

# GREAT GATHERING

CONGRESS OF GOVERNORS AT WHITE HOUSE WAS A SUCCESS.

## THE PARTICIPANTS PLEASSED

Last Day Given to Adoption of Declarations Which Make No Specific Recommendations for Legislation.

Washington, May 14.—The White House was the scene Wednesday of the assemblage of many of the most distinguished figures in the political and industrial life of the nation. It was, perhaps, one of the most notable gatherings that has ever met to consider a great public question in that historic mansion. The occasion was the conference by President Roosevelt with the governors of practically all the states and territories to consider the broad question of conservation of the country's natural resources. The conference will continue through Friday.

President Roosevelt's reception by the governors and 500 distinguished attendants on the conference, as he entered the East room by the side of Vice President Fairbanks, was the first evidence that the assemblage was not to be bound too closely by dignity. It was precisely 11 o'clock when the president stepped upon the platform and when the presidential honors by the Marine band had been given, the governors stood up, clapped their hands and then lustily cheered. The president took up a small gavel and the history making conference was on.

When the president had taken his place on the right of the platform with the vice president on his left, the Rev. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the senate, arose, and leaning with one arm on the back of the president's chair, read a portion of the Scriptures descriptive of the promised land and then pronounced a feeling invocation in which he asked heaven's help in the deliberations to be had. At the conclusion of the invocation the president, without preliminary ceremony, began his address to the governors.

It was at the afternoon session that the real work of the conference began, and the session which opened at 2:45 and lasted until 5:05 o'clock, proceeded at a rate that broke all speed regulations. It developed first that the president finds it impossible to devote his entire time to the conference meetings. He will, as he did Wednesday, call to order each session, and then designate a governor to preside. This honor fell Wednesday on Gov. Noel of Mississippi, with the intimation from the president that Thursday he should call upon Gov. Johnson of Minnesota.

It was from the utterances of Mr. Carnegie and those who followed him that the gravity of the problems to be considered were given weight. Two hundred years of coal supply and half that of iron was the prediction of the famous ironmaster. These facts, he bore home with detail, but good naturedly hinted that he would be disputed "by my friend, J. J. Hill."

Gov. Johnson of Minnesota made a lively talk in which he took issue with Mr. Carnegie's statement that wasteful methods prevailed in iron mining in the Lake Superior region and cheerfully assured that gentleman that "Mr. Hill will be glad to take issue with him on some things." Two problems, he said, confronted the conference—one was the conservation of the natural resources, the other the true development of industry. One, he said, was as great as the other.

### Second Day.

Washington, May 15.—Startling was the warnings sounded Thursday at the conference of governors at the White House, of the danger the nation confronts in soil waste and forest depletion. The governors listened and talked and applauded, but took no action. This is left for Friday, the last day of the conference, and a plan is afoot to have the prepared speeches for that day printed in the record without reading in order that the time may be devoted wholly to results. The resolutions committee was in session all day and will report Friday morning. A supplementary meeting of a number of governors followed the day's session, and a committee consisting of the governors of Kentucky, Missouri and Nebraska was appointed to bring in a suggestion for a permanent organization of governors, independent, perhaps, of any other organization which may be formed by the conference. The president opened the morning and afternoon sessions, which were thereafter presided over by Gov. Johnson of Minnesota and Gov. Deneen of Illinois, respectively.

James J. Hill, of the Great Northern, who led a long list of speakers, treated the depletion of the nation's resources in a very serious and impressive way. He presented conditions re-

specting mineral, soil and forest, showing wanton waste in each instance, and drew a picture of political chaos when all were gone, wherein the people would tear down the very pillars of government. Mr. Hill believed such results could and should be avoided by prompt action.

Prof. Chamberlain of the University of Chicago and president of the American Association for Advancement of Science, followed.

Prof. Chamberlain did not have an opportunity to complete his address. His paper was of such a lengthy character that the going announcing the expiration of his time was rung twice. Gov. Johnson then motioned to Prof. Chamberlain that his time was up and recognized R. A. Long of Kansas City as the next speaker. A number of the delegates asked that Prof. Chamberlain be allowed to complete his speech, but it was agreed that the program should be fully complied with and that the speaker be limited as to time.

At the conclusion of Mr. Long's address Gov. Johnson invited Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to speak. "The greatest asset we have in the United States is our soil," said the secretary, "and we are destroying that as promptly as we can, and the older settled parts of the country have made the greatest progress in the destruction of the soil."

