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MUST STOP MERGERS

Interstate Commerce Commission Calls on Congress for New Laws.

COMPETING RAILWAYS NEARLY WIPED OUT

Combination of Interests Consolidates Management in Individual Hands.

RESULT DISASTROUS TO PUBLIC WELFARE

Legislation Sufficient Under Old Order Must Be Replaced Now.

CRIMINAL CLAUSES AT PRESENT USELESS

Last Year's Exposure of Secret Grain Rates Would Have Been Followed by Indictments if Statute Was Not Dead Letter.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The tendency to combine continues the most significant feature of railway development, according to the annual report of the Interstate Commerce commission, issued today. The report says:

"It is not open to question that the competition between railroad carriers, which formerly prevailed, has been lately suppressed, or at least brought to the condition of effective restraint.

"The progress of consolidation, in one form or another, will at no distant day confine this competition within narrow and unimportant limits, because the control of most railway properties will be merged in a few individuals, whose combination interests impel them to act in concert.

"While this will insure, as probably nothing else can, in equal degree, the observance of published tariffs, and so measurably remove some of the evils which the act was designed to prevent, the resulting situation involves consequences to the public which claim the most serious attention.

"A law which might have answered the purpose when competition was relied upon to secure reasonable rates is demonstrably inadequate when that competition is displaced by the most far-reaching and powerful combination.

"Some great change in the conditions calls for a corresponding change in the regulation of the statute."

The commission reaffirms its recommendations for amending the interstate commerce law and urges the grave necessity for legislation.

The report says that the fact that no convictions have yet been obtained nor indictments found in the cases of the roads which were shown by an investigation last winter to be given secret rates to grain shippers, emphasizes the fact that the criminal provisions of the present interstate law are practically a dead letter.

Injunctions Raise Rates.

The commission says the effect of injunctions to compel roads to observe published tariffs has been to materially advance the rate actually received by the carrier and paid by the shipper and that their operation enables advances which otherwise might not be made.

But while the producer will undoubtedly pay from now on from 5 to 7 cents per 100 pounds more to transport grain from the field to its destination than he paid before these injunctions took effect, that must not be regarded as an argument against the injunctions. There ought to be some power to compel the carriers to maintain the published rate and to publish a fair and reasonable rate.

Thirty-eight formal proceedings, double the number brought in the preceding year and involving rates and practices of 300 railroads, were instituted during the year.

To promote more general compliances with the spirit of the safety appliance law in the use of air brakes the committee recommends the passage of an act forbidding the running of trains in which less than one-half the cars are equipped with power brakes.

MERGER HEARING RENEWED

Lands on Two Lines Worth More Than When Crossed by Only One.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 17.—The merger hearing was today adjourned to be resumed at New York on December 29.

C. S. Staples, railroad commissioner, was called to identify the commissioner's map of Minnesota, as showing correctly the railroad lines in the state, and Charles L. Cook, S. A. Hoyt, Franklin Benner and F. Christensen of Olivia, dealers in farm lands, testified that lands close to two or more competitive railroads were more valuable than lands on only one railway.

The Northern Pacific trust deed and a number of the exhibits in the federal case were submitted.

It had been expected that J. J. Hill would be called, but the state decided not to put him on the stand. He may appear later as a witness for the defense.

PLAGUE GERMS IN THE FOOD

Goods Shipped to Honolulu from Japan and China Carry Disease.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—Advices received from Honolulu show that investigation proves that foodstuffs shipped to Honolulu from Japan and China via San Francisco are responsible for the cases of plague recently appearing there.

A number of Japanese on nearby plantations were taken with the plague and died in a hospital in Honolulu.

An examination of their effects was made but no trace of the germ was discovered until thorough tests had been made of some of the Japanese groceries found in the house.

These foods under the microscope showed a trace of the plague germs and further examinations made of oriental stuffs showed that the diagnosis was correct.

POISONED TACKS MAKE SICK

Girl Basket Worker Carries Nails in Mouth and Almost Loses Life.

METROPOLIS, Ill., Dec. 17.—A mouthful of tacks from a dish containing strychnine nearly killed Miss Birdie Woodard, an employe in a local basket factory today. She is in the habit of keeping her mouth full of tacks with which to fasten the ends of the basket bands. They were taken from a dish, into which, it is thought, someone put strychnine yesterday.

Today, after using a few mouthfuls of tacks, she became violently ill. A doctor was called in time to save her life.

EARTHQUAKE DESTROYS TOWN

Andijan, in Russian Turkestan, Totally Annihilated, but Number of Killed Not Yet Known.

