



TAFT LAST RESORT IN GOMPERS CASE

Roosevelt Not Looked To For Aid.

COURT APPEALS FIRST MOVE

Failing in These Labor Will Ask President's Help.

JUDGE WRIGHT CONFIDENT

Explains to Friends Statutes on Which Ruling Was Based, and Has No Fear of Reversal of Decision.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—That the Taft and not the Roosevelt administration will have to wrestle with the case of Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, sentenced to jail by Judge D. T. Wright for contempt on the boycott suit of the Brock's Stove & Range Company, is believed here today.

Labor leaders who have been stirred to protest to President Roosevelt are now taking the view that there is no need to demand interference until the resources of the law are exhausted. The arguments in the Court of Appeals will not be heard until March or later, and a further appeal to the Supreme Court would bring about another interval of months before the labor leaders would face the actual contingency of going to jail. There is a general belief that President Roosevelt will be embarrassed in more ways than one by taking action in the case.

Roosevelt Has Enough.

President Roosevelt, it is said, does not know the facts in the case and has not read the testimony. The legal aspect of the case would probably be given serious consideration by President Roosevelt before any action were taken, according to unofficial statements coming from the White House, and it added that the President is not in the mood for taking further burdens when his friends are, "enough fights on his hands."

Judge Wright came here at the solicitation of the President. He was trying a case in Cincinnati after the Republican machine ruled by George J. Cox had defeated him for re-election as Judge of the Common Pleas, when he received a telegram from the President requesting him to come to Washington and fill his present position.

Judge Wright a Favorite.

It later developed that the President had admired Judge Wright because he refused to be ruled by the bosses and told the political machine it could go to the boys' work if it thought it could make him do anything he did not approve of.

Many of those who were in doubt as to the legality of the decision entertain doubts no longer, and it is said that Judge Wright has clarified many subtle technicalities of the law to friends and acquaintances who have been at sea, and have asked him to straighten matters out. Visitors to Judge Wright's office in the City Hall have been shown statutes purported to make his position unassailable in the higher courts and have generally come out satisfied that there will be no reversal of the decision.

DROUTH IS THREATENED

No-License League of Chicago Works for Referendum.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—The "wets" and "drys" are preparing to fight it out at the polls next April over the question of whether saloons shall be banished from Chicago. Petitions to have the proposition submitted to the voters at the Aldermanic elections are being circulated under the direction of the No-License League, an organization which sprang into existence a year ago, during the Sunday-closing agitation.

About 50,000 signatures of legal voters are required, the local option law providing that petitions shall contain at least one-fourth as many names as there were votes cast in the last election, and from the success met by the first canvassers who were in quest of autographs, the "drys" expect to have their task finished before the end of January. The last day for filing the petition with the Election Board is February 25, or 60 days before the election, April 16. For months the "drys" have been organizing for the fray, while the "wets" have been quite as diligent.

HOOD RIVER'S SNOW MELTS

Good Sleighing Disappears With Return of Warm Weather.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—After a mantle of eight inches of snow had accumulated, rain and warm weather are fast causing it to disappear. Until today, the sleighing was the best that Hood River has had for several years. Portland will entertain many Hood River residents during the holidays, the trains today taking in the neighborhood of 150 from here to that city.

PATIENT MEETS HORRIBLE DEATH

CRUSHED BY ELEVATOR WHILE GOING TO OPERATION

Coroner's Jury Exonerates Hospital Attendants, but Relatives May Sue.

RACINE, Wis., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Miss Mary A. Hardy, aged 47 years, was killed in an elevator accident in St. Mary's Hospital today when about to be operated on. An anesthetic had been administered and she had been placed on the transporting table and then taken to the elevator. The elevator suddenly dropped, causing the body to fall from the table to the floor of the elevator. A nurse in charge stopped the elevator and then pulled the wire cable to raise it. The patient's head was caught between the elevator platform and the second floor of the hospital and her neck was broken and her head crushed.

The physicians who were to perform the operation witnessed the accident, but were unable to prevent it. Relatives of the woman were told of Miss Hardy's death. An inquest was held and the jury rendered a verdict, but did not attach blame to the hospital attendants. Thomas Hardy, father of the woman, stated after the verdict that it was unjust and said that he considered the hospital management responsible.

