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PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 1907.

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CONFERENCE ON RAILROAD LAWS

Governor Johnson's Plan for Harmony.

BETWEEN NATION AND STATES

Will Ask Roosevelt to Summon State Officials.

BRING ORDER FROM CHAOS

Minnesota Executive Suggests Governors, Attorney-Generals and Railroad Commissioners Meet President and Board.

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 16.—(Special.)—A national conference of state governors, railroad commissioners and attorney-generals to discuss the question of railroad control with President Roosevelt and the Interstate Commerce Commission is the suggestion made by Governor John A. Johnson, of Minnesota.

Mr. Johnson agrees with the President that great harm and confusion are likely to come from state and Federal control of railroad rates exerted at the same time and over the same territory.

"I agree with the President," said he, "that a thorough and efficient supervision of railroad charges by the National Government would be the ideal system, entirely replacing state regulation.

"I think the railroad men should have a hearing. The most progressive of them want Government control, they want it effective and their views on the subject would be valuable.

CONFERENCE ON ALTON DEAL

President and Deneen Consult—Mellen Going to White House.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Questions affecting the railroad situation occupied most of the attention of President Roosevelt today.

From statements, however, which have come from authoritative quarters preceding the visit, the inference is drawn that there was some reference to the Chicago & Alton deal, which figured prominently in the recent Harriman investigation by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

morning that the President intended to issue a statement defining his attitude on the relations of the Government to the railroads.

One of the President's callers was James Speyer, of New York, head of Speyer & Co. To many his call looked significant, as it followed that of Wednesday closely.

Mr. Deneen and Mr. Stead were with that President for fully an hour. The Governor said he was at the White House at the President's request to discuss "certain questions," the nature of which he declined to disclose.

Mr. Deneen gave the newspaper men to understand that he expected the President to make a statement about the interview, but none was given out at the White House.

Mr. Mellen is well known to the President and has been coming to Washington to make a social call on Mr. Roosevelt. It was said at the White House that nothing had been heard from Mr. Mellen as to a proposed second call on the President.

HEAR SPOKANE CASE MONDAY

Interstate Board Has Hard Problem on Overland Rates.

CHICAGO, March 16.—The complaint of the City of Spokane, of discrimination in freight rates from the Eastern cities, as compared with rates to the Pacific Coast cities, will be heard by the Interstate Commerce Commission on Monday in the United States Court in this city.

A plea is made for the same rates from Chicago to Spokane as apply to Pacific Coast terminals, because Spokane is 400 miles nearer New York than the Coast terminals. The Coast jobber can buy in New York or Chicago at the same freight rate, but Spokane must pay a freight rate of 100 cents more than Chicago.

If one class tariff is abolished and the Interstate Commerce Commission is extended to the entire West, Spokane's complaint will not have any basis as to class rates.

UPHOLDS THE TWO-CENT FARE

Nebraskan Attorney-General Heads Off Interstate Loophole.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 16.—Any charge by a railroad company in excess of 2 cents a mile for passenger fare between points in Nebraska, no matter whether the intermediate line may be wholly within the state or not, is unlawful, according to an opinion today by Attorney-General Thompson.

"I am of the opinion that anyone who offers to pay 2 cents a mile between points in Nebraska and is refused transportation at that rate will have a valid cause of action against the railroad company refusing, regardless of whether its lines are entirely within the state or not.

THAW WILL NEVER ENJOY FREEDOM

Every Road Leads to the Insane Asylum.

FAMILY BELIEVES HIM CRAZY

Will Cause Confinement If Jury Acquits Him.

HE HAS NO WAY OF ESCAPE

Mother Would Have Avoided Trial by Sending Him Even to Matteawan, but Threats of Suicide Prevailed.

NEW YORK, March 16.—(Special.)—Whatever the jury may say as to the guilt or innocence of Harry K. Thaw, there is the best of authority for the statement that the murderer of Stanford White will never again walk forth under the blue heaven a free man.

If the jury disagrees, Thaw will go back to his cell in the Tombs to await another trial; if it finds him guilty in any degree of murder or manslaughter, there will be the inevitable appeal, the confirmation of the verdict or a new trial; and finally, in case any verdict of guilty stands, an application for a commission in lunacy by Thaw's counsel and his inevitable commitment to Matteawan Asylum for the Criminal Insane.

