

PRESIDENT'S REPLY

ROOSEVELT DENIES CHARGES OF ALLEGED DOUBLE DEALING.

Issues Statement Anent Conference at White House at Which Former Senator William E. Chandler Acted as Intermediary.

Washington, May 15.—The sensational rate bill incident in the senate Saturday, during which Mr. Tillman, on the authority of former Senator Chandler, made statements regarding the president's course in connection with pending railroad rate legislation, some of which statements were denied by Senator Lodge on behalf of the president, had its sequel when an official statement was issued by the white house, giving an account of the subject on the part of the president and Attorney General Moody. The statement comprised two letters, one from the president to Senator Allison and the other from Attorney General Moody to the president. The president says: "In no case, either in the case of Mr. Chandler or any one else, was there the slightest opportunity for any honest misconception of my attitude or any belief that I had pledged myself specifically to one and only one amendment or set of amendments, or that I would not be satisfied with any amendment which preserved the essential features of the Hepburn bill as it came from the house."

Not Trying to Dictate.

The president says that many amendments, including the so-called Long, Overman and Spooner amendments, he had said he should be entirely satisfied to have them in the bill, and suggested modifications as to other amendments, but "as to none (of the amendments) did I ever say, either to Mr. Chandler or to any one else, that I should insist upon having them in the bill as a condition of my approval," and that, on the contrary, he (the president) was careful to state that he was not trying to dictate any particular program of action. The president says the statement made to Senator Chandler was the same, in substance, as those made to Mr. Allison and other senators of both parties. He says he was asked to see Chandler as the representative of Tillman, in charge of the bill, and that the conferences Moody had with Senators Tillman and Bailey were such as had been held with many other senators to determine the phraseology and discuss the effect of amendments proposed by them. The president states that he became convinced that it was impossible for senators, "with advantage," to use him as an intermediary and suggested to all to whom he spoke that they communicate with Senator Allison, whose purposes and the president's were "identical." The president says that his own opinion that the Allison amendment in no way changed the court review as provided in the original Hepburn bill is also the opinion of Attorney General Moody and Secretaries Root and Taft. The attorney general's letter gives an account, at the president's request, of the conferences Mr. Moody had at the president's request with Senators Tillman and Bailey regarding the court review feature. He says he advised the president that he should not at any stage become finally committed beyond recall to any form of language in any part of the bill, and the president affirmed the wisdom of that course. He reviews the discussion of interlocutory injunctions, and concludes that there was nothing in the conversations between the senators and himself which bound the president to any particular amendment.

Tillman Confers With Chandler.

Senator Tillman talked freely with a number of his callers about the statement issued by President Roosevelt. He expressed his preference, however, not to be quoted, pointing out that whatever he wished to say on the subject of the statement he would say on the floor of the senate. He discussed the president's statement with former Senator Chandler, and he urged Mr. Chandler to issue a statement giving a full history of the whole matter. Senator Tillman wanted the fact to go into the newspapers that he did not in any way initiate the negotiations with the president regarding the Democratic support for the railroad rate bill and that he did not ask Senator Chandler to go to the white house.

Former Senator Chandler refused to discuss the statement from the white house. He indicated that he did not expect to issue a statement at this time bearing on the subject. He also indicated that he was anxious to have railroad rate legislation enacted. He said he did not go to the white house as an emissary of Mr. Tillman, but that he went there in response to the president's invitation.

Rockefeller's Pastor Succeeds Harper. New York, May 15.—The American says: John D. Rockefeller's pastor, the Rev. D. Rufus P. Johnston, whose resignation from the pastorate of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church has

caused much comment, upon his return from his contemplated European trip, will become president of the University of Chicago, which position became vacant by the death of Dr. Harper.

Sunday School Convention Date.

Louisville, May 15.—The local executive committee having in charge the twelfth international Sunday school convention fixed the dates for holding the convention in this city at June 18-23, 1908.

OPENS WAR ON REBATING.

President Decides to Begin Prosecution of Oil Trust and Railroads.

Washington, May 16.—After an important conference at the white house, in which the president, Attorney General Moody and Commissioner of Corporations Garfield participated, the announcement was authorized that the department of justice will proceed without further delay to prosecute the Standard Oil company and a number of railroad companies on charges of violating the anti-rebate law.

