

REFUSES TO DELAY TRIALS.

Navajo Judge Insists on Proceeding with Postoffice Cases.

Arraigned on Charges of Embezzlement and are Given Counsel. Neely Pleads Not Guilty.

Havana, Jan. 8.—The trials of the cases arising from the Cuban postoffice embezzlements opened Saturday in the Audiencia court before five judges. The court room is located over the prison in which Neely has been confined. One hundred and eighty-two witnesses have been called to testify and of these about eighty responded today.

Of the defendants, Neely, Rathbone and Reeves were seated on one side of the room and Moya and Mascara, the Cuban stamp clerks, on the other. Neely showed no signs of his confinement. He has grown stouter and was in good spirits.

Upon the opening of the court Rathbone was informed by the judges that his counsel, Senores Lanuza and Desvergne, had withdrawn. The court asked the other counsel for the defense if they would assume charge of Rathbone's case, and, being answered in the negative, appointed Lawyer Pascua, a court employe, and gave Rathbone one hour in which to consult with his new attorney.

The court asked Neely to plead and the latter responded that he had never heard the accusations against him, but, after consulting with his counsel, he entered a plea of not guilty. Rathbone, Moya and Mascara also pleaded not guilty, while Reeves was granted permission to wait until the next session of the court before making his plea. Senor Zaya, Neely's counsel, asked that the accusation against his client be read. He said he had not given instructions to Neely, as the court had not allowed him to consult upon documents and examine papers in order to prepare his defense.

The complaint was read in Spanish, consuming two and one-half hours. During the reading Rathbone rose and said he desired to protest against the continuance of the trial until he should have time to get counsel of his own selection, and also that if his plea was to be taken as a deposition he wished to withdraw it.

REFUSES TO POSTPONE TRIAL. The court said that the plea would not be taken in the circumstance, and that Rathbone's protest would be considered.

Before the reading of the complaint was finished Lawyer Desvergne, a brother of Rathbone's former counsel, asked the privilege of the court to assume the protection of his brother's client for the afternoon. The court granted his request, but would not allow the further delay asked for. Lawyer Desvergne then moved that the reading of Rathbone's answer to the charges be withheld until the next session of the court.

The amount of documentary evidence submitted by the government is very great, a table being piled with books and interrogatories. The court in its refusal to postpone the trials said there was no reason for delaying the proceedings because the interrogatories and other evidence for the defense had not arrived, since they might arrive at any time during the trial. The defense takes the ground that the government is submitting a great mass of documentary evidence and that the twenty days given them to file an answer is insufficient.

PROBING RECENT RAILWAY MERGERS.

Chicago, Jan. 7.—At a meeting here next Wednesday the Interstate Commerce commission will move against the Northern Securities company and investigate the combine of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington railways.

The commission will probe the entire matter of "community of interest" between great railway systems, but the specific investigation will be aimed at the northwestern railways.

Hundreds of witnesses, among them many of the leading railway promoters and owners in the country, have been summoned to appear in Chicago next Wednesday to testify before the commission. All the western magnates have been summoned to appear, and, after the investigation in Chicago which may last weeks, has been concluded, the commission will resume its hearings in New York and call before it the great promoters and financiers of Wall Street.

It is understood there is to be a general and determined fight all along the line. The commission has announced its intention of examining every phase of railroad combination, including the purchase of the Southern Pacific by the Union Pacific, the Union Pacific's officers' control over the Burlington, and every specific instance of what they regard as violations of the interstate commerce law.

Leap From Trestle to Death.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 8.—Mrs. Lena Ferber, a widow, jumped from a trestle fifty feet high in a frenzied attempt to escape certain death from an approaching train. She was crossing the Deer creek trestle on the Cincinnati, Portsmouth & Virginia railroad, when a rapidly moving train came upon her. It was impossible for her to reach the end of the trestle, and she leaped just before the train reached her. She was alive when picked up, but later died at the hospital.

