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MOTOR RUTHERFORD KILLED BY AUTO

Drumright Mayor Defies Gas Company

TOWN SUFFERING, TAPPED GAS LINE AS FINAL RESORT

Schools Closed, Hospitals Cold, Wave of Sickness Threatened, He Says

EAGER TO TEST ACTION

In Heart of Gas Field, Without Gas, He Took Drastic Step for Sake of His City

ROBBERY, SHARP DECLARES

Oklahoma Natural Officials to Decide on Legal Course in Conference on Monday

By the Associated Press Staff Wire.

DRUMRIGHT, Dec. 16.—Mayor W. E. Nicodemus, champion of freeing Drumright, who yesterday brought warmth to the city for the first time in more than a week by the simple expedient of tapping the high pressure pipeline of the Oklahoma Natural Gas company, without authorization of the company, said tonight he was ready to back up his action to the limit.

Mayor Nicodemus said he was not worried about threat of court action from the company.

He's "Roaring to Go."

"Do you suppose that any court in the world would see a town of 6,000 people suffering from the cold and not redress the drastic steps were necessary?" the mayor asked heatedly.

"I'm roaring to go. Let them hop to it," he exclaimed when told that officials of the Oklahoma Natural Gas company would hold a conference Monday to determine upon a course of action to force the city to sever its unauthorized connection with the company's lines.

"I did what anybody else would have done under the circumstances," Mayor Nicodemus said. "Schools had been closed, hospitals had no heat, and the people were suffering in every home in Drumright."

"I took the matter up with the state corporation commission, and the Shiner County Gas company, the local distributor, applied to the Oklahoma Natural company for gas. But they wouldn't do anything."

A meter was installed when the lines of the Oklahoma Natural company were tapped and the gas being used by the city is being measured so that an adjustment can be made later, he said.

The Oklahoma Natural Gas company, he detected, was supplying gas to the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co. in Drumright, the latter company generating electric light power here as a number of surrounding towns. There was no reason why the Oklahoma Natural could not supply other Drumright consumers, he continued.

The mayor dispatched letters yesterday to the state corporation commission and the Oklahoma Natural Gas company explaining his action.

Drumright is situated in the heart of the Cushing oil and gas field, which supplies gas to many distilleries.

LIKE ROBBING GROCERY. GAS FIRM HEAD SAYS.

What legal steps will be taken by the Oklahoma Natural Gas company to stop the town of Drumright from taking gas from its lines probably will not be known until Monday, when the Oklahoma Natural's attorney will read an opinion based on a first-hand investigation of the situation. R. C. Sharp, vice president and general manager of the gas company, stated Saturday night.

At the order of Mayor W. E. Nicodemus of Drumright a connection was made from the city lines of the Oklahoma Natural's line which is located about half a mile away, without any authority from the Schaefer Gas company, a local concern. According to Sharp, the

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City Turns Out, Mexicans Honor Sooner Governor

Robertson and His Party Entertained by Matamoros; Governor Fishes for Tarpon

By the Associated Press Staff Wire. BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Dec. 16.—Celebrating the visit of Governor Robertson of Oklahoma and his party to Matamoros, Mexico, the entire city today joined in the hospitality extended the visitors. Governor Robertson and his party were entertained by Mayor Elizondo, military commander of the Matamoros district, and a number of prominent military and civil officials of northern Mexico.

A dinner was given in honor of the guests, after which they were taken for a tour of the city. The military band provided music.

Governor Robertson's party included Attorney-General Short, George Rittenhouse, Tom Martin and Robert Stuart of Oklahoma City.

When the governor decided to try his hand at tarpon fishing the hunting trip scheduled in Texas for today was called off and the entire party went to Point Isabel where they will remain until Sunday noon. Governor Robertson will go to Hattiesburg Sunday and leave that night for Oklahoma.

LEAGUERS EYEING M'ALISTER'S JOB

Present Lull in Battle for Election Machinery Just a Truce

JACK BIDES HIS TIME

At Right Moment, Friends Aver, Governor-Elect Will Jump Into Thickest of Fray

By CLARK C. HUDSON. World Capital Correspondent.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Dec. 16.—The truce which appears to exist in the interlocking over Secretary McAlister of the state election board is one of those political illusions which appear at intervals in any important controversy. Those who may be lulled into a smug and comfortable dose by the impression that all is over are due to an awakening sooner or later. It may come with a punch over the picnic or by a shot in the arm; but there is a determination on the part of those responsible for Walton's nomination to shake off the slumber which the election machinery holds on the important political apparatus in control of the governor.

