



THINKS CREDITORS DEMANDS DRASTIC

W. M. Ladd Asks Time for Consideration.

TWO CONFERENCES ARE HELD

Surety Company Urges Early Payment of \$395,910.

DEPOSITORS FOLLOW SUIT

Pioneer Banker Who Has Agreed to Assume Obligations of the Title Trust Bank Also Considers the Interest Too Heavy.

Final terms of the Ladd guarantee of the Title Bank deposits will not be reached before tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Ladd has asked for time in which to consider the demands of two parties, the American Surety Company and a committee of depositors.

The surety company demands its assumption of its obligation to pay the state \$295,910.68, on or before December 31, 1909, at 5 per cent interest, that being the balance for which the company admitted liability under its bond also payment within reasonable time of \$190,000, which the company has paid the state.

The committee of depositors demands payment of all deposits of \$100 or less, within 60 days; deposits between \$100 and \$500 in two annual installments, and deposits in excess of \$500 in three annual installments—all such deposits to bear 4 per cent interest.

These demands are regarded by Mr. Ladd as rather drastic, and some of his advisers urge him to resist them. He conferred yesterday with W. C. Bristol, attorney for the surety company, without reaching an agreement.

In the conference with the depositors' committee he was represented by W. B. Ayer, who also reached no settlement.

District Attorney Manning's accountants in the wrecked bank will ascertain the aggregate claims of the three classes of depositors to supply data for the next conference.

Payment of the claims will require a very large advance of money on the part of Mr. Ladd before he will be able to realize the proceeds of the bank, and this is what is causing him to seek easier terms than those demanded.

It seems likely that Mr. Ladd will accede to the surety company's demand and to the depositors' demand with some modifications.

Decision has not yet been reached as to whether to continue the receivership of the bank, but should it be retained, E. C. Mears may be superseded by a receiver of Mr. Ladd's choice.

District Attorney Manning continues to gather evidence for indictment of the officers of the bank next Monday.

Ross refuses to cancel the \$17,000 credits which he caused to be entered on the account of his \$21,000, November 20, during the holidays. But he delivers as collateral for remaining \$14,000 debt, 20 shares of Commercial building, worth perhaps \$30,000.

Ross resorted to a neat trick last summer, after the new banking law went into force, to evade the provisions governing loan of money of a bank to its officers, and then borrowed \$31,000 on one note.

Ross will get nothing out of the Commercial building earnings, at least for a number of years, because the Title bank, owning a controlling interest, will turn the earnings to payment of \$100,000 mortgage and improvements.

The bank's "suspense earnings" account, made up of intangibles and "enhanced values," carries \$128,000, which had not been drawn out to cover losses. This surplus was not actual value nor money but wind, and made Ross think the bank was rich.

The state code contains nine sections for punishment of the alleged offenses for which the bank officers will be indicted. The punishments prescribed are imprisonment for from three months to one year and fine of \$50 to \$1,000, for wrongful conversion of money or falsifying of records; imprisonment for two years and fine of \$100 for receiving deposits when a bank is insolvent; imprisonment from one year to 15 and fine of twice the sum of money involved, for larceny of public money; and imprisonment from two to 20 years for altering the accounts of the bank.

Mr. Bristol brands as false the story that he has tried to coerce Mr. Ladd by threats or otherwise, into accepting the surety company's terms.

Demands were made on Mr. Ladd yesterday by the American Surety Company and the committee of depositors, which he asked until tomorrow to consider. The surety company wants him to take its place in making good the state funds that went down in the wreck of the Ross bank, and the depositors' committee wants him to guarantee payment and interest on their claims in such a way as will enable them to realize money at once.

The surety company on December 7 paid the state \$100,000 of its balance and agreed to pay the balance, \$295,910, within two years with 5 per cent interest. The surety company wants Mr. Ladd to assume these same obligations but is willing to allow

reasonable time for payment of the \$300,000. The part objectionable to Mr. Ladd is the short time for payment of the balance. Mr. Ladd, accompanied by W. B. Ayer, conferred with Mr. Bristol two hours in the afternoon and is understood to have promised a definite reply tomorrow. The surety company is steadfastly adhering to its terms.

Depositors Submit Demands.

