

Showers to night and Thursday; southerly winds.

Table with 2 columns: City, Temperature. Includes Seattle, Spokane, San Francisco, Portland, Astoria, Marshfield.

\$6,000,000 FIRE RAVAGES TEXAS CITY OF HOUSTON; 57 BLOCKS SWEEPED; THOUSANDS HOMELESS

Flames Breaking Out in Hotel Spread Rapidly and Are Only Checked After Ten Hours by Use of Dynamite; Heavy Wind Carries Embers to All Parts of Town and Causes Smaller Conflagrations to Start.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Houston, Texas, Feb. 21.—For 10 hours today Houston faced destruction by fire. Before the flames were controlled \$6,000,000 in property—private residences, schools, churches, warehouses and others, 57 blocks in all—had been swept away.

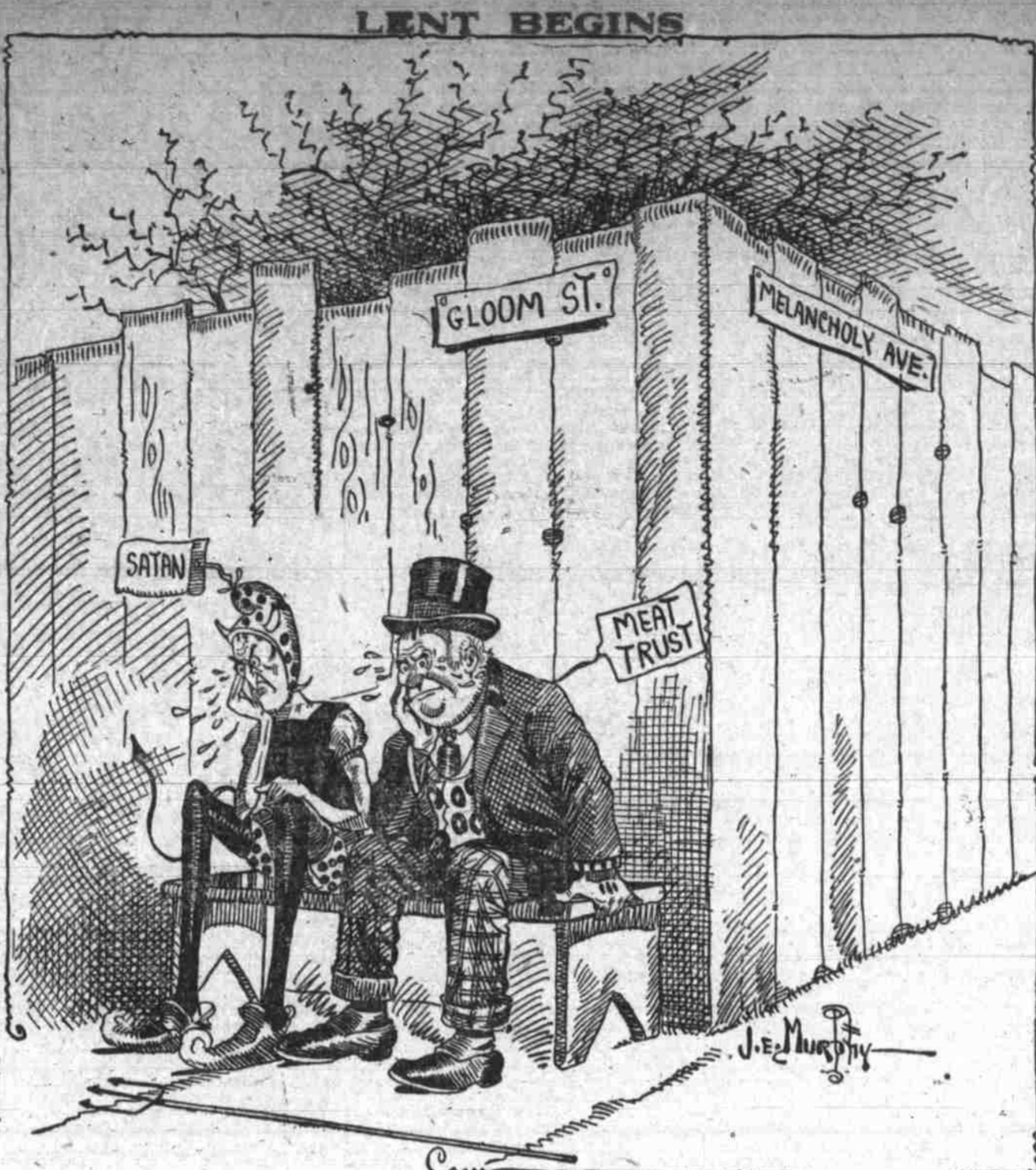
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At 10:30 o'clock the fire had spread to the big shops of the Southern Pacific company, and at that hour a score or more box cars containing provisions, were on fire.

