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PRESIDENT ON NAVY

WRITES REGARDING FRICTION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

OFFICERS TO OBEY ORDERS

Some Strong Words for Rear Admiral Brownson, Whose Resignation is Severely Criticized.

Washington—President Roosevelt's attitude on the question of the command of hospital ships in the army, which resulted in the resignation of Rear Admiral Willard H. Brownson and incidentally caused some caustic observations on that incident and that the controversies among the naval officers and their adherents as to details of naval construction and methods of training, were made known when Secretary Metcalf gave to the press two letters from the president, addressed to him on these subjects.

In the first of these letters President Roosevelt, without mincing words, condemns in measured terms the act of Admiral Brownson, declaring it to be unseemly and improper. The question as to which Admiral Brownson took issue with the Navy department the president declares is one as to which there can be entirely legitimate differences of opinion as to the gross impropriety of the admiral's conduct in resigning sooner than carry out the orders of his superior officers in such a matter. The officers of the navy must remember that it is not merely childish, but in the highest degree reprehensible to permit either personal pique, wounded vanity or factional feeling on behalf of some particular bureau or organization to render them disloyal to the interests of the navy, and therefore of the country as a whole.

Regarding the controversies in the navy, the president admits there always are and always will be defects to correct, both in the construction of ships and in the organization of the department and in the actual drill of the fleet. It is well, he says, that these defects be pointed out, but it is also well that they should be pointed out without hysterical exaggeration or malicious untruthfulness. He scathingly rebukes those guilty of exploiting them in grossly exaggerated form in the fancied interest of an individual or clique of individuals or for the sake of supplying sensational material to newspapers. Because of so much misrepresentation and exaggeration the president has asked Secretary Metcalf for a statement as to the exact facts concerning which there have been disputes, desiring particularly the opinion of Admiral Converse, formerly chief of the navigation bureau, who, because of his high professional attainments and standard of conduct and duty the president considers peculiarly fitted to give judgment.

STOKES TO COMMAND RELIEF.

Surgeon Will Take Charge of Hospital Ship Being Fitted Out.

Washington—Acting under orders of the president, Secretary Metcalf signed the orders assigning Surgeon Charles F. Stokes to the command of the hospital ship Relief, which is being fitted out at Mare Island, Cal., with a full hospital equipment. Surgeon Stokes, it is said, will start for the coast next week. The secretary said that accommodations would be afforded for about 250 sick persons. Other officials will be assigned to the vessel as assistants to surgeons. The arrangements are to be made to secure a merchant crew and master.

Lottery in Lower House.

Washington—An unique feature of the week's proceedings in the house of representatives will be the assignment to members by lottery of rooms in the \$9,000,000 house office building, now about completed. The drawing will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9, after reading of the journal. Three hundred and thirty-three marbles, consecutively numbered from one up, will be placed in a box and as each in turn is drawn out by a blindfolded page and handed to the reading clerk its number will be announced.

Work for Five Thousand.

St. Louis, Mo.—According to arrangements made an aggregate of 5,000 men will be re-employed January 13 by many large industrial plants in East St. Louis, Ill., and vicinity.

HARDEN TAKES CASE HIGHER.

German Editor Convicted of Libel Will Proceed to Supreme Court.

Berlin—Maximilien Harden, who was found guilty of libeling Kuno von Moltke and sentenced to four months' imprisonment, has appealed to the supreme court of the empire on the ground that testimony was illegally excluded from the hearing and several other technicalities.

COUNT WITTE IN NEW ROLE.

Former Premier Replies to Kouropatkin's Charges.

St. Petersburg—The controversy between Count Witte and General Kouropatkin over Kouropatkin's testimony at the trial of General Stoessel, which has been conducted at length for several days in the Novoe Vremya, has developed into a discussion of Count Witte's role of so-called eastern adventure and the extent of his responsibility for the war. This the enemies of Count Witte have persistently endeavored to saddle upon him. General Kouropatkin, in a series of letters, has sought to prove that Witte was responsible for the foundation of Port Dalny, which the general declares gave the Japanese an invaluable base during the siege of Port Arthur and also interfered with the prompt dispatch of heavy artillery to the fortress.

