

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

ADVANCE WILLIAMSON CASE.

Hoyt Wants Decision Before Supreme Court Adjourns.

Washington, March 22.—Next Monday Solicitor General Hoyt, representing the attorney general, will submit to the Supreme court a motion to advance the appeal of ex-Representative Williamson in the hope that the case will be tried this session and before adjournment in May. In a formal motion to the court, Mr. Hoyt briefly reviews the progress of the Williamson trial from its inception to and including the action of the Circuit Court of Appeals on March 11, and then states that his motion to advance is based on the following reasons:

First, this is a criminal case; second, a constitutional question appears to be involved; third, it is a case of public importance involving the question whether the immunity from arrest granted to senators and members of congress by the constitution extends to a sentence of imprisonment after legal conviction; fourth, an independent writ of error from the Circuit Court of Appeals has been dismissed by that court as to Williamson.

COMPLETES NOBEL BOARD.

President Appoints Two More Commissioners on Industrial Peace.

Washington, March 18.—The president today appointed Seth Low, of New York, and Thomas G. Bush, of Birmingham, Ala., as representatives of the general public under the act of congress, establishing a foundation for the promotion of industrial peace, the basis of which is the Nobel prize fund, recently awarded the president of the Norwegian storking. This completes the administrative board. Other members of the board of trustees are:

John Mitchell, president of the United Mineworkers of America, as the representative of labor; Marvin Hughitt, president of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway company, representing capital; the chief justice of the supreme court of the United States, the secretary of commerce and labor and the secretary of agriculture.

Will Carry Relief to China.

Washington, March 21.—The United States army transport Buford will take a load of provisions at once to China for the relief of the famine sufferers. The War department advised the State department today that the transport, which is at San Francisco, is at the disposal of the Red Cross for immediate use in the shipment. The transport will stop at Honolulu on its way to Shanghai and probably will carry a special party of congressmen, who are to visit Honolulu as guests of the citizens of the Hawaiian islands.

Displeasing to Veterans.

Washington, March 19.—The United Spanish War Veterans, District of Columbia department, today adopted a resolution vigorously denouncing the action of the constitutional convention of Oklahoma in adopting a clause in its constitution disfranchising soldiers, sailors and marines, and characterizing such action as a direct insult to all American soldiers, sailors and marines "who have fought in the several wars in which the country has been engaged, and who have never known defeat in any war."

Meet Only in Washington.

Washington, March 19.—The work of the Interstate Commerce commission has grown so heavy that it has been decided to discontinue the hearings which have been conducted by members of the commission outside of Washington. Hereafter, when it is found necessary to conduct investigations in other cities, special agents will take the testimony and report to the commission and the arguments on the case will be heard by the commissioners in this city.

Fix Value of Polk Timber.

Dallas.—The county court, it is understood, will very soon appoint a timber cruiser to arrive at a more equitable assessment of the vast bodies of valuable timber lying in Western Polk. School districts in the western part of the county will be extended to include this timber also, thereby making it liable to the special school tax. Approximately \$100,000 in taxes was received before the expiration of the 3 per cent discount limit.

Coal Land is Reopened.

Washington.—The general land office has issued a statement giving the location of the following public lands reopened to entry by the president's order of March 12 last: Montana, 2,000,000; Oregon, 710,000; Washington, 320,000. The land was, previous to the order of March 12, included in land classed as coal land and withdrawn from entry.

Cost of Pacifying Cuba.

Washington, March 22.—Extraordinary expenses to the United States up to date caused by the sending of an army of pacification to Cuba, aggregate about \$2,500,000, according to figures which have been prepared by the War department. It has not been determined exactly when the money will be collected from Cuba by the United States.

Supreme Court Takes Recess.

Washington, March 20.—The chief justice announced today that the Supreme court would take a two weeks' recess, from next Monday until April 8.

DISCUSSED ALTON DEAL.

Roosevelt Denies He and Deneen Are Booming Taft.

Washington, March 21.—"Governor Deneen and Attorney General Stead did not come to see me on any political matters at all."

The above were substantially the words the president used in his talk with Senator Hansbrough today when the latter asked him about the report that Saturday's conference at the White House with the Illinois officers during which Secretary Taft and his brother called, was for the purpose of launching a boom for Secretary Taft for the presidency.

From authoritative sources it was learned today that the visit of Governor Deneen and Attorney General Stead had to do with the Chicago & Alton deal which figured in the Harriman investigation before the Interstate Commerce commission. The president was anxious to learn what was being done, or what the state contemplated doing in the matter.

