

Mayor Sends Out S. O. S. Ca; City Faces Biggest Tax Rate In Its History

The City's Chief Executive Pleads For Hours With Tax Board Members To Save His Face By Post- poning Necessary Ap- propriations

Brought by the logic of circumstances to a realizing sense of the financial condition to which his much boasted fiscal policy has brought Bridgeport, Mayor Clifford B. Wilson pleaded for hours, today, in his office with the members of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation to postpone certain matured obligations of the city, for the purpose of keeping the tax rate down.

He also pleaded with the members of the board to abandon the policy which the city has pursued for many years, of paying for its school houses as it goes, a system which has enabled the schools of Bridgeport to be erected at half the cost.

Although every member of the board of apportionment owes his appointment to Mayor Wilson, and although there was a very great reluctance upon the part of the members to show even a seeming disrespect to the mayor, by appearing to disregard his wishes, the business training of the members, and their sense of obligation to the city, caused some of them to present the impropriety of the policy which he wanted them to pursue.

At 1:30 this afternoon the discussion ended and the members went to lunch. There were times when the discussion was almost heated. Some members continue firm in the position that it would be an injustice to the city, and even fatal to the administration to adopt the mayor's idea.

It was pointed out that any reduction in the tax rate which should be brought about by leaving the schools of the city would be a very transparent concealment of the financial condition to which the city had been brought, and that no one would be deceived by what they would regard as an unwarranted change in a long established custom.

The question was repeatedly asked of the Mayor: "What will be done if the people refuse to bond the schools? What will happen if they resent the idea of creating a debt for what has hitherto been met from the annual appropriation?"

While the detail of the discussion has not been made public, it was learned that Mayor Wilson refused to attach much weight to this contingency, but thought that the effort should be made.

NEW PASTOR TO BE INSTALLED FRIDAY IN OLIVET CHURCH

Rev. George Oliver Tamblin will be formally installed as pastor of Olivet Congregational church, Friday, with appropriate exercises. The Fairfield Association of Congregational Ministers will meet in council at 4:30 o'clock in the church parlors, supper will be served to the delegates at 6 o'clock and the installation exercises will take place at 7:45 o'clock. All of the Congregational churches of Bridgeport will be represented by pastor and one lay delegate. The churches of Danbury, Greenwich, Norwalk and Stamford, will be represented.

Rev. Dr. L. F. Berry of Stamford, moderator of the Fairfield County Association, will be the presiding officer and the sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Boynton, pastor of the Clinton Avenue Congregational church of Brooklyn.

INCOME TAX LISTS DUE MARCH FIRST

Hartford, Feb. 24—This is the last week for the filing of income tax returns under the law which limits it to March 1. Internal Revenue Collector James J. Walsh said today that the lists are pouring in in a stream, many being delivered by individuals.

Up to the conclusion of checking Feb. 23, the number received in the Hartford office was 5,338. There are five other offices. It is believed there are thousands of persons subject to the tax who have not yet made returns, although the lists are being received faster than they can be handled.

WHITE SLAVE LAW IS AGAIN UPHOLD

Washington, Feb. 24—The constitutionality of the Federal White Slave Law was again upheld today by the supreme court in the Wilson case from Chicago. The point whether the law is limited to commercial vice was not involved.

The Ohio excise tax on railroads was upheld as constitutional and the so-called bleached flour case sent back to the district court for a new trial.

ELEVEN ARE SAVED WHEN CRAFT SINKS WITH ITS CAPTAIN

Two Vessels Aground Off Virginia Coast Endanger- ed By High Seas and Gale

Bremen, Feb. 24—A fragmentary wireless message received here from the German steamer Wildentels reports that she rescued a passenger, the second engineer and eight men, and a boy from the Danish steamer Eklipka, which sank in the Bay of Biscay yesterday.

The message states that the captain of the Eklipka perished but does not mention the rest of her complement who, it is assumed, went down with the ship.

DOLLS DELIGHT LITTLE MOTHERS

Of High and Low Degree Dolls of All Ages Are En- tered for Howland Prize

Never, perhaps has an exhibit of any kind attracted more attention than the dolls which are being held this week in Howland's Dry Goods store. It has surpassed expectations in every way. Over 500 dolls, gathered in every fashion and representing every walk of life are arranged together, all properly numbered so that the visiting public may vote on those which they consider worthy of prizes.

Fully 1,000 little "mothers," with their "babies" in their arms, came to the store on Registration Day last Saturday. Never, perhaps, were all mothers more anxious for their children than were these little foster-mothers. "You'll take good care of Billie, won't you?" said one tiny lassie as she kissed her dollie good-bye and then went back and kissed him again.

Yet another, anxious that her beloved "child" should appear sleek and plump, had evidently washed the doll's dress and then fearful lest she be too late for entry, with the dress still wet, had hurried to the store.