Such was the intention of President Roosevelt when Commissioner Garfield submitted to him two weeks ago his report giving the results of his investigation into the Standard Oil monopoly. Unfortunately, Mr. Garfield had submitted the information he had collected to the Standard Oil company, which it was feared might enable the officials of the corporation to set up a plea of immunity.

The administration also had to consider the effect of the action of the Standard Oil company and railroads in discontinuing to a considerable extent the practice of rebates which followed the initiation of the Garfield investigation.

Finally, it was necessary for the president to receive from the attorney general a report as to the chances of government success. The preliminary examination which Mr. Moody has completed establishes that it will be possible to convict not only the Standard Oil, but some of the railroads with which it conspired to destroy its competitors by obtaining lower freight rates.

FAMILY OF NINE MURDERED.

Bodies of Victims Cremated in Their Home Near Pensacola, Fla.

Pensacola, Fla., May 15.—One of the most horrible crimes in the history of this state was committed ten miles north of Milton last night. An itinerant preacher named Ackerman, his wife and seven children, the eldest about fourteen years old, were killed and their bodies cremated in their home, which was burned by the assassins. The crime was discovered in the morning by parties with whom Ackerman had an appointment. They found the house in ruins and the charred bodies of Ackerman and the eight other members of the family scattered about among the wreckage. Examination by physicians showed that Ackerman and his wife had been struck on the head with some blunt instrument, their skulls being crushed. The citizens of Milton have raised more than \$1,000, which will be offered as a reward for the apprehension of the assassins. Ackerman is not known to have had any enemies.

More Murders at Crawford.

Lincoln, May 16.—A dispatch from Crawford, Neb., says four are now dead in the riots between white men and negro soldiers from Fort Robinson. William Murphy (white) was killed at midnight by a squad of soldiers guarding the jail at Crawford. Murphy, with others, tried to form a lynching party to gain possession of the negro soldier who killed Arthur Moss, the night watchman.

Train Robbers Captured.

Vancouver, B. C., May 16.—A dispatch from Kamloops says that the train robbers who held up the Canadian Pacific train last week have been captured. One man was wounded in the fight with mounted police. The latter surrounded the bandits and compelled their surrender.

Shoots Four Men While Crazy Drunk.

Atlanta, Ga., May 16.—James H. Clark, night telegraph operator at Chamblee, a village near here, killed one man and seriously injured three while mentally unbalanced from drink. Later Clark was shot and killed by a posse one-half mile from Chamblee.

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISIONS

Features of the Day's Trading and Closing Quotations.

Chicago, May 15.—Rains throughout Kansas and other portions of the south had a weakening effect today on the local wheat market. At the close wheat for July delivery showed a net loss of 1/8c. Corn and oats were unchanged. Provisions were up 2 1/2c. Closing prices: Wheat—May, 82 1/2c; July, 80 1/2c; Sept., 78 1/2c; Corn—May, 48c; July, 46c; Sept., 44c; Oats—May, 33 1/2c; July, 32c; Sept., 29 1/2c; Pork—May, \$15.50; July, \$15.00; Lard—May, \$8.32 1/2; July, \$8.62 1/2; Ribs—May, \$8.72 1/2; July, \$8.85 1/2; 87 1/2c.

South Omaha Live Stock.

South Omaha, May 15.—Cattle—Receipts, 5,500; steady to stronger; native steers,

\$4.25@5.65; cows and heifers, \$3.25@4.50; western steers, \$3.50@4.65; canners, \$1.75@3.00; stockers and feeders, \$3.25@4.75; calves, \$3.00@5.75; bulls, stags, etc., \$3.50@4.00. Hogs—Receipts, 8,500; shade to 5c lower; heavy, \$6.25@6.35; mixed, \$6.27 1/2@6.30; light, \$6.25@6.30; pigs, \$5.00@6.00; bulk of sales, \$6.27 1/2@6.30. Sheep—Receipts, 4,000; 106 lbs. higher; yearlings, \$5.50@6.00; wethers, \$5.40@5.85; ewes, \$4.50@5.40; lambs, \$5.75@6.40.

Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, May 15.—Cattle—Receipts, 4,000; steady; common to prime steers, \$4.00@6.50; cows, \$4.25@5.25; heifers, \$2.75@5.35; bulls, \$3.00@4.25; calves, \$2.75@6.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.75@5.10. Hogs—Receipts, 13,000; weak; choice to prime heavy, \$6.50@6.62 1/2; medium to good heavy, \$6.50@6.55; packing, \$6.00@6.57 1/2. Sheep—Receipts, 16,000; steady; sheep, \$4.75@6.10; yearlings, \$5.85@6.20; lambs, \$5.75@7.65.