ASUKABEL, Russian Turkestan, Dec. 16.—The town of Andijan, in the government, was totally destroyed by an earthquake today.

The number of fatalities is not ascertained. The population is threatened with starvation. Shocks were felt in Margheian and surrounding villages and a railway at Andijan was destroyed for a considerable distance.

Food and clothing are being sent to Andijan.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The State department has received from the United States consul at Apia, Samoa, a report that November 2 two supposedly extinct craters in the volcano of Manga, Apia, on the island of Savaaii, broke into violent eruption. Heavy earthquake shocks preceded the volcanic outbreak. No lives were lost.

Andijan is a town of Russian central Asia, seventy-three miles from Khokand. It had a population of about 30,000.

SHIPS FAIL TO KEEP PORTS

Naval Maneuvers Show Some Vessels to Be Unused to Evolutions Practiced.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Dec. 17.—The American fleet continued its exercises in squadron formation today.

The maneuvers thus far have shown that vessels which have not hitherto been connected with the North American squadron are not familiar with the present exercises, they frequently fail to retain their positions. Admiral Dewey notes all errors and is informed of the names of the officers in charge of the various vessels at the time the errors are committed. He transmits his views to the commanding officers for their guidance. This has resulted in a feeling of rivalry between the ships which is certain to be beneficial.

The present exercises test the ability of the vessels to get under way promptly and to maintain their position when standing and changing formations.

QUEEN ACTS AS GODMOTHER

Alexandra Signs Register with Others at Christening of Young Duke of Manchester.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—Queen Alexandra today acted as godmother at the christening of Lord Mandeville, the heir of the duke and duchess of Manchester, in the chapel royal, St. James palace.

Her majesty signed the register with the duke and duchess of Manchester, Marquis de Soveral, the Portuguese minister, Count von Mensdorff, secretary of the Austria-Hungarian embassy, Earl de Grey, Lady Lister-Kaye and others.

The queen's present to her godchild was a silver bowl and spoon, inscribed "To Alexander George, Viscount Mandeville from Alexandra, Regina, December 17, 1902."

BOXERS BESIEGE TWO CITIES

Chinese Affairs Further Complicated by Approaching Abdication of Empress Dowager.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 17.—Mail advices received from Chang King, in the Sechuan province of China, say Meichou and Kiatingfu have closed their gates and declared a state of seige, owing to the numerous bodies of armed Boxers in their vicinity. Troops sent to raise the siege failed.

It is reported from Pekin that Yung Lu, first grand secretary of China, who since Li Hung Chang died has been the most powerful man in China, is anxious to resign. The empress dowager proposes to abdicate next year and Yung Lu wishes to anticipate the event by placing himself beyond the range of consequent complications.

WITH RIGHT TO SUCCEED

Coadjutor Archbishop Instead of an Assistant to Be Named at St. Louis.

ROME, Dec. 17.—The congregation of the propaganda intends, in accordance with the pope's settled policy, to appoint a coadjutor archbishop of St. Louis, with the right of succession, instead of an assistant.

The pontiff desires this rule to be adhered to in all cases, except in the most important dioceses, where archbishops must be elected, as he does not approve of the appointment of auxiliaries who on the death of their late superiors are left without a position.

EXECUTED WITHOUT A TRIAL

High Handed Proceedings Employed by the Government of Hayti.

PORT AU PRINCE, Hayti, Dec. 17.—Order has been re-established here. During the fighting yesterday a number of persons were injured, including two Italians, who were seriously injured.

Two men accused of committing crimes were excused during the day without trial. The United States legation is protected by troops.

BOOKKEEPER DEFRAUDS BANK

Institution at Berlin Loses $175,000 Through the Dishonesty of an Employe.

BERLIN, Dec. 17.—The Darmstarder bank has been defrauded of $175,000, owing to false entries in the books on the part of a bookkeeper, Nessler, who had charge of the deposits. Nessler has been missing since Sunday.

Sixty-Three Frozen to Death.

VIENNA, Dec. 17.—According to advices from Hungary sixty-three persons were frozen to death during the last three days. Wolves are devastating the sheepfolds and have devoured three sheep herds.

German Turret Ship Ashore.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 17.—The German turret ship Wittelsback is ashore near Kosver. The German warships Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse and Prinz Heinrich have gone to its assistance.

Quigley is Archbishop.

ROME, Dec. 17.—It is reported that Bishop James E. Quigley of Buffalo, N. Y., has been appointed archbishop of Chicago in succession to the late Archbishop Feehan.

Marseilles Strike is Over.