The depositors' committee met with Mr. Ayer and Mr. Manning in the morning at 9:30 and soon afterward withdrew to draft their formal demands. These they submitted at 11:30 to Mr. Ayer, who promised to submit them to Mr. Ladd. Members of the committee say Mr. Ayer regarded the demands as rather excessive, especially that for 4 per cent interest. The demands were as follows:

- 1. That all accounts of \$100 or less shall be paid in cash within 60 days from date hereof.
2. That for all accounts in excess of \$100 and not exceeding \$500 certificates of deposit shall be given, payable to the order of said account in two equal annual payments.
3. And on all sums in excess of \$500, certificates of deposit shall be given to the order of such account, payable as follows: One-third of said sum payable in one year, one-third of said sum payable at the end of two years, and the remaining one-third payable at the end of three years from date hereof. All certificates of deposit shall bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, interest payable annually, and Mr. Ladd shall cause said certificates of deposit to be issued by Ladd & Titton, as herein contemplated.

This meeting recognizes the fact that in satisfying the depositors Mr. Ladd has assumed a responsibility which, under existing circumstances, is not so easy to meet as it would be were two years prior, but the committee also recognizes the fact that 90 per cent of the depositors of the Title Guarantee & Trust Company deposited their money in said institution with the full understanding and belief that Mr. Ladd was the heaviest stockholder in said institution, and was known to be president and a director of such institution, and that his name appeared on all the literature of said institution as an officer, and recognizing the true condition of the bank, this committee nevertheless believes the depositors should be dealt with according to their wish, and you are authorized to accept this proposition and no other. Very respectfully, J. O'B. SCOBEEY, NATHAN SOLOMON, C. E. MOULTON.

Mr. Ladd Given Time.

After perley, it was agreed that Mr. Manning's accountants in the bank should ascertain the aggregate deposits in each of the three classes. This will inform Mr. Ladd what payments he will have to make in 60 days, what in one year, what in two years and what in three years. Mr. Ayer explained that Mr. Ladd could not be expected to reach a decision until knowing what the payments would be. This seemed reasonable to the committee and action deferred until tomorrow.

In Mr. Ladd's pledge of November 3, he agreed to pay savings depositors within two years, and also interest according to the rates stipulated in the passbooks—total deposits being \$465,000. It was represented to the committee and Attorney Bristol that Mr. Ladd does not wish to assume obligations that will impose excessive payment burdens within the first year or two years. As it will take him time to work out the assets, he wanted time to meet the obligations as they should fall due, without severe pressure on himself.

Both Will Stand Pat.

The chairman of the committee, Mr. Scobee, said last night that he did not believe the committee will recede from its demands. This is also the attitude of the surety company. Mr. Ladd will ask for modification of the terms demanded by both parties, and it remains to be seen which side will yield. The two parties pressing Mr. Ladd appear confident that he will come to their terms.

On Mr. Ladd's side there is reference of opinion whether to continue the receivership. Some of his advisors think it best to continue it, while others believe it would be better terminated and followed by the bank's officers turning over the assets to Mr. Ladd. Some prefer the latter course.

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Portland and Vicinity. W. M. Ladd and Title Trust bank depositors not yet agreed concerning terms of settlement. Section 3, page 1. State Railroad Commission files first annual report. Section 3, page 19. Tax levy will be kept down to 14 mills. Section 3, page 17.

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EXPLOSION PUTS ROME IN TERROR

Shakes Stock Exchange to Pieces.

PANIC THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Ancient Temple of Neptune Is Scene of Wild Disorder.

MAY BE CAUSED BY BOMB

Generally Attributed to Gas, but Exchange Officials Skeptical—About 20 Persons Are Injured by the Falling Roof.

ROME, Dec. 31.—The Temple of Neptune, built by Hadrian and standing in the center of the Forum of Agrippa, now occupied by the Stock Exchange, was the scene this afternoon of a tremendous explosion, causing a sensation almost as great as the explosion of a bomb in St. Peter's, on November 18, 1906. The concussion was so great that many persons throughout the city were terrified and great crowds rushed to the scene. Within the building there were many people, but fortunately a great majority of the brokers had left. No one was killed, but 20 persons, chiefly clerks, were injured.

The explosion resulted in collapse of the roof of the exchange and a number of those injured were caught in the wreckage, but later were released by firemen.

Explosion Due to Gas.

