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LA FOLLETTE BRANDS U. S. CHIEFS WEAK

Administration Lacks 'Will or Courage,' Young Bob Tells Progressives.

JOBLESS AID IS TALKED

Existing Order Challenged at Conference; Borah Striking Figure.

BY RAYMOND CLAPPER
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Declaring the administration has lacked "either the will or the courage" to meet a crisis in which 25,000,000 people have suffered privation in the midst of plenty, Senator Robert M. La Follette (Rep., Wis.) called upon members of the progressive conference today to search for a remedial program which independents could support with their balance of power in the next congress.

"We do not expect to draw up such a program in two days' time," he said, "but we believe our government can be made to function in relieving the appalling suffering that exists, and in prevention of the recurrence of the disaster of widespread unemployment."

Urges Jobless Insurance

La Follette led a round-table discussion on unemployment and industrial stabilization. Others participating included La Follette, unemployment expert; Robert P. Scripps, president and editorial director of the Scripps-Howard newspapers; and George H. Soule of the labor bureau, New York, and associate editor of the New Republic.

Wolman in his speech advocated three major remedies for unemployment. They were:

1. "A universal system of public employment agencies calculated to facilitate the bringing together of vacancies and unemployed workers."

2. Exercise of control over public construction, to enable expansion in times of need and contraction in times of prosperity.

3. Unemployment insurance, set up by the industries themselves.

Shape Important Issues

Economists, said Wolman, are agreed "that these recurring periods of prosperity or depression inevitably will succeed themselves in the future as they have in the past as long as the present unregulated course of business continues."

Out of these discussions, especially that concerning utilities, one of the important issues in the next presidential campaign may take shape.

Senator William E. Borah (Rep., Idaho) has emerged in the conference as one of the striking figures in the progressive movement.

Borah, supported by emphatic applause, registered the general temper of the conference as one which seeks to better the condition of that 96 per cent of the population which was said to own only 20 per cent of the nation's wealth, and to lay firm hands on the other 4 per cent, not to deprive it of its wealth, but to hold it in check through equality before the law.

"Progressive opinion is against any blanket repeal of the eighteenth amendment which does not substitute a national system of public control over the manufacture and sale of alcohol. Should the federal government take over the enforcement responsibility of the state? It should not."

"This question can be met only by a system of honest co-operation between state and local authorities."

William Green Speaks

The question of Russian recognition was injected into the conference by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who announced that his organization is uncompromisingly and irreconcilably opposed to the recognition of Soviet Russia.

The federation's position, Green said, is based upon a belief that application of Soviet principles would "destroy our organized labor movement."

Green demanded a five-day work week and a reduction in the hours of labor in proportion to the increase in the productivity of individual laborers.

He declared modern machine methods of production enable one man to produce as much in four days at present as he could produce in six days in 1899.

Assaults U. S. Policies

The attitude of the federal government toward the present unemployment situation was described by Mayor Frank Murphy of Detroit as "unfair and cowardly," amounting to a social retreat.

"In Detroit we held the situation to be legally a calamity and as a city we held our arms open while the federal government groused away the opportunity and was stone-cold and brutally callous," the youthful red-headed mayor said.

He described the machinery which has furnished 2,000,000 free meals and housed 12,000 homeless men every night in Detroit and appealed for federal unemployment insurance.

REALTOR BLAMES BANKS

Losses on Real Estate Unnecessary, Board Is Told.

"No bank which has made real estate loans on a scientific, intelligent and honest appraisal, should have lost any appreciable amount during the past depression," said Harry S. Kissel, Springfield, O., before the Indianapolis Real Estate Board today at the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

Kissel, president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, spoke on "Real Estate Solidifying Itself as Safest Investment."

Wealthy Husband Slain by Ex-Beauty Queen



Mrs. Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger

Self-Defense Claimed by Former 'Miss St. Louis' After Tragedy.

NICE, France, March 12.—Mrs. Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger, 26, who, as Charlotte Nash, Miss St. Louis, won second honors in the 1923 international beauty pageant at Atlantic City, was held by police today on charges of killing her husband.

Nixon-Nirdlinger, 60, once a prominent figure in theatrical life in the United States, was killed during a quarrel at the villa of the couple on the fashionable promenade Des Anglaises.

Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger told police she fired two shots at her husband in self-defense when he threatened her with physical harm.

Police said the shooting occurred when Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger was studying Italian. Her husband was said to have been jealous and to have accused his wife of studying the language because she wanted to talk "to your Italian friends."