IOWA MAN FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 8.—Adjutant General Byers' name will be presented to the National Guard association at Washington on the 28th as a candidate for president of the association. The nomination will come from Minnesota in compliment to General Byers on the good work he has done for the guards in securing the appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the guards from congress. It was largely through the instrumentality of General Byers that this appropriation was secured. He went to Speaker Henderson with a proposal of the guard association for \$2,000,000. The speaker at first refused to consider anything of the sort. General Byers drew Senator Allison and Representative Cannon into the movement and together they prevailed on Speaker Henderson to permit the measure for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to be called up. This was all that Henderson would permit at that time. The guard association meets in Washington January 20 and an effort will be made to have congress increase the annual appropriation. It is probable that ex-Adjutant General C. C. Lambert of Minnesota will be made secretary and General Byers president. Both have taken an active part in the work. Under the appropriation Iowa gets annually about \$28,000 from the general government for the state militia. General Lincoln, who is president of the State Guard association, has not yet named the delegates from Iowa, but the adjutant general is ex-officio chairman.

INAUGURATION OF IOWA'S GOVERNOR.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 7.—Lieutenant Governor, John Herriott and Speaker W. L. Eaton, who will secure those offices about the middle of the month have been entrusted with the naming of the committees to arrange for the inauguration ceremonies. The military feature of the inaugural ceremony will be the most important this year. It has been decided that four companies of the national guard will be called to the city and the companies selected will be those that were highest in marking at the last inspection, namely, Company A, Fortyninth Dubuque; Company B, fiftieth, at Davenport; Company M, fifty-first at Red Oak; and Company L, fifty-second, at Sioux City. The expenses of bringing these companies to the inauguration as a military escort to the governor will be about \$800. Their services will be donated free, as in the past. The fifty-first regiment band of Centerville will furnish music for the occasion. The vocal music will be largely by the Ges club of the Grant club of Des Moines. Messrs. Herriott and Eaton have not yet completed the general committee, but Senator Dowell of Des Moines will be chairman. The inauguration will take place January 16 and the ceremonies will be in the auditorium. The two houses will meet in joint session and be presided over by the retiring lieutenant governor, J. C. Milliken, and proceed to the auditorium. The legislature and the state officials will be seated on the stage. The boxes will be reserved for the friends of the governor and the lieutenant governor. The seats of the auditorium will be free to all who come. It will seat about 3,500 persons. In the evening the reception to the governor and wife will be at the state house.

POWERFUL COAL COMBINE ORGANIZED.

Pittsburg, Jan. 7.—A powerful independent coal combination has been formed in Pittsburg, to be known as the Manufacturers' and Consumers' Coal company, with a capital of \$15,000,000, all paid in. The combine is a consolidation of all the J. H. Jones' interests, together with the Pittsburg and Buffalo Coal company, J. H. Jones will be president of the company, Jas. Jones chairman of the executive committee and J. P. Jones general manager. The total acreage to be controlled by the new corporation will be 25,000, all of which is in the Pittsburg district. The daily output will be about 15,000 tons.

The Manufacturers and Consumers' company will come into competition with the Pittsburg coal company, which is known as the rail combine.

SHOOTS HIS NEIGHBOR IN THE HEART.

Humboldt, Neb., Jan. 7.—Word just received here is to the effect that Frank Fritch and William Hunzeker, two well known farmers, four miles west of this city, quarreled and wound up with a fight, in which Fritch shot Hunzeker through the heart, killing him instantly.

Hunzeker had become involved in some trouble over the establishment of a road. The affair occurred just over the line in Pawnee county, and then officers of that county are now searching for Fritch, who made his escape after taking a few ineffectual shots at other men who attempted to intercept him.

Both parties are among the most prominent in their section, and the affair has stirred up general regret. Both men have families and are well-to-do.

Congo Free State Company.

Brussels, Jan. 8.—An organization entitled the Upper Congo to the Great African Lakes company, with a capital of 25,000,000 francs, was registered here today, with the object of constructing and working 1,400 kilometers of railroad in the Congo Free state. French capitalists subscribed 10,000,000 francs and Belgians subscribed 15,000,000 francs. The Congo Free State guarantees a minimum interest of 4 per cent. The company gets concessions of lands, forests and mines.

THE SHERIFF IS KILLED.

Wyo. Outlaws Kill Head of Party Seeking Their Capture.

