WEATHER FORECAST.
Arkansas: Cloudy, local showers, warmer in east, cooler in northwest Sunday; Monday partly cloudy, cooler.
Oklahoma: Cloudy, cooler Sunday; Monday partly cloudy, cooler.
Louisiana: Cloudy, unsettled Sunday and Monday, probably showers, warmer Sunday; cooler in north and west Monday.

Arkansas Gazette.

Reg. U. S. Pat. Office.

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STATE COLLEGES IN NEED OF $2,000,000

Money Should Be Provided for Higher Institutions, Survey Shows.

BOND ISSUE PROPOSED

Report Also Recommends That State Superintendent Be Appointed Instead of Elected.

A summary of the survey commission's conclusions and recommendations will be found on page 11 of the second section of today's Gazette.

Recommendation that $2,000,000 be provided immediately for new buildings and other improvements at Arkansas' higher educational institutions is contained in a report of a survey, completed recently under supervision of the United States Bureau of Education and released for publication in today's papers by Dr. William John Cooper, United States commissioner of education.

The Survey Commission, composed of Dr. Arthur J. Klein, chief of the Division of Higher Education in the United States Office of Education, and five widely known educators and survey specialists, recommended that funds for improvements be obtained through issuance of 20-year serial bonds without reducing the present maintenance income of the institutions and without increasing the state property tax.

A proposed $10,000,000 bond issue, sponsored by heads of the higher educational institutions two years ago, was defeated at the 1929 sessions of the General Assembly.

The federal survey report said the improvements specifically recommended at the higher institutions will meet only the most pressing minimum requirements, but that "additional expenditures beyond those required for co-ordination of the existing system may well wait upon the time when the spirit and attitude of the institutions, of the local communities, and of the state as a whole are such as to subordinate all other considerations to those of state-wide welfare."

The problem of higher education in Arkansas is only one phase of the state's educational problem, and its solution depends upon corresponding progress in elementary and secondary education, the report said.

Creation of the equalization fund under control of the state Department of Education gives greater promise of rapid improvement of elementary and secondary education than any other forward steps the state could have taken, the commission said. Creation of the fund or the plan of raising it from severance taxes and income taxes instead of sales taxes would be "to abandon hope for marked advancement of public education in Arkansas during the next generation," is the opinion of the Survey Commission.

Recommendations Made.

Specific recommendations concerning administrative questions include the following:

That the elective office of state superintendent of public instruction be abolished and that the superintendent be selected and employed by the state Board of Education.

That management of the teachers' colleges at Conway and Arkadelphia, the district agricultural schools at Jonesboro, Magnolia and Monticello, and the school for Negroes at Pine Bluff be placed in charge of the state Board of Education, with the state superintendent of schools having power to vote, and with the presidents of the trustees retained as advisory boards.

That certification of teachers be vested exclusively in the state Department of Education; that a business manager for all state educational institutions except the state university be added to the staff of the Department of Education; that a director of teacher training work be added to the staff, and that all institutions adopt standard budgeting and accounting systems.

That the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas should be retained as an independent governing body and that the university should adopt a more vigorous policy of participation in the educational and economic life of the state.

That the state extension service be extended and unified under co-operative control of all the state educational and that state-wide extension work be administered from a central office to be established at Little Rock.

That public and private funds should be made available immediately to provide new housing and adequate equipment for the Medical School of the University of Arkansas.

The Survey Commission suggested that the Arkansas Agricultural College at Russellville be abandoned because of its location in relation to Arkansas Tech at Conway and the state University, but said the state does not see it in turn the buildings and equipment over to the city or county and withdraw state support, that it should be maintained as a junior college on the same basis as the district agricultural schools.

Of the $2,000,000 bond issue recommended for state institutions, the commission suggested that new dormitories and dining hall facilities be built at Jonesboro, Monticello and Magnolia at a cost of approximately $90,000 each, that a library building be erected at each of these schools at a cost of about $75,000 each; that $150,000 be used for new dormitories and dining facilities at Arkadelphia and that a new library building be provided at a cost of about $100,000; that the new library at Conway be enlarged at a cost of about $50,000; that the college at Fayetteville be remodeled at a cost of about $50,000, and that a new library building and a science building be erected at the university at a cost of about $350,000 each.

