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A PLOT TO DESTROY

PLAN TO BLOW UP AMERICAN VESSELS THWARTED.

OFFENDERS TO BE ARRESTED

Anarchists Are Involved in the Plot, According to Head of Rio de Janeiro Department.

Rio Janeiro—The Brazilian police have discovered an anarchistic plot here having as its subject the destruction of part of the American fleet now lying in the harbor. The conspiracy, while centering in Rio Janeiro and Petropolis, has ramifications in Sao Paulo and Minas Geraes. An individual named Jean Fedher, who resided in Petropolis, was the chief conspirator here, although it is understood that foreign anarchists are deeply involved in the plot. Fedher is believed to have fled to Sao Paulo and the police, who know him, have been sent to that place for the purpose of apprehending him. One of the detectives who is well acquainted with Fedher, having served on the police force at Petropolis for some time, returned from that place after having made investigations there, and had a long conference with the chief of police at Rio Janeiro. The latter gave it to be understood later that the Sao Paulo police are on the track of the arch-conspirator and expect to arrest him soon.

Statement by Police.

In an official note which the chief of police sent to the correspondent of the Associated Press, he says:

"Some time before the arrival of the American fleet at Rio Janeiro, the Brazilian government received word from Washington and Paris that anarchists of different nationalities intended to damage one or several of the ships of the American fleet. The names and addresses of the conspirators were indicated by information which the police here had received previously from France and Germany. The police of this district are working with the police of Sao Paulo and Minas Geraes, and I am sure every precaution will be exercised and the most rigorous vigilance observed, both on land and sea, to prevent any injury being done."

The chief of police after having made this official statement, said he did not feel he should go into any further details with regard to the conspiracy, but he authorized the statement that the plot was organized by Fedher and he added that the people of the United States could rest easy, as all of the conspirators had taken refuge in the interior.

POET AND BANKER IS DEAD.

Edmund Clarence Stedman Expires Suddenly at His Home.

New York—Edmund Clarence Stedman, the banker and poet, died suddenly at his home in this city Saturday night. Mr. Stedman, widely known as the banker poet, died from a sudden attack of heart trouble. He was passing into his study when the attack came and he fell to the floor unconscious.

Ask Consent of Depositors.

New York—The temporary receivers of the Knickerbocker Trust company was extended two weeks by the supreme court Saturday. Counsel for the depositors and stockholders asked further time in which to secure depositors' assents to the plan for resumption.

Merrill Orders Inquiry.

Newport, R. I.—Rear Admiral John B. Merrill has ordered an inquiry to be begun into the death of H. A. Hartnet, the naval apprentice, who died from a blot clot on the brain following a fight aboard the United States training ship Cumberland.

Fine for Harvester Trust.

Topeka, Kan.—Judge Dana in the Shawnee county district court here, assessed a fine of \$12,500 against the International Harvester company, which the court found guilty on forty-three counts of violating the Kansas anti-trust law.

Bryan Goes to Kentucky.

Frankfort, Ky.—William Jennings Bryan has volunteered to come to Kentucky and help the democrats win the United States senatorship. Governor Beckham received a letter from Mr. Bryan saying he would be here on Tuesday.

Twenty Blocks Burned.

Santiago, Chile—A great fire at Temuco, a flourishing city in the south of Chile, has destroyed twenty blocks of buildings. The loss is more than \$200,000. There is great distress among the poor.

FRANK BARKER IS HANGED.

Red Cloud Murderer Goes to the Gallows.

Lincoln—Frank Barker, the Webster county double-murderer, was hanged in the state penitentiary Friday afternoon. The trap was sprung at 2:57 o'clock, and nine minutes later he was dead. His execution occurred just three minutes before the time expired in which he could legally be hanged, the mandate of the court having ordered the warden to execute the man between the hours of 11 o'clock and 3 o'clock. The execution was delayed until the last minute that Barker's attorneys would have every opportunity to secure a stay of execution, either from the governor or from the courts.

Barker met death without a tremor; he walked from the hospital between two guards, 100 feet across the yard, through the warhouse to the steps of the gallows, up the steps apparently without fear. In a whisper the executioner asked him if he had anything to say and in a low voice he replied "no." The straps were adjusted, the trap sprung and the law had been vindicated before the sixty or seventy-five people present realized that the executioner was even ready to begin.

Only one citizen of Webster county, where the crime was committed, was present at the execution, Charles Walker, a brother of Mrs. Alice Barker, one of the condemned man's victims. Barker's last request to Warden Beemer was to refuse admittance to any one from Webster county and his wish was respected except in the case of the relative and he was admitted according to law. Fifteen citizens of the vicinity of Inavale and Red Cloud were at the penitentiary seeking admission, as were four sheriffs, but they did not get into the death room until after the execution.