The climax of the morning session was produced by Gov. Glenn of North Carolina, who made a vigorous appeal for action by the conference which would impel congress to pass at this session a bill providing for the Appalachian and White Mountain forest reserves. Gov. Glenn advocated joint action by states and the nation on some definite plan for the preservation of the forests, conservation of the waters and the rehabilitation of the soil of the country.

Following the papers on the afternoon program, Governor Folk of Missouri gave his endorsement to what Governor Glenn said about congressional action. He declared he should go home and appoint a forestry commission, and urged all governors to do likewise, expressing the belief that the state legislatures would ratify the action.

### Third Day.

Washington, May 16.—The governors' conference at the White House ended shortly before 1 o'clock Friday after an enthusiastic session which resulted in the adoption of a set of resolutions, broad in scope but effecting no permanent form of organization nor making specific recommendations for legislation by either states or nation. Immediately after adjournment the governors met and appointed a committee, consisting of Gov. Wilson, Kentucky; Folk, Missouri; and Sheldon, Nebraska, to prepare a resolution thanking the president for his initiative in calling the conference, and expressing the pleasure of the delegates that it had been of such a useful character. An agreement also was reached at this meeting whereby an active committee of five will make arrangements for a meeting of governors to be held next year.

Gov. Swanson said that among other matters that would come up at the next conference would be extradition, standardization of laws on marriage and divorce, taxation, police power and other matters.

Friday's session was replete with feature climaxes. President Roosevelt declared himself emphatically as not caring whether action for the conservation of resources or the protection of the rights of the people be taken by the states or by the federal government, so long as action resulted.

Like many of the important events of history, time is needed to reveal the epoch which the president and the governors believe has been made. The accomplishments of the conference which has been in session at the White House for three days cannot be set forth with mathematical precision. That its immediate results are more than ample is the expression of President Roosevelt, who brought it about, and of the governors who participated.

The printed record of the conference, which will later be available to every American home, will be compilation of facts, startling in their meaning, convincing in their universal conclusion that the states must act, and that the states and the nation must co-operate to the end that to the whole people of the nation may accrue the lasting benefit of its natural resources.

Besides the compilation of facts by the experts and the freely expressed opinion of the governors, the conference leaves as its permanent record a thousand words of "declaration." Not a "declaration of independence," but a "declaration of co-operation."

Of the last day the story is one of many features. The set program was swept aside. The president presided throughout. He interjected remarks and speeches. He brought to the platform men who made plain the prevailing feeling, that thought and care must be exercised for the future. The prepared papers were not presented, but they will be printed in the permanent record.

# NEBRASKA NEWS

THE OMAHA PACKING COMPANY PLANT DESTROYED BY FIRE.

## HALF MILLION DOLLAR LOSS

Loss of Ice Plant One of the Most Serious Features—Bert Taylor, the Minden Murderer, Heard From.

The old plant of the Omaha Packing Company, at Thirty-third and Q streets, South Omaha, was destroyed by fire Friday night, together with 3,000,000 pounds of meat, involving a loss estimated at \$500,000. The big plant of the Cudahy Company adjoining was seriously threatened while the fire was at its height. The old plant of the Omaha company was used principally for the storage of meat, the killing and preparation of the products for market being done mostly at the new plant. There was stored in the burned buildings 2,200,000 pounds of pork and 800,000 pounds of beef, most of which belonged to the Omaha company. The ice plant was destroyed, which is serious in view of the shortage of ice which already exists there.

The fire started in the smoke house, been definitely determined. The Omaha fire department was called upon and aided in controlling the fire.

### ATTACKED WHILE ASLEEP.

Puts Up a Game Fight When Awakened and Drives off Assailant.

Considerable excitement is prevailing at York, Neb., due to the attempted assault on the person of Miss Cora Kinneman, a 20-year-old daughter of George Kinneman, residents of North York. Friday night at about midnight Miss Kinneman was awakened and was immediately attacked by a man, who attempted to choke her. Miss Kinneman put up a good fight and in the struggle things in the room were overturned, making considerable noise, which is supposed to have frightened her assailant, who made his escape through the back way. Miss Kinneman had retired and was alone in the house, and her escape was due to the great struggle and fight she put up to save her life. Officers have found footprints outside tracing to an alley, and the fact that the party who committed the act was in his stockingfeet leads them to believe that someone who is acquainted with her and living near made the attempted assault. Owing to the lack of light in the house Miss Kinneman is unable to describe her assailant and so far officers are unable to secure any evidence to lead to arrest.