If the school at Russellville should be abandoned, approximately $285,000 would be left for badly needed repairs and remodeling at other institutions. If the Russellville school be continued, a new library and new dormitory should be provided and about $25,000 spent to remodel the textile building for other purposes, which would increase the total requirements by about $180,000.

Recommendations of the Survey Commission concerning appointment of the state superintendent of schools by the state Board of Education; centralization

(Continued on Page 11, part 2.)

RECOVERS LOST PURSE THROUGH GAZETTE AD

Miss Eula Herron's faith in the honesty of man and her confidence in the efficacy of Gazette advertisements were strengthened considerably yesterday.

On New Year's Day Miss Herron lost a black leather purse containing a few dollars while en route to her home at 619 Rock Street. More than the money there were other things in the purse that she valued.

She advertised Friday and yesterday in the Gazette want ad columns. Yesterday afternoon the purse was returned to her by Will M. Hughes, agent for the Scott Street agent for the Inter-City Trucking Co. He had found it at Second and Main streets.

'TRADEWIND' LANDS AT HAMPTON ROADS

Freight Plane, Missing Bermuda, Returns to American Coast.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 3.—(AP)—The transatlantic freight plane, "Tradewind," landed at the Hampton Roads naval air station here tonight at 9:25.

Lieutenant MacLaren and Mrs. Hart said that as a result of difficulty with their instruments, they missed Bermuda and turned back, making for the naval air station here as the nearest available field with night landing facilities.

The Tradewind left New York this morning, bound for Bermuda, the first scheduled stopping point.

The plane made a smooth landing on the comparatively calm waters of Willoughby bay, a short distance off the air station landing beach. Lieutenant MacLaren and Mrs. Hart went to the home of one of the officers of the air station, where they will spend the night. They will decide in the morning what their next move will be.

Two Misfortunes Blamed by Lieutenant MacLaren.

By WILLIAM S. MacLAREN.
(Navigator of the Seaplane Tradewind.)

Hampton Roads, Va., Jan. 3.—(AP)—A shift in the wind knocked us off our mark and Mrs. Hart and I missed Bermuda today. The only course left was to return home.

We hit Norfolk on the nose coming back. We got a bad break on the take off at New York in our transatlantic adventure—the weather was the greatest just as we soared off the ground. We're going to try it tomorrow, and take off again Monday.

Mrs. Hart and I talked it over and decided to keep on trying until we get the best. There were three steamers in our path to Bermuda—the Panamaria, the Bermudan, and the Vendam. As we progressed southeastward, we passed them, one after the other, thing went fine. Visibility was good, and it looked as if we would make it, telescope or no telescope.

Then a second piece of ill luck came. It was a shift in the wind. It was hard to guess, but we did the best we could at gauging the drift and making allowance on the compass points.

After about five hours we knew we had made the 650 mile between New York and Hamilton but we did not sight land.

We decided to cruise as long as we dared and then streak for home. This we did, and none too soon, for we had only about an hour and a half of gas left when we struck our wheels at Hampton Roads.

Neither Mrs. Hart nor I was alarmed at any time. Of course, we always knew approximately where we were but Bermuda is a mighty small point in the ocean. I believe on the basis of my calculations aboard, that we were within 75 miles of Bermuda when we turned for home.

We "spelled" each other at the controls and the flight went just as we expected—smoothly. Two pieces of bad luck in one day.

Both of us worked like blazes all the way after we lost the telescope and neither of us had time at times to think of eating. As a consequence we were exhausted on our arrival here.

Wood Scores Direct Primary in Party Nominations.

Washington, Jan. 3.—(AP)—The direct primary system of making party nominations was assailed tonight in a radio address by Representative Wood of Indiana, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Speaking in a forum arranged by the Washington Star, Wood said it was an important factor in a political situation "more nearly chaotic than it has been since the flying period when the union, itself, was in danger of disruption."

Wood recently joined Robert H. Lucas, executive director of the Republican National Committee, in a demand that Senator George W. Norris, Republican, leave the party. Norris, during his long stay in Congress, frequently has opposed policies advocated by the majority of his party associates.

