ODELL DENIES HYDE'S CHARGES

Dramatic Scene at Insurance Inquiry.

FLUSHED FACE, CLENCHED FIST

Never Influenced Legislation to Enforce Claim.

ALSO TESTIFIES

Big Politicians and Financiers Tell Stories About One Another Like Schoolgirls-Hyde Turned Down by Roosevelt.

NEW YORK, Nov. 16 .- Ex-Governor Benamin B. Odell, Jr., and United States Senator C. M. Depew, as witnesses before the Armstrong legislative insurance investigating committee, today denied parts of the testimony of James H. Hyde in which their names were used. Mr. Odell in the course of his testimony called Mr. Hyde's statements "base calumny" and, when he was asked whether he directly or indirectly had made the threats to have the charter of the Mercantile Trust Company revoked, his face flushed, and, striking the arm of the witness chair with his fist, he exclaimed:

"There is no truth in that statement, so help me God."

Mr. Odell was the first witness of the day. He said no political pressure was brought to bear in the settlement of his suit against the Mercantile Trust Company and that it was settled the ame as suits brought by others. He said he had been advised by counsel that his claim was just and that any court would have awarded him more than he received in the settlement. He knew of the introduction of the Ambler bill, which he sald might have affeeted the Mercantile Trust Company's charter, and, while he did not suggest its introduction, he saw no objection

statement to E. H. Harriman or any one else that retaliatory measures would be taken against the Mercantile Trust Company. The witness said he and Mr. Harriman were personal friends, but that they had no business relations. He wrote a letter on behalf of Mr. Hyde's candidacy for the post of Ambassador to France. This was at the request of William H. McIntyre, one of the vice-presidents of the Equit-

Mr. Odell said he had never solicited political contributions, but possibly some moneys might have come to him through the National committee or Senator Thomas C. Platt, as the latter bad always gathered together the funds in New York state except in the last

Depew an Insurance Reformer.

Senator Depew was examined with regard to his syndicate participation and his duties as counsel to the Equitable Society. Regarding the Ambassadorship to Paris, he said Mr. Hyde came to him and solicited his influence secure the appointment. brought the matter to the attention of the President, although he told Mr. Hyde that he was too young and the President said it was utterly impossible to make such an appointment.

The Senator advocated, in the interests of the public, the limiting of insurance risks, and favored a public audit of the accounts of companies at stated periods by a chartered account-This, he thought, would obviate i

many suits that are now frequently brought for an accounting on the part of a policy-holder.

John Gilchrist, in charge of the security department of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, told of millions of dollars in loans made at the end of the year in the names of clerks of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. to comply with the law that the surplus should be invested or to keep down the cash balances. No collateral was held by the Equitable on these loans and the check which was given for them was de posited in the bank and a certificate of deposit received. The check however, was never cleared and on the first of the year would be taken out and the certificate surrendered. These loans were made at the instance of T. D. Jordan, former controller of the Equit-

Odell Denies Hyde's Story.

Mr. Odell was the first witness. Before his testimony was begun, Samuel Untermyer, counsel for James H. Hyde, entered an objection protesting against the investigation of the affairs of the United States Shipbuilding Company by the committee.

Mr. Hughes, counsel to the committee, began by asking Mr. Odell to tell the facts pertaining to the Mercantile Trust Company charter, and the witness said he would prefer to tell of the whole transaction leading up to the settlement, if permitted. Mr. Untermyer protested that If the committee permitted this, it would take them far outside the legitimate line of inquiry. Senator Armstrong referred the protest to Mr. Hughes, who said he would call to Mr. Odell's attention "the fact that the matter which concerns the committee is simply the question whether there was any political influence or pres sure brought to bear upon the Mercantile Trust Company, directly or indirectly, to

induce a settlement." "There was not," said Mr. Odell. "Will you state, Governor," said Mr. Hughes, "whether you had any information with regard to the introduction of a bill in the Senate for the purpose of repealing the charter of the Mercantile

Trust Company?" "I knew of it at the time, yes." "Who advised you of it?"

"I knew of it before its introduction." 'From whom did you get the informs-"Oh, various people, as to the propriety

of the introduction of such a measure."

"Did you suggest its introduction?" "Did you request its introduction?"

Reasons for Ambier's Bill. "I saw no objection to it."

"Did you state that you saw no ob jection to the introduction of the meas-"At the time it was introduced I

did; yes." "To whom?"

"Oh, to anyone who asked me; I have "What was the ground for that action or approval?

