

NATION'S GREAT TARGET OF JESTS

Gridiron Club Grills Statesman.

ROOSEVELT'S HUNT DEPICTED

Words at Dollar Each With Auditor to Count.

Taft's Woe With Cabinet

Rockefeller's \$29,000,000 Fine Subject of Skit—Rollcall of Men Who Fell in the Electoral Battle of 1908.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—With the great men of the world as targets for jests and many of the foremost in official and business circles of America, as guests, the Gridiron Club tonight held its annual feast of hilarity, its Fall dinner, at the New Willard. Hurling jokes and good-natured jests were the rule and the fact that an outgoing President and an incoming one were present, furnished unusual material for the funmakers.

Roosevelt Hunts and Writes.

President Roosevelt, enjoying his hunting trip and grinding out sensational accounts of his progress, was depicted, and the way he piled up the words while the auditor kept score of the dollars they meant, was enjoyed by the executive himself.

The woes of President-elect Taft in selecting a Cabinet were the object of sincere sympathy from the club members, they even producing a nice little set of verses suggesting how those ambitious to sit about the cabinet table can win the honor.

The late lamented Bill Fine and John D. Rockefeller were not forgotten; in fact, the nurse worked out a few lines of rhyme about the missing millions.

How to run an empire was explained in interviews with those who know, or ought to know, on what to know. Those rulers' views were dished up gridiron style and they told their needs in detail that would put a "want ad" to shame.

A steam roller in miniature served as a souvenir. It was made of bronze with T-A-F-T on the obverse and the Gridiron emblem on the reverse side.

None enjoyed the fun more than those who were the subjects of caricature and jest, the President, his successor and all the others having hearty laughs at their own expense.

The Annapolis Club, the big stick, walking tests, tennis court, golf course, the "frazzle" and other timely topics were brought in where needed most.

Song on Taft's Cabinet.

Early in the dinner the quartet sang its Taft song. Here is the first verse and the chorus, to the tune of "Tip, My Caddy, I Say":

One night last November, as we well remember, Republicans sat up and laughed.

Which campaign perfected, they all had elected.

A big brainy fellow named Taft, and now we are busy, asking who is he?

Tip, My Caddy, I say, I say!

Who will be in the Cabinet?

Taft can tell, but he will not—just yet.

Tip, My Caddy, I say, I say!

Were all of us golfers today?

If we want to belong, we must sing him this song.

Tip, My Caddy! Hear!

There was a "stunt" by the members of the music committee, who, attired in

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WEDDING PROVES PLOT TO GET COIN

WIDOW WEDS RICH MAN, THEN SUES FOR ALIMONY.

Aged Husband Dying as Suit Is Filed—Demand for \$5000 Settled for \$200.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—In order that she might, after a few years of married life, sue her husband for divorce and secure \$5000 alimony, Mrs. Nancy Moses, a pretty young widow, was wedded to Asa Long, a wealthy octogenarian of Ferndale, in this county. Her relatives brought the marriage about, and the success of the plan was only prevented by Long's death, as the summons in the divorce suit were filed on him when he was suffering his last illness.

This is the statement made today by A. P. Long, son of the deceased, who has just settled out of court for \$200 a suit for a \$5000 share in the Long estate, filed by the widow after the death of her aged husband. The will contest case has been dismissed on motion of the plaintiff.

A. P. Long, one of the defendants in the case, states that Mrs. Long, the widow, wished to get the same amount out of the \$40,000 estate that she would have secured had the divorce been granted her, and the alimony she asked awarded. He says she came down first to \$1200, then to \$500 and finally to \$200, the sum for which the suit was finally compromised. Long claims to have proof of the conspiracy on the part of his stepmother and her relatives.

ASHORE, CREW ON BOARD

Freight Steamer Strands in Fog and Storm Prevents Relief.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—With her crew of 32 still aboard, the increasing rough sea, the little German freight steamer Harburg remained hard and fast tonight in the sand near the Bellport life-saving station on Long Island, where she went ashore during a dense fog early today.

