

## WOULD DEAL WITH CORPORATIONS THROUGH SPECIAL COURT

### TAFT ASKS FOR NEW COURT FOR COMMERCE CASES

President's Special Message  
Recommends That Five Cir-  
cuit Judges From Various  
Districts Be Appointed.

### AIMS TO FACILITATE INTERSTATE CASES

Annual Sessions of Court May  
Be Held in Washing-  
ton, D. C.

Washington, Jan. 7.—On the subject of interstate commerce in a special message sent to congress today, President Taft, after calling attention to the fact that a large number of orders issued by the Interstate Commerce commission have been appealed from, says: "It would not be proper to attempt to deprive any corporation of the right of review by a court of any order or decree which, if undisturbed, would rob it of a reasonable return on its investment or would subject it to burdens that unjustly discriminate against it and in favor of other carriers similarly situated. What is of supreme importance is that the decision of such a question will be as speedy as the nature of these circumstances will admit and that a conformity of decision can be assured so as to bring about an effective, systematic, scientific enforcement of the commerce law rather than conflicting decisions and uncertainty of final result. For this purpose I recommend the establishment of a court of the United States to be composed of five judges designated for such purpose from among the circuit judges of the United States, to be known as the United States court of commerce, which court shall be clothed with original and exclusive jurisdiction over the following classes of cases: "Class of Cases to Be Heard. "First. All cases for enforcement otherwise than by adjudication and for the collection of penalty or by the infliction of criminal punishment of any order of the Interstate Commerce commission other than for the payment of money. "Second. All cases brought to enforce, set aside, annul or suspend, any order or requirement of the Interstate Commerce commission. "Third. All such cases as under section 2 of the act of February 13, 1903, known as the Elkins act, are authorized to be maintained in a circuit court of the United States. "Fourth. All such mandamus proceedings as, under the provisions of section 20 of section 13, of the interstate commerce law, are authorized to be maintained in a circuit court of the United States." (Continued on Page Five.)

### WOMAN POISONED, NURSE DRUGGED; NORDEN NACTIVE

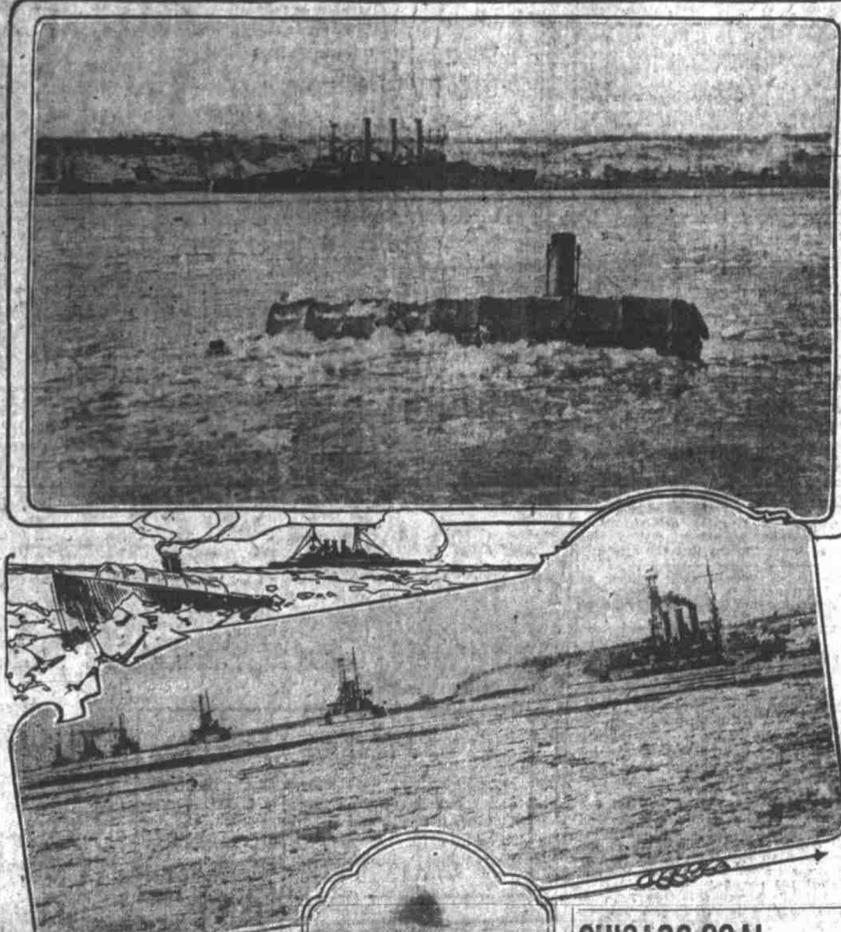
Lilly Ridley Dies After Drinking  
Solution Bichloride of Mer-  
cury at House of Mrs. Elsie  
Kramer, 167 West Park.

