

MESSAGE TO SENATE.

President Transmits Report on Brownsville Affair

Says Investigation Will Be Continued. Foraker Reads Letters From Former Soldier Telling of Alleged Attempts to Get Confession From Him.

The Brownsville affair consumed nearly the entire session of the senate Monday. Senator Foraker obtained the floor and read letters from a former soldier of the Twenty-fifth regiment, telling of the procedure of the government in attempts to get a confession from him. Mr. Foraker introduced an amendment to his original bill for the re-enlistment of these soldiers providing that a commission of three retired army officers be created to determine whether the discharged soldiers are innocent of complicity in the shooting up of Brownsville as a prerequisite for their re-enlistment, instead of leaving that duty with the president, as provided by the Warner bill.

The president's message, giving the results of the war department's investigation of the Brownsville affair, was read, as follows:

"I enclose herewith a letter from the secretary of war transmitting a report of the investigation made by Mr. Herbert J. Browne, employed by the department, in conjunction with Captain W. G. Baldwin, to investigate as far as possible what happened at Brownsville on the 13th and 14th of August, 1906. The report and documents contain some information of great value and some statements that are obviously worthless, but I submit them in their entirety.

"This report enables us to fix with tolerable definiteness at least some of the criminals who took the lead in the murderous shooting of private citizens at Brownsville. It establishes clearly the fact that the colored soldiers did the shooting; but upon this point further record was unnecessary, as the fact that the colored soldiers did the shooting has already been established beyond all possibility of doubt. The investigation has not been far enough to enable us to determine all the facts, and we will proceed with it, but it has gone far enough to determine with sufficient accuracy certain facts of enough importance to make it advisable that I place the report before you.

Concealment a Grave Offense.

"It appears that almost all the members of company B must have been actively concerned in the shooting, either to the extent of being participants or to the extent of virtually encouraging those who were participants. As to companies C and D, there can be no question that practically every man in them must have had knowledge that the shooting was done by some of the soldiers of B troop, and possibly by one or two others in one of the other troops. The concealment was itself a grave offense, which was greatly aggravated by their testifying before the senate committee that they were ignorant of what they must have known. Nevertheless, it is to be said in partial extenuation that they were probably cowed by threats, made by the more desperate of the men who had actually been engaged in the shooting, as to what would happen to any man who failed to protect the wrongdoers. Moreover, there are circumstances tending to show that these misguided men were encouraged by outsiders to persist in their course of concealment and denial. I feel, therefore, that the guilt of the men who, after the event, thus shielded the perpetrators of the wrong by refusing to tell the truth about them, though serious, was in part due to the unwise and improper attitude of others, and that some measure of allowance should be made for their misconduct. In other words, I believe we can afford to reinstate any of these men who now truthfully tell what has happened, give all the aid they can to fix the responsibility upon those who are really guilty and show that they themselves had no guilty knowledge beforehand and were in no way implicated in the affair, save by having knowledge of it afterward and failing and refusing to divulge it.

Would Reinstate Some Soldiers.

"Under the circumstances, and in view of the length of time they have been out of the service, and their loss of the benefit that would have accrued to them by continuous long service, we can afford to treat the men who meet the requirements given above as having been sufficiently punished by the consequences they brought upon themselves when they rendered necessary the exercise of the disciplinary power. I recommend that a law be passed allowing the secretary of war, within a fixed period of time, say a year, to reinstate any of these soldiers whom he, after careful examination, finds to have been innocent and whom he finds to have done all in his power to help bring to justice the guilty.

Meanwhile, the investigation will be continued.

The results have made it obvious that only by carrying on the investigation as the war department has actually carried it on is there the slightest chance of bringing the offenders to justice or of separating not the innocent, for there were doubtless hardly any innocent, but the less guilty from those whose guilt was heinous."

Ireland and Scannell in Rome.

Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul and Rt. Rev. Richard Scannell of Omaha, Neb., arrived from Rome. Both are in good health.

PANAMA BLAST KILLS 14.

Fifty Others Are Injured in Explosion of Dynamite.

Fourteen men are known to be dead three of them Americans, and fifty injured as a result of the premature explosion of twenty-one tons of dynamite at Bas Obispo, in the Panama canal zone, according to an official dispatch received in Washington from Chief Engineer Goethals. The message follows:

"The premature explosion of twenty-one tons of dynamite at Bas Obispo resulted in the death of fourteen men and the injury of fifty. Three or four of the injured will probably die. The following Americans were killed: James L. Hummer, craneman, steam shovel, Dunnellen, N. J.; John J. Korp, steam shovel engineer, Phillipsburg, N. J.; John J. Roldy, powderman, Indianapolis, Ind. Seriously injured: Benjamin H. Cole, foreman, Rochester, N. Y."

CASTRO REACHES BERLIN.