More Than a Hundred Determined Chase the Fugitives. Prospect of a Speedy Lynching.

Casper, Wyo., Jan. 6.—New Year's evening four prisoners escaped from jail. They were Charles and Clarence Woodward, David Foote and C. B. Franklin. Sheriff W. C. Ricker followed and overtook them at Garfield Peak, seventy-five miles west of Casper. The Woodwards, from a concealed position, fired on the sheriff and shot him from right to left through the breast. A posse was started out at once for the scene of the shooting. Sheriff Ricker has a wife and four children.

One hundred and fifteen men left here for the place where Sheriff Ricker was shot. The posse went out on horseback, but the swiftest may not get there until after midnight. Serious thoughts are now being given to the posse, as some have gone poorly clothed and with little or no food. A grub wagon has just started to relieve them. The snow out there is over a foot deep, and some of the posse are apt to freeze. There is no doubt that Ricker is dead. A vigilance committee has been organized here and the men will probably be hung. The whole community is in on the committee, and everything is ready for summary justice. Excitement is at white heat. The community has been the prey of thieves and a general cleaning up will now be made.

GOV. RICHARDS NOTIFIED.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Governor Richards has been advised that Sheriff Ricker of Casper, Wyo., was shot during a battle with outlaws in the mountains near Garfield Peak, seventy-five miles west of Casper. Sheriff Ricker was in charge of a posse sent out last Tuesday to capture the Woodward brothers and two others, who escaped from the Natrona county jail Monday night. The outlaws are said to have been mounted and well armed, friends having aided them after they left the jail. It is also reported that the outlaws fortified themselves in a ravine and when the posse appeared opened fire. Reinforcements have been sent out from Casper. The outlaws are headed for the "Hole in the Wall" country, a notorious hiding place for bandits.

DETAILS OF THE SHOOTING.

They were confined in the county jail awaiting trial for cattle stealing. Last Monday night, aided by friends on the outside, the four men sawed their way out of jail. Once on the outside, they were given horses and made their escape to the ranch of the Woodward Bros., at Garfield Peak, sixty-five miles west of Casper and not far from the notorious Hole in the Wall country.

Sheriff Ricker and two deputies took up the trail Tuesday and reached the Woodward place at night. The outlaws were located in the barn, and as Sheriff Ricker advanced and ordered them to surrender they opened fire. The officer fell mortally wounded, and for twenty minutes the battle waged fiercely, the two deputies taking refuge behind some rocks. At the end of this time Sheriff Ricker called out that he was dying and asked to be moved from the range of the flying bullets.

The outlaws refused to grant a truce and continued firing every time a deputy showed his head. As the horses of the officers had been stamped at the first fire, one deputy was compelled to walk back to a ranch and secure a horse, upon which he went to Casper and organized a posse.

The whole country is aroused and the capture or death of the outlaws is certain. The outlaws have horses and plenty of food and ammunition, and with a good start the chase will be a long one before they are overtaken.

A RICH GOLD STRIKE IS MADE.

Deadwood, S.D., Jan. 8.—What is believed to be a continuation of the Homestake gold ore belt has been discovered on the ground of the Garden City Milling company near Garden City.

The find is a body of free milling ore, and was discovered while the annual assessment work was being done. The ore found shows good values. The extent of the deposit has not been determined. It is located only two or three miles from the Homestake company, and in line with the trend of the ledges.

The Garden City district contains a large amount of low grade ore, and recent experiments with the cyanide process have caused mining men to take a decided interest in these fields. Recently the tailings of an old chlorination plant at Garden City was worked over with flattering results.

Compelled to Work.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.—The war department has received the report of a court-martial at Manila, involving the case of Frank C. Meekin, formerly a private in Company E, Thirty-seventh volunteers. Meekin joined the insurgents and served with them for nine months, chiefly in repairing weapons and preparing ammunition. His defense was that he was captured while drunk, and compelled to work for the enemy. He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

CLOSING IN ON MONTANA OUTLAWS.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 7.—Posses from Sweetwater, Fremont and Natrona counties are closing in on the outlaws who murdered Sheriff William Ricker in Casper, near Garfield Peak, in the Rattlesnake mountains, Thursday night. All avenues of escape through Johnson, Sheridan and Big Horn counties on the north and Albany and Converse counties on the south, are being guarded, and the officers hope the outlaws will be captured or killed inside of thirty-six hours. Over 100 mounted and well-armed men have joined the chase.