CONVICTED ON CHRISTMAS

Noted San Jose Lawyer Guilty of Embezzling \$40,000.

SAN JOSE, Cal., Dec. 25.—The jury in the case of Jackson Hatch, accused of the embezzlement of \$40,000 from Mrs. Sage, whom he formerly represented as an attorney, returned a verdict of guilty this morning, after deliberating for over 24 hours.

Hatch formerly was a leading member of the local bar and enjoyed an enviable reputation throughout the state. He served as District Attorney for Santa Clara County and twice was a candidate for Supreme Justice on the Democratic ticket.

GOES ASHORE; NO CREW

Schooner Drifts Before Wind and Sinks on Shoal.

CHATHAM, Mass., Dec. 25.—Drifting along without a crew and without her riding lights set, the Boston schooner Harry Messer crossed a portion of the Nantucket Shoals last night without running into any of the many vessels passing through the channel and finally descended on the Handkerchief Shoal, three miles off shore, where she filled with water and sank.

The Messer was bound from Baltimore for Boston with 2000 tons of coal. With her cargo she is valued at \$45,000.

MOTHER CRUSHES BABE

Infant Killed as Result of Father's Anger.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—Alfred Turner, aged 10 weeks, was killed in a peculiar manner during a fight between his parents here today. William Turner, the father, according to the report made to the police, attacked his wife because she did not have breakfast ready when he came down stairs. Mrs. Turner had the child in her arms and in the fight she dropped it to the floor. She was subsequently knocked down and fell upon the infant, crushing it to death. Both parents were arrested.

WRECKERS THROW SWITCH

Cause Train to Leave Track, In- juring 20, One Fatally.

HILLSDALE, Mich., Dec. 25.—Instead of a broken flange, it is reported here today that a tunnel switch was the cause of the derailment last night near Pleasant Lake, Ind., of a Lake Shore passenger train, in which about 30 persons were injured, one possibly fatally. It is also said here that there are suspicions that it may have been misplaced by members of the gang which have been robbing safes recently in this section of the country.

EMPEROR'S CREW MUTINY

Seizes Lebaudy's Yacht, Hoists Hay- tian Flag, but Is Captured.

TENERIFFE, Canary Islands, Dec. 25.—The crew of the yacht Delia, owned by Jacques Lebaudy, "Emperor of the Sahara," mutinied while off this coast and hoisted the Haytian colors. The vessel was forced to put into Santa Cruz, however, owing to lack of coal, and on arriving here the mutineers were arrested. A fresh crew was placed on board the yacht today.

FIRE BURNS OUT HEART

Ravina, Oklahoma, Loses Its Entire Business Section.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Dec. 25.—Virtually the entire business section of Ravina, Okla., a town of 1200 inhabitants in Johnston County, was wiped out today by fire, the loss aggregating about \$50,000. Five business houses, a lumber yard and three warehouses were burned. A defective flue caused the fire.

ERA OF BUILDING OPENS IN OREGON

Harriman Plans Many New Railroads.

COMPETITION FORCES HAND

St. Paul's Activity Coastward Acts as Stimulus.

DANGER OF COMBINE PAST

Construction of Cross-State Line to Be Followed Quickly by Build- ing of Many Other Roads Throughout Northwest.

BY E. F. YOUNGER.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Oregon bids fair soon to come into its own with respect to transportation facilities. Alarmed over the activity of other railroad corporations in surveying and constructing lines of road through various portions of the Pacific Northwest, Edward H. Harriman and his aids have decided actively to occupy all of the territory in the Northwest which bids fair to become of value from a traffic standpoint.

Plans have been perfected by Mr. Harriman for the construction of between 750 and 1000 miles of railroad in the State of Oregon alone, and that surveys have been ordered of a great deal of territory which is now without means of transportation.

Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation for the Harriman lines, and J. D. Isaacs, consulting engineer for Mr. Harriman, have recently returned from New York, where these plans were perfected. It is admitted by the Chicago officials that there are such plans, but it is stated that the management is not yet ready to give out detailed information regarding them.

Cross-Oregon Line Planned.