No evidence has been shown to me that convinces me I should interfere with the process of the law and save Barker from the gallows," said Governor Sheldon at the end of the long-drawn-out conferences between him and Judge Hamer and others pleading for the condemned man. It is my judgment Barker is as sane as any person under similar circumstances could be.

Judge Hamer, when he received the governor's ultimatum, raced from the penitentiary back to town as fast as he could go to seek a rehearing on the insanity plea before some district judge.

Governor Sheldon, with Attorney General Thompson went to the penitentiary in the morning for the purpose of having a final interview with Barker. The governor held a long conversation with the prisoner, and even then was not satisfied what to do. Judge Hamer was at the prison and talked with the governor again, showing him an Ohio supreme court decision, which held that a person is insane when he has an uncontrollable impulse. Governor Sheldon left the penitentiary undecided, and asked the warden to delay the execution until 2:30 p. m., but on his return to the state house, finally concluded not to grant further reprieve.

MILES OF CARS ARE IDLE.

Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Out of Employment.

Omaha—Car shortage, which is distressing to shippers a few months ago, has been supplanted by a car surplus equally distressing to the railroad magnates. Every manager of a railroad entering Omaha has the common complaint to make and the official report of the car service association confirms the individual statements by showing the aggregate number of idle freight cars on the railroads of the United States and Canada at present to be 260,000.

This represents a total capital of \$124,000,000, which is not earning any revenue for the railroad companies. This a great change from November 12, when the car shortage amounted to 57,028 cars, and on October 30 the car shortage amounted to 90,757 cars.

Sale of Opium Is Shut Off.

Washington—Within a little over a month's time the law prohibiting the importation of opium into the Philippines will become effective and in anticipation of that important event there is much speculation among the Filipinos in regard to the probable effect of the law. A large quantity of opium is consumed in the islands, mainly by the large Chinese element, but the baneful habit of opium smoking has been rapidly extending among the native Filipinos and even among the Americans.

Money Flows to New York.

New York—A tremendous flow of cash from the banks throughout the country to New York City banks was indicated on Saturday by the bank statement, which showed an increase of \$26,185,800 in the amount of cash held by the New York Clearing House institutions. This increase in cash is not thought to be a record one, but it is believed to approach within a few millions of the largest increase ever recorded in a single week in this city.

SETTLE IT YOURSELF.



THE ALDRICH FINANCIAL BILL

GETTING THE MEASURE IN SHAPE TO BE REPORTED SOON.

Senate Committee on Finance Held Two Meetings and Will Soon Get Together Again.

Washington—After two sessions of the senate committee on finance Thursday the members of the committee were in possession of a fair idea of what shape the Aldrich financial bill will be in when it is reported next week. There will be no more meetings of the committee until Monday, when the various amendments which have been gradually evolved through the general discussion of the bill during this week will be incorporated in the measure.

It is stated to be practically certain that the limit of extra currency which the bill provides for will be raised from \$250,000,000 to \$500,000,000. Most of the members of the committee believe that this figure is not too high for a time of emergency when a heavy issue of currency notes is demanded on security of the prescribed sort and under the prescribed tax. The tax on the emergency issues will not, it is believed, be placed higher than 6 per cent, which the bill now provides.

An amendment offered by Senator Bailey reducing the required population of a county or municipality whose bonds are to figure in a currency issue from 20,000 to 10,000 is expected to receive the support of a majority of the committee, and according to reliable report will be adopted. This will permit smaller towns of just as great an age and of commensurate prosperity with the larger towns to participate in the benefits of the measure.

Senator Dolliver probably will offer an amendment in opposition to the railroad bond feature of the bill, and it may possibly call for the entire elimination of such securities.

Senator Bailey will no doubt support him in such a project, as he does not hesitate to let it be known that he is not in favor of railroads being allowed to file their bonds with the government as security for currency issues, owing to their tendency to fluctuate. There is thought to be enough opposition in the committee, however, to defeat such an amendment, for the belief expressed by its opponents is that the backing by the government, once railroad bonds are accepted as security for a certain issue, will have the effect of insuring the stability of the currency notes issued on them.

A democratic member of the committee asserted that the minority as a whole is not in favor of a bill providing a currency basis on any security except government bonds, but being unable to prevent a favorable report on such a measure they are making it their duty so far as lies in their power, to make it as effective a measure of that nature as possible and they are therefore joining with republicans in advocacy of most of the features of the Aldrich bill.

Three-Cent Fares Needful.

Detroit, Mich.—Mayor William B. Thompson, in his annual message to the common council, declared that the railway companies can obtain "no new lease of life except upon the fundamental basis of 3-cent fares."