Some of her cargo has been thrown overboard to make it easier for the tugs to float her, but on account of the rough weather it was thought no attempt would be made to get her off until tomorrow.

Captain Surh has declined the assistance of the life-saving crew in the belief that his men are in no danger.

BURTON TO OPEN CAMPAIGN

Going to Ohio to Fight for Foraker's Toga.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Representative Theodore A. Burton intends to go to Ohio early next week to take personal charge of his campaign to succeed Senator Foraker. He conferred with President-elect Taft this afternoon, but would not discuss the conference.

Rescued in Nick of Time.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 12.—After 24 hours' battle with ice, 16 miles out in Lake Erie, Captain Tom Hagony, his wife and two men abandoned the barge Charles Wall, and were rescued late yesterday by the tug Sheboygan, Captain Nathan Sullivan in charge.

Because of the danger from heavy ice, the barge Charles Wall was abandoned by the tug Nelson, which proceeded to Detroit and telegraphed Toledo for larger tugs to go to the rescue. When the Sheboygan reached the barge, after many hours' struggle with the ice, the bow of the barge was nearly cut through by the ice, and those on board had given up hope of reaching land alive.

Officers of Gridiron Club.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—At the annual election of officers of the Gridiron Club here today, Henry Hall, of the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph, was chosen president; Scott Bone, of the Washington Herald, vice-president; John S. Shriver, of the Baltimore American-Star, secretary; and Louis Gartin, of the Baltimore American, treasurer.

Getting Ready for Hunt.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 12.—Ammunition to be used by President Roosevelt on his African trip has been prepared here and forwarded to Washington, together with the weapons which the President will use and which were sent here to be examined by experts. The ball cartridges are of varying weights; the largest being deemed of the right caliber to bring down a pachyderm.

ASKS INQUIRY INTO AFFAIRS OF CANAL

Roosevelt Takes Scoring Much to Heart.

MAKES REQUEST OF CANNON

Informed of Action on Secret Service Law.

MAY BE OPEN HOSTILITIES

House Committee Will Report on "Insult" Contained in Message This Week—Rainey Moves for Canal Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—President Roosevelt has thus far maintained a discreet silence as to what action he will take if Congress shall remove from its records that part of his recent message relating to the Secret Service, which has been held by the congressional leaders to reflect upon the dignity of that body. It is the intention of the House committee appointed to determine what the House shall do in the matter to continue its sessions with sufficient frequency to bring its report before Congress next week. The members of that committee will not in the meantime visit the White House unless summoned by the President.

Wants Canal Investigated.

Before the House took action yesterday Speaker Cannon visited the White House, on whose initiative has not been made clear. It is reported that he informed the President of the contemplated action of the House and was in turn asked by the President to bring about an early investigation of the sale of the Panama Canal to the United States. The President has taken the Panama allegations in the press of the country much to heart and is disposed to force that issue to a conclusion.

At present the House committee on rules has in its hands a resolution offered by Representative H. T. Rainey, of Illinois, calling for such an investigation, but has shown no disposition to act upon it. Next week the Rainey resolution becomes privileged and speeches can be made upon it.

May Investigate Anyhow.

Mr. Rainey has asked to see the Panama documents in the archives of the Government and will pass the holidays in considering them. It is not believed he will be ready to discuss his resolution before January. Unless the President insists upon an investigation at once, the House leaders are disposed to let Mr. Rainey make out his prima facie case before deciding whether there is really anything to be investigated.

Hostilities Are Possible.

Both the action of the House on the message and the Panama investigation present acute situations as between the executive and Congress, which may at any time precipitate hostilities of an unfortunate character. On the other hand, the personnel of the House committee on the message is believed to assure at least a highly dignified procedure, whatever the House may undertake to do.

Cruiser Montana in Drydock.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 12.—The United States armored cruiser Montana was today placed in the stone drydock at the Norfolk Navy Yard, for attention below her waterline, including cleaning and repainting and adjustment of her sea valves. While in the dock a new set of propellers, with a slightly different pitch, will be put on the cruiser.

