

EXPRESS HELD UP

CAR BLOWN OPEN AND THE MESSENGER KILLED.

MASKED MEN DO THE WORK

Engineer Compelled to Carry Them Away—Dynamite Used in the Destruction—Contents of the Car Are Taken.

SACRAMENTO, Cal.—Three masked men held up the Oregon express, south bound on the Southern Pacific railroad at Copley, near Keswick, killed W. J. O'Neill, the express messenger, and carried off the contents of the express box. The train is known as No. 15, and stopped at Copley, a small station, for water. As the train came to a standstill three men jumped on and cut the train in two, taking the engine and express car down the track a short distance. They stopped the engine and demanded that Messenger O'Neill open the express car. He refused, whereupon they blew up the express car with dynamite and deliberately killed O'Neill by shooting him through the head. The bandits then robbed the car of its contents, but it is not known how much they obtained.

After robbing the express car the men cut the car loose and, getting on the engine, compelled Engineer Joelsink to go ahead. When near Keswick the men dropped off the engine and disappeared in the night with their plunder.

REDDING, Cal.—It is evident that the three armed men who held up the Oregon express and attempted to rob it at Copley were novices. They took human life without provocation and the methods they employed to open the safes were so crude that they gained but little plunder.

The particulars of the robbery were obtained when the train, minus the express car, reached Redding. When the train pulled into Copley the highwaymen emerged from the brush. They first encountered a tramp, who was attempting to steal a ride. He was jabbed in the ribs with a rifle muzzle and made to enter the smoker. Meanwhile one of the robbers knocked on the door of the express car. W. J. O'Neill, the Wells-Fargo messenger, asked him some question. The reply was evidently satisfactory, because O'Neill slid the door back about eighteen inches, when a rifle bullet was sent through his body. It passed near his heart and the messenger fell back dead. O'Neill was not armed. He evidently believed from what he was told that the knock came from a member of the train crew.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT.
Decrease for the Month of March is \$2,612,533.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business, March 31, 1904, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$915,422,104, a decrease for the month of \$2,612,533. The debt is recapitulated as follows: Interest bearing debt, \$895,156,740; debt on which interest has ceased in maturity, \$2,670,510; debt bearing no interest, \$292,294,486; total, \$1,290,122,096. This amount, however, does not include \$955,117,869 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding which are offset by an equal amount of cash on hand for their redemption. The cash in the treasury is classified as follows: Gold reserve fund \$150,000,000; trust funds, \$926,896,569; general fund, \$144,983,607; in national bank deposits, \$162,958,353; in the Philippine treasury, \$5,162,945; total, \$1,399,011,475, against which there are demands outstanding amounting to \$1,023,311,479, leaving a cash balance in the treasury amounting to \$374,699,995.

BRYAN IN NEW HAVEN.
To Defend "Sealed Letter" Bequest for \$50,000 in Bennett Will.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—William J. Bryan will appear in the superior court to prosecute his appeal from the decree of the probate court excluding a part of the will the "sealed letter," in which Mrs. Grace Imogen Bennett is directed to pay to Mr. Bryan \$50,000 mentioned in the will of Philo S. Bennett. Bryan is an executor under the will and the objection to the "sealed letter" on the part of Mrs. Bennett is based on the allegation that Mr. Bennett was unduly influenced in drawing up the document by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan. Mrs. Bryan came here with her husband. She is to be a witness, having copied the will at Lincoln, for Bennett.

Bubonic Plague in India.
BOMBAY.—The latest available bubonic plague returns for the whole of India for the week ending March 1. show the appalling mortality of 40,527, an increase over those of the preceding week.

Pink Fish for Yellow Men.
SEATTLE, Wash.—The Seattle Trade Register says that orders have been placed with local dealers in the last few days for 225,000 cases of Alaska pink salmon for shipment to Japan for use by the army. The immense purchase will go forward by the Shawmut, sailing Saturday, while each following ship will take some. The Trade Register also says that 75,000 cases have been purchased by Japan in San Francisco and that large purchases have also been made in Vancouver, B. C.

POSTOFFICE APPROPRIATIONS.
Rural Carriers May Receive Subscriptions to Papers.

WASHINGTON.—After two days' consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill the senate committee reported it tonight and it will be taken up in the senate tomorrow. On account of its incomplete state the exact amount of the increase made cannot be given, though it is said the bill will carry not more than \$1,000,000 over the bill as passed by the house, except for an emergency measure incorporated in the bill. The house bill provides for the rental of the Pennsylvania railroad site in New York for postoffice purposes, but the senate committee decided that it would be better business policy to buy the site. Therefore an appropriation of \$2,000,000 is made for that purpose.