Engines Pressed Into Service. Engines were pressed into service and despite the terrific heat a heroic attempt is being made to draw other cars loaded with foodstuffs to points of safety.

The heaviest individual losers are the McFadden and Cleveland Compressors and the plant of the E. D. Harrell Lumber company. Sixty thousand bales of cotton were destroyed the loss to the cotton dealers alone exceeding \$2,000,000.



WITH ABE RUEF IN BACKGROUND, CASE OF SCHMITZ IS ON

Graft of Earthquake Days Will Be Unfolded in Belated Trial of San Francisco's Former Musician-Mayor.

IN THOSE DAYS RUEF GOT MUCH CORPORATION GOLD

\$20,000 Paid Him by Gas Company, of Which \$13,350 Bribed Council, It Is Said.

(United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, Feb. 21.—Recalling vividly in circumstance and general atmosphere the famous graft prosecution of former years, the trial of former Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz was begun today before a jury in Judge Lawlor's court on a charge of complicity in the giving of a bribe of \$750 to former Supervisor Andrew M. Wilson for his vote on the ordinance which raised the gas rate to 85 cents in March, 1906.

ROOSEVELT TAKES FIRM PROGRESSIVE STAND IN SPEECH

Colonel in Columbus Address Pledges Himself for Initiative and Referendum and Goes on Record for Recall.

HE WARMLY APPLAUDS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Generally Outlines Position on Which May Make Race for Chief Office.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 21.—Pledging himself flatly as for the initiative and referendum, the short ballot, direct nominations by the people, the presidential preference primary, the election of United States senators by direct vote and in a measure, going on record for the recall, forming and endorsing Theodore Roosevelt here today addressed the Ohio state constitutional convention and outlined, as he has never done so fully before, just where he stands as to the progressive policies on which it is believed he may again become a candidate for the presidency.

J. N. TEAL SAYS PANAMA TOLL WOULD PUT HEAVY BURDEN ON AMERICA

Professor Johnson's Scheme Considered Collection of Rates of More Importance Than the Developing of Our Commerce.

(Washington Bureau of the Journal.) Washington, Feb. 21.—J. N. Teal, the Portland economist, is here calling on many senators relative to Panama canal tolls. He thinks the intermountain rate cases may be argued Monday.

SHIVERING SOUTHWEST HELD IN GRIP OF WORST BLIZZARD OF WINTER

Foot of Snow Covers Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma and Fleece Is Still Falling; Traffic Is Almost Halted and Telegraph Crippled.

(United Press Leased Wire.) St. Louis, Feb. 21.—The entire middle southwest, comprising the states of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, today is shivering in the worst blizzard of the winter. A foot of snow is reported in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma, and it is still falling.

West Umatilla Plan Favored by Government Thirty Thousand Acres of Land to Be Irrigated

WATTERSON CHARGES WILSON RUDE TO SPURN RYAN'S 'DIRTY MONEY'

Editor Says New Jerseyan Declined to Take Any of Financier's Cash; Also Asserts He Corresponded With His (Watterson's) Enemies.

WATER FOR ARID LAND MEANS GREAT VICTORY FOR OREGON SETTLERS

Glad News Received From Secretary Fisher and Given to Irrigation Congress by Supervising Engineer Hopson. J. H. Lewis Reads Paper.

ROAD BILLS ON WHICH ALL CAN AGREE TO BE FRAMED BY COMMITTEE

Governor West Will Name Committee of Five Men to Unite the Factions, so That All Good Roads Legislation Will Not Be Imperiled.