MARSEILLES, Dec. 17.—The strike is at an end, the sailors having voted to resume work tomorrow.

CONFER ON A LEASING BILL

Cattlemen and Nebraska Delegation Working on the Details.

RAILROAD CASE IN THE SUPREME COURT

Company Challenges Constitutionality of Nebraska Law on Damages as Interpreted by the State Court.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—Representatives of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association had an extended conference tonight with Senators Dietrich and Millard and Representatives Burkett and Shallenberger over the new leasing bill, applicable only to Nebraska, which it is believed by cattlemen will solve the much vexed question growing out of the occupancy of the public domain. Chairman Lacey of the public lands committee, who has held pronounced views on the question of leasing public lands to cattle barons for grazing purposes, was also present. The bill, which is the result of many conferences between representatives of the government and cattlemen, provides for ten years' lease on public lands, the maximum of a leasehold being thirty sections, or 19,200 acres, to be divided into six classes and to rent from 1 to 6 cents an acre per annum. The bill also provides for the leasing of lands contiguous to free gold, so as to give the largest range possible for cattle owners. It provides that half the proceeds from the lease shall be devoted to irrigation, one-fourth to Nebraska and one-fourth to the county. In view of the character of the territory represented by the Cattle Growers' association, it is claimed that it requires thirty acres to feed one steer, and consequently thirty sections is not disproportionate to the interests of the particular section.

Senator Dietrich suggested a very similar measure early in the last session of congress.

The committee of cattlemen had an interview with Secretary Hitchcock today, at which it was suggested to get the Nebraska delegation together on a proposition, and tonight's conference was the result. Toward the close of the conference Representatives Mondell of Wyoming and Moody of Oregon, who are largely interested in this question, entered the conference to urge that Nebraska take the initiative in the proposition to lease the public domain for cattle grazing purposes. At the close of the conference it was decided to hold a further meeting of the Nebraska delegation, at which time one member would be selected to introduce the measure.

James A. Kline of Minden, national bank examiner, is the guest of W. E. Andrews, auditor for the Treasury department.

Burkett Names Cadets.

Representative Burkett today named W. C. Cook of Lincoln and Elmer P. Drake of Pawnee City as alternate cadets to the military academy at West Point from the First district of Nebraska.

Railroad Case in Supreme Court.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company against Kate G. Wolf, administratrix of John F. Wolf, deceased, appealed from the supreme court of Nebraska, was argued in the supreme court today. J. W. Deweese appeared for the railroad company and T. J. Mahoney of Omaha for the plaintiff. This action was brought by John F. Wolfe in his lifetime to recover damages for the loss of a foot caused by being run over by a Burlington car. The question involved in this case is whether the Nebraska statute, as constructed by the Nebraska courts, is repugnant to the constitution of the United States; whether a railroad company is absolutely liable for injuries sustained by a passenger without any fault of the company, not only without any fault of the company, but when injuries were caused by a fault of the passenger injured.

Wolf was a passenger aboard a train on December 4, 1894, from Oxford to Holdrege, and was thrown from the train and fell in such a manner that his left leg and foot were run over. He sued for $50,000 damages and secured a verdict for $8,000, and at the same time the court made a special finding of fact in response to certain questions as to whether the train at the time of the accident was being run in the ordinary way. On the general and special verdicts returned by the jury judgment was rendered against the railroad company, and on appealing to the supreme court of the state, that court held that the railroad company, by reason of the Nebraska statute, was absolutely liable for injuries received by passengers while riding upon railroad trains, and this liability existed without any fault or wrong on the part of the railroad company.

Adjudicating Shoshone Claims.

Senator Clapp (Minn.) today introduced a bill referring to the court of claims the claim of the Shoshone Indians to title in all of the Wind River reservation in Fremont county, Wyoming. It was provided by treaty, dated February 24, 1869, to set apart the Shoshone or Wind River reservation for the absolute and undisputed use and occupation of the Shoshones. In 1877 the Shoshones gave their consent that a band of Northern Arapahoes should be removed to their reservation as their temporary abiding place. This band of Arapahoes has remained ever since and now claim to own an undivided one-half interest in the Shoshone reservation. The Arapahoes have by authority of the United States, but against the protest of the Shoshones, received one-half of all the proceeds derived from grazing leases, from the sale of the Big Horn hot springs, formerly a part of the reservation, and of all other money as proceeds from the Shoshone reservation. Therefore as the Shoshone tribe of Indians claim to own the Wind River reservation in its entirety and to be entitled to all proceeds derived from grazing leases and the sale of the Big Horn hot springs, jurisdiction is conferred on the court of claims to hear and determine the claims of the Shoshones.

