

REPUBLICANS HOPE TO PASS SHIP BILL DURING THIS TERM

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, May 10.—Plans to obtain passage at the present session if possible of the administration ship subsidy bill were being laid today by Republican members of the Senate commerce and house merchant marine committee. Informal agreement to work to this end was reached by the Republican committee at the urging of President Harding in a white house conference last night.

Under the plan the hearings on the bill which the two committees have been conducting jointly for the past five weeks would be concluded this week and the measure taken up by the house next week, if possible, with the intention of sending it to the senate for action immediately after its disposal of the tariff bill.

The president in declaring that the administration was wholeheartedly and unreservedly behind the bill was said to have expressed the view at the conference that if necessary the measure should be handled in congress as a party matter.

Incorporation Completed By Local Radio Shop

Formal incorporation of the Quality Radio shop, a concern organized for the manufacture of radio apparatus and located at 610 National Road west was completed at a meeting of the stockholders of the concern, held Tuesday evening. C. O. Snyder is president and general manager. Harry Personett, vice president, and Fred Tilton secretary and treasurer of the concern.

Transformers, loud speakers, condensers and other equipment for the building of receiving sets will be turned out at the shop.

Circuit Court

SUES MERCURIO

Frank P. Loschiavo is plaintiff in a suit against Phillip Mercurio and William A. Mercurio, in which he asks for an accounting and division of the property on the business in which they were engaged from July 1920 to May 6, 1922. The suit was filed in circuit court Wednesday.

RETURN INMATE

Ralph Shipley, an escaped inmate of Easthaven, was returned to that institution by Sheriff Carl Wadmann, Tuesday. Shipley was captured in Indianapolis. He had escaped about two weeks ago.

FINE VOSMEIER

August Vosmeier, arrested late Tuesday afternoon on a charge of violation of the liquor laws, was fined \$100 and costs and sentenced to 60 days on the penal farm in police court Wednesday. Vosmeier made no defense.

He is proprietor of a soft drink saloon on South Sixth street.

FOUND WITHOUT LIGHTS

Charles Shelley, arrested at 11:15 o'clock Tuesday night for driving a machine without lights, was fined \$1 and costs.

BROWN FINED \$1

Ralph Brown, for driving past a street car while it was discharging passengers, was fined \$1 and costs.

CONSIDER

(Continued from Page One.)

office, because 35,000 cases were received from the central office of the bureau at Washington last week. The seventh district office passes upon the claims of all World war veterans who are residents of Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

The cases which were forwarded last week to the seventh district office were ones which had been filed in the Washington office of the bureau prior to the completion of plans for the decentralization of the Veteran's bureau, provided under a law enacted last year. Under this law the country is divided into 14 districts, each district with branch office of the bureau.

To Supervise Work

The Washington office of the bureau will supervise the work of the district offices and pass upon the cases which are appealed. For several months the large force of clerks in the Washington office have been kept busy compiling and sending out records on all cases to the district offices which have jurisdiction over them.

The forwarding of 35,000 compensation claims of former service men living in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky to Cincinnati last week almost swamped the seventh district office and Captain Coffin, the district manager, estimates it will take three weeks for his force of clerks to consolidate and file these cases.

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Ancient and Modern Alchemy

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 10.—The theory that modern man can do anything is leading some ambitious experimenters toward the long deserted aims of the alchemists.

For several centuries now, the popular attitude toward the medieval alchemists has been ridicule. The philosophers stone and the elixir of life were "jokes." Transmutation of base metals into gold was pronounced a legerdemain trick which some alchemists dexterously managed to put over in the presence of gullible kings whose knowledge of chemistry was limited.

One historian explained that the medieval scholar could produce a convincing illusion "by mixing in the presence of witnesses some compound in which gold was secretly placed or held invisible in solution, and then bringing it forth by a process simple enough to the operator but profoundly mysterious to the bystanders."

The bearded old alchemists were relegated to a sorry place in history and formulas were glibly quoted to show how far off were the theories of the early philosophers from the facts of scientific chemistry.

But now, we have come round to a more credulous era. So many miracles have become commonplace, so many mysteries have been explained; and so many modern explanations have to be periodically revised that most learned men hesitate to scoff at the seemingly impossible.

Thus, some scientists listened with respectful interest to the reports that German chemists were making synthetic gold. To be sure, the reports were later emphatically denied, and there is no reason to believe that the Germans have solved the problem that intrigued and baffled the philosophers of Europe for a thousand years.

Still, it is interesting to consider that if gold were to be made synthetically, the discovery would certainly be kept secret as long as possible, because only by keeping the process secret could the inventor hope to profit. As soon as the process became public property, gold would sink in value to the level of lead.

