

# CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

## Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

### General Resume of Important Events Presented in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

Floods in Northern Italy are becoming serious and many villages are isolated.

Aldrich and Lodge intimate that they are willing to revise the tariff piecemeal.

Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, may succeed Ballinger as secretary of the interior.

Roosevelt announces he is in favor of a radical program of reform, to be enacted by conservatives.

Mexican rebels were routed in a stubborn fight in which they lost 70 men, while the government loss was 14, including two officers.

Dr. George Edgar Vincent, of the University of Chicago, has been elected president of the University of Minnesota, at a salary of \$10,000 a year.

The Aero club of New York has challenged the Royal Aero club of England to an all-round contest for the aeroplane championship of the world.

Six men were drowned by the capsizing of a launch on the Snohomish river, Washington. The boat was being rocked by three drunken loggers on top of the cabin.

By an imperial order the ban against Jews in Moscow, Russia, has been removed.

The deficit in the Postal department has dwindled \$11,000,000 during the past year.

A Missouri man has established his claim to a \$10,000 estate by a peculiarity in his voice.

It is announced that the Klamath cut-off of the Southern Pacific will be finished by June, 1911.

Four members of one family near Silvertown, Or., died of black smallpox, and three others are seriously ill.

Moorehead, Minn., reports a temperature of 16 below zero, and a cold wave grips the Mississippi valley and the East.

Many settlers in Western states have been granted leave of absence from their homesteads, owing to failure of crops.

The Federal court at Greensboro, N. C., has decided that the "white slave" law is unconstitutional, as it interferes with state rights.

It is rumored that Carnegie is about to give \$10,000,000 to some international organization, possibly the Universal Peace society.

The sub-committee of the senate investigating committee has reported Senator Lorimer entirely innocent of the bribery charges against him.

Mexican government forces have arrested a prominent woman revolutionist, who is said to be the only woman in Mexico who knows the whereabouts of Madero.

A new \$30,000 Presbyterian church has just been completed at Corvallis, Or.

A rich Kansas woman, her son and two hired men were beaten to death by robbers.

A New York hotel keeper died of fright resulting from being held up by two negro highwaymen.

Women voters in Washington are now worried over the fact that they are also subject to jury service.

The Portland Gas company has ordered about 13,000 tons of pipe to be used in extending its service the coming year.

An Oregon man claims that inhaling the fumes from an empty whiskey task has cured several cases of consumption.

After an all-day artillery duel in which over 200 were killed, a mutinous battalion of the Brazilian navy was subdued and captured.

A Chicago woman charges that grand jury secrets were divulged to the Brick trust by a division superintendent in the department of justice.

Large forces of Mexican government troops and revolutionists are camped about 40 miles apart, receiving reinforcements and preparing for a battle.

The 4-year-old daughter of Frank Petillo, of Red Bank, N. J., was returned to her home unharmed after being held by kidnapers since October 10 last.

The census bureau announces that the United States flag now waves over 101,100,000 people, while the state of Washington has made the most rapid growth in the past ten years.

The secretary of state has decided that this country cannot protect a man from military duty in his native land, if he should return there, even though he may have taken out naturalization papers here.

The foreman of the scaffold gang on a Portland skyscraper waved a salute to his brother, who was working on another skyscraper a block away, and the next instant stepped backward off the scaffold and was hurled to death on the pavement 120 feet below.

## ROOSEVELT SPEAKS.

Addresses Chamber of Commerce on Radical Reforms.

New Haven, Conn.—In the first public address he has delivered since the recent election, Colonel Roosevelt declared at the annual banquet of the chamber of commerce here that he was a radical who "most earnestly desired to see a radical program carried out by conservatives."

He wanted to see great reforms carried out not by the men who will profit by them, but by the men who will lose by them, he said. He wanted men to have a fair start in the race, he declared, another time; he did not want the slow man to win.

Colonel Roosevelt was greeted cordially by a gathering of 600 representatives of the business and commercial interests and the professions of the state.

The banquet had more than ordinary significance through the presence of the guest, who recently was in controversy with Judge Simeon E. Baldwin, governor-elect, who had been invited to attend. Judge Baldwin was not present and the place assigned to him at the guests' table bore mute evidence of his absence.

