# TAFT PROMISES TO HELP BIVER TRADE

President Assures Callers He Will Work for Improved Inland Waterways.

SAYS CONGRESS IN FAVOR

To 800 Enthusiasts Who Present Petitions, Nation's Executive Declares All Possible Aid Will Be Given.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 .- Assurance that steps of an important character toward the development of a system of waterways improvement in the heart of the country would be taken by the pres-ent Congress were given by President Taft to delegations which he received in the East Room of the White House to-day.

day. To 200 committeemen, representing the Ohio Vailey Improvement Association, the President promised to bring what influence he could in favor of the improve ment of the Ohio; and later to the com mittee of 500 from the New Orleans "Lakes to the Gulf Deep Waterways" convention, he said that the interest of those in Congress who heretofore have turned a cold shoulder to the entire sub

#### Pittsburg Asks Nine Feet.

The object of the visit of the Ohio Valley delegation to the White House was to enlist the President's support for nine-foot channel from Pittsburg to

Cairo all the year round.
Four Governors and two ex-Governors headed the committee of 500 which had been charged by the New Orieans con-vention to present to the President resolutions asking for a 14-foot channel for the Mississippi. They were Governors Ansell, South Carolina; Sanders, Louistana; Deneen, Illinois; Hadley, Missouri, and ex-Governors Francis, Missouri, and McMilian, Tennessee. Governor Deneen presented the resolutions.

#### Taft Promises Aid.

Mr. Taft said he had been assured by members of committees having such leg-islation in charge that the whole matter of waterway improvement would receive earnest consideration in the present ses-sion. Afterwards the committee called upon Secretary of War Dickinson.

Earlier in the day the committee invaded the capitol and paid visits to Vice-President Sherman, Speaker Cannon, Representative Alexander of New York, chairman of the House committee on riv-ers and harbors. None of these leaders gave the committee much encouragement Speaker Cannon said he had voted for every rivers and harbors bill since 1883, whether his party was in power or not.

WATERWAYS UP TO U. S. COIN

Secretary Nagel Says Private or State Funds Are Not Responsible.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 .- More than National Rivers and Harbors Congress, telling what they thought about the policy of improving the waterways of the United States and methods that should be pur-sued in bringing about the end desired by all, characterized the meeting of that organization today.

One of the strongest pleas for National improvement of the waterways was made by Secretary Nagel of the Department of Commerce and Labor. He declared that the nature of interstate navigation made the National Government respon-sible for providing suitable water courses for commerce. Neither private enterprise nor state appropriations could be permit-ted to improve these highways of the Na-tion, he said, so that, if they were to be looked after at all, the general Govern-

ment must do it.
Without making a distinct reference to the issuance of bonds for the work, he suggested that whatever was to be done should be accomplished in a way to insure the completion of a comprehensive

How East Lost Told.

Representative J. Hampton Moore, president of the Atlantic Deeper Waterways convention, aroused an unusual degree of enthusiasm. He showed how the East had been outstripped by the Middle West and the Far West in transportation facilities. These states, in the car shortage of 1996 and 1997, he said, caused the people of the East to awaken to the need of the inland passage along the Atlantic Coast as a means of placing industries the more

a means of placing industries the more nearly upon an equality with those of the Middle West and of the Pacific Coast. One of the most interesting speakers of the day was Senator Burton of Ohio, who, without taking issue with those who advocated a bond issue, reminded them that he had a couple of "don'ts" for them to remember. He admonished them not to allow any sectionalism to protection. allow any sectionalism to enter into their efforts for waterways improvement, and cautioned them against abusing the rivers and harbors committee and harbors committee.

### Local Committees Desired.

J. A. Cullinan, chairan of the New York Canal Commission, indicated his dissatis-faction with what the National Govern-ment had done for waterway improve-ment by showing that while Congress had appropriated \$40.000,000 for such work in New York, the state itself had appropriated \$350,000,000 for that purpose.

Herbert Knox Smith, Commissioner of

Corporations, suggested to the delegates the wisdom of providing in anything they should do that local communities to be benefitted by waterway improvements should furnish sultable terminals.

#### STRIKERS RENEW THREATS Man Shot and Mob Wields Clubs in

Sydney Colliery.

SYDNEY, N. S., Dec. 9.—Violence in collieries of the Dominion Coal Company has broken out afresh. At Dominion colliery, Glace Bay, today, a crowd of 200 strikers, armed with clubs gathered about the entrance and threatened the men who were going to work.

to work.

The police arrested four. Angus McLean, employed at No. 3 colliery, was shot and seriously wounded by unknown persons.

#### LABOR MEN ASK INQUIRY

Industrial Education Problem Goes Un to Government.

discussion at the Toronto convention of the American Federation of Labor, is to be taken up with the National Depart-ment of Commerce and Labor, it was an-

near of commerce and Labor, it was announced today.

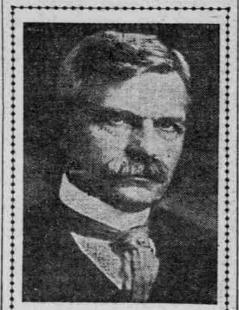
As a result a committee was appointed consisting of President Gompers, Vice-President John Mitchell and James O'Connell and Secretary Morrison to confer with Secretary Nagel and Commis-sioner Neill, with a view to having the Labor Bureau make a thorough investigation into the subject

GORE SEES BUSY TIMES AHEAD

Blind Oklahoma Senator Says Mes-

sage Omits Much. NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—United States Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, was in New

"I am inclined to think we shall have plenty to do in Washington this Winter," he said, "with President Taft try-ing to launch his policies and, at the same time attempting to carry out the Roosevelt policies. The President's message was something like the Pleia-des—conspicuous for what was missing. For example, there was nothing about



Nagel, Prominent Speaker Before Rivers and Harbor Conngress Yes-

interstate commerce, so we are in a fog as to what he wants in that direction."