Replying to these letters Count Witte explicitly declared he was opposed to the establishment either of a military or a commercial port in Chinese territory and says that the policy of leasing the Kwantung peninsula and extending the railroad line thither was adopted over his head. He ascribes the occupation of Port Arthur by the Russians to the initiative of Count Muraviev, who then was foreign minister, and declares he was so indignant at the move that he immediately broke off all relations with Muraviev.

Count Witte challenges General Kouropatkin to prove that he ever called attention to Port Dalny as a strategic menace to Port Arthur before the war and says that Kouropatkin in 1903 stated that Port Arthur was able to resist the whole Japanese army and defend the Kwantung peninsula in Manchuria.

The controversy has greatly restored Count Witte's dignity and prestige and brought him prominently into the public eye. Among his partisans is Premier Stolypin, who in a recent conversation said he was a great admirer of Witte's talents and would be glad to have him in the cabinet were it not for the opposition to him in the highest quarters.

EX-GOVERNOR BOIES DYING.

Enroute to California for His Health and Taken from the Train. El Paso, Tex.—Ex-Governor Horace Boies of Iowa is dying here. He was en route from his home in Waterloo, Ia., to California for his health, but was taken seriously ill and being unable to continue the journey was taken from the train here. He was elected governor of Iowa on the democratic ticket when the prohibition movement disrupted the republican party.

MILLION IN FALSE ASSETS.

Bookkeeper Storrs of California Safe Deposit Company Admits Deed. San Francisco—Another sensational chapter was added to the California Safe Deposit and Trust company scandal when H. I. Storrs, one of the bookkeepers of the concern, broke down under a merciless cross-examination and confessed that the false entries in the books were in his handwriting and had been made under orders from J. Dalzell Brown, the imprisoned manager of the bank, and J. D. Robertson, the fugitive assistant secretary.

The confession made by Storrs was complete in every respect and established the fact that nearly \$1,000,000 had been falsely added to the assets of the bank in order to deceive the state commissioners.

Countess Wants Divorce.

London—The failure of another alliance of the English nobility with an American woman of wealth became public on Friday, when the countess of Yarmouth, who was Alice Thaw of Pittsburg, a daughter of Mrs. William Thaw, and a sister of Harry K. Thaw, whose second trial for the murder of Stanford White will begin next Monday in New York City, applied to the divorce court for an annulment of her marriage to the earl of Yarmouth. The court has ordered all papers kept secret.

Vesuvius Gets Busy Again.

Naples—Mount Vesuvius, after a month or more of comparative quiet, has again resumed activity. A huge column of flame and smoke is arising from the fissures at the summit of the crater.

Editor Harden Found Guilty.

Berlin—Editor Maximilien Harden was sentenced to four months' imprisonment on the charge of libeling Count Kuno von Moltke.

Mr. Bryan's Candidacy.

Nacagdoches, Tex.—William J. Bryan practically announced his candidacy for the presidency. He concluded his speech with this statement: "Those of you who never have an opportunity to hear a real live president of the United States can at least say now that you have heard one speak who on two different occasions cherished the delusion that he was going to be a real live president, and he feels the disease coming on again."

Another Gift from Rockefeller.

Chicago—Martin A. Ryerson, president of the board of trustees of the University of Chicago, has announced that John D. Rockefeller has added \$2,191,000 to his gifts to the university, making the total of his benefactions over \$23,000,000.

THE FIRST TEST.



ASKS NEWSPAPERS TO HELP

WANTS THEIR ASSISTANCE IN PUSHING HIS BILL.

If Measure He is Advocating is Not Good One Desires Imperfections Pointed Out.

