

Great Conference to Be Held at White House in June

Washington, April 28.—When President Roosevelt calls to order the opening session of the great White House conference on May 13, there will be gathered in the East Room of the Executive Mansion the most notable assemblage of men in the public eye that has ever met in the history of the United States.

The governors of all the states have signified their intention of being present at this conference, and each will bring with him three men, carefully chosen from among the learned of his state, to act as advisers in the convention. Besides the governors and their advisers, representatives of all the important national organizations, the welfare of which depends in greater or less degree upon natural resources, will be in attendance, and further, the president has invited five special guests, chosen for their superlative fitness, to act as "advisers at large" to the conference.

Grover Cleveland, the only living ex-President of the United States, will, health permitting, be one of these advisers. The others will be William J. Bryan, who hopes to be president; Andrew Carnegie, industrial king; James H. Hill, railroad monarch, and John Mitchell, leader of labor. Every candidate for the presidential nomination this year with the exception of Secretary Taft, whose duties in Panama will prevent attendance, will be there.

Looking at the meeting purely from its historical side, it properly may be said that never before in the country's history have the governors of all the states assembled in convention for any purpose whatsoever. Considered simply as an epoch-making event the conference will easily take rank with any assembly of public men ever held in the civilized world, for at this meeting the entire government of the United States, in the persons of that government's heads, will be assembled at one time. If for no other reason, the public will be interested in the conference because of this fact.

SECURES FORTUNE.

Senator Gets Half Million for Settling Big Estate.

Seattle, Wash., April 28.—United States Senator Samuel Piles, of this city, yesterday was given possession of a one-half interest of the John Sullivan estate, valued approximately at \$1,000,000. This ends a litigation that has extended over a period of eight years and which has been prolific in having the history of the Sullivan family in Ireland well aired in the various courts of this state.

Eight years ago John Sullivan, a prominent citizen of Seattle, owner of one of the biggest business blocks in the city, and suburban and rural properties, died leaving no will. Claimants sprang from everywhere, although Sullivan had no relatives so far as known in this country.

Senator Piles, who was a friend of Sullivan, went to Ireland to investigate. Graves were examined, church records scanned, and finally the true relatives of Sullivan were located. They agreed to give Senator Piles one-half of the estate to defend it against the many litigants who were endeavoring to secure a slice of the valuable property. Edward Corcoran and Johanna Callaghan, since deceased, of Dublin, Ireland, were declared the rightful heirs. Senator Piles' law firm will also be rewarded as well as the senator for bringing this fight, the most remarkable of its kind in this state, to an end.

\$1,800 to the Pan.

Seattle, April 28.—P. T. Rowe, bishop of the Episcopal church for the territory of Alaska, who arrived in the city today from the north on the Yucatan, brings the first detailed authentic information regarding the big gold strike on Nolan Creek, at the head of the Koyukuk river. Bishop Rowe was in the Nolan Creek camp when the strike was made and washed out \$500 pans on the Olson claim with his own hands and saw pans washed out that ran as high as \$1800. Nolan Creek is only about 200 miles from the Arctic ocean and there were only about 125 men in the camp when Bishop Rowe left for the outside.

The strike was made at a depth of about 150 feet and about \$4000 has been washed by crude operations, and it is estimated the clean-up at the end of this summer will reach \$1,000,000.

Catch Italian Robbers.

Beno, Nev., April 28.—Servante Davis and Salvatore Lubano, two Italian confidence men now held in the county jail for robbing a countryman of \$1000 in gold after drugging him, are now believed to be the same men who committed similar crimes in San Francisco at Twenty-ninth and Mission streets, securing \$450; San Jose, securing \$600; Los Angeles securing \$900, and Victoria, B. C., where \$1400 was stolen. L. Dondoro, Lubano's partner, was taken to Victoria for the last crime, but Lubano escaped. The information came from San Francisco.

Struck Gas; Two Dead.

Las Vegas, N. M., April 28.—Mrs. Zachary Taylor Cooper went out to call her sons to supper last night and found them dead at the bottom of a 60-foot well. Digging for water on their dry land farm, seven miles east of Watrous, they had struck a flow of natural gas and suffocated without a sound. A message was sent here for a physician, but the boys were dead before the doctor could be done.