### DR. JOHNSON SAYS WAS "DISEASE OF STOMACH"

Drunken Man Gives Nurse  
"Doped" Coffee While She  
Works Over Patient.

"Lilly Ridley, disease of the stomach." That is the way the death certificate signed by Dr. E. D. Johnson, reads. "Lilly Ridley, died from drinking a solution of bichloride of mercury tablets, at 167 West Park street." That tells the real story of the case, though not all of it. Incidentally there is the story of a drinking bout, of a reported quarrel with a sweetheart, of the subsequent quaffing of a quantity of corrosive sublimate, and then death. Quite incidentally again is the report that the nurse, sent to attend the poisoned woman immediately after her illness began, was given drugged coffee by a man in the house at 167 West Park, that she saw something was wrong, struggled to get her home and lapsed into unconsciousness, being found more than an hour afterwards by her sister and revived after a long series of efforts. This is the first time in the history of the city, so far as known, where a nurse has been molested in this manner. "Governor Is Inactive. Ben L. Norden, the coroner, has taken no official action in regard to the death of Miss Ridley. From the records there can be nothing gleaned to show that it was a case of suicide or poisoning, accidental or otherwise. The funeral was scheduled for this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and by noon the death certificate had not been signed by Dr. Johnson, though the death occurred at 9:30 o'clock Wednesday morning. Dr. Johnson explains the disease of the stomach cause of death by saying he did not see the use of "any cock and bull story about poison and sweethearts getting into the paper to bring sorrow to an aged mother and father." Mrs. Elsie Kramer says she is very much shaken by the happening. Lilly Ridley, she says, has been a friend of hers for some time and has been at her house on different occasions for extensive periods. "She has come and gone and the last time had been there for a month or more. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Ridley of Westport, Cal., who had directed that the daughter be buried in Portland." (Continued on Page Ten.)

### U. S. BATTLESHIPS CAUGHT IN THE ICE



### FUEL SHORTAGE THREATENS IOWA WITH PARALYSIS

Governor and Railway Com-  
mission Forbid Coal Confi-  
scation by the Railroads—  
Schools Are Closing.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 7.—Threatened with a fuel famine, Iowa is practically without protection from the bitter cold that prevails throughout the state. Governor Carroll and the state railroad commissioners today issued an order to all railroads forbidding them to appropriate any coal in transit for their own use. The officials of practically every railroad operating within the state announced that they would comply with the order. All classrooms at Simpson college at Indianola were closed today because fuel was unavailable. College exercises (Continued on Page Ten.)

### CHICAGO COAL FAMINE GROWS MOST ALARMING

Supplies Will Be Exhausted To-  
morrow When Many Fac-  
tories and Public Buildings  
Will Be Closed.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Chicago, Jan. 7.—The coal supply of this city is nearly exhausted and with traffic demoralized because of the recent storms there is little likelihood that further shipments will be received soon. The suffering among the poor is growing. Relief measures undertaken by the various charitable organizations have only partially allayed the suffering, because of the scarcity of fuel and the high prices of provisions. The average household has not fuel enough to last over a few days. The big consumers' supplies will be exhausted tomorrow, which threatens to result in a cessation of manufacturing and the demoralization of electric and steam traffic. Many buildings are scheduled to close because of the lack of heat and it is feared that a wholesale order for the temporary laying off of clerks and office men will follow.

### SOUTHERN PACIFIC REACHES OUT FOR SALT LAKE ROUTE

Owning 50 Per Cent of Stock,  
Is Quietly Picking Up Small  
Blocks—Rumor That Road  
Will Be Taken Over.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
New York, Jan. 7.—Wall street today refused to authenticate the report that the Southern Pacific would absorb the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake railroad when traffic was restored and the latter road rehabilitated after the recent floods in Nevada and California. It swept away 100 miles of track and roadbed. From an authoritative source however, came the word that the Harriman system was quietly preparing to take over shares from a number of small stockholders. Inasmuch as the corporation is said already to own 50 per cent of the Salt Lake road's stock issue, the move is regarded here as the first step in the exercise of Southern Pacific control. The projected route through the Cajon pass in southern California to Daguerre will be put through as soon as the main line is repaired. On completion of this, it is rumored, the Harriman interests will take over the management of the Clark road.