Venezuelan President Pleased With Reception in Germany.

President Castro of Berlin arrived in Berlin Monday. The train was awaited by a dense crowd of people who had gathered out of curiosity. No precautions had been taken to prevent the public from crowding the platforms and as the train steamed into the depot the president was greeted with shouts of "Long Live Castro."

Members of Castro's suite stated that the president had sent a dispatch to Emperor William from Herberthall, stating that he had come to Germany for medical treatment and expressing profound homage to his majesty. According to the same authority, when he learned the news of the capture of a Venezuelan vessel by the Dutch cruiser Gelderland he was not greatly affected, merely remarking that there was no such vessel in the Venezuelan service.

DUTCH CRUISER SEIZES SHIP.

Flag of Holland is Run Up to Mast Head of Venezuelan Vessel.

The Dutch cruiser Gelderland captured the Venezuelan coast guardship Alix outside Puerto Cabello. The Dutch flag was hoisted over the Alix, the crew of which was sent ashore. The guardship was then manned by a Dutch officer and marines and towed to Willemstad. Although the seizure of the Alix was plainly discernible from Puerto Cabello, the forts there did not fire on the Gelderland. There is great enthusiasm over the incident in Curacao.

Bomb Explosion in Chicago.

Two buildings were wrecked and windows were shattered for blocks around by the terrific explosion of a bomb in an alley in Wabash avenue, near Sixteenth street, Chicago, Sunday night. The wrecked buildings adjoin the Coliseum, where the First Ward ball, the annual revel, against the holding of which there has been much opposition, is scheduled to be held.

Mother and Babe Perish in Fire.

In a fire which destroyed their home at Bavaris, Kan., Mrs. Frank Himmelwright, wife of a section foreman, and her six-months-old child were burned to death.

All Quiet in Hayti.

Hayti has quieted down. American naval representation, with the exception of one vessel, will be withdrawn from the waters of that country.

Grand Sire of Odd Fellows Dead.

Judge John L. Nolen, grand sire of the independent order of Odd Fellows of the world, died at Nashville, Tenn., Monday.

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

Features of the Day's Trading and Closing Quotations.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Selling by local holders caused weakness today in the wheat market, prices at the close showing net declines of 3/8c to 1 1/2c. Corn, oats and provisions closed steady. Closing prices:

Wheat—Dec., \$1.00; May, \$1.04 3/4 @ 1.05; July, 97 1/2 @ 97 3/4.
Corn—Dec., 57 1/4c; May, 61 1/4c.
Oats—Dec., 50 1/4c; May, 52 1/2c.
Pork—May, \$16.07 1/2.
Lard—Jan., \$9.15; May, \$9.37 1/2.
Ribs—Jan., \$8.17 1/2; May, \$8.47 1/2.
Chicago Cash Prices—No. 2 hard wheat, \$1.01 1/2 @ 1.04; No. 2 corn, 58 1/2c; No. 2 oats, 50c.

South Omaha Live Stock.

South Omaha, Dec. 14.—Cattle—Receipts, 580; slow to 10c lower; native steers, \$4.00 @ 7.25; cows and heifers, \$3.00 @ 4.75; western steers, \$3.50 @ 6.00; Texas steers, \$3.25 @ 5.00; canners, \$2.00 @ 2.75; stockers and feeders, \$3.00 @ 5.25; calves, \$2.00 @ 6.00; bulls, stags, etc., \$2.25 @ 4.25. Hogs—Receipts, 3,200; 5c higher; heavy, \$5.40 @ 5.60; mixed, \$5.35 @ 5.40; light, \$5.25 @ 5.45; pigs, \$3.50 @ 5.00; bulk of sales, \$5.35 @ 5.45. Sheep—Receipts, 14,000; steady; yearlings, \$5.00 @ 5.75; wethers, \$4.25 @ 4.75; ewes, \$3.50 @ 4.35; lambs, \$6.25 @ 7.25.

Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Cattle—Receipts, 22,000; 10c lower; steers, \$4.60 @ 7.80; cows, \$3.00 @ 5.25; heifers, \$2.50 @ 4.60; bulls, \$2.75 @ 4.50; calves, \$2.50 @ 8.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 @ 4.85. Hogs—Receipts, 50,000; strong; choice heavy shipping, \$5.70 @ 5.80; butchers, \$5.65 @ 5.75; light mixed, \$5.10 @ 5.30; choice light, \$5.35 @ 5.45; packing, \$5.40 @ 5.70; pigs, \$4.00 @ 5.15; bulk of sales, \$5.40 @ 5.55. Sheep—Receipts, 40,000; 10 @ 20c lower; sheep, \$4.00 @ 5.00; lambs, \$5.25 @ 7.75; yearlings, \$4.25 @ 6.50.