SPOKANE JOBBERS ASK TWO MILLION REFUND

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Feb. 21.—Sixty-five Spokane firms today filed with the interstate commerce commission a demand for a \$2,000,000 refund on freight charges collected by western railroads above what would have been collected if the commerce court had not enjoined the rate decision of the interstate commerce commission on intermountain tariffs.

UNDERWOOD CHEMICAL SCHEDULE BILL PASSES

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Feb. 21.—By a vote of 158 to 127 the house today passed the Underwood bill, revising the chemical schedule.

Gale Does Great Damage

Austin, Texas, Feb. 21.—More than \$2,000,000 damage is estimated as the result of the terrific gale that is sweeping Texas today. Hundreds of small buildings are totally wrecked and it is believed that further reports will show heavy losses to ranchmen in cattle and horses. Street car traffic in Austin is demoralized.

APPREHENSION FELT FOR KING FREDERICK

(United Press Leased Wire.) Copenhagen, Feb. 21.—Much apprehension is felt here for King Frederick, who has suffered a relapse after he had partially recovered from a heavy cold accompanied by inflammation of the lungs. Despite the fact that court officials say his condition is not alarming, it is feared that the king is in a more serious state of health than has been admitted.

Case Set for April

(Washington Bureau of the Journal.) Washington, Feb. 21.—The "powers of states" case is set for April 1 before the supreme court.

Favors the Scheme

The report favors the prosecution of the project along lines that will form a happy solution to a much vexed problem, for it gives to the home and landowners of Stanfield assurance that their lands will be satisfactorily drained, homes of people on the upper reaches of the Umatilla river and its tributaries an abundance of water for irrigation and to the pioneer owners of homes on the borders of the site for the proposed reservoir assurance that they will not be driven back by the rising waters.

This is an opportunity for all who

"If this committee does get together, it will not necessarily mean that all measures prepared by the highway commission will be withdrawn, as I understand there is no disagreement over some of them," said Governor West. "The work of the committee will likely affect principally the bonding bill and the highway commissioner bill."

AS CARTOONIST SEED SEES SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS AT THE IRRIGATION CONGRESS NOW IN SESSION



AMERICANS RUSH THEIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN ACROSS MEXICAN LINE

Trains Running Out of the Northern Provinces into Texas Are Crowded With Refugees; Federals in Disguise Are Swarming into Juarez.

(United Press Leased Wire.) El Paso, Texas, Feb. 21.—American women and children today are being rushed from northern Mexico to places of safety in Texas. All northbound trains are crowded. Traffic on the Mexican Northwestern road has been resumed, the rebels permitting the repatriation of the damaged baggage. Many federal soldiers, disguised in civilian clothing, are entering Juarez. Arms and ammunition are being sent to that city from El Paso.

MORE SHORTAGES IN ACCOUNTS OF WATER OFFICE DISCOVERED

Identity of Clerk or Clerks Responsible for Shortages Not Learned; Neither Is Full Amount Known; Snodgrass Not Yet Located.

Still further shortages were discovered yesterday by the corps of experts at work checking the accounts of the city water department. What the amount of these are or what clerk or clerks are responsible for them could not be ascertained this morning. Mr. Whitfield and the mayor held a twenty-minute conference in the mayor's office this morning. It is practically certain that the expert divulged important information at the meeting.

FOUR TRAINMEN DIE IN TUNNEL ACCIDENT

(United Press Leased Wire.) North Adams, Mass., Feb. 21.—In a collision between the Boston express and a freight train in the Hoosac tunnel yesterday four trainmen were killed and traffic was indefinitely delayed. Arthur L. Simmonds and Henry Gregg, engineer and assistant on the electric engine; Luther Davis, a "healer" on the motor, and Reuben Kemp, flagman on the freight train, are dead.

ENGINEER SHOT WHEN TRAIN HOLDUP FAILS

(United Press Leased Wire.) Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 21.—Engineer Mansfield was wounded in the arm near Bertram early today when he frustrated an attempt by five bandits to hold up a passenger train on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. In disobedience to a command to stop the train, Mansfield opened the throttle and past Bertram. As the engine passed the robbers sent a volley of shots through the cab window, one of which struck Mansfield in the arm.