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NEWS NOTES CONDENSED

A Boiling Down of the More Important Events Here and There

Congress.

A bill has been introduced by Senator Burkett, giving the Elkhorn railroad the right-of-way over the Niobrara Military reservation, Nebraska.

Great crowds were attracted to the house during discussion of the president's message, which was formally tabled as being disrespectful to congress.

Congressman Smith of Council Bluffs is on the warpath and proposes to reply to strictures of the president.

Congressman Kinkaid has introduced a bill authorizing the resurvey of the west half of McPherson county, Nebraska, the east half being now in course of resurvey by a bill passed by congress about two years ago.

Governor Sheldon of Nebraska is anxious for the passage of Senator McCumber's bill providing for free water to any educational institution in irrigated districts. In a letter to Senator Brown the governor urges the passage of this bill, declaring his desire for the establishment of an experiment station in the irrigated country similar to the dry farming station now located at North Platte.

President Roosevelt sends a message to congress giving detailed information as to why the secret service bureau is necessary.

Following the receipt of President Roosevelt's special message asking an appropriation of \$500,000 for the relief of Italian earthquake sufferers the house and the senate passed resolutions appropriating \$300,000 which will be immediately available.

Members of the house mentioned in the president's special message on the secret service declined to make any public reply. "I have no comment to make at this time," said Mr. Fitzgerald. "Whatever comment I desire to make will be made from my place on the floor as a member of congress." Walter I. Smith, of Iowa, said he would make a speech in reference to the mention of his name, but that he would not rise to a question of personal privilege.

Speaker Cannon conferred with the president at the latter's invitation concerning the message which will be sent to congress for relief of the Italian earthquake sufferers. Cannon said congress would provide a liberal appropriation as quickly as possible.

So many protests have been sent to senators and Representative Haugen over the proposed appointment of J. H. Anundson of Mason City as bank examiner for northern Iowa to succeed E. B. Shaw that it is now regarded as practically settled he will not be named. Objections are being made to Anundson on the grounds that he is not qualified for bank examiner.

General.

Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans in an address to Navy league, said the success of the voyage of the battleships to the Pacific was due largely to the good work of stokers and cooks.

Former United States Marshal Matthews of Fremont, Neb., replies to President Roosevelt in a tart letter, in which the president is bluntly accused of falsehood.

Purchase of the Colorado & Southern road by Hill spurs Harriman up to push railroad building in the west. Washington authorities state there is little danger from epidemic diseases in earthquake region.

Papers were sent to the senate by the president to show that secret service agents investigated Senator Tillman's alleged connection with certain Oregon land deals.

Governor Shallenberger took the oath of office before a large crowd of spectators and he and retiring governor Sheldon read their messages to the Nebraska legislature.

Governor Folk of Missouri in his message to the legislature advocates state commission on waterways and forest preservation.

Senator Culberson in an extended speech in the senate said the president's action in Steel trust merger was arbitrary and lawless.

Governor Sheldon in his message to scientific study of Nebraska to de-waterwide prohibition with suspension clause, favors physical examination of candidates for matrimony and reviews condition of state affairs.

Judge Taft discussed cabinet making with Senator Knox and after further conference soon some announcements of appointments may be made.

President-elect Taft puts himself on record as favoring heartily the child labor laws in the south.

Six night riders were found guilty of murder in the first degree and two of murder in the second degree.

Governor Shallenberger, elect of Nebraska, advocates bank guaranty law with a fund created by tax of 1 per cent on capital stock of banks.

Stockholders of the Omaha & Nebraska Central railway, a projected suburban line, want to know what has become of the money they have paid in.

Mr. Bryan insists that house committees of Nebraska assembly be named by the advisory committee.

Bishop Thomas F. Lillis of the Leavenworth Catholic diocese telegraphed \$1,000 as his personal contribution to the Italian earthquake sufferers to New York.

Paul Morton was the first witness examined in the government's investigation of the so-called Harriman merger, which was begun in New York.

Charles L. Wagner, secretary of the Leclure bureau, Chicago, which has charge of the public appearance of Mrs. Florence Maybrick, entered a vigorous denial of a report that he and Mrs. Maybrick are to wed.

The Omaha and Lincoln commercial clubs presented memorials to congress asking substantial allowance for postal clerks, more pay for federal judges and for a tariff commission.

