TO PREVENT BIG STRIKE

Uncle Sam Asked to Force Arbitration on Railway Employes.

Erdman Act Provides for Settlement of Labor Troubles Where Interstate Commerce is Involved—Impending Strike Would Tie Up All West of Chicago.

Chicago, March 28.—The United States government will be asked to intervene to prevent a strike of the conductors and trainmen on the Western railroads and, if the plans of the managers do not miscarry, the whole matter will be submitted to arbitration for settlement. Late last night the general managers gave out a statement declaring they will demand arbitration under the Erdmann act. A strike of the men would interfere with interstate commerce. The railroad officials believe they con prevent a strike by asking the government to step in and take command of the situation.

The Erdmann act passed in 1898 provides for the arbitration of labor differences, where interstate commerce is involved, by the chairman of the Interstate Commerce commission and the commissioner of labor.

The strike has been agreed upon already by the railroad employes by referendum vote. The officers were authorized to call the men out if the terms put up to the railroad managers were not accepted. Determining the time for the suspension to take effect is a mere detail and that probably will be decided today at a meeting of delegates at the Sherman house.

The railroads involved are:

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe coast lines, Burlington, Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern, Chicago & Northwestern, Chicago & Alton, Chicago & Great Western, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, Colorado Midland, Colorado & Southern, El Paso & Southwestern, Frisco System, Great Northern, Houston & Texas Central, Illinois Central, Kansas City Southern, Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Northern Pacific, Oregon Short Line, San Antonio & Arkansas Pass, Southern Pacific Atlantic system, Texas & Pacific, Duluth, Missabe & Northern, Fort Worth & Denver City, Frisco in Texas, Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe, Houston, East & West Texas, International & Great Northern, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste Marie, Missouri Pacific, Oregon Railway & Navigation company, St. Louis Southwestern, San Pedro, Los Angeles Salt Lake, Southern Pacific system, Wisconsin Central, Yazoo & Mississippi Valley.

SCHMITZ TO PROVE INNOCENCE.

Says He Will Then Give no Quarter in Libel Suits.

San Francisco, March 28.—In a statement today to the Associated Press, Mayor Schmitz denies the truth of charges published in the local papers to the effect that the prosecution has abundant evidence that Schmitz profited to the extent of not less than $662,000 from participation in the boodling operations now being investigated by the grand jury.

"These charges," said the mayor, "are maliciously false, and as soon as I am afforded the legal opportunity, I shall prove them to be so." After declaring that he is anxious for a speedy trial, he says:

"It is notoriously unfair that I should be brought to trial before any judge in this city and county," all of whom he alleges to be biased, and declares it is outrageous that he should be kept "for months under this foul cloud with the prospect that the trial will be delayed for another four months."

The mayor says this is no time for libel suits, but, when he has been tried and judged by a jury, he will give no quarter.

Preparing French Column

Oran, Algeria, March 28.—General Liautey has been occupied all day with preparations for the dispatch of the French column that is to occupy Oudja. He has appointed General Vigy, commandant of the second brigade of Algerian infantry, to command the column, giving him minute instructions to avoid all possibility of a collosion, and to be most careful not to let his operations assume the character of an invasion. General Liautey will go tomorrow night to Lalla Marina, on the Moroccan frontier.

Cruisers Reach Tangier.

Tangier, March 28.—The French armored cruiser Jeanne d'Arc and the cruiser Lalande have arrived from Toulon. The commander of the former handed a list of the French claims to Mohammed El Torres, the representative of the sultan, this afternoon. The situation at Morocco is becoming serious, according to the reports received here. Hostile bands are parading the streets and Europeans do not dare to go out of their houses without an escort.

No More Negro Troops.

Houston, Tex., March 28.—Announcement was made today at the local recruiting station that orders have been received from the War department at Washington, instructing that no more negroes be accepted for service in the army, also that negro troops in the United States will be dispatched forthwith to the Philippines.

WRECK IN CALIFORNIA.