Even with this knowledge, they were any other asylum than Matteawan, rather than to have him brought to trial. Thaw, however, was able to block this course. By his influence with his mother and by the pleadings of his wife, he managed to have his demand for a public trial acceded to; his mother yielded to him, because she was brought to believe that he would kill himself if she did not yield.

WILL READ AFFIDAVIT TO JURY

Jerome Nears End of Evidence, but Defense Has Much More.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Delphin M. Delmas conferred with his associates in the defense of Harry K. Thaw today, mapping plans for the sur-rebuttal work at the trial, which resumed Monday and will be entering its ninth week.

When court convenes Monday, Mr. Jerome will present the last bit of evidence he has for the prosecution. He will renew his request of Friday afternoon that Justice Fitzgerald admit the photographic and carbon copy of the affidavit Evelyn Nesbit is said to have made in Abraham Hummel's office. This affidavit Mr. Je-

rome contends is competent in order to contradict the statement that Mrs. Thaw was drugged and betrayed by Stanford White.

Justice Fitzgerald, having permitted Hummel and his clerk to testify as to the making of the affidavit, evidently intends to allow Mr. Jerome to put the papers in evidence and read whatever of the contents he desires to go to the jury.

Mr. Delmas said yesterday that the defense would offer no objection to this. He referred to the "questionable shape in which this evidence comes," and apparently will content himself with the attack he made upon the credibility of Hummel as a witness.

Harry Thaw's confidence, instead of diminishing with the closing hours of the case, seems to increase. His mother, his wife and the Countess of Yarmouth, his sister, called upon him in the Tombs.

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LEAP INTO WATER TO ESCAPE FIRE

Eighteen People Drown at Wheeling, W. Va.

GREAT FLOOD HAS SUBSIDED

Pittsburg Resuming Work, After \$10,000,000 Loss.

20, MAYBE MORE, ARE DEAD

Wheeling Loss \$3,000,000—Columbus, Marietta and Other Ohio Towns Suffer—Crest Yet to Come at Cincinnati.

MUCH SUFFERING AT WHEELING.

WHEELING, W. Va., March 16.—The waters are receding tonight, leaving Wheeling covered with wreckage. It is estimated that the damage will be \$3,000,000. There is a great deal of suffering.

WHEELING, W. Va., March 16.—Eighteen persons are known to have lost their lives because of an early morning fire today at the Warwick Pottery Company's plant. Following is a partial list of the drowned: MIKE BRITTONS, aged 30, storekeeper. ROSA HUTHIES, aged 22. ELLIS MITCHELL, aged 18 months. ALLEN BERTAS, aged 2 years. FRANK HOLMES, watchman at the pottery.

SIMON ELIAS, merchant. JULIUS MOSS, aged 70 years. W. MOSS, aged 34 years. CHARLES MATHEWS, watchman for the Wheeling Stamp Company.

Because of the water surrounding the burned district it was impossible for the fire apparatus to reach the scene. The firemen pressed into service all the boats that could be secured and carried lines of hose to the burning building by this means. They fought the fire and assisted in rescuing many persons. The crew of a boat moored across the river manned a yawl and rescued about 100 persons.

The men were offered all kinds of rewards and big sums of money for the work they had done, but they refused to accept a cent. Most of the imperiled persons were Syrians and at times, when the big yawl was filled to overflowing, it was with difficulty that the river men prevented the frantic foreigners from upsetting the craft. Had the drowned persons remained in their homes none of them would have met death. The buildings occupied by the victims were not touched by the flames, but the explosion that started the fire killed the people.

WILD RIVERS BACK IN BANKS

Western Pennsylvania's Loss \$15,000,000, With Over 20 Dead.

PITTSBURG, Pa., March 16.—After three days of business stagnation, caused by a rise in the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, which inundated over ten square miles of this city, conditions have about assumed their normal trend, and by Monday a complete resumption will be possible. The water is receding even more quickly than it rose. Excepting on the lowlands below the city, the river has subsided to its natural course. For tomorrow a stage of a little over 10 feet is calculated.

