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GLOOM SI

## CITY OF HOUSTON; 57 BLOCKS SWEPT; THOUSANDS H

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.

trolled \$6,000,000 in property—private were on fireresidences, schools, churches, ware-houses and others, 57 blocks in all-had been swept away.

The fire started at about 2:30 this and despite the terrific heat a heroic morning in a hotel in South Houston, attempt is being made to draw other and raged fiercely until nearly noon, cars loaded with foodstuffs to points when it was checked by dynamite. Soon after the flames started a high wind sprang up. Several thousands of per-sons are homeless.

Dynamite Is Used. Dynamite was used in an effort to heck the flames. Burning embers were scattered to every section of the city by the high wind, and the firemen were practically helpiess. Thousands of citi-zens joined in the fight to save the private residences were destroyed. city. The heat of the flames forced the firemen on several occascions to abandon firefighting apparatus and several engines and other paraphernalia were consumed. Mounted police hurried ahead of the flames, notifying evervone of the danger. No casualties

have been reported. The parks and other open spaces are crowded with women and children.

. N. TEAL SAYS PANAMA

TOLL WOULD PUT HEAVY

"The collection of tolls seems of vast-

ly more importance than the developing

of our own commerce. Just how it will all wind up is hard to say, but it is altogether possible that the American

merchant marine will get but little com-fort out of it, and that the American

commerce will pay the high rates."

SPOKANE JOBBERS ASK

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, Feb. 21.—Sixty-five Spe-

kane firms today filed with the inter-

state commerce commission a demand

charges collected by western railroads

the rate decision of the interstate com-

merce commission on intermountain

Argument in the appealed intermoun

tain cases comes up before the United States supreme court on Friday. To day's petition will enable the interstate commerce commission to act instantly for the shippers if the supreme court

upsets the injunctions issued by the commerce court, and legalizes the lower rates prescribed by the commission.

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 tun-

nel yesterday four trainmen were killed and traffic was indefinitely delayed. Archer L. Simmonds and Henry Gregg. engineer and assistant on the electric engine; Luther Dayls, a "learner" on

motor, and Reuben Kemp, flagman

FOUR TRAINMEN DIE

refund.

a \$2,000,000 refund on freight

of Our Commerce.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Houston, Texas, Feb. 21. — For 10 to the big shops of the Southern Pacific company, and at that hour a score or by fire. Before the flames were conmore box cars containing provisions. more box cars containing provisions

Engines Pressed Into Service. Engines were pressed into service and despite the terrific heat a heroic

cars loaded with foodstuffs to points of safety. The heaviest individual losers are the McFadden and Cleveland Compressers and the plant of the E. D. Harrell Lumber company. Sixty thousand bales of cotton were destroyed the loss to the otton dealers alone exceeding \$2,000, 000. In addition to churches, schools, factories and lumber plants, a hundred

The fire finally was controlled following the use of dynamite. An entire block of houses were destroyed by this means to prevent the spread of the flames to the downtown section of the

City officials announced that the fire victims would be cared for and that aid from outside cities probably would

## SHIVERING SOUTHWEST HELD IN GRIP OF WORST BURDEN ON AMERICA

Foot of Snow Covers Misrouri, Kan-Professor Johnson's Scheme Considsas and O'lahoma and Fleece Is ers Collection of Rates of More Still Falling; Traffic Is Almost Importance Than the Developing Halted and Telegraph Crippled.

Washington, Feb. 21 .- J. N. Teal, that Portland economist, is here calling on die southwest, comprising the states of many senators relative to Panama canal Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, toils. He thinks the intermountain rate today is shivering in the worst blizzard of the winter. A foot of snow is recases may be argued Monday. Regarding the report of Professor ported in Missouri, Kansas and Okla-Johnson on canal tolls, Mr. Teal says: homa, and it is still falling. All trains running into this city are "Professor Joffnson has finally made

from two to five hours late and telehis recommendations on Panama tolls. graph service is badly crippled. He treats it as a purely commercial Business both in Kansas City and proposition. His views are of decided St. Louis is virtually at a standstill. interest to the coast. Street cars are blocked because of the "On coast to coast traffic it seems heavy fall of snow and traffic is comto be his view that the highest rates pletely demoralized. In the poorer seccan prevail, while on European traffic tions of the cities the suffering is in-