The couple had two young children who were asleep in the next room, but were not awakened by the shots.

Met at Beauty Pageant

PHILADELPHIA, March 12.—Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger was a member of a prominent theater family in the east. At one time he had various shows touring the country and was considered extremely wealthy.

Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger, the former Charlotte Nash, is the third wife of the theater owner. They were married in Hagerstown, Md., in February, 1924, divorced in Paris, and remarried in 1928. They have two children, one 3 years old and the other 18 months.

The amusement man and Miss Nash became acquainted during the Atlantic City beauty pageant of 1923, when she was Miss St. Louis and he was connected with the group of sponsors.

Nixon-Nirdlinger was one of the judges of the contest and when Miss Nash was awarded second place announced "she was the most beautiful girl in the world."

Shortly after the contest, the girl who was to become the third Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger, was sent to a finishing school at Forest Glenn, Md., by a wealthy Philadelphiaan.

A special governess was employed to instruct her in the fine points of social deportment.

The school girl and the theater magnate slipped away to Hagerstown, Md., and were secretly married under assumed names, although he was still married to his second wife.

During the honeymoon, reports came to friends here that there had been a quarrel while crossing the ocean. Her mother, Mrs. J. B. Nash, came east and went to Paris with the couple, then returned to New York with her daughter.

Later the bathing beauty relented and returned to her husband in Paris. But they were divorced.

During the following year, a son was born to Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger, and that paved the way for a reconciliation. In the fall of 1928 friends learned they had been remarried.

'Twas A HORRIBLE DAY FOR MAN AND BEAST, IN THIS FAMOUS BLIZZARD OF '88

NEW YORK, March 12.—The famous blizzard of '88, which forty-three years ago today descended upon New York, tied up



traffic, and left a wealth of stories for posterity, was commemorated today at a meeting of the blizzard men of 1888.

The blizzard men, all hardy survivors of the historic "blow,"

'MYSTERY GIRL' IS BRANDED AS DRAVES KILLER

Kirkland Defense Charges Victim Was Struck Down by Jealous Rival.

REVERSAL IS FORECAST

Barrett O'Hara Declares Gary Youth Will Be Set Free.

VALPARAISO, Ind., March 12.—Refreshed by a fourteen-hour sleep and assurance of his attorneys that they could obtain reversal of a life imprisonment sentence, Virgil Kirkland, 20, former Gary high school football player, appeared almost his old confident, smiling self again today.

A "mystery" woman witness, it was reported, will testify that a girl, jealous of Virgil, had struck Arlene Draves in the head with a milk bottle at a liquor party.

"I didn't do it," Kirkland said from his small cell, where he will remain until Monday when sentence formally will be passed and he will be taken to the state prison, "I'm innocent and this isn't fair."

Youth Collapses in Cell

The jury's verdict that Kirkland had caused the death of Arlene Draves, his 16-year-old sweetheart, by beating her with his fists at the party in November, ended an eighteen-day trial. Virgil collapsed exhausted on his hard cot when he was taken to his cell and remained there fourteen hours.

Barrett O'Hara, defense attorney, appeared today to the verdict, he declared he was satisfied.

"There is no question about a reversal in this," said O'Hara, "the state's case was built up chiefly on evidence that my client had assaulted Miss Draves and brought about her death that way."

Reversal Is Forecast

"The jury decided that he did not assault her when it returned its verdict of guilty on the first count alone, which was 'by beating.' There was no question about that. He beat the girl to death with his fists. Even the jury said he did not beat her with anything else, when it passed up the second charge, which was 'beating by a blunt instrument.'"

He was acquitted of every other charge than that of beating the girl to death, he can not be retried on those other counts.

"And, too," he added with a smile, "we have just found a new witness, a woman, who will give evidence of a nature that I am sure will startle the prosecution and free the boy."

Society Is Blamed

"He wasn't the guilty one, remember. Society with its prohibition which brought about such gin parties, is really responsible for that murder."

Leon Stanford, one of four youths charged with responsibility for the girl's death with Kirkland, was brought to the jail here and will be tried as an accomplice. Three others, David Thompson, Henry Shirk and Paul Barton, are still in jail at Crown Point awaiting trial.

Kirkland met Stanford at the scene of the crime, which was changed a stiff greeting. They did not discuss the trial, guards said.

Speculation was rife in this city and Gary today over the effect the Kirkland verdict might have upon the pending trials.

