



PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

Three Messages Transmitted to Congress.

HOLIDAY ADJOURNMENT

Both Branches of Congress Rushing Business for the Holiday.

PANAMA CANAL DISCUSSED

Reading of the Messages of President Roosevelt Occupied Nearly the Entire Times of the Senate and House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The house began the last week before the Christmas holidays with a determination to dispose of as much business as possible for more active work which will devolve upon it when it re-convenes after the holidays. To this end several small bills were passed under suspension of the rules. The Indian appropriation bill was taken up and fifty-seven pages of it completed when it was laid aside for the President's message concerning the Panama canal, which consumed more than one hour in its reading, being listened to by a large number of members.

The pictorial feature of the report afforded an opportunity for good natured comment, the innovation of cuts in state paper being looked upon with favor. The messages from the President on public lands and naval personnel were also read.

The pictorially illustrated message from the President, portraying the conditions as he found them on the Isthmus of Panama during his recent visit occupied the senate during a greater part of its session today. Preceding the Panama message the President's recommendations regarding the public lands and the naval personnel were read. The senate agreed to the holiday adjournment resolution and it will adjourn Thursday until Jan. 3.

Resolutions were agreed to by the Department of Commerce and Labor on investigation of the International Harvester Company, to ascertain whether it effects the restraint of trade, also directing the senate judiciary committee to report on what authority congress has under the commerce clause of the constitution to prevent the Interstate Commerce commission in investigating child-made goods. Resolutions to guard against state rights were presented by Senators Whyte and Raynor for future discussion.

MATTOAX RESPONSIBLE.

Investigation of Railroad Disaster Fixes Blame on Operator.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The official investigation into the cause of the wreck on the Southern Railway at Lawlers on Thanksgiving day in which President Spencer of the railroad and other prominent people lost their lives, has placed the responsibility on G. D. Mattoax, the operator at Rangoon station, Virginia.

SHIP LABELLED.

Ship Babcock from Baltimore to Astoria Has Been Seized.

HONOLULU, Dec. 17.—The ship W. F. Babcock, en route from Baltimore to Astoria, and which put in this port several days ago, short of provisions, has been seized for \$20,000 by the crew, who allege that they have not received proper food on the voyage. A number of the crew were sick with scurvy when they put in here.

visions, has been seized for \$20,000 by the crew, who allege that they have not received proper food on the voyage. A number of the crew were sick with scurvy when they put in here.

FAMILY POISONED.

Fortune Teller Arrested in Chicago, Charged with Offense.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Poison is responsible for the death of at least two of the Verall family, six of whom have died within the past six months. Herman Billik, a fortune teller, is now in jail, charged with having administered the poison to the family, so that the mother of the dead children could collect the insurance money. Mrs. Verall was found dead at her home a few hours after the investigation commenced. It is believed that she committed suicide.

STEAMER ASHORE.

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—While bound to assist the steamer Themia, the steamer Henriette went ashore on Danger reef, Ladysmith, this morning.

SCHOONER LOST.

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—The schooner Gabriola has been lost off Queen Charlotte Island, according to advices received from the Northern British company, and three men, including the captain, have been lost. Wreckage and bodies were washed ashore on Queen Charlotte Island, near Skidgate.

ROBBER STARTS FIRE

Town of Valdez, Alaska Nearly Destroyed By Fire.

BANK TOTALLY DESTROYED

Principal Hotel and Large Mercantile Establishment Destroyed and Only Heroic Efforts of Firemen Saved the Town.

SEATTLE, Dec. 17.—A special cable to the Seattle Times from Valdez, Alaska, states that a fire in the Bank of Valdez, which is believed to have been started by a burglar, totally destroyed the bank building, the Stella hotel and one of the largest mercantile establishments in the town, entailing a loss of over \$50,000. An examination of the bank vault, immediately after the fire, shows that a large hole had been blown in the back of the vault. It is supposed that the burglar, not being able to effect an entrance, and becoming frightened, overturned a lamp or candle, from which the building took fire. The absence of wind, a light snow and good work by the fire department, prevented the destruction of the entire town, which was in imminent danger for some time. Had a wind been blowing at the time, there is no doubt but the entire business portion of the town would have been destroyed.

VESSEL SUNK.

Collision in British Channel and Twelve Men Drowned.

DOVER, Dec. 17.—During a heavy fog in the English channel today, the British steamer Arlington collided with and sank the Belgian steamer Cap Juby. Twelve of the crew of the Cap Juby were drowned.

FIRE IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The Police Gazette building, an old down town landmark, located at Pearl and Frankfort streets, was gutted by fire early today. The building was occupied by a number of manufacturing firms and the weekly newspaper from which it gets its name.

