

RAILROADS MUST REPORT ACCIDENTS

House Passes Esch Bill and Measure Compelling Uniform Equipment of Cars.

CANAL BILL CONSIDERED

Abolition of Isthmian Canal Commission and Centralization of Authority in President or Director-General Are Opposed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Sitting until after midnight, the House buckled down to business today, passed the Esch bill, requiring railroads to make full monthly reports to the Interstate Commerce Commission of all accidents, and a measure giving the Commission power to compel railroads to provide uniform equipment for their cars, and then took up for consideration the Mann Panama Canal bill, on which general debate was concluded.

Much opposition developed to section 4 of the Esch bill, prohibiting the admission as evidence of the use in any action for damages of reports furnished by railroads or reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission of investigations as provided in the measure. Chairman Mann urged that the section be allowed to remain in the bill, to encourage railroad companies to give the Commission the benefit of full information on accidents.

Amendments All Defeated.

Several amendments calculated to modify or destroy the section were defeated. The bill will become effective as soon as it is signed by the President.

When the Panama Canal bill was reported by the committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the House immediately resolved itself into a committee of the whole for its consideration. Representative Mann of Illinois, author of the bill, explained its provisions, after which general debate began.

Congress Wants Commission Kept.

The abolition of the Isthmian Canal Commission and the centralization of authority for the construction of the canal and the government of the Canal Zone under the President or a Director-General were bitterly opposed. It was contended that Congress had no power to delegate legislative or judicial authority to the President.

Another section of the bill to which objections were raised was that conferring judicial power in the Zone upon a Circuit Court and such inferior courts as the President may constitute.

Representative Sterling of Illinois endeavored to show that there was work enough for the three Circuit Judges now in the Zone.

More Naval Militia Asked.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Assistant Secretary Winthrop of the Navy Department would increase the militia increased from 6500 to 10,000, and would have it placed on the same footing with reference to the militia. It was contended that it would be taken up again soon after the holiday recess.

McCredie to Help Revise Code.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Speaker Cannon has not assigned Representative W. W. McCredie to a committee, but it is understood Representative Denby, of Michigan, will retire from the committee on revision of laws, and that Judge McCredie will succeed. It was contended that it is now reviving the Civil Code. It is a very active committee.

STATUTE SOUGHT TO SAVE

Law of Limitations in Defense of Lumbermen in Idaho Case.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 15.—(Special)—

Pleading the statute of limitations on the grounds that the title to the land, alleged by the government to have been fraudulently secured, left the government three years prior to the bringing of the indictments against the defendants by the Federal grand jury, C. T. Bundy, of Idaho, chief counsel for the Barber Lumber Company and the defendants, faced Judge Robert S. Bean, of the Oregon District Court today.

Bundy pleaded for the defendants in support of the demurrer submitted by the defense in the case of the United States vs. James T. Barber and Sumner G. Moon.

FLAG CALLED "DIRTY RAG"

Member of I. W. W. Clapped Into Jail for Unpatriotic Speech.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 15.—"Desecration of the flag" is the charge Frank Reed must face in court. Reed was chosen chairman of a meeting of the Industrial Workers of the World last Sunday. In accepting the chair, it is claimed he said:

"Fellow workers, I used to be a soldier and I had to take off my hat to a dirty rag, but I am a free man now. We will now sing a song about a flag that is a flag."

This was as far as he got before being arrested and marched out of the hall, while the audience stood and sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Now he is to be prosecuted under the state law for desecration of the flag, and his case will also be placed before the Federal authorities.

