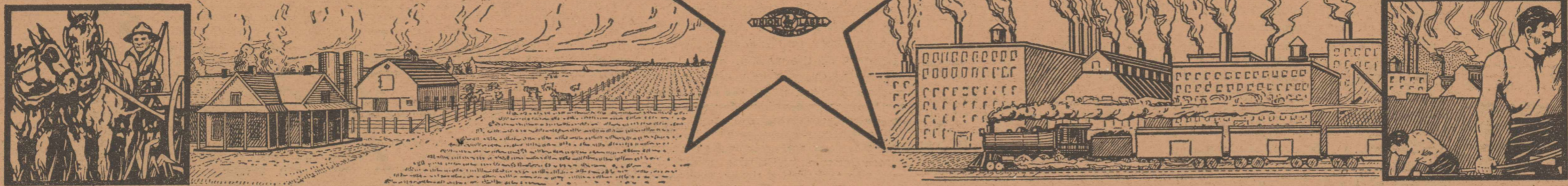


The Ferguson Forum



VOLUME I

TEMPLE, TEXAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1917

NUMBER VI

TALK OF SPECIAL SESSION ON FEB. 1

Reports to Be Made by Investigating Committees May Prompt Governor's Call to Take Action on Matters Deemed to Require Immediate Legislative Attention. No Suggestion of Relief for Drouth-Stricken Citizens.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 12.—Talk of another special session of the Thirty-fifth legislature is heard in connection with the announcement that the various sub-committees which have been making various kinds of investigations over the state into various and sundry state institutions, will be ready to report and confer with the legislative central committee by Christmas. One guess is that the sub-committees will get in their reports and the central committee will be called to meet by General Chairman W. M. Fly before December 25.

Another guess is that these sub-committees will have their reports ready by January 15 when they will be submitted to the governor and that his call for a special session to begin February 1, 1918, will follow. One of the investigators made the prediction of a session being called as early as February because, as he stated, the report of the investigating committee will be of such importance that the governor will be warranted in calling a session early in the year and not wait until the fall. The governor has not yet indicated what he may think of the necessity for calling a special session, but then he has not yet been admitted to inner secrets that the committee expects soon to divulge.

Representative Tillotson, of Sealy, is one of those who believe there will come a call early in the new year for a special session. It is his opinion, according to his quoted utterances, that matters requiring, in the view of the committee, immediate legislative action can be disposed of in a thirty day session if the prohibition question can be kept out of the new year for a special session. It is his opinion, he says, Governor Hobby is disposed to let the prohibition question be disposed of in a constitutional way by the people. Mr. Tillotson says any attempt to inject the question of statutory prohibition into the house will be ill-timed and will interfere with plans for a short session at which leg-

LABOR UNIONS HIT HARD BY U. S. COURT

Washington, Dec. 12.—Decisions defining in general the rights of both organized labor and the employer were rendered today by the supreme court. While the right of workmen to organize for lawful purposes was re-affirmed, the court held that employers legally may operate their plants as "open shops" and prevent conspiracies to bring their non-union employees into labor organizations.

The opinions were rendered in the cases of the Hitchman Coal and Coke company, and the Eagle Glass Manufacturing company of West Virginia, the court deciding that both were entitled to operate their plants as "open shops," and upholding injunctions issued by Judge A. G. Dayton, restraining union officials from attempting to organize their employees. Lower court decrees holding that the United Mine Workers of America, and the American Flint Glass Workers union, were illegal organizations and that under the Sherman law, they were secret conspiracies, in restraint of trade, were ignored by the supreme court opinion.

In the Hitchman case, the majority of the court held that the officials of the miners' union "deliberately and advisedly selected that method of enlarging the union membership, which would inflict injury" upon the company and its loyal employees, and declared that the "conduct in so doing was unlawful and malicious." The court also declared that "it is erroneous to assume that all measures which may be resorted to in the effort to unionize a mine are lawful if they are peaceable—that is, if they stop short of physical violence or coercion through fear of it." It added that "the purpose of the defendants to bring about a strike at the mine in order to compel plaintiffs through fear of financial loss to consent to the unionization of the mine as lesser evil was an unlawful purpose."

The court divided in the Hitchman case, 6 to 3. Justice Brandeis, Holmes and Clark dissenting. No formal dissenting opinion was rendered, except a brief statement made by Justice Brandeis, who said he believed the union had a right to do the things to which the other members of the court objected.

Contempt proceedings instituted last month by the Hitchman Coal and Coke company against President Frank J. Hayes, of the Miners' union and fifteen members for alleged violation of the injunctions, are still pending and according to the company's counsel, will be pressed. The court today granted the defendants

relief deemed immediately necessary will be offered.

There will be bills and bills on practically all the various angles of the various and multitudinous investigations and the sub-committees in several instances will not be in harmony in their reports and different members may be looked for to offer individual bills that will be expected to cure ills they have found. There will be a bill creating a civil service commission of three members to receive ten dollars a day each for the time actually engaged in service, and all necessary traveling expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties. There will be a secretary and an examiner for this board at \$2,500 per year each. The commissioners shall hold office six years and no more than two of them shall be affiliated with the same political party.

When the members of the many sub-committees begin to gather at the state capital for framing their general report there will be more bills suggested and framed covering about every feature of the public service of the state that can be imagined.

But amid all this galaxy of bills and more bills no thought appears to have been given to any kind of bill or resolution for the relief of the drouth stricken sections of Texas which now are appealing to the federal government for help to escape starvation which confronts themselves and their herds. Relief in this direction was recommended in Governor Ferguson's message last summer but in the riot and uproar of impeachment and character assassination the recommendation was knifed to death.

LABOR UNIONS HIT HARD BY U. S. COURT

sixty days in which to present their case.

The opinion was characterized in a statement by President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor as "far reaching and unworkable." He said through it John Mitchell, former president and William B. Wilson, former secretary treasurer of the Miners International union are stigmatized as conspirators. Despite the opinion, he declared the work of organizing the workmen of the country in order to "reach our goal for a better concept of not only political, but industrial democracy," will continue unabated.

\$1,900,000 Issue Of Road Bonds Wins in County

Returns from the election for \$1,900,000 road bonds held in Bell county Monday last show the passage of the bond issue by about forty to fifty votes more than the necessary two-thirds required under the law.

Tillman Proud Of U. S. Navy

Washington, Dec. 12.—Senator Tillman has recovered from a recent illness and feels strong enough to express himself in vigorous language. "I am proud of our navy, damned if I ain't," said Mr. Tillman. "The destroyers we have 'over there' are doing great work."

"Josephus Daniels is making a fine secretary of the navy and is confounding all of his critics."

Milam County Votes Out Saloons by 700

Milam county joined the ranks of dry counties Dec. 19 when a majority of 700 was rolled up to expel saloons and stop the licensed sale of whisky and beer in that county. Cameron, one of the former chief strongholds of the wets, gave a majority of 132 and Rockdale gave 48 dry majority.

THE CALL OF HUMANITY

While the great renowned investigating committee is spending three or four hundred dollars a day of the people's money in trying to find out something that will make some rattle-brained member of that august body a platform to run for office on; while that great committee, led by Fuller and Fly, who are intimate friends and political allies, continues to hunt for some pretext to justify their action in turning the state over to the University crowd and its extravagant and corrupt practices; while this committee is illegally spending the people's money to pay its members, in face of the constitution which says that a legislature cannot create jobs for its members; while they are finding time to criticize a German professor for feeding sauer kraut to the deaf and dumb children; while they are kicking about the penitentiary officials because they did not sell their junk when it was worth nothing, and have held it until it is now valuable; while they are spending days to find out whether a negro servant used two bars of soap instead of one at a state institution; while this committee or those who dominate it are creating a tempest in a teat pot about little things, let them stop their foolishness and get one idea in their think tanks that will do some real good at this time.

Let them heed the call of humanity from West Texas. The winter is coming on. The cattle are poor, and if help is not extended almost all of them will die. These people have had practically a year of drouth, and of course crops are a failure. Conditions are deplorable.

Oh! but you say nothing can be done. It is a lie. Section 10 of Article 8 of the constitution permits the legislature, by two-thirds vote, to release the inhabitants of or property in any county, city or town from the payment of taxes in case of great public calamity in such county, city or town.

If these would-be statesmen would have the governor to call the legislature and pass a statute temporarily releasing the drouth-stricken counties of West Texas from the payment of 1917 taxes and also release, in the same manner, the payment of interest on payments due for state lands, it would relieve untold suffering and will go a long way toward buying feed for dying herds and work stock which are absolutely necessary to make a crop next year.

This country is at war. Texas is in the war. President Wilson has said that it is as essential to provide for the highest amount of agricultural production as well as the munitions of war. West Texas is every day threatened with invasion from Mexico.

Section 49 of Article 3 of the constitution provides that the credit of the state may be used to create debt for supply of casual deficiencies in revenue. TO REPEL INVASION, TO SUPPRESS INSURRECTION, TO DEFEND THE STATE IN WAR, or to pay existing debt.

Under the powers conferred, who would object to the issuance of state bonds upon the credit of the state for the repelling of invasion and defending the state in time of war? State bonds would be purchased at a premium and would be readily taken.

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If there is any privation or want or unnecessary distress in West Texas this winter the responsibility is upon the heads of the Texas legislature, which has shirked its duty as well as its obligation to meet this awful calamity that has befallen our friends in the west.

Relief from taxes and land interest alone at this time will be the means of saving millions to West Texas in the making of next year's crop and the saving of the cattle herds by purchasing feed with money which would otherwise have to go for taxes and land interest.

A legislature that will spend millions in Austin to support an institution controlled by a mob, when other parts of Texas are crying for bread is not worthy of the respect of right-thinking men, and ought to be booted out of public office.

I demand that this legislature meet this situation. I dare this tax-eating, blood-sucking, muck-raking committee to make a report and not recommend some plan for immediate relief. They would like to evade it because I called their attention to it in an official message last summer.

If for political purposes this crowd must spend their time in trying to keep some man from getting something to drink, then in God's name, in the Saviour's name, who fed the hungry and clothed the naked, I pray that you, that political committee, for a short time, at least, cease that Belshazzler revel of politics down at Austin and help our worthy citizenship in the west to get something to eat and something to wear.

FERGUSON, Editor.

Raise Made In Interest Rates By Farm Banks

General Upward Movement in Charges for Loans Is Recognized By An Increase from Five to Five and One-Half Per Cent.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The general upward movement of interest rates was recognized Monday by the federal farm loan board by raising the rate on government loans to farmers from 5 to 5 1/2 per cent in anticipation of a later increase in the present 4 1/2 per cent rate on farm loan bonds. Decision probably will be reached tomorrow whether to raise the bond interest rate at this time or to reduce the selling price which heretofore has been at a premium of 1-1/8 per cent.