Colonel Roosevelt was escorted from New York by a committee of the chamber, and upon his arrival at the station a large and enthusiastic crowd was waiting. With a wave of his hand the colonel acknowledged their greeting, and with a hearty laugh and happy remark to those who reached forth to shake his hand he edged his way through the crowd to an automobile. Colonel Roosevelt was driven to the home of Colonel I. M. Ullman, president of the chamber of commerce, where friends were waiting to greet him. From there, later, he went to the banquet hall.

## 84 SLAIN IN BATTLE.

Mexican Rebels Beaten With Loss of Seventy Men.

Laredo, Tex.—Seventy Mexican revolutionists were killed and a small number wounded in battle with Federal troops in Cerro Prieto, state of Chihuahua, according to a telegram received here by Michael de Ibold, Mexican consul stationed at Nueva Laredo, from Enrique Creel, Mexican minister of foreign affairs.

The Federals are said to have lost 14 men, including two officers.

For some time a small body of alleged revolutionists have been operating in the Chihuahua district. They have caused the government no alarm, however, and the present advances received from an official source in the capital in all probability means the government has suppressed the roving bands that have been causing minor disturbances.

## PEARY DEPOSITS MEDALS.

Discoverer Puts Trophies in United States Natural Museum.

Washington—Captain Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, has turned over to the United States Natural Museum 16 gold and two silver medals that have been awarded him. Among these are the gold medal presented to him by the National Geographical society of Washington, for his discovery of the North Pole, and the gold medal of the Royal Geographical society of London, presented to him for "Arctic explorations 1886-1909." This medal was designed by Mrs. Scott, wife of the leader of the British South Polar expeditions.

Captain Peary also deposited in the natural museum the flag of his college fraternity, presented to him by his brothers of the Delta Kappa Epsilon and the peace flag given him by the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. He carried both of these with him to the North Pole.

## Olympia Seems Doomed.

Valdez, Alaska—The chance of recovering the cargo of the steamship Olympia, or saving the ship, is exceedingly small, according to officers of the steamship Dora, which visited the wreck and took off the perishable part of the cargo, including meats. The Dora subsequently called at Ellamar and took on board United States District Judge Edward E. Cushman, Mrs. Cushman and the other women and children who were passengers on the Olympia, and brought them to Valdez.

## Garment Strike Still On.

Chicago—A plan for the settlement of the garment workers' strike, submitted by one of the big firms and approved by the Chicago Federation of Labor, was not accepted by the strikers. The arbitration plan was not submitted to all the strikers as had been planned, only a small portion voting.

Members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers announce that the threatened strike on the Philadelphia & Reading railroad has been declared off.

## Italy Floods Menacing.

Rome—So serious have the floods become, particularly in the Northern part of Italy, through the increased rains, that the king has expressed his intention to visit the inundated districts and thereby give encouragement to the inhabitants. Grave damage is reported from all quarters. Many villages are practically isolated and provisions are being carried to the people by boats. Hundreds of soldiers and private citizens are engaged in the work of aiding sufferers.

## Fire Engines Go 30 Miles.

Louisville, Ky.—Fire which started in the Radcliffe-Overstreet general store, at La Grange, Ky., 30 miles from here, threatens to destroy an entire block. Fire apparatus is being rushed to La Grange from Louisville.

# INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

## THRESHERMEN TO PORTLAND.

Good Roads One of Important Topics of Convention.

La Grande—The selection of Portland as the next meeting place, hearing a message from Judge Webster pertaining to a good roads provision to be brought before the legislature, and framing a law which will be placed before the legislature regulating the transportation of traction engines, constituted the principal features of the State Threshermen's convention. A bill is being drafted for introduction to the next legislature by the central board State Good roads association, containing four salient features, was read and explained by Judge Webster. The threshermen gave unqualified support to it later. It embodies the appointment of three men to name a highway commissioner for the state, who shall direct expenditure of moneys appropriated by counties and state to the amount of \$20,000 from each county and \$5,000 from the state for each county. It includes a bill providing for bonding state and counties to that effect; it provides for maintenance, state prison labor on roads and for the working of prisoners in incorporated cities and county roads.

