

The Independent.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO

POLITICS, AGRICULTURE AND HOME LIFE

Vol. 18. No. 928.

Lincoln, Nebraska, March 22, 1906

Subscription \$1.00

JOHN M. THAYER DEAD

Noted Nebraskan Passes Away at Age of Eighty-Six—Eventful Career as Soldier and Statesman

General John Milton Thayer, pioneer and soldier, ex-governor of Nebraska, died at his home in Lincoln, 1915 Prospect street, at 7:30 Monday evening the 19th inst. He was 86 years of age and death was due to a general breakdown incident to old age. Dr. W. G. Houtz who has been his physician for sixteen years, gave up hope of saving General Thayer's life Sunday. Up to that time the public barely knew that General Thayer was ill. He has been very feeble for many months, but was frequently seen on the streets and his health appeared to be as good as usual up to within a day or two of his death. He was unconscious during his last hours and only occasionally revived sufficiently to recognize friends.

Messages were sent Sunday to his two sons, George Dana Thayer of Meeker, Colo., and John M. Thayer, jr., of Alton, Ill., but neither was able to reach Lincoln before death came. At the death bed there were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCaslin who lived in General Thayer's house and who have tenderly looked after his wants, Dr. W. G. Houtz, and two neighbors and veterans of the civil war, Henry V. Hoagland and Mart Howe. General Thayer's last hours were apparently without pain. He slept quietly, occasionally rallying and endeavoring to speak the names of friends who took his hand. At the last he gasped and sank into his last sleep.

The pall bearers chosen by General Thayer were as follows:

Active: J. B. Strode, C. M. Parker, J. B. Ferguson, Wm. Gillespie, Henry Hoagland, Captain Baird. Two more to be chosen.

Honorary: Governor J. H. Mickey, Chancellor E. B. Andrews, General C. F. Manderson, Dr. George L. Miller, Captain H. E. Palmer, Dr. W. G. Houtz, Captain Adam Bax, A. J. Sawyer, Colonel T. J. Majors, W. A. Woodward, C. J. Bills, Harmon Bross.

He was born in Bellingham, Mass., January 24, 1820. Graduated from Brown university, 1841.

Settled in Nebraska in 1854.

Brigadier general and major general of territorial forces operating against the Indians from 1855 to 1861.

Colonel of Nebraska troops in civil war and brigadier general United States volunteers.

Member of Nebraska's first constitutional convention, 1860.

United States senator from Nebraska, 1867-1871.

Governor of Wyoming territory, 1875-9.

Department commander Nebraska G. A. R. 1886.

Governor of Nebraska 1887-91.

Oil Barons at White House

Washington.—It is stated that H. H. Rogers and J. D. Archibald of the Standard Oil company visited the

president recently and advised him of the uneasiness in Wall street, asking him to use his influence in assuaging it, they being apprehensive that a radical wave might sweep the country unless the president checked it through the people's confidence in him. It is not known what the president answered, but it is significant that the president is refraining from making suggestions to senators on railroad rate legislation, although silence may be otherwise construed.

PACKERS INNOCENT

Court Upholds Immunity Plea—Corporation Guilty, Organ Innocent

Chicago.—The court decides that the individual packers are not guilty, but that the corporations must be tried on indictments.

All of the packers who were indicted by the federal grand jury last summer upon charges of being in conspiracy in restraint of trade and commerce were granted immunity from criminal prosecution under the indictment. While the individuals are to go free, the indictments found against the corporations, of which some of the indicted individuals are members and others are employees, are to stand.

A decision to the above effect was handed down by Judge J. Otis Humphrey in the district court. The arguments in the case were concluded, and soon Judge Humphrey commenced the delivery of his opinion. It was oral and the judge spoke for nearly an hour before giving the slightest indication of what the ultimate decision would be.

He reviewed the case at length in all its bearings, cited all the essential facts which had been brought out and concluded as follows:

"Under the law in this case the immunity pleas filed by the defendants will be sustained as to the individuals and denied as to the corporations, the artificial persons, and the jury will find in favor of the government as far as the corporations are concerned, and against the government as far as the individuals are concerned."

CHINA PERFECTING ARMY

Success of Japanese a Great Lesson in Way of Drilling

Hong Kong.—Since the events of 1900, when the Chinese army consisted of a mass of unskilled, undrilled fanatics with a worthless equipment, long needed reforms have been introduced. China at present possesses the makings of a real army, organized and drilled on the model of the Japanese forces.

