

OPENS WITH A BOOM

General Federation of Women's Clubs Has an Auspicious Beginning.

BRILLIANT SCENE IN CONVENTION HALL

Governor and Mayor Extend Welcomes to the Land of Flowers.

FORTY NEBRASKA DELEGATES PRESENT

Many Former Residents of the State Mingle with Their Old Neighbors.

POLITICS PROMISES TO BE INTERESTING

Nebraska Delegates Want Directorship and Are Divided on Presidency Between Mrs. Burdette and Mrs. Decker.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Forty Nebraska delegates are butting in Los Angeles today upon representatives from the state to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, while many more are being won honorably by former residents still loyal to Nebraska but whose allegiance has been transferred by a change of home.

While no formal meeting has been held to outline the delegation's policy, many are desirous of securing a member on the board of directors. Lincoln is evidently coveting the office and willing to concede the successor to Mrs. L. R. Ricketts as general federation secretary.

The temporary appointment of Mrs. E. H. Plummer of Lincoln to that position by the Nebraska executive board today may throw the board membership to another part of the state. However, the delegation is divided in its choice of president between Mrs. Decker of Denver and Mrs. Burdette of California, also on reorganization.

An attempt is being made to unite the states of the middle west in the advancement of a plan that may harmonize the Georgia and Massachusetts factions. It includes an amendment to article 11, section 3 of the general federation, which reads: "Only such membership tests shall be applied to clubs asking membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs as are applied to clubs seeking membership in the federation of a state in which the club is located except as otherwise provided by the by-law of this federation."

The proposition is receiving favorable consideration of Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Colorado, Illinois and many other states of the middle west, and while Georgia may not accept it, it offers the most popular adjustment yet proposed and has the favor of many states opposed to the admission of colored clubs.

Formal Opening Brilliant. The formal opening of the clubwomen's convention this afternoon was brilliant. Hundreds of delegates and visitors packed the Simpson auditorium to the roof, the club is located in the city, which reads: "Only such membership tests shall be applied to clubs asking membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs as are applied to clubs seeking membership in the federation of a state in which the club is located except as otherwise provided by the by-law of this federation."

The opening day was otherwise distinguished by two separate questions which the club had developed in connection with their reaching the convention. One of them which got as far as the board of directors had to do with turning down a delegate from a secret society. The other, which concerned the possible unseating of Mrs. Roberts of Salt Lake City, wife of the former congressman from Utah, in the event that she should try to appear again as a delegate, was squelched.

The first affair which affects a national organization of 8,000 members came up before the board of directors in the morning. P. E. O. members get in.

Mrs. H. C. McMahon of Salt Lake City, it seems, had been appointed delegate from the P. E. O. chapter in that city, which had applied for admission to the general federation, and she had received her credentials. But at the last minute Mrs. Denton, as a member of the membership committee, discovered that secret societies were not admitted and she was not a delegate. Today, before the board acknowledged the error, Mrs. McMahon, instead of pushing her claim, withdrew amicably on two conditions. One was that the membership committee shoulder the mistake and she be seated in the convention, notwithstanding a vote was taken here.

The Roberts matter has been simmering ever since Mrs. Roberts said she, as president of the Authors' club in Salt Lake City, would be a delegate to the convention by virtue of her office. Mrs. Roberts changed her mind before the underlying current of protest came to the surface and stayed at home. It is understood, however, that a prominent eastern woman had been importuned by Utah women to lead the fight in the event Mrs. Roberts undertook to press her rights.

Colored Question the Issue. In the meantime the real skeleton, the colored question, has been brought to the surface through the course of conversation. The rumor having started in California that Mrs. Ruffin intended to come to Los Angeles impelled Mrs. Anna West, one of the leaders in Massachusetts, to seek a denial to the Associated Press. Undoubtedly one feature that largely made impressive the opening session was the floral scheme, the only opening in the land of flowers. The calla lilies not only banked solidly the back of the platform, but the two balconies their entire length, while great clusters were tied to every aisle seat in the house.

The state banquets, placed here and there to designate the delegations, added to the picturesqueness. The women lined up on the platform, moreover, were charmingly gowned. Mrs. Low leading off with a stunning creation in black and white, the former invocation by Mrs. Chester P. Darland addresses of welcome were given by Governor Henry T. Gage, Mayor M. P. Snyder, Mrs. Josiah Cowles, president of the local biennial board, and Mrs. Kate A. Buckley of Oakland, president of California's federation. Mrs. Buckley said:

Welcomed by Mrs. Buckley. "In the name of the California club women, I bid you welcome. We have looked forward for two years with pleasant anticipations to your coming and now that you are here, happiness is ours. We are glad you have accomplished the weary journey across the plains and deserts and over mountains and have come to the land of promise and plenty, of sunshine and summer—our California.

