



INSURGENT HOPE GROWING DIMMER

Taft Stock Looking Up in West.

MESSAGE HAS MADE FRIENDS

Views on Trust Question Generally Indorsed.

LA FOLLETTE MEN BUSY

Comment Favoring President Sits Wisconsin Man's Press Agent to Renewed Efforts—Leaders Gather to Confer.

BY SUMNER CURTIS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Members of the Republican National committee are arriving singly and by twos and threes for the meeting to be held next Tuesday.

Just now the Taft stock is higher than it has been for some time. From the West the visitors are bringing stories of firmer Taft sentiment than existed a few months or even a few weeks back.

Taft Has Cause for Joy. There certainly is joy at the White House these days as a result of the President's information from many lips that there is a steadily increasing sentiment in his favor.

Insurgency, insofar as it means personal opposition to President Taft, is losing strength in the West, declared one of the prominent politicians who arrived this evening.

I am not making any predictions yet as to what will happen in the election next Fall, but as far as the nomination is concerned, the opposition to the President is losing ground every day.

Saner Day Approaching. The messages which the President already has sent to Congress, have struck the people favorably, and 'progressives' who are not blinded by partisanship, but who heretofore have had doubts as to Taft's executive qualifications, are beginning to think that general attack on him is unwarranted.

While statements of this kind are cheering the President and his friends, the La Follette campaign committee is not letting up in its efforts to ride Taft out of the ranks, not only of the 'progressives' but the 'near-progressives.'

Perturbed a bit, perhaps, by the fact that the praise was given to the trust message by some of the insurgent leaders on the day the message went to Congress, the literary bureau has taken it up with a view of tearing it to pieces.

It is today in the position of advocating what yesterday was condemned, proclaims the La Follette press agent. 'What will it do tomorrow?'

Rate Cases on Docket. Early Hearing by Supreme Court Will Be Asked.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The famous intermunicipal rate cases, in which the Commerce Court recently enjoined temporarily the Interstate Commerce Commission from enforcing its long and short haul orders, was docketed today in the Supreme Court.

The cases involve the constitutionality and interpretation of the 319 long and short haul amendment to the Interstate Commerce law. It is understood the Government will ask the court to advance the case for an early hearing.

DRESS SUIT COMES IN NICK OF TIME

'BILL' HANLEY NEARLY MISSES PRESIDENT'S DINNER.

Oregonian's 'Glad Rags' Are Sidelined, but Thoughtful Porter Comes to Rescue.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 8.—This is the story of 'Bill' Hanley's dress suit: With the Western Governors' special party, of which he is a member, the Oregon rancher was invited to the dinner at the White House last night, when President Taft was host to the touring executives.

There was no time to go to Baltimore for the needed raiment, and Hanley sat in his hotel in deep gloom. But shortly before the dinner hour arrived a package came. And lo! it contained his dress suit. The colored porter who looked after the needs of the Western specialists had thoughtfully forwarded it to him.

Following the dinner at the White House, most of the members of the Governors' special went to the National Press Club, where an informal reception was held.

CAPTAIN DROPS ON BRIDGE

Ericsen, of the Centralia, Dies as He Gives Orders 'To Sea.'

HOQUIAM, Wash., Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Just as the steamer, at full speed ahead, was about to plunge into the high seas running on the bar, outward bound for San Francisco with passengers and a cargo of lumber, today, Captain Charles Ericsen was stricken with heart failure and dropped dead on the bridge of his vessel, the Centralia.

With a high sea running and the vessel in such a position that, had she been a length ahead it would have been impossible to turn back, First Mate, Chris Evansen took command and, ordering full speed astern, brought the steamer out of her difficult position and back to Hoquiam, where she was tied up.

WIFE AND HUSBY CONVICT

Couple on Same Tacoma Jury Attract Attention at Trial.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 8.—'We voted together from the very first and I guess we thought just alike all along,' said Mrs. Gideon Frazier, 3722 Perry avenue, who with her husband sat three days on the same jury and helped return a verdict convicting Meyer Cohen of embezzlement from the Moose Lodge.

BACON THEORIST STUBBORN

Search for Library Will Be Continued if It Takes 40 Years.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—Dr. Orville Owen, of Detroit, who early in the year conducted excavations in the River Wye for manuscripts which he believed would establish that Bacon was the author of the Shakespearean plays, later abandoning them, will sail for America tomorrow.

AVIATOR SHOTS 5 BIRDS

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 8.—Flying in a biplane with Lee Hammond as pilot, William Simonson shot three blackbirds today with as many shots from a 12-gauge gun.

HOPE IS SEEN FOR IRRIGATION PLAN

Fisher Looks With Favor on Oregon.

MONEY MAY BE FORTHCOMING

Way Appears, Though Secretary Reserves Decision.

PROTESTS NOT REGARDED

West Umatilla Project Gains New Hope as Result of Conference. Settlers' Rights Will Not Be Overridden.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 8.—While Secretary Fisher declined in any way to commit himself or the Government to the construction of the West Umatilla irrigation project, members of the Oregon delegation and Governor West, with whom he talked for an hour today, came away impressed that they are making gains in their fight for the adoption of this project and all seem to feel that ultimately the project will be approved.

It became known at today's conference that money can be found in some quarter for beginning the construction of the West Umatilla project if it should be adopted, but in all probability construction would proceed slowly for the first two or three years.

Vested Right Undisturbed. Secretary Fisher said that before committing himself, he wanted to go over reports that will be forwarded to Washington soon, showing the condition of water fillings on the Umatilla River and its tributaries and determine positively how much water is actually available for the Government project.

It is explained there is no purpose whatever to interfere with the vested water rights of any settler along the Umatilla River, but at the same time the state has undertaken to see that no landowner holds more water than he can use beneficially.

Protests Carry Little Weight. Secretary Fisher is paying little heed to protests that have come to him from Eastern Oregon objecting to the adoption of the West Umatilla project, for he is aware that the sentiment in the state is overwhelmingly favorable to construction by the Government, especially as this is the only project in Oregon that can be undertaken by the Government for several years to come.

ANNUAL HELPS BUILD UP OREGON.

One of the greatest influences in attracting settlers to this state has been The Oregonian Annual. With the first of each year many thousand copies of this publication are sent throughout the country, to every state and territory, and across the oceans.

When colonist rates were in effect on the railroads last Spring thousands of people came into the state. This newspaper interviewed a great many of them, and asked the question, 'Why did you come?' No small proportion of the replies were that the newcomers had been attracted by The Oregonian Annual.

The Annual to be issued January 1, 1912, will be a creditable number in this series of special editions, now published for 30 years. It will be thorough, reliable and interesting.

This big edition will be sold for 5 cents a copy. Postage in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the insular possessions, 5 cents. Foreign postage, 10 cents.

HOME BANKS GAIN AGAIN

Portland Clearings Show 5.5 Per Cent Increase for Week. Nearly all the large cities in the country showed an increase in bank clearings this week over the corresponding week of 1910.

SIGHT IS VALUED AT \$800

Though Man Would Settle for \$100 Cash, Commission Declines.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 7.—Charles W. Strine, of Olympia, who probably will lose his sight by being struck in the right eye by a piece of stone while working for a contract company, called on the State Industrial Insurance Commission and offered to settle for \$100 cash. He wishes to go to Michigan.

BOARD FINDS MINE DESTROYED MAINE

Low Explosive, Not Torpedo Used.

REPORT ADDS TO MYSTERY

Earlier Report of Attack on Outside Confirmed.

MAGAZINE THEN EXPLODED

Fact That Destructive Agent Must Have Required Services of Several Men in Placing Is Puzzle to Experts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The United States battleship Maine, sunk in Havana Harbor in February, 1898, as a result of an explosion, was blown up from the outside. This was announced today by the Naval Board that has been examining the wreck.

The statement was given out by the Navy Department in brief. Secretary Meyer does not believe it necessary to issue any extended explanation of the board's conclusions beyond the flat statement that an exterior explosion was responsible for the loss of the warship and the lives of many men.

Explosive Placed on Outside. The statement follows: 'The board found that the injuries to the bottom of the Maine were caused by the explosion of a charge of low form of explosives exterior to the ship, between frames 28 and 31, strake B, port side.

This resulted in igniting and exploding the contents of the six-inch reserve magazine, A-14-M, said contents including a large quantity of black powder.

Torpedo Theory Rejected. Secretary Meyer announced that there might be a further statement on the report of the board after it had been considered by the President.

One member of the board was of the opinion that the report never would be published in full. The declaration that a low form of explosive was used in the outside explosion indicates the belief that a mine, not a dirigible torpedo, was the instrument of destruction.

WEST'S PERSONAL OPINIONS WASTED

HILL SAYS EAST WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT OREGON.

Time 'Frittered Away' on Governors' Special Airing Views on Political Questions.

ST. CLOUD, Minn., Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Western Governors who are talking politics and not exploiting the natural resources of their country on the Governors' Special, were taken to task this afternoon by Louis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railroad, at the meeting of the Northern Minnesota Development League.

Hill created a sensation when he criticized some of the Governors who were now showing the East the West. He directed his criticism especially to Governor West of Oregon, who has been one of the principal spellbinders for the Governors' Special.

'Some of the Governors,' he said, 'are exploiting their states, but what is to be regretted, others are talking politics and especially the politics of their own states, with which the East is little concerned.

The Governor of Oregon is frittering away his time telling the East what he knows about woman suffrage and airing his personal views on other public questions.

Trucks Jump, Tear Track. North Bank Repair Gang Has Job of 15 Miles Distance.

BINGEN, Wash., Dec. 8.—(Special.)—What might have proved a serious accident occurred last night on the North Bank road, when a pair of trucks on one of the cars of a freight train jumped the track at Hood and was not discovered until the train reached Lyle, a distance of 15 miles.

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Commercial and Marine. Better undertone in local wheat and flour markets. Page 19.

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FINGER POINTS AT DYNAMITE CHIEFS

Eckhoff Expected to Complete Evidence.

MORE ARRESTS WILL FOLLOW

Testimony of Go-Between Is of Extreme Value.

M'NAMARA SECRETS TOLD

Raymond Burns Says Absence of Motive Adds Strength to Confession Not Imparted to That of McManigal.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Raymond Burns, manager of W. J. Burns' detective agency in Chicago, said today that Frank Eckhoff, of Cincinnati, who was expected to be the star witness in the McNamara case, would be extremely valuable to the Federal grand jury and that his testimony would reveal the 'higher ups' in the dynamiting conspiracy.

As a result of his arrest the apprehension of other men is expected soon, Eckhoff was the go-between who carried messages from the McNamaras and their employers when even the mail and telegraph were considered unsafe.

Eckhoff Used as Messenger. 'Frank Eckhoff,' he said, 'was a neighbor of the McNamaras in Cumminsville and was a boyhood playmate of Jim. Both Jim and John trusted him implicitly and after the Los Angeles explosion John McNamara wanted to communicate with Jim, who was then in San Francisco, but did not dare write a letter or send even a cipher telegram.

Well, when Eckhoff got to San Francisco Jim was so full of the explosion, so to speak, and so much wrought up over the killing of 21 persons, that he told Eckhoff all about it. Naturally Eckhoff was astonished and asked a lot of questions.

McManigal told us. 'We were shadowing every man Jim McNamara and Orrie McManigal met and were put on Eckhoff's trail at once. Our investigation showed how close he was to the McNamaras and we started in to get that confession. I cannot tell just how we got the confession from Eckhoff, but you may depend on it that nothing was left out. He corroborated every single detail of what McManigal said.

Now the value of Eckhoff's testimony before the grand jury will be great, for he can have no motive for shielding himself. McManigal's confession was complete, but his motive was obvious. I can say that more men will be arrested as the result of Eckhoff's testimony. The case will be cleaned up. Every guilty man and every man having guilty knowledge will be brought to justice.'

When questioned as to where Eckhoff was being held, Burns was silent. He would not tell whether it was in Cincinnati or some other city. He said that an operative was with Eckhoff every minute, even eating with him and sleeping in the same room with him.

WASHINGTON DIRECTS PROBE

Attorney-General's Office in Touch With Two Grand Juries.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Charles W. Miller, United States District Attorney at Indianapolis, today discussed the alleged extensive dynamiting conspiracy now being investigated by the Federal grand jury at Indianapolis, with Assistant Attorney-General Harr, Department officials declined to divulge the details of the conference.

The conference accentuates the fact that the office of the Attorney-General is directly conducting the Federal investigations at both Indianapolis and Los Angeles. Mr. Wickersham had assumed personal charge of the inquiry until he was taken ill a few days ago and since that time he has committed the entire case to Assistant Attorney-General Harr, who has been identified with the investigation since its inception.

DARROW'S COURSE APPROVED

San Francisco Labor Council Adopts McNamara Resolutions.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 8.—Reputation of all acts of violence committed in the name of organized labor, a demand for a full investigation of all rumors connecting labor leaders with the Los Angeles dynamite case and kindred cases, and the assertion that

