

# WASHINGTON NEWS

R. M. Johnston of Texas, was sworn in as the successor of Joseph W. Bailey, in the United States senate.

Government loans on farm mortgages at low interest rates were proposed in a bill by Representative Bathrick, of Ohio. The plan outlined is to attain the same object as the "rural credits" system. The bill would provide for the establishment of a bureau of farm loans in the treasury department, with a loan commissioner appointed by the president. The secretary of the treasury would be authorized to raise funds for loaning to "bona fide tillers of the soil" on farm mortgages, by the issue of government bonds at not to exceed 4 per cent interest. The

loans would be made on farms of which at least one-half must be under cultivation. Applications for loans would be made to the commissioner, who would certify the value of the property, to be ascertained by the owner and appraisers appointed by the commissioner, to the secretary of the treasury, who would loan not to exceed 60 per cent of the value of the land on a mortgage made out to the secretary of the treasury at not more than 4 1/2 per cent interest. The bill would exempt both mortgages and bonds issued under the act from taxation, and proposes an appropriation of \$100,000 for the installation of the plan.

A United Press dispatch says: How to deal with recalcitrant witnesses and to force from the administration the production of certain treasury department records, faced the money trust inquirers. A special meeting of the full house banking committee was considered to map out plans.

Refusal of the administration to disclose confidential reports by national banks to the comptroller of the currency; evasion of testimony of William Rockefeller of the Standard Oil company, and flat refusal of G. G. Henry, a New York broker, to disclose banks involved in promoting the California Petroleum company were to be discussed.

Lawrence O. Murray, comptroller of the currency, was summoned before the committee. Through him it was proposed to show that President Taft refused to divulge the national banks' reports to the treasury department. Murray's testimony was designed to support the committee's contention that there was immediate necessity for passage by the senate of the resolution, already passed by the house, giving the Pujo committee inquisitorial powers over the comptroller's confidential representatives.

Chairman Pujo said that contempt charges would be rushed against Broker Henry. The papers were being prepared for certification to Speaker Clark and submission to the United States district attorney for the District of Columbia. The district attorney will decide if a case is made out against Henry for presentation to the federal grand jury.

Dispatch of an eminent throat specialist to Nassau to examine William Rockefeller is planned by the probers.

Chairman Pujo said the committee's expert would leave here soon. Pending the specialist's report, no further action is contemplated against Rockefeller.

It was also stated that the committee would not send a specialist to Nassau to report on Rockefeller's condition but that they would await the oil magnate's return to this country.

Correspondence between President Taft, Comptroller Murray, Attorney General Wickersham and the committee was read by Undermyer. It told of the futile attempt of the committee to secure Murray's bank records.

"Without this data it will be impossible to acquaint the house with the needed legislation," was a clause of Undermyer's appeal to Taft. Comptroller Murray replied for the president that congress has no "visitorial powers" over the banks.

Other correspondence said that Taft had told the committee that Murray could furnish such data as "he had at hand, but that he did not wish to burden the comptroller with

extra investigation work, or to disclose confidential matters.

"The committee desires to know to what ends these banks are used by the great financial powers," Undermyer wrote Murray.

The comptroller replied that he had supplied "all public information" in his office. He said the value of stocks held by the banks had been ascertained, but that it was held subject to release by the president.

Undermyer brought out that Murray favored publicity of the assets of the banks, but that the law required the comptroller to regard this information as secret.

Murray said the national bank examiners accepted the New York stock exchange quotations as representing the real value of the securities listed there and held by banks as collateral.

"Then, if these quotations were fictitiously made by market manipulators, the examiner would be misled as to the real value of securities held for loans?" Undermyer asked.

"To that extent they would," the comptroller admitted.

A dispatch to the Philadelphia North American says: Power of the states over railroads and express companies suffered a hard blow when the supreme court held that since the passage of the Carmack amendment to the interstate commerce law, in 1906, the states have ceased to have power to annul contracts between railroads and shippers limiting the liability for the loss of interstate shipments.

Another serious blow was delivered when the court held that the states, since the passage of the interstate commerce acts, and particularly the Hepburn law, in 1906, had no power to penalize railroads for failure to furnish cars for interstate shipments. In this connection, the court declared unconstitutional the Minnesota reciprocal demurrage law, authorizing the recovery by shippers of a dollar a day for every day during which the railroad failed to furnish a car for the movement of freight.