Tonight the task of cleaning the streets in the downtown district was completed, and workmen are clearing the interiors of buildings. Several mills and manufacturing establishments began operations today, and an endeavor will be made to make up time lost. Within two or three days it is thought all the mills will have resumed.

The loss in the Pittsburg district is estimated at \$10,000,000. Reports from up-river points increase the damage in Western Pennsylvania to at least \$15,000,000. The exact number of fatalities caused

by the high water has not yet been ascertained. A score of persons are known to have met death, and additional reports of many deaths were received by the Coroner today. However, these reports have not been verified.

The work of relief in Pittsburgh, Allegheny and McKeesport is in excellent shape. The Council of McKeesport appropriated \$500 for the flood victims of that city, and the amount was greatly increased by private subscription. In Pittsburgh and Allegheny the charities departments are caring for the sufferers. The health authorities are taking every precaution to prevent an epidemic.

The department of building inspection is making a thorough investigation of the submerged buildings, as it is believed that many old structures were weakened. Today a two-story dwelling in Allegheny collapsed. No one was injured. Electric light plants were repaired today, and, after two nights of darkness, street-lamps were lighted tonight. The streetcar service is almost in full operation again, with the assurance that a complete resumption will be possible by Monday.

In more than 100 churches, in the towns surrounding Pittsburgh, no services will be held tomorrow. The trouble in a majority of the churches results from the damage done to the submerged buildings, as it is believed that many old structures were weakened. Today a two-story dwelling in Allegheny collapsed. No one was injured. Electric light plants were repaired today, and, after two nights of darkness, street-lamps were lighted tonight. The streetcar service is almost in full operation again, with the assurance that a complete resumption will be possible by Monday.

CINCINNATI WAITS THE CREST

Ohio Will Come Within Two Feet of January Mark.

CINCINNATI, O., March 16.—With the Ohio River rising here at the rate of about one-tenth of a foot an hour and the crest of the flood not yet passed, it is practically certain that 65 feet will be reached if not exceeded. Weather officials expressed a doubt today the river would rise to the January mark of 82.2 feet, which was predicted yesterday. The river will continue to rise tonight and tomorrow and by Monday a turn will come.

The water has crippled a few street-cars, which were out of service for parts of this city, but no extensive damage has been reported. Up the river the situation is more serious. This is especially true at Marietta and Portsmouth, where the crest of the flood is passing.

At Marietta two-thirds of the city is flooded and there is considerable suffering as a result. All of the groceries and markets have been flooded. Families who have been driven from their homes.

At Portsmouth two levees broke, letting the water encroach the territory not already flooded. The other levees have been weakened and may also give. The breaking of these levees has compelled hundreds of persons to vacate their homes and paralyzed manufacturing concerns.

FINDS 2500 PEOPLE DESTITUTE

Adjutant-General Makes Relief Tour of Mining Regions.

COLUMBUS, O., March 16.—Adjutant-General Critchfield returned tonight from Gloucester, O., where he went at the request of Governor Harris to investigate the flood situation. The Adjutant-General reported that he found about 2500 flood sufferers in Gloucester and other mining towns in the vicinity in urgent need of relief. He purchased supplies to the amount of \$1000 at Gloucester and turned them over to the local relief committee for distribution.

Many of the miners lost everything, the flood coming upon them so quickly that they were fortunate to escape with their lives.

Whole Family Swept to Death.

MARIETTA, O., March 16.—William McCracken, his wife and two children, were drowned today. They were forced to the second floor of their home by the flood, and the swift current upset the house, the entire family being lost. The Marietta Chair Company, employing over 600 men, has been swamped and other manufacturing plants are heavy losers. Not a factory is running. The St. Cloud Hotel put its patrons aboard a steamer. Two-thirds of the city is under water.

WEIRD STORIES OF OCEAN

Rescue of Castaways From Wrecks in Australian Waters.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 16.—The steamer Aorangi, from Australia, brought news of several marine disasters in Australian waters. The government steamer Captain Cook returned to Sydney shortly before the Aorangi sailed with the crews of the British bark Annasona and Maelgwyn, both abandoned as total wrecks. The Annasona, from Callao, for Newcastle in ballast, went ashore on Middleton Reef and all hands took to the boats. The Maelgwyn, from Flaco, Peru, in ballast for Sydney, was thrown on her beam ends and, when she was 30 miles from Lord Howe Island, the crew took to the boats.

