

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

ADVANCE WILLIAMSON CASE.

Hoyt Wants Decision Before Supreme Court Adjourns.
Washington, March 22.—Next Monday Solicitor General Hoyt, representing the attorney general, will submit to the Supreme court a motion to advance the appeal of ex-Representative Williamson in the hope that the case can be tried this session and before adjournment in May. In a formal motion, which he has prepared to submit to the court, Mr. Hoyt briefly reviews the progress of the Williamson trial from its inception to and including the action of the Circuit Court of Appeals on March 11, and then states that his motion to advance is based on the following reasons:
First, this is a criminal case; second, a constitutional question appears to be involved; third, it is a case of public importance involving the question whether the immunity from arrest granted to senators and members of congress by the constitution extends to a sentence of imprisonment after legal conviction; fourth, an independent writ of error from the Circuit Court of Appeals has been dismissed by that court as to Williamson.

Will Carry Relief to China.

Washington, March 21.—The United States army transport Buford will take a load of provisions at once to China for the relief of the famine sufferers. The War department advised the State department today that the transport, which is at San Francisco, is at the disposal of the Red Cross Cross for immediate use in the shipment. The transport will stop at Honolulu on its way to Shanghai and probably will carry a special party of congressmen, who are to visit Honolulu as guests of the citizens of the Hawaiian islands.

Displeasing to Veterans.

Washington, March 19.—The United States War Veterans, District of Columbia department, today adopted a resolution vigorously denouncing the action of the constitutional convention of Oklahoma in adopting a clause in its constitution disfranchising soldiers, sailors and marines, and characterizing such action as a direct insult to all American soldiers, sailors and marines "who have fought in the several wars in which the country has been engaged, and who have never known defeat in any war."

Conference Proposal Received.

Washington, March 21.—President Roosevelt has received from Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, the letter recently sent by him bearing on the subject of a national conference with a view to reaching a common understanding as to the powers to be exercised by the states in the event of an extension of Federal authority in railroad regulation. The president has discussed the question and expects to promptly reply to Governor Johnson's suggestion.

Meet Only in Washington.

Washington, March 19.—The work of the Interstate Commerce commission has grown so heavy that it has been decided to discontinue the hearings which have been conducted by members of the commission outside of Washington. Hereafter, when it is found necessary to conduct investigations in other cities, special agents will take the testimony and report to the commission and the arguments on the case will be heard by the commissioners in this city.

Grain Sacks May Be High.

Washington.—Warehousemen are advising their customers to buy grain sacks at 10 1/2 cents, believing they will be higher before the harvest. So far very few sacks have been sold and some of the warehousemen have not sold a single one. Buyers say they have been informed by their companies that even at the high prices at which sacks were sold last year the companies made no profit.

Coal Land is Reopened.

Washington.—The general land office has issued a statement giving the location of the following public lands reopened to entry by the president's order of March 12 last: Montana, 2,000,000; Oregon, 710,000; Washington, 320,000. The land was, previous to the order of March 12, included in land classed as coal land and withdrawn from entry.

Cost of Pacifying Cnda.

Washington, March 22.—Extraordinary expenses to the United States up to date caused by the sending of an army of pacification to Cuba, aggregate about \$2,500,000, according to figures which have been prepared by the War department. It has not been determined exactly when the money will be collected from Cuba by the United States.

Oregon Middy Graduate.

Washington.—Ernest Durr, of Baker City, will graduate from Annapolis Naval academy this year, being the only midshipman from the Northwest to graduate this season, except Albert T. Church, of Boise. Church stands 12 in a class of 106.

Let Roosevelt Arbitrate.

New Orleans.—President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, is quoted as according to a request of President Roosevelt for arbitration of the war troubles in Central America in a letter received here from Bluefields.

Supreme Court Takes Recess.

Washington, March 20.—The chief justice announced today that the Supreme court would take a two weeks' recess, from next Monday until April 8.

DISCUSSED ALTON DEAL.