It is a fact plans were well under way more than one year ago for the construction of an east and west line across the State of Oregon, but the financial depression sidetracked them. This much is admitted by Mr. Kruttschnitt, who also says:

"Of course other lines will be built in the State of Oregon, but not just now. The financial situation will have to clear a little before all of the work which has been planned or is being planned will be begun. As soon as these projects are ripe I shall be glad to give them to the public, but just now nothing definite can be said about them."

It is well known among Mr. Harriman's intimates that he is

PORTLAND A MODERN CITY.

Portland's metropolitanism will be well brought out in the annual number of The Oregonian which will be issued next Friday. Besides articles and pictures illustrating the progress in building construction, the reader will be told of the city's modern schools, beautiful churches and strong banking institutions. One article will treat of Portland's fine public library, and another will review the work of the Y. M. C. A., which now has 2000 members and for which a handsome building is being erected. The beautiful residences, monuments and parks will not be overlooked, and one of the most interesting features, as showing the city's attractiveness, will be an article on art in Portland.

The scope of the issue, however, will by no means be limited to this department. The industrial and commercial development of Portland and Oregon will receive much attention, both in the text and illustrations. Watch for the Annual, January 1, 1909. The price will be 5 cents a copy.

COLD MESSIAH STAYS COLD

Cyrus Teed, Otherwise "Koreah," Fails to Rise From Dead.

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—All day devoted followers of the deceased Koreah, Dr. Cyrus W. Teed, have kept a close watch upon the body of their fabled Messiah, expecting a miracle. In Estero, the little town which was built and is peopled by Koreahs, all customary vocations have been suspended since the death of Teed on Tuesday. His death was in itself a blow to their beliefs, for they imagined that their leader would live forever, and Teed himself proclaimed this belief in his public utterances and writings. Some of the boldest members of the colony are openly expressing doubt of his resurrection and advocating immediate burial, but Victoria Gratta, successor to the leadership, insisted upon another day's delay, confident that Teed will rise from the dead.

CAUSES STORM IN DOUMA

Socialist Says Russian Diplomacy Silenced Appeal Against Wrong.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 25.—During the debate of the budget in the Douma today, M. Pokrovsky, a Social Democrat, remarked:

"When an Armenian appealed to Christ for help during a massacre of Armenians, Christ was dumb, being silenced by Russian diplomacy." This remark created a scene in the Chamber, and President Komysakov suspended the Douma. M. Geotchemin, another Socialist, was excluded from the session for protesting against the President's action, whereupon the Socialists left the Douma in a body.

TOTAL EXPOSURE OF BEEF PACKERS

Sims Declares Aim of Present Inquiry.

PRICE AGREEMENT SUSPECTED

Prosecutor Says Apparent In- fractions of Law.

GREAT SECRECY OBSERVED

Spirit of Anti-Trust Law Violated by Quotation of Same Price by All Firms and Division of Territory.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Nothing less than a complete exposure of the methods of the beef trust is contemplated by District Attorney Sims in the present grand jury investigation which is being carried out with the aid of special agents of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

It developed today that, in addition to the inquiry in regard to shipping rates and possible rebates, to which the work of the Interstate Commerce Commission and its agents is confined, a number of Secret Service operatives, who work directly under the Department of Justice, have been looking into another phase of the packing industry.

Tactic Agreement on Prices.

These officials have been trying to determine whether tacit agreements between packers as to the fixing of prices and the division of territory for distribution have been in systematized operation. The sweeping nature of the inquiry was indicated today in the first positive statement made by Mr. Sims since the investigation started.

No More Fishing Expedition.

"This is no more fishing expedition, as has been said by some critics of the department," declared the District Attorney. "We know what we are going after, if we are not permitted by the nature of the inquiry to state what it is. We are not merely starting a little case in which packers or railroads are concerned in the hope that we can unearth some information which would be of value or be useful as a basis for a new and more extensive investigation. There is nothing vague or indefinite about this inquiry, and it has a purpose which I am not permitted to disclose."

Law Said to Be Violated.

"We have information that there have been apparent infractions or evasions of the law, but it is a question whether we will be able to put a finger on the exact spot where the trouble is. The difficulties in the case and the importance of it necessitate the most thorough investigation."

(Concluded on Page 2.)

NO BRAKE; MINERS DASH DOWN GRADE

FOURTEEN MEN ESCAPE DEATH BY MIRACLE.