### REID'S LETTER CAUSES TURMOIL AMONG LIBERALS

Ambassador Alleged to Have  
Written to Sir Charles Wal-  
pole, Protectionist Candidate  
for Parliament.

### OFFICIAL'S RECALL MAY BE DEMANDED

Epistle Said to Have Claimed  
American Workmen Are  
Not Suffering.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
London, Jan. 7.—Efforts are being made to learn whether Ambassador Reid authorized the publication of a letter he wrote to Sir Charles Walpole, a Protectionist candidate for parliament, which the Protectionists are using as campaign material. The Liberals are said to be behind the investigation. It is reported that if they succeed in proving that the contents of the letter were made public under the ambassador's authorization they will charge Reid with interfering in English politics, and may take steps looking toward his recall. The letter concerned itself with the condition of America's unemployed. Reid is said to have asserted in it that the stories of their suffering under the present economic conditions in the United States are greatly exaggerated. The letter deprecating the reported deplorable effects of protection on the unemployed in America is said to have furnished Walpole and other English Protectionists much valuable material for their English protection fight. "Ambassador Reid is en route to the United States to attend the funeral of his father-in-law, the late D. O. Mills who died in California. At the American embassy the statement was made today that the letter was written long before the precipitation of the present protection discussion in England and was intended to be merely a personal communication." (Continued on Page Ten.)

### BLACK HAND GANG THREATENS LIFE OF PORTLAND MAN

Blood Thirsty Mafia, Whose  
Members Thought to Be Op-  
erating Extensively in This  
City, Tells Vitti Vitti.

### GIVES MONEY TO SAVE HIS LIFE

Receives Letter Bearing Cross  
Bones—Believed Others of  
Italian Colony Threatened.

Black Hand outrages in the east were brought near home today, when information substantiating reports of the receipt of mafia letters by prominent members of the Italian colony, was obtained. That members of an eastern Black Hand gang are working in Portland was the admission of Vitti Vitti, Italian proprietor of the grocery store at 294 Sheridan street. Vitti, who was the recipient of a Black Hand letter more than six months ago, admitted that he had thrice paid money, the amounts ranging from \$25 to \$50, to a representative of the mafia. In all, he had paid out more than \$100. "Steady Crosses in Letter. When Vitti received the threatening letter, scrawled in ink on wrapping paper, and decorated with bloody crosses and crude drawings of a hand, he turned it over to the detective bureau of the police department. Detectives were assigned to the case, but were unable to get any clue as to the identity of the letter writer. Following the failure of the police to chase down the Black Hand gang, Vitti is alleged to have received a second communication. In plain language he was told what the mafia intended to do. "Crosses on Street. \$200 he was informed that his grocery store, over which he lives with his family, was to be blown to atoms. If he was not killed in the explosion, the letter (Continued on Page Ten.)

### CARIBBEAN ISLE ROCKED BY QUAKE

Four Terrific Shocks in Five  
Hours at Swan Island—  
Commotion in Harbor.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Mobile, Ala., Jan. 7.—Word reached this city today that a terrible earthquake shook Swan Island, 900 miles from here in the Caribbean sea, on January 1. Captain Olsen of the fruit steamer Corinto, which is in this harbor, said that the island rocked for half an hour. Five shocks were felt. The natives fled in terror to the beach and begged the Corinto's crew to take them aboard. According to Captain Olsen, the water in the harbor fairly boiled when the heaviest tremor came. His ship was turned completely around, he said, by a whirlpool. Swan Island is the property of Captain W. C. Adams of Mobile.

### 11 MEMBERS OF FAMILY BURIED

California People Poisoned by  
Fruit Laid to Rest—One  
More Fatality.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Sawtelle, Cal., Jan. 7.—Seven hearers, bearing eight members of the Fernandez, Valdez, Reyes and Preciado families, who died from the effects of poison after a family banquet on New Year's day, left Sawtelle today for Santa Monica's Catholic church at Santa Monica, where the funeral services were held. Late this afternoon three members of the Garcia family, who died two days after eating the poisoned food, will be buried. Services will be held at the same church and the burials will be at Woodlawn cemetery. One more fatality has been added to (Continued on Page Ten.)