Roosevelt Denies He and Deneen Are Booming Taft.

Washington, March 21.—"Governor Deneen and Attorney General Stead did not come to see me on any political matters at all."

The above were substantially the words the president used in his talk with Senator Hansbrough today when the latter asked him about the report that Saturday's conference at the White House with the Illinois officers during which Secretary Taft and his brother called, was for the purpose of launching a boom for Secretary Taft for the presidency.

From authoritative sources it was learned today that the visit of Governor Deneen and Attorney General Stead had to do with the Chicago & Alton deal which figured in the Harriman investigation before the Interstate Commerce commission. The president was anxious to learn what was being done, or what the state contemplated doing in the matter.

Secretary Taft issued the following: "I had an appointment with the president at 3:30 p. m. Sunday and went to the White House to keep it. I found Governor Deneen and Attorney General Stead with the president and I was introduced. They left immediately. There was no political conversation."

Much Land is Reopened.

Washington.—The secretary of the interior has restored to entry a large quantity of government land which was withdrawn last summer on the supposition that it contained deposits of merchantable coal. In all 710,000 acres are restored in Oregon and 320,000 acres in Washington. The geological survey, after examining, reported its inability to find coal indications in this land. The land now becomes subject to entry under the general land laws. Oregon land is in the Portland, Roseburg, Dalles and La Grande districts, the Washington land in the Seattle, Olympia and North Yakima districts.

Ballinger's New Assistant.

Washington, March 20.—Land Commissioner Ballinger announces the selection of Fred Denett, of North Dakota, as assistant commissioner, succeeding George F. Pollock, of Ohio, who becomes chief clerk in the general land office. Pollock takes the place of James F. Macey, assigned to field service as inspector of surveyors. Mr. Ballinger states he will redistrict the field force in order to secure a more perfect organization, enlarge some districts, eliminating others, and bring all special agents under the control of field chiefs.

Extends Sympathy to Russia.

Washington, March 21.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor today listened to addresses by Alexis Aladyn, representing the Group of Toil in the first duma of Russia, and Nicholas Telykovsky, representing the revolutionary party, regarding the question of economic improvement, material advancement and political liberty for Russian workmen. The council unanimously adopted resolutions expressive of its sympathy in the struggle of the laboring men of Russia for their freedom and pledging co-operation.

Ross Demands Inquiry.

Washington, March 20.—Reclamation Engineer D. W. Ross, in charge of government irrigation projects in Idaho, today telegraphed a demand for an immediate investigation of his work in Idaho, satisfied that a fair investigation will clear him of charges made by Special Inspector Greene. The reclamation service is unable to act, as Secretary Garfield has taken no action on Mr. Greene's report and has not even called for an explanation.

Theft of Mule Caused War.

Washington, March 19.—One mule—a mule belonging to Senor Ireno Saldado—was the chief object of dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras when they began the quarrel which finally ended in the war that is threatening the peace of all Central America, according to the official communications exchanged by the ministers between the two republics, copies of which communications have been received in Washington.

President Confers With Yoakum.

Washington, March 20.—The president had a conference today with B. F. Yoakum, chairman of the board of directors of the Rock Island Railway company. This is the second conference the president has held with Mr. Yoakum within ten days. Mr. Yoakum declined to state the purpose of this interview.

Not Dead, but Sleeping.

Washington, March 21.—The ship subsidy bill is not dead, but sleeping. When congress reassembles, in December, the bill will be reintroduced; in fact it will probably be reintroduced in various shapes, and then the friends of subsidy will join hands and attempt to pass some compromise bill.

Will Open Antung to Trade.

Washington, March 21.—W. D. Straight, the American consul general at Mukden, notified the State department today that he has assurances that the Antung custom house will be opened by the Chinese soon.

FARMS UNDER WATER.

Sacramento River Never Known to Be So High Before.