The plan was explained in detail, and adopted. The Iowa traction engine law, said to be a model of its kind, will be copied in the bill to be presented by the Oregon threshermen. It provides for the blowing of whistles at stated times, stopping the engine when passing teams, and above all, repeals all present laws and substitutes this one. The chief point in the new bill is that after December 1, 1911, bridges shall be built so securely that no bridges will have to be planked while engines are crossing. This gives the county courts over a year to perfect their bridges. Until that date, bridges must be planked as now.

The Portland meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday preceding the Rose Festival.

## LARGE PURCHASE OF HOPS.

Grants Pass Cleaned Up—Klamber Takes Over 1,800 Bales.

Portland—All the hops in the Grants Pass section of Oregon were purchased by the buyers. All the lots were taken by one firm with the exception of a lot of 224 bales that went to another party.

The big blocks were taken by Klamber, Wolf & Netter and the single lot by McNeff Bros. The purchases by the Klamber firm consisted of the Flanagan & Cornell lot of 376 bales, C. E. Weston, 91 bales, Horace Moses, 90 bales and several small lots that aggregated 28 bales. Besides these purchases Klamber, Wolf & Netter purchased 81 bales from Antone Cone at Aurora and 84 bales from Crisell Bros. at the same place.

McNeff Bros. purchased the DeArmond lot of 22 bales at Grants Pass. Klamber took 126 bales from William Weston at Forest Grove and 550 bales in the Yakima district besides perhaps 500 bales from other local dealers.

The purchases made by Klamber are therefore the greatest for one day in the local hop market by a single firm. The deals indicate that brewers are getting rather short of supplies and are preparing for the next year's brew. All told, it is now estimated that there are 5,200 bales of hops remaining in the hands of Oregon growers of the 1910 crop, 6,727 of the 1909 crop, 426 of the 1908, 1,192 of 1907, and 1,844 of 1906, a grand total of all growth in growers' hands here of 15,389 bales.

The price paid by Klamber, as well as McNeff, was not made public, but it is understood to be better than 13 cents—perhaps 13½ cents.

## Claim Brings \$20,000.

Grants Pass—Considerable interest is being manifested in the mining districts of this county. A big deal was closed this week in which a Los Angeles capitalist purchased a placer claim for \$20,000 from R. A. Dean and H. A. Corliss. Considerable machinery will be installed this winter for operation purposes.

In the Waldo district, New York capitalists have entered the field and have succeeded in taking over the Deep Gravel and the Simmons-Cameron mines. The new concern is incorporated under the name of the Waldo Consolidated company, with a capital stock of \$2,000,000, half of which was spent in purchasing mining interests and improvements. O. A. Turner, of Broadway N. Y., is at the head of the organization.

## Hear Good Roads Lecture.

La Grande—Threshermen in convention here listened to a good roads lecture by Lionel Webster, the Portland attorney. The line of legislation which the good roads people will present was explained in detail, and it is believed the threshermen will support the line of amendments which the state roads people want. The legislative committee of the threshermen went on record as opposed to the proposed bridge planking laws.

## Grants Pass School to Be Modern.

Grants Pass—The board of school directors of this city have decided to equip the new high school building with the best of furniture. The contract has been let to an Eastern firm for 200 pupils' and ten teachers' desks. The assembly room will be provided with 100 solid oak extension-arm lecture chairs.

## STATE TO USE ONE SCHOOL.

Three of the Four Normals Will Remain Closed.

There will probably be no state normal school next year except at Monmouth, the institution provided by an initiative measure at the recent election. This is the opinion of W. B. Ayer, a member of the board of regents for the state normal schools. The schools at Drain, Ashland and Weston will remain idle unless the legislature makes provision for their maintenance, which is regarded as unlikely by those close to the situation.

The board of regents is composed of the governor, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction; E. E. Bragg, of Union county; C. E. Spence, head of the State Grange; Stephen Newell, of Grants Pass; Henry J. Maier, of The Dalles; E. Hofer, of Salem, and C. L. Starr, of Salem. The governor is chairman of the board. A meeting will probably not be called until the latter part of January, when incoming officers who will have charge of the schools may be present.

