

### REBATE KILLS OIL RIVAL.

Rockefeller cheerfully tells how competitors were driven out. John D. Rockefeller's own story of his fortunes and the history of the birth of the great Standard Oil Company, was listened to with breathless interest by a large crowd that jammed the courtroom at the hearing before Referee Franklin Ferris in New York Thursday. With seeming candor he told how and why the combination was created, and cheerfully admitted that it secured rebates from the railroads which enabled it to drive competitors out of business.



J. D. ROCKEFELLER.

It was the final reply of the oil company to the attacks that have been made for years, the revelations of Miss Ida Tarbell, the fulminations of campaign orators, the charges in newspapers, and the remarkable letters of John D. Archbold that injured Senator Foraker and snatched half a dozen statesmen.

In answer to questions by John G. Milburn, his counsel, Mr. Rockefeller told how his combination reached out its tentacles for more and more refineries of rivals, and fattened on them for ten years or more, till it became strong enough to change into what became the Standard Oil Company of Ohio. Between 1872 and 1882 the Rockefeller combine bought and bought rivals. When it was strong enough it organized them all into one concern. The oil king said that the company was constantly reaching out for more refineries and more markets.

It bought refineries to get them out of competition and to get their business. That is the way H. H. Rogers and John D. Archbold went into the company. They were bought up. Both were strong, brilliant and bold. The Rockefeller combine had to get them out of the way; it absorbed their rival concerns and them at the same time. Mr. Rockefeller snapped up the American Lubricating Company, and once in that field he looked around for more lubricating companies. Before his rivals appreciated what had been done, his combine controlled most of these concerns that had done business between 1870 and 1880.

When the Pennsylvania railroad, through its Empire Pipe Line, began gathering oil and shipping it to the seaboard at reduced rates, the Standard stepped in. A bitter war followed, the end of which came only when the Empire concern was turned over to Rockefeller and the dangerous competition wiped out. The railroad for its surrender was permitted to form a car combination, the certificates of which were bought by Rockefeller and his associates. "Whatever they had we took," Mr. Rockefeller said, in explaining the absorption of the Empire concern.

### FROM FOREIGN HANDS.

The most conservative reports from Great Britain tell of an unprecedented condition of unemployment in that country, a situation so desperate that the government can no longer ignore it. Already great numbers of the idle workmen have shown signs of extreme discontent. Some groups were reported to be on the march toward London and at Glasgow bloodshed was prevented only by the prompt action of the city authorities in appropriating \$500,000 for public works, so to speak. Dublin also is spending \$500,000 for the relief of her poor. Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham and other industrial centers are likewise confronted with an acute situation. In the face of these facts Premier Asquith has announced his intention of formulating a general plan for giving relief.

The highest court of Australia has rendered a decision invalidating one of the important laws passed in the interest of organized labor, the party which holds the balance of power in that country. The unions had forced the passage of a law imposing an internal tax upon the output of the manufacturers of agricultural instruments. This was designed to about counterbalance the effect of the protective tariff, but gave to all concerns which paid the union scale of wages an entire remission of the tax. As the labor unions controlled the Parliament, they could omit or impose the tax upon whatever business they saw fit, so that no business which suits the unions could be put out of the running. The court decided, by a vote of 3 to 2, that the new law was unconstitutional on the theory that the purpose of the law is to regulate wages instead of to levy a tax or to raise revenue.

By a vote of 438 to 47, the French Chamber of Deputies has condemned the campaign which the anti-Dreyfusards are conducting against the decision in the case of Major Dreyfus, handed down by the court of cassation in 1906.

The venerable Russian patriot and revolutionist, Nicholas Tschakovsky, who has been in prison at St. Petersburg for many months, and who has many friends in England and America, was released the other day on \$25,000 cash bail demanded by the Russian government, the money being contributed by wealthy friends in this country and in England.

The Japanese government has established a strict censorship over all communications between Koreans in this country and friends or relatives in their native land, according to Rev. R. S. Byang, a Korean minister of the Methodist faith, who has just arrived in San Francisco.