Attorneys of the remaining defendants contend that since it already has been found that Miss Draves died of Kirkland's blow, it is unreasonable now to charge that she died of attacks by the defendants yet to be tried.

GIRL, 18, HELD AS HIT, RUN CAR DRIVER

Shortridge Pupil Is Charged With Hitting Negro Youth.

Miss Ruth Bannister, 18, of 1850 Goodiet avenue, Shortridge high school pupil, today was held on charges of failing to stop after an accident in connection with a hit and run accident March 5 in which Charles Hassell, 20, Negro, of the Negro Y. M. C. A., was struck and injured. The accident occurred on Indiana avenue.

GOLF COURSE JOBS WILL BE ASSIGNED

City Links to Open for Season Late Next Month.

Appointment of professional golfers at municipal links was to be made this afternoon by the park board.

Ralph Stonehouse, last year professional at Coffin course, will be assigned to Pleasant Run. Coffin course will be closed to be rebuilt. He will succeed Herman Uebele, resigned.

Russell Stonehouse will be re-appointed to Riverside, and Harry Schopp will be in charge of maintenance and golf duties at South Grove.

Clayton W. Schultz will be appointed to the Sarah Shank course. Selection of a pro for the Douglas park Negro links will be made later. Grand opening of the municipal courses probably will be held the latter part of April.

straight rye whisky. The beasts danced over the snowdrifts like reindeer on the way out, Jackson said, but were bothered by hiccoughs on the way back.

How one member was blown by the wind from the corner of Third avenue and Twelfth street, three blocks south, around the corner and into the basement of the Ninth avenue mission. Even today he can show frost bite scars on his ears to prove it.

How workmen started digging away at a gigantic drift, only to find it was a horsecar, snowbound for more than two days, with all passengers safe inside.

How another crew tied an elevated train to the tracks to keep it from blowing away.

How the courts were closed and Wall Street deserted, men were marooned in their offices and in

Bullets and Jail Terms Take Toll of Chicago's Gang Chiefs



Leading figures among Chicago's twenty-eight "public enemies" who have felt the weight of the law or succumbed to the bullets of rival gangsters since the famous list was issued by the Chicago crime commission a year ago and the crusade against them began are pictured here. Most prominent is Al Capone, "Public Enemy No. 1, who faces six months in jail.

GIANT BEACON IS DEDICATED

Planes Roar Over City as Governor Pushes Switch.

Indianapolis cut another notch in aviation history today, following dedication of the airplane beacon on top of the Merchants Bank building Wednesday night.

Thousands of citizens anxiously awaited the first rays of red light as Governor Harry G. Leslie pushed the switch that turned it on. One of the largest fleets of planes ever seen above the city roared over the downtown section several hours prior to the official dedication.

H. B. Carpenter, president of the Lincoln Oil Company, which erected the beacon, viewed the lighted air marker along with other company officials in a plane piloted by Richard Armet and Robert Armstrong Jr. of the Indiana Aviation Sales.

Pilots, including several from national guard units in other states, were guests at dinners at the Claypool and the Columbia Club attended by Indianapolis pilots and oil firm officials.

The beacon is 375 feet above the street, visible at a radius of seventy-five miles, and is lighted by a Neon 2,000,000-candle power light. A figure "6," designating miles to the Municipal airport is visible. The beacon weighs 43,000 pounds and was erected at a cost of \$50,000.

CARMEL MYERS ASKS \$50,000 IN DAMAGES

Owner Sued for Injuries Suffered in Car He Loaned.

LOS ANGELES, March 12.—Carmel Myers, screen actress, has asked \$50,000 damages from Milton C. Bren, theatrical agent, charging that she was injured in an automobile accident after she loaned her car to him.

Bren, who was driving the car, was injured and his car was damaged. Myers also asked \$2,000 medical fee.

TREE PLANTING IS PLANNED BY LEAGUE

Head of Walton Group Speaks to Civic Committee.

Plans to plant several thousand trees in Marion county, beginning Arbor day, April 10, were discussed Wednesday night by Howard M. Meyer, president of the Indianapolis chapter of the Izak Walton League.

He addressed members of the central committee of south side civic organizations at the Fountain Square theater.

Tracts now are being surveyed in the county as sites for the tree planting, Meyer said. The surveys are being made by the state conservation department.

700 QUARTS OF BEER CONFISCATED BY POLICE

Two Are Arrested in Raid and Charged With Blind Toter.

Sergeant Eldridge's police blotter squad arrested two persons and confiscated 700 quarts of home brew and a small amount of gin and alcohol at 36 West Thirtieth street Wednesday night. Mrs. Doris Campbell and Thomas Campbell were charged with blind totter.

