

LAS VEGAS AGE

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TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 20, 1931.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS

WITH the announcement that Dr. Martin is about to proceed with the construction of a modern hospital sufficiently large to meet the requirements of the greater Las Vegas and the Boulder Dam construction, one more item is added to the assets of our near future.

The list is a surprisingly long and important one, ranging from business buildings and railroad and highway projects to the great dam itself, bids for the latter being scheduled for opening March 4.

We are so used to hearing people cry hard times that we overlook the sure prosperity which is in store for us. It is true that we have been kept waiting longer than we expected to be. Nevertheless, we know that many millions of dollars will be expended here during the next few years and that Las Vegas will reap tremendous benefits.

HIGHWAY BUILDING

A CONSIDERABLE amount of highway construction will improve business conditions in Clark county during the next few months.

The Jean-State Line sector is under construction. Ten miles of the Boulder Dam highway nearest Las Vegas will be advertised for contract in a few weeks. Bids for the section of the same highway nearest the dam site have already been opened.

The state highway department is now advertising for the reconstruction of the sector of the Arrowhead highway from the west slope of Mormon Mesa to the lower bridge across the Virgin River, almost twenty miles. Reconstruction work will be followed immediately by oiling.

All this work will help fill in while the bigger things are getting ready. It is a pity that the city commissioners did not proceed with the street improvement program at this particular time when it would have had the effect of bringing in money and providing labor for a considerable number of unemployed.

GETTING SET

SOME OF the wise ones among the financiers looking forward to activity in Las Vegas realize that the present offers advantages which those who flock in a few months later will not enjoy.

When the big activity opens there will be plenty of money competing for investment. The institution which has already established itself by successfully carrying on some constructive enterprise will occupy a position of advantage.

We notice that several large financial institutions are buzzing around the Las Vegas honey pot but seem delicate about lighting. We suggest that some institution which is really interested in the future activity of Las Vegas may effectually occupy the field of advantage by starting their activities right now.

There is much planned which can be better and more economically undertaken now than later. There is no longer any reasonable excuse for waiting. The big job is definitely on and the sooner we can get ready the better.

LEGISLATING

THE NEVADA State Legislature yesterday began its regular biennial session. Unless the legislators decide to cut short their session, something not at all likely to be done, the session will last for sixty business days.

There seem to be no outstanding issues before the legislature this session. The business of the state has been going on smoothly and there is but little demand for change.

The gasoline tax money will doubtless be the subject of heated discussion by some who think the counties should have the spending of half or all of it. That sounds reasonable at first. But if it is done it will result simply in that much more money being raised by a raise in the tax rate.

The gasoline tax as administered by the state highway department enables that state to take advantage of a large amount of federal aid money each year thus bringing new money into the state and adding many miles to the system of state highways.

The present method of handling the gasoline tax money has worked well. It is being wisely administered so as to bring the greatest possible returns to the state and should not be turned over to the mercies of county authorities.

Another probable issue before the legislature will be the modification of the gambling law. At present some gambling games are legal, others prohibited by law, but all carried on in all parts of the state with authorities generally blind to the illegal gambling. It is safe to assume that gambling will not be prohibited.

It has been proposed that an attempt be made to get something worth while for the state as compensation in part, at least, for the discredit the state may suffer by reason of legalized gambling. This might be done if the state would legalize all usual forms of gambling and keep it under strict supervision with high license.

It would then attract the wealthy who can afford to play and lose and would result in creating a high class tourist business and bring in a vast amount of money for the development of our industries.

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Lark Lands Top Star on Radio; She Just



Jeanette MacDonald is one movie star who seems to be paraling on the radio her meteoric screen career.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19 (AP)—Jeanette MacDonald came to radio already a star.

The movies and the stage had made her so. Yet the microphone almost overnight piled on honors that those other mediums of entertainment could not supply.