Severe Storming England.

London, April 28.—A remarkable blizzard, the worst experienced in the south of England since 1881, continued practically all over the United Kingdom throughout Friday night and Saturday until Saturday midnight. Telegraph and telephone service was disorganized and railway traffic has been seriously delayed. Enormous damage has been done, especially to the young fruit crops.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Friday, May 1

Washington, May 1.—The house spent all of today's session in considering and passing, paragraph by paragraph, under suspension of the rules, the sundry civil appropriation bill. As the outcome of a determined effort to strike from the bill a restriction prohibiting the employment of secret service employees in any detective work other than the guarding of the president and the running down of counterfeiters, which was vigorously opposed by members of the appropriations committee, the limitation was agreed to and the paragraph adopted in substantially its original form.

Objection by democratic members in pursuance of the minority filibuster, to unanimous consent defeat of the passage of a bill for the printing and distributing of 100,000 copies of a special report by the department of agriculture, describing diseases of cattle.

Washington, May 1.—In the senate today, Senator Davis, of Arkansas, moved to discharge the committee on the judiciary from the further consideration of his bill, "for the suppression of trusts, pools and combinations in trade." He spoke for about two hours, reading much of the time from a typewritten statement which he said he had prepared in advance, "that no intemperate language might escape his lips on this occasion," a thing which he said he had never done before.

During his speech he roundly denounced the trusts, commended the president's recent message outlining measures for relief, spoke of the removal of the motto, "In God We Trust" from the coins, and declared that John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil Company and J. Pierpont Morgan should be indicted for treason. He also paid his respects to the press.

Thursday, April 30

Washington, April 30.—Consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill was resumed in the house today. Townsend of Michigan offered an amendment increasing from \$50,000 to \$350,000 the appropriation for enforcement by the interstate commerce commission of that clause of the Hepburn act directing the commission to cause to be made examinations of the accounts of interstate railroad to determine whether that law is being violated and to make public the result of such examinations. After a debate lasting four hours the amendment was agreed to.

The house disagreed to the senate amendments to the District of Columbia and pension appropriation bills and sent those bills to conference.

The usual point of no quorum was raised when the house reconvened today on the motion providing that the house go into committee of the whole for further consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill under the five minute rule. The doors were locked and the roll called on the motion, which prevailed.

Washington, April 30.—The President today signed the Fulton land grant resolution. The house public lands committee today discussed Mondell's patent land grant resolution, which was intended to follow the Fulton resolution. In view of the bad faith of the lumbermen, the committee was overwhelmingly opposed to reporting the measure, especially if the same end can be accomplished, without legislation.

Wednesday, April 29

Washington, April 29.—John Sharp Williams today gave the republican majority in the house an opportunity either to permit or to refuse to permit a vote on the Stevens bill to place wood pulp on the free list. In the course of a cleverly humorous and satirical speech he unrolled and held to view the folio bearing the signatures of 164 of the 165 democratic senators.

"We, the undersigned, representatives in congress, request, each for himself, and each for each of the others, that you recognize one of us, or if you prefer, some other representative, to move to discharge the committee on ways and means from further consideration and to suspend the rules and pass the Stevens bill, or any other bill having the effect to put wood pulp and print paper on the free list."

Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, offered an amendment to the sundry civil bill appropriating \$69,000 for the establishment of a national art gallery in the Smithsonian institute. The amendment was rejected on a point of order.

Washington, April 29.—The senate and house conferees on the army bill reached an agreement tonight. The senate conferees receded from the amendment raising the pay of officers on a percentage basis. Instead, a schedule was adopted increasing the pay of Major-Generals, Brigadier-Generals, Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, Majors and First Lieutenants \$500 per annum; Captains, \$600 per annum; Second Lieutenants, \$300 and cadets \$100.

On this schedule, the salary of Major-Generals will be \$8000 per annum; Brigadier-Generals \$6000; Colonels \$4000; Lieutenant-Colonels \$3500; Majors \$3000; Captains \$2,500.

Will Cover 42,500 Miles.

