



MORAL CERTAINTY SPOKANE LOSES

Commission Agrees on Rate Decision.

WILL ANNOUNCE IN FEW DAYS

Conditions of Inland and Coast Cities Unlike.

WATER TRANSIT GOVERNS

Spokane's Contentment Under Hepburn Act Again Overruled and Rate System for Entire West Is Finally Established.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 22.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has not yet announced its decision in the Spokane rate case; in fact, the opinion, written some days ago by Commissioner Prouty, is still under consideration by various members of the Commission and will be subject to modification until formally promulgated.

Spokane entered protest against the transcontinental charges imposed on freight shipped from Chicago and points East to that city, and asked that railroads be compelled to give Spokane at least as low, and preferably a lower rate, than is charged on the same grades of freight shipped to Portland, Puget Sound and other tidewater destinations on the Pacific Coast.

Contentions of Spokane. It was contended that the long and short haul clause of the Hepburn act was designed specifically to meet this situation. Under the prevailing rates it was alleged that Portland and Puget Sound jobbers were able to compete in Spokane markets with Eastern jobbers, and that Spokane suffered the consequence. This was Spokane's contention some years ago, when this same question was raised and when the commission, after deliberation, held that Coast points, because they enjoyed water competition, were entitled to a lower rate than Spokane.

Spokane's entire hope in the pending case was built upon the long and short haul clause of the Hepburn act, which provides that a "higher rate shall not be charged for a shorter haul than for a longer haul, when the shorter haul is included entirely within the longer, and in the same direction and under substantially similar conditions.

Conditions Not Similar. If rumor is correct, the commission in deciding adversely to Spokane bases its opinion upon the last phrase just quoted. The rate to Portland and Coast points is not fixed "under substantially similar conditions" as the rate to Spokane. The latter point does not enjoy the advantage of water competition, Portland and Puget Sound have water competition, and under the principles laid down by the commission in other cases, water competition is a material factor in determining the reasonableness of rail rates.

The commission recognizes that rail rates to points on tidewater must necessarily be lower than rates to points equidistant from the point of shipment, in order successfully to meet water competition. Chinese railroads would be deprived of their share of the business. This, also, was the contention of the parties to the Spokane case. Spokane, if the rumor be correct, loses purely because of its inland location, remote from water transportation.

Affects Whole of West. The commission has had many conferences over the Spokane case and it is not yet known whether its decision is unanimous or reached by majority vote.

HARRIMAN PARTY GROWING Mrs. Harriman and Daughter and Friends to Join Magnate.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—E. H. Harriman, who is living in a tent near San Antonio, will be joined next week by his wife and daughter, Carol Harriman. They will leave here for the South on Thursday, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Gerry, and Mrs. Robert Golet and others. The Harriman party will return to New York by way of Chicago after their Mexican and Pacific Coast tour.

LAUNCH MONSTER FIGHTER Great Britain Sends Her Seventh Dreadnought From Ways.

BARROW, England, Feb. 22.—The battleship Vanguard, the seventh vessel of the Dreadnought class, was launched here at noon today. It is not believed that the Vanguard will be completed before the end of 1909. She will be the heaviest and most modern equipped ship of her class afloat. Her length over all is 543 feet; her displacement more than 19,300 tons.

THIEF CAPTURES MRS. LEWIS' GEMS

WIFE OF PINK-WHISKERED STATESMAN ROBBED.

Jewels Disappear on Atlantic Liner. Great "Jay Ham" to Aid in Pursuit.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Mrs. James Hamilton Lewis, of Chicago, who is at the Hotel Cecil in this city, lost \$500 worth of jewelry while crossing the Atlantic. The circumstances of the theft have not been made known by Mrs. Lewis, but it is understood that she does not know who stole the property, although she is inclined to suspect a passenger who landed at Queenstown. Mrs. Lewis remained a few days in Liverpool to lay the matter before the steamship company, which is causing an investigation to be made. All articles stolen have been listed at the New York custom-house, with photographs of some of them. Mrs. Lewis knows that she brought the jewelry aboard with her, because she wore a great deal of it and carried the rest in a box. Mrs. Lewis expects to be joined by her husband in Paris shortly, when further steps are likely to be taken to capture the thief.

ARCTIC STORMS SEVERE

Codfishing Schooner Wrecked and Another Unable to Put to Sea.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—On the codfishing schooner John D. Spreckels, which arrived from the Behring Sea today, were part of the crew of the schooner City of Papeete, the latter vessel having been laid up at Pirate Cove on account of rough weather. Thomas McKinley, a prospector from San Francisco, reached the City of Papeete after nearly perishing from cold and starvation on the trails. He was cared for by the crew. News was brought by the Spreckels of the loss of the fishing schooner Lottie in Baranof Harbor near Unga, during a severe storm. Four of her crew were rescued.

THREATEN LIFE OF PRIEST

Black Hand Demands \$500 or Will Blow Up Church.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Threats to blow up the church and kill the assistant rector, Father Liberati, it was learned today, have impelled the placing of a day and night police guard at the Church of Our Lady of Loreta on Elizabeth street, in the lower East Side. A "Black Hand" letter received by Father Liberati on Saturday demanded the payment of \$500 by Wednesday of this week, the failure to receive which, the epistle stated, would involve the destruction of the edifice and the killing of the priest. The usual services are being held in the church.

ROBBERS CREMATE PAIR

Aged Couple Killed on Lonely Ranch in Montana.

WHITEHALL, Mont., Feb. 22.—Mrs. William Crist, aged 85 years, and John Tear, her hired man, nearly as old, were cremated Saturday night when the cabin on the Crist ranch, six miles from Jefferson, was burned. It is believed the two were victims of a double murder, the motive of which was robbery, and that the fire was set to conceal the crime. The woman was reputed to be wealthy and to have kept considerable sums of money in the ranch-house, but search of the ruins failed to disclose any money whatever.

ROBS SLEEPING OFFICERS

Prisoner Taken in Oregon Escapes While Captors Sleep Soundly.

BRISTOL, Tenn., Feb. 22.—After having been brought from Oregon, D. H. Meade, wanted in Virginia for murder, escaped today from two officers after robbing them of their money, guns and watches. Meade was captured in Oregon several weeks ago. The officers, with their prisoner, repaired to a hotel to rest. The prisoner was handcuffed to one of the officers. While they were asleep Meade secured the handcuff keys, robbed the officers and escaped.

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ARMADA OF PEACE WELCOMED HOME

Toasted by Roosevelt With Great Glee.

SAILORS' PROUDEST MOMENT

Sperry Rejoices at Responsibility Fulfilled.

FALSE PROPHETS SILENCED

Splendid Line of Battleships Falsifies Predictions of Disaster and Crews Vent Enthusiasm in Volleys of Cheers.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Feb. 22.

"Not until some American fleet returns victorious from a great sea battle will there be another such homecoming, another such sight, as this, I drink to the American Navy." This was the toast of President Roosevelt today as he stood radiantly happy in the cabin of the little cruiser yacht Mayflower, at the conclusion of the review and the ceremonies attending the welcome home of the American battleship fleet. He was surrounded by the Admirals and Captains of the 16 world-encircling vessels, brilliantly attired in all the gold braid and paraphernalia of special full-dress uniform, and every glass was raised in response to the President's suggestions. "We stay-at-homes also drink to the men who have made us prouder than ever of our country," added the President, and again the toast was pledged.

"Our Proudest Moment"—Sperry.

"When the fleet sailed from San Francisco, Mr. President," replied Rear-Admiral Charles S. Sperry, "you sent us a message saying that ours was a heavy responsibility and a great honor. That we have today fulfilled the responsibility makes this the proudest moment of our lives. I say 'We' advisedly in speaking of the fleet, for no one man could have done what has been done without the loyal and willing co-operation of every man on the fleet." Thus briefly the Commander-in-Chief of the returning ships made his official report to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy. The President was in the same joyous mood as he was when the ships set sail 18 months ago. To those who had witnessed that notable departure of the first real battleship squadron ever gathered under the American flag he constantly expressed his enthusiasm over the safe and triumphant return of the fleet which was dispatched under his orders on a cruise which, it was said, was too hazardous for any such body of ships to undertake. "Do you remember the predictions of disaster?" asked the President. "Well,"

FOIL NEW CHECK GAME

Philadelphia Police Capture Clever Schemer and Save \$108,500.

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 22.—Chris Holland, who is under arrest at Philadelphia, attempted to get from local banks and two express companies the sum of \$108,500, according to the police of this city. There was deposited here in nine different banks \$90,000 of alleged spurious checks supposed to have been issued from the Third National Bank of Philadelphia.

STILL DEMOCRAT, SAYS DICKINSON

DID NOT VOTE FOR TAFT AT LAST ELECTION.

Future War Secretary Smilingly Waves Aside Congratulations and Keeps Secret.

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Jacob M. Dickinson, Democrat and Confederate veteran, today received the congratulations of scores of his Chicago friends, who regard him as practically certain to become Secretary of War in President W. H. Taft's Cabinet.

"But I have not admitted that I am to enter the cabinet," protested Judge Dickinson, when his friends called him up. When they insisted on proffering congratulations, however, he received them with smiles.

"Can you say anything about your vote to Mr. Taft?" he was asked. "I can't say anything," he said. "I can neither deny nor affirm reports."

"Are you a Democrat?" "I am," he replied, "and I did not vote for Mr. Taft last Fall. I did not vote at all."

DAVIS' NAME RESTORED

Amends for Slight Put on President of Confederacy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Official amends for the sensational elimination of Jefferson Davis' name from the tablet on Cabin John Bridge, six miles west of this city, during President Lincoln's Administration, is given in directions the President issued today through the Secretary of War to the chief engineers of the Army to restore the name.

The tablet was begun under Davis as Secretary of War and when he joined the Confederacy and became its President, his name, under Government orders, was chiseled from the tablet. The erasure of the name was by direction of Caleb Smith, Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior, after a suggestion by Gaius A. Grow, of Pennsylvania, then Speaker of the House.

SYLVIA TO WED TOMORROW

Hetty Green's Daughter to Be Married at Once, Report Says.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Miss Sylvia Green, daughter of Mrs. Hetty Green, and Matthew Astor Wilkes, whose engagement was recently reported, will be married here at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, according to the World today. It was said that Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes will depart immediately after the ceremony on an automobile trip. Mrs. Hetty Green declines to confirm or deny the announcement.

ARMY OFFICER IS SUICIDE

Lieutenant Moller, Eighth Infantry, Shoots Self in New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Second Lieutenant John J. Moller, Eighth United States Infantry, stationed at Monterey, Cal., who was on furlough in the East, shot himself in the right temple at the Grand Union Hotel tonight and died in the prison ward of Bellevue Hospital an hour later. He left a letter addressed to Chaplain Smith, of the Army post on Governor's Island, directing the disposal of his effects and asking that his mother be notified of his death. Chaplain Smith identified Moller from a telegraphed description and said that the officer belonged to a wealthy family in Louisville, Mo. Lieutenant Moller left no note explaining why he killed himself, and Chaplain Smith could assign no cause.

NO PAY, HENCE NO SPECIAL SESSION

Only Few Volunteer to Go Back.

MATTER IS LEFT TO BENSON

Chamberlain to Let Successor Tackle Problem.

PRINTING BILL DID PASS

Costs to State Are Materially Reduced by Bean Law—Court Reporters' Work Cut, but Pay Raised, So It Is Learned.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—There will be no special session of the Legislature in the immediate future, notwithstanding the \$350,000 bill for improvements at state institutions is invalid.

Senator T. B. Kay, who undertook to enlist the members of the Legislature in the plan of holding a special session without expense to the state, has given the project up after learning that only a few members are willing to attend a special session at their own expense.

Matter Left to Benson.

Governor Chamberlain will not call a special session, so the matter will be passed up to Secretary of State Benson after the latter becomes Governor. Occupying both offices, Governor and Secretary, Benson will be two members of the board of trustees of the institutions interested. He will be in a position to declare whether the \$350,000 appropriations are so urgently needed as to justify the calling of a special session.

It is altogether likely that when the institutions begin to ask for improvements, Benson will call the Legislature together. Delay will enable the House officials to correct their journals and determine whether any other errors have crept into the proceedings.

Printing Bill Passes.

It was determined today that Bean's state printing bill, which was supposed to be dead, was properly passed. The last order appearing in the Journal was that of Acting Speaker McCusker that the bill lie upon the table, but there being a previous entry showing that the House had adopted a report recommending that the House concur in the amendments made by the Senate, Attorney-General Crawford holds that the bill was legally passed. It has been signed by the presiding officers.

Governor Chamberlain went over today by State Printing Expert Albert Tozier and was informed by Tozier that the new schedule of rates prescribed will effect a material saving to the state.

SAFE-ROBBERS ARE CAPTURED IN ACT

ATTEMPT TO ROB M'CREEDIE'S BILLIARD HALL FOILED.

Sergeant Baty and Detectives Hellyer and Maloney Watch and Nab Thieves.

An attempt to rob the safe of McCreddie's poolroom, Sixth and Alder streets, was frustrated early this morning by Detectives Hellyer and Maloney and Sergeant Baty. The men concerned in the job, who gave their names as Sullivan and Russell, were caught in the act by Detective Hellyer, who was hidden in the poolroom, watching the whole operation.

Walter McCreddie, through a friend who also knew the thugs, got wind of the plan and told the police. Hellyer hid inside and Sergeant Baty and Detective Maloney took a room in the Marquam from where they could watch. Sullivan was to do the inside work, for he was supposed to know the combination of the safe. Russell was to signal him from outside when the coast was clear. The officers knew all this and it was an easy matter for them to step in at the right time. The combination failed to work, however, and after watching his man work with it for 10 minutes, Hellyer stepped up to him and placed him under arrest. At the same time Russell was taken and the pair was taken to the station.

CZAR DISSOLVES DIET

New Encroachments Made Upon Liberty of Finland.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 22.—Emperor Nicholas today issued a rescript dissolving the Finnish Diet and ordering the holding of a new election May 1, for the new Diet to assemble June 3. This step is due to the criticism of the Emperor's policy in President Svinhufvud's response to the speech from the throne at the opening of February 18.

The establishment of a joint Finnish-Russian conference to elaborate a new basis of relations between the Grand Duchy and the Empire has been practically decided upon. The Finnish Senate has requested Russia to demand the extradition of a Finn named Mustonen, who went to America two years ago and who is today editing a Finnish newspaper at Port Arthur, Canada.

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The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 45 degrees; minimum, 38 degrees. TODAY'S—Occasional rain; southeasterly winds.

BANK'S ASSETS INCREASED

Defunct La Grande Institution Finds Itself \$18,000 Richer.

LA GRANDE, Or., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Unless the unforeseen occurs, tomorrow morning will find the assets of the defunct Farmers & Traders' National richer by \$18,000. Walter M. Pierce, president of the light company, has a check of approximately \$600 ready to turn over to the receivership and Henry Striker is expected to produce \$10,000 tomorrow morning.

Ex-Cashier Scriber arrived last night in hurry along the settlements started by Attorney McMahon. In return for the check from Pierce it is said that McMahon is to give Pierce \$5000 in Electric Light Company bonds and about 800 shares now in possession of Scriber.

FARMER MURDERS FAMILY

Kills His Children and Cattle, Then Fires House and Commits Suicide.

MONDOVI, Wis., Feb. 22.—Hans R. Hanson, a farmer living near Strun, murdered his four children, a boy and three girls, whose ages range from 5 to 15 years, early today. He is supposed to have used a butcher-knife, cutting their throats. He followed this quadruple crime by stabbing several horses and cows, fired the barn and house, and then cut his own throat. The bodies of the children were cremated. Hanson was 50 years of age and a widower. He was once an inmate of an asylum.

BLIZZARD HITS WYOMING

Heavy Drifts Block Trains—Fears Entertained for Safety of Stock.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Feb. 22.—A general blizzard is raging over Wyoming and Western Nebraska tonight. The snow is from 19 to 12 inches deep and is drifting badly. It is feared that the storm will cause heavy loss to stock on the open range. Trains have been delayed, but the snowfalls are in operation and traffic is still open.

COOPER STICKS TO STORY OF CRIME

State Fails to Make Him Vary Details.

EXHIBITS WOUNDED SHOULDER

John Sharpe Corroborates in Detail Other's Story.

BUT IS SHAKEN BY STATE

Attorney-General Fails to Get Satisfactory Explanation of Wound in Back of Senator Carmack's Neck.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 22.—In the trial for the murder of Senator Carmack, the state today directed its heavy guns at young Robin Cooper during its cross-examination, in an effort to shake the testimony that he gave on direct examination. Throughout the trying ordeal the man who swears he shot Carmack in self-defense stuck to his former story, and the Attorney-General was unable to make him divert in the slightest degree from his former testimony. During the cross-examination the young man bared his shoulder and showed the jury the scar of the wound he sustained in the shooting.

The courtroom was packed to the doors, the fact that the day was generally observed as a holiday by the business houses giving many people a chance to attend the trial. Many of the spectators brought their lunch and sat through the noon recess in order to hold their seats. Before the cross-examination was taken up by the state, Judge Anderson asked young Cooper if he was acquainted with Senator Carmack.

"Yes, sir; I knew him and he knew me."

"That's all." The witness settled back in his chair and turned toward the Attorney-General. "You have read your testimony since Saturday?" was the first question asked.

"Yes, sir." "And discussed it with counsel?" "No, not the testimony. Counsel asked me some questions."

"When were you introduced to Senator Carmack?" "I do not remember whether I ever was introduced to him. I have known him all my life. Just before the shooting he was frequently in my uncle's office on business connected with the campaign. I spoke to him several times just before the shooting."

Talks of Tragedy. Attorney-General McCarran then switched to the day of the tragedy.

(Concluded on Page 2)

EXCITED INDIVIDUAL—"HI! MISTER, WOULD YOU MIND JUMPING OFF HERE? MAYBE IT WON'T KILL YOU."