The economic fact explains why philosophers searched through ten centuries for the secret of transmutation of metals, without losing interest or hope. The mystery which surrounded the experiments of each black-robed philosopher was supposed to safeguard all sorts of important discoveries. Generally, the philosopher did without ever contributing his magnum opus to science. He preferred to bury his secret with him.

Back to Alchemy

One scientist has pointed out that the medieval theory that invisible creatures inhabit the elements, for instance, is not so outlandish as to call for ridicule. The alchemists said that

MERCHANTS

(Continued from Page One.)

other classes. The world-wide reaction which followed the abnormal activities of the early post-war period had a serious effect on the business of wholesale merchants, but it is gratifying to know how well they have stood up under the strain, and in view of the evidences of improvement which are now apparent in all sections of the country, it seems to me that the time has come when the enterprising business man may well let others indulge in lamentations and recriminations over the past and devote his energies to working out the problems of today and preparing for the business of tomorrow.

Use Printer's Ink

"Remember that this country of ours has never failed to demonstrate its tremendous power and that the processes of production, distribution and consumption will be continuous as long as humanity endures. Let the merchants exercise their functions as distributors. If business is dull, send out your traveling men; use printer's ink; advertise liberally but judiciously, and the business that you thus create for yourselves will stimulate production, and by reducing the number of unemployed you will add to the purchasing power of your customers."

Torture Revealed Nothing

Any number of wise men were supposed to have found the philosopher's stone which would dissolve the foreign substance in base metals leaving pure gold. Alchemists were tortured by poverty—stricken kings of Europe in vain efforts to force them to reveal the secret they claimed to have or were accused of having. Rack and wheel left the sages mute. Either they had no secret or it stayed with them.

Alexander Seton, a Scottish alchemist was thrown into prison by the duke of Saxony who demanded of him the secret of the philosopher's stone. Seton refused to produce a

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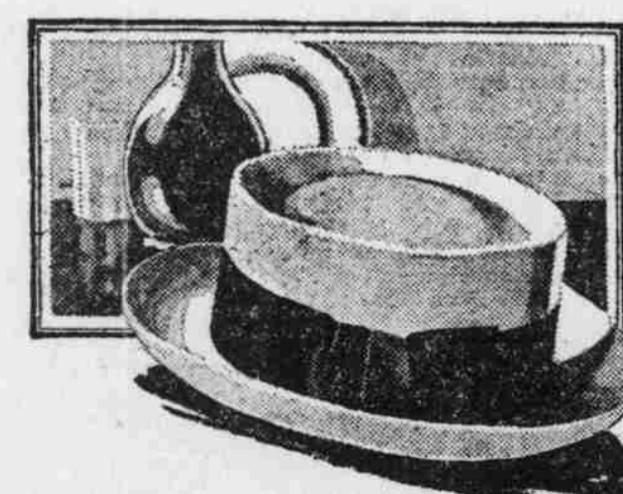
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salamanders lived in the fire, gnomes in the earth, sylphs in the air and nymphs in the water. Whether they were guessing, prophesying or divining, this scientist thinks that the alchemists have given a pretty good description of the micro-organisms that are so tiny as to be truly invisible to the naked eye. So far, however, science finds nothing to justify the alchemists' idea of the salamander.

If the alchemists were on the right track about one natural mystery, perhaps they were not altogether wrong about other things, this scientist adds. There is a theory considered today that all metals evolved from one origin, which is precisely the theory on which the philosophers based the possibility of transmuting metals and bringing base metals to gold which they considered the perfect state.

Another "interesting if true" theory which is super-modern and yet smacks of alchemy at its most fantastic has to do with the substance of which ghosts are made. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle says that ghosts are composed of ectoplasm, a mysterious substance, thick, vapory, and slightly luminous.

The stuff that Sir Arthur's ghosts are made of can be felt, he says. It has never been analyzed because no chemist has been able to capture a bottle full for laboratory experiment. Some kind of self protective instinct seems to cause ghostly emanations to depart hastily when science gets too familiar.

Ectoplasm is the latest sensation of parlor science, and yet the philosophers of Prague and Cologne observed this same elusive substance. They regarded it as a clue to perpetual life if it could only be identified and rendered sufficiently durable for practical use.

Modern science has not tried to botch the ectoplasm as a handy prescription for rejuvenating purposes. Even if it is decided that man's ultimate destiny is to turn into ectoplasm, most people will be willing to wait until the appointed time to change substances.

The spirit world may be the state of perpetual youth which the alchemists were vaguely seeking. If so—if Seton and the rest are now wearing ectoplasm—then the alchemists achieved one of their requests.

SULTANA'S \$100,000 GEM

BRINGS \$5,500 AT SALE

NEW YORK, May 10.—The diamond which Princess Fatima, Afghanian Sultana, valued at \$100,000 when she brought it to this country last summer, was sold at a sheriff's execution sale yesterday for \$5,500 to John R. Klein, a commission buyer.

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