Wood said the primary system had made it impossible for any save a rich man or a "big business" man, "unusual wealth" to campaign for nomination statewide nomination. He said that under its workings any form of political notoriety had become an asset.

It had become necessary under the primary system, he said, to appoint "committees of citizens to purify politics."

"Spies are set abroad in the land and are in turn spied upon," Wood said.

Mayoralty Candidate In Trouble, Says Alcock.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—(AP)—"I have information," said Police Commissioner John H. Alcock today, "that one of the mayoralty candidates is going to have his house bombed, his automobile shot up, his home raided, his records, receive a black eye himself, for political purposes, in order to sway public opinion in the coming primary fight.

"Any mayoralty candidate who considers that he needs police protection during the campaign, can make his wishes known to me and will receive full protection, both to himself and to his family."

BUDGET REQUESTS FAR ABOVE INCOME

Comptroller Warns Legislature That Arkansas Faces Financial Crisis.

MUST BE ECONOMICAL

Appropriations Asked Various Agencies for 1932 Total $26,000,000 Above Revenues.

With budget requests from various agencies of the state government for the fiscal year 1931-32 exceeding estimated total receipts for that period by nearly $26,000,000, State Comptroller Howard Reed, in his budget report to the Forty-eighth General Assembly, warns the legislators that the state faces the most serious financial crisis in many years and that the closest watchword of the approaching session should be "economy."

Requests for the second year of the biennium, 1932-33, exceed estimated receipts by an even greater amount, but the whole situation becomes more complicated when allowance is made for the estimated receipts for the two years of the biennium are in approximately the same ratio.

Estimated receipts for 1931-32 total $21,850,000, which does not include any bond issues. Estimated balances at the end of the present fiscal year and unexpended balances are included in current receipts which increase the total amount available for expenditure to $24,058,000. Against this amount requests total approximately $49,470,000.

Of the total excess of requests over receipts, the Highway Department accounts for approximately $18,800,000, including toll bridge requests. The difference in estimated receipts of $11,000,000 for this department and requests for $29,800,000 presumably is to be made up by bond issues, or some unrevealed source of revenue.

Requests against the general revenue fund, however, exceed estimated receipts by about $664,000, with other excess requests as follows: Charities and Reforms, $732,000; Confederate pensions, $742,000; equalizing fund, $900,000; University of Arkansas, $684,000; State Teachers College, Conway, $444,000; A. M. & N. School for Negroes, $71,000; Johnsons A. & M. College, $70,000; Russellville Polytechnic College, $319,000; Magnolia A. & M. College, $697,000; Monticello A. & M. College, $27,000; revolving loan fund, $879,000; penitentiary, $107,000; geologist, $67,000.

Various Material Savings.

Discussing the excess budget requests, Comptroller Reed said:

"Heads of departments and institutions should at this time disabuse their minds of excessive appropriations and give their wholehearted support in devising ways and means whereby material savings can be made with a minimum reduction in efficiency, for we are faced with a serious economic depression. By reason of bank failures, drouth, poor markets and declining assessments the state treasury will suffer a great reduction in anticipated revenues for the next biennium. While it is commendable for our administrative officers to consider seriously the claims of state institutions and to press vigorously their claims in an effort to give greater efficiency, denial of funds should be made if state continues operation upon a cash basis."

The comptroller discussed county audits and other county affairs at length, concluding with recommendations that all county officers be placed on salary basis, eliminating the fee system; that the office of county collector be abolished and that the county treasurer be given the duty of collecting taxes heretofore vested in collector; that funds arising in the counties, and that be assessed and collected under the taxbooks, thus saving $100,000 annually paid to county clerks. He estimated that from $300,000 to $400,000 annually would be saved to the counties in fees and commissions by placing the duties of collection upon county treasurers. He said a constitutional amendment might be necessary before these changes could be put into effect.

Charts showing a comparison of the economic state since the biennium, 1929-30 revealed that in the former fiscal year total receipts were $6,626,903, of which 66 cents of each dollar was derived from the general property tax. Auto licenses furnished 4 1-2 cents, franchise tax, 5 1-4 cents; insurance fees, six cents; inheritance tax, 3 1-2 cents, penitentiary earnings, four cents; inspection fees, etc., three cents; gasoline tax, 1 1-2 cents; charter fees, one cent; depository interest, one cent; cigarette license, 1 1-4 cents; miscellaneous receipts, one cent.

