



RESULT OF TAFT'S VISIT IS CHEERING

All New York Leaders But One in Line.

SPEECH HAS HELPED CHANCES

New Jersey Organizes to Combat Roosevelt Movement.

BARNES IS FOR PRESIDENT

Ferry Heath, Home From Extended Journey, Says Success Will Be More Sure When False Ideas Are Dissipated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—(Special.)—President Taft returned to Washington today from his speaking tour to New York enthusiastic over his reception. His political advisers characterized the trip as the most successful from the standpoint of party politics yet made by the President into New York City, and they predict that effect of the President's speech would be beneficial to his personal interests throughout the country.

Most significant immediate result of the trip, as they saw it, was the organization of the Business Men's Taft Club in New Jersey, which will begin at once to combat the Roosevelt forces.

New York Leaders for Taft.

In New York all the big party leaders except National Committee Chairman Ward, are for the President, it is said, and friends of Mr. Taft are authority for the statement that Ward is the only leader hanging back from the Taft boom. They assert that William Barnes, Jr., chairman of the state committee, although not publicly committed to the President, is in reality favorable to his nomination.

An influential Senator who is supporting Roosevelt for the Republican nomination said that if Taft got the delegates from New York State, Colonel Roosevelt might not be heard from in the convention next June.

Some interesting information as to political and business conditions throughout the country was presented to President Taft by Perry Heath, ex-Assistant Postmaster-General, who has just returned to Washington from an investigating trip that took him into 20 states. Business, he told President Taft, was halting because of a feeling of uncertainty as to what Congress or the President might do. He added that he found much misunderstanding of the Administration and some misrepresentations of its attitude, but believed that if Republican leaders would make a campaign to dissipate these false ideas the chances of success would be increased.

RUSSIAN QUILTS IN HUFF

"Bah!" Says Smirnov as Liner Bears Him St. Petersburgward.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—(Special.)—Dimitri Smirnov, former Russian tenor of the Metropolitan, sailed for home on the liner Kronprinz Wilhelm today after breaking his \$1200-a-performance contract with the Metropolitan Opera Company.

He said he had been forced to break the contract because of annoyances and petty persecutions to which he was subjected by the Italian element in the management of the Metropolitan. Not only has he not been permitted to appear in his favorite roles, in "Faust" and "The Barber of Seville," but the management refused to produce "Boris Godunoff," the Russian opera in which he attained fame.

"It is the land of Italians," he said, looking back at the roofs of Manhattan. "It is the land of the square deal not at all. Farrar can tell you. So can Destinn, but the climax came when Mrs. Whitelaw Reid selected me to sing before the Duke of Connaught, instead of Caruso. Gadski sang there, too, and that increased bad feeling. For Gadski is not an Italian."

ANTARCTIC TO BE PROBED

Americans Would Ascertain Whether Crocker Land Really Exists.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—(Special.)—Under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History and the American Geographical Society and with the backing of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Admiral Robert E. Peary and many other prominent persons, George Borup and D. B. MacMillan will start in July on a polar expedition for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not Crocker land really exists.

Eminent geographers declare that this question is the greatest geographical issue yet remaining to be solved. The object of the tour is to reach and map Crocker Land, in the South Polar sea, northwest of Grant Land, and to make such scientific studies on the way and in other portions of the Antarctic as the attending circumstances will permit. The party is to leave Sydney, N. S. W., by special steamer about July 19.

WHAT'S INSIDE TOY DOLLS? 2 MEN CRY

THEY'RE GLAD WHEN THEY FIND BULLET OF LEAD.

Alaska Lawyer's Tiny Daughter Eats Plaything's "Innards." Father and Doctor in Panic.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13.—(Special.)—L. P. Shackelford, a dignified attorney of Juneau, Alaska, and Dr. J. L. Waller, the equally dignified house physician of the Palace Hotel, clamored frantically at the doors of a Sutter-street department store tonight for permission to go inside and see what some little mechanical dolls were stuffed with.

Their desire for such knowledge was the result of a similar desire on the part of the infant daughter of Attorney Shackelford, after her mother had bought for her one of the dolls in the afternoon. The baby's curiosity impelled her to investigate for the purpose of finding out what caused the manikin to stand always upright. Having found the cause, she swallowed it and promptly went into convulsions.

Then arose the eagerness of father and physician to learn what had been in the doll, knowing that it had gone into baby Margaret. A night watchman at the store was made to see the urgency of the case and opened the door. A frantic rush was made for the toy department, another of the little dolls ripped open and a round lead bullet revealed.