Victor Grayson, the Socialist member of the British Parliament from Colne Valley, created a scene in the Commons by loudly denouncing the members for their failure to come to the rescue of the thousands of unemployed and starving men in England. The speaker ordered him to leave the house, which he did.

### AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY ACTIVE.

Now is the Support for Nearly Half a Million People. Interesting statistics have been collected to show the surprising growth and magnitude of the automobile industry in this country. The present capital in this business is \$94,000,000, with \$36,000,000 invested in kindred trades and \$57,000,000 in garages and retail salesrooms, making a total of \$187,000,000 in a business unknown ten years ago. More than 58,000 persons are employed in automobile factories throughout the country, 25,000 others are employed indirectly in making parts and another 21,500 in garages and salesrooms, making a total of more than 105,000 employees. This industry, therefore, is the support of nearly half a million persons.

There are 253 builders of automobiles in the United States. The output last year was about 52,000 cars, the largest in the history of the industry, which to date has turned out nearly 200,000 machines. Careful estimates for the coming year place the output at 75,000 cars, of which four factories will produce about half and one alone 12,000 cars.

In the history of this trade \$28,000,000 worth of foreign cars have been imported, but America is exporting far more than she imports. Eight years ago sales of American cars reached less than \$8,000,000; last year they were more than \$105,000,000.

### Labor World

Teamsters at Emporia, Kan., have formed a union.

Dye workers at Minneapolis, Minn., recently organized.

Operative Plasterers' International Union has joined the A. F. of L.

Retail clerks at McAlester, Okla., have obtained a reduction in working hours.

Albany (N. Y.) labor unions have erected and opened a tuberculosis pavilion.

The various central bodies of Orange county, New York, have joined a county labor union.

A reorganization of the building trades unions has been brought about in Buffalo, N. Y., after many years of warfare.

The labor unions of Sacramento, Cal., are working energetically for the erection of a building trades temple in that city.

It has been decided by the leather workers to make a universal demand for the eight-hour day within the next two years.

United Brewery Workmen of America have a cash surplus on hand of \$97,622.41 and an investment in municipal bonds of \$300,000.

A new labor law passed by the State of Oklahoma orders that all school books issued to the children of that State must be the union label.

Additional death benefits of \$250 for a membership of seven or more years and \$500 for one of ten or more years have been established by the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers.

The Appellate division of the New York Supreme Court, second department, has decided that a contract made by a corporation with a labor union, whereby only union men shall be employed should be upheld as valid and binding.

Bakers and Confectioners' International Union has adopted a plan to fully organize all the large cities of the United States, with the idea of having a membership of 100,000 within a stated time. The present membership is 14,582.

Paper mills, of which there are eight in India, employ 4,700 persons, but this is not at present a progressive industry, as European wood pulp paper is largely imported. There is a prospect of the establishment of wood pulp manufacture in India.

The Women's Club of Magnolia, Mass., is said to be the only one of its kind in existence. It has a membership of something more than 300, all women employed as waitresses in the hotels, boarding houses and residences of the summer population of that resort.

In Russia, where over fifty men are employed in one mine, it is provided that "every colliery must have a rescue corps trained to work in irrespirable gases"; that "the number of men in each corps must be equivalent to 4 per cent of those engaged in the largest pit or shaft work," and that "the number of completely equipped sets of breathing apparatus at each colliery must not be less than three."

The Australian Parliament appropriated \$300,000 for the increase of the teachers' salaries, and the men teachers attempted to get the whole amount applied to themselves. The members of the Woman's Progressive Association, all of them voters, did not see the logic of such a division of the appropriation, and objected to it so strongly that the men were forced to share the money with them.

There is a movement in the East on the part of a number of labor unions to eliminate from their respective constitutions the clause which bars the discussion of politics at meetings of the organizations. The leaders in this direction assert that they are moved to this action by the changed conditions in the country, and demand that such a step must be taken for the better protection of organized labor.