Last Year's Receipts.

Last year total receipts exclusive of bonds and funds totaled $22,354,721, of which the state property tax furnished 20 1-2 cents of each dollar; auto licenses, six cents; inheritance tax, nine cents; income tax, 5 1-4 cents; severance tax, 3 1-2 cents; inheritance tax and penitentiary earnings, 1 1-4 cents each, with the ratio of other miscellaneous items decreasing in a corresponding manner.

Another chart showed that during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1930, 74 1-2 cents of each dollar spent by the state went for highway purposes, including construction, maintenance, administration, collections, refunds, interest, sinking funds, etc. Schools and common school and school administration ranked next with 12 1-2 cents of each dollar, including state aid, schools, interest, etc., took seven cents; institutions of higher learning, six cents; institutions, one cent, and all other agencies of the state, 3 1-4 cents.

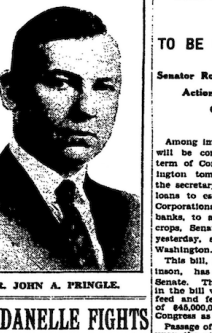
A schedule of state highway notes and road improvement district bonds, payment of which was assumed by the state under the Martineau plan, showed that retirement of obligations now outstanding will have cost the state $245,133,313 when the last payment is made in 1965. Of this total $31,000,000 represents interest during the past four years amount to approximately $31,200,000, leaving only about $214,000,000 to be paid.

Highway notes issued since enactment of the Martineau law total $67,000,000 and road improvement district bonds outstanding at the time the law was enacted totaled about $65,000,000. Interest increased the total road district obligation to about $98,700,000.

(Continued on Page 7, 1st Col.)

Retiring Head of Veterans Hospital At Fort Roots, and His Successor

DR. JO M. FERGUSON.



DR. JOHN A. PRINGLE.

VETERANS HOSPITAL HEAD TRANSFERRED

Dr. Ferguson Goes to Lexington; Dr. Pringle to Be Successor.

Dr. Jo M. Ferguson, medical officer in charge of United States Veterans Hospital No. 78 at Fort Logan H. Roots, yesterday was ordered to Lexington, Ky., to take charge of a new veterans' hospital there. Dr. Ferguson has been in charge of the local institution since November, 1929.

His successor will be Dr. John A. Pringle, clinical director and second in command at Hospital No. 78. The appointment, which was authorized by Frank T. Hines, director in charge of veterans' affairs at Washington, D. C., will be effective January 15 and 16, respectively.

Dr. Ferguson's transfer will be in the nature of a home-coming for him. For he is a native of Kentucky. For five years he was first assistant physician in the West Kentucky hospital at Hopkinsville, and for one year thereafter was in general practice as a consulting physician in mental and nervous diseases at Central City.

Served in World War.

He was a captain in the United States Medical Corps during the World war and was in charge of a 1,000-bed hospital in New York. He served in United States Public Health Service after the war and then was placed in charge of the veterans' hospital at Gulfport, Miss., an institution similar to No. 78, where he earned a reputation as an outstanding neuro-psychiatrist.

Since his transfer to Little Rock he has expended more than $150,000 for construction work alone and has introduced a system of treatment of the mentally disturbed patients of the hospital which has resulted in the discharge of several hundred patients. A comprehensive summary of the accomplishments of Dr. Ferguson at No. 78 will be found on the first page of today's feature section of the Gazette.)

The hospital in Kentucky of which he will take charge on January 15 is a general hospital, whereas the one at Gulfport and the one here are exclusively for mental cases.

Has Distinguished Career.

Dr. Pringle, who will become the new medical officer in charge at Fort Roots January 16, also has had a distinguished career. He was born in Pittsfield, Ill., in 1888 and was graduated from Washington University at St. Louis in 1911.

He entered the City hospital of St. Louis after graduation and became assistant physician in 1915, which post he held until 1918 when he entered the army as a specialist in neuro-psychiatry. He was discharged as an officer of the United States Medical Corps at Camp Lee, Va., in June, 1919.