The seekers afterward returned to the little patient, their anxiety allayed. They feared the child had swallowed quicksilver and might suffer mercurial poisoning. It is not believed Margaret will suffer any serious effects from her experiment.

MORSE OFF FOR EUROPE

Bankwrecker and Wife Go Aboard Steamer Secretly.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—Charles W. Morse, the bank wrecker, whose 15 years' sentence in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta was commuted recently on account of illness, boarded the Hamburg-American liner steamer Kaiserin Augusta Victoria tonight to sail at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning for Europe.

He will take the bath treatment at Bad Nauheim, in Germany.

After spending less than a week in New York, Morse outwitted newspapermen for several hours tonight. He and his wife, son and physician left the Morse apartment in 21 East 42nd, taking four large trunks with them. It was said at the apartments that Mr. Morse had intimated that he was going to Atlantic City, but later it was learned that Mr. and Mrs. Morse were aboard the Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, at Hoboken, N. J., pier.

Dr. A. W. Fowler, who accompanied Mr. Morse from Atlanta, Ga., last week and who placed Mr. and Mrs. Morse aboard the steamer tonight, said that he did not plan to accompany the banker and his wife to Europe. Dr. Fowler said that Charles W. Morse, Jr., would not accompany his father.

FARMERS FIGHT FOR CARS

One Man's Skull Broken in Battle Over Grain Blockade.

REGINA, Sask., Feb. 13.—In a pitched battle among 190 Gallician-French and Doukhobor farmers at Blaine Lake, one Doukhobor suffered a broken skull and it is said he will die.

Stones, clubs, bottles and whips were used by the combatants in the fight, which was over the possession of grain cars.

Two hundred cars are needed at Blaine Lake to carry off the surplus grain and only a scattering few arrived there yesterday. As the first man reaching the car is entitled to have his grain carried away in it, there was a general rush of farmers when the cars pulled in.

MAN BLIND; DON'T KNOW IT

Youth Who Shot Out Both Eyes Believes He Will Recover Sight.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13.—(Special.)—J. Robert Atkinson, the Helena, Mont., young man who shot out both eyes about three weeks ago, when he attempted to commit suicide, has so far recovered at the County Hospital that he will be able to leave that institution this week.

Atkinson does not know that he has been blinded for life. He falls to remember the shooting. Mrs. Atkinson, the mother, will arrive in Los Angeles this week and take her son home.

Atkinson said today: "I'm going to leave here, and employ a specialist. My, but wouldn't it be awful to be blind all your life!"

WASTE IS LOST TO ROADS

Tar Worth Twelve Millions Not Saved by Coke Oven.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—As an evidence of waste in this country, Provost Hubbard, chemist of the United States Bureau of Good Roads, today pointed to the fact that more than 500,000,000 gallons of tar, which could be used in road building, is being lost yearly in the coke ovens of the country. Valued at 2.4 cents a gallon, this is a monetary loss of \$12,000,000.

Germany is far in advance of this country, he said, in the use of by-products of coke ovens, and exports to the United States alone tar products to the value of several million dollars a year.

MRS. SCHIFF NAMED IN EX-VALET CASE

Brandt May Be Tried as Burglar Again.

BREATH OF SCANDAL HEARD

New Yorker Courts Investigation of Circumstances.

JUDGE ROSALSKY SCORED

Supreme Court Justice Reserves Decision on Convict's Plea for Freedom, but Doubts Trial Court's Jurisdiction.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—After serving nearly five years in prison for burglary at the home of Mortimer L. Schiff, where he formerly was employed as a valet, Fouke E. Brandt may be tried again to determine if he is guilty of the crime to which he confessed and for which he is under sentence to serve 20 years in prison.

Judge Rosalsky of the court of general sessions, who sentenced Brandt, ordered today the withdrawal of Brandt's plea of guilty and the substitution of a plea of not guilty for a new trial. This action was taken two hours after Justice Ghrard of the Supreme Court bench had reserved decision on an application for Brandt's release on a writ of habeas corpus with the comment that he was "almost convinced" that the trial court had not had jurisdiction in sentencing Brandt on his plea, unsupported by evidence.

A feature of today's developments was the appearance of Judge Alton B. Parker in behalf of Mortimer L. Schiff, who, he declared, is anxious to have the case sifted to the bottom in order that "false and infamous scandals" might be proved untrue.

Governor Dix, who previously refused to interfere in Brandt's behalf, today appointed Justice Gerard as a commissioner to hear Brandt's application for clemency, which was regarded as a move to take the case out of Judge Rosalsky's hands.

Alton B. Parker Speaks.