Sacramento, Cal., March 22.—From all down-river points come alarming news that the Sacramento river is higher than ever known, and that the situation all along the levees is appalling. There is already suffering and every able-bodied man is assisting in the fight against the water that is pouring into the breaches and inundating thousands of acres of the finest farming land in the state.

Special dispatches to the Union from Freeport, Courtland, Walnut Grove and Franklin state that the river has reached the highest stage ever recorded, and it is predicted that the terrible scenes witnessed during the tremendous floods of 1904 will be surpassed.

Standing on the levee near Courtland one may see for 60 miles to the south-east across an unbroken sea of water which extends clear to Stockton.

Thousands of cattle are being sheltered on top of the levees, as there is no other place for them, and if the water does not fall soon an indescribable condition of disaster is considered inevitable.

This morning the blockade on the Southern Pacific lines was made complete, when the line to the East was made helpless by a washout of 200 feet of track at Applegate, but during the afternoon the situation changed for the better when, with the report that the Applegate washout had been repaired, came another stating that it was expected the track would soon be open through to Stockton.

A trestle was placed in the gap at the Applegate washout this afternoon and more trains were dispatched East. One of these, a Portland train, will be sent to Utah and via the Oregon Short Line. The Placerville line is in full commission again, but no trains are operated on the Marysville branch further than Wheatland.

On the Portland line no trains are running beyond Redding, the tracks being out at Keswick, Campbell and Kennett, and it is not expected that travel can be resumed beyond Redding for at least ten days.

ADDITIONAL TRAIN SERVICE.

Canadian Pacific to Enter Portland on O. R. & N. Tracks.

Portland, March 22.—Canadian Pacific trains will be running into Portland May 1.

Contracts were signed up here yesterday by traffic officials of the Canadian road with R. B. Miller, general freight agent for the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, allowing the use of the tracks from Spokane to Portland. The Canadian Pacific now reaches Spokane by the Spokane International railway from the C. P. R.'s main line at the Canadian boundary.

Freight service from Portland to all points in Canada, as well as to the Atlantic seaboard, will be started May 1 by the new traffic arrangement. Passenger trains will be put on at a later date. Through passenger service is promised from Portland to St. Paul.

The use of the O. R. & N. tracks by Canadian Pacific equipment was arranged for recently at a conference between President G. M. Bosworth, of the Canadian line and Traffic Director J. C. Stubbs, of the Harriman system. This meeting was held in Chicago a short time ago.

Historic Fort Swept Away.

San Francisco, March 22.—It is reported here that all reclamation districts in Sutter county have been flooded. Near Meridian the water is in the second stories of the houses. Many families are said to be in want. Efforts will be made to send them relief. Probably all the stock in these districts has been drowned. The people of Yuba county district, above Marysville, are reported safe.

Near Tudor a break has occurred close to an Indian mound which was situated near the old iron fort brought from the East in sections by General John A. Sutter in the days before gold was discovered. The fort is reported to have been swept away.

Steer Clear of Jerome.

New York, March 22.—In the course of an argument upon the indictments of the theatrical trust, Edward Lauterbach, counsel for Klaw & Erlanger, said in court today that Dixon and Zimmerman, who also were indicted on a charge of conspiracy, are in Pennsylvania, and will not voluntarily surrender themselves in New York. He added that they wanted the New York district attorney to cause their arrest in Philadelphia, so that the question of their extradition could be taken up before the governor of Pennsylvania.

Austria Guards Frontier.

Vienna, March 22.—The Austrian minister of the interior has ordered a considerable increase in the number of gendarmes upon the Rumanian frontier in order to prevent riotous peasants from crossing the frontier and starting disturbances in Austria. The opinion is expressed at the foreign office that unless the Rumanian government promptly suppresses the agrarian movement in Rumania it is liable to soon get beyond control.

Giving Away Sage Money.

New York, March 22.—Announcement was made today that Mrs. Russell Sage has donated \$150,000 to the American Seamen's Friend society, to be used by that body in the erection of a proposed sailors' home and institute. Mrs. Sage has also given \$75,000 to the Syrian Protestant college, of Beirut, Syria.