He acted as a consultant in neuro-psychiatry in St. Louis until 1921 when he was persuaded to give up his successful practice to enter the Veterans Bureau service. He was director neuro-psychiatrist until 1928 when, at his request, he was transferred to Gulfport as a ward surgeon under Dr. Ferguson. In 1929 he became clinical director of that institution and when he was transferred to Little Rock with Dr. Ferguson, he was appointed to the position of clinical director here.

Dr. Pringle is married and has two children, a daughter in senior high school and a son in Highland school.

To Continue Improvements.

Dr. Pringle announced yesterday that it is his intention to carry out the policies inaugurated at No. 78 by his predecessor.

"We will continue to operate this hospital," he said, "on the theory that it is a home and not for the patients, who come here, not for the officials, nor for anyone else. There are still improvements to be made. Dr. Ferguson has had them in mind and was working toward their completion. It is my purpose to carry them out and to add others when they are needed.

"I hope and feel that the business men of the two cities and the various civic and patriotic organizations, will continue to give me the co-operation they have so cordially extended to Dr. Ferguson."

Regrets Departure.

Dr. Ferguson expressed regret at the necessity of departure from Hospital No. 78. He said:

"I liked it here from the minute I first saw little Coquette Lake and the Arkansas river, and I have liked it more and more the longer I stayed. If I have accomplished anything during my stay here it was due in large measure not only to the help and assistance of an efficient staff and personnel, but to the co-operation of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. With their continued co-operation, Dr. Pringle and his staff will make of this hospital one of the best in the country."

Dr. Pringle's appointment was recommended by Dr. Ferguson.

DARDANELLE FIGHTS THREATENING FIRE

Three Stores Destroyed and Block in Business District Menaced.

Special to the Gazette.

Dardanelle, Jan. 4 (Sunday).—Fire discovered at 11:25 last night had caused a loss of about $35,000 and was threatening an entire block in the business district at midnight.

The Leader store, owned by Arthur Grau, the Gleason Brothers store and a store owned by J. J. Boyce and the brick building in which they were housed were destroyed and efforts were being made to prevent the spread of the blaze to three other buildings in the block.

The fire started in the Gleason store and spread to the adjoining buildings before it could be checked. All available fire fighting equipment was pressed into action and full pressure placed on the water mains.

Panama City Back to Normal Under New Regime.

Panama City, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Panama was back in business as usual today as though there had not been an overnight change in the government. From the presidential palace, Harmodio Arias, head of the junta which replaced President Arosemena, announced that recognition by foreign powers was not necessary, since the change of government was entirely constitutional.

J. J. Vallarino, a member of the provisional cabinet, appointed a new head of the police force, which also serves as Panama's army, and said he would see to it that order was maintained, and that the reorganized police would be a credit to the country. Dr. Vallarino, who is an X-ray specialist, intended to go to San Francisco this month to visit Gen. Malin Craig, but he was not sure whether he could make the trip in view of recent events.

The Arias government will function as it is now constituted until Ricardo J. Alfaro, minister to Washington, can come here and assume the presidency. Dr. Alfaro was designated for that office by the junta.

Former President Arosemena was confined to his quarters with other officials of his government, but it generally was expected that he would be released soon unless his successor decided to try him on charges of malfeasance.

Hartwell F. Ayers, American newspaper man, who was wounded by stray bullets yesterday, still lived in Gorgas hospital, but doctors did not believe he could recover. He was shot in the neck and abdomen, and the injuries were perforated.

Neither Dr. Arias nor Dr. Alfaro has been active previously in politics. The precedent head of the government is a lawyer, and helped to codify Panama's code of laws and was represented the republic in 1920 in the League of Nations. In 1924, he achieved some distinction by introducing a bill to grant equal rights to women. Dr. Alfaro has served in the cabinet and attended the 1928 Pan-American Congress in Havana.

Alabama Negro Assailant of Three Girls Evades Posse.

Sheffield, Ala., Jan. 3.—(AP)—Search continued tonight for an unidentified Negro charged with attempting to attack three white girls here last night and early today.