Although first impressions were that the explosion was caused by a bomb thrown by some one who wished either to prevent the end of the month liquidation or take advantage of the confusion to commit an extensive theft, it was generally accepted later that the disaster came from an explosion of gas. Officials, however, who made an investigation, do not admit such a possibility, but, as there is no evidence to show that a bomb was thrown, the probability of a gas explosion has been given out by the police.

Within half an hour of the explosion hundreds of brokers were gathered within the exchange, when money and securities to the amount of several million dollars changed hands. Luckily the business of the day was over and most of the brokers were returning to their homes, leaving behind the clerks and exchange officials to complete their labors.

Whole City in Panic.

The detonation was terrific and, when the roof fell, clouds of dust were thrown high in the air. Police, firemen and troops hurried to the scene and had difficulty in calming the excitement of thousands who rushed to the temple. Later, when another explosion was feared, the crowd again became panic-stricken, and many per-

sons received minor injuries in the crush. Most of those who were taken from the ruins had received injuries about the head and upper part of the body, although none was known to have been injured fatally. Soon there was a procession of injured in open cabs and ambulances to the hospitals, traversing the crowded thoroughfares amid pitiful scenes.

BLOWS UP A FISH STORE

Thought Disgruntled Son-in-Law Takes Summary Vengeance.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—A bomb thrown against the front of a two-story frame building in East One Hundred and Forty-ninth street, in the Bronx, before daylight today, badly wrecked the building and endangered the lives of eight persons who were asleep therein. A fish store kept by Joseph Rae on the first floor was almost demolished and his



Bishop Edward G. Andrews, of Methodist Episcopal Church, Who Died Yesterday.

living rooms back of the store were wrecked. A dog was "torn" off its hinges and, striking Rae's married daughter on the head, inflicted a painful wound. Rae has asked the police to search for his son-in-law, Antonio Bottiano, who, he said, had threatened to blow up the store because his wife had left him and taken refuge with her father.

STEAL CHEST OF NICKELS

Robbers in Auto Impoverish Rochester Carlines of \$2850.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Two men stole a chest containing \$2850 from a street car standing in front of the Main street east car barns at 6:25 o'clock this morning and got safely away with it in an automobile. The stolen money represented the earnings of the Rochester Railway Company yesterday on what is known as the eastern division. It was being transferred according to custom from the Federal street car barns to the State street office to be counted.

TACOMA MAN DROPS DEAD

Louis D. Campbell, Wintering in the South, Dies in California.

SANTA CRUZ, Cal., Dec. 31.—Louis D. Campbell, a prominent Tacoma attorney and for years Mayor of that city, dropped to the sidewalk as he was about to take a car for Capitol, in company with his wife and daughter, at 5 o'clock Sunday evening, and was dead of heart failure before he could be taken to a sanitarium. The Campbell's intended to go to Oklahoma after staying a day in Sequoia, but the unexpected death of Mr. Campbell caused them to start for Tacoma with the body.

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LIKE DECISION

Right to Appeal May Be Used.

LAND OFFICE DOES NOT AGREE

Hinted That the Department Upholds Judge Lewis.

MORE SUITS TO BE FILED

Land Office About Ready to Bring Many Cases Before Grand Jury, Some of Them the Very Persons Who Were Discharged.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—At the last Cabinet meeting of the year 1907, held today, the decision was reached by the President and Attorney-General that the Government will use every measure in its power to bring about in the higher court its disapproval of the decision rendered in Colorado by Judge Lewis that there is no law against citizens agreeing in advance to purchase coal or other public lands that may be acquired by others under what is known as the dummy entryman system.

Attorney-General Bonaparte said, after the Cabinet meeting, that it was fortunate that Congress last year passed a law giving the Government the right to appeal in a criminal case, as undoubtedly the Government would appeal to its fullest extent against a decision quashing indictments against men charged with illegally acquiring coal lands.

Land Office Did Not Begin Suits.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office said today that his department had not initiated the land fraud suits which have, save in a few instances, been dismissed by Federal Judge Lewis at Denver, although the Land Office is co-operating in every possible way with the Department of Justice in bringing fraudulent entrymen to justice. There are intimations that the Interior Department partially agrees with Judge Lewis in his ruling that the persons accused of illegally acquiring lands cannot be held under the indictments as drawn, at least as they apply to violations of the timber and stone act.