A thrilling story was told by the crew of the schooner Catherine, wrecked at the Crozets. A boat's crew, consisting of Captain Reed and two men, went 1000 miles in an open boat toward the Australian coast before the bark DeRuyter was met. The three were almost dead from exposure. Eleven men left for two months on the Crozets were rescued by a steamer sent from Capdetruy seven days' steaming distant from the islands. They were in a pitiable condition when rescued.

PRESIDENT SETS OFF TAFT CANNON

Big Man's Boom for 1908 Launched.

AT CONFERENCE WITH ILLINOIS

Deneen and Stead Not Called to Talk Railroads.

TAFT BROTHERS ARE THERE

Burton and Garfield Will Have Task of Swinging Ohio—Persistent Third-Term Talk Pre-empted Action.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(Special.)—It was supposed Governor Deneen and Attorney-General Stead, of Illinois, had been called to Washington to confer with the President in regard to railroad conditions with a view to harmonizing state and National action, but the conference today was entirely political in its nature. Its object was to pave the way for a solid Illinois delegation for William H. Taft for President.

This startling statement was made by Governor Deneen himself to several intimates after the conference. The outcome of the conference was not made plain to any of Mr. Deneen's friends. It is gathered that he has taken the matter under consideration and will make up his mind in due time whether to join forces with Secretary Taft's friends in the effort to capture the Illinois delegation for the Ohioan.

Secretary Taft and his brother, Charles H. Taft, were present during the conference, which lasted an hour. After a brief talk on the railroad situation, which was general in its nature, the President broached the political subject and the rest of the conference dealt with Presidential possibilities exclusively.

The force of the President's personality, it is admitted, will be immense. Everybody in Washington knows that Taft is Roosevelt's choice for President, but nothing of a really tangible nature has ever come before from the President to indicate that he was actively at work.

Roosevelt is in close touch with Representative Burton of Ohio, who, with James R. Garfield, will have the lion's share of work of wresting Ohio from Foraker and turning it over to Taft at the proper time. Burton, who has just been made chairman of the Waterways Commission, is ardently in favor of Taft for President. He and Taft will go to Panama together at the end of this month and during their long trip will talk over the political situation thoroughly.

One reason why the President is supposed to be getting busy in behalf of Taft is that Legislatures in many states have informally declared in favor of Roosevelt himself. The third-term movement is stronger today than ever in spite of Roosevelt's repeated statements that he would not be a candidate.

BIG DYNAMITE EXPLOSION

Windows Broken for Many Squares in Cincinnati Residence Section.

CINCINNATI, O., March 17.—(2:15 A. M.)—About 250 pounds of dynamite on the site of the new City Hospital has exploded. The hospital site is located in the residence district of Avondale and windows are broken for many squares. It is not known that there were any fatalities.

SHOOTS DISOBEDIENT SONS

Angry Father Is Then Shot Dead by Third Boy.

RENO, Nev., March 16.—Angry at his two sons, Milton and Fred, because they built a fence when he had told them not to do so, B. G. Crow, a farmer at Empire, Nev., today secured a rifle and shot both sons, injuring them seriously. His older son, George, was standing near and, grabbing another rifle, shot the father through the head, killing him instantly.

WHAT THE BUSY LITTLE MAYORALTY BEE IS SAYING TO SOME PROMINENT CITIZENS*



To Dan McAllen—"You're the father of the Fair, the fosterfather of all the babies in the world and the friend of man. So they can't beat you." To Tom Devlin—"You know about everything in city affairs and everybody knows all about you, so why shouldn't you run?" To John B. Coffey—"The people have in you a valiant champion, nobody owns you and nobody can ride you. It's your opportunity." To John Manning—"They say you wouldn't be Mayor if you could, but don't believe them. Sure you could, if you would." To Charles E. McDonnell—"You have shown many a time that you're fit for battle and there's many a good fight in you yet. And many to help you. So, why not?" To Harry Lane—"You've had two years of the strenuous life, but the simple life wouldn't agree with you. However, sufficient unto the day is the trouble thereof. If at first you do succeed, try, try again."

*These sentiments are the bee's.