COMMERCE COMMISSION

Investigating Coal Famine in Western States.

DEALERS COMPLAINING

Several Towns Suffering for the Want of Fuel and Supplies.

CAR SHORTAGE TO BLAME

In Addition to Investigation of Interstate Commerce Commission, the Legislatures Will Be Asked to Take Action.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 17.—The investigation of the present coal famine crisis in the northwest may not stop with the investigation of the Interstate Commerce Commission now in session in Minneapolis. It is very probable that in every affected state, notably Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana, the subject will be made a matter of legislative investigation. The northwestern coal dealers have indicated to the large shippers that they are organizing for the purpose of stirring up official investigation in their states.

Several towns suffering now or which have been held in the grasp of winter and famine, are laying their cases before their legislators and there is no doubt but action will be taken to prevent a repetition of the coal famine. The race is now on between the railroads and the cold. If the weather wins, cutting down the efficiency of motives power and bringing on heavy blizzards, there may be suffering and loss of life. Reports, however, today indicate that the railroads are rushing fuel into the districts where either actual stocks are low or there is none on hand. The Great Northern is taking no freight west of Grand Forks other than coal. The Northern Pacific has sent three hundred cars of fuel for commercial use in the past two days. According to a statement issued tonight by the Great Northern officials, the coal famine will be a thing of the past in a few days.

AFTER RAILROADS.

Reported Grand Jury Return Indictments Against Santa Fe.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 17.—The investigations by the federal grand jury into alleged rebates by the Santa Fe railroad and one or two other railroads is being pushed with vigor and it is expected that a report will be handed down during the present week. Rumors are current that several indictments will be found.

POPE DISTRESSED.

Abandonment of Archbishop's House in Paris.

ROME, Dec. 17.—The Pope is exceedingly distressed to hear the particulars of the abandonment of the archbishop's house in Paris by Cardinal Richard. He characterized it as the most pitiful incident of his pontificate and said that the noble, dignified and pious attitude maintained by the cardinal today would have a salutatory influence and bring advantage to the cause of the church. Vatican authorities deny emphatically that they purpose to conduct reprisals against the French protectorate in the

holy land or elsewhere. Commenting on the report of Monsigneur Lacroix, Bishop of Tarentais, had made or permitted to be made, any declaration in accordance with the circular issued by M. Briand, French minister of public worship and had formed an association for worship in accordance with the laws of separation the high Vatican authorities said today, if it was true, Lacroix would be repudiated by the Holy See.

ADVANCE IN JEWELRY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Manufacturing jewelers have held informal conferences of late and talked over the subject of making uniform advances in prices of the more staple articles which they make. Without waiting to reach any agreement, many say that they have already put up prices on many lines.

Factories which have been running night and day are said to be unable to meet the enormous demand of the present season for ornaments of various kinds and some manufacturers have refused further orders as it is impossible to fill them before the holidays.

ARTHUR P. THOMAS.

OAKLAND, Dec. 17.—Arthur P. Thomas, 20 years of age, a newspaper man, met death at his home on Seventh Avenue yesterday, being electrocuted as he attempted to turn on the electric light in the bathroom of the house. Death was instantaneous, as the current passed directly through the upper part of the body near the heart.

CAR SHORTAGE CAUSE

Transportation Companies Reply to Interstate Commission.

FAULT LIES WITH DEALERS

Car Shortage is Aggravated by Lack of Motive Power, Inadequate Terminal Facilities and Insufficient Trackage Property.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Three more responses have been received by the Interstate Commerce Commission from northwestern railways in response to Chairman Knapp's telegram of last week, calling the attention of the companies to the reported shortage of cars and the complaints of lack of transportation for the necessities of life and fuel. From information conveyed by the railway presidents today, the commission expresses the opinion that one cause of the car shortage is that the dealers have not stored up a sufficient quantity for the winter's supply, but have as stated in reply to President Hill of the Great Northern, ordered only sufficient quantities to last from day to day.

Whatever shortage may exist in car equipment is aggravated, they say by the lack of motive power, inadequate terminal facilities and insufficient trackage property to move the great volume of business pouring in on the railroads, supplemented by the delays on the part of shippers in loading and unloading their cars.

STEAMER ASHORE.