At Least Twenty-Six Persons Killed and a Hundred Hurt.

Colton, Cal., March 29.—One of the most disastrous wrecks in the history of the Southern Pacific railroad occurred one and one-half miles east of this town shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when westbound train No. 9 from New Orleans for San Francisco ran into an open switch, while going at the rate of 40 miles an hour, and ten of the 14 coaches were derailed with frightful results. Twenty-six people are known to have been killed and the final list will total much higher than this number. The injured number about 100, many of whom are seriously injured and will die.

The wrecked coaches were hurled in every direction. Four of them were smashed into splinters. Most of the dead were Italians from New York and New Orleans, going to San Francisco. They occupied the smoker and day coach.

But two Americans are known to have been killed, although several of those among the injured will undoubtedly die within the next few hours.

Out of 80 Pullman passengers, but two sustained serious injury. The three Pullman coaches and the diner, which were on the rear of the train, did not leave the track. The occupants of these cars were practically unharmed.

L. R. Alvord, W. K. Davis and W. G. Gusenmeyer, members of the switching crew who are accused of leaving the switch open and causing the wreck, were taken into custody and held in bail of $1,000 by Coroner Van Wye.

TRY MEDIATION.

Knapp and Neill Will Attempt to Adjust Railroad Dispute.

Chicago, March 29.—Government intervention will be tried in an effort to avert the great railroad strike which threatens to paralyze the business of the West. In response to the appeal of the railroad managers, Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commere commission, and Commissioner of Labor Neill will arrive in Chicago Saturday morning and offer mediation in the controversy. Failing to adjust the matter in a conciliatory manner, they will endeavor to bring about arbitration under the provisions of the Erdmann law.

The labor chiefs will await the arrival of the government officials before ordering a strike. If the good offices of Mr. Knapp and Mr. Neill result in bringing greater concessions to the employes than have yet been offered, the strike may be averted. The employes, however, say they will not accept arbitration and today again declared their position that nothing short of greater concessions from the railroads will prevent them from walking out.

President Roosevelt has been following closely the developments in the situation here and Messrs. Knapp and Neill will undertake the delicate work imposed on them by law with full consciousness that the president is extremely solicitous that all differences be settled by arbitration.

The general managers said that no attempt would be made to operate trains if the employes struck.

NO ADVANCE IN LUMBER RATES

Northern Roads Deny Present Intention, but Are Investigating.

St Paul, Minn., March 29.—An official statement was made by traffic men of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads today that it is not contemplated to make any immediate change in lumber rates from Puget sound to St. Paul and Missouri river cities, as the lumbermen have advised the Interstate Commerce commission in Washington. A joint statement was made by the lines as follows:

"We have not considered an increase in Pacific Coast Missouri-River lumber rates, except as they may have been involved in discussions covering the general rates and cost of service. No immediate changes are contemplated."

While the statement gives generally the situation, it is asserted the lines are closely investigating conditions governing the transportation of lumber, which have changed considerably since the industry on the coast started.

Burning Gas Terrifies Farmers.

Sapulpa, I. T., March 29.—The gas well two miles east of here that caught fire Saturday is still burning fiercely. After 14 days of work the well was capped. But the great volume of gas found another way out through the crevices and for half a mile it spread open the earth. At one place a hole three feet wide and 20 feet long was torn. Then the gas caught fire and has been burning ever since. At one place a sheet of flame 20 feet long and 15 feet high is blazing. Tons of rock and shale were thrown from the cracks.

Outlaw Band Driven Off.

Durango, Mexico, March 29.—In a desperate fight between rurales and a band of outlaws under Gumersindo Ortega, in the San Juan Del Rio mountains, Ortega, who was considered one of the most dangerous bandits in Northwestern Mexico, and his band were driven into the mountains with the rurales in close pursuit. From this district in which Ortega and his band have been operating numerous reports have been received of murders.

Faculty Rebukes Magoon.