In spite of the decision reached by the farm loan board, Secretary McAdoo said he hoped future issues of Liberty bonds would bear 4 per cent, the same as of the second loan.

One of the immediate effects of the higher farm loan rates, it is expected, will be to encourage a similar advance of private mortgage loan rates on land, which now range from 1-1/2 to 2 per cent above the government loans. Reports reached the treasury today that several insurance companies with big loans on middle western farm lands had decided to make no new loans in order to keep assets liquid and would refuse to renew many existing mortgages. This, it was pointed out, would tend to increase the cost of available loans.

The farm loan system has placed nearly \$30,000,000 in loans since it started operation six months ago and applications for \$390,000,000 are pending. Private loans outstanding on farm lands in the entire country are estimated at nearly \$4,000,000,000. The new interest rate announced today will not apply to loans approved by any of the farm land banks though not actually completed.

Bone Dry Given Big Boost By Court's Decree

Washington, Dec. 12.—When the United States supreme court on Monday upheld the Idaho prohibition law it gave Old John Barleycorn a body blow and gave the prohibitionists one of the most far-reaching victories they have yet scored toward a "Bone Dry" nation.

The court held that a citizen has no constitutional rights to possess liquors for his personal use if a state wishes to forbid it. Justice McReynolds, who gave the court's opinion, held that a state "has power absolutely to prohibit manufacture, gift, purchase, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within its borders without violating the constitution."

WAR DECLARATION AGAINST AUSTRIANS

President Wilson Issues Formal Announcement of State of War.—Dwells Particularly on Subject of Aliens Resident in United States.—Considers Them Friends and Not Foes and Imposes Few Restrictions.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Austro-Hungarian subjects in the United States, most of the million or more of whom are laborers and are loyal to the allied war cause, will suffer few restrictions as a result of war between the lands of their birth and adoption.

In a proclamation today declaring a state of war with Austria-Hungary in accordance with the act of congress, President Wilson specified that un-naturalized Austro-Hungarians, unlike the Germans in this country, should be free to live and travel anywhere, except that they may not enter or leave the states without permission, and those suspected of enemy activity may be interned.

They need not register with police or postoffice officials, as Germans will be required to do shortly, and are not barred from the 100 "ard zones" about the coasts, docks and warehouses closed to Germans and are not required to leave the District of Columbia.

The president's motive in drawing distinctions between Germans and Austrians was described as two-fold. At first it was realized that the sympathy of Hungarians, Roumanians, Poles, Serbians, Slovaks and other immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian empire generally is not with the mother country in the war and they have not been guilty of the multi-form campaign of vengeance practiced under the German war system. Secondly such a large proportion of laborers in munition and steel plants and coal mines consists of Austrian subjects that it was found practically impossible to administer against them the rigid regulations imposed on the Germans who are half as numerous and more individualistic.

Need Not Register. The department of justice even abandoned its former plans to register Austrians along with Germans because of the immensity of the task and the administration's determination to minimize embarrassment to Austrians, thousands of whom have demonstrated their loyalty to this country by enlisting in the army and navy.

As an indication of the president's difference in feeling toward subjects of the dual monarchy, it was pointed out that nowhere in the proclamation did he use the phrase "alien enemies" as was done in previous proclamations referring to Germans. Repeatedly he referred only to "natives, citizens, denizens or subjects" of Austria-Hungary.

The proclamation issued by the president today proclaims a state of war existing between this country and Austria-Hungary, calls upon all citizens to perform their duty, warns subjects of the enemy to conform to our laws and enjoins upon American citizens the duty of treating subjects of the enemy who remain loyal to the United States, with all such friendliness as may be compatible with loyalty and allegiance to the United States.

"This proclamation differs from the preceding proclamation relating to the subjects of the German empire in that while it authorizes arrest and internment of any subjects of the dual monarchy whose conduct may be a menace to the safety of the country, the only restrictions which it contains are prohibitions against either entering or leaving the United States without first obtaining permission.

"Many subjects of Austria-Hungary have already demonstrated their strong loyalty to this country by their faithfulness in industrial work, their organization of a recruiting committee and in service with our armies. For the present, therefore, no restrictions will be placed upon the movement of subjects of Austria-Hungary.

"They are not subject to the restrictions of the previous proclamations relating to German enemy aliens; they will be permitted to reside and labor in prohibited areas and to travel freely without molestation. Only those who are dangerous or disloyal are subject to arrest.

The president's proclamation authorizing the resolution of congress authorizing war with Austria says: "Now therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America do hereby proclaim to all whom it may concern that a state of war exists between the United States

(Continued on Page Three.)

Jerusalem, After 673 Years of Turkish Rule, Taken By Christians

London, Dec. 12.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the house of commons Monday that Jerusalem, after being surrounded on all sides by British troops, has surrendered.

The chancellor said British, French and Italian representatives were on the way to Jerusalem to safeguard the holy places.

General Allenby reported on Sunday night he attacked the enemy's position south and west of Jerusalem, the chancellor said. Welch and Pomm county troops advancing from the direction of Bechteliege, took back the enemy and, passing Jerusalem on the east, established themselves on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. At the same time London infantry and dismounted yeomanry attacked strong enemy positions west and northwest of Jerusalem and placed them astride the Jerusalem-Secheen road. The holy city, being thus isolated, surrendered to General Allenby. The chancellor said General Allenby expected to enter Jerusalem Tuesday, accompanied by the commanders of the French and Italian contingents.

The capture of Jerusalem by the British forces marks the end, with two brief interludes, of more than 1,200 years possession of the seat of the Christian religion by the Mohammedans. For 673 years the Holy City has been in undivided ownership of the Turks, the last Christian ruler of Jerusalem being the German emperor, Frederick II, whose short lived domination lasted from 1229 to 1244.

Apart from its connection with the campaign being waged against Turkey by the British in Mesopotamia, the fall of Jerusalem was the definite collapse of the long protracted efforts of the Turks to capture the Suez canal and invade Egypt. Almost the first move made by Turkey after her entry into the war was a campaign against Egypt across the great desert of the Sinai peninsula.

In November, 1914, a Turkish army variously estimated at from 75,000 to 250,000 men marched on the Suez canal and succeeded in reaching within striking distance of the great arti-

factial waterway at several points. For several months bitter fighting took place, the canal being defended by an Anglo-Egyptian army aided by Australians and New Zealanders and French and British forces.

For the greater part of 1915 conflicting reports of the situation were received from the belligerents, but in December of that year definite information showed that the Turks had been driven back as far as El Arish, about eighty-five miles east of the canal. A lull occurred then which lasted for six months and in June, 1916, the Turks again advanced as far as Katieh, about fifteen miles east of the canal. Here they were decisively defeated, losing more than 3,000 prisoners and a great quantity of equipment. Another period followed in which the situation was greatly confused through the vagueness and contradictory character of the official statements, but in December, 1916, the British stormed El Arish and a few days later severely defeated the Turks at Maghabah, about sixty miles to the south on the same front.

Two weeks later the invaders had been driven out of Egypt and British forces had crossed the border into Palestine.

In sentimental and romantic aspect the capture of Jerusalem far exceeds even the fall of the fable-crowned Bagdad.

The modern city of Jerusalem contains about 60,000 inhabitants and is the home of pestilence, filth and fevers, but in historic interest it naturally surpasses to the Christian world, by other places in the world. Since the days when David wrested it from the hands of Jebusites to make it the capital of the Jewish race, Jerusalem has been the prized prey of half the races of the world. It has passed successively into the hands of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Persians, Arabs, Turks, the motley crowds of the crusaders, finally to fall before the descendants of Richard, the lion-hearted, who strove in vain for its possession more than 700 years ago.

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THE FERGUSON FORUM

Published Every Thursday by THE FORUM COMPANY

Entered as second-class matter November 8, 1917, at the postoffice at Temple, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription, per year, in advance, \$1

Advertising Rates on Application.

Office of Publication TEMPLE, TEXAS.

JOHN L. WARD, President JAS. E. FERGUSON, Editor J. H. DAVIS JR., Secretary-Manager

He who receives a kindness Should never forget it. He who does a good turn Should never remember it.

Pay your poll tax!

The Russian bear has had his claws pulled.

A poll tax receipt is evidence of good citizenship. Don't forget it.

History proves that persecution and impeachment are close kin. Posterity never approved either.

War is serious business and the people of the United States at last are beginning to realize its seriousness.

Now the five cent loaf of bread has disappeared in consequence of war regulations and bakers are selling a ten cent loaf of sixteen ounces.

Lavish and useless Christmas gifts in these times are little short of criminal. The boys in the trenches need our thoughtful remembrances.

Rich boys at the University brand the poor boys "Barbarians." Dr. Vinson says this sort of thing should continue. What says the free citizen of Texas?

With the war costing Uncle Sam \$37,000,000 a day the New York World suggests that everybody chip in and help him to get his money's worth.

The price of the war is stupendous, but think what Germany would tax us if given the opportunity. This war must be won for humanity and democracy.

The straits to which Germany is reduced for man power is shown in the announcement that boys of sixteen and seventeen years are to be prepared to go to the front.

Just to show that cold weather is not unknown in Texas that blizzard blew in last Friday and sent the whole state ashiver. There was snow in north Texas and zero temperature at Amarillo.

Three thousand students at the University of Texas want the state to give them one-fourth as much as it gives one million school children. It is undemocratic and the taxpayers will not approve of it.

Admissions have been made privately by a faculty committee of the University of Texas that unfair social discriminations are intensified by fraternities at the university. Jim Ferguson said the same, and has proved it.

Income taxes are next on the list, and it is a poorly paid worker who does not come within the provisions of the new law. Actual expenses such as rent, fuel, etc., are not permitted to be deducted from the amount to be taxed.

It begins to look as if there will be another special session of the legislature early in the new year. Will the plea of the drought-stricken sections of Texas be heard at that session, or will their terrible plight again go unnoticed and unassisted?

The kind of stuff our soldiers are made of was shown when fifty Americans and Canadians, captured in the fighting around Cambrai, seeing help in sight, turned on their guards barehanded and overpowered them, then made their escape and returned to their own lines.

As an instance of "come-back" there is Charles W. Morse, who after a spectacular career as a high finance performer was given a term in a federal prison and emerge with his fortune shattered and his future to be of his own carving. He has carved so well that recently he has been awarded a contract for the construction of twelve steel ships of 8,800 tons each. Another illustration that every man is the architect of his own destiny.