The Supreme court handed down a decision refusing to review the government's appeal from the United States court of appeals reversing the fine of \$20,000,000 against the Standard Oil company.

Italians of Omaha held a meeting and started a fund for sufferers at home. Mayor Dahlman addressed them expressing sympathy.

The election of senators whose term will expire nine years hence were made in France. They resulted in an endorsement of the government.

The suit of Count Boni de Castellane for custody of his children was settled in favor of their mother, formerly Miss Anna Gould, of New York.

Archbishop Ireland, speaking of the Italian earthquake, says: "It is simply a terrible thing. One must be near the scene of any disaster to have any conception of it. It is becoming clearer every day that nothing ever occurred in Italy to equal this earthquake."

Gregory county (S. D.) towns are in a contest for the land office which is to be moved from Mitchell, S. D. Congressional delegation divided on the subject.

It is now believed that the loss of life in Italy and Sicily by earthquake will reach 200,000.

Washington.

The house committee, headed by Perkins, reported in favor of tabling President Roosevelt's secret service message and a hot debate followed, after which recommendations of the committee were adopted.

A census of the crippled and deformed children of the United States may be taken by the government. Senator Burkett has reintroduced his amendment for such a census.

Senator Burkett has received numerous petitions from citizens of Genoa, asking him to use his influence to prevent the abandonment of the Genoa Indian school. Commissioner Leupp recommended closing the school, owing to the decrease in attendance.

Congressman Kinkaid has recommended John M. Dietel for postmaster at Adair, Sheridan county, vice C. S. Rucker, resigned. Also the appointment of Archie B. Wynes as postmaster at Oshkosh, vice August Sudman, resigned.

The house passed bills authorizing the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad company and the Lackawanna Railroad company to construct a bridge across the Delaware river between Columbia, N. J., and Stateford, Pa., and providing for the granting of leaves of absence with pay for thirty days to employees on the Panama canal injured in line of duty.

Drastic measures were considered by the Perkins special committee of the house appointed to recommend action in defense of the body in reply to the criticism made by the president in his annual message in referring to secret service legislation. When the matter comes before the house an interesting debate is anticipated.

Suffering Italy continues to occupy the thoughts of most of the citizens and officials in Washington. Aroused to a full consciousness of the appalling disaster which swallowed up so many lives, the one aim is to get relief to the stricken people as speedily as possible. Money is pouring into the offices of the American National Red Cross and is being telegraphed abroad as fast as received.

Senator McCumber of North Dakota is preparing to press his bill for federal grain inspection. He hopes to get it passed by the senate this winter. Secretary Wilson is earnestly in favor of it and says that unless conditions with respect to grain shipped abroad by this country improve, America's export grain trade will be seriously affected.

A large number of prominent army and navy officers will retire for age in the course of the year 1909. Among them will be Lieut. Col. Levy P. Hunt of the Second cavalry, who will retire August 7.

Personal.

People of Georgia ask for a chief executive that is fond of possum.

Anson R. Flower, New York's banker philanthropist, died at Watertown.

Sam Blythe, the Washington correspondent, votes Will Hayward of Nebraska the handsomest man in public life.

Dr. George E. Howard of Nebraska university contends that divorcees are a good thing.

President-elect Taft will deliver a message to the whole south at a banquet at Atlanta January 15.

Judge Taft regrets that unfair interpretation has been placed on the withdrawal of his brother from the Ohio contest. His action was not at the suggestion of the president-elect or Chairman Hitchcock.

Mr. Pool, of Johnson county, was chosen speaker of the lower house of the Nebraska legislature.

Italians in this country are raising much money for the earthquake sufferers.

A State Chapter of the Daughters of 1812 was organized at Omaha.

AS TO THE CABINET

IT IS ALL GUESS WORK UNTIL THE FOURTH OF MARCH.

FORECASTERS CAN GET BUSY

Review of the Names Being Mentioned and the Probabilities of Their Final Selection.

Washington—The decision of President-elect Taft to refrain from making public the names of men he has selected to be members of his cabinet, with the exception of Senator Knox and Frank H. Hitchcock, has had the effect to incite much gossip. With no possibility of an official contradiction confronting them, would-be cabinet builders are now free to exercise their ingenuity and imagination to the full and are not slow to avail themselves of the opportunity. Without doubt the many names which are being brought forward for the various portfolios are those of at least a few successful aspirants, but it is decidedly unsafe to attempt to indicate who they are. The most that can be done is to accept probabilities as such, simply because any attempt to make positive statement would be unwarranted in the light of last night's announcement from Augusta.