Central Wyoming is aroused as a result of the murder, the details of which were brought to Casper when the mutilated body of Sheriff Ricker was taken home, and threats of a wholesale lynching are openly expressed.

Sheriff Ricker was not killed in a battle with the escaped prisoners, as at first reported, but was murdered in cold blood. When the officer and his two deputies, one of whom was a cousin of the Woodward brothers, the outlaws, and who is alleged to have joined the murderers, reached the Woodward ranch, he was shot down as he was entering the barn to stable his horse.

His body was dragged into the barn, where his head was beaten into a jelly and a bullet fired into his brain. He was then robbed of pistols, money and valuables.

After the commission of the crime, and while Deputy Sheriff Milne was returning to Casper for aid, the four murderers escaped. Two are believed to be headed north and three southwest.

The dead sheriff was prominent in Masonic circles in the state. He was also an Odd Fellow. He was chief of the Casper fire department and a man universally liked. The body will be laid at rest Sunday.

GOV. SHAW TALKS WITH PRESIDENT.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Governor Leslie M. Shaw of Iowa, who is to succeed Hon. Lyman J. Gage as secretary of the treasury, arrived in Washington tonight. He is staying at the Arlington hotel and had been there but a short time when, in response to a message from the White house, he walked across Lafayette place to the president's home and remained with him until after 9 o'clock. Later the governor called on Speaker Henderson. He will have a more extended conference with the president tomorrow.

Governor Shaw accorded a hearty greeting to the group of newspaper men who were awaiting him in the hotel lobby after his return from the White house. He was noncommittal, however, when asked leading questions about matters of financial policy. Tomorrow Governor Shaw will confer with Secretary Gage as to the latter's wishes in surrendering the secretaryship of the treasury. The governor said he would be ready to sume the office by the 23d or 25d of January, but he would suit the date largely to Mr. Gage's wishes in the matter.

"My experience has been that when a man has decided to quit an office," said the governor, philosophically, "he is jealous of the hours he has to stay. I can come any time, but will leave the change of the date to the present secretary. President Roosevelt has left the arrangements for the change practically to Mr. Gage."

The governor will remain here for several days before returning to Iowa.

MANY LIVES ARE LOST AT SEA.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 7.—Advices from Eureka say the list of dead and missing in the foundering of the steamer Walla Walla has reached forty-one. Of these eight are known to have died. The remaining thirty-three are probably adrift on the ocean in two lifeboats and on a raft. Of the 142 passengers and crew on the Walla Walla 109 are accounted for as follows: Eighty-four survivors are at Eureka; 107 at Big Lakeon, near Trinidad; seven were drowned before reaching land and one unknown woman died from the shock and exposure after reaching shore. This leaves thirty-three unaccounted for. It is thought that nearly all are in boats at sea, but it is possible some were drowned when the steamer went down.

San Francisco.—(Special.)—A collision at sea early Thursday morning between the steamship Walla Walla and an unidentified sailing vessel resulted in the sinking of the steamship and probable loss of at least twenty lives.

The Walla Walla, owned by the Pacific Coast Steamship company, sailed from San Francisco January 1 for Puget Sound points. It carried sixty-five first-class passengers, twenty-eight second-class and a crew of eighteen men. When off the coast of Cape Mendocino on the California coast at 4:10 a. m. Thursday and iron bark, believed to be French, loomed up in the haze and crashed into the Walla Walla's bow. Then the sailing vessel slid off into the darkness and was seen no more.

Plant's Will is Declared Illegal.

New York, Jan. 8.—Justice Leavitt of the supreme court has decided that the last codicil to the will of the late H. B. Plant, the southern railway magnate, tying up his vast personal estate until his youngest son and his grandson become of age, is illegal under New York laws. Mr. Plant, by the decision, will receive \$7,000,000 direct, instead of an annuity of \$700,000. The court decided that though Plant died in Connecticut, he was a resident of New York.

THE COMBINE IN COURTS.