Secretary Taft issued the following: "I had an appointment with the president at 3:30 p. m. Sunday and went to the White House to keep it. I found Governor Deneen and Attorney General Stead with the president and I was introduced. They left immediately. There was no political conversation."

Much Land is Reopened.

Washington.—The secretary of the interior has restored to entry a large quantity of government land which was withdrawn last summer on the supposition that it contained deposits of merchantable coal. In all 710,000 acres are restored in Oregon and 320,000 acres in Washington. The geological survey, after examining, reported its inability to find coal indications in this land. The land now becomes subject to entry under the general land laws. Oregon land is in the Portland, Roseburg, Dalles and La Grande districts, the Washington land in the Seattle, Olympia and North Yakima districts.

Ballinger's New Assistant.

Washington, March 20.—Land Commissioner Ballinger announces the selection of Fred Denett, of North Dakota, as assistant commissioner, succeeding George F. Pollock, of Ohio, who becomes chief clerk in the general land office. Pollock takes the place of James F. Macey, assigned to field service as inspector of surveyors. Mr. Ballinger states he will restrict the field force in order to secure a more perfect organization, enlarge some districts, eliminating others, and bring all special agents under the control of field chiefs.

Extends Sympathy to Russia.

Washington, March 21.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor today listened to addresses by Alexis Aladyn, representing the Group of Toil in the first duma of Russia, and Nicholas Tchykovsky, representing the revolutionary party, regarding the question of economic improvement, material advancement and political liberty for Russian workmen. The council unanimously adopted resolutions expressive of its sympathy in the struggle of the laboring men of Russia for their freedom and pledging co-operation.

Ditch to Serve 70,000 Acres.

Medford.—The Sterling Mining company has completed a survey for a 21-mile ditch from the summit of Jacksonville mountain to the little Applegate river. The work, which will cost about \$50,000, will connect the Squaw Lake water system with the company's Rogue River valley irrigating system. It will furnish sufficient water for 70,000 acres of orchard land. The work is to be let by contract and is to be completed by March 1, 1908.

Theft of Mule Caused War.

Washington, March 19.—One mule—a mule belonging to Senor Ireno Salgado—was the chief object of dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras when they began the quarrel which finally ended in the war that is threatening the peace of all Central America, according to the official communications exchanged by the ministers between the two republics, copies of which communications have been received in Washington.

President Confers With Yoakum.

Washington, March 20.—The president had a conference today with B. F. Yoakum, chairman of the board of directors of the Rock Island Railway company. This is the second conference the president has held with Mr. Yoakum within ten days. Mr. Yoakum declined to state the purpose of this interview.

Not Dead, but Sleeping.

Washington, March 21.—The ship subsidy bill is not dead, but sleeping. When congress reassembles, in December, the bill will be reintroduced; in fact it will probably be reintroduced in various shapes, and then the friends of subsidy will join hands and attempt to pass some compromise bill.

Will Open Antung to Trade.

Washington, March 21.—W. D. Straight, the American consul general at Mukden, notified the State department today that he has assurances that the Antung custom house will be opened by the Chinese soon.

PLUNDERED BY HILL-MORGAN

Attorney General Asked to Air Northern Pacific Scandal.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 19.—Reduced to the form of affidavits and of documents, the authenticity of which have been proved in legal proceedings, revelations concerning the wholesale plundering of the rights of stockholders in the Northern Pacific railroad are about to be presented before Attorney General Bonaparte. At the time of the Hill-Morgan reorganization of the Northern Pacific railroad, Brayton Ives, then a prominent New York banker, was the president of the old company.

In February of 1896 Mr. Ives, as president of the Northern Pacific, appointed from his board of directors a so-called "protective committee," claiming authority to proceed with the work of reorganization. Morgan & Co. were not only reorganization managers, contracting with themselves as syndicate managers, but they were also syndicate subscribers, and thus appeared in a three-fold capacity, being joined as syndicate subscribers with Mr. Ives and other directors of the old Northern Pacific company. Millions of dollars were collected in assessments levied upon the stockholders of the old Northern Pacific company, which it was thought by the public were to be used to rehabilitate the company.

Instead of being so appropriated they were gathered in and divided among the syndicate as commissions and profits. This is one of the features of the "sell-out" of the old Northern Pacific company and is one of the many amazing things connected with this remarkable reorganization for which a complete investigation is being demanded of the authorities at Washington.

ROCKEFELLER MAKES WILL.

Plans to Give An Immense Fortune to Use of the Public.