Will Sign Treaty With France.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The exchange of signatures to the new Franco-American treaty of extradition will take place in Paris in a few days. This treaty is substantially identical with the one negotiated in 1892, the modifications of which by the American Senate, however, France then declined to accept. The existing differences now have been compromised.

ADE HEART WHOLE AND FANCY FREE

INDIANA HUMORIST DENIES ENGAGEMENT TO ELSIE JANIS.

Calls Rumor "A Joke, a Chestnut," and Leaves Chicago on Trip Around World.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—George Ade left Chicago this afternoon for a trip around the world, a bachelor and heart-free, and not as the fiancée of Miss Elsie Janis, despite a double-barreled rumor to the contrary. A farewell luncheon given by Miss Janis' mother to Mr. Ade and Ott Wells, who is to be his traveling partner in the globe-circling trip, was frowned upon by the graduate of Purdue as indicating no more than a friendly relationship between himself and Miss Janis.

"It's a joke, of course," he said, "but it's no joke with me. It's a chestnut. They have had me engaged to Miss Taggart, Tom Taggart's daughter, of Indianapolis, to a young woman down in Richmond, Ind., and to half a dozen others."

SMITH AWAITING LETTER

Believes President About Ready to Write New Missive.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Delavan Smith, proprietor and editor of the Indianapolis News, whose attitude on the Panama Canal charge was denounced by President Roosevelt in a recent letter, did not sail for Havana on the steamer Saratoga this afternoon, as he came to New York to do. He said he expected the President to issue shortly another letter in the controversy and he wanted to be on the ground when it comes out.

"I knew that last letter was coming several weeks before it was given out," said Mr. Smith, "but I don't know for a certainty, of course, that I shall be in the one he is preparing now."

Mr. Smith went on to say that he believes Congress should investigate the Panama canal transaction and find out who got the money that the United States paid for the canal.

FANATICS GIVEN HEARING

Kansas City Rioters Plead Not Guilty to Murder Charge.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 12.—James Sharp and three of his followers, including his wife, were given a formal hearing this afternoon before Justice Remley, charged with murder in the first degree for the killing of Policeman A. G. Dalbow in a revolver battle last Tuesday.

Late yesterday they were arraigned before Judge Remley. When the charge was read to them and they were asked to enter a plea, Mrs. Pratt declared: "I ain't guilty of that; I didn't kill nobody."

"Neither did I," said William Eagle, the 17-year-old epileptic and protégé of Sharp.

Sharp said he did not understand the charge, and a plea of not guilty was entered for all four defendants.

CRANK IS AFTER NOVELIST

Shoots to Attract Marie Corelli's Attention at Stratford.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Dec. 12.—An enthusiastic admirer of Marie Corelli's writings, who came all the way from Birmingham to see the novelist, was arrested here today as a dangerous crank. The stranger invaded Miss Corelli's garden, but being unable to obtain access to her house pulled out a revolver and began firing.

The appearance of the police finally put an end to his activity. The man offers no explanation of his act, except that he wanted to see Miss Corelli.

Steals to Play Races.

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 12.—Adrien Le Bief, for three years cashier of Hale Bros.' drygoods store in this city, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement. After being taken into custody he confessed to the police that he had used about \$20,000 of the firm's money during the last four months gambling chiefly in betting on the Seattle races in Oakland poolrooms. He is 25 years old and has a wife and child.

TEN WORKMEN ARE KILLED BY BLAST

Explosion on Canal at Bar Obispo.

22 TONS OF POWDER EXPLODE

Debris May Cover Remains of Many Others.

SHOCK FELT THIRTY MILES

Concussion Noted at Colon—Many in Gang of 120 Are Missing. Relief Trains Rushed to the Scene.

COLON, Dec. 12.—A great blast of giant powder was prematurely exploded in the canal work at Bar Obispo today. Ten men were killed and a number injured. It may be that others were killed, for the debris is piled up in all directions. Bar Obispo is about 30 miles from Colon and the shock of the explosion was distinctly felt here.