Washington, April 30.—A total of approximately 42,500 miles will have been covered by the Atlantic battleship fleet when it arrives at Hampton Roads on February 22, next, according to the estimates made by the naval officials. The distance to be covered for the voyage of the fleet from San Francisco to the Philippines, thence to China and Japan and back to Manila, is 16,318 miles. The longest lap is from Honolulu to Auckland, 3550 miles.

400; first Lieutenants, \$2000; second Lieutenants, \$1700 and cadets \$600.

Tuesday, April 28

Washington, April 28.—Ostensibly considering the sundry civil appropriation bill, the house devoted most of its time today to speeches covering a wide range of subjects and concluded the session by giving an attentive hearing to the president's special message. Although nearly every member had read the message in the newspapers, a large number remained in their seats, carefully following the words of the reading clerk. When the portion of the message referring to the multi-millionaire "whose son is a fool and his daughter a foreign princess" was reached there was a storm of applause, equally loud on both sides of the house.

Mr. Lake, of New Jersey, made some caustic remarks concerning the president, evoking applause on the democratic side.

Other speeches were made by Representatives Hitchcock, of Nebraska, Vreeland of New York and Hamlin of Missouri.

At 5:05 p. m. the house took a recess until 11:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Washington, April 28.—The pension and District of Columbia appropriation bills were passed by the senate today. In addition the special message of the president urging a legislative program was read and another chapter of Senator Warner's speech on the Brownsville affair was heard. Several measures of minor importance and the resolution of the house to give government aid to cyclone sufferers in the south were passed. The resolution to extend the time when the commodity clause of the railroad rate law shall become operative was called before the senate by Mr. Elkins, but went over under objection from Mr. Culberson. The senate at 5:27 p. m. adjourned.

Monday, April 27

Washington, April 27.—By an overwhelming vote, President Roosevelt's four-battleship program failed in the senate, just as it did in the house. The amendment for four battleships was introduced by Senator Piles and the fight for its adoption was led by Senator Beveridge. Twenty-three votes were cast for the increased program, the number largely being made up of recently-elected senators. Fifty senators voted to support the house and the recommendation of the senate naval committee for building only two battleships.

The debate on the battleship amendment lasted three days to the exclusion of all other matters. It was begun by Senator Beveridge with an eloquent appeal for the support of the president and the suggestion that a larger navy might be needed for war.

Washington, April 27.—A favorable report was today ordered on Senator Ankeny's bill increasing pensions of Indian war veterans and their widows from \$8 to \$12 per month. The committee declined to report a bill which would place these veterans on the same footing as service pensioners of the civil war, whose maximum pension is \$20 a month.

Senator Bourne made a favorable report on Senator Ankeny's bill authorizing the establishment of a fish culture station on the Tucannon river, Washington.

Saturday, April 25

Washington, April 25.—Another day was spent by the senate in considering the amendment to the naval appropriation bill, but a vote was not reached at the close of the discussion, which was participated in by a dozen senators. Hale secured an agreement for a vote before adjournment on Monday.

A canvass of the senate made during the day indicated that the four-ship program will be defeated and that the debate has changed several votes. Much of the discussion today was devoted to the improbability of war being forced upon the United States. Beveridge and Piles were sharply criticised by Aldrich, Perkins and McCumber for their statements of yesterday, and several heated colloquies occurred. Beveridge will reply on Monday.

Washington, April 25.—The actual investigation of the wood-pulp and printer question, involving in prospect an examination into the affairs of the paper trust to determine whether or not it is as alleged by the American Newspaper Publishers' Association a combination in restraint of trade and maintaining a monopoly of the printer supply in the United States, was begun today by the select committee appointed by Speaker Cannon, whose chairman is Representative James R. Mann, of Illinois, and the other members of which are Bannon of Ohio, Stafford of Kentucky, Simms of Tennessee and Ryan of New York.

Exchange Gold Bars for Coin.

Washington, April 30.—The senate committee on finance today ordered favorably reported a bill authorizing the superintendent of the Mint and the United States Assay Office at New York to receive United States gold coin and deliver in exchange gold bars of equal value in amounts of not less than \$250. The bill is in the interest of gold workers and jewelers.

Wants Hospital Ships

Washington, April 29.—With a view to preparedness in case of necessity, the surgeon general's office of the navy has suggested the designation of several vessels available for use for hospital purposes. Among the ships suggested by Surgeon-General Rixey is the Buffalo, now up on the Pacific coast. The surgeon-general is an earnest advocate of the use of the hospital ships, and takes the ground that the navy should always be ready.