The cigarmakers' International Union of America will not hold a convention this year. An amendment to the constitution designed to make a convention possible has been defeated in the referendum by the narrow majority of 906.

The validity of that section of the labor law providing that no workmen upon public work shall be permitted or required to work more than eight hours in one calendar day is upheld by the New York Court of Appeals. The court in substance holds that violation of this law is justification for the withholding of payments for such work from contractors.

A school for wives in the latest undertaking of Chicago club women. Courses will be given in the making of clothes, cooking, household economies and general housekeeping. The idea is to make good housewives and to make them through organized and unified effort.

What promises to be the largest and in many respects the most important annual convention of the American Federation of Labor is scheduled to open in Denver on Monday, Nov. 9. A novel feature of the program will be an excursion to Colorado Springs, embracing a visit to the Union Printers' Home as the guests of the International Typographical Union.

### WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Coincident with the publication of the Newport conference on naval construction, it has leaked out that Secretary of the Navy Metcalf several months ago sent to Admiral Sperry of the battleship fleet a copy of the letter written by Commander Key criticizing the design of the North Dakota and asking for the opinions of all the officers of the fleet. Sperry has now sent a report showing that 90 per cent of the officers supported Key. Sperry had each battleship carefully measured and several showed an overdraft of about two feet. This tends to sustain the criticisms of Reuterbach and others. The report of the Newport conference, which was given out semi-officially, says that the consensus of expert opinion was that the plates had been rightly placed and that the design of the North Dakota was excellent. The conference did, however, discover some minor defects in the location and protection of magazines and expressed the view that the 12-inch guns are inferior to those now being used on British ships of the same class.

In a letter to Prof. L. H. Bailey of Ithaca, chairman of the Country Life Commission, recently appointed, President Roosevelt suggests that the commission ask the farmers and all those whose life work is in the open country to come together in the different school districts, using the schoolhouses for meeting places, and discuss such matters as the efficiency of the rural schools, farmers' organizations, farm labor, need of good roads, better postal facilities and sanitary conditions on the farm. He tells the commission that its work is to ascertain what are the general economic, social, educational and sanitary conditions of the open country, and what, if anything, the farmers can do to help themselves, and what the government can best do to help them. The president announced that he would add two extra members to the commission, making seven in all.

An estimate that the losses during the months when forest fires have been prevailing in various parts of the United States have aggregated \$1,000,000 per day, was made by W. J. McGee, the erosion expert of the Department of Agriculture. The forest service in a statement says that probably in every instance the devastating forest fires might have been prevented if the several States had provided an adequate number of men to patrol the woods and arrest the fires in their incipency, and if lumbermen and other users of the forests had been careful to dispose of brush after logging so as to prevent the spread of fires.

Bids have been opened at the Navy Department for the construction of eight submarine torpedo boats, for which Congress has appropriated \$3,500,000. The Electric Boat Company of Quincy, Mass., bid for boats of 435 tons displacement from \$414,000 to \$444,000, according to the class and number of boats built on the Atlantic coast. For a boat of 375 tons displacement the prices range from \$360,000 to \$390,000. The Lake Torpedo Boat Company, Bath, Me., bid on boats of 518 tons displacement from \$435,000 to \$460,000, and on boats of 410 tons displacement from \$382,500 to \$410,000. For boats built on the Pacific coast the prices quoted are much higher.

Under the direction of Prof. I. H. Bailey, the Country Life Commission recently appointed by President Roosevelt is sending out a letter of inquiry to 300,000 persons, the replies to be tabulated by the Census Bureau. The questions relate to the conditions of farm homes, conditions of rural schools, whether the farmers get reasonable returns for their labor, reasonable service from highways of transportation, if their postal service is adequate, about organization, renting, help blanks, insurance, etc. Any one may receive a copy of this circular for the asking.

Postmaster General Sydney Buxton, of the British postoffice department, and J. Henneker Heath, known abroad as the father of penny postage, exchanged congratulatory telegrams with Postmaster General Meyer over the inauguration of a 2-cent postage rate between this country and Great Britain.