Among the amendments to the bill is the following: Salaries of rural free delivery carriers are fixed at \$720 a year, and the carriers are permitted to carry merchandise for hire and receive subscriptions for and deliver newspapers and periodicals, so long as this occupation does not interfere with the proper discharge of their duties. It is stipulated, however, that the carriers shall not discriminate against any newspaper.

THE BENNETT WILL CASE.
A Ruling that Leaves Mr. Bryan Without a \$50,000 Bequest.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A finding that the sealed letter by which Philo S. Bennett expressed a wish that \$50,000 should be given to William Jennings Bryan and his family was not a part of the last will of Mr. Bennett was returned by the jury Thursday in the superior court in the trial of Mr. Bryan's appeal from the decision of the probate court.

This finding, which upholds the decision of the probate court, was given in accordance to instructions to the jury from Judge Gager, who presided at the superior court trial. Judge Gager's ruling on a question which has never before come directly before the court of Connecticut decided that the sealed letter could not be admitted as evidence in the trial.

The decision followed arguments which had occupied most of the two preceding days of the session, regarding the admissibility of this letter as evidence, counsel for Mr. Bryan contending that it should be admitted, while the attorneys for Mrs. Grace Imogen Bennett, the widow, and other heirs presented opposing arguments.

RUSSIANS SAY IT WAS A VICTORY.
Claim that Japanese Suffered Heavy Loss in Latest Fight.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The following semi-official dispatch has been received from Liao Yang: In the first encounter with the Japanese in northern Korea, which was crowned with victory for the Russian arms, the enemy's losses were ten times those of the Russians. According to Korean reports the Japanese buried fifty men, while 120 wounded were removed with the help of 500 Koreans to the headquarters of the Japanese main force. The confusion of the Japanese was so great that they raised two Red Cross flags in token of surrender. Throughout their war with China the Japanese never showed themselves so distracted. The people here are in high spirits over the news of the first brilliant light in Korea.

OLD AGE PENSION ORDER.
It is Criticized in the Upper Branch of Congress.

WASHINGTON—Good Friday was devoted by the senate to almost continuous discussion of political questions. The time until 2 o'clock was devoted to consideration of the Carmack resolution, proposing an inquiry into the legality of the recent executive old-age pension order. Mr. Malloy was the principal speaker, but he was frequently interrupted by republican senators. He contended that Secretary Hitchcock had transcended the limits of executive authority in issuing the order.

The latter half of the day was devoted to the postoffice appropriation bill, but no appreciable progress was made with that measure, the speeches on it being in the main political and of a general character.

LABOR STRUGGLE

ALL IOWA COAL MINES CLOSED BY A STRIKE.

THE SITUATION SUMMED UP

What Miners Demand and What Operators Are Willing to Grant—A Long and Hard Struggle Seems Likely as Matters Are Now Viewed.

DES MOINES, Ia.—The Iowa miners and operators failed to agree, and 13,500 miners are on a strike. Every mine in Iowa is closed. The conference adjourned a session covering a period of six weeks. Summed up the situation is this: First—The miners demand a reduction in the price of blasting powder from \$2 to \$1.75 per can. They demand a uniform advance in the scale of wages paid top men and that drivers in districts Nos. 1 and 4 shall receive the same scale as in districts Nos. 2 and 3. Second—The operators claim that they are standing by the Indianapolis agreement and 'in so doing cannot submit to general increases in the wages paid unskilled labor throughout the district. There is no dissatisfaction with the scale paid skilled workmen in any district.

Telegrams were sent John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, asking him to come to Des Moines and aid in a readjustment of differences. Mr. Mitchell has agreed to go to Colorado to assist in the labor trouble there and it is not unlikely he may stop at Des Moines.

President White of the Iowa miners said: "The miners have made every attempt to arbitrate and were unable to reach an agreement. There is nothing else now to do but to fight it out to the end. I shall never sanction an agreement under the present conditions."

Leading operators say the position of the miners is untenable and that they cannot reach them so long as they cling to their present position. It is believed the lockout may be the beginning of a long and hard struggle. The strike and lockout will include mines in Appanoose, Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Marion, Jasper, Polk, Boone and Webster counties, Iowa, and those in Putnam county, Missouri.

In Polk county there are 1,500 miners, while more than \$2,000,000 is invested in the business in this county alone.

Holds Societies Unlawful.

