

START LOOKING INTO OIL

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TAKES A HAND IN THE MATTER.

A VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION

President Roosevelt Has Directed the Commissioner of Corporations to Begin the Investigation Asked for by the House Last Saturday.

Washington, Feb. 16.—President Roosevelt today directed Garfield, commissioner of corporations of the department of commerce and labor, to begin immediately the oil investigation requested by the house Saturday.

The investigation will be vigorous and comprehensive.

The president directed a letter to Mr. Garfield giving directions and presenting an outline of his views.

The inquiry will be pressed as rapidly as possible. The source of investigation and the time it will occupy can not be indicated now. Representative Campbell of Kansas, author of the house resolution, had a conference with the president today. Campbell's idea is that the investigation should concern particularly the situation in the Kansas field. He expressed to the president his belief that the inquiry, when begun, would tend to the operation of the Standard Oil company in the Beaumont fields of Texas and perhaps to other fields.

"GIGANTIC MONOPOLY."

Secretary Hitchcock Attacks the Indian Territory Oil Co.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Secretary Hitchcock today gave out a statement arraigning as a "gigantic monopoly" the present lease by the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil company of the right to prospect for oil and gas throughout the entire area of the Indian reservation and explaining the agreement for cutting off more than half the land operative under this lease during the next ten years.

NIEDRINGHAUS LOSES AGAIN.

Still There is No Result in the Missouri Contest.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 16.—The senatorial ballot today resulted: Niedringhaus 68; Cokrell 76; Kerns 12; McKinley 4; Reichman 1. There were seven pairs.

CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT.

Bill Providing Government is Passed by the House.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The house today passed the bill providing for a government for the canal zone. All amendments were agreed to.

SULMARINE BOAT BLOWS UP

Crew of the Boat Hurlled in all Directions—Fifteen Injured.

Queenstown, Feb. 16.—An explosion of gasoline occurred on board the new submarine boat "A 5" today. The crew of the boat was hurled in all directions. Fifteen members of the crew were injured, one, a lieutenant, dying later. Some of the sailors were horribly mutilated and others may die.

BETTER PROSPECT IN IOWA

Traffic Resumed and Trains Getting Back on Schedule Time.

Des Moines, Feb. 16.—Weather conditions in Iowa favored the efforts of the railroads to raise the blockade of the past few days and with another twenty-four hours of similar conditions passenger service will be fully resumed and freight traffic much improved. All trains in Iowa were still belated. A southbound Great Western passenger train, pulled by three engines, was partially derailed at Norwoodville, north of Des Moines. There were no injuries. The snow plow on the first engine tore up the track, ditching the third engine and a day coach.

Snow Plow is Wrecked.

Lincoln, Feb. 16.—Conditions on the lines of the Burlington railroad are improving. Passenger trains on main lines are running with some regularity, but freight traffic is still demoralized. On the Sargent branch of the Burlington a snow plow, trying to cut a hole through the drifts, was derailed and Engineer Wessman badly and possibly fatally injured. On account of the accident the work was abandoned and the line may not be opened this week. For the first time since Saturday Lincoln street cars reached the suburbs.

Grain Rate War.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—The Chicago and Northwestern railroad has announced a reduction on grain from Iowa points to Chicago. The former rates ran between 10 and 12 cents and the new rate is 9 cents.

Death of William Cullen Bryant.

New York, Feb. 16.—William Cullen Bryant, the publisher of the Brooklyn Times and secretary of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, died at a sanitarium in Plainfield, N. J.

MIKE STALCUP IS BOUND OVER

Butte Man's Bail Reduced From \$5,000 to \$1,000—Butte Items.

Butte, Neb., Feb. 16.—Special to The News: Mike Stalcup of Butte, arrested on a statutory charge, was bound over to the district court here yesterday, the bail being reduced from \$5,000 to \$1,000 because it has just been learned that the girl, who was supposed to be a school girl of fourteen years, is seventeen years of age. There are also rumors that other parties are implicated in the affair. The next hearing of the district court will be on March 28.

There are a number of workmen busy today shoveling snow from the Northwestern track between Fairfax and Anoka, which it is hoped will regulate the train traffic in this section. The young ladies of Butte gave a social dance to the young men, which was more than enjoyed by all. A good crowd assembled and the music was delightful. The Butte Mandolin club furnished music.

It still manages to keep cool, yesterday having been the first day for a week during which the mercury rose to zero. The coldest was forty-six below.