The international leaders during the Boxer troubles found the Chinese inferior in every way to the armies put in the field against them. In addition to their lack of skill and poor equipment, they were found to possess no idea of the meaning of war. They even held a belief that any attacks of the "foreign pigs" who fought against them could not result in disaster.

Since that time, however, and with the example of success of the Japanese forces against the Russians be-

fore them, laws for the reorganization of the army have been passed and competent officers have been secured to drill the soldiers.

The recent law provides for thirty-six divisions of the whole army to be formed as they shall be required, but with the idea that in 1922 China shall have an army of 500,000 men capable of immediate mobilization. The cost of maintaining this force is estimated at \$40,000,000 annually.

At present the provinces of Chi Li, No Han, Chan Tung and Shan Si have been reorganized on this new footing.

FINISHED IN THIRTY DAYS

Great Northern Nearly Ready for Business at Fremont, Neb.

That portion of the Great Northern road between Fremont and Sioux City is completed with the exception of the big cut near Oakland. Graders are working on either side of this, and the excavation will be completed within thirty days. The tracklayers are right up to the graders and the surfacing gang is not far behind. The new station north of Fremont has been named Walt Hill, this being the name of one of the sons of President Hill of the road.

The Great Northern station at Fremont will open for business April 1, in charge of O. C. Steele, now Burlington agent at Crete.

Grading on the Great Northern from Billings to Great Falls, Mont., has been commenced, and is well under way. When completed, this line will be operated in conjunction with the Burlington's Omaha-Billings branch, as will also the cut-off from Ashland to Sioux City.

SENDS STATE SENATOR TO JAIL

Little Rock Judge Acts When Witness Refuses to Answer Questions

State Senator F. O. Butt of Arkansas, is confined in the Pulaski jail in Little Rock, because of a refusal to answer questions propounded before the grand jury. He was placed in jail by an order of Circuit Judge Lea. Questions relative to the legislative bribery inquiry were put to him, but they have not been made public. The refusal to answer is based upon the plea that he stands upon his constitutional rights.

OHIO'S BAD BANKERS

Two Names Have Been Added to Roll of Bankers in Prison

Cleveland, O.—President Travers and Cashier Loille, of the First National bank of Conneaut, O., which was wrecked a year ago, announced in federal court today that they would plead guilty to misappropriating funds. There are now twelve bankers in the Ohio penitentiary. Travers and Loille were sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

Send \$1.00 for a year's subscription to The Independent and receive Mr. Berge's book, "The Free Pass Bribery System," free as a premium. This offer applies to full paid advance subscriptions only.

BATTLE ROYAL IN SENATE

The President Said to Be Weakening Under Pressure of Politicians in the Interest of Unity

Washington, D. C. March 21.—The rate bill occupies the center of the stage here. The hotels are filled up with railroad attorneys great and small from all over the states, and all are busy trying to manufacture public opinion against an unamended freight bill. It is surprising how glibly and fluently a country lawyer from the interior of some western state, who probably never had a case before the supreme court of his own state, can impart instructions upon the most intricate and fine points of constitutional law, and how accurately if he is to be believed he can forecast a decision of the supreme court on the bill that is now before congress. If the voters in the various states realized the pressure the railroads are bringing to bear to influence the votes of senators in favor of a court-review amendment, and would, even one in ten of them, take the trouble of writing a letter to his senator expressing his own views on the subject the case would be settled, and the railroad attorneys would be wasting their time. If the people throughout the country knew the influence that a hundred or a thousand letters from his state arriving the morning before the vote on any subject was to be taken in the senate would exert they would be tempted to write them, because there isn't any influence under the sun that brings a senator or a member of congress to time like a voice from their state that seems to come with great unanimity. When the people of the state that a senator represents have made up their minds as to what they want the senator can easily make up his mind to give it to them. But when he is in doubt whether the people in his state are giving the subject much attention or not, then he is an easy victim for blandishment and the persuasive arguments of lobbyists. If the people could be heard from the passage of the rate bill without amendment would be assured. But the railroads are being heard from, and nothing by them will be left undone to defeat the purposes of the rate bill by amendments drawn by the Spooners and Knoxes of the senate.

The democrats are not presenting as strong and as solid a front in the senate as could be desired. It is possible and not improbable that they may yet line up and present a solid front, but up to the present time the prospects is not as encouraging as could be wished.

Senator Tillman's report of the measure was all that could be asked for from the standpoint of the people, and it is the universal opinion of all who know Tillman and are acquainted with the other senators that this measure fell into the best hands possible. While Senator Tillman is not the most polished of senators in his language and manner, he is shown