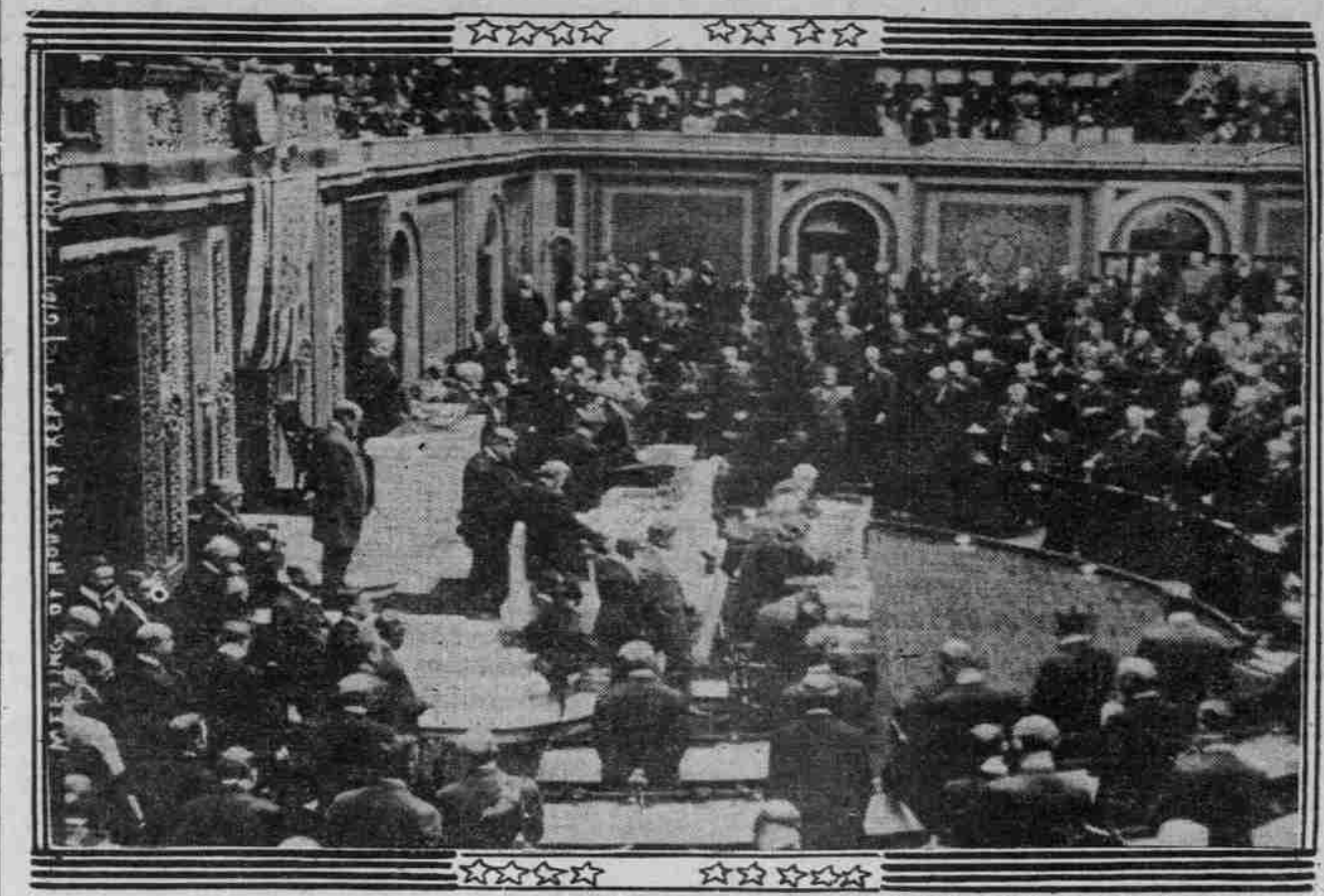
FARM TAKEN, COST UPHELD

Supreme Court Confirms \$3500 Judgment.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special)—The Supreme Court today affirmed the \$3500 judgment found in the condemnation suit of the Columbia & Cowlitz River Boom & Rafting Company to secure part of the farm of James H. Hutchinson, needed in conducting booming operations on the Columbia River, near the mouth of the Cowlitz.

The company claimed that the amount allowed was excessive.

SCENE DURING SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND VICE-PRESIDENT SHERMAN, WHO PRESIDES OVER SENATE.



WOOD TO BE CHIEF

Coming Appointment as Head of Staff Announced.

SURGEON'S RISE IS RAPID

Colonel of Rough Riders Had Previously Distinguished Himself in Apache Campaign—Is Only 49 Years Old.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Major-General Leonard Wood, now in command of the Department of the East, will be the next Chief of Staff of the Army. Secretary Dickinson made this announcement today. General Wood will succeed General J. Franklin Bell, whose term at the head of the General Staff will expire next Spring.

General Wood's rise in the Army has been one of the most spectacular in its history. Entering the medical corps as an assistant surgeon, in 1888, he has been promoted by leaps and bounds so that next April, when he assumes his new duties at the War Department, he will be at the head of the Army. He is only 49 years old.

Attention was called to Wood before he had been in the Army six months. When serving as an assistant surgeon, he voluntarily carried dispatches through a region infested with hostile Indians, making a journey of 70 miles in one night and walking 30 miles next day. In the same campaign he took command of a detachment of infantry without an officer, when an encounter was hourly expected with Geronimo. For this action in this campaign a medal of honor was awarded to him in 1894.