New York, March 19.—The Herald will tomorrow say that according to a member of John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s bible class, and who is also a personal friend of John D. Rockefeller and in a position to know of his affairs, the latter proposes to make a princely gift to New York City. It will amount to at least \$50,000,000. It will be partly charitable and partly educational. The Herald will add:

"This man said that when Mr. Rockefeller was conferring with his son at Lakewood, N. J., a fortnight ago, the meeting was not for the purpose of discussing any immediate gift, but was on the subject of Mr. Rockefeller's will, which document the oil king was then completing with the aid of his son and his lawyers. It was said that this document will astonish the world when it is made public.

It will, it is declared, give no less than \$250,000,000, for charitable and educational purposes, and it will be so bestowed that the benefit therefrom will almost be perpetual.

Rate War on the Atlantic.

London, March 19.—Herr Ballin, director general of the Hamburg-American Steamship line, who is here attending the shipping conference, today said there was every likelihood of a renewal of the rate war for the North Atlantic trade with the Cunard line. Within a fortnight he expects to see a decision one way or the other. Further Herr Ballin declared the German lines had a working agreement with the White Star line, and that all possibility of friction, owing to the removal of that line to Southampton, had now been obviated.

Reports Massacre of Jews.

New York, March 19.—A Jewish morning paper tonight received the following cablegram from Podihilo, near Jassack, Roumania: "Terrible massacre since last Thursday. Town totally destroyed. All the Jewish population are ruined and houses pillaged. We ask help—Marcus Getzel, Elias Solomon, Shjen Sterberg." The names signed to the cablegram are said to be those of leading merchants of Podihilo. It is a place of about 6,000 inhabitants, 4,000 of whom are Jews. It is only 30 miles from Kishineff.

Discuss Trust Problem.

New York, March 19.—The National Civic Federation which called the trust conference of 1899 in Chicago, has decided, it was announced today, to arrange for another conference of the same nature to consider that problem in its latest aspects, especially the question of Federal and state regulation of the corporations and the question of operation of the Sherman anti-trust law. It is proposed to hold this conference in May.

Flerce Gale Sweeps Bay.

San Francisco, March 19.—A fierce south and southeast gale swept the bay today, which drove small craft to shelter, caused vessels in the stream to seek positions of safety and made the ferry steamers roll unpleasantly. Outside the heads the gale raged with a velocity of 50 miles an hour, and the seas ran high. Several vessels were compelled to put back, owing to the rough condition of the weather.

Torpedo Boat is Rammed.

Ajaccio, France, March 19.—During the maneuvers last night without lights the torpedo boat destroyer Epee rammed torpedo boat No. 263. A steam-pipe on the last named vessel burst, killing two men and mortally injuring another. The Epee towed the torpedo boat ashore, where she was beached.

Japan Adds 24 Regiments.

Tokio, March 19.—In pursuance of the program to increase armaments, 24 infantry regiments have been organized, mainly concentrated in Northern Iles. The main base will be Kurume.

GRAFT WAS RAMPANT

Ruef and Schmitz Secured Large Sums in Bay City.

SUPERVISORS TELL ALL ABOUT IT

Traction Company Mulcted of \$450,000—Money Taken from Two Telephone Companies.

San Francisco, March 19.—Before tomorrow morning dawns, Abraham Ruef, fallen boss of San Francisco, now on trial for extortion, will have been indicted by the grand jury on various counts, aggregating nearly 100 in number, covering a period of many months and based on bribes running into hundreds of thousands of dollars. With him will be criminally involved Mayor Schmitz, almost a score of the officials of the city government and a number of millionaires of prominence in San Francisco and in the East.

Seventeen of the 18 county supervisors went before the grand jury today and confessed in detail graft operations and their magnitude carried on during their tenure of office. Principal among these was the award of a blanket franchise to the United Railroads to transform its cable lines into an overhead trolley system, for which Ruef had mulcted Patrick Calhoun, president of the company, in the sum of \$450,000.

But the corruption surrounding the history of the franchise granted to the Home Telephone company was even more damnable, and explodes the cherished proverb that "there is honor among thieves." The board of supervisors was bought twice, once by the Pacific States Telephone company, which wished to keep the rival corporation out of the city, and once by the Home Telephone company, which was fighting to get an entrance into the city. The Pacific States company paid the most money.

This was brought about by the purchase of Mayor Schmitz and Abe Ruef by the foreign concern, and they, with their pockets well lined, cracked the whip over the supervisors and forced the granting of the coveted privilege. Most of the supervisors had got \$5,000 apiece from the Pacific States company. A little later the Home Telephone agents paid a number of the supervisors \$3,000 each, but Ruef and Schmitz, having been seen meanwhile, the sum was considered enough to complete the transaction.