WALL STREET IS INVOLVED

Scope of San Francisco Indictments Widening Rapidly.

More Deals Yet to Come to Light of Which Public Has Small Conception—Honey and Burns Assert They Have Only Begun—Many Big Capitalists Involved.

San Francisco, March 21.—Sixty-five indictments were filed by the grand jury today against Abe Ruef and 10 against T. V. Halsey, of the Pacific States Telephone company. They all charge bribery. Assistant District Attorney Honey and Federal Agent Burns assert that it is only a beginning.

The total amount represented in the indictments is \$218,750. When to this is added the amount which went to Ruef and Schmitz, the total will reach \$1,000,000 in five deals exposed today. There are more deals of which the public has small conception. They include not only local magnates, but men who have mansions in New York, who have trafficked for special private gains in San Francisco for their corporations. It is understood that a power in Wall Street who recently testified before the Interstate Commerce commission will be given an opportunity to defend himself.

Tonight Ruef and Schmitz are at the bar and forlorn. The entire board of supervisors has confessed. Schmitz is ready to do the same. Ruef is awakening rapidly. By the end of next week the indictments which will confront him will be mountain high. By that time it is expected that Ruef will offer to confess.

PUTER TELLS STORY.

Admits of Deals With Hermann to Steal Land.

Washington, March 21.—Oregon convicts occupied the limelight in the trial of Binger Hermann today, while men under indictment played minor roles. S. A. D. Puter, the government's heavyweight witness, was put on the stand this afternoon and began the narration of his relations with Hermann in connection with land operations that have subsequently turned out to be fraudulent.

Puter was preceded by Dan W. Tarpley, who told in considerable detail the manner in which he, Horace G. McKinley and F. P. Mays attempted to "get rich quick" through the absorption of land in the Blue mountain forest reserve.

The stories told by Puter and Tarpley did not throw any new light on either the Blue mountain or the 11-7 land fraud cases, which were threshed out in Portland. But the stories of both men were retold today to show their relations with Hermann and to aid the government in its efforts to show Hermann's motive for destroying the fateful letterpress copybooks.

STREETS ARE FLOODED.

All Business in Stockton Suspended by High Water.

Stockton, Cal., March 21.—Water is running through the streets of this city like a millrace. In some places it is six feet deep, while in others it varies from one to three feet, the latter being the mean average. All business is suspended, as most of the business houses are flooded and the people in many parts of the city are afraid to leave their homes.

No portion of the town escaped. Main, the principal business street of the city, is the high point, and even here the water averages nearly a foot in depth. All the cellars and many of the first floors of the business houses were submerged and the loss in the city alone will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Recruiting Labor for Canal.

Paris, March 21.—Leroy Parke, general agent of the War department, has been in Europe for some months, soliciting foreign labor for work upon the Panama canal, and although he has encountered much opposition, he has succeeded since October in shipping 4,500 men, nearly all Spaniards or Italians, and they are now going forward at the rate of about 500 a month. They are given free transportation, repayment to be out of their earnings at the rate of \$4 a month, and are guaranteed pay at the rate of 20 cents an hour.

Prefers Federal Control.

New York, March 21.—Asked if he thought the conference between the railroad and the government would be beneficial, John D. Rockefeller said: "I cannot say. It is my idea that Federal control would be better for the roads. They would then understand the laws and plan ahead intelligently without one state's suddenly demanding one thing and another state being equally insistent on something entirely different."

State Will Pay Their Fare.

Concord, N. H., March 21.—A bill forbidding state officers to use or solicit free passes on the railroads passed both houses of the legislature today under suspension of the rules, following a report from the judiciary committee. By the bill the governor is authorized to contract for railroad transportation for members of the legislature and house of congress as needed.

AFTER BIG ONES.

Mayor Schmitz and Boss Ruef May Go Free if They Tell All.

