

UNDUE ACTIVITY IN POLITICS

Civil Service Committee Finds Undesirable Situation Exists.

The report of the committee of the National Civil Service Reform League to investigate the matter of political activity on the part of the federal officeholders has been made public. The committee systematically gathered current press reports of alleged undue political activity and sifting out the more serious accusations, through correspondence with the parties involved, and by detailed inquiry into the circumstances, sought to determine the truth.

The conclusions of the committee, briefly stated, are that the charges to a great extent are sustained. A notable exception is reported in the allegations made during the last campaign to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt coerced certain federal officeholders into the support of Mr. Taft for the Republican nomination. With his permission the lists of the president's appointments for a considerable period prior to the national convention were scanned by the committee, which finds that evidence to sustain the charges made is wholly lacking. On the contrary, Mr. Roosevelt is credited with having advanced the cause of civil service reform by so amending the civil service rules as to prohibit employees in the competitive service from taking part in political campaigns.

On the broad question of the pernicious activity in politics of federal officeholders, however, the committee finds that a most undesirable situation exists. Of the more than 300,000 federal officeholders, one-third are not amenable to civil service classification and often exercise powerful influence in politics.

The senate committee on census will give a hearing soon on the house census bill and President Black of the civil service commission will contend that the census employees should be chosen wholly by civil service examination; Director North of the census bureau opposes this on the ground that there are certain classes of employees who must be selected by their proved adaptability for the work.

Four Injured in Pistol Duel.

Four persons were injured at Wellsville, O., Sunday, in a pistol duel and general fight between members of the Good Citizens' league and men who had been drinking on a houseboat anchored in the Ohio river. The injured are: William Zellers, shot in the thigh; Ben Davidson, shot in the neck and may die; William Renoff, member of the Good Citizens' league, seriously beaten; Frank Geise, former saloon-keeper, ear cut almost off.

Funeral of Admiral Cervera.

Vice Admiral Cervera was buried at Madrid, Spain, Sunday. The body was placed in a simple black coffin and borne on the shoulders of soldiers and bluejackets to the grave, where a salute of twenty-one volleys was fired. The newspapers recall the warm praise bestowed upon Cervera by the Americans after Santiago.

Ends Life in Niagara Falls.

An unknown man, about thirty-eight years old committed suicide by jumping into the Niagara river from Luna Island, in sight of a score of persons, who saw him swept over the falls. He stood on the railing of the bridge for a second or two peering down into the water and then dived in head foremost.

Dickinson Collapses Physically.

John Dickinson, who traded on the Consolidated Stock Exchange of New York and the Chicago board of trade as John Dickinson & Co., and whose company was placed in the hands of a receiver at Chicago, is said by his attorney, George W. Plummer, to have collapsed physically.

End of Sensational Trial.

After a sensational trial in the circuit court at Deadwood, S. D., a jury acquitted Jerry Johnson and his wife of robbing a safe in a department store in broad daylight. Johnson was formerly a politician in Denver.

Ex-Secretary Hitchcock Ill.

Ethan Allen Hitchcock, former secretary of the interior, is critically ill at the home of his son-in-law, Commander W. S. Sims, U. S. N., at Washington, and grave fears for his recovery are entertained. He is suffering from heart and kidney trouble.

Thirteen Injured in Wreck.

In an accident on the Rio Grande railroad at Colorado Springs, Colo., thirteen persons were injured. All the injured were from Colorado points, except G. T. Logan and Mrs. Maude Logan of Parnell, Mo., who suffered cuts on the face.

Modjeska Nearing the End.

Artificial means are being employed to sustain Mme. Modjeska, the actress, who is critically ill at Los Angeles, Cal. Her physician says that she may die any moment or may live for a week.

Eliot Denies Reports.

"All newspaper reports purporting to emanate from me that I have either accepted or declined the post of ambassador to Great Britain are absolutely unauthorized," said President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard college.

Diplomatic Relations Near Crisis.

Indications are that diplomatic relations between this country and Nicaragua are nearing a crisis, resulting from the failure of President Zelaya to adjust the Emery claim.