Havana, March 29.—The directors of Havana university held a meeting today and entered a protest against the recent action of Governor Magoon in licensing two American doctors to practice in Havana without first passing an examination in the Univeristy of Havana, as required by law.

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

COAL ROADS BROUGHT TO TIME

Indiana and Illinois Lines Adopt Government "Suggestions"

Washington, March 29.—Prompt action by the Interstate Commerce commission has averted what might have developed into a serious clash between the coal shippers and the railroads of Indiana and Illinois. On March 15 the Indiana Railroad commission, the United Mineworkers and representative coal operators of Indiana and Illinois complained to the commission that the carriers had given notice of an advance of 2 cents a ton on coal from Indiana and Illinois points to Chicago. Such an advance, they pointed out, would seriously affect both miners and operators. The question of filing a formal complaint against the railroads was considered by the delegation. An intimation also was made that proceedings would be instituted against the carriers for violation of the anti-trust law.

Since that time the commission has been in communication with all the presidents interested, and in the words of Chairman Knapp, "certain suggestions" were made to the railroads. It was announced by the commission today that repiles to the communication had been received from the interested lines and that the determination to make the proposed advance in the coal rates had been reconsidered and abandoned.

Can Sell Relinquishment.

Washington, March 27.—Announcing the opinion of the court in favor of Flahiv, in the case of Edward H. Love vs. Annie Flahiv, involving a contest over land in Missoula county, Montana, Justice Brewer, of the Supreme court of the United States, today laid down some general principles regarding the relinquishment of homestead applications and the sale of land taken up under the homestead law before the issuance of the patent. On that point the court held that relinquishments can be sold.

Turns More Money Loose.

Washington, March 28.—Under instructions recently issued, collectors of customs throughout the country were directed to deposit their customs receipts in the regular depositories. This, however, did not embrace the so-called subtreasury cities. These instructions have been today enlarged by the secretary so that the public deposits with national bank depositories in New York city will at once be increased about $15,000,000 from customs receipts under the provisions of the act of March 4, 1907.

Cattle Grazing on Reserves.

Washington, March 29.—The Forest service today announces that 1,388,300 cattle and horses and 4,895,020 sheep will be permitted to graze on Western forest reserves during 1907, of which 100,500 cattle and horses and 731,000 sheep will be permitted in Oregon; 52,500 cattle and 119,000 sheep in Washington. Livestock which has heretofore regularly used the range in the recently created reserves and four additions in Oregon will be permitted to graze free during the present season.

Don't Make Rural Carriers Trouble.

Washington, March 29.—A decision rendered today by Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Degraw insists upon an adherance to the regulations requiring that boxes on rural mail routes shall be erected by the roadside, so that carriers can easily obtain access to them without deviating from their routes or dismounting from their vehicles. Failure to comply, the decision states, is likely to result in the discontinuance of the delivery of mail.

Board of Immigration.

Washington, March 28.—The president has appointed the following as civilian members of the Immigration commission: Charles P. Neill, commissioner of labor; Prof. J. W. Jenks, of Cornell university, and William R. Wheeler, a business man of Oakland, Cal. The senate and house members have been announced. They are Senators Lodge, Dillingham and Latimer, and Representatives Howell, Bennett and Burnett.

Roosevelt Talks Railroads.

Washington, March 28.—President Roosevelt discussed various features of the railroad situation at a conference with a number of his advisers at the White House today. They included Secretaries Root Cortelyou and Garfield, and Interstate Commerce Commissioners Clark and Lane. Those present admitted that the conference had to do with railroad matters.

Plan for 1908 Campaign.

Washington, March 26.—Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou and Timothy Woorduff, of New York, chairman of the Republican State committee of New York, were in conference with the president at the White House for more than two hours tonight. Mr. Woodruff said the conference related to presidential campaign plans for 1908, but that candidates were not discussed.

Portland Man After Good Job.

Washington March 28. — Richard Nixon, of Portland, son-in-law of Mrs. Dolph, is a candidate for the secretaryship of the immigration commission, which will go abroad this summer to study immigration problems.

