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COMPROMISE MAY YET AVERT STRIKE

Neill Stays Hand of Engineers' Chief.

ROTHERHOOD IS EXASPERATED

Mediator's Plan Has Chance of Acceptance Today.

ARBITRATION TRIED NEXT

Stone Is in Mood to Call Strike When Neill Staves Off Crisis—All Lines West of Chicago on Both Sides of Boundary Involved.

WHAT IMPENDING STRIKE MEANS.	
Number of railroads involved, 81.	
Miles of track, 134,000.	
Percentage of railroad mileage in United States, 83 per cent.	
Number of engineers involved, 24,000.	
Demand of men, 12 to 15 per cent wage increase.	
Increase offered by railroads, 8 1/2 per cent.	
Annual increase offered by railroads, \$2,900,000.	

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—At midnight tonight, after hope of peace had been virtually abandoned by all concerned in the threatened strike of engineers on the Western roads, Dr. Neill, the Government mediator, offered a final compromise and washed his hands of the entire matter.

This compromise is said to make notable concessions on both sides, but the engineers are given the long end of the bargain. That it will be accepted by the general managers is said to be almost certain. It was offered too late for the committee to act upon it, but the decision—peace or gigantic war—will be rendered before noon tomorrow. If it is rejected, Dr. Neill will formally offer arbitration, as required under the Edmund law, and immediately take a train for his home in Washington. The indications at midnight, however, are that peace will prevail.

Exasperated with the attitude of the general managers' committee, which has refused to take the strike threat seriously, the engineers have reached a point where they are ready to go out at a moment's notice. If the order is issued, it will strike every railroad west of Chicago at the same hour.

Final Conference Is Held.

Yesterday afternoon the Commissioner of Labor Neill has worked day and night to avert the strike, and neither side has yielded an inch. Early tonight the Government mediator declared that he feared there would be a strike, though he called Grand Chief Stone, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and his assistants into the conference. Before going into the conference, which was in session at midnight, Mr. Stone declared that he saw no chance of settlement and that a fight might be expected within a very short time. The members of the engineers' committee from the various systems were making preparations to leave the city early this evening, and it is probable that, if a strike order is issued, it will be set far enough ahead to allow each officer to get to his post, which will require about three days.

Although the general managers have professed to regard the strike vote of the men as a mere "bluff," the representatives of the engineers assert that their lives are at stake in earnest in the limit. They have placed themselves deliberately in a situation where, it is said, they cannot back down, unless they wish to see their organization go to pieces.

Leaders Dare Not Back Down.

Under the circumstances the leaders say there is no way for them to back down, without incurring the displeasure of the members and making the organization a laughing stock among the other brotherhoods. It was said that, should the officers attempt to settle on the basis offered by the managers, the men would "kick over the traces" and not accept the settlement.

Representatives of the engineers, who have been in conference with the managers, assert that they have not been

DISASTER FEARED WHEN DIVA SINGS

VAST THROWS WILL HEAR TETRAZZINI IN OPEN.

Clubwomen Ask Mayor to Prevent Concert in San Francisco Street, but He Feels Nothing.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—A delegation of clubwomen today appealed to Mayor McCarthy to stop Tetrazzini from singing at Lotta's Fountain in front of the Chronicle building tomorrow night because of the danger to life from an immense crowd, and cited the disaster in Stockholm 20 years ago, when Christine Nilsson sang in the street in that city.

The Mayor decided that the police could control any crowd that might gather and he refused to order the unique open-air concert transferred to Golden Gate Park, as the clubwomen desired. It is estimated many thousands of people will come in from neighboring cities, as old-time English Christmas carols are to be sung from the stage before the opera singer appears.

Chief of Police Serrmour thinks 20,000 people will be massed within sound of the diva's voice, and that 100,000 will crowd Market and adjacent streets, as they did at the Portola Festival.