Stops Taken to Oppose Railroad Deal in Highest Court in the Land.

The Interstate Commerce Commission Will Also Investigate the Big Railroad Combine.

New York, Jan. 7.—The opposition of the authorities of the northwestern states to the Northern Pacific-Great Northern consolidation will come to a head next Monday, when a bill will be filed in the United States supreme court at Washington to restrain the Northern Securities company from proceeding with its organization.

Attorney General Douglas of Minnesota will be in Washington in charge of the matter. This appeal to the highest court was decided upon at the recent conference of governors of the northwestern states, and received a unanimous approval.

The bill, prepared by Mr. Munn, alleges that the Northern Securities company is a monopoly organized to hold control of two competing railroads, something positively and clearly forbidden by the Minnesota law. It is argued that the state of New Jersey has no power to authorize a corporation to perform acts in another state, specifically forbidden by the statutes of such a state.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 7.—Having been requested by the railway commission of Minnesota to investigate the proposed amalgamation of the Great Northern and Union Pacific railway companies and determine whether the consolidation is in violation of the interstate commerce law, the five interstate commerce commissioners, Knapp, Fifer, Prouty and Yoeman, are en route to Chicago. Here a thorough investigation will be begun.

Next week the commission will assemble in the Mondnock building and hear the testimony of officials of the railways proposing to consolidate.

Subpoenas have been issued for all the higher officials of the two competing lines, including President Melten of the Northern Pacific and President J. J. Hill of the Great Northern, besides President Stillwell of the Great Western, President Harris of the Burlington and ex-President Hays of the Southern Pacific.

It is denied that J. P. Morgan, E. H. Harriman, Jacob Schiff and W. H. Rockefeller have been asked to attend.

URGES THE SOLDIERS TO DESERT.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.—Accompanying the report of General Chaffee on his action in the case of John T. Kreider, corporal of the Thirty-eighth volunteers, convicted of treason and sentenced to prison for life, which sentence was reversed and the man set at liberty because of the absence of conclusive proof, is a copy of a proclamation signed with the names of nine Americans, seven of them soldiers, inviting American enlisted men to desert and join the ranks of the Filipinos.

Kreider claims to have been captured, forced to act against his country and compelled to sign the document, which speaks of "fighting these people, who are defending their country against a cruel American invasion, in the same manner our forefathers did against England."

Besides Kreider's, the names attached are: Harry Almin, company K; John Blake, trumpeter, Twenty-eighth infantry; Frank Clark, company F, Twenty-first infantry; Charles Buchanan, company B, Twenty-eighth volunteers; Harry Richter, Sixth artillery; Charles Wright, F. Smith and J. Ryan.

FISH IN THE WESTERN STREAMS.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.—An increase of over 9,000,000 in the fish and eggs distributed by the government throughout the country and a marked decline in lobster fishing are shown in the annual report of United States Commissioner of Fisheries Bowers for the last fiscal year.

The total fish and eggs distributed was 1,173,333,400, the principal species being shad, salmon, lake trout, whitefish, pike, perch, lake herring, cod, flatfish and lobsters. Plans were matured to begin the propagation of lake herring on the great lakes. The total yield of the great lakes fisheries for the year was 113,728,000 pounds, worth \$2,011,400. There were 9,670 persons employed in the lakes fisheries and \$6,617,000 was invested.

In recent years the fisheries of the Mississippi and its tributaries have developed to such a degree that in 1899 they exceeded in quantity and nearly equaled in value the entire yield of the remaining interior waters of the United States except in the great lakes. Mussel shells, used in the manufacture of pearl buttons, were a valuable item, some 145,000,000 pounds being gathered, for which the fishermen obtained \$147,000.

Buda-Pest, Jan. 8.—An extraordinary duel has just been fought in the village of Surog between two youths named Arlian and Janik, following a quarrel over cards. Arlian wanted to fight with fists, but Janik insisted on pistols. Both were blindfolded and Arlian was mortally wounded. The pistols were loaded with chopped lead. Janik and his seconds were arrested. In reply to the magistrate's question as to how the duel was arranged, Janik replied: "We fought as gentlemen do."