New Suits to Be Filed.

It is understood that the Land Office is about ready to call from 60 to 80 violations of the land laws in the Colorado region to the attention of the grand jury. Some of these may involve a number of the very persons whom Judge Lewis has discharged.

Commissioner Ballinger holds that a man may change his mind as to the disposition of the lands he seeks to obtain from the Government. The new cases which the Land Office will bring are largely built upon perjury and false allegations as to character of lands. A special officer of the Land Office is

REGARDLESS OF THE DECISION

Work on Colorado Land-Fraud Cases to Be Continued.

DENVER, Dec. 31.—There are now but two cases left of the score or more indictments returned by the grand jury last May for alleged Colorado land frauds, and unless the Supreme Court reverses the decision of Judge Lewis, more than \$200,000 expended by the Government in collecting evidence will have been wasted.

I. C. Wheeler, in charge of the fraud investigations in Colorado, departed yesterday on a secret mission to Washington in response to a telegraphic call from Chief Justice. He will have a conference with Department of Justice officials as to the evidence obtained in Colorado of alleged land frauds with special reference to the indictments quashed by Judge Lewis. From all appearances the Government has no intention of abandoning its work in Colorado. Federal officials here have been ordered to continue as if Judge Lewis had rendered no decision.

NEW POINT ON LAND FRAUD

Rush Says Colorado Cases Will Go to Supreme Court.

OMAHA, Dec. 31.—Sylvester R. Rush, special assistant to the Attorney-General, who has been active in the prosecution of land frauds in the West, arrived here today from Denver, where he has had charge of several Government cases. He declined to criticize Judge Lewis' decision, but declared that the decision had raised an entirely new point, which would have to be decided by the Supreme Court. He said that a number of Federal Judges and Supreme Court Justices were entirely opposite to Judge Lewis and he declared the Colorado cases would be carried to the United States Supreme Court.

Rush has had charge of the numerous land cases prosecuted in the Federal Court in Omaha, where jail sentences and fines have been imposed on several of the prominent ranchers of Nebraska and South Dakota.

UNION MEN ON DEFENSIVE

Excuse for Deportation Is Non-Payment of Backsliders' Dues.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 31.—Four Butte laboring men, Joseph Shannon, president of the state union of the Western Federation of Miners; William Cutler, R. S. Scott, business agent of the Workingmen's Union, and A. E. Edwards, business agent of the Butte Building Trades Council, appeared in the Federal Court today to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt. It being alleged by the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company that the men violated the injunction issued in October by Judge Hunt, restraining certain persons from interfering with the operations of the company.

The most important points were elicited this morning on cross-examination of Woodmanly and Foster, two of the alleged deported men. It was brought out that Woodmanly was a member of the Butte Miners' Union. He was behind in his dues and testified he had decided to drop out of the union, but admitted that he had no copy of his membership card. Mr. Shannon came to the building and asked him to come up to the miners' hall that evening and bring his card along. The committee which took Woodmanly to the hall used no more violence than was necessary to make him come along, the witnesses stated.

STEELWORKERS WORK AGAIN

Illinois Steel Company to Resume in All Departments.

JOLIET, Ill., Dec. 31.—After being shut down since December 22, the Joliet plant of the Illinois Steel Company will resume operation tomorrow morning in practically all departments. About 2500 men will be called back to work, and the prospects are good for a steady run. The Rockdale plant of the American Steel & Wire Company, closed since Saturday night, will resume Thursday morning.

NINE MORE MINERS KILLED

Explosion in New Mexico Shakes Country for Miles Around.

ALBUQUERQUE, Dec. 31.—At least nine miners were killed and three fatally injured in an explosion of gas or coal dust at noon today in the Barron mine at Carthage, Socorro County, New Mexico, one of three large coal mines owned by the Carthage Fuel Company. None of the bodies have been taken out and although the mine is still filled with gas, it is believed that no more victims remain in the workings. Of the dead, the only Americans are C. L. Wilcox, mine boss, and C. T. Nasterman, miner.

All of the men had apparently been killed instantly and some of the bodies were mangled beyond recognition. The explosion shook the country for miles around and several of the bodies were thrown clear out of the main entrance to the mine. The men were blown 100 yards away.

FOOD AND WATER GIVEN THEM

Imprisoned Miners May Be in Shaft at Least a Month.