Numerous reports are current as to the cause of the accident, but the official version from Colon, which gives an estimate of ten killed and two wounded, states that during the loading of the last hole of the blast the dynamite in this cut was discharged and the remaining 22 tons were exploded by the concussion. The holes had not been electrically connected as the discharge of the blast was set for 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The last hole was being loaded under the supervision of one of the most efficient powder men in the employ of the Commission.

Passenger Train Escapes.

A passenger train had just passed when the explosion occurred but it was not in any way damaged. Most of the victims are Spaniards. Relief trains were sent to the scene of the disaster and one which returned here several hours later brought back the report that 45 injured had been sent to Ancon Hospital. Officials on the train state that 12 dead had been found while many others in a gang of 120 who were employed in the cut were missing.

It was also reported that the explosion was due to a passing steam shovel which hooked the wire leading to the immediate charge of dynamite. Whether or not this was the cause of the accident a steam shovel and crew which happened to be on the scene were practically buried under the mass of rocks and earth thrown up.

Look for Dead.

Parties were soon searching for the dead and assisting the wounded. Electric lights were set up and tonight steam shovels are at work removing tons upon tons of debris. Many men have been seriously injured, some of them probably fatally.

Tradition has it that the Panama Railroad cost one human life for every tie, with its accidents, associations and disease and the construction of the canal has not gone along without exacting its toll. There have been a number of accidents in the last two years, chief among which was the premature explosion of dynamite at Pedro Miguel in June, 1907, which resulted in the death of seven men and the injury of a number of others.

SETS ASIDE ALIMONY DAY

Chicago Judge Swamped With Suits for Divorce.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—Beginning with the new year, every Friday afternoon will be "alimony day" with Judge Barnes, of the Superior Court of Cook County. Judge Barnes, in making the announcement today, declared that there is such a mass of legal business growing out of divorces and divorce hearings that it interferes with more important matters and requires a day itself.

THIEVES REPENT; WILL JOIN CHURCH

STEAL LAMP GLOBES; RETURN PLUNDER TO PASTOR.

Seattle Minister Takes Young Men Into His Home, Prays With Them and Grants Forgiveness.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Penitent, humble and promising to join the church and sin no more, especially to steal no more electric light globes, two young men, who entered the Green Lake Methodist Church Thursday evening and stole the globes, waited on the pastor, Rev. E. L. Benedict, last evening, handed him a flour sack which contained the missing globes and begged not to be turned over to the police.

So apparently sincere was their penitence that Mr. Benedict forgave them, especially as their contrition was accompanied by restitution. The two young men explained that they had seen an account of their theft in print and when they found that the church had established a protective association, the purpose of which was to run down the offenders, they decided that the best way out of it was to return the stolen goods and throw themselves on the mercy of the pastor. The two asked to join the church and never to offend again, after Mr. Benedict had taken them into his house and prayed with them. Mr. Benedict said there was no other course open to him as a Christian minister than to offer them forgiveness. He declares that he is confident that they will lead an upright life in the future.

AFTER CATTLE RUSTLERS

State Police and Sheriff Start on Round-up of Thieves.

RENO, Nev., Dec. 12.—Captain W. L. Cox, superintendent of the Nevada state police, with a picked squad of men, working in harmony with Sheriff Emcison, of Lassen County, California, left today for Pyramid Lake on an expedition to drive out and arrest if possible the cattle rustlers who have been making depredations in that region recently.

The rustlers have been stealing horses and cattle in Northern Nevada and California and it is expected will make a fight to resist capture if overtaken. The officers and men are armed for field service.

HOLD SHARPS FOR MURDER

Holy Roller Leader and Wife Blamed for Dalbow's Death.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 12.—Justice Theodore Remley, after a hearing this afternoon ordered James and Melissa Sharp, the religious fanatics, held without bail for the murder of Policeman A. Dalbow. Dalbow met his death during the battle between the police and street preachers on Thursday last. In the case of Mrs. Della Pratt, wife of Louis Pratt, Sharp's male companion, who died yesterday from his wounds, and William Engnell, the 17-year-old protégé of Sharp, Judge Remley reserved his opinion.