"Undoubtedly the normal school at Monmouth will be the only one maintained next year," said Mr. Ayer, "as the legislature made no appropriation for other schools. The board of regents has no power to dispose of normal school property, and I suppose the schools at Drain, Ashland and Weston will remain idle. The meeting of the board is subject to call of the chairman. I do not think it would be advisable to call a meeting until sometime in January, when all the members, who will have direct supervision of the normal schools, will be present. "A meeting in January would also be to advantage, as the legislature will then be in session, and the board would go before that body with matter pertaining to the various institutions."

## Oxford Accepts Papers.

University of Oregon, Eugene—Word has come from Oxford university, Oxford, England, that the examiners' board was satisfied with the Cecil Rhodes scholarship examination papers presented by Dean Collins and William E. S. John, of the University of Oregon, and Henry R. Bowler and Carroll H. Woody, of McMinnville college. The examinations were held in Eugene in October and included Latin, arithmetic and higher mathematics.

## Four Postmasters Named.

Washington—Postmasters were appointed as follows: Barlow, Clackamas county, James M. Erickson; Cove, Union county, Helen M. Ramsdell; New Pine Creek, Lake county, Henry Nendtz, Jr.; Willamina, Yamhill county, Ora Godsey.

## PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 84c; club, 82c; red Russian, 80c; valley, 82c; forty-fold, 83c.

Barley—Feed, \$2.22 per ton; brewing, \$2.32.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$24.25 per ton; middlings, \$29.31; shorts, \$25.50; rolled barley, \$24.50; \$25.50.

Hay—Track prices: Timothy, Willamette valley, \$20.22 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$23.24; alfalfa, \$14.15; grain hay, \$14.50; \$15.50; clover, \$13@14.

Corn—Whole, \$29; cracked, \$30 ton. Oats—No. 1 white, \$27.50; \$28.50.

Poultry—Hens, 15c pound; springs, 14½c; ducks, white, 16¢@17c; geese, 12c; turkeys, live, 20c; dressed, 22¢@23c; squabs, \$2 per dozen.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, candled, 45c per dozen; Eastern, Aprils, 32c; Eastern fresh, 38c.

Butter—City creamery, solid pack, 37c per pound; butter fat, 35¢@37c; Eastern, 31¢@34c.

Pork—Fancy, 10¢@11c per pound. Veal—Fancy, 85 to 125 pounds, 12¢@13½c per pound.

Apples—King, 40¢@75c per box; Wolf river, 75¢@81c; Waxen, 75¢@81c; Baldwin, 75¢@81c; Northern Spy, 75¢@81c; Snow, \$1.25; \$1.50; Spitznberg, \$1.25; Winter Banana, \$1.75; \$3.50.

Green Fruits—Pears, \$1.25; \$2.25 per box; grapes, \$1@1.35; cranberries, \$10.50; \$11 per barrel.

Vegetables—Beans, 10¢@11c per pound; cabbage, \$1@1.25 per hundred; cauliflower, \$2@2.25 per crate; celery, California, \$3@3.25 per crate; pumpkins, 1@1½c per pound; sprouts, 7¢@8c; squash, 1@1½c; tomatoes, \$1.25 per box; carrots, \$1@1.25 per hundred; parsnips, \$1@1.25; turnips, \$1; beets, \$1.25@1.50.

Potatoes—Oregon, \$1.25 hundred. Onions—Oregon, jobbing price, \$1.40@1.50 per hundred.

Cattle—Prime steers, \$5.75; good to choice, \$5.25; \$5.75; fair to good, \$4.75; \$5.25; common, \$4.60; choice to prime cows, \$4.75; good to choice, beef cows, \$4.25; fair to good, \$3.75; good to choice heifers, \$4.75; \$5; fair to good, \$4.50; \$4.75; common to fair, \$4@4.25; choice to good fat bulls, \$4@4.25; fair to good, \$3.50; \$4; common, \$2.50; \$3.50; good choice light calves, \$7@7.50; fair to good, \$6.50; \$7; good to choice heavy calves, \$5.25; \$6; fair to good, \$4.75; \$5.25; common, \$3.75; \$4.75; good to choice stags, \$4.50; \$5; fair to good, \$4@4.50.

Hogs—Choice, \$7.75; good to choice, \$7.50; \$7.75.