ELY, Nev., Dec. 31.—About 10 feet of debris was removed during the last 24 hours from the Alpha shaft, where three miners are entombed. The prisoners have been supplied through a slanting water pipe with sufficient food and water to last them at least a month, in which time, it is thought, they will be released. The men continue cheerful and in good health.

Brownson's Successor Doubtful.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—It was expected that on the President's return from Pine Knot, Va., some announcement would be made as to the successor to Admiral Brownson as chief of the Bureau of Navigation. It was said today, however, that the matter had not been decided at the Cabinet session and that a possibly a change might not be made before Thursday.

NEW YEAR BRINGS 50 DRY COUNTIES

Alabama Local Option Takes Effect.

ENTIRE STATE DRY NEXT YEAR

In Birmingham 120 Saloons Close Their Doors.

CHAMPAGNE AT HALF-PRICE

Families Have Been Laying in a Heavy Supply of All Liquors. Georgia Also Prohibition, but Dealers Promise a Contest.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 31.—With the shrill shrieks of the hundreds of whistles of Industrial Birmingham announcing the advent of the New Year, every saloon in the city closed its doors tonight since die. This was the time set for prohibition to go into effect in those counties of Alabama in which local option elections have been held during the year.

There were exactly 50 counties of the state that closed the doors of the saloons permanently tonight. This leaves 17 counties in the state in which liquor can be sold for another year. One year from tonight the entire state becomes prohibition by statutory act.

Of the wet counties for the next year, only four are exclusively saloon counties, Mobile, Montgomery, Dallas and Baldwin. There are 12 exclusive dispensary counties, Macon, Winston, Elmore, Bibb, Limestone, Madison, Cleburne, Percy, Barbour, Colbert, Covington and Coffee. Marengo County has both dispensary and saloons. Jefferson County, in which Birmingham is located, is by far the largest county in the state, and in Birmingham alone 128 saloons went out of business at midnight.

A remarkable feature of the last day under the liquor regime is the fact that there was less drunkenness noted than for many months.

At many places today brandies and champagnes were selling at half price and even cheaper.

Many vases of liquors have been delivered to private residences, and stocks on hand with the dealers are small. The larger number of the best saloon locations in the heart of the city have been rented, but many places which bring \$100 to \$125 a month cannot be rented for half that amount.

HOLD GEORGIA LAW INVALID

Brewers Say Prohibition Contrary to Constitution of State.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 31.—A bill was filed in the United States Circuit Court tonight asking that the Georgia prohibition law be declared unconstitutional. Judge Norman has taken the matter under consideration and will render a decision probably tomorrow.

It was at first believed that a temporary injunction would be asked, but the lawyers handling the case decided not to do this. Consequently Georgia will go dry tonight without interference from the courts.

The action was in behalf of the Christian Methodist Brewing Company of Cincinnati and the Chattanooga Brewing Company of Chattanooga, Tenn. The defendants are the sheriffs and other state officers.

Judge Newman tonight indicated that he would render a decision tomorrow, but this decision will not have the effect of opening the saloons in Georgia.

It is claimed that it is mandatory upon the Legislature to levy special taxes for the support of the schools and that these taxes should come from the sale of liquor. Authorities in support of this contention are under consideration by Judge Newman tonight.

CALLS YOUTSEY A CRANK

Powers' Counsel Says He Killed Goebel on Own Motion.

GEORGETOWN, Ky., Dec. 31.—Judge J. C. Sims, of Bowling Green, chief counsel for Caleb Powers, spoke for three hours today in defense of his client. His argument was based on the theory that Youtsey was a political crank, imbued with the excitement of the times and that he fired the shot that killed Goebel on his own responsibility and that no conspiracy had been concocted by Powers or anyone else.

When Judge Sims concluded his address, scores of men and women crowded to the bar where the prisoner stood with his aged mother to shake his hand. Judge Enley was compelled to wait a quarter of an hour for Powers, who was surrounded by friends, holding an impromptu reception in the courtroom.

Mrs. Sage's Latest Gift.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The Governor's Room, in which probably there is more historic interest than in any other room in New York, is to be again "restored." The city has accepted Mrs. Russell Sage's offer of \$25,000 for the purpose. The room was the office of New York Governors for many years after 1863, when the building was erected.