Washington—Senator Burkett proposes to ascertain the sentiment in Nebraska in relation to the grazing bill he has introduced by addressing a letter to every newspaper publisher in the state, asking his assistance in bringing before the people of Nebraska the provisions of the Burkett bill.

Following is a copy of Senator Burkett's letter to the editors: "I enclose a copy of the grazing bill that I introduced. You will notice changes from last year's bill—they are intended to protect more the homesteader, and to promote homestead entry. Homesteaders and small cattlemen we always want to protect; and then we want all the land put to use. The government land is certainly not being used as well as it should be. It is not being utilized for the best interests of the federal government of the state or the people of the community. I believe these great tracts of government land should be made a source of income to the states rather than be permitted to remain a source of expense forever. The state makes its own lands produce an income why should government lands remain idle and unproductive? Authority should be lodged somewhere to devise a plan to make them a source of income and also for their more economic use. There is no reason why anything should be wasted simply because the government owns it. Privately owned lands in the same community are sustaining more cattle than the public lands on an average. I was told the other day of officials of a cattle company opposing the bill because they owned all the water front of a certain community and nobody would want adjacent government land without water. But reverse the proposition and perhaps nobody would need all that water front without unlimited range behind it free. My position is that if the government had someone looking after its grazing lands as it has after its forests, then water front owners will have to make terms instead of dictating them.

"I want you to help me get this bill before the people. If the bill is right I want your support and the people's support for it. If it is wrong I want you to point out the errors. I shall be glad to hear from you and every one who will help take interest enough in it to write to me. I am determined to help get some legislation that will settle the controversy over the public lands that has waged so long."

SHAW'S MIND NOT MADE UP.

Former Secretary of Treasury So Tells Denison Friends.

Denison, Ia.—Hon. L. M. Shaw, who is here, spent New Year's day at Denison visiting old friends and looking after business affairs connected with the bank with which he is interested. When questioned as to the connection of his name with the nomination for the presidency he stated while he had received many letters urging him to ask the support of Iowa in the convention, he was far from decided that he would do so.

Bankers Indicted.

San Francisco—The grand jury returned four indictments for alleged embezzlement against officials of the California Safe Deposit and Trust company. Walter J. Barnett was indicted on one count in connection with the disappearance of \$30,000.

RECEPTION AT WHITE HOUSE

THE PRESIDENT'S FUNCTION A BRILLIANT AFFAIR.

Distinguished People From All Sections of the World Honor the Chief Executive.

Washington—President Roosevelt received at the White House Wednesday a New Year's throng of well wishers which was three hours in passing. Mrs. Roosevelt and the members and women of the cabinet were his assistants.

Though curtailed in number, 5,645, by more than 1,000 over the preceding New Year's day, the reception was resplendent in all the incidents of tradition which has accumulated in more than 100 years. The gorgeousness of the diplomatic and militant features; the cordiality of the many personal friends of the president, who made him their seventh annual greeting as such, and the intensely human and patriotic characteristics of the American people, typified by the thousands who represented them Wednesday, all combined to make a happy conclusion to the historic event.

From greeting in stately dignity and appropriate surroundings the ambassadors and ministers of the nations of the world to stooping far down to grasp the hand of a "dolly" that its toddling parent of three years and a half might be gratified, were the extremes required of the president; and both the infant and the diplomat realized an anticipated pleasure. And the president enjoyed it all.

The setting, the historic White House, and the picturesque entertaining accessories, were amply sufficient to enthrall the holiday exhilaration. The presence of men whose names are daily in the public press as presidential aspirants lent interest to more subtle observations. The vice president, the speaker of the house of representatives, Secretary Cortelyou, Senator LaFollette, all of whom had pleasing things said to them in the big east room, where the distinguished guests gathered to chat after passing through the historic blue parlor and making their bow to the receiving Brownson, whose recent differences with the president led to his resignation as chief of the bureau of navigation. He came late, but hurried through the lobby and corridor and reached the president near the head of the gorgeously uniformed naval line. The admiral received many hearty hand clasps from brother officers of the line of the navy. Admiral Rixey was also in the naval contingent.