### STRIKE OF JOB PRINTERS CAN'T BE PREVENTED

Employers Defy Compositors  
at Meeting and Men Prepare  
for Struggle—Nearly All  
Shops to Be Non-Unionized.

Job printers are preparing to strike for higher wages. Fifty employers at a meeting last night voted welcome to the strike and defiance to the strikers, while five were in favor of granting the raise. Employers declare they can non-unionize the shops with profit to themselves. The printers assert that there are not enough "unfair" printers west of the Rocky mountains to meet the Portland demand. While the Gutenberg club of employing printers was holding a "stand pat" session last night, the press feeders' union was engaged in a session as strenuous and as defiant. Governed by hope that at the last moment differences may be adjusted, a strike order (Continued on Page Ten.)

### BURGLAR BURIED IN OWN TUNNEL

Fails to Return With Swag on  
Schedule Time—Wife  
Notifies Police.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
New York, Jan. 7.—Men are digging up Ludlow street, in the heart of the downtown section of the east side, in an effort to find Isaac Finkelstein, "the human mole," who is believed to be entombed. In a passage he bored in an effort to gain an underground entrance to a jewelry store, if Finkelstein is dead, he has been smothered in a grave of his own making and is the victim of his own greed. After the excavators had worked several hours, having found the course of his tunnel, Finkelstein's wife confessed that he had told her of a plan to burrow under the street and rob the Zirnisky jewelry store, known as "Tiffany's of the East Side." It is said that jewelry and jewels worth more than \$50,000 are stored in the Zirnisky vaults. The police learned of the project of the "human mole" when Finkelstein's brother-in-law reported that he believed Finkelstein had been buried alive under the street.

### SPECIAL SESSION OF CABINET ON PINCHOT AFFAIR

Taft Stung by Pinchot's Taunt  
—Question as to Best Way  
to Fire the Forester—House  
Acts on Resolution.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Washington, Jan. 7.—The cabinet is in special session in the case of Ballinger and Pinchot. Pinchot will in all likelihood be discharged. Washington, Jan. 7.—The whole investigation had been cooked up to make Pinchot chief defendant, thus obscuring the real issue as to Ballinger. Pierce, Bennett and Schwarz, when along came Pinchot's letter, admitting all facts freely, and justifying them on the ground that (Continued on Page Fifteen.)

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE WOULD INVESTIGATE STREETCAR SERVICE

The health and police committee of the city council this morning made a recommendation that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the municipal transportation service of the city with a view to improving conditions complained of by various civic associations of the city and the public generally. Councilman Ruslight asked the committee to recommend also the appointment of a technical expert to define just what the word "service" means, and to say what shall constitute good service on the street car lines of Portland. This request was not heeded by the committee, but Mr. Ruslight will take the matter up later when the council meets next Wednesday. The committee amended the ordinance

### OLD PENCIL VENDER GROUND TO PIECES UNDER CAR WHEELS

O. F. Parker, alias J. H. Blake, a one armed pencil vender about 50 years of age, was found dead on the car track of the Mt. Scott line between Kern Park and Hazelwild this morning. Injuries to the body and scattered brains, bits of clothing and a portion of the skull indicated that the man had been dragged a considerable distance by a car, believed to have been the one leaving the city about 4 a. m. The body was found by the passengers and crew of the first inbound car about 8 o'clock. Half of the head was torn away, making identification from the features difficult, and the right leg was broken in two places. A card bearing the name of J. H. Blake was found among the things scattered along the track and it furnished a clue upon which to work. Subsequently it was discovered that yes-

terday the man had called at the O. W. P. office for a small satchel containing pencils which he had left on the outbound car the night before, and, signing for it, he inscribed the name of O. F. Parker, giving his address as Kern Park. Conductor William Ward, in charge of the last outbound car, about 1:30 this morning, reported this afternoon to Chief Agent Boynton of the car company that the one-armed man was on his car and got off at Kern Park. That he was not killed by that car, he said, was certain, because the man was standing on the depot platform as the car pulled out. As the body was found by the first inbound car, the only theory considered plausible is that he either was asleep on the track when the early outbound car came along, or else tried to board it.