Repeatedly the statement has been made, and published, that previous to his present employment Doctor Vinson, president of the University of Texas, had never received a salary of more than \$1,800 a year. We wonder if the present Board of Regents think it now necessary to pay him \$6,000 per annum, \$2,000 more than the salary paid the governor of the state, to keep somebody from taking him away from them?—Memphis (Tex.) Democrat.

In the twinkling of an eye almost more than 4,000 lives were snuffed out by the explosion of a munition-laden ship at Halifax; more casualties than would have followed a fierce bombardment of hours. Still it is all in the chances of war. The stricken city now needs help and the estimate is that it will take \$25,000,000 to relieve the immediate necessities of the sufferers. Contributions are pouring in and all possible help is being given to the sufferers. The noble Red Cross is again demonstrating its efficiency and self-sacrificing work. Staggering as is the calamity the people are rallying to rebuild their desolated city and bring about a resumption of business.

END OF THE UNIVERSITY INDICTMENT CHARGES

At Austin on Tuesday of this week Judge Hamilton of the criminal district court of Travis county entered the final order quashing and dismissing the indictments against John G. McKay, Chas. O. Austin, Charles Stowe, C. J. Bartlett and James E. Ferguson which were found by a Travis county grand jury just a few days before F. O. Fuller filed charges against Governor Ferguson during the first days of August last. Before said indictments were quashed or dismissed due and careful consideration was given each indictment by both the court and the district attorney representing the state. After full hearing of all the facts upon which the indictments were based the court in effect said that if all the allegations were true that had been made against the said defendants they had not violated any law and that said facts were not sufficient to be even submitted to a jury of honest men.

The court specially held in the case against Governor Ferguson that his deposit of money in the Temple State bank was not a violation of law.

The court further entered an order dismissing the cases against the other defendants who had had temporary deposits in said bank because, as held by the court, the deposit of money in said bank was not sufficient to convict them of any offense or wrongdoing.

It is difficult to say whether these indictments, which the court held were not worth the paper they were written on, were University indictments or impeachment indictments. It is apparent, however, that they were very much of both and perhaps it will be best to describe them as university indictments brought for impeachment and appropriation purposes. No informed person denies that these indictments were inspired by prominent members of the Ex-Students' association of the University of Texas for the purpose of creating in the weak minds of the many ignorant members of the legislature the idea that Governor Ferguson had committed a flagrant violation of law for which he should be impeached.

No man who has a drop of patriotic blood in his veins would for a single instant want the homestead law of Texas repealed. The very fact that he does want it repealed proves once and for all that he is an enemy to the farmers and other laboring classes of this state and his name should be covered with the ignominy it so justly deserves.

The honest man can borrow money at any time and anywhere. He doesn't have to mortgage his home. But the enemies of the people want him to mortgage his home so the bars may be let down and the home gobbled up later on by the blood-sucking corporations and money lenders of the state and of other localities.

The Forum wants the people of Texas—the farmers and other laborers—to know that it is unalterably opposed to any modification of the homestead law of this state. It was good enough for our parents and for the patriotic founders of Texas, and it is good enough for us and our children.

Fight the movement to repeal the homestead law as you would fight some deadly disease, because behind the movement and suggestion is a thrust aimed at the very heart of all that is sacred and good in this country.

Ferguson's Forum stands for the preservation of the homestead law as it is without any change, and Jim Ferguson stands for it and by it, first, last and all the time.

It is the "will of the people" that organized labor has taken due notice of Burleson's attack on its efforts to ameliorate conditions in his department and Samuel Gompers, in a public statement, serves notice on him that the American Federation of Labor will propose to resist any efforts to put into effect the recommendations made in his report regarding the affiliation of postal employees with organized labor bodies.

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REPEAL OF HOMESTEAD LAWS MEANS FEUDALISM

The Texas homestead law is what has made the imperial state of Texas an imperial domain of small home and land owners.

It has done more than all other agencies combined to place Texas at the head of the list of manly and independent men, and happy and contented women and children.

Had it not been for the splendid workings of this great boon to the poorer classes of this state not one man in a thousand, of the poorer classes, would today own a foot of land or have a board of his own to shelter his head.

Instead, nine-tenths of the land of Texas would be owned by great corporations, storekeepers, bankers, money lenders and other concerns that would seize and sell the homestead if it were permitted to be given as security for money.

Neither the Houston Post nor the Galveston-Dallas News ever has been a friend to the farmer or anything that concerns the farmer. These papers want the homestead law repealed, purely and simply because they believe it would give the corporations of the state a better opportunity to get the farmers more completely in their grasp.

If Texas had no homestead law it would be possible for any man who owned a home, be it ever so humble, to get on his horse and, without saying one word to his wife, ride to the cross roads store and mortgage that home for 15 cents, if he saw proper.

The homestead law is the only protection that a vast number of happy women have today from poverty and want, simply because, unfortunately, there are thousands of men in this state who would dispose of their homes quickly if they could only borrow money and give their homes as security. Ten thousands of men in Texas owe the fact that they own homes to the very law that makes it impossible for them to borrow a nickel on their homes.

Make it possible to borrow money on the homestead and Texas in five years would become a state of great land owners and a vast army of renters.

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Issue Is Up To Voters of Texas

The leading issue of the next campaign for governor is one of the most important the people of Texas have ever faced. It is, however, a simple one, as it involves the right of the common classes of the state to elect a governor of their own class.

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Prayer For Flag.

The following stirring prayer for the Stars and Stripes has been written by Rabbi Leon Harrison, St. Louis: "May every stripe in the flag be for the base and every star for the brave; the red for the heroic blood of sacrifice, the white for purity of patriotism and the blue for heaven's own true blue of boundless hope that spreads over the heads of all the children of men."

BURLESON AGAIN SLAPS UNION LABOR IN THE FACE

Albert Sydney Burleson, a Texan by nativity, and postmaster general of the United States by the grace and appointment of Woodrow Wilson, president of the nation, continues to express his hatred and contempt for organized labor, using his official annual report as a vehicle for maligning and misrepresenting the employees of the postoffice department who have dared to seek wages in some measure commensurate with the great advance in the cost of living, and working conditions that are not oppressive and suggestive of slave-driving.

In his annual report Burleson complains that organized postal employees are "making many selfish demands and insisting that they shall not be required or permitted to work in excess of the usual number of hours; also that their salaries be permanently increased, although they are justly compensated, receiving more than three times as much as those who are fighting in the trenches."

Was ever there a more flagrant attempt to play upon the sympathies of the people and to misrepresent an organization, although they are justly bears its full proportion to the necessities of the country in this war crisis? When Burleson says letter carriers get three times as much as the men who are fighting in the trenches he fails to tell that the men in the trenches, fighting the battle for world democracy, get, in addition to a fixed pay in cash, all their clothing, food, medical attention, nursing, transportation, pensions for dependent families and life insurance. When all these items are taken into consideration, we take a guess that the current price lists for food and other actual necessities of life, the balance seems to be in favor of the compensation of the man in the trench, so far as financial income is concerned.

A large part of Burleson's annual report, devoted to denunciation of the organized postal employees and their requests for more pay and shorter hours. He calls attention to their alleged efforts in political affairs and scores "an outside organization" that he charges during several years has been trying to unionize government employees.

For the information of the public he to the "just compensation" which Burleson says is received by postal employees some figures are here given. When a man secures mail at the hands of a letter carrier he goes into the service as a "substitute," receiving pay only for the time each month he may be employed. These substitutes are paid the minimum wage of sixty-six dollars, sixty-six and two-thirds cents a month for a full month's pay.

Postmaster General Burleson exhibits his tactfulness once more by renewing his proposition that the government should take over all telegraph and telephone lines at a time when the national authorities have in hand a hundred questions more urgent and more vital.—New York World.

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THE RECRUIT

Sez Corporal Madden to Private McFadden: "Be gob, yer'e bad un! Now turn out yer toes, Yer belt is on crookit; Yer cap is on creakit; Ye may not be drunk, But, be jabbers, ye look it!"

Talking About The Forum

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BE TRUE

Speak thou the truth, let others fence And trim the words of pay, In pleasant sunshine of pretense Let others bask their day.

THOUSANDS SIGNIFY THEIR APPROVAL OF FERGUSON

Gov. Jas. E. Ferguson spoke from the east steps of the court house in Stephenville last Monday afternoon to probably the largest audience that has heard a public speaker in Erath county since the great gatherings that assembled to hear the lamented James Stephen Hogg, when that great commoner overcame the power of the combined politicians and corporate interests of the state.

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Nationwide Plan For Prohibition And Suffrage In Dozen Seats In Legislature To Be Filled Soon

Washington, Dec. 12.—Constitutional amendments for nationwide woman suffrage and prohibition were placed before the house for action Tuesday by the judiciary committee, which favorably reported both resolutions.

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LETTERS FROM LOYAL TEXANS

ASKS SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Hon. James E. Ferguson, Temple, Tex. Dear Sir: I am glad you are going to make the race for governor again. Now, as I haven't had much chance at school, I may not write as flowery letter as some folks would that have had better opportunities; for I was born and raised on a poor sandy land farm by poor parents; but it is quite amusing to me, ignorant as I am, to see how progressive and wise our legislators are getting.

I followed the proceedings in your case when they impeached you. Some were for impeaching you for two to five years, I believe, and some wanted and did make it for all time to come.

Now, I have been voting for twenty-nine years and have always understood that these men were elected by the people to carry out the wishes of the people who elected them. But I have been taking notice of the law-making business for some time, and I see that when these fellows have a law they want it is always one they and their clique can pass; and those they don't care anything about they always let the people vote on.

How many do you suppose would be elected if they would be honest with the people and tell them how they were on certain questions? About 5 per cent, I would guess. And again, I would like for some of the senators who voted to impeach you for a time to show me where they had any more authority to debar you from holding any office of trust than any other body had before. But, you see, I am an old-timer, raised in the backwoods of an eastern county, and don't keep up with the progress of the people. I would like to have \$400 per year apportioned to my education; for there was a small family of us, just nine boys, the rest were girls, and the whole push didn't get that much for schooling and clothes a year.

Now I would like for you to tell me how you would like to have John G. Willacy's address, as he has an article running in the Farm and Ranch that I am reading and I want to ask him some questions about why he didn't tell such and such things when they were happening and he was one of the law-making bodies.

