

AUSTRIA TAKES HER PLACE AS MEMBER OF WORLD LEAGUE

Unanimously Admitted by Vote of Assembly Committee — Reply to Wilson on Armenian Mediation Being Drafted.

U.S. ASKED TO SIT IN ON ARMAMENTS

GENEVA, Dec. 1.—The League of Nations committee on applications for membership today voted unanimously to admit Austria to the league. Austria thus becomes the first member among the former enemies of the allies.

LEAGUE DRAFTS REPLY TO WILSON

GENEVA, Dec. 1.—President Wilson's committee on the invitation to serve as mediator between the Turks and Armenians was received today and the council immediately began to draft a reply. President Wilson made it clear that his efforts could only be personal as he had no right or authority to use American military forces for intervention. Brazil and Spain already have pledged President Wilson their support.

The council has adopted the military commission's report asking America to send a representative to discuss disarmament without committing the United States to the league.

WAITS ON NEXT MOVE OF LEAGUE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—President Wilson is only waiting for the assembly of the League of Nations to indicate to whom he shall address his offer of mediation, to take the next step in his effort to settle the disputes between Turkey and Armenia.

WILSON MESSAGE IS ALMOST READY

Taxation Expected to Play Big Part in Communication.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—President Wilson has nearly completed his forthcoming message to Congress in all probability the last lengthy communication he will make to that body.

As has been his custom with former important communications, the President has peeked on the message and is now on the illuminated typewriter which has turned out so many history-making documents in the last four years.

It was still undetermined today whether the President will attempt to deliver his message in person. His condition, it was said, is so much improved that he has decided to take the train next Monday if he so desires, although some of his closest confidants have advised against it.

Secretary of State Colby has been almost a daily visitor to the White House, postponing his departure for South America several times that he might be at the President's call.

On the other hand, it is considered certain will be taken up at length in the President's message is that of taxation. It is expected in Washington that he will make some concrete suggestions for relief measures, at least for a more equitable distribution of the burden. It is also believed that he will urge the repeal of the excess profits tax.

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New Asked to Urge Department Change

An urgent letter has been sent by John B. Reynolds, general secretary of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, to Senator Harry S. New urging that he take an active interest in Senator Kenyon's proposed plan to remove the Interior Department and the Department of Agriculture from Washington to a more favorable location in the middle West.

In his letter Mr. Reynolds points out that Indianapolis is centrally located and that the two departments could well be established here in the city.

France and Vatican Resume Relations

PARIS, Dec. 1.—Resumption of diplomatic relations with the Vatican was held jubilantly today by the Catholic press. Other papers refrained from comment except to say that the action was a good omen.

There was lively speculation as to who will be the first ambassador to the Vatican since relations were broken off in 1905. Charles Benoist, minister to The Hague, a prominent Catholic and an authority on Vatican affairs, was mentioned as the probable choice. Charles Jonnart was another name put forward.

(Continued on Page One.)

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The Government claims its loss amounts to several millions of dollars.

It is expressly stated in the will that no Roman Catholics or Hebrews be admitted to the home because these faiths have adequate homes for the aged. He stipulated that people of Scottish birth be given preference.

The will provides that large bequests be made to institutions in Scotland.

Thief Slays Officer

DENVER, Dec. 1.—Police Officer Roy Downing, 27, was shot and instantly killed today by a burglar who had been attempting to break into his home in Park Hill residence. Downing's pistol failed to explode when he attempted to fire at the robber, who escaped without securing any loot.

WEATHER

Forecast for Indianapolis and vicinity for the next four hours ending 7 p. m., Dec. 2. — Rain, light and Thursday; not much change in temperature; lowest temperature 30 to 35 degrees.

HOURLY TEMPERATURE

6 a. m. 31

7 a. m. 33

8 a. m. 37

9 a. m. 41

11 a. m. 42

12 (noon) 45

1 p. m. 47

2 p. m. 47

47

OBREGON STRONGEST MAN IN MEXICO

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Alvaro Obregon, former minister of war, will be chief of the new cabinet. Senor de la Huerta consented to accept the post of minister of the treasury.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Coincident with the inauguration of President Al-

ATTORNEYS PRY INTO GEORGIA'S 'MURDER CABAL'

State's Investigation of Death of Millionaire Peach King Shrouded in Mystery.