When She Struck the Captain Blew His Brains out with Revolver.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Dec. 17.—The Hamburg-American Liner Prinzessin Victoria Louise, which left New York December 12, for this port, went ashore last night off Port Royal. The passengers were landed here safely today. Captain Brulswig, who was in charge of the Victoria Louise when she struck, committed suicide by blowing out his brains. The Victoria Louise is pounding hard and the seas are breaking over her, but hopes are still entertained that she will be saved.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

Chicago Will Soon Own Its Street Car System.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE

Traction Companies Have Fixed Value on Their Property Acceptable to City.

EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Chicago Owners and New York Syndicate Accept the Terms Offered by the Chicago Board of Control for Property.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—With the public looking forward to a complete transformation of the present street car service, with investors involved in the reorganization of the corporations and with the politicians laying their plans for and against the triumph of the municipal ownership propaganda in the spring mayoralty election traction bids fair to engross the attention of Chicagoans all winter.

Developments yesterday clinched the assurance that there will be no hitch in the settlement of the long-drawn out controversy essentially along the lines laid down by the city council's committee on local transportation on Saturday. General Counsel Gurley of the Union Traction Company, and President Mitten of the City Railway said they expected to receive today the replies of the New York financiers—the Morgan syndicate—accepting the city's terms.

Already various movements are on foot to wind up the tangled affairs of the bankrupt Union Traction company and organize in its stead the Chicago Railways company, the corporation designed to accept the franchise for the north and west side lines. From \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 will be spent on rehabilitation under the direction of a joint board of engineers. Under the plans work on the improvements is to be completed within three years. Through routes from one end of the city to another will be established at once, universal transfers will be exchanged and new cars are to be added as rapidly as possible, so that at least 2,000 up to date vehicles will be in service at the close of the rehabilitation period.

ENTOMBED MINER.

Rescuers Will Probably Reach Him in Few Hours.

BAKERSFIELD, Dec. 17.—The rescue party running a tunnel to Hicks, the entombed miner, is tonight directly above him, but despite this they are not able to take him from his cave for many hours yet, on account of the great danger that a false stroke of the pick or too hurried progress will send loosened debris on the miner. The rescue will probably not be consummated before daylight.

SHIP SUBSIDY.

President Roosevelt Will Send Special Message to Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—President Roosevelt's message on the ship subsidy which will be presented to congress shortly after the Christmas holidays will, it is thought, support the

Gallinger bill, as passed by the senate, but the house committee will probably report a bill so amended that it will merely offer subvention to mail steamers sailing between this country and South American and Oriental ports.

CLOSE OF CAMPAIGN.

Life Insurance Companies Hold Annual Meeting Yesterday.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Today will see the close of the remarkable campaign which has been waged among the policyholders of the Mutual and the New York Life Insurance companies. Control of the affairs of the companies and their stupendous assets, aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars, is the stake that has been fought for. Lined up have been the forces of administrations on the one side and policyholders who have demanded a complete change of administration on the other. Both sides claim a victory today. The count of the ballots and proxies which have come from all quarters of the globe, will occur tomorrow, under the supervision of State Superintendent Otto Kelsey and a force of inspectors appointed by him. It is figured that more than 400,000 votes will be cast in the New York Life election and about 350,000 in the Mutual Life. There will be elections in five mutual companies tomorrow, but in only two are there opposition tickets in the field. The three in which the elections are a mere formality, the election of the administration tickets being a certainty, are the Equitable, the Mutual Reserve, and the Security Mutual of Binghamton.

DIAMOND INDUSTRY

Project on Foot to Harness Falls for Power.

SOUTH AFRICAN PROJECTS

E. H. Garthwaite, Mining Engineer, Speaks Enthusiastically of the Conditions in Africa Since the Ending of Boer War.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—E. H. Garthwaite, a British mining engineer for the past eight years, has been tending to the Rhodes mining interests in Central South Africa, arrived here yesterday. He will start for California today where he will take a month's rest. Mr. Garthwaite has come directly from the neighborhood of Victoria Falls on the Zambesi river, and spoke enthusiastically yesterday of the project of harnessing the falls for power. He said:

"The Victoria falls are the largest in the world, and when the work of utilizing them for electrical power is completed, I am confident that it will revolutionize the diamond industry in South Africa. I mean by this that the transmission of power from the falls to the mines will reduce the actual working cost about forty percent. The great horde of coolies now at work can be in a measure dispensed with."

Mr. Garthwaite said that South Africa had picked up considerably since the war.

"It is a great country," he said, "but it is harrassed by the British government much in the way this country was 120 years ago, and there is great danger of similar results."

SALVATION ARMY.

Reconciliation Between Father and Son Probable.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The American says today word is expected here soon of a reconciliation after long estrangement between Commander Ballington Booth of the Volunteers of America, and his father, General William Booth, head of the Salvation Army.