The confessions revealed details also of the Ocean Shore railroad franchise deal and others less extensive, but involving in the aggregate upward of \$1,000,000. It is believed that the supervisors who confessed have been promised immunity from prosecution.

HERMANN WROTE ANSWERS.

Many Letters Received at Land Office Sustain Case.

Washington, March 19.—Yesterday opened the sixth week of the trial of Binger Hermann on the indictment charging destruction of 35 letterpress copybooks alleged to have contained official correspondence of the general land office. The prosecution will probably conclude by the end of the week and it is expected the defense will occupy two weeks with its witnesses before the case goes to the jury. To date approximately 1,000,000 words of testimony have been taken.

Yesterday the prosecution placed on the stand seven chiefs of divisions of the general land office who served under Hermann, and all identified original official letters from the land office files which were answered in person by Hermann as commissioner. All testified that they have been unable to find in the files copies of the replies to these letters, the memorandum in each case stating specifically that the letters were answered by the commissioner. There were no such letters.

Smallpox Hits Paris.

Paris, March 19.—The appearance of a few cases of smallpox here has greatly alarmed the people. Thousands of persons have been vaccinated during the past few days and the hospitals and academies of medicine are besieged by crowds of people anxious to be vaccinated. The authorities, however, say that there is no real danger of an epidemic. Dr. Mesquereur, director general of public service, informed the Associated Press that the reports that the situation had grown worse were untrue.

Will Tell About Land Deals.

Seattle, Wash., March 19.—Henry C. Robertson, a court stenographer, and A. G. King, former deputy clerk at Portland, Or., were subpoenaed Saturday night and will be sent to Washington tomorrow to supply data in the trial of Binger Hermann, ex-commissioner of the general land office. Robertson and King have full data of all the circumstances relating to the land deals, and their appearance in the trial is very necessary.

Civil Service for Porto Rico.

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 19.—The legislature adjourned today, after the most important session since the American occupation, 15 bills of the 257 introduced being passed. Among the measures approved is a civil service bill which will become effective next January. Appropriation bills finally were passed in the form presented by the governing council.

TOO SOON FOR FAIR.

California Governor Will Not Sign Bill for Appropriation.

San Francisco, Cal., March 18.—Governor Gillett will not sign the Pacific Coast Exposition bill under any circumstances. No amount of influence will tend to change his resolution in this respect, which, he says, is unalterable. It is not because the governor is opposed to the exposition itself; but because he is fully convinced in his own mind that the project has been sprung too early and at a time when the taxpayers of the state will be burdened enough to repair the damages inflicted on the state institutions and on California cities by the disaster of last April. In expressing his views the governor said: "I told these people from the first that I would not sign this bill, that I would not burden the taxpayers of the state with a tax to raise \$1,000,000 at this time. In the first place, this proposed fair is six years in the future, and it will be plenty of time at the next session of the legislature for the state to do her share. Another thing, it is absolutely foolish to begin operations now, when labor is scarce and materials high.

"It is foolish for a man to have a housewarming before he builds his house, and for the next two years, to say the least, the streets of San Francisco will be filled with bricks and debris. The bill provides that the people of San Francisco must raise some \$3,000,000 as well as the state. Let them do this and then the state can act.

OVER A HUNDRED DEAD.

Catastrophe in Forbach, Germany, Mine from Firedamp.

Forbach, Germany, March 18.—An explosion of fire damp in the coal mine at Kleinrosein, near here, last night, resulted in the death of over 100 miners and the injury of 12 others. The disaster occurred between 10 and 11 o'clock in a small gallery in which 80 miners were at work.

As the work of rescue progresses it is seen the disaster was more serious than the first reports indicated. Up to a late hour 67 dead men had been brought to the surface, while 40 men were still missing. All the missing have been given up as dead, as they undoubtedly were buried under falling wreckage. Of the wounded two have died, and the doctors think that only one of the remaining 10 will recover. The DeWendels brothers, owners of the mine, have given \$25,000 to relieve the immediate necessities of the afflicted families.

One hundred and seventeen others escaped into adjoining galleries. Two hundred and ten men went into the mine at 5 o'clock last evening, and about midnight the news was spread to the nearby village that a terrible disaster had occurred.

Almost the whole population of the countryside gathered at the mouth of the shaft, among them the families of the men below. Rain began to fall heavily, and distressing scenes of grief were witnessed as the bodies were brought to the surface and laid out under a blaze of electric lights.

Many of the bodies were so disfigured that they were scarcely recognizable. The work of bringing out the injured men and the bodies of the dead was very slow, the galleries being choked with wreckage.

The DeWendels are one of the richest mining families of Alsace-Lorraine.

Children's Suicide Pact.