now using the Suez canal competition tense. Delivery of coal is out of the question and this has added to the rates will have to be made. It is not misery. improbable that this will be the princi-Hundreds of head of cattle undoubtple adopted, unless those interested are edly have perished on the ranges in more active. In other words, the charge Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The loss on all traffic will bear on our own tonnage, but we must be sure to make it

from this source is certain to run high nto the thousands. low enough on the tonnage of foreign nations in the foreign trade so we will get their traffic through the Panama Snow Storm Hits Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 21.-Chicago is today in the grip of a severe snow storm. Both surface and elevated traffic are crippled. Hundreds of men are employed in removing the snow which has piled up in great dirfts. The storm is general throughout the Ohio and Mississippi

### UNDERWOOD CHEMICAL SCHEDULE BILL PASSES

TWO MILLION REFUND Washington, Feb. 21.—By a vote of 158 to 127 the house today passed the Underwood bill, revising the

The bill went through unamended, though the Republicans made a hard fight against it. .

Gale Does Great Damage.

Austin, Texas, Feb. 21.-More than above what would have been collected if the commerce court had not enjoined amounts shippers have ever asked as a

\$2,000,000 damage is estimated as the result of the teriffic gale that is sweeping Texas today. Hundreds of small buildings are totally wrecked and it is commission on intermountain heavy losses to ranchmen in cattle and horses. Street car traffic in Austin is a shippers have ever asked as a demoralized.

Case Set for April 1 before the possible, it is now believed that the washington, Feb. 21.—The "powers of horses, Street car traffic in Austin is supreme court."

Case Set for April 1 before the project of turning water on 20,000 acres supreme court.

## BLIZZARD OF WINTER West Umatilla Plan Favored by Government Thirty Thousand Acres of Land to Be Irrigated WILSON RUDE TO SPURN MEANS GREAT VICTORY

Editor Says New Jerseyan Declined Glad News Received From Secretary Governor West Will Name Commit-Fisher and Given to Irrigation Congress by Supervising Engineer Hopson, J. H. Lewis Reads Paper.

FOR OREGON SETTLERS

RYAN'S 'DIRTY MONEY'

to Take Any of Financier's Cash;

Also Asserts 'He Corresponded

With His (Watterson's) Enemies.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Louisville, Feb. 21.-Woodrow Wil-

son today is believed to have been

boosted up another step on the White

Henry Watterson: One of the allega

tions Colonel Watterson makes in his

when such a course was suggested by

"Marse" Henry also asserts that while

FOR KING FREDERICK

(United Press Leased Wire.) Copenhagen, Feb. 21.—Much appre

hension is felt here for King Frederick

who has suffered a relapse after he

had partially recovered from a heavy

cold accompanied by inflammation of

officials say his condition is not alarm-

ing, it is feared that the king is in a

more serious state of health than has

the lungs. Despite the fact that court

termed "Ryan's dirty money."

APPREHENSION FELT

been admitted.

Upon telegraphic permission from Secretary of the Interior Fisher, E. G. Hopson, supervising engineer of the federal reclamation service for Oregon, Cal-House stairs by utterances of Colonel ifornia and Nevada, this morning announced before the Oregon Irrigation congress the substance of the report of attack on Wilson is that the latter was the board appointed some time ago to rude in his refusal to take campaign investigate the merits of the proposed contributions: from Thomas F. Ryan west extension of the Umatilla govern-

ment irrigation project. Colonel Watterson. He says that Wil-son stiffly declined to take what he the greatest enthusiasm by the 200 dele The announcement was received with gates, and came at a moment when the convention was about to hear the projhe was engaged in furthering the cause ect discussed from the viewpoints of Wilson the latter was corresponding the various factions that have appeared with Colonel Watterson's enemies in as protestors against different features of the proposed project.

Payors the Scheme.

the project along lines that will form bring about an agreement as to a plan owners of Stanfield assurance that their good roads legislation. taries an abundance of water for irriga-tion and to the pioneer owners of homes stand there is no disagreement over on the borders of the site for the pro-some of them." said Governor West.

These, Mr. Hopson explained, had been the main cause for protests, and get together, each school of good roads as they have been removed as far as advocates will be free to go ahead and possible, it is now believed that the fight for its own bills."

