



CONGRESS OPENS; LAW SESSION DUE

Senate Holds Forth Only Thirteen Minutes.

MANY CONTESTS EXPECTED

Action on Nicaragua to Be Urged by Taft.

MESSAGE IS READ TODAY

Investigation of Various National Matters to Be Urged by Taft.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The keynote of the Taft Administration will be sounded at the first regular session of the 61st Congress which opened today with the usual ceremonies and benedictions by the chaplains of the two houses.

That important action and quick action will be taken on the Nicaraguan dispute over the execution of the two Americans, Groce and Cannon, is a foregone conclusion, as the President and Secretary Knox are much wrought up over the move of President Zelaya of the Central American republic.

The President's message of 16,000 words will be read tomorrow asking for radical action in the alteration of the laws regarding interstate commerce and the big corporations of the country, public lands and the conservation of natural resources.

On all these subjects a struggle is apt to develop between the President and the conservative element in his own party, headed by Senator Nelson W. Aldrich in the Senate, and Speaker Joseph Cannon in the House on the one hand, and the President and the insurgents of both houses, who seek more radical action than the President, on the other hand.

The insurgents will make themselves heard in an effort to amend the present House rules to limit the power of the Speaker, and in the Senate they will endeavor to force some action on a tariff commission.

President Taft's belief in the issuance of bonds for the completion of irrigation projects now under way as well as the development of navigable rivers and harbors will meet with some opposition among the Eastern States, but the West to a man will undoubtedly be with him on the irrigation proposition.

An effort to have Congress make a rigid investigation of the sugar-weighting frauds, opposed by the Attorney-General as hampering the prosecution, and also of the controversy between Secretary Richard A. Ballinger, of the Interior Department, and Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, will undoubtedly come up at this session.

When the Senate was called to order 81 members responded. Practically no business was transacted by either house, and as a mark of respect to the late Senator Martin Johnson, of North Dakota, the upper house adjourned after being in session only 13 minutes.

McCredie Sworn In.

Brief as was the Senate's 13 minute session, it was enlivened by an unsuccessful attempt on the part of Mr. Bailey to defeat the message of the usual resolution that the daily sessions begin at noon, suggesting that the Senate should convene instead at 2 o'clock. Mr. Bailey said he would like to see the Senate hold night sessions that Senators might devote the day to individual business.

The House session continued 40 minutes, in which W. W. McCredie, new Representative from the Second Washington District, who succeeds the late Francis W. Cushman, was sworn in, although only 341 members responded to their names, almost a full membership appeared on the House floor.

SEN. CULBERSON SPOILS DEAL

Democrats Had Planned on Bacon as Texan's Successor in Caucus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—With great seriousness Democratic members of the Senate met today to elect a successor to Senator Culberson, who has determined to resign as chairman of the caucus because of ill-health.

TOWN BODILY TO MOVE TO LIQUOR

LOCAL OPTION CAUSES FERRILL TO CHANGE BASE.

Much Land Across St. Joe River Is Bought and Preparations to Migrate Progress.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Fighting a losing game against fate, all merchants in the little town of Ferrill, Idaho, on the edge of Kootenai County, which was recently voted dry by 151 votes, yesterday decided to move the town bodily across the St. Joe River into Shoshone County, where they may operate saloons in a wet territory.

Considerable land in Shoshone County along the river has been purchased or optioned by Ferrill residents. Ferrill is largely a logging camp and a logging camp without liquor would be a farce, according to rules established by custom.

LUMBER CASES SENT BACK

Circuit Court to Retry Willamette Valley Rate Suit.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 6.—The Willamette Valley lumber rate cases were today sent back to the Circuit Court at San Francisco for rehearing and decision on the merits of the cases by order of the United States Supreme Court. These cases arise from the action of the Southern Pacific in challenging the right of the Interstate Commerce Commission to reduce the rate on lumber from Willamette Valley points to San Francisco Bay from \$5 to \$3.40 and \$3.50, respectively.

PRINCE MIGUEL IS SUED

Syndicate Wants Money Advanced to Impediments Hetress-Hunter.

BUDA PEST, Dec. 6.—According to the newspapers, a syndicate of creditors has sued Prince Miguel of Braganza, who married Miss Anna Stewart, of New York, last September, for \$1,000,000.

LURTON WAITS TAFT WORD

Tennessee Judge Hasn't Heard Officially of Supreme Bench Offer.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 6.—Judge Horace C. Lurton, of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, who arrived today from his home in Nashville, Tenn., said he had heard from high private sources that President Taft will name him to the United States Supreme Court bench, but there is nothing official.

EXPLOSION SEVERS BODY

Woodman, Whose Family Lives in Portland, Meets Awful Death.