Posemen riding in the search tonight reported that no trace of the Negro had been found since he was seen by W. J. Stanford, a city officer, early today. Stanford fired at the Negro twice.

Police said the Negro entered the three home in southwest Sheffield early today. The girls ran and screamed. She was roughly handled by the Negro, but he fled when he heard help coming. Previously he had been frightened away from two other homes when the intended victims screamed.

Chicago Bank Cashier Charged With Conspiracy to Embezzle.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—(AP)—John K. Malloy, assistant cashier of the Lawrence Avenue National bank, whose story of having been kidnaped by robbers and taken to Milwaukee led to the closing of the institution, was charged with conspiracy to embezzle $10,000 in a warrant issued today.

Malloy appeared in the Milwaukee police station New Year's night and said he had just been released by men, who robbed the Chicago bank of about $12,000 and then kidnaped him.

The bank was closed yesterday pending an investigation of the cashier's story and a checkup of funds. Negotiations for a merger with another bank also were suspended, partly because the time lock on the vault had been set for tomorrow so that the funds could not be gone over.

FURTHER AID FOR FARMERS PLANNED

Agricultural Credit Corporations in Drouth Sections Proposed.

TO BE CONSIDERED SOON

Senator Robinson Expects Favorable Action by Congress During Coming Session.

Among important bills that probably will be considered during the short term of Congress convening in Washington tomorrow is one authorizing the secretary of agriculture to make loans to establish Agricultural Credit Corporations, or intermediate credit banks, to assist farmers in financing crops, Senator Joe T. Robinson said yesterday, shortly before leaving for Washington.

This bill, sponsored by Senator Robinson, has been introduced in the Senate. The appropriation suggested in the bill would supplement the seed, feed and fertilizer loan appropriation of $45,000,000 already authorized by Congress as a drouth-relief measure.

The success of the bill will depend largely upon the attitude of Republican leaders in Congress, Senator Robinson said.

Following a conference with his family here, Senator Robinson conferred with committees and delegations from various parts of the state who sought his advice on proposed agricultural relief and rehabilitation measures for Arkansas.

A critical situation exists in many counties here where farm loans and farmers are without means of securing credit for financing their 1931 crops, the senator said.

Text of Statement.

"Nothing is to be gained by concealing or ignoring the facts," he continued. "In at least three counties not a single bank is open. Credit sources generally have failed. The $45,000,000 authorization for seed, feed and fertilizer will become available within a few days and full publicity is expected as to the means and agencies for closing the loans.

"Everyone must realize that in view of the inability of banking and other commercial institutions to supply credit, and particularly in view of the limitations in the act referred to, on the purposes for which loans may be made, additional plans for agricultural credits must be resorted to.

"Agricultural credit corporations, under Section 202 (a) of the Federal Farm Loan act, as amended, are perhaps the most practicable arrangements and these, supplementing the seed and fertilizer act, can be relied upon by the farmers of Arkansas as relief measure to perform a very valuable function.

Bill to Advance Loans.

"In order to facilitate and make certain the functioning of these agricultural credit corporations, there has been introduced in the Senate a bill, S-5441, authorizing the secretary of agriculture to make advances or loans to individuals who have formed or shall hereafter form such credit corporations for the purpose of enabling such individuals to subscribe to the capital stock of such corporations.

"Agricultural credit corporations are authorized by law to make loans not exceeding in the aggregate 10 times the amount of their capital stock. Ordinarily loans have been limited on the average to five and one-half or six times the capital stock. Debentures issued by the agricultural credit corporations have found ready sales, and experience has shown that they operate very successfully from the standpoint of the borrower.

"The bill referred to the terms upon which the funds for capital stock of agricultural credit corporations may be loaned are to be determined by the secretary of agriculture. Borrowers from the fund will be required to pay their loans, to take a small amount of the stock in their local bank, to make be made at some risk to the government, the principle underlying the project is economically sound, since by furnishing for capitalization purposes a few million dollars, agricultural credit could be expanded from five to ten times the amount of the capital, and thus the work of relieving conditions the people in the drouth areas can be overcome.

"Some communities have already effected the necessary organizations, but in those communities where conditions are worst needed individuals are unable to provide the required credit for capital. The bill contemplates that the government shall supply such capital when necessary.

