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GATHER FOR TRIP TO WASHINGTON

RICE MEN SEEK RELIEF FROM SALT WATER MENACE

THREE PLANS ARE FEASIBLE

Dam in Mermentau, at Unobjectionable Point, the Immediate Need, to Protect 1918 Crop

Men prominent in the rice industry of Louisiana gathered here last night preparatory to a trip to Washington to ask government aid in removing the greatest menace to rice, the distinctive southern cereal, salt water in the streams and lack of water when flooding of the fields is indispensable to the production of a crop.

The delegation to Washington is the outgrowth of a conference held by prominent rice producers in Crowley ten days ago at which possible remedies were discussed. Three methods of helping the rice industry survive and of greatly increasing its importance promise good results. They are:

1. The rebuilding of the dam in the Mermentau river to keep salt water out of the rice fields of Jefferson and Iberville parishes.

2. The diversion of water from the Atchafalaya to payon Toche and the Vermilion river by means of a great irrigation canal. This will insure a never-failing supply of fresh water to the rice growers of St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette and Vermilion parishes.

3. The construction of a great canal from the Red river above Alexandria to the headwaters of the Calcasieu and its tributaries, and to the prairies of Jefferson Davis, Acadia and Evangeline parishes. This project is well advanced, contracts having already been made with hundreds of farmers to supply water within two years. It was planned and surveyed by Welman Bradford, one of the best known engineers of the state, and has been endorsed as feasible by the highest expert authority. It contemplates not merely irrigation, but transportation and the development of hydro-electric power for the entire region.

"Our immediate object," said George Hathaway, one of the active rice men of Jefferson Davis parish, who constituted the vanguard of the committee, "is to secure the dam in the Mermentau at an unobjectionable point in time to protect the next year's crop."

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DRAFT DAY MAY COME SHORTLY

By International News Service

Washington, July 9.—Draft Day next week probably will be Tuesday or Wednesday, it developed today, probably 1,500,000 will be drawn, of which 687,000 will be called to the colors immediately. Others will be subject to call when needed.

The President today issued a proclamation drafted into Federal service as of August 5, the National Guard, which now is the same as regulars, and gives the nation approximately 600,000 fighting men.

They will be mustered into service in three increments, July 15, 25 and August 5. Illinois 25th, Florida and Texas, August 5. Officers not above the Colonel will hold similar rank in the regulars. None have been commissioned at the present ratings.

Sandbagged and Robbed in Office

By International News Service

Memphis, July 9.—Chas. S. Sims, a wealthy contractor, was assaulted in his office on the thirteenth floor of the Union and Planters bank building this afternoon, and was robbed of \$350.

Sims was preparing to make a bank deposit when a masked man entered his office and saying, "I'll make the deposit for you," hit him with a sandbag, grabbed the money and escaped.

SOLONS LAUNCH WORK AT CAPITAL

Baton Rouge, La., July 9.—The extra session of the Louisiana Legislature to enact war emergency legislation and amend the widow's dower law is now under full sail.

Eight bills were introduced in the House and five in the Senate, when the two branches of the legislature convened at noon Monday. All measures were referred to committees for speedy action.

Actual committee work started Monday night at 8 o'clock with a joint session of the Senate and House committees on military affairs, with Senator Mark M. Boatner and Representative Charles A. Schexnayder, chairman.

Governor Pleasant's address to the legislature, convened at noon today, covered only four short paragraphs. It follows:

"There has been a general demand, particularly in those sections of the state where the small farmers and truck growers live, for an extraordinary session of the general assembly at this time for the purpose of considering the question of subsidizing the widows dower, provided for in Article 3252 of the civil code, to money loaned the husband by the federal land bank and similar institutions.

"The war between the United States and the imperial German government has also made necessary the immediate enactment of legislation for the protection of our commonwealth and in order that we may be in the best possible position to assist the federal government in its determination to uphold the honor and dignity of the nation and make democracy safe and secure in the world forever.

"It is for the foregoing reasons, principally, that I have called you together.

"I know that you will consider wisely and well all of the subjects presented to you, and the result of your deliberations will be beneficial to the people of the State."