Frank Drybread, 705 East North street, was held for blind totter, and Miss Charlotte Gibson, same address, was charged as a vagrant when Sergeant John Eisenhut's dry squad halted their car at Capitol avenue and Fourteenth street, Wednesday, obtaining, they said, a small amount of synthetic whisky.

PROHIBITION IS POWER KEG, WHITE WARNS

Nation Faces Greatest Peril in Seventy Years, Says Kansas Editor.

BOTH PARTIES DIVIDED

West and South Are Held Unalterably Dry, East Is Firmly Wet.

After the Democratic national committee's stormy session in Washington over the prohibition issue, the United Press asked William Allen White, publisher of the Emporia Gazette and veteran editorial writer of many campaigns, to outline his views on the part prohibition will play in the coming campaign. His article, written exclusively for the United Press, follows:

BY WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE

Editor, The Emporia Gazette (Copyright, 1931, by United Press)

EMPORIA, Kan., March 12.—

When one part of a country gets into an emotional state where it can not understand the attitude of another part of the country, the danger flag should go up.

And when the emotional condition of both regions rises to a point where people can not admit the honesty of the other side nor its intelligence, the danger flag should begin to wave a real warning.

America is approaching such a point now as the land has not faced for seventy years. Prohibition is making a serious rift in the politics of this country.

The people of the Atlantic seaboard north of Baltimore, without much consideration for party, will vote wet in the coming election. The people in the south and in the west outside of the larger cities will vote dry.

Feeling Is Bitter

Republicans and Democrats ordinarily do not let their emotions affect their judgments of one another. But prohibition has emotionalized politics, and people have ceased to think and have begun to feel, and feel bitterly.

An example of the bitterness which may come in our partisan politics during the next two years is seen in the explosion within the Democratic national committee in its last meeting, when Chairman Raskob attempted, on behalf of the wet, to commit the party on a wet platform.

The same thing easily might happen in the Republican national committee, if the New York and New England members had made the attempt which Raskob made in the Democratic committee.

Prohibition is bound to be an issue in the coming presidential campaign, perhaps the only issue, certainly a devastating issue, which may, for a time at least, and possibly finally, split both major parties.

Split Is Likely

It is not impossible that a majority of the Democratic convention favors a wet or a moist plank in the Democratic national platform. But with the two-party rule prevailing, the drys can prevent a wet Democratic presidential nomination.

With the adoption, or a serious threat of adoption, of a wet platform, it is more than likely that the south and west might withdraw from the convention and name a dry Democratic candidate, who might be nominated a few hours later or earlier, according to the luck of the game.

Similarly, the drys certainly will be able to control the Republican convention, their control easily might be frittered away and a wet or moist platform might be made for Mr. Hoover, a dry.

Another Bolt Possible

But there is in the Republican party a strong minority group of progressives for the most part from dry states. These dry progressive Republicans might take a notion to name Pinchot, one of their own kind, on a bolting ticket, thus leaving Hoover excluded into a wet platform with the regular nomination. Such a forecast is not impossible.

The south would vote for the dry candidate and in the Republican party probably the dish would break on the old crack. Many of the middle states and the Missouri valley would go dry and radical under the pressure of hard times. New York and the seaboard New England states easily might go wet Republican.

It is a mess and a mixup. The eastern wets can not realize how permanently and finally dry the west is. They are blind to the fact that year after year for a dozen years the drys have held and still hold in the next congress a working majority.

Playing With Fire

They grasp at straws. Because Ohio elected a liberal senator, the eastern wets forget that Ohio, on the one vital matter pertaining to prohibition, elected a dry legislator.

Because J. Ham Lewis came back to the senate the wets forget that he was a liberal running against a conservative, and that he was a prohibitionist who attempted to straddle the prohibition issue by falling back upon a referendum and lost both wets and drys.

The wets see what they want to see in the politics of the west, but the drys make no mistake about the intense feeling of the east on prohibition. The situation is acute, it is full of danger.

It is an issue which easily might lead to a disruption in this country which would be serious and terrible. We are as a nation playing with fire.

Mail Hauling Bids Filed

ANDERSON, Ind., March 12.—

Twenty bids are being considered for the contract to haul United States mail in Anderson.



Feb. 4 to 7, 1920, than in 1888, and that it was much colder in the winter of 1917-1918.

The blizzard men believed it best that they stay away from today's meeting.