In the "Smallest Doll" class the very finest one, possibly the most lovely and magnifying glass. It is less than a half inch in height, is made of wood and is fully jointed. This little specimen is a native of Germany.

Another, which is a doll of a lady, is a native of France, as though oblivious of the fact that now-a-days only people who ride in automobiles hold their heads so high, is a lady who has in her lap, and who, with her carriage were purchased 40 years ago.

A wicker looking Indian squaw whose number 200 probably holds the age record. A soldier of horseback in the exact army costume of the war of 1812 also attracts considerable attention.

A peculiar looking doll, carefully preserved behind a glass, gives one an idea of the kind of dolls which the children of the French court had to play with. Following is the inscription which it bears, the dates and authentic: "Made in France and brought to Baltimore, in 1783 by a member of the Beauharnais family, moved to New Rochelle in 1799."

A Japanese doll, tall and slender, dressed in a dark silk kimono, with her real black hair carefully coiled in the native style calmly admits that she is 75 years old. Another doll, made in gray taffeta of a by-gone period, gives her name as "Miss Dalorosa," and thinks that since she has been in one family for more than 50 years she is entitled to the name.

Among those present were Douglas John M. Donnelly, John W. Vollmer, Charles B. Mara, Joseph Wieler and Antonio Abriola, of this city; Philip Finnegan, Greenwich; Ezekiah Ellwood, Fairfield; Daniel Russell, Stratford; Eli Mead, Westport; Frederick Bates, Ridgefield; Andrew Schlectow, Stamford; Daniel Ladrigan, South Norwalk; John H. Blake, Norwalk; E. C. Ginty, Danbury; Thomas P. Bristol, Redding; William S. Donovan, Huntington; Austin B. Blakeman, Newtown; Emil T. Berger, Trumbull; Charles W. Turner, New Fairfield.

Among the jail and court houses attending present were: Dennis E. O'Neill, Edward Callahan, Frank Saunders, Simon Reynolds, George Dell, Elias Tibbals, William Flynn, Peter Dietrich, Albert Graf and Martin Creggan of Danbury; Michael Houlihan of Newtown.

DOPE SMUGGLERS APPEAL
FROM JAIL SENTENCES
Joseph Taylor, a waiter who refused his real name, and James Mogy, a Chinese restaurateur, were sentenced to jail for two and six months, respectively. In City court today for smuggling opium into the county jail. They appealed.

WALLINGFORD MOTORIST
ON TRIAL FOR KILLING
Newtown, Feb. 24—Thomas Stone, of Wallingford, whose automobile hit and fatally hurt William McNulty in that town, Dec. 13, was placed on trial charged with manslaughter in the superior court today.

CARRIAGE MAKER IS
SMALLPOX SUFFERER
Middletown, Conn., Feb. 24—The fifth case of smallpox in the city was discovered today when William S. Kennelly, a carriage manufacturer, was found at his place of business suffering from the disease.

SENATOR M'NEIL HOME.
Senator Archibald McNeil, Jr. after a three week's sojourn at Palm Beach and Cuba returned to this city last night. While in Cuba he took occasion to visit President Menocal of the Cuban Republic.

Lieut. Becker Granted New Murder Trial

New York Police Official, Under Sentence of Death for Rosenthal Killing, Given Chance of Freedom By Court of Appeals.

Albany, Feb. 24—Former Police Lieutenant Charles Becker, once head of the "strong arm squad" of the New York City department and convicted slayer of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, has been given at least a temporary release from the sentence of death imposed by the courts for that killing.

The New York State Court of Appeals, after a fight lasting for nearly a year, today granted Becker a new trial of the case by a vote of six to one. Judge Werner filed the only dissenting opinion in the case.

The four gunmen convicted with Becker as his accomplices also appealed but, in their cases, the conviction was unanimously sustained.

Becker has claimed ever since his conviction, that he was "jobbed" by the gunmen, who wanted to get him out of the way because the activities of his special detail were hampering the operations of the gamblers.

SPECULATORS WAIT COURT'S FINDINGS

New York, Feb. 24—Opening—After an unusually quiet opening today, trading came almost to a stop before the end of the first half hour. Suspension of business over the double holiday resulted in no accumulation of orders such as is usually on hand after the week-end recess and transactions were on too small a scale to depress prices.

Most of the leaders were a shade lower but the movement was unusually narrow except in the cases of a few of the less active stocks. Rock Island depressed prices slightly for a time today but there was a sufficient demand at concessions to prevent a material decline.

The Pacific attitude of the British government regarding the situation in Mexico robbed the bears of their one weapon and they were unable to bring out long stock by pressure against the more vulnerable shares. Traders alternately bought and sold stocks and the general range was confined to small fractions.

