—nothing of the kind ever entered my mind."

"I heard of the Nobel prize, I believe, before I wrote the work which won the award," he said. "It was—but I certainly did not try for it."

Sister of Late Roosevelt Clashes With George Creel Over the Ideals of Wilson

New York, N. Y., Dec. 14.—A sister of Theodore Roosevelt and the head of Woodrow Wilson's wartime committee on public information have clashed publicly over the war president's ideals and vision.

In the midst of hundreds of Wilson addresses, Mrs. Constance Roosevelt Robinson questioned George Creel yesterday after his speech in town hall explaining his view of his former chief's personality.

Mr. Creel said that Wilson's vision foresaw "a tragedy of disappointment coming," even before the peace conference due to the lapse in idealism that followed the armistice.

"It is well for great souls such as these, if, like Lincoln, they can die at the moment of their greatest achievement," he said. "There is nothing in the world more savage, more cruel, and inhuman than a people's reaction from its own idealism."

Questions were invited. Mrs. Robinson who had been occupying an aisle seat, arose and in a voice that carried to every corner of the hall, asked:

"If Mr. Wilson had so much vision as you say he had, why did he not enter the war soon and save thousands of lives?"

Inefficiency Marks Ship Board's Work in Handling Ships

Washington, Dec. 15.—No action toward the sale of American merchant lines and the charter of the steamship Leviathan and sister ships will be taken until congress has had a reasonable opportunity to become informed of the situation, a senate investigating committee was told by Edward C. Plummer, vice president of the shipping board.

Senator Johnson, republican, California, chairman of the committee, asked the witness if the board contemplated the sale of the lines and Mr. Plummer replied that the apparent attempts to sell them were "feeling."

He did not think a buyer for the Leviathan could be obtained because "no man can afford to buy and run it."

Inefficiency in administration of the fleet corporation due to frequent changes in the chairmanship is one reason private interests can operate merchant lines at a profit while the government operates at a loss, Mr. Plummer told the committee.

The witness cited the recent removal of Captain Elmer E. Crowley as chairman, asserting he knew of no reason for the action, and Admiral Benson, another board member, said he had no knowledge of a reason for removal of Crowley.

The question of Crowley's removal consumed much of the time of the day's hearing. Senator Fletcher, democrat, Florida, called it a "Coolidge victory," while Senator Couzens, republican, Michigan, asked Admiral Benson if it were not a "frame-up in advance." He declared such must have been the case or the majority of the shipping board could not have agreed.

The second case, charging that the defendants "by force of arms and by putting fear of life or bodily injury, did deprive victims of most of their liberty and caused them to perform labor and services involuntarily," those named in this case are Frank Brandt, Carl Brandt, Raymond Teller, R. F. Robinson, Floyd Dodd and R. D. Rirshdorph, a farmer.

A third case makes the same complaint as in the second, and names C. S. Stockwell, farmer; J. H. Chadwick, guard; Raymond Teller, Frank Brandt, H. W. Stockwell, farmer; Floyd Dodd and R. F. Robinson.

Penalties under the charges outlined carry a maximum of five years imprisonment, and a fine of \$5,000, or both.

The cases probably will be tried in the Corpus Christi division of the Houston district of the United States district court.

Landis Is Certain to Hold His Job as Baseball Arbiter

New York, Dec. 13.—K. M. Landis, high commissioner of baseball, will be re-elected for a 7-year term at the joint meeting of the National League club owners in New York for their own league pow-wow tomorrow and Wednesday. The circuit is expected to vote for Landis as a unit.

But the magnates of both leagues, are chafing under the "benevolent despotism" of Commissioner Landis, the New York World said today. Dissatisfaction is felt over the belief that the high commissioner has ignored the existence of the advisory council, for no meeting has been called for the past two years, the paper says.

While club owners cannot be quoted in criticism of each other or Commissioner Landis under their mutual agreement, the magnates are represented as considering the suggestion of "a steering committee to advise with the commissioner during the off-season for joint meetings. The advisory council consists of Commissioner Landis, President John Heydler, of the National League, and Vice President Frank Navin, of the American League, who replaced Ben Johnson, American League head, two years ago.