The weather is like New York May weather and everything promises a pleasant evening tomorrow, when the first open-air concert of this kind in mid-winter in the streets of a great city will be held. Every newspaper in Christendom will contain a report on morning of this unique Christmas eve celebration.

\$1,800,000 GIFT IS MADE

Affiliation Between Columbia University and Hospital Purpose.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—George L. Rives, chairman of the board of directors of Columbia University, and Robert W. DeForest, president of the Presbyterian Hospital, announced tonight that \$1,800,000 had been pledged to perfect an affiliation between the hospital and the medical school of a university. The name of the donor is not announced.

The gift comes through Edward S. Harkness, a member of the wealthy Harkness family of New York and Cleveland, who adds \$300,000 for the erection upon a site belonging to the hospital of a surgical pavilion containing 150 beds.

Edward S. Harkness was graduated from Yale with the class of '97 and is a director of several banks and corporations.

His brother, Charles W. Harkness, is a director of the Standard Oil Company, and it is commonly believed that some member of the Harkness family also makes the larger gift.

THUG'S LEGACY KILLS MAN

Nitro-Glycerine Left in Safe by Cracksmen Explodes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Nitro-glycerine left between the plates of a heavy steel safe door by burglars three months ago caused the death of a safe repairer in the shop of the Trumbull Safe & Vault Company this afternoon. The deadly explosive had withstood the jars of a railroad trip from Chicago and the shocks of riding over rough Chicago streets.

The man, who died almost instantly after being struck by a 100-pound steel plate which was hurled from the door by the force of the explosion, was Stephen Pavltek, 45 years old.

The safe in which the explosion occurred was a large type, weighing 7500 pounds and was five feet high. Recently it was accepted by the Trumbull company from the banking firm of Growcock & White, of Kimmell, Ind., in trade. The safe was shipped from Kimmell to Chicago and placed in the safe company's shop today. Pavltek was put to work repairing the door.

MIXED MARRIAGE BLOCKED

Jap and White Woman Find Reno Justice Opposes Miscegeny.

RENO, Nev., Dec. 23.—Not until the County Clerk here had been instructed by an authorized attorney that there was nothing in the statutes of Nevada to prevent their marriage would he grant a marriage license to H. H. Teckawa, a Japanese, and Miss L. A. Frederick, an American girl.

Teckawa gave his age as 34 and that of Miss Frederick as 23. Both told the Clerk they were from San Francisco.

WOMAN INDICTS BALDWIN'S GOLD

Witness Says She Is Helpless Against It.

LETTERS DECLARED FORGERIES

Mrs. Turnbull Says She Never Plotted With Advertiser.

PICTURE IS INTRODUCED

Witness Declares Portrait Is Not Her, but Says It Nearly Cost Old Turfman His Life When Sister Shot Him.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—Lucky Baldwin's gold could do anything against a defenseless woman.

This was one of the parting shafts launched at the opposing attorneys by Mrs. Lillian Turnbull before she ended her testimony in the contest of her daughter, Beatrice, for nearly a quarter of the millions the old turfman left when he died two years ago.

The record of the woman's testimony in her suit against Baldwin has been destroyed and the attorneys for the estate were endeavoring to secure her present version of that testimony preparatory to introducing evidence for her impeachment, when she shot the above report in reply to a query as to what reason there might be for so many forgeries of her letters.

Letters Declared Forgeries.

More of her alleged letters were introduced and she declared every one of them "base forgeries, perpetrated by a villain in the employ of that treacherous man, James R. Wood." Wood is the Boston detective employed by Colonel Albert Pope, whom Mrs. Turnbull previously declared "sold me out to Baldwin."

One of the letters contained this sentence: "I resisted Lucky Baldwin more than I did Colonel Pope, for I loved Colonel Pope. I shall never betray his name. A woman never betrays the man she loves. Never."

Authorship Is Denied.