FORT WORTH HAS \$2,000,000 FIRE

Small Boys and Cigarette Start Fatal and Costly Blaze.

To some small boys and a carelessly thrown cigarette is generally attributed the fire which destroyed property in Fort Worth, Tex., valued at \$2,000,000, causing the death of one person, J. J. Newton, a bank employee, the serious injury of six others, rendered 200 families homeless and will cause the temporary idleness of several hundred workmen employed in the factories and business houses burned.

The burned district is under the guard of state troops to prevent looting and the entire fire fighting force of the city are still engaged in extinguishing the burning embers. A mass meeting of citizens was held and relief committees named, but as the burned residence district was populated largely by people in comfortable circumstances, the relief needed will be small.

The burned area is approximately a mile and a half long and a half mile wide, and while it will require days to accurately give the individual losses, a conservative estimate places the aggregate at about \$2,000,000. The largest individual loss was suffered by the Texas and Pacific railroad, officials of the road placing the damage at \$160,000.

Shortly after the fire began assistance was asked of Dallas and a special train brought apparatus and detachments from the fire department of that city, but even thus reinforced the fire had gained such headway that the efforts of the firemen were without result until practically nothing had remained on which the flames might feed.

Temporary abodes were found for those rendered homeless wherever available. Many spent the night in the live stock building and Auditorium at the fair grounds. Others accepted the invitation of nearby towns.

600 INSANE PERSONS IN PERIL

Prairie Fire Destroys Buildings of Oklahoma Asylum.

Six hundred helpless insane persons were in danger of death when a blaze, starting from a prairie fire, destroyed several buildings of the state insane asylum at Fort Supply, Okla.

The fire broke out in the laundry building. The fire department was ordered out and every effort made to conceal from the patients the fact that the building was burning. One woman looking out of a window saw the fire and excitedly gave the alarm. "We'll be burned to death," she screamed. The attendants rushed among their charges and tried frantically to pacify them, but a great panic had been narrowly averted.

The fire spread from the laundry to the pharmacy supply building and threatened the asylum itself. Meanwhile, when the blaze was near them, the inmates yielded to the entreaties of the attendants and kept good order.

By hard work the various ward buildings were saved. The buildings destroyed were the stables, laundry, pharmacy and employees' quarters. The loss is estimated at \$15,000.

BIG SUIT NEARS ITS END

Prosecution of Standard Oil by Government Reaches Argument Stage.

The calling for argument of the case of the United States against the Standard Oil company of New Jersey in the United States circuit court at St. Louis Monday marked the beginning of the end of the government's attempt to prove that the great company is a corporation in restraint of trade within the meaning of the Sherman act.

This is the case which has been prosecuted by the government more than two years and in which hearings have been held in New York, Chicago and other cities. John D. Rockefeller and other big men of the company appeared to tell of its history and dealings.

Nineteen typewritten volumes, containing 25,000 pages of testimony and more than 1,500 documentary exhibits, have been filed for the consideration of the judges. They are Judges Adams, Vandeventer, Hook and Sanborn.

The government is represented in the suit by Frank B. Kellogg, C. B. Morrison and J. Harrison Graves. For the Standard appear John S. Miller and Moritz Rosenthal of Chicago and Judge Henry Priest of St. Louis.

Fatal Fire at Kankakee,

Wallace Gagnier was burned to death and Ed Pombert was seriously injured in a fire at Kankakee, Ill., Monday, which destroyed Fleming & Brown's garage, together with seven automobiles. The fire is supposed to have started from a match thrown on the floor. Explosions quickly followed. Pombert was burned trying to rescue his companion, who had crawled to a window.

Students Issue Ultimatum to Patton.

The differences between Dr. Francis L. Patton, president of the Princeton theological seminary, and undergraduates of that institution culminated in new resolutions adopted at a special meeting of the students, in which the ultimatum is set forth that either Dr. Patton is to be made to provide a more modern curriculum or else the entire student body will resign.

Milk Drinking at Omaha.

Lacteal Fluid Is Now Served at All Drug Stores.