HALF THOUSAND KILLED

Southern Storm Much Worse Than First Reported

New Orleans, April 27.—Probably 500 lives lost, 100 or more persons fatally injured and many times this number fatally hurt, together with a property loss running up in the millions, is the record so far of a tornado that originated in the west two days ago, sweeping Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Georgia. It has left a path of death, desolation and want in its wake, seriously interrupted all communication between cities in the south, and brought about chaotic conditions in many smaller towns.

Mississippi, already a sufferer from more than one tornado this year, has again borne the brunt of the winds and rains. Estimates of the number of those who lost their lives in that state place the death list between 150 and 175, with a thousand or more injured.

In Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia the death lists are also large, with serious loss of life in Arkansas and Tennessee. Authentic information is in many instances lacking, owing to the crippled facilities for communication and the lack of time to form anything like an accurate estimate of the damage done in many sections.

In half a dozen communities martial law has been declared, so terrible were the destruction and so helpless were the stricken people left by the disaster. Serious disorders have occurred in some places, including Amite, La. Looting and other crimes have been reported, but those instances have on the whole been rare.

Several places have issued appeals for aid and in Mississippi Governor Noel has been asked to provide tents for the homeless.

The tornado has lasted in all a period of nearly two days. It was Thursday night that damage by tornadoes traveling was first reported from points in Texas. This was followed during the next 24 hours by similar reports from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Last night Alabama came within the flight of the storm and today reports of serious damage by the wind in Georgia have been recorded.

Utter misery of every sort was found today at Purvis, Miss., by relief parties. Despite the fact that of the 2500 inhabitants which this little town boasted yesterday morning, there were only 900 today, still there were not sufficient accommodations in the wrecked village for even the wounded. Negro mummies and little black children lay wounded and helpless under the broiling Southern sun. Some had broken bones, some were partly crushed and others had been wounded by sticks and splinters. These unfortunates were lucky if they had a blanket or a wrecked couch to rest upon.

There was not enough shelter in the town to protect them from the sun and many of the walls which remained standing had no roofs, and by a queer freak of the tornado many of the trees which had not been uprooted had been snatched off a few feet above the ground. The grove of pines was mutilated in such a manner that it appeared as if a gigantic scythe had swept through the grove about 25 feet above the ground.

CRUISER RUN DOWN.

Liner St. Paul Smeared Into Warship During Snowstorm

Seuthampton, April 27.—The American line steamer St. Paul, which left Southampton on her regular voyage, bound for New York, this afternoon, in a dense snow storm rammed and destroyed the British second-class cruiser Gladiator off the Isle of Wight.

The first report stated that from 20 to 30 of the Gladiator's crew had been drowned, but later intelligence reduces the number of casualties. The exact extent of the disaster, however, cannot be accurately known until tomorrow.

No one on the St. Paul was killed or injured, but the bodies of Steward Widger, Writer Cowdry and a Maltese steward, Debras, all attached to the cruiser, have been brought ashore; one officer, Lieutenant William G. Praves, who attempted to swim to land, is missing, and eight injured have been taken to the military hospital at Golden Hill for treatment. It is believed only a few others are unaccounted for.

The Gladiator was beached and her crew took to the boats. She is one of the class of vessels designed to serve as rams. She is 320 feet long, has a speed of 20 knots and carries a complement of 450 men.

Convict Murderers of Hindu.

Oregon City, April 27.—After deliberating 13 hours, the jury in the case of the State of Oregon vs. John M. Dickenson, William Dickenson, John Dickenson, Earl Ransier and John Riley, charged with the murder of Harman Singh, a Hindu, near Boring, brought in a verdict convicting J. M. Dickenson and his brother, William, of murder in the second degree and the other three boys of manslaughter. The penalty for murder in the second degree is imprisonment for life and the penalty or manslaughter is from one to 15 years in the penitentiary.

Two Highbinders Killed.