In the Spanish-American War he was Colonel of the Rough Riders, commanding the regiment in which Theodore Roosevelt was Lieutenant-Colonel. For his services at Las Guasimas and San Juan Hill he was made a Brigadier-General. Later he was promoted to be Major-General and was made Governor-General soon afterward.

After the withdrawal of the American forces from Cuba General Wood was sent to the Philippines, where finally he became commander of the Philippine division.

VANCOUVER LADS MISSING

Archie and Ned Fritz, Unsought by Parents, Disappear.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special)—Unsought by their parents, two small lads, Archie, aged 12 years, and Ned Fritz, aged 8 years, who skipped from school yesterday afternoon, are still missing. They were last seen late last night at the Diamond brickyard, five miles up the Columbia River.

The father of the boys, James Fritz, said tonight that he was not trying to find them and that if they did not like their home they could stay away. The older boy has been playing truant from school for the past two weeks and had threatened to run away. They both did run away last Summer, but returned home. The older boy has red hair and the younger black hair.

The disappearance of the boys was reported to the police last night, but as the lads were outside the city, the parents were told to report the matter to the Sheriff's office, but this has not been done.

USE OF CONVICTS URGED

Good Roads President Suggests Making Prisoners Useful.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 15.—About 1000 delegates from all sections of the country were in attendance today at the closing sessions of the tenth annual convention of the National Good Roads Association. Addresses were given by the state highway engineers of Minnesota and Missouri, George W. Cooley and Curtis Hill. Professor W. C. Hoag, of the University of Kansas, gave the delegates expert advice on rock roadbuilding.

Arthur C. Jackson, president of the National association, strongly advocated the use of convicts in the construction of roads.

WARFIELD IN NEW ROLE

Actor Appears as Defendant in Attachment Proceedings.

TUCSON, Ariz., Dec. 15.—David Warfield, the actor, played an unattractive role here today when he figured with David Belasco as defendant in attachment proceedings brought by a local theatrical manager. The latter claimed \$50 because of a cancelled date.

Warfield was served personally with the papers, and after a short parley a settlement was effected and his baggage was released. His cancellation of the local date was due to delay on the railroad.



J. S. SHERMAN
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GEO. G. BAIN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(Special)—This is a view of the House of Representatives in session, made on the opening day of the second session of Congress, December 6, 1909. The only time when it is possible to get a good picture of the House in session is when the chaplain is delivering his prayer, for that is the only time when the members are still enough to be photographed successfully.

Vice-President James S. Sherman is seen here on his way to the Capitol to preside over the Senate. It was made on the opening day of the session. Mr. Sherman is a popular presiding officer and an efficient one.

HAMILTON ASKS RETRIAL

CONVICTED MILITIA OFFICER SEEKS JUDGMENT ARREST.

Misconduct on Part of Jury and Other Allegations Named as Grounds for New Action.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special)—On behalf of Orin Hamilton, ex-Adjutant-General, recently convicted here of embezzlement, his attorneys today filed in the local Superior Court motions for a new trial and for an arrest of judgment.

The motions may be argued Monday, but no definite date has been set. In the motion for the new trial the defense alleged misconduct on the part of the jury; that the jurors, sworn to try the case, had formed and expressed an opinion prior to being drawn; newly discovered evidence, which, by due diligence, could not have been found in time for the trial; errors of law, which were duly excepted to; that the verdict was contrary to the law and the evidence, and could not be sustained.

The motion for the arrest of judgment is a motion for Hamilton's discharge on the grounds that the information did not allege a crime or misdemeanor under the laws of the state. They ask for three weeks in which to file affidavits in support of their motion.

Nothing has been done regarding bail for Hamilton. It is now thought the defense may be waiting until the case has been appealed to the Supreme Court before obtaining his release on \$20,000 bonds.

THIRD DEGREE DENOUNCED

Bureau of Justice to Defend Prisoners Against Police.

This "Better Citizenship Association" held a meeting at the Parish House of Trinity Episcopal Church last night, about 80 persons being present. Among the speakers were Dr. A. A. Morrison, A. H. Devers, C. E. S. Wood, General Thomas M. Anderson, County Judge Webster, Circuit Judge Morrow, Federal Judge Wolverson and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise. The association has been organized about three months. Representatives of almost all churches and creeds were present last night.