SECOND WEEK OF CORN SHOW.

Many New Features Added to Nation at Exposition at Omaha.

Omaha, Dec. 14.—The National Corn exposition started on its second week today, with enthusiasm increasing rapidly. Many new features were added to the big show during the last four days of last week, and it is now complete. Tomorrow will be a big day at the exposition. No less than seven cities will send big delegations of grain men, including the Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis and Minneapolis boards of trade. Added to these will be 1,000 grain dealers from various parts of surrounding states.

Senor Zeferino Dominguez, the Mexican special agent, arrived in the city. He had the misfortune to have his \$1,500 trophy held up by customs officials at El Paso, and was unable to bring it with him. This trophy was offered to student judges and the Iowa team captured it, making two of the best trophies which go to that state. The Mexican trophy is a silver bust of President Diaz, set in a base of onyx, and is a very handsome piece of sculpture. The duty on the bust was \$500, and Senor Dominguez has arranged to have it sent to Omaha in bond, where he will pay the duty and secure its release. He had but twenty minutes to make his train at El Paso and was forced to have the trophy forwarded in bond.

College day proved a distinct success. Every college of importance in Iowa and Nebraska had good representation, Ames agricultural college sending 100 of its students. Nebraska university and all the smaller colleges of the two states were well represented.

BOSTON WET OR DRY?

City Votes Today on Question of Abolishing Saloons.

Boston, Dec. 15.—The principal question in the municipal election, which is being held here today, is the following: "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this city?" A few days ago the principal cities of Massachusetts outside of Boston voted on this question, the results being about evenly divided, and the entire state and prohibitionists throughout the country are eagerly awaiting returns of today's election.

In addition to the important license question, Boston is also voting for members of the board of aldermen, members of the common council, members of the school committee and a street commissioner.

Judge McPherson Scores Attorneys.

Kansas City, Dec. 15.—Calling up the Missouri passenger and freight hearing after a four weeks' recess, Judge Smith McPherson of Red Oak, Ia., severely scored the attorneys in the case for their tardiness and declared that he would not tolerate any further delay. The case has been on the docket for three years. Part of the state's issue is to prove whether or not the railways operating in Missouri can afford to carry passengers in Missouri for 2 cents a mile on trunk lines.

Glazier Placed on Trial.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 15.—Frank Glazier, who resigned as state treasurer a year ago, soon after the failure of the Chelsea Savings bank and the Glazier Stove company, was placed on trial here, charged with appropriating to his own use and the use of the Chelsea Savings bank, of which he was president, money placed in his keeping as state treasurer. Glazier is accused of using approximately \$865,000 of state funds in his personal business.

Marion Butler Indicted for Libel.

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 15.—The grand jury of Guilford superior court returned four true bills against ex-United States Senator Marion Butler and his brother, Lester Butler, charging criminal libel against ex-Judge Adams, chairman of the Republican state committee. The charges are based upon articles published in a Raleigh newspaper owned by the Butlers.

Colorado Fraud Charges Valid.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The supreme court of the United States, in the main, reversed the verdict of the United States district court for the district of Colorado, discharging from custody a number of persons who were arrested on the charge of conspiring to defraud the government by entering timber and coal lands in Colorado contrary to law.

Chicago's First Ward Ball.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—With an attack on a newspaper photographer and the smashing of his camera as a prelude, the First Ward ball, the annual affair presided over by Aldermen Coughlin and Kenna, was held in the Coliseum last night, all efforts of church people and law and order organizations to prevent it having proved unsuccessful.

Dying Millionaire Burns Fortune.

Moscow, Dec. 15.—A dying millionaire, named Peteroff, had his whole fortune withdrawn from the banks and the bank notes brought to the sick room. They were then piled before him and set on fire. Peteroff summoned his relatives and showed them the ashes, congratulating them on having escaped from the evil of wealth.

Reward of \$18,000 for Train Robbers.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 15.—The total reward offered by the Great Northern railway officials and the government for the arrest and conviction of the train robbers who held up and robbed train No. 4 near Hillyard, Wash., Wednesday, has been raised to \$18,000.

BOY KNIGHT OF DEATH.

Writer of Threatening Letters Arrested at Chicago.

Driver of Grocer's Wagon is Arrested and Admits Sending Gruesome Exhibits—Blames Conan Doyle's Stories for His Exploit.

The mystery of the "Knights of the White Death" letters, which were recently sent to various clergymen in Chicago, with the threat that unless they left large sums of money at designated spots they would be put to death, was cleared up when William Pollard, twenty-two years old, driver of a grocer's wagon, was arrested and confessed to having sent the missives as a joke. Pollard blamed Conan Doyle's stories of crime for his exploit. Fascinated by the novelist's lurid pictures, Pollard declared he had determined to see how they would work out in the hands of the Chicago police. So he organized "The Knights of the White Death," and with a Sherlock Holmes' fancy wrote out a bundle of letters, decorated with skulls and crossbones. The demands for money, he said, were simply added to enliven the mystery, as he never went to see whether the money was left or not.