An effort to bring about amendments to Landis' working agreement with the league seems likely at the joint meeting, the magnates indicate. The club owners that no increase in the \$50,000 a year salary already paid the commissioner, will be granted at the Chicago pow-wow.

Some applause greeted the question, but it was drowned out in the Creel answer:

"He did not enter the war sooner because, for one thing, New York and the Atlantic seaboard are not America. It would have been impossible to commit the American people to a war any earlier."

Mrs. Robinson shook her head and exclaimed: "You didn't answer my question."

"But," explained Mr. Creel, "the president can't declare war. Do you deny, madame, that congress has the sole power to declare war? My answer is that congress would not have declared war in 1915 or 1916, the anti-war and the pro-German sentiment was too strong."

Mrs. Robinson was unsatisfied. "You are evading, not answering this question," she said. "The president had the power of leadership. It is easy to see that he kept us out of war. I want to know why he didn't lead us in sooner."

Robert Erskine Ely, presiding, waved his hand soothingly and said that the question had been answered. When other questioners arose with other topics, Mrs. Robinson left the hall.

Sheriff One of 14 in Willacy County Held For Peonage

Brownsville, Texas, December 15.—Indictments naming fourteen Willacy county residents, among them Sheriff Raymond Teller, County Attorney R. F. Robinson and other officials, charged "conspiracy to enforce peonage, or the act of enforcing peonage," were returned in the United States district court here.

The indictments were received by Federal Judge J. C. Hutcheson, shortly after opening of court and were the outgrowth of investigations that have been under way for several days. The information on which they were based was secured some weeks ago by agents of the department of justice and the department of labor.

The cases named six alleged victims. The indictments are the outgrowth of alleged violations of the law in forcing laborers to pick cotton in Willacy county. According to officers, most of the cases in which investigations were made were instances in which laborers were forced to work out certain sums of money paid for their transportation from points up the state to Willacy county.

The first case, charging conspiracy, "by commission of various acts designed and proposed to hold and arrest A. H. Nichols, Walter V. Newman and four others," names Raymond Teller, sheriff of Willacy county; Floyd Dodd, justice of the peace, Raymond; Lloyd Bennett, farmer; John Swanner, deputy sheriff; William Hargrove and Frank Brandt, deputy sheriffs, and B. F. Robinson, county attorney.

The second case, charging that the defendants "by force of arms and by putting fear of life or bodily injury, did deprive victims of most of their liberty and caused them to perform labor and services involuntarily," those named in this case are Frank Brandt, Carl Brandt, Raymond Teller, R. F. Robinson, Floyd Dodd and R. D. Rirshdorph, a farmer.

A third case makes the same complaint as in the second, and names C. S. Stockwell, farmer; J. H. Chadwick, guard; Raymond Teller, Frank Brandt, H. W. Stockwell, farmer; Floyd Dodd and R. F. Robinson.

Penalties under the charges outlined carry a maximum of five years imprisonment, and a fine of \$5,000, or both.

The cases probably will be tried in the Corpus Christi division of the Houston district of the United States district court.

Landis Is Certain to Hold His Job as Baseball Arbiter

New York, Dec. 13.—K. M. Landis, high commissioner of baseball, will be re-elected for a 7-year term at the joint meeting of the National League club owners in New York for their own league pow-wow tomorrow and Wednesday. The circuit is expected to vote for Landis as a unit.

But the magnates of both leagues, are chafing under the "benevolent despotism" of Commissioner Landis, the New York World said today. Dissatisfaction is felt over the belief that the high commissioner has ignored the existence of the advisory council, for no meeting has been called for the past two years, the paper says.

While club owners cannot be quoted in criticism of each other or Commissioner Landis under their mutual agreement, the magnates are represented as considering the suggestion of "a steering committee to advise with the commissioner during the off-season for joint meetings. The advisory council consists of Commissioner Landis, President John Heydler, of the National League, and Vice President Frank Navin, of the American League, who replaced Ben Johnson, American League head, two years ago.