A Clean-Cut Battle.

On the face of things, it would seem that Trapp has the better of the situation at present. While senatorial hopes are hard to count, it may be said that a majority of the democratic senators at this writing favor the election of McAlister as secretary of the auster and dignified body which functions as the senate.

This situation exists largely because of McAlister's personal popularity, and because the movement of the Trapp campaign to retain the state election machinery has explained upon the wounded dignity which would result from an executive transition into such a plain senatorial prerogative as the selection of a secretary. That, of course, is plain parlance. It is not the secretary of the senate that interests the executive, or those who comprise his cabinet. It is the secretary of the state election board, who happens to be the alter ego, that interests those new adventurers into the state election machinery, between the lieutenant governor, who now dominates it, and the governor, who wants it.

In such a situation, it is easy to believe the friends of Mr. Walton when they declare that he will enter the fight at the proper and expedient time. Either the two officers must be divorced, they say, or the supply of war material in the office of governor. Aside from the position he will hold as chief executive, and the power which accompanies it, he will have about 1,500 appointments to make. Also, and no less in importance, there are more than forty state institutions which will be demanding appropriations.

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VETERAN BANKER HEADS NEW BANK ORGANIZED HERE

Planters and Mechanics, Guided by G. N. Wright, Opens Next Month

Business Men and Bankers With Experience Here Selected to Run Institution

TO REVIVE OLD POLICIES

Special Attention to Be Given Farmers and Small Salary Men, Organizer Says

Tulsa is to have another bank. Announcement came from the state banking department in Oklahoma City yesterday to the effect that G. N. Wright and associates have been granted a charter to open the Planters & Mechanics bank in Tulsa, with a capital of \$100,000 and a surplus of \$10,000.

Wright announces that the new bank will be ready for business early in January, an arrangement having already been completed to secure space in the United Building at Loan Assn. In the banking room formerly occupied by the Security National bank at the corner of Second and Main. This is considered a very valuable corner because of the near removal of the National Bank of Commerce to Third street the new bank will be left to fill the financial needs of this part of the business district.

The new bank is fully financed and is to be owned by local men of high standing in the community. According to preliminary plans, Mr. Wright will be president, C. C. Roberts, now president of the United Building & Loan Assn., will be an active vice president, as will Rex S. Walker, who has been associated with business interests of Tulsa for the past 15 years. Mr. Elton Everett, now in charge of the discount department of the Exchange Bank, later a man who has been in close touch with detailed banking in Tulsa for many years, is to act as cashier. Including the officers, the board of directors will be composed of H. D. Cornell, of the Western Supply company, District Judge W. V. Redden, T. E. Montgomery of the Montgomery Lumber company, Charles F. Lathrop, president of the Fidelity investment company, Jake Lyons, investor, and Mrs. G. N. Wright.

Welcomed by Other Banks.

The Tulsa financial field with the full approval and welcome of the other banks of the city. The record Wright enjoyed when president of the Merchants & Planters bank, later the Planters National and on the board of directors of the Exchange National has convinced other bankers of the city that there is no danger of his banking interests in the city.

Assaults Its Philanthropies.

In the course of the discussion philanthropies of the plan were mentioned.

"I am surprised," said Governor Allen "that the National Boy Scouts of St. Louis did not refuse to accept \$25,000 from the plan, even to hold up the organization's cry of 100 per cent Americanism."

"I am a Methodist, but I am ashamed to say a Methodist hospital accepted \$5,000 from the plan, thereby giving it a veritable gift of charity."

Governor Morrison of North Carolina, cited incidents showing the plan had helped his state in several criminal cases.

"I want mention these things in justice to the plan although I am against it," he said.

In his address, Governor Allen branded the plan as "organized out-lawry," denounced it as the greatest curse that has come to any civilized people, and urged that steps be taken to "eradicate it from America."

"Dangerous to Protestants."

