



On April 8 the federal grand jury of Portland, Ore., returned fifteen indictments of well known men of Oregon and Washington, charging them with conspiracy to defraud the government out of certain lands and charging four of them with perjury in connection with final proofs.

The announcement that Senator Burton will shortly resign his seat in the senate has been denied by former State Treasurer Grimes of Kansas. He says that Mr. Burton will not resign until the case against him has been decided.

Senator Platt, who was stricken with pneumonia a week ago, is said to be in a very serious condition.

General Corbin, in obedience to instructions from Washington, has ordered a general court martial to convene at Manila for the trial of Major Frank Carrington, who is charged with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. It will be remembered that Major Carrington was recently convicted of the misappropriation of funds of the Philippine government and sentenced to forty years in prison. He has appealed from that sentence.

The indictment against Maxim Gorky, in which he is referred to as the "artisan of Nizhni Novgorod, Alexis Maximoff Meschkeff," charges him with writing a document accusing the czar and Mirsky with responsibility for the recent massacre and that he called on all citizens of Russia to enter into the struggle with the aristocracy. The indictment states that Gorky admitted writing the document referred to with a view of sending it for publication among the newspapers of St. Petersburg. His trial will be held behind closed doors.

Mrs. Roosevelt and the four children, who have been cruising around the Florida coast for a week, have returned to Washington.

James Rudolph Garfield, commissioner of corporations, and the author of the beef trust report, arrived in Kansas April 9, and gave out the following statement in regard to his proposed investigation of the Standard Oil trust: "I have no news to give out about the proposed investigation. I have just reached the scene and must first get my bearings. I want to learn something of the situation in Kansas before I complete my plans. I will have a conference with Governor Hoch tomorrow on the matter. There is no telling how long it will take to make the investigation. I have three men from my bureau with me and we will all get busy at once and stay that way until the case is closed up."

During a fire in the Sipe theatre which was caused by the ignition of moving picture films, George Armstrong, 17 years old, was fatally injured, and several persons severely burned. The picture operator threw the audience into a panic by shouting, "Lookout, everybody, the theatre is afire." In an instant 600 people be-

came a rushing mass of humanity and that more were not hurt is due to the excellent system of fire escapes and exits in the theatre. In the excitement, young Armstrong jumped through a window forty feet from the ground.

It is announced that only American money is lacking to realize the century old drama of diplomats for a capitol at The Hague where the nations of the world might meet on common ground for the discussion of international arbitration. It is said that when this money from America is provided the institution will be assured.

Artemas Pitcairn, aged 56, vice president and controller of the Pittsburg plate Glass company and one of the best known business men in the country died at his home in Pittsburg, Pa., April 9.

The funeral of Sergeant George Wachter, who assisted in raising the first American flag at Manila after the landing of a detachment from the Olympia, was held at New York, April 9. Mr. Wachter was killed by Moros on May 8, 1904, but his body did not arrive until a few days ago. The body was escorted to the National Military cemetery with the honors of war.

Miss Howard Wheadon of Huntsville, Ala., the well known southern poet and artist, is dead.

David Braham, the well-known song composer, whose productions have been sung all over the country, is dead at New York. He was 67 years of age.

Frederick A. Stock has been appointed director of the Chicago orchestra to succeed the late Theodore Thomas, the founder of the organization who died several months ago. President Stock was the assistant of Mr. Thomas for five months before his death.

The king of Greece has appointed the emperor of Germany an admiral of the Greek navy in return for Emperor William's courtesy in making him an admiral of the German navy.

Mr. Meyer, the new American ambassador to Russia, presented his credentials to Emperor Nicholas April 12.

Fifteen store buildings were destroyed by fire at Lowell, Mich., April 11. The fire was caused by an explosion in the gasoline store house of R. B. Boylan's hardware store.

Father Martin, general of the Society of Jesus, whose arm was amputated a few days ago is said to be in a serious condition, complications having resulted from the operation.