An effort to bring about amendments to Landis' working agreement with the league seems likely at the joint meeting, the magnates indicate. The club owners that no increase in the \$50,000 a year salary already paid the commissioner, will be granted at the Chicago pow-wow.

Death Forecast For Houdini Who Sought to Make Light of It

New York, Dec. 15.—Houdini's death was predicted in spirit circles for weeks before he died and while Houdini still thought his injury was slight, Fulton Ousler, the author, reveals in a letter to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The magician-skeptic of spiritualism was not alone aware of the predictions, according to the author. A medium, Ousler said, informed him at the time of Houdini's injury that a spirit told her "Houdini's days as a magician are over."

In replying to a letter from Doyle commenting on Ousler's book, "Stepchild of the Moon," the latter reported as follows a telephone conversation he had with Houdini just before the magician opened the tour that ended in his death:

"I am marked for death," Houdini said. "I don't men I am going to be murdered, but that they are predicting my death in spirit circles all over the country."

"You don't put any stock in it, do you?" Ousler inquired, aware of many similar predictions. Houdini said he did not, but nevertheless, "he admitted that it had made an impression on his mind."

On the day after he read of Houdini's accident in an Albany theater, Ousler continued, he received a letter from Alice A. Wood, a medium, who was secretary to Dr. Prince, then principal research officer of the American Society for Psychical Research.

Under date of October 13, Ousler said, this is what Mrs. Wood wrote to him:

"Three years ago, Dr. Hyslop (meaning the spirit of Dr. Hyslop) said to J. Malcolm Bird of the Psychical Research Society: 'The waters are black for Houdini,' and he predicted that disaster would befall him while performing before an audience in a theater. Dr. Hyslop now says that the injury is more serious than has been reported and that Houdini's days as a magician are over."

Houdini wrote him a note from Schenectady, under date of Oct. 15, according to Ousler, saying: "I have 'only' an interior fracture of the ankle."

Movie Men Answer and Cause Arrests Under Sunday Laws

Irvington, N. J., Dec. 13.—The iron hand of New Jersey's 72-year-old blue law, passed as a safeguard to Sunday morals, today had within its grip 93 citizens, arrested in a crusade sponsored by movie theater owners whose theaters had been closed previously by ministerial protests. Their fate rested with a police judge before whom they had each posted \$2 bail to appear in answer to charges of pursuing "worldly" occupation on a day when the "vice and immorality" law permits only traveling to and from church and the sale of milk and newspapers. The penalty for violation of the law is a \$3 fine, or for habitual offenders, 10 days in jail. Even operation of railroad trains is prohibited by law, although an amendment allows operation of one passenger train a day.

The offenders, arrested yesterday, represented almost every occupation, but those specifically exempted by the law. The group contained 10 newspaper reporters, who had some trouble convincing the police they were working; filling station proprietors; street car conductors, motor men, druggists, barbers, bootblacks and others.

Many arrested merchants placed signs on the doors explaining they had been arrested but would return shortly. One restaurant owner telephoned police in the morning, requesting that he be arrested early as he was too busy around noon. He was accommodated. The Elks club was invaded, and a young man arrested as he played popular airs on a violin for the amusement of members.

The operator of a gas filling station opposite headquarters was arrested so many times that finally after each sale he trudged his way across the street to post his bail.

Managers of five movie theaters in the town of 50,000 were the prime movers in the campaign. Ministers whose protest caused the closing of theaters and the resultant crusade yesterday declined to comment.

Cash Bid of \$50,000 to Drill Home Place Spurned by Ranchman

Big Springs, Tex., Dec. 15.—Otis Chalk, who lives twenty miles southeast of Big Spring and who owns all the land on which the Chalk field oil operations are taking place, refused to take \$50,000 cash a few days ago for a lease on 140 acres, which includes his ranch residence. About twenty-nine wells are drilling and producing almost in sight of his residence.