The only possibility of accurate information transpiring regarding the seven vacant cabinet positions lies in the promise of the friends of some of the selected persons to discuss the matter, for it is hardly conceivable that any public man would decide upon the acceptance of a cabinet office without conferring with his personal friends.

Yet Senator Knox, on his return from Augusta Sunday, rather grimly hinted that any candidate who either personally or through his friends betrayed the confidence of the president-elect might find that after all he was not on the list and this statement may have some effect in restraining cabinet talk by people who are really advised.

But following in the line of probabilities certain names, by dint of repetition in connection with cabinet vacancies without developing details, have come to be regarded as feasible. Such, for instance, is that of George W. Wickersham, the New York lawyer and legal partner of Henry Taft, the president-elect's brother. He has been consistently mentioned in connection with the attorney generalship. But it should be remembered that Senator Knox is a potent influence with the president-elect and that he has a feeling of the highest regard and admiration for the abilities of Solicitor General Hoyt, with whom he was in intimate relations during his own occupancy of the office of attorney general. It easily may be believed that he would urge Hoyt's selection should it develop that Wickersham's appointment was found to be inexpedient in the very fact of his business connections with the president-elect's brother.

The fact being conceded that the Pacific coast is to be represented in the new cabinet causes great weight to be given to the suggestion that Richard A. Ballinger is to be the lucky man and his name has been connected with the secretaryship of the interior, although it is well known that the Pacific coast people would prefer that the naval portfolio come to their section, because of their important navy yard interests.

CHARLES P. TAFT AT AUGUSTA

Will Remain with His Brother Until He Starts for Panama.

Augusta, Ga.—Charles P. Taft with his wife and daughter, arrived here Sunday night and were met at the station by the president-elect and Mrs. Taft. They expect to remain here until the president-elect leaves for Panama. At that time the Taft family may go to Cuba, though their plans are said not to be matured.

Panama Treaties Signed.

Panama.—President Obaldia has received advice from the Panama legation at Washington, saying that on midnight Saturday night the final drafts of the treaties between the United States and Colombia and the United States and Panama were signed. As the national assembly is now in session, it is probable that these treaties, which cover questions in dispute between Panama and Colombia will be submitted for approval before adjournment.

Ten-Year-Old A Bank Robber.

Joplin, Mo.—Charged with looting the Noel State bank of Noel, forty miles south of here, Oliver P. Billings, aged 10, was arrested here by Sheriff Carnell, culminating a five weeks' case. The note entered the bank through a rear window while Caier Kissler was at his noonday meal in the Kissler's when a cash drawer of its entire contents, \$320.

Trade With Panama.

Washington—Six million dollars of imports from Panama and \$6,000,000 of exports to Panama represent the trade of that republic with the United States during the past five years, according to a bulletin by the bureau of statistics made public a few days ago. While it is contended that a large part of the \$6,000,000 represented merchandise sent to Panama, it is stated that a larger part than would perhaps be supposed has been for other purposes especially food stuffs and clothing.

THE ICY MIT.



NIGHT RIDERS ARE CONVICTED

SIX GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

Two Escape with Twenty Years for Second Degree Murder—Death Probable for Others.

Union City, Tenn.—With a verdict of guilty in varying degree, the jury in the night rider trials reported at 8:45 p. m. Thursday night. The 12 men found Garrett Johnson, Tid Burton, Boy Ransom, Fred Finlon, Arthur Clear and Sam Applewhite guilty of murder in the first degree with mitigating circumstances, and Bud Morris and Bob Huffman, the other defendants, guilty of murder in the second degree, and fixed their punishment at 20 years in the penitentiary.

The punishment of the six first named defendants was left to the court, and may be death or life imprisonment. The court probably will sentence the six first named defendants to death.

The defendants took the verdict with calmness, as they had been expecting it since the closing of the arguments. Attorney Pierce turned to them when it was announced, and said: "We will tear this case to pieces in the supreme court."

The state expected a verdict of first degree murder in all eight cases, and was visibly disappointed. Bob Huffman, one of the men to escape with 20 years, is the man who, according to the confession of Frank Fehrlinger, fired the shot which killed Capt. Ranken as he was being drawn up by the rope.