Wishing you all the success in the future that is possible to come your way, I am enclosing check for one dollar. Send your paper to my address at Lampasas, Tex., as I want to read every copy. I have sent other copies and I like them fine and hope it will have a big circulation.

Good luck to you is the wish of a full-blooded Texan!

W. P. ABBOTT, Lampasas, Tex.

P. S.—I always have been taught there would be just as smart men after us as there are now and as there had been, but from the way Fuller and the senators acted and talked they had the power to pass a law that couldn't be changed so you could think what will become of the future generations after these great and all-powerful people pass to the Great Beyond.

Oh! it is too bad to think of, so I will change my thoughts to pleasant ones and go pump water.

W. P. A. PROHIBITION NO ISSUE NOW.

Editor Ferguson Forum: I have read a copy of your valuable and much needed paper and fully endorse and appreciate its contents. It doubtless will be read by the farmers and laborers throughout the state with much interest as it gives information and facts pertaining to the important issues which will be involved in the advancing state campaign and in which the common people will be vitally interested; which we could not get otherwise.

I am a life-long prohibitionist and never have voted any other ticket, but this does not prevent me from standing for a man for our chief executive who has proved himself to be a brave defender of the rights of the common people as Governor Ferguson has established himself to be.

Agreeable to the prevailing sentiment of this county the great political slogan in the next campaign will be: "Shall Texas control the State University, or must the University control Texas in the interests of autocracy and aristocracy against democracy?"

We heartily commend and congratulate our efficient and patriotic representative, Hon. J. B. Hill, of this district, for his unswerving loyalty to our governor during the Thirty-fifth legislature, which is looked upon as being in the interest of the people.

W. W. MONTGOMERY, Glimmer, Texas, December 8, 1917.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 12.—About a full dozen seats of members of the new branch of the Thirty-fifth legislature now are vacant through resignations, the latest to resign being Representatives Sam Low of Brenham, J. C. Russell of Sinton and W. E. Nealy of Grimes county. Sam Low has been made a member of the Texas National Guard in the quartermaster's department; Russell has been appointed county attorney for San Patricio county, and Nealy has moved from Anderson to Yoakum, out of his district.

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Texas News Notes

Galveston county by a vote of seven to one decided that the cattle tick must be ousted.

F. F. Hill of Denton announces that he has withdrawn as a candidate for congress from the Denton district.

San Angelo has shipped \$100,000 worth of pecans for the 1917 season. Most of the nuts went to New York and St. Louis.

Jeff McLemore announces that he will make his residence in Galveston and will make the race for congress from that district against A. W. Gregg.

Dr. Samuel Palmer Brooks, president of Baylor university, says he will not become a candidate for the governorship of Texas, but will support Pat M. Neff for that place.

It is estimated that not less than \$35,000,000 in good roads bonds will have been voted by the various counties in Texas during the period beginning July 15, 1917, when the new state highway law went into effect.

B. M. (Buck) Harding has resigned as warrant clerk in the office of State Comptroller Henry B. Terrell and will return to Fort Worth to resume his former place as clerk of the probate court of Tarrant county.

Temple bakers have banished the five cent loaf of bread and now are furnishing a sixteen ounce loaf for ten cents. This action is due to the rules and regulations made by the federal food administration affecting bakers all over the country.

Two hotels on the beach at Galveston were destroyed by fire Saturday morning. The loss was about \$75,000. An unidentified soldier lost his life and his body was so badly burned identification was practically impossible.

Mrs. H. T. Prater of Belton, 77 years old, and one of the early settlers of that place, died last week. Mrs. Prater was the mother of Mrs. W. A. Methvin of Temple. Surviving her also are three other daughters and two sons, Bob Prater of Brady and Albert Prater of Austin.

The case of Harry J. Spannell, hotel manager and former music instructor at Baylor university, Waco, is to be appealed. Spannell was convicted at Coleman in May of this year for killing Lieut. Col. Marion Butler of the Sixth United States cavalry at Alpine, July 20, 1916.

Licenses of thirteen fire and two life insurance companies incorporated in Germany have been cancelled by the Texas banking and insurance commissioner and they no longer can do business in this state. This action was taken in response to a recent ruling by the federal treasury department.

When the sudden blasts from the north set the Texas soldiers at Camp Bowie shivering and they sent out calls for warm clothing and covering, Col. Jake Wolters and E. Coles at Houston got busy and Monday left for the camp with a supply of sweaters for the soldier boys.

Mayors and fire marshals of Texas cities have been appealed to to forbid the explosion of any fireworks at Christmas this year. Manufacturers of fireworks have been circulating advertisements in the state calculated to stimulate the display of pyrotechnics as an evidence of patriotism, and it is sought to prohibit such displays.

There are in operation in Texas fourteen cotton mills with a total of 123,123 spindles and 3,406 looms. Based on their original capitalization there is invested in the cotton mills of the state \$2,485,000. The annual consumption of cotton is about 100,000 bales. Additional mills are soon to be built.

At the annual meeting of the Texas Editorial association at Palacios officers were chosen as follows: W. A. Bowen, Arlington, president; Louis Blaylock, Dallas, first vice president; O. P. Gresham, Temple, second vice president; Harry Cook, Houston, recording secretary; Austin Callan, Marfa, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Austin Callan, mascot. The as-

sociation is made up of newspaper men who have passed more than thirty years in the business. A committee was named to raise the sum of \$10,000 or more for the erection or purchase of a permanent home.

A large new motor plant is being rushed to completion at Fort Worth.

Miss Belle Bennett, formerly of Belton, who died Monday in Fort Worth, was buried Tuesday in Belton.

A woman capitalist at Fort Worth is building twenty rent houses to help meet the demand for homes in that crowded city.

George Davis, a negro, at Athens shot and killed Constable Hopson and wounded Sheriff Williams when they attempted to arrest him for burglary.

Uncle Sam is in need of 22,000 stenographers and typists, and civil service examinations are being held in various parts of Texas to obtain eligibles.

Thomas B. Love of Dallas, once speaker of the Texas house of representatives, has been appointed to one of the new jobs in the United States treasury department.

LaSalle county has joined the dry column by a majority of 159. Cotulla and Encinal, the two principal saloon towns, gave pro majorities. Crockett county votes to stay in the dry column and Kerr county votes to stay wet.

Texas has been called on to furnish at once 800 men under the selective draft system for the coast artillery. The governor is asked to send 300 of these men to Fort Crockett, Galveston, and 500 to Fort MacArthur, Los Angeles. The movement is to start Dec. 19 and be completed five days later.

Of the total rice production of the United States this season of 8,638,721 bags, Texas accounted for 1,592,442 bags from an acreage of 225,363. With an average yield of 15.7 sacks to the acre, California headed all other states according to acreage planted, while the average yield in Texas was 7.06 sacks.

Lieutenant Commander Dan T. Ghent, who was senior naval officer on the Antilles when that steamer was sent to the bottom by a torpedo, with a loss of some seventy lives of members of his crew, is on a visit to his mother and other relatives in Belton. At the expiration of his leave he probably will be attached to one of the new destroyers.

The Texas Industrial Accident Board and Mrs. Roy L. Stewart of Waco are defendants in a suit filed at Waco by the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, limited, because of an award made by the board of compensation for the death of Mrs. Stewart's husband, who was a victim of sunstroke while employed at Camp MacArthur.

Selling non-intoxicating malt liquors in "dry" territory in Texas requires the payment of state and county tax aggregating \$5,000 per year, according to a decision handed down by the court of criminal appeals at Austin last week. Enforcement of this law bids fair to make much of the prohibition territory of the state absolutely "bone-dry," except for the ubiquitous bootlegger.

John E. Franklin, St. Louis banker and promoter, who built the San Antonio, Uvalde & Gulf railroad from San Antonio to Corpus Christi, and who also was president of the Bankers' Trust company of St. Louis, now defunct, has had cases against him charging fraud in connection with the affairs of the trust company dismissed in the federal court at St. Louis. Charles S. Marsh, accused with him, also had his case dismissed.

Headquarters for the fifteen boards of medical advisers for the examination of recruits for the war service of the United States have been announced by Maj. John C. Townes Jr., as follows: First district, El Paso; second, Abilene; third, Amarillo; fourth, San Angelo; fifth, San Antonio; sixth, Corpus Christi; seventh, Austin; eighth, Cuero; ninth, Houston; tenth, Beaumont; eleventh, Palestine; twelfth, Temple; thirteenth, Fort Worth; fourteenth, Dallas; fifteenth, Warkana. The boards are to be composed of three or more specialists

on the following subjects: Internal medicine, surgery, neurology, genitourinary, tuberculosis, eye, ear, nose and throat, and laboratory. The personnel of the boards have not yet been completed.

Contracts made for the delivery of oats, corn and barley for the drought-stricken section of Texas cannot be cancelled by profiteering contractors, according to a dispatch from Food Administrator Hoover to Warehouse Commissioner F. C. Weinert at Austin. Commissioner Weinert appealed to Hoover when contractors threatened to cancel contracts because of advancing prices.

Congressman Sam Rayburn is opposed to a government loan to the railroads, neither does he believe the government should undertake to underwrite the securities of the roads. Mr. Rayburn expressed himself against any plan whereby the government would become guarantor for bonds issued by the railroads, since the initial assistance would certainly lead to others until the government might become involved, he says, to an extent that would rival the cost of the European war.

R. C. Estelle of Cameron and Sam Chaney of Buckhoffs were seriously injured Monday afternoon when a Santa Fe passenger train was derailed and partly turned over near Caldwell by a broken rail. The train was a double-header and two baggage cars, two coaches and a dead-end sleeper were turned over. Six other passengers were slightly injured. Estelle and Chaney were brought to Temple.

At the annual convention of the Masons of Texas in Waco last week officers of the various bodies were elected as follows: Grand Lodge; John R. Arnold, Henderson, grand master; A. A. Ross, Lockhart, deputy grand master; George F. Morgan, grand senior warden; Andrew Ransford, Sherman, grand junior warden. The per capita tax was increased from \$1 to \$1.50. Officers of the grand council: C. L. Alderman, most illustrious grand master; C. W. McKeem, right illustrious grand master; F. N. Sheeley, right illustrious principal conductor of the work; T. M. Bartley, grand recorder; W. W. Peavey, grand treasurer. Grand chapter: O. M. Longnecker, grand high priest. George W. Tyler, of Belton, read at the meeting a sketch of Masonic history in Texas.