Nakashoko Resigns.

Tokio—Nakashoko, vice minister of communications, resigned. He will be succeeded by Muzuka of the railroad bureau.

SAILORS HONORED IN BRAZIL

AMERICAN ADMIRALS ARE GIVEN BREAKFAST BY EXECUTIVE.

Four Thousand Men From Fleet Are Given Shore Leave, With a Smoker for Officers.

Rio Janeiro—The president of the republic, Dr. Penna, entertained the admirals and some of the higher officials of the American fleet at a breakfast Wednesday at Petropolis. Later in the day there was a garden party at the American embassy in the same suburb. Through Rear Admiral Evans could not be present at these functions, the fleet was well represented by Admirals Thomas Emory and Speery, Captain Osterhaus of the flagship Connecticut, Captain Wainwright of the Louisiana, Captain Hubbard of the Minnesota, Captain McCrea of the Georgia and Captain Murdoch of the Rhode Island.

Baron Rio Branco, the minister of foreign affairs, was not able to be present on account of sickness.

The breakfast of the president was given at the palace, which was beautifully decorated with flowers and greens and the Brazilian and American flags. There was a warm interchange of fraternal greetings, Dr. Penna speaking eloquently and in the warmest terms of the friendship entertained in the Brazilian republic for the great republic of the north.

In reply the American ambassador, Irving B. Dudley, warmly thanked the president for his kind allusions to the relations of friendship existing between the United States and Brazil and for the magnificent reception which awaited the Americans on their arrival in the country and which they were now enjoying.

The American officers and other invited guests went to Petropolis early in the morning. They were met by the representatives of the president and by the American ambassador. Later, at the breakfast, they met among other high officials, the Brazilian minister of marine, Admiral Alencar; the minister of war, Marshal Hermes Fonseca; the chief of the naval station and the members of the president's staff.

The newspapers this morning all commented favorably upon the good behavior of the sailors who had shore leave yesterday. The men all had a good time and perfect order was maintained. Not less than 4,000 men visited the city during the course of the day and evening.

CHAIRMAN OF WASTE PAPER.

Place Found for Senator Bailey of Texas.

Washington—Senator Bailey was on Wednesday made chairman of the committee to dispose of useless papers in the executive departments to succeed the late Senator Mallory. The principal value of the appointment is that it gives him a committee room, of which the scarcity of minority chairmanships has thus far deprived him.

TAFT WILL STAY IN CABINET.

Declares Rumor Unfounded He is to Devote Time to Candidacy.

Washington—Secretary Taft indicated that he wanted to be quoted as saying that there is absolutely no foundation for the rumors that he is to resign from the cabinet. The printed story was to the effect that Secretary Taft would resign and devote his entire attention to his campaign for the nomination for president.

THE CABINET IS IN TROUBLE.

Ministers of Finance and Communications Resign.

Tokio—A cabinet crisis is imminent. After a conference of the cabinet ministers Marquis Saionaji, the prime minister, visited the emperor at the palace and was quickly followed by Prince Ito.

It is understood that difficulties exist over the budget which are irreconcilable.

It was announced that Yoshiro Sakatani, minister of finance, and Isaburo Yamagata, minister of communications have resigned from the cabinet. Their resignations have been accepted. The resignation of Marquis Saionaji, the prime minister, has been refused.

Masahisa Matsuda, minister of justice, will combine the portfolio of finance, and Keihara, minister of the interior, will combine that of the minister of communication. This leaves the cabinet without any new element and removes the disputants, who have been the disturbing factors for some time past. The information about the resignation of Isaburo Yamagata as minister of communications, announced by the Associated Press on January 11, was evidently correct, and the official denial made on the following day was probably intended to tide over the period during which there was a possibility of an adjustment.

The whole matter now is believed to be settled. There probably will be some changes of items in the budget and probably the government may decide not to increase taxation, but instead reduce the appropriations for the army and navy. It is possible that it may be decided to issue a loan to cover the deficiency.

The cabinet counsel gave rise to some heated debates. Yamagata insisted upon the resignations of Sakatani, who is responsible for the budget, which will be introduced in the diet, and who is blamed by the cabinet ministers and the public because in 1907 he promised that there would be no increase made in the taxation nor would there be any resort to a foreign loan in 1908.

An investigation of the financial situation convinced the cabinet officers and elder statesmen that an increase in the taxation, or in lieu thereof a foreign loan would be unavoidable. Sakatani endeavored to reduce the appropriation for the army and navy to which these factions objected and finally succeeded in carrying their point.

Controlled by the Standard.

New York—More than 99 per cent of the old business in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico is controlled by the Standard Oil company, according to testimony adduced at the government suit against that company.