When the jury's readiness to report was announced the military quietly surrounded the courthouse and a detail of soldiers, with revolver holsters open, was deployed around the walls of the courtroom, but there was no demonstration. The prisoners were quickly handcuffed and under military escort taken to prison. The verdict is considered a compromise one, and no trouble is feared by the authorities.

TOOK MONEY TO BUILD HOME.

Embezzling Granite City Banker Sentenced to Five Years.

Springfield, Ill.—Pleading guilty to the charge of embezzlement and giving as an excuse that he took the money to build a home for himself and his bride, Wesley A. Martin, formerly a Granite City banker, Friday was sentenced to five years in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., by Judge J. Otis Humphrey in the United States district court. Martin, prior to his arrest, was a social leader of Granite City. He took \$20,000 of the bank's money. The shortage was made good. His wife has stood by him, and she was at his side when he was sentenced.

Accused of Stealing Bank Funds.

Philadelphia.—Dewitt C. Hill, a well-known insurance broker of this city, was arrested yesterday by the United States authorities, charged upon the affidavit of Bank Examiner Fields, who accuses him with misappropriating funds of the Boyertown National bank in co-operation with Morris L. Hartman, the cashier, and being responsible for the failure of the institution in June, 1907.

Big Mail Robbery in Paris.

Paris.—A mail sack containing bonds, etc., worth \$200,000 was stolen from a delivery wagon in the Chaussee d'Antin in broad daylight yesterday. The police have not the slightest clue to the thieves.

Bury 1,300 Quake Victims.

Messina.—A most impressive funeral ceremony was witnessed near here Thursday when Archbishop Barrigo made his way through the ruins of the city to the cemetery at Mare Grosso and blessed a grave 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep, containing 1,300 bodies. The dead were piled one on top of the other and the bodies covered with quicklime. The prelate was followed to the cemetery by a large gathering of survivors whose lamentations mingled with the Latin words of the service and benediction.

SLAP AT PRESIDENT

HOUSE LAYS SECRET SERVICE MESSAGES ON TABLE.

DEVOTES DAY TO CENSURE

Won't Receive Any More "Disrespectful" Communications—Roosevelt Tells Alleged Facts Disclosed by Tillman Probe.

Washington—After having made him the target all day for criticism, with here and there words of commendation, the house of representatives Friday night by a vote of 212 to 35 rebuked the president by tabling so much of his message as reflected on members of congress regarding the secret service detectives, and also declaring it to be the sense of the house that they shall decline to con-



Senator Tillman.

consider any communication from any source which is not in its own judgment respectful.

Senator Culberson's resolution instructing the committee on the judiciary to report whether the president had authority to permit the absorption of the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company by the United States Steel Corporation was adopted by the senate.

Tells About Tillman Probe.

President Roosevelt Friday night made public the details of an investigation by post office inspectors and secret service agents of Senator Tillman's connection with an alleged "land grab" in Oregon. As he presents the evidence to Senator Hale, in response to the latter's request to the heads of the various executive departments for a statement of the operations of the secret service, the president undertakes to show:

That Mr. Tillman used his influence as a senator in an effort to force the government to compel a railroad corporation to relinquish its control of land grants from the United States in order that he and his family and his secretary, J. B. Knight, might profit through the purchase of some of the land;

That the senator used his government franking privilege in numerous instances for the conduct of private business.

Comparatively few senators were favored with the opportunity of reading the president's report to Senator Hale, but those who did read the report took a serious view of it, although most of the senators refused to believe that Senator Tillman had ever done anything in violation of his oath as a senator.

Dean Howard Poisoned.

Des Moines, Ia.—Dr. Howe, special examiner appointed by Coroner Iver G. Newlen to look into the sudden and mysterious death of Dean Frederick Howard of Drake university, Thanksgiving day, reported Wednesday night that the distinguished professor was a victim of poison. Quantities of morphine were found in the intestines. The report says that there are marks pointing to asphyxiation. As to who administered the poison or whether it was self-administered, is not known.

Accused of \$1,000,000 Forgeries.

Oakland, Cal.—F. B. Signor, real estate promoter and mining broker of this city, was arrested on complaint sworn to by James H. Murray, a multi-millionaire banker and mining man of Montana, Salt Lake and Seattle, but more recently of Monterey, Cal., charging Signor with forgeries aggregating nearly \$1,000,000. Signor is alleged to have forged Murray's name to four notes of \$100,000 each, as well as to numerous other negotiable documents.