### BURLINGTON FILES REPORT.

Net Earnings in Nebraska Almost \$4,000,000.

The Burlington railroad has filed a report with the State Board of Assessment of property to be valued by the board for taxation throughout the state separate from the terminal taxation. It is signed by Tax Commissioner Pollard. For the first time the company reports its property in bulk and not as property owned by 17 separate Burlington systems. For the first time the report contains earnings in Nebraska. It shows that for the six months ending March 31, 1908, the Burlington in Nebraska had gross earnings amounting to \$9,977,637.31; operating expenses, \$5,715,534.45, leaving \$4,262,102.76. From this is deducted \$384,846.95, being one-half taxes for the year ending March 31, 1908, leaving the net earnings for the six months, \$3,877,255.71. The road is bonded for \$19,615,750 a mile in Nebraska, a little more than the report showed last year. The net earnings for the entire Burlington system for the year ending June 30, 1906, as reported last year, was \$7,579,516.67.

### Destructive Fire on Farm.

The Grams' home, six miles northwest of Ainsworth, Neb., suffered heavily by fire Monday afternoon. Two barns, five horses, three calves and some hogs, besides 100 tons of hay and some farming implements were destroyed. The total loss is about \$1,700, with an insurance of \$300. The fire was started by two boys of the family, about ten and twelve years old, who were smoking in the barn. They threw some matches in a bunch of hay to see it blaze up.

### Sues the Northwestern.

Wilber Hall, of Fremont, Neb., who claims he was hurt at Irvington last fall has sued the Northwestern Railroad company in the district court for \$10,000 damages. Hall says that a pile driver faultily constructed was responsible for the accident that resulted in his injury.

### BERT TAYLOR SENDS LETTER.

Alleged Slayer of Pearl Taylor Declares Innocence.

Bert M. Taylor, the alleged murderer of his sister-in-law, has been heard from. A. A. Wyatt of Minden, Neb., who is acting as deputy sheriff, received a letter from Taylor in which the supposed slayer declares that he is innocent of the crime with which he is charged. The letter is dated May 9, and bears the postmark of Enid, Oklahoma. It was posted at Enid May 12. There is no doubt that the letter is authentic. The sheriff and several other people have testified that the handwriting in the communication is that of Taylor's.

Taylor says that he is not guilty of murdering Pearl Taylor, but that a former chum of his is guilty of the crime. Taylor declares that the man who committed the act is an excellent likeness of himself, and that he could pass for him any place. Taylor does not give any name, but says the man formerly worked with him in Des Moines, and that they were great chums. The two had a quarrel and separated.

This man, so Taylor's story runs, came to Minden on the day the Taylor girls were assaulted and renewed his acquaintance and friendship with Bert Taylor. That night he accompanied Taylor to the latter's home and there intended to spend the night. In discussing old times, however, the two disagreed over some incident of their past life, and they quarreled again. The friend managed to knock Taylor down and bound and gagged him. Then he told Taylor that he was going to the home of the Taylor girls and commit the assault so that the blame would be laid on Bert Taylor.

Taylor claims that he managed to loosen his bonds just as the announcement of the fire at the Taylor girls' house was given. He declares he rushed out in pursuit of his former chum in order to bring him to justice for the crime against his sisters-in-law. He has been chasing this man ever since, and says that he will not return to Minden until he can catch him. Taylor declares he has suffered greatly since he left Minden. He hopes to get the man and return with him to his home town.

The people of Minden do not believe Taylor's story. They all believe the letter is genuine but do not put any credence in Taylor's story. Some of them think he is feigning insanity, preparatory to giving himself up to the officials. They think that he knows he can not long escape the law's agent and that he wants to escape death by feigning insanity.

### Tragedy Near Table Rock.

Anton Bily, who lived on a farm about nine miles southeast of Table Rock, Neb., and ten miles this side of Du Bois, shot his wife about seven o'clock Tuesday and then shot himself. The family formerly lived near Table Rock, and their life was one long line of domestic discord. This is the third tragedy that has occurred in the Bily family in the last few years. A few months since a brother was shot while driving along in a wagon, and a short time previous to that a young son of Anton was accidentally shot while out hunting.

### The Rains Prove Helpful.

The late rains and the succeeding warm weather have caused a quick development in all kinds of vegetation over the state. Corn is now being planted. Pastures and meadows, small grain fields and garden are thriving and much early produce is being marketed. The anticipated loss on the fruit crop in some sections of the state has proven to be only about one-half as great as reported, cherries and apples being but little damaged, peaches and plums and small fruit suffering the most injury.