In order to keep the organization free from even the suspicion of evasion of legal requirements, George Otis Smith, director of the geological survey, has issued an order prohibiting members of the survey from owning stock in any mining company, the property of which is in the United States or Alaska.

Recommendation is made by Brigadier General James Allen, chief signal officer of the United States army, to Secretary of War Wright that a certificate of honor be awarded to Corporal Roy F. Cox of the signal corps for heroic action in saving the life of a woodchopper whose feet had been frozen in Alaska. Cox carried the man sixty-five miles through a raging blizzard, with the thermometer 30 degrees below zero.

Some details of recent correspondence between the governments of the United States and Japan have been given out by the State Department. Officials of both countries now assert that the long-standing friendship between them has never been strained, but that in view of various matters discussed in the papers it will be desirable to restate their respective positions on all questions of common interest, including the Japanese school question in California and the limitation of Japanese immigration.

### PRISON DOOR CLOSES ON A \$750,000 FORGER.

Prominent Chicago Real Estate Dealer Gives Up and Confesses to Huge Swindles.

SENTENCE IS 1 TO 14 YEARS.

Skillful Juggling of Bogus Notes and Deeds Dupes 25 Persons and Extends Over 18-Year Period.

Confessing his authorship of an endless chain of forgeries involving more than \$750,000, Peter Van Vlissingen, for many years a prominent Chicago real estate man and once reputed wealthy, was indicted, tried and sentenced to the penitentiary Monday afternoon for a term of one to fourteen years. The amazing revelations of how a man who ranked high among his associates could carry out a gigantic swindle in which he victimized more than a score of persons—a number of them close friends—out of \$700,000 came like a thunderbolt. He first confessed to his crime Saturday to two friends. At noon Monday the case was presented to the State's Attorney, and thereafter steps toward sending Van Vlissingen to a felon's cell were taken with remarkable rapidity.

The confession of the real estate man revealed a scheme of systematic and cunning forgery of notes and real estate trusts deeds and mortgages extending over a period of eighteen years. For years Van Vlissingen practiced a system of forgery that did not arouse suspicion. Even his own nephew, John A. Vanderpool, his chief clerk, was wholly ignorant of the swindles being perpetrated almost under his eyes. Van Vlissingen's scheme was to loan money and take a mortgage or trust deed as security. The notes and securities would be made out in due form, signed, approved by Vanderpool, and recorded with the county recorder. Van



PETER VAN VLISSINGEN.

### GOOD TIME TO BUILD.

Prices of Material Are Low and Contractors Are Anxious for Work.

Country Life in America has been looking up the building situation and as a result declares that there has not been such another chance in years for people to build cheaply and well. The prices of material have fallen so, contractors are anxious to obtain work, and labor is so ready to jump at the chance of assured wages, that a saving of from 10 to 20 per cent in cost, depending on the section of the country, can be made in all domestic architecture. Lumber is lower now than it will probably ever be again. Brick is almost a drug on the market. Good workmen are not yet busy and are not hard to find. In some localities, according to the magazine, the conditions are so improved for the person about to erect a home that he can do so to 40 per cent better than in 1907. However, these extremes are unusual and occur in only a few sections.

The American Lumberman declares that prices are from 20 to 25 per cent lower on lumber in the west and south than they will be in a few months. Brick is 25 per cent under last year's schedules. Grades which brought \$7 and \$8 in New York in October, 1907, are selling at \$4.50 and \$5 a thousand

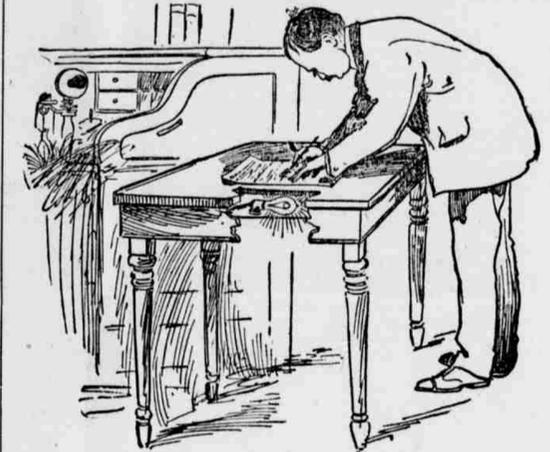


DIAGRAM INDICATING HOW FORGERIES WERE MADE.

