

SECRETARY WALLACE OPENS FIGHT ON BIG PACKER MERGER

Complaint Filed Against Proposed Armour-Morris Deal.

By United Press
WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Secretary of Agriculture Wallace today took drastic steps to prevent the consummation of the merger of the big packing interests of Armour & Co. and Morris & Co. Acting under the packer control law, the secretary served a formal complaint against the two packing interests, declaring the combination is a violation of this law.

The two packing companies will be given an opportunity to present their case in a hearing before the Secretary of Agriculture on April 2.

From this decision the packers may appeal to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago and then the case may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. Expedition of the legal proceedings is provided for by the law and heavy penalties for violation of the "cease and desist" order may be imposed by the court.

Would Injure Farmer

The main basis of Secretary Wallace's complaint against the proposed combine is that it would lessen competition, particularly in the buying of livestock, and this would injure the American farmer, whose rights the control law protects.

Wallace reveals that early in December he told G. Ogden Armour and S. Edson White, president of Armour & Co., that Federal Government would be compelled to act against the merger if plans for its consummation were continued. At that time Wallace urged the merger be dropped. Despite this information received by the department showed that plans for the combine were being continued, and recently Armour & Co., by long distance telephone, admitted that a tentative agreement for the merger had been reached.

That "J. Ogden Armour, acting for himself and the Armour corporation, contracted with Morris & Co. and the Morris family to acquire all of the assets of Morris & Co., including its business, patents and good will, and its interests in its subsidiary and allied companies engaged in the meat packing and related business, that Morris & Co. is to receive approximately \$30,000,000, to be paid approximately one-third in cash, one-third in preferred stock and one-third in common stock of Armour & Co., either of Illinois or Delaware, the purchaser to assume the outstanding liabilities, and that the transfer is to take place on or before Feb. 28, 1923.

"It is charged that this transaction provides for the entire elimination of Morris & Co. from the meat packing field and constitutes a violation of Title II of the packers and stock yards act of 1921, in that it is a restraint of interstate commerce and creates or tends to create a monopoly in many sections and communities of the United States and foreign countries in the purchase and sale of live stock and the sale of live stock products.

"On Jan. 23," said Secretary Wallace, "I heard that some sort of agreement had been signed by J. Ogden Armour and by the stock holders of Morris & Co.

I called Armour & Co. at Chicago and asked whether such an agreement had been signed and was told that it had been, but that its terms had not yet been put in effect. I told representatives of Armour & Co. and Morris & Co. that formal proceedings would be instituted as I had previously stated to them, and our attorneys at once began to prepare the complaint which was now being issued.

"Above all, there is a vital principle involved which cannot be ignored. It will eliminate one of the five largest packers in the United States, and in my opinion it may result in materially lessening competition among the buyers of live stock at the various markets.

BOTH 'WISE AND LEGAL'

White Answers Charge of Secretary Wallace.

By United Press
CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—F. Edson White, president of Armour & Co., packers, today declared the proposed purchase of Morris & Co. is "wise as well as legal."

Answering an attack by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace on the combine, White said:

"When the whole matter of the purchase of Morris & Co. was put up to the Government, we gained the impression that while the Government could see no legal objection, nevertheless, the secretary would make a test case under the packers and stockyards act.

"The great war was primarily responsible for conditions which made it necessary for us to re-organize and re-finance our business.

Blind in Recital

Monday section of the Woman's Department Club composed of sightless women, assisted by Charles Hansen, organist, and pupils at the School for the Blind, will give a recital this evening at the clubhouse. The proceeds will go toward social welfare work among the blind, in which this section, under the direction of Mrs. Lewis N. Poyer, is interested. The program is as follows:

"Snow at Sunset" Corinne Monday Section sextet
"Sunset" Dudley Buck
"Serenade" (violin and flute) Ltd. Miss Mary Hansen and Dudley Reading
"Old Man and Jim" Riley
"A Birthday" Woodman
"To Love" (piano) Gring
"A Love Song" Neeloid
"Lullaby" Taylor Monday Section sextet

Massage, Sir?

One thief here was prepared to start a barber shop today. Over the weekend he used a skeleton key to enter the barber shop of Harry B. Skirvin, 1524 N. Alabama St., and got away with an electric hair drier, an electric massage machine, four pairs of scissors and four razors belonging to Skirvin and two razors and two pairs of scissors belonging to Frank M. Perrine, an employee.