Indian Uprising in Nicaragua.

Panama—Advices from Pocas del Toro say that passengers arriving there from Bluefields, Nicaragua, report that the Mosquito Indians have arisen against the government of President Zelaya, which is accused by them of being responsible for the death of their chief.

Heavy Earthquake Tremor.

A very heavy earthquake was recorded on the instruments at the coast and geodetic survey observatory at Cheltenham, Md., Monday. It commenced at thirty-two minutes, thirty seconds at midnight and lasted two hours.

Bomb Outrages in Spain.

Barcelona—In consequence of the renewal of bomb outrages by local anarchists, King Alfonso has signed a decree provisionally suspending a portion of the constitutional guarantees in this city. In this last few days five infernal machines deposited in various parts of the city exploded without causing material damage.

TAFT TALKED ON THE PANIC.

Makes an Address Before the Merchants of Boston.

Boston—Greeted with cheers as "the next president of the United States," a topic which he carefully avoided in his own remarks, however, Secretary of War William H. Taft delivered his first public speech since his world-circling tour Monday at the annual banquet of the Boston Merchants' association at the Hotel Somerset.

The banquet closed a long and strenuous day for the secretary of war, during which he delivered a brief address before 406 ministers in the morning and attended a reception and spoke before a large gathering of the Jews of the city at the Elysium club in the afternoon. During his visit to Boston, which ends Tuesday morning, Secretary Taft is the guest of Samuel Carr, a Boston banker and a relative of Mrs. Taft.

A more notable gathering of prominent and representative business men has seldom been seen in Boston than that which greeted the secretary Monday night. In the banquet hall beautiful decorations adorned the tables, which provided for the seating of over 500 guests, while behind the speakers' table were a great many American flags.

President Jerome Jones of the Boston Merchants' association presided. Seated on either side of him were the speakers and guests of honor, who included Secretary of War William H. Taft, Congressman Sherley of Kentucky, Lieutenant Governor Eben S. Draper of Massachusetts, Mayor John Fitzgerald and Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, bishop of Massachusetts.

In introducing Secretary Taft President Jones said:

"We are favored this evening by the presence of a man from the middle west who has impressed us all with his fitness for the most important position that the great and powerful nation can bestow and, in brief, an official of great strength and wisdom. He has recently put a girdle around the earth as an ambassador of peace and good will, visiting the great rulers of mighty nations, and we want to hear him talk to us."

As the secretary of war rose to reply all the guests stood up with him and filled the air with long continued cheers.

Calls for "three cheers for Secretary Taft, the next president of the United States," were heartily acclaimed.

The secretary delivered a speech of 4,000 words, which he read from manuscript throughout, making no additions or comment relative to his own candidacy for the presidency or other topic.

In the course of his speech Secretary Taft said: "The panic has been given a certain political bearing and importance. For this reason, I have selected for my topic of tonight: 'The Panic of 1907, its causes, its probable effects and the relation to it of the policies of the national administration.'"

WILL INTEREST NEBRASKANS.

Dr. Condra of State University Writes Book for Geological Survey.

Lincoln, Neb.—A bulletin by Dr. George A. Condra of Nebraska university has just been issued by the United States geological survey at Washington. It is entitled, "The Geography and Water Resources of the Republican River Valley of Nebraska," and deals with ten of the southwestern counties.

Sewers Flushed with Beer.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Twenty-three hundred barrels of beer, valued at \$17,500, belonging to the New State brewery, was poured into the sewers of this city by United States Internal Revenue Collector Charles Howard.

The brew was completed after Oklahoma became a state. The state authorities would not permit its sale and shipment from the state.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TELEGRAPH.

System Can Be Used by Either Wire or Wireless Method.

Paris—Pascal Berjonneau, an inventor, exhibited before the postmaster general and a number of persons interested in scientific investigation, a new telephotography apparatus, which can be adapted to the wireless system or to the ordinary telegraph wire system. He transmitted the picture of the postmaster general without the aid of wires from one end of the hall to the other. The inventor claims that distance does not interfere with the effectiveness of his method.