GOVERNMENT HOLDS UP NEWS.

Japanese Political Situation Will Not Be Complicated by Reports.

Washington—With a full comprehension of the fact that the Japanese emigration question is being made an important issue in the political campaign now in progress in Japan and a consequent desire to avoid in any way embarrassing the Saionaji ministry and perhaps causing its overthrow at the approaching election, the State department is resolutely declining to publish any information respecting the progress of the negotiations with Japan on that subject.

SAYS IT WILL MEAN WAR.

Japanese Protests Against American Exclusion.

Paris—The Patrie publishes a letter from a Japanese officer who was wounded in Manchuria and who is now convalescing at Nice, protesting against the idea of the inferiority of the Japanese. This writer says:

"In the hierarchy of people, we are superior to the Italians and the Spaniards. Can the Yankees refuse our immigrants when they accept the refuge and the scum of Italy and Germany? No one has the right to treat us like the Chinese, who are savages. If the Americans persist in their pretensions, it means war."

Cuban Self-Government.

Washington—In transmitting to the senate on Tuesday the report of Provisional Governor Magoon on conditions in Cuba, the president said: "I am glad to be able to say that we can now definitely announce that by or before February 1, 1909, we shall have turned over the island to the president and congress to be elected next December by the people of Cuba. Our work to turn the island over to its own people will be scrupulously regarded."

Indiana for Fairbanks.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Republicans in Indiana in district conventions selected members of the state committee which will manage the coming presidential campaign in Indiana. Each district convention adopted resolutions endorsing Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks for the presidential nomination.

CHILDREN IN A PANIC

ONE HUNDRED CRUSHED AND BURNED TO DEATH.

CROWDED HALL CATCHES FIRE

Many Trampled Under Foot Perish in the Flames and Others Injured by Jumping.

Boertown, Pa.—A catastrophe, horrifying in its details and sickening in its results, on Monday night swept nearly 100 souls of this borough into eternity in almost the twinkling of an eye and injured nearly three score, many of them fatally. While the Scottish Reformation was being produced in Rhoades' opera house by Mrs. Monroe of Washington a tank used in a moving picture scene exploded. Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but their voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children who composed the greater part of the audience.

The scenes cannot be portrayed fittingly by the most imaginative. The blood-curdling cries for help of those who were penned within the walls of the blazing structure could be heard above the roaring, seething flames. It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred. In their attempt to quiet the crowd, those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal oil lamps used at the footlights. The burning oil scattered in all directions and the lamps which were used to light the opera house exploded, throwing the blazing oil over the terror-stricken people who were fighting frantically to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement. As the floor collapsed the shrieks of the helpless persons who were carried down were heard for blocks. It was scarcely five minutes from the time of the explosion of the tanks until the entire heart of the structure seemed a roaring furnace.

Scores of persons who were in the balcony at the rear jumped from the windows and sustained fractured limbs and skulls.

To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the flames. It is almost certain not a vestige of the bodies of the unfortunates who were overcome by the smoke and perished will ever be found.

Assistance was asked from Pottstown; but before the fire apparatus from that city reached this place the entire center of the structure was a roaring furnace. Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience, the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows such a catastrophe.

Boertown, Pa.—When nightfall put a stop to the work of recovering the dead from the ruins of the Rhoades opera house, where the holocaust occurred, the official roll of victims numbered 167. Whether any more bodies are buried beneath the ruins cannot be positively stated, but it is the belief of those who had charge of the gruesome work that all of the dead have been removed and that the total list of victims will not go above 170.

Indorse Bryan.

Carbondale, Ill.—William H. Warden of Williamson county was nominated for congress at the democratic convention here to fill the unexpired term of the late George W. Smith in the Twenty-fifth Illinois district. Resolutions indorsing William J. Bryan for the presidency were adopted.

UNION STATION ANNEX FIRE.

Quarter Million Loss at Kansas City Result of Blaze.

Kansas City—The Union station annex, in Union avenue adjoining the Union railway station was destroyed by fire Monday. The Union Station proper, one of Kansas City's landmarks, was saved by the firemen after a hard fight. The burned building contained the receiving offices of the Adams, Wells-Fargo and Pacific Express companies, a branch of the postoffice, the offices of Fred Harvey Eating House company, the Pullman Car company's linen room and the Railway Men Young Men's Christian association rooms. The loss is estimated at close to \$250,000.

Coal Roads Are After Time.

Washington—The coal carrying railroads who are required under an act of congress to dispose of their coal properties by May 1 next, have submitted to the attorney general a proposition looking to a postponement of the date of enforcement of the laws on account of the recent financial dis-