IRRIGATION AFFECTS MILL INTERESTS.

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 7.—The use of the water of the Republican river in Western Nebraska and Eastern Colorado for irrigation purposes has increased to such an extent during the past year that the milling industry in Southern Nebraska and Northern Kansas is beginning to suffer.

W. G. Guthrie of Superior, Neb., and several Kansas millers are now taking steps to prevent the further use of the water for irrigation purposes. The suit against the irrigators will probably be tried in the district court of Nuckolls county, Nebraska. W. W. Williams, an attorney of Clay Center, Kan., has been engaged to assist in the prosecution. It is the intention of the millers to try the case in the Nebraska courts because the laws of that state are more strict in regard to the control of irrigationists.

The suit will probably be brought under the Nebraska law enacted in 1887, which provides that the rights of the earliest users of the water are paramount to those of later consumers. It will be shown that the mills of Southern Nebraska have been using the water of the Republican for twenty-five or thirty years for power, and that the irrigationists have only begun using the water during the past ten years. The suit will be somewhat similar to the suit begun in the United States supreme court to restrain the irrigation companies of Colorado from using the waters of the Arkansas river.

CARNEGIE MAKES OFFER TO FREMONT.

Fremont, Neb., Jan. 8.—Andrew Carnegie has made an offer to donate to the city of Fremont a \$15,000 library building. A short time ago Superintendent J. L. Laird of the city schools wrote to Mr. Carnegie, setting out the needs of a public library building for the city. Now he has received an answer, stating that if the city council will pledge itself by resolution to support a library at a cost of not less than \$1,500 a year and provide a suitable site Mr. Carnegie will be glad to furnish \$15,000 for a free library building. The members of the council appear to be heartily in favor of accepting the proposition, and no difficulty is expected in raising the money for the purchase of a site. It is just a year since the agitation began which resulted in the establishment of the present Fremont public library.

GOOD USE FOR THE PRIZE MONEY.

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—Captain B. H. McCalla, now in command of the Kearsarge, the flagship of the North Atlantic squadron, has in view the erection of a fine club house at Vallejo for the enlisted men of the navy. He has already secured a site for the proposed building, paying for it with the prize money awarded to him for his services in the Spanish war. Additional funds are to be secured by popular subscription. Mrs. McCalla is now here making the preliminary arrangements for the erection of the structure, which will probably be modeled after the Blue Jackets' club house in Brooklyn, which was erected through the munificence of Miss Helen Gould. It will contain a library, gymnasium, billiard room, a bowling alley and sleeping rooms and be a home for the men at Mare Island when off duty.

LAMPRE HERE TO SELL THE CANAL.

New York, Jan. 7.—M. Lampre, secretary general of the Panama Canal company, arrived in New York on the French line steamer l'Aquitaine. He is here to confer with a number of the Panama company's American representatives and to renew overtures for the sale of the canal property to the United States.

In regard to the price which it is intended to ask for the property, it is generally believed that it will be approximately \$40,000,000, although upwards of \$150,000,000 was asked at first. The definitive price, however, will not be submitted until it is ascertained whether the United States is disposed to renew the negotiations.

TRUST PLANS TO CONTROL THE WORLD.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 7.—At a meeting held this week by the directors of the Diamond Match company, plans were discussed, it is reported, for securing a monopoly on the match manufacturing industry of the world. The company already practically controls the match industry in the United States, in England and in South America.

It also has factories in operation in Germany and is negotiating for the purchase of the Swedish match industries. It is planned also to establish factories in other countries within the next year.

Edwin Gould has become the principal owner of the Diamond Match stock and it is said to be his intention to secure a monopoly of the business the world over.

The Sattley Manufacturing company has filed suit in the Sangamon county court against forty-two strikers, who formerly worked in the Sattley shops, but are now engaged in a strike, to recover damages placed at \$40,000.

While suffering from the delusion that someone was pursuing him for the purpose of murder, George Jones, supposed to be from Madisonville, La., leaped to his death from the third floor of the Salvation army barracks at St. Louis. Death was instantaneous.

Archie Patterson was shot and killed by Oscar Baker at Mount Vernon. Both were young men. The murder occurred in a notorious resort in the town.