Sheep—Yearling wethers, grain fed, \$4.75; \$5; old, grain fed, \$4.25; \$4.50; choice ewes, grain fed, 3.75; \$4; good to choice, grain fed, \$3.25; \$3.75; feeders, \$2.25; \$3; choice lambs, grain fed, \$5.75; \$6; good to choice, grain fed, \$5.75; \$6; poor lambs, \$4.95; \$5.

Hay fed sheep and lambs 50c lower than grain fed.

## ENGINEERS VOTE TO STRIKE.

If Demands Are Refused, Clash May Be Greatest in History.

Chicago—Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and four of his assistants spent Saturday canvassing the recent strike vote taken by the men on the Western railroads.

Mr. Stone estimated that 96 per cent of the engineers favored a strike. The next move, according to Mr. Stone, is with the railroads.

The railroads affected in the present controversy are those extending west from Chicago, and if the engineers strike the Eastern roads will not be drawn into the controversy. There is always a chance, however, of a sympathetic strike, and in that event the Eastern engineers would join the strikers. Switching service in the Chicago yards would be brought to a standstill. Sixty-one railroads will be affected if the engineers vote to strike and their terms are not accepted by the managers. The number of engineers employed on these roads is 33,700. The lines represent 136,000 miles of road, or 53 per cent of the total mileage of the country.

This vote is the first that has ever been ordered by the Brotherhood of Engineers on a general scale and it is the first of any kind to be taken since the strike on the Burlington in 1888. "Our brotherhood is known throughout the country for its conservatism," said Grand Chief Stone, "and when we take a strike vote it means something. The managers tried to take advantage of us because we have not been inclined to strike in the past. We have done our best to maintain harmony, and have even made concessions that our men would not be willing to accept. If it comes to a strike, which now seems likely, we will tie up every road west of Chicago."

After months of negotiations the demands of the engineers now are some 7 per cent higher than the railroad managers are willing to grant. If the demands are not acceded to a strike that will close the throttle of every railroad locomotive west, south and north of Chicago may be called within five hours, it was intimated.

## Conditions on Coast.

O. R. & N. Co., \$4.40 to \$5.20 for a run of 100 miles or less, to be completed in 10 hours or less.

Southern Pacific, \$3.75 to \$5.17 for a run of 100 miles or less, to be completed in 8 hours or less.

Overtime, pro rata. General increase requested 15 per cent.

Number of engineers affected 425.

## HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.

If Liberals Win in England, Irish Dream Is Realized.

Liverpool, Eng.—Premier Asquith has pronounced home rule for Ireland the leading issue in the present campaign. This momentous pronouncement was made in a small schoolhouse of a remote village in Scotland but already it has stirred the whole British Islands and eclipsed all other issues in the fight.

The pronouncement was made in answer to a "hecker" as the typical disturber of British political meetings is called.

"Is it the truth," asked this hecker, "that, if the Liberal government is returned to power in this election, it will give Ireland a measure of home rule?" "My reply," said Asquith, "is, 'it is.'"

Though Redmond was well aware that it was Asquith's intention to give Irish home rule an immediate chance, the carpers and factionists in Ireland have been insisting that Asquith was a trickster and that Redmond was his dupe. But even the Dublin Independent, chief supporter of the Healy faction, confesses that Asquith's confession leaves no more to be said, and is entirely satisfactory.

## Landis Merciful to Youth.

Chicago—Boles Kaktovich, 17 years old, who confessed to stealing \$2 from a registered letter, will not be sentenced until after the Christmas holidays. "I can't sentence this boy now," said Judge Landis, in the United States court, after giving the case consideration. "I can't do it. Christmas is coming on and he has four little brothers and sisters at home. I shall allow him to remain with them until after Christmas. Let him come here again on January 9 and I'll see what I will do then."

## Oil Men Criticize Idea.

Los Angeles—Secretary Ballinger's recommendation that the state regulate the price of crude oil is being criticized and declared impossible by some of the oil men. "We might just as well have a committee to regulate the price of wheat, beans and other commodities," said S. C. Graham. "If we can procure a proper disposition of the oil lands and of the petroleum produced from these lands, we can safely permit competition to determine the price."