Mrs. Turnbull declared she never wrote this or anything that is quoted as part of the evidence, in the decision rendered by Judge Slack, who presided in the seduction case.

Mrs. Turnbull said she did not testify regarding her alleged marriage by contract to Baldwin in the first case because she had not been asked.

"Did you testify there had been a promise of marriage?" was asked.

"No," Mrs. Turnbull replied. "I did not so testify. I did say there had not been a promise of marriage, which was true. Mr. Baldwin married me without making a promise. He did it out of hand, as quickly as he could write the contract."

Contract Is Repudiated.

Mrs. Turnbull also denied that she had ever admitted an alleged contract between herself and A. H. Anderson, Baldwin's former advertising agent, to give

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Mexican rebel scouts make daring ride through City of Chihuahua. Page 3.

No trace found of giraffe, the aviator, and death at sea is probable. Page 2.

National. Transportation of mulla cost Uncle Sam big sum. Page 4.

Power site bill is drawn by Smoot. Page 1.

Politics. Multnomah County will demand equitable representation in Legislature. Page 12.

California politicians see plan to put Henry in Senate; Henry denies it. Page 12.

Wets' initiative makes position of Oregon unique. Page 12.

Domestic. Alibi for American bustle causes insanity. Page 2.

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Vast crowds expected to hear Tetrazzini sing in San Francisco street and women fear disaster. Page 1.

One of injured in Chicago fire dies, making Colonel Goethals man of great ability. Page 7.

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Washington County still demands cats. Page 1.

Sports. Interscholastic Athletic League disbanded; reorganization, minus Columbia, planned. Page 5.

Stanford Rugby team goes through Portland on way to Vancouver. Page 5.

Forrest Smithson will become aviator. Page 5.

Christmas swim arouses interest. Page 5.

Pacific Northwest. T. R. Ellerson found guilty of murder in second degree at La Grande. Page 6.

Bride clings Kirk as jury frees him of murder charge. Page 6.

Kidnaper of Seattle child must serve 20 to 40 years in prison. Page 6.

Seattle Council revokes traction franchise following restraining order. Page 1.

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World's shipments of wheat are decreasing. Page 17.

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Demand for apples limited. Page 17.

Portland and Vicinity. Transfer of Harriman lines to Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company effected last night. Page 10.

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Woman tries to re-establish will set aside for family witnessing. Page 10.

H. E. Wood, landscape architect, tells of plans for beautification of Lone Fir Cemetery. Page 9.

City Attorney, citing "ethics of profession," plans for beautification of street in settling Karl street dispute. Page 12.

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Angora goat breeders to hold convention in January. Page 14.

Ex-husband of bride causes stormy diversion at Dittborn-Menda wedding. Page 4.

POWER SITE BILL DRAWN BY SMOOT

Advocates of State Control Concentrate.

MEASURE MAY BE PRESSED

Interior Department Aids in Drafting Measure.

ALL ADVOCATES AGREED

Ideas Set Forth by Secretary Ballinger in His Report Are Embodied in Bill Submitted by Utah Senator.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 23.—Advocates of state control of waterpower sites will concentrate their efforts on a bill recently introduced by Senator Smoot, which embodies the ideas set forth by Secretary Ballinger in his annual report. This bill was prepared jointly by Senator Smoot and officials of the Interior Department and has proven acceptable, in the main, to all Western Senators and Representatives who believe that water-power development should be regulated by the states rather than by the National Government.

It is too early in the session to determine whether or not there is any chance for the passage of the Smoot bill before adjournment on March 4, but if opportunity presents the measure will be pressed to early consideration in the Senate, in the hope it may be taken up by the House after the appropriation bills are out of the way. The Smoot bill recognizes the fact that the control of waters is vested in the states, and this right can never be taken over by the Federal Government. Therefore it is proposed to transfer to the states all public lands abutting on development, the states, however, to guarantee to the Federal Government that such lands shall not fall into the hands of any monopoly or be used in a way that will make the public pay an exorbitant price for its power.