According to Judge Parker, Mr. Schiff always has stood ready to "inject himself into an application for clemency based on grounds of contrition and reformation. Instead, Brandt attempted to gain sympathy by posing as a martyr under the infamous suggestion that Brandt's presence in my client's house was to keep an appointment with one dearer than life itself."

Judge Parker added that while his client had sought to prevent "exposure of charges so vile and outrageous, but that he now hopes for a trial that will enable the public to judge the prisoner's crime and vindicate his honor and that of his wife."

Judge Parker read a long letter from Mr. Schiff in which Mr. Schiff said: "The facts are simple. Brandt wrote (Concluded on Page 3.)"

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 58 degrees; minimum, 45 degrees. TODAY'S—Occasional rain; southerly winds. Foreign. French deputies vote to curb naval construction. Page 4. Chinese people pay little attention to change of Government. Page 5. Foreign Consuls in Durango, Mex., appeal for protection. Page 3. Asquith about to retire from Premiership. British believes. Page 12. National. James J. Hill tells steel committee era of competition will outlast present laws. Page 1. Sweeping changes made in Democratic chemical tariff bill. Page 2. Arizona to be made state today. Page 2. Domestic. Thirty hurt in Great Northern train wreck in South Dakota. Page 5. Dynamite arrests scheduled for today; defendants number 54. Page 5. Mrs. Schiff named in case of ex-valet of Brandt. Page 1. Politics. MacVeagh says Roosevelt cannot and will not run against Taft. Page 2. Taft's advisers much encouraged by result of New York visit. Page 1. Pacific Northwest. Tax commission finishes labors at Salem. Page 6. Sport. Irvington Club to build \$100,000 clubhouse. Page 7. Oaks infield is worry to new Manager Sharpe. Page 7. Mike Gibbons has better of ten-round go with Freddy Hicks. Page 7. Team owners to meet in Chicago today to discuss trades. Page 7. Referee declares Hollander-Berg fight draw, but crowd insists Astoria lad won. Page 7. Commercial and Marine. Portland grain receipts pass 10,000-car mark. Page 19. Wheat drops sharply at Chicago on large receipts and bearish cables. Page 19. Stock market traders turn to bull side. Page 18. Portland firms hope to obtain contracts to repair and overhaul steamers Beaver and Bear. Page 19. Portland and Vicinity. Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Poorman is made Colonel of Third Oregon regiment. Page 12. Four firemen burned in testing wall made of fireproofing material. Page 1. Oregon Irrigation Congress next week to attract delegates from all parts of state. Page 19. Library Association decides to retain new library site at Tenth and Yamhill. Page 14. Republican state central committee plans friendly suit to test National convention law. Page 4. United States Senator C. E. Townsend, of Michigan, and Representative David J. Foster, of Vermont, to stump Oregon for Taft. Page 14. Elks name 17 committees to plan for decoration of city for convention. Page 18. Water Board turns down Robert Wakefield & Company's \$414,000 reservoir claim. Page 19. Defunct Orchard Company secretary and director in trust firm arrested here. Page 1. Vancouver couple celebrates golden wedding anniversary. Page 6. Four Columbia River Orchard Company promoters arrested on Federal warrants. Page 1. Government may send farm expert, inventor and educator to instruct Oregon farmers. Page 13.

GRAND JURY PROBES CLASH

Evidence Favors Railway Employees Rather Than Strikers.

ROSEBURG, Or., Feb. 13.—(Special.)—With over 20 witnesses thus far examined, District Attorney Brown said tonight that he expected to conclude the examination of witnesses before the grand jury in the several cases resulting from Sunday night's clash between Southern Pacific employees and striking shompen late tomorrow.

Most of the 20 witnesses examined today were distinguished parties who claimed to be in the vicinity of the trouble at the time it occurred. In a majority of instances, it is said, these witnesses gave evidence favorable to the accused railway employees. Intense interest is manifest in the outcome of the investigation, and the evidence adduced is said to be somewhat conflicting.

HILL SEES NO END OF COMPETITION

Railway Man Says Fittest Will Survive.

HUMAN NATURE NOT CHANGED

Cancellation of Ore Lease Causing No Mourning.

LIFE WORK NEARLY DONE

Witness Says He Will Be Angel With Red and White Feathers in His Wings Before He Goes Into Steel Business.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—James J. Hill told the Stanley investigating committee today that he would be a "first-class angel with red and white wings" before he would go in the steel business, and predicted that competition would be the rule long after the present laws were wiped off the statute books.

Mr. Hill's last day of testimony was replete with the sage expressions for which he is noted.