"The organization is as dangerous to the Protestants as it is to the Catholics and the negro because it exists only when the authority of government has been broken down and destroyed," he declared. "It breeds hatred, chaos and menace to every law-abiding citizen who may fall victim of the private greed and"

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Coldest Weather Due Here Today, Forecaster Says

Northern Half of State to Experience Temperatures of From 6 to 14 Degrees

By the Associated Press Staff Wire. OKLAHOMA CITY, Dec. 16.—Real winter will descend on Oklahoma Sunday.

Issuing a cold wave warning tonight the local United States weather bureau predicted that temperatures in the northern half of the state would drop to between 6 and 14 degrees Sunday night, while the southern portion of the state would experience temperatures ranging between 12 and 24 degrees.

This would bring the coldest weather of the winter in Oklahoma.

A light rain was reported tonight at McAlester and indications were the government observers said, that points in the eastern half of the state would get flurries of snow Sunday.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—Unsettled temperature conditions over the middle section of the country was tonight marked by light snow flurries and precipitation of cold weather tomorrow with Monday fair and continued cold in this section.

Rain and snow was reported from various near-by centers, although no storm of great energy was experienced.

KLAN IS DOOMED, ALLEN DECLARES

Conference of Governors Hears Kansan in Assault on Empire

ORGANIZED OUTLAWRY

That, in Final Analysis, Allen Says, Is the Klan, Not 100 Per Cent Americanism

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. Va., Dec. 16.—The Ku-Klux Klan is doomed, Governor Allen, of Kansas, told the governors' conference in a discussion following an address today.

The conference adjourned its fourteenth annual session after election of Governor Cox of Massachusetts as Governor Harde, of Florida, and Governor McCray, of Indiana, were elected members of the executive committee.

Former Governor Townsend, of Delaware, was re-elected treasurer and Miles Riley, of Madison, Wis., secretary.

Governor McCray of Indiana, declared that if the Klan in his state engaged in such activities as were complained of in other states, Indiana would show "its teeth."

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PRICES IN TULSA REVEAL DECLINES IN LIVING COSTS

General Living Costs Here Substantially Cheaper Than 2 Years Ago

SOME RENTS ARE CUT

House and Apartment Rentals Fluctuate, Realtors Show; No General Slashes

GROCERY PRICES TUMBLE

Staple Line Shows Marked Reduction; Clothing Prices Also Marked Lower

By HARVEY E. RHODES.

With the exception of rents, the cost of living in Tulsa is substantially less today than it was two years ago. This fact was revealed by a comparison of prices advertised by local merchants in December, 1920, and prices quoted by the same institutions in recent issues of The World.

A suit of men's clothes that two years ago cost \$65 is today offered for sale by several dealers for \$47.50. But there is this difference in favor of the purchaser. Most suits two years ago consisted of three pieces—coat, vest and trousers. For the price paid now, the buyer gets two pairs of trousers instead of one, and occasionally loses the reduction is even greater in the price of shoes, including both men's and women's.

A certain well-known and widely worn make of men's shoes that in 1920 cost the retailer \$125, in December, 1922, are offered for \$115, including war tax, may be acquired today for \$115—and the dealer politely includes an extra pair of shoestrings.

Clothing Is Down.

The reduction in men's clothing is typical of that which has taken place in women's ready-to-wear stores. A woman's ready-to-wear suit, in 1920 cost \$125, but today it may be purchased for \$115. In 1920 a pair of women's shoes cost \$15, but today they may be purchased for \$14.

Grocery prices have experienced a pronounced drop during this two-year period. In 1920 the purchaser exchanged 40 cents for a peck of potatoes; today he pays only 23 cents. The price of sugar has not decreased so pronouncedly—only 25 per cent. Flour prices have advanced 10 cents in 1922 and in December 1922, the price is 75 cents.

Bacon prices have shown no difference. In 1920 the purchaser exchanged 40 cents for a peck of potatoes; today he pays only 23 cents. The price of sugar has not decreased so pronouncedly—only 25 per cent. Flour prices have advanced 10 cents in 1922 and in December 1922, the price is 75 cents.

Nothing Official Received.

It was said at the Quai d'Orsay this afternoon that no official communication had been received from the American government and that French officials would await more definite information before commencing plans for the settlement of the reparations question in the interests of the general economic situation in Europe.

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Accused Auto Thief Chief Lodged Behind Bars Here; Admits Stealing Fifty Cars

R. W. Pontius, However, Dealt Only in High-Priced Cars, According to Officers Who Find He Sold Stolen Motors to Many Citizens, Ranging From Bank Heads to Clerks.