New Land Office Appointee.

Washington, March 27.—Harry H Schwartz, of South Dakota, was today appointed chief of the special field service, division of the general land office.

MORE DELEGATES TO BE SENT.

Roosevelt to Strengthen Hague Mission—Date Still Undecided.

Washington, March 30.—President Roosevelt has concluded to increase the number of American delegates to the second Hague conference, a proceeding which will not have any effect, however, upon the disposition of the various projects that will be considered at that gathering, because each nation represented is entilted to but one vote. But because of the complexity and importance of the programme, it is felt by the president that the American delegation should be enlarged to permit of a sub-division into committees if need be.

When the announcement was made last June of the intention to hold a second conference, it was also stated that American would be represented by General Horace Porter, formerly ambassador to France; Joseph H. Choat, formerly ambassador to England, and Judge U. M. Rose, of Little Rock, Ark., formerly president of the American Bar association. The president and Secretary Root have already selected the additional delegates, but it is not deemed proper to announce the names in advance of formal notice that the second conference actually is to be held. For, notwithstanding the fact that now scarcely more than 60 days is to intervene between this date and the date suggested by the government of The Netherlands as suitable for the beginning of the conference at The Hague, possibly through some oversight hte formal invitations to the nations to participate have not been issued.

INCREASED MEAT EXPORTS.

Total Value of Products Sent Out Last Year $250,000,000.

Washington, March 26.—The total exportations of meat and dairy products and food animals from the United States last year aggregated over $250,000,000 in value, according to a statement issued by the bureau of statistics of the department of Commerce and Labor.

This represents an increase of $76,000,000, or 45 per cent, during the decade from 1896 to 1906. More than 60 per cent of last year's exports went to the United Kingdom. Of the $250,000,000 worth of meats, dairy products and food animals pssing out of the United States last year, $40,000,000 was in live animals, $58,000,000 in lard, $36,000,000 in bacon, $25,000,000 in fresh beef, $21,000,000 in hams, $18,000,000 in oleomargarine, $14,000,000 in pork other than bacon and hams, $4,500,000 in butter and $2,500,000 in cheese.

Soldiers Had Shotguns, Too.

Washington, March 28.—The cross examination of Thomas Taylor, formerly of Company F, Twenty-fifth infantry, was resumed today when the senate committee on military affairs again took up its investigation of the "shooting up" of Brownsville, Tex. When asked concerning the issue of extra ammunition to soldiers when they desired to go hunting, Taylor said he had never secured any, because he always took one of three shotguns belonging to his company. This is the first admission since the investigation was begun that the company had shotguns in its possession. Joseph L. Wilson, company B, gave testimony concerning events of the night of August 13, when the shooting occurred, similar to that given by Taylor.

Arrange for Summer Camps.

Washington, March 28.—Brigadier General Murray, chief of artillery, has requested the adjutant general to instruct the commanding officers of the artillery districts to put himself in direct communication with the state authorities with a view to ascertaining the details of their plans and in order to render them such assistance as may be practicable in connection with arrangements for transporting, employing, subsistence, instructing and returning to their homes in safety such troops as may participate therein.

Penrose Is Exonerated.

Washington, March 27.—The senate committee on military affairs today received from the acting secretary of war a copy of a telegram from Brigadier General McCaskey, commanding the department of Texas, concerning the Penrose court martial. The following is the text: "Major Penrose was exonerated by the court martial, but the court found that the shooting in Brownsville was done by the men of the Twenty-fifth infantry."

Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, March 28.—Charles E. Hartley has been appointed regular, John Naff substitute, rural carrier, route 1, Republic, Wash. Katherine G. Wood has been appointed postmasterat Foreston, Snohomish county, Wash., vice William Nash resigned.

Advance Eight-Hour Cases.

Washington, March 27.—In the Supreme court of the United States Solicitor General Hoyt made a motion today for the advancement on the docket of several cases against dredging companies on the charge of violating the eight-hour law.