Graves of City's Founders May Be Terminal Site



UPPER LEFT—EDWIN R. NOWLAND STANDING AT HEAD OF HIS ANCESTOR'S DESECRATED GRAVE. UPPER RIGHT—MARKER OF THE GRAVES OF CHILDREN OF THE RESENER FAMILY, EARLY SETTLERS IN INDIANAPOLIS. LOWER SHOWING HOW GREENLAWN HAS BECOME A PUBLIC DUMPING GROUND. CIRCLE—RICHARD BARRY, 10-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE OLD CEMETERY IS BEING TORN AWAY.

FRENCH OPPOSE RUHR MEDIATION

By United Press

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The French today said "hands off the Ruhr" to all nations considering mediation, and proceeded to acquisition of further territory and a lively "strafing" of mutinous German towns.

A semi-official statement said France would not accept intervention, whether by Britain, Holland or the United States.

Pushing forward over a considerable area east of the Rhine, French troops today closed gaps between Bridgewater Arch, provided for by the Versailles treaty, and in doing so almost completely cut off the British in their little sector at Cologne. French troops now hold wide strips of territory on both sides of the British.

Montauban, in territory that was once allotted to America for occupation but never taken, was seized by the French today.

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JACOB P. DUNN

Senator-Elect Samuel M. Ralston has chosen for his secretary a writing man, Jacob P. Dunn, historian, and secretary of the Indiana Historical Society.

Ralston and Dunn will leave for Washington soon.

Dunn was graduated from Earlham College and the University of Michigan. He is the author of a number of historical works and is recognized as an authority on the history of Indian tribes in this State.

Mother and Baby Die

By United Press
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—A mother and her eleven months old child, were killed and four others were injured when fire swept through an apartment house on Tenth Ave., early today.

VICTIM IN STUPOR AFTER ATTACK BY TWO WHO ESCAPE

No Clew Found to Mysterious Assailants of C. C. Hendricks.

As a result of a brutal attack by two men Charles C. Hendricks, 33, of 1140 Trowbridge St., was in a critical condition at the city hospital today. Physicians said his skull probably was fractured.

Hendricks was at Beecher and East Sts. at 10:45 p. m. Sunday.

Henry C. Andrews, 141 E. Palmer St., said three men were arguing and the largest hit Hendricks with his fist. A smaller man knocked Hendricks down with a blackjack. Andrews said.

Money Not Touched

Police say Hendricks was not robbed. In his pocket was \$2. A man's ring was on his finger. The object of the attack is a mystery. Hendricks had not regained consciousness early today. Sergeant O'Connor and the emergency squad investigated.

One of the assailants was described as five feet nine inches in height and weighing 160 pounds. He wore a dark soft hat and no overcoat. The other was five feet seven inches in height and weighed 155 pounds. He wore a gray cap and dark overcoat.

On Way to Brother's

Mrs. F. E. Carr, Hendricks' mother, today declared she believed the men planned to rob her son. She said he had visited friends at 36 Pleasant Run Parkway, and had left there at 10

Condition Critical Following Attack



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HARD COAL PRICE UNWARRANTED, IS MINERS' CHARGE

Union Officials Present Statistics to Federal Coal Commission.

Present high price of anthracite coal is not warranted by wages paid the miners or by total cost of production, according to statistics sent the United States coal commission by officials of the United Mine Workers of America from headquarters here today.

Net income of six representative coal companies increased 363 per cent from 1912 to 1920, while production increased only .09 per cent for the same period, the figures show. The surplus of four companies increased approximately 739 per cent in the same eight years, according to the union. The statistics show:

Cost summary of eight items in production resulted in actual cost of \$5.20 a gross commercial ton. At present tricer, the margin on each ton is \$1.60. Labor cost in the anthracite industry on the basis of an eight-hour day ranges from \$4.20 to \$4.42. The working time at the mines does not exceed 272 days a year, or less than \$1,500 annual income to the miner. This gives an apparent net income of \$103,600,000 on a commercial production of 70,000,000 tons annually for the operators.

Sad News Awaits Man

Police today were trying to locate a man whose name and address were given in a telegram as Charles Abernathy, 433 N. Lane. The name does not appear in the city directory. The telegram, sent by Walter Lemme of Cherokee, Kan., stated Abernathy's sister was dead.

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Transfer of Roy Hollister of Rich

mond, Ind., to the local Federal pro

hibition force was announced today.

He has been general prohibition agent in Pennsylvania. He takes the place of Theophilus Williams of New Albany, who was transferred to Penn

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Heals Membranes

Use BALSA-ME-A Now

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