Logan for Postmaster at Ponca.

J. H. Logan was today recommended for postmaster at Ponca, Neb., by Representative-elect J. J. McCarthy. The papers were transmitted to the Postoffice department by Senator Millard, with a favorable recommendation.

Senator Millard, Miss Millard and Mrs. W. B. Millard were guests of Senator and Mrs. Scott at dinner last evening.

Root Asks for Money.

Secretary Root today sent to congress a supplemental estimate for appropriations to be expended at Battle Mountain sanitarium, South Dakota. Mr. Root urges an appropriation of $200,000 for the completion of the sanitarium in accordance with plans adopted at a meeting of the Board of Managers of soldiers' homes in Washington a week or more ago. He also wants an appropriation of $10,000 to purchase a strip of ground lying between the site donated by

(Continued on Second Page.)

STOCKHOLDERS IN HARMONY

Owners of Louisville & Nashville Railroad Meet and Elect Board of Directors.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 17.—The adjourned meeting of the stockholders of the Louisville & Nashville railroad was held here today.

More than ordinary interest centered in the gathering, as it was the first meeting since the system passed under control of the Atlantic Coast Line. A board of thirteen directors was elected. Mr. Beaumont was among those retained. The Atlantic Coast Line was well represented.

The directors will meet in New York next Friday to organize. Six of the old directors, including Milton H. Smith, president of the Louisville & Nashville, were retained.

The meeting of the stockholders was harmonious throughout, and all who attended were pleased at the outlook as evinced by the declaration of the new directors. While control of the Louisville & Nashville property has passed into the Atlantic Coast Line, it seems certain that the old officers of the Louisville & Nashville will be retained and the old policy continued.

R. W. Belknap presided and a little over 400,000 of the 600,000 shares were represented.

After the verifying of the proxies the following board of directors was chosen: August Belmont, chairman Louisville & Nashville Railroad company, New York, re-elected; R. C. Erwin, president Atlantic Coast Line railroad, New York; M. H. Smith, president Louisville & Nashville railroad, Louisville, re-elected; H. Walter, chairman board of directors, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad company, New York; Warren Delano, jr., Baltimore, Md.; Warren G. Elliott, president Atlantic Coast Line of Connecticut and general counsel of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad company, Baltimore; Michael Jenkins of Atlanta, stockholder Atlantic Coast Line; G. P. Kinsley, third vice president New York Life Insurance company, New York; Attila Cox, president Columbia Finance and Trust company, Louisville, Ky., re-elected; W. G. Raoul, president National Railroad of Mexico, New York, re-elected; John I. Waterbury, Manhattan, Tex., re-elected; Walter Oakman, New York, re-elected; R. F. Elane, New York, re-elected.

After the meeting Mr. August Belmont said:

"The directors of the road will meet in New York Friday. I prefer not to forecast their action, but I will say that there will be no radical change in policy and that the officers to be elected will be agreeable to the old constituency of the road."

Mr. Belmont and Mr. Milton H. Smith left the meeting apparently in the best of spirits. It is said that Mr. Mitchell will be re-elected president on Friday, with the same authority, and that there will be no change among the officers of the road.

UPBRAIDS MRS. MOLINEUX

Mystery Surrounds Quarrel Which Occurred in Her Apartments.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—The latest bit of interesting gossip concerning Mrs. Roland B. Molineux is to the effect that herself and a man whose identity has not yet been discovered were the principals in a quarrel which is alleged to have taken place in her apartments last Saturday night, but information of which did not leak out until this afternoon.

According to the stories told, occupants of rooms in proximity to the apartments of Mrs. Molineux were startled about 11 o'clock Saturday night by a man entering her rooms and bitterly arraigning her. She was apparently greatly angered by his fierce attack and the audacity displayed by administering a tongue-lashing to her and replied vigorously to the recriminations of her caller. The war of words is alleged to have continued for some time, attracting the attention of several persons in nearby rooms, who could not help but hear the angry voices of the two, although it was only now and then that they could distinguish what was said. Not enough was heard to reveal what the quarrel was about.

Whether or not the alleged midnight caller was an emissary of Roland B. Molineaux or a New York acquaintance of Mrs. Molineaux's cannot be ascertained. Many people will be keenly interested in solving, if possible, the mystery surrounding his identity.

CONSPIRACY TRIAL BEGINS

Witness Says Laura Biggar Was at First Undecided How to Proceed.