The possibility of important decisions to the supreme court, covering the long trading restricted speculation during the morning.

Bonds were irregular.

ROOSEVELT'S SECRETARY TO SEE SON ABROAD

Montclair, N. J., Feb. 24—Mr. Harper, wife of Frank Harper, private secretary to Theodore Roosevelt, accompanied by her infant son, has sailed for Liverpool to meet her husband.

Mr. Harper is returning from his South American trip with Col. Roosevelt. His son has never seen, as the title follows, was born here, he left the country with Col. Roosevelt.

Less Than 20 Banks Fail to Apply for Reserve Membership

Washington, Feb. 24—Although official tabulations were not completed today, Treasury officials estimated that less than 20 national banks of 7,493 in the United States have not made application for membership in the federal reserve banking system. The banks that have applied represent about 99 per cent of the national banking capital in the country.

Woman With Measles Rescued From Flames

Stamford, Feb. 24—While W. Irving Weed and his son Robert, basket makers of North Stamford, were absent in New Canaan today, fire broke out in their house, consuming it with its furnishings and a stock of baskets. The loss is about \$2,000.

The boy's wife, who was sick with measles and was carried from the house by her mother-in-law just as the flames burst into the bedroom, was rescued from the fire by a four year old boy playing with fire in the kitchen while the elder Mrs. Weed was attending her sick daughter-in-law.

SYMBOL OF DEATH FOR FOREHEADS OF ALL WORSHIPPERS

Distribution of Ashes In Catholic Churches to Mark Opening of Lent

Lent, the season of penance, will begin tomorrow, Ash Wednesday. Catholics and Episcopalians are among the leaders in observing this season of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

In the Catholic churches tomorrow will be distributed the blessed ashes. Priests will place an ashen cross upon the forehead of each worshipper, and in Latin phrase, will admonish the recipient to remember that he is fashioned of dust, and that to dust he shall return.

The hours of devotion for Lent have been announced in the Catholic churches throughout the city as follows:

St. Augustine's. Wednesday evenings, 7:30, sermon, rosary, benediction; Friday evenings, 7:30, way of the cross and benediction; mass daily at 7 and 8:20 a. m.; distribution of ashes tomorrow morning following the mass, and tomorrow evening.

St. Patrick's. Wednesday evenings, 7:30, sermon, rosary and benediction; Friday evenings, 7:30, way of the cross, rosary, benediction; daily mass at 8 o'clock; distribution of ashes tomorrow morning and evening.

St. Anthony's. Tuesday evenings, 8 o'clock, St. Anthony's devotions; Friday evenings, 7:30, way of the cross, rosary and benediction; daily mass, 8 a. m.; Ash Wednesday evening, special services, 7:30.

GRAND JURY CONVENES

The grand jury convened in the county court house this morning to hear evidence in two alleged murder cases. The men arraigned were Solomon David of Danbury and Augustin Papale of Wilton. David is charged with shooting Joseph Alley following a fight in Danbury last December. A peculiar fact in connection with the case is that the record in the Danbury county court shows no connection of David with the victim, that both sides and her carriage were purchased 40 years ago.

The finding in the Imperial Valley, Cal., of Roger Lawrence, the Englishman who was reported missing in Mexico, leads to the belief here that his alleged companion, Curtis, also is safe in the United States. No trace, however, of Harry Compton for whom the American authorities were looking has been revealed.

CONTRADICTION STORIES Benton Death Probe

An interview printed in the El Paso Times today quotes Villa at Chihuahua as saying that he gave Gustav Bauch, an American citizen, his liberty at Juarez last Thursday. This statement contradicts the official information given to Thomas D. Edwards, the American consul, by Villa, that Bauch had been held in Chihuahua where his case was being reviewed.

London, Feb. 24—The British government has invoked the good offices of the United States government to assure that there shall be no interference by General Villa with the investigation into the death of William S. Benton to be made by Charles Perceval, British consul at Galveston. Perceval has been ordered to proceed to Juarez and to supply the best reports possible.

Sharp comment is made by the Manchester Guardian today on Sir Edward Grey's statement in the House of Commons yesterday in regard to the killing of William S. Benton at Juarez, Mex., by General Villa. The newspaper asks: "Is it not more playing with words to say that the United States has no responsibility? If that were so, the Monroe doctrine would be a mere instrument of international anarchy, whereas the whole tendency of President Wilson's policy has been to make it a force for order and good government."

ABOUT TO WED, MAN GETS JAIL SENTENCE

With his marriage to an out-of-the-city woman scheduled, as he explained to police officials, only a month away, Robert Allison, master mechanic in a Fairfield avenue garage, was arrested in his room on Golden Hill street this morning by Detective Sergeant Peter H. Hall on a charge of unseemly conduct. Shortly afterwards he was arraigned before City Court Judge Wilder, found guilty, fined \$1 and costs with four months in jail. Later he was released upon an appeal.