St. Louis, March 18.—It was developed today through testimony at the coroner's inquest into the suicide last night of Liebling Slocum, aged 10, that she had entered into a suicide pact with Gertrude Harper, also 10 years old. Gertrude testified that she had told her mother that she was going to take her life, and was prevented. J. P. Slinger, the drug clerk who sold the carbolic acid to the Slocum girl, was arrested today. He asserts she bore a note purporting to be from her mother asking for 5 cents worth of carbolic acid.

Finds 2,500 People Destitute.

Columbus, O., March 18.—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 2,500 flood sufferers in Gloucester and other mining towns in the vicinity in urgent need of relief. He purchased supplies to the amount of \$1,000 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.

Burton Will Tell Secrets.

Abilene, Kan., March 18.—Ex-Senator Joseph R. Burton, who is expected to return to his home here this week from Ironton, Mo., has engaged the local theater for March 23, where he will deliver a public address. Senator Burton has for some time threatened to expose those whom he charged with being responsible for his conviction, and it is said that his remarks on next Saturday will prove sensational in the extreme.

Six Die in Virginia Mines.

Norton, Va., March 18.—An explosion occurred in the mines at Greenough this morning after several miners had entered. The mine is seven miles east of Norton. As far as can be learned, ten miners have escaped slightly injured, two dead have been taken from the mines and four are known to be in the mines and are supposed to be dead. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Russian terrorists continue to pick off their enemies.

President Roosevelt is anxious to prosecute Harriman.

Root has warned the Central American states to stop war.

Trains are running from Portland to San Francisco via Ogden.

Major Goethals has been formally appointed on the canal commission.

Senator Burton has been released from jail and promises to publish his side of the story.

The East and South is suffering from extreme heat, the thermometer registering 90 in many places.

In a battle between Nicaraguan and Honduran troops 1,000 Salvadoreans were killed while assisting Honduras.

Boats between San Francisco and Portland are sailing with every berth filled and many unable to get passage.

The whole of Moldavia has been ravaged by rebel peasants. Several hundred people have been killed or injured and 10,000 are homeless, having been burned out. Jews are the worst sufferers.

Hudson Maxim, inventor of high explosives, has invented a new fuse for shells which promises to revolutionize armor for warships. Mr. Maxim also declares that Japan could be in possession of the entire Pacific slope before we were ready for war and that we are practically as defenseless as China.

The Transvaal will abolish Chinese labor.

Roumanian peasants are renewing the rioting.

Seven alienists have declared Thaw permanently insane.

S. A. D. Puter is proving a strong witness against Hermann.

Nicaragua claims a decisive victory over Honduras and Salvador.

American marines and sailors have been landed to guard Honduras ports.

There seems to be good prospects for land law reform by the next congress.

The San Francisco grand jury is learning more about the bribery by the Pacific States Telephone company.

Senator Cullom, of Illinois, says Harriman deserves to go to jail, and Governor Deneen is believed to contemplate prosecution.

Under the name of United Churches, the Congregational, United Brethren and Methodist Protestant churches in 14 states will form one large organization. Some of the Southern states have refused to join.

Rockefeller says railroads are over-capitalized.

Stockmen are to be prosecuted if they trespass on forest reserves.

The government continues to pile up evidence against Hermann.

A strike of longshoremen at Hamburg, Germany, has tied up all shipping.

Roosevelt will propose check on over-capitalization of railroads and will soon declare his policy.

Roumanian peasants have begun a crusade against Jews and are driving them into Austria.

The Colorado legislature has passed a railway commission law. Reciprocal demurrage is also provided for.

Premier Stolypin, of Russia, will propose many concessions of liberty to the duma, including free speech and press, but that body was warned not to go to extremes or it will be dissolved.

Trainmen on all roads west of Chicago have voted to strike if not given the increase in wages asked. Most of the roads will, it is believed, refuse to grant the advance and trouble is looked for.

Salvador has joined Honduras against Nicaragua.

A New Mexico grand jury has indicted six corporation employes for land fraud.

President Ripley, of the Santa Fe., says Roosevelt is to blame for the anti-railroad agitation.

The fisheries agreement between the United States and Great Britain is being discussed by the house of commons.

Germany and Austria are said to have changed front and now favor discussion of disarmament at The Hague peace conference.

Harriman has bought the Salt Lake railroad from the Clark syndicate.

There are signs that Roosevelt and the railroad presidents will reach an understanding on the new laws, the latter showing a stronger desire to obey.

The Nebraska land thieves who have been on trial for some time have been found guilty and sentence to pay a fine of \$1,500 each and remain in jail a year.