

INQUIRY INTO OIL

President Orders Commerce Department to Act.

WAR STARTED ON STANDARD

Secretary Hitchcock Condemns Oseage Lease to its Creators—Kansas May Change Constitution to Meet the Emergency.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—President Roosevelt has directed James R. Garfield, Commissioner of Corporations of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to begin immediately the oil investigation requested by the House of Representatives yesterday in a resolution adopted unanimously. The investigation, by the direction of the President, will be rigid and

STANDARD HAS NOTHING TO SAY

Rockefeller and Rogers Adhere to Policy of Silence.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—John D. Rockefeller, head of the Standard Oil Company, who is now in Lakewood, N. J., has been informed of the action taken by the House of Representatives requesting the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate the crude oil and petroleum situation, with special reference to recent developments in the Kansas field. Mr. Rockefeller received the news with considerable interest, but declined to make any comment.

IS HIS STATEMENT ADMISSIBLE?

Senate Questions if Swayne's Evidence Can Be Used Against Him.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Aside from two hours spent in routine business, the Senate today gave its entire attention to the Swayne impeachment trial. Two hours and a half of the time given to that case was spent behind closed doors, considering the admissibility of a statement made by Judge Swayne before a committee of the House of Representatives.

HAS A GIGANTIC MONOPOLY.

Hitchcock Condemns Oseage Oil Lease Granted by Hoke Smith.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Secretary Hitchcock today gave out a statement regarding his opinion of the "Oseage oil lease," the present lease by the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company of the right to prospect for oil and gas throughout the entire area of the Oseage Indian reservation, and explaining the agreement reached several days ago, by which the Associated Press delegates, for cutting off more than one-half of the lands operative under this lease during the next ten years.

MAY CHANGE CONSTITUTION.

Kansas Legislature Needs Enlarged Powers for War on Trusts.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 16.—To successfully fight the trusts within its borders, a constitutional convention may be called to broaden the powers of the Kansas Legislature, the bills striking at trusts, particularly those dealing with oil, having met with so many objections on constitutional grounds that a sentiment in favor of a new constitution meeting the situation has sprung up. To this end a resolution submitting the question of calling a constitutional convention to a vote of the people in 1906 has been prepared and will, it is stated, be presented in the Senate shortly.

WILL HAVE ACTION ON RATES

Falling Passage of Townsend Bill, Extra Session Will Be Called.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Representative Townsend of Michigan, one of the authors of the Raeb-Townsend freight-rate bill, had a talk with the President today regarding the prospects for the enactment of his bill. Townsend, who has canvassed the situation pretty thoroughly, expressed the opinion that there was a chance for the passage of his bill by the Senate at the present session.

ELKINS PLAYING THE WATCHDOG

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The District of Columbia appropriation was considered by the Senate today. Elkins, opposing the amendment suggested by the Senate committee increasing to the extent of \$500,000 the appropriation for municipal buildings, said he did not want to see an splendid Capitol built up, but he did not believe all the buildings necessary.

STATEDHOLD WILL GO TO CONFERENCE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The House committee on rules tomorrow will present to the House a rule sending the statedhold bill to conference. The canvass of Republican members has resulted in obtaining the signatures of 30 of the 22 members who voted against the resolution in the recent Republican conference.

ELECTION CONSPIRATORS GUILTY.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 16.—On the second trial of Peter and William Miller, election officials, and Michael Dowd, constable, charged with conspiracy to substitute fraudulent ballots for ballot in the election, the jury today brought in a verdict of guilty. Sentences will be imposed later.

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Kansas Oil Refinery and Freight-Rate Measures Not Safe.

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EXTRA SPECIAL

Our Special This Week Consists of a Line of New

Spring Covert Topcoats

\$15.00

These garments are in the latest style, broad shoulder, deep lapel and very nobby.

(SEE DISPLAY IN THIRD ST. WINDOW)

Sam'l Rosenblatt & Co.

WILL BECOME A MUTUAL

EQUITABLE DIRECTORS DECIDE ON NEW POLICY.

Compromise Reached Between Hyde and Alexander, but Hyde Retains Control—Vote for Directors.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—James W. Alexander and James H. Hyde were re-elected directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society at the adjourned meeting of the directors today. All the other officers whose terms had expired were re-elected.

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MAY CARE FOR OLD SOLDIERS AND WIVES.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 16.—Chief of Police Bennett, of Braddock, who has been striving for the maintenance by the Government of indigent old soldiers and their wives together either in National Soldiers' Homes or some other place, has received a letter from President Roosevelt's secretary, William Loeb, saying that the matter of the separation of couples had been referred to the War Department and would receive proper attention.

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