\$100,000 FEES TO BE REFUNDED BY THE STATE

The state of Texas will be called on to make refund of about \$100,000 collected as franchise taxes from foreign corporations under the franchise tax law of 1907, which was held unconstitutional last Monday by the United States supreme court at Washington. The court's decision is made in the case of the Crane company which resisted making payment of franchise taxes on the total amount of its capital stock of fifty million dollars.

At the last session of the Texas legislature an amendment to the law was passed making the maximum fee to be paid by a foreign corporation \$2,500 regardless of the amount of its capital stock.

In this connection Col. Jake F. Wolters says the court's action probably will result in bringing to Texas a vast amount of foreign capital which heretofore has hesitated to invest in this state. Many of the largest and most active industrial and commercial corporations in the world have kept out of Texas because of the excessive franchise tax attempted to be collected by the state.

Prior to the amendment of the law foreign corporations were required to pay fees based on their total capital stock regardless of how small portion might be employed in Texas.

Latest reports show that only forty-four members of the crew and officers of the United States destroyer Jacob Jones survived the sinking of the war vessel by a German torpedo on December 6. The submarine was not seen until some time after the American ship sank and then the vast majority of the crew members whose identity is not known. The destroyer appears to have simply stumbled upon the U-boat.

UNITED STATES FORMALLY

(Continued From Page One.)

and the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government; and do especially direct all officers, civil or military, of the United States that they exercise vigilance and zeal in the discharge of the duties incident to such a state of war; and I do, moreover, earnestly appeal to all American citizens that they, in loyal devotion to their country, dedicated from its foundation to the principles of liberty and justice, uphold the laws of the land and give undivided and willing support to these measures which may be adopted by the constitutional authorities in prosecuting the war to a successful issue, and obtaining a secure and just peace.

"And, acting under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution of the United States and the aforesaid sections of the revised statutes, I do hereby further proclaim and direct that the conduct to be observed on the part of the United States towards all natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of Austria-Hungary being males of 14 years and upwards who shall be within the United States and not actually naturalized, shall be as follows:

"All natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of Austria-Hungary being males of 14 years and upwards who shall be within the United States and not actually naturalized, are enjoined to preserve the peace towards the United States and to refrain from crime against the public safety and from violating the laws of the United States and of the states and territories thereof and to refrain from actual hostility or giving information or comfort to the enemies of the United States and to comply strictly with the regulations which are hereby or which may be from time to time promulgated by the president and so long as they shall conduct themselves in accordance with law, they shall be undisturbed in the peaceful pursuit of their lives and occupations and be accorded the consideration due to all peaceful and law-abiding persons, except so far as restrictions may be necessary for their own protection and for the safety of the United States and towards such of said persons as conduct themselves in accordance with law all citizens of the United States are enjoined to preserve the peace and to treat them with all such friendliness as may be compatible with loyalty and allegiance to the United States.

"And all natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of Austria-Hungary being males of the age of 14 years and upward who shall be within the United States and not actually naturalized, who fail to conduct themselves as so enjoined, in addition to all other penalties prescribed by law, shall be liable to restraint or to give security, or to remove and depart from the United States in the manner prescribed by sections four thousand and sixty-nine and four thousand and seventy of the revised statutes and as prescribed in regulations duly promulgated by the president.

Texas Cattlemen To Meet in Dallas Next

The next annual meeting of the Texas Cattle Raisers' Association will be held in Dallas in March, 1918, as a result of the meeting of the executive committee of the association held Tuesday at San Angelo. San Antonio was chosen at the last regular meeting, but on account of the crowded condition due to large numbers of soldiers in the city, Dallas was selected. El Paso and Galveston also were candidates for the meeting, but were eliminated in the voting. Cattlemen in tick-infested sections were urged to send delegates to meet federal officials at the Dallas meeting.

American Girl Weds Von Bernstorff's Son

Berlin, Dec. 12.—The marriage here Saturday of Count Christian Gunther von Bernstorff, son of the former ambassador to the United States, and Mrs. Marguerite Vivian Burton Thomson of Burlington, N. J., is reported by the Berlin newspapers.

McFarland Candidate For Hudspeth's Seat

M. M. McFarland of Alpine, who has represented the 117th district in the lower house for the last four years, is actively in the race as a candidate for the state senate to succeed Claude Hudspeth, who will make the race for congress from the El Paso district. The senatorial district comprises thirty counties, some of them the largest in the state, and stretches from the Rio Grande at El Paso to the borders of Bexar county. Representative McFarland has a fine record, and will receive strong support in his aspirations to a seat in the senate.

NOTICE!

Subscribers who do not receive their papers regularly will confer a favor on The Forum by reporting to this office at once. The mailing list is large and on account of the great number of new subscribers being constantly added there may be slight confusion for a short time. FORUM PUBLISHING CO.

CATHOLIC CHURCH MODIFIES RULES

(Continued From Page One.)

Regulations Affecting Marriage Changed.—New Code Permits Persons Who are Very Ill to Receive Communion if Fast Is Broken.

The beginning of the solemn season of Advent in the Catholic churches of the world this year was marked by several changes in rules and regulations due to the exigencies resulting from the war. Some of the changes made, as published in the New York World, Dec. 3, relate to the solemnization of marriage, and the newly announced Code of Canon Law implies other changes.

A portion of this new code is now in writing, but most of it will go into effect next spring. How it will affect the laity is of interest to Catholic readers. Advent means the closed or forbidden season for marriages. Under the old order it was not permissible to solemnize the marriage between the beginning of Advent and Jan. 7, the day after Epiphany. Under the new dispensation marriages are permitted to be solemnly celebrated on and after Dec. 26.

According to this new code, no engagements to wed are valid unless made in writing, signed by both parties to the contract, by the pastor or bishop, or by at least two witnesses. At least three days should elapse after the last publication of the bans before the marriage takes place.

An important ruling affects the valid age for marriage. The minimum age is sixteen years for males and fourteen for females. Blood relation is a bar to marriage in the collateral line as far as second cousin inclusive. Formerly the prohibition extended to the third cousin inclusive.

An important ruling concerns the impediment of affinity—between a widow and her deceased husband's blood relations. The new code prevents marriage in the collateral line only to the second degree—the first cousins of the deceased husband. Under the new code it is required that a sponsor at baptism must have reached his fourteenth year.

The code confines the impediment of spiritual relationship to the godparents and the person baptized. The sponsor at confirmation now does not contract any impediment forbidding him to marry the person for whom he acted as sponsor.

Heretofore Holy Communion has always been received while fasting. An extension is made in favor of those who have been ill for at least a month and whose early recovery is not expected. They may receive Holy Communion once or twice a week, even if they have broken their fast by taking medicine or liquid food.

War and hardships resulting from war have changed many strict rules. The new code abrogates the general prohibition against eating flesh and fish on fast days, and until the regulation is changed the following are the only days on which both fasting and abstinence are prescribed: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays and Saturdays of Lent, the ember days and the days preceding Christmas, Pentecost, Assumption and All Saints' days. Should any of the days of fasting fall on a Sunday or holy day there is no obligation of keeping the fast or abstinence.

Texas Farmers Buy Mules at Big Price

Sherman, Tex., Dec. 12.—Former Sheriff Lee Simmons has just returned from Kansas, bringing with him several cars of young mules ranging in age from 2 to 4 years old. Grayson county farmers have been buying these animals at from \$400 to \$550 per span about as fast as Mr. Simmons could "hand them out."

13 NEGRO SOLDIERS DIE

(Continued From Page One.)

cution site where the burial took place and then the trucks hauled back to Fort Sam Houston every bit of timber used in the scaffold so that the site was clear before formal announcement of the executions had been issued by southern department headquarters.

One might tramp for hours over the hundreds of brush covered acres of the military reservation without finding either execution site or burial ground as there are no landmarks near. The hanging took place not more than a hundred yards from bath houses which have been built near a swimming pool in the Salado Creek used by men of the national army at Camp Travis half a mile away, but mesquite trees effectually screen the trampled ground.

The condemned negroes had known of their fate since Sunday. Twelve of them sought spiritual counsel of army Y. M. C. A. workers. The thirteenth, whose name has not been disclosed, gave no inkling that he knew. Outwardly all of the negroes were stoical. They did not know the date of the execution but last night they were taken from the cavalry guard house where they have been prisoner more than a month, and placed in separate barracks.

Aside from less than a dozen officers of the southern department and the sheriff of Bexar county, no one in the city or the army camps knew of the execution, date or place. The other negro defendants were ignorant of the fate of their companions until after the formal announcement had been made.

The condemned men were taken from the guardhouse at 5:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, placed in motor trucks and conveyed to the place of execution, an arroyo about two miles east of Camp Travis, under a heavy guard of cavalry and infantry under command of Colonel Millard F. Waltz, post commander. The guard consisted of 125 cavalrymen and 100 infantrymen. On the way the thirteen negro soldiers raised their voices in sacred song.

Arrived at the scaffold, which had been built during the night by engineers from the post, the guard formed a hollow square around the condemned men. The thirteen negroes were then ordered to mount the scaffold, upon which strong floodlights were pouring.

Two army chaplains and a negro minister said prayers, upon completion of which the condemned soldiers were ordered to step upon the traps. There were two traps, six men standing upon one and seven upon the other, with their backs together. Again the men began to chant the hymn, but pulled themselves rigidly erect at the command, "Attention!" Apparently they were not unversed, according to army officers, while the nooses were being adjusted about their necks. This function was performed by Sheriff John W. Tobin of Bexar county and some of his deputies. The sheriff's department had also furnished the ropes and prepared the hangman's knots.

Just before the traps were sprung some of the negroes called, "Good-bye, boys of Company C." Members of Company C, Nineteenth infantry, had guarded the negroes since their arrival in San Antonio to stand trial before the courtmartial.

There was a trigger for each trap and six men stood at each trigger. Eleven of the negroes died almost instantly, the other two showing signs of life a moment or two after the ropes had drawn taut.

Indications are that the demands made by trainmen for an increase of 40 per cent in wages will not be granted in full by the railroads. The various brotherhoods demanding the raises have asked for a reply by December 31. The roads are not likely to reply before that date and then after mediation they may agree to raises of from 25 to 30 per cent. It is believed a settlement will be reached before the controversy is long in the hands of adjusters.

Austro-Hungarians living in the United States have been given assurance as to their status in this since the country declared war with their country as follows: "Declaration of war with Austria-Hungary will not change the status of citizens or subjects of Austria-Hungary resident in this country. Such persons are not included in the term 'enemy' as employed in the trading with the enemy act and their property in this country will not be molested or interfered with in any way."

Short News Notes From Over Nation

The Frisco railroad offices at Sapulpa, Okla., were destroyed by fire with a loss of more than \$50,000.