A few days ago one of the letters reached the Rev. W. O. Waters of Grace Episcopal church. It was accompanied by a small box, also sent through the mail, containing bones apparently human, and the rusty handles of a coffin. Ten thousand dollars were demanded in this instance, the money to be left at night by the clergyman at a lonely spot. Detectives were posted at the place indicated in this letter and also at places indicated in similar letters sent to Rev. R. F. Roberts of Quinn chapel and A. C. Dixon of Moody institute.

"I got the bones and coffin handles out of a graveyard," said Pollard, according to the confession obtained by the postoffice authorities.

"I had intended to let the policemen keep on worrying until New Year's day, when I was going to make a confession."

"How did I get the human bones and the coffin trimmings? That was easy. When they dig a new grave in Calvary cemetery, the graves are so crowded together that the side of an old grave often caves in and portions of the interment fall into the new excavation, which is then thrown out with the new sand. At night I went into the cemetery and gathered these things."

BIG POULTRY SHOW OPENS.

Chicago Exhibition, With Thousands of Specimens, Begins Today.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—The Chicago poultry show, one of the three big events of the year for the fowl fancier, opened here today with a splendid exhibition of chickens, pigeons, turkeys, duck, geese and other feathered specimens. The two other big shows of the year are those in New York and Boston. This year the Chicago show is the first of the three.

The poultry show has attracted to the city persons interested in poultry from all parts of the country. More than 1,000 chickens of all known breeds are entered. Prizes amounting to more than \$10,000 are offered.

Many comparisons have been instituted between the present show and the cattle exposition. While the total value of the exhibits in the poultry show is far short of the live stock exhibition, there are many individual birds more costly than the finest cattle and horses. There is one hen in the show which is valued at \$10,000 and many others ranging from \$5,000 to \$100.

POWERS CONFER ON NAVAL WAR.

International Delegates Hold Meeting in London.

The conference of the powers called by Great Britain to frame a code of laws for naval warfare and for the formation of an international prize court held its first business session at the foreign office in London Saturday.

The United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Spain, Holland and Japan are represented in the conference. The American delegates are Rear Admiral Charles H. Stockton and Professor George Grafton Wilson of Brown university. Commander John H. Gibbons, naval attaché at the London embassy, acts as aid.

Questions of much interest and moment to the maritime powers are on the program of the conference. Among them are the decision of what constitutes contraband of war, the right of search, the limitations of blockades, etc.

Mrs. McKen Files Divorce Suit.

Omaha, Dec. 12.—W. R. McKen has been made defendant in a divorce suit, his wife, Elizabeth New McKen, alleging extreme cruelty. The suit was withdrawn as soon as filed and the details could not be learned. It has caused a sensation in social circles, however, where the McKens were leaders. Mrs. McKen is a daughter of General John C. New of Indianapolis.

Decatur Ferryboat Sinks.

Tekamah, Neb., Dec. 11.—The ferryboat at Decatur sank about 200 feet from the landing on this side of the river. There were nine teams on board at the time, but all were saved. Captain Beck and crew worked until midnight swimming the horses across.



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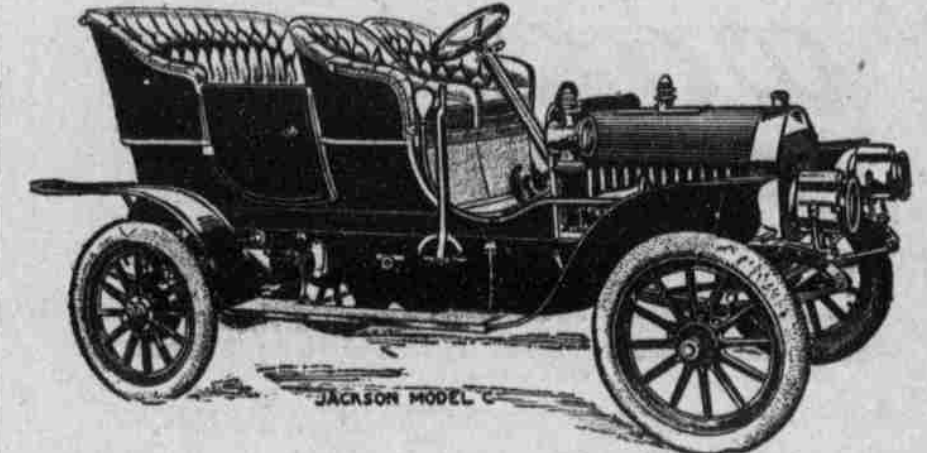
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