Wild Car Which They Ride Collides With Train Stalled in Snowbank.

KESWICK, Cal., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Fourteen miners employed in the Iron Mountain mine started last evening to make the trip to Keswick over the heavy down-grade of the railroad, in a flat car. After going two miles the brakes of the car failed to work, and the car, impelled only by gravity, gained terrific speed. The lives of the 14 miners were probably saved by the train that had left the mine an hour before, but which broke down on the way to Keswick and was standing still on the main line.

The car loaded with miners bumped into the rear ore car, which was smashed. The miners were hurled into snowbanks, which broke the force of their fall. Six of the men were seriously injured. A hospital train went from Keswick and conveyed the injured men to the Mountain Copper Company's hospital here. The Iron Mountain Railroad has the steepest grade in the state. Had the flat car gained full speed, it would have been a miracle if all the miners were not killed, as the car would finally have plunged down the mountainside.

FORTUNE AWAITS SAILORS

Dominion Government Has \$43,000 to Distribute to Sealers.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 25.—The local government authorities have a sum amounting to \$43,000 in their hands for which they are looking for owners. The money was paid by the Russian authorities on account of the illegal seizure, in the Behring Sea some years ago, of the sealing schooner Carmelite and Vancouver Belle. The claim for damages was established after long-drawn-out litigation, and the Russians paid over \$43,000, which the Canadian government is now anxious to distribute to those entitled to the money.

The men of the crews will be paid first, and an effort is now being made to locate them. So far the names of only five have been secured, and of these two are dead.

One of those who will benefit by the payment on account of the Carmelite will be Captain Hughes, now the master of the Canadian Pacific Railway steamer Princess Beatrice, who had charge of the sealer when she was seized.

MOTHER MAY SAVE SON

Relatives Working Hard to Prevent Execution of Johnson.

HILLSBORO, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—That the family of Walter Johnson, now at the Salem penitentiary awaiting execution by the state for the murder of Elmer Perdue, will make every effort to have Governor Chamberlain commute the sentence to life imprisonment seems to be generally accepted here. Johnson's confession, prior to his trial, adhered to the self-defense theory; and after conviction he appeared on the basis of telling the whole story of the crime. A visit by his relatives, however, seemed to cause him to change his mind, and it is apparent that the mother will implore the executive to commute his sentence, or at least reprieve for sufficient time to investigate. Johnson did not go on the witness stand in his own defense.

HIGH SCHOOL FOR ALBANY

Taxpayers Provide Special Levy for \$70,000 Structure.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—A new \$70,000 high school building in Albany next year is assured by the action taken at the annual school meeting last evening. At the meeting sentiment was practically unanimous for this improvement. The schools are now so crowded that one room is conducted in the Congregational Church building. The erection of the high school building next Spring will provide more public school room and relieve the congestion now existing.

A levy of 2 1/2 mills was made to provide running expenses for the coming year and an additional levy of 2 1/2 mills was made to buy a site for the proposed new building.

GUN PLAY STOPS HIGHWAY

Idaho Roadbuilders Meet With Violent Opposition.

GRANGEVILLE, Idaho, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—In Judge Vinyard's court today James Smith was bound over to appear before the Circuit Court on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. Richard Sylvester was tried on a like charge and was discharged. The trouble arose over the construction of a wagon road in Elk City. Smith and Sylvester were working on a bridge and, according to the evidence, Grant Litchfield, whose land the road was crossing, ordered them to stop. A quarrel of a serious nature resulted. Guns were drawn, but no shots were fired. The trouble has created two factions, one that wants the new road and another that does not.

LYDD'S AGENT IS NAMED

E. M. Cherry, of Astoria, to Represent Large Territory.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Official notice was received by Acting British Vice-Consul E. M. Cherry today from the Committee of Lloyd's, in London, appointing him as Lloyd's agent at Astoria, his jurisdiction extending from Cape Flattery to Cape Lookout and intersecting the Columbia River at the mouth of the Cowlitz.

Mr. Cherry is a son of the late P. L. Cherry, who, for a number of years prior to his death, was British Vice-Consul and Lloyd's agent at this port.

BURNS AT MERCY OF BIG BLACK MAN

Interference of Police Averts Knockout.