Jeanette, a dazzling blond beauty if there ever was one, naturally faced the broadcast microphone for the first time with a fright that she had never experienced before.

It's that peculiar feeling which comes to all microphone entertainers. But it didn't last long, for she was well fortified by her experiences before visible audiences.

It was a sort of lark that landed her on the radio. Almost on the spur of the moment she had an audition at the NBC studios. She sounded so good that her first appearance was in one of the leading programs.

Jeanette, after a stay in New York, has gone back to Hollywood but unlike others who have returned to moviedom after finding the microphone more exacting than the camera's eye, she intends to go on the radio many times in the future.

She found that the preparatory years for the musical shows really had fitted her for radio. When going to school in Philadelphia and New York, Miss MacDonald had ambitions to be a singer and a dancer. She received much encouragement from an older sister already established as a show girl.

Her stage debut came in the chorus of a Broadway theater. There she won the title of the "prettiest girl in the revue," partly because of her red-gold hair and greenish-gray eyes.

But she wasn't for the chorus. More important parts came almost one on top of another.

About that time the talkies began looking for singers. Again she scored. The radio thought so well of her that it put her in such programs as those in which Rudy Vallee and Reinald Werrenrath participate.

Iowa Boys Plan To Stick to Farm

AMES, Ia., Jan. 19 (AP)—The national trend toward migration from farms to cities has received scant farm boys of Iowa, it was revealed consideration from representative boys here recently.

There were more than 500 boys present, most of them winners of county or state prizes for cattle raising, or crop testing. Eighty-three percent of them will choose farming as their life work, a questionnaire indicated. Only 11.5 percent had decided to seek work in the city, the rest being non-committal.

Electrification of farm buildings is the greatest single need of the farmers at present, the boys agreed.

Though Mickey Heath, recruit first baseman of the Cincinnati Reds, looked good at bat with a .326 average last season in the Pacific Coast league, his fielding included 32 errors.

PROTECTION NEEDED

WE ARE accustomed to smile when we read about accidents caused by automobiles being driven into the sides of trains. But we have a condition here in Las Vegas which aids, abets, invites and encourages people to do that very thing. And several times within the past year or two cars have been driven into the side of trains, fortunately without loss of life.

At the crossing just south of town where Charleston Boulevard crosses the railroad, the railroad grade is two or three feet higher than the highway approaching it. Drivers of cars looking ahead intently on a dark night look right under the cars and see the lights on the other side of the track. A long freight train shows no light and the unusual and peculiar conditions at this crossing render it a menace.

Under the circumstances it seems that a wig-wag signal or at least a good light should be maintained at this crossing. Otherwise loss of life is a certainty.

Paris To Avoid Seine Floods

PARIS, Jan. 19 (AP)—The Paris council general of the Seine will shortly ask for 10,000,000 francs to supplement existing appropriations for the protection of Paris and its suburbs from the frequent rising of the Seine.

Judging future floods by past performances, M. Lemarchand indicated that Paris has a real flood every 11 years and an important rise in the river about every three years.

The city council has drawn up a plan which when completed will make valleys of the Seine and Marne near Paris safe from sudden floods.

Reservoirs will be built letting in the overflowing water; new buildings along the quai which have cellars below the Seine will be rigorously inspected and constructions in zones which are not considered safe will be forbidden.

It is suggested that the Pont de l'Alma be rebuilt, especially the substructure from which floods always escape in bad weather. Near Notre Dame dredgers will begin making the Seine deeper and the current faster although at other places in the suburbs the river will be widened.

RUTH MAKES RESERVATIONS

ST PETERSBURG, Fla., Jan. 19 (AP)—Reservations have been made at a local tourist hotel for Babe Ruth, home run king and his family, for February 8. Batteries and rookies of the New York Yankees will reach here February 22 with the rest of the squad due in March 1 for spring training. They will remain until March 25.

Jack Oakie greets all his pals with "Howdy, cowhand."