SUSPEND POLICE CHIEF

SAN FRANCISCO SCANDAL REGARDING GAMBLING.

IN THE CHINESE QUARTERS

Chief of Police Wittman of San Francisco Has Been Suspended on a Charge of Neglect of Duty and Incompetency Today.

San Francisco, Feb. 16.—As a result of the scandal in the police department in connection with gambling in Chinese quarters, Chief of Police Wittman has been suspended from duty under the charge of incompetency and neglect of duty.

NEBRASKA Y. M. C. A.

Most Successful Convention Ever Held in Anticipation.

Grand Island, Neb., Feb. 16.—What is expected to be the most successful convention ever held by the Nebraska Y. M. C. A. was opened here today. Each local association is entitled to from three to ten delegates and all without exception are fully represented. Reports prepared by the secretary and other officers for presentation to the convention show that the past year has been one of exceptionally activity for the association. The year was also notable for the large increase in the membership.

To Unveil Willard Statue.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 16.—Everything is in readiness for the placing of the Frances E. Willard statue in Statuary hall of the capitol tomorrow. The statue is a gift from the state of Illinois. The event has aroused great interest among the members of the Woman's Christian Temperance union and they are resolved to leave nothing undone that will add to the impressiveness of the ceremony. The national officers of the society and a number of the state presidents will be in attendance.

First Auto Boat Show.

New York, Feb. 16.—Automobile enthusiasts are now turning their attention to the first national motor boat exhibition ever given in America, which will be held at Madison Square garden next week in conjunction with the regular sportsmen's show. It is the intention of the engine and boat manufacturers to prove this year that they are far in the lead of any other nation in motor boat building.

In addition to naval officials, who will be guests of honor on the opening night, invitations have been extended to the commodores of the leading yacht clubs throughout the country, and a special effort is being made to make the occasion the greatest assembly of yachtsmen ever known. The exhibits will include all the latest speed creations for use on the water. A number of foreign manufacturers will exhibit, and visitors will have their first opportunity of comparing the best products of Europe and America in the way of motor boats.

Fatally Stabs Invalid Wife.

Kansas City, Feb. 16.—Charles Bieger fatally stabbed his invalid wife, Emma Bieger, after which he severed his own jugular vein, dying instantly. A few hours previously, Bieger threatened his daughter with violence because she refused to give him money with which to buy liquor and he attacked his wife because he thought she influenced their daughter to refuse him money.

Susan B. Anthony's 85th Birthday.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 16.—Susan B. Anthony celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday and for several days gifts and congratulations have been pouring in on the pioneer advocate of woman's suffrage from all parts of the world. Miss Anthony is in excellent health.

ROBBERS WAYLAY DOCTOR

SHOOT AND FATALLY INJURE HIS COACHMAN.

WIFE COMES TO THE RESCUE

Commanded by the Robbers to Stand Still, She Gives Alarm and They Escape in Doctor's Sleigh—Big Dog Attacking Them is Killed.

Minneapolis, Feb. 16.—Early today three highwaymen waylaid Dr. Philip Mueller and Coachman Emil Raggatz, as the physician was returning from a visit to a patient. They shot and fatally injured the coachman.

Mrs. Mueller was attracted by the shooting and opened the front door when a St. Bernard dog attacked the robbers. The dog was killed and Mrs. Mueller commanded to stand by the robbers. Instead she gave an alarm, the robbers fleeing in the physician's sleigh.

LAWYER FALLS OUT OF WINDOW

Looks Out at Public Clock and Drops Five Stories to Death.

Duluth, Feb. 16.—Claude S. Snively, a prominent attorney here, pitched headlong from a fifth story window in the Lonsdale building today and was killed. He had evidently looked out of the window to see the time by a public clock and, being overcome by dizziness, fell out.

WOMAN IDENTIFIES HOCH

Alleges that He is Man Who Swindled Her in Land Deal.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Mrs. Elsie Brucker of Chicago created a scene at the inquest of Mrs. Marie Walcker-Hoch by exclaiming, "That's him, that's him," and pointing her finger at Hoch. She identified Hoch as a man who had swindled her out of \$45 two years ago on pretense of selling her a farm in Michigan. Hoch smiled at the woman sarcastically, but sat still. In contrast to his nervousness at the opening of the inquest last week, Hoch presented a neat appearance and wore a self-reliant air.