San Francisco, March 20.—Following the wholesale confession of members of the grand jury yesterday, there was a scramble today of bribetakers and bribe-givers to get from under. The rush to Heney's office began with dawn and continued far into the night.

The greater part of the volunteer army was turned away, but a few who were able to throw new light on some of the bribery scandals were allowed to pour forth their tales of degradation.

It may be stated at the outset in positive terms that District Attorney Langdon and Assistant District Attorney Heney will grant immunity to those supervisors who have confessed. It may also be stated that every member of the original board, with possibly two exceptions, have confessed.

With equal positiveness it may be stated that the ultimate object of the prosecution is not the conviction of Mayor Schmitz and Abe Ruef. If Schmitz and Ruef will reveal the full details of their nefarious transactions and make conviction of the millionaire bribe-givers doubly sure, they will either be pardoned after conviction or will be allowed to go free.

Should they refuse to confess the evidence at hand will be used against them, and it is sufficient to send them both to jail for the rest of their lives. Convictions can be obtained against Ruef which will result in a total penalty of 300 years. Each time Ruef bribed a supervisor he laid the foundation for a fresh indictment, and he bribed 15 of them time and time again.

AMERICANS IN PERIL.

Nicaraguans Threaten to Loot Captured Cities of Honduras.

Puerto Cortez, Honduras, March 16, via New Orleans, March 20.—A turn of sinister significance was given to the Central American war today by the finding on the persons of captured Nicaraguan soldiers proclamations promising them loot of the first cities which they can capture in both Honduras and Salvador.

Americans in Puerto Cortez are anxious, because American residents are the principal property holders of most of the Honduran cities. Any doubt as to the completeness of such a loot is dispelled not only by the wording of the proclamations, but by the experience had in 1894 by some of the persons not living at Puerto Cortez, who were present at the looting of Choluteca, Honduras.

LOST BRIDGES STOP TRAFFIC.

Child Drowned in Creek—Fruit Crop May Be Ruined.

San Jose, Cal., March 20.—More damage has been done by floods in the creeks in the last 24 hours than in the past 15 years. The washing out of bridges, notably the Southern Pacific on the Almaden branch, will stop all traffic from San Jose to Los Gatos by way of Campbell for weeks. The damage in the vicinity of the latter town will reach many thousand dollars.

Fruit farmers generally are of the opinion that there will be light crops this year, if some do not prove utter failures. The rains are believed to have washed out much of the pollen, which will prevent the blooms maturing into fruit.

At San Martin, Harold Bole, the 5-year old son of a well known rancher, fell into the swollen Lajas creek and was drowned. At Santa Clara several families were driven from their homes by the overflow of the Guadalupe creek.

Unwilling to Presecute Fencers.

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 20.—The announcement was made today that B. M. Ausherman, of Evanston, recently appointed United States district attorney for Wyoming by President Roosevelt, had declined to qualify for the office caused surprise in local political circles. It is reported here that the intention of the administration to insist upon criminal rather than civil prosecutions in the cases of illegal fencing upon the decision of Mr. Ausherman. A new selection will be made.

Salt Lake is Isolated.

Salt Lake City, March 20.—Washouts on the Southern Pacific and on the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake roads, have isolated Salt Lake City temporarily from the Pacific coast. The iron bridge at Verdi, 20 miles west of Reno, Nevada, is out and a wagon bridge over the Truckee river at the same point is also down. No trains have arrived in this city or in Ogden from the coast since yesterday morning.

More Floods in Ohio Valley

Pittsburg, March 20.—The Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers are rising rapidly on account of heavy rains throughout Western Pennsylvania. Many small streams in this vicinity are already overflowing their banks. Forecaster Penny forecasts a 24-foot rise by tomorrow noon.

Suit for Kingston Insurance.

Kingston, March 20.—The first suit against the insurance companies to recover for losses sustained in the earthquake was filed yesterday. The Yorkshire company is the defendant. Other companies will soon be sued.

Successful Train Holdup.