Five men were just admitted as partners in two of New York's largest banking firms. Their average age is about thirty.

Since snowfalls began the hobo jungles along the North river have been deserted. The boys probably followed the wild geese south.

Ice skating rinks have taken most of the customers from the midget golf courses.

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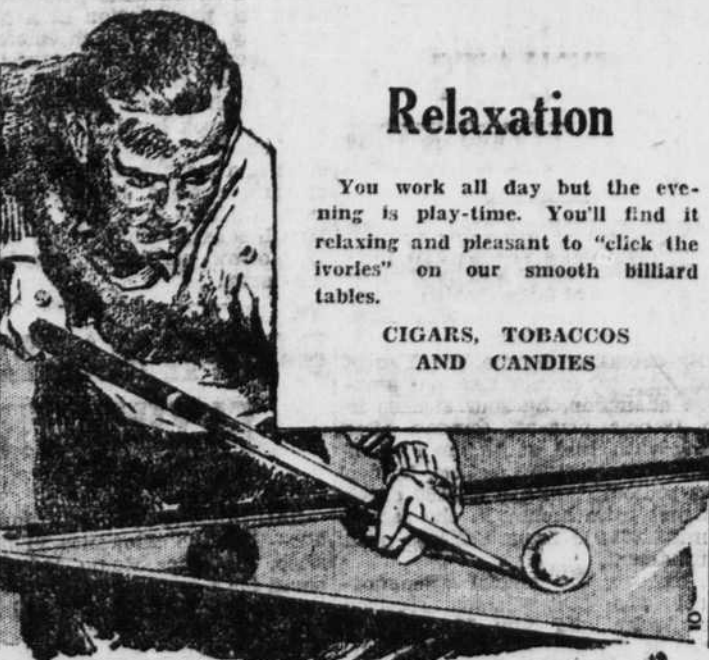
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A WASHINGTON BYSTANDER

By KIRKE SIMPSON

WASHINGTON—The death of Senator Frank L. Greene of Vermont had peculiarly poignant significance for the Bystander.

For he is among the dwindling fraction of the Washington press gallery whose memories go back to picture Frank Greene as a member of the house in the stirring, pre-war days.

Greene was a broad, stocky figure in those days. With John Tilson of Connecticut, now majority leader of the house, and the late Julius Kahn of California, Greene was a member of the house military committee.

The trio of Republicans had a lot to do with shaping the first national defense act and subsequent war legislation, although they were of the minority.

Tilson and Greene were Spanish war veterans. Both had been officers of the national guard of their states. They had a distinct part in making the guard what it was when the World war came.

Not Bembastic

Frank Greene looked the soldier then, even in mufti. He was rather a quiet man, not given to loose talk-

ing or bombastic speeches on the house floor. But he was a hard worker, always present in board or committee room when work was to be done.

After nearly a dozen years in the house, Greene went to the senate. And walking up Pennsylvania avenue, a block or two from the capitol grounds, he stepped into range of a gun battle between prohibition officers and liquor runners and stopped a bullet.

What a personal tragedy that proved. Senator Greene hovered between life and death for weeks. When he finally emerged to resume his duties in the senate, he was a different man. He was crippled for life.

Except in mind and heart, he was but a wreck of the man he had been.

Courage Yet in that hour of grim adversity Greene's stout heart never failed him. He was as unfailingly constant in his attendance on the senate and in his committee work as he ever had been. His cheerfulness in talk with his colleagues

never wavered. And not for an instant would he commiserate exceptional handling of the case of the prohibition officers involved in the shooting fray to which he fell victim. That he was a senator of the United States made no difference to him. He accepted his fate as an avoidable accident. He asked no vengeance.

It was a rare quality of human courage Frank Greene displayed. He was a soldier to the end.

Ira Baker, University of Florida, is one of the tallest basketball centers in the south. He stands six feet five and weighs 192 pounds.

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