# ALL CAN AGREE TO BE

tee of Five Men to Unite the Factions, so That All Good Roads Legislation Will Not Be Imperiled.

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.) Salem, Or., Feb. 21.—Because of his nterest in securing good roads for Oregon, regardless of who frames the legislation that will bring about the result, Governor West today announced his intention to appoint a committee of five. representative of various interests for and against the present proposed highway measures, to meet and endeavor to unite all factions on one group of bills. This action is to be taken by the governor to prevent, if possible, a multi-

plicity of conflicting good roads measures going upon the ballot at the com ing election and the possibility of deof all good roads legislation. Friends and foes of the different plans have been requesting the governor to appoint such a committee of represen-The report favors the prosecution of able to reconcile all differences and

of the Umatilla river and its tribu- measures prepared by the highway com- pairing of the damaged bridges.

posed reservoir assurance that they ."The work of the committee will likely will not be driven back by the rising affect principally the bonding bill and the highway commissioner bill, "But should the committee fail

> "This is an opportunity for all who (Continued on Page Two.)

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

IN THOSE DAYS RUEF GOT MUCH CORPORATION GOLD

Company, of Which \$13,350 Bribed Council, It Is Said.

(United Press Lessed Wire.) San Francisco, Feb. 21.—Recalling the facts of the case slightly stripped of interest through the general familthe attitude of the crowd in the court- date for the presidency. room, lies in conjecture as to what is put upon the stand.

attorneys, took the keenest interest, apparently, in the proceedings, indulging now and then in whispered conferences with his own attorneys, Bert Schlesinger and George Keane who, is it anticipated, will keep a close check upon the course of Ruef's testimony when he

reviewed the course of the gas ordinance introduced by Supervisor Davis in January 1908 which gave rise to the phase of the graft situation upon which Schmitz is being prosecuted. Berry

Hire Buef at \$1000 a Month. "It appears that for some time prior to the passage of the ordinance Abraham Ruef, politician and political boss, hav-ing influence with the mayor and super-visors, undertook to act as counsel at \$1000 a month for the gas company, in the question of 75 cent and 85 cent gas. As such counsel Ruef received from Frank G. Drumm \$20,000, ostensibly as attorney's fees, but actually for FRAMED BY COMMITTEE bribes to secure the passage of the or-dinance in the form which was finally signed by Mayor Schmitz fixing the bribes to secure the passage of the orrate at 85 cents.

Supervisors Get a Cut. "We will show that Ruef took \$13,350 of this sum and gave it to Supervisor James Gallagher to distribute in \$750 (Continued on Page Two.)

## 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.

women and children today are being clerks are responsible for them could a happy solution to a much vexed prob- which will receive the indorsement of rushed from northern Mexico to places not be ascertained this morning. lem, for it gives to the home and land- all and thereby insure the passage of of safety in Texas. All northbound trains are crowded. Traffic on the twenty-minute conference in the mayor's lands will be satisfactorily drained, the "If this committee does get together, homes of people on the upper reaches it will not necessarily mean that all resumed, the rebels permitting the re-Many federal soldiers, disguised in civilian clothing, are entering Juearez. that city from El Paso.

By sending federal soldiers into Juarez in small parties, dressed in civilian clothes, it is possible for Madero to reinforce the garrison there without battling with the Vasquistas. It was learned here today that the federal forces have two machine guns at Juarez. It is thought these guns were taken there from El Paso.

Pledges Himself for Initiative and Referendum and Goes on Record for Recall.

HE WARMLY APPLAUDS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

\$20,000 Paid Him by Gas Generally Outlines Position on Which May Make Race for Chief Office.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 21.-Pledging vividly in circumstance and general at- himself flatly as for the initiative and mosphere the famous graft prosecution referendum, the short ballot, direct of former years, the trial of former nominations by the people, the presi-Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz was begun to- dential preference primary, the election day before a jury in Judge Lawlor's of United States senators by direct vote court on a charge of complicity in the and in a measure, going on record for giving of a bribe of \$750 to former Su- the recall, former President Theodore pervisor Andrew M. Wilson for his vote Roosevelt here today addressed the on the ordinance which raised the gas Ohlo state constitutional convention and rate to 85 cents in March, 1906. With outlined, as he has never done so fully of interest in the trial, as indicated by believed he may again become a candi-