Vlissingen would then look himself in his private office, where he had a desk specially designed to aid him in forgery. In the top of this desk was a small hole covered with a piece of glass, beneath which was an incandescent light. Placing the genuine mortgage on the glass he would cover it with a similar blank form and turn on the light below the desk. The signatures and notations on the genuine instrument were outlined on the blank by the light. The signatures were then traced by the real-estate man, and forgeries were turned out which were practically as good as the original.

Sometimes the forger made one, and in several instances two, copies of the original mortgage and sold them. The genuine he sold in Chicago, the spurious ones in New England, in Western and Southern States, and in Germany and Holland, his native country. To make the forgeries perfect, Van Vlissingen counterfeited the signature of the county recorder. For nearly two decades he managed to liquidate the fraudulent paper when it fell due and in that way avoided exposure, but recently he became unable to meet the demands of this endless chain, and, despairing of further immunity, confessed his guilt.

### BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

Exploitation of the railroads by the State in Belgium has resulted this year in a \$2,000,000 loss to the State.

Lord Northcliffe, the British newspaper owner, has given the Plymouth church of Brooklyn a stained glass memorial window.

The Minnesota State wine plant promises to pay \$1,000,000 into the State treasury during November, and as a result it is expected that the State will get along with borrowing \$500,000 instead of twice that amount usually borrowed at this time of the year.

The St. Paul road reports that during the 1908 season 4,425 cars of wheat have been shipped from the 43 towns on the James River division, and it is estimated that 6,403 will be shipped before the close of the season. The estimate for the 26 towns on the Hastings and Dakota division is 7,466 cars.

Ed Corrigan has donated his famous old race horse and sire, Riley, now 21 years old, by Longfellow, dam Geneva, to the Kentucky breeding bureau, and he will be sent to London, Laurel county, far back in the mountains.

Coch Warner of the Carlisle Indians has gone to work on the development of a new kicking staff, as Thorpe, who failed somewhat at Philadelphia, cannot be depended on as long as his leg is out of shape.

Records tell that seventeen deaths were due directly to professional baseball in the season recently closed and twenty-six were seriously hurt.

### FIFTY MAY BE DEAD IN ARKANSAS STORM.

Two Tornadoes Sweep Large Section of State, Causing Death and Injury.

HAVOC WHERE THEY MEET.

Region Swept Bare, Trees and Houses Being Levelled—Town of Piney Wiped Out.

Two tornadoes, one from the north and the other from the south, swept over western Arkansas late Monday afternoon, killing many persons and destroying much property. From reports received it is estimated that thirty to fifty lives were lost. The property damage will reach hundreds of thousands of dollars.

One tornado started in the extreme southwestern part of the State and went north, touching the second tier of counties from the western boundary line. The other started in the northwestern corner of the State and went south, devastating the second and third tier of counties. The counties through which the storms passed are Lafayette, Columbia, Miller, Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Montgomery, Yell, Pope, Johnson, Franklin and Carroll.

Many Killed at Piney. Piney, a German settlement on the Iron Mountain railroad, between Knoxville and London, suffered most severely, and was practically wiped out. The number of dead is estimated from nine to twenty. Five business houses and a number of dwellings were destroyed.

From the towns of Berryville and Cravens the most definite reports are received. At the former three persons were injured, and the property loss is estimated between \$25,000 and \$40,000. At Cravens four persons are known to be dead. They are members of the family of John Rosin, a farmer, who were caught under the falling timbers

### IMPERIAL ENVY.



The Kaiser—And you mean to say that you are permitted to give out an expression of opinion whenever the spirit moves you?—Baltimore Sun.

of their home. L. G. Holt and wife, an aged couple, were injured.