FREEHOLD, N. J., Dec. 17.—The first witness today in the trial of Laura Biggar, Dr. Charles C. Hendricks and Samuel Stanton for alleged conspiracy to get the estate of Henry M. Bennett was A. V. D. Watterson of Pittsburg, counsel for P. J. McNulty, one of the executors of Mr. Bennett's, and a beneficiary under the will.

Mr. Watterson said Dr. Hendricks told him last June that he would either claim for Miss Biggar her share of the estate under the will or lay claim to the whole for her as the common law wife of Mr. Bennett, or put in a claim for the services she had rendered him during his life. In July Dr. Hendricks was still undecided.

Mr. McNulty testified that he went to the Bayonne sanitarium at Miss Biggar's request and met the doctor, who had not made up his mind what to claim for Miss Biggar.

Henry Croft, clerk in a New York stationery store, testified regarding the blank certificate signed by Mr. Stanton, former justice of the peace, setting forth the alleged marriage of Miss Biggar and Mr. Bennett.

Witness said certificates of the kind said to have been used by Mr. Stanton were printed December 22, 1900. The date of the marriage certificate was January 2, 1898. Secretary Tucker of the Hoboken Board of Health, testified that Stanton had asked him to enter the marriage on the records.

ILLINOIS ROAD MOVES MEN

Scott Becomes Assistant General Passenger Agent, with Headquarters at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 17.—A number of changes have been made in the passenger department of the Illinois Central's southern lines, to become effective on February 1. The most important is the appointment of John A. Scott, at present division passenger agent of the road at Memphis, to succeed W. A. Kelland of Louisville as assistant general passenger agent. With this change is also announced the transfer of the assistant general passenger agent's headquarters from Louisville to Memphis and the establishment of a division passenger agent here.

GREATNESS OF NEBRASKA

Pleasant Theme on Which Real Estate Dealers Descant.

STATE CONVENTION NOW IN SESSION

Delegates Gather to Hear Opening Addresses and Pay Fine Compliments to the State Where They Live.

A large number of real estate dealers from the state and an almost full representation of the Omaha Real Estate exchange were present at the opening meeting of the second annual convention of the Nebraska Real Estate Dealers' association.

It was 8 o'clock when President James Conkling of Franklin called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. E. Connie Smith of the First Methodist church, who offered prayer.

The president then introduced C. F. Harrison, president of the Omaha Real Estate exchange, who, in his address of welcome, said in part:

It is said that God made the country and man made the town, but I believe that God also made the town when He made the combinations of nature which are required by cities. Omaha is the natural result of its location. It is the logical result of a combination of circumstances and natural advantages. The location of the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific railroad at Omaha was one of the first things that went to make Omaha great, but we are not dependent upon the railroads. We residents of Omaha do not know what we are doing here. The smelter is doing a business of $30,000,000 a year and spends $2,500 a day for labor. It handles ores from all parts of the western continent. We have come to be known as the great packing center of this region—built up in just a few years. These enterprises are not so much due to man as to nature. The man is wise, indeed, who knows where to pitch his tent, but no man can make a town if the location does not possess natural advantage.

Objects of the Gathering.

Conventions of this kind are held for three reasons. One to permit the members of the association to get acquainted with each other. Acquaintanceship seems to be a small thing, but it is a good thing to get acquainted. A second reason is to give members an opportunity to get into touch with business conditions. This is a day of large affairs. Once a million dollars was a very large sum. Today we talk of millions as we once talked of thousands. The men who know are kings and when we meet men upon whom we can rely we are fortunate.

The third reason is for the purpose of discussing business affairs. We have five general subjects for discussion—irrigation, legislation, taxation, immigration and association. We must strive to place our business on a higher plane. There is a feeling that real estate men are not reliable and in some cases this is so. It is better to be fair than to "take all the traffic will bear" when the opportunity is offered. Here in Omaha we have set up a standard of fairness and straightforward dealing and the man who violates it is in disgrace.

You are more than welcome to this town and if we have forgotten anything for your comfort we will consider it a favor if you will suggest it.

J. A. Slater of Minden, who responded, said in part:

We feel proud of Omaha. When I am in Iowa I take pride in referring to the fact that that state has no town like it, and Illinois has but one. We have a right to be proud of Omaha, for we have helped to make it, and we are also proud of the state.

In our part of the state we have everything necessary to make a successful farming community. Most of our farms are owned by those who occupy them. Their houses are good and well furnished. The granaries are full, the creameries are turning out fine butter and the poultry business is one that should not be overlooked.

Money in Nebraska Farms.