Welcomed to Columbus by cheering course Abraham Ruef will take when he crowds, Colonel Roosevelt also received Ruef, sitting back of Schmitz and his convention hall. With little delay he plunged into his speech which was dis-tributed for publication to the newspaper agencies under the title "A Char-

ter of Democracy."
It was estimated that more than 10,000 persons heard Colonel Roosevelt's speech. A demonstration which lasted several minutes greeted his appearan Assistant District Attorney Berry in the convention hall, cheers, the "rebel yell," handelapping and the waving of handkerchiefs making the hall a pandemonium of noise and color. Roosevelt's speech was repeatedly in-

terrupted by thunders of applause. Green Moisy Reception. Colonel Roosevelt was tendered an enthusiastic reception at the state house where thousands of persons had gathered. The former president acknowl-

Roosevert movement in Ohio.

Colonel Roosevelt was escorted to the convention chamber by Delegate Beatty, It became known this afternoon that hundreds of persons gained admission to the hall by means of spurious tickets. Genuine admission tickets were stolen from Delegate Peck at his hotel last night and despite the fact that new ones were printed the stolen tick-

(Continued on Page Six.)

## 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 (United Press Leased Wire.)
El Paso, Texas, Feb. 21.—American amount of these are or what clerk or

Mr. Whitfield and the mayor held a certain that the expert divulged important information at the meeting.

"Have you reported any further shortages to the mayor?" Mr. Whitfield was Arms and ammunition are being sent to asked just after he left the mayor's office. The expert hesitated a moment and

then replied: "You will have to see the mayor about that." The mayor has ordered that the examination of the books continue all day tomorrow.

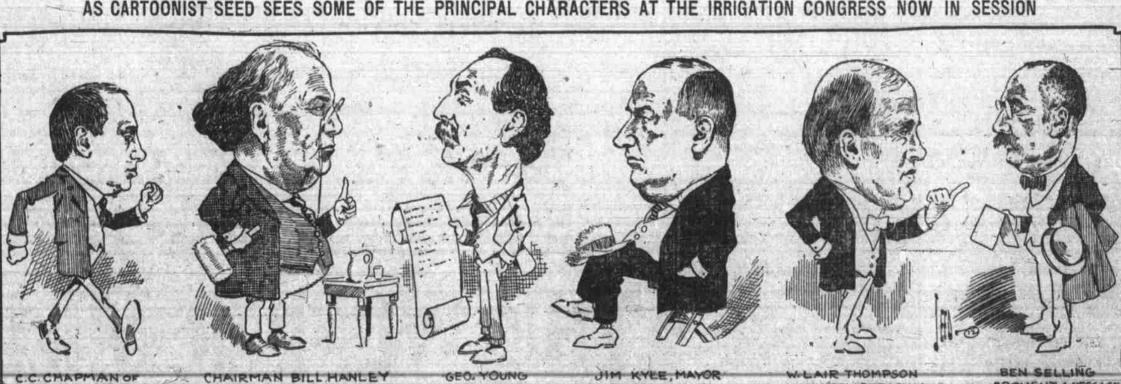
Detectives at work trailing Fred Snodgrass, who is said to be short in his accounts, have not yet succeeded in locating him, but it is said that the sleuths have learned that Snodgrass left the city and they expect to dis-cover his exact whereabouts within the

## ENGINEER SHOT WHEN TRAIN HOLDUP FAILS

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 21.—Engineer Mansfield, was wounded in the arm near Bertram early today when he frushold 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 angine passed the robbers sent a volley of shots through the cab window, one of which

struck Mansfield in the arm.
Engineer Mansfield was sent to a hospital, where it was said his tajury

was not serious. It is believed that the bandits were tipped off that the express car or an unmountly large amount of o is charge shipments of gold and



on the freight train, are dead.
The wreck occurred on the Boston & Maine railroad, when a freight train stopped in the tunnel. The electric en refused to operate the brakes and th COMMERCIAL CLUB WHO train dashed into the freight cars. The KEPT THINGS ON THE MOVE tunnel was badly damaged by fire from

WHO RESEMBLES WM. BRYAN BROKE FORTH WITH A FEW REMARKS. FROM BURNS

OF STANFIELD WAS VERY ATTENTIVE

HAD A FEW PERSONAL SUGGESTIONS TO OFFER BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM PRES. TAFT.