"Simply because the scandal incident to the Shipbuilding Trust was uppermost in the people's mind, and it was claimed that the Mercantile Trust Company had been behind 15 or 16 corporations, everyone of which had been insolvent, and it was time, I thought, such matters in the Mr. Odell denied that he ever made State of New York should be stopped."

While Mr. Odell was testifying, Senator Depew entered the room. Continuing, Mr. Odell said the bill was intended to provide for an investigation of the Mercantile Trust Company. He could not recall that he had an interview with Assemblyman Fish with regard to the introduction in the Assembly of a bill similar to Senator Ambier's repeal bill. His only interview with Senator Ambler about the bill was after it had been introduced. At that time he had no suit pending against the Mercantile Trust Company.

Sold Out Stock Beforehand.

His suit was brought in August, 1904. When the bill introduced, in March, 1904, the witness said, he still had every dollar's worth of his shipbuilding holdings. These holdings were sold at auction and brought \$43,687 against \$164,171 paid for them. Since their sale, witness had had no interest in the shipbuilding company. The sale was made because he felt that

atters of legislation would come up affecting shipbuilding affairs, and he felt that the Governor should not be interested, directly or indirectly, in the bonds. He contemplated bringing an action against the Mercantile Trust Company in August, 1904. He had no interview with J. P. Morgan regarding his shipbuilding claim, but he did have with Charles M. Schwab, His interview with Mr. Schwab was when the company was in the hands

"Did you make any statement to anybody in the City of New York that re-(Concluded on Page 7.)

REGISTER WEST LOSES HIS SCALP

Summarily Removed From the Lewiston Land Office by President.

SPECULATED IN CLAIMS

Charges of Working Up Contests for Profit Sustained by Two Investigators - May Be Prosecuted by Ruick.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash ington, Nov. 16 .- John B. West, Register of the Lewiston Land Office, Idaho, was removed from office today by President Roosevelt for "speculating in relinquishments, undue political activity, etc." No successor has yet been chosen

Made Money on Contests.

Charges were preferred against West ome time ago, alleging that he was making improper use of his office and participating too freely in politics. Nugroun such charges were submitted, alleging that West, aided by his brother, had aided settlers in making filings on land which had previously been entered upon by other persons. They then persuaded the settlers to institute contests before the Lewiston Land Office and immediately entered into negotiations with the parties to the contest, inducing one to make relinquishment in favor of the other. Whenever they secured a relin. uishment, the West brothers collected oney from the successful contestant, In briof, West was using his office as Register to give him power to bring about relinquishments in contests which he and his brother had planned and making considerable money on the side by this practice.

When the charges were sent him, he made sweeping denials, but two investigations were made by Special Agent Goodwin, and Inspector O'Fallon, which sustained the charges, and on their recommendations, indorsed by Land Commissioner Richards and Secretary Hitchcock. West was summarily relieved.

Office Closed for Time.

Senator Heyburn will probably be remend a a Meanwhile, until the vacancy is the Lewiston Land Office must remain virtually closed for receipt of papers.

Whether or not West will figure in the in connection with Kettenbach and others is to be decided. The evidence against him was worked up while special agents were after land thieves, and it is quite possible, if his offense constitutes a vio lation of the law, that he will be caught in the toils at the request of District Attorney Ruick. He was appointed Register March 31, 1898, and reappointed Jan-

KEEP LID ON NATION'S CASH

Cannon Holds Out No Hope of Appropriations for Rivers.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash, ington, Nov. 16.-Representative Cushman rode from Chicago to Washington with Speaker Cannon and, while he elicited no promises, he became thoroughly imbued with the idea that he and every other member of the House will have to fight hard for any appropriations of a local character this session. Mr. Cannon impressed upon Mr. Cushman that all un necessary appropriations were to be out off and even those that were necessary would be held down to the minimum.

The Speaker would not discuss the merits of any proposed appropriations. but Mr. Cushman is satisfied from what he learned that the Speaker is going to keep the lid down on the Treasury, as far as it lies in his power, from which he infers that it will be extremely difficult to get any appropriations for river and harbor improvements, save those which were authorized in the last river and harbor

lic building bill nor any legislation of local importance that requires appro-

Hitchcock Hears From Mitchell. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 36.—Much to his surprise, Secretary Hitchcock today received a let-ter from Senator Mitchell, asking that a certain land case pending before the department be taken up out of order and acted upon. As the case is before the Land Office, Mitchell's letter was referred to Commissioner Richards without com-ment. Nothing is known about the merits of the case. It involves a single entry in Oregon.

Argument on Benson-Hyde Case. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash ington, Nov. 16.-Notice was today given District Attorney Heney that the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia would tomorrow call up and set a time for argument on the demurrer in the case of the Benson-Hyde land ring of San Francisco. Argument may be deferred several days.