Last night's speakers urged the abolition of the so-called "third degree" in securing information regarding crimes, and taking such measures as will bring about the reform of the guilty man and prevent repetition of criminal acts, rather than punishment for the purpose of wreaking vengeance on the guilty.

The Bureau of Justice, of which Judge Webster is chairman, and Rabbi Wise secretary, and which is a department of the association, will endeavor to bring about an abolition of prison abuses, chief of which, in the minds of the speakers last night, was the police inquisition. It is probable that an attorney will be appointed to represent the prisoners of interest of hapless prisoners in the Police Court.

Last night's speakers said they did not wish to criticize the judges, but that justice, as now administered, is somewhat one-sided, with the odds against the accused, whether guilty or innocent.

DICKINSON HANDLES CASE

Cabinet Member Goes to Springfield as an Attorney.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Secretary Dickinson left Washington this afternoon for Springfield, Ill., where he will argue before the Supreme Court of that state a case in which the Illinois Central Railroad Company is a party.

The case is an old one and Mr. Dickinson, before his appointment as Secretary of War, informed the President that it would be necessary to complete it. The President readily gave his consent.

TOPIC, LOCAL RATES

Package Freight Tolls Engage Interstate Commission.

"BACK HAUL CASES" UP

Body Delves to Decide Whether Portland and Seattle Will Be Allowed Tolls Charged Missouri River Jobbers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Whether the jobbers of Portland, Or., and Seattle, shall be given such rates on package freight as will enable them to compete successfully with jobbers at Missouri River transfers, St. Paul and Minneapolis and big distributing points like Denver, is being considered by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Oral arguments were heard by the Commission today in the cases of the Portland Chamber of Commerce against the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company and others and of the transportation bureau of Seattle against the Northern Pacific Railway and others, both of which involve the question at issue. The cases are known popularly as the "back haul cases."

Listening to the arguments today were 15 members of the Merchants Association of New York and a delegation from a similar body in San Francisco, headed by its traffic manager, W. S. Wheeler, ex-Assistant Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

No decision will be rendered for several weeks, but questions to be determined are said to be of vital interest to the Pacific Coast and of more than ordinary consequence to big shippers on the Atlantic seaboard.

WIVES PURSUE HIM

Nos. 1 and 2 Compare Notes and Charge Bigamy.

NO. 1 LIVED IN COQUILLE

Frank Wilson, Employed by Laundry in Los Angeles, Accused—Both Women Work in Same Place and Get Heads Together.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 15.—(Special)—Frank Wilson, charged with bigamy, was arraigned today before Justice Frederickson, who set his examination for tomorrow afternoon and fixed his bond at \$1000.

The complaint against Wilson was sworn to by the young woman who says she is Mrs. Wilson No. 2, and who was Miss Mary Stelmacher, of 238 South avenue Twenty-two. She says she was married to Wilson twice, once at sea, off San Pedro, and once on land, to satisfy her mother, who did not consider a marine ceremony legal.

Wilson was employed by the Los Angeles Laundry Company. Oddly enough, both women who claim him as husband obtained employment there and accidentally compared notes, reaching the conclusion that they were married to the same man.

For six months they devoted all their spare time hunting for him, and at last landed him in jail.

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Christmas



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DREADNOUGHTS FOR CHILE

Naval Committee Recommends Construction of Two Vessels.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 15.—The naval committee of the Chamber of Commerce decided to recommend the construction of two battleships of the dreadnought class, the same to be completed within three years.

Great Britain sent Canada 100,120 immigrants in the 12 months ended July, 1909, a decrease of 25,500 from 1908 and of 73,500 from 1907. It is the lowest record since 1904. About three-fourths were English and Scotch. Only 2700 were Irish.

FORMER LAND CLERK IS HELD

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—As the result of a preliminary hearing before the Police Court today, Frank C. Radcliffe, for many years chief clerk of the land department of the United States Department of the Interior, was held to answer before the Superior Court on four counts, charging

felony embezzlement. Bail was fixed at \$1000 on each count.

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PRINCE HENRY CALLS BLATCHFORD LIAR

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A telegram appeared in the London papers yesterday from Prince Henry of Prussia, dealing with a series of articles written by the Federalist, Blatchford, which are being printed in London. In these articles Blatchford declares that the German navy is destined for use against England, and asserts that officers of the German warships are in the habit daily of drinking the toast, "To the day," Prince Henry characterized the article "A beastly lie from beginning to end."

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