Combustion of Box of Old Face Cream Causes Fire Alarm

Belton, Dec. 14.—Spontaneous combustion of a box of old face cream in the attic at the home of Mrs. Lil Saunders on Ninth avenue resulted in a run by the Belton fire department Tuesday morning shortly before 10 o'clock. Chief Hamner stated that the "blaze" gave him a new experience in his fire fighting career and he had never before heard of such an occurrence. The quick response of the fire department prevented any damage being done to the home.

Chief Hamner stated that the face cream was in the attic a short distance from the flue and he believed that the heat from the flue had something to do with the unusual origin.

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Six Texas Counties Added to Tick Free List in New Report

Washington, Dec. 14.—The agriculture department Monday announced that Caldwell, DeWitt, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Maverick and Val Verde counties have been entirely released from tick quarantine, as has the remainder of Lamar county and that Limestone county, formerly released, has been re-quarantined. In all 737 counties have been released since eradication work began in 1906 and 40 were released during the year in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia.

Dr. R. A. Ramsay, chief of the tick eradication division of the bureau of animal industry, said Monday that the continued progress of tick eradication depends largely on public sentiment in the regions affected. The nature of the work requires 100 per cent co-operation among cattle owners and local county and state officials. When all cattle in a community are not dipped regularly some ticks escape, thus delaying completion of the work.

The public is now recognizing that ticks must be eradicated before cattle raising and dairying can be made profitable enterprises and this improved sentiment is expected to bring about the freeing of much additional territory of the ticks during 1927.

Plans for Inaugural Ball Halted by Ban on Spike-Tail Togs

Santa Fe, N. M., Dec. 15.—Out here where our glorious woolly chaparrals cause no comment and the abbreviated costume of the Indians causes not so much as the flicker of an eyelash, a great stir is being raised over formal evening dress.

Governor-elect E. C. Dillon is the center of the controversy. He says he will not wear full evening dress to the inaugural ball on New Year Eve.

The executive committee in charge of the ceremonies says that the governor-elect must conform to custom.

The matter rests there at the present time and the outcome probably will not be known until the festivities start.

Governor-elect Dillon has stated he would prefer to be dressed more than to have it "wet" or formal. "I have never seen the necessity for wearing a dress suit in my life and I hardly want to begin to 'put on the dog' at my age," the next chief executive of New Mexico said.

The committee in charge of ceremonies has countered with a statement that "the ball will be strictly formal" and that "Mr. Dillon will not direct our actions until after the first of the year and until that time he is our guest and must conform to custom as well as everyone else."

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Two Billion Is Wealth of Henry Ford; Ready Cash in Bank Over \$300,000,000

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15.—Henry Ford's fortune is two billion dollars, based on the earning capacity of his huge automobile interests. At present, with his son, Edsel, he carries a cash balance in Detroit which varies somewhere between \$300,000,000 and \$350,000,000.

A prominent Detroit statistician is authority for the first statement. The president of one of Detroit's largest national banks mentioned Henry Ford's cash balance in an offhand way as though it was ordinary.

What if the Ford Motor company did cease producing model T four cylinder powered automobiles tomorrow? Few of us realize that his plants would keep going at a lively clip producing parts for the 14,000,000 Fords that have already been built and sold.

It is true that Henry Ford will build again this year approximately 40 per cent of all the automobiles sold in the United States. Perhaps his portion of the whole will help a few per cent. It is only reasonable that with the prosperity this country has had recently more people should desire more expensive automobiles.

This relative change in production totals has not many people to asking the question "What is Henry Ford going to do?"

There are some who are endeavoring to answer the question for him.

About two weeks ago a news gathering organization supplying Wall Street brokers printed a report that the Ford Motor company would shortly announce a six and an eight cylinder automobile.

Those who understand manufacturing methods, especially along the progressive assembly plan which has been developed by Ford, realize it would take him months and months to prepare for such a change.

An earlier report credited Ford with contemplating a change in his planetary transmission. This one would give the Ford four speeds forward.

