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Washington Letter

(Our Own Correspondent)

January 28.

WHEELER FACES NEW CHARGES.

Barth Stone-Burton Wheeler occupies the centre of the National Capital this week out of mere rumors of petty charges of Wheeler by Attorney Stone, because of which the appointment as Supreme Judge was held up, has now developed into a real sensation, the ground of which is, as usual, grand and corruption in high places. Mr. Stone's motives in prosecuting Senator Burton K. Wheeler were questioned by a second of the Senate who refused last week to pass Stone's nomination as Court Justice because they felt that Stone was unfair in his prosecution of Wheeler. The Justice Department was deliberately staging a scene against Wheeler on a charge that had been thrown out by the investigating committee of the Senate and that, contrary to all precedent, the department was having Wheeler tried in Washington, hundreds of miles from his own home and place where because of undue influence Wheeler would be almost sure to be put on trial.

As a result of these reports Attorney General Stone appeared yesterday before the Senate Judiciary Committee to defend his actions and he succeeded in putting the hearing in an open session beyond newspaper men, there were few spectators. For four days Senator Walsh of Montana in the Senate's dual capacity of committee chairman and Wheeler's counsel, Stone's committee that he assumed responsibility for the proceedings and that the case to be brought in Washington is wholly independent of the Senator Wheeler is unimpeached in Montana and that the nature of the acts and the evidence to be used, and the only place, for the case to be tried, to a grand jury. The Attorney General said the present charge against Wheeler involve a charge to defraud the Government of certain oil and mineral lands, which permits held by the Gormley Syndicate. These are some people from whom Wheeler charged with accepting a fee for going on their behalf before the Senate of the Interior after he was elected to the Senate, but the charge is brought under

an entirely separate section of the Act from the first alleged offence. On cross examination by Senator Walsh, the Attorney General admitted that some of the evidence taken in the previous case against Wheeler would be used in the new action and that some of the previous witnesses might likewise be brought in. Mr. Stone felt that his dignity had been rudely shaken by his having to appear before a Senate Committee to defend his motives as the highest law officer of the land but he stood the four-hour bombardment by Senator Walsh with commendable imperturbance, and there was little doubt on the point of the committee's being fully satisfied that the action against Wheeler has been taken in all good faith and that Washington is, under the circumstances, the logical place for the matter to be submitted to a grand jury. A special grand jury to hear the indictment was summoned and sworn in yesterday and the hearing will be proceeded with without delay.

A GREAT MISSIONARY GATHERING.

Thousands of delegates from all parts of Canada and the United States are now in Washington attending one of the largest conventions ever held in connection with foreign mission work. The convention, which is being sponsored by more than one hundred Protestant denominations, opened its sessions in the Washington Auditorium on Wednesday afternoon when the gathering was addressed by President Coolidge. This world missionary conference will exceed in importance, from all aspects, any such gathering held since 1888. In 1900 a similar convention was held in New York and ten years later Edinburgh, Scotland was the scene of another mammoth gathering of world missionary workers. A convention of a like nature was to have been held here in 1920 but general conditions at that time rendered the project impractical. It is estimated that some 5,000 delegates are here for the present sessions and this number includes many church dignitaries one of whom is Rev. Dr. James Endicott of Toronto. Telling of the aims of the convention, one of the city papers says: "The convention is not being held to deal with questions and problems of administration on the mission field. Its messages are being centered upon enlarging the interest and deepening the conviction of the Christian people at the home base as to their foreign mission responsibilities and obligations. There will be many sectional meetings. Literature, medicine, evangelism, education, even agriculture, social service, industry and recruiting work will enter into a tangent relationship with the main convention in simultaneous conferences by small groups. China, India, Siam and Malaysia, Africa and the Philippines, all nooks and crannies of the world, will present subject-matter for discussion."

WILL THEY NEVER LEARN!