WHOLE STORY PROMISED

MACON, Ga., Dec. 1.—Secretary today shrouded the State's investigation of the alleged "murder cabal" which resulted in the death by poisoning, June 1, of Fred B. Shepard, millionaire peach king. Authorities indicated they believed a veritable Borgia plot existed to poison Shepard, who sold his estate, a large blackbird of mystery, is believed to have been slipped into the drinks of whisky he was accustomed to take in the evening. Then the alleged conspirators, detectives will endeavor to prove, watched him sicken and die.

Four persons are involved in the great trial. Mrs. Pauline Elmer, wife of Shepard at the time of his death; her sister, Mrs. lone Henry; her son by another marriage, Ernest Hopson, and Mrs. Annie E. Cutts.

All those involved are well-to-do southern farmers, with estates and handsome homes of their own.

HOPE TO GET LINE ON STATE'S EVIDENCE.

Attorneys for the prisoners hope to get some idea of the prosecution's evidence, Dec. 7, when arguments will be heard in court on their demands for a trial by a jury.

Dr. E. E. Elmer, husband of Mrs. Elmer, one of the prisoners, returned to his home in Jacksonville today. At the proper time, he said, he will lay bare the "whole sordid story."

"It is a dirty and sordid story, but my wife has no connection with it," he said.

"They" referring to the family of Mrs. George N. Crandall, the dead fruit grower's sister—"are fighting to hold the possessions in California. They care nothing for the pittance in Georgia, but are afraid they will lose everything else."

ESTATE VALUED AT \$25,000.

The Shepard estate has been variously estimated as worth between \$200,000 and \$25,000, located in fifteen different States.

This estate was the goal of the murder cabal, detectives state.

Indications today were that Garrett's evidence centered around the gathering of the Shepard family and friends at Eldridge Cutts' home in Abbeville, Ga., May 17, when John S. and Mrs. Mrs. Elmer's son was mysteriously shot.

Statements made by Mr. and Mrs. A. Turner and J. J. Patterson of Abbeville were to the effect that the "murder plot" was perfected in detail at this meeting, it is alleged.

The generally accepted solution as to how poison was given to Shepard is that it was placed in a bottle of whisky from which Shepard is alleged to have taken several drinks before being stricken.

KEITH L. COLLINS.

Keith L. Collins, alleged to be the "master mind" of the gang that staged the record mail train robbery at Council Bluffs, Iowa, has been arrested. He wore the uniform of a captain in the aviation service and wore three medals. Army officials say he was a private in the air service and did not see service several days before being stricken.

GARDENERS ASK IMPROVED ROADS

Do Not Agree With Program of Farm Federation.

Short Circuit Flash Calls Burglar Squad

A burglar report was weighed in the balance and found wanting this morning.

An excited voice notified the desk sergeant that there was a burglar with flashlight in J. J. Beckerick's grocery, 1213 East Twenty-Second street.

The emergency squad surrounded the building and using a key, forced the door to the store, found the light off. Just as reported, but the light was an automatic scale and there was a short circuit that made it flash and disappear at intervals.

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Obregon Inaugurated Mexico's President; Many Americans at Ceremonies

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 1.—General Alvaro Obregon was inaugurated president of Mexico today, succeeding Provisional President Adolfo de la Huerta. The ceremonies began at midnight.

The large number of Americans, including the American Legation, witnessed the ceremonies. There were more Americans in the capital today than at any time within the past ten years.

The city is in gala attire with flags and bunting. Business was suspended to give every one a holiday. There was a big display of fireworks beginning late at night and continuing until the streets and buildings were illuminated.

Several receptions and balls were given for prominent visitors and Mexican officials.

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Divorce Greater Calamity Than Death, Judge States

Thornton Gives Results of His Observations After Long Period on Superior Bench.

(Editor's Note.—Judge W. W. Thornton of Superior Court, Room 1, has prepared a series of three articles for the Times showing the causes of the divorce and the results of his observations.

"I am not able to say whether divorce is increasing, as his opinions are not definite," he said. "I have been able to find no evidence submitted to him in many divorce hearings during his years of service on the bench. More than fifteen hundred new divorce cases have been filed in the local county courts this year."

By JUDGE W. W. THORNTON
Of Superior Court, Room 1.

You have asked me the legal definition of a divorce. Speaking in a general way, it is the dissolution of the matrimonial bonds existing between husband and wife. If there never was a marriage, there could be no divorce.

The marriage must be valid, though there could be no divorce if the marriage was illegal.

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