The court not only annulled the state laws which seek to regulate the liability, but it held that the federal law, as expressed in the Carmack amendment, dealt with the subject of railroad shipments and that it did not prohibit contracts limiting liability in return on a low rate.

Justice Lurton said it was as reasonable to base rates on value as on the character of shipments. Furthermore, he added, it was not comfortable to plain principles of justice that the shipper may understate the value of his property for the purpose of reducing the rate and then recover a large value in case of loss.

He laid down the principle that so long as a railroad or express company has published its rates based on the valuation of the property, the transportation company need not inquire as to the value. He declared that the shipper was bound by what the receipt for the goods showed and by the schedule of rates filed with the interstate commerce commission.

As to the reciprocal demurrage law for interstate commerce, the court said that the Hepburn rate law expressly fixed the duty of carriers to furnish cars and that precluded the states from acting further on that subject.

The United States supreme court has declared the principle that "corners" of interstate commodities, such as articles of clothing and food, are in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, and held that, as far as the Sherman law was concerned, the indictment in the New York federal court of James Patten, Eugene G. Scales, Frank H. Hayne and William P. Brown, for "conspiring to run an

alleged cotton corner," was valid. The case against them was sent back for trial and other proceedings.

Justice Van Devanter announced the opinion of the court. Justice Lurton delivered a dissenting opinion in which Chief Justice White and Justice Holmes concurred.

An Associated press dispatch says: Senator Bristow of Kansas, presented to the senate a proposal for an industrial commission of seven members to take over the work of bureau of corporations and exercise control over all persons, firms, or corporations doing an interstate business with gross receipts of more than \$5,000,000 per year. Explaining the bill to the senate, he said that it proposed to create a body similar to the interstate commerce commission to have the same power over industrial concerns that the latter exercises over transportation companies. "The purpose is to protect the people with some degree of promptness from the extortionate practices of powerful corporations without destroying the business they represent," he said. He declared that the proposed commission and the powers given to it would not "interfere with big business operations if such operations are along honest and creditable lines." He declared that the Standard Oil and Tobacco trust cases had demonstrated that the courts were ineffective for the supervision of big business.

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, Jan. 13.—Robert W. Archbald of Scranton, Pa., for twenty-nine years an occupant of judicial positions upon the Pennsylvania state bench, was today adjudged guilty by the United States senate of "high crimes and misdemeanors," and was stripped of his office and forever disqualified from holding positions of public honor or public trust. The conviction and judgment came at the conclusion of the impeachment trial that has been pending in the senate since last summer on charges that Judge Archbald had been guilty of misconduct and misbehavior as a judge, and that he corruptly used his judicial power to further the private interests of himself and his friends in the acquisition of coal land properties in Pennsylvania.

Upon five of the thirteen charges brought against him by the house of representatives, Judge Archbald was found guilty. Upon the other eight the senate voted him not guilty, the majority in some cases being against him but failing of the two-thirds majority necessary for conviction. Any one of the five verdicts of guilty was enough to bring about the punishment imposed on him.

The end of the long fought struggle in the senate came early in the afternoon, when the vote was taken on the first article of impeachment. With gallery doors locked to prevent the movement of spectators, an unaccustomed hush prevailed through the chamber, senators rose in their places as their names were called and pronounced the word "guilty" in almost inaudible tones. The vote on the first charge, that Judge Archbald had corruptly influenced officials of the Erie railroad to sell him the Katydid culm dump at Scranton, resulted in his conviction by a vote of 68 to 5.

In a little committee room off the gallery floor, behind a guarded door, Judge Archbald, his wife and his son, Hugh, sat throughout the afternoon as the senate voted on the charges against him. The first vote of conviction was carried to him by his son from the gallery.

An Associated Press dispatch says: An investigation of the conduct of two federal judges, Judge Van Valkenburgh, of the western district of Missouri, and Judge John C. Pollock, (Continued on Page 15.)

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 Dr. J. E. Cannaday, 259 Court Block, Sedalia, Mo.  
 References: Third National Bank, Sedalia, Mo.

Could you do a better act than to send this notice to some poor sufferer of Eczema?