MILLION-DOLLAR CUT IS ASKED Naval Coal Supply Appropriation

May Be Heavily Curtailed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—A \$1,000,000 cut in the appropriations for the coal supply for the Navy was recommended today to the House naval affairs committee by Rear-Admiral Cowies, Chief of the Bureau of Equipment of the Navy.

This means a corresponding curtallment of the activities of the vessels in pursuance of the general policy of reducing all Government expenditures.

KALAMAZOO IS SCORCHED BY \$750,000 BLAZE.

Low Water Pressure Responsible for Spread of Flames-Other Cities Send Aid.

KALAMAZOO, Mich., Dec. 9.-Property valued at \$750,000 was destroyed here last night, five firemen were inscantily clad into the streets by a fire that burned the Burdick House. Nearly a square in the business district was laid in ruins and more than 20 business concerns suffered losses.

concerns suffered losses.

The fire started at 10 o'clock last night and was only extinguished after an all-night struggle by the combined fire-fighting forces of Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and Grand Rapids.

Starting in the basement of the Star Bargain House, a 5 and 18-cent store, at 118 West Main street, the flames, fanned by a strong southwest wind, spread eastward along the north side of Main street totally destroying the Burdick House, a fine four-story hotel and store building covering more than half a city block. overing more than half a city block.
On an areade running north through the Burdick building to Water street were located half a dozen small commercial establishments, and these were burned out. Sweeping eastward on Main street, from the Burdick, the fiames are their way through the Postal Telegraph and American Express offices and other smaller business places.

and American Express offices and other smaller business places.

While the flames were raging in the hotel a man suddenly appeared at an upper window and cried for help. Before a ladder could be put in position to rescue him, he disappeared, and it is believed he positioned in the fire. perished in the fire.

To the low pressure on the water mains can principally be attributed the great extent of the fire.

extent of the fire. \*
So great was the shortage of water that at one time only twe streams could be directed upon the fire, and these barely reached to the third floor.

The Battle Creek firemen arrived on the scene at 2 A. M., but owing to lack of water, were of little service. The Grand Rapids firemen arrived at 6 o'clock and joined in the attack. With their side and joined in the attack. and joined in the attack. With their aid the fire was soon brought under control. The temperature was about 10 degrees above zero and the fire-fighters suffered severely from exposure.

## LONG WALK SAFELY MADE

Woman Wins Wager on 435-Mile Tramp Through Snow.

DENVER, Dec. 9.—Miss Arizona Owens, who completed her 435-mile walk from Shoshone, Wyo., to Denver, last night at 7:30 o'clock, appears little the worse this morning for her experience with an almost continuous blizzard during her 16-day trip.

day trip.

"To make a living," is Miss Owens' explanation for the unusual journey, which she says was made on a wager that she could accomplish the feat in 17 days. Miss Owens, who is small and almost frail, says she has walked long distances before in the South and in Missouri. She is

Fickert to Get Into Work.

SAN FRANCISCO. Dec. 3.—The trial of Patrick Cathoun, charged with attempted bribery, was continued today by Judge William P. Lawlor until January 10. In making the motion for continuance District Attorney Langdon explained that he desired to give the incoming district attorney, Charles M. Fickert, an opportunity to assist in the selection of the jury.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Industrial edu-ation, which formed a lively topic of that of all Europe.

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# MINE VERDICT REFUSED

CHERRY PROBERS WOULD SEE ROSENJACK FIRST.

Officials Scored for Laxity in Search for Witnesses-No Aid to Save Entombed.

CHERRY, Ill., Dec. 9.—The inquiry of the Coroner's jury into the St. Paul mine disaster, in which 300 men were killed, came to an abrupt close today without a verdict being reached.

verdict being reached.

The jury announced it would not consider returning a verdict until Alexander Rosenjack and Robert Deane, missing winesses, either had been found or county officials showed evidence of a genuine desire to find them. The hearing adjourned to December 20 to give officials an opportunity to search for witnesses.

John Hand, a miner, who was among the first to enter the mine the day following the disaster, testified that he lowing the disaster, testified that he heard signals from entombed miners, but that he could get no help from officials or experts to whom he told his story. The miner said he was standing at the top of the shaft when he heard repeated

TITLE SCORNED BY POET

Story He Sought Asquith's Favor Angers Watson.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 .- William Watson, the poet, was asked about the statement cabled from England that Violet Asquith, daughter of the British Pre-mier, had declared that his reason for naming her mother and herself as the composite inspiration of "The Woman With the Serpent's Tongue" poem was that her father had refused to make Watson a Knight and also had refused to make him an allowance from the British

"I never in my life asked Asquith for either a title or a penston," said Watson, angrily. "All I ever asked of him was to bestow an annuity on the penniless widow of John Davidson, the poet. Asquith said he would provide for her from the royal bounty fund. This, I believe, was subsequently done."

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