BOMB OUTRAGES IN SPAIN.

Partial Martial Law Proclaimed in Barcelona.

Barcelona—In consequence of the renewal of bomb outrages by local anarchists, King Alfonso has signed a decree provisionally suspending a portion of the constitutional guarantees in this city. In this last few days five infernal machines deposited in various parts of the city exploded without causing material damage.

AGAIN FACE A JURY

SECOND TRIAL OF HARRY THAW SOON TO BEGIN.

WILL BE NO FURTHER DELAY

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, it is Said, Will Again Relate Her Story to the Jury.

New York—On January 6th Harry K. Thaw will be called a second time before a jury to make his defense to the charge of having murdered Stanford White. There have been several postponements, of the date of the second hearing of this noted case, but it is said now there will be no further delay.

It is announced that Mrs. William Thaw, mother of the defendant, is expected in the city in a few days.

Mrs. Thaw has been in poor health, it is said, but believes she will be able to come to be with her son during the opening hours of his second trial for life and freedom. Other members of the family circle, including Mrs. George Carnegie, Harry Thaw's sister, and Josiah and Edward Thaw, his brothers, are also expected to reach the city during the week. The Countess of Yarmouth, the defendant's sister at present in England, is not expected to attend the second trial. Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, who is a daily visitor at the Tombs ever since the first Thaw jury disagreed save recently when she was ill for a few days, will, of course, be one of the first arrivals in the court room. There has been many rumors as to the plans of the defense for the second hearing of the case and it has been predicted that an entirely new line of action might be followed.

It can be authoritatively stated, however, that the defense will again be the same; that Evelyn Nesbit Thaw will again relate her story to the jury and that an imposing array of expert alienists will again undertake to establish the theory that Thaw was insane at the time he killed Stanford White in the Madison Square roof garden, but has so far recovered his mental balance since that time as to be no longer a menace to the community and therefore is entitled to freedom.

There were mistakes made at the first trial which it will be the attempt of Thaw's attorneys studiously to avoid during his second hearing. In the expert testimony, for instance, they have been able to separate the wheat from the chaff and will only offer that which proved most effective before.

CANAL WORK IS STUPENDOUS.

Concrete in Dams Would Make Houses Enough for a Large City.

Washington—The engineers on the Panama canal are dealing in vast figures these days and the Canal Record, just received, conveys in a graphic manner an idea of the magnitude of the work to be done upon the locks of the canal. It is stated, for instance, that the amount of concrete to be used in building these locks would suffice to construct eight room city houses of the generous size of thirty feet with two stories and basement and with concrete floors and with concrete roof to the number of 22,842. Allowing each of these houses a seventy-five foot lot, they would make a continuous street from New York to Philadelphia, with enough houses left over to make a row on one side of the street from Philadelphia to Washington. The houses would furnish suburban homes for 120,000 people, or according to city standards, would house a population equal to that of the city of Minneapolis.

EXPLORE SOUTH OF AMAZON.

An Expedition Being Organized in the City of Boston.

Boston—The exploration of the vast unknown regions in the southern watershed of the Amazon river, between the fourth and tenth parallels, is the object of an expedition which is being organized in this city under the supervision of George M. Boynton.

Nebraskan Frozen to Death.

Bayard, Neb.—John M. Grant, an old soldier, was found frozen to death in an old sod-house near here. He had no known relatives. The body had been in the house three or four weeks.

Georgia Will Be Dry.

Atlanta, Ga.—With the advent of the New Year, the law preventing the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors passed by the last session of the legislature becomes effective, making Georgia the first of the southern states to be placed in the prohibition column. The law is very drastic in its prohibition, and prevents the keeping or giving away of liquors in public places and imposes a tax of \$500 on clubs whose members are allowed to keep drinks of an intoxicating nature.