His arrest followed several days' attacks by Sergeant Hall to get him and following complaints by women employees of The Red Star Co., on Elm street.

France Will Spend \$400,000 at 'Frisco

Paris, Feb. 24—The chamber of deputies today voted an appropriation of \$400,000 to provide for official French participation in the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco.

REBELS CLAIM VILLA'S VICTIM WAS A CITIZEN

New Reason Advanced Why Insurgent Was Justified In Executing Eng- lishman—Body Requested By United States

ENGLAND ASKS PROTECTION FOR CONSUL DURING PROBE

Constitutionalist Commander Gives Contradictory Statements As To Missing American's Whereabouts

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 24—The attempt of the Mexican rebels to establish that William S. Benton, the Scottish ranchman who was executed just a week ago today, was a Mexican citizen, is based on a report that he held some minor office while President Porfirio Diaz was in power.

This statement was made today at Juarez by Federico Gonzales Garza, commander of the garrison, who added: "We have heard that Benton held several small offices under President Diaz and that he was once mayor of a small settlement on his own estate. He could not have held office without being a Mexican citizen and the records at Chihuahua City are being searched to establish the facts."

Much interest was manifest in the published interview with General Villa at Chihuahua in which he recited the story of what he alleges was an attempt on his life by Benton. Thus far, the state department it is known, has received no authentic evidence regarding Villa's version of the affair and therefore is not in a position to react to it.

One direct effect of the incident, it is suggested in some quarters here is that the American government may seek to reach an understanding with Villa through consular officers, whereby the constitutionalists will agree not to take summary action with respect to any foreigners until he has previously notified Washington officials.

Assurances of this nature, it is conceded, would go a long way toward preventing a repetition of the Benton incident for neither the United States government nor the British foreign office knew anything about Benton's disappearance until after he was dead.

UNITED STATES REQUESTS BODY RELATIVES HERE OF BENTON

Relatives here of Benton say that the deeds to his Mexican property refer to him as a British subject and that he was always careful there should be no doubt on that point. In the meanwhile, the request of the state department at Washington for the handing over of the body of Benton has met with no response. All General Villa has received telegrams not only from many cities in the United States but from London, Paris and Berlin asking for an explanation of the manner of Benton's death. All the replies sent to inquiries have given the same story of a court martial and execution.

The finding in the Imperial Valley, Cal., of Roger Lawrence, the Englishman who was reported missing in Mexico, leads to the belief here that his alleged companion, Curtis, also is safe in the United States. No trace, however, of Harry Compton for whom the American authorities were looking has been revealed.

DONOVAN WIRES BEST WISHES TO POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Accepted Invitation to Convention, Expecting House Would Not Be In Session

Representative Donovan, who had expected that the House of Representatives might adjourn yesterday had accepted an invitation to attend the Postal Carriers and Clerks' banquet here dependent upon the adjournment. He sent the American telegram to the committee yesterday morning.

"Mr. Reginald B. Reed, Secretary to General Committee, Postal Office Clerks' and Carriers' Annual Convention, Bridgeport, Conn., has written: 'Having taken decided stand against absenteeism and House being in session, cannot leave. Wishing Clerks and Carriers success in their organization and a pleasant day in convention I am.

"Yours sincerely,
"J. DONOVAN."
The telegram was not read at the banquet.

SUFFRAGE LEADERS MEETING TO PLAN FALL CAMPAIGN

In pursuance with the comprehensive plans for the fall campaign which have been formulated by the Bridgeport Equal Franchise League, the district leaders and their assistants will meet in the rooms of the league, 101 building, at 7:30 Friday evening.

At 8 o'clock of the same evening there will be a public meeting which will be addressed by Miss Emily Pierson and Miss Alys Gregory, two of the best informed and most eloquent speakers in the movement. It is expected that Mrs. Samuel Shaw will preside.

STATE DEPARTMENT Has Plan to Help Safeguard Foreigners

Washington, Feb. 24—A cabinet meeting today afforded President Wilson an opportunity to talk over with his official advisors the latest information at hand about the execution of William S. Benton, the British subject at Juarez by General Villa, the Mexican constitutionalist leader.

Before the meeting, a half hour was set aside by the President for a conference with Secretary Bryan. The latter wanted to present more details on the Benton episode as received in over night despatches. Mail reports from American Consular officials also were due to reach here today.

BOSTON'S MAYOR RESIGNS SEAT IN CONGRESS

Boston, Feb. 24—Mayor James M. Curley announced today his resignation of his seat in Congress. In a statement he said that he took the step as a result of the action of the majority Leader James R. Mann, who introduced a resolution in Congress yesterday proposing that Mr. Curley's seat be declared vacant. The resignation is to be effective from Feb. 4.