The date set by the rumor has passed long ago.

Another rumor would have Ford at war with General Motors corporation. General Motors, of course is not making secret of its desire to sell Chevrolet as Ford does his products. It is only a natural ambition.

Another rumor credits Lincoln, a division of the Ford company with planning to bring out a light eight

cylinder car or some say it is a six. Investigation of production at the Lincoln plant shows that the factory has been running steadily with a production of 25 to 30 cars daily. This is within five cars of the capacity of the factory. It is doubtful that Ford would start manufacturing a car on a basis of five cars daily.

The latest story is that the Ford engineers have perfected a "Double Cross" eight cylinder motor. This is said to be built in parallel functioning on a single crankshaft. Should he start building this kind of an automobile it would take, close to a year to prepare for it, production experts state.

It must also be remembered in this connection that Henry Ford once said that he would never build but one kind of an automobile in the Ford plant.

Edsel Ford and Charles E. Sorenson, in a joint statement a few weeks ago said the company had been averaging 6,500 cars daily, on five days a week basis since the first of last January.

The peak day was 8,500. Sorenson said that employment at River Rouge plants totaled 52,047 and at Highland Park 37,066. The total of 89,113 was only 11,000 under the peak of last year, he added.

Figuring on the basis of 6,500 cars daily, five days a week, we find that Ford will build about 1,625,000 cars for domestic consumption this year.

In another recent statement it was pointed out by Ford officials that since the company's plants and warehouses in over 40 cities in the United States. An important feature of the Detroit plants is the profit exacted from waste materials. The by-products division of the company reported last year that its sales totaled \$11,000,000. More than half of this sum was gained by conversion of waste.

Besides the Detroit units Ford has his own system of distribution which comprises assembly plants and warehouses in over 40 cities in the United States. An important feature of the Detroit plants is the profit exacted from waste materials. The by-products division of the company reported last year that its sales totaled \$11,000,000. More than half of this sum was gained by conversion of waste.

The total profit of the Ford Motor company was estimated by a leading financial news service as having been \$115,000,000 in 1925. At the rate of production indicated by Sorenson, it is not difficult to predict a similar income this year due to the economies effected recently.

Texas Cattle Take Most of Prizes in Sharp Competition

College Station, Texas, Dec. 15.—The Texas cattle did well at both the Royal Live Stock Show at Kansas City and the International Show at Chicago, advises G. W. Barnes, beef cattle specialist, extension service, who has just returned to College Station, after visiting these live stock shows in behalf of the interest of the Texas farmers. Some of the Texas winners at the Kansas City Royal Live Stock Show are as follows:

Feeder Calves Before Jan. 1, 1926—26 shown—First: George Jones, Marfa, Texas; second, Smith Bros., Marfa, Texas; third, T. C. Mitchell, Marfa, Texas; fourth, W. A. Hunter, Hereford, Texas; fifth, L. C. Britte, Marfa, Texas; and seventh, Mitchell Bros., Marfa, Texas. This is an excellent showing, Texas having won the first five consecutive prizes.

Feeder Calves in 1926, 27 shown at the Kansas City Royal—First and second, George Jones, Marfa, Texas; third, Smith Bros., Marfa, Texas; fourth, H. B. Cattle Co., Amherst, Texas; fifth, Matador Land and Cattle Co., Matador, Texas; sixth, L. C. Britte, Marfa, Texas; and seventh, Hobart Ranch, Canadian, Texas.

Texas furnished the bulk of the feeders at this show. The Highland Hereford breeders from Alpine, Marfa and Fort Davis furnished more than half of the exhibit, and all of their cattle were Herefords. They were the best of the many loads shown, reaching the live stock show in good condition.

George Jones, a Highland breeder, was awarded the championship in the Hereford feeder section on a carload of calves. This is the seventh consecutive year that the Jones calves have won the championship. For six consecutive years, prior to 1926, the Jones' calves won the grand championship over all breeds in the feeder division in the American Royal. This year there was no grand championship.

