

## GRAPE GROWERS ASK LEGALIZING OF LIGHT WINE

Industry Charged Betrayed by Government; Public Use Is Sought.

*By United Press*  
SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—Charging that their \$300,000,000 industry had been "betrayed" by those who should have been its friends, leaders of California's grape industry today demanded that light wines be legalized for use in homes, hotels and restaurants.

Donald D. Conn, managing director of the California Vintners' Association, today issued a 10,000-word report authorized by the industry's board of directors. In this he charged that the government "has morally outlawed the grape growers after supporting them since 1920."

### Hits Concentrate Ruling

The sudden turn of the heretofore protected grape industry was caused by the government's action in blocking "grape concentrate." This action, Conn declared, was based merely upon the single ruling of Federal Judge Otto of Missouri, who reversed the twelve-year-old interpretation of Section 29 of the Volstead act, and declared concentrates illegal.

In adopting the Ott ruling, the government, Conn charges, has "cast a slur" upon a big group of law-abiding farmers whose efforts had been directed toward enforcing prohibition and preventing grapes from going into bootleg and racketeering channels. And this reversal was made in spite of the fact that another branch of the government, the farm board, has loaned them government funds.

They owe the government \$12,272,800.

### Conn a Dry for Five Years

Conn admitted he has been a "dry" for the last five years and fought efforts to put the grape industry on record for repeal. Now he is for modification. In his recommendations, endorsed by a committee of industry leaders, he demands light wines and modification of the eighteenth amendment to permit naturally fermented beverages.

Pending a change in the eighteenth amendment, Conn urges an amendment to the Volstead act to permit home-made non-intoxicating wine made from fruit juices.

## VOTE MARKET QUIZ

Senate to Press Probe of Stocks Operators.

*By United Press*  
WASHINGTON, April 25.—The senate banking and currency committee today decided on a thorough investigation of all stock market operators and ordered creation of a "board of strategy" to conduct it.

Chairman Norbeck of the committee announced after a two-hour secret session of the committee, that he had been authorized to appoint the board or steering committee and that it would meet Tuesday to decide matters of future procedure and the employment of additional investigators and counsel.

Hearings will be resumed Wednesday.

## DIES IN BLIZZARD

Teacher Is Found Frozen in Mountain Cabin.

*By United Press*  
TRINIDAD, Colo., April 25.—A blizzard brought death to Mrs. B. E. Snowden, 58, rural school teacher, it was revealed today.

She was frozen to death when she set out from the lonely schoolhouse, where she lived and taught, for the ranch of her nearest neighbor, during a blizzard last Thursday.

She walked in circles in and out of canyons while the storm raged on. Finally she found a deserted cabin, where, tired from her struggle and numbed by cold, she died.

Searchers found the frozen body after a three days' hunt.

## RAIL HEARING OPENS

Commerce Commission Studies Four-System Consolidation Plan.

*By United Press*  
WASHINGTON, April 25.—Argument in favor of the four-system plan of consolidation of all eastern railroads, exclusive of New England lines, opened before the interstate commerce commission today.

It is the first time the full commission has heard the carriers' proposed modification of its own five-system plan.

## ACCEPTS NEW QUARTER

Government Approves Design for Washington Coin.

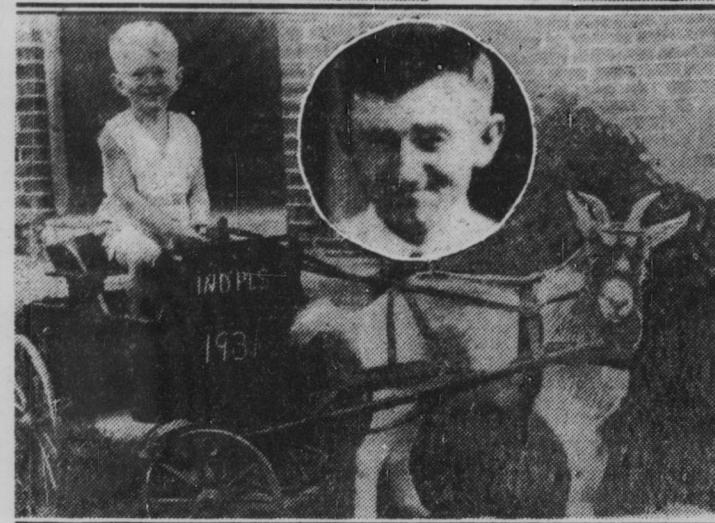
*By United Press*  
WASHINGTON, April 25.—The treasury today announced that it had accepted the design submitted by John Flanagan, New York, for the new quarter-dollar authorized by the act of March 4, 1931, in commemoration of the bicentennial of Washington. It bears a portrait of Washington.

## THIEF GETS \$700 MEAL

Hungry Transient Is Blamed for Homing Pigeons' Disappearance.

*By United Press*  
ST. LOUIS, April 25.—Police expressed the opinion today that a hungry transient stole nine homing pigeons valued at \$700 belonging to Thomas Helle, and ate them, unaware of their value.