JOHNSON FRESH AT FINISH

Burns Badly Battered and Often Knocked Down.

FIRST NEGRO CHAMPION

In Fourteenth Round Burns Takes Count of Eight and Is Being Battered at Will When Po- lice Stop Punishment.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 25.—Jack Johnson, the big negro, from Galveston, Texas, is the world's heavyweight champion. He won the title today in the big arena at Rushcutters Bay from Tommy Burns, the French-Canadian, who had held it since James J. Jeffries relinquished it, and after a chase of Burns that led half way around the world.

The end came in the 14th round, when the police, seeing Burns tottering and unable to defend himself from the savage blows of his opponent, mercifully stopped the fight. Previously it had been arranged that, if the police intervened, a decision should be rendered on points, and Referee McIntosh declared the big black man a winner, for all through the fight he had shown himself Burns' master in every style of fighting.

Too Big, Reach Too Great.

Burns, in an interview after he had gone to his dressing-room, said: "I did the best I could and fought hard. Johnson was too big and his reach was too great."

Johnson appeared fresh after the fight, while Burns' eyes were badly puffed and his mouth swollen to twice its normal size. He fought a game battle, and showed indomitable pluck, but he was no match for the big Texas black.

First Negro Champion.

Twice only in the annals of pugilism has a colored man been permitted to fight for the title emblematic of world's champion heavyweight pugilist. Peter Jackson tried it with John L. Sullivan, but Sullivan would not consent to a go. After James J. Jeffries took the scalp of Bob Fitzsimmons he took on Hank Griffin at Los Angeles, but the colored man was easy for him and never had a chance to win the honor. He was knocked out in four rounds. Jeffries then drew the color line and several years later retired. Johnson had tried to get on a fight with him, unavailingly. Then Tommy Burns, or Noah Brusso, as his name really is, took up the mantle of Jeffries, since then and until today Johnson has endeavored to get him into

(Concluded on Page 8.)

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.
YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 53 degrees; minimum temperature, 49 degrees.
TODAY'S—Rain, southeasterly winds.
Foreign.
Cray French Royalist tries to pull President Fallieres' beard. Page 2.
Russia, hearing approves American-Japanese agreement. Page 3.
National.
Government dig deep for evidence of packers' violation of anti-trust law. Page 1.
Labor appeal for Federatedists' release to be made to Taft, not Roosevelt. Page 1.
Domestic.
Man killed, three persons injured, by automobile wreck in California. Page 2.
Christians celebrated all over United States by lavish gifts and feasts to poor. Page 3.
Extensive plans of Harriman for railroad construction in Oregon. Page 1.
Hospital patient crushed to death in Racine elevator. Page 1.
California miners dash down hill in runaway car and have miraculous escape. Page 1.
Chicago saloons question may be put to referendum vote. Page 1.
Sports.
Longmont wins high school football championship. Page 5.
Burns almost knocked out when police interfered and Johnson is awarded fight and world's championship. Page 1.
Multnomah Club soccer team beats Crickets and wins championship. Page 8.
Chenoweth Indians to play Catholic Young Men's football team today. Page 5.
Christmas Happenings.
How thirteen murderers in County Jail spent Christmas. Page 12.
Pleats of holiday cheer for poor of Portland. Page 12.
Christmas presents swamp postoffice and express office. Page 12.
Christmas services held in many Portland churches. Page 9.
Portland and Vicinity.
Murderer Finch accuses prosecution of tampering with witnesses. Page 14.
New officers installed by Oregon Commandery, Knights Templars. Page 13.
Storm sweeps Oregon Coast, retarding movements of vessels. Page 3.
Portland commercial bodies to make vigorous protest against increase of freight rates. Page 9.
Bishop Harris says fear of "yellow peril" is bogus. Page 14.
Newspaper breaks leg in scramble for coins tossed from building. Page 7.
Student body of medical department, University of Oregon, denounce Dr. Pantou for criticisms of Dr. Joseph. Page 2.
General Kliffweather bars into print in honor of Christmas. Page 7.
Speculation as to significance of Hill's invasion of Southwest. Page 13.



ABE—"DON'T BE SCARED, BROTHER, IT'S ONLY STUFFED."