Battleship Plans Ready.

Washington, March 26.—Plans and specifications for the two battleships authorized by the last session of congress will be ready for competitive bidding April 1.

TRIAL DRAGGING.

Juror in Hermann Case Drops Asleep in Court Hours.

Washington, March 27.—That interest in the trial of Binger Hermann is lagging was strikingly illustrated today, when one of the jurors fell asleep in the midst of the testimony of Harry C. Robertson, formerly private secretary to Senator Mitchell. The testimony produced this week has not been startling, in fact it covers ground already gone over by other witnesses, it being the intention of District Attorney Baker by preponderance of evidence to convince the jury that Hermann had an important motive in destroying his so-called private letter books. The testimony, however, is largely technical and uninteresting.

Mr. Robertson's testimony today covered the same ground as his testimony in Portland. He showed the close relations that existed among Hermann, Mitchell, Mays and Puter, testified as to their correspondence regarding land matters, since proven fraudulent, and to that extent materially aided the prosecution.

Had Mr. Robertson been permitted to tell extensively of his relations with Hermann in 1896-97, when the latter was first in congress, he could have materially offset some statements of those who appeared as character witnesses for the defendant. Before court opened Mr. Robertson talked freely with District Attorney Baker about his relations with Hermann while serving him as private secretary and an attempt was made to bring out these facts, but objection was made by counsel for the defense, inasmuch as they had no direct bearing on the case at bar, and the court sustained the objection. For that reason Mr. Robertson's testimony was robbed of considerable interest.

INQUIRY IN OAKLAND.

Telephone Companies Pursued Same Tactics in That City.

San Francisco, March 27 —The grand jury investigation took a leap today across the bay and landed in Oakland. It was shown during the examination of witnesses that the Home Telephone company and the Pacific States Telephone company had been engaged in a battle over a franchise similar to the warfare here which resulted in wholesale bribery. It developed that Halsey was in Oakland and that Detwiller was there also. These are the men accused of bribing the San Francisco officials.

Aside from this revelation, the inquiry failed to reveal anything of a sensational nature. At the end of the session District Attorney Langdon said the day had been spent in "filling in." Testimony was given which serves to supply some of the missing links in the general recital of bribery.

The grand jury will soon begin to reveal the part played by Mayor Schmitz in the boodle transactions. The mayor, it is estimated, received close to $750,000 as the result of his operations.

CALL ELECTION IN PHILIPPINES

If Peace is Complete, President Will Order Commission to Act.

Washington, March 27.—The Philippine commission has been instructed to cable to inform President Roosevelt by tomorrow whether a condition of general and complete peace, with recognition of the authority of the United States, has continued in all that portion of the archipelago not inhabited by Moros or other non-Christian tribes for the past two years. If the answer is in the affirmative, the president will direct the commission to call a general election on July 30, next, for the choice of delegates to the first popular assembly of the people of the Philippines.

The proposed assembly consisting of the two houses, the upper composed of the Philippine commission and the lower of the delegates to be elected, will take over all the legislative power now exercised by the Philippine commission alone. Under an act of congress none of the members of the non-Christian tribes can participate in the elections.

Bonilla Ordered Surrender.

Managua, Nicaragua, March 27.—It is stated upon the highest authority here that President Bonilla, of Honduras, after his retreat to Amapala, following the defeat of the Honduran-Salvadoran forces at Choluteca by the Nicaraguan army, ordered from Amapala the surrender of Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, to the victorious troops. The city is now in the possession of the Honduran-Nicaraguan government junta. Senor Barhona, Honduran minister of war, was mortally wounded, and many captured.

Glass Refuses to Talk.

San Francisco, March 27.—Louis Glass, vice president of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph company, first of the big fellows to be indicted, was at his desk in the telephone company's building at 10 o'clock this morning He refused to make any statement regarding the indictment which charges him with authorizing the payment by Halsey also indicted, of the $50,000 that was split up wi the supervisors.

Honduras Retakes Trujillo.