When the hearing was resumed after the interruption Coroner Hoffman announced that the expert medical testimony would not be presented until next Monday, when all the evidence regarding analysis of the woman's stomach in connection with the theory of poisoning will be submitted.

Dewey Case Postponed.

Norton, Kan., Feb. 16.—The case of Chauncey Dewey, W. J. McBride and Clyde Wilson for killing David Berry was postponed until the May term of the district court. The above named parties were tried a year ago for the killing of Burchard B. Berry, a son of Daniel Berry, and were acquitted. David Berry was killed during the same fight, which grew out of the alleged persecution of the farmers by stockmen.

Baptists to Hold Convention.

St. Louis, Feb. 16.—The missionary and educational bodies of the Baptist church, north and south, are planning a convention, to be held in St. Louis, May 16, which will be attended, it is estimated, by 6,000 or 7,000 prominent members of the church from all over the United States. The convention will not be legislative in any sense and is being organized for the sole purpose of promoting closer fellowship of the various Baptist churches.

Rope Breaks at a Hanging.

Bridgeton, N. J., Feb. 16.—Frank Raisinger was hanged here for the murder of his wife. The rope broke as the body rebounded and the back of Raisinger's head struck a cross beam of the scaffold and broke his neck. The physicians present said death was instantaneous. It was therefore not necessary to raise the body again to the scaffold.

Negotiations at a Standstill.

LaGuayra, Venezuela, Feb. 16.—The negotiations between United States Minister Bowen and President Castro, in the effort to reach an adjustment of the pending disputes between the two countries, are practically at a standstill. Mr. Bowen's efforts to advance the matter have been blocked by the evasive and dilatory tactics of Castro.

Father on Trial for Killing Son.

Nebraska City, Feb. 16.—John B. Boese is on trial in the district court for the murder of his son, John B. Boese, Jr., in this city last fall. Boese and his son had a quarrel at their home, which ended in the shooting of the son by his father. The defense will try to prove that the father shot in self-defense.

Banker Hunt in Cell.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—President William H. Hunt of the defunct Pan-American bank arrived in Chicago in charge of an officer and was given a cell in the county jail. He expects to be released on bail today. His friends will be compelled to furnish security to the amount of \$14,000. The banker was indicated on four charges of receiving money, knowing his bank to be insolvent.

MAY WHEAT IS WORTH \$1.20 1-2

Opened Strong on the Chicago Board of Trade Today.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—May wheat opened on the board of trade today at \$1.20 1/2, a distinct advance over the close of yesterday. Considerable excitement was caused by the rise.

PRISON FOR STEALING FENCE.

Two Nebraskans Must Serve Two and a Half Years.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 16.—For stealing a wire fence valued at \$40 Frank and Harry Junod, of Cherry county, must serve a term of two and a half years in the penitentiary. The supreme court affirmed the verdict of the lower court, but pronounced the sentence of five years excessive for the offense.

No Trains at Albion.

Albion, Neb., Feb. 16.—Special to The News: Albion has been without much train service during the week. For three days no trains arrived or departed and the country roads were so filled that rural carriers were put out of commission.

THIRD SQUADRON SAILS

MORE RUSSIAN WARSHIPS START FOR THE FAR EAST

SITUATION AT LODZ IS SERIOUS

When Conditions Were Supposed to Be Favorable Tilters of Big Plants Desert Posts—Mill Owners Apparently Without Policy.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—The departure of Admiral Nebogatoff's division of four battleships, one cruiser and two auxiliary cruisers from Liban to reinforce Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron in the far east is a source of gratification to the admiralty in view of the difficulties caused by the strike. The point of rendezvous with Rojestvensky is not stated, but it is understood that it is beyond the Indian ocean. Vice Admiral Rojestvensky being under instructions not to delay into the monsoon period the resumption of his cruise.

Along the Hun river the booming of heavy guns is sounding the overture of hostilities there, are likely to be opened within a short time. Associated Press dispatches indicate that the cannonading is increasing in intensity.

Special dispatches from Mukden report the wiping out of an entire detachment of Japanese cavalry, which had destroyed the railway bridge between Mukden and Harbin. Russian cavalry overtook the raiders, who are said to have refused quarter, and fought until the last man was killed.

Students throughout Russia are resorting to strike methods to indicate their dissatisfaction with existing political conditions and press the demands for reforms. The students at the University of Moscow, the largest institution of the kind in Russia, have voted not to resume their studies during the present school year. The spirit possesses the students of the St. Petersburg, Kiev and other large universities, and even extends to the seminaries and lower schools.