MAN GIVES AWAY HIS EYE

Friend Losing False One, He Fills Gap With His Own.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Dec. 23.—Frank Vanneck, a well-known mining man of the Cripple Creek district, tonight proved how strong Western generosity is when he took one of his own eyes and gave it to Sam W. Vidler, a mining and newspaper man, who had broken his own eye. Both men wear artificial eyes. Vidler's eye got frostbitten, and when he tried to thaw it out it exploded. Unable to secure another in the camp, he was saved further disfigurement when his friend proceeded to take the glass eye out of his own head and turned it over to Vidler.

Until another eye arrives, Vanneck is using an old one he happened to have laid away.

SECOND APPEAL IS MADE FOR CATS

OKANOGAN FARMER ASKS LOS ANGELES TO SUPPLY 5000.

Request Sent to Humane Society for Felines to Kill Gophers Causes Much Excitement.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Members of the Humane Society in this city were considerably excited today when they received from Albert J. Randall, of Okanogan County, Wash., a request for 5000 cats.

Randall is neither starting a cat farm nor a canning factory. He wants the cats for eminently legitimate and respectable purposes. No doubt when the average cat hears of this she will say: "Me for a tuncan alley, no fur muffs for mine."

If you should ask any gentlemanly Thomas if he cared to migrate to Washington, he would ask you with injured looks, he looked like a sealskin collar-ette. Cats are so suspicious, you know.

However, the alarm of the kittens and of the Humane Society does Randall and his associates a great injustice. The Washington farmers desire the cargo of cats to assist them in driving gophers from their ranches. They want the cats as hunters. Gophers are making inroads on many Okanogan County farms and Randall has hit upon the idea of saving the gardens and farm lands by importing household pets from those cities that may be overstocked. No definite arrangements have been made for the collection of the felines, but this is considered a golden opportunity for Los Angeles to ingratiate itself into the lasting favor of a great Western state.

S. S. Gilbert, of Sharon, Pa., received a letter from A. J. Randall, Okanogan County, a few days ago, requesting that a consignment of 1000 cats be sent him for use in exterminating gophers, and, according to a dispatch, residents of Sharon were preparing to ship the felines in the near future.

PASTOR GIVEN MOTOR CAR

Congregation Makes Gift to Retain Services of Preacher.

STOCKTON, Cal., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—To retain his services as pastor of the Manteo Congregational Church, Rev. R. H. Sink, prelate in the grand lodge of Masons of California, was today presented with an automobile by the Manteo congregation, much to his surprise. Mr. Sink has been pastor of the Manteo Congregational Church for years, and at the request of the Manteo Congregationalists, accepted a call to preach there at least two Sundays a month.

The train service was such that the minister could not reach there until late in the afternoon following his services here. The progressive people of Manteo made up a subscription at once, and today purchased the minister a fine automobile. He will now be in a position to make the trip in short time and meet all of the engagements of the two churches. One of the members of the congregation today said:

PORTLAND LEADS IN GAIN

Bank Clearings Again Show Increase Over Period of Year Ago.

Bank clearings for the week ended yesterday showed an increase over the total for the same week in 1909 of 18.8 per cent, according to Bradstreet's report. The total is \$9,970,000.

With this substantial increase, Portland again takes the lead over the principal Pacific Coast cities, Los Angeles getting second place with a gain of 17.4 per cent.

Seattle's total clearings amounted to \$10,485,000. Compared with the volume of business for the corresponding week of last year, there was a marked falling off for Seattle, the loss being 18 per cent.

Tacoma held even in amount of clearings and Spokane showed a loss of 4.1 per cent. Tacoma's totals were \$4,561,000 and Spokane's were \$4,668,000.

YOUNG M'LEAN RECEIVES

"Twenty Million Dollar Baby" Has Birthday Party.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—In contrast to the usual social functions of the National capital in the holiday season was the first birthday anniversary party today of Miss Virginia Walsh McLean, the "20,000,000 baby," grandchild of John R. McLean and the late Thomas F. Walsh.

SEATTLE HITS AT TRACTION COMPANY

Franchise Revoked by City Council.

ACTION FOLLOWS INJUNCTION

Angered by Restraining Order, Gill Urges Drastic Move.

FIVE-CENT FARE IS ISSUE

Warfare Against Seattle, Renton & Southern Held to Be Effort of Stone & Webster Interests to Gobble Up Rival Line.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Calmly ignoring the fact that Federal Judge C. H. Hanford had just signed an injunction restraining them from doing anything to interfere with the operation of its cars, the City Council, in committee of the whole, late this afternoon passed two ordinances revoking the franchises under which the Seattle, Renton & Southern Railway Company is operating its lines between this city and Renton, a suburb 12 miles south of here.

The meeting of the Council was sensational. More than 200 citizens of the Rainier Valley, who had complained against the company, charging that it had given inadequate service and had attempted to collect a double fare inside the new city limits, were present and cheered to the echo Mayor Hiram C. Gill and Councilmen who spoke advocating revocation of the franchises.

Mayor Gill took an active part in the meeting and spurred the Council to action by declaring that if the ordinance was not passed he would go out within a week and tear up the tracks.

Plea for Delay Made.

The feature of the meeting was the speech of Councilman J. W. Bullock, who pleaded that a great majority of the holders of the \$800,000 of bonds of the corporation lived in Chicago and the Middle West and that since their holdings would be depreciated in value at least 75 per cent by a revocation of the franchises, the Council, to preserve the city's credit, would best hesitate. Bullock is known to be extremely friendly to the Stone & Webster Company, which controls all carlines in Seattle other than the so-called Renton line, and his speech therefore caused something of a surprise.

Nevertheless the ordinance was passed and signed on the spot by William H. Murphy, president of the Council, and Mayor Gill.

A. L. Valentine, superintendent of Public Utilities, filed the formal charges against the company and, in view of the fact that the attempt of the company to collect a 10-cent fare in the territory recently annexed by the city had resulted in rioting and destruction of the company's property, asked that the Council sit as a judicial body. The revocation today was the result.

Action Held Illegal.

The company alleged that the hearing today and that heretofore held by the corporation's committee were illegal, since the Council had no authority to administer oaths or compel the attendance of witnesses and consequently was not able to obtain testimony that would have upheld the streetcar company.

"The Council's action utterly without justification," said William H. Thompson, attorney for the Renton line, tonight.

"The injunction signed by Judge Hanford this forenoon absolutely prohibited the passage of the ordinance and, inasmuch as copies of the injunction were served on Mayor Gill and President Murphy, of the Council, before the committee of the whole took action and distributed among members of the Council by Councilman Bullock at the same time, we consider that the whole proceeding is null and void. In defense of the rights of innocent bondholders and to uphold investments already made in the city in which the Council's action is null."

Gill Defends Move.

"They merely enjoined us against doing anything to interfere with the operation of the road," said Mayor Gill tonight. "This being the case, we think that we had an absolute right to pass the ordinance revoking the franchises."

"It is a legal question that is involved and the operation of the road is not at present involved."

A strong movement is on foot to have the city seize the Rainier Valley line and operate it under municipal ownership. W. R. Crawford, president of the road, and his lawyers regard the entire fight as an attempt of the Stone & Webster interests, which virtually control the street railway situation in Seattle, to gobble up the only line now independent.

NEW TRIAL DENIED RUEF

Only Supreme Court Remains as Hope of Escaping Prison Term.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—The petition of Abraham Ruef, the former politician, under sentence of 14 years for bribery, for a hearing of his case before the District Court of Appeals, was denied by that tribunal today.

LONGEST DAYS IN THE YEAR FOR ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.



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