R. W. Pontius, branded by local authorities as the king-pin of auto thieves was yesterday lodged in the county jail in default of three bonds of \$5,000 each, following arraignment before Justice J. H. Quarry on charges of auto larceny, receiving stolen property and obtaining money under false pretense. All of the charges are the result of a "forensic" alleged as to Tulsa locally in disposing of stolen cars to unsuspecting buyers.

Other charges will probably be filed against Pontius next week, according to G. L. Collins, head of the police auto recovery department, who arrested Pontius Friday morning and who signed the three informations filed against him Saturday. The alleged auto thief chief admitted to police officers that he had disposed of at least 50 stolen cars in Tulsa but he refused to disclose the names of any of the buyers.

Evidence on his operations is being gathered as rapidly as possible, according to Collins, who thinks that when Pontius is brought to trial he will be faced with a score of accusers whom he defrauded by selling them stolen autos. In all instances found so far Pontius dealt only in high-priced cars. In all the cases now before the officers the alleged auto thief and stolen-car merchant disposed only of Cadillacs. He bilked his victims on amounts varying from \$1,200 to \$2,000 and the unsuspecting buyers range from heads of banks to clerks.

Two charges of interstate transportation of stolen cars are pending against Pontius in the federal court at Muskogee. He was at liberty under \$4,000 bond pending trial on these charges when arrested Friday morning by Collins. Pontius was brought to Oklahoma by federal authorities after he had been arrested in California. He was in jail here last year but mysteriously escaped before he was prosecuted.

EUROPE HOPEFUL ON REPARATIONS

Look to Uncle Sam to Act in Behalf of Germany in Her Debt Crisis

U. S. OFFICIALS SILENT

Only Hint Relative to Foreign Policy of America Is That Decision Isn't Reached

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—A stone wall of official silence still surrounds administration purposes with regard to American action in the German reparations deadlock.

The one hint allowed to escape from the lips of responsible officials today was negative at best. It indicated that decision as the government's course will be to be made and was coupled with a warning that most of the published conjectures as to that course had gone wide of the mark.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—Premier Poincare, it is understood, has received an informal intimation from the state department in Washington that the United States is willing to consider a plan whereby she may aid in the settlement of the reparations question in the interests of the general economic situation in Europe.

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PIONEER LAWYER HIT BY MACHINE DRIVEN BY FRIEND

Victim of Accident After County Bar's Banquet; Dies in Ambulance

FAMOUS IN SOUTHWEST

Prominent State Figure, Legally and Politically, Since Coming to State in 1893

WAS 'TERRITORY' MARSHAL

Served in Days When "Bud" Ledbetter Was Famed for Exploits Against Crime

Died Almost Instantly.

The accident came with such startling suddenness that Harris did not realize he had struck Rutherford until he had dragged him 20 feet or more. His friends lifted him from the ground but his face was so badly mangled that they did not know him. It was until an ambulance into which he had been placed reached the hospital that he was recognized. Rutherford was dead and a physician declared he had lived but a moment after he fell beneath the car.

Witnesses declared that Rutherford was crossing the street in the middle of the block on Okmulgee avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, directly in front of the federal building and almost in the business heart of the city. Harris was taken to police headquarters and after an hour's questioning County Attorney W. A. Green said that, so far as he was concerned, there would be no prosecution. "It was clearly an unavoidable accident," Green said.

Rutherford had been the last speaker at the banquet tonight. He and N. A. Gibson, the toastmaster, engaged in considerable bantering and the banquet closed in a gleeful laughter at Rutherford's parting rally. He walked out into the night and five minutes later he was dead.

Samuel Morton Rutherford had been a prominent and picturesque figure in Oklahoma since 1893, when he moved from Fort Smith, Ark., to Atoka to become United States commissioner.

Since then he has served as United States marshal, mayor of Muskogee and a member of the state senate, representing Muskogee, McIntosh and Haskell counties, and in 1907 the year Oklahoma was admitted to statehood, he ran for the democratic nomination for United States senator against his fellow townsman, Robert L. Owen.

A southerner of the old school, the title of "Colonel" was naturally given to him and Colonel Rutherford became one of the best-known criminal lawyers in the state.

His political star was still bright when he died. He was talked of as a candidate for speaker of the house of the state, and at the state convention of the democratic party held immediately after the August

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