"Among the delegations consulted was a large number from Arkansas today. That county has a population of 30,000. Its principal city has 15,000 inhabitants. E. H. Dorner and other members of the delegation are of the opinion that if the government will arrange to lend the necessary capital stock, agricultural credit corporations will be formed and will supply the required credit.

"Other measures of great importance to our people in this period of distress are bills authorizing the government to enter on, without delay, public works, agricultural extension work and public health and rural sanitation service.

"All of these measures will pass if the administration will exercise some of them may be passed in any event."

Young French Soprano Given Ovation in Opera Debut.

New York, Jan. 3.—(AP)—An ovation, which was called the greatest accorded to any new singer at the Metropolitan Opera House since the first appearance here of Marie Jeritza, several years ago, was given this afternoon to Mme. Lily Bons, making her debut in the name part of "Lucia di Lammermoor."

The young French coloratura soprano, who is 26, created a mild sensation when she took the final note in the mad scene at high "F."

She was brought to the United States by Maria Guy, formerly a star with the Hammerstein Opera Company, who found her singing with a small opera company in the south of France.

She took 16 curtain calls after the famous mad scene

CROWD THREATENS AND RECEIVES FOOD

300 Farmers Gather at England, Declaring They Will Raid Stores.

RATIONS GIVEN TO 1,500

Merchants Held Consultation, Comply With Demands and Issue Supplies.

Special to the Gazette.

England, Jan. 3.—A deplorable economic situation reached a climax here Saturday when 300 farmers, mostly white men and half of them reported to have been armed, swarmed into England and threatened to loot the stores unless they were provided with food.

The mob was quiet and orderly, but the spokesmen seemed determined. England merchants held a conference and provided food for all who demanded it.

The march began this morning when farmers from the south began arriving from the Red Cross reported in various precincts, and were told that the Red Cross blanks were exhausted. Lacking these blanks, no food could be distributed.

People came from all directions to England, in cars, on horseback, in buggies, going to the south, and when they arrived, they found their neighbors assembled on the streets, milling about. Some had come to do out, it is believed that many feared they would get no more help from the Red Cross.

Crowd Quits Stores.

Citizens of the town had flocked on the streets, which soon were filled. For the most part, the crowd was orderly.

The merchants decided that since there appeared no prospect of immediate relief from the Red Cross, it would be better to give the people food and to ask the Red Cross for reimbursement.

1,500 Persons Fed.

This was done, and it is estimated that the families of the 300 men represented a total of 1,500 persons supplied with food by England merchants whose business has been poor, because the farmers have no money.

Red Cross headquarters at St. Louis was called by telephone and advised of the situation. The merchants were told that a supply of blankets would be sent here, but that distribution of food would be made through existing through regular Red Cross channels, and on food blanks.

Effort at Pacification Fails.

While the excitement was at high pitch, George E. Morris, attorney, tried to pacify the people, who were, however, in no mood for a speech.

Mr. Morris told them that the people of Arkansas, and particularly of England, appreciated the predicament of the farmers, most whom formerly were prosperous and hard-working citizens, and would work with them to feed their starving families.

He was interrupted continually by cries of "We want food! Our children are crying for food, and we're going to get it!"

"We're not begging!" men shouted from the crowd. "We will work for any amount if we can get it. We're not going to let our families starve!"

"They were too hungry to hear a speech," Mr. Morris said. "I tried to quiet them, but I didn't get very far. It was pathetic to hear them demanding food, to hear them declare that their little children were starving.

"It was not a wild and disorderly crowd, it was suffering under desperate plight. But they were in deadly earnest, and it was not until I was able to tell them that arrangements had been made to supply them with food, that they would listen.

"They quieted down, and soon the merchants were busy distributing food. By nightfall, all had received rations and returned home, but this food will last only three or four days, and by the end of that time, they will be hungry again."

It was pathetic, Mr. Morris said, to see men in the prime of their lives unable to be honest, hard-working and industrious farmers, men who had been fairly prosperous with stocked cellars and barns, but who had been brought to this plight through the drouth and consequent business depression.