Lewis B. Nagle, assistant secretary of state for Wisconsin, has been indicted by a federal jury for disloyalty.

The flax crop in Kansas has been doubled. A total of 48,466 acres was in flax this year as compared with 21,807 acres in 1916. Flax is grown almost entirely in the southeastern corner of the state.

Now that Jerusalem has again come into the hands of the Christians there is renewal of talk that within the next ten years the Jews will recapture Palestine as a nation. This is the prediction of Max Schulman, head of the Zionist movement in Chicago.

A sympathetic strike of all labor organizations in Fort Smith, Ark., was ordered last Saturday to help out the girls employed by the Southwestern Telephone company who have been on strike since September 19 last. The strike order affected 1,100 workers and 34 trades.

Up to December 1 the total ginnings of cotton in the United States were 9,704,617 bales, of which Texas had ginned 2,887,473 bales. Georgia came second with 1,642,980 bales. To December 1, 1916, the total ginnings were 10,352,031 bales.

The national banks of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30 showed earnings of \$667,406,000, the greatest earnings in their history and 13 per cent more than for the preceding year, the gain being \$76,764,000. The net earnings of the banks increased \$38,775,000 over the preceding year or 23 per cent.

Husbands eager to join the army now can do so without the necessity of getting the consent of their wives. Under orders issued from the adjutant general's department at Washington effective December 10, recruiting officers over the country were directed to accept married men for any branch of army service without waiver from their wives.

From Washington comes the suggestion that the United States construct a fleet of 150,000 to 200,000 submarines at a cost of \$3,000,000,000 to \$6,000,000,000 with which to smother Germany in the air, cut short the war and save hundreds of thousands of lives and untold billions of dollars. With the utilization of the available rubber manufacturers of the country there could be turned out at least 12,000 airships each month.

Charles W. Morse, former "Ice King" of New York, some of whose matrimonial affairs were aired in Texas about the time he became entangled with the federal government over certain of his operations in high finance, and who later was sentenced to and served in the federal prison at Atlanta, Ga., has demonstrated his ability to "come back" and a few days ago he was awarded a contract by the United States Shipping Board for the construction of twelve steel cargo ships of 8,800 tons each. Morse has recently bought a large shipbuilding plant.

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Why We Will Appreciate Your Subscription To The FORUM

FIRST.—Because it is now and will continue to be the most widely read weekly newspaper in Texas. We want you to have it; 15,000 copies and only four weeks old.

SECOND.—Next year is election year and The Forum will have more live political news than any newspaper in Texas. It is absolutely independent and can say what it pleases.

THIRD.—In accordance with announced plans of the leaders, the ex-students association of the University intends to have at least one hundred of the ex-students to run for the legislature next year. The immense amount of money which this gang will put behind these 100 candidates will bring to their support nearly every large daily newspaper in the state. This subsidized press will only tell one side of the story. The Ferguson Forum has been established for giving the people a way and a medium of having answered the ten thousand political falsehoods which these papers will tell.

Governor Ferguson did not establish The Forum to make money, but mainly for the purpose of coping with the evil of a newspaper combination that does not and will not give fair publicity to matters in which the people are vitally interested.

The Forum is growing every day. We want to get 50,000 subscriptions by March 1st. The subscription price is one dollar per year. But for every ten subscriptions sent together we will reduce the subscription to seventy-five cents.

We will appreciate if our friends in every community will co-operate in raising clubs of ten or more and help the good work along.

We are going to have the warmest cat and parrot time in Texas near year that we ever had.

If you just read the big daily newspapers you will only hear the parrot. If you will read The Forum you will hear the cat also. Subscribe for The Forum!

The Forum Company

TEMPLE, TEXAS.

Range, Herd and Market News

Texans Take Third Place in Judging At Big Stock Show

Texans is much in evidence at the International Livestock exhibition which opened in Chicago Saturday, Dec. 1. There is an expert from this state on duty at the show all the time answering questions about modern experiments with animals.

In the judging contests the team from A. & M. college took third place in judging all classes, with 3,644 points. Texas took second in sheep judging with 945 points and second in swine judging with 949 points; sixth judging horses with 811 points and twelfth in judging grades of cattle with 933 points.

University of Nebraska students scored heavily in the livestock judging contests. Nebraska landed first places in the grading of teams in judging all classes of livestock with a mark of 3,727, first in judging horses with 953, first in judging sheep with 950, and first in swine with 1,039. Only in judging cattle did the state fall, finishing eighth in that class.

Miss Edith M. Curtiss of the Iowa state college tied for fifth among the students in judging all classes of livestock.

W. F. Roberts of Nebraska university took first place in judging all classes with 844. M. A. McCarty and J. M. Kalash, both of the University of Minnesota, took second with 837 and 818 respectively. E. Hogue, Nebraska university, was fourth with 813 points and A. E. Anderson of Nebraska was tied with Miss Curtiss with 812.

Some of the largest and best cattle ever seen at any show are on exhibition. One monster 4-year-old Hereford, owned by Michael Jacobs of Sparta, Ill., is considered one of the largest shown. He tips the scales at 3,000 pounds.

Texas is represented by the prize Hereford of Henry M. Hall of Midland. These cattle have won prizes all along the line at the different shows and Mr. Hall expects to win the championship of the world with them. R. J. Kinzer, secretary of the American Hereford Cattle Breeders' association, says they are the best that he has ever seen.

Must Have Cheaper Feed to Make Beef

The average individual only thinks of corn when the subject of fat heaves is mentioned. An experienced feeder recently said that it would cost him 20 cents a pound for each pound of beef he produced in the dry feed lot. Cattle men must have a greater opportunity to get cheap forage and pasture. The principle part of the cost must be made from the cheaper feed. Corn, cotton seed meal and similar feeds should be used only to finish the carcass, which not only increases the value of the weight which is put on with such feed but the carcasses have a greater value after it is in a finished condition. Instead of taking an animal through the developing period on scant rations, it should be fed liberally on the cheap feed. This idea must be considered by every man interested in beef animals. A little extra grain will cost him a splendid revenue for the present live stock which is being pastured, but usually adds to the value of that particular pasture for future use.

Every farmer and breeder should pay more attention to forage and rough feed. When an animal comes to the feeder market in good flesh produced on this cheap feed, the feeder can pay a greater price making the gain profitable to all concerned. Let us not forget the value of our pasture and cheap roughage.—American Breeder.

Goats for Clearing Pastures Make Good

In some sections on the country Angora goats are regularly employed to clear brush land. In many others they are talked of, but the farmers are a little dubious as to their actual value. They are afraid that a goat farm is of the same nature as the southern road farms, where they raise hops for the brewery.

One man in Fayette county, Indiana, decided to try an experiment with goats. He is Dr. J. A. Drago, of Cornersville. He is a veterinarian and a practical farmer. Two years ago he purchased a partly rundown farm.

On the place was much old pasture ground, too rough for cultivation and overgrown with weeds and brambles that the naturally rich blue grass was practically stifled. The doctor wanted to keep stock on this pasture to provide a real home market for his corn and hay. The trouble was that the brush and weeds were so thick the pasture could support only a small number of cattle.

Lack of time and scarcity of labor forbade clearing the land by hand. He decided to give the goats a trial. It paid so well he will increase his herd next year.

Last March he purchased twenty does and a buck. They had been poorly wintered, were thin, and the herd produced only eleven kids, all of which were easily raised. Score one for vitality.

Through March and April he kept the flock in covered pens, and they had a chance to sneak up a little. A man unaccustomed to the work sheared them. The fleeces averaged five pounds in weight and sold at two cents per pound less than the wool clip. Thus far the goat venture was not particularly successful. The flock was still suffering from the effects of poor wintering. Moreover, the doctor bought them to clear land; the hair they produced was a side issue.

Early in May he turned the flock into what once had been a blue-grass pasture but which had degenerated into a thicket of ironweed and brambles. The field comprised three acres. It already was fairly well fenced, and no extra precautions were taken to keep them in. The goats were lost in that mass of brambles, figuratively speaking, but in two weeks they ate their way out. They ate everything. Within a month blue grass began to appear.

Contrary to the expectations of the neighbors, the goats made no attempt

to get through or over the fences. Neither did they bother young walnut trees, which the doctor feared they might girdle.

After they had riddled the bramble patch the animals were turned into another small pasture, open this time but overgrown with ironweed, goldenrod and dog fennel. The goats did not seem to notice the change of diet. They savagely attacked the weed patch.

Late in the summer Doctor Drago turned the kids into the cornfield. They lived there the rest of the summer, keeping the fall weeds eaten closely and giving the land the best possible operation for wheat seeding. They are now big and sturdy and ready for fall breeding.

Looking over the season's results, he is mightily pleased with his venture. The goats have given no trouble, are disease-proof on these hills and have cleared a considerable area of land without expense.

The animals will be given an opening to run in this winter and will be fed some good alfalfa hay. By this means they will be well wintered, give birth to more kids and produce a heavier clip of hair than they did last spring. Next year they will again ready the pasture, a few acres at a time, and by another fall the farm will be rich in blue-grass pasture.

What Doctor Drago has done other farmers can do. Many farmers whose weed-grown permanent pastures are a continual source of worry will find a small herd of goats a profitable investment.—The Country Gentleman.

Range Movement of Cattle Soon to End

The next few weeks will see a final windup of the marketward movement of cattle. In many cases already final shipments are being made, and weather conditions will soon be the governing force in determining how many western cattle are to be marketed.

Novembers receipts were unusually heavy, both Kansas City and Chicago reporting the largest supplies on record for the eleventh month of the year. To keep up the big movement quality and weight showed material deterioration.

Drough in Texas already has extended to the southwest, and movement beyond the normal season, and may continue it, although eastern and northern Texas had good rains in the past week. Parts of Kansas and Missouri need stock water for winter use. As the range movement subsides feed lots will have to supply the bulk of the feeding cattle. Feeding operations, though not as large as in former years, will yield a big per cent of short fed cattle, mostly steers that came off of grass with good weight and will have had enough grain to finish them up. The range and pure cattle reaching markets, and the range for the Christmas trade will be small. They should be offered the first two weeks in December.—American Breeder.

Texas Cattle Score High Up at Chicago

In the award of honors at the International Livestock Show at Chicago, which closed Dec. 3, Texas cattle scored brilliantly. Fat yearling steers bred by Swenson Bros. of the S. M. S. ranch at Stamford, Tex., and fed by J. W. Frazier at Rariden, Ill., and George Cann at Charleston, Ill., won the championship. Hereford steers, yearlings, were first, second and third in the southwestern district and ranked second to the grand champion blacks fed by Hal Frazier.