What the average American seems to know about the world beyond the particular State he happens to be living in could be recounted on a postage stamp and there wouldn't be any kick about "pressure on space". This, however, is not to be wondered at when he sees almost daily evidences of unbelievable ignorance of the geography of their own continent displayed by leading American newspapers. Over a press dispatch dated at St. John's, Newfoundland, Washington's leading daily has this heading: "Fishing Villages in Nova Scotia Report Boats Missing in Storm Unfound". At first blush this sort of thing might be considered merely inadvertence, but the fact of the matter is that those in the United States who do not think that Newfoundland is within the Arctic Circle believe that it is part and parcel of Canada, and any attempt to explain that Newfoundland is a country entirely independent of her sister Dominion, having the same status as the latter as a British possession and with her own government, is regarded as a sign of mental weakness.

Addressing the semi-annual session of the business organization of the

Government a few days ago, President Coolidge stressed the necessity for further economy in the administration of public affairs, so that the taxpayer's burden might be made lighter. Expenditures during the coming year, he said, exclusive of debt reduction and postal outlay, must be brought under \$3,000,000,000, and to accomplish this there must be a reduction of \$62,000,000 in the budget now in course of preparation. With this accomplished, the President expects a surplus of \$373,000,000 to be achieved, and on the strength of that surplus proposals for tax reduction are to be made to the next Congress. The President expressed the belief that the country is entering upon an era of increased business activity and material prosperity, and that with increasing business it is to be expected revenues will increase, but he is adamant in his stand that increased revenues shall not be absorbed in unwarranted increases in Federal expenditures. The program is to utilize increased revenues in part to discharge the public debt and in part to make possible lessening the burden of taxation. There is no intention on the President's part that the efficiency of the Government shall be sacrificed, even in the cause of economy, and he realizes that with Federal growth there necessarily will come increased costs. But these increased costs, so far as possible, must be offset by reduction in costs of existing activities and the elimination of projects and the discontinuance of operations that can be dispensed with without interference with Federal efficiency. He believes the United States now occupies fields which should be abandoned, and that loyalty to the taxpayers demands reduction in the cost of government to a point which will reduce taxes so that they will cease to be a burden. The President emphasized the fact that the country has too many government employees and said that in 1924 the Federal pay roll reached the staggering total of \$1,680,000,000. He insists that this must be reduced—not by reduction in salaries nor by parsimonious withholding from deserving pensioners—but by the dropping of unneeded employees. In the District of Columbia civil servants' salaries increased from an average of \$1,134 in 1913 to \$1,749 in 1924 but no suggestion is made that they are receiving too much to-day. The President realizes that his reduction program is going to call for sacrifices, but he wants "to see the sacrifices of those who are charged with the expenditure of the money of the Government somewhat commensurate with the sacrifices that have to be made in the home by the taxpayers who furnish the money for the Government."

AND STILL WE BUILD.

A building program entailing an expenditure of \$50,000,000 has just been filed in the House by the Committee on public buildings and grounds and it is expected that Congress will give the bill a place on this session's program. The program has the approval of the President, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General. Of the amount named, \$50,000,000 will be spent on the erection of public buildings in Washington and \$14,750,000 will be the outlay on the new memorial bridge across the Potomac from Washington to Arlington. In reporting the bill covering the buildings outlay, the Committee furnished some interesting figures and facts to substantiate their claim as to the urgency of the necessity for the expenditure. The Treasury Department, they say, is at present spending \$1,185,000 annually for rentals in Washington and \$23,000,000 a year elsewhere. The Post Office Department's annual rent bill is approximately \$12,000,000. The report further adds that the Internal Revenue Bureau is housed in ten buildings here, the General Accounting Office in twenty-one buildings and the Department of Agriculture in forty-five buildings.

INSIST ON QUEEN MAUD SARDINES

no other "just as good." Jan 23. If

Fashions and Fads.

Choker necklaces come in mixed uneven effects, for instance, one side may be of smoke colored pearls and the other of pink or white pearls. Some of the hat crowns form three points on the top, while others are both pointed and dented, or perhaps just tucked in at one side. A huge poppy is used low on the flared hem of a crepe frock, and from it a scarf travels upward to wind about the neck of the wearer.

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