Farm laborers are in demand and cannot be secured in sufficient numbers. Each of the ten counties has garnered in full crops of winter wheat, corn, hay and other products. Our farmers had a surplus of money in the banks. Banks were full all summer. Little of the crop of 1902 has gone on the market, and the bank surplus has been somewhat reduced. Nearly all the corn crop will be fed or stored. Our farms pay from 2 to 3 per cent on rental of one-third to two-fifths of the crop. In York county a number of sales have been made at $75 per acre, and if the fall wheat business continues as it has for ten years the land will pay fair interest on $50 to $60 per acre. The man who possesses some of these broad acres will be fortunate in years to come. With these good crops there is no more satisfactory condition than those which exist in the eastern part of Nebraska. Few places offer so much advantage to farmers of moderate means. In the east the rents are too high, in the south the social conditions are not satisfactory and on the Pacific coast the work is done by large syndicates and companies who crowd the small owner out. The occasional drouth is all that injuries us and if we use good judgment these drouths may be made of advantage, for if crops can be held higher prices will rule. The worst thing that ever happened to us was permitting men to go east to solicit aid in 1894. We should have cared for the sufferers from our resources and we would have made money.

The speaker then read reports from the counties constituting his district, showing that business of all kinds is satisfactory in the counties of York, Fillmore, Harlan, Phelps, Clay, Adams, Franklin and Kearney, showing much activity in farm lands, with general and large advance in price. The reports showed much grain still in the hands of farmers.

The chairman of the local convention committee announced that the Millard hotel is the official hotel; that badges may be secured upon application by all delegates and representatives, the badge to contain the name and address of the delegate; that the reception committee is at the service of all visitors, and that the typewriters and operators in the committee rooms are for the use of the delegates without cost.

Lincoln's Eloquent Representative.

After these announcements H. H. Wilson of Lincoln was introduced and spoke on the subject of "Our State Capital." Mr. Wilson said in part:

You are here tonight amid scenes of prosperity, not only in Nebraska, but in the country at large. This year the state completes its thirty-fifth year, and it may be well to take stock of our resources. Nebraska is perhaps the most exclusively agricultural state in the Union. We have no mines, no forests and our manufactures are in their infancy. There is a limited corn growing territory in America—a mere band's breadth on the surface of the earth—and Nebraska is one of the greatest corn producers in that territory. During the last six years Nebraska has ranked first, second and third each and third, three times, making it the third corn producing state in the Union. While Nebraska stands twenty-sixth in population, she stands seventh as a wheat producing state. But perhaps a fairer test is the amount a single man with a single horse can produce. The average man has produced in Nebraska 50 per cent more corn than he has produced in Iowa. A fatted steer within 150 miles of Omaha is worth as much as a fatted steer 350 miles from Chicago, and there is no reason why there should be any difference in the price of land.

You gentlemen have not been doing your duty. You should reach the people in the eastern states and carry them over the states of Illinois and Iowa. In the last ten years the United States census shows that Nebraska has increased its population but 1 per cent, while Iowa increased 16 per cent. Part of this was due to the fact that before 1890 a large number of people tried to make farms on grazing lands. But this year we have loaned $200,000 at 1 per cent to the Old Bay state, and this should change their opinion of us.

One of Nebraska's Advantages.

Much of the vast wealth which we produce remains in the state. If our gold of the fields were sent from the mines the profits would go into the pockets of the favored few, while the great majority

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Rain Thursday and Warmer in Western Portion; Friday Fair.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	14	1 p. m.	30
6 a. m.	15	2 p. m.	30
7 a. m.	16	3 p. m.	31
8 a. m.	15	4 p. m.	31
9 a. m.	18	5 p. m.	29
10 a. m.	21	6 p. m.	28
11 a. m.	23	7 p. m.	27
12 m.	26	8 p. m.	26
		9 p. m.	24

GRANT FUNERAL ARRANGED

Monument Association Appoints Committee and Decides Details of Opening Tomb.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The executive committee of the Grant Monument association held a short meeting at the Chamber of Commerce today to discuss arrangements for the funeral of Mrs. U. S. Grant.

All that has been done here as yet is to arrange for the lifting of the top of the granite sarcophagus in which Mrs. Grant's body will lie.

A committee to have charge of all arrangements was appointed today, consisting of General Grenville M. Dodge, Elihu Root and Henry W. Hayden, vice president and secretary of the association; Cornelius N. Bliss and Colonel A. L. Noel Blakeman. Colonel Blakeman will have imediate charge of details and has gone to Washington to meet General Fred Grant.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 17.—General Fred Grant passed through St. Louis this evening enroute to Washington to attend the funeral of his mother.