These yearlings were sold at auction later at \$20 a hundred weight. Edward P. Hall took the grand championship with a load of Angora yearlings which brought \$42.50 per hundred at auction. The S. M. S. cattle averaged \$18.11 and the Matador cattle exhibited by J. M. Imboden brought from \$15.50 to \$19.25.

The grand champion steer for 1917 was Merry Monarch, a purebred two-year-old shorthorn, fed and shown by Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. He weighed 1,610 pounds and achieved a world's record for sales when he brought \$2.05 a pound at auction, the American Shorthorn Breeders' association being the purchaser. Later he was sold to the Congress hotel at Chicago for \$2.10 per pound and the proceeds, \$3,383.10, given to the Red Cross.

Passing of Saloons At National Capital Causes No Drouth

Washington, Dec. 12.—The absence of saloons in this city "causes no ice" with the average congressman. Ever since the prohibition movement began to sweep the south and west any official who holds a public office and has his political life in his own hands. In many of the dry states the most telling issue is proof that a member of congress was seen in a Washington dram shop. Nine-tenths of the southern congressmen have tabooed Washington bar rooms for ten years.

But congressmen from the "wet" districts have made no secret that they slaked their thirst whenever they felt inclined. Senator John Sharp Williams, one of the old-style southerners left in congress, openly declares he will drink when he is ready and that no law or regulations can keep him from his toddy. He says he has enough liquor in his home to do him the remainder of his days. One Illinois congressman has \$500 worth of beer and wines in his home. Those who still drink with fear of detection have stored plenty of wet goods in their cellars.

The passing of the Washington saloon will make but little difference on congress.

Secretary McAdoo makes an urgent appeal to school children to take an interest in buying the new thrift stamps. In this connection he says: "I appeal to the heart and patriotism of the American people to help their government and help themselves by a whole-hearted support of this war savings plan."

Cotton

New Orleans, La., Dec. 12.—Liquidation weighed against the price of cotton here today and at times selling pressure was heavy. Offerings were forced from the long side by several unfavorable war rumors which did not appear to have good foundation. Nevertheless they were effective. Lowest prices were reached late in the session, when the market stood at a net loss of 42 to 46 points.

The close was at a net decline of 38 to 45 points. In the face of the decline in future contracts, spot prices were raised 10 points to 23.25 for middling, a new high level. Momentarily a recovery was caused in the contract market by the strength of spot, but afterwards the decline was resumed.

New York, Dec. 12.—The cotton market lost a good part of yesterday's advance during today's trading with January selling off to 29.02, or 33 points below yesterday's high record, and that delivery closed at 29.06 with the general list closing steady at a net decline of 34 to 49 points.

The market opened steady at an advance of 7 points to a decline of 2 points on overnight buying orders, and there was also a little support from the futures market. It increased right after the call, with the market soon turning easier under realizing by long and selling by shorts. The few additional notices issued estimated at not over 600 bales, seemed to be promptly absorbed, but there was some near months' selling off later in the session, with rumors that more cotton would be tendered toward the end of the month. It was said that a rate of \$11 per bale was being offered for a small amount of ocean freight run out of New York to Liverpool without actual market, Anglo-French 68 and Paragon 66.

Liveries on contract seemed to be based partly on an idea that some export cotton might be tendered. The bulk of the business was in later deliveries, however, with March selling off, or about 48 points, to 29.02 net over on these positions, while there was no sale of December below 29.00.

SPOTS

Galveston, Texas, Dec. 12.—Middling 25c; receipts 7,022; sales 754; stock 277,127.

Liverpool, Dec. 12.—Spots quiet; prices dull. Good middling 22.68 Middling 22.16 Low middling 21.63 Good ordinary 21.13 Ordinary 20.11 Sales 3,000 bales, including 2,800 American, no receipts.

Stock Market

New York, Dec. 12.—The further crumbling of values in the stock market today were again traceable to obvious causes, foreign and domestic developments involving the general feeling of discouragement. Accumulative evidence that the government program for the southwest, and the heavy conditions not previously reckoned with and now being disclosed, and the government's quoting an eminent military authority as saying that all private munition plants should be placed under government control, contributed measurably to the widespread reversal.

Bulls, including many issues for years classed among those yielding substantial dividend returns, fell 2 to 4 points. United States Steel advanced 1/2 point, a decline of 3% to 81 1/2, represented a new low point for this year and an extreme range of 65 points from its maximum of the year. Practically every grade of stock in the industrial, shipping and utility divisions showed recessions of 2 to 5 points.

Foreign fluctuations again featured the weak bond market, Anglo-French 68 and Paragon 66 as well as French municipals recording greater depreciation with the Russian 5 1/2% of the "curly" Liberty bonds at 97.25 to 97.46 and the 3 1/2% at 98.43 to 98.55.

Grain

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 12.—Unfavorable weather conditions made corn prices average higher today, but there was persistent commission house selling and a decline in the market closed unsettled, January \$1.21 1/2, and May \$1.19 1/2, with the final range as a whole varying from \$1.15 to \$1.24, compared with twenty-four hours before. The outcome in oats was again off 1/2 to 3/4 cts. Provisions declined, including 200.

Prevailing low temperatures and snow storms, a new cold wave in sight rendered the prospect adverse for the winter. A substantial enlargement of corn receipts, together with the embargoed territory, considerable aggressiveness developed on the selling side of the market, and there was a corresponding reaction in the price of wheat. Announcements were being circulated at this juncture that no shipments of grain could be made through the embargoed territory eastward from Chicago.

Data neglected to show high price records for the season. Provisions ranged as follows: Corn—Open, High, Low, Close. Dec. 12, 1.24 1/2, 1.24 1/2, 1.24 1/2, 1.24 1/2. Jan. 1.21 1/2, 1.21 1/2, 1.21 1/2, 1.21 1/2. May 1.19 1/2, 1.19 1/2, 1.19 1/2, 1.19 1/2. Oats—Dec. 12, .74 1/2, .75, .74 1/2, .75. Jan. .73 1/2, .73 1/2, .73 1/2, .73 1/2. Pork—Jan. 47.00, 47.00, 46.62, 46.62. Lard—Jan. 24.62, 24.62, 24.37, 24.35. May 24.62, 24.62, 24.35, 24.35. Rib—Jan. 25.00, 25.00, 24.70, 24.77. May 25.00, 25.00, 24.85, 24.87.

Livestock

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 12.—Hogs—Receipts 2,000; prospects 5 to 10c lower. Heavy \$12.25 to \$17.50; light \$12.15 to \$17.25; medium \$12.10 to \$17.15; mixed \$12.00 to \$17.00; pigs \$11.50 to \$14.00. Cattle—Receipts 9,000 and 1,500 calves; others steady, others steady and 1/2c higher. Beaves \$7.50 to \$11.50; stockers \$6.50 to \$10.25; heifers \$6.50 to \$10.25; calves \$5.50 to \$10.50. Sheep—Receipts 500; market steady. Lambs \$15.00 to \$12.00; wethers \$10.00 to \$12.00; ewes \$10.00 to \$12.00; culls \$5.50 to \$7.50.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 12.—Hogs—Receipts 27,000; market 1/2c to 3/4c lower. Heavy \$17.15 to \$17.50; light \$16.70 to \$17.45; mixed \$17.00 to \$17.40; heavy \$16.50 to \$17.40; rough \$15.50 to \$17.15; pigs \$13.00 to \$15.50. Cattle—Receipts 18,000; tomorrow 10,000; Native steers \$7.25 to \$14.50; western steers \$6.50 to \$12.25; stockers and feeders \$6.10 to \$10.75; cows and heifers \$5.10 to \$11.00; calves \$8.50 to \$15.50. Sheep—Receipts 14,000; tomorrow 12,000; market firm. Wethers \$8.50 to \$13.00; ewes \$7.50 to \$11.00; lambs \$12.50 to \$17.00.

Sugar

New York, Dec. 12.—There was no further business reported in the sugar market and prices on the spot were entirely nominal at 5.50 for Cuban, cost and freight, equal to market for cuttings and for molasses, which represent the last spot business with new crops at 4.50, cost and freight. Advice from Cuba report new crop sugars arriving at the ports and harvesting well advanced with this year's central grinding against twelve at this time last year.

In refined prices were unchanged with business still being restricted by the lack of supplies. Fine granulated was quoted at \$15 to \$16, although the only refiner accepting any business at all was listed at \$15.

Produce

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 12.—Butter higher—Creamery 28 1/2c. Eggs firm—Receipts 3,600 cases. Firsts 49 1/2c; ordinary firsts 43 1/2c to 46 1/2c; at mark, cases included, 43 1/2c. Potatoes—Receipts 25 cts; unchanged. Poultry—Alive higher. Fowls 17 to 22 1/2c; springs 19c.

All Ferguson Indictments Held Worthless by Court at Austin

Austin, Tex., Dec. 12.—On the motion of District Attorney John E. Shelton, coupled with his statement in open court that in the event the motions were overruled, he would "make the same statement to the jury and ask a verdict of 'not guilty,'" Judge Jas. R. Hamilton of the criminal district court Tuesday morning dismissed all cases pending against former state officials with the exception of those against former Labor Commissioner W. Woodruff. The cases dismissed were a charge of diversion against former Gov. James E. Ferguson, and charges of misapplication against John G. McKay and Churchill J. Bartlett, former secretaries of state; Charles L. Stowe, former state superintendent of public buildings and grounds, and Commissioner of Banking and Insurance C. O. Austin. Motion to quash the indictments on the ground that the court has no jurisdiction was overruled by Judge Hamilton yesterday.

Another motion to quash on the ground that the indictments were returned illegally was overruled this morning shortly before the cases were dismissed.

A motion to quash the six indictments against the former labor commissioner, charging perjury in connection with affidavits and expense accounts, is now under advisement.

Lack of sufficient evidence to convict was given by the district attorney in each case for his motion to dismiss. District Attorney Shelton's motion to dismiss the indictment against Ferguson is as follows:

"This indictment is drawn under article 104, Branch's Annotated Penal code, which reads as follows: 'If any person shall knowingly and wilfully borrow, withhold or in any special fund, or any part thereof, belonging to or under the control of the state which has been set apart for specific use by law, as he shall be punished by confinement in the penitentiary for a term of not less than two nor more than ten years.'

"This is what is known as the 'Chicken salad case' which formed one of the articles of impeachment of the said James E. Ferguson, and on which article of impeachment the said James E. Ferguson was acquitted on a trial before the senate.