Afghan Army Invades Persia.

Teheran.—There is a persistent rumor in circulation here to the effect that 6,000 Afghans with six guns have crossed the Selistan frontier into Persia. The Selistan frontier is the junction where eastern Persia and southwestern Afghanistan meet.

Courthouse Sold for Two Dollars.

Kankakee, Ill.—The Kankakee county courthouse, built in 1871, was sold at auction Friday for two dollars to a local contractor. It will be replaced by a \$150,000 building.

NOT GUILTY OF ERB MURDER

MRS. ERB AND MRS. BEISEL ARE ACQUITTED BY JURY.

Defendants Scream and Fall Into Each Other's Arms When the Verdict is Announced.

Media, Pa.—Mrs. M. Florence Erb, wife of Capt. J. Clayton Erb, who was well known in political circles all over Pennsylvania, and her sister, Mrs. Catharine Beisel, who were charged with the sensational murder of Capt. Erb on the night of October 6, 1908, walked from the Delaware county courthouse Thursday free women. After the jury had been out nearly 18 hours it brought in a verdict of not guilty in the case of each woman, both of whom had been charged separately and jointly with shooting the captain. Thus ends a trial that has held the interest of the people of the country for more than a week during which much scandalous evidence was brought out, some of which did not reach the reading public.

Judge Johnson took his seat just as the jury was escorted into the room. There was absolute silence. Then the court clerk went through the usual proceeding of asking whether the jury had agreed and the foreman announced the verdict of not guilty in each case.

There was a second's pause, a dead silence, then, with a half scream, the sisters fell in each other's arms. Everybody in the court room was on his or her feet and women wept as they looked at the pathetic scene.

Surrounded by Wild Crowd. In an instant the women were surrounded by friends and their attorneys and overwhelmed with congratulations.

Harry Beisel threw his arms around his wife and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Erb, and tears came to their eyes. This scene lasted several minutes.

The jury was not polled, and after Judge Johnson had thanked them, Mrs. Erb hurried from her seat to Dickinson, the foreman, and wrung his hand. Mrs. Beisel did likewise, and they went down the line of the 12 men. Tears stood in the eyes of most of them and the thanks of the women were sobbed out in broken syllables.

EXILE CAUSE OF DOWNFALL?

Overthrow of Yuan Shi Kai Blamed on Ousted Reformer.

New York.—Special cable advices from Penang, Straits Settlement, says that Kang-Yu-Wei, China's exiled reformer and leader of the Chinese Empire Reform association, claims credit for the overthrow of



Yuan Shi Kai.

Yuan Shi Kai, the eminent Chinese statesman, as member of the grand council.

According to the dispatch Kang-Yu-Wei charges Yuan Shi Kai with complicity in the death of the emperor. He is quoted as follows:

"We know Yuan Shi Kai paid a physician 40,000 taels (about \$33,000) to poison the emperor. Yuan Shi Kai, seeing the dowager empress' death impending, feared retribution at the hands of the emperor for his betrayal a decade ago which forced my flight and resulted in the dowager empress seizing the reins of control."

Kill Montreal Ice Carnival.

Montreal, Can.—The end of the winter ice carnivals of Montreal, long a feature of the winter days of Canada, was indicated by the action of representatives of all the Canadian and many eastern roads in a meeting at Montreal. Feeling that the continuation of the country mainly during the winter time does not operate to the best advantage of the country, the railroad men have decided not to grant reduced rates for the annual ice carnival or other similar events.

Object to a Larger Navy.

Boston.—A remonstrance against further increase of the United States navy was sent to congress Thursday by the board of directors of the American Peace society. It was signed on behalf of the board by Robert Treat Paine, president, and Benjamin A. Trueblood, secretary of the society.

Woman Freed of Murder Charge.

Newark, N. J.—Mrs. Josephine Amoroso, who had been on trial here on a charge of having murdered Michael Martellano on August 5 last was acquitted Friday night. The woman's defense was that she shot the man in defense of her honor.

Dates for the Confederate Veterans.

Memphis, Tenn.—By a unanimous vote the executive committee having in charge arrangements for this year's confederate reunion Friday decided on June 1, 2 and 3.