DETROIT, Mich.—In a sweeping decision, handed down on Monday by Judge Brooks of the Wayne circuit court, the Riverside club and Plumb exchange of this city, an organization of plumbers against which proceedings were brought by Prosecutor Hunt on the ground that they were organized to fix prices and stifle competition, were restrained from continuing business, which the court holds to be "an unlawful enterprise inimical to the public welfare."

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

President Decides Upon the Appointment of Judge Baxter.

WASHINGTON.—The long fight over the displacement of United States Attorney W. S. Summers of Nebraska is ended. The President will appoint Judge Irving W. Baxter of Omaha to the position. The appointment is expected to go to the Senate Friday.

The appointment of Judge Baxter is settled on at the White House in a conference between the president and Senators Millard and Dietrich, and D. E. Thompson. The two senators and Mr. Thompson agreed upon Judge Baxter, and so assured the president.

The term of District Attorney Summers has been out for two years, but he has held on, regardless of this.

Casualties in a Skirmish.

SEOUL.—A report has reached here that 50 Japanese and 100 Cossacks were killed and wounded in a skirmish that occurred between Anju and Chong Ju. Marquis Ito, upon taking his departure yesterday, submitted to the government some suggestions for Korean reform. The emperor has appointed Yi Chi Ying, a former minister of foreign affairs, as a special ambassador to bear presents to the Japanese emperor and return the compliment of Marquis Ito's visit to Korea.

Situation is Appalling.

MATTERS AT NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Miscellaneous News and Notes from Seat of Government.

WASHINGTON.—Representative Dearmond on Wednesday introduced a resolution providing "that the speaker appoint five members of the house to fully investigate the post office department and report to the house at as early a date as may be practicable; that said committee shall be authorized to sit during the sessions of the house and if necessary during the vacation when congress is not in session; that the committee shall have full power to send for persons and papers and the investigation hereby ordered shall be directed especially to clearing the innocent from a shadow of unmerited suspicion, to uncovering the inefficient, careless and offending, to make recommendations for the correction of abuses, to the end that justice may be done to individuals and that the service may be improved for the benefit of the public."

President Roosevelt and Representative Hull, chairman of the military affairs committee of the house, discussed the bill which provides a higher rank for the army chaplain. It is urged that sufficient provision is not made in the present law for awarding army chaplains for meritorious service. During the Spanish-American war several chaplains were recommended for gallant services but it was impossible to give them the reward. The war department favors legislation to increase the rank and pay of chaplains.

Senator Hoar proposed an amendment to the rules of the senate concerning impeachment so far as they require all proceedings to be before the senate itself. The purpose is to shorten the proceedings and make them more convenient to the senate.

All cases shall be referred to a committee of nine senators to be appointed by the speaker, who shall proceed to take the testimony on both sides and report the same to the senate.

Representative Dayton of West Virginia introduced a bill amending the laws regulating the personnel of the navy. The bill requires all officers of the navy, except those of the medical corps and chaplains, to be graduates of Annapolis.

Senator Dillingham introduced a bill to amend the immigration act of 1903. It permits aliens to pass in continuous transit from one point in foreign contiguous territory to another point in foreign contiguous territory through the United States without payment of head tax. Aliens having once paid the head tax may pass through foreign contiguous territory in continuous transit.

NO LONGER NEED OF DELAY.

President and Attorney General Talk Over Canal.

WASHINGTON.—President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox had a conference subsequent to the receipt of the information that the government of Colombia had lost its suit in the French courts against the new Panama canal company, and that now there was no longer any reason for delay in the transfer of the company's concessions and property to the United States. They discussed carefully the facts of the situation.

At the conclusion of the interview Attorney General Knox announced that there now was no more reason for delay than might be occasioned by the transfer of a title to a twenty-foot lot in Washington.

The attorney general added that the action of the French court had disposed of the last legal obstacle in the way of the transfer of the canal company's property.

GOVERNMENT MAKING HEADWAY.

Revolutionary Contest in San Domingo is Losing Ground.

WASHINGTON.—Information received at the Navy department from Admiral Wise at Guantanamo indicates that the Morales government is making headway in the revolutionary contest in San Domingo, the admiral reporting that it is now in possession of all the ports of the island except the small one of Monte Cristi. This news was brought to Guantanamo by the commanding officers of the Hartford and the Yankee, which have returned to that place from San Domingo.