HAS CHANGE FOR BETTER

Governor Cosgrove Shows Decided Improvement.

PASO ROBLES HOT SPRINGS, Cal., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Governor Cosgrove's condition took a decided change for the better during the night. His strength has not increased, but other symptoms that have for the past week been very discouraging are now subsiding and, if no complication results within the next few days, his strength will improve and he will be out of any immediate danger.

BURNS TO DEATH IN FIRE

Nevada Man Consumed in Home in Midnight Blaze.

ELKO, Nev., Dec. 12.—Seth Roseberry, of Tuscarora, was burned to death Thursday, his wife and sons escaping, when his home was consumed in a midnight fire. The family was awakened by the fire, leaving John and Clarence Roseberry barely time to escape and rescue their mother.

TAFT PLANS TRIP TO PANAMA CANAL

Wants Personal Observation of Work.

SAILS LAST WEEK IN JANUARY

If Final Decision Favors Journey to Isthmus.

HOLDS TARIFF CONFERENCE

In Confab With Aldrich and Hale, Who Favor President-Elect? Views in Regard to the Coming Revision.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—President-elect Taft contemplates a visit to Panama before his inauguration. This visit is approved by President Roosevelt and Secretary Root. While it has not been finally determined upon, Mr. Taft announced tonight that it was his inclination to go. Should this be his final decision, he will depart the last week in January for a trip which will cover approximately 20 days.

There are many reasons, in Mr. Taft's view, why the trip to the Isthmus would be of decided advantage. President Roosevelt's visit proved a stimulus to the work; the three visits which Mr. Taft has made as Secretary of War all were of advantage; there are constantly arising and accumulating many minor tangles of administration which the presence of the President-elect might make possible of elimination with little difficulty.

His Only Opportunity.

Mr. Taft feels that this is practically his only opportunity to visit the Isthmus during his forthcoming term as President. The visit would put him in direct personal contact with the situation.

The only objection to the expedition, which has been pointed out by careful students of the laws and constitution, is that pending the official declaration of Mr. Taft as President-elect by the action of the electoral college and his inauguration as President, there is no constitutional or legal provision for the substitution of anyone else in the event of anything happening to him in Panama. The news of this trip followed a conference last night with President Roosevelt and today again at the White House and later with Secretary Root. Further details of today's conference were not made known beyond the statement by Mr. Taft that the selection of his cabinet was thoroughly discussed.

Aldrich and Hale Favorable.

Mr. Taft said tonight that the interviews he had had yesterday and today with Senator Aldrich and Senator Hale had led him to believe that the attitude of these two leaders in the Senate, respecting tariff revision was decidedly favorable to the kind of a tariff he has been advocating. The conference with Senator Crane, of Massachusetts, also confirmed this view.

Chairman Frank H. Hitchcock, who came to Washington from New York, saw Mr. Taft tonight. The Cuban situation was discussed thoroughly at a conference with Governor Hiram and Secretary Wright and General Clarence E. Edwards, of the Insular Bureau, talked with Mr. Taft about departmental and Philippine matters, Senator Bourne, of Oregon, Bishop O'Gorman, of Sioux Falls, S. D., Secretary Garfield and Representatives Martin of South Dakota and Needham of California, also talked with Mr. Taft.

Mr. Taft planned to leave Washington at midnight for New York, following the dinner of the Gridiron Club. He will be there the guest of his brother, Henry W. Taft, until Thursday, when he will go to Augusta, Ga., for several weeks.

HARRY MURPHY'S HUMOROUS PENCIL PUTS IN PICTORIAL FORM SOME OF THE EVENTS OF THE WEEK



A Growing Record. Not Such a Much. Santa Claus of the Imaginative Past and—Of the Present. Congress Opens. Justice Triumphant! On the Job.