"That the amounts alleged to have been paid out of the fund appropriated to water, lights, fuel, ice and incidentals and approved by members of the governor's family or his private secretary were such articles as had formerly been bought under an appropriation or provisions by a predecessor governor, and it was claimed by this defendant that the words 'incidentals' in the appropriation bill under which this fund was used covered the items purchased by members of his family.

"No item, so far as the state is able to procure testimony with reference thereto, that such a person should be in person or approved by him in person, but were approved by his private secretary and purchased either by members of his family or employees about the mansion.

"I do not believe the state could either prove criminal intent on the part of the defendant or could, in fact, at the very time the purchase was made bring to his knowledge the identical items purchased, and I know of no source from which testimony could be had that there is now none in my opinion in possession of the state which would justify or sustain a conviction. I do not believe that where it is possible for one to be mistaken in the wording of a statute and thereby commit a wrong that the state intended that such a person should be criminally prosecuted therefor, unless some great wrong is actually committed. For the above stated reasons the district attorney respectfully requests the court to dismiss the above styled and numbered cause."

Temple School Pupils Urged To Save and Serve

The campaign for the sale of thrift and war saving stamps which was inaugurated December 3, is being pushed with all possible vigor in Temple as in every other city, town and hamlet in the entire country. The campaign is being extended to the schools of the city and county and Chairman P. L. Downs, Jr., of this county is hopeful of realizing a goodly sum from this source as well as in inculcating into the boys and girls of the schools the habit of saving.

Some of the admonitions to the pupils are as follows: "Have your quarters and help win the war. With each quarter saved buy a thrift stamp. Sixteen thrift stamps (worth \$4.00 plus 12 cents, buys a war savings stamp).

The United States government will pay you \$5 for each war savings stamp in five years. Twenty war savings stamps make one full war savings certificate. The United States government will pay you \$10 for ten war savings certificates in five years. You can get back your money invested in war savings stamps, with interest, at any time by giving ten days' notice at any post office.

Your savings will help win the war; \$4.12 now brings you \$5 in 1923. Let your father, mother or principal of the school board send a letter to the principals of all schools as follows: "The federal government is organizing a campaign for the sale of \$5 war savings stamps and 25 cent war savings stamps. The rate of \$4.12 each will be sold at the rate of \$5 plus interest. At any time during the next five years these war savings stamps are redeemable on demand at \$5 plus 12 cents. The 25 cent war stamps do not bear interest, but may be exchanged on demand for war savings stamps. This plan is admirably suited to the needs of school children and admirably adapted to promote a spirit of thrift and a spirit of patriotism. Each child can commence the purchase of a war savings stamp by the payment of 25 cents for a thrift stamp and can help the government in this direct way. The purchase of war savings stamps in connection with the school savings bank offers another opening for substantial sales."

The war savings stamps by themselves are transferable. When they have been attached to war savings stamp certificates they may be redeemed only by the persons whose names are on the certificates. They may then be redeemed at any post office, but if the certificates are registered, as they may be for further protection, they may be redeemed only at the postoffice where the registration took place.

Up to a certain date Christmas stamps as Christmas presents will be urged by the campaign committee. Unattached stamps may be presented to anybody, and, if one wants to, certificates may be taken out in the name of any other person. Emphasis will be laid on the fact that children can take part in this loan and parents and friends will have their attention called to the ease with which this can be done for your children.

"Save and Serve," the slogan of the campaign, will be fairly diamed into the ears of children. They will be urged in every possible way to "Save a quarter and lend it to Uncle Sam." A very real service to the government will be rendered in this way, the committee points out, and at the same time a spirit of saving will be inculcated.

Within a short time stamps of both sorts will be on sale in stores as well as at postoffices and banks. Any merchant, any business man, may become an authorized agent for the sale of stamps to children. Application blanks will be kept at all postoffices.

1917 Crops Make New Mark Texas Cotton Yield 3,115,000 Bales

Washington, Dec. 12.—Many crops this year exceed the yield of any other years, while the value of the country's farm products, with a total estimated unofficially at \$21,000,000, far exceeds any other year in history. Final estimates of production of the principal farm crops are announced Tuesday by the department of agriculture.

Cotton production this year is estimated at 10,949,000 equivalent 500-pound bales, the department of agriculture announced in its final report. The average weight per running bale is estimated at 591.5 pounds gross.

Production by states follows: Virginia, 16,000; North Carolina, 570,000; South Carolina, 1,235,000; Georgia, 1,820,000; Florida, 40,000; Alabama, 505,000; Mississippi, 895,000; Louisiana, 615,000; Arkansas, 395,000; Tennessee, 296,000; Missouri, 51,000; Oklahoma, 390,000; California, 67,000; Texas, 3,115,000; all other states, 9,000.

The production estimates are: Corn, 3,159,494,000 bushels; winter wheat, 418,970,000; spring wheat, 224,758,000; all wheat, 650,528,000; oats, 1,587,286,000; barley, 208,975,000; rye, 60,145,000; buckwheat, 17,460,000; flaxseed, 8,473,000; rice, 36,278,000; potatoes, 442,536; sweet potatoes, 87,141,000; hay (tame), 79,528,000; hay (wild), 15,492,000; tobacco, 1,196,451,000 pounds; sugar beets, 6,237,000 tons; beans, 15,701,000; kafirs, 75,866,000; onions, 13,554,700; cabbage, 502,700 tons; hops, 27,788,000 pounds; cranberries, 245,000 barrels; apples, 58,203,000 barrels; peaches, 45,066,000 bushels; pears, 12,532,000 boxes; myrry pears, 13,231,000 bushels, oranges, 12,832,000 boxes.

Hens in the laying contest at Mountain Grove are fed as follows: Yolks, Whites. 100 pounds of corn 255 134 100 pounds of wheat 243 182 20 pounds of oat 38 31 20 pounds of bran 31 41 20 pounds of shorts 41 44 20 pounds of corn meal 50 27 20 pounds of beef scraps 21 221

680 680 If a hen is being fed rations that will not permit her to lay eggs; that is, if the feed she consumes will not make a complete egg, the partly formed ones are absorbed by her body and become fat. So it is not often the case that a hen is too fat to lay, but rather she is fat because she is not laying.

The capacity of hens differ. That is why selection is important. But a hen cannot lay up to her capacity unless she has a balanced ration to feed her capacity. An egg has much water. Limit the supply of clean, fresh water in the poultry yard, and egg production will be limited just that much.

Reeds are leaders in egg-laying contest. During the third week of the first Texas national egg laying contest, in progress at College station, two hens made records of seven eggs in seven days, or 100 per cent production. In the three weeks of the contest, 308 and 150, each laid seventeen eggs. Both of the latter are Rhode Island Reds, owned by R. L. Pou and C. M. Evans of Bryan.

Three hens tied for second place. They are a White Wandaotte from the poultry farm of R. B. Homan, Yelka, Tex., and two Rhode Island Reds owned by C. M. Evans, Bryan.

The leading hens are as follows: Rhode Island Reds, sixty-nine eggs; White Leghorns, fifty-four eggs; Barred Plymouth Rocks, forty-nine eggs; White Leghorns, forty-four eggs; and Rhode Island Reds, thirty-five eggs.

The White Leghorn pen in fourth place laid one-half its total number of eggs during the third week. It started very slowly and laid but six eggs in the first week. Seventeen of the eggs from the pen in fifth place were laid by one hen.

The competition is very close and it appears likely that there will be one or more ties for the first five places at the end of the first month, declares R. N. Harvey of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, who is superintendent of the contest.

1917 a Banner Year For the Sheep Men

Soaring feed prices failed to put a damper on the feeding operations of sheep and lamb feeders. In the majority of cases, where prices of the greatest magnitude were attained, the deals involved the early contracting of feeding stock at decidedly favorable rates to the finisher. However, some of the most remarkable successes were by those who bought fleshy shearing stock in the early spring and marketed their mutton and wool handlings thus acquired within a few days.

W. H. Firk, of Illinois, has attained great success feeding under these conditions. Mr. Firk purchased, on April second and third, 1917, 2,000 head of heavy shearing, meaty, Colorado-fed lambs at a cost of \$15.25 a hundred. Not a few of the wise ones in the trade were dubious about the final outcome of the investment—a record at that time.

The results of the operation, however, show the wisdom of the investment. The last of the lambs were packed on the market at the expiration of fifty days. They sheared an average of seven and three-quarter pounds of wool and the clip sold at 60 cents a pound. The 2,000 lambs sold, shorn, at prices ranging from \$14 to \$16.75 a hundredweight, the entire transaction involving less than two months' time, netting the feeder an actual profit of \$6,318 as disclosed by these final figures compiled by Mr. Firk: The cost of the lambs and sheep and the freight and buying charges were \$26,000. The shearing, interest, feed and selling charges amounted to \$2,400. The value of the manure offset the feeding labor. The sheep sold for \$25,538 and the wool for \$9,180. The total cash received for the sheep and wool was \$34,718. The total cost of the sheep and the expenses were \$28,400. That gave a net profit of \$6,318.

Paul D. Hammett, of The Country Gentleman.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD

Balanced Ration To Make Your Hen Lay

Mrs. S. D. D. writing from Bathany, Ill., to the Weekly Star, of Kansas City, says:

"I have 100 Barred Plymouth Rock hens 1 year old. They have the entire range of the farm and are all through moulting, but do not lay. They have plenty of fresh water, plenty of room, plenty of sunshine and lots of meadow scraps. I would like to know why I am not getting any eggs."

Here is the advice given her: If the writer had told the rations her hens are now receiving, anyone familiar with feeding for egg production could have told her why her hens are not laying. Down at the Missouri State Poultry Experiment Station at Mountain Grove the experts can make a hen produce any number of eggs they want up to her capacity by simply changing her feed. They say a hen is an egg producing machine. She lays eggs because she has to, not because she wants to. It is a freak, diseased or malformed hen that does not lay. Hens entered in contest at Mountain Grove which do not produce any eggs are killed and examined. Malformation or injury has been found to be the cause of their non-productivity in every case.

Certain qualities in grain go into the yolk of an egg and others into the white. That part of the grain which makes the white of an egg cannot make the yolk. For instance 100 pounds of corn will make 255 yolks and 134 whites. If a hen is fed corn alone during the time it takes her to consume 100 pounds of corn she can produce only 134 eggs. A hen's digestive capacity is about 75 pounds of grain a year. Therefore she should have a well balanced ration to get a maximum of eggs out of that amount of grain. To feed her otherwise is waste.

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