Kansas City Live Stock.

Kansas City, May 15.—Cattle—Receipts, 14,800; steady to 10c lower; native steers, \$4.25@5.50; western fed steers, \$3.75@5.35; stockers and feeders, \$3.00@4.50; cows, \$2.50@4.00; heifers, \$3.50@5.25; calves, \$3.00@6.00. Hogs—Receipts, 19,000; weak to 5c lower; top, \$6.40; bulk of sales, \$6.25@6.37 1/2; heavy, \$6.35@6.40; packers, \$6.30@6.40; pigs and light, \$5.45@6.32 1/2. Sheep—Receipts, 6,700; strong; lambs, \$6.00@7.50; sheep and yearlings, \$4.75@6.25.

VOTE DOWN ALL AMENDMENTS.

Senate Takes Up Eighth Section of Railroad Rate Bill.

Washington, May 15.—The session of the senate passed without an exciting incident and without the adoption of a single amendment to the railroad rate bill, notwithstanding that measure was under consideration practically all the time from the hour of convening until adjournment. The most characteristic feature of the day was the rejection of amendments. This was accomplished either by direct vote or by the process of laying on the table, and one followed another in rapid succession. Among the propositions thus adversely disposed of were several intended to fix the liability of railroad companies for injury to employees. The presentation of provisions intended to accomplish this purpose had the effect of bringing out a practically authoritative statement that the committee on interstate commerce will report the independent house bill on that subject, which is now pending before it.

When the senate adjourned the eighth section of the bill regulating the personnel of the interstate commerce commission was under consideration, and adjournment was secured at a somewhat earlier hour than usual in the hope that there could be prepared a more acceptable provision covering that subject than has heretofore been presented. Senator Lodge offered a substitute for the pending section, providing for a new commission of nine members, one from each of the judicial circuits, but indicated a willingness to accept a modification, suggested by Senator Bailey, requiring the creation of nine transportation districts, with one member from each of them.

The house had under consideration bills relating to the government of the District of Columbia. It completed the bills reorganizing the Washington public school system. The house adjourned in the absence of a quorum, postponing action on the bills under consideration.

REPLY TO SPEECH FROM THRONE

Amnesty for All Prisoners Except Robbers and Murderers Asked.

St. Petersburg, May 15.—Former Premier Witte again took a prominent part in the conferences of members of the council of the empire, successfully insisting that the adoption of a reply to the speech from the throne should be postponed until a regular meeting of the council, at which representatives of the press shall be present in order that the country may be informed as to the arguments advanced on either side. Nevertheless, the projected reply to the speech from the throne, which probably will be adopted, already has been drafted and has been seen by the Associated Press. Though delicately expressed, the reply virtually contains a demand for the amnesty of political prisoners who are not guilty of murder or robbery. In other respects the reply seems to be especially designed to disarm the suspicions that it is to be the role of the upper chamber to block legislation proposed by the lower house.

After expressing the deepest loyalty to the emperor, the reply of the council of the empire contains an unequivocal indorsement of a liberal regime and declaration of the intention to work in harmony with the lower house for large reforms.

SMALL RIOT AT KANSAS CITY.

Two Hundred Negroes Routed by Twelve Policemen After Hot Fight.

Kansas City, May 15.—A fight, in which twelve policemen were pitted against 200 negroes, near Eighteenth street and Waldron avenue, in this

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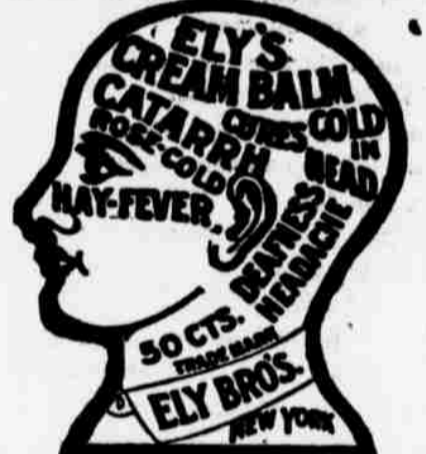
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