"A few of them may have been imposters," he added. "Albert Walts, chairman of the Lonoke county Red Cross chapter, who was here, told me that he recognized imposters in the crowd. But most of them were honest and industrious farmers brought to this sad state through no fault of their own."

Temporary Respite.

England merchants will urge the Red Cross to pay for the food disbursed today, but there is no assurance this will be done. The merchants are worried over the future of these hundreds of hungry people. Winter has just begun, there is no work for them, and in three or four days, unless the Red Cross comes to their aid, they will be without food again.

The merchants have appealed to the St. Louis office of the Red Cross. The organization will be told of the demonstration here today, and the need of the farmers. The Red Cross will be urged to help the merchants here and to continue its assistance.

The rich, alluvial soil surrounding England is well suited to growing cotton and is well drained. The Tucker penitentiary farm is a few miles away, and it, too, has not been greatly resisting. Added to the disaster brought on by the drouth, many farmers found their savings impounded when the Citizens Bank and Trust Company here closed a few days ago.

Predicted Crisis.

The merchants are partners in suffering with the farmers. Trade has dwindled and they were unable to collect for last year's supplies. The banks suffered likewise.

The crisis here today was predicted by Mr. Morris in a letter to Senator T. H. Caraway about two weeks ago, which Senator Caraway read in the Senate and a part of which was published in the Gazette.

Efforts will be made, it is said, to obtain work for the starving farmers through highway construction in this section, through federal highway work. Unless this is done, it

(Continued on Page 8, 1st Col.)

FIRE CAUSES LOSS TO WOMEN'S CLUB

Building at Fourth and Scott Severely Damaged by Flames.

The Woman's City Club building, Fourth and Scott streets, was damaged to the extent of several thousand dollars by a fire discovered at 6:14 last night. The loss is covered by insurance. Firemen of five companies converted their efforts in bringing the blaze under control. The fire was accomplished only after a stubborn fight of two hours.

Origin of the fire was not determined. The Junior Players of the Women's City Club presented a program in the auditorium on the second floor yesterday afternoon with Miss Carolyn Frazier supervising. After the show, only one woman remained in the building. Mrs. Ed Lee, Negro janitress, remained in the basement until the program was over, and then he prepared to depart. On his rounds of inspection, he said, he discovered the blaze just as he was leaving.

Lieut. Harry Compton, inspector of the Little Rock Fire Department, reached the scene with an engine company, and dashed into the building. Smoke dense and black was issuing from every window and door while flames were shooting through a portion of the roof. Firemen said that at one time the blaze appeared to be just off the stage in the auditorium. Flames had spread to the rotunda over the stairway and through the roof.

Firemen Fire for Safety.

Firemen first carried a line of hose into the front door and, reaching the stairway, they forced to fire when several heavy ventilators crashing through the glass dome, fell through. Debris fell on the stairway and blocked it.

Another stream of water was carried up a fire escape in the alley to the second floor and into the auditorium, while two more lines of hose were hoisted up ladders to the balcony in front.

The front portion of the lower floor was damaged considerably by water rushing down the stairway and seeping through the ceiling. Into neither the rear portion of the building nor the private offices were damaged.

Firemen had to work quickly because of the Little Theater, said that scenery belonging to the Little Theater and Playhouse was on the second floor, valued for $3,500. Most of the equipment was saved.

Program to Continue.

Mrs. S. Y. West, president of the club, said that there will be no interruption of the club's activities. Meetings will be held as scheduled in unimpaired parts of the building. Mrs. commended the firemen for checking the blaze.

Lieutenant Compton was overcome by smoke and was assisted outside by fellow firemen. He was overcome but returned his duties.

The building formerly was the home of the B. P. O. Elks, No. 20. In November, 1927, the Woman's City Club bought the property and occupied it in March, 1928.

Companies Nos. 2, 4 and 8 and trucks Nos. 1 and 2 responded to the alarm.

The home of R. P. Gill, 300 Summit avenue, was damaged badly by fire at 8:26 p. m. Yesterday, there is no assurance this will be done. The merchants are worried over the future of these hundreds of hungry people. Winter has just begun, there is no work for them, and in three or four days, unless the Red Cross comes to their aid, they will be without food again.

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