He said that the stockholders of the Great Northern Railroad were not "wearing any crepe" because the United States Steel Corporation in its fight had cancelled the Great Northern ore lease.

Day of Hard Work Over.

"You will be in a comfortable position, no matter whether the lease is cancelled or not, won't you?" Chairman Stanley suggested. "You could start a steel company of your own with 400,000,000 tons of ore in the ground."

"I will be a first-class angel with red and white feathers in my wings long before I ever consider going into the steel business," Mr. Hill replied. "I'll be 74 years old my next birthday and I don't mind telling you that I've done about all the hard work I intend to do in this life."

Just before the railroad builder was excused, Representative Beall, of Texas, called his attention to the assertion of E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of the Steel Corporation, and other business men, to the effect that the day of competition was passed, and that the time was at hand when the Government must regulate maximum and minimum prices of commodities.

Human Nature Not Changed.

"I think you will have to tame human nature and eliminate all selfish motives that rule human beings and every other form of life, before you will eliminate competition," Mr. Hill remarked. "There will be competition just as long as the doctrine of the survival of the fittest lasts, and that will be operating long after all our present statutes have been wiped off the books."

"Do you think, then, it would be unwise for the Federal Government to assume control of business?" Mr. Beall asked.

"I think when the Federal Government (Concluded on Page 2.)"

4 FIREMEN BURNED IN TESTING WALL

FLAMES CATCH THEM WHEN DOOR IS OPENED.

"Paddy" Byrd, Hoseman, May Lose Eye—All Victims Belong to Engine Company No. 13.

Four firemen were severely burned, one of whom may lose an eye, as the result of an explosion in a fire wall test yesterday afternoon. Two were so severely injured by the backdraft of flames that they were taken to St. Vincent's Hospital. The others being taken care of at the house of Engine Company 13, of which they are members.

The injured are: C. F. Neale, captain of Engine Company 13; Otto Wesel, lieutenant of the company;

J. T. Dolphy, hoseman. M. ("Paddy") Byrd, hoseman. Dolphy and Byrd were rushed to the hospital immediately after the accident. One of Byrd's eyes is so severely injured that it is thought he will lose it. Dolphy is badly burned about the face and head, and their hands are injured. Dr. John W. Sifton attended the injured.

Members of the company were engaged in testing a system of firewalls at Alhna avenue and River street, when the backdraft from burning material inside the testing building blew through the door at which they were standing playing a hose upon the flames. All were knocked backward and the flames seized upon their hair and clothes.

A building, of fireproofing material had been built on the vacant lot at the corner to test the quality of the material. A fire to reach the highest heat had been built in it, in accordance with the requirements of the fire-wall ordinance and was allowed to burn two hours to test the quality of the fire wall material.

When the two-hour test was completed, the place was opened, and a stream of water, of 30 pounds pressure, was turned upon the flames.

When the steam, arising from the inside of the almost airtight building, acquired strength, it burst out in an explosion which blew flames and hot water over the four firefighters about the door.

\$1675 LOOT IS RECOVERED

Purse and Keys Found in Room Three Blocks From Theft Scene.

Stolen on the 7th of the month and recovered on the 13th, with 13 cents still left in a leather purse which was taken with them, bonds, receipts and notes valued at \$1675 were recovered by Detectives Litherland and Van Overn last night in a hotel at Sixth and Taylor streets. The money, \$31, taken with the papers, was gone, but the keys by which the thief had entered the room of Mrs. M. M. Root, landlady of the Rowland Hotel, at Fourth and Salmon streets, and unlocked the bureau drawer in which she kept the valuables, were laid beside the papers.

The papers, money and stamps were taken from the room of Mrs. Root February 7, while she was absent. The thief had keys both to her room and the bureau, entering while she was absent for five minutes. The spool included a note for \$200, 1908 receipts, \$31 in cash and \$2 in stamps. The stamps and money had disappeared.

Warrants Out for DeLarm.

Unseized warrants have been issued for the arrest of W. E. DeLarm, president, and G. C. Hodges, another officer of the orchard company, and Frank Richard, president and treasurer of the development company. DeLarm is supposed to be in Canada and Hodges is suspected by Mr. McCourt to have crossed the boundary about three weeks ago. Richard is supposed to be in Washington, D. C., or some other Eastern city.

The arrests yesterday were but the beginning of a general "housecleaning" of real estate and general promotion companies promised by Mr. McCourt, who is being loyally assisted in his investigations by Postal Inspectors Clement and Durand. The possibilities of the crusade started by the Federal prosecutor can only be surmised. Its extent depends entirely on how much the mails have been used in exploiting the crooked money-getting concerns.