San Francisco, April 27.—Another highbinder war broke out in Chinatown tonight, when two gun parties met in a pitched battle with revolvers at Washington street and Waverly Place. In a running battle of two blocks, that ended in Ross Alley, three men were shot, two fatally and another slightly. 'Yun Ying, of the Hop Sing Tong, was shot through the right eye and died a few minutes after he reached the Harbor Emergency Hospital.

Troops to Central America.

Mexico City, April 27.—A persistent rumor here has it that the cruiser Albany, which is to carry special Ambassador Buchanan Enrique C. Creel to Central America, is to land armed parties should conditions in the southern republics warrant the move. Official confirmation of the report could not be obtained.

PRESIDENT WINS DAY

Senate's Action on Naval Bill Is Practically a Victory.

GETS TWO BATTLESIPS A YEAR

Declares This Places United States in Front Rank in Regards to Naval Progress.

Washington, April 28.—Two battleships a year is what President Roosevelt says he has accomplished through his fight for his naval program. Had he been victorious in having four ships authorized at this session, the United States could have dictated terms of disarmament to the nations of the world.

This statement, made tonight, following the passage by the senate today of the naval bill, calling for two new battleships, is understood to reveal the president's source of strength in the naval fight which has been waged so strenuously.

Furthermore, two ships this year with the promise of two ships each year to follow, which the president has accepted as a bona fide stipulation on the part of the senate, means simply a program which will place the United States in the front rank of naval progression, but which fails to place it in the position of dictating a cessation of naval aggression.

That the president, on the whole, is pleased with the result of his efforts with congress on this subject, was made manifest tonight; that he firmly believes in the ability of the United States to dictate the naval policy of the world in the future, though overwhelmingly outstripping us in naval construction.

PRESIDENT TALKS STRAIGHT.

Warns Congress Against Abuses of Judicial System

Washington, April 28.—President Roosevelt this afternoon sent to congress a special message setting forth in the strongest of terms the necessity of immediate legislation strengthening the anti-trust law. He reiterates his well-known views as to the grave danger to free institutions of great wealth suddenly concentrated in the hands of the few, and urges the immediate passage of measures similar to those he advocated in his former message on the same subject.

Such legislation, he says, will be in the interest of both the decent corporations and the law-abiding labor unions. In this connection, he sounds a warning to the labor leaders who have objected to the inclusion of labor organizations in the anti-trust law amendment, and says plainly that the exception of the unions from the operation of the law would render the measure invalid.

A strong effort has been made to have labor organizations completely exempted from the operations of the law, whether or not their operations are in restraint of trade. Such exemption would make the bill unconstitutional. It is not possible wholly to exempt labor organizations from the workings of this law, and they who insist upon wholly exempting them are merely providing that their status shall be kept wholly unchanged, and that they shall continue to be exposed to the action which they now dread.

Obviously an organization not formed for profit should not be required to furnish statistics in any way as complete as those furnished by organizations for profit. Moreover, so far as labor is engaged in protection only, its claims to be exempted from the anti-trust law are sound. This would substantially cover the right of laborers to combine, to strike peaceably and to enter into trade agreements with employers. But when labor undertakes in an unlawful manner to prevent the distribution and sale of the products of labor it has left the fold of protection and its action may be plainly in restraint of interstate trade.

Cut Rates to Orient.

San Francisco, April 28.—With a view of driving tramp steamers from this port a radical reduction of freight rates on flour and grain for over-sea ports, such as Chinese and Japanese, is to be put in effect immediately on all principal lines running out of San Francisco. It is agreed among the ship owners that the rate on flour will be reduced from \$3 to \$2 for shipment from this port to Hongkong and Japan, and that the rate on flour from this port to Singapore will be reduced from \$4.75 to \$3.50.

Sermons Against Racing.

San Francisco, April 28.—Sermons voicing a protest against the race-track evil will be preached in more than 2000 churches of California, Sunday morning. The plan has been elaborated by the Anti-Racetrack League, recently organized in Berkeley. The movement will call it "Race Track Sunday," which marks the inception of a bitter campaign against the racetrack in California, the object of the league being to bring about state legislation.

Anti-Gambling Campaign.

Albany, N. Y., April 28.—Governor Hughes this afternoon inaugurated what is believed to be a campaign of speech-making in several of the large cities of the state in support of the anti-racetrack gambling legislation which will probably be the feature of the extraordinary session which is to convene on May 11.