DISCORD AMONG RUSSIANS

Officers From Port Arthur Coming Home Vowing Vengeance.

Paris, Feb. 16.—French special correspondents sent to meet the French steamer Australien, having on board General Stoessel and others of the survivors of Port Arthur, forward detailed accounts of discord among the Russian officers. The army officers are particularly hostile to the fleet, habitually calling it the "frightened fleet." Admiral Lockinsky, who was commander of the 15pedo defenses at Port Arthur, is lengthily quoted as making a bitter criticism of General Stoessel, Admiral Alexieff and others.

The Matin quotes Lockinsky as characterizing Vice Admiral Stark and Rear Admiral Witthoft as "bedchamber admirals not acquainted with their duties and seasick whenever afloat." The admiral added that Vice Admiral Skrydloff prudently established himself ashore at Vladivostok notwithstanding his opportunity to break the ineffective blockade of Port Arthur. Lockinsky declared he would denounce Stoessel, Skrydloff and Alexieff before the court-martial, as he did not intend to let himself be made a scapegoat like Rear Admiral Oukhtomsky, "who now trembles with fear in a Chinese hospital." Lockinsky cited many instances of the unpreparedness of the land and naval defenses, frequent conflicts of authority and demoralization during critical engagements.

Four Negro Children Cremated.

Kansas City, Feb. 16.—Four negro children, Richard Carson, Randall Lillard, Ralph Lillard and Roberta Lillard, were burned to death in Kansas City, Kan. The mothers of the children locked them in the Lillard cabin and went shopping. It is supposed that the children found some matches and started the fire. They were dead when the firemen arrived.

OIL REFINERY FOR KANSAS

HOUSE PASSES AND GOVERNOR HOCH WILL SIGN BILL.

PRODUCERS ISSUE AN APPEAL

Send Telegram to President Roosevelt Urging Federal Action to Curb Standard—Ask That Foster Lease Be Not Renewed.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 16.—A bill providing for the establishment of a state oil refinery was passed by the Kansas house of representatives by a vote of 91 to 39. Governor Hoch will sign the bill at once. Under its provisions a refinery will be erected at Peru, Kan. Another penitentiary will be built there to provide convict labor for the refinery. An appropriation of \$410,000 is made for building and maintaining the refinery and penitentiary. It is likely that the validity of the bill will be tested by the state supreme court before it goes into effect. The bill calls for the issuance of bonds for the amount necessary to build the refinery. State Auditor Wells, it is announced, will refuse to register the bonds called for in the bill until the supreme court says they are valid. There is some doubt expressed as to the constitutionality of the bill and it is to remove this that the matter will be submitted to the court. It was on account of the supposed unconstitutionality of the idea that most of the opposition was encountered. Several of the house members in voting for the bill announced they were doing so on account of the expressed wish of their constituents, and not in accordance with their own desires. Seldom has public sentiment been so thoroughly aroused in the state as on the oil question. About twenty-five convicts will be necessary to do the work in the refinery. Its capacity is to be 2,000 barrels a day.

Producers Appeal to President.

The Kansas Oil Producers' association sent the following telegram to President Roosevelt:

"The undersigned, representing the oil producers of the state of Kansas and speaking for the intelligent and industrious people of the state, and voicing the spirit of American fair-play everywhere, appeal to you, and through your secretary of the interior, and by you to the congress of the United States for help in the undertaking of the legislature of the state to protect the oil industry of the state from the oppression of the Standard Oil trust. Because the legislature presumes to exercise a natural function of government by legislating for the welfare and protection of industries within the borders of the state against the oppression of all monopolies, and because the legislature proposes to try the experiment of a public oil refinery, as a means of preserving and making profitable the oil industry, the general manager of the Standard Oil company has declared a boycott upon Kansas oil, and one of his subordinates has insulted our people by expressing in the public prints a groundless fear that they will destroy the company's property.

Foster Lease a Menace.

"We further represent to you a menace to the crude oil market is a continued ownership by the Standard Oil company of what is known as the 'Foster lease' of the Osage Indian reservation. This reservation includes 1,500,000 acres of land, which contains a reservoir of petroleum so rich that if the Standard continues to own and develop it that company will have a supply of oil that will make it independent of private production, not only in the west, but all over the United States. The lease is nominally held by 'strawmen,' but it really is in the grip of the Standard Oil company, and the oil producers appeal to the president, the secretary of the interior and the congress to refuse the application now pending for its extension. It is too much for the government to give to the Standard Oil company or its agents, an organization which already is so powerful that it presumes to be greater than the people or the government, whose courts give it protection. The Kansas oil field has been developed upon the promise of fair play and good prices by the Standard Oil company, but now that the supply is sufficient for the needs of the company, it, as it has done in other fields, has reduced the price below a profit, and the men who have invested their money will lose it and the field will languish unless the government, state and nation refuses to confer upon the company additional rights and franchises, and turns in the other direction and legislates for the people awhile."