A dispatch from Knoxville partly confirms the report that the Village of Burr, four miles from that place, was wrecked. In the vicinity of Mulberry five persons are reported to have been killed. At Lodi the Methodist church and several other buildings were destroyed.

### POLITICS and POLITICIANS

The President has removed from office George M. Stewart, postmaster at Seattle, Wash., because he solicited campaign contributions.

The election of Secretary of State Elihu Root as United States Senator to succeed Senator Platt was advocated in resolutions adopted by the Union League Club in New York.

That the Republicans will continue in control of both branches of Congress at least for another two years was known the morning after election, although the majority in the House had been reduced apparently to forty-five, as compared with fifty-seven in the present House. Cannon was again elected by a comfortable plurality, in spite of the national fight made against him, both by organized labor and by various progressive influences. Most of the Republican Congressmen in Nebraska and elsewhere who were pledged not to support Cannon for the Speakership were themselves beaten at the polls. In Iowa one of the Republican veterans who went down to defeat was Hepburn. His Democratic successor is a young editor, D. Jamison. Other Republican retired are Overstreet of Indiana, McCroary of Pennsylvania, Charles B. Landis and others.

County division was beaten at every point in western North Dakota, and the counties will do business in the same old way. But the fight will be continued and no new court houses will be built for two years.

Evident Gompers of the Federation of Labor said that the moral influence of the campaign is with the cause of the workers and that the part labor took compelled the discussion to be devoted almost exclusively to the labor question. Though temporarily defeated, he insisted that labor was not conquered by entrenched wealth.

Opponents of Gov. Chamberlain, who was chosen United States Senator by popular vote of the Oregon electors, who pledged Legislature candidates to vote for him, are trying to nullify the election by securing signatures to petitions releasing legislators from their pledges.

"President Roosevelt, six months ago, came to the conclusion that no combination of circumstances would induce him to become a candidate for election to the United States Senate from New York State to succeed Thomas C. Platt," said National Committeeman William L. Ward of New York, as he was leaving the White House.

### FOOLED UNCLE SAM.

How the Creek Indians Euchered Him Out of \$7,000,000.

The Creek Indians have euchered Congress to the tune of \$7,000,000 in their treaty agreements, and the first knowledge Congress will have of it will be this winter, when the Indians and the representatives of the Department of the Interior will demand that Congress settle up. And the Creeks are laughing up their sleeves at the clever trap into which Congress walked.

The first Creek agreement provided that each Creek should receive 160 acres of land, the maximum appraised value of which should be \$1,040. Those who got land appraised for less than the maximum were to have the difference in land or in money. Then the Creeks slipped through Congress an in-tent-looking measure that provided that new-born children should be admitted to the rolls.

Congress had not figured, but the Creeks had. The result was that the new-born children took up all the surplus land for allotments. The allotting is completed and the Indians now are ready for a final settlement, and it will be recommended to Congress this winter by the commissioners of the five tribes and the Secretary of the Interior.

The Creeks have only \$3,000,000 assets, as a tribe. This leaves them a net \$7,000,000, which Congress will have to pay. It is just \$7,000,000 additional wealth the Creeks have procured by outwitting Congress.

There are nearly 20,000 Creeks. This \$7,000,000 will mean \$350 to every man, woman and child, and when it is paid will be the greatest amount of money the Creeks ever had at one time. Every Creek allottee will share in it, unless he got land that was appraised at the full \$1,040. It makes no difference if an Indian has gotten his allotment and sold every acre of it, if it was appraised for \$700 by the government he will be entitled to \$340 in money.

### GATUN DAM AT PANAMA SINKING.

Heavy Rainfalls Undermine Structure, Causing Earth to Settle.

Because of the exceptionally heavy rainfalls of the last three weeks the earth on the crest of the Gatun dam, in



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of their home. L. G. Holt and wife, an aged couple, were injured.

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