Omaha, April 6.—Not only the children, but the men of Omaha have acquired the milk drinking habit. Last fall men of Omaha commenced to show a fondness for milk, but the demand for the fluid did not reach any

BANK ROBBER A LINCOLN MAN

Mysterious Imogene Bandit Identified as Aurel Walla.

Sidney, Ia., April 5.—The identity of the bank robber, who, as "Edward Gordon," was sentenced to serve ten years at the state reformatory at Anamosa, has finally been discovered. He was identified by Detective Malone of the Lincoln police force as Aurel Walla of Lincoln.

The bandit's wife and brother came to visit him, but did not arrive until after Sheriff Harris had departed for Anamosa with his prisoner.

Detective Malone said that Walla bore a good record up until last June. Since that time he has been suspected of complicity in no less than five robberies. He has been arrested three times, but so far as known has never before been convicted. It is now believed that he was the ringleader of the gang who looted the Imogene bank and that his pals were both young men, instead of oldtimers, as he represented them to be.

Walla says that if it hadn't been for the "fool farmers" they would all have made their getaway successfully. One farmer discovered the robbers asleep in his strawpile and another held up Walla with a shotgun.

COLUMBUS HAS A BIG SPREAD

Banquet Given by Commercial Club Proves a Most Successful Affair.

Columbus, Neb., April 5.—The largest and most successful affair of the kind ever held in Columbus was the annual banquet of the Columbus Commercial club. There were about 200 guests in attendance and the banquet was served in the best of style by the women of the Congregational church. Mayor Fillett presided as toastmaster. Governor Shallenbach made a trip on a special to reach Columbus to attend the function. He told several stories and closed with an apostrophe to Nebraska as the brightest star in the flag. Senator Burkett, in speaking of the flag, said it was the emblem of the country which offered to all the best chance of any nation in the world. J. E. Kelby touched on railroad legislation and the relations of the railroad to the public. Victor Rosewater, in a humorous way, portrayed what might have happened if Columbus, on his voyage of discovery, had been accompanied by a modern newspaper correspondent.

DID NOT MEET WITH FOUL PLAY

Hunton Was in Des Moines While Omaha Police Were Hunting Him.

Omaha, April 6.—While the police of Omaha were scouring the city for him, J. C. Hunton was at his home in Des Moines. Several weeks ago Mr. Hunton left Des Moines on a business trip to Kansas City and Omaha. When he arrived here he forwarded his mail to Des Moines and wrote his wife that he would go to Sioux Falls, S. D., for a few days' stay. But the bellboy forgot to mail the letters to Mrs. Hunton and she feared that he had met with foul play. Charles Guth, his brother-in-law, then came here and asked the aid of the police. They began their search for him.

NEBRASKA TO HAVE SHARE

Enlisted Strength of State Militia Will Give Department \$8,548

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Fatal Ride on Freight Train.

Nebraska City, Neb., April 5.—The body of a man was found near Berlin and identified as that of Bailey of Des Moines, Ia. He was evidently riding in a boxcar on the Missouri Pacific railway and fell out under the car on the fast freight train.

Nebraska Pastor to Sioux City.

Sioux City, April 5.—Rev. G. Larson of Curtis, Neb., has accepted a call to become pastor of the Danish Lutheran church of this city.

Fire Drill Saves Pupils.

Pittsburg, April 6.—Between 600 and 700 pupils were safely marched out of the McKees Rock public school, a suburb, when the building was found to be on fire. When discovered, the entire roof was in a blaze, but the fire drill was successfully employed and not one of the children was injured in any way. The building was destroyed.

Dates made at this office

MILK DRINKING AT OMAHA

Lacteal Fluid Is Now Served at All Drug Stores.

Omaha, April 6.—Not only the children, but the men of Omaha have acquired the milk drinking habit. Last fall men of Omaha commenced to show a fondness for milk, but the demand for the fluid did not reach any

bridge to Celery, Alberta.

Eighty miles of new roads will be built to Quaker country and a con-

ference will be held to discuss every

topic of interest to the people of the

area.

More people are returning to the temper-

ance bases now.

Two bars have been established.

Several liquor dealers have been

closed.

Business has been

closed.