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WHIPS OUT GUN AND GETS AWAY

ALLEGED ROBBER TURNS TABLES ON CAPTORS

THREE MEN FOIL THEFT

One Man Arrested and Others Reported to Be Well Known Police Characters

The vigilance of three men at the plant of the Armour Packing company in Magazine street, foiled two robbers last night in their attempt to steal a barrel of powder from the junk shop in Notre Dame street, between Magazine and Tchoupitoulas. One of the thieves was captured, but the other man flourished a gun, and under its cover made his escape.

Entrance to the junk shop was effected through the yard, the wooden bars on the gate being removed. About 9:30 o'clock, Daniel Kelley, 620 Eighth street, and a man said to be Earl Scully, well known police characters, appeared out of the shop rolling before them a barrel of powder.

Men See Thieves

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2 Years for Anti-Draft Conspiracy

By International News Service

New York, July 9.—Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman were found guilty today on a charge of conspiracy against the selective draft. The jury was out twenty minutes.

Federal Judge Mayor sentenced them to two years each imprisonment each and a fine each of \$10,000. After serving their sentence they are liable to deportation.

NEW ORLEANS TO HAVE VICE SQUAD

New Orleans is to have a special vice squad to investigate alleged disorderly houses outside the district, as reported by the Citizens' league. Most of these houses are said to be in operation in that section of the city just below Canal street, and extending from Rampart nearly to the river.

A list of persons said to be violating the law was furnished Sam Stone, Jr., the new commissioner of public safety, by the Citizens' league, and was turned over to superintendent J. W. Reynolds. It will be used by the vice squad, which commenced its work last night, and may be ready to report in a week's time.

The squad will be composed of police and detectives, under the leadership of the precinct commanders, in whose precincts the alleged conditions are said to exist. Captain James Clavin, of the first precinct; Captain T. Cato, of the third precinct; Sergeant Kinkman, of the fourth precinct, and Dan Mooney, assistant chief of detectives, will be in charge of the squad. The leaders held a half-hour conference yesterday morning behind closed doors at police headquarters.

WALTER PARKER BUSY ON NEW JOB

Walter Parker, recently appointed assistant to Secretary Rodfield in charge of inland waterways transportation, yesterday was busy giving out information to cities in the state of river transportation.

Mr. Parker will leave tomorrow or next day for St. Louis in company with L. Nicholson, traffic expert and general manager of the joint traffic bureau of the Association of Commerce. These two men will outline to the traffic men in that city the plans of the government for the establishment of larger traffic on inland waterways and also plans for the building of more warehouses, terminals, etc.

An invitation was received yesterday by Mr. Parker from the president of the Arkansas River Navigation Company, H. H. Ogden, by the Rotary Club of Muskogee, and J. E. Wyand, mayor, to come to the Oklahoma city and make an address.

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DAMAGES FOR ALLEGED LIBEL

SOUGHT FROM DAILY STATES BY ITEM EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

ASK TOTAL AWARD OF \$150,000

Suit Is Based on Editorial July 4 Claimed to Impair Their Loyalty to the Nation

The Daily States Publishing company, and J. Walker Ross, managing editor of the States, were made defendants yesterday in libel suits for \$150,000 filed by James M. Thomson, publisher, and Marshall J. Ballard, managing editor of the New Orleans Item. Mr. Ballard, who is at present a resident of Mississippi, is suing in the Federal court for \$100,000, while Mr. Thomson has entered suit in the civil court here for \$50,000. The allegations are the same in each petition.

It is alleged that the States and its managing editor have grossly libeled the plaintiffs through an editorial published on July 4th, and leveled against the Item. The petition asserts that the plaintiffs are widely known and prominent citizens of the Item, and they are the parties suffering from the alleged libel.

Editorial Is Basis

Exception is taken to the editorial, which was headed "Inconsistency," and which was a reply to an editorial in the Item making an ironical comparison between the conduct of the Shreveport Times, and of the New Orleans States, both owned and published by Robert Ewing. The particular paragraph in the States' editorial reply in which the alleged libel is contained reads as follows:

"Its consistency has been such even since the United States entered the war as to bring this newspaper frequent inquiries as to whether or not its services to Prussian overlords are not in some way required, and whether or not its quality of patriotism is properly a subject for reference to the Department of Justice."