Pollard and His Aids Guests of Galveston Lawyer at Luncheon

Galveston, Texas, Dec. 15.—An informal luncheon honoring Attorney General-Elect Claude Pollard and his recently appointed assistants, D. A. Simmons and Miss Ethel F. Hilton, was tendered at Gallo's by John L. Darrouzet, popularly known as the "Black Eagle of Galveston."

Several friends of Mr. Darrouzet and the honored guests attended the affair. A number of impromptu talks were made.

Pat Neff Named by Governor Special High Court Judge

Austin, Texas, Dec. 15.—Former Gov. Pat M. Neff of Waco was appointed Monday by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson as special Chief Justice of the Tenth Court of Civil Appeals at Waco to sit in the case of the Greenville Gas and Fuel Company vs. the Commercial Finance Company, on appeal from McLennan county. Chief Justice J. N. Gallagher notified the Governor that he was disqualified.

Texas Divorcee Is Bride of Heir to Rogers Millions

New York, Dec. 15.—Announcement was made in New York of the marriage of Mrs. Caroline Graham Slaughter and William Robertson Coe of New York. Mrs. Slaughter, formerly of Dallas and very widely known in Texas, had recently been divorced from her first husband, E. Dick Slaughter of Dallas, and while close friends and relatives knew that she and Mr. Coe expected to be married, the date had been fixed for the middle of February. They were married at the home of the bride at 290 Park avenue, Rev. T. A. Kilbourne, pastor of the Greenwich Presbyterian church, performing the ceremony. An informal reception for a few close friends followed the marriage.

Mrs. Coe is the daughter of the late Alexander Hutchinson Graham of Dallas and has a son by her first marriage on whom, according to friends close to the bride, Mr. Coe already has settled a round million dollars.

Mr. Coe was a widower, his first wife, a daughter of the late Henry H. Rogers, leaving him the larger part of the enormous fortune which she inherited from her father. He is a member of the Metropolitan, New York Yacht, Riding and Driving, Turf and Field, Piping Rock and several other clubs of distinguished membership, and is known in the sporting as in the financial world.

His age was given at the license bureau as 57 and that of the bride at 49.

Mr. and Mrs. Coe left shortly after the marriage for a trip through the west. On their return they will leave for Paris and later make a cruise of the Mediterranean and a trip to Egypt.

Two Asleep in Auto Bus With Engine in Operation Are Dead

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 15.—Sleeping in a closed motor bus with the engine running to provide warmth was fatal to H. E. Baker, 34, and Dan Ehle, 26, bus line drivers. They died two hours after they were found unconscious from carbon monoxide gas. The men had gone to sleep in the bus after coming into the garage from work early in the day.

C. G. Dibrell Named Judge in Place of Brady at Galveston

Austin, Texas, Dec. 15.—Charles G. Dibrell of Galveston was appointed by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson as judge of the fifty-sixth district court of Galveston county to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Leo C. Brady. Judge Brady tendered his resignation to the governor in a telegram received Thursday morning, requesting that it be accepted immediately.

\$200,000 Fire in Ohio.

McArthur, Ohio, Dec. 14.—Fire of unknown origin, in the business district of McArthur at midnight last night, destroyed ten buildings with an estimated loss of \$200,000.

Point Isabel Needs Money at Once for Port Engineers Say

Brownsville, Texas, Dec. 15.—Col. W. P. Wooten of New Orleans, United States army division engineer and the highest ranking official to inspect the port activity at Point Isabel; Lieut. Col. J. L. Schley of Galveston, district engineer, and N. T. Blackburn, engineer in the office of Col. Schley, arrived in Brownsville Saturday, and spent the day at Point Isabel inspecting the port work.

The party spent only a short time in Brownsville, leaving in a special car provided by L. S. Bourne, general manager of the Rio Grande Railroad, for Point Isabel. They were welcomed here by S. C. Tucker, president of the Chamber of Commerce; G. C. Richardson, manager of that organization; John Gregg, W. B. Clint, Commodore Louis Coburn and Mr. Bourne.