BAKER CITY, Or., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—While splitting logs, using dynamite to aid in the work, Thomas Gamble, a woodman at McEwen, met a terrible death when a stick of the explosive in his pocket ignited, severing his body just below the waist line.

BANK CASHIER ARRESTED

New Haven Prisoner Stands Accused of Theft of \$128,000.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 6.—Charged with the embezzlement of \$128,000 of funds of the People's Bank & Trust Company, Robert D. Muir, cashier, was arrested tonight.

PILOT TAKES ALL BLAME

Man in Charge Temporarily on Prairie Holds Self Responsible.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—F. M. Lukker, pilot in charge of the United States transport Prairie, which grounded Thursday near Delaware City, said today that he alone was responsible for the accident and that Captain Kellogg, commander of the Prairie, is in no way to be blamed.

SODATANK BURSTS, JARS DOWNTOWN

Carbonic Gas Holder Drops Off Wagon.

FRAGMENTS WHIZZ FOR BLOCKS

Explosion Shatters Windows, Tosses Pedestrians.

NONE KILLED, IS MIRACLE

Fourth and Washington Scene of Panic Following Crash—Jewelry Store Gems Are Hurl'd to the Street—Damage Is \$2000.

With a concussion which shook nearby buildings to their foundations, wrecking two-score glass windows, some of them of valuable French plate, throwing tenants of the buildings and pedestrians on the street into a panic of fright, causing damages estimated to be at least \$2000, and with a roar which was heard distinctly more than a mile away, a wrought steel tank containing carbonic acid gas fell from a wagon at the corner of Fourth and Washington streets shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and exploded.

Fragments of the wrought steel tank from five to seven inches wide and up to 15 inches long flew in all directions but miraculously did not injure anyone. One piece of steel crashed through the window of Laffert Bros' jewelry store at 27 Washington street, and hurtling the full length of the store, struck the rear wall.

PRINCE MIGUEL IS SUED

Syndicate Wants Money Advanced to Impediments Hetress-Hunter.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Six prominent men were arrested today on the charge of speeding along Greenwood road, near the Seattle Golf Links and Country Club grounds, in their high-powered machines at a rate exceeding 25 miles an hour.

FAST DRIVERS ARRESTED

Six Prominent Seattle Men Feel Strong Arm of Law.

THOSE arrested are: H. C. Henry, railroad contractor and president of the Country Club; C. Danever, agent for the Netherland American Mortgage Bank; C. E. Brown, vice-president and general manager of the Continental Distributing Company; H. W. Roberts, of Cook & Co.; R. E. Thompson, Jr., an attorney, and E. E. Ainsworth.

DUNCANS IN KILTS DESPITE ICICLES

PHILADELPHIANS TREATED TO UNIQUE BARE-KNEE SIGHT.

CALIFORNIA Returns From Greece Arrayed in Greek Costume. "Even Though It Doth Snow."

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Not many years have hundreds of stoves, "baggage smashers," "cabbies" and draymen been treated to as unique a sight as they were given today, when the American liner Friedland docked, when three persons in ancient Grecian costume walked down the gangplank.

STORM INCREASES OVER NORTHWEST

Weather Man Fears "Silver Thaw."

RAIN IS FALLING IN VALLEY

Biting East Winds Extend to Ocean Points.

SIX BELOW AT PRINEVILLE

Puget Sound Has Heavy Snowfall, and in Portland Power Plant Has Trouble and Street-Cars Are Stalled.

Continued cold weather, snow and high east winds for today, is the prediction of the Government Weather Bureau. That there is also a probability of a repetition of the "silver thaw" of January, 1907, in the event there should be a sufficient rise in the temperature to precipitate rain, is the further observation of the local forecasters.

HERO LOCKS SELF IN FIERY FURNACE

MEANWHILE AUDIENCE ESCAPES BLAZING THEATER.

Moving-Picture Operator, Amid Exploding Films, Takes Desperate Chance to Avoid Panic.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Joseph Pierce, the machine operator at the Herrmann moving-picture show, 400 South Spring street, made himself a hero last night, when he closed the steel and asbestos door of his den upon himself and remained in a furnace of exploding and burning films, while the manager, E. L. Kennedy, calmed and sent away the audience without panic.

In an instant the fire had communicated from the crossed wires to the highly inflammable films and the entire room was a mass of flames. The rooms in which the moving pictures are operated are surrounded with walls, floors and ceiling of steel and fixed with hand devices for closing all openings. When the trouble with the wires started, the fire extinguished all the lights in the theater and the red lights over the several exits were turned on.