"The doors of our homes stand open and

PARDONED BY ITALY'S KING

Officers of the Chicago Are Released by Order of Victor Emmanuel.—Must Pay Heavy Damages.

ROME, May 1.—The king has pardoned the officers of the United States cruiser Chicago, who have been imprisoned at Venice. They will be immediately handed over to the United States consul, from whose charge they will be transferred to the Chicago, which is ready to sail.

ROME, May 1.—Ambassador Veneri, who arrived here this morning with the king's pardon, stated that the American naval officers now imprisoned at Venice shall be released today or tomorrow, conditioned upon the payment of civil damages amounting to \$2,000.

It is understood that King Victor Emmanuel will exercise his prerogative to remit the imprisonment, so that after a caution, they may leave tomorrow aboard the cruiser Chicago.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Secretary Hay today received a cablegram from Ambassador Meyer, at Rome, in which he stated that a most satisfactory interview with the prime minister had taken place at Venice, which was held yesterday. He announced that the Chicago's officers, now held under arrest in Venice, will shortly be released.

The Italian ambassador at Washington, Signor Meyer, called at the State department today to have a talk with Secretary Hay about the matter in which he forecasted the release of the men.

VENICE, May 1.—The imprisoned American naval officers this afternoon generously indemnified the parties claiming damages for injury and the public prosecutor telegraphed to Rome that all legal impediments to the prisoners' pardon were removed. It is therefore expected that the petition to King Victor Emmanuel for pardon, signed by the officers of the Chicago and forwarded to Rome, will be granted, and that the officers will be released without delay.

The claimants for damages had telegraphed to the minister of justice, Sig. Cocco-Orto, asking him not to accede to the petition. Their claims were adjusted. This objection has now been removed and the public prosecutor here has so notified the minister of justice.

BOER LEADERS ARE TO MEET

To Hold Conference May 15 and Decide What Terms They Will Accept.

PRETORIA, May 1.—The general meeting of the Boer leaders, at which a final decision on the subject of the peace negotiations is expected, will take place at Vereeniging, Transvaal, May 15, not May 25, as announced yesterday from here.

LONDON, May 1.—It is officially asserted that subsequent to the deliberations of the Boer leaders at Vereeniging they will proceed to Pretoria, where the peace terms they are prepared to accept.

Injunction is Dissolved

VICTORIA, B. C., May 1.—The injunction granted the Kettle Valley railway by the attorney general of the province restraining the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern Railroad company, the name under which the Great Northern is known in this province, from continuing work on its line in the Victoria district, has been dissolved by Mr. Justice Irvine, who held that the attorney general had no right to bring the action, as the proposed road had been declared by the Dominion government to be one in the general interest of the Dominion.

Budget in British Columbia

VANCOUVER, B. C., May 1.—The debate on the budget in the provincial legislature was continued until 10 o'clock Wednesday, the members of the opposition talking against time to prevent the house from going into committee on the supply. They were successful in defeating the object of the government, which was to rush through the debate. The debate had not been completed when the house adjourned and the afternoon session was devoted to the consideration of private bills. The budget debate will be continued today.

White Star Gets Large Part

LONDON, May 1.—According to the Liverpool Post, one-third of the \$24,000,000 capital of the shipping combine will be required to liquidate the White Star line interests. The paper also says that a substantial proportion of the preference shares will be handed over to the owners of the White Star line, who will also get \$3,000,000 in cash from the sale of the debentures.

Wilhelmina's Condition Satisfactory

THE HAGUE, May 1.—The bulletin posted this morning at Castle Lee, referring to the health of Queen Wilhelmina, announced that her majesty's condition was satisfactory.

Orderly May Day Demonstrations

ROME, May 1.—The usual May day demonstrations throughout Italy have thus far been perfectly orderly. About 15,000 workmen participated in a meeting here.

FOUR YOUNG PEOPLE DEAD

Are Horribly Mangled by Fast Burlington Train at Kewanee, Illinois.

HAVEMEYER ON THE STAND

Disclaims Purpose of Acquiring Control of the Cuban Sugar Market.