New Orleans, March 27.—A private telegram received here today said that the Hondurians had recaptured the port of Trujillo. This was the first Carribean port of Honduras taken by Nicaragua.

WORST IS OVER IN CALIFORNIA

Much Suffering Will Yet Result and Loss Will Be Heavy.

All Past Records for High Water and General Destruction Have Been Broken—Crops Ruined and Thousands of Acres of Farm Land Inundated—Stock Loss is Big.

Sacramento, March 26.—With practically all of the down-river islands under water, the worst flood in the history of this rich agricultural district, not excepting even those of 1862 and 1904, is now a matter of record. On the Sacramento side of the river, Grand, Sutter and Sherman islands are the only ones not inundated, and on the Yolo side, Merritt stands as the single rock which has withstood the ravages of the waters.

Even the Pearson district, where the hardest fight ever made by the river ranchers to save their lands has been going on for a week, is not submerged, and while at Randall island the front levee was still standing at last reports the struggle has been given up.

While from all points comes the word that "the worst is over," a vivid picture can be drawn of the awful destruction which has ruined crops and put land worth millions of dollars temporarily out of commission.

The steamer Fruto has been sent on a second mission of relief and she is momentarily expected to return with a cargo of the stock rescued from the Pearson district. The Pearson district is one of the chief dairying parts of the county, and although the residents are making a desperate fight to protect their homes and cattle until help arrives, it is probable that many hundreds will be lost.

The water was reported to be four feet deep, and rising rapidly. The break is widening and it is feared that there may be destruction of human life before the flood subsides.

HENEY NOT INVITED.

But Has His Opinion of Certain Portland Officials.

San Francisco, March 26.—The attention of Francis J. Heney was called today to a dispatch from Portland, which stated that a fund was being raised there to finance an investigation into civic conditions and that Mr. Heney and W. J. Burns were to be requested to conduct the inquiry.

The prosecutor said that his time for the present would be taken up with the San Francisco investigation. He added that he had received no official offer from Portland, and therefore could not either accept or decline at this time. He added:

"I am not very familiar with civic conditions in Portland. I have my opinion of certain officilas there, however."

When asked what sort of graft might flourish in Portland, he said:

"You know Halsey makes visits there."

Halsey was general agent of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph company, and was recently indicted for bribing the San Francisco supervisors.

GO AFTER POLICE NEXT.

Burns' Announcement Dashes Hopes of Immunity.

San Francisco, March 26.—As soon as the larger matters are disposed of, the alleged corruption of the police department will be thoroughly delved into declares Detective Burns. The statement caused a stir among the officials, who were disposed to think that in the excitement over the corporation investigation, police matters were to be forgotten.

So closely have their fortunes been allied with those of the grafters that, when the present crusade was begun against dishonesty and corruption, District Attorney Langdon, instead of receiving aid from that body, has received nothing but strenuous opposition.

Capture Honduran Capital.

Washington, March 26.—Senor Corea, the Nicaraguan minister, tonight received a dispatch from President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, announcing the capture and occupation of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The fall of the Honduran capital today was predicted by the Nicaraguan Foreign office yesterday, following the capture of Choluteca, the most strongly fortified town in that country, and the flight of President Bonilla, of Honduras. Only the bare announcement of the capture o Tegucigalpa was received.

Refused Right to Land.

Venice, Cal., March 26.—Yameto Kushibiki, commissioner from Japan to the Jamestown exposition, has received a telegram stating that three Japanese actors are held at Seattle, where government immigration officers refuse them a landing. Kushibiki says these people are to appear at the Jamestown exposition. He believes that the refusal to allow them to land is a result of the San Francisco school incident.

American Gunboats on Guard.

Puerto Cortez, March 26.—The United States gunboat Marietta and the Nicaraguan gunboats Ometepe and Jacinto were at Trujillo, Honduras, Saturday night. The Honduran gunboat Tatumbla has arrived from Ceiba. The Marietta is expected here today.