Col. Wooten stated that he was stationed at Fort Brown from June, 1916, to the spring of 1917. He says that he was commanding a battalion of engineers at that time on the "island" just beyond the resaca in Fort Brown.

The party of engineers came to Brownsville following an inspection of the Houston ship channel. They were guests at a banquet given in Matamoros Saturday night, and toured the Valley Sunday.

The \$1,875,000 in the river and harbors budget for Brazos Santiago harbor is for the completion of the Point Isabel port, according to Col. Schley. He said that an attempt was being made to secure this money now from other funds that are not being used. The appropriation, when by Congress, then will be used to refund the money borrowed from other funds.

Col. Schley said that it is imperative for this money to be secured immediately if the harbor work is to be continued. The \$750,000 worth of the port for the two long jetties to be built out into the Gulf from Padre and Brazos islands can not be accepted and contracts let until money is secured, the engineer said.

The trestle on the Padre Island side for transferring materials, principally these stones, is completed, according to Col. Schley, and work has been started on the Brazos Island side. He said that it would be impossible to tell when the harbor will be completed.

Spinach is Found to Do Well in Irrigated Valley of Northwest

College Station, Texas, Dec. 15.—Course agents are finding a number of farmers whose fruit trees are afflicted with root rot, crown galls and other troubles, which can be traced to poor nursery stock. This emphasizes the importance of using care in the purchase of fruit trees.

Sixty-six farmers in the irrigated valley of Wichita county planted 270 acres to spinach. This is part of the program of learning the crops best adapted to these irrigated lands. Guy R. Jones states that spinach had passed the winter successfully in this district six out of the last seven years. The crop was planted in October and was coming up to a good stand late in the month.

Thinning out pecan bottoms by killing the unwelcome trees with a poison mixture seems to be an increasingly popular method of performing this task. The poison used by C. H. Atchison Jr. of Blanco county consists of 1 3-4 pounds white arsenic and 2 3-4 pounds lead soda mixed with one gallon of water. This will kill about forty trees. The trees are first girdled and then saturated with the poison. If this method is used there is no danger of the stump sprouting.

Six dairy feeding demonstrations are being conducted by farmers in six communities of DeWitt county with more people attending the demonstration meetings each time. Farmers are planting Canadian field peas, clover, oats, and barley for winter pasture. Over 150 cows were bought by farmers during October. The local creamery is now receiving some 750 pounds of butter fat from cream routes daily. One farmer milking fifteen cows had a net monthly income of \$125 for October. He attributes his prosperity to better methods of feeding and management picked up through the community demonstrations.

A soilage demonstration conducted by Mrs. Weigand of Dickinson with the assistance of E. N. Holmgren, the Galveston County Agent, showed that a saving of sixteen cents in the feed cost per 100 pounds of milk was made where cows were fed green sorghums. Besides this, the entire herd, with no new additions, was producing 11 per cent more milk at the end of this feeding period than when the green sorghums were first fed. Mrs. Weigand figures that this two acres of sorghum paid her a total of \$158.40 for the two months, after deducting all expense of growing and chopping it up.

Wise county has, so far as we know, the only cow testing association in Texas. During October 361 cows were tested. They produced about 12 per cent of all milk sold in the county. The total value of the product of these tested cows for that month was \$5,063.07. Some farmers are disposing of cows which do not produce as much as twenty-five pounds of butter fat per month, showing already the good effects of the testing work. A survey reveals that 73 per cent of the members own their own farms. E. C. Jameson states that one man reports the testing saved him \$150 in one month's feed bill.

Farmer Mysteriously Killed.

Grandfield, Ok., Dec. 14.—A. C. Cunningham, 38, a farmer residing three miles west of here, is dead today after being found unconscious Sunday in the road beside his automobile. His skull was crushed, but police have been unable to explain the cause of the injury.

Houston's Biggest Baptist Church Split Wide Open in War Over Pastor's Policy

Houston, Texas, Dec. 15.—A split in the membership of the First Baptist church, with the largest congregation in the city, was declared inevitable a week ago when scores filed out of the church after all efforts at reconciliation in their "covenant dispute" had failed.