Prairie Oil Company Resumes Work.

Independence, Kan., Feb. 16.—The Prairie Oil and Gas company has issued orders for the resumption of work on its pipe line from Bartlesville to Cleveland, Okla., and men have gone from here to take up the work where it was discontinued. Men are also returning to work at the Caney tank farm in this county.

War on Rats in Australia.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 16.—Mail advices were received from Australia by the steamer Moana of the outbreak of bubonic plague in Sydney and Grafton. In consequence war on rats is being waged in Australian cities.

THE CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Temperature for Twenty-four Hours. Forecast for Nebraska.

Condition of the weather as recorded for the 24 hours ending at 8 a. m. today: Maximum... 25 Minimum... 8 Average... 16 Total snowfall for month... 8.50 Total precipitation for month... .48 Barometer... 29.80 Chicago, Feb. 16.—The bulletin issued by the Chicago station of the United States weather bureau this morning, gives the forecast for Nebraska as follows: Generally fair and colder tonight and Friday.

Southern Dentists Organize.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 16.—At a meeting held at the Piedmont hotel today steps were taken for the permanent organization of the Southern Dental society. The society was given a preliminary organization at a meeting held in Washington last spring. Its membership will be confined strictly to the southern states.

PROTOCOL GOES TO SENATE

PRESIDENT TRANSMITS AGREEMENT WITH SAN DOMINGO.

HOUSE DEBATES NAVAL BILL

Much Opposition Develops to Construction of Two New Battleships—Swayne Impeachment Hearing Proceeds in Senate.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The senate continued, but did not conclude, consideration of the bill making appropriations for the support of the government of the District of Columbia. While the bill was before the senate, Elkins took exception to an item for the construction of a local bridge as in the interest of speculators, and made a general plea for economy in the matter of appropriations. The Swayne impeachment trial held the attention of the senate for two hours.

The president's message transmitting to the senate the new San Domingo protocol was read at an executive session following the passage of a mass of unobjectionable pension bills. Not more than six or seven senators were present. The leading feature of the message was that "in order to maintain the Monroe doctrine it was necessary for the United States to see that just claims, contracted by South and Central American republics and those of the West Indies should be paid, and that therefore it was in the interest of peace for this government to take over the control of the revenues in San Domingo. This subject of the Monroe doctrine is discussed at some length, especially as regards the relations of the United States to the republics of the south. The protocol was not read at the executive session, but was at once referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Debate on Naval Bill in House.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The question of what the policy of the government should be with respect to the upbuilding of the navy was again threshed out in the house, during the consideration of the naval appropriation bill. The debate developing much opposition to the proposed addition of two battleships to the naval establishment. As on yesterday the defense of the Philippines played an important part in the discussion, while the events of the war in the far east, from a naval point of view, were given prominence by the advocates of an increased navy. The house met an hour earlier than usual, and with the exception of a brief period, the entire time was consumed with the naval bill.

Indiana Sends an Appeal.

Washington, Feb. 16.—In the senate Beveridge presented a memorial from the legislature of Indiana and Berry a memorial from the legislature of Arkansas, both praying for the enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission.

TELLS OF TWO SHIPWRECKS

Survivors of Italian Bark and American Schooner Arrive in New York.

New York, Feb. 16.—One shipwrecked crew and a sailor from another vessel, which had been abandoned at sea, were brought here on the steamer Sarnia, which arrived from Kingston by way of Fortune island. Six of the sailors were seamen from the Italian bark Elisa Vetroville, which was wrecked on Point Morant, Jamaica, and became a total loss. The other was a member of the crew of the American schooner Ida C. Southard, which was abandoned at sea by a dismantled and waterlogged condition. The crew of the Southard was rescued by the German steamer Siberia and landed at Fortune island.

Horace Boies to Return Home.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 16.—Ex-Governor Horace Boies of Iowa, who has been ill for some time, will leave for home today, accompanied by his son. His illness is of a serious nature.