Wood Concedes Victory.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Returns have been received from seventy-one out of seventy-five counties and they show that Governor Jefferson Davis carried fifty-three and Judge Wood eighteen counties in the democratic state primaries last Saturday. The counties carried by Governor Davis are entitled to 302 delegates in the state convention. The number necessary to nominate is 222. Judge Wood has conceded that on the face of the returns he has not enough counties to win the nomination, but will contest.

Boer Leader Wants Peace.

Classical Example of Cheek.
Surely it will remain a classical example of "cheek" that is described in the following story, told by the Country Gentleman: One of the English generals, during the Boer war, having secured a turkey, asked his friends to dinner. When the day came the bird has disappeared. It was traced to the quarters of the naval brigade, and a young midshipman owned to having "pinched" it. The infuriated general exhausted his vocabulary in abuse of this delinquent, who replied: "I'm very sorry, sir! But you wouldn't have liked it. We tried to get our teeth through it, but it was so tough we had to throw it away. If I'd known you would have taken it so much to heart I'd have got the carpenter to make you another."

Sensible Housekeepers
will have Defiance Starch, not alone because they get one-third more for the same money, but also because of superior quality.

A Dog's Fidelity.
Last week a gamekeeper named Henry Osmond in the employ of Lord Falmouth was fatally shot in a poaching affray at the Trogethwan Woods. The evidence shows that Osmond must have died between 6:30 and 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening, January 26. His body was not discovered until 5 o'clock on the following Wednesday afternoon. All these hours, during which it rained pitilessly, a retriever puppy remained immovably by the side of the her dead master and in her fierce affection would not allow the search party to touch the body. At last it was secured and fastened to a tree, but the faithful animal gnawed through the rope and returned to its guardianship of the dead.

Salzer's Earliest Cane.
Another new thing. Can be cut six times during a season and sprouts again with lightning rapidity. Next to Salzer's Testate it will make a more green fodder than anything else; cheap as dirt and grows everywhere.

Of Salzer's Renovator Grass Mixture.
Just the thing for dying out pastures and meadows. Mr. E. Rappold, East Park, Ga., writes, "I sowed Salzer's Grass Mixture on soil so poor two men could not raise a fuss on it" and in forty-one days after sowing I had the grandest stand of grass in the county. Salzer's Grass Mixture sprouts quickly and produces enormously." 100,000 barrels choice Seed Potatoes.

SALZER'S NEW NATIONAL OATS.
Here is a winner, a prodigy, a marvel, enormously prolific, strong, healthy, vigorous, producing in thirty states from 150 to 300 bushels per acre. You had best sow a lot of it, Mr. Farmer, in 1904, and in the fall sell it to your neighbors at \$1 a bu. for seed.

JUST SEND 10c IN STAMPS
to the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., and receive in return their big catalog and lots of farm seed samples free. (W. N. U.)

Some Rich Germans.
The richest citizen of Berlin has an income of \$704,000 a year. If he realizes 5 per cent on his investment—a tremendous interest in Germany—his fortune is about \$14,000,000. The next richest man has \$12,500,000. There are thirteen millionaires between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000, thirty-three between \$2,500,000 and \$5,000,000, and 621 between half a million and \$2,500,000. The number of those whose fortunes are over \$14,000 is 53,899, and less than that sum, 378,484. All of these pay an income tax. The population of Berlin is 2,000,000. A million and a half pay no income tax.

Wiggle-Stick LAUNDRY BLUE
Won't spill, break, freeze nor spot clothes. Costs 10 cents and equals 20 cents worth of any other bluing. If your grocer does not keep it send 10c for sample to The Laundry Blue Co., 14 Michigan Street, Chicago.

His Last Request.
Representative Maddox of Georgia, who is soon to retire from congress, has received this letter from a constituent: "Dear Mister Congressman: Sum time ago I writ you asking if their were any thing the gverment could do to make a fightin' wife be have herself. I ain't heard from you and things is no better. Will you please let me know how I can get one of them big pizen snakes from Afriky. I have always voted for you and this is my litle to ask of you, specially when a man's wife is always a-peckin' on him."

Dealers say that as soon as a customer tries Defiance Starch it is impossible to sell them any other cold water starch. It can be used cold or boiled.

Nicholas Turns Composer.
According to a Belgian paper, the czar is among the composers. It is stated that a soiree in the winter palace several works from the imperial pen were performed, among them one entitled "The Song of Peace." This stands in three sections, the first of which depicts the turmoil of battle, while the second suggests the stricken field, covered with dead and wounded. The third invokes retribution upon those who are responsible for such horrors. Another work is written in honor of the saints of the Orthodox church.

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