

the Bible in his court. Explaining his action he said last night: 'I have removed the Bible from use in my court. It was a desecration to use it there. Lying words from the mouths of witnesses made its use a mockery, a travesty. I now swear or affirm a witness with uplifted hand, but it really has no significance to my mind. I would prefer to let every person tell his or her story without either oath or affirmation, and then do the best I can toward ascertaining the truth.'

Edward Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, and Captain D. M. Brooks, superintendent of foreign mails, have been chosen to represent the United States in the world's postal congress that will convene in Rome during the early part of April.

President A. B. Stickney of the Chicago Great Western railroad, in a speech delivered at a Chicago banquet, indorsed railway rate legislation.

General Joseph Wheeler, famous as a southern cavalry leader in the Civil war and a brigadier-general of the United States army since the war with Spain, died at New York. He was sixty-nine years of age. Death resulted from pneumonia.

The Hepburn railway rate bill has been reported to the house.

A bill has been introduced in the Ohio legislature by Henry M. Hunt of Cincinnati which gives authority to physicians to put to death by an

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anaesthetic persons suffering from a painful and incurable disease or injury.

Postmaster General Cortelyou has recommended to congress the consolidation of the third and fourth classes of mail matter with the present third-class rate of 1 cent for two ounces. This would result in the establishment of a limited parcels post.

Senator Lodge in a speech in the senate defended the foreign policy of President Roosevelt with respect to Santo Domingo and the Moroccan conference.

Indiana friends of George Ade, the author of several comic operas announce that they will make him a candidate for congress.

The will of the late Marshall Field disposed of an estate estimated at one hundred million dollars. Mr. Field gave \$8,000,000 to the Field museum in Chicago and an additional \$3,000,000 for the museum in case his two grand-children die without issue. The widow received one million dollars aside from the ante-nuptial gift. A daughter is given \$6,000,000; the same sum is given to the children of his dead son. Other bequests range from \$3,000 up. It is estimated that the state of Illinois will receive as an inheritance tax from the Marshall Field estate at least one million dollars.

The house committee has reported a pension bill for the fiscal year appropriating \$140,000,000.

The Ohio state senate by a unanimous vote has passed the Rathburn 2 cent railroad fare bill.

Chairman Shonts of the Panama canal commission appeared before a senate committee and admitted that he draws \$12,000 annually from the Clover Leaf railroad, while drawing \$30,000 a year from the federal government.

An Associated Press dispatch under date of Cincinnati, Ohio, January 16, follows: "After plunging through the flames into Charles Henderson's burning house at Montgomery, W. Va., and

safely bringing out one of the children, "Jug" King, a well-known character, was killed by a falling timber as the walls fell outward yesterday. The cottage in which the Hendersons lived caught fire and the flames were in full headway before the family aroused and fled from the burning building. Neighbors who had gathered discovered that one of the children, which both parents thought had been carried out, was still in the house, King plunged through the flames, wrapped the child in a blanket and was almost out of danger when the sides of the house fell outward and he was killed. The child was unhurt."

An Associated Press dispatch under date of Washington, January 26, follows: "By authority of President Roosevelt correspondence was made public at the White House this evening relating to methods alleged to have been employed by attorneys for the beef packers, who are under indictment at Chicago, to influence public opinion in behalf of the packers. The documents consist of a communication made to Attorney General Moody by United States District Attorney Morrison of Chicago, setting out certain alleged facts regarding the payment of a sum of money to a Chicago newspaper reporter by one of the attorneys for the beef packers; a letter from the attorney general to the president transmitting Mr. Morrison's report, expressing the opinion that no way existed under the law by which the alleged offense could be punished, and a letter of the president to the attorney general directing the publication of the correspondence in order that the public might be informed of one situation, at least, which the government has to meet in prosecuting the case against the packers. "An editorial in the Inter-Ocean announces that Mr. Hasler, the accused reporter, has been discharged from the Inter-Ocean's employ.

The funeral services of the late General Joseph Wheeler were held in Brooklyn, Sunday, January 29. Interment was at Washington, Monday.

The Richardson hotel at Lowell, Mass., was partially destroyed by fire. A number of lives were lost while many were injured.

Editorials by Commoner Readers

S. H. Newman, El Paso, Texas—New Mexico and Arizona and their peoples are as radically different as the United States and Mexico. Each is fully entitled to statehood and each would make a splendid state; but to unite them in one state would be a great wrong. Neither of them wants statehood in this shape; but it is just barely possible that New Mexico might vote for it rather than remain longer a territory. But if she could vote on the alternative proposition of joint or single statehood the latter would carry overwhelmingly—probably by a vote of five or ten to one. And as for Arizona, it is simply blotting her out of existence to unite her to New Mexico. She would prefer to continue a territory indefinitely and would so vote by a nine-tenths majority. New Mexico has much the larger vote, and if the question of no statehood or joint statehood is to be settled by the combined vote of the two territories, it is just possible that it may carry. If so, the canvass of the returns will show that not five per cent of the Arizona votes will be for it. To New Mexico the jointure does not appear quite so outrageous, because she will be sure to dominate the new state. But to Arizona it means political death. The east wants to make Arizona republican by tacking it on to New Mexico and at the same time defeat the sending of four

senators to Washington. It is the worst piece of gerrymander I have ever known. I have lived in New Mexico or on its borders for nearly forty years and know whereof I speak. I have been for that length of time more intimately connected with that territory than any other spot and know the people from the Colorado line to El Paso. It is not their wish to be so united, and if they accept it at all, it is because hope deferred has made them heartsick for statehood. Since we have denied liberty to the Filipinos and assisted in crushing it out of two republics in South Africa, it is hard to predict what a government by the republican party may or may not do. But before the Spanish war such an outrage would have aroused the American people from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Are the people of Arizona now to be denied the right of self-government? I would hardly blame them for stuffing ballot boxes, intimidation, purchasing of votes in New Mexico, or anything else within the bounds of reason. Even armed opposition and resistance would not be very blamable if there were the remotest prospect of defeating the measure by such means. I enclose an editorial from the El Paso Herald on this subject. The Herald is the leading republican paper in this section. To the people of the two territories there is no politics in the question what

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John G. Wooley, Editor

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