UNION MAN IS INDICTED

Grand Jury at Telluride Makes Serious Charges Against Vincent St. John.

TELLURIDE, Colo., Dec. 17.—Vincent St. John, president of the Miners' union, is one of the twenty-two men indicted for participation in the riot at the Smuggler-Union mine in July, 1901, in which two men were killed and five wounded.

He was arrested this morning. The indictments against St. John charge him with murder, attempt to murder and robbery.

Four other arrests were made late today. The prisoners are Sam Seed and James P. Roner, miners at the Tomboy mine; George Washburn, cook at the Four Metals mine, and John E. Conn, a saloon keeper.

The charges against them are similar to those made against St. John.

GAMBLING CASES ON TRIAL

Court is Now to Pass Upon the Reform Work Commenced by Attorney Jerome.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The hearing of the charges against David Bucklin of being manager of a gambling house on East Forty-fourth street, the Canfield house, was commenced today.

Bucklin pleaded not guilty and declined to make reply to the question, "What is your business?"

Joseph Jacobs, the detective who is said to have gathered testimony against the house, was the first witness. He told how he played faro and roulette there. Bucklin, he said, hired the men who came in and watched the different games.

The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

DOCK CLERKS TO RAISE PAY

Railroads Reduce Office Salaries to Offset Increases Granted Artisans.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 17.—The difficulty western railroads are finding in keeping mechanical help is affecting the clerks in a peculiar manner. Some of the roads, the Santa Fe included, have begun reducing salaries of the office employes.

The high wages paid to mechanical help makes it necessary, the companies say, to retrench expenses and they are doing this among their office forces. No organization exists among the clerks, but it is understood that steps will be taken to request the roads to discontinue the policy.

NEGROES ARE DENIED FOOD

Four Shooting Affrays and One Murder Lead to Drastic Measures in Indiana.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 17.—Four shooting affrays and one murder, in which negroes took part, have been followed by the closing of clubs and saloons conducted by negroes, and many colored people are leaving the city.

They say they cannot get food and service at the restaurants, although they have the money to pay for it.

A committee of citizens has raised $500 as a reward for the capture of three negroes who murdered John M. Koonsman on Saturday.

WISCONSIN IS NOT TO SAIL

Orders Which Would Have Taken the War Ship to Sea Are Suddenly Cancelled.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—Orders from Washington, which would have taken the battleship Wisconsin to sea, bound for the Bremerton dock on Puget sound, have been cancelled and Lieutenant Commander Mayo, temporarily in command, is awaiting instructions from the Navy department.

The reason for canceling the original orders is not known here, but the vessel's officers expect to go to Bremerton within a few days.

Movements of Ocean Vessels Dec. 17.

At New York—Arrived—Perugia, from Naples; Blucher, from Hamburg. Sailed—Oceania, for Liverpool; St. Paul, for Southampton.

At Liverpool—Arrived—Canadian, from New York; Mechanician, from New Orleans; Tunisian, from St. John and Halifax. Sailed—Celtic, for New York.

At Antwerp—Arrived—Switzerland, from Philadelphia.

At London—Sailed—Colombian, for Boston.

At Boston—Arrived—Karamania, from Naples.

At Yokohama — Arrived — Empress of China, from Vancouver, for Hong Kong, etc. Sailed—Indrapura, from Hong Kong, for Portland, Ore.

At Queenstown—Arrived—Teutonic, from New York.

At Naples—Arrived—Lahn, from New York.

At Hamburg—Arrived—Teutonia, from Montreal, via Sydney.

At Gibraltar—Passed—Phoenician, from New York, for Naples and Genoa.

At San Francisco—Sailed—Carmania, for Melbourne; Albert, for Honolulu; Wisconsin, for Santa Barbara.

At Hong Kong—Arrived—Gaelic, from San Francisco, via Honolulu and Yokohama.

ASK CASTRO TO YIELD

Caracas Merchants Say Nation's Honor is Amply Satisfied.

MIXED REPORTS ARRIVE ON ARBITRATION

Berlin Says Offer is Declined; Venezuela Claims it is Accepted.

BRITAIN ANNOUNCES WAR AS NOW ON

Premier Tells Parliament Diplomacy Knows Nothing of Peaceful Blockades.

ITALIAN MINISTER LEAVES COUNTRY

Bowen Entertains Englishmen, Who Live at Embassy While Embroglio Continues and Necessitates Increase of American Staff.

CARACAS, Dec. 17.—The Italian minister left Caracas this morning. At 8 o'clock Mr. Bowen went to the Italian legation in a state carriage and took the Italian minister, Signor de Riva, and the Italian consul, Signor Gazzurrelli, and conducted them to the railroad station, where they were met by the leading Italian residents of this city. Mr. Bowen then accompanied the minister to his car, shook hands with him and handed him papers and cigars for his journey to La Guayra.

The Venezuelan newspapers are still ignorant of the Italian ultimatum and therefore there were no crowds at the station and no hostile demonstration.

This note was transmitted to President Castro this afternoon, and was signed by all the leading merchants, bankers and agriculturists of Caracas, who will meet tonight and discuss ways and means of obtaining money to pay Venezuela's debts.

The note is as follows:

Sir:—The undersigned, having met with the purpose of offering their aid to the government of Venezuela in the present conflicting situation, which has been created by the aggressive attitude of Germany and Great Britain, and upon your request, to give our opinions in writing, we address you in the following terms:

In view of the acts of violence already committed and of the absolute impotence of Venezuela to meet force with force in response to the allied action of Germany and Great Britain, in view of the fact that Venezuela has exhausted all the means required by civilization and diplomacy to put an end to the present situation, and the government and people of Venezuela have complied honorably and worthily to the demands of national honor, we consider, with all due respect, that the moment to yield to force has arrived.

We, therefore, respectfully recommend that full power be given to the minister of the United States of America, authorizing him to carry out proper measures to terminate the present conflict in the manner least prejudicial to the interests of Venezuela.

The blockade of La Guayra, notification of which was communicated to the Venezuelan government on December 13, went into effect today. The order applies to Venezuelan vessels only.

It has been decided that the Venezuelan difficulty shall be arbitrated and a discussion of terms of settlement is now going on. Mr. Bowen will undoubtedly be one of the arbitrators.

The government fears that coercive measures will follow the establishment of the blockade, consequently President Castro continues to act with extraordinary energy. He has transformed the entire country into a vast camp, having raised more than 40,000 men, whom he has armed well, equipped and transported to La Guayra and Puerto Cabello, in the expectation that the allies would attempt to land at one or both of those points.

Will Decline Arbitration.

BERLIN, Dec. 17.—A formal notification of the blockade of the Venezuelan coast is likely to be issued tomorrow. It is understood that ships of the United States will be on precisely the same basis as those of other nations.

Germany considers that President Castro's proposal to arbitrate is inadequate, as it is unaccompanied with guarantees to pay if the arbitrators direct against him, and a reply in that sense has been or will be sent through Mr. Bowen. Great Britain will make a similar answer.

These statements are not made officially, but are derived from an excellent source.

The Foreign office here denied explicitly that the German squadron in Venezuelan waters has been ordered to seize Margarita island, adding that no occupation of the territory of Venezuela is to be allowed.

The Foreign office officials allege that a systematic effort is apparently being made to represent Germany as the propelling power in the coercion of Venezuela and as being responsible for all the harsh measures. For instance, they say the bombardment of the forts at Puerto Cabello is ascribed to German initiative, whereas the officials say, without reservation, that it was at the British commander's suggestion, Topaze being a British ship. The German commander participated in the firing as a loyal ally.

The German government is not insisting on more severe measures than the original plan contemplated and regards the sinking of the two "diminutive, wholly unseaworthy craft" as an "insignificant incident."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The officials here have come to the conclusion that the protected "peaceful blockade" of Venezuelan ports cannot be recognized, as against United States shipping at least.

If the allies seek to exclude Venezuelan shipping from entering Venezuelan ports that might be permitted, but they cannot exclude United States ships in regular business unless a genuine state of war is recognized.

Senor Ojeda, the Spanish minister, and Baron Moncheucher, the Belgian minister, have not received official advices relative to the joint note their governments have addressed to President Castro, asking that in the event of a settlement of the claims of the allied powers Spain and Belgium be given similar treatment.

The Spanish minister denies that there is the slightest probability of further action on the part of Spain unless events in Caracas make it necessary for the Spanish representative to withdraw. Minister Ojeda does not anticipate this in view of the strong ties of friendship that exists between his government and both American republics.

Baron Moncheucher regards the position of his country as thus far neutral, but in case circumstances change this attitude it is likely that Minister Bowen will be requested to look after Belgian interests in the Venezuelan capital. Belgium, having no navy, it will not be possible for that country to join in the naval demonstration of the allied fleet.

Mr. Bowen's position is realized to be one of extraordinary difficulty. He is now in charge of the interests of Great Britain, Germany, Italy and Holland, besides those of the United States, and may be called upon to take charge of the remainder of the European countries, with