Votes Salary to King Charles. CHRISTIANIA, Nov. 16.-The Norwegian Parliament today, by 100 to 11 votes, appropriated 200,000 annually for the new King's civil list. Premier Michelsen will announce the election of Prince Charles to King Oscar on Saturday.

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retender to Czardom leads peasant revolt. Page 1. orrible massacre of Talars by Armenians. More than \$500,000 raised for Jewish relief.

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HIS BIG DOMAIN **GIVEN PEASANTS**

Czar Remits Millions Due on Land and Makes Purchase Easy.

STRIKE GROWS IN CAPITAL

Intellectuals Join Under Protest, but Railroads Are Still Running. Pretender Leads Peasant Revolt-Workmen Out.

LONDON, Nov. 17 .- (6 A, M.)-A dispatch from St. Petersburg to Reuter's Telegram Company says that an imperial manifesto granting land concessions to the peasants was issued this norning. By its terms the land redemtpion tax payments from January 14, 1906, will be reduced by one-half, and from January 14, 1907, the payments will be totally abolished.

At the same time the capital of the Peasant Bank is increased and the bank | elections for the Douma. is granted additional loan privileges with the object of facilitating to the utmost the purchase of lands by peas ants.

It is estimated that the amount of taxation thus lifted from the peasants by the munifesto will aggregate \$4),-600,000, while the extension of the field of operations of the Peasants' Bank will enable vast tracts of crown and private lands gradually to become the property of the peasants.

STRIKE NOT YET GENERAL

Leaders Tie Up Capitals, but Not Main Railroads.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 17 .- (2:35 A. M.)-Though the industrial tieup in St. Petersburg yesterday was even more complete than it was Wednesday and though no break has been manifested in the ranks of the workmen and strikes have broken out at Mos cow and Reval, the most important feature of yesterday's developments was the fallure of the walkout to spread generally outside the capital. The movement apparently lacks the spontancity and contagiousness of the last great strike, which broke out at Moscow and spread to the industrial centers of Russia.

The factory strike at Moscow, which the city. rable proporti probably 45,000 men being out, has no direct connection with the St. Petersburg walkout, and dispatches from the old capital say that the railroad men received the request of the St. Petersburg strike committee coldly. The whole great network of railroads centering at Moscow, except the St. Hetersburg line, is still in operation. At Reval the employes of the railroad shops struck, but the reason for the strike in not stated.

In St. Petersburg yesterday passel with complete order. Patrols were visthle in all the industrial quarters and Cossacks were trotting up and down the Nevsky Prospect among the swiftly dashing carriages and sleighs, but the workmen, in obedience to the order of the strike committee, kept generally indoors and did not attempt demonstrations, so there was no occasion for a resort to force to avert trouble.

Strikers Force Suspension.

The strikers forced the closing of the Moscow railway station early yesterday stopping outgoing traffic for Moscow, and at 10 o'clock last night they finally succeeded in closing the electric stations and in cutting off light from the city. .Com mittees were sent to all the theaters and succeeded in stopping the performances in several of them, and in the outlying districts they went from drugstore to drugstore, ordering the pharmacisis to close, and threatening them with the destruction of their stocks it they refused. Other ayor thinks municipality should assist Stores were not interfered with.

Enancially the East Side fills Page 9. The action of the strikers with regard

to the druggists is in striking contrast with the course pursued in Finland where, when every other business participated in the general strike, the druggists were directed to remain open in order that the sick might not suffer. The course is conned by a large part of the population.

May End Strike Saturday.

At a meeting of the strike committee last night, the question of the termination of the strike was not brought up, but the Associated Press noticed an expectation on the part of the many delegates that the strike would end Saturday night. The principal question under discussion at the meeting was the formation of a strike treasury by gathering funds to be used in future walkouts, and after long consideration it was decided to ask the workmen to contribute 1 per cent of their wages for this purpose, the fund to be at the disposal of the committee.

A proposition to call out the cabdrivers was also discussed, but although several delegates asserted that the drivers were ready to strike at a nod from the committee, there was general doubt as whether such a strike could be effected

Peasants Still Riotous.

There is a betterment of the agrarian conditions. Dispatches from Kusk, Poltava, Riazan, Samara and other provinces continue to report the spread of disorders, which in Poltava are taking an anti-Jewish turn. However, the imperial manifesto regarding the distribution of the crown domains, which by strenuous work was finished last night, will be issued early this morning and, the Emperor and Count Witte expect, will help to pacify the peasants and have a tactical effect on the coming struggle with the Socialists and other anti-government forces in the

FOLLOW LEADERS LIKE SHEEP

Intellectuals Join Strike Which They Condemn_Black Gangs Feared. ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 17 .- (Special.)