### Money Taken from Safe.

Thursday night someone entered the store of Sutphin & Dale at Newark, Neb., and stole \$40 from the safe. The money was left by a workman with the firm for safe keeping. The safe door was ajar the next morning and the firm is not sure whether it was locked or not the night before. Nothing was taken but the money. The outside doors were locked and the windows showed no signs of having been tampered with.

### Claim Man is a Suicide.

A bottle containing a note stating that Tom Ryan had committed suicide by jumping off the bridge at Omaha was found five miles below Bellevue, Neb., in the river and the note sent to Chief of Police Donahue. It was stained and worn as if it had been in the water for some time. The police have had no report of any man by that name being missing.

### Lightning Strikes Barn.

Lightning struck the barn of William Birus, at Grand Island, last night and all that was saved was the family horse. A colt, a cow and a calf were stunned and could not be rescued. The loss was about \$400, covered by \$100 insurance.

# A FATHER'S CRIME

KILLS BOY AND MAKES ATTEMPT ON HIS OWN LIFE.

## LIKELY TO SURVIVE WOUND

Says Agreement at Self-Destruction Existed Between Lad and Him. self—Body of Child Found.

What appears to have been an agreement on the part of Henry Rudolph Amann, a German musician, 43 years old, and his 12-year-old foster son, Walter Kuobel, to die together came to light when Amann was found staggering through the woods near Fort Sheridan, Ill., delirious from self-inflicted wounds. The facts as gleaned from the musician's rambling statements when partially revived at the fort, were that Amann, for reasons not yet known, led the boy into the forest last Friday, and after wandering about for nearly two days had gained the boy's consent that Amann should kill him. The body of the child was found pierced through the heart by a knife blade. Amann had stabbed himself twice in the breast, but his wounds had not proved fatal. A letter was found in Amann's pocket which he declared that the boy had written and which tended to prove that the latter knew what his fate was to be, and welcomed it. The letter said:

"Please bury us together in one grave. Everything was against us. I do not want to live without my father. I go of my own free will."

The letter was signed "Walter," and was in a child's handwriting.

Another letter, written by Amann read: "Please get my boy, 200 yards northeast of Fort Sheridan."

All day Amann lay on a cot at the fort and raved about the deed. "I have killed my son," he muttered over and over. He knew that I wanted to die and intended to die and he did not want to be separated from me. He smiled when I raised the knife. He was a brave little fellow and not afraid to die."

### ANCIENT FORT WILL REMAIN.

Government Not to Dismantle Historic Assinaboine.

Historic Fort Assinaboine will not be dismantled and blotted out of the Montana landscape. The war department has changed its mind, according to information received at the headquarters of the department of Dakota in St. Paul and the old fort with its traditions of the incessant and bloody warfare with the Indians of the early days will still be maintained and will house the white soldiers as in the old days. The government had decided to dismantle the fort and tear down the buildings. The land comprising the military reservation was to be sold. Work on the dismantling of the buildings had already started when pressure was brought to bear and the war department was convinced that the old fort should be retained. The work of wrecking the buildings was stopped and orders have just been received to indicate that a battalion of the Second infantry will occupy the post.

### WHITE CAPS THRASH FARMER.

Otto Huebner of Hadar Taken from Home at Night.

White caps called at the house of Otto Huebner, who lives near the village of Hadar, eight miles south of Pierce, Neb., Thursday night and took him from the house. They removed his clothes from his person and gave him a sound thrashing with willow switches. It is claimed that Huebner has been beating his wife lately and the masked men took this occasion to teach him a lesson. Huebner was in Pierce the day before and called upon a local attorney and wanted divorce proceedings started. He said that he undertook to punish an old gander that was bothering the other fowls and struck it with a stick. His wife then struck him a blow with a stick and he retaliated by striking her. Deputy County Attorney K. W. McDonald says he has the names of some of the white caps and that they will be arrested and made an example of.

### Bank Goes Into Liquidation.

It is officially announced that the Allegheny National bank of Pittsburg, Pa., whose former cashier, William Montgomery, is in jail, specifically charged with the misappropriation of \$594,000, while an officer of the bank, and officials of the treasury department are trying to fathom still farther apparent discrepancies in the bank's funds, which will not reopen for business. Instead, a notice on the door announces that the comptroller of the currency has taken charge and will close up the affairs of the bank.