## John D. to Be Santa Claus.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—John D. Rockefeller is to be Santa Claus this year for Tarrytown children. Cards were distributed all over the village announcing that all children who are members of the Sunday school of Mr. Rockefeller's church, the First Baptist, will receive a Christmas stocking full of goodies.

# STEAMER ASHORE ON ALASKA COAST

## Liner With 106 Persons Aboard Pounding to Pieces.

Wireless Calls for Help, Then All Is Silent—Storm is Raging Along Coast.

Cordova Alaska, Dec. 13.—The Alaska Steamship company's steamer Olympia, with 106 persons aboard, is ashore on Bligh island, Prince William sound. A furious storm is raging.

No word has been received from the wireless operator on the Olympia since this morning, and grave fears are entertained for the safety of those on the wrecked vessel.

There are 52 passengers aboard the Olympia. Most of them boarded the vessel here last night. Among those who sailed from here for Valdez and Seward are United States District Judge Cushman, Mrs. Cushman and members of the Third District court, who are on their way to Valdez, where court convenes tomorrow. The crew of the Olympia consists of 54 officers and men, Captain J. Daniels being in command.

The Olympia sailed from Cordova at 6 o'clock last night, having arrived from Seattle earlier in the day. Although the night was clear and a full moon shed a bright light, navigation was made dangerous by a 50-mile gale which was blowing from the north. Between 12 and 1 o'clock this morning the operator on duty at the navy wireless station picked up the distress signal of the Olympia. He answered at once. Operator Hayes, on the Olympia, then sent an urgent appeal for help, saying that the Olympia had struck on Bligh island and was in an exposed position. Heavy seas were breaking over her, making the position of those on board all the more perilous.

The message from the Olympia was received with difficulty. The men in charge of the naval wireless station express the opinion that the grounding of the vessel had in some way caused a short circuit which interfered with the sending of the wireless messages from the steamer.

For several hours this morning the naval operator was unable to get any response to his calls to the Olympia and it was feared that the vessel had gone down with all on board. The operator continued his efforts and at 10 o'clock was rewarded by again receiving a faint call from Operator Hayes on the helpless vessel. Hayes said that the storm was continuing with unabated fury. The Olympia was being tossed about by the pounding waves, grinding her sides against the rocks that held her prisoner. This constant pounding of the steamer made it almost impossible to operate the wireless.

The operator said the passengers and crew are still hopeful that help will come before the ship goes to pieces. Huge waves continue to break over her and the situation of the passengers is extremely serious.

## UNCLE SAM SECOND.

Great Britain Still Leads World's Naval Powers.

Washington—The United States closes another year in second place among the world's naval powers. The great navy building race between Germany and Great Britain has not brought the former country up to the United States in the number of battle-ships afloat, but in ships projected and in the total number of war vessels of all kinds, Germany will crowd the United States to third place.

These facts are shown in the new navy year book prepared by Putnam Puffer, clerk to the senate committee on naval affairs, and soon to be issued by the government printing office.

## Willard Flies 55 Miles.

Los Angeles—Under perilous weather conditions, marked with shifting, smoke holding and freak air currents, Charles Willard made a most successful flight in an aeroplane over the cities of Los Angeles and Pasadena Saturday, traveling a total distance of 55 miles. In his flight he circled over the business district of Los Angeles, and then passed over to Pasadena and returned to his starting place at the outskirts of Los Angeles. His flight was witnessed by thousands of persons from the tops of buildings and streets.

## China Plans New Coinage.

Peking, China—If the latest imperial decree is carried out as expected, China will have a vastly improved coinage system, with coins comparing with the American dollar, half dollar, quarter, dime, nickel and cent, and additional coins worth, approximately, two cents, five mills and one mill. The standard will be silver, and the unit of the national currency will be the "yuan," which corresponds to the American dollar, its value being \$1.008.

## Sledging Bad for Peary.

Washington—Representative Mason, of Arkansas, threatens trouble for Captain R. E. Peary, Arctic explorer, when the question of making him rear admiral comes up in the house. Mason is a member of the naval affairs committee. He contends there is no more proof that Peary discovered the pole than Dr. Cook had to prove his assertions. He threatens to fight the bill to the last ditch.