The sensational exit followed an official ballot of the membership approving in full the resolution adopted on November 17, which provides "that only those signing the church covenant on or before January 1, 1927, constitute the membership of the church."

By a vote of 589 to 278 the church followed the leadership of its pastor, the Rev. James B. Leavell and the board of deacons, retaining the "penalty" and all other features of the original resolution, which prescribes rules of conduct for members. J. M. Minton, leader of the opposition, delivered an impassioned address in which he said that "the church, which has been notably democratic for years, should not be forced to do anything."

It was contrary to the spirit of the United States constitution, he declared, and was not at all in keeping with the best traditions of a church whose members have individual rights.

A motion to adopt the resolution unanimously, after it had carried by 589 to 278, failed to carry, and another motion looking toward a reconciliation of the members also failed to stem the movement of Baptists toward the exit.

One man at the door declared that he had been attending the First Baptist church for 10 years, but avowed that he would never hear Rev. Mr. Leavell speak again.

In an appeal for the members to follow his leadership, the pastor made this assertion, "If you do not believe that the pastor is a man God has called, there is no connection between God and the church organization."

He said that many charged this was the papal theory—that of infallibility—but made no modifying statement. In any case, the majority of the members voted as he and the deacons recommended.

"The best way to fight God," he said, "is to fight your pastor."

"Nobody in America can be forced to do anything," he said. "Of course, the church covenant is a matter for your individual conscience."

"A man is an absolute fool to think that another can be forced to live up to the covenant. All you are required to do is to try to abide by its provisions." Rev. Leavell then explained that the penalty in the covenant was necessary to proper discipline and for many other reasons. He said that a pastor in San Antonio would have the same covenant adopted in his church, if he could.

The covenant is working successfully at Jackson, Tenn., he declared, and probably will be adopted in hundreds of other Baptist churches.

Mr. Minton took the opposite view, declaring that Baptists had proved themselves a democratic, self-governing body for years, with due consideration for individual rights, and he expected them to continue so for years to come.

Shouts of "Amen" came from all parts of the congregation as the Rev. Leavell spoke, and later when Mr. Minton, champion of the opposition, was on the floor.

Many women left the church in tears, saying "O, I am so sorry this thing has happened." They stood about the entrance of the building, while others retorted hotly to any who tried to console them—and hurried away.

Inside the building were hundreds, some of them for the covenant and others against, who were trying hard to find common grounds for their old friendship, but the strain was evident.

At the start of the meeting, anthem leaders of the church asked all but bonafide members to go up in the balcony. The congregation then voted unanimously to ask the reporters not to report the meeting.

Dr. Leavell made the suggestion, declaring that "reporters would not understand" the situation.

Amarillo Man Drinks 71 Cups Coffee for New World's Record

Amarillo, Texas, Dec. 15.—Coffee drinking records galore were shattered here December 10.

As a result of a coffee marathon, H. A. Street of Amarillo, claims to be the new world's champion, with 71 eight-ounce cups to his credit within ten hours.

Street's feat climaxed a free-for-all Java-consuming contest in which Gus Comstock of Minnesota, former world's champion, with 62 five-ounce cups, was made to look like a piker. Starting early in the morning, eight contestants began a grind for the record. Perry Wilson of Canyon, first shattered the state record of twenty-six cups held by Franc Roberts of Corpus Christi. Wilson continued until he had broken Comstock's world record and proceeded to set one of his own at seventy cups.

Street, who started two hours after Wilson, equalled the contest in which state record and established a new world record with seventy-one, finishing an hour and thirty minutes ahead of the allotted ten hours.

Street's record of seventy-one eight-ounce cups is equivalent to 103 five-ounce cups, the size said to have been consumed by Comstock.

Six of the eight drinkers fell out before reaching the twenty-six mark set by Roberts.

Both men finished the contest in good shape. Hundreds of people thronged the cafe in which the marathon was staged.

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