Mrs. Carrie Nation has signified her intention to go to Oklahoma and help in the work of inserting a prohibition clause in the constitution when Oklahoma secures statehood.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Paris, April 10, says: "Theobus Charlatan, the famous artist, describing his recent visit to the United States, says a prominent American ordered a portrait of his wife to cost \$5,000, and when it was completed the American praised the artistic beauty of the work, but said it was not a correct portrait of his wife. Charlatan says he suspected a plan to secure a reduction in the price, whereupon he took a palette knife, gave the portrait two cross slits,

completely destroying it, and remarked: "That is the way I settle small differences."

While being initiated into the Knights of Pythias at Little Rock, Ark., Ebenezer Runyan was shot and instantly killed. An officer of the lodge was officiating at the initiation and it is said used a revolver supposed to have contained blank cartridges, but which really contained loaded cartridges. The bullet entered Runyan's brain. The lodge broke up in consternation.

Invitations have been received by every veterans' association to participate in a two days' greeting to the American soldiers, of the north and south, contemplating a meeting of the veterans who opposed each other in the '60's. The meeting will be held in Washington, D. C., May 11 and 12.

General B. Dornblazer of Fredonia, Kas., who served four years in the union army during the civil war and was brevetted major general, is dead, aged 77 years.

The New York hippodrome, the greatest amusement house in the world opened April 12. There are 5,200 seats in the house and every one was taken at the initial performance.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Topeka, Kan., April 12, says: "Judge Pollock of the United States district court decided today that there was war between the United States and China during the march of the allied troops on Peking during the Boxer outbreak in 1900. The case was that of Fred Hamilton, a private soldier, serving a sentence at the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth for killing Corporal Charles Cooper while the army was in China. Hamilton was convicted by court martial. He appealed to the court for release on the ground that there was no war between the two countries and, that therefore, the court martial had no power to convict him. The case will be appealed to the United States supreme court.

Referring to the letter received from President Castro of Venezuela, the Associated Press says that it fills the description conveyed by Minister Bowen in his cablegram as to the form of expression which he declared to be "insolent," adding: "While the officials here decline to make public at this stage the text of President Castro's reply to Minister Bowen's arbitration proposal, it may be stated that there was nothing personal to the American minister in President Castro's statement. So that if it should be eventually held to be undiplomatic and even rude, then the injury will be sustained by the state department rather than by the minister, and therefore it is the former alone that will be concerned. This is particularly true of an inquiry from the Venezuelan government as to whether the United States presumed to question the integrity of the Venezuelan courts, the inquiry being couched in rather vigorous language."

Prices of beef all over the country are going up, owing, it is claimed by the packers, to the fact that breeders of stock and handlers of range cattle have been holding back on supply until the grass of the range becomes nourishing.

Four indictments were returned against three employes of the packing houses by the grand jury sitting in the beef trust case at Chicago. Joseph Weissenbach, attorney for the Schwarzhild and Sulzberger company was also indicted. The indictment alleges that a subpoena was issued for Fish on March 3; that it was given to Bach for service; that the four men had arranged for the departure of Fish from this country to Canada, and as-

sisted him in leaving the jurisdiction of the court.

The interior department has given out the following statement with regard to the opinion of Comptroller Racewell on the subject of railroad rebates: "Recent articles have appeared in the public press with reference to certain proposed concessions and agreements on the part of railroad companies to transport material for use in the building of dams for the reclamation service under the act of June 17, 1902. It is learned at the interior department that the secretary before taking action, submitted the matter to the assistant attorney general for that department, whose duty it is under the law to advise the secretary on legal questions. The question involved the interstate commerce act. The second section of that act contains certain prohibitions relative to common carriers granting special rates, rebates, etc. Section 22 of the act provides, "That nothing in this act shall apply to the carriage, storage or handling of property free, or at reduced rates, for the United States.

"The opinion was based on the language quoted and, in effect, the secretary was authorized to make an agreement for concessions in favor of the government. This opinion was approved by the secretary, and he says it was the more acceptable to him because it would result in the saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the government. The correctness of this view, however, having been recently questioned by a law officer of another department, although such law officer was without jurisdiction in the matter, the secretary of the interior, out of an abundance of caution, has referred the whole matter to the attorney general, before whom it is now pending for his opinion.

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