EXPECTS NO AID FROM CONCESSIONS

Says His Company Could Not Force Cubans to Sell, as England Offers Equal Inducements for Their Product.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The inquiry recent holding of Cuban sugar and sugar lands ordered by a senate was begun today by the subcommittee on Cuban relations, President Henry O. Havemeyer of the American Sugar Refining company, was the first witness and all of the members of the subcommittee, Messrs. Platt of Connecticut, Burnham and Teller, were in attendance. Senator Patterson also was present. Others present were Mr. Havemeyer, Arthur Donner, treasurer of the company, and Henry C. Mott, its raw sugar buyer. All of them were sworn.

Replying to question by Senator Platt, Mr. Havemeyer said his company was generally known as the sugar trust, and that its refineries are located as follows: In New Jersey, 1; in New York, 2; Massachusetts, 2; Philadelphia, 2; New Orleans, 1. "Will you," Senator Platt asked, "tell how much Cuban sugar, if any, has been purchased and is now held by your company?"

"Since early in February last we have purchased 50,000 tons, or 24,000 bags, or about ten days' quantity supply, replied the witness.

"Of that quantity 25,000 tons is now in process of shipment from Cuba."

Range of Prices.

The prices paid had, he said, ranged from 1.75 to 1.95, the highest price being paid on March 13 and the lowest on April 22.

"Where do you buy your raw sugar?" "All over the world; in Cuba, Java, Hamburg, Trieste, the British West Indies, South America—wherever sugar is grown."

"Does the 50,000 tons mentioned represent your entire purchases in Cuba since the first of January?" "No, we have bought, all told, 92,000 tons of Cuban sugar during the present year, or about three-fourths of a month's supply, our consumption being about 35,000 tons per week."

"Do you control any sugar in Cuba other than that purchased?" "None whatever, in any manner."

"Have you taken any options on Cuban sugar?" "I have not."

No Advance on Cuban Sugar.

"Have you made any advance on Cuban sugar?" "None whatever."

"Do you wish to be understood as saying that the amount you have mentioned as having purchased represents your entire interest, direct and indirect, in Cuban sugar?" "That is the statement I make."

Continuing, Mr. Havemeyer said the entire Cuban sugar crop is 550,000 tons, but that much of it has been taken from the market in view of possible tariff concessions to be made by congress.

"On this account his purchases had been only about one-third of the average of last year, on this account," he said, "the purchases had been made principally at ports where the storage facilities were poor rather than at Havana. The purchases from the out ports had caused most of the shipments to be made from those ports rather than from Havana, where the company has about 45,000 tons now stored. The purchases at the out ports had caused the sales there to be made on a parity with the best sugar prices."

Speaking of the capacity of his company he said that it refined 65 per cent of the American refined product.

Produces Half the Consumption. He added that the percentage of his company's product compared to the entire sugar consumption of the United States was about 50 per cent. Last year his company produced 1,300,000 tons of the refined sugar, while the consumption was 2,400,000 tons.

Returning to the purchases of Cuban sugar for the present year Mr. Havemeyer gave figures for purchases for other years to show the relative volume of the current acquisitions, saying that in 1893 234,000 tons had been bought; in 1894, 248,000 tons; in 1895, 321,000 tons.

In reply to other questions, he said that the price of raw sugar in the United States is fixed by the best market prices in Hamburg. The price there fixes the selling price for the entire world, said Mr. Havemeyer.

On the subject of the price of Cuban sugar he said that his company could not determine their price. "We have," he said, "no control over them whatever; they don't belong to us."

"Cuba has to sell its sugar in this market, hasn't it?" "No, that is not true. It can sell in England, for instance, if it is desirous to do so. England could take the entire Cuban crop."

Mr. Platt then asked: "Suppose the United States should make a concession of 20 or 25 per cent in the tariff rates on Cuban sugar, could you not refuse to buy the Cuban product except at your own rates and thus secure the benefit of the concession?" "No, sir," was the reply. "Cuba would be under no obligation to sell to us, because, as I have said, the Cuban producers could find other markets."

"All the duty has been taken off Porto Rican sugar; do you get that sugar any cheaper on that account?" "Not at all."

"How about the Hawaiian product?" "We are under contract for the entire 350,000 tons produced in Hawaii. There is no tariff on that product, but the price is not affected by that circumstance."

Denies Stock Story. "It has been stated repeatedly that in case the suggested concession is made the sugar trust will be in a position to oblige producers to make such reductions that you will secure the entire benefit of the legislation—is that true?" "We could not oblige any reduction, in case of a concession to Cuban sugar the price might be lowered, say one-sixteenth of a cent a pound, but that would be nothing as compared to the reduction in the tariff rate which would amount to about one-third of a cent a pound. Even so great a reduction as I have mentioned would depend on a necessity for marketing, and if there should be any pressure on that account the necessity would be that of the producers and would not be ours."