The consistency referred to in the paragraph in a preceding paragraph is ascribed as being in defense of the cause of the Kaiser, the Item of course being referred to there; while "this newspaper" refers to the States, in which the editorial was published.

Allegations Made

The libel suits against the States, in connection with the publication of the offending editorial, allege that the above charges and insinuations are false. The petition further goes on to say: "The said publishing company and the said Walker Ross have often heretofore, and even after the publication of the libel hereinabove detailed, shown unfairness and malice toward your petitioner, and the matter hereinabove complained of is simply the worst, most malicious, and vicious of a long series of abusive attacks."

There are now three distinct libel proceedings pending in local courts, in which New Orleans newspapers and publishers are concerned. The damage suit of Dr. Clarence F. Pierson against the Times-Picayune for alleged libel is about to come up for a third trial; charges of criminal libel were filed recently against James M. Thomson and Marshall J. Ballard, of the Item, by James M. Humphries in connection with the Gassie affair; and now Messrs. Ballard and Thomson are suing the States and J. Walker Ross for alleged libel.

NEUTRAL CONFERENCE HELD

By International News Service

London, July 9.—The Allies will hold a conference at Paris on matters of political and military subjects pertaining to the Balkans.

Goethals-Denman Bury War Hatchet

Washington, July 9.—All differences between William Denman, chairman of the shipping board, and Col. Goethals, president of the emergency fleet corporation were ironed out by President Wilson, it was announced tonight.

The two bodies now are putting their united energies to the task of getting as much tonnage for the United States as possible from both wood and steel. Goethals and Denman have agreed that steel ships are best if they can be procured fast enough.

The program of shipbuilding will march forward on the plan of getting as many steel ships as possible, filling out with wooden ships. It was declared the closing of 50 contracts of rough design ships was let recently. More will be let when it appears time can be saved.

Association of Commerce Rallies to Support and Will Assist in Raising Funds for War School

Tulane University shortly will open an aviation school and follow in the footsteps of other first class universities in the United States by assisting in the training of the army of 25,000 aviators which the United States intends to throw in the battle fields of Europe.

About \$1,000 is needed for the construction of necessary barracks to put Tulane in shape for conducting the school and the New Orleans Association of Commerce late yesterday afternoon launched a whirlwind campaign to raise this amount. Within a few minutes after the campaign had been decided three of the members of the association announced the subscription of \$250 toward this fund. It is expected that the total amount will be subscribed within the next two days.

U. S. Asks Aid

Within the last few days Tulane has been requested by the government to open an aviation school and assist other universities in training aviators for the United States army. Authorities of the university were anxious to comply with this request, but realized that it would be necessary to build barracks and provide other necessary equipment.

Immediately upon learning this fact, the Association of Commerce announced that it would undertake the campaign to raise the necessary funds and give to New Orleans the aviation school.

Commodore Ernest Lee Jahneke, president of the association, was the first to come forward with a donation of \$100 toward the cause. A. M. Lockett, chairman of the Industrial bureau of the association, subscribed \$100; A. T. Dusenbury, also one of the bureau chairmen of the association, gave \$50 to the cause.

Donations Invited

Announcement was made yesterday that all who desired to give anything toward this fund should make their checks payable to the Tulane Aviation School Fund and the checks would be received at the Association of Commerce.

When the aviation school opens at Tulane, it will mean that the New Orleans institution is doing its part toward the training of aviators for the army as the larger universities in the north and south are doing. Special courses will be offered the aviators and the training will be conducted upon the highest plane.

FURIOUS STORM HITS CLEVELAND

Cleveland, O., July 9.—One of the most furious storms in years struck Cleveland tonight. Cellars were flooded, and the streets were impassable by the downpour for more than an hour. Lightning and hail accompanied the storm. Several boats are in danger off the Lake Erie shore. No lives have been reported lost. The damage to property in the east end will be enormous.

The body of a six-month-old child was found in a pond on the estate of John D. Rockefeller today, and it evidently had been in the water for several days.

TULANE TO HAVE AVIATION SCHOOL

FOUR THOUSAND NEEDED FOR BUILDING BARRACKS

WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN MADE

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