-Premier Witte's telegram to the strikers, imploring them to resume work, has had a contrary effect to that expected, as the workingmen now declare that the strike must go on, lest it be supposed that they are influenced by the Premier. Although the intellectuals, as individuals, are almost unanimous in condemning the strike as needlessly blunting valuable instruments of reform, the sheep instinct to blindly follow the lead of others prevails among their associations, and last night many of these organizations resolved to join the strikers today. The recruits include the engineers, the chemists and their assistants, professors and teachers, counting-room clerks and 800 government clerks. The general strike is entering its ser

us phase, as it is feared that the commercial houses, particularly the petty dealers, will become so enraged at their continued losses that hundreds of "black gange" will spring up and prove to be beyond the restraining capacity of the government, One thousand Cossacks have been draft-

ed to reinforce the regular police of

warded here 3000 pounds to be devoted ployed.

VICEROY FREES PRISONERS.

Tries Pacific Methods While Armenians Massacre Tatars.

TIFLIS, Nov. 16 .- The Vicercy has ordered the liberation of all persons arrested for offenses against the administration. He has asked the people to co-operate with the authorities in restoring tranquility.

Two Tatar villages were stormed by Armenians a few days ago. Many of the Tatars were killed and their bodies were horribly mutilated, the arms, ears and noses being cut off. The Armen-lans burned 255 houses and drove off all the livestock belonging to the Ta-

AUSTRIA CAN'T KEEP ALOOF

Her Poles Would Demand Freedom Given Russian Poles.

VIENNA. Nov. 16 .- The report that Austria has promised to support Russia against the movement for Polish autonomy is officially denied. It is conceivable, however, that, should the movement in Russian Poland become serious, Austria might be compelled to act, as the success of the Russian Poles assuredly would be followed by simijar demands on the part of the Austrian Poles, just as the grant of suffrage in Russia has been followed by an im-(Concluded on Page 4.)

FOR GOOD OF THE STATE OF OREGON

Valley and City Will Strive Together.

PORTLAND WANTS DEEP RIVER

Willamette Asks Removal of Embargo at Locks.

UNION SENTIMENT STRONG

Business Men's Excursion Has a Day of Delightful Experiences in Meeting Friendly People at Number of Cities.

****************** VISIT TO CALIFORNIA. EUGENE, Or., Nov. 16 - (Special.)-At the rooms of the Eugene Commer-

cial Club, Manager Tom Richardson, of the Portland Commercial Club made the announcement that a special excuesion will be run from Portland to California. The start will be made on January 13, and six days will be consumed in going as far as Los Angeles. The purpose of the cacursion is to make manifest person ally to the people of California the satisfaction all Oregon feels over the magnificent manner in which all Callcontributed to the success of the Lewis and Clark Exposition,

BY EDGAR B. PIPER.

ALBANY, Or., Nov. 16 .- (Staff Correspondence.)-Oregon will be united if the experiences of today count for anything. The business men have heard everywhere that the towns and all communities of the Willamette Valley have an earnest desire to work with Portland for the upbuilding of a greater state. All speakers at all places have said that there are no differences between the state and Portand, no grievances, no wounds to heat. The Valley wants the Columbia River deepened and in return it asks that the embargo on commerce at the Oregon City locks be reme by the state or by the Nation. Here is a basis for a mutual agreement that

it has been easy to establish. The Valley will help Portland; Portjand will help the Valley; both will help the state at large.

The end of the third day found the Portland business men at Albany. There is a new Albany. Albany has a Commercial Club that has united Its business people in a common desire and purpose to work for the benefit of the town and the large agricultural district of which it is the center. The ciub has a beautiful home, and the spirit which inspires the efforts of all its members is fine.

Clubmen Meet at Depot.

The club came out to the station tonight over 100 strong to receive their visitors. They made it at once obvious that they intended to extend no perfunctory greeting, but the glad hand was offered in earnest. The name of the organization, by the way, is the Alto Club. The name was found by the ingenious process of taking the first four letters in the four words, Albany, Linn County, Oregon.

Headed by President E. D. Cusick and Mayor W. H. Davis, the club members paired off with their guests, and marched to the clubhouse. Here a few minutes were spent in the pleasant task of getting acquainted, and then County Judge C. H. Stewart introduced Mayor W. H. Davis, who formally extended the hospitality of the city. He was followed by Judge H. H.

(Concluded on Page 5.)