WANTS THE MAJOR TO COME

Senate Committee Asks Secretary Root to Have Gardner Precede His Regiment.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Major General MacArthur today continued his testimony before the senate committee on the Philippines. Answering a question by Senator Culberson, the general stated the Aguinaldo and the Filipino people were justified in concluding that the actions of the United States army are sympathetic.

The Filipino, he said, were in a resentful and vindictive opposition to Spain and any active force on their part against Spain naturally helped the United States and vice versa, but he said, there was a distinct purpose through the intercourse between the Americans and the Filipino people to repudiate the idea of direct cooperation which in any way committed the United States to a policy.

General Merritt, he said, was under the strictest orders not to commit the government, but Aguinaldo was anxious to make present with Mr. Havemeyer what oblige General Merritt to do something he did not want to do. "The Filipino," said General MacArthur, "has quite a comprehensive knowledge of Latin diplomacy."

Aguinaldo was landed at Manila aboard an American warship because he was a useful individual who could be employed in a manner that would contribute to American success.

General MacArthur expressed the opinion that Spain did not have independence for its object.

"The Filipino merely wanted the same rights the Spaniards had at home," the general said, "but the insurrection against the United States became a demand for independence so far as the leaders could give it that form."

Before leaving Manila General MacArthur said he had a conference with Aguinaldo, who told him that he was informed as to the character of the American people and the purposes of the American government. Aguinaldo had also told him that it would be impossible at this stage of their evolution for his own people to establish a stable independent government.

The committee in secret session at this point considered the question whether steps should be taken to secure the attendance of Major Gardner in advance of the arrival of that officers' regiment. The committee decided not to issue a peremptory summons for his attendance at the early date, as desired, but asked the secretary of war to have Major Gardner come on in advance of his regiment if not in accordance with the good of the service. It is believed that Major Gardner will leave Manila on the next transport.

PROBLEM OF IMMIGRATION

Heavy Annual Influx of Foreigners Pronounced Menace to Laboring Americans.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The house gave most of the day to the District of Columbia appropriation bill, which was not completed. Mr. Shattuck of Ohio spoke on industrial conditions.

The district of Columbia appropriation bill was laid aside and Saturday next set apart for private bills reported by the committee on claims.

MOODY TAKES THE OATH

Former Massachusetts Congressman is Now the Secretary of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—William Henry Moody, secretary of the navy, took the oath of office at the Navy department this morning. The oath was administered by E. P. Hanna, solicitor of the department.

Those present before the retiring secretary were Mr. Long, assistant secretary; Darling, former assistant secretary; McCall and Representatives Roberts, McCall, Lawrence and Green of Massachusetts.

The entire personnel of the department was then presented to Mr. Moody, the clerks at the same time bidding Mr. Long farewell.

GLENN MUST STAND TRIAL

Officer of Fifth Infantry to Face Court-Martial by President's Order.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Following the precedent set in the case of General Smith, the president has himself, through Secretary Root, ordered the trial by court-martial of Edwin G. Glenn, Fifth infantry, one of the officers referred to in the administration of the water cure testimony, developed before the senate Philippine committee recently.

Nominations by the President. WASHINGTON, May 1.—The president today sent the following nominations to the senate: Thomas Nast, New Jersey, consul general at Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Nebraska—Frank D. Reed, Shelton. Arizona—George J. McCabe, Bisbee; Arthur J. Hudson, Clifton.

California—William D. Ingram, Lincoln; Charles G. Chamberlain, Pacific Grove; Stanley Inch, Chamberlain; W. J. Hill, Salinas.

Colorado—Stephen A. Noyes, Idaho Springs.

Illinois—Chester B. Claybaugh, Toulon; Roger Walwick, Ava.

DEplete WATER OF PLatte

Expert Says Amount Taken Above for Irrigation Robs the Lower River.

SHOULD RESPECT RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Referee Appointed to Take Testimony in Suit Between Nebraska and Missouri Over Possession of Island.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Elwood Mead, irrigation expert of the Department of Agriculture, has written a letter to Congressman Stark in reply to interrogatories submitted by the representative from the Fourth Nebraska district, which it traverses as wholly or partially responsible for the absence of water in the lower Platte river from July to January and that it has reduced the flow by diversion from the South Platte. He says the North Platte has been of little use in Wyoming, the reason assigned being that the country which it traverses is wholly or partially responsible for the absence of water in the lower Platte river from July to January and that it has reduced the flow by diversion from the South Platte. 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