## GIVES LIFE TRYING TO SAVE HER SON



Upper—Mrs. Mora B. Merriman (left) who lost her life in the canal Saturday in a futile attempt to rescue her son Joseph, 8, (right). Lower—The surviving son of the picnic tragedy, Roger, 4, and (inset) the father, Justin H. Merriman, 236 Hampton drive.

### Mother, Boy, 8, Are Swept to Death in Canal Near Butler.

A pall of sadness darkened an Indianapolis home today as a mother and her small son lay dead—victims in a week-end picnic tragedy. The mother, Mrs. Mora B. Merriman, 39, and her son Joseph, 8, of 263 Hampton drive, were drowned Saturday afternoon in the canal near Butler university.

Disregarding her own safety, the mother plunged into the water to rescue her son, who slipped from the canal bank while playing. Both were drowned in the swift current. Their bodies were recovered two hours later nearly a mile from the canal.

The tragedy occurred as the father, Justin H. Merriman, was in Evansville.

### Son, 4, Watches Tragedy

A second son, Roger, 4, who had stood nearby as Mrs. Merriman struggled to rescue her other son, watched hundreds of mourning friends and relatives pass through the Merriman home today, hardly aware that death has claimed his best playmate.

Double funeral services will be held at 11 Tuesday morning in the All Souls Unitarian church, with the Rev. Frank S. C. Wicks officiating. Burial will be in Warren, Ind., Mrs. Merriman's birthplace.

Mrs. Merriman and her sons went to the canal bank Saturday afternoon for a picnic luncheon. The boys were playing near the bank. Joseph slipped and fell and was swept away by the current.

*Lad Unfolds Story*

Plunging after him, Mrs. Merriman too was swept into mid-stream. Within a few seconds both sank, as Roger stood puzzled.

Finally the boy ran for help. He found Donald S. Morris, 524 Buckingham drive, safety board member. Morris calmed the boy and drew from him the story. Morris summoned aid and went to the scene.

Police were unable to find the bodies until early Sunday morning. Dr. John A. Salb, deputy coroner, returned a verdict of accidental drowning.

### Couple Well Known

Mr. and Mrs. Merriman, well known in the city, came to Indianapolis from Bluffton six years ago. Mrs. Merriman attended De Pauw university and was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan. Both she and her husband attended Columbia university. She was active in the work of the All Souls church and taught Sunday school there. She was a member of Psi Iota Xi and Alpha Omicron Pi sororities.

Merriman, a state representative from Bluffton, was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan. Both she and her husband attended Columbia university. She was active in the work of the All Souls church and taught Sunday school there. She was a member of Psi Iota Xi and Alpha Omicron Pi sororities.

Surviving, besides the husband and son, is Mrs. Merriman's mother, Mrs. Amanda Beck of Warren, and a brother, Winton Beck of Pittsburgh, Pa.

### STABBED DURING FIGHT

William Blake Injured as Result of Five-Year Grudge.

Stabbed twice in the back in a fight climaxing a five-year grudge, William Blake, 22, of 236 North Temple avenue, today is in a critical condition at city hospital.

As a result of the fight, William Prinz, 26, of 246 Leeds avenue, Blake's assailant, is sought by police. He fled after stabbing Blake during a quarrel in the rear of 2405 English avenue, early Sunday morning, police were told.

### In the Air

Weather conditions at 9 a.m.: South southwest wind, 16 miles an hour; temperature, 62; barometric pressure, 29.85 at sea level; ceiling, scattered clouds, unlimited; visibility, 7 miles; field good.

## BANDITS SLAY COP, RUN AUTO OVER HIS BODY

Ovid McCracken, Ex-Minor League Pitcher, Killed in Theater Holdup.

*By Times Special*  
MUNCIE, Ind., April 25.—Two bandits who shot and killed Ovid McCracken, 35, city patrolman here, and former minor league baseball pitcher, while robbing managers of two theaters late Sunday night, are sought by police.

McCracken, patrolling his beat, walked into an alley in rear of the Rivoli theater as the two gunmen stepped from the darkness and accosted F. S. Norton, manager of the Grand theater, and Howard Webster, assistant manager of the Rivoli theater, both carrying receipts of the day.

As one of the bandits ordered both victims to drop their money bags, the second bandit saw McCracken approaching. The gunman began firing over Norton's shoulder, two bullets piercing the patrolman's chest. He died almost instantly. The bandits fled in an auto with a total of \$747. In making their escape, the bandits drove their car across McCracken's body.

### Probe City Clew

Indianapolis police today are investigating clews that one of the gunmen in the Muncie robbery left Indianapolis two hours before the robbery after commandeering a taxi driven by Elmer O. Kingery, 27, of 430 North Alabama street.

Kingery reported to police that he picked up the "fare" at Sixteenth street and Central avenue, from where Kingery was ordered to drive to Fountain Square. There, Kingery said, the man talked to friends on a street corner, then entered the cab again.

Kingery said he was told to drive to the northeast part of the city where the "fare" drew a revolver, commanding Kingery to drive to Muncie. They reached the city shortly before the theater robbery occurred, Kingery said.

The gunman admitted to Kingery that he looted a store near Shelby and Raymond streets, recently, detectives were told.

### Former Mayor May Enter Race for Governor.

*By Times Special*  
BEDFORD, Ind., April 25.—Republican managers of the state today are studying effects of the declaration by Charles W. Jewett, former Indianapolis mayor, for stricter regulation of utilities, dry law reform and revision of the election laws.

They are wondering whether, in the presence of four announced and one possible candidate for the G. O. P. Governor nomination, Jewett had made another bid for the nomination.

In 1928 he entered the field, but finished out of the money because of the open enmity of George V. Coffin, Republican boss of Marion county who refused to give Jewett the delegation after he carried the county in the primary.

In his address, Jewett declared a net return of 7 per cent for utilities, based on a fair valuation, is ample and practical, whereby the utility can make contracts with itself, and thus earn additional profits.

"There should be put into the law just what the rate base for making utility valuations should be and the state should have something to say about operating costs," he said. "This may be accomplished by bringing the holding companies under the supervision and jurisdiction of the public service commission."

"There is no demand for public ownership of utilities in instances where the utility is fair, but every municipality in Indiana should be permitted to own and operate its own utilities."

### STEEL PRODUCTION UP

Increased Automotive Demands Expected to Maintain Gain.

*By United Press*  
CLEVELAND, April 25.—Increased automotive demand from Ford, General Motors and Chrysler is expected to maintain recent improvement in steel-making operations this week, the publication Steel said today.

### CONSTIPATED?

Take NR—NATURE'S REMEDY—tonight. Your eliminative organs will be functioning properly by morning and your constipation will end with a bowel action as free and easy as nature at her best. There will be no pain, no griping. Try it.

Mild, safe, purely vegetable—at druggists—only 25¢

FEEL LIKE A MILLION, TAKE NATURE'S REMEDY—NR—TABLETS—NR

TUMS for the tummy! Quick relief for sour stomach, acid indigestion and heartburn. Tums are antacid. Only 10¢.

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE A GOOD SPRING TONIC KOLLOIDAL IRON Will Purify Your Blood and Build Up Your System Solid and Guaranteed HAAG'S CUT-PRICE DRUGS

NOW: A New Speed Queen Washer To Sell at \$49.50  
Absolutely Guaranteed VONNEGUT'S Downtown Irvington Belmont

THE FINEST DRYING SYSTEM  
Fletcher Trust Company

ALTERATION SPECIALISTS—WE REPAIR RELINE, REFIT LEON TAILORING COMPANY

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## Court Saves Youth From Chair Death

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### Threat of Execution Is Still Over Boy, 17, After High Tribunal Ruling.

*By United Press*

ROCKFORD, Ill., April 25.—Though the state supreme court has affirmed the sentence of death against Russell McWilliams, who at 17 became the youngest person ever sentenced to the electric chair in Illinois, threat of capital punishment still hangs over the youth.

State's Attorney William D. Knight said today he again would seek the death penalty at a rehearing of the guilty plea entered by the slim, blue-eyed striping whose case drew the interest of Clarence Darrow, Jane Addams and other famed liberals.

McWilliams confessed he shot and killed a street car motorman while committing a gin-inspired holdup. The state board of pardons and paroles refused to modify the death sentence, but four days before McWilliams was to be executed last December a stay was granted to allow an appeal to the supreme court.

Knight declared there was nothing in the high court's order to prevent reimposition of the death

penalty.

The court held an error had been made in failure to include testimony at time of sentencing showing McWilliams' reputation for industry and support of his mother.

Darrow had argued that execution of a 17-year-old was a backward step after the constant modification of the law in the last 100 years to permit special consideration for juveniles.

Enough VELVET for 50 cigarettes

...15¢

*By United Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 23.—The hunt for Morton Depew, alleged leader of the gang which abducted Mrs. Neil Donnelly, millionaire garment manufacturer of Kansas City, and held her for ransom, has ended.

The commissioners, striving to "fix" Depew, resorted to "starving out" his employees as a method of driving him.

"I think we'll drop the whole case," said Dow W. Vorhis, president of the board, when informed of Staff's mandate ruling. "I see no reason for going any further into the matter."

"The judge ruled fairly and his decision should be final," asserted George Snider, Republican minority member of the board. "The workers have the money coming to them and should get it at once."

*By United Press*

PLYMOUTH, Vt., April 25.—The maple sugar season has closed at the old Coolidge farm. This year's crop of sap was turned into 200 gallons of maple syrup.

*By United Press*

OKLAHOMA CITY, April 25.—Governor William H. (Alfalfa Bill) Murray, presidential aspirant, lost a political battle today when a district court ruled against his order ousting Lew D. Wenz, wealthy Republican oil man, as chairman of the state highway commission.