"So many complaints have reached my office of the operations of crooked real estate and promotion companies that I have resolved to make a thorough investigation," said Mr. McCourt yesterday. "I shall continue the work already started and wherever I find that the postal laws have been violated in the promotion of these 'get-rich-quick' schemes it may be depended upon that vigorous prosecution of the offenders will follow. I am determined that the good name of the state shall not be further besmirched by the questionable operations of these unscrupulous money-getting concerns."

COUNTY 'WET'; BANK FAILS

Sudden Withdrawal of Funds to Buy Licenses Too Heavy Strain.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 13.—Liquor is held responsible for the closing of the bank at Elk City, Idaho County, on February 8. The sudden withdrawal of funds to purchase saloon licenses following an election in which the county went "wet" crippled the bank, it is said.

State Bank Examiner Platt ordered the suspension of the Kendrick State Bank at Kendrick, Idaho, last week. It was carrying personal notes of the officers and directors to the amount of \$25,000. Both institutions may be able to resume business, it is said, when the examiner finishes his investigation.

WIRE SAVES MAN'S LIFE

Bridgeworker's Fall Stopped by Cable.

Death seemed the assured portion of Karl H. Boeckel yesterday morning when he started to fall from the new Oregon-Washington railroad bridge with a sheer drop of 130 feet beneath him. Whirling end over end through space, Boeckel dropped 25 feet, when he was stopped by a steel cable to which he managed to cling. Finding himself almost unhurt he crawled to a safe place and asked for his hat.

Boeckel is a steelworker on the bridge and he resumed his work soon after his fall but later he felt badly and quit for the day.

BANKER MAKES GRAINBAGS

Wetly, in Walla Walla Prison, Will Learn Use of Hands.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Feb. 13.—A. J. Wetly, the Bellingham ex-banker, was put to work in the jute mill at the prison today.

For a few days he will learn the use of the machines and later may be assigned to one. All the men possible are being worked in the mill now.

FOUR IN ORCHARD FAILURE SEIZED

Government Arrests Biehl and Others.

BAD USE OF MAIL CHARGED

Federal Warrants Also Issued for Three More.

BIG CRUSADE PROMISED

United States District Attorney McCourt Says Action Is Only Beginning of "Housecleaning." \$3,000,000 Stool Alleged.

Eradication of snide real estate companies and unscrupulous promotion schemes and the appropriate punishment of the guilty are the purposes of a crusade inaugurated by United States District Attorney McCourt and which resulted yesterday in the arrest of two officers each of the Columbia River Orchard Company and the Oregon Inland Development Company. Arrests were made on warrants issued by the United States Commissioner, alleging the fraudulent use of the United States mails.

A. J. Biehl and H. H. Humphrey, of the Columbia River Orchard Company; J. T. Conway and H. H. Riddell, president and general manager and secretary respectively of the Oregon Inland Development Company were placed under arrest yesterday by United States Marshall Scott and released under bonds.

Biehl and Humphrey will appear before United States Commissioner Cannon at 2 o'clock this afternoon for a preliminary hearing. A definite time has not been fixed for the appearance of Conway and Riddell. In the opinion of the Federal authorities there is little doubt but that the accused will be held to report to the Federal grand jury, which is now in session.

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Crooked Money Alleged.

Mr. McCourt said yesterday that his investigation of the records of the Columbia River Orchard Company had satisfied himself of the crooked work of the corporation, which manifestly had succeeded in floating bonds to the amount of about \$2,000,000 and had assets to the amount of not exceeding \$350,000.

The operations of the orchard company, according to Mr. McCourt, were conducted through a three-cornered organization. In each spoke of the money-getting combination the officers of one alleged corporation also had an official relation to one or both of the others, so that all the bondbuyer had to do was to "dig" and his contribution went to the group that really managed the three companies.

According to the records seized by the Federal District Attorney's office, the Washington Orchard Irrigation & Fruit Company was first of three companies to assume corporate shape. It was organized under the laws of South Dakota, with its principal office at Seattle. Then followed the organization of the Columbia River Orchard Company, with offices also at Seattle. When these two companies had been formed, the third spoke in the wheel was furnished through the formation of the Oregon & Washington Trust Company, which was organized under the laws of Oregon with headquarters at Portland.

Biehl Had High Office.

Biehl is secretary of the Columbia River Orchard Company and was formerly secretary of the Washington Orchard Irrigation & Fruit Company. (Concluded on Page 13.)