TAF T IS AGAINST SLAVERY

Bill in Congress Will Prohibit Immoral Traffic.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Suppression of the "white slave" traffic will become the slogan of an increasingly powerful movement to which President Taft has given much encouragement in his comments to those who have consulted with him on the subject.

HUNTER SHOT BY HIS DOG

Athena, Or., Boy May Die as Result of Canine's Leap.

PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—To be shot by one's own dog was the recent experience of Henry Labraah, a young man of Athena, while hunting in the mountains near Gibbon this morning.

SAUNDERS IS FOUND DEAD

Aged Eccentric of Santa Barbara Had Brother in Portland.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Unlabeled, the body of T. E. Saunders, aged 70 years, who disappeared from Summerland, October 15, was found this morning off the trail up Romero canyon, beyond Montecito. Beside the corpse lay a revolver. Death was caused by a bullet in the head, evidently self-inflicted.

SPECIAL MESSAGE TALKED

President Wants Interstate Act More Effective.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—President Taft had an extended conference this afternoon with Attorney-General Wickersham and Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, regarding the special message he is preparing on the proposed amendments to the interstate commerce law. This message will be sent to Congress within ten days and will go into the details of changes which the President believes are needed to make the interstate act more effective.

BLACKSMITHS FIGHT DUEL

Pine Valley Men Quarrel Over Property Rights; One Hurt.

BAKER CITY, Or., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Information received here from Pine Valley this afternoon states that two blacksmiths, named Landing and Thomas, respectively, this afternoon engaged in a sun duel.

Landing was hit in the side of the head, but is not fatally wounded. The trouble started over some rights of property.

FUNDS OF PHOENIX ABUSED IS CHARGE

Probe of G. P. Sheldon's Work Begins.

ASSETS USED IN SPECULATION

District Attorney to Hold Directors Responsible.

COMPANY BOOKS JUGGLED

Loans of \$40,000 to \$100,000 Made to State Insurance Inspectors and Questionable Securities Made to Pass Through Fake Sales.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—The Phoenix Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, is under investigation for irregularities which are believed to have impaired its surplus at least \$1,000,000, and to have resulted in grounds for possible criminal action.

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The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Minimum temperature, 32 degrees; minimum, 23.4 degrees. TODAY'S—Snow, continued cold; brisk to high east winds. CHINA. In letter to State Department, asserts exercise of political rights by Russia at Harbin. NATIONAL. Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, backs up Secretary Ballinger on public land problem. Page 1. President's experience of Henry Labraah, a young man of Athena, while hunting in the mountains near Gibbon this morning. Page 1. He had set his gun down in the snow with the muzzle leaning against a bush and was standing near the weapon when his dog jumped against it, causing it to be discharged. The full charge of shot struck the young man in the thigh, tearing a gaping wound and shattering the bone. With much difficulty his companions carried him to Gibbon Station, where he was placed on a freight train and brought to the hospital in this city. The wound is serious and may prove fatal. Page 1. SAUNDERS IS FOUND DEAD. Aged eccentric of Santa Barbara had brother in Portland. Page 1. SANTA BARBARA, Cal., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Unlabeled, the body of T. E. Saunders, aged 70 years, who disappeared from Summerland, October 15, was found this morning off the trail up Romero canyon, beyond Montecito. Beside the corpse lay a revolver. Death was caused by a bullet in the head, evidently self-inflicted. Saunders was an eccentric old man, a spiritualist, and had made experiments in communistic life. On the morning of October 15 he disappeared. Dr. Althea Briggs Saunders and a man named Ward and his wife were living a communistic life. Saunders was a lawyer. He is known to have a brother in Portland, Or. Page 1. SPECIAL MESSAGE TALKED. President Wants Interstate Act More Effective. Page 7. WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—President Taft had an extended conference this afternoon with Attorney-General Wickersham and Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, regarding the special message he is preparing on the proposed amendments to the interstate commerce law. This message will be sent to Congress within ten days and will go into the details of changes which the President believes are needed to make the interstate act more effective. The anti-trust law will be mentioned only in a general way in the message, as the President has decided he is not ready to suggest specific changes in the Sherman law. Page 1. BLACKSMITHS FIGHT DUEL. Pine Valley Men Quarrel Over Property Rights; One Hurt. Page 1. BAKER CITY, Or., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Information received here from Pine Valley this afternoon states that two blacksmiths, named Landing and Thomas, respectively, this afternoon engaged in a sun duel. Landing was hit in the side of the head, but is not fatally wounded. The trouble started over some rights of property. Page 1.

TIP FOR SANTA

WANTED: MORE CARS, BETTER STREETS, LOWER TAXES, ASSEMBLY, \$500,000 IN 1912, Portland.