Yekaterinoslav, Russia, March 20.—Ten armed men held up a train on the outskirts of this town today and secured \$7,500 in cash, with which they made their escape.

ASTOUNDING EXPOSURES

Evidence Piling Up Against Grafters in San Francisco.

Board of Supervisors Makes Clean Breast—Deals Up in Millions—Traction Company Mulcted of \$450,000—Money Taken from Two Telephone Companies.

San Francisco, March 19.—Before tomorrow morning dawns, Abraham Ruef, fallen boss of San Francisco, now on trial for extortion, will have been indicted by the grand jury on various counts, aggregating nearly 100 in number, covering a period of many months and based on bribes running into hundreds of thousands of dollars. With him will be criminally involved Mayor Schmitz, almost a score of the officials of the city government and a number of millionaires of prominence in San Francisco and in the East.

Seventeen of the 18 county supervisors went before the grand jury today and confessed in detail graft operations and their magnitude carried on during their tenure of office. Principal among these was the award of a blanket franchise to the United Railroads to transform its cable lines into an overhead trolley system, for which Ruef had mulcted Patrick Calhoun, president of the company, in the sum of \$450,000.

But the corruption surrounding the history of the franchise granted to the Home Telephone company was even more damnable, and explodes the cherished proverb that "there is honor among thieves." The board of supervisors was bought twice, once by the Pacific States Telephone company, which wished to keep the rival corporation out of the city, and once by the Home Telephone company, which was fighting to get an entrance into the city. The Pacific States company paid the most money.

This was brought about by the purchase of Mayor Schmitz and Abe Ruef by the foreign concern, and they, with their pockets well lined, cracked the whip over the supervisors and forced the granting of the coveted privilege. Most of the supervisors had got \$5,000 apiece from the Pacific States company. A little later the Home Telephone agents paid a number of the supervisors \$3,000 each, but Ruef and Schmitz, having been seen meanwhile, the sum was considered enough to complete the transaction.

The confessions revealed details also of the Ocean Shore railroad franchise deal and others less extensive, but involving in the aggregate upward of \$1,000,000. It is believed that the supervisors who confessed have been promised immunity from prosecution.

HERMANN WROTE ANSWERS.

Many Letters Received at Land Office Sustain Case.

Washington, March 19.—Yesterday opened the sixth week of the trial of Binger Hermann on the indictment charging destruction of 35 letterpress copybooks alleged to have contained official correspondence of the general land office. The prosecution will probably conclude by the end of the week and it is expected the defense will occupy two weeks with its witnesses before the case goes to the jury. To date approximately 1,000,000 words of testimony have been taken.

Yesterday the prosecution placed on the stand seven chiefs of divisions of the general land office who served under Hermann, and all identified original official letters from the land office files which were answered in person by Hermann as commissioner. All testified that they have been unable to find in the files copies of the replies to these letters, the memorandum in each case stating specifically that the letters were answered by the commissioner. There were no such letters.

Smallpox Hits Paris.

Paris, March 19.—The appearance of a few cases of smallpox here has greatly alarmed the people. Thousands of persons have been vaccinated during the past few days and the hospitals and academies of medicine are besieged by crowds of people anxious to be vaccinated. The authorities, however, say that there is no real danger of an epidemic. Dr. Mesquerier, director general of public service, informed the Associated Press that the reports that the situation had grown worse were untrue.

Will Tell About Land Deals.

Seattle, Wash., March 19.—Henry C. Robertson, a court stenographer, and A. G. King, former deputy clerk at Portland, Or., were subpoenaed Saturday night and will be sent to Washington tomorrow to supply data in the trial of Binger Hermann, ex-commissioner of the general land office. Robertson and King have full data of all the circumstances relating to the land deals, and their appearance in the trial is very necessary.

Civil Service for Porto Rico.

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 19.—The legislature adjourned today, after the most important session since the American occupation, 15 bills of the 257 introduced being passed. Among